

ive each of the women \$10,000 in cash fee and clear, and to pay them a \$600 year pension as long as they live. The Corporation also agreed to pay for all past medical treatment and for all future medical treatment. The Corporation also settled the fees of their lawyer.

Judge Clark is to be congratulated on his service, not only to the women, but to the public as well. Such settlements out of court greatly enhance the reputation of the legal profession by serving notice that justice can get the right of way over the slow progress of ordinary legal procedure.

As the news of this settlement was announced the fact was also made public that Dr. von Sochocky, formerly an official of the United States Radium Corporation and the chemist who evolved the luminous paint which poisoned the five women, was himself a victim of radium necrosis.

Dr. von Sochocky has continued to work with radium, even though the exposure means grave additional risk. It is said that he finds some relief from the disease that afflicts him by occasional sojourns at high altitudes.

The Locusts Are Here

THE seventeen-year locusts are above ground. They are every year—somewhere. It seems odd to many people that the newspapers can provide a crop of seventeen-year insects practically every year, but here the newspapers are about right. The secret of the paradox is this: though the locusts require seventeen years for their life cycle, there is a different brood for every year, and each brood has its own bailiwick.

Entomologists have the seventeen broods all numbered by classes, like French boys coming up annually for their period of army service. This year's class is Brood II, occupying a thickly populated section in the East.

To complicate the situation, there is also a thirteen-year locust. Queerly enough, there are thirteen broods of the thirteen-year tribe, as there are seventeen broods of the seventeen-year tribe. These broods, too, are numbered.

Why some broods should have a seventeen-year and some a thirteen-year cycle, entomologists have not clearly determined. Most of the seventeen-year broods occupy Northern territory and most of the thirteen-year broods Southern territory. But the two largest broods, one of each tribe, overlap throughout a wide area. It was the coincidence of the emergence of these two broods—a thing which can occur only

once in several centuries—that brought the devastating locust hordes to the mid-section of the United States in the seventies. Tales of that year's destruction are partially responsible for the fear with which the insect is regarded. In an ordinary emergence periodical cicadas (the real name of this insect) do little permanent damage.

There are those who insist that seventeen-year locusts appear at the same place every year. This is due to a confusion of the periodical cicada with the *Cicada tibicen*, or harvest fly. It is this

latter cicada, a larger and more showy insect than the seventeen-year and thirteen-year kinds, which we all know for its reaping song in midsummer. *Tibicen* has a two-year life cycle, while the periodical kind really has a cycle of seventeen or thirteen years.

The periodical cicada spends all but about five weeks of its life under ground. For something more than sixteen years it sucks its food from roots. Then it goes into the cocoon stage, and the next May or June emerges as an adult fly, mating and laying eggs before it dies.

Windows on the World

By Malcolm W. Davis

NO longer is Peking to be the capital of China. The Nationalists, who set out on their campaign from Canton in the far south two years ago and have ended by occupying the historic city of the Emperors in the north, have decided that. They plan to reorganize North China, with a provincial capital at Tientsin, as one of several regional government areas to be federated under the central administration in the older capital at Nanking. So the stronghold of the Mongols and the Manchus follows the fate of the imperial city of the Russian Czars, that was St. Petersburg and is now Leningrad; and just as the Russian revolutionists transferred their Government to an earlier seat of power in Moscow, the Chinese victors reject the capital of the war lords to make their base in a more central location from which it is easier to keep in touch with the whole country.

Peking, temporarily, is to continue to serve as the home of the foreign legations, with a Commissioner for Foreign Affairs in residence. Later, it may very probably become a sort of historical show-place for sightseers, with guides leading tourists through the marble-paved courtyards and red-walled, orange-tiled palaces of the once Forbidden City.

Already regional organizations are set up and functioning in Canton, in Wuhan on the Yangtze, and in Kaifeng in Honan Province. And the Nanking leaders appear to hope for a similar arrangement in Manchuria, now that their chief adversary, the former dictator, Chang Tso-lin, is defeated and discredited. Chang's train was bombed as he returned to his Manchurian capital at Mukden, and he suffered severe injuries. There has been great uncertainty about

his life, with conflicting rumors both of his death and his recovery. In any event, the collapse of his power has eliminated him; and the only question is whether the Nationalists will have to deal with his son or his Chief of Staff as the next more or less strong man in Manchuria.

NOT ONLY a troublesome Central American controversy, but also the relations of the United States generally with Latin America should be favorably affected by the proposal of Secretary Kellogg in the long-standing boundary dispute between Guatemala and Honduras. He has sent notes to the Governments of both countries urging a settlement by arbitration. And, what is of equal importance, he has suggested—not the good offices of the United States—a decision by the International Central American Tribunal. This panel of judges, provided by the Central American Convention of 1923, is similar to the tribunal which the Hague Convention set up to afford a permanent arbitration agency.

The reasons for the deadlock between Guatemala and Honduras have been examined by Roy T. Davis, Minister from the United States to Costa Rica and neutral member of the Mixed Boundary Commission. One representative each for Guatemala and Honduras made up the Commission, which tried unsuccessfully to draw a provisional boundary line. The question became an active issue in the Presidential campaign in Honduras. The other two Commissioners then asked Mr. Davis to draw the boundary line. He came to Washington to advise with the Department of State, and the notes recommending arbi-

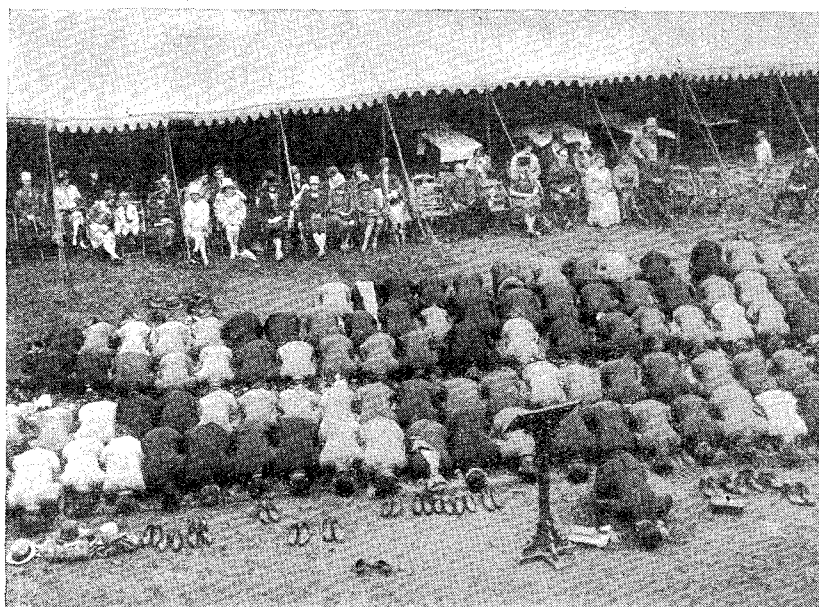
tration followed. It is a statesmanlike treatment of a situation that, handled otherwise, might easily have involved the United States in another Central American quarrel.

YOUTH on a rampage in Belgrade has shown just how hot is the suppressed feeling in Yugoslavia against Italy. The trouble started over the question of ratification of a group of treaties with Italy, concluded three years ago, dealing with commercial and property rights. Particularly it concerned a provision to allow foreigners—that is to say, Italians—to hold land up to within thirty miles of the frontier.

Urged by the Fascists, the Yugoslav Government promulgated the land law in February, as an interim measure, and proceeded with plans for ratification. The result has been riots led by students in Belgrade and elsewhere, in which Italian consulates have been attacked, portraits of Mussolini burned, and Italian flags torn down. The demonstrators have demanded the resignation of the Government, and the Government forces have responded by dispersing them with volleys and bayonets, charging their barricades and killing one and wounding others. The loose dynamite in the situation in southeastern Europe has been disclosed also in sympathetic demonstrations against Italy by students in Germany and Austria. And in Italy there have been outbreaks against the Austrians and Yugoslavs.

The Yugoslav Government has tendered expressions of its regret and complied with demands from Italy for restitution of damages and punishment of offenders. Neither Government desires any break. But the feelings involved are deep-seated, running back beyond the Italian seizure of Fiume and the peace settlement to the World War and Italian aspirations to command the Dalmatian coast that Yugoslavia now holds. This storm has blown over without serious harm, but the air is still sultry.

POINCARÉ was characteristically circumspect in his declaration of policy to Parliament, after his triumph in the French elections, regarding a restoration of the gold standard for the currency. He contented himself with a reaffirmation of the desirability, to which every one agrees, of a return to the gold basis, and warnings of the probable higher cost of living and the adjustments in the nation's economic life that must follow stabilization of the franc. He gave no hint of the level at which he might propose to set its value. Rumors



Wide World

KEEPING THE FAITH IN A STRANGE LAND

Hundreds of English Moslems gathered at the Woking Mosque in London to celebrate the festival of Eid ul Azha

have had it that the intention of the Government is to make the rate five paper francs to one gold franc—which would be equivalent to fixing the depreciated worth of the inflated paper currency at one-fifth of the value at parity before the war. But they got no confirmation from the canny "Square-Fist." He kept his hands free to act when and as he thinks it advantageous.

DEFIANCE, downright and forthright, was the answer of Premier Voldemaras of Lithuania to the arguments of the Council of the League of Nations that he should establish peaceful relations with Poland. The occasion was the passage of the new Lithuanian Constitution declaring that the capital is the city of Vilna which Poland annexed and holds. Marshal Pilsudski, dictator of Poland, does not admit that contention; in fact, he is hardly inclined to discuss it.

Last December, when hostilities between Poland and Lithuania seemed imminent, the League Council called Pilsudski and Voldemaras before it and got them to promise to go home and try to patch up matters peaceably. They went home; but peace negotiations did not progress much beyond arrangements about meetings. Then the Lithuanian Constitution plastered the issue on a billboard for all the world to read again.

Both Sir Austen Chamberlain, of Great Britain, and Paul Boncour, of France, spoke regretfully and severely to M. Voldemaras. His response was a refusal to do anything. The result was a postponement of the discussion until the next session of the Council at the time

when the full Assembly of the League meets in September. A lot, one way or the other, can happen before then.

The Council disposed in equally convenient fashion of the notorious case of the smuggling of machine guns from Italy into Hungary in violation of the peace treaties. Apparently the judgment was that Hungary was technical at fault, but not guilty of an intent to break the peace. The spokesmen of the Powers spoke sternly to the Hungarian representative, General Tanczos, as he had to M. Voldemaras. A resolution of the Council admonished Hungary not to let anything of the sort happen again. General Tanczos looked undismayed which is not difficult for a man wearing a monocle.

Similarly, the Council washed its hands of the dispute between Hungary and Rumania, on its agenda for five years, concerning Hungarian lands in Transylvania sequestered by Rumania. The League resolution told the contestants to settle the quarrel themselves.

Viscount Grey, the former British Secretary for Foreign Affairs, said recently in London that Secretary Kellogg's plan for a general treaty renouncing war will be a great reinforcement to the League. And Eduard Benes, the astute Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia and organizer of the "Little Entente" of his nation with Rumania and Yugoslavia, is reported to view Mr. Kellogg's proposal in the same way and desire its adoption by the eastern European and Balkan nations. If matters run on in the same way at Geneva, the League and Europe at large will need

A New Dred Scott Decision

THE Supreme Court of the United States has delivered the severest blow ever dealt prohibition.

It is not too much to say that the decision in the wire-tapping case will probably become the Dred Scott decision of prohibition.

This astounding decision might have come in a counterfeit case, a tax-dodging case, any one of a score of kinds of cases. But it did actually come in a prohibition enforcement case, and many will believe that it could not have come in any other way. The popular mind is not adjusted to sift out its abstract significance, but will regard it as an infringement of liberty growing out of prohibition.

The case is this:

Some men in the State of Washington were suspected, justly enough, of conspiracy to carry on large-scale bootlegging operations. Prohibition agents tapped the wires of the telephones leading into these men's homes and, by listening in, secured conclusive evidence of the conspiracy.

Wire-tapping is, and was at the time, a crime under the laws of the State of Washington. None the less, the evidence thus obtained was admitted by the trial court. Convictions were obtained. The defendants appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States on the ground that wire-tapping is in violation of the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, one of the articles of our Bill of Rights. That article provides that "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated."

Five of the nine Justices of the Supreme Court held that the right of privacy, within the meaning of the Fourth Amendment, was not violated by the prohibition agents. The remaining four Justices dissented, three of them in remarkably vigorous and even scathing written opinions. But the opinion of the five has all the legal weight, that of the four no weight whatever—except in the scales of public opinion.

Chief Justice Taft, writing the majority opinion, held that a man's telephone is no part of his house or of his effects, that the guaranty of the Constitution cannot be made to cover "wires extending to the whole world"—in effect, that the means of communication by which, in large measure, the confidential affairs of human beings are conducted is a voice in the air. Letters, physical things with which the framers of the Amendment were familiar, he held protected, but not the intangible though more intimate telephone conversation.

Concurring with the Chief Justice were Justices Van Devanter, Sutherland, McReynolds, and Sanford. Dissenting were Justices Holmes, Brandeis, Butler, and Stone. All of the dissenters except the last named wrote opinions.

Justice Butler, writing calmly, said that the Fourth Amendment "safeguards against all evils that are like and equivalent to those embraced in the ordinary meaning of the words." Justice Brandeis, writing apparently under a sense of indignation, said that, "as a means of espionage, writs of assistance and general warrants are but puny instruments of tyranny and oppression when compared with wire-tapping." He said much more in like tenor. Justice Holmes, in language even more vigorous, if possible, agreed with what Justice Brandeis had written. He called wire-tapping "dirty business." He called attention to the fact that the United States violating

the laws of a State in an effort to uphold its own is a sorry figure.

"It invites to anarchy."

There is the most significant and most alarming phrase in the dissenting opinions, the most appalling fact in the situation created by this decision.

Yet the opinion of these four dissenting Justices is of no effect. Wire-tapping, even when in violation of law, yields evidence declared competent by the highest court in our land.

In only one way, apparently, may we be rid of such snooping. Congress, Chief Justice Taft pointed out, may pass a law making such evidence incompetent.

Until Congress does pass such a law, if ever it does, we must weather the devastating effects of a decision that outrages a people's sense of a security which they thought they had under their Constitution.

Platforms and Realities

PARTY platforms in the United States rarely recognize real issues.

We have never had a political party that could not straddle a river or a range of mountains with all ease. Whigs and Democrats alike straddled slavery through several campaigns. The Whig Party by 1856 had thus split itself to splinters, but the Democratic Party was as determined as ever not to recognize the issue.

The Democratic platform of 1856 declared slavery not an issue and that "the Democratic Party will resist all attempts at renewing, in Congress or out of it, the agitation of the slavery question, under whatever shape or color the attempt may be made."

The Republican Party was born that year—born, it is almost universally believed, of the slavery issue. Yet the Republican platform builders of 1856 contented themselves with resolving "that it is both the right and the imperative duty of Congress to prohibit in the Territories those twin relics of barbarism, polygamy and slavery," and with saying some things about abuses in enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law.

In the Conventions of 1860, less than a year before the breaking out of the Civil War, the Democratic platform had no more to say of slavery than that enactments of State Legislatures to defeat enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law were subversive of the Constitution, and the Republican platform had little more to say of slavery than that the Territories had the right to enter the Union as free States and that the law against traffic in slaves should be enforced.

Thus, in the very year when abolition of slavery was the sole substantial issue before the American people, neither platform had one clear and direct word to say about it.

Over the platforms of both parties since 1860 one must ply a magnet in order to pick out any filings of the real issues.

We may, of course, expect more from the Democratic and Republican Parties this year than we ever received from them. Human beings always expect more than they get. But we should not be surprised if the party voices are as far behind the real issues as the whine of a cannon ball is behind the projectile.