

News Review of Current Events the World Over

President Hoover Declares Himself for Change in Prohibition Amendment—Roosevelt Hears Mayor Walker's Defense—Secretary Stimson Angers Japan.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

PRESIDENT HOOVER opened the campaign for his re-election with his acceptance speech, and told the nation that, in regard to the liquor question, he stood not exactly on the Republican platform but a considerable step ahead of it. He said the administration's efforts to enforce national prohibition had been of no avail because the Eighteenth amendment itself was a failure except in states where the majority sentiment was actually dry. He declared he could not consent either to restoration of the saloon or to the continuance of such grave abuses as the speakeasy and the bootlegger which flourish under the amendment. Therefore, he proposed such modification of the prohibition amendment as would return liquor control to the states under federal control that would guarantee the dry states federal aid in keeping out liquor and prevent the restoration of the saloon in the wet states.

In substance the position taken by Mr. Hoover on this prohibition problem is very close to that of Alfred E. Smith in 1928. It was warmly endorsed by the Republican senators who consented to talk about it, even by such veteran dries as Fess and Borah. The Republican press generally commended it, and Democratic newspapers praised the President for "bravery greater than that of his party platform."

The President's address of course covered practically all the subjects that appear in the Republican platform and was written with skill. In it he reiterated his stand for freedom in industry and commerce as opposed to radical and revolutionary proposals, for a protective tariff, for noncancellation of foreign debts, and pledged himself to work for restoration of prosperity.

The notification ceremony took place in Constitution hall and the speech was heard by 4,000 persons gathered there and by countless millions who listened in by radio. The affair was preceded by a garden party and buffet luncheon on the White House grounds, to which 700 men and women had been invited. Former President Calvin Coolidge was not there because, as he said, he feared the trip would aggravate the hay fever from which he was suffering.

MAYOR JAMES WALKER of New York, appearing before Governor Roosevelt in the latter's office in Albany, made an impassioned plea for the right to face and question the witnesses who have accused him and whose testimony before the Seabury committee resulted in the demand that the governor remove him from office. Mr. Roosevelt ruled that the mayor might present any witnesses or evidence that would contribute to the governor's examination of the case. He did not require the proof of Mr. Walker's guilt to be shown by witnesses, but he did go at once into a cross-examination of the mayor himself.

Mayor Walker's answers followed closely his previous defense as given in his formal answer to the Seabury charges and in his testimony before the legislative committee. He admitted taking the \$26,000 gift from J. A. Sisto, banker interested in taxicab legislation, but denied he had given of his influence as mayor to obtain the legislation.

Answering the charge that he owned securities in a company doing business with the city, in violation of a state law, Walker asserted he knew nothing about its connection with city contracts.

In succeeding sessions of the hearing he continued along the same line, denying all charges of misconduct and defending the acts on which those charges were based.

JAPAN, continually on the defensive concerning her course in Manchuria and extremely sensitive to criticism, whether direct or implied, has been aroused to great official indignation by Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson. In an address before the council on foreign relations in New York the cabinet officer asserted that consultation among signatory nations to mobilize "moral disapproval" of acts of aggression is implicit in the Briand-Kellogg treaty outlawing war and that a definite pact providing for such consultation is unnecessary. As an example, the secretary of state referred to the American protest to Japan against hostilities in China. Such a protest would have had far less weight, he pointed out, had it not been supported by "the entire group of civilized nations."

Later in his address Mr. Stimson said: "As it stands, the only limitation to the broad covenant against war is the right of self-defense. This right is so inherent and universal that it was deemed unnecessary even to insert it expressly in the treaty. It exists in the case of the individual under domestic law, as well as in the case of the nation and its citizens under the law of nations. Its limits have been clearly defined by countless precedents. A nation which sought to mask imperialistic policy under the guise of the defense of its nationals would soon be unmasked. It could not long hope to confuse or mislead public opinion on a subject so well understood or in a world in which facts can be so easily ascertained and appraised as they can be under the journalistic conditions of today."

The Japanese foreign office took Mr. Stimson's remarks as an attack on Japan's acts in Manchuria and cabled the embassy in Washington for a detailed report of the speech. It was believed that formal protest might be made to the United States government.

ROY D. CHAPIN, the Detroit automobile manufacturer, was sworn in as secretary of commerce to succeed Robert F. Lamont, who resigned to become president of the American Iron and Steel Institute. As he took office Mr. Chapin gave expression to his optimism, saying: "Naturally, like every other American, I am gratified by the unmistakably better tone that now prevails in our industries and markets of trade. Concerning the future trend, I will not be so bold as to venture prediction now, but one thing is certain—we must all exert ourselves to the utmost striving to strengthen all favorable factors and to make the inevitable turn come as soon and with as much security as possible."

Secretary Chapin is already encouraging the railroads to go ahead with repair and replacement work and finding money to help them do it; and in co-operation with Secretary of Labor Doak he is working on the plans for spreading employment by decreasing the individual hours of work.

FOR about twenty-four hours there was a spectacular attempt at revolution in Spain by the monarchists who hoped to restore the Bourbons to the throne. The movement was led by Gen. Jose Sanjurjo, known as "the lion of Morocco," and for a time he and his helpers were in control of Seville. But the republican government was apprised of his plans in advance and the revolt was speedily squelched mainly by the police. Sanjurjo himself was arrested as he fled from Seville and was taken to Madrid for trial by court martial, and various others of the former king's military commanders also were apprehended. In Madrid there was little fighting when revolutionists sought to occupy government buildings.

The whole affair was a mixture of comedy and tragedy and the net result was the burning of many royalist clubs, homes and residences by the republicans in several cities, and the prospect of death at the hands of firing squads for the royalist leaders.

REWARD for his uniformly successful prosecutions of gangsters and politicians for evasion of the federal income tax has come to George E. Q. Johnson, United States attorney in Chicago. He has been appointed to the federal District bench by President Hoover, and probably will be confirmed by the senate in December with little opposition. As successor to Mr. Johnson, the President named Johnson's able assistant in the tax cases, Dwight H. Green, who has been solicitor for the bureau of internal revenue and has conducted many of the trials instituted by Johnson. Both the appointments were urged by Senators Glenn and Lewis of Illinois.

Johnson began his drive against hoodlums and crooked politicians in the fall of 1929, first indicting Ralph Capone and Terry Druggan and Frankie Lake. Other indictments followed, and trials, and Mr. Johnson was successful in sending the following persons to the penitentiary for evading income taxes: Al Capone, Ralph Capone, Druggan, Lake, Jack Guzik, Sam Guzik, Frank Nitti, former County Assessor Gene G. Oliver, and former State Representative Lawrence C. O'Brien. Christian P. Paschen, building commissioner in the last Republican Chicago municipal administration, is now under sentence, but has appealed his conviction.

TWO Democratic senators were successful during the week in obtaining renominations. They were Alben W. Barkley of Kentucky, keynoter in the recent national convention, who defeated former Senator George B. Martin and others; and Mrs. Hattie W. Caraway of Arkansas, the only woman member of the upper house. Mrs. Caraway had six male rivals for the nomination but easily distanced them all.

CHANCELLOR VON PAPPEN and his cabinet acted to stop terrorism among the political factions of Germany by decreeing the death penalty for all persons convicted of acts of political violence, including rioting, treason, arson, instigation of explosions or floods or damaging railways or railway equipment. Despite this rigorous action, the acts of violence did not cease. Adolf Hitler issued a proclamation to his storm troops to curb their disorderly enthusiasm.

Von Pappen invited both Hitler's National Socialists and Hugenberg's Nationalists to share in the government which he will submit to the reichstag when it convenes August 30. But the monocol chancellor is determined to keep the office of chancellor and to maintain the government on the "no-party" basis. The Hitlerites continue to claim full governmental control.

WHEN the field and track events of the Olympic games came to a close it was found the United States had won first place by a tremendous margin; Finland was second and Great Britain third. The climax of this part of the program was the marathon race, which was won by Juan Zabala of Argentina in record-breaking time. The second week was given over to all kinds of events, mainly in the water, and Helene Madison, the premier woman swimmer of the United States, distinguished herself again by winning the 100 meters free-style race in the new Olympic time of 1:38. She was first in the fastest field of girl swimmers ever assembled, and every one of them beat the old Olympic record.

In other water events the flags of Japan, Holland, Australia and other nations were raised.

MUCH of the work of the British imperial conference in Ottawa was completed during the week and the delegates thought they might be able to leave by August 20. However, the questions that most interest the United States were still unsettled, these being the trade relations between Canada and Great Britain. The dominion's offer of preferences on manufactured goods was rejected by the British delegates as not good enough. The Canadians thought their offer ought to mean about \$55,000,000 extra trade for Britain every year, but the British could not figure the gain at more than \$10,000,000 a year.

The British made satisfactory trade arrangements with the Australians, the New Zealanders and the South Africans. Points on which the conference fails to agree will be referred to a permanent committee.

ALL the neutral nations of Central and South America joined with the United States in calling on Bolivia to lay down her arms and accept arbitration of the dispute with Paraguay over the Gran Chaco. They even set a definite time for such submission, but Bolivia's reply was not especially satisfactory. President Daniel Salamanca's government said it was willing to suspend hostilities pending arbitration, if Paraguay and the neutral powers would consent to the present positions in the Gran Chaco as the basis for negotiations. Instead of the positions of the troops on June 1, as stipulated by Paraguay. After June 15 Bolivian patrols captured three Paraguayan outposts.

Pacifists in La Paz, Bolivia, who opposed war with Paraguay, were court-martialed and eight of them were condemned and shot. Adventurous citizens of the United States have been offering their services to Paraguay and Bolivia, if war materializes, through their legations in Washington. One World War flyer with the rank of captain telegraphed both sides identical requests for service.

GEN. CHIANG KAI-SHEK, it appears likely, will be the supreme dictator of China. This results from the controversy between Wang Ching-wel, premier, and Marshal Chang Hsiao-liang, Peking war lord. Chang refused to obey Wang's order to make war on the Japanese forces that were operating in Jehol province, and offered to resign. Soon after Wang and his entire cabinet submitted their resignations, the last to step out being Finance Minister T. V. Soong.

Chiang Kai-shek, unlike Wang, still thinks the Sino-Japanese dispute can be settled by direct negotiations and therefore refuses to take any warlike steps likely to antagonize Tokyo. Under the terms of the Chinese constitution, General Chiang as permanent chairman of the military council is untouchable and is in full control of the armies.

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President Hoover



R. D. Chapin



Helene Madison



President Salamanca



G. E. Q. Johnson



Sec'y Stimson

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The erosion problem, one of the most serious facing the farms of the United States, has been practically solved in one section of Missouri where the federal warnings have been taken seriously. In this area steep hillsides, which for years had been washed by heavy rains, have been planted in corn by the so-called terracing method. The results have been more than borne out by the contentions of the experts who have maintained that this method is the only one which will save the fertile top soil which in unprotected regions has been washed away either by sheet erosion or by gullying.

To illustrate, accurate measurements on adjacent fields subject to the same rainfall as the terraced fields disclosed the soil washed away last year at the rate of 140 tons per acre. On the terraced fields the loss showed an average of 2.3 tons per acre with one particular development with just 85 pounds over a ton loss.

There are two methods of terracing, one which provides a gentle slope from one flat down towards the terrace leading to the flat on the next lower level, and one in which the various flats are made as level as possible. In the case of the level areas, the loss was held to the minimum.

The amount of soil lost annually through the erosion is tremendous and experts are endeavoring to bring all farmers with fields subject to the swift wash of heavy rainfall to a realization of the danger to their future prosperity in the continued ignoring of the steady drain on their capital involved in the loss of top soil.

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