



1—Civilians of Nanking getting away from that city by river boats. 2—President Coolidge receiving from Mrs. W. W. Whittinghill an invitation to spend his vacation at Mackinac Island. 3—Famous German fortress of Ehrenbreitstein at Coblenz, familiar to American doughboys, which is to be demolished in accordance with the Treaty of Versailles.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Floods and Tornadoes Work Havoc in Middle West—Atrocity in Mexico.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

WIND and water wrought havoc throughout the Middle West during the week. Scores of lives were lost, many thousands of persons were driven from their homes, and immense damage, as yet impossible to estimate, was done to property. All down the lower Mississippi valley the river levees were giving way and the waters, increased by heavy rains and driven by high winds, were rushing through towns and submerging farm lands. Refugees by the hundreds were gathered, often unsheltered, on higher ground awaiting succor and in some of their camps, notable along the St. Francis river in Arkansas, measles, whooping cough and mumps broke out.

In southwestern Kansas the rivers were fed by cloudbursts and rose to record heights, inundating vast areas and isolating many towns. The Neosho, Verdigris and Cottonwood rivers were out of their banks. In the region surrounding Kansas City the high waters of the Missouri and Kansas rivers caused extended floods.

Monday and Tuesday a series of tornadoes swept across north Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, parts of Kansas and through central Illinois. About fifty lives were lost in these storms, twenty-two of the fatalities being in Illinois, and hundreds were injured. Property losses in towns and on farms were severe.

Relief for the flood and storm sufferers was swiftly started by the Red Cross and by state and municipal governments. The War department supplied tents and the soldiers and medical officers of the National Guard in the states affected gave efficient aid.

MEXICAN bandits broke all records for atrocity in that country when they attacked a passenger train near La Barca in the state of Jalisco. The cars were filled with people returning from the Holy week holidays at Lake Chapala and a guard of fifty soldiers was aboard. The bandits, numbering about 500, derailed the train, killed all the soldiers with gun fire, slaughtered many of the passengers and then locked the cars, saturated them with gasoline and set them afire. The scene that followed was horrible beyond description. Scores of persons, mostly women and children, were burned to death and many of those who broke out of the cars were shot down or clubbed mercilessly. It was believed that more than 100 were killed, in addition to the military guard. Only the passengers who were in two steel Pullman cars escaped death or injury. Among the victims was Donna Refugio Obregon de Ponce de Leon, eldest daughter of General Obregon, former president of Mexico. It was believed the bandits were under the command of a chieftain named Jesus Barajas.

President Calles issued a statement charging that the massacre was perpetrated by rebel bandits under the leadership of Catholic priests and that the latter "received instructions from the episcopate." He said the military escort put up a three-hour resistance against the attacking band, which was headed personally by the priests Vega, Pedraza, and Angulo, the lawyer Loza, who was a member of the League for Defense of Religious Liberty, and a bandit known as "El Catorce" (Number 14).

MODERATES of the Chinese Nationalist party formally established their capital in Nanking, with Gen. Chiang Kai-shek in control, and the split between them and the communists at Hankow seemed definite. The moderates impeached the Hankow group, and the latter in turn deposed Chiang as commander in chief and ordered his arrest and punishment; Marshal Feng Yu-hsiang, formerly called the "Christian general,"

was named to succeed Chiang. The moderate leader continued his efforts to drive the Red labor unions out of business in Shanghai, Canton and elsewhere. His new commissioner of foreign affairs, Quo Tai-chi, stated his belief that the "real Kuomintangists," including Mrs. Sun Yat-sen, Tan Yen-kai, Sun Fo, and others, shortly will desert Hankow for Nanking. He does not expect armed clashes between the Nanking and Hankow factions and declares General Chiang will immediately continue the campaign against Gen. Chang Tso-lin and Gen. Chang Chung-chang along the Tientsin-Pukow railway.

Respecting the future attitude of the Nanking government toward the powers, Quo declared: "There is absolutely no change in the Kuomintang party's program respecting the foreigners. We will treat those nations as equal which accord Nationalist China equal treatment." The sudden shift of Nationalist headquarters from Hankow to Nanking was rather embarrassing to the powers, which were gathering war vessels at the former place apparently for the purpose of enforcing their demand for reparation for the Nanking outrages. The British press in Shanghai thought the forming of the new government was a scheme to avoid responsibility for the Nanking incident.

Marshal Chang in Peking announced that examination of partly burned papers found when the Russian military attaché's office was raided revealed a document from the Third Internationale at Moscow giving directions for the massacre of all foreigners in China as a preliminary to a world revolution. The Peking government sent word to Moscow that the raid was not on the embassy proper but on other buildings in the compound; that while diplomats enjoyed special immunities, they did not have the right to carry on illegal practices.

In carrying out the defense program of the legation quarter in Peking, with consent of the Chinese authorities, it was found the gates of the Russian compound were locked. American marines scaled the wall and forced the gates, after which the guards of the other powers entered and took control of the wall.

Northern troops still were holding Pukow, on the Yangtse opposite Nanking, and firing between the two cities was carried on daily. Several times the northerners fired at American and British vessels that were passing and the latter returned the fire effectively.

It was reported in Shanghai that Marshal Sun Chuan-fang, formerly overlord of Shanghai and five rich provinces, and who recently defeated the Nationalists along the Yangtse, had joined that party and had been made defense commissioner of northern Kiangsu, the chief salt revenue area.

JAPAN is experiencing a financial crisis which already has brought about the temporary suspension of several banks, although the Bank of Japan is aiding the smaller financial institutions. The Bank of Formosa also was in trouble, following the failure of the great exporting and importing house of Suzuki, and the cabinet planned to assist it. But the privy council did not approve so Premier Wakutsuki and his ministers resigned. Baron Tanaka was made premier and formed what was agreed upon as a strong cabinet, himself holding the portfolio of foreign minister. The public felt reassured but the financial troubles were not over, for on Wednesday the Fifteenth bank, one of the largest in the country, suspended for three weeks.

IN THE course of the week's desultory fighting between the government forces and the liberals in Nicaragua the latter several times fired on detachments of American marines which were guarding railways. The marines, who suffered no casualties, dispersed the attackers with machine gun fire, killing a few of them. It is the impression in Managua that the rebels are making attacks on the marines in order to force the American government to take charge of the country. Henry L. Stimson, investigator for President Coolidge, is holding conferences with various officials

and business men, and there is a good chance that what he recommends will amount to active intervention for the restoration and preservation of order.

FEDERAL DISTRICT JUDGE G. M. BOURQUIN at San Francisco has ruled that the seizure of the steamer Federalship on the high seas, the arrest of its captain and crew and the confiscation of its million dollar cargo of liquor by coast guard vessels was illegal and a "sheer aggression and trespass" by the United States authorities, contrary to treaty. He also declared that, "in respect for the opinions of mankind, national honor, harmonious relations between nations and avoidance of war requires that the contracts represented by treaties shall be scrupulously observed, held inviolate and in good faith, precisely performed—requires that treaties shall not be reduced to 'mere scraps of paper.'"

WHEN the "White House spokesman," in reply to rumors that Secretary of State Kellogg was to resign and was to be succeeded by Secretary of Commerce Hoover, declared that Mr. Kellogg had no intention of quitting his post and that if he did, Mr. Hoover would not be given it, a lot of people assumed that this was meant as a slap at Mr. Hoover. To counteract this impression a warm tribute to the secretary of commerce was made public at the White House. It explained that President Coolidge rather assumed in denying published reports that Mr. Hoover was slated to succeed Mr. Kellogg that it was unnecessary to make mention of his high regard for Mr. Hoover's abilities. The President recognizes that Mr. Hoover's reputation is so well established both in this country and abroad that he doubts very much if he would be able to shake it even if he wished to do so. Mr. Hoover has achieved big things, the President realizes, and the public everywhere has confidence in him. The President regards Mr. Hoover as possessing the ability to fill any position in the cabinet which he might be willing to accept.

STOCKHOLDERS of the United States Steel corporation at the annual meeting ratified the proposal of the directors by which the outstanding share capital will be increased from \$668,583,600 par value to \$1,071,904,000. Of this \$203,321,000 in common stock will be passed along to stockholders in the form of a 40 per cent stock dividend.

Actually the stock dividends, the first distribution of the kind in the corporation's history, is worth to the stockholders \$204,815,450, which is the market value of the additional shares on a "when issued" basis. The entire outstanding share capital of the corporation will have a market value when issued of approximately \$1,071,000,000. The new stock will be placed on the same 7 per cent annual dividend basis as the original common shares.

GOV. AL SMITH'S eagerly awaited reply to Charles C. Marshall's article in the Atlantic Monthly is printed in that magazine and is about what his admirers hoped for. He stands, as "an American Catholic," for complete separation of church and state. His answer embodies a creed that recognizes no power in his church superior to the Constitution of the United States and holds all churches equal before the law and the public school "as one of the cornerstones of American liberty."

UPON motion of defense counsel, Judge Raymond at Detroit granted an order of mistrial in the million-dollar libel suit of Aaron Sapiro against Henry Ford. The reason for this action was that Mrs. Cora Hoffman, one of the jurors, had granted an interview the substance of which appeared in the Detroit Times. Judge Raymond expressly cleared Mrs. Hoffman of allegations made in a series of affidavits by Ford detectives and other employees that she had discussed a \$10,000 bribe with one "Kid" Miller, and that she had wrongly stated she was a qualified juror, and asserted disbelief that Sapiro had indulged in any misconduct, as asserted in the affidavits.

Community Building

Splendid Work Being Done by Garden Clubs

One well-kept yard in a block, with gardens gay with flowers, a vegetable garden so spick-and-span it looks edible even before the vegetables are gathered, inevitably induces neighbors to start bringing themselves up to the standard. One well-handled yard reveals the shortcomings of its neighbors so glaringly that a general improvement is bound to come.

Garden clubs have become a popular social as well as civic factor in all the larger towns of the country. The spread of these clubs has done more to beautify cities than any other factor, and the growth of these organizations is only well started.

Garden clubs are of various characters ranging from those of distinct social aspect to study clubs composed of small groups of earnest women who seriously study plant life, garden design, culture, and who do their own gardening. Other organizations make their garden efforts a part of city-beautiful programs, undertake public works such as the planting of parks, playgrounds, school yards and other public institutions.

It has become a prime requirement in most of these garden organizations that the members shall be able to qualify as dirt gardeners—and do not trust it all to professional gardeners or hired help. They must actually sow the seed, plant bulbs, transplant and cultivate to qualify for membership.

Health and Happiness in Paint and Varnish

Paint and varnish are friends of children, protecting them when you are not aware of it. Not now and then, but all through the year the clean-up and paint-up idea should be in vogue. The well-painted home, inside and out, is, of course, the sanitary house. Cleanliness is not pleasant for germs. Disease does not linger long in the home where floors are immaculate and where walls catch and hold the blessings of sunshine.

There is a wonderfully new American creed, voiced by the mothers and all fathers of the land: "Home shall be the abiding place for happiness, content, mutual interest. Home shall be a pleasant place to live and in which to raise children. Flowers shall bloom and rooms glisten in the sunlight. Nowhere shall neglect, nor the mood of the sloth be expressed. Each to our appointed task, eager and willing to do his share. And because we unite to commemorate this high ideal, mother's day and father's day shall be every day, dedicated to better cities and finer homes and therefore to finer citizenship."

Community Spirit

One of the unfortunate features of life in the average large city is the loss, sooner or later, of a community spirit. In centers of moderate size it is easily possible to develop and retain such a spirit. When anything is to be done the community or its representative citizens can get together and discuss the matter. In each case the community welfare is viewed as a whole; not in fragments, in districts or sections. Students of municipal life, and its problems are beginning to regard the disappearance of a community consciousness as a genuine detriment. The existence of large numbers of organizations, civic, commercial and what not, each with its own set of interests, is seen to be possibly more of an obstacle than a help to progress of the whole center.

Ask for Zoning Ideas

All land lying within five miles of the corporate limits of a municipality should be included in that municipality's jurisdiction for the purpose of establishing proper control over subdivision platting, according to the preliminary edition of the proposed standard city planning enabling act, which has just been issued by the United States Department of Commerce. The preliminary edition has been issued in order that the act may receive the criticism of associations and individuals familiar with city planning problems before its final form has been determined upon.

Homes of Peace

It is broadly asserted that when people own their own homes there is no social unrest, and peace and quiet reigns. The names of social agitators are never found on the tax books, and soap-box orators become quiet citizens once they acquire property, especially when it is earned by their own toil.

Paint Cuts Expense

Keep your property well painted and you will have mighty few repair bills. Paint is far cheaper than new wood or metal replacements. Watch the less obvious vulnerable points such as roof, eaves and down spouts, porch columns, etc. The trim is usually the first to suffer.

Colors Blended in Roof

Shingles may be dipped in several shades of red, green, gray or other colors, and may be laid without any suggestion of a fixed design, producing beautiful varicolored effects.

LOW RATES for time payments on these cars

ANY FAMILY entitled to credit may buy a General Motors car and pay for it while using it, under the GMAC Plan.

When time payments first became an accepted form of car purchase, General Motors organized its own finance company, the General Motors Acceptance Corporation, to make sure that the sale of its cars on time would be in the buyer's interest and that the finance charges would be fair.

GMAC rates have always been low; and the last reduction has saved General Motors' customers more than \$12,000,000.

The General Motors line includes "a car for every purse and purpose"—a suitable model for every income. You can buy it out of income, paying no more than the cash delivered price, plus only the low GMAC financing charge. And the whole transaction is so conducted as to keep your goodwill and satisfaction.

CLIP THE COUPON

USE THE GMAC PLAN to enjoy a new car now. Use it to get a better car for what you plan to spend. Have General Motors quality. Share in the economies of volume production. Look over the list of General Motors cars below. See which car suits your purse. Then check and mail the coupon. We will send you full information about that car and about the fair, low-cost GMAC Plan of paying for it out of income. Don't wait. Clip the coupon and mail it TODAY.

GENERAL MOTORS

CLIP THE COUPON

General Motors (Dept. A), Detroit, Mich.

PLEASE send, without any obligation to me, illustrated literature about the General Motors product I have marked below—together with the name of the nearest dealer in case I may wish a demonstration. ALSO SEND YOUR PROVING GROUND BOOK.

Name _____

Address _____

CHEVROLET 7 models—\$525 to \$745

The quality car of the low-priced field. 3-speed transmission. Strong rear axle. Smooth dry-disc clutch. Over-head valve engine. Fisher Bodies. Duco finish. Fully equipped. CHEVROLET TRUCK CHASSIS: ½-ton, \$395; 1-ton, \$495.

PONTIAC 5 models—\$775 to \$975

A low-priced "six" which is a quality product in appearance and construction. Value proved by unprecedented sale. Has largest 6-cylinder engine in its price class. Beautiful lines. Fisher Bodies. Duco finish. All conveniences.

OLDSMOBILE 11 models—\$875 to \$1190

A fine car at moderate cost. Gratifies your finer taste; satisfies every need. Beautiful Fisher Bodies. Duco finish. Powerful 6-cylinder engine. Harmonic balancer and other new improvements. 4-wheel brakes. And a wide choice of models.

OAKLAND 7 models—\$1095 to \$1295

Winning and holding goodwill everywhere because of its superior performance. Fisher Bodies. Duco finish. Rubber silenced chassis. 4-wheel brakes. A "six" whose quality is doubly assured as a product of General Motors.

BUICK 18 models—\$1195 to \$1995

Everybody knows Buick's worth. General Motors emphasizes Buick's statement that its new models represent "The Greatest Buick Ever Built." Vibrationless beyond belief. 6-cylinder valve-in-head engine. Fisher Bodies. Duco finish.

LASALLE 6 models—\$2495 to \$2685

General Motors' latest contribution to the fine car field. New and beautiful car designed and built by Cadillac as a companion car to Cadillac. Has V-type 8-cylinder engine. Fisher Bodies. Duco finish. Now on display.

CADILLAC 50 body styles and types—\$2995 to \$9000

The pioneer in the 8-cylinder field. Standard of the world. Improved V-type 90-degree engine. Marvelous bodies by Fisher and Fleetwood. Duco finish. Choice of 500 different color and upholstery combinations to emphasize individuality.

[ALL PRICES F. O. B. FACTORY]

ALSO—

FRIGIDAIRE electric refrigerators. The largest selling electric refrigerator in the world. Built by General Motors. Many models.

DELCO-LIGHT electric plants. Another General Motors product. Brings you all the conveniences and labor-saving devices of electricity.