



1—President Ortiz Rubio of Mexico (with head bandaged) making his first public appearance since the attempt on his life. 2—Bishop Manning of New York and other clergymen pray for an end to the Russian church persecutions. 3—C. W. Tombaugh of Lowell observatory, who discovered the new planet, with his first home-made telescope.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Hopeful Signs in Business and Industry Indicate Returning Prosperity.

RETURNING prosperity is heralded in hopeful signs seen in various lines of business and industry in the United States. Reduction in red-count rates by Federal Reserve banks and cheaper call money have given great vitality to the stock market. Money is cheaper today than it has been in five years. In New York the official call rate dropped to 2 per cent while some loans were made outside at 1 1/2 per cent.

The United States employment service in Washington reports that business and industry are consolidating the progress made in January for an expected upturn in employment during the spring months. The automobile industry has made a sharp upward swing in production, registering the largest output of passenger cars and trucks since October. Other industries such as electric equipment, airplane, silk and rayon show increasing activity with a full complement of workers.

The gigantic building programs projected throughout the country, together with great betterment programs by public utility companies, will furnish employment to an army of workers, the report states.

WORLDWIDE demonstrations have been featuring the struggle between established religion and the atheistic commission of Russia. Bishop William T. Manning of the Protestant Episcopal diocese of New York recently participated with other clergymen in a prayerful protest against Russia's anti-religious policy at services held at the cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

Pope Pius, before a congregation of 50,000 in St. Peter's in Rome, led Catholics of the world in intercessory services against religious persecution in Soviet Russia. In Chicago, New York, London and many other cities, Catholics participated in similar services.

Anti-religious demonstrations continue in various parts of Russia and plans have been completed by the Society of Militant Atheists for the opening of an "anti-God congress." Germany and Czechoslovakia report attacks by communists on churches in some parts of those countries.

HOPE that a way has been found to break the Franco-Italian deadlock over naval parity, which threatened the very life of the five-power conference in London, was seen in remarks made by Aristide Briand, French foreign minister, after a private talk with Premier MacDonald. M. Briand said:

"Always when things seem at their worst one finds a way out. That is true now. We have been talking about means to bring the conference to a successful conclusion and we are going to apply these means as quickly as possible."

In refusing to discuss details, the French leader continued:

"I am in the habit of chattering too much, and then I am reproached for it afterwards. We have been taking our bearings and experts have been making the observations precise."

The smile on Premier MacDonald's face as he left M. Briand gave further assurance that the situation had taken a new turn and that optimistic events were in the air.

However, this optimism is not shared by the other powers and a suggestion to adjourn the conference until June, to meet at Geneva concurrently with the League of Nations preparatory disarmament commission has been offered.

OUT of the tense situation that confronts grain producers of the country comes an important announcement from the Farmers National Grain corporation, the grain co-operative of the federal farm board. In

making public the result of their survey on congested grain storage facilities in the United States, they announced their intention of purchasing and building additional elevators throughout the grain producing area, by means of loans to co-operative associations.

"In less than three months the movement of the new wheat crop will begin in the Southwest," said the corporation's officers. "There is great need for facilities in that area. Some new construction is required and some of the existing houses need enlarging. Some houses now owned by others must be acquired by co-operatives. Some sub-terminal warehouses should be built."

The harvest is farther away in the spring wheat area, the report said, but the problem is "in some respects similar, and hardly less pressing."

GREAT BRITAIN is mourning the passing of one of its most eminent public men. The death of Earl Balfour removes from the scene one of the last surviving ministers of Queen Victoria, but so keen was his intellect and so persistent his youth that until his final retirement a year ago he was regarded in Great Britain as a modern statesman.

The end came peacefully to the statesman, who was in his eighty-second year. He had been distressingly ill for a long time with laryngitis.

From the time he entered parliament in 1874 until the closing years of his life he figured as an important factor in British politics. He succeeded his uncle, Lord Salisbury, as leader of the Conservative party, and served as premier from 1902 to 1905.

CENSORSHIP by federal courts over imported obscene, immoral or treasonable literature was almost unanimously adopted by the senate, and included in the tariff bill, after two days of spirited discussion, in which charges of intolerance, denunciations of the principle of censorship and pleas for the protection of the morals of young America rang through the senate chamber. The amendment to the tariff bill, as adopted, provides that questionable literature may be seized at the port of entry, but cannot be destroyed until it has been judged in a federal court and adverse decisions appealed.

PRIMO DE RIVERA rests in a soldier's grave, honored by the highest tributes a nation can bestow. The body of the man who ruled Spain as dictator for six years and then went into exile, was placed beside the body of his wife in San Isidro cemetery in Madrid.

Premier Berenguer and foremost dignitaries of the country, including King Alfonso, participated in the funeral.

The man, who in 1923 seized, and for six years held in his soldier's hand, the destinies of 20,000,000 Spaniards and the ancient dynasty, came to his end suddenly and alone in a hotel room in Paris, a virtual exile. He had lived there quietly for the month that elapsed since he took the hint from his successor that his presence in Spain might be dangerous and would complicate the task of a transition government and crossed the frontier into France. De Rivera was in his sixty-first year.

INCOME tax receipts from the March 15 collections as shown by the treasury totaled \$314,200,558, exceeding by more than \$40,000,000 collections for the same date last year. This sum was the total for the month of March as shown in the treasury statement for March 18.

PRESIDENT HOOVER has announced his purpose of completing the housecleaning which he commenced a year ago in the southern patronage situation. Commenting on the recent report of a senate committee, Mr. Hoover pointed out that the incidents dealt with were not recent and that all federal officials known to have engaged in improper practices had either resigned or been removed.

"Under instructions to the various departments of the government," said the President, "a system has been established by which these reprehensible practices have been absolutely stopped and the system of purchase and sale

of appointments, so far as it existed, has been ended."

ALTHOUGH two and a half billion dollars will be spent for streets and highways throughout the country in 1930, the economic loss from congestion and accidents due to inadequate planning in metropolitan areas will equal this amount. President Charles M. Hayes of the Chicago Motor club declared at a meeting of traffic experts of the American Automobile association in Washington.

PRESIDENT ORTIZ RUBIO, in the course of an informal interview with the press in Mexico City, announced that President Hoover had accepted his personal invitation to visit Mexico City during his Presidency. President Rubio did not reveal the date of the proposed visit. He is anxious for the American President to return his visit to the United States last year.

The Mexican chief also announced that the government had invited a committee of international bankers, the chief holders of Mexico's foreign debt, to meet with representatives of the Mexican government in Mexico or New York to attempt to reach a more definite understanding on the debt question, with a view to making a settlement which the Mexican government could and would live up to. An agreement, he said, would encourage the owners of factories and business to extend their activities, giving work to thousands of unemployed.

BANDIT hordes in Kiangsi province of China have massacred more than 2,000 men, women and children in the Fuan district. Reports reaching Shanghai said the wholesale slayings were committed early this month under the direction of the bandit chief, General Chuteh. He is reported still occupying the district. Fearing further massacres, American, British and Japanese gunboats are patrolling the Yangtze river.

SECRETARY WILBUR has appealed to all evangelical bodies in the United States to join in the drive to eliminate illiteracy.

The "shocking facts" of illiteracy are being called to the attention of the church organizations now, he said, in order that plans can be made at the annual meetings this spring for active participation in the campaign sponsored by the government.

Mr. Wilbur said that the 1920 census reported 4,931,905 persons ten years of age and over unable to write in any language.

OWING to extensive activities of communists in the Philippines, Gen. C. E. Nathorst, chief of the constabulary, has made a request to Governor General Davis that proletarian congresses be denied the use of the mails throughout the islands.

The boycott of American goods, spread of communist doctrines among the ignorant masses of the islands and the active participation of communists in the recent school strike at Manila were among the activities which caused the request to be made.

PROHIBITION has become a dominating issue in the nation within the last few months, according to a survey made by the United Press.

Recent developments show that about 100 bills have been introduced on the subject in congress; 12 states have prohibition legislation either introduced, or about to be introduced; 11 recent polls have been taken inquiring prohibition sentiment and some still are under way; hearings have been started on several national measures; both wet and dry forces are tightening their lines for concerted drives either toward legislation or toward election of congressmen or state officials this fall.

A TWENTY-FOUR hour strike was declared in Cuba as a protest against unemployment. The affair passed off without serious disturbance. The police charged that the strike was in compliance with orders from the third Internationale in Moscow. It was estimated that 200,000 workmen walked out. Public utility plants and railroads were about the only industries not affected.

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Community Building

Chance to Make Small Home Thing of Beauty

A sense of the wordless poetry and soundless music of the small home is dawning on the consciousness of the American people.

Such, at least, is the impression of Secretary Wilbur after examining the reports of the better-homes movement for the past year. But the improvement still has far to go, as is shown by the most cursory examination of the prevalent types of small house architecture in American cities and towns.

Much of the architectural ugliness is due to the perverted tastes of the past two or three generations, the Washington Star comments. The present generation may be indicted justly for its conscienceless destruction of natural beauty in building operations, but it certainly cannot be blamed for such monstrosities as the "three-decker" of New England cities or the box-like structures of southern and western towns.

The small home is the lyric architecture—a medium through which the artist can express almost the whole range of human emotions and reach the heights of artistic expression. He can incorporate into its lines loves, aspirations and memories. He can put into it the intangible substance of hymns, ballads, childhood prayers and lullabies.

Movement on Foot for More Beautiful Cities

American cities still are "90 per cent ugly," according to Charles H. Cheney, chairman of the city and regional planning committee of the American Institute of Architects which body is launching a nation-wide campaign to educate the public to an understanding of the essentials of good architecture and efficient civic planning.

Washington, although now a city of contrasting good and bad in its physical aspects, is destined to be the outstanding beautiful city of the nation, says the American Architect magazine, which tells of the campaign. Motion-picture films illustrating the development of the Capital are being shown before high schools, colleges, chambers of commerce, women's clubs and other bodies as an important feature of the campaign.

"The seriousness of the architectural situation in America lies in the fact that the percentage of new buildings really esthetically good is not increasing," says Mr. Cheney. "In some cities it is even decreasing."

Development Takes Time

The man who undertakes to develop an industrial subdivision must not look for his reward to come overnight. Such a huge undertaking would be considered to have made phenomenally rapid strides if it reaches a producing basis within a five-year period and some highly successful developments have required more than twenty years to reach their maturity.

Land to be suitable for development as an industrial subdivision must have elbow room and initial low value, but it must be accessible to a railroad right-of-way, preferably a belt line. It must be accessible to main highways, to power lines, gas mains and telephone trunk lines, and it must be accessible to a growing community which can furnish ample and dependable labor supply.

Owning and Renting

No doubt many conservatives and far-sighted persons, men and women, have asked themselves whether it pays to own a home, but have never made any real serious effort to find out if they could. There is only one way of looking at this matter in the right light: those that don't own their homes must pay rent and the rent must invariably be paid promptly. A person having good health and a fair prospect of steady employment, assumes no more responsibility of risk in buying and paying for a home than in paying rent.—Philadelphia Ledger.

"Part of God's Estate"

There is a distinct joy in owning a piece of land unlike that which you have in money, in house, in books, in pictures, or anything else which men have devised. Personal property brings you into society with men. But land is a part of God's estate in the globe; and when a parcel of ground is deeded to you, and you walk over it, and call it your own, it seems as if you had come into partnership with the original proprietor of the earth.—Henry Ward Beecher.

Sparkle of the City

The successes of a few in the cities dazzle the youth of the country, but it should not be overlooked that where a few achieve wealth and places of prominence, millions and millions plod along with a bare living and many scarcely are able to make that.—Houston Post-Dispatch.

Modernizing Reclaims Values

Many thousands of our old homes stretching from coast to coast, that are obsolete and out-of-date, inside and outside, will take on new life and beauty within the year. Modernization will bring about this great reclamation.

FIRST AUTOMOBILE BUILT IN AMERICA



Fay L. Olsick riding in his ancient auto—the first automobile to be built in America—through the streets of Milwaukee after removing it from the Milwaukee public museum. The car is equipped with a one-cylinder "hit and miss" motor and a wick carburetor. It can travel 18 miles an hour when fueled with naphtha, as present-day gasoline is not powerful enough to drive its motor. It was built in 1889 by Gottfried Schloemer.

MUST CONSTRUCT SMOOTHER ROADS

Comfort and Low Vehicle Operating Costs Are Two Big Items.

(By E. E. DUFFY.)
Bump-consuming balloon tires and shock absorbers do not constitute an excuse for building wavy or uneven pavements.

Although the modern automobile is a finely devised mechanism, comfort and low vehicle operating costs are still dependent upon the smoothness of the road surface.

Pennsylvania's Achievement.
Recognition of this is given by practically all state highway departments in the placement of hard-surfaced pavements. Samuel Eckels, chief engineer of the Pennsylvania department of highways, recently announced Pennsylvania's noteworthy achievement in building 276 miles of "excellent" concrete rural roads—pavements on which the motorist cannot detect any perceptible vibration.

The Pennsylvania demand for the grading "excellent" is that the "roughometer," a wheeled device that measures all tiny ridges and valleys in the pavement surface, shall not show more than 25 accumulated inches of roughness per mile. Pennsylvania's grand average on the 352 miles of new pavement tested in 1929 was 19.5 inches, which means that some miles were all but perfectly smooth.

Cuts Operating Costs.
"More important than the pleasurable sensation of riding over a smooth road is the fact that smooth road cuts down operation costs for the motorist," asserts Mr. Eckels. "It cuts down the bounces which are transmitted to the road in impact, and impact is the chief enemy of roads. When we eliminate or lessen impact we prolong the life of the road. Everybody saves money by that."

Cities particularly have been lax in installing smooth pavements, but eventually recognition of the virtues of smooth roadways will not only save the municipality money but will lessen traffic congestion through the spreading out of the street traffic burden.

Plan to Overcome Hard Starting of Automobile

When an engine is hard to start, misses at low or idling speeds, the trouble may often be traced to the spark plugs, according to an engineering report which recommends that the following remedial procedure be employed:

Check spark plug gap for correct spacing. If insulator is covered with dry, black soot clean plug; check carburetor setting for being too rich; use choke sparingly. If sooting of insulator is habitual, change to hotter plug. If insulator is covered with wet, soft carbon, clean or replace plug; check oil level for being too high or for oil dilution; pistons and rings may need attention.

Motor Bus Great Factor in Education in Country

Children in rural areas now enjoy educational facilities equal to those found in cities, as a result of improved highways, and approximately 1,250,000 are now transported daily in nearly 42,000 buses, according to the National Association of Motor Bus operators, affiliated with the American Automobile association.

The change has been wrought by good roads.

The American Automobile association points out that in 1928 there were 15,029 schools served by motor buses, which daily cover 40,808 miles throughout the country. America today spends well over \$27,256,738 for these school bus operations.

THE MOTOR QUIZ

(How Many Can You Answer?)

- Q. Are spark plug gap sizes important for good engine performance?
Ans. Yes! Use feeler gauge and set gap accurately to engine maker's recommendation. Inspect or have the service station man inspect the gaps twice a year.
- Q. How many American motor vehicles were sold outside of this country in 1929?
Ans. Approximately 1,015,000.
- Q. How many Americans toured Europe in 1929?
Ans. More than 425,000, and it is estimated they spent more than \$600,000,000.
- Q. What per cent of new cars and trucks were sold on time last year?
Ans. About 63 per cent on new cars and 46 per cent on new trucks.
- Q. How many American trucks were sold in foreign countries last year?
Ans. 345,000, a gain of 65 per cent over the 209,500 in 1928.

Seating Arrangement of Two-Door Sedan Helped

In many two-door sedans there is quite a bit of space between the front seats which can be utilized to advantage, as shown in the illustration. The right-hand seat is mounted on a steel rod so that it can be slid toward the driver's seat. This gives the occupants of the rear seat more room to get out of the door, by sliding the seat to the left. Remove the pins from the front legs of the seat on which it hinges, and ream out the holes on both legs and supporting brackets to



Sliding Front Seat in Two-Door Sedan Makes It Easier for Occupants to Enter and Leave.

receive a piece of 1/4-inch cold-rolled steel. The right-hand bracket must be moved closer to the car wall, and the other one close to the driver's seat, while the rod must be long enough to allow maximum movement of the seat. The rear-seat passengers get out between seat and door without the front passenger leaving his seat.—John L. Blaker, West Auburn, Mass., in Popular Mechanics Magazine.

AUTOMOBILE NOTES

- Never lubricate front springs if the car has a tendency to "shimmy."
- In cleaning the radiator with a soda solution, the engine always should be run.
- Treads on rear tires wear out quicker by sudden acceleration than by sudden stopping.
- American tourists spent a total of \$3,500,000,000 the past year, according to the American Automobile association.
- One of the most important items of new car care is keeping the water in the cooling system constantly adequate.