



HANDS ACROSS THE SEA

OUTLOOK

and Independent



▶▶ Trend of the Week ◀◀

▶▶ Thomas Alva Edison

"MR. EDISON, one of the great technical inventors to whom we owe the possibility of alleviation and embellishment of our outward life, has departed from us.

"An inventive spirit has filled his own life and all our existence with bright light. Thankfully we accept his legacy, not only as a gift of his genius, but also as a mission placed in our hands. For to the new generation falls the task of finding the way for the right use of the gift given to us. Only if it solves this task will the new generation be worthy of its inheritance and become really happier than former generations."—Professor Albert Einstein.

▶▶ Gandhi on Volsteadism

"IT WAS a brave step, worthy of America, to have undertaken the most difficult task for her of total prohibition," Mahatma Gandhi has written to Arthur J. Davis of the Massachusetts Anti-Saloon League. "It would be a shame and a rude shock to reformers throughout the world if for any cause America abandoned the policy and returned to the drink evil."

What a pity that Gandhi does not know what he is talking about. "A shame and a rude shock to reformers," forsooth, were America to abandon a policy whose curious consequences have been bootlegging, rum-smuggling, beer-running, hijacking, corrupted police forces, sidewalk machine-gunning, ginger jake, sheep-dip cocktails, five-and-ten laws, life-for-a-pint sentences, bargain days in congested courts, drinking-dry Congressmen, school children with hip-flasks, disregard and disobedience of federal law, Willebrandt wine, wire-tapping, kitchen

dives and all the wretched rest of it. Will it be "a shame and a rude shock to reformers" if America abandons that policy? It will be a shame and a rude shock to reformers if she doesn't.

▶▶ Remember MacDonald

IN THE MIDST of the great expectations aroused by the visit of Premier Laval of France it is well to recall what happened during the recent visit of Premier MacDonald of Great Britain. It is well to recall the American cruisers sent out to greet Mr. MacDonald's liner, the 19-gun salute, the procession up New York Bay, the ticker-taped parade up Broadway, the ovation at City Hall, the world-wide radio broadcast, and, in a single day, the 35,000 words cabled abroad. It is well to recall that Mr. MacDonald made five official addresses, talked to both the Senate and the House, laid at least one wreath, attended innumerable luncheons and dinners, was host to a group of Philadelphia doctors, had his bronze bust placed in the Corcoran Art Gallery, and received another 19-gun salute at Washington, an honorary degree or so and the freedom of New York City. It is well to recall, finally, that his visit was called epochal by press, pulpit and politicians—to the point where it became heresy to suggest that no new era would eventuate.

That is what happened—a fraction of what happened—when Mr. Mac-

Donald visited Mr. Hoover. And the result—well, the result, alas, was a piffling little naval treaty, good enough so far as it went, no doubt, though it barely went at all. So far as the MacDonald visit was concerned it proved to be a most ironical climax. And now, so far as the Laval visit is concerned, we can but issue the caution that the time to exult and throw up our hats will be when, and if, we look upon what has actually been accomplished thereby and find it good.

▶▶ Capone Convicted

HE ERRS who thinks that the conviction of Al Capone for evasion of federal income taxes is a matter of no importance. To be sure, it is of little importance as it relates to prohibition, but it is of great importance as it relates to politics. Nowadays, of course, the supply of liquor in great cities like Chicago is determined almost wholly by the demand, and will not diminish until the demand diminishes. Lop off a liquor dealer and another will bob up to take his place, for the risk of eventual conviction is outweighed by the enormous profits.

But, though it is true that Chicago will continue to violate the prohibition laws as usual, this in no wise lessens the importance of the Capone conviction as political propaganda. Americans will hear a lot of that conviction before they have grown a year older. It will make first-class ammunition for stump speakers supporting our present dry Administration in the next campaign. Addressing dries, they will use it to show that the Administration is heart and soul for law enforcement, and getting results, too. Addressing wets and half-and-halves, they will use it to show that Capones are not an inevitable accompaniment of prohibi-

