



1.—Vintila Bratiano, who succeeded his brother, the late Ionel Bratiano, as premier of Rumania. 2.—Funeral of Rear Admiral W. H. G. Bullard, chairman of federal radio commission, in Arlington National cemetery. 3.—Colorado state troops occupying the town of Erie, to protect mines from attacks by strikers.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Russia's Plan for Total Disarmament Rejected by Other Powers.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

SOVIET Russia made its big peace gesture at the opening session of the League of Nations preparatory disarmament commission in Geneva, and it was far from being a success. Maxim Litvinoff, head of the soviet delegation, proposed the disbanding of all armies, sinking navies, destroying military airplanes, razing forts, scrapping factories manufacturing chemicals for war purposes, like poison gas and deadly bacteria. He thought this should be done within one year, but said his government would agree to a plan for carrying out the total disarmament gradually during a period of four years. M. Litvinoff continued:

"I have examined the schemes you have been working on and am terrified by their complexity. The mixing in of the security problem, fixing the size of army and navy the states are entitled to maintain, according to geographic position and international obligations, prove the futility of attempting to deal with the question on these lines.

"Unless the base of the negotiations is changed the disarmament conference either will break down completely or continue to waste time during the decade to come. The danger of war is not a theoretic possibility but a real imminent menace. Therefore, we propose the following resolution—commence immediately to draft a detailed project of disarmament, based on the soviet proposals, and convene in March, 1925, at the latest a general conference on disarmament."

Paul-Boncour of France and Benes of Czechoslovakia ridiculed the Russian proposition as utterly impractical and said it had been proposed by Norway in 1922, discussed and found unworkable. Both those delegates and Doctor Louder of Holland, the chairman, asserted that the league had decided that security must be linked with disarmament and that the commission's precise job at this time was to name a subcommittee to bring about that co-ordination. Paul-Boncour especially dwelt on the theme that total disarmament without international pacts guaranteeing security is impossible, and reiterated the old demands for a powerful league army.

Count von Bernstorff in a general way supported the Russian plan, though he did not look pleased when Litvinoff proposed the scrapping of chemical factories. Finally it was decided that at the second reading of the draft of the disarmament plan, adopted at the last meeting, the soviet might move to have portions of their scheme examined.

It was announced that neither the United States nor Russia would be represented on the subcommittee on security. Hugh Wilson, American minister to Bernes, representing the United States in the conference, said: "The American attitude is simple, and consists of our intention to leave to the European states those matters peculiarly their own concern."

MEMBERS of the League of Nations council gathered in Geneva for a session that promised to be lively, with the Polish-Lithuanian quarrel and the trouble over the Italo-Albanian and the French-Yugo-Slavian treaties to be handled. Premier Mussolini once more virtually defied the league with the announcement that Italy intended at all costs to keep the Adriatic an Italian sea. He scoffed at the Serbian suggestion that the league refuse to register the Italo-Albanian pact.

"The league has a bureaucratic function of registration, and no political jurisdiction which would necessarily affect the independence of single nations," he declared. "If such a precedent were created all the treaties concluded by the powers since 1919, many of which are of a military character, would have to be re-examined."

Addressing the French chamber of deputies, Foreign Minister Briand held out an olive branch to Italy, praising Mussolini warmly and declaring it ridiculous even to suggest that anything could set the French and Italian people against each other.

Marshal Pilsudski, Polish premier, went to Geneva with the apparent intention of smothering out the row with Lithuania. His government issued a collective note to all powers protesting against the reports that Poland is encouraging Lithuanian plotters to overthrow the Smetona-Waldemaras government. The note assures the powers that "Poland does not intend in the least to endanger the independence or territorial integrity of the Lithuanian state. Poland's only wish is to establish normal, neighborly relations with Lithuania in the most peaceful spirit."

Premier Waldemaras headed the Lithuanian delegation to the league council's session and before he left Kovno he said no government of Lithuania ever could be intimidated into relinquishing that country's claim to Vilna, which was seized by Poland in 1920. Plechkaitis, the Lithuanian Socialist leader, now a refugee in Vilna, is reported to be pushing his plans for the overthrow of the Kovno government. Lithuania asserts and Pilsudski denies that Poland is fostering this plot.

BELGIUM'S cabinet, forced to resign by the opposition of the Socialist members to the plans for national defense and army reorganization, was reconstituted by Premier Jaspard with the Socialists left out. The present government is anxious to fortify the frontiers strongly, but is compelled to go slowly because of the strength of the opposition. The country is prosperous, but every one is gambling madly on the bourse.

DURING the week before the assembling of the Seventieth congress the fight for and against the seating of Vare and Smith, senators-elect from Pennsylvania and Illinois respectively, became warm in Washington. Both gentlemen were on the ground, and Smith especially seemed confident that he would be seated, despite general predictions to the contrary and the assertions of leading Democrats that it would not be permitted. Vare issued a statement declaring that refusal of the senate to permit him to take the oath would be "the worst blow at representative government since the legislative machinery was first set in effect."

Gifford Pinchot, who was defeated by Vare, sent a letter to members of the Republican national committee asserting that if the Republicans in the senate voted to seat Vare the American people "will adjudge the Republican party guilty of conniving at the purchase and theft of an election and of doing so for its own political benefit." With Smith and Vare excluded, the Democrats would have one more vote in the senate than the Republicans, but if Shipstead, Farmer-Labor, votes with the Republicans, there would be a tie.

VICE PRESIDENT DAWES, interviewed by the Washington correspondents, said: "Least there should be any doubt about it, I want to say as emphatically as I know how that I am not a candidate for the nomination for President. I favor the nomination of Frank O. Lowden, assuming that President Coolidge is not a candidate."

At Smith's boom for the Democratic nomination was given further impetus by his indorsement by a gathering of Democratic leaders of Utah.

PROMINENT wets in the Republican party gathered in New York last week and laid plans for the campaign for modification of the Volstead act. Capt. W. H. Slayton, head of the Association Opposed to the Prohibition Amendment, told them the association would seek from both the major parties a declaration in their respective 1928 platforms in favor of a national referendum on prohibition. The declaration is to be accompanied by a pledge that whatever the outcome may be, the result shall be "in conscience binding" on all Democratic and Republican members of the United States senate and house of representatives subsequently elected. The association is planning to raise

\$3,000,000 to be used in connection with a nation-wide referendum on prohibition.

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE Hoover in his annual report, says the fiscal year ended July 1: "continued the economic progress which has now been characteristic of American industry for six years." The dark spots noted were the coal and textile industries, the relatively low price of cotton, and some continued depression in agriculture of the Midwest. There was little unemployment.

ALABAMA'S fight against masked violence came to an abrupt end following the acquittal in Laverne of two men accused of complicity in hooded whippings and a controversy between Attorney General Charles C. McCall, the state law enforcement department, and the Ku Klux Klan. Judge A. E. Gamble adjourned court after withdrawal by Solicitor Calvin Poole of the state's cases against 31 men remaining to be tried for participation in a score of masked lashings in Crenshaw county. The collapse of the trials followed the withdrawal of Attorney General McCall from active participation in the prosecution after he had charged the Ku Klux Klan with attempting to "quiet" him in his investigation of floggings in the state.

FORMATION of the European chemical trust which is expected to play hob with American manufacturers in foreign markets, especially in South America, is well under way. Last week the Franco-German dyestuffs agreement, its actual basis, was signed at Frankfurt and plans were drawn for the distribution of markets, for prices and other vital aspects. The British dyestuffs manufacturers are believed to have a private agreement with those of Germany, and the organization of Belgian makers of chemicals will probably join the trust within a few weeks.

THERE was an interesting rumor in the United States that a \$50,000,000 merger of several automobile concerns was soon to be formed, the Continental Motors, Peerless, Jordan and Hupp being mentioned. This was said to be the first step in W. C. Durant's plan for a huge consolidation of motor car companies. The president of Continental Motors denies that his company was involved in the merger.

MOST of the coal mines in the northern Colorado district reopened, under guard of the state troops. Among these was the Columbine mine where production ceased after the fatal battle with strikers. Reports from the southern field, where I. W. W. leaders concentrated their forces for more than a month, showed production was about 75 per cent of normal. The larger companies in that section announced they were following their policy of avoiding demonstrations and that scores of miners were returning to work daily.

CARDINAL BONZANO, formal papal legate to the United States and one of the most eminent princes of the church, died in Rome and was buried after elaborate funeral services on Thursday. At this writing it is expected he will soon be followed to the grave by Cardinal de Lal.

Other notable men taken by death during the week were Charles B. Manville, founder of the Johns-Manville Asbestos company; John D. Griggs, former attorney general of the United States; Henry W. Savage of Boston, theatrical producer, who used to give us grand opera in English; Herbert S. Hadley, chancellor of Washington university, St. Louis, and former governor of Missouri, and Charles F. Choate, Jr., a noted lawyer of Boston.

NORTHWESTERN ALGERIA has been overwhelmed by tremendous floods that took a toll of several hundred lives and millions of dollars' worth of property. Torrential rains caused the inundation of the city of Hornell, N. Y., by the waters of the Canisteo river. No lives were lost but the property loss was heavy and railway service was suspended.

IN THE final big amateur football games of the year Notre Dame defeated University of Southern California in Chicago, and West Point beat Annapolis in New York.

Some Birds Act as Crop Savers

Wren and Nighthawk Are Particularly Valuable in Eating Insects.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Birds in general are useful as well as beautiful. Without birds to keep the insect pests in check it would be more difficult to grow food. They also eat many weed seeds and so give a better chance for the planted seeds. The biological survey finds, however, that some birds are not beneficial and this branch of the United States Department of Agriculture studies the birds in order to be able to inform farmers and legislators as to their comparative merits.

Eats Bugs and Weeds.
As a general rule, the birds that eat largely of insect foods—for example, the wren and the nighthawk—are particularly valuable. On the other hand, the gray grosbeak and the brilliantly colored painted bunting are valuable because they depend for a great part of their food on troublesome weeds, such as the foxtail and pigeon grass seeds.

The barn owl, like other owls, commonly is shot on sight, but ought not to be, for it is one of the most serviceable birds in destroying small rodents, particularly the pocket gophers in the West. For its size, the house wren is one of the most effective bird enemies of the insects. Wrens usually rear two broods of young each year, and the parents keep busy from morning to night bringing food for the hungry young. The wren's diet is almost exclusively animal, and a pair of wrens will account for an enormous number of insects in a season.

One Harmful Bird.
The boat-tailed grackle is one of the few birds that do more damage than good. It is fond of corn in all stages, from the first ears to the ripened grain, destroys much rice, and gets most of its animal food from the small marine animals along the seashore.

Lighter Soils Produce Highly Colored Fruit

The lighter soils produce earlier, more finely flavored, and more highly colored fruits than do the heavier soils. This is particularly true with such fruits as the grape, and citrus. On the other hand, the heavier soils contain more plant food and have greater water-holding capacity, and hence give greater growth and higher yields for the amounts of irrigation water and fertilizers used.

From the standpoint of physical structure, therefore, a fruit soil should be selected on the basis of the kind of fruit to be grown and whether it is to be shipped, or sold on the local market. Obviously, where earliness plays such an important part in the financial returns, as in our warmer fruit districts, a soil which will magnify this feature is desirable. The increased profit from very early fruit of high quality is such that the grower often can afford to use the lighter soils for vineyard and orchard purposes even though more fertilizer and manure must be used to maintain fertility.

Feeding Young Boar to Use in Breeding Season

Did you buy a boar pig at the fair and, if so, what provision have you made to bring him up to breeding season, in tiptop, thrifty condition? As a rule, less attention is given a boar than his importance requires. Too often any kind of a pen that will hold a boar is the kind he gets. Exercise and correct feeding are of greatest importance. Enough exercise is usually induced by plenty of range in the place he is kept. A boar pig to be used late in the fall should have the same combination of feeds used for gilts. Green feed and limited corn supplemented with skim milk or a mixture of tankage 70 parts, linseed meal 15 parts, and shorts 15 parts is good feeding. Close confinement and too much corn is a bad combination.

Agricultural Items

Next to wheat, potatoes are the most important crop grown for human food.

No one can afford to spend a dollar's worth of time to save a half dollar's worth of goods.

Seed that is grown locally may have the advantage of being acclimated, but, if it contains foul weed seeds, it may be expensive at any price.

The Agronomy farm at the Iowa experiment station, Ames, Iowa, has more than 600 concrete fence posts on it. These were placed more than nine years ago.

A farm machine that stands out all winter not only depreciates in value, but requires a lot of extra time and patience to get it ready to run when it is needed again.

Chickens, as a rule, will not go any great distance in search of feed unless they are half starved, and it is not profitable to keep them in that condition in order to save a little feed.

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Earthworms Lured to Surface by "Fiddling"

"In a recent number, before I left Lynn Haven, Fla., I became interested in your article on 'Musical Earthworms,' and noted that some scientists were giving their attention to a solution of the mystery. It reminds me of a peculiar fact that is often noticed in Florida—in the St. Andrews bay district, at least. When fishermen want fishworms for bait they go out and fiddle for them. It is accomplished in this way: A thin board is driven well into the ground to leave a foot or eighteen inches above the ground. Another board or stick is drawn back and forth across the upright board, producing a shuddering or vibration of the upright board. After a few seconds of this, large worms begin to crawl out of the earth for twenty-five or thirty feet around the center upright, and the fisherman has only to pick them up. I have seen eighty to one hundred picked up from a single effort. My husband has tried the same method in North Carolina and in Michigan, but without success, while I have seen him succeed every time he has tried in Lynn Haven."—Mrs. W. B. Harrell, in a letter to the Literary Digest.

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Today's Short Story

While cruising about in his ship off Sandy Hook, Captain Peterson saw tigers, giraffes, horses, lions, hippopotamuses and other animals floating about in the water. They were part of a merry-go-round washed away by a storm on the Jersey coast.

The Sentence Completed

She—Open your mouth and shut your eyes and—
He—And that's the way a woman drives a car.

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