

### CARDINAL LA FONTAINE



Pietro, Cardinal La Fontaine, patriarch of Venice, who may be elected pope as successor to Benedict XV.

### HITS TAX FOR BONUS

Congressman Frear in Fight on Sales Levy Proposition.

Declares It Would Be Too Heavy a Burden on Public—Backed by Democrats.

Washington, Jan. 30.—Notice was served on Republican leaders of the house by Representative Frear of Wisconsin, a Republican member of the ways and means committee, that he would fight any attempt to authorize a sales tax as a means of raising revenue for a soldiers' bonus.

Coincident with the announcement by Mr. Frear of his stand, Representative Garner of Texas, a Democratic member of the same committee, which was instructed by Republican house members in caucus Thursday night to begin framing bonus legislation, issued a statement proposing a straight appropriation for a bonus, such appropriation to be paid out of the interest received by the government on the allied debt.

Representative Frear predicted that a "whole lot of members" would lose their seats in congress if they voted for a sales tax and declared that it would entail too heavy a burden on the public. Mr. Frear said he favored a soldier bonus, but thought revenue for it could be provided in "other ways."

He also declared he understood Democratic members of the house, while a unit in favor of a bonus, also were a unit in opposition to a sales tax. Representative Garner said his proposal was put forth as a basis for support by Democrats and "insurgent Republicans," and it would obviate the necessity of a sales tax to meet bonus payments.

"If at any time the amount of interest on the foreign debt is not sufficient to meet the appropriation," said Mr. Garner, "the secretary of the treasury would be authorized to issue certificates of indebtedness."

### STRENGTH OF NAVY TO STAND

President Harding Against Cut in Present Personnel to 50,000 Men.

Washington, Jan. 30.—Suggestions that the United States navy be cut to a personnel of 50,000 are not looked upon favorably by the administration. It was stated officially at the White House. No substantial reductions from the present establishment are anticipated it was said.

### MEXICANS SCOFF WAR RUMOR

Too Ridiculous to Deny, Says High Official of Guatemala Troubles.

Mexico City, Jan. 30.—Rumors of war between Mexico and Guatemala are described by a high Mexican official as "too ridiculous to deny." Semi-official sources were positive in denying the reports. Luis Caballero, Mexican minister to Guatemala, requested a leave of absence several months ago, and it is stated that if he decides to return to Mexico at this time it will be for that reason, and not because of any strained relations between the two countries. Neither President Obregon nor Gen. Francisco Serrano, acting minister of war, could be reached for an official government statement on the rumors.

## HARDING PROBES BANKERS' USURY

President Investigates Reports of High Interest for Federal Funds.

### UNCOVERS FINANCIAL SCANDAL

Secretary of Interior Fall Tells Cabinet Members Millions of Government Money Reloaned at Usurious Rates.

Washington, Jan. 30.—A financial scandal of nation-wide importance was unearthed at a cabinet meeting. President Harding was informed by Secretary of the Interior Fall that millions in government money are being reloaned by private bankers in the West and Southwest to farmers and live stock raisers at usurious rates.

Secretary Fall, who has just returned from a two months' trip through the West, cited instances of abuses which astonished the President and the cabinet.

It was shown that funds of the War Finance corporation loaned to banks for the use of farmers and stock raisers in the present agricultural emergency at 5 1/2 and 6 per cent were reloaned as high as 12 per cent. In addition, many of these banks are alleged to have charged an extra commission on these loans.

"The government is not going to tolerate usury," President Harding is reported to have said.

Meyer Called into Conference. The President called into conference Eugene Meyer, Jr., chairman of the War Finance corporation. Mr. Meyer stated that if conditions as reported by Secretary Fall exist the banks concerned were violating both the letter and the spirit of the law.

Both Meyer and Secretary of the Treasury Mellon told the President that practically all of the government money is being loaned at 5 1/2 per cent and they denounced the practices revealed by Secretary Fall as unlawful.

The legal requirements, Mr. Meyer informed the President, are that when banks reloan government funds they shall not charge more than 2 per cent additional. The banks also agree to charge no commission for reloans.

This agreement is alleged by Secretary Fall to be widely violated. In some instances stock growers had been charged as high as 5 per cent for a six-month loan of government money.

Mr. Meyer stated that the 2 per cent allowed to private bankers was more than ample to cover the cost of their investigators and their risk with profit. This would mean that the total interest rate on the loan should not exceed 7 1/2 per cent.

President Harding asked Mr. Meyer directly if all interest charges of more than 7 1/2 per cent were not usury? "Ordinarily that is so," was Meyer's reply.

Expects Newspapers to Help. President Harding told the newspaper correspondents that he relied upon the American press to help terminate this evil, broadcasting the facts to stock growers and farmers that if they are charged more than 7 1/2 per cent interest for government money they are being defrauded.

Withdrawal of government funds from the offending banks will be the first step taken by the administration to check the rapacity of the bankers concerned. In addition, it is expected that the government will permit the institution of suits to recover overcharge of interest. Treasury agents will be instructed immediately to investigate the situation and make reports of misuse of government funds by the private banks.

President Harding, it is understood, has instructed both Secretary Mellon and Mr. Meyer that the evil must be removed at the earliest possible moment.

### GERMANY PLEADS FOR RELIEF

New Note to Allied Reparations Commission Says Country Needs "Breathing Spell" in Matter of Indemnity.

Berlin, Jan. 30.—The keynote of the German note to the allied reparations commission which has been dispatched is that Germany needs a "breathing spell" in the matter of indemnity, it was revealed in authoritative circles.

Germany, the note said, has been living from hand to mouth. The Berlin government expressed belief that the partial moratorium granted during the supreme council meeting at Cannes is only the first step towards a final solution of the whole indemnity problem. The note contends that Germany's credit must be restored, otherwise the reparations problem cannot be solved at all. The German government asked for a reduction of the costs of maintaining the British, French, Belgian and American armies of occupation on German soil. Germany's second payment under the terms of the partial moratorium has just been made. The conditions are that a similar payment must be made every ten days until a definite and final agreement is reached.



1. New Curtiss biplane landing plane being tested by U. S. Navy. 2. Daughters of the Confederacy paying wreath on statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee in the capitol at Washington on Lee's birthday. 3. Governor Evans of American Samoa and the high chief of Manna on the occasion of the governor's annual visit to the Manna group.



### RURAL COUNSEL FORMED

Plans Made at Saturday Lunch for Cooperative Community Development for Southern Madison

A luncheon and meeting was held at Boone Tavern, Saturday, January 28, which will, without doubt, have an important bearing upon community development in Southern Madison county.

Representatives were present from seven important communities within reach of Berea. They were, John Anderson, Big Hill; A. B. Strong, Scaffold Cane; I. B. Chestnut, Silver Creek; H. O. Lamb, Wallaceston; Mrs. M. A. Moody, Hickory Plains; John McWilliams, Whites Station, and George Moody, Kingston. These were in conference with Robert F. Spence, county agent, Everett Dix, community development, and Helen Kersey, recreation. The group organized themselves into a counsel for community development. A committee for Junior Agricultural Clubs was appointed and confirmed as follows: A. B. Strong, Chairman. Mrs. M. A. Moody and Mrs. R. C. Coomer

They will have more or less regular meetings from time to time for the purpose of considering the needs of our rural sections and for promoting plans for their development.

An important movement now going forward is a series of community meetings being held in all of the places mentioned, with the exception of Hickory Plains, and one other place, Bobtown. Each of these points is to have four meetings. One each month during January, February, March and April.

Following these meetings which are intended to be entertaining, instructional and neighborly, it is intended to put into operation projects for general improvement and definite achievement along certain lines. Each community will undertake and accomplish one or more definite things in agriculture, health, sanitation, school and home equipment, community, community organizations, church and Sunday-school work, or such projects as they decide are most needed in their respective communities.

The January meetings have already been held and results have been very satisfactory. Enthusiasm and determination to accomplish something have been in evidence at each meeting place. All forward steps and decisions as to what is to be done are made by the people of the local communities.

The workers in Berea consider themselves only as helpers as being present only to carry out the desires of these people who have become aroused to the importance of bettering community conditions.

The various movements in community development augurs well for the future of Rural Southern Madison County.

### SHERIFF DEATHERAGE ON THE TRAIL OF THE "MOONSHINER"

Sheriff Deatherage and his crew destroyed what is thought to be the biggest moonshine still ever operated in Madison county, in the Bearwallow section, Friday night, January 27th. Thirty-two barrels of mash were overturned, the still was destroyed, and a copper worm 17 feet long was taken to Richmond.

Three prisoners were taken as they came out of the still house. They gave their names as George Sparks, Burt Lunsford and a young man named Coyle. They were lodged in jail at Richmond for examining trial.

### CHIEF OF POLICE SHOT TO DEATH IN IRVINE

Charles Gurley, chief of police at Irvine, Ky., was shot to death on Sunday evening by a man whose name is thought to be Harris Daniels. Since the shooting took place there have been several conflicting reports as to the causes which led to the tragedy.

It appears that Daniels had been arrested by Gurley and taken to the police station and there got the upper hand of his captor and killed him. Gurley had a reputation of being a daring man and one whom the moonshiners feared. It is said that his life had been threatened several times before.

### FIRST KENTUCKY VICTIM HOME

The body of Daniel Carroll Cox, 21 years old, the first Kentucky soldier to die on foreign soil during the World War, was brought to Eminence, Ky., Saturday, January 23, from Saint Nazaire, France. He died there of complications arising from influenza March 1, 1918. Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at the Eminence Christian Church.

### BRITISH TO OPPOSE GEN. WU

Marines Ready to Land at Hankow, China, to Guard Salt Administration Office.

Peking, China, Jan. 30.—British marines are being held in readiness to land at Hankow to protect the salt administration office against seizure by the forces of Gen. Wu Peifu, who are said to be under orders to occupy it.

(Hankow is a treaty port in the province of Hupeh. General Wu is Inspector general of that province and was reported in a Peking dispatch on January 22 to have seized the salt revenues there.)

### DAILY SHORT STORY

Once there was a pretty girl. But she was poor. She couldn't afford to buy a drug-store complexion. She had to cultivate a natural one. Whereat a nice drug clerk fell in love with her. So they were married and she had free soda water the rest of her life.

### MICKIE SAYS



STOP! THINK! LISSEN! MANN'S TH' MAN WHOLL FIGHT AT TH' DROP O' TH' HAT FER HIS OLE HOME TOWN—AN' YET WON'T TAKE HIS HOME TOWN NEWSPAPER! ARE YOU THAT KIND OF A GUY?

## NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Election of New Pope Affected by the Jealousies of the Nations of Europe.

### PRO-GERMAN MAY BE NAMED

America's Attitude Toward the Genoa Conference—Shantung Question Near Settlement in Washington—Secretary Wallace's Agricultural Confab Develops Much Friction.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD

ALL Europe and in a lesser degree all America is interested in the selection of a pope to succeed Benedict XV. The sacred college has been summoned to meet on February 2 for this purpose and the cardinals are all hurrying to Rome. Those from the United States and Canada cannot reach the Eternal city in time for the opening of the conclave unless it is postponed, and may be too late even to participate in the election. This, however, is unlikely, since the campaign, if one may so term it, is becoming so complicated that the choice of a pope may be delayed. According to Italian correspondents, the main issue is again what is called the Roman question—the question of relations between the Vatican and the Quirinal. The Italian cardinals, who are in the majority in the sacred college, are divided into two camps on this matter, some supporting the policies of Pius X who favored a strong church independent of the Italian state, and some standing by Benedict's measures of rapprochement with the Italian government, leading up to final reconciliation. In the former group the leading candidates are Cardinals Bogliani, Merry del Val and Laurenti; in the latter, Cardinals Gasparri, Maffi, Ratti and Vanutelli. Cardinal La Fontaine of Venice had been classed with the Pius group, but it is said Pope Benedict's dying wish was that he be elected. The Italian government is supporting the candidacy of Maffi because of his strong nationalistic tendencies.

Though it is believed Cardinal Mercier, the hero of Belgium, will receive a large vote on the first ballot, it is generally conceded that no non-Italian can be elected. However, foreign nations are concerning themselves greatly in the affair and the international jealousies and suspicions generated by the World war are playing an important part. France does not desire that relations between the Vatican and the Quirinal shall be restored, fearing she would lose the advantage she now holds as the strongest Catholic power. Belgium and Poland will vote as does France. Some of the Italian cardinals were quite sympathetic toward the central powers during the war and there was a rumor that they might combine with those from certain other countries to elect a pro-German.

After lying in state four days, during which time it was viewed by many thousands of mourners, the body of Pope Benedict was carried on Thursday into the choir chapel of St. Peter's church where the last rites were performed. Placed in a triple casket of pine, lead and walnut, the remains were then interred in a crypt of the lower church, a part of the old basilica which dates from the fifth century. The official recognition of the pope's death ordered by the Italian government has been especially pleasing to the Catholic church. Flags on all government offices were half staffed.

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## World News

By J. R. Robertson, Professor of History and Political Science Berea College

The funeral of Pope Benedict has been held and now the question of a successor is engaging attention. The Cardinals are to meet early in February in the Vatican for that purpose. It is expected that fifty-two will be present to take part. It is customary in an election to wall the Cardinals in and provide plain sleeping accommodations and food until the election is decided. When a decision is reached, the ballots are put in the fireplace and the thin column of smoke from the chimney is the signal to those outside that a result has been reached. There is generally a good deal of electioneering for the position among the different factions in the church and the different nationalities. The choice usually falls to an Italian, altho notable churchmen from other nations have been chosen. Among other names mentioned is that of Cardinal Mercier of Belgium, the stalwart ecclesiastic, whom no one among the enemy dared injure in the recent war.

The death of Viscount James Bryce is an event of international interest. He was eighty-three years old. Altho born in Belfast, Ireland, his career was mainly connected with England. He prepared himself for the profession of the law, and at one time held a professorship of civil law in Oxford University. In politics he was a liberal. His well known book, "The American Commonwealth," was the result of his travel in the United States and conversations with Americans in all walks of life. He was greatly surprised at the popularity of the book in this country, as it had been intended for English readers who did not know much about the United States. Mr. Bryce served with much credit as English ambassador to our country at a critical time during the recent war. He served his country also as chairman of a commission to examine into cases of cruel treatment of non-combatants in the recent war, and the report of the commission is an authority on the subject.

It is expected that the Washington Conference will close early in February. They are bringing the work rapidly to a close. According to latest reports an agreement has been reached between China and Japan on the Shantung problem. It is in the nature of a compromise and is not likely to satisfy either of the home countries. The question finally hinged on the disposal of the railroad which runs along the peninsula. By the settlement China agrees to buy it, the payment to be made in treasury notes running fifteen years. Japan is to have some connection with the running of the road under Chinese officials. The settlement is largely due to influences of President Harding and Sir Arthur Balfour of England. The Chinese delegates to the conference realize that the plan will meet opposition, but they consider it the best that can be made and prefer to accept it rather than let the matter continue unsettled.

The proposed conference at Genoa is a subject of much discussion. The United States is invited to attend, but the President let it become understood that our country would not be represented. The disappointment in Europe was so great that he has decided to reconsider the matter. Careful students of current events believe that the conference would be of little value in bringing about an economic reconstruction of Europe unless there is a full opportunity to thoroughly discuss the matter of reparations, the great indebtedness of the nations and the conditions in Russia. France does not seem to wish the reparations to be taken up, and there is opposition to other subjects. None of them could be fully discussed without the aid of the United States. Col. Harvey is in Paris, and it is believed his mission pertains to this conference.

Mr. Collins, the President of Ireland, and Sir James Craig, the Prime Minister of Ulster, have had a conference and have taken steps which look toward a more harmonious condition in Ireland. They have practically decided on the boundary between the two sections and also to remove the boycott which has existed for some time. Ulster desires to make a (Continued on Page Eight)