



1—Arthur H. Vandenberg of Grand Rapids, appointed senator from Michigan to fill out term of late Senator Ferris. 2—Cairo police struggling with Egyptian rioters during disturbances due to the quarrel with Great Britain. 3—Airship in which General Noble of Italy plans to start soon on his second flight over the North pole from Spitzbergen.

## NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

### Senate May Keep Tax Cut Down to 200 Millions—Week in Politics.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY MELLON presented to the senate finance committee his new program of tax reduction, and the Republican members of the committee, together with Senator King of Utah, Democrat, gave the plan their tentative approval in its general features. The result will be that the bill presented to the senate will provide for a tax cut amounting to about \$200,000,000, instead of the \$200,000,000 reduction called for in the house measure.

Mr. Mellon asserted that the prospective \$202,000,000 surplus for the fiscal year 1929 already has been shaved to \$212,000,000 and that if congress appropriates \$30,000,000 for flood protection during that year the surplus will be further reduced to \$182,000,000. On the basis of these figures he scaled down the administration tax cut maximum, which he placed at \$25,000,000 last fall, to \$200,000,000 without allowance for food control and to less than \$182,000,000 if the expected appropriation for this purpose is made.

By a vote of 13 to 6 the committee formally approved a reduction in the tax on corporation earnings from 13 1/2 to 12 per cent, meaning a reduction in revenue of \$123,000,000; and it also approved the repeal of the estate tax, which will cut the revenue \$7,000,000 more. In apportioning the remaining \$70,000,000 it was necessary to decide whether to approve the scaling down of intermediate surtax rates proposed by Secretary Mellon, involving a loss in revenue of \$50,000,000, or whether to use this amount in the reduction or repeal of the automobile and other miscellaneous taxes which Secretary Mellon believes should be retained. It was expected the committee would approve an increase in the exemption for small corporations as in the house bill.

CHARLES E. HUGHES having declined the job, the Republican national committee selected Senator Simon D. Fess of Ohio as temporary chairman and "keynote" of the Kansas City convention. There was no opposition to this choice, as Senator Fess is able and eloquent and has at all times been a loyal supporter of the policies of President Coolidge and of the Republican party. His name remained on the Ohio ballot as one of the Willis candidates for delegate at large, but he announced that if he were elected he would have no declared first choice for President. His second choice, as indicated under the requirements of the Ohio law, is Senator Curtis of Kansas. But it is known that he really favors Hoover if the drafting of Coolidge cannot be put through. The other Willis candidates for delegate also decided that they would go to the convention without first choice. Their second choice pledges, which are to stand, are 34 for Lowden, 8 for Curtis and 9 for Col. Charles Fisher of Wilmington, Ohio. If the name of Charles G. Dawes is placed before the convention he will have the support of those delegates. All of which is contingent on their election in the primaries.

New York Republicans elected 90 unopposed delegates, of whom the Hooverites claim at least 47. Among those chosen was Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, war leader, who defented an avowed dry. In the Wisconsin Republican primary the La Follette forces received the first serious setback they have had in years. According to incomplete returns the total delegation at Kansas City will be made up of 15 La Follette men, pledged to Senator Norris, and 11 anti-La Follette men, none of whom are unopposed. However was the only announced candidate in the Michigan primary and will have that state's 33 votes.

After winning 30 Michigan delegates without contest, Al Smith next day captured 124 more votes in three states. These included 86 from New York, 12 from Maine and 26 from Wisconsin. In the Badger state the Walsh

candidates were snuffed under by the slate of delegates sponsored by National Committeeman J. M. Callahan and pledged to Smith. The voters, however, in marking their Presidential preference ballots gave Senator Reed of Missouri a three-to-one majority over the governor of New York. Smith's name had to be written in the ballot.

Reverting to the Republican situation, attention should be called to the action of the corn belt committee in Des Moines. Claiming to represent more than a million organized farmers, the committee adopted a resolution opposing the election of Hoover should he be nominated by the Republican convention. In that event the committee plans to throw its voting strength to the Democratic nominee.

GOVERNOR GREEN of Michigan appointed Arthur H. Vandenberg to fill out the unexpired term of the late United States Senator W. N. Ferris. The appointment is good only until next December, but Mr. Vandenberg announced that he will be a candidate for election to the senate in the fall. The new senator is editor of the Grand Rapids Herald and is a student and writer on American history and the Constitution. He is only forty-four years old.

Cyrus Locher, a Democrat, was named to fill out the term of the late Senator Willis of Ohio by Governor Donahy. Mr. Locher is the state director of commerce and resides in Cleveland.

ALBERT B. FALL, in his testimony taken at El Paso for use in the trial of Harry Sinclair, said three Republican leaders—a former cabinet member now in Europe, a senator and a former senator—advised him to write the famous McLean letter to the senate Teapot Dome committee in 1923 in an effort to conceal a loan of \$100,000 from Edward Doheny, oil magnate. In Washington it was stated the men named by Fall were Will Hays, Senator Reed Smoot of Utah and ex-Senator Lenroot of Wisconsin. Both Smoot and Lenroot branded Fall's story as utterly false. Lenroot said Fall told him he got the money from McLean and he then had every reason to believe Fall was telling the truth.

GENIAL, optimistic, picturesque old Chauncey M. Depew has passed away at the age of ninety-four years. The former senator from New York and chairman of the board of directors of the New York Central railroad succumbed to pneumonia at his residence in the metropolis only a few days after his return from a trip to Florida. Born in Peekskill in 1834, Mr. Depew was educated at Yale and then was admitted to the bar. He was active in politics all his life from his twenty-first year and attended every Republican national convention as a delegate since 1888 with the exception of that of 1924. At the 1888 convention he received 99 votes for the Presidential nomination. He served two terms as United States senator, from 1889 to 1911. In 1886 he entered the service of the Vanderbilt railroad system and remained with it until his death. For 13 years he was president of the New York Central. He was especially well known for his public addresses and his after-dinner speeches. He attributed his longevity to his "refusal to worry."

GREAT BRITAIN'S plan to keep up the price of rubber by restricting the exports, known as the Stevenson scheme, has failed. Prime Minister Baldwin announced to the house of commons that the government had decided that all restrictions on the export of rubber from Malaya and Ceylon would be removed beginning November 1, 1928. According to the Stevenson plan the exportable percentage of production was determined at the beginning of each quarter by the average price during the preceding quarter. It was attacked especially by American users as an attempt by Great Britain to monopolize rubber, and was successful for a time. But Dutch competition in Sumatra, American conservation, German synthetic rubber and new planting projects doomed the scheme to failure. During recent months the price of rubber has steadily declined, and experts predict that it will stay low, despite the abandonment of the British plan,

until the inefficient producers are driven out.

THE house committee on flood control accepted the senate's bill on that matter and all looked rosy until Tuesday, when President Coolidge advised the house leaders that he was not satisfied with the compromise effected and feared the pending measure would involve huge expenditures in excess of the \$325,000,000 authorized. He still wished the appointment of an economic commission to study the question of local contributions, and favored a number of other amendments. The Republican house leaders therefore decided the bill should not be called up before the latter part of this week. The house committee also fears an adequate flood protection program will cost more than is provided for in the senate bill. In its report the committee contends that the cost of flood control works and rights of way under the Jadwin plan would be \$255,000,000, which is exclusive of \$111,000,000 for improving navigation. The Mississippi river commission's plan, which under the terms of the Jones bill may be adopted if desired in cases where it conflicts with the Jadwin plan, would cost \$625,000,000 for flood control works and rights of way. Both of these apply only to the lower Mississippi river.

MINISTER MACMURRAY went from Peking down to Shanghai to settle with the Chinese Nationalist government the row over the Nanking outrages of March, 1927, and settle it he did, to the satisfaction of Washington, without yielding to the arrogance of the Chinese or sacrificing the prestige of the United States. The British press in Hongkong was astonished by Mr. MacMurray's success where the British minister had failed, and jeered at the settlement as one of expediency due to the approaching elections in America.

PREMIER MUSSOLINI and the pope seem both to be determined not to continue the controversy over the education of the youth of Italy. The Vatican organ in a conciliatory editorial declared the Holy See had no intention of projecting itself into the affairs of the Italian state, and the duke sternly notified the Italian press that this must be considered as absolutely closing the incident. It is understood that though there is to be no rescinding of the decree against Catholic boy scout organizations, a flexible formula for procedure will be found whereby the decree disbanding them in most places will be avoided.

SMYRNA, the unfortunate Asia Minor seaport, was shattered by a series of earthquake shocks extending through several days and affecting also a number of near-by villages. The fatalities were numerous and a great many buildings were destroyed, among them being some of the fine structures erected since the great conflagration of 1922. The first tremors were preceded by a terrifying display of celestial electricity.

FRANCE'S latest note to America concerning the Washington proposal for an unqualified multilateral treaty to end war accepts the plan with reservations, and leads Secretary of State Kellogg to believe a real step has been taken toward abolishing armed conflict. It is understood the next move will be to extend the negotiations to include England, Germany, Italy and Japan. Briand has abandoned his contention that the term "aggressive war" be substituted for "all war," but he makes it perfectly clear that the French government cannot allow the proposed treaty to interfere with French obligations under the league. The foreign minister also declares that the inclusion of all powers in the league is absolutely necessary in the interests of world peace.

PEACE negotiations between Poland and Lithuania, held in Koenigsberg, Germany, fell through mainly because Premier Waldemar was not yielded on the question of Vilna. He knew if he did, his government would be overthrown, for the Lithuanians insist the city Poland grabbed must be restored to them. The conference may be resumed later, for three commissions were named to study questions of economics, security and nationalities.

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### Louvain Library Soon to Be Open to World

The new \$1,000,000 Louvain University Library building, replacing the old one which was destroyed by fire in the first month of war, is nearly completed. The monumental building, most of the funds for which were collected in 700 universities in the United States, is built in the Flemish renaissance style, and is expected to be ready for occupancy by July. With a facade of 200 feet and a depth of 150 feet, the new library has a 275-foot tower. In this will be housed a four-octave carillon, a huge bell to be christened "Liberty," and a four-dial clock, the war memorial gift of the New York Engineering foundation. The racks have a capacity for 2,000,000 volumes and are distributed over eight floors. In addition to the main reading room which can accommodate 400 students, there are 25 smaller rooms set apart for special studies and lectures. Among the 750,000 volumes already in the library are numerous contributions from nearly every university and scientific institution.

### Exploring Salt Mines

Opened Centuries Ago  
Salt mines that were operated on an extensive scale, with very "modern" shafts, tunnels and drifts, more than 500 years before Christ, have lately been explored near Hallstadt, Austria, by Dr. Adolph Mahr of the Vienna State museum. In addition to knowledge of the mining methods of these prehistoric men of the early Iron age, the exploration yielded also numerous articles of leather and wood, well preserved against decay during the ages by their burial in salt. These finds included pick handles, torches, wedges, mine timbers, felt caps, shoes of wood, leather and felt, leather hand protectors and many other articles. The exploration was backed by two Americans, Prof. F. W. Bade of the University of California and Major Gotshall.

### Clock Plays Many Tunes

A clock that plays tunes has just been put on display in London. Every part is hand made and engraved, and the timepiece is believed to be the only one of its kind in the world. It is a perfect time-keeper, chimes every quarter of the hour on eight bells, and at the hour, after striking, plays one of six tunes on 14 bells, concealed in a gilt wooden box. The tunes are "Auld Lang Syne," "The Blue Bells of Scotland," "Robin Adair," "Caller Herrin," a Scotch reel and the Scotch national anthem. The clock was made in Glasgow, and required two years to construct. Some of the parts are minute, and are perfect in detail.

### Modern Suite

Evidently it has remained for California to give the world a new style in architecture. At the recent convention in Detroit, the Georgian, Elizabethan, Roman, Queen Anne, etc., had been discussed as to their relative merits for various parts of the country. "All very fine," finally interrupted the Californian, "but out our way, we're introducing an entirely new style, to suit our own self-evident needs—a garage for three cars, with a built-in living room."

### It's a Question

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