



1—New Victory monument in Constantinople, first ever erected by Turks, with group of President Kemal and his staff. 2—Battleship Maryland, carrying President-Elect Hoover on first part of his Latin-American tour. 3—View of Mount Etna during its latest destructive eruption.

## NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

### Ship and Crew Blamed for the Loss of Life in the Vestris Disaster.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

ONE hundred and eleven persons, of whom forty-three were women and children, perished when the Lampert & Holt liner Vestris sank about 250 miles off the Virginia capes. The rescued were 215 in number and were picked up by vessels summoned by the S O S call of the radio operator on the Vestris. Who, if anybody, was to blame for the terrible loss of life was to be determined by official investigation. Many of the survivors were certain that the captain, William Carey, was responsible for it. He went down with his vessel and cannot defend himself. The stories told by the rescued passengers agree that the ship was in evident peril Sunday night and that Captain Carey delayed the sending of calls for help until ten o'clock Monday morning, presumably hoping to save salvage fees, which are heavy. Though the Vestris was inspected at New York on November 7 it is asserted she sailed with some of her life boats and lowering davits in poor condition and that none of the boats were sufficiently equipped with oars, provisions, etc. Before she got far from port a heavy list developed, and the cargo shifted when heavy seas broke through one of the coaling ports.

When the captain finally did send out the S O S call it was answered immediately by several vessels, including the American Shipper, the French tanker Myriam and the North German Lloyd liner Berlin. The battleship Wyoming and five coast guard vessels also were rushed to the scene. But hours before the first of these arrived the Vestris had rolled over and gone to the bottom. Almost at the last minute the passengers and crew took to the boats, but some of these boats were smashed, and others upset. The old rule of the sea, women and children first, was observed, but only ten of the thirty-three women survived and all of the twenty children perished. Twenty-one bodies of the dead were recovered. Captain Carey was said at the London offices of the steamship company to have been an experienced seaman with an excellent record. Staying with the ship and dying with the captain was M. J. O'Loughlin, the radio operator.

SIX members of the flying school squadron at San Antonio, Texas, were killed when an army transport plane crashed. The right wing and tail piece of the plane broke off at an altitude of 3,000 feet and it plunged into a tail spin. The men killed were all in the cabin of the plane and had no chance. The pilot and another man, who were in the front seat, were thrown out and landed with parachutes.

MOUNT ETNA calmed down toward the end of the week and it was believed the eruption was nearing its end. The river of molten lava was beginning to solidify and its advance was much slower, but it still was menacing several towns. Officials of the Fascist government were most efficient in evacuating and assisting the refugees, all of whom were provided with shelter and food. Ample funds were voted by the council of ministers. The work of reconstruction already is being planned, among the first things being the building of new transportation routes around the fresh lava deposits. The total damage is estimated at \$9,000,000. Three towns were ruined, two railroads cut and partly submerged and many hundreds of acres of lemon groves and vineyards destroyed. Very few lives were lost for the inhabitants had ample warning.

PRESIDENT-ELECT HERBERT HOOVER is on his way southward aboard the battleship Maryland, and all of Latin-America is getting ready to welcome him on his good-will tour. It was decided that the first port of call should be Corinto, Nicaragua, where he would be met by President Diaz and would have an opportunity to indicate the policy his administration will pursue in dealing with situations similar to that which arose in Nicaragua and which resulted in the policing of the country by American marines. From there on the tentative program calls for stops at Balboa, Canal Zone; Callao, Peru, and Valparaiso, Chile. The governments of Colombia, Ecuador and Bolivia also asked that Mr. Hoover visit those countries.

The President-elect is accompanied on his tour by Mrs. Hoover and their son, Allan. The others in the official party are Henry P. Fletcher, American ambassador to Rome, representing the State department; George Akerston, secretary to Mr. Hoover; George Barr Baker of New York, a personal friend; Commander Augustin T. Beauregard, United States naval aid to the President-elect, and a force of four clerks and interpreters.

Before leaving Palo Alto, Mr. Hoover made it known that he had not discussed his cabinet appointments with anyone and would do nothing in that matter until his return in January. William J. Donovan, assistant attorney general of the United States, spent several days at the Hoover home and at once it was rumored that he would be given the post of attorney general.

In a letter written for the Manufacturers' Record, Mr. Hoover expressed his profound appreciation of the heavy vote given him by the Southern states, and promised that he would give that section of the country all the help he could in the way of flood control and development of an inter-coastal canal system and hydro-electric power.

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE'S Armistice day address, delivered at the American Legion exercises in Washington, aroused a lot of comment, mostly favorable in this country. He made an earnest appeal for the construction of additional cruisers for our navy, and then passed to a review of American relations since the war, giving Europe notice of changes in our foreign policy. He took America's former allies to task for their criticism of this country, announced a tightening of American purse strings on loans to Europe, placed the blame for the failure of the Geneva three-power conference and the efforts to attain cruiser limitation squarely upon the selfishness of England and other European nations.

The French press didn't especially like the President's remarks; and in London Lord Birkenhead in a banquet speech said: "My answers to the President of the United States would be that we ask nothing from them except good will. When we discuss questions of naval construction we do not invite lectures as to whether we are pacific or not. When America claimed the right to build a certain number of cruisers our answer was: 'We agree. Let them build as many as they like.' There is one thing no English government ever will do. They will not surrender the right to build a sufficient number of light cruisers to protect the empire for which they are responsible trustees."

GOV. AL SMITH went down to Biloxi with a party of close friends to rest and play golf, but before departing from New York he issued a cheerful radio address to his fellow Democrats. Admitting his disappointment with the outcome of the election, he yet refused to admit that the defeat had crushed the Democratic party and declared that it must carry on its political fight along the lines and upon the principles it always has stood for and that it should be a constructive rather than a destructive force. Those principles, he asserted, are as great in defeat as they would have been in victory. Citing the large popular vote he received, he said: "We have the assurance from the election returns that the Democratic party is a live, a vigorous and a forceful major minority party. The existence of such a party is necessary under our system of government."

The governor reminded his hearers that Mr. Hoover would be the President, not of the Republican party, but of the United States—of all the people—and as such "is entitled to all the co-operation of every citizen in the de-

velopment of a program calculated to promote the welfare and the best interests of this country."

LOUIS J. TABER, master of the National Grange, in addressing the opening session of the annual convention in Washington, urged that congress call a halt on the "expenditure of public funds for new reclamation projects. "The government should act with caution in the development of new lands for agricultural production during this period of depression and surplus," Mr. Taber said. "The grange must fight against appropriations for new irrigation and reclamation projects until there is evidence of need for the land for food purposes, or until agriculture again prospers."

The grange is in favor of the export plan of farm relief in preference to the McNary-Haugen bill, which it considers dead.

HIGHWAY officials from nearly every state, in annual convention in Chicago, expressed the belief that there would be an unprecedented expansion and development of improved roads during the Hoover administration, because of the encouragement he gave the movement in his St. Louis speech, and the association asked for a largely increased federal aid appropriation.

STATISTICS made public by the Internal revenue bureau show that 52 individuals entered the \$1,000,000 or more income class in 1927 and that the total number in that group was thus brought up to 283. The report shows a marked decrease in the number of persons having incomes up to \$10,000 a year and a considerable increase in those reporting higher incomes, as compared with the figures for 1926. There was a big decrease in the gross incomes of corporations.

JULIU MANIU, leader of the Rumanian peasant party, was summoned by the regency council to form a ministry for that disturbed country, and undertook the job, to the great joy of the peasants and workmen. He made up a cabinet and began work by dismissing a lot of lesser officials in different parts of the country, saying he wished to clean "Rumania's Augean stable of its corrupt and dishonest incumbents before the new elections are held so that the Liberals with their huge political machine cannot falsify the returns." All the opposition parties have combined to fight to the death against the Maniu government. This combination is backed by the big corporate interests and says it will spend money freely in the national elections early in December.

Raymond Poincare yielded to persuasion and formed a new ministry for France with himself as premier without portfolio. But he had to leave out the Radical Socialists because they refused to co-operate with him, and thus his parliamentary strength is considerably decreased. He also omitted M. Louis Marin, leading opponent of the war debt agreement ratification.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY ASA KEYES of Los Angeles pleaded not guilty to charges of bribery and will go on trial, with seven others, on December 5. An interesting feature of this case is the possibility that the Almee Simple McPherson kidnaping conspiracy matter may be reopened. Witnesses before the grand jury submitted documentary evidence said to have supported allegations that about \$800,000 was used in the defense of the evangelist before the district attorney dismissed the charges of conspiracy which were made against her. Over in England, where Almee has been evangelizing, she denied this story with scornful satire.

MME. SIGRID UNDSSET of Norway has been given the 1928 Nobel prize in literature, and Henry Bergson, French philosopher, that for 1927, held over from last year. The Nobel awards for chemistry, for both years were carried off by Germans, Prof. Heinrich Wieland of Munich and Prof. Adolf Windaus of Goettingen. The peace prize for 1928 will be awarded by a committee of five to Oslo.

## Soil Favorable for Fertilizer

Quite Important That Conditions Be as Near Ideal as Possible.

In using fertilizers that cost \$30 or \$40 a ton it is important that general soil conditions should be as favorable as possible, points out A. W. Blair, soil chemist at the New Jersey agricultural experiment station.

A soil that is strongly acid may limit the growth of certain crops to such an extent that the fertilizer can have little effect. It is a waste of money to use fertilizer on such land. When the acidity of the soil is eliminated by the use of lime, good results may be expected from the fertilizer.

**Fertilizer for Vegetables.** Vegetable crops that grow rapidly require a fertilizer that has a large percentage of its nitrogen in rapidly available materials. Such a fertilizer furnishes soluble nitrogen as fast as the plants need it.

The soil chemist advises that concentrated fertilizers should be mixed thoroughly with the soil or else put on in two separate applications. If fertilizers of this type are put in close contact with the seed there is danger of injury through burning.

**Drainage is Important.** Sometimes the land is so wet that crops can make only very poor growth, fertilizer or no fertilizer. Until satisfactory drainage is provided it is a waste of money to use high-priced fertilizer on this kind of land.

On land that is very sandy and poorly supplied with organic material growth of crops is often limited by the water supply. Heavy applications of fertilizer cannot produce good crops under these difficulties. First of all, organic material must be added to the soil; then the fertilizer application may profitably be gradually increased.

### Rat Is Most Filthy and Destructive Farm Pest

No agricultural pest in existence affects a greater number of people than the rat, says the United States Department of Agriculture, and no other pest is so closely associated with both the business and domestic sides of farm life. Yet losses by rats have been sustained for so long that commonly they have been taken for granted as the forces of nature. But in the present day of rigid accounting and efficiency, even losses from the elements are insured against, and the time is rapidly approaching when the constant drain through rat depredations will no longer be tolerated.

The uncanny elusiveness of rats necessitates a matching of wits if one is to be successful in destroying them. In the war on rats one is not confronted with a stupid insect that requires only the employment of a routine control procedure for wholesale destruction, but with a wary animal that has instincts closely akin to human intelligence.

To be rid of rats would be worth a thousand times what it might cost. It is to the interest of every home, high and low, rich and poor, to co-operate earnestly in furthering a sentiment of intolerance against this filthy and destructive pest.

### Much Manure Is Wasted by Improper Handling

The Purdue university agricultural experiment station estimates that one-third of all manure is wasted by improper handling. This indicates the importance of a manure pit on the farm.

The walls of a manure pit may be made of concrete in which 6½ gallons of water are used to the sack of cement. If the sand and pebbles are damp, only five gallons of water are used, since the other 1½ gallons are contained in the aggregates. With wet aggregates, use only 4½ gallons.

In most cases a satisfactory concrete can be made by using 2½ cubic feet of sand and 3½ cubic feet of pebbles to the sack of cement. These proportions may, however, require slight variations. Under no circumstances vary the relation of water to cement.

### Agricultural Notes

A successful sailor studies his compass and a successful farmer studies market conditions.

It's the wise farmer who knows what insects destroys his crops and takes measures against them.

The best results may be expected from oats when the crop is seeded as early in the spring as climatic conditions will permit.

Many farmers are putting ventilating systems in their dairy stables now, as fresh air of the right temperature is necessary for healthy stock.

Hollow fruit trees can be repaired by cleaning out the decayed wood, either working from the top down or also cutting an opening in below to facilitate the work.

Good farm machinery means an up-to-date farmer; well-cared-for machinery means a thrifty farmer. Machines give longer wear if they are not left out in the weather.

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## Progress of Agriculture Greatly Aided by Fairs and Their Exhibits

By DR. BRADFORD KNAPP, Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

FAIRS and expositions have become important in our educational systems. They have a valuable place in every step in agricultural, industrial, commercial and educational advancement. To them we come to compare notes, to learn what our neighbors, far and near, may be doing in their work. From them we learn the new things, the improved ways, the very existence of things almost unknown. I have seen many a farmer come to the fair with an exhibit which he believed to be the very best to be found anywhere, only to discover that some other farmer has a better one. The thousands who came with no exhibit got the thrill of seeing what can be. Two hundred years ago in England, fairs were just general sales day when farmers gathered to sell their products. Fairs were markets. Then some one began offering a prize, and so grew our modern fairs. Agriculture has made more progress since fairs and exhibits became a part of our system than in all history before that time. As a national policy, industry, labor and banks have laws which prevent, or tend to prevent, disaster. What we need is a national policy toward agriculture. Three times in a little more than a hundred years we have seen this thing happen to agriculture. Some day we will acquire the wisdom to solve the problems and prevent the misery accompanying such a disaster on these occasions.

## Irresistible Forces Moving to Make End of Era of Lawlessness

By ARTHUR V. LASHLY, Director of Crime Survey, Chicago.

Crime in America has reached the point of saturation. But I am persuaded that history will note the swing of the pendulum in the other direction and that the next ten years will see some remarkable readjustments of our attitudes toward crime, criminals and the enforcement of law.

The reaction of the people is already making itself felt in the movement for law enforcement and the suppression of crime which is sweeping the country. This movement has crystallized from a number of small beginnings in several of the states until it has assumed a national aspect. The people are studying the question as it has never been studied before. Citizen committees and official commissions, organized to obtain and publish the facts, and to keep a day-by-day check upon law-enforcing agencies, have sprung up in a number of cities and states. The press of the country is almost unanimous in its advocacy of better laws and better administration and enforcement of those laws.

These activities, in my opinion, have substantially contributed to filling our prisons to overflowing, especially in states having large urban centers. And, in my judgment, you will see an ever-increasing prison population as this movement gains headway and becomes irresistible, until government again has crime under reasonable control.

## Americans Generally Unappreciative of the Benefits of Real Leisure

By DR. DANIEL GREGORY MASON, Columbia University.

In America little true leisure exists—what we have is mostly not the genuine article. We have plenty of what we carelessly suppose to be leisure—more probably, thanks to our economic good fortune, than is to be found anywhere else in the world; but most of it, spoiled by wrong emotional attitudes and fallacious ideas, falls short of creativeness, and so is not real leisure at all.

The fatigue-poisoned mind and body, too dull to enjoy quiet beauty and true thought, crave the crude excitements so abused among us; restless speeding in motor cars from nowhere; the rapid movements and trivial but exciting dangers of the amusement park; superlatives and exaggerations in talk; the artificial stimulants and feverish pumped-up gaiety of the "wild party"; the "thrills" so insistently demanded by the younger generation; violent plastic arts using harsh angles and garish colors; noisy, mechanical, over-accented music.

Leisure in order to be fruitful and to make us happy, needs some such stimulus and control as work gets largely through social means; and our next question must therefore be, how can these be achieved in the case of leisure without jeopardizing, as direct social control would seem to do, its equally essential spontaneity and irresponsibility?

## World Understanding Forwarded by Foreign Students in American Institutions

By DR. PAUL MONROE, Columbia University.

The democratic interchange of common cultures and intellectual developments is one of the most potent influences toward elimination of international conflicts, and the last few years have seen a vast change in the type and number of foreign students studying in America, particularly at Columbia university, which is the center of this educational interchange.

The culture of the generation gone was for the few, and the influence of these students scarcely penetrated outside the limits of the intellectual class. Today it is different. Foreign students are from all classes, and are studying education with a view to returning to their countries and improving their systems. Many of the students are sons of the ruling classes; others are sons of educational leaders.