



Wide World Photos

The opening of the new Bear Mountain Bridge across the Hudson River, for the time being at least the longest suspension span in the world

a period of drought or semi-drought. Like other farmers, they had known the experience of hard times, and they attributed their trouble to the city. A board of engineers appointed on behalf of the city has been making an investigation concerning water resources, and the Board of Public Service Commissioners had visited Owens Valley to confer with the ranchers and the business men of the region. It was while the negotiations were still in progress that the ranchers raised the gates and diverted the water.

It was not only a lawless but a dangerous act. It brought risk to the lives and the welfare of many people. The fact that sixty thousand dollars' worth of water was wasted was a minor aspect of the affair.

Fortunately and wisely, the city chose not to meet violence with violence. Although the ranchers ignored a court order commanding them to cease their interference, there was no recourse to the sheriff or the militia. The city refused to parley with what it considered to be a mob. When the ranchers learned that the city would neither drive them out nor parley with them, they voluntarily closed the gates.

Nothing, we believe, can condone such an act; but nothing can prevent this performance making clear the dependence of the city upon the country and the need for a *modus vivendi* between city

and country people. Neither can very well manage to live prosperously, or in these days to live at all, without the other.

The Bear Mountain Bridge

IF the Hudson River were in Europe, Americans would be crossing the ocean to visit it. The scenery of the Hudson is equal to anything in the English or Scottish lake districts. It is comparable to that of the Rhine. The opening of the bridge across the Hudson just below West Point, therefore, is an event of more than local or even sectional concern. It makes accessible to the people of the whole country scenery which is in fact a National possession.

The broad Hudson, which is, strictly speaking, not a river but a sunken valley or long arm of the sea, is crossed by bridges at Albany and Poughkeepsie—at the latter place by a railway bridge—and at New York by tunnels, but elsewhere only by ferries. Now this great waterway, which divides not only New England from the West but a part of New York from the rest of the State, can be traversed at any time, day or night, summer or winter, by vehicles and pedestrians.

The new bridge, open to traffic on Thanksgiving Day, is in the heart of the Highlands. Architecturally it has no beauty apart from the honesty of its de-

sign. On the west Bear Mountain Park and the great Palisades Inter-State Park, the one included in the other, comprise together a monument to public-spirited citizens, particularly Mrs. E. H. Harri-man and the late George W. Perkins. To the north and south stretches the great highway which eventually, after passing through picturesque West Point, winds about the face of Storm King. On the east side a new road built as an approach to the bridge affords views of the river as imposing as those from the west bank.

The building of the bridge from the time of the letting of the first contract occupied scarcely more than twenty months.

Soldiers, and Sailors Too

THE culminating drama of the football season is undoubtedly the game between Annapolis and West Point, a game in which the naval and the military forces of the United States find a fit symbol for their rivalry in the service of their common country. In Philippine jungles, on gunboats in Chinese rivers, in scattered army posts, and aboard battle-ships in foreign stations there is a burning interest in this National and annual event.

Something of the athletic background of the young men and future admirals from Annapolis can be learned from

George Marvin's article which appeared in last week's issue of *The Outlook*. We hope before long to follow this article with a companion description of the undergraduate world of West Point from the same pen.

There is honor enough for all in any contest between Annapolis and West Point, but this year the honors of victory fell upon the shoulders of the future warriors from West Point. Although the cadets were unable to drive across the goal line for a touchdown, nevertheless the game was theirs as a result of four goals from the field—all delivered by the toe of one Garbisch, a West Point halfback and captain of the team. The record has been beaten in the past, but the achievement was not one to be sneezed at.

A Message of Common Sense

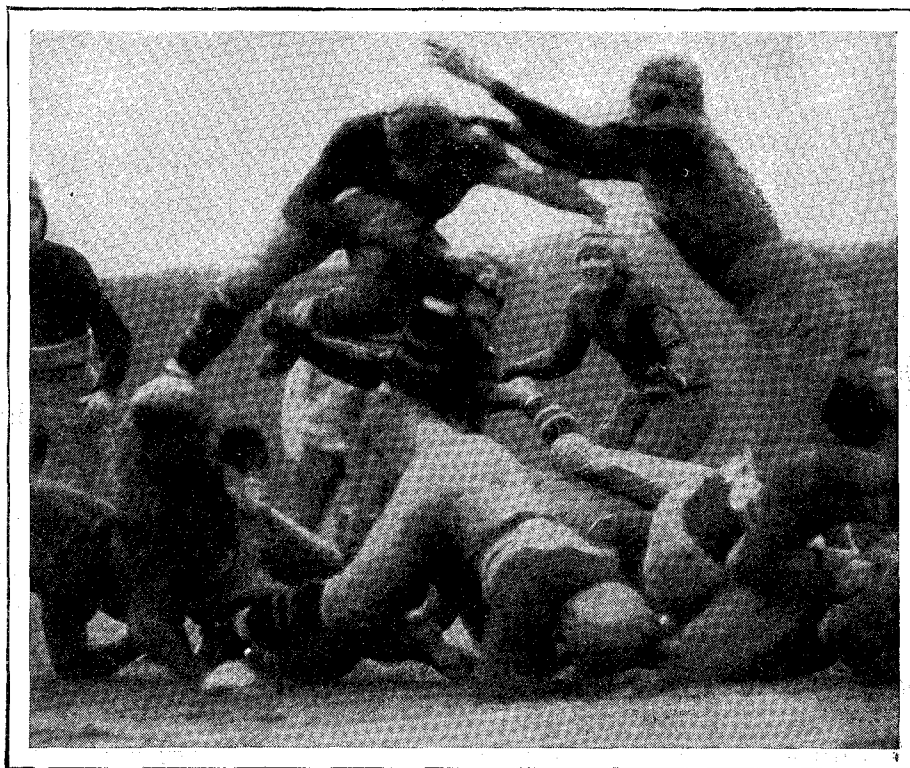
IF any revelation of Calvin Coolidge was needed, it has been supplied by the Message which he delivered for the first time since the people expressed their confidence in him. No other President could have delivered it.

It lacks the ponderous phrases characteristic of Cleveland's Messages, the captivating turns of expression which Wilson used, the smashing or sharp sentences to be found in the Messages of Roosevelt. And yet it has a quality of its own—a great literary virtue—which makes it recognizable as the work of Calvin Coolidge himself. It is intelligible. It conveys the ideas of the President so that the plain man can understand them. It brings home to the citizen who reads it a sense of the essential function of government.

Not Mere Frugality, but Good Management

ECONOMY is the dominant note of the Message. Recognizing the richness of the country not only in material resources but in intellectual vigor and moral power, the President nevertheless believes that the first function of the Government is to reduce the burden of government upon the people and therefore to release their energies for production and for other normal activities.

Mr. Coolidge's philosophy of government rests fundamentally upon his belief that the Government should be kept subordinate to the people. He states it as



International

The Army-Navy game—Wood, Army's halfback, breaking through the Navy line

it applies to taxation in the following words:

The fallacy of the claim that the costs of government are borne by the rich and those who make a direct contribution to the National Treasury cannot be too often exposed. No system has been devised, I do not think any system could be devised, under which any person living in this country could escape being affected by the cost of our government. It has a direct effect both upon the rate and purchasing power of wages. It is felt in the price of those prime necessities of existence, food, clothing, fuel, and shelter. It would appear to be elementary that the more the Government expends, the more it must require every producer to contribute out of his production to the Public Treasury, and the less he will have for his own benefit. The continuing costs of public administration can be met in only one way—by the work of the people. The higher they become, the more the people must work for the Government. The less they are, the more the people can work for themselves.

It may fairly be said, then, that Calvin Coolidge is writing in this Message a new declaration of independence. What he is preaching is a practical application of an old but certainly not outworn American doctrine—that the Government is an instrument for the people to use to particular ends and should be kept strictly to its business. Later in the Message, when speaking of the

French spoliation claims, President Coolidge says, categorically, emphatically, epigrammatically, "The United States ought to pay its debts," and early in his Message he says: "Of course necessary costs must be met, proper functions of the Government performed, and constant investments for capital account and reproductive effort must be carried on by our various departments." This is not a penny-wise, pound-foolish policy. Calvin Coolidge is not asking Uncle Sam to act the miser. "But," he insists, "the people must know that the Government is placing upon them no unnecessary burden."

He is under no illusions as to what this means. It means reduced Governmental expenditure. "Anybody can reduce taxes," he points out, "but it is not so easy to stand in the gap and resist the passage of increasing appropriation bills which would make tax reduction impossible."

The President testifies to the beneficial effects of the Tax Bill passed at the last session. Yet he serves due notice that the present law is wrong in many particulars. The publicity provision ought, he believes, to be repealed. Prosperity, he holds, is dependent upon leaving business free from excess-profits taxation and according it "a system of surtaxes at rates which have for their object not the punishment of success or the discouragement of business, but the