

# The Outlook

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## THE WEEK

### Alabama Aroused

**T**HERE are diseases of the state as well as of the human body. Such a pestilent fever as that of the Ku Klux Klan is sure to be followed by reaction. Alabama has suffered from this pestilence, and is now on the way to recovery.

The theory that the way to make a community moral is to violate its laws and make cruelty by hooded mobs take the place of its courts has had its day in Alabama, and its practitioners are now themselves criminals before the courts. In one county a special Grand Jury returned over a hundred indictments against hooded "regulators." The Judge denounced "the rule of mask and lash." The "Exalted Cyclops" fled the State.

But the most remarkable change has been on the part of Attorney-General McCall. He has openly confessed membership with the Klan, has resigned that membership, has denounced its cruelties and spoken of its work as a cowardly reign of terror. He seems particularly affected by the fact that Klan methods have driven men out of employment and asserts (wrongly, we hope) that "the State is powerless to cope with this brand of intimidation which carries the sting of want to defenseless women and helpless children."

McCall is now earnestly promising to push the prosecution of the many flogging cases on the docket, but it is said that in the worst cases (the Jefferson County whippings) 115 out of 125 jurymen called were Klansmen. An ex-Klan Attorney-General striving to convince a jury of Klansmen that the works of the Klan are criminal and detestable would be a novel and pleasing spectacle.

Mr. McCall's letter of resignation from the Klan maintains that the principles of the Klan were right but its leadership bad. One of those principles, he says, is to protect and preserve Protestantism; another, to preserve and protect the Anglo-Saxon race; another, to produce "tall men, sun-crowned, who damn treacherous flattery without wink-

ing." These are noble aims, but they hardly call for the senseless mummerly of the K. K. K. A man of legal and political knowledge ought from the beginning to have known that secret and criminal acts of coercion and cruelty would follow, would have their little run of excitement and political success, and in the end would be repudiated by the law-abiding majority. So it has happened in other States; so it is now happening in Alabama.

### Morrow and Mexico

**A**s Dwight W. Morrow, the new American Ambassador to Mexico, reached his post General Arnulfo Gomez—the candidate for President who led the late revolt against the Calles Government—escaped across the border into Guatemala. His wife's family owns a ranch near the frontier, and it was said he evaded the thousands of soldiers and armed peons pursuing him and sought refuge there. So—with his associate, General Serrano, executed—the movement which he headed ends in rout.

The story of how Federal officers and troops killed Serrano casts a disturbing new light on conditions in Mexico. Evidently they murdered him without even a court martial, entering his home and shooting him out of hand. José Elguero, leading editorial writer of the "Excelsior" of Mexico City, expelled from the Mexican capital, said in an interview at San Antonio, Texas, that the slayers not only shot but stabbed and beat and tortured Serrano, and that they acted under orders from General Alvaro Obregon, formerly President and now the only candidate for the office to succeed Calles.

Furthermore, reports of a split between Calles and Obregon have come from Mexico City through citizens of the United States arriving at San Antonio.

The accuracy and meaning of all the conflicting accounts of affairs in Mexico are impossible to estimate. We have reason to be glad that an Ambassador of the cool judgment and international ex-

perience of Mr. Morrow is in charge of the interests of the United States. He faces an emergency as difficult as any envoy from Washington has had to meet.

### From New York to New York

**I**N aviation there are records and records. Some are for wondrous feats; others, for serious well-planned work. Lindbergh completed on October 23 his tour of 22,350 miles in his tried and true partner, the Spirit of St. Louis. He was one minute late in the final flight from Philadelphia to Mitchel Field, New York, and in his eighty-two voyages through all the forty-eight States he was just once delayed by fog. Not Lindbergh luck, but Lindbergh promptness, skill, and accuracy account for this achievement. Now the famous "We" will be divided before long, the plane to take its place in the Smithsonian, the aviator to continue to help the cause of aviation in whatever way seems best.

The plan of the long educational journey was adopted to make people everywhere realize that aviation is no longer a sport, but a business; that modern airplane equipment may be depended upon to do steady, regular work, and that aviation can be made a definite, timed, means of transportation.

Incidentally, Lindbergh's offhand, modest talks have made personal friends for him among many thousands who have admired his conduct and now like him both as man and as aviator. He made 147 speeches and about as many parades—this was his hard work; the flights were play.

"Safe as a railroad train," said Mr. H. F. Guggenheim, head of the Guggenheim Fund for Promotion of Aeronautics, which made this long tour possible. And by that he meant that this flight was planned to run on schedules that could be observed, in a plane that was made and kept safe for its pilot, so that it reached each city at 2 P.M. as promptly as the railway trains kept to their time-tables.

The tour increased public interest in



Wide World

At the end of 22,350 miles in the air

three ways, Assistant Secretary MacCracken points out: by stimulating interest in the air mail—one evidence is a very large increase in pounds of mail carried; by encouraging cities to build or improve airports; by showing that present-day air equipment is sound and trustworthy.

### Fight Films

**P**RIZE-FIGHTERS can travel freely about the country. A match between the champion heavyweight of the world and the former champion may be staged in a great arena at Chicago and thousands of people may legally attend the spectacle. But a Federal law prohibits the transportation of the representation of that prize-fight in moving-picture films.

What sinister spirit is there in a "fight film" that makes it so much worse than the products of child labor?

That it is Constitutional to prohibit inter-State commerce in fight films is well established by decisions in the United States Supreme Court. The question is not whether it is Constitutional, but whether it is wise. How did such a law ever come to pass?

It is about fifteen years old. At that time prize-fighting had sunk to a very low estate. So obnoxious had the so-called sport become that in most States it was illegal. Nevada was a State in which it was still permitted, and there was staged the battle between Jeffries and Johnson—white man against black. Circumstances had made this match a focus of bitter racial animosity. There was no such regulation of professional boxing as there is today. The laws of the States that prohibited boxing were a real expression of prevailing sentiment throughout the Nation. Under those circumstances, a Federal law prohibiting inter-State transportation of fight films was virtually inevitable. To prohibit prize-fighting in a State and then to let films picturing a fight be shown would be thoroughly inconsistent. The States themselves are powerless to exclude such films by State law. Inter-State transportation is not within the powers of the State. That comes under the regulation solely of the Federal Government.

So the Federal law was passed.

As a consequence, partly of the law but more especially of the public sentiment that put the law on the statute-books, there began a movement for box-

ing reform. Now in various States there are boxing commissions to regulate professional boxing contests. Though there are many evils yet connected with the professional prize ring, the so-called sport is on a basis very different from that of fifteen years ago. And yet the Federal law forbidding the inter-State transportation of fight films remains on the statute-books and is enforced. It is certainly open to debate whether the law should not now be modified. Films of boxing matches conducted under regulation should, it would seem, be admissible to States in which regulated boxing itself is legal.

### No Man's Land in Asia

**C**HINA seems to be again a chaos with all signposts down. The apparently comprehensible line-up of southern Nationalists against northern militarists, which gave Americans some hope of a clear-cut issue between Canton and Peking, has vanished. In its place is a hurly-burly of local scraps.

Chang Tso-lin, of Manchuria, has evidently beaten back Yen Hsi-shan, of Shansi, from the northern capital. Feng Yu-hsiang—Yen's supposed ally—is reported to have invaded part of his province. Meanwhile, in the central provinces the Nanking Government is sending an expedition up the Yangtze River against General Tang Shen-tse, the "war lord" at Hankow, suspected of bargaining with Chang and the northern alliance of chieftains. And in the south there are rumors of disorders at Foo-chow and piracy around Canton.

At the same time Great Britain has withdrawn the larger part of her emergency force, which she concentrated in and around the International Settlement at Shanghai, leaving only about 6,000 out of her total of 20,000 troops. The remainder, with the American, French, and Japanese detachments, are evidently enough to assure safety to the foreign residents.

So ends what alarmists heralded as intervention by the Powers.

### Athens's Agora

**T**HE news that funds have been provided by an American donor who prefers to remain unknown to complete the work preparatory to the excavation of Athens's ancient market-place is of the highest interest to classicists and archaeologists.

What treasures of art and architecture lie beneath this plain spreading out