



1—Navigation being closed in the St. Lawrence from Montreal to the sea, automatic gas buoys are hauled up for winter storage at Sorel, Quebec. 2—New parliament house of Turkish republic at Angora. 3—Book-Cadillac hotel in Detroit, just opened, said to be the tallest hotel in world.

## NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

### British Stand Checks the Funding of Debts to U. S.—Germany's Elections.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

**NEGOTIATIONS** for the funding of war debts owed the United States by foreign nations may be checked entirely by the position taken last week by Great Britain as represented by Winston Churchill, chancellor of the exchequer. Discussions between Secretary of the Treasury Mellon and Ambassador Jusserand relative to funding the French debt aroused the fear in England that France would be granted more favorable terms than were given to Great Britain. Mr. Churchill, explaining his government's position to the house of commons, said Britain would insist on equal treatment with any other nation in this matter, and he added: "It is essential that any payment by our debtors in Europe to the United States should be accompanied by a simultaneous and proportionate payment to us."

Speaking for the Liberals, Sir John Simon called England's position "intolerable" and said: "Our allies owe us some £3,000,000,000, involving a yearly interest on the debt of £130,000,000. We are paying our debt to America, but none of our allies dreams of paying us anything." Washington officials declared positively that there was no reason to expect a reopening of the funding agreement with Great Britain, a request for an understanding to that end having already been flatly refused.

Another controversy arose when Austen Chamberlain, British foreign secretary, notified Secretary Hughes that, in the view of his government, the United States was not entitled to collect war damage claims against Germany out of what the reparations commission receives from Germany through the Dawes plan. France, Italy and Belgium have agreed to support the American claim to the right to share in the reparations. Great Britain holds that America has no such right at all, having made a separate treaty with Germany. The point is made that the United States should follow the example of the allies by using the sequestered German property within its borders to meet the claims of its citizens against Germany. Washington forwarded an answer to England which, while expressing the belief that the matter could be settled amicably, firmly rejected the British position and insisted on America's right to receive payment for war damages out of the reparations funds. Unless the question is settled previously, it will come up when the allied finance ministers meet in Paris next month to decide upon the distribution of German payments.

**GERMANY'S** continued support of the Dawes plan was fairly well assured by the result of the reichstag elections. The three republican parties—Social Democrats, Catholics and Democrats—have 230 seats, which is just a few short of a majority. The three monarchist parties have 170 seats. The balance of power is thus held by hitherto weak groups, like the Bavarian Peoples' and Peasants' parties. Doctor Dernberg is quoted as saying the elections show that "a majority of the Germans are for the honest carrying out of the pledges of the Dawes plan, and, moreover, for honest co-operation in the international affairs leading to peace and reconciliation. Germany at present is negotiating for entry to the League of Nations and other international relations. The elections show that the people favor this program and oppose the extremists' efforts to break it."

"I believe a coalition of the middle parties will result. The Democrats are ready to quit co-operating with the People's party, which stands with the reactionaries. The three republican parties will be able, with the aid of two of the small parties, to form a republican government. Once this is begun it is possible that the People's party will be eager to join, because

the People's party wants a place in the government, no matter what its political complexion."

For the present the People's party has refused to go into a coalition which would include the Socialists, so, according to dispatches from Berlin, the cabinet headed by Chancellor Marx has decided to resign. The outcome may be the formation of a bourgeois ministry to include the Nationalists, whose opponents wish to maneuver them into an impossible situation.

Baron Ago von Moltzan, secretary of state of the German foreign office, has been appointed ambassador to Washington to succeed Herr Wiedfeldt, who has resigned. Baron Moltzan is credited with possessing great diplomatic ability. He was chiefly responsible for the treaty of Rapallo between Germany and Russia which caused such a sensation during the Geneva conference of the great powers.

**THE** League of Nations council opened in Rome what might have been an important meeting had it not been found necessary or advisable to yield to the demands of the British. Austen Chamberlain told the council the Baldwin cabinet needed more time to examine the security and arbitration protocol and insisted that consideration of it be postponed until March, which was agreed to. A delegation from Egypt urged that the council take cognizance of the protest of the Egyptian parliament against the recent "wanton British attack," but here again British influence prevailed and the league secretariat announced it could not recognize the protest because it did not come from the Egyptian government.

Mr. Chamberlain had long conversations with Premier Herriot and Mussolini, and afterward intimated that great progress had been made toward a complete accord of Great Britain, France and Italy on vital questions. Among other things, it was agreed that Britain should remain in the Rhineland, retiring from the Cologne bridgehead in January but occupying some other region, probably that of Coblenz which was held by the Americans after the armistice. They also discussed the problem of North Africa, with what result is not known.

**FRANCE**, as well as some other central European countries, has been making a campaign against the Reds within her borders because of their attempts to incite revolution and murder, and many of them have been arrested and deported. Premier Herriot was subjected to bitter attacks for his course, but defended himself skillfully and won a vote of confidence of 300 to 29 in the chamber of deputies.

Over here in the United States the communists received a jolt when the Michigan Supreme court upheld the conviction of Charles E. Ruthenberg for violation of the state syndicalism law. It is presumed that as a result W. Z. Foster, in whose case the jury disagreed, will be retried and that Benjamin Gitlow, Rose Pastor Stokes and others who were indicted will be brought to trial.

**MUSCLE SHOALS** was by agreement the subject before the senate until disposed of, and it gave rise to some lively debates. The Underwood bill was up for action, and despite warm opposition it appeared likely to pass. Senator McKellar of Tennessee declared it was drawn in the interest of the Alabama Power company and that its terms would be even less favorable to the government than a bid made by that concern. The Republican steering committee of the senate agreed that controversial measures such as the world court membership proposal and repeal of the income tax publicity clause shall be omitted from the legislative program for the present session.

The senate on Thursday passed the cruiser and battleship rehabilitation bill which the house passed last session. It carries about \$140,000,000 for construction and alteration and, although there is no provision for gun elevation, it will bring the navy almost up to the 5-5-3 ratio, according to Representative Britten.

The house was busy with the annual supply bills and quickly disposed of the appropriation measure for the interior department, which carries a to-

tal of \$238,000,000. Western Republicans and Southern Democrats prevented the elimination of an amendment for continuance of 39 land offices in Western and Southern states. The agricultural appropriation bill was then taken up and seemed to meet with little opposition in any of its parts. Among its items is one of \$80,000,000 for road construction.

**SUPPLEMENTING** the gloomy reports of the secretaries of war and the navy is the annual report of the advisory committee for aeronautics which President Coolidge transmitted to congress. It gives a startling picture of what might happen to this country in time of war because of our delinquency in aircraft. Here is an extract:

"No one can foretell at this time what the use of aircraft will be in future wars, not even in the next war. It is safe to say that there will be individual and group fighting in the air; there will be aircraft attacking troops on the ground both with bombs dropped from great heights and with machine guns mounted on low-flying aircraft protected by armor from ordinary rifle bullets; there will be bombing of large centers, and routes of communication and transportation."

"And it has been proposed that aircraft be used to drop poisonous gases, not only on the enemy troops, but also behind the lines and in the centers of population, to the same extent that long-distance bombing will be carried on. The bombs carried may not be limited to explosives and poisonous gases, but may possibly be loaded with germs to spread disease and pestilence."

"Without limitations on the uses of aircraft in warfare, a nation fighting with its back to the wall cannot be expected to omit to use desperate means to stave off defeat."

**TWO** immense gifts to the American public for educational and charitable purposes were announced last week. James B. Duke, tobacco and power magnate, created a trust fund embracing properties worth at least \$10,000,000, to be increased later to \$80,000,000, for education, church and hospital work in North and South Carolina. The trustees are instructed to spend part of this in creating a university to be known as Duke university, provided Trinity college at Durham will not consent to change its name to Duke, which it probably will not do.

The other benefactor is George Eastman, head of the Eastman Kodak company of Rochester, N. Y. He announces new gifts of \$12,500,000 to Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Rochester, Hampton Institute and Tuskegee Institute. This brings Mr. Eastman's known benefactions up to \$58,602,500, of which nearly \$24,000,000 has been given to the University of Rochester. Explaining the donations of \$1,000,000 each to Hampton and Tuskegee, he says:

"Almost the entire attention of educators has been devoted thus far to the white race, but we have more than 10 per cent negro population in the United States, most of whom are densely ignorant. The only hope of the negro race and the settlement of the negro problem is through proper education of the Hampton-Tuskegee type."

**SAMUEL GOMPERS**, who went to Mexico City for the Pan-American Federation of Labor convention and was elected its president, was taken seriously ill there and was placed on a train and hurried homeward. At the time this was written there was small hope for his recovery. He had been in very poor health for some time, and it was believed the altitude of Mexico City affected his heart.

August Belmont, known throughout the world as a financier and a sportsman, died rather suddenly in his New York residence at the age of seventy-one years. Mr. Belmont financed the first New York subway and was the chief figure in the building of the Cape Cod canal. For a great many years he was one of the leaders in American thoroughbred racing.

Another notable man who passed away during the week was Mahlon Pitney, former associate justice of the United States Supreme court. About eighteen months ago he was forced to retire by two strokes of paralysis, and he never recovered from them.

## SAMUEL GOMPERS CLAIMED BY DEATH

VENERABLE LABOR LEADER DIES WITHIN FEW HOURS OF RETURN TO U. S.

### LABOR HEAD OVER 40 YEARS

History Will Find a Distinguished Place For Accomplishments of Labor's Champion

San Antonio, Texas.—Samuel Gompers, who for more than 40 years directed the destinies of the American Federation of Labor, died last Saturday after realizing his last hope—that the end came on American soil.

The labor chieftain died surrounded by his comrades, many of whom had fought beside him shoulder to shoulder for a generation in behalf of the economic principles he expounded.

The end came in a San Antonio hotel 11 hours after his arrival from Mexico City where he had been stricken earlier



SAMUEL GOMPERS

in the week. His last words were spoken to his nurse about an hour before he died. Realizing that he was losing the battle so stubbornly fought, he turned to her and whispered:

"Nurse, this is the end. God bless our American institutions. May they grow better day by day."

Shortly before he lapsed into the unconsciousness which presaged the end, Mr. Gompers gave a few simple directions for his funeral and bade a few life-long friends farewell.

Saturday night the body of the labor chieftain, sleeping in a massive bronze casket similar to that in which President Harding was laid to rest, was started on its long journey to the nation's capital, accompanied by his friends and associates. There were no services at the mortuary where the body reposed Saturday.

The government, whose hands he had upheld in peace and in war, stepped in to claim the body for the whole American people and through the United States army, the American people officially took back their dead. His last words were: "God bless our American institutions," and one of those institutions, the United States army—claimed that he belonged to them as much as to anybody. Soldiers from Fort Sam Houston were assigned to the escort. Not only labor possessed him, they said, but the country also.

Sleeping in his great bronze casket in a flag-draped house of death, the late president of the American Federation of Labor, drew to himself throughout the day the men of labor and the men of capital, those who work in field and factory, those who knew him only as a name and those who knew him as a loved and loving companion. All filed past the massive coffin, which was flanked by banks of flowers, and draped with the American flag. As the hour approached for the start of the cortege to the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad station, streets along the line of march were roped off, while the city, which ever this has seen the tramp of many feet, passed in its fretful rush to cling for a suspended moment viewing history. The city was reluctant to let him go.

The cosmopolitan metropolis of the Alamo, with its soldiers, its sojourners, from all states and its adopted sons from the land below the border, ceased their Saturday night diversions to give a many-voiced adieu to the gallant gentleman who could not prolong his stay though he wished it mightly.

Members of the executive council of the federation were sent telegraphic

**Gompers' Burial Place**  
Tarrytown, N. Y.—Samuel Gompers, who for nearly a half century led the labor ranks of the country, will be buried near the graves of some of the wealthiest and most prominent men of America.

The Gompers' plot in Sleepy Hollow here is within 200 feet of the grave of Andrew Carnegie and about the same distance from the mausoleum of William Rockefeller. Nearby are the graves of John D. Archbold, once president of the Standard Oil company, and Carl Schurz.

requests to board the train at points on the route nearest their homes so that the full council may escort the fallen president to his home in Washington. Services were held in Washington and the body taken to New York Wednesday morning, where further services were held. Burial was in Sleepy Hollow cemetery at Tarrytown, New York.

### Gompers' Career

History will find a distinguished place for the life and accomplishments of Samuel Gompers. His name will be written beside those of men who guided the nation through its latter day trials and eventually, sacrificing themselves on the altar of patriotism, brought it safely past the breakers of war, industrial strife and general unrest which threatened time and again to bring disaster upon it.

The recognized leader of organized labor in the United States, a diplomat of world-wide reputation and a writer of marked ability, Samuel Gompers took a powerful part in bringing the war with Germany and Austria-Hungary to a successful conclusion. From the minute he became leader of organized labor in America Gompers had to fight. He was fighting day and night for the ideals he and his followers thought worth dying for, and this early training stood him in good stead when he was put to the real test in 1917, the year America declared war.

Born in England on January 27, 1850, a son of Samuel and Sarah Gompers, he received his early education in the British Isles, but came to America when still a boy. At the age of 15, when most boys of today are just completing their first schooling and playing marbles, Samuel Gompers embarked on his stormy career as a labor leader. He was then a cigar maker, working for a weekly wage, that today would scarcely keep a man alive 48 hours.

From the minute Gompers realized the plight of his fellow workers and decided to try to correct their misfortunes he had to battle against a foe that was prepared and waiting for the ordeal it knew must sooner or later come. But the youthful organizer worked so steadily for the success of the movement to organize American working men and incorporate them in one great powerful association that he soon became recognized as the real leader of labor in this country. He was one of the charter organizers of the American Federation of Labor, and became its president in 1882, which position he held until the day of his death, with the exception of one year, 1894, when John McBride of the miners' union defeated him.

Gompers' battle on behalf of the worker did not end with his duties as president of the American Federation of Labor, arduous though these were. He was editor of the federation's official organ, the Federationist, and he waged his fight so hard in the columns of this magazine that he eventually became involved in trouble with the United States supreme court, arising from his criticism of the injunction granted in the famous Buck Stove and Range case.

When Germany had been crushed and the peace congress was called to meet in Paris, Samuel Gompers, the former cigarmaker, was sent over to take care of American laboring men's interests. What he accomplished there and at the international labor congress held in Amsterdam some weeks later, cannot be judged at this time. Posterity must render the verdict after his ideals have been given a fair trial.

Gompers, however, virtually dominated the labor conference and was responsible for the rejection of a plan which would have given unimportant little nations with total populations of less than 200,000 equal voting power with such nations as Great Britain and the United States, which represent millions of workers. Under the Gompers plan the voting power of the nations was regulated according to the populations of the various governments concerned.

Gompers returned home covered with honors. He was a passenger on the transport George Washington, the same vessel that carried President Wilson to and from the peace conference.

At the annual session of the American Federation of Labor at El Paso, Texas, in November, 1924, Mr. Gompers was elected president for the forty-third time. That session was followed by a joint meeting of the American Federation of Labor and the Mexican Federation of Labor, sessions of the Pan-American Federation of Labor and the inauguration of President Calles of Mexico, which officials of all federations attended at Mexico City.

In Mexico City Mr. Gompers was the victim of recurrence of an ailment which has kept him more or less an invalid for some years. Complicated by a slight cold and aggravated by the high altitude, the aged labor leader was unable to attend the closing ceremonies of the inauguration.

Gompers was the personal friend of six American presidents—McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft, Wilson, Harding and Coolidge.

**Chandlers Bury Hatchet**  
Atlanta.—Asa G. Chandler, capitalist of Atlanta and founder of the Coca Cola company, and his wife, from whom he has been estranged for several months, Dec. 11 were beginning their domestic relations anew, following a reconciliation effected Wednesday night, a story published in the Atlanta Constitution said.

Mr. Chandler and his wife separated, following her arrest several months ago, with two Atlanta men, following a raid on an apartment house here. She has been living with her parents.

## State Capital NEWS

### COMMISSION DENIES ROUNDUP MAN PERMIT

Two applications to operate motor vehicles in public service were denied by the Montana railroad commission in orders issued Dec. 9.

An application by Matt Kuchan for permission to operate between Roundup to Mine No. 4, and several intermediate points was denied and he was ordered to stop operation of any public carrier service outside the town of Roundup.

An application from E. H. Blankenburg to operate a public carrier between Glendive and Fairview was refused but a certificate for license granted to J. A. Blankenburg over the same territory was confirmed, with the understanding that he furnish adequate and satisfactory service and observe closely the commission's regulations.

### OFFICIALLY PROCLAIMS NEW LAWS IN EFFECT

The three measures adopted by the people of Montana at the election November 4, became laws Dec. 9 when Governor Dixon officially proclaimed that the measures had received majorities as certified to him by the state canvassing board.

The measures are: Metal mines tax, a constitutional amendment defining qualifications for county superintendents, and an act permitting the state to accept gifts for its institutions.

The repeal of the presidential preference primary law also becomes effective.

The fifth measure voted on, the soldier bonus, was defeated.

### SEEKS TO IMPROVE CARBONATED DRINKS

Efforts directed toward the raising of the standard of soft drinks manufactured in Montana are being made by G. D. Wiles as director of the division of food and drugs of the state board of health. Mr. Wiles has just returned from eastern Montana where he gathered samples of carbonated drinks, also bringing in samples of other manufactured products. Purity of contents and proper labeling are factors of first importance in the state's supervision of carbonated drinks.

### CONVICTION OF BUTTE DRUGGIST IS UPHELD

Conviction in Butte of Charles Finley, a druggist charged with having sold morphine without a doctor's prescription, is upheld in a decision of the state supreme court written by District Judge Frank P. Lohpe of Glendive, sitting in place of Associate Justice Albert B. Galen, who is ill. The opinion was delivered Dec. 8. Ten assignments of error were cited in the appeal.

### 80,000 AUTOMOBILE LICENSE PLATES FOR 1925

By January 10 the state will receive about 80,000 automobile license plates for 1925. It is announced by Charles T. Stewart, secretary of state. The issuing of licenses will begin the first of the year. Next year's plates will have a red background and white numbers. This year's purchase for the next season represents a little more than 7 per cent increase over the number of licenses used in 1924.

### WARNED TO KEEP CANDY CLEAN

Candy offered for sale must be kept clean and must not be on open display, is the warning sent out by the state board of health with the plan especially of protecting the public against Christmas candy which is not sanitarily kept. Candy or other confections kept in open barrels or boxes where people can handle it is dangerous to health, the board believes.

### MAN PAID \$1,239 FOR LOSS OF EYE

C. C. Peterson, who in the employ of the Montana Central Elevator company at Harrison, October 19, 1923, got a wheat head in his right eye, losing the sight of the eye, has been awarded a lump sum settlement of \$1,239 by the state industrial accident board. The insurance is carried by the Hartford Accident and Indemnity company.

### NAMES COMMISSION TO ADJUST COUNTY DEBTS

Governor Dixon has appointed the following men as members of the commission to adjust the debts of Fergus and Petroleum counties, as provided by statute: John A. Wilson, Stanford; J. Otis Mudd, Winnett; E. K. Chandle, Jr. It is probable that the first meeting will be held at Winnett in about ten days.

### MRS. COIT APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR DIXON

Governor Dixon has appointed Mrs. Eleanor Coit of Big Timber a member of the executive board of the state vocational school for girls. She will fill out the unexpired term of Mrs. Lora O. Edmunds of Absorkee, who has left the state, and her term will expire April 21, 1925.

### FIVE CANDIDATES ADMITTED TO BAR

Five candidates who have just taken the state bar examination at the capitol have been admitted to practice law in the courts of Montana. They are: John W. Kelly, Butte; Marcus O'Farrell, Butte; Floren M. Hamon, Savage; Bennet H. Smith, Billings; Louis M. Dyll, Helena.