

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Japanese Defeat Chinese in Bloody Battle While League Council and Dawes Seek Road to Peace.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

HOW to bring to an end the unofficial war between Japan and China was the problem that was taken up again by the council of the League of Nations at its meeting in Paris. And, coincidentally, there was the job of extricating the league from the unpleasant situation created by Japan's flat refusal to obey its orders.



Ambassador Dawes

The distinguished diplomats were aided in their task by Ambassador Dawes, who was instructed to proceed from London to act as American observer. While the council discussed, debated and conferred, the Japanese troops went right along with their program in Manchuria. Gen. Ma Chan-shan, commander of the Chinese army in Heilungkiang province, was ordered by General Honjo, Japanese commander, to withdraw his troops from Anganchi and Tsitsihar, the latter the capital of the province. Ma refused to obey and the Japanese opened a fierce attack with all arms, including bombing planes which dispersed the Chinese cavalry. In bitterly cold weather the battle raged for many hours and the Chinese were finally forced out of both the cities named. In this operation the Japanese troops advanced within the sphere of influence of Soviet Russia for the first time, and as Moscow had warned them against doing this, it was believed the result might be momentous. In this big battle along the Nonni river both sides were reported to have sustained heavy casualties.

Anticipating a Russian protest, Japan notified Moscow that it held the Chinese Eastern railway partly responsible for the hostilities because it had transported Chinese troops.

IN PARIS General Dawes was much more than an observer. Indeed, he was the central figure and it was hoped that in his talks with Taneo Matsudaira, Japanese ambassador to London, a compromise might be worked out. Dawes also had a long conversation with Dr. Alfred Sze, Chinese delegate, which both of them said was most profitable. There were rumors that the United States had come to the conclusion that Japan's contentions should be upheld, and the league officials were worried. But these stories were refuted by a statement from Secretary of State Stimson to the effect that the United States stood firmly on the question of treaties and had not thus far committed itself in any way. Dawes and the council were trying to gather the real facts in the controversy, and Japan was asked to state in detail just what she demanded from China. There was a report that Dawes and Sir John Simon, British foreign minister, were contemplating invoking the nine power treaty signed at Washington in 1922.

Aristide Briand, president of the council, though exhausted to the point of illness, was as busy as Dawes, especially in negotiations with Kenkichi Yoshizawa, the Japanese delegate and his close friend.

From Nanking came two important items of news. One was that the Kuomintang congress had declared in favor of war on Japan in case the league should fail to settle the quarrel. The other was the statement of the Nationalist government that it would regard any Manchurian government headed by Hsuan Tung, former emperor, otherwise Henry Pu-yi, as a "seditious institution" and would repudiate all its acts. Hsuan Tung was taken to Mukden by the Japanese, who presumably intended to make him a puppet emperor of that country, but what had become of him was unknown. He was said to have declared he would commit suicide rather than serve as a tool of Japan.

WHEN congress assembles there will be again a woman member of the senate, for Mrs. Thaddeus H. Caraway has been appointed to succeed her late husband temporarily as senator from Arkansas. The only other woman senator we have had was Mrs. Rebecca Felton of Georgia, who held the office nominally and for but a short time. Mrs. Caraway, however, may be expected to be an active member, for she was a close student of politics and government during the long public life of her husband. It is likely that the Arkansas Democrats will nominate her for the special election to be called and in that case she is certain to be elected to fill out the unexpired term.



Mrs. T. H. Caraway

The wet bloc in the house of representatives will gain another vote through the nomination of Donald McLean by the Republicans of the Fifth district of New Jersey to com-

plete the term of the late Ernest R. Ackerman. He will contest for the seat with Percy H. Stewart, Democratic nominee, at a special election December 1. Both the gentlemen are advocates of revision or repeal of prohibition, while Mr. Ackerman was a Republican. The district is normally Republican.

PRESIDENT HOOVER announced that he had accepted the resignation of Henry P. Fletcher as chairman of the federal tariff commission to take effect on November 30. Mr. Fletcher some time ago indicated his wish to resign, but at the President's request remained in office. He had served since the commission's organization, 14 months ago.

In submitting his resignation Mr. Fletcher appended a report of the commission's work, showing that by November 30 its docket would be cleared of all applications and senate requests for information.

GERMANY and France, represented by Secretary of State Buelow and M. Briand, reached an agreement on the formula by which the Germans should call for a moratorium on reparations under the terms of the Young plan, and the text of the request was presented to the world bank at Basel after the American and British representatives in Berlin had been shown the letter. The German government asks the world bank and the international powers to investigate her ability to pay the reparations and to help Germany formulate a plan to pay her private debts. The latest report of the Reichsbank shows that despite a favorable trade balance achieved by Germany in October, the Reichsbank is still very short of foreign currency.

DINO GRANDI, brilliant young foreign minister of Italy and the mouthpiece of Premier Mussolini, has had his three days of conversations with President Hoover and departed from Washington, well satisfied. The results of the talks have not been made public at the time of writing, but it is known that the chief topic was disarmament, in which both Mr. Hoover and Mr. Grandi are deeply interested. Grandi brought with him Signor Augusto Rosso as one of his chief advisers because Rosso is an expert on naval affairs and Italy is especially concerned with the comparative strength of her navy. Signor Rosso is at present chief of the Italian foreign office division that deals with the League of Nations, and there have been hints that he might be a future ambassador to Washington.



Augusto Rosso

Signor Grandi was gratified with the news that Aristide Briand, as head of the league council, had declared officially that the one-year armament building truce is in effect as of November 1, for this truce was the suggestion of Grandi—though he called it "an American-Latin idea." In his talks with the correspondents he said: "We think in Italy that the question of disarmament is the most important question existing now in the relations between countries, and that it is high time for everybody to reach some practical result." Asked for his views on war debts and reparations, he called attention to Mussolini's statement in 1922 that war debts and reparations were dependent upon each other and should be scaled down.

THEODORE DREISER, eminent author, and the other members of the self-appointed committee that went to Kentucky to investigate the alleged ill treatment of coal miners in Bell county got themselves into a peck of trouble if the authorities of that state can get hold of them. The grand jury in Bell county indicted Dreiser and his nine companions on charges of criminal syndicalism, accusing them of seeking to promulgate a reign of terror and of suggesting disorders and resistance to the state and federal governments. Conviction carries a penalty of not more than twenty-one years' imprisonment, a fine of \$10,000 or less, or both.

The commonwealth's attorney announced he would seek to extradite the alleged offenders, and Dreiser said in New York he would fight extradition. The author and Marie Bergain, one of the committee, already had been indicted for misconduct in a Kentucky hotel.

PHILIP SNOWDEN, who served ably in the house of commons for a quarter of a century and for two terms was chancellor of the exchequer, has been created a viscount by King George and elevated to the house of peers so that he may hold the office of lord privy seal in the national government. He declined to run for re-election to the lower house because of ill health.

MAHATMA GANDHI informed the British government that unless it did something for India by December 1 he would sail for Bombay on December 4 to lead a new and greater civil disobedience movement in that country. In that case it is likely he will order a social as well as a commercial boycott against the British, which would mean that no Indians would work for British individuals. British troops were sent to Kashmir recently to help put down a Moslem revolt in that Indian state, and the Russian government protests, considering the military movement as a distinct menace to its frontier. In consequence Moscow made threats against Afghanistan which led the Afghan government to ask Turkey for the services of a military mission to reorganize its army. And Sir Hari Singh, maharajah of Kashmir, objects to the British taking charge of his country.

MORE trouble has come upon the bureau of prohibition through the killing of a youth in Englewood, Colo., by Henry Dierks, a dry agent.



Henry Dierks

The people out there are greatly aroused, and the bureau started an investigation of the affair. Dierks, in making a raid, found the young man, Clifford Smith, in possession of a bottle of wine and in a struggle with him clubbed him to death. The city council of Englewood passed and sent word to the bureau in Washington a resolution in which were set forth some of the incidents in Dierks' career. It charged that Dierks, while acting as an undercover man a few years ago, had employed a 17-year-old girl as an informer; that he had got drunk collecting evidence in a raid and that in 1930 he had clubbed a helpless prisoner with his revolver. Howard T. Jones, assistant director of prohibition, said this was all news to the bureau and that there was nothing in its records to the discredit of Dierks.

According to the Englewood police, Dierks fractured Smith's skull with a blow with the butt of his revolver and then placed him in jail where he remained nine hours without medical attention. Smith died soon after being taken to a hospital.

NEGOTIATIONS between the United States and Canada for the development of the international section of the proposed St. Lawrence seaway reached the stage of first formal exchanges relating to the allocation of costs and engineering structures, and it is hoped a treaty will be ready for senate action early next year. The State department announced that the representatives of both countries "proposed to keep in touch with the respective provincial and state authorities in the consideration of the power features of the development." This is of immense interest to New York and Gov. Franklin Roosevelt who has opposed the views of the federal administration concerning power.

The discussion so far has dealt with the 45-mile international section, extending from Ogdensburg, N. Y., to a point opposite Cornwall, Ohio. Secretary Stimson and Canadian Minister Herridge made arrangements for reconvening of the joint engineering board, which will attempt to agree on procedure in the international section.

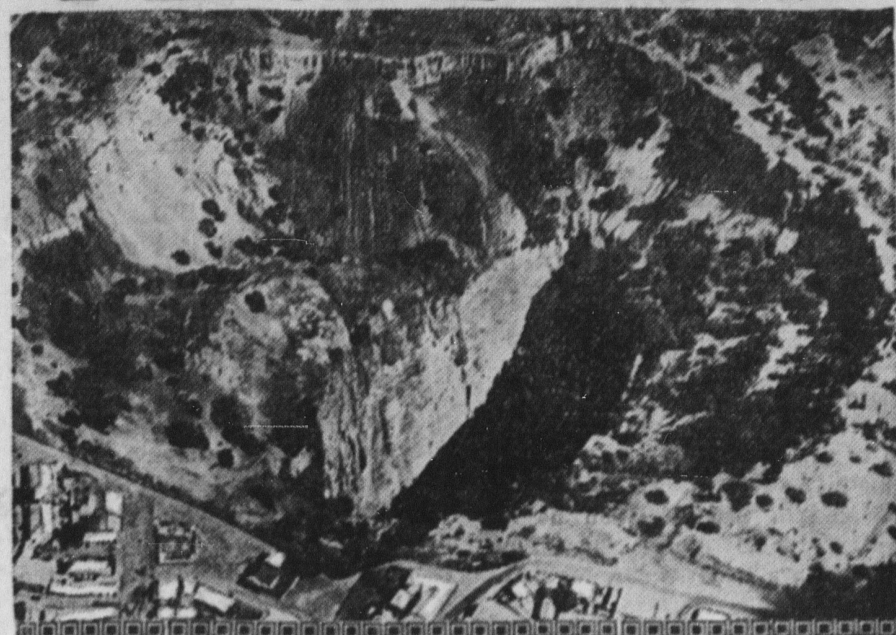
NONE of the party leaders in Washington now seem to doubt that there will be legislation to increase federal taxes, for the deficit at the end of the present fiscal year will be too big to be taken care of by further bond issues. Senator Jim Watson of Indiana, majority leader of the senate, said a tax increase was "inescapable," and as he had just been in conference with the President it was assumed this was the opinion of Mr. Hoover. Senator Smoot of Utah, chairman of the finance committee, admitted there would have to be further taxation and thought it might be possible to obtain passage of a sales tax. Senator Fees of Ohio said: "The budget must be balanced even if we are compelled to take drastic measures such as was done in England. One line of effort is reductions which are being made so as to reduce the outlay. The other must be to increase in revenue. I also believe that there will be enacted excise taxes on certain articles." Senator Bingham of Connecticut advocates restoration of nuisance taxes, especially on soft drinks. The "progressive" Republicans are calling for higher income taxes in the higher brackets, and there may be little opposition to this in either party.

Democratic leaders had less to say, for their program is not yet settled. Anyhow they expect the administration to recommend the tax increase and thus shoulder the responsibility, after which they can decide how they think the deficit should be met.

AMERICAN exporters, already worried by the seeming certainty of British tariff legislation, were further dismayed by the news that the Turkish government had issued a decree drastically limiting the importation of 1,000 articles, no consideration being given to merchandise in customs or en route. America is hit by limits placed on such articles as automobiles, motion picture films, camera films, automobile tires and radios. Comparatively small amounts of these articles will be permitted to enter the country during November and December, and new quotas will be fixed for succeeding months.

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African Diamonds



Abandoned Mine of the Kimberley Group.

(Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)—WNU Service.

DISCOVERY of new diamond deposits in Tanganyika has made the colony the focal point of enthusiastic prospectors in search of the glittering gems.

The African diamond industry is only slightly more than a half century old. Today the continent produces nearly nine-tenths of the world's supply. It was in 1870 that the windy, dust-swept region of Griqualand, South Africa, suddenly changed from No Man's Land to Everyman's Land, when diamonds were discovered there. Later, it was annexed to Cape Colony within such meticulously drawn boundaries that inside one farmer's house the family dined in that colony and went to bed in the Orange Free State.

"Playing jackstones with diamonds!" Somehow that electrifying caption was overlooked by news reporters in 1896, when, at Hopetown, on the Orange river, the presence of diamonds in South Africa was signaled by a child, who was discovered playing with a casually picked-up gem weighing 2 1/4 carats.

At once the South African diamond fever was on. Ships lost their crews, overseas shopkeepers their clerks, police forces their "bobbies," the underworld its crooks; and perhaps the church lost a curate, and certainly Natal lost a budding cotton planter—he had once felt drawn to the ministry—in the case of an invalid young fellow named Cecil John Rhodes. All raked up the price to get them to Griqualand's "desert of drought and diamonds."

Future Kimberley was soon a scene of canvas tents, of wagons converted into huts, of prospectors sifting the diamondiferous earth, and of "kopje-wallahs"—those who bought other men's finds on speculation—hurrying to and fro among the sorting tables.

Also, there appeared the resourceful "I. D. R." (illicit diamond buyer), who, co-operating with what might be described as the diamond-stealing industry, smuggled out stones in contravention to the law. Stowing gems in cigarettes, pipes and hollow shoe-heels by no means exhausted his ingenuity. The hungry-dog trick—that is, feeding a starved animal on meat containing diamonds and subsequently retrieving them by cutting him open—was much in vogue.

Controlling the Output.

Under desert conditions, food was often more precious than diamonds, and baths, if you could afford that luxury, were taken in imported soda water. Despite prophecies of a brief year's life for Kimberley, the first two decades showed a production of six tons of diamonds from the Griqua country. Indeed, by 1880 the possibility of South African stones swamping the market was so apparent that Rhodes and his group formed the price-and-output-controlling De Beers company.

Modern Kimberley abuts on a three-mile-wide circle which contains, within barbed-wire barriers, mines, housing "compounds," process sheds, company stores, hospitals, public baths, and kitchens—in fact, everything necessary to the industry and its 5,000 Bantu miners.

These Bantu "boys" are voluntary recruits, who mine for six months annually, returning to their kraals with the wherewithal for meeting taxes, for buying wives with lobola (cattle dowry), or for less serious investments, such as concertinas and motor organs. In "above ground" hours they are seen cooking their food, or purchasing at cost price at the stores, or depositing their wages with the company's savings department. Often these deposits represent such considerable annual aggregates as \$230,000 paid in by 12,000 miners.

Each week in the Kimberley mines some 70,000 tons of "blue ground" (hard, diamondiferous earth) are blasted out, crushed, fed into running water, rotated in steel drums, jiggled along in troughs, and washed across tablelike surfaces coated with petroleum jelly. The rotary process, by centrifugal force, separates the ground-up mass into different-sized units. The jiggling process washes away barren elements from the water-borne "concentrate," of gravel-like appearance; and, finally, the diminished residue flows across the petroleum surfaces, to which only the diamonds adhere.

Not at All Exciting.

Yet "diminished residue" is putting it but mildly, since these 70,000 tons

of blue ground will produce only about 10 1/2 pounds of diamonds—say, a ratio of 14,000,000 to 1.

We might address the cleanser, who, broad blade in hand, now and then scrapes off the diamondiferous petroleum and throws it into a vat of boiling water.

"Scraping off millions of dollars' worth of diamonds in this way, isn't it rather exciting?"

"Why, no," he will probably answer unemotionally—and everyone knows what familiarity breeds—"It's about like handling mortars with a trowel."

Inside the sorting room, to which visitors are admitted after an eye has scrutinized them from behind a sliding panel, men were poking diamonds through graduated holes in small screens to ascertain the stoney diameters. On one table alone lay 18,500 carats-weight of gems, worth approximately a million dollars. Feeling as dizzy as Ali Baba in the treasure cave, one asks tremulously of a sorter:

"Putting millions of dollars' worth of diamonds through screen holes, isn't it a bit thrilling?"

"Oh, no," he answers, suppressing a yawn—again that familiarity complex—as he popped a one-inch diamond through the screen, "it's about like shelling peas."

Kimberley town itself is as simple and homelike a place as you'd find in the suburban area of some American city. It has produced nearly \$1,300,000,000 worth of diamonds in half a century. It's difficult to see how the city could adequately have expressed its wealth production save by paving its main street with gems; but in truth it has been its fate to have created fortunes that too often flitted from South Africa to the attractions in London and Paris.

Yet there was an exception. At least one Kimberley digger, Cecil Rhodes, could amass a fortune, yet scorn to use it in the common way. Great wealth constitutes a trust, to be administered in the wider interests of humanity—such was his view. And that he did, according to his lights, within South Africa and for the British empire.

You may strike his trail along the twisting street—it follows the route of bygone diggers' footpaths from claim to claim—that leads you to the long-abandoned "New Rush" mine. Here is the vast, extinct crater, almost a mile around and a quarter of a mile deep, that once spewed diamonds into Europe's capitals; and here, too, if you've eyes to see them, swarm old-time miners' ghosts, with avid eyes and avaricious hands, sifting the earth and clawing at fortune. Tomorrow, for them, the fleshpots of Paris and London!

Many Used in Industry.

Not all diamonds are destined to shine forth from jewelry that adorns men and women. More than half the world's production of the stones, in quantity, is used in industry. Some form bearings for watches, chronometers, electric meters, and other accurate instruments and laboratory apparatus. Some, in which tapered holes are drilled, are used for drawing fine wire of platinum, silver, gold, and rare metals.

Other industrial uses for diamonds are as drills for glass, porcelain, and similar hard substances; turning-tools for lathe work; engraving points; and as cutting edges for rock drilling and sawing. For industrial purposes only the less nearly perfect and less valuable stones are used.

The United States is the world's greatest diamond consuming country. Normally it absorbs nearly the equivalent of the entire South African output. If all the diamonds produced in the world in 1929 could have been combined into a single cube it would have been five and a half feet across each face—a crystal block as tall as the average man and weighing more than a ton and a half. If the rough stones have been brought together and dumped into bushel baskets they would have filled two dozens of them, heaped up.

In recent years a wealth of the gems has been literally scooped up from the earth in the regions of aluvial diamond deposits. Until this change in mining methods came about, the greater part of the diamonds had been mined for decades by laborious digging to great depths in the "pipes" of extinct volcanoes. Then came the slow work of separating the stones from earth and rock.

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Writers' Pluck
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WOMEN: watch your BOWELS

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Weather Dictionary
Some people collect stamps and some collect snuff boxes, but C. F. Talman, librarian of the United States weather bureau, is collecting words relating to the weather. His encyclopedic weather dictionary, when completed, will contain about 15,000 weather terms, including slang, dialect, and scientific names for weather phenomena. It may be some years before the dictionary is finished, but meanwhile each definition is filed on a card and the cards are in daily use as references for the scientists of the weather bureau and others.

MENTHOLATUM
Open stuffy nostrils,
soothe irritation by use of Mentholatum in nose. Rub briskly on chest to improve blood circulation and prevent congestion. Jars and tubes 30c.

Plaque on Historic Spot
A bronze plaque marking the spot where gold was first discovered in Silver Bow county, Montana, recently was dedicated by the Butte chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The plaque, which was mounted on a six-ton granite boulder, marked the spot where B. H. Barker and companions panned the first gold from Silver Bow creek in 1834. The spot is between Nisler and Silver Bow.

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