

vestigating bodies may submit a thousand reports with ten thousand fine recommendations, but members of Congress will remain dry—and the prohibition laws will remain substantially as they are—until their dryness threatens their

political lives; in other words, until wet voters vote for wets. Meanwhile, in the words of Governor Smith, "Commissions may come and commissions may go, but the smoke goes up the chimney just the same."

Backstage in Washington

WASHINGTON, D. C.

CALVIN COOLIDGE, now "resting on his morals," derives a lusty delight, we understand, from contemplation of current events here in his old haunts. We can easily credit such a reaction, since the present spectacle pictures, to our mind, the system of American politics at its worst. To the credit of our statesmen, however, we must admit they seem to recognize that they have given a pretty shabby performance. From President Hoover down they are a sheepish-looking lot these days, and few offer any defense. Only the White House, in an endeavor to conceal its part in the tragi-comedy, continues to issue strange statements anent the drought relief, bonus and extra session problems, and "Background" Walter F. Newton, as the press men have dubbed him since the Wickersham incident, sheds big tears at the news-gatherers' refusal to accept any more "inspired" information. We do not mean to imply that the White House has been the sole offender in the whole affair, inasmuch as the Robinsons, Caraways, Watsons, McNarys, Tilsons, Snells and Cramtons have done their exceeding best to muddle matters.

Were it not that, as Senator Borah says and promptly forgets, "the bread lines wait," the ten weeks of mendacious manoeuvring would have its humorous side, though the public might not appreciate it without a brief review. It was, however, early in December that Minority Leader Robinson, of the starving state of Arkansas, acting in accord with what he conceived to be the Administration's desire, introduced his resolution for a \$60,000,000 drought relief fund to be loaned out on sufficient security. Since G. O. P. spokesmen like Majority Leader Watson and McNary of Oregon had been informed that this measure was agreeable to President Hoover and Secretary Hyde, it passed the Senate almost unanimously. Simultaneously, however, the President issued

his now-famous statement denouncing the Senate program as a "raid on the public treasury" and "playing politics at the expense of human misery." Once committed to this stand, Mr. Hoover was obviously in no position to "compromise"—dread word—until everybody had staged the sham battle of the last ten weeks. In the end the President accepted the same Robinson bill that he had seemingly denounced except that it carried \$5,000,000 more than it did originally.

The joke—for those who can appre-

proffered harmony vanished, and even Republican Senate leaders turned their backs on the President. As the sham struggle grew more intense, the Democrats proposed that \$25,000,000 be turned over to the Red Cross, and that honorable organization, despite denials by the harried John Barton Payne, permitted itself to be drawn into politics. Everybody now lost their tempers, and statesmanship gave way to schoolboy squabbling and back-alley epithets. Though the Administration cried "no compromise" to the end, blunt "Jim" Watson and cynical "Nick" Longworth tell us the settlement was a give-and-take proposition that could have been effected at any moment since Congress convened.

At the present writing we seem headed toward a similar solution of the demand for immediate payment of the cash bonus. Republican steersmen in the House have framed a plan for increasing the loan value of veterans' certificates, which, by their reckoning, will cost approximately \$500,000,000. They privately concede, however, that it will require nearer \$1,000,000,000 and treasury officials suspect as much. Nevertheless, we understand that a settlement along these lines will be reached as soon as the Administration, after due delay, has devised a means of "saving its face."

From all this sorry spectacle only three men emerge with honor, and they are Speaker Longworth, Bernard M. Baruch and Owen D. Young. It was the Speaker who, when Floor Leader Tilson aroused hard feelings by his denunciation of doles and Democrats, kept his head and tongue. It was Mr. Baruch who counselled against antagonizing public opinion by forcing an extra session, by demanding direct relief and by futile feuds with the President. It was

Mr. Young who first suggested aid to veterans on a reasonable and human basis. He left a deep impression on Republicans and Democrats alike, and we can hardly blame National Chairman "Johnnie" Raskob for pronouncing him the "Democrats' ideal presidential candidate." Only a suspicion of the New Yorker's position on water power—and cynicism toward any more "supermen"—keeps many influential Democrats from complete capitulation to this new "boy wonder," as Mr. Coolidge refers to Mr. Hoover. A. F. C.



N. Y. World

The right place for him

ciate it—is that Mr. Hoover did not mean to include the \$60,000,000 proposal within the scope of his Napoleonic criticism. He was, we learn, hitting only at the direct and general \$100,000,000 appropriation sponsored by "Dave" Walsh of Massachusetts, and at his own inaccurate estimate of \$4,500,000,000 as the cost of relief measures already introduced. Who his counsellors were we do not know, but so timed and so drawn was his pronouncement that, in the mind of Senate and public, it swatted the Robinson bill, too. It was then that the

Edward Windsor—Royal Drummer

By OLIVER MCKEE, JR.

B RITISH princes of old, armor-clad and on horseback, led their soldiers to many a bloody victory on the continent for the honor and glory of merrie England. Edward Albert, Prince of Wales, and his young brother, George, have set out for South America, not as warriors, but as commercial travelers with a definite mission to sell Britain to South American buyers, yet they carry the national banner in a real war, even if it is not a war of bullets.

Cut off from many of her former markets overseas, and faced with the necessity of finding new markets where she can dispose of the surplus products of her factories, Great Britain has now turned with hopeful eye toward the rich and populous countries south of Panama. The two princes will reach Buenos Aires in time to open the British Empire Trade Exposition in March, an undertaking which represents by far the most ambitious effort which their countrymen have made to turn the tide which has set against British trade in South America. Since 1913 Great Britain, once the chief supplier of the South American market, has yielded first place to the United States. So it is that British hopes have turned so buoyantly toward the exposition, and to the personal magnetism of the chief salesman, the Prince of Wales.

In the latter part of his administration, frankly hostile to the United States, former President Irigoyen had worked out a plan for bolstering up Argentine purchases in the United Kingdom. Before the plan for increasing the commercial interchanges between the two countries could be put into effect, however, Irigoyen was kicked out of office. With his elimination, the trade plans died. Not only has the new chief executive, Jose Evaristo Urriburu, proclaimed his good will to the United States, but he has appointed Dr. Manuel Malbran as Ambassador to Washington, a post which had been kept vacant for some time previously by Irigoyen, who had made it quite plain at the time that he had no particular enthusiasm over the swing-around the Pan-American circle which Herbert Hoover made in 1928.

Thus the mission which has taken the royal salesman to South America is of prime imperial significance. Political power may no longer inhere in the

crown, but royalty still has its smile, its personality, and its favors to give or withhold. King George can not go forth in person to lead the shock troops of trade, but Edward Albert and his younger brother George can; in fact, the rôle is not wholly new for King George's boys. The Prince of Wales went to the Argentine on a somewhat similar mission a few years ago, and the trade urge explains in part at least why he has become so inveterate a traveler. If commerce follows the flag, Englishmen believe it will likewise follow their princes. Behind the champagne, the toasts, the speechmaking and the hurrahing, lies the launching of a big drive to reclaim the lost continent of South America; to put John Bull back again in the place from which he was so rudely ousted by the Yankee.

FIGURES are notoriously dull, but in this instance a few must be cited to indicate the broad trends. During the period 1911-1913, the United Kingdom was the largest exporting country in the world, being credited with 15.4 per cent of total world exports. The United States and Germany ranked next, with 12.4 per cent and 11.4 per cent respectively. We have now become the chief exporting country, with 15.4 per cent of the exports as our share in 1927, as against Britain's 12.8 per cent. Markets once wide open to the British entrepreneur are now either closed, or they can be entered only with difficulty. Russia is a poor and uncertain buyer. Civil strife has thrown China into turmoil and confusion. In India, Gandhi's emphasis on the village spinning wheel has cut heavily into the sales once made there by agents for Lancashire mills, and here in the United States the new tariff has created another hurdle which the British exporter must negotiate if he is to sell to American buyers in the same quantities as of old.

South America, therefore, beckons more alluringly than ever, and it appeals just as strongly to the exporters of other industrial countries in their search for new markets beyond the seas. Whether in the Argentine, Brazil, Chile, or Uruguay, the South American is still busily engaged in extracting the wealth that lies in the soil, forests, or mines.

He has still a long distance to go before he thinks of manufacturing tools, automobiles, steam engines, clothing and luxuries. Except in a few lines, the manufacturing industries of South America do not compete with the products which the traders of North America or Europe send to that continent.

Yet the South American is rich, and can pay good money for the many things which he must import from abroad. The per capita wealth of the Argentine is one of the highest in the world. North American and European exporters know this, and that is why their eyes are so keenly set in its direction.

AS FAR back as the first part of the nineteenth century, pioneering British merchants laid the basis for the flourishing trade with the River Plate countries of a later day. Swarms of traders descended upon this region, pushing forward steadily into other corners of the continent. British traders secured a strong foothold in Chile, the Argentine, Uruguay, and they were not long in extending their operations to Brazil. Soon after the middle of the century, half the foreign debt of Brazil was in British hands. Not only did British capital build a great part of South America's railways, but British engineers laid most of the rails. British capital today still controls many of the most important lines in the Argentine. In the mines and on the ranches, in the professions, in banks and commercial houses, the Briton, Scot and Irishman has played a notable part in developing South America. Later France and Germany set out to gain a share of the business, but even down to 1870 the British sent more exports to and bought more raw materials from South America than all the rest of the world.

The United States in recent years has contributed a new actor to the drama. Not only have we become, since the war, the chief market for the raw materials of the twenty Latin-American republics, but they have become more and more dependent upon us for their manufactured commodities. Since the Latin-American peoples cut the political ties with Spain and Portugal, their trade has enormously increased. In 1830, the value of both exports and imports amounted to but \$25,000,000; fifty years later, it had climbed to \$200,-