

piled man-high on the news stands, while worthy magazines are banned for publishing sincere literature. Because, Mrs. Colum, censors always hit hardest at that which is over their heads . . .

A former agent of the Massachusetts Watch and Ward Society is charged with having made criminal attacks on two young women, one of them a cripple. Roll your own comment.

Back Stage in Washington

WASHINGTON, D. C.

WE WOULD NOT be surprised if President Hoover were a little dismayed and disappointed at the start which Charles G. Dawes, the Administration's Ambassador-in-Chief, has made at the Court of St. James. We hear that our Quaker President is not altogether sympathetic to the Chicagoan's persistent use of such purple phrases as "You go plumb to hell!" and his disregard of certain conventionalities so dear to the Empire. We who know the former Vice-President appreciate that these heroics of his, including his brusque manner, his profanity, his underslung pipe and his aversion to courtly costume, are carefully cultivated as one means of dramatizing his personality and his programs. The President recognizes this, too, we suspect, and accepts them as artificial oddities which do not outweigh Dawes's undoubted ability. But we also feel that Mr. Hoover realizes rather more keenly than Mr. Dawes does that there has been altogether too much headline drama and not sufficient quiet common sense in our more recent relations with Great Britain.

We do know that the President deemed it wise to suggest to Ambassador Dawes that he slow up the machinery for disarmament which he and Ramsay MacDonald were setting in motion so zestfully a few weeks ago. The President seemed to fear that his impulsive representative and the idealistic Labor Premier would begin scrapping ships overnight, to the dismay of the Tories in Great Britain and Fred Britten and the big navyites in this country. We also hear, though we do not like to believe it, that some of Mr. Hoover's small-bore political advisers cautioned him against taking too large and prominent a part in the disarmament movement, lest failure mean a loss of political strength here. In any event, it was soon after the first Dawes-MacDonald love fests and premature talk of an immediate disarmament call that distress signals were hoisted over our State Department. Even more significant, to our mind, was the order

that Ambassador Hugh Gibson should journey to London to give aid and advice to Mr. Dawes.

We do not mean to suggest that there was any rebuke to Ambassador Dawes. The President undoubtedly sympathizes with his desire for direct and straightforward action, but it is only natural for Mr. Hoover not to want to repeat the mistake made by Calvin Coolidge in calling the 1927 conference



W. J. Enright in the New York "World"

"Did the naughty old sun burn him?"

at Geneva. We have always suspected that Mr. Coolidge sought to turn America's thoughts toward disarmament in an effort to induce forgetfulness of pressing domestic problems. We recall that he first broached the idea of a new naval conference in the wake of disastrous G. O. P. reverses in the bye-elections of November, 1926. He spoke of it as carelessly as if he were discussing "economy." His announcement was news even to our own State Department, which had not been asked to initiate preliminary negotiations or discussions. The subsequent meeting at Geneva was, quite naturally, barren of results. Indeed, it served to create ill feeling between France and Great Britain and between those nations and the United States. The discord resulting from that ill-timed gesture threatens even the present movement.

Except for Ambassador Morrow, who ought to be made a sort of Ambassador-at-large, Mr. Hoover has a somewhat disorganized set of diplomats as the basis for reorganization of this important service. It is, we understand, his own fault that we had nobody at Paris during this period of strain and misunderstanding over payment of the \$400,000,000 for army supplies purchased after the armistice.

It is unfortunate, to our mind, we have no Ambassador there now to woo and win French sensibilities as the late Myron T. Herrick was wont to do during the many difficulties which cropped up during the post-war period. Mr. Hoover, however, has not seen fit to fill this important post, although we are told that it was offered to Senator Walter E. Edge of New Jersey months ago and that he accepted. To our mind, there is no good reason why Edge should not have been nominated and confirmed immediately after inauguration. We understand, however, that practical domestic politics prevents such a happy arrangement. Should he quit the Senate before October 6, it would be necessary to hold a special election to fill the vacancy, and there is always the prospect that the winner might be one of those awful, anti-Administration Democrats. But if he hangs on until October 6, New Jersey law permits the Governor to name his successor. That, of course, will mean the selection of a Hoover Republican. We do not blame the Administration for scheming to safeguard its narrow majority in the Senate, but we do not like the idea of imperilling good relations with France in the process.

We think we note a good deal of domestic politics in Mr. Hoover's diplomatic appointments. Sending Dawes to London removed a presidential rival and made of him an ally. Once Mr. Edge reaches Paris, Mr. Hoover will have an easy task reorganizing the New Jersey G. O. P. with his friends in the seats of the mighty. By giving the Porto Rican post to Theodore Roosevelt, Mr. Hoover hopes to annex the House of Longworth. Our latest report is that Dr. Hubert Work may be sent to Japan as evidence that Mr. Hoover does not forget old friends after the manner of Woodrow Wilson. We can understand why Mr. Hoover would like to answer this criticism, which we hear everywhere we go, but aren't there other ways of meeting this charge? We hope so.

A. F. C.

▶▶ Geography, Modern Style ◀◀

An Editorial by Isaiah Bowman

AS a modern play reminds us, "Nature is old-fashioned." Does anyone believe that a new emotion or motive can be found by the dramatist? We like the new play because it cleverly reflects the life of a period and perhaps wisely directs current thought about it, but no one expects the critic to say: "Here's a greater than Shakespeare." The painter may employ a new technique, he may choose new types of subjects, but he does not hope to surpass the masters: at best he may become one of them. Taste and proficiency in art seem almost to have reached their limits. So great has been the past that genius is hard put to it to create a product as fine as existing models.

In fifty years of intense effort by the best men that could be found in the world the classic 100-yard dash has been run in three-quarters of a second less time. It looks as if a nine-second record probably represents the limit of human possibility. Like the horse, man has broken his speed records again and again but by margins so small that they are of technical interest only. An observer could not possibly detect the differences except with the aid of a split-second timepiece.

In at least two great fields it is not true that man has reached his limit. On the contrary, they have inspired the remark that "Man is the measure of his own universe." They are science and social organization. In both fields man is not merely creating something as great as the past—he is creating new things of which the past never dreamed. This he does not by the unaided eye and hand or the display of artistic judgment and skill but by the use of new instruments of power. He doesn't try to run faster but to make a machine that carries him faster. The submarine and the air-bubble helmet make him a fish; the airplane makes him a bird; the radio gives his electric voice a speed say a million times as great as it has in air. Man really doesn't know how far short of the stars he may go, but he knows he can travel rapidly toward them if he continues to develop power instruments.

Here's where modern geography comes in. Science speeds man's mastery over nature, and it is the purpose of geographical science to show man how he can use and possess this earth of his. The geographer today is engaged in what might be called "a conspiracy of frustration," to adopt a useful definition by Slosson: "The aim of science is to enable man to seize the forces of Nature so that he may frustrate the course of Nature." In the game of frustrating nature we find ourselves handicapped by the fact that we think in terms of subjects as learned in school.

As a matter of fact, man does not live history or geography or chemistry: he lives life and this is made up of cross-sections of experience of infinite variety. The result is that we care very

much for the processes of living and far less for the component parts or categories of life than did the older generations. A geographer who seeks geographic influences as apart from all other kinds of influences is like a man who spends an hour scanning the floor of the British Museum looking for a lost overcoat button. It is antiquarian, particularistic, microscopic to look for a college and school "subject" in life. Subjects are the devices of the schoolmaster and the college administrator. To be sure there would be bedlam, not instruction, if you allowed the chemist to teach art, or the historian to teach physiology; but there may be worse bedlam if we do not synthesize our knowledge and relate it to the business and art of living. The regional synthesis of life is the geographer's first concern.

As we increase our command over the earth we either increase the population or increase our leisure time. The five-day week is on the verge of general acceptance in industry. This may mean leisure to rot. Leisure by and of itself is not a desirable social end. While we talk leisure, other and far denser populations breed up to new food capacities as fast as modern technique is imported to provide relief. The latest vital statistics from Egypt show that when you increase the output of cotton on the Nile delta by \$10,000 you add one to the population: but you do not change the standard of living! Thus the cycle: more water, more cotton; more cotton, more people; more people, more demand for water; and so on. The same mud huts are there, the same coarse cotton tunics, cheap fare, toilsome days. Evidently science alone won't make better social conditions. Geographical science is no exception, unless we go back to an older thought: Gaia, "earth mother," is the root of the word geography. When we relate man and his social organization to the earth, and study his life processes as a unit, we get on. The heart of the subject is man in relation to the earth. The older geographies, with their locational element run wild, were better characterized by "Ubique" (everywhere) satirized by Kipling—

"There's nothin' under 'eaven or 'ell
Ubique doesn't mean."

But if related to life, how, and to what betterment of humanity?

It is pleasant to learn about the quaint things other people do: these were the "curiosities" that filled the older books: a tribe of Arabs pasteurizes its goat milk by milking into a bucket containing hot stones; the Peruvian rug maker spills wine upon the earth "that the weaving may turn out well." But the larger plan of life is not composed merely of quaint and curious designs. It is a complicated thing that requires infinite study to understand or to better.

Where Is Mankind Going?

The distinguished contributors to this weekly editorial page constitute not only our list of witnesses to the progress of existence, but its interpreters as well. In his book "The New World," Dr. Bowman made himself known to many readers and gave them a vivid sense that geography is a subject of concern to them in their practical affairs, through his analysis of the peace settlement following the Great War. As Director of the American Geographical Society, he has actively advanced the principle here expressed—the employment of geographical science for the economic and social purposes of life today. He is one of the contributors to this weekly editorial page, whose views bear witness to the progress and tendency of thought in their various fields of special knowledge. The next contributor will be James T. Shohwell