

But It's True



Robert Clark was sent out to serve the summons on Abigail Adams, the two-year-old child. He actually stuck the paper in the child's hand. The action grew out of a bill in equity to set aside the deeding of a cottage to Abigail by the child's grandparents.

WHO'S NEWS THIS WEEK...

By Lemuel F. Parton

"Spiritual Salesman" Aids the Oxford Movement.

NEW YORK.—Word keeps drifting into this office that the Oxford movement is gaining momentum in the trouble zones of labor, diplomacy and incipient war and carnage. The story persists that its emissaries, having converted powerful Chinese, brought about the rescue of Chiang Kai-Shek when he was kidnaped and prevented civil war; that their followers now include high officials of Japan and that they are working zealously, and with hopes of success, to calm the quarrel between China and Japan.

No verification as to specific accomplishment can be obtained, but this writer is reliably informed that they have enlisted powerful political and business leaders in Europe and the Orient and that they are concentrating on certain dangerous situations.

Frankly, they are evangelists to the rich and powerful, as they say the hope of the world lies in inducing a spiritual change in those who own and operate it. That possibly may go into the files of history as something new.

In the news this week is the Rev. Samuel Moor Shoemaker, who has been taking over in America as Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman, founder of the movement, is busy with the world organization. In London, he is prominent in the proceedings of the convocation of 400 Oxford movement leaders in thirty-five countries. From the conference come stories of employers and labor leaders making concessions under the leadership of the "Christian revolutionaries" and averting strikes.

Dr. Shoemaker is pastor of Calvary Protestant Episcopal church of New York. For the last few years he has been preaching that the old evangelism had failed and that a new dynamic creed was necessary. He became active in the Oxford movement in 1932, since then a vigorous expounder of its faith.

He insists that only by an enlightened and aggressive mobilization of spiritual forces can civilization be saved. He is a good looking, highly urbanized cleric, usually wearing a modish gray business suit. He calls himself a "spiritual salesman." This might convey the erroneous idea that he is an "Elmer Gantry." He is quite the contrary, never seeking personal publicity, and building a reputation as one of the church's leading scholars, with his authorship of nine books in the field of religious research and polemics.

He was born and reared in Baltimore, attended Princeton university, later taking his doctorate in theology. In his earlier years he was a teacher and evangelist in China and it is understood that this experience has made him particularly effective in the peace and regeneration activities in China.

Soviet Liquidator.

IN ONE way, at least, Soviet Russia is like traditional America. The postmaster is the patronage dealer. Nikolai Ivanovich Yezhov, receiving the order of Lenin after his management of the recent "liquidations," has a three-fold office which includes control of posts and telegraphs, the selection of personnel for important posts and command of the secret political police.

He is regarded as second only to Stalin in power and the prevailing conjecture among many observers is that he may be Stalin's successor.

His predecessors in office were grim, scowling men. He was elevated in September, 1936, with national acclaim as "a man who knows how to smile." Forty-two years old, he has been tagged by the correspondents as a "mystery man," just now unveiled by the newspapers as a handsome, personable citizen who looks as if he had just been picking daisies, rather than doing a rush job of "liquidating."

He is a certified proletarian, a factory worker at fourteen and military commissioner with various Bolshevik units in the revolution. In 1929 and 1930 he was vice-commissioner of agriculture, and in 1934 became a member of the central committee of the Communist party and of the powerful party control commission.

But, for the most part, he has worked quietly behind the scenes, rarely seen, saying little, adroitly gathering strands of power. His control of posts and telegraphs dates from 1928, his other offices having been added later. He is one of the party's five secretaries and a candidate for membership in the Politburo, the high peak of power in the party organization.

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Language, Tongue

Language is a term that is applicable to any mode of conveying ideas, whether by speech, writing, hieroglyphics or a system of gestures or pantomime. Even the deaf have several languages, but cannot be properly said to have "tongues." Tongue is an English term for the spoken language of a particular people, as the French tongue, the German tongue, and so on. Meillet and Cohn in "The Languages of the World," index 6,760 named tongues and systems of writing. That work classifies speech as of (1) country, (2) town, (3) village, (4) island, (5) river, (6) tribe. Dialects are included. The actual number of languages computed by officers of the French academy is put at 2,796.

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