

U. S. ASKED TO AID IN TANGLE

France Urges Participation in Proposed Commission of Investigation.

IS RECEIVED WITH FAVOR

Great Britain Apparently Satisfied, But France Disappointed, and Belgium in Attitude of Displeasure.

Genoa.—France has appealed to the United States to participate in the proposed international commission to investigate the Russian situation. The American ambassador has stated that such a proposal had been submitted to him by the French delegation. The ambassador understood that the French proposal suggests that the United States, if the invitation is accepted, would have a dominant voice in the action of the commission, but would not be bound by its acceptance to any decisions of the commission which it did not approve.

If the United States accepts, France would agree to the Russians being represented in the commission.

Russia's Reply Well Received.

Genoa.—Russia's reply to the allied memorandum, presented to Signor Schanzer, president of the economic conference, is regarded as conciliatory. At least it is considered as basis for further negotiations. Its suggestion that all the tangled financial problems be submitted to a mixed committee of experts named by the Genoa conference provided a means of escape from the present appears to be unfavorable for the settlement of the myriad questions arising from the Russian situation.

England regards the reply as moderately conciliatory; so also does Italy.

France expresses great disappointment at the reply, and Belgium is far from satisfied.

Most Colleges Favor Prohibition.

Chicago, Ill.—The intercollegiate prohibition association has made public replies from 158 college and university presidents in forty states received in answer to a questionnaire asking what the faculty and students of each institution thought about prohibition in theory and fact. The replies showed 136 favorable to prohibition, ten non-committal or indefinite, eight unfavorable and four favorable to theory, but unfavorable to present laws. The questionnaire was sent to every college and university president in the country, but some did not reply.

Financial Crisis at Canton.

Amoy, China.—A financial crisis in Canton, the seat of the southern government, is reported in dispatches received here. The banks are closed, business is paralyzed and the government bank notes have depreciated 50 per cent in value. The crisis is declared to be due to mismanagement on the part of Sun Yat Sen, head of the southern government.

Asks Local Red Cross to Aid.

Washington.—Local chapters of the American Red Cross have been requested by John Barton Payne, national chairman, to solicit contributions for a fund to be used for relief in the flooded areas of the valleys of the Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio rivers. At least half a million dollars is needed, Chairman Payne said.

Cut in University Maintenance.

Lincoln, Neb.—The cut of \$250,000 in university maintenance by Governor McKelvie's special session of the legislature last January has been bettered by university of Nebraska regents who have approved a budget for 1923 with a \$340,000 decrease. Chancellor Samuel Avery announces. The new budget total is \$2,825,479.68.

Deficit May Be Increased.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary Mellon sees no immediate prospect of lowering the estimated deficit in government finances for 1923 of approximately \$140,000,000 and gives the impression of fear that the deficit may be increased.

Retail Clothing Prices Drop.

Chicago, Ill.—Retail clothing prices have dropped 42 per cent since July 1920, and a further decline is expected, according to the National Industrial Conference board, which has made a survey of the clothing industry.

Make Draft on Guaranty Fund.

Lincoln, Neb.—Secretary J. E. Hart of the department of trade and commerce has announced a draft of \$240,000 on the state bank guaranty fund to pay depositors in the defunct Bank of Cass county at Plattsmouth.

Women Carry Election.

Cokeville, Wyo.—This city, once reputed as a hangout of "bad men," held an election and Mrs. Ethel Stoher was the successful candidate for mayor and Mrs. J. D. Noblitt and Mrs. Richard Roberts were named to the city council.

Paraguan Cotton Crop Increases.

Asuncion.—The cotton crop in Paraguay this year is estimated at 4,410 bales. Seed imported from the United States is found to be giving a yield nearly 50 per cent greater than the native seed.

EXPLAINS HIGH LIVING COST

Red Cross Will Ask President to Make An Appeal to the Country for Their Relief.

New York.—Americans are "saving at the spit and wasting at the bung-hole" at a period when they should be discarding non-essentials and clinging to necessities, John E. Edgerton, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, declared at the annual convention of the organization here.

"High priced hotels, theatres, ball parks and other camping grounds of amusement and non-production are enlarging their capacities to accommodate the ever-increasing army of refugees from the storms of life," he declared.

"Golf clubs, cigar factories, jewelry establishments, walking cane, emporiums, pet dog kennels, canary bird dispensaries and bootlegging joints are flourishing as never before. Every street and highway throughout the land is teeming with automobiles that are burning expensive gasoline in the presence of self-imposed idleness."

Flood Refugees Need Aid.

New Orleans, La.—Approximately 70,000 men, women and children are homeless in Mississippi and Louisiana as the result of the Mississippi river flood and of this number 40,000 are being fed, sheltered and clothed by the Red Cross and other organizations. It is officially announced by various relief bodies. No provisions have been made to aid the 30,000 persons who have not reached the refugee camp, the statement said.

Rations are now being issued to 18,564 individuals, who were driven from their homes in Louisiana.

In Mississippi the committee plans to feed 20,000 persons in the Yazoo valley.

Cost of State Government.

Lincoln, Neb.—The cost of the state government is now running about \$1,000,000 a month. The report of Secretary P. F. Bross of the finance department from July 1 of last year to the last of March this year, a period of nine months, shows state warrants issued amounting to \$8,513,248.20 and \$573,397.57 contracted for but not covered by warrants issued at the close of March. These two items, representing the cost of the state government for nine months is \$9,045,645.94.

Investigating Lusitania Claims.

Washington, D. C.—Negotiations are under way between the United States and Germany, it is said in official circles, looking to the organization of a mixed claims commission which will pass upon claims growing out of the seizure of property in the United States government by American citizens as a result of the sinking of the Lusitania.

Return of American Troops Delayed.

Washington.—Orders have been issued by the war department delaying the sailing of a part of the American troops on the Rhine until June 17. This action has been taken in response to the allied and German representations that a contingent of the American forces be retained in Germany for a while.

Result of Indiana Primary.

Indianapolis.—With the vote of the Indiana primary elections completed former Senator Beveridge is shown winner of the republican senatorial nomination by 20,472 votes, and former Governor Samuel M. Ralston victor in the democratic contest by 79,405 votes.

Italy and Britain in Joint Pact.

Genoa.—A general political and economic agreement is being elaborated between Italy and Great Britain. The chief object of this agreement is the guaranteeing of Italy's position in the Mediterranean.

Floods Inundate 3,759 Square Miles.

Baton Rouge, La.—Flood backwaters of the Mississippi and tributary streams have inundated 3,759 square miles in nine Louisiana parishes, leaving 25,000 persons who will need assistance.

To Announce Reduced Freight Rates.

Washington, D. C.—There have been numerous indications of late that the Interstate Commerce commission will shortly announce a general reduction in railroad rates, both freight and passenger.

Foreign Trade Holds Its Own.

Washington, D. C.—Foreign trade of the United States is now higher than its pre-war level, Secretary Hoover said in an analysis of the country's overseas commerce situation. Despite the post-war depression, he said, "we have held on."

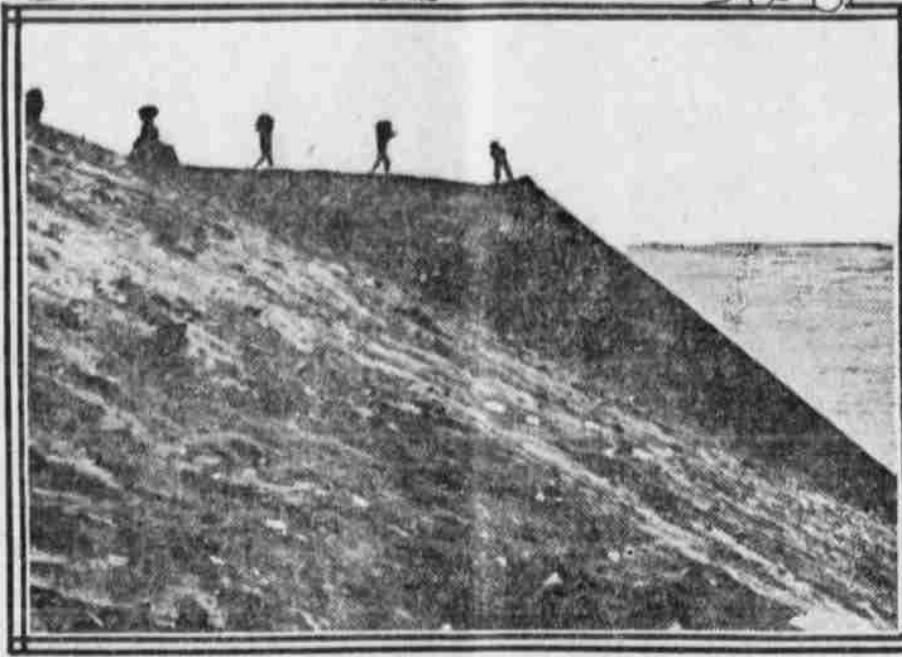
Texas Districts Again Flooded.

Fort Worth, Tex.—The levee winding around the banks of the Trinity river in Arlington Heights here, has broken again, flooding that district for the second time in two weeks.

Flood Damage in Manitoba.

Winnipeg.—Seventy-five thousand acres of Manitoba's finest wheat land is threatened by flood waters of the Assiniboine river between this city and Portage La Prairie, and already thousands of acres have been inundated, according to reports. Farmers are busy trying to protect their land with dykes. Farm houses are reported surrounded, with families rooming in the upper stories. Two thousand seeded acres are under water. There will be a total crop failure, it was said.

Bird Islands of Peru



Heaping Screened Guano for Transfer to Mainland.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

Peru, already of considerable agricultural importance and destined to become much more so, is fortunate in having one of the most valuable sources of natural fertilizer in the world—its famous "bird islands" on which thousands of tons of guano are deposited in a sort of annual crop. These deposits, rich in precious nitrogen, have been laid down on the islands for thousands of years, and until recently there seemed a well-nigh inexhaustible mine of the material. But the tremendous world demand which arose near the middle of the past century brought in its train wasteful methods, and all the accumulated deposits have been stripped away. The annual accumulations are still available, however, and are worth many hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Peru's peculiar geographical conditions make possible the preservation of her valuable guano "crop." A few showers might wash away the valuable fertilizer, but thanks to its mountain masses, its very cold off-shore waters and its prevailing winds, the region of the Bird Islands is rainless.

Guano, it will be understood, is primarily the deposit of fish-eating birds, into which may be mixed and incorporated—in greater or less proportion—a variety of other substances, such as the eggs and bodies of birds and the deposits and the bodies of sealions. It may be found mixed with gravel and sand in very small proportion or sometimes to an extent rendering it unprofitable to extract.

Peruvian Guano Is Best.

"Peruvian guano" is practically synonymous with nitrogenous guano and has long been recognized as the best nitrogenous fertilizer—that is, as a fertilizer of generally high nitrogen value in which the nitrogen compounds are found in a condition most readily assimilable by our plants.

Nitrogen is a primary necessity to the farmer. Whatever be the importance of adding to the soil potash and other mineral components of our food and our clothing, there never exists a doubt as to the fundamental importance of nitrogen. Consequently a peculiar interest attaches to birds of the Peruvian islands, which have long served to aid the world's agriculture and which, given due protection, may continue indefinitely to contribute materially to the support of humanity.

The peculiar climatic conditions previously mentioned offer merely the proper environmental conditions for the preservation of the product. The primary requisite for abundant bird life is the existence of a plentiful food supply, and this is found in the schools of small fish, called anchobetas, that swarm in the Peruvian current. These schools of fish, acres in extent, are often pursued in the water by bonito and other large fish, while beset from the air by thousands of birds.

Billions of pounds of fish must be consumed each year by the birds, besides the incalculable quantity devoured by other fishes; but the fecundity of the anchobetas is such that their numbers are still maintained. At times great acres of the sea are made red by myriads of small, brightly colored shrimp-like crustacea; and these, too, play a part of importance as food for the fishes and birds.

Islands Crowded With Guanays.

Not all of the birds are of equal importance from the commercial point of view. Indeed, three species virtually support the guano industry at the present time—the white-breast cormorant (guanay), the big gray pelican and the white-head gannet.

Guanays occur on the Peruvian coast from near the northern to the extreme southern boundary, but their pre-eminent home is the double group of islands opposite Pisco. In the South, the Chinchas and the Ballestas.

The largest guano flocks are found on the Chincha islands. Upon the south island of the Chinchas, a small and generally triangular body of land between 20 and 30 acres in area, there is a rookery which for size and compactness can scarcely be rivaled in any part of the world.

The nesting ground occupies about two-thirds of the surface of the island, embracing the crown and the gentle slopes of the hill that surmount its low bluff walls. The nests are

very uniformly spaced, averaging nearly three to the square yard, and not a yard of ground within the outside limits of the rookery is unoccupied. In form and arrangement the nests appear as heavy rolled-rim basins stuck into the hillside.

The guanay well deserves its common name. Its gregarious habit, its choice of the level places or more gentle slopes for nesting grounds, and its custom of remaining on the islands a great part of the time all combine to cause the formation of enormous deposits of guano, from which there is little natural waste. In the region where this bird is most abundant, about the Chinchas and Ballestas islands, the climate conditions are most favorable to the preservation of the nitrates. It is doubtful if the guano of the Chinchas and Ballestas islands is ever wet from atmospheric moisture. A pair of guanays, with their offspring, produce nearly \$1.50 worth of guano per year.

How the Work is Done.

The guano workers are practically all Peruvians of the ancient stock, and many of them come down from the mountains to engage in this work. Often there are few in the camp who can speak Spanish and the foreman can communicate with the employees only by signs or through an interpreter.

The extraction of guano is a very simple process. Where the material is comparatively recent, the only implements required are the pick and the shovel, a screen and a few sacks. The surface cake is first broken up and thrown into small heaps. Where several contractors have a concession from the government covering the same island, there is much rivalry in getting the best guano mounded, for this is the only recognized method of establishing a claim to a particular field.

The guano is subsequently pitched through slanting wire screens to remove the gravel, and then sacked for embarkation by lanchas, which are strongly constructed lighters in the form of rowboats, adapted for use in the heavy swell liable to prevail about the islands.

A very common method of conveying the guano to the lighter is by means of the andarivel, an aerial trolley consisting of two stout wire cables suspended between a frame at the top of the island and some convenient rock somewhat removed from the shore. The boat is roved beneath the lower part of the cable to receive the guano, lowered by pulleys and windlass. Both ends of the line being attached to traveling pulleys, the sacks of guano, descending by gravity, draw the empty sacks back. No power is applied to the windlass except to prevent the too-rapid descent of the guano. When the lancha is loaded it is rowed out to the vessel, where the sacks are hoisted into the hold.

A much more extensive equipment is found on the larger islands of the north. An American company, contracting for the Peruvian exporters, has laid lines of track for conveying the guano by tram-cars, and the screening is done from trawlers over a lower-level track.

By far the greatest portion of the guano that has been exported consisted of the ancient deposits, called "mineral" guano, which in places covered the islands to great depths. This has been simply stripped away until scarcely any of the old guano remains except some of the lowest grades that scarcely justify exportation.

It is within the bounds of possibility that additional deposits, buried beneath the surface, may yet be located. Unless this be the case, the industry is permanently reduced to the annual deposits, which scarcely exceed the demands of Peruvian agriculture in its present condition, without providing for the great future developments in land cultivation in that country that must follow sooner or later with the adoption of more elaborate systems of irrigation.

Though the important birds have been greatly reduced in numbers, it is reasonable to expect a substantial increase under natural conditions, if interference with the breeding be reduced to the minimum consistent with the utilization of the deposits.

REVISION BILL PASSES HOUSE

Authorizes President to Set Allowances Each Year for Subsistence.

DIFFICULT TO PAY AT ONCE

Note From Germany to Reparations Commission Pledges Good Will and Effort.

Washington.—The McKenzie bill readjusting the pay and allowance of the commissioned and enlisted personnel of the army, navy, marine corps, coast guard, coast and geodetic survey and public health service, was passed by the house, 419 to 26.

The bill will go immediately to the senate, as leaders had announced that the army and navy supply bills, already passed by the house, were being held up so that the new pay scales could be included.

Representative Alice Robertson, Oklahoma, won her fight for higher subsistence and more room rent money for army and navy nurses. Her amendment increased the subsistence rate from 60 cents to \$1.20 a day and rent money from \$40 to \$60 a month.

Germany Pledges Good Will.

Paris.—The German reply to the reparations note of April 13, which has been received by the reparations commission, reiterates the good will of the German government, but pleads the material impossibility of imposing 60,000,000,000 marks new taxes before May 31, or complying with all the conditions laid down on March 21.

The German government, the reply says, is convinced of the necessity of covering expenditures without further monetary inflation. Having regard, however, for the German economic situation and financial obligations abroad, it is considered inevitable that important payments due by Germany in foreign currency cannot be met without the aid of foreign loans.

Peace Move at a Dead Lock.

Dublin.—Reports from the various participants in the dallaireann peace conference reveals a break on fundamentals. The republicans will not agree to a settlement of the situation on any terms which involve their admission that the Anglo-Irish treaty is acceptable to the people or that its endorsement by the dallaireann has altered the situation. There was an almost complete agreement in the dallaireann for an adjournment for a week in order to allow the peace committee to try again to smooth over the difficulty.

Tornado Strikes Western Nebraska.

Lexington, Neb.—Five persons were reported carried away in their farm home, and more than a score were injured, some seriously, in this vicinity, by a tornado which struck several miles south of this city. The wind wrecked farm houses and outbuildings, razed groves, and sweeping in a northerly direction through a corner of the town, tied up all wire communication by leveling the lines, unroofed a number of buildings and crushed others by hurling great trees against them.

Must Get Rid of Prairie Dogs.

Scottsbluff, Neb.—June 1 is the time set by the Nebraska law for the disposal of all pests to which the law applies, and O. L. Taylor, who has been organizing the county into pest districts, is issuing final notice that party or parties having prairie dogs on their premises on and after June 1, 1922, will be subject to arrest unless good cause is shown why such pests have not been disposed of.

Amnesty for Espionage Violators.

Washington.—A bill granting amnesty to all persons held in federal prisons for violation of wartime espionage laws, has been introduced in the senate by Senator Ladd, North Dakota, who estimated that 113 prisoners would be affected.

Awaits Action of U. S.

Paris.—"France," says a high official of the government, "will not recognize the Russian soviet government until the United States does."

Plan New Soldier Hospitals.

Washington, D. C.—Erection of twelve soldier hospitals at a cost of \$17,000,000 and with a total capacity of 5,450 beds, is provided for in a bill reported by the house appropriations committee. Nebraska is among the locations proposed.

More Jobs Than Men.

New York.—For the first time since its organization the American Legion employment bureau here has more jobs than it can fill, according to word by Michael Gimbel, bureau manager.

"Earthwaves" Shake Italian Town.

Rome.—Corato, a city in southern Italy, about twenty-five miles from Bari, has been visited again by "earth waves" which in the past have caused much damage there. Buildings extending for almost a mile were demolished, and 50,000 inhabitants are living in dread lest the undulations continue. Three thousand of them, carrying their belongings, are seeking refuge in nearby towns. Corato is situated over a subterranean body of water, the currents of which cause the terrain to shift occasionally.

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6 BELL'S Antacid Tablets Sure Relief

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Modernized.
First Writer—I want a newer expression for "between the devil and the deep sea."
Second Ditto—Oh, just say: "Between an empty furnace and an unpaid coal bill."—Boston Transcript.

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"Bayer" introduced Aspirin to the Physicians Over 21 Years Ago.

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Safety First.
Smith—Do you believe that people should be forever thrusting themselves forward?
Jones—Oh, no! The man on the golf links was hit by a golf ball through getting too much in the foreground.—Answers.

Cuticura for Sore Hands.
Soak hands on retiring in the hot suds of Cuticura Soap, dry and rub in Cuticura Ointment. Remove surplus Ointment with tissue paper. This is only one of the things Cuticura will do. If Soap, Ointment and Talcum are used for all toilet purposes.—Advertisement.

The halo a man sees on a girl's head during courtship develops into a bonnet after marriage.

The universe is wider than our views of it.

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