

# EVENTS OF 1923 PASS IN REVIEW

### Happenings at Home and Abroad During the Twelve Months That Have Just Closed.

## PRESIDENT HARDING'S DEATH

#### Futile Attempts to Settle German Reparations Problem—France Occupies the Ruhr—Turkey's Diplomatic Triumph—Terrible Earthquake in Japan—American Prosperity and Politics.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

With the exception of Germany, ruined by her own acts, and Japan, shattered by the force of nature, all the world was better off at the close of 1923 than at its beginning. This is especially true of the United States, Italy, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Turkey, and probably Russia, though the information coming from the land of the soviets has been so colored that it was difficult to determine true conditions there.

Economic recovery of the world was retarded, as it was during the previous twelve months, by failure to settle the matter of the German reparations and by the steady decline of Germany toward the point of absolute collapse. The occupation of the Ruhr by France and the resulting disputes with Great Britain brought on repeated crises each of which seemed to threaten the final disruption of the entente cordiale.

Several proposals for commissions to determine Germany's capacity to pay were made, but each of them required the participation of the United States and each time the American government found unacceptable the restrictions insisted upon by Premier Poincare of France. As the year drew toward its close, however, the reparations commission was preparing to appoint two committees of experts to help work out the problem, and President Coolidge approved of the appointment of Americans on these committees.

Turkey gained power and prestige through the Lausanne peace conference and the resulting treaties with the allies and with the United States. Late in the year she added herself to the list of republics with Mustafa Kemal Pasha as her first president.

Under the leadership of General Primo Rivera and other army officers and aristocrats, there was a house-cleaning in Spain that resulted in the turning out of the crowd of politicians that had for years been battering on the spoils of misgovernment. The so-called democratic government was overthrown and a dictatorial council substituted.

President Harding's death in San Francisco threw all the United States—and indeed all the civilized world—into heartfelt mourning. Vice President Calvin Coolidge, succeeding to the chief magistracy, carried on in general the policies of his predecessor. Mr. Harding had been considered the certain nominee of the Republican party in 1924, and his demise threw open the lists and made the political contest intensely interesting.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

German reparations and complications resulting from the failure to pay them occupied much of the attention of European diplomats. Early in January the allied premiers held a futile conference in Paris, and France prepared for separate action to collect from Germany. About the same time Secretary Hughes announced the United States would not consider Berlin's proposal for a four-power European peace pact and also informally advised France not to occupy the Ruhr. France, however, was determined, and the reparations commission gave her the opening by declaring Germany in willful default in coal deliveries. Germany formally protesting and Great Britain not approving, the French on January 11 began the occupation of the Ruhr, seizing its most important cities one after another. President Harding expressed his disapproval by recalling the American troops from Germany. Chancellor Cuno, with the support of the reichstag, declared a "moral war" of passive resistance and ordered all state employees not to obey the French. The mine owners and later the industrial magnates fell in with this program and for months the French were balked in their efforts to get any considerable revenue from the region. They seized customs, bank funds and railways, and arrested many industrial leaders and officials, but the passive resistance was not broken until late in September. The occupation was assisted actively by Belgium and passively by Italy. Great Britain, though she did not actually hamper the French, gave them no help.

On May 2 Germany made a new reparations offer of \$7,500,000,000, with many conditions, and it was immediately rejected by France. England also declared the offer insufficient. Berlin then asked a new reparations conference on the total sum and offered annuities of 1,500,000,000 gold marks. Great Britain invited France and Italy to join her in a reply to this, and submitted a draft of her proposed answer, but this also fell through. The British government thereupon sent a note to France and Belgium declaring the Ruhr occupa-

tion illegal and a failure, insisting on an impartial reparations inquiry after the plan suggested by Secretary of State Hughes, and saying France must pay enough of the money lent her to enable Great Britain to pay America. Again no results. Premier Poincare declaring Germany must settle the reparations question before an economic accord could be reached. Chancellor Stresemann, who had succeeded Dr. Cuno, announced the abandonment of passive resistance and said no more reparations would be paid and the treaty of Versailles would be repudiated. He also put an end to the aid which the government had been giving the inhabitants of the occupied regions. Soon after this the industrial magnates of the Ruhr and Rhineland signed a pact with the French for the resumption of work and of payments of material.

In December the reparations commission decided to appoint two committees of experts, one to examine German money in foreign lands and the other to try to devise means by which Germany might balance her budget and stabilize her finances. Poincare now seemed in a yielding mood and President Coolidge announced he approved of unofficial American participation through the selection of Americans as members of those committees.

Turkey's diplomatic victory at Lausanne was not easily won. While the conference there was deadlocked in January Mustafa Kemal mobilized armies to move against Constantinople, Mosul and other points and called three classes to the colors to combat the Greeks in Thrace. The quarreling in the peace conference was incessant. On January 31 the allies submitted a treaty to the Turks, demanding its acceptance within four days. The Turks agreed to sign it if the economic clauses were reserved for future settlement. Lord Curzon departed in a rage, and on February 6 the conference broke up. Diplomatic conversations continued, however; the British indicated they would make concessions, and the conference was resumed on April 23, Russia being excluded. On July 24 a treaty was signed which gave Turkey nearly all she had demanded, the question of oil concessions being left for later consideration. A few days later the United States and Turkey signed treaties of amity and commerce and on extradition. By October 2 the allied military forces had evacuated Constantinople and the Turks soon after took formal possession of their old capital.

Warfare between Italy and Greece in the autumn was narrowly averted. An Italian military commissioner and his aids were murdered in Albania and on August 23 Italy demanded that Greece apologize abjectly and pay reparations. The Greek reply being unsatisfactory, the Italians promptly bombarded and occupied the island of Corfu. Greece appealed to the League of Nations, which was disposed to take up the affair; but Premier Mussolini declared Italy would withdraw from the league and ignore its decision if it insisted on arbitrating the dispute. The situation was most embarrassing for the league, but the allied council of ambassadors rescued it by assuming jurisdiction and ordering Greece to comply with Italy's demands almost in their entirety. Greece gave in, apologized and paid 500,000,000 lire indemnity, and on September 27 Italy evacuated Corfu.

Mussolini achieved another triumph by an agreement with Jugoslavia whereby Italy obtained possession of Fiume.

In January American and British commissions met in Washington to negotiate the refunding of the British war debt to America, and their task was soon completed to the apparent satisfaction of both nations. The Washington treaties on reduction of armament and concerning the Pacific were ratified by Italy in February and by France in July. Through the efforts of an American commission sent to Mexico, the government of our neighbor was finally brought to amicable terms and the long-withheld recognition was accorded by Washington on August 31.

## DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

Overshadowing all other events in the United States was the death of President Warren G. Harding. He had long planned a trip through the Middle and Far West and to Alaska in order to talk with the people and get their reactions. Though tired out and far from well, he started on June 20, accompanied by Mrs. Harding and several members of his cabinet. After delivering several important addresses, notably one advocating American membership in the World court, he sailed to Alaska. Returning thence to San Francisco, he fell ill there on July 28. Four days later, on August 2, he passed away. The taking of his body back to Washington, the services there, the trip to Marion, Ohio, and the interment there of the little town's distinguished citizen on August 10 gave the people of the country ample opportunity to show in what high esteem and affection they held Mr. Harding. Literally the entire nation mourned sincerely, and all the other nations gave expression to their grief. Vice President Calvin Coolidge took the oath of office as President at his father's home in Plymouth, Vt., and assumed his new duties at once, retaining the entire Harding cabinet and announcing that he would carry out the Harding policies where possible. It had been taken for granted that the Republican party would nominate Mr. Harding in 1924, and Mr. Coolidge immediately became a probable nominee. However, before the year

closed other candidates came forward, notably Senator Hiram Johnson of California, Governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania and Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin. For the Democratic nomination there were several probabilities, including Senator Underwood and William G. McAdoo, avowed candidates, and Senator Bristow of Indiana, Gov. Al Smith of New York and Governor Silzer of New Jersey. There was much talk of the possible nomination of Henry Ford by one of the old parties or by a third party, and his admirers were exceedingly active. The Republican national committee, according to the wishes of the President, selected Cleveland as the place for the national convention of 1924, and set June 10 as the date for its opening. Previous action by which the representation of the southern states was reduced was rescinded by the committee.

Secretary of the Interior Fall retired from President Harding's cabinet on March 4 and was succeeded by Hubert Work, the latter's place as postmaster general being filled by the appointment of Harry S. New. Attorney General Daugherty, against whom impeachment charges had been made the previous year, was fully exonerated by the house judiciary committee, the report being adopted by the house on January 25. Among the appointments made by President Harding were Robert Woods Bliss as minister to Sweden; Miles Poindexter as ambassador to Peru; R. M. Tobin as minister to the Netherlands; E. T. Sanborn as associate justice of the Supreme court of the United States; and Gen. Frank T. Hines as director of the veterans' bureau. The latter appointment was followed by charges of mismanagement, waste, etc., against the former director, Colonel Forbes, which were investigated by a senate committee.

Having passed the agricultural credit bill and many acts of lesser importance, and killing the ship-subsidy bill, the Sixty-seventh congress came to an end on March 4. The Sixty-eighth congress met on December 3 and the Republican majority was so slender that a bloc of so-called progressives held the balance of power. Speaker Gillett was re-elected and President Coolidge then delivered his first message, in which he declared himself in favor of American membership in the World court, advocated reduction of taxes and opposed the soldiers' bonus.

Two governors got into serious trouble. Walton of Oklahoma, who said he was fighting the Ku Klux Klan, came into conflict with the state legislature and assumed virtually dictatorial powers. Despite his efforts to prevent it, the legislature met in special session, the house impeached him on numerous charges and the senate, sitting as a trial court, found him guilty and removed him from his office. Walton was then indicted by a grand jury. The other state executive in trouble was Gov. W. T. McCray of Indiana, who got into deep financial entanglements and was indicted.

The Supreme court on April 30 decided that foreign vessels could not bring liquor into American ports, even though sealed, and later the liquor stores of several liners were seized at New York. Foreign nations protested but could not take any action. However, late in the year the government negotiated an agreement with Great Britain whereby the right of search was extended to about twelve miles from shore, and in return it was expected the ship liquor regulation would be modified. The extension of the search limit was made necessary by the activities of the smuggling fleets which kept the country well supplied with wretched liquor. On May 4 the New York legislature repealed the state prohibition law. In October a conference of governors on law enforcement was held in Washington, and President Coolidge pledged the full aid of the government machinery, but insisted each state must assume its own share of the burden.

President Coolidge had the appointment of one ambassador last year. Col. George Harvey resigned his post at the court of St. James on October 4 and Frank B. Kellogg was selected for the place. Immediately after its summer vacation the Supreme court rendered an important decision upholding the laws of the Pacific coast states which prohibit aliens from owning land. These laws, of course, are directed against the Japanese especially.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Germany's internal troubles, political, economic and financial, were inextricably tangled up with her international woes and brought her to so low a state that her regeneration seemed at times almost hopeless. Royalists, separatists and communists conspired, revolted and rioted. Unemployment increased and in the cities all but the industrial magnates and the profiteers were reduced to near starvation, although the crops were large and the rural districts were overrunning with food stuffs. The government tried to meet the situation by keeping up the flood of paper marks and of course the mark declined until billions could be had for one dollar and those who had anything to sell refused to accept the practically worthless currency. In August Chancellor Cuno presented a "rescue plan" to the reichstag. It was rejected and Cuno resigned, Gustave Stresemann succeeding him and forming the first coalition majority government in Germany's history. He undertook to reform the finances by the issue of a new currency, the Renten mark, backed by the country's resources. This was far from successful.

Throughout the year the royalists or nationalists of Germany were exceedingly active, those of Bavaria usually taking the lead. In September the Bavarians actually revolted against the Berlin government and made Gustave von Kahr dictator of the state. The reichstag thereupon gave Stresemann dictatorial powers. A little later the socialist governments of Saxony and Thuringia refused to obey the chancellor, and he subdued them by a show of military force. He yielded to Bavaria's demand for greater autonomy, but this was not enough. On November 8 Hitler, leader of the Bavarian Fascists, and General von Ludendorff attempted a royalist coup d'etat in Munich and other cities and threatened to march on Berlin. This revolt was rather easily put down by the national police and the workers and Hitler and Ludendorff were arrested. On November 10 Frederick William, the former crown prince, suddenly returned to Germany from Holland.

In October the separatists of the Rhineland got into action and set up a republic which was looked upon with favor by France. However, it was not able to maintain itself very successfully, and there was almost continuous fighting with the national forces. Another separatist movement was started in the Bavarian palatinate, but it failed for the time being.

Late in November Chancellor Stresemann's coalition went to pieces and, being denied a vote of confidence in the reichstag, he resigned. Dr. Heinrich Albert, unpleasantly remembered in America, and Adam Stegerwald both failed to form acceptable ministries, and so Dr. Wilhelm Marx, leader of the Catholic party, was made chancellor on November 29 and got together a cabinet that included Stresemann as foreign minister and that was expected to carry on his policies.

The revolution in Spain, which was connected with the unsatisfactory war with the Moors, took place in September. The revolt, led by General Primo Rivera, Marquis de Estella, was against the cabinet and corrupt politicians and also was an expression of reaction against the growth of socialism and syndicalism among the workers. The king supported it and the cabinet resigned on September 14. A military directorate was established and Rivera was made sole chief of the administration. The new government made itself popular at once by a campaign on prostering and gambling, by cutting expenses to the bone and by other drastic measures of reform. Trial by jury was suspended because of the corruption of the courts. Altogether, it was a happy revolution for Spain.

Bulgaria also had a revolution, almost bloodless, when Stambouli's peasant government was overthrown on June 9 and the premier himself was captured and killed. Professor Zankov was made head of the new government. In September the Communists and peasants resorted to arms in an attempt to regain power, but they were soon suppressed.

Andrew Bonar Law, prime minister of Great Britain, resigned on May 20 because of the illness that caused his death in October. He was succeeded by Stanley Baldwin, who had been chancellor of the exchequer. On October 1 an imperial conference and an economic conference of the British empire opened in London, and various important measures were debated and adopted designed to bind the component parts of the empire by closer commercial ties, at the same time leaving them their full measure of self-government. These questions brought to the fore the old question of free trade or protection, and since the government had promised there should be no change in the tariff policy during the life of the existing parliament, Prime Minister Baldwin dissolved parliament on November 16 and an election was called for December 6. Former Premier Lloyd George, who had been on a speaking tour of the United States, arrived home just in time to make up his old quarrel with the other wing of the liberal party, and went into the campaign with vigor. When the votes were counted it was found that while the Liberals and Laborites both had won many seats from the Conservatives, no one of the three parties had a majority. The Laborites, however, announced that their leader, Ramsay MacDonald, would undertake to form a government as soon as called upon, whereupon Prime Minister Baldwin declared he and his cabinet would retain office at least until the new parliament had met in January.

During the early months of the year the Irish republicans continued their guerrilla warfare on the Free State, but on April 10, their chief of staff, Liam Lynch, was killed in a fight and on April 27 Eamon de Valera ordered his followers to cease hostilities and negotiate peace. The Dublin government refused to treat with him and on August 15 he was placed under arrest.

Chinese factions fought bitterly throughout the entire year, and in October President Li Yuan-hung was succeeded by Marshal Tsao-kun. Considerable excitement was caused in May by the capture of a number of foreigners by Chinese bandits, who demanded large ransom and immunity. The prisoners included several Americans and English, and for a time armed intervention by their governments seemed likely. However, the Peking government bought off the outlaws after long negotiations.

Zepiak and Vicar General Butchavich of the Roman Catholic church to death for revolutionary activities. The latter was executed, but Zepiak's sentence was commuted to ten years imprisonment.

Early in December another revolution was attempted in Mexico, the leader being Adolfo de la Huerta who was offered because President Obregon would not support his candidacy for the presidency. The revolt spread rapidly, but before the month closed Obregon seemed to have the situation well in hand.

## INDUSTRIAL AND LABOR

Only one really big strike marred the record of the year in the United States, and that did not last long. The miners in the anthracite fields and their employers tried in vain to fix a new wage scale and working conditions, and on August 21 they broke off negotiations. With the approval of President Coolidge, Governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania undertook to handle the problem, and proposed a compromise on August 29. The strike began officially two days later, but the negotiations were continued. Pinchot's plan was accepted September 8 and the miners resumed work on September 20.

At various times during the year the railway labor board adjusted the wages of certain classes of rail workers, usually raising them. Some of the roads made separate agreements with their employees, giving them increased pay. April 9 the steel industry raised the wages of common labor 11 per cent and adjusted the pay of other classes, and on April 13 the Chicago packing house employees and building trade workers were given an increase. The steel makers had been attacked bitterly for maintaining the twelve-hour day, and on August 2 Elbert H. Gary of the U. S. Steel corporation announced its elimination.

The American Federation of Labor met in annual convention in Portland, Ore., and, among other acts, voted against the formation of a political labor party and also against the recognition of the Russian Soviet government. The advocates of these measures and indeed all the more radical factions in the federation were routed by President Gompers, who was re-elected.

## DISASTERS

Unequaled in modern times was the disaster that befell Japan on September 1 when violent earthquake shocks and resultant fires destroyed Yokohama entirely and about two-thirds of Tokyo and ruined many smaller towns. The number of killed was estimated at 225,000, and the injured at more than half that number. Though many of the houses were flimsy, the property loss was enormous. The hundreds of thousands of refugees suffered severely, but the American Red Cross and other nations joined in the work. Shiphloads of food and millions of dollars were rushed to the stricken land, and the Japanese government was materially aided in its task of rebuilding the ruined cities.

Among other serious disasters of the year were: January 3, twenty persons killed by collapse of a bridge at Kelso, Wash.; February 8, mine explosion at Dawson killed 120, and one at Cumberland, B. C., killed 30; February 18, twenty-two patients and three attendants were killed in insane asylum fire on Ward's Island, New York; March 10, Greek transport sank with 150 soldiers; April 6, tidal waves in Korea and Japan killed 600; May 14, Hot Springs, Ark., partly destroyed by flood and fire; May 17, seventy-three killed in burning of a schoolhouse at Cleveland, S. C.; June 10, disastrous floods in Kansas, Oklahoma and Colorado; June 15, thousands of Persians killed by earthquakes; June 18, several towns destroyed by eruption of Mt. Etna; August 14, coal mine explosion at Kemmerer, Wyo., killed 98; August 18, Hongkong badly damaged by typhoon; August 22, million-dollar flood in Arkansas valley, Colorado; September 8, nine U. S. destroyers wrecked on California coast, 23 lives being lost; September 15, typhoon and floods killed 5,000 in Japan; September 17, large part of Berkeley, Cal., destroyed by flames; September 27, forty killed in Burlington train wreck at Lockett, Wyo.; November 13, earthquake in Shansi province, China, killed 1,500; December 1, nearly 600 killed by bursting of dam near Bergamo, Italy; December 9, nine killed and many injured in wreck of the Twentieth Century train at Forsythe, N. Y.; December 15, destructive earthquake in Colombia and Ecuador.

## NECROLOGY

Death reaped his usual harvest of prominent men and women in 1923. The more notable of his victims were, in January: W. T. Whiting, Wisconsin paper mill magnate; Edwin Stevens, actor; Mrs. Cora L. V. Richmond, spiritualist leader; Dr. Emil G. Hirsch, eminent rabbi of Chicago; George Hamlin, singer; Constantine, former king of Greece; W. M. Moore, financier; Alexandre Ribot, French statesman; Frederic Harrison, English historian; Wallace Reid, motion picture star; Max Nordau, German philosopher; Dr. Paul Reinsch, former minister to China; Dr. W. S. Haines, toxicologist of Chicago; Henry Clews, New York banker.

In February: Bishop C. J. O'Reilly of Lincoln, Neb.; Cardinal Prinsco, archbishop of Naples. E. E. Barnard, astronomer; ex-Senator J. A. Hendenway of Indiana; Prof. W. C. Roentgen, discoverer of the X-ray; Judge Martin Knapp of the federal court of appeals; Bishop C. D. Williams of Michigan; Prince Miguel de Braganza; Theophile Delcasse, French statesman; Mrs. John A. Logan; George R. Peck, lawyer and orator; Charlemagne Tower, American statesman; ex-Senator G. C. Perkins of California; Frederic De Belleville, actor; ex-Senator J. R. Burton of Kansas.

In March: Congressman W. Bourke Cockran of New York; William G. Beale, Chicago lawyer; Orson Smith, Chicago banker; Charles D. Norton, New York banker; Chancellor J. R. Day, educator; Dr. G. Frank Lydston, noted surgeon; Dr. John M. McBryde, southern educator; M. D. Campbell, member of federal reserve board; Senator S. D. Nicholson of Colorado; Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, actress; Congressman John R. Tyson of Alabama; General Manoury, French war hero; E. D. Hulbert, Chicago banker.

In April: Earl of Carnarvon; Horace Boies, former governor of Iowa; Rear Admiral H. S. Knapp; Mother Superior General Carmela of the Franciscan nuns; Stuyvesant Fish, financier and railway man; George A. Yule, Wisconsin financier; W. T. Hazen, former chief of United States secret service; Taylor Granville, actor and playwright; Jess Dandy, comedian; Bishop Daniel Tuttle; ex-Governor Fred M. Warner of Michigan; Rev. Dr. G. C. Houghton, pastor of the "Little Church Around the Corner" in New York; Maj. Gen. Frank D. Baldwin; A. B. Seelenfreund, international secretary of Enal Brith; Senator Knute Nelson of Minnesota; Mrs. Matthew T. Scott, D. A. R. leader; Emerson Hoegh, author; Bishop Alfred Harding of Washington.

In May: Rear Admiral W. S. Cowles; Howard Saxby, lecturer; Congressman John W. Rainey of Chicago; Sadie Martinot, one-time musical comedy star; Brig. Gen. H. M. Robert; N. C. Wright, publisher of Toledo Blade; Dr. J. A. Macdonald, former editor of the Toronto Globe; A. G. Webster, physicist; Dr. T. N. Ivey, editor of Southern Christian Advocate; George Jay Gould; Dr. Florenz Ziegfeld, veteran musical educator; O. B. Halvorsen, Norwegian statesman; Capt. H. W. Baker, ship owner of Detroit; ex-Governor J. W. Folk of Missouri; Congressman Claude Kitchin of North Carolina.

In June: Judge Thomas G. Windes, Chicago jurist; Pierre Loti, French writer; Maurice Hewlett, English novelist; John McFarland, president of International Typographical union; Paul Cornoyer, American artist; Milward Adams, theatrical producer of Chicago; Edward R. Potter, sculptor.

In July: A. W. Marchmont, English novelist; Dr. J. G. Klerman, alienist of Chicago; Bishop James Ryan of Alton, Ill.; Mrs. Cyrus McCormick, philanthropist and widow of harvester manufacturer; Vice Admiral de Bon of France; former Supreme court Justice William R. Day; Helen Ring Robinson, Colorado's first woman senator; Congressman Luther W. Mott of Oswego, N. Y.; Albert Chevalier, English actor; Dr. L. Wilbur Messer, M. C. A. leader; Louis Couperus, Dutch novelist; John M. Siddall, editor of American Magazine; Judge W. H. Gabbert, Colorado jurist; Rear Admiral C. D. Sigsbee; William Holabird, Chicago architect; Gen. Francisco Villa, ex-leader of Mexican rebels; Sir Charles Hawtrej, English actor.

In August: Warren G. Harding, President of the United States; Col. John I. Martin, veteran sergeant at arms of Democratic national conventions; Mrs. Candace T. Wheeler, author; Prince Fabrizio Colonna, Italian statesman; Randall Parish, author; Joaquin Sorolla, Spanish painter; Frank D. Weil, noted horseman; Charles Archer, English actor; Marie Wainwright, actress; Ralph L. Polk, publisher of city directories; Baron Kato, premier of Japan; Kate Douglas Wiggin, author; Alonzo Kimball, artist; Princess Anastasia of Greece, formerly Mrs. W. B. Leeds; Thomas Mosher, publisher.

In September: Edward Payson Dutton, publisher; W. R. Thayer, author and journalist; Dr. C. F. Millsaps, botanist of Chicago university; Paul J. Rainey, explorer; Max Bohm, artist; Dr. Edward Ryan, noted Red Cross worker in Persia; Viscount Morley, English statesman and author; Chauncey I. Filley, former Republican leader in Missouri; Chief Justice C. L. Brown of Minnesota supreme court; Edwin G. Cooley, Chicago educator; Sir Halliday Croom, British surgeon.

In October: J. W. Boughough, Canadian poet and artist; Oscar Brown, English historian; Prof. Malcolm McNell of Lake Forest university; ex-Governor H. H. Markham of California; Ralph Peters, president Long Island railway; Dr. Boris Sidis, psychopathologist; Dr. C. P. Steimetz, famous electrician; Andrew Bonar Law, former British prime minister.

## WASHINGTON NEWS LETTER

(Continued from Page One.)

The House committee on Ways and Means has an unenviable job, if must draft a tax bill which will appeal to all classes, and at the same time be politically safe and economically sound. The bonus question adds to the complexity of the situation. The committee is now considering the administrative features of the tax measure. The draft of the bill prepared by the Treasury Department will be altered in committee as considerable opposition has developed against certain proposals. It is believed that members of the House will endeavor to revise the appellate provisions. The text of the Administration's proposals show that the Treasury favors the creation of a board of tax appeals consisting of 28 members. It is proposed to give the membership ten year terms at salaries of \$10,000 each, "without regard to the civil service laws, but solely on the grounds of fitness to perform the duties of the office." On the surface it would appear that these berths would be in great demand in political circles.

The tentative bill provides for tax rate changes which would reduce the assessment on small incomes. It is expected that the minority members of the Ways and Means committee will submit a separate bill differing in many particulars from the Treasury draft. Democratic Congresses have made the charge that the Mellon program of reduction in the high surtaxes benefits the wealthy. The Treasury Department points out, however, that the majority of wealthy men have their money invested in tax-exempt securities, aggregating about eleven billion dollars. The Secretary has advised the committee that it is necessary to prevent further investment in these securities which escape federal surtaxes and keep the money invested in productive enterprises which provide employment and additional taxes.

At the beginning of the new year, it is significant to note that the two foremost government agencies, the Federal Reserve Board and the Department of Commerce, are in agreement that the United States has made great progress in all lines during the past year and is commercially sound at the outset of 1924. Secretary of Commerce Hoover declares that never in the history of this country has there been a higher standard of living and comfort, nor so great a degree of commercial and industrial efficiency as today, or so wide an understanding of the forces which control the ebb and flow of business.

The Federal Reserve Board points out that in the business and banking developments of 1923, the outstanding fact has been the high level of industrial and agricultural output and the demand for bank credit to finance a volume of production and trade never previously equaled. This agency believes that the year as a whole was characterized by a large industrial output, practically full employment, a sustained consumers' demand for goods and a level of prices more stable than in any year since 1915.

The board's report indicates that the income of industrial workers exceeded that of 1922 and the total value of agricultural production was above \$800,000,000 greater than the previous year. The board makes clear the fact that this increase in income was not accompanied by a corresponding rise in the cost of living, and a large growth in savings deposits indicates a considerable margin of income above expenditures.

In the opinion of Secretary of Agriculture, "the year 1924 comes with the promise of continued improvement in the material prosperity of the farmer. Those who stay by the farm and do good farming can look forward to better times as a reward for their years of toil and hardships. Those whose businesses depend directly upon farm purchases can find decided encouragement in the growing gross income of the farmer, for he will buy as his income expands."

The President has made it known that he intends to stay on his job. Hundreds of invitations have been received from various communities asking Mr. Coolidge to deliver addresses and to participate in celebrations. The Chief Executive has courteously but firmly declined all bids as he feels that he can render the best service to the country by remaining at his desk, especially during the turbulent sessions of Congress when a guiding hand is always required.

Mining location notices at the Courier office.