



1—Capt. Charles E. Riggs, appointed surgeon general of the navy and chief of its bureau of medicine and surgery. 2—Four generals, including Major General Sumner, chief of staff, and Major General Cheatham, quartermaster general, acting as honorary pall bearers at funeral of Sergt. Joseph Spel who died after thirty years of service. 3—President Coolidge returning from a deer hunt during his vacation on Sapelo Island, Georgia.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Hoover's Advice on German Reparations Wanted by President Coolidge.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

ONE of the chief reasons for Mr. Hoover's quick return to Washington, which he reached Sunday, according to dispatches from the national capital was President Coolidge's desire to confer with his successor concerning American participation in the international meeting of experts to fix definitely the German reparations. This will be one of the more serious problems for the incoming administration, for the conference of experts is expected to prepare the way for commercialization of the reparations debts and the liquidation of the war obligations of the allied nations to the United States. President Coolidge already has told the allies that this government has no objection to the participation by American experts if they are selected by Germany and the allied powers and it is understood Mr. Hoover approves of this arrangement. Seymour Parker Gilbert, agent general of reparations, is now in the United States and was scheduled to go to Washington to take part in the discussion of the entire project.

Mr. Gilbert made public on New Year's day his report for the fourth year of operation of the Dawes plan. Concerning Germany's increasing prosperity and its ability to pay, the report was so optimistic that the Germans were aroused to wrath and declared Mr. Parker was looking through rose-colored glasses and was skipping over all danger signs which they assert are numerous in German economics. The agent general called the German government to account, however, for permitting some of the states to overspend and overborrow. Some of the German newspapers acknowledge the justice of these strictures.

The French read the report with satisfaction and the newspaper Le Temps says impartial minds now will be convinced that the Dawes plan took adequately into account Germany's capacity to pay and "there is no reason for bringing that subject up again." It was asserted in Paris that France needs the maximum payments by Germany provided by the Dawes plan in order to pay her war debts; and that since Gilbert finds the reich able to pay that maximum, the financial situation is cleared up. The remaining questions, say the French, are how long Germany must pay, the form of guaranty to be substituted for occupation of the Rhineland, and the terms for commercializing the reparations debt.

President von Hindenburg and Chancellor Mueller, at the official New Year's reception in Berlin, told the diplomats of forty nations that the German people were very bitter "because a great part of their country still lacks the liberty which we claim through divine and human right."

Mr. and Mrs. Hoover spent a pleasant New Year's day at sea, and after an entertainment the President-Elect worked on his inaugural address and on a report of his Latin-American tour.

REPRESENTATIVES of Bolivia and Paraguay in Washington signed a protocol fixing the conditions for submitting the disputes of those republics to conciliation. The matters will be considered by a commission of nine judges, and all hostilities were immediately suspended.

WHEN congress reconvened on January 3 the fifteen cruiser bill was the unfinished business before the senate, but those urging ratification of the Kellogg war renunciation treaty

insisted that action on the pact be given the right of way. Senator Borah, chairman of the foreign relations committee, consented that Senator Hale, chairman of the naval affairs committee, should make his opening speech in favor of the treaty, and then moved that the senate go into executive session for consideration of the treaty. He thought this could be disposed of in about one week, but others were not so sanguine. Senator Hale was forced to yield by the prospect of a filibuster against the cruiser bill. Representative Tinkham of Massachusetts charged that international bankers and business organizations are spending large sums of money to promote ratification of the Kellogg treaty, and he introduced in the house a resolution for the creation of a commission to investigate the charges. He is bitterly opposed to the treaty.

Senator Hale made public a mass of information laid before the senate naval affairs committee by Secretary of the Navy Wilbur. It shows that the United States not only is weaker than Great Britain and France in first line cruiser strength, but bids fair to be outclassed shortly by both powers in first line destroyers and submarines.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT was inaugurated governor of New York on January 1 before a throng that was as enthusiastic over his predecessor, Al Smith, as it was over the new executive. Next day Mr. Smith appeared in New York city wearing a silk hat instead of the brown derby, and with Mrs. Smith occupied a suite in the Biltmore hotel. He said he had not decided whether to devote the remainder of his life to pleasure or business. But he is going to spend several weeks in Florida and then will go to Europe for a few months. Wall street says Al need not worry about his future for within the last year or so he has made a comfortable fortune in the stock market.

SO SERIOUS has been the wave of influenza all over the country that Secretary Mellon and Surgeon General Cumming arranged for a public health service national conference on the subject in Washington, opening January 10. Reports from 32 states showed the flu declined in prevalence during the holidays and it was believed the peak had been passed. But the conference will make a full study of the disease in the hope of curbing its spread in the future. Among the victims of the flu was Myron T. Herrick, ambassador to France, who was confined to his bed at his home in Cleveland.

BULLETINS from the bedside of King George of England indicated that he had passed the danger line, and the physicians believed the worst of his illness was over, though his recovery will be slow. The optimism of those close to the king was shown by the fact that his sons went for hunting, and Sir William Joynson-Hicks, the home secretary, left for a vacation in Mentone, France.

PRESIDENTIAL electors met in the capitals of their several states Wednesday and cast their votes for President and Vice President, and the result was, as might have been suspected, that Hoover and Curtis were elected by 444 votes to 87 votes for Smith and Robinson. For the first time in the history of the government, the result of the balloting was transmitted to Washington by mail instead of by special messengers from each state capital.

J. R. Nutt, treasurer of the Republican national committee, reported last week to the house campaign fund investigating committee that the national committee's expenditures for all purposes in the Hoover campaign totaled \$6,256,110. The committee collected a grand total of \$5,541,748 from 144,124 subscribers and on December 31 had a balance of \$285,637.

The largest single contribution received by the committee was \$67,000 from the Pennsylvania state Republican committee. "The ways and means committee of east Pennsylvania" contributed \$30,000, according to the report, which also lists gifts of \$25,000 each from C. M. Schwab, the steel magnate; Ernst & Ernst, public accountants of Cleveland, Ohio, and John N. Willys, Toledo, Ohio, automobile manufacturer. Three persons, H. Johnson, Eugene Meyer, and George

F. Baker, all of New York, each gave \$20,000, according to the list, which shows that the six Fisher brothers—Fred, Charles T., W. A., Laurence P., Edward F., and Alfred J., Detroit automobile body manufacturers, contributed a total of \$100,000 to the committee's treasury.

CANADA and the United States signed in Ottawa a treaty providing for joint projects to increase and maintain the scenic beauty of Niagara falls. Under its terms the two nations will share the cost of constructing remedial works in the Niagara river to increase the volume of water flowing over the American falls and to provide better distribution of the flow over the Canadian section. A temporary diversion of an additional amount of water for power purposes on each side of the boundary also is provided.

PORTER GIL, the new President of Mexico, has made a good beginning by putting an end to the reign of a gang of professional grafting politicians who have long preyed on the towns and villages in the federal district. He has put the district under the control of a business director and an administrative council. The new plan already has been partially tried out, with success, in Mexico City.

FINAL unification of China under the Nationalist government was achieved when the three eastern provinces, Fengtien, Kirin and Heilungkiang, known collectively as Manchuria, unfurled the Kuomintang flag and provincial officials were sworn in, agreeing to submit to the authority of the Nanking government. The Manchurian government is headed by Gen. Chang Hsueh-liang, son of the late Marshal Chang Tso-lin. Japan for many years has claimed a protectorate over Manchuria which has a territory of about 400,000 square miles. Its population is approximately 30,000,000. Most of them are Chinese but there are about 500,000 Japanese and Russians there.

BUSINESS and financial interests should be pleased with the New Year statement of Secretary of the Treasury Mellon. "During the last year," Mellon said, "the country has made steady progress. Early in the year the volume of business began to show marked improvement over the closing months of 1927, and this improvement has continued. It has been evident in manufacturing, in steel production, carloading, automobile production, building contracts and sales of goods to consumers. All of this is evidence also that buying power has been sustained and that, on the whole, satisfactory employment conditions have prevailed.

"Prices in basic industries have not been unduly high and have remained fairly stable, nor does there seem to be any immediate danger of excessive demand sending prices to such high levels as to make a slump in activity and, consequently, lower prices. Inevitable. In the industrial world conditions seem to be on an even keel, and it is much better to have them so, with a slight upward tendency, as at present.

"In the financial world, there is sufficient money available for all legitimate undertakings. A considerable amount of gold has been exported during the last year. But it has not seriously impaired our credit resources, while, at the same time, it has helped to establish gold standards more firmly in Europe and to stabilize foreign currencies with resulting benefits to our import and export trade.

"In so far as the government is concerned, the finances are in a sound condition. The debt has been reduced to manageable proportions; the revenues are ample for our needs, and during the last year there has been another reduction of taxes, the full benefit of which will be more generally felt during the coming year."

FOOTBALL history was made in the Pasadena Rose Bowl game in which Georgia Tech defeated the University of California 8 to 6. Roy Riegels, captain-elect of the California team, seizing a fumbled ball, lost his bearings and ran 60 yards to his own goal line. The California punt from there was blocked and the resulting safety provided the Georgia boys with the two points they needed to win the exciting game.

Litter Bedding Affects Manure

Dry Sawdust and Fine Shavings Are Clean and Satisfactory.

Straw is the bedding material almost universally used on the farm. It will absorb from two to three times its weight of liquid. If the supply is scanty, it will pay to cut the straw used as litter, for finely cut it will absorb about three times as much liquid as uncut.

Dry sawdust and fine shavings can be recommended as clean and satisfactory bedding materials. Their absorptive capacity according to fineness and dryness is from two to four times that of ordinary straw.

Not Injurious to Land. There is a more or less general impression among farmers that manure from stables and cow barns in which sawdust has been used as a litter is injurious to the land. While we would not say that this suspicion may not have some foundation, we have never been able to discover a single instance of such injury and inquiry has been made both in Canada and the United States in this matter, says the Farm and Home. Such injury could only occur on very light soils following very heavy applications. Most satisfactory evidence has been obtained from many farms upon which sawdust has been used as a bedding material for a number of years and upon which the soil is light and sandy. Naturally it is on heavy soils that this class of manure proves most effective.

One word of caution is necessary. Horse manure from stables using sawdust heats very rapidly, especially if left in the pile, and the excessive fermentation that may take place will seriously injure the manure. Such manure should be mixed with that from the cow barn, which can readily be managed when manure carriers are installed and a manure spreader used. Mixed manure (horse and cow) may be handled in the same manner as that made with straw. The saturation of the sawdust with the liquid excreta promotes the ready decomposition of the litter under favorable conditions of temperature, and the best place for this to take place, in order that the full manurial effect may be obtained, is the soil. If the manure cannot be spread at once, the heap should be kept moist and compact, as in the case of manure made with straw.

Hardwood Sawdust Best. The sawdust of hardwoods decomposes more rapidly and further is richer in potash and phosphoric acid than that of pines and conifers generally, but no harm due to resistance to decay need be feared from the use of the latter, provided that it is not employed in larger quantity than is sufficient to absorb and retain the liquid excreta.

Tests Show How Rains Rob Farms of Rich Soil. Tens of millions of dollars are being literally washed away in the rivers and streams of America through failure of farmers and other land owners to properly protect their lands from erosion, reports the Farm Journal. The rich surface soil, created by the accumulation of vegetable matter for many centuries, is laid bare by plowing and deforestation, and within a few years is swept away by rains, leaving only the semi-sterile earth beneath.

"A six-year-old experiment at the Missouri College of Agriculture shows that on a slope of 3.6 feet to 100 feet, soil left without any crops washes so rapidly that only 29 years are required to wear away the seven inches of surface soil," says the magazine. "With a rotation of corn, wheat and clover on the same land, 437 years would be required to move the surface seven inches, while on land left in sod continuously the time required to wash away the same seven inches would be 3,547 years."

Systematic terracing of such sloping ground, used in conjunction with regular cover crops, would make the life of the rich top soil almost interminable, it is pointed out.

Agricultural Notes

Poor land is scarce where cows are abundant.

A rich farm turneth off a yield; but grievous weeds use up the plant food.

Besides canning, many vegetables may be stored in cellars for winter use.

The names of the legumes are as strong towers; the wise farmer useth them and is safe.

Feed your pullets good grain mash and some cod liver oil if you want them to lay well all winter.

Concrete floors are sanitary and inexpensive. They are fairly satisfactory when kept well bedded.

Peat moss, commonly known as moss-litter (sphagnum) makes admirable bedding; it is soft and absorbent.

Farmers collect a lot of grief by planning their activities on the basis of what prices are when they start—not what prices are likely to be when they are ready to go to market.

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For World's Best Interests, Science Should Be Subservient to Religion

By RABBI JACOB KOHN, New York.

The question of science and religion is no longer a question of conflict, or of the nature of a conflict. Religion recognizes that there is a fundamental purpose in the matter and energy with which pure science deals. Applied science, however, should be subservient to religion for the happiness of the world.

If the World war showed anything, it demonstrated that every chemist and inventor, every practitioner of an applied science, can be an enemy of mankind, and that his art can be used against as well as for the advancement of human happiness.

Lord Haldane said that the mighty power of science, by which I take it he meant applied science, should be applied to man's happiness, and that the application of that power was not a matter for the scientists, but for the ethical philosophers of the world.

Injustice to Farmer in Making Capital Investment Basis for Taxation

By DR. EUGENE DAVENPORT, Illinois College of Agriculture.

THE farmer has a case in demanding something other than capital investment as a basis for taxation. The laboring man with his bare hands often enjoys a much higher income than the average farmer, yet as a laborer he pays no taxes. He will argue that he pays them indirectly in the form of rent and grocery bills. So does the farmer as a consumer pay the same indirect taxes. Besides, he pays heavy taxes as a producer, which the laborer, the clerk, the teacher and the professional man entirely avoids, even though often far more able to pay than the farmer, who must help to school the others' children.

Only two ways of reaching this nonpaying citizenry have suggested themselves—a poll tax, which is impracticable if not unfair, and certain commodity taxes which are bitterly resisted as tending to increase the cost of living.

The farmer is the last to resist the commodity tax, even when it seems to be a new kind of taxation, for, like the gasoline tax, it reaches many a citizen not heretofore contributing to the public exchequer. We are doing well with the gasoline tax, which reaches no one in distress, and we may go further in this period of improved school and general highway construction.

A tax levy according to capital investment is especially hard on farmers for the reason that they have almost twice as much invested as manufacturers, for example, while producing less than a quarter as much in value of product.

Among Greatest Needs of Modern Youth Is the Principle of Self-Denial

By DR. ERNEST R. GROVES, University of North Carolina.

The flood of discoveries and inventions have sophisticated youth and so multiplied the interests of parents as to restrict the importance of family experience. The automobile especially has contributed an opportunity for anonymous freedom which has tempted youth by furnishing him with a sense of social isolation and revealing to him the ease with which parental ties can be temporarily severed.

Social conditions have encouraged the philosophy of self-expression. Along with this has gone the sweep of luxury standards from which few children, however poor, can escape.

Forced constantly into an atmosphere of luxury, with their appetites and pleasure cravings exploited by commerce, they have repudiated the self-denial virtues that in the past have been so prominent. This discarding of what in the past has been the chief machinery of control is the most significant element in the present youth situation.

There can be little doubt as to the best means of helping youth in their ordeal. More attention must be given to the early years of childhood, and the demands of adolescence and independence be recognized from the first, so that the impressionable years may be used to lay a foundation for early self-control.

Position of Labor Today the Best in the History of the World

By JAMES J. DAVIS, Secretary of Labor.

There never was a time before when the worker was as well off as he is today. That is not to say that there is not still room for improvement. It is to say that there is no place in the mind of an intelligent man for the pessimistic claim once advanced by Socialists that the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer.

The poor are not getting poorer; they are getting richer, too. Moreover, for the first time in human history there is reason for thinking that involuntary poverty is a thing which can be conquered.

It is not going to be conquered by agitators, much less by politicians; it is going to be conquered by the application of labor-saving machinery to industry.

It formerly was thought by some persons that the classes made prosperity, not the masses. We are learning that this notion must be reversed. For it is not the classes that make prosperity; it is the masses.

The prosperity of America today is based on the fact that the workers' wages become a highly important factor in our economics.