



1—Charles Evans Hughes, appointed chief justice of the United States Supreme court to succeed William H. Taft, who resigned because of ill health. 2—Cuba's new capitol building in Havana which cost \$15,000,000 and will be officially opened on February 24. 3—Gen. Damaso Berenguer, who became premier and dictator of Spain when Primo de Rivera was forced to resign.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

W. H. Taft, III, Quits as Chief Justice and Hughes Named to Succeed Him.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT, returning to Washington from Asheville a very sick man, sent in his resignation as chief justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. It was at once accepted by President Hoover with expressions of deep regret and of sympathy for Mr. Taft's condition, and Charles Evans Hughes was appointed his successor.

Though the entire matter seemed sudden, it was learned that the President had been informed of Mr. Taft's intention several weeks before and that Mr. Hughes had conferred with Mr. Hoover several times before accepting the appointment.

Mr. Taft's physicians admitted that he was seriously ill, and though toward the close of the week his condition appeared to have improved, they held out little hope for his recovery. They said that for some years he had had very high blood pressure associated with general arteriosclerosis and myocarditis and also had a chronic cystitis. President and Mrs. Hoover called on him the day after his return from the South, and so did several of the Supreme court justices. There was a constant stream of other callers at the Taft residence but of course most of them merely left messages of greeting and cheer. Mr. Taft's retirement closed a public career unparalleled in this country. For nearly fifty years he served the people, in offices ranging from an assistant prosecuting attorney to President of the republic and head of its highest tribunal. He was the first civil governor general of the Philippine Islands and was secretary of war under President Roosevelt. He was appointed by President Wilson as chief justice in 1921. In accordance with a law passed at the last session of congress, he retires with his full salary of \$20,500 a year.

Mr. Hughes presumably will take office when the Supreme court reconvenes on February 24. His appointment is the climax of a record in the public service almost as remarkable as that of his predecessor. He has held some of the highest offices within the reach of an American citizen, having fallen short only of the Presidency, for which he was the unsuccessful Republican candidate in 1916 against Woodrow Wilson. To make that campaign he resigned as associate justice of the Supreme court, to which position he had been appointed by President Roosevelt in 1910. About a year ago he was selected as a judge of the world court and spent last summer sitting at The Hague. From March 4, 1921, to March 4, 1925, he was secretary of state in the Harding and Coolidge cabinets, retiring voluntarily.

As a matter of propriety, Charles E. Hughes, Jr., will now resign as solicitor general of the United States, and it has been suggested that President Hoover may select as his successor Mr. Taft's son, Robert A. Taft, who is now district attorney at Cincinnati.

PASCUAL ORTIZ RUBIO was inaugurated president of Mexico Wednesday with simple ceremonies, and as he was leaving the national stadium an attempt was made to assassinate him, which was quite in accord with Mexican tradition. A young man standing behind a file of soldiers at the gate of honor emptied his revolver into the presidential car. Ortiz Rubio was shot through the cheek, the bullet lodging in the left jaw. His wife and niece and his military aide were slightly wounded, as was the chauffeur who nevertheless stepped on the accelerator and carried his passengers swiftly to a Red Cross hospital. A few hours later the surgeons announced that the president was out of danger.

The assassin was seized by the police and said he was Daniel Flores of San Luis Potosi state and was a fol-

lower of Jose Vasconcelos, defeated candidate for the presidency. He refused to say why he had tried to kill Ortiz Rubio, but the authorities were satisfied that it was a plot of the "Vasconcelistas." This was the view, also, of Portes Gil, retiring president, who told newspaper men that Senora de Ortiz had received an unsigned letter a few days ago which said her husband would not live to be inaugurated.

Only a week before the shooting the federal district authorities announced they had frustrated one such Vasconcelista plot with the arrest of nineteen persons who allegedly planned to assassinate both Senor Ortiz Rubio and Senor Portes Gil and seize the government. If that was the plan in this instance, events did not develop as was hoped, for Mexico City, except for an air of anxiety for the president's safety, was quiet with little or no indication that anything unusual had happened.

PRELIMINARY negotiations among the naval conferees in London did not proceed very smoothly. Prime Minister MacDonald announced that Great Britain sought the abolition of submarines, and immediately thereafter Henry L. Stimson, head of the American delegation, made it known that this position was supported by the United States and that he would propose the abolition of underwater warfare at the plenary session set for February 11. The French delegation at once met and examined the question and then declared flatly that they would not consider the proposal. It was understood that Premier Tardieu at the plenary session would meet it with a speech in which he would say that France considers the submarine as most necessary for the defense of the French coast though France does not want it as an offensive weapon and believes that submarine warfare should be "humanized."

Italy is willing to abolish submarines if France will do so, but it insists that Italians must have submarines if her northern neighbors have them. Thus the Italian action will be governed by the French attitude. The American delegation made public its plan for reduction and limitation, stating that it provided for immediate parity with Great Britain in every class of ship in the navy. Equality in battleships would be secured by abandonment of five by the British and three by the Americans. The cruisers would be so apportioned that the British would have an apparent advantage of 12,000 tons, which the Americans could equalize by including the number of their smaller cruisers. Critics of this plan declared it was a surrender to the demands of the British.

Delegates from the British dominions protested to Mr. MacDonald that the conference was making unnecessarily slow progress, and he therefore conferred with the other heads of delegations and they decided to speed things up. The first committee, which includes all the delegates, took up on Thursday the matter of the method of limitation, seeking a solution for the controversy between the global and categorical methods. London correspondents, however, said it was not likely any real progress would be made toward fixing tonnage figures until near the end of the month. This is due to the fact that the Japanese have a general election on February 20, and the Japanese are stalling vigorously on the figures until the present government can get settled in the saddle or a new government formed.

WHEN Maj. Gen. Herbert Crosby, chief of cavalry of the United States army, retires on March 21 next, he will undertake the task of making the city of Washington a model for the rest of the country so far as liquor and crime are concerned. He has been selected by President Hoover to direct the police, fire and traffic departments of the District of Columbia, and Mr. Hoover said the appointment "will be a guaranty to both the official and unofficial residents of the district, and especially to the nation at large, that the Capital shall be free of organized crime."

The police affairs of the District of Columbia have been under fire from members of congress for the last year or so. During that time there have been a wide variety of charges, including lax enforcement of the prohibition

laws. General Crosby will succeed Proctor L. Dougherty as commissioner.

SAMUEL H. CHURCH, president of the Carnegie Institute, proposed at a dinner of the eastern directors of the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment that a new "liberal" party be formed by the wets, and while the idea was not endorsed at the meeting, it was decided that a national convention should be held in Baltimore in the spring. Leaders of the old parties and many prominent wets as well said the foes of prohibition would gain little or nothing by forming a new party. Those wets who are practical politicians believe they can accomplish much more by placing wet candidates in the field in three-cornered contests for the senate or the house. They think this might result in the election of wet Democrats and bring about a change in the policies of the Republican party.

REPRESENTATIVE C. L. BEEDY of Maine offered in the house an amendment to the Volstead act which would make possible the padlocking of places of business by public prosecutors in the absence of their owners, and it was generally accepted as an administration measure. Beedy's bill provides that a district, state, county, or city attorney, failing to locate the owner of premises alleged to be a nuisance, may issue a "substitute" or dummy subpoena and, without serving it on the owner, may go into court and have his place padlocked. It also provides that the judge may speed up the case if his docket is congested by referring it to a master for proceedings under equity rules.

BY A vote of 48 to 6 the German reichsrath or national council of the states approved the Young plan, which has now gone to the reichstag for final discussions and disposition. The council also gave its approval to the separate German and American debt agreement. Bavaria's premier, Doctor Held, tried everything in his power to prevent the reichsrath from accepting the Young plan. He declared that the Young plan was based on the assumption that Germany was responsible for the war. Foreign Minister Julius Curtius countered by saying that Germany never has and never will sign a pact admitting war guilt.

ITALY greatly strengthened its position in central Europe last week by the signing of a treaty "of friendship, conciliation and judicial regulation" with Austria. This, as a Rome correspondent says, means that post-war Austria's 7,000,000 inhabitants will be added to the circle of friends Italy has been cultivating in the Danubian states, and which, at present, includes Hungary and Bulgaria, plus the diminutive Adriatic monarchy of Albania. It means likewise that, besides burying the hatchet in South Tyrol, Italy extends her range of influence to the border lines of the little entente. Austria, on the other hand, makes a noteworthy advance from her previous status of a political zero through this Italian alliance.

THROUGH Riga, Latvia, the world has learned that recently nearly five hundred former officers of the old Russian imperial navy have been put to death by the cheka or secret police. This massacre was ordered by Commissar Menshinski, chief of the cheka, and no reasons for his action have been given.

Because of the crisis in diplomatic relations between Moscow and Berlin and Paris, the Soviet foreign trade monopoly is contemplating a trade boycott of Europe and concentrating its European purchases in the United States, according to the Soviet trade delegate in Riga.

CONGRESS authorized the President to send a commission to Haiti to study conditions there, and Mr. Hoover last week was considering the make-up of that body. The commission, the President said, will be charged with the responsibility of recommending when and how the United States is to withdraw its military forces from the negro republic. It will also recommend the policy which this country should follow during the years that will elapse before American occupation ends.

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More Lambs If Ewes Well Fed

Extra Ration in Breeding Season Is Treatment in Big Favor.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Not only has science been able to make two blades of grass grow where but one grew before, but it is now able to induce ewes to drop a larger number of twin lambs. Extra feed at the breeding season is the treatment that produces the additional lambs.

This statement comes from the United States Department of Agriculture, whose sheep specialists have been at work on the problem for the past twelve years. The results of their work show that liberal feeding just before and during the breeding season, commonly known as "flushing," has given a larger number of twins. While the percentage of increase has varied from year to year, the average has been more than 16 lambs per 100 ewes for the flushed ewes than for lots which did not receive this extra feed.

Supplementary Feed.

A study has been made of the comparative value of a supplementary grain ration and of extra-quality pasture for furnishing this extra feed. Very little difference was found in the lambing percentages of ewes flushed by these two methods. However, it is usually cheaper to supply the additional feed in the form of extra-quality pasture.

"The pasture should be sufficiently luxuriant to cause the ewes to gain rapidly. Seasons sometimes occur, however, in which pastures are too short for this purpose. In such seasons it is advisable for farmers to give the flock a supplementary grain allowance of from one-half to one and one-half pounds per head daily, the amount depending upon the size of the sheep and the amount and quality of the green feed available.

Mixed Grain Ration.

"A mixed grain ration consisting of equal parts by weight of corn and oats has been found a satisfactory ration for this purpose. Forage crops, such as soy beans, cowpeas, sweet clover, and alfalfa, in sections where they can safely be used for pasture, makes satisfactory pasture crops on which to flush ewes. Blue grass pasture is also excellent. Although ewes gain readily on young, tender clover, much difficulty has been experienced in getting them to breed while on this type of pasture."

Spraying Thoroughly Is Best Plan for Insects

The time for spraying the orchards will soon be here. In fact, spraying can be done at any time now when the weather is suitable. It is well to emphasize the importance of doing this work thoroughly. A few branches missed here and there may have enough scale on them to reinfest the entire tree before the next season is over. Use a fine spray and do a good job.

A spray that develops a strong pressure is essential. Either lime sulphur or the miscible oils, properly applied, should be used for scale insects, which are becoming more numerous. It is reported that San Jose scale, which at one time was well under control, is now menacing our orchards and bringing about a situation that requires prompt attention.

Look over the fruit trees and get the spraying done before growth starts in the spring.

Custom Grinding May Be Best in Some Instances

Experiments at Iowa State college lead to the conclusion that the farmer who needs only one or two hundred bushels ground annually should have it done at a custom mill if within reasonable hauling distance. Where more than four hundred bushels are needed per year, the farmer can well afford to own his own equipment and do the grinding work on his farm. Home grinding costs about one-half that of custom grinding when more than seven hundred bushels are ground per year. A small electric grinder will operate from 25 to 35 per cent cheaper than large equipment, especially when arranged for automatic or semiautomatic operation. It is cheaper to operate, a smaller transformer can be used with much decreased core loss, and it gives an improved load factor and better diversified load.

Egg Quality Important in Sending to Market

Some hens consistently lay a higher quality of eggs than others. That is the conclusion of Prof. W. C. Thompson of the New Jersey Agriculture college at New Brunswick, N. J.

Hens were selected that produced from 190 to 200 eggs per bird during the year. Yet the price received for the eggs from different hens during the year varied from \$5.95 to \$8.74 per bird. This was due to the fact that some hens laid eggs of which over 90 per cent were extra quality while others laid a high percentage of small eggs. The time will come when markets will compel us to take into account the value of the eggs produced as well as the numbers in selecting our poultry breeding stock, just as the dairyman has already learned to take into account the test along with the weight of the milk produced by different cows.

Advantage in Favor of Spraying Potato

Found More Efficient in Control of Diseases

For several seasons past experiments have been under way on the grounds of the New York State Agricultural Experiment station at Geneva to test the relative efficiency of a copper-lime dust and liquid bordeaux spray, which contains much the same ingredients as the dust mixture, for the control of insect pests and diseases of potatoes, particularly potato blight. The results of the tests show a decided advantage in favor of spraying over dusting.

In each of the four experiments, the spray gave much the better results, as shown both by the appearance of the foliage and by the yield of marketable tubers. Both early blight and late blight were controlled fairly well by dusting, but considerably better by spraying. For the control of tipburn or hopperburn, caused by leafhoppers, the dust proved almost valueless, while the spray showed high efficiency. Since neither flea beetles nor Colorado potato beetles were important factors in any of the experiments, no data on the control of these insects were obtained.

Notwithstanding the lesser efficiency of the dust, its use may be advisable under certain conditions, for example, where water is difficult to obtain and in small fields where it is necessary to use hand machines.

Winter Sun Scald Quite Troublesome in Orchards

"Southwest" injury (sometimes called winter sun scald) was quite troublesome in many apple and cherry orchards last winter. This injury is said to occur late in the winter and results in a splitting of the bark down the southwest side of the trunk. The trouble can be prevented by shading the trunk during the winter. There are many ways of doing this, such as, low-hanging branches, wrapping the trunk, leaning a board against the southwest side of the trunk. Some authorities recommend whitewashing the trunk. When the sun shines on the trunk of a fruit tree on a clear winter afternoon it warms the bark and the part just underneath, and possibly causes a rise of sap. Then, when the sun sinks below the horizon the warmed portion of the tree trunk turns cold very suddenly and the bark freezes and splits. Thus one can readily understand why shading the trunk from the direct rays of the winter sun is a preventative.

Eradication of Onions From Cultivated Land

The eradication of wild onions from cultivated land is a slow process, and can be accomplished only by the regular and systematic rotation of crops and the thoroughly clean cultivation whenever such crops as corn and soy beans come on the land in rotation. Late fall plowing by which the roots are exposed to freezing is also an essential means of eradication.

Wild onion is a pest in wheat fields, for the seed, or bulblets, are about the same size and weight of a grain of wheat, and it is impossible to clean them out in threshing even with the best sieves and fans. But if infested grain is kept for several months and subjected to cold, the onion seed dries and shrivel, becoming light enough to be fanned out with a good machine.

Thorough Cleaning Out Is Poultry House Need

The chicken house should be thoroughly cleaned out and the floor, walls, ceiling and fixtures thoroughly drenched with some powerful disinfectant at least twice a year, preferably the early spring and in the fall. A 3 per cent solution of a coal tar stock dip will serve. The litter kept in the house should be removed and replaced with fresh whenever it becomes so broken up that grain thrown out to the birds does not disappear so that the birds have to search it out to find it.

Agricultural Notes

Select the richest soil and the sunniest spot for the early spinach.

One of the most serious problems of the farmers is that of soil washing.

Barley should go into the ground between oat planting and corn planting time.

Leaching, soil washing and robbing of plantfood are all working to destroy the productivity of mother earth.

People living in different districts of the country become accustomed to the particular flavor of honey common to that district and prefer it to others.

At the Ohio station a three-year average yield of 14.28 tons per acre of sunflowers has been secured while corn under similar conditions yielded 12.78.

Tests run at Iowa State college agronomy farm indicate that soy beans have a long planting period, that is they may be grown successfully, with equal yields, if planted any time between April 19 and June 7.

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