

Italia had been broken up by a storm and the crew separated into two parties.

Prohibition in Pittsburgh

IN Pittsburgh, in the Hon. Andrew D. Mellon's bailiwick, the prohibition agents got their dander up and the city's rum ring is broken in 167 places. A Federal Grand Jury has returned indictments against that many violators and conspirators; and among them are the names of the Superintendent of Police, three police inspectors, five ward chairmen of the Republican Party, twelve police lieutenants, minor politicians, patrolmen, "fixers," "go-betweens," and, as the musical comedy programs say, villagers.

Such satisfaction as is not monopolized by the enforcement officers will be expressed by the professional bondsmen. It will take, it is estimated, \$835,000 to release these notables and their henchmen on bail.

Al Smith as Financier

WHY, after all, should Governor Alfred E. Smith talk politics when he can talk administrative achievement? His annual report, recently made public, shows a free cash surplus of \$13,505,327 in the treasury; sinking funds of \$100,120,027, with taxation increments assured sufficient to meet all obligations at maturity; and \$3,742,000 of bonds redeemed during the fiscal year. In addition, tax reductions on real property have saved, in the pockets of the taxpayers, \$12,500,000.

In a State Government, at least, it appears not impossible to reduce taxes, retire bonds, and build up a surplus at the same time.

Mussolini Loves Us All

FIRE has flamed from the Fascist Foreign Office in Rome, threatening Italy's neighbors, more than once since Mussolini and his "Black Shirts" made themselves masters of the Imperial City. But now the flame-throwers are retired, and instead doves are fluttering over the offices of the dictator.

Il Duce—"the Chief"—has told the Italian Senate that he wants to live at peace with all the world.

He emphasized the power of the United States and the importance of good relations with America, and took occasion to say that "naturalized Americans of Italian origin" are foreigners so far as Italy is concerned. That removes a question regarding claims of dual citizenship which has from time to time disturbed American minds.

With France, he admitted, relations have veered "from bad to indifferent." But now, with an agreement regarding the rights of Italy at the international port of Tangier, the status of Italians in the French colony of Tunisia, and the adjustment of the western frontier of Tripolitania, there is a bright prospect of happier relations. Not a word about Italian desires to regain a section of the now French Riviera.

Of Yugoslavia, where student rioters have been demonstrating against Italy and tearing down Italian flags, Mussolini declared: "We decided that our policy toward Yugoslavia must be friendly."

"Our relations with Austria are diplomatically correct," he continued, "but it depends on Austria to reach a degree of greater cordiality." And he expressed a hope for a return of amity with Germany. Austrian and German students



Kirby in the New York World

The millstone around his neck

have assailed Italian consulates and torn down Italian flags, in sympathy with the Yugoslav demonstrators and in protest against Italian treatment of Austrians in the former South Tyrol, which Italy annexed and made the Upper Adige.

As to armament, Mussolini remarked that he merely desired that Italy be the equal of the best-armed nation on the Continent. An innocent-sounding policy, which Paris will study with attention. The Fascist spokesman must have been reading somebody's speeches about speaking gently and carrying a big stick.

The Upshot of Hearsay

WILLIAM SULZER, sometime Governor of New York, is a picturesque person, unique enough to admit that he is politically dead. He made that admission to the Senate Campaign Funds Committee in response to a question as to his occu-

pation. He said that he was a statesman, and added, "Tom Reed defined a statesman as a dead politician."

The trail leading to Mr. Sulzer as a likely witness was devious, not to say dubious. Senator J. Thomas Heflin told the Committee that the Rev. Olaf R. Miller told him (Heflin) that Governor Sulzer told him (Miller) that a friend of his (Sulzer's) in a Western State had received \$25,000 for doing certain things to advance the Presidential candidacy of Al Smith. That is what brought Sulzer to the witness-stand.

On the stand, Mr. Sulzer said that he knew nothing of anybody's having received \$25,000 or any other sum, that he was trying to educate the Rev. Mr. Miller in the methods of conducting political campaigns, and had stated a hypothetical case showing how a politician "might be rewarded with wampum in Wampumville, a good-sized town just across the river from Hoboken."

Thus went up in smoke, or other gaseous substance, the only bit of concrete evidence that Senator Heflin had to offer in substantiation of his repeated charges of huge slush funds used in Governor Smith's behalf.

What Is Adjournment?

DID President Coolidge pocket veto the bill for Government operation of Muscle Shoals? He meant to. He held it for ten days without signing it, which is the method of pocket vetoing a bill when the ten days has not run before adjournment of Congress. The same procedure while Congress is in session makes a bill a law. That is, failure to sign while Congress is in session is equivalent to approval, but failure to sign after Congress has adjourned is equivalent to disapproval.

None the less, Senator Norris, joint author with Representative Morin, of the Muscle Shoals Bill, contends that the bill is now a law. He says that Congress has not adjourned but merely recessed, that a particular Congress actually adjourns only at its last session, and not at its first. There is in the record a ruling by Speaker Longworth which sustains Senator Norris's contention. The question, however, is one for the Supreme Court of the United States to decide, and that Court will shortly decide it in a case pending involving a treaty with the Shawnee Indians. The decision in that case—the bill involved was passed last year—will doubtless be accepted in the Muscle Shoals case.

Whatever the legal decision may be, the case presents an argument for revision of certain Congressional proce-

ture, at least in the Senate. The motion which dispersed that body at 5:30 o'clock on a Tuesday afternoon, made by Senator Johnson, of California, was that "the Senate do now adjourn *sine die*." Whether the action was mere recessing or actual adjournment, it was not adjournment *sine die*. Congress recesses—or adjourns—at the end of a session very definitely *with day*, a day known to every Senator and Representative and to every informed American.

The Pope and Mexico

THE Roman Catholic Church has taken the first step to find a way of return to Mexico. The Pope has instructed his Congregation on Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs to study and report to him the minimum conditions that the Mexican Government should grant to permit the Church to resume its ministry there. And General Obregon, who is the Government candidate for re-election as successor to President Calles, is reported from Rome to have indicated to Archbishop Ruiz y Flores, of Michoacan, a readiness to reconsider the Mexican laws which most severely hamper the Church.

The Archbishop is in Rome as the emissary of the Mexican bishops in exile, who have been assembled at San Antonio, Texas. The substance of their report, presented by him, is that there never has been a more favorable time than now to settle the difficulties between the Catholic Church and the Mexican Government. The trouble arose out of the feeling among the Mexican officials that the activities of the Catholic clergy were political as well as religious. In consequence of the conflict that developed, the Government issued a decree of July 19, 1926, forbidding priests to exercise religious offices unless registered as citizens. Following this action, a Papal order stopped all sacred offices and the churches have been without masses. Bishop Pascual Diaz, of Tabasco, is now understood to be negotiating for permission to all priests of Mexican origin to return to Mexico. A possibility seems to exist that the Vatican will acquiesce in the exclusion of foreign priests who do not become registered as Mexican citizens.

Church property has been nationalized in Mexico since 1857, and the new Constitution of 1917 reaffirmed and strengthened the provisions disestablishing the Church. Mexican officials have repeatedly declared that they have no quarrel with the Catholic Church as a religious institution, but merely insist that its clergy shall obey the laws which

apply to other religious institutions. They would welcome a settlement which would end the unrest stirred up by the controversy.

Whether or not a solution of the dispute is in sight, it is evident that it will require time and will be a question for the next administration in Mexico.

Carolina Justice

STRANGER crime stories get into the news than into the novels. Consider, for instance, the fate of Ben Bess, Negro, confined in a South Carolina jail for thirteen years. Convicted for assault on a white woman, whose name was long chivalrously kept out of the papers, he was considered lucky narrowly to have escaped lynching. Recently the woman signed an affidavit denying her testimony and asserting her desire to undo the great wrong. So Bess is set free—penniless and helpless.

A startling story! But what reporters call the follow-up story is more startling still. By this it appears that the white woman and her husband were tenants on the Negro's farm, and are described as "ignorant, illiterate, and without principle," associating freely with Bess and his family, while the woman, it is alleged, had "had an affair" with Bess. It is further alleged that the accusations against Bess grew out of the Negro's refusal to renew his white tenants' lease.

"Guilt always doubted" is one of the headlines of the newspaper account. But no one seems to have tried very hard to establish the facts, although a plea to the Governor asserted that "not a lawyer in the court believed the Negro guilty and that a juror said he believed the relationship had been voluntary, but that 'the black scoundrel should serve time for having relations with a white woman.'"

Taxing the Apocrypha

Is the Apocrypha a part of the Bible and therefore not subject to the tariff? Or is it "a work of foreign authorship" which must pay fifteen per cent ad valorem tax?

The latter is the opinion of a United States customs court. An American publisher proposed to import an edition of the Apocrypha, issued as a separate book in England. Every one, we presume, is willing to admit that this strange and interesting collection of legend, prophecy, and teaching is not an American production, and therefore in a sense is "a work of foreign authorship."

Modern Protestant Bibles do not contain the Apocrypha, although we have before us as we write a copy of the Bible

published in 1769 which contains these very books now in dispute. On the other hand, the Roman Catholic Church and some of the Greek and Oriental Churches hold these books to be "inspired and canonical" as declared by the Council of Trent in the sixteenth century, and many thousands of Bibles in the Douai Version are imported duty free despite the fact that they contain the Apocrypha.

One hopes that the discussion will lead a good many people to read these Apocryphal books, not so much for religious instruction and inspiration, as because they are in themselves good story-telling. It is impossible to doubt also that some of the writers told their stories with a distinct sense of humor. Take, for instance, "Bel and the Dragon." This was clipped from the end of the story of Daniel as it originally appeared in the ancient Hebrew writings, and it gives further and lively incidents in the episode of Daniel in the lions' den. "Bel and the Dragon" takes exactly one page in the Apocrypha, and would make a capital "short short story."

The Protest of the Porters

THE delegates to the National political Conventions did not have to make up their own sleeping-car berths. The threatened strike of the Pullman porters has been called off on the advice of the President of the American Federation of Labor, William Green, who urges instead a campaign of public enlightenment.

There was something comic in the idea that the press first gave of this industrial quarrel; it portrayed the typical "Georges" as striking against tips. In fact, what they are trying to get is such an adjustment of wages and tips as will give them fair pay and hours.

There are some 15,000 "Georges," and they say that they average \$132.50 a month (including tips), but pay out \$38 a month for occupational expenses, food, uniforms, and so on. They ask for \$150 a month wages. President Green is quoted as saying that "these people have been pitifully exploited."

An Unwelcome Guest

THE British Government doesn't care for "immigrants" who have escaped hanging on the plea of insanity—not even if the immigrant arrives in the palatial suite of a British liner. Harry Thaw has twice run up against this prejudice—once fifteen years ago when Canada ejected him after he had fled from Matteawan, the other day when English officials refused to let him step on shore from the