



1—Vice President Curtis calling the senate to order at start of the extraordinary session of congress. 2—body of the late Ambassador Myron T. Herrick being escorted through New York enroute to Cleveland for burial. 3—King George of England, with Queen Mary, at Bognor, on his first public appearance since his serious illness.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Congress Is Struggling With Farm Relief and Tariff Change Problems.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.
CONGRESS, which met in extraordinary session at the beginning of the week, is struggling with the problem of farm relief, for the solution of which mainly it was called to Washington by President Hoover. On the first day the usual process of organization was carried out, Nicholas Longworth being re-elected speaker of the house and Vice President Curtis taking his place as presiding officer of the senate. Possibly for the purpose of avoiding any objections to the seating of De Priest and Michaelson of Illinois, Mr. Longworth swore in all the new members of the house at one time. De Priest, colored, was under indictment for months as a member of a gambling ring, but the case was dropped recently. Michaelson was indicted in Florida on charges of smuggling liquor into the country. The administration's farm relief measure was promptly introduced by Representative Gilbert N. Haugen of Iowa and the next day it was approved by the new committee on agriculture by a vote of 19 to 2.

Tuesday President Hoover's message was read to congress. It was brief and business-like, as might have been expected, but did not meet with unanimous approval. Some of Mr. Hoover's supporters in the campaign were decidedly disappointed in his handling of the farmers' problem, these including Senators Capper, Brookhart and Norbeck. The President recommended legislation covering eight matters, as follows:

Creation of a federal farm board, an enormous revolving fund and other machinery for stabilizing agriculture on a basis more profitable to the farmers.

Limited revision of the tariff to increase the protection of the farmers and to furnish adequate protection to those industries in which changed economic conditions have produced slackened activity and lessened employment.

Reorganization of the tariff commission and of its method of operation.

Provision for domestic valuation of imports in cases of foreign undervaluation.

Provision for the taking of the census of 1930.

Reapportionment of representatives in congress.

Suspension of the national origins immigration restriction system.

Minor administrative authorizations, possibly including the transfer of prohibition enforcement to the Department of Justice.

The control of farm production and improvement of marketing by Mr. Hoover's plan, as embodied in the bill before the house, would be committed to the supervision of a federal farm board which would use a government revolving fund to finance farmer-controlled corporations and associations. The President is known to be opposed to the export debenture plan though he made no mention of it in his message. The scheme was offered in the senate's bill for agricultural relief, which varied in other respects from the house measure.

Concerning tariff changes the message was rather vague. It said congress should be careful not to make alterations that would impair our export trade or cause retaliation by other nations. The President's recommendation that the national origins immigration restriction system be suspended probably will meet with more opposition in congress than any other of his suggestions.

POLICIES of the federal reserve board which affected stock market activities by restricting the amount of money for speculation were attacked in the house by Frank R. Reid of Illinois and Loring M. Black of New York. Representative Reid offered a resolution for appointment of a committee of nine to investigate the administration of the federal reserve system, suggesting that the board

might have been unduly subject to foreign influences. Representative Black defended speculative activities on the New York Stock exchange and insisted there was no occasion for alarm on account of the greatly expanded operations there. He asserted that the federal reserve board was injuring business generally by attempting to curb speculation. The board, according to Mr. Black, is exceeding its powers under the law.

APPPOINTMENT of Charles G. Dawes as ambassador to Great Britain was confirmed by the senate without roll call. Other Presidential nominations were those of Joseph M. Dixon of Montana to be first assistant secretary of the interior; Oscar B. Colquitt of Texas as a member of the board of mediation; John M. Morin of Pennsylvania as member of the United States employees' compensation commission; Patrick J. Hurley, assistant secretary of war; Ernest L. Jahncke and David S. Ingalls, assistant secretaries of the navy; Capt. Joseph J. Cheatham, paymaster general of the navy with the rank of rear admiral, and Maj. Gen. Charles McK. Saltzman (retired), member of the federal radio commission, and Charles J. Rhoads, commissioner of Indian affairs.

WET members of congress lost no time in getting into action along their favorite lines. On the first day of the session a lot of bills and resolutions were introduced in the house designed to repeal or weaken the prohibition legislation, and others were offered on succeeding days. Of course not one of these measures stands any chance of being considered by this session.

Wisconsin's lower house, obeying the mandate of the referendum, voted to repeal the state prohibition act and to wipe out the state prohibition commission, and hurried the measure on to the senate. The bill takes the Badger state out of prohibition enforcement, but leaves the matter optional with municipalities. Cities and villages can adopt any regulatory or prohibitory ordinances they see fit. If they want to they can adopt the abandoned state dry code as their own, but effective only within their own borders.

Washington's reply to Canada's protest against the sinking of the rum runner I'm Alone in the Gulf of Mexico by a coast guard vessel was delivered to the Canadian legation. Its contents were not made public, but it was understood to be conciliatory and designed to confine the dispute to legal aspects of the case. The issue may have to be determined by arbitration.

HARRY F. SINCLAIR, seeking to avoid imprisonment for contempt of the senate, has asked the Supreme court of the United States to reconsider its recent decision upholding his sentence. Meanwhile it is reported that he has lost control of the Sinclair Consolidated Oil corporation and that his place as chairman of the board may be given to Col. R. W. Stewart, whom John D. Rockefeller ousted from the chairmanship of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana. The Sinclair company is said to be dominated now by a new group of financiers.

RUSSIA, supported by Germany and Turkey, again presented to the League of Nations preparatory disarmament commission her plan for the immediate reduction of armaments. But France and Japan attacked the scheme as impractical, the other delegates were unfriendly, and the commission voted against it. The Soviet plan provides for reducing armaments one-half, one-third or a fourth, according to the present military strength and various categories of the countries. It would establish definite figures on the number of effectives and the amount of material for the armies, navies and air forces, as against the conservative idea of merely seeking an agreement on broad general lines as recommendations for some future plenary disarmament conference which should fix the amounts and numbers and bill in all the details and particulars.

H. G. WELLS, the noted English novelist and publicist, addressing the German reichstag in Berlin, gave utterance to a grim prophecy.

He said: "Our world is marching on to a new war, into which we will fall headlong as we did in 1914 unless we start to work systematically for peace. The chief danger is connected with Russia, which, through compulsory isolation, is becoming a country of inwardly concentrated patriotism which is likely to lead to a tremendous struggle between Russia and the western powers. The Russians will call it a battle against western capitalism, but it will be more than that. War may break out in Asia or elsewhere, but it will spread all over the world in a useless and gigantic war."

GENERAL CALLES, having the Mexican rebellion practically cornered in the state of Sonora, went to work carefully and systematically to crush it finally there, the campaign being under the active direction of General Almazan. Federal forces were being concentrated, coming from the east and south. The program was temporarily disarranged by a new uprising in Coahuila and a battle in Pulpito pass, the entrance to Sonora. Federal aviators reported that General Caraveo had 1,500 insurgents defending the pass and that hundreds of Yaqui Indians were hidden in the mountains ready to engage in guerrilla warfare. General Enriquez, one of the rebel commanders in the battle of Jiminez, surrendered to General Almazan. The latter said Enriquez would not be executed but would be treated as a prisoner of war—quite a departure from the usual Mexican practice.

SO WIDELY divergent were the proposals of the allies and the Germans in the matter of German reparations that the conference of experts in Paris ended in complete failure. Schacht offered for Germany 37 annuities of 1,050,000,000 gold marks, or more than three billion dollars total less than the sum demanded by the allies; and he would not increase the offer by a cent. Lord Revelstoke's subcommittee could devise no compromise, and it was therefore decided it would be useless for the commission to continue its labors. The delegates of the allies blamed Doctor Schacht for the breakdown of the negotiations, saying he had injected political matters into what was meant to be a purely financial settlement. Germany's credit abroad is likely to suffer greatly.

KING BORIS of Bulgaria, who has been on a round of visits to various European courts, was saved from probable assassination by the vigilance of the Sofia police. They discovered two bombs in the king's private railway coach which was being prepared to meet him at the border and bring him to his capital. The police said they had received warnings that the Communists intended to kill the monarch if the bomb plot failed.

BABE RUTH being one of our national "heroes," his every move is of interest to the people. So it is in order to report that the King of Swat took unto himself a bride last week in the person of Mrs. Claire Hodgson, a former actress who hails from Georgia. They were married early in the morning and set up housekeeping in a New York apartment. Their family includes the Babe's adopted daughter, Mrs. Ruth's daughter by a former marriage, and Mrs. Ruth's mother and two young brothers.

JOSEPH W. BAILEY, former representative and senator from Texas and almost the last of the noted orators of the South, fell dead in a courtroom in Sherman, Texas, in the midst of a lawsuit. Death was caused by a clot of blood in the heart. After his service in the national congress Mr. Bailey in 1920 sought the governorship of Texas, but was defeated by Pat Neff largely because of his activities against prohibition and woman suffrage.

The body of Myron T. Herrick, late ambassador to France, was interred in Cleveland, Ohio, after impressive ceremonies in the Trinity Episcopal cathedral which were attended by eminent representatives of the American and French governments and as many of his sorrowing fellow citizens as could crowd into the edifice. The streets through which the cortege passed with military escort were thronged with people, despite rain.

Prickly Pear Is Valuable as Feed

Particularly Advantageous in Times of Drought on Stock Ranges.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

A silage crop that keeps without need for a silo is substantially the description of the prickly pear as it grows in the four states bordering on Mexico. It has proved a valuable stock feed, particularly in times of drought on the range, such as may be expected from time to time. As a forage crop it stores itself, and the three or four-year-old sections of the plants are relished by cattle.

Variety of Cactus.
 The prickly pears are varieties of cactus, and may be divided roughly into spiny and spineless forms, according to Farmers' Bulletin 1072-F, "Prickly Pear as Stock Feed." Just issued in a revised edition by the United States Department of Agriculture. The "spineless" varieties are not smooth but are relatively free from spines and cattle can eat them without inconvenience. The custom is to burn the spines off the spring varieties with a gasoline blowtorch or to chop them by machinery.

Although able to survive severe droughts for months at a time, the prickly pears require good water supplies at some time each year. They do not thrive under severe cold, and the spineless varieties, as a rule, do not thrive if the temperature falls below 20 degrees at any time. The spiny varieties may tolerate temperatures five degrees lower. The best prickly pear region in the United States is in Texas southward from the Edwards plateau.

Valuable as Feed.
 In times of drought the prickly pear has proved a great value in carrying herds of cattle until pasturage is revived by rain. Prickly pear is growing in favor as a succulent forage that may take the place of silage in the ration, usually with a dry forage and a concentrate added in case of dairy cows. In Texas some varieties of prickly pear will produce without cultivation, but cultivation is likely to prove profitable in developing a greater tonnage of economical feed. Prickly pear is propagated from cuttings, and the cuttings are so bulky that freight costs are likely to prove excessive if extensive planting is attempted. David Griffiths, author of Farmers' Bulletin 1072-F, recommends starting with comparatively few plants, as they multiply rapidly for transplanting.

The bulletin, which may be obtained free on application to the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., gives details of the propagation, cultivation and feeding of prickly pears, and mentions the areas where the different varieties may be grown.

Damage From Corn Rots May Be Greatly Reduced

The Indiana experiment station and the United States Department of Agriculture have shown that the condition of the soil has a close relation to the damage from corn rots. If the soil is uninfected and its fertility is increased by the addition of lime and phosphorus where needed, the extent of the damage will be greatly reduced.

Crop rotation is generally beneficial in checking the damage from disease. Where corn rots are prevalent, clover or a legume crop should be grown in the rotation once every four years, and corn should not follow either corn or wheat.

The Illinois and Indiana experiment stations have found that some strains of corn are damaged far less than others by the corn rots. Beginning with a strain which has possibilities for improvement, the continuous selection of seed from healthy plants may be expected eventually to produce strains strongly resistant to these diseases.

Around the Farm

Careful attention should be given turkey eggs which are to be used for hatching.

A portable brooder house is an aid in preventing chick troubles. The brooder house and chick range should be on clean ground.

It is always essential to maintain an area immediately around the young trees free from competitive vegetation which would, if present, slow down the growth of the trees.

If a patented silo is to be built, do not accept lumber having loose knots, any sapwood, or pieces with bark. Sapwood, as a rule, is less durable than heartwood and will nearly always decay first.

Protect all planted fruit trees from injury by rabbits and field mice, especially during the fall and winter. One-inch mesh poultry wire, old newspapers, or gunny sacks torn in strips six to eight inches wide make satisfactory protectors.

The grape is attacked by a number of insects and a few diseases which are capable of causing heavy loss. However, on the average farmstead, grapes of fair quality are sometimes grown without any spraying treatment being given them.

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Duties of Party "Whips"

Party whips are of recent introduction into the congress of the United States. The office has long been in existence in the British parliament. The duties of whips are (1) to inform the leader of the state of party opinion, (2) to count the vote in every division and report the results to the speaker, (3) to inform members when important divisions are expected and detain them until division occurs and (4) to tell members how to vote. The government whip must also "keep a house," or quorum, when government business is transacted.

Hard to Find

He was very old, but passionately attached to the royal and ancient game. The more he played, however, the more inaccurate became his strokes, and his play generally was worse and worse as time went on. Finally, after missing the ball 15 times in succession on one occasion, he turned to the patient caddy and remarked: "Dear, dear! I suppose there can't be any worse players than myself." "Well," returned the caddy consolingly, "there may be worse players, but, of course, they don't play."

Spain Puts Forward Claim to Columbus

Apparently not content with having financed the discovery of America and having thoroughly established herself in our southern hemisphere, Spain now seeks to prove that Columbus was a native Spaniard.

Recent researches at Seville and Berlin have so excited the Spanish, whose only claim on America now is cultural, that a Madrid newspaper has offered a prize of 50,000 pesetas for the best proof that Columbus came from the land of Isabella and Ferdinand.

Historians have hitherto accepted the word of Columbus when he went before Queen Isabella and said: "I come from Genoa, where I was born." The acceptance of this single statement may have led to what Professor Altamira has called "the fossilization of historical error," for no objection has been raised to it except the feeble observations of such scholars as Humboldt that Columbus was more typically Spanish than Italian in his zeal.

Spanish scholars justify the alleged prevarication of Columbus upon three grounds. In the first place, they believe that Columbus followed the proverb, "No man is a prophet in his own country." It is also asserted that Columbus really came from Galicia, which had taken sides with John against Isabella and was consequently in disfavor at court. Thirdly, Columbus was partly Jewish on his mother's side, and since Queen Isabella was notoriously anti-Semitic, he feared her displeasure.

As a matter of fact, Andreas Colon (Columbus) appears in the annals of the Inquisition as a Jew in 1480. The evidence connecting Columbus with the Jews may be found in letters written to his friends and to his son, Ferdinand.

It is also pointed out by scholars that in 1402 and for fully a hundred years thereafter Columbus was not claimed by Genoa, where he was known only as a wine merchant, but that after the magnitude of his discoveries became known the city hailed him as her own. Indeed, these scholars deny Columbus his own name, for the only time the discoverer of America called himself Christopher Columbus, they say, was in his letters to Ferdinand and Isabella, and all his other letters are signed "Cristobal Colon." This is a common Spanish name, and one may yet read in an old house in Porto Santo, Galicia, the words "Cristobal Colon, ano 1490."—*Living Age*.

Dyers Making Use of Tree Once Condemned

Every country or section of a country as it grows casts about for more and more resources that can be converted into marketable finished products. The American Southwest has taken the common hedge apple tree otherwise known as the Osage orange, the bow wood or the bois d'arc tree. A row of these trees compose what farmers call a hedge fence.

In the old days its roots were smoked by boys to whom tobacco was forbidden. Otherwise, the hedge tree, with its manifold fruit of large green balls, was unpopular. Farmers condemned it because, when used as a hedge, it would not hold their cows and hogs. Motorists cursed it because it shut off their view at cross-roads, the hedge tree appeared to be of little use. A few factories bought it to make wagon spokes and felloes.

A new day, however, is dawning for the hedge apple tree. It is being turned into the hoppers of some of the country's large dye factories. This is developing into a real industry in Texas and Oklahoma.

The hedge apple tree is also excellent material for telephone cross-arms and insulator pins. What is left of the tree is utilized in the making of fertilizer. Long ago the Indian made bows of this wood.

Goose Put Forward as Canada's National Bird

Canadian naturalists have been concentrating on the choosing of a national bird for Canada to commemorate the diamond jubilee of confederation. Mr. J. Miner, an authority on bird life, gives his vote to the Canadian goose, which he describes as "the noblest creature that ever lived on land, in air, or in the water."

Wild geese, he says, pair off for life. The male guards his mate on the nest. As soon as the young hatch he protects them from the opposite side of the mother, keeping the babies between the parents. He will leave his family for his mate, and for her only, but he will die for any of them. When traveling in the air the male Canada goose leads the way, breaking the air for his mate, who is quartering behind him, and his family travel next to her.

"In brief," says Mr. Miner, "he is one of the most self-sacrificing, godly-principled leaders the human eye ever beheld, and to know him is to love and admire him."

Legends of "True Cross"

There is no authentic information as to the composition of the cross on which Jesus was crucified. Legends on the subject are legion. The alleged fragments of the cross preserved as sacred relics are composed of pine. According to one legend, the true cross was made of four kinds of wood—palm, olive, cedar and cypress—representing the four quarters of the globe. A more poetic legend says the cross was made of aspen, supposed to account for the almost constant quivering of the leaves of that species.—*Pathfinder Magazine*.

Difference in Rainfall

There is uncertainty about what constitutes a day's rainfall. At London, for example, popularly regarded as a wet place, it seems that the best the clouds ever have done was 3.12 inches of rain in 24 hours. In France, however, there was a shower at Jopuse which checked out at 31.17 inches in the same time. At Genoa, the best rain was 30 inches for a day's job. Gibraltar has a record of 33 inches but it took 26 hours to get down. In the Khaki hills, India, the record drizzle is 30 inches a day for five consecutive days. This foots up at 15,000 tons on every acre.