



1—Fokker's largest plane, for 14 passengers and mail, built for western air express of Los Angeles. 2—Shiek Hamid, Arab prince of Bahrain, and retinue, in Iraq where holy war against the British is threatened. 3—Dome of New National museum in Washington, found in danger of collapse because of slipping of keystone.

## NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

### Chicago Disgraced by War of Politicians and Criminal Gangs.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

WARFARE between Republican factions in Chicago has reached such a stage of virulence that the entire nation is not only interested but amazed and shocked. Leaders of both sides, most of them candidates for nomination in the approaching primaries, profess lofty motives and personal uprightness, but the evident truth is that all of them are making use of the lowest criminal elements in the great city. It is a war of gangs and whatever may be said of the candidates, there is nothing to choose between the two crews of vicious thugs that are employed. Last week a long series of bomb outrages was climaxed by the bombing of the homes of Senator Charles S. Deneen, leader of the faction opposing the Small-Thompson-Crowe crowd, and of Judge Swanson, running against Crowe for the state's attorneyship nomination. Each faction blamed the other for this affair, and the authorities up to the time of writing have failed to find the perpetrators despite offers of reward totaling \$65,000 and complete immunity. Unprejudiced observers are convinced that the struggle between rival gangs of "alky" dealers and bootleggers is closely connected with the political conflict as well as being responsible for the numerous murders and bombings; and the gamblers and others engaged in organized crime also are deeply interested.

SENATOR Frank B. Willis' sudden death in his home town, Delaware, Ohio, changed the Republican pre-convention campaign startlingly. He had been carrying on a strong fight against Hoover for the Ohio delegation and Lowden had not entered the state. The demise of Willis seemed to leave the secretary of commerce unopposed there, but it was pointed out that 34 of the 51 Willis candidates had named Lowden as their second choice, and others had given Curtis or Watson second place in their preference. Ohio members of congress said it would be impossible to drop the name of Willis from the primary ballot.

It is assumed that Governor Donahy of Ohio, a Democrat, will appoint a member of his party to fill out the unexpired term of Willis, and the prediction is made that he will select Atlee Pomerene.

Lowden was endorsed by the Missouri state convention, and was assured of 21 of Minnesota's 27 votes; while Hoover was pledged the support of the Maine delegation. Watson's fight on Hoover in Indiana was becoming very lively, the senator especially attacking the secretary's attitude on international issues. It had been believed Hoover would be unopposed in New Jersey, but Lowden has now entered the primaries in that state. Hoover's board of strategy has estimated that the secretary lacks only 60 votes to insure his nomination, and if that is true it is apparent that Mellon, controlling the Pennsylvania delegation, controls the situation.

On the Democratic side the California primaries attract attention, for the fight there is three-sided. Smith, Walsh and Reed all being contenders. It had been hoped there would be a clean-cut contest between Smith and Walsh in South Dakota, but the state Democratic leaders, for local reasons, have prevented this. Dry Democrats of the South assert that the only southern delegations that Smith can get in southern states are those of Arkansas and Louisiana. In Arizona the state central committee appointed twelve delegates, unopposed, but it was said they were favorable to the Smith candidacy.

WITHOUT a dissenting vote the senate passed the revised Jones bill authorizing the expenditure of \$325,000,000 for flood control on the lower Mississippi river. The measure does not entirely meet the views of President Coolidge. While it declares

for the retention of the principle of local contribution for flood works, it expressly relieves local interests of further contributions toward this particular project. Neither is there any mention of an economic commission to study the financial condition of the people along the lower Mississippi, as recommended by the President. In all other respects Mr. Coolidge likes it better than the Reed plan approved by the house committee.

The Jones bill, as passed by the senate, recognizes the principle of local contributions as sound, but asserts that the previous expenditure of \$202,000,000 by local interests in the Mississippi valley represents a full compliance with this principle. Instead of creating a new commission, it provides that the work shall be in immediate charge of the present Mississippi river commission under the direction of the secretary of war and the supervision of the chief of engineers. This represents a continuation of present policies and is a feature which has been insisted upon by the administration. It also provides that the Jadwin plan, as recommended to congress by President Coolidge, shall be the basis of the flood control scheme. Provision is made for a board to reconcile engineering differences between the Jadwin plan and the Mississippi river commission plan.

It is expected that the construction of the flood control works will require a period of eight or ten years and that the appropriation for the first year will be from \$30,000,000 to \$40,000,000.

ANOTHER big measure was passed unanimously by the house—the naval appropriation bill carrying \$300,000,000. The total of \$48,000,000 is provided for continuing construction of eight 10,000-ton cruisers and two fleet submarines, \$8,575,000 is carried for modernization work and gun elevation work on two battleships, and an additional \$31,315,000 goes for naval aviation.

When the marine corps appropriations came up the Democrats attempted to ascertain the cost of maintaining marines in Nicaragua. When this failed Representative Abernethy (Dem., N. C.), criticized the sending of American marines to Nicaragua to oversee elections.

BY A vote of 15 to 6, the house committee on agriculture approved a revised McNary-Haugen farm relief bill. The Ketcham export debenture plan was rejected by a vote of 13 to 8. The measure is similar to the revised plan offered by Senator McNary, chairman on agriculture, and reported favorably by that committee. It provides for marketing agreements with co-operatives for the handling of surplus crops and the payment of losses by means of an equalization fee assessed upon the entire production only when price stabilization is not obtained through the use of government loans. Like the McNary bill, the house measure also eliminates restrictions upon the appointment of members of the proposed farm board and otherwise seeks to meet objections raised when President Coolidge vetoed the McNary-Haugen plan in the last congress.

CAPTAIN KOEHL, Baron von Huenefeld and Arthur Spindler, German aviators, secretly left Berlin on a projected flight across the North Atlantic, and made the first stage of the journey, to Baldonnel airdrome near Dublin, in safety. There, at this writing, they still are awaiting favorable weather for the transoceanic part of the flight. They are using the single-motored Junkers plane Bremen in which Captain Koehl attempted a similar flight last year. The aviators asserted their plans were scientifically formed and that if they encountered cold winds and rain they would head direct for New York to avoid danger of ice formation on the wings.

Colonel Lindbergh, after his week in Washington giving rides to senators, representatives, diplomats and other personages, announced that he was ready to withdraw from public life for the time being, and soon after quietly departed for Lexington, Ky. In his famous plane. From there he went on westward, his destination being presumably San Diego. In Washington there were reports that he was considering making a round-the-world trip under the auspices of the State department. In San Diego

a new plane is being built for Lindbergh, similar to the Spirit of St. Louis but larger and more completely equipped.

BECAUSE Albert B. Fall is too ill to travel to Washington, Atlee Pomerene, representing the government, went to Fall's home in El Paso, Texas, to take his testimony in the Teapot Dome conspiracy case. Regular court procedure was followed, defense attorneys questioning Fall and Pomerene conducting the cross-examination. The former secretary of the interior still contended that the Teapot Dome leases were executed for the best interests of the government and that the bond transaction with Sinclair was perfectly legitimate and was executed in payment of a third interest in the Fall ranch at Three Rivers, N. M.

Henry M. Blackmer, missing witness in the oil lease case, has resigned as a director of the Midwest Refining company, which concern is owned by the Standard Oil of Indiana. It was believed in Washington that John D. Rockefeller, Jr., had brought pressure to have Blackmer quit.

NEW oil regulations issued by the Mexican government appear to have settled the controversy between that government and the United States, and Ambassador Morrow is being credited with great skill in handling the negotiations. The regulations give evidence of Mexico's determination to recognize the rights held by foreigners in oil properties prior to the adoption of the Constitution of 1917. Those who take confirmatory concessions under the amended law get a confirmation of their old rights rather than a new grant of rights. The government at Washington is satisfied with the settlement, and if the oil men are not they will probably have to fight alone hereafter.

HENRY FORD is to be summoned before the senate interstate commerce committee, which is investigating the coal situation, to explain how he can pay labor in his nonunion mines in West Virginia and Kentucky union wages or more. Neither the miners nor the operators are eager to have Ford explain his system, for he is against the union and he puts the other operators to shame.

Illinois mine operators declined to hold further wage parleys with the union until the latter agrees to arbitrate for a wage scale less than that provided for in the Jacksonville agreement, which meant that most of the mines in the state would close down. Strip-mine operators of the Indiana district signed a contract with the United Mine Workers to continue operations under the Jacksonville wage scale until March 31, 1929.

SECRETARY OF LABOR DAVIS reported to the senate that the number of persons in the country actually employed at wages or salaries in January was 1,874,050 less than in 1925. Among the things that have brought about this slump in employment he listed the floods in the Mississippi valley and New England, the Florida tornado and the long-continued disturbance in the bituminous coal fields. The report precipitated a lively debate in the senate, the Democrats questioning its accuracy and asserting the number of unemployed was nearer four or five millions.

MARSHAL PILSUDSKI, dictator of Poland, found himself up against a bunch of hard-bolled Communists when the new parliament opened, and the disturbances were such that the police were called in and the sitting was soon suspended. When the diet reassembled the opposition succeeded in electing its candidate for speaker, Dashiński, by a vote of 206 to 140 for Pilsudski's candidate, Bartels.

POPE PIUS made a speech strongly criticizing the Fascist training of youth and rebuking the Catholic Centralists. In reply Premier Mussolini's council of ministers announced that a decree law soon will be passed prohibiting the Catholic organization of boys called "Catholic Scouts." The decree will make the Ballilla, which is a Fascist children's organization, the only one permitted in Italy. This means the Italian government will take full charge of the training of the nation's youth.

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