



Wide World

The last line of defense—Negro convicts on a levee

least be guarded if it cannot be tamed. It is true that the present flood is unprecedented even by that of 1922, but it would be folly to deal with the danger from the "It may never happen again" point of view.

Justice and Journalism

THE Sapiro-Ford libel suit came to an end without being presented to the jury because, as the presiding judge bitterly said, "Justice has been crucified upon the cross of unethical and depraved journalism." Six weeks of testimony and the great expense entailed by an important trial were wasted. A mistrial had to be declared because newspapers in Detroit had published the Ford counsel's charges and affidavits of bribery against one of the jurors, who was a woman, and against the plaintiff's counsel. In turn, the juror gave to the press an interview defending herself. Such unsubstantiated charges against a juror during the progress of a trial could not be made public without jeopardizing the continuance of the trial—which the Sapiro counsel believes was exactly the purpose of the Ford counsel.

The judge did not raise the question of how the documents got into the hands of the papers, except to say that he had, of course, not been the means; but the New York "Times" reports that the Ford counsel called the newspaper men into a conference and handed out the documents. In any case the newspapers' editorial knowledge of what could be published without sacrificing justice to journalism should have caused them to withhold the information which was

made available to them. A climax is approaching in the intrusion of the interests of idle curiosity—even when it masquerades under a vaporous pretense of public right—against the established and proper functioning of the system of justice.

Even when the squalor-pandering trial reports of the "yellow" papers—and, not to be left far behind, their more respectable competitors—do not interfere with orderly trial procedure, they offend against the public interest by distorting popular standards of justice and of life. In New York a woman and her paramour are on trial for the murder of the woman's husband. But the New York press as a whole has educated the population of the city to see as the important question at issue, not "Shall the trial be swift and just?" but "Will Mrs. Snyder weep or smile?" It is only human to be more interested in the latter question; but we have come to the point where human impulses should be disciplined in the interest of ethical standards. Otherwise, there is no telling how far the descent of the average American intelligence and integrity will go.

Another "Czar"

THIS is an era of recognizing the value of academic detachment in practical enterprises: to wit, widespread freedom of high executives from arduous duties so that they may be free to think and plan; to wit, emphasis on research work only indirectly related to definite production; to wit, the employment of such outsiders as Judge Landis and Will Hays to sit in dispassionate judgment of

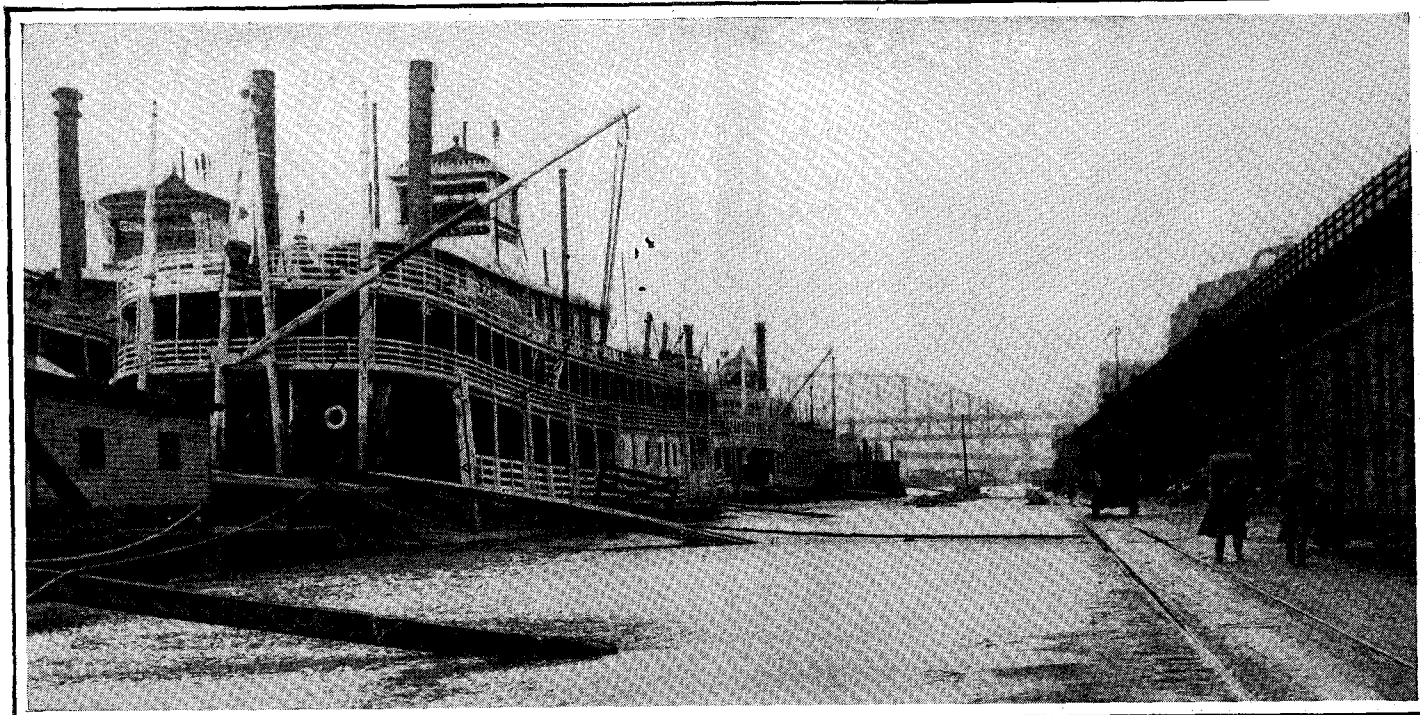
the various factors in various organized interests.

The most recent industrial group to put its welfare into the hands of a learned stranger is the National Wholesale Women's Wear Association. The "cloak and suit" industry centers in New York, and its annual output exceeds \$300,000,000 in value. Dr. Lindsay Rogers, Associate Professor of Government at Columbia University, is the "czar" who has been chosen. His title will be "executive director" of the Association. At the same time he will continue his connection with Columbia University.

Dr. Rogers made his acquaintance with the women's clothing industry as a member of Governor Smith's Advisory Commission appointed in 1924 to devise a method of settling labor troubles in the industry; a commission which was successful. Labor questions will not be under Dr. Rogers's jurisdiction except as they relate to problems of production. Mr. Raymond V. Ingersoll, appointed Impartial Chairman at the suggestion of Governor Smith's Advisory Committee, still retains the supervision of that phase. The most important part of Dr. Rogers's work will be the establishment of a mechanism to find better methods of marketing and distribution, fashion development, credit extension, and the amelioration of the relationship between manufacturers, retailers, and consumers.

China Worse Confounded

MAKING sense of the situation in China at the moment is almost more than any foreign observer—and



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A fleet of river boats alongside the water-front of St. Louis. The rising flood is shown creeping over the railroad tracks

probably many Chinese—can compass. Recent developments there have reduced it once again to a political picture puzzle.

The Nationalist Party controlling southern and central China has split into two factions—the moderates and the radicals. The moderates, headed by the Commander-in-Chief, General Chiang Kai-shek, have their capital at Nanking, on the Yangtze River, and their base at the port of Shanghai. The radicals have their capital and base at Hankow. They are said to have offered the military leadership to Marshal Feng Yu-hsiang, long known as China's "Christian General." But Feng does not seem to have accepted; and, in any case, he is cut off with his army in the mountainous northern interior from active operations in the Yangtze region. Chiang, the moderate chieftain, who has directed the victorious advance of the Nationalists from Canton, in the far south of China, to the Yangtze Valley in central China, has started a new administration independent of the party committee at Hankow. Defying them and promising application of the principles of Sun Yat-sen, the founder of the Nationalist Movement, he has at the same time resumed an active drive against the militarists of northern China.

Meanwhile, the foreign Powers are left considering how to deal with attitudes of both Chiang and the Hankow radical organization to the Powers' demands for the protection of foreigners and for apologies and indemnities for the attacks on foreign officials and residents at Nanking. Apparently, Chiang is more ready to meet the desires of the

Powers than Eugene Chen, who handles foreign affairs at Hankow.

Chiang, it is reported, holds the allegiance of the cadets who have been trained at the Whampoa Military Academy. They have been the backbone of the Nationalist army. If they stay with him, he is likely to be the man to deal with. In China, as in Russia during the Revolution, the question just now is, "Who has the most bayonets?"

The Gain in China's Struggle

FACED by the apparent collapse of the Nationalist campaign in China and the division in the party, most observers have tended to form the most pessimistic conclusions about Chinese affairs. "It's the old story," they say. "Just one more scrap for power between rival chiefs."

It is still early, however, to jump to that judgment. The situation may turn out in that way, but it still is to be seen whether General Chiang can rally effectively the support of the moderate and conservative Nationalists. If he can, there may be great gain from the present discord and disorder.

Had the Nationalist armies swept on to Peking without a break in the party ranks behind them, a far more troublesome issue might have arisen—for China herself as well as for the foreign Powers in their relations with China. At some time the question whether the moderates or the radicals were to control would have to be decided. With a Nationalist administration in command of the whole of China proper, it might have been difficult to avoid a period in which the

radicals would have seized and held power. That would have made more difficulties than a fight now. If Chiang and the moderates can dispose of the radicals by taking the time necessary to do it now, they will accomplish a great deal and save much time for the future.

Chiang may prove himself to be a sort of Chinese Kerensky. The question is whether he can be more for China than Kerensky succeeded in being for Russia. And, further, is there a Chinese Lenin or Trotsky—or both—concealed somewhere in the background?

Mexico in Turmoil

NEWS despatches, even those from Mexico, are rarely so contradictory as those of recent date. The views offered as to the massacre of soldiers and passengers on a railway train in the State of Jalisco and as to the departure or banishment of Catholic prelates are colored—and highly colored—by the sources from which they come.

No one can possibly deny the atrocity of the railway massacre. It has been described by President Calles as the most barbarous in Mexican history—which is saying a great deal! But a first report that the bandits or revolutionaries drenched the cars with kerosene and deliberately burned the passengers was later admitted to be untrue; the slayers' allegation is that the soldiers hid behind and among the passengers and that they hadn't time to sort them out. Those who can may believe the charge of President Calles's Chief of Staff, General Alvarez, that "a group of bandits, organized by the Catholic episcopate and