

own notions, suspect themselves of being free-traders, and repentantly swing into line with the skyscraper-builders of the House, remains to be seen. They are encouraged in their present attitude, it appears, by the President. Mr. Hoover, reports have it, is intimating that when he said "limited" tariff revision he didn't mean maybe.

►► Before the Next War

GOVERNMENTS ARE the world's greatest realists. Four days after Japan, the last of the original signers, ratified the Kellogg pact renouncing war and pledging the signatories to seek the peaceful settlement of all controversies, delegates of forty-six nations met at Geneva to discuss the treatment of the sick, wounded, and imprisoned in the next war. It is felt that the old codes of 1906 and 1907 are out of date; they do not take into account ultra-modern methods of converting well soldiers into maimed and dead ones.

In the teeth of the current British-American naval disarmament negotiations came the news that Great Britain would build several fighting-ships for China and otherwise assist in the development of a powerful Chinese navy. The very next day the King's speech, read at the opening of Parliament, declared that "conversations have commenced . . . in consequence of which it is the earnest hope of my Government to insure . . . an early

reduction in armaments throughout the world."

That the United States, father of the Kellogg pact and of the naval disarmament project, is taking neither of them too seriously recent news items quickly reveal. "Great Flying Boat Ordered by Navy," shouts one headline; "Plane in Air Hooks to the Los Angeles," cries another. The flying boat, the largest and speediest ever developed in this country, probably will be the first of a long line which will be used for coast patrol service and sent out in squadrons with the fighting fleets. The experiment of repeatedly hooking a plane to, and unhooking it from, the Los Angeles in flight tends to widen the range of bombing planes, to make the dirigible a strong destructive unit, and to render it capable of self-defense. It is expected that each of the two dirigibles, twice as large as the Los Angeles, being constructed for the Navy at Akron will be able to carry a brood of scrappy little fighting planes.

"New Tank Goes 42 Miles an Hour Over Fields," declaims a third headline; "Cruiser Launched at Camden Yards," adds a fourth. Hitherto, the maximum speed of combat tanks has been eighteen miles an hour; the new three-man tank will make forty-two miles over rough fields and sixty-two over highways. The Chester, launched at Camden, N. J., will be the flagship of the fleet of eight 10,000-ton cruisers authorized in 1924 and now nearing completion.

A fifth news account reveals that contracts have been awarded for the construction of five of the fifteen additional 10,000-tonners authorized in February, 1929, and that bids for the next group of five will be called for next Spring. It takes more than a Kellogg pact to make a Government forget its habit of preparing for war in times of peace.

►► Socialized Britain

AT THE PROSPECT of a Socialistic Government conservative Britishers paled with alarm. Its advent finds them unworried. During the recent campaign, Winston Churchill made the flesh creep as he pictured the waste of England on the morning of Labor's assumption of power, but as parliamentary spokesman for the Opposition he greeted the speech from the throne with the assurance that the Conservatives would not endeavor to overthrow the Government, at least until 1930, unless it attempted to carry into action the "fundamental vices" of Labor policy.

Small danger. As a minority Government, Labor is saved the embarrassment of making the experiments in Socialism to which it is pledged in principle. Of necessity, perhaps also of choice, in the King's speech it tacitly committed itself to administering "the capitalist system of civilization" which Mr. Churchill solemnly placed in its keeping.

How diffidently Premier MacDonald approaches the task of achieving "Socialism in our time" was revealed when the warmest condemnation of the speech came not from the fearsomely imaginative Mr. Churchill, nor yet from the mischief-making Lloyd George, but from the benches of the Labor party itself. Left-wing Laborites complained that they had been given nothing "to make a tirade about." Neither in the King's speech nor in J. H. Thomas's proposals to relieve unemployment—by constructing new roads, improving transportation facilities, encouraging domestic industries, and developing closer economic relations between Great Britain and the Dominions—was there anything to make radicals cheer or reactionaries shiver. Only in the delicately hinted nationalization of the mines can there be found incentive for that "factious opposition" which former Premier Baldwin says he has forsworn.

Echoing the Clydesiders whose policies he assailed during the campaign



Wide World

LETHAL CATERPILLAR

Newly-invented, high-speed combat tank, recently tested at Fort George E. Meade

Mr. Lloyd George also finds the Labor program less ambitious than he anticipated, but his chief preoccupation is electoral reform, upon which he bases his hopes for the rescue of the Liberal party and which is his price for continued support of the Government. Apparently confident that payment will not be demanded for some time, Premier MacDonald contemplates the creation of twenty Labor peers to join Baron Passfield of Passfield Corners, lately Mr. Sidney Webb, the Labor theorist, in the House of Lords. In power, Labor becomes sharply conscious of its responsibilities to British tradition. A Gilbert should be living in this hour.

➤➤The Farm Board

THE KIND OF MEN chosen by President Hoover for his Federal Farm Board indicates the problems to be solved if agriculture is to be rescued from its present depression. Although the members have a deep interest in farming, their chief concern has been the business side of the industry—marketing and distribution.

The chairman, Alexander H. Legge of Chicago, is best known as President of the International Harvester Company. He will have eight associates—Secretary of Agriculture Hyde being an exofficio member. Those already named have attained eminence as heads of farm co-operatives and business institutions rather than as tillers of the soil. Some Western Senators are inclined to be critical because of the absence of "dirt farmers" from the body that will administer the new legislation, the \$500,000,000.

Nevertheless, it seems to be the kind of Board that will work in harmony with the Administration. Although Progressive Senators disagreed with Mr. Hoover regarding the debenture plan, they appear willing to give the Board every opportunity to make good. As the President's co-workers, the eight members will sponsor methods of more orderly marketing by utilizing stabilization corporations, by the regulation and diversification of crops through co-operative effort and organizations, by improvement in systems of distribution, and by systematic steps for reducing the economic spread between farm and market place.

Since the major crops will be represented on the board—wheat, cotton, live stock, dairy products, tobacco, etc.—it will have the advantage of expert advice. It is a further asset that the

members have already earned the respect of producers of the various commodities involved in the Government's first large-scale experiment to aid agriculture.

➤➤Six Members

As PRESIDENT HOOVER's personal appointee, Mr. Legge is regarded as representing forces the board will try to set in motion. He will hold the chairmanship during the first year and probably his views will dominate. Though he was born on a farm and worked on it until he was twenty-five, he first got his name in the papers



P. and A. Photos

HEADS FARM BOARD

Alexander H. Legge, President of the International Harvester Company

when in 1902 he became a sales manager for the company he headed until his recent resignation. In 1922 he became President. Agricultural groups almost unanimously agreed with Mr. Hoover's view that the Board should be headed by one of Legge's business and financial ability. The farmers seem to recognize that they need no Federal board to help them raise crops, that the great requirement is a body which can show them how to get better prices.

James C. Stone of Kentucky, who will be vice-chairman for the first year, and chairman for the second year, is the owner of live stock farms, but he is better known as founder and president of the Burley Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Association, which does a business of \$50,000,000 annually. He is also director of two Kentucky banks. His most important political indorser was Frank O. Lowden; he also had the

recommendation of eighteen farm organizations, thirty-seven farm co-operatives, twelve agricultural colleges and eleven agricultural journals.

The cotton member is Carl Williams of Oklahoma, editor of the Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman, director of the Liberty National Bank of Oklahoma City, and an officer in numerous co-operatives. He was indorsed by more than forty farm groups, colleges and journalists.

C. B. Denman of Chicago, the live stock member, qualifies largely through his Presidency of the National Live Stock Producers' Association, which handles \$150,000,000 worth of products annually in twelve States. The Fruit representative, Charles C. Teague, was born on a farm and has been engaged in farming ever since. But his operations equal those of many an industrialist. Two co-operatives of which he is President market more than \$150,000,000 of agricultural products annually. He is also Vice-President of a bank in Los Angeles. Almost every farm organization in California, as well as numerous agricultural colleges and journalists, indorsed him.

William F. Schilling of Saint Paul, Minnesota, President of the Twin City Milk Producers' Association, will represent the dairy interests. At the time of this writing the other two members had not been named.

➤➤The Unexpected Surplus

IN DECEMBER PRESIDENT COOLIDGE advised Congress that the Treasury surplus for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1929, would not exceed \$37,000,000. In February, the Bureau of the Budget warned that there might be no surplus at all. President Hoover, apparently preparing for hard times, recently admonished department heads that the budget for the fiscal year 1930 must be kept down to that for 1929. At midnight, June 30, all predictions were discredited. Receipts overbalanced expenditures by \$185,000,000.

Secretary Mellon, as often before, was pleasantly surprised. Republicans in Congress agreeably contemplated entering the Congressional elections of 1930 wearing the white plume of another cut in taxes. Democrats prepared to outdo them in zeal for tax reduction.

Only the White House failed to join whole-heartedly in the chorus. Before the Administration can recommend another tax reduction it must discover