

CHOLERA

C.I. - P. & G. Friday, Oct. 31, 1947.

Today, American military planes attacked the enemy in Cairo. They flew over the capital of Egypt, spotted the target, and let fly - with poison gas. It was poison gas for insects - for flies. In brief, American Army planes joined the Egyptian sky force in an aerial assault against ~~the~~^{that} deadliest of enemies - cholera.

The epidemic in the ancient Land of the Nile has now grown to the proportion of an international peril. Every day, for more than nine weeks, the cholera has become worse. On September Twenty-Second, in a backward village of the Delta of the Nile, one man was stricken, writhed and died. That was the first victim, and every day since the count has grown - until yesterday four hundred ~~victims~~ died, and eight hundred others were seized by the cholera. Most cases are fatal, and the epidemic spreads with devastating speed.

History abounds with the terror of cholera - one of the vilest of all the plagues that devastated the ancient and medieval worlds - and the modern world as well. Two other types

are the bubonic plague and the deadly influenza that ravaged this globe at the close of the First World War. The home grounds of cholera, we are told, are in India, and from India it spreads by various routes. This time it came up into Egypt, the last great plague of cholera was in Eighteen Ninety-Two, when Egypt was likewise ravaged, and when the epidemic swept through Europe and across the Atlantic to America, or last outbreak of Cholera.

And now the nations along the Mediterranean are taking anxious precautions. Everybody leaving Egypt is being subjected to an exhaustive medical examination, to be sure sure they do not carry the infection. Anti-cholera vaccines are being rushed through the air. Drastic sanitary measures are being taken, the Egyptian health authorities mobilizing all the resources of modern medicine to stem the epidemic.

Egypt is

~~They~~ badly handicapped by the primitive ways and superstition of the backward peasants of the Nile Valley. The Fellahin of the fields watered by the flood of the Nile gave their own ancient ways of conquering cholera. Believing that the disease comes from badness in the air, they strike back ^{at} the offending atmosphere - slashing the air with ^{symbolical} knives - knives that are supposed to have a magical effect against the plague-demon that blows with the wind. It's hard to make them believe that the right way is to purify the water, take sanitary measures against disease germs, and campaign against that commonest insect - the house fly. For flies play a disastrous part in the speedy transmission of cholera.

Hence, the picture of American warplanes attacking the enemy in Cairo today. Together with Egyptian planes, U.S. Army ^{transports} ~~trucks~~ flew over the section of the city called Boulac, a typical oriental slum, verminous, noxious, where the epidemic is the worst. That was the target, and ^{each plane} ~~one~~ carried eight hundred gallons of D.D.T. mixed with kerosene -

D.D.T. , that war developed chemical which is death to insects. They flew low over the houses and minarets of the East, much as newsreels show ~~air~~planes out spraying our own American fields. Well, with trailing clouds of the ^(smoky)~~smoking~~ spray, they gave the oriental slum of Boulac a thorough dousing of D.D.T., guaranteed to make an end to ~~the~~ myriads of cholera-carrying-flies.

The Egypt of the Pharaohs had its seven plagues, and today American Army planes were in action against this newest plague of Egypt.

PALESTINE

(The first detailed proposal for carrying out a settlement in Palestine was made today. It's put forward by the United States, and the scheme has a date, an early date, July First of next year. The American suggestion calls for the establishment of Jewish and Arab states, as a going concern, by that time.)

R The scheme was presented to the United Nations today by the American Delegation, and provides that the partitioning of Palestine be carried out under the supervision of a three-man commission to be appointed by the U.N. The three members to be top-ranking figures from several countries. They would make arrangements with the British for getting out -- the American proposal calling for the withdrawal of British military forces ^{from} ~~from~~ Palestine by the deadline date -- July First of next year. R The three-man commission would cooperate with Jewish and Arab leadership -- in the setting up of Jewish and Arab governments. This might be the catch -- cooperating with the Arabs, who refuse to cooperate.

Further

The news today brings ~~new~~ accounts of Arab opposition to the partitioning of Palestine. We are told of a declaration made by one of the ^{most} ~~mighty~~ powerful of Moslem sheiks, whose tribe ranges the desert near the site of ancient Babylon. In it he makes new and bloodcurdling threats on behalf of the Arabs -- threats of ~~war~~ *war, by a quarter of a million Moslems* if part of Palestine is made a Jewish state.

So what does today's American proposal suggest in the face of the menacing Arab~~s~~ attitude? Nothing in particular. ~~The American scheme for establishing Jewish and Arab states by July First of next year~~ *alt* merely recommends that the ~~ix~~ territories of the two states be protected by the United Nations -- in the normal course of things. The U.N. guarantees the boundaries of all nations against aggression. This would cover the question of the Zionist and Moslem divisions of Palestine. That, at least, seems to be sufficient -- according to the American proposal.

NOBEL PRIZE

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded today. Who gets it?

Well, the answer is remarkably appropriate - the Quakers, the Society of Friends, a religious sect whose cardinal doctrine is - peace. The prize, which amounts to thirty-nine thousand dollars, and an untold amount of world honor, goes jointly to the British and American Quakers. The two are separate, held ~~to~~ together ~~by~~ merely ^{by} the common doctrines of the Society of Friends.

There's a lot of fascinating history behind all this.

We've often noted the irony in the fact that Alfred Nobel, founder of the Nobel Prize, was the inventor of dynamite, the originator of modern high explosive in war. That's how he made the fortune which he left to be awarded in prizes - headed by the Peace Prize. So now, the award ^{established} ~~created~~ by the creator of dynamite and high explosive, goes to the religious body that has always been dedicated to complete pacificism. George Fox, who founded the Society of Friends, left to it an abiding heritage of hatred for war, which was carried to America by

William Penn, who established the Quakers over here - both the British and the American branches now sharing the Nobel Peace Prize.

There's one irony ~~interesting~~ not noticed so much - the fact that the atom bomb traces back to a Quaker. I'm working on a series of biographies and - among the scientists I'm beguiled by the figure of John Dalton, who established the modern atomic theory, which leads directly to our present atomic era. John Dalton was the most devout of Quakers, the great chemist who wore a suit of sober Quaker grey and was a never-failing ~~figure~~ attendant on a Sunday^s at the Meeting House of the Society of Friends. *He it was who* ~~he~~ worked out the modern atomic theory - this pious Quaker, a devoted member of the most pacifist of all sects, standing as the creator of the theory that led to ~~in~~ the atomic bomb. So now, to the news of the day, we can tie the Quaker who founded the atomic doctrine together with the inventor of high explosive - as the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to the Quakers.

The reason for the award is obvious enough. The Parliament of Sweden, which grants the prize, took note of what the Quakers did in the Second World War, and in this troubled post-war period. Refusing to have any part in battlefield hostilities, the Quakers risked their lives without stint, in battlefield works of mercy - groups of Quakers operating ambulances, serving in hospitals, taking ~~wounded~~ care of the wounded and sick. After the war, they set up relief committees in all the war-torn countries of Europe. This present year, ~~the~~ ^{American} Quaker budget for charity ~~in the United States alone,~~ called for seven million dollars. Last year they shipped seven hundred tons of clothing to Europe, and spent huge sums of money to provide food for the hungry.

As a symbol for all of this, we have our own top ranking American Quaker - who, at the same time, is the world's topmost figure in the merciful work of food relief - former President ~~AM~~ Herbert Hoover. He played a dominant part in the Quaker achievements in charity, which are now so

strikingly acknowledged. I don't where Herbert Hoover is tonight,
but I do know there ^{surely is} ~~is~~ no prouder human being on this planet -
as the news flashes that the Nobel Peace Prize has been
awarded to the Society of Friends.

MURDER

At Indianapolis, the police, working on a crime sensation, made a suggestion that might provide a detective story writer with a first class title - the Women's Club Murder.

The detectives, trying to solve a mystery killing, think it may have resulted from a feud high up in the leadership of women's clubs.

Mrs. Mabel Merrifield, wife of a one-time Assistant Attorney General of Indiana, was president of the Indianapolis Council of Women, Vice-President of the Seventh District of the Indiana Division of Women's Clubs - also, a prominent leader in half a dozen other women's organizations. She was found in her room, stabbed to death - and in her hand was clutched a long, black hair. This presumably had been pulled from the head of the killer in a struggle. There are other evidences that the crime was committed by a woman, and witnesses tell of seeing a woman in a black dress hurrying away from the Merrifield home.

It was no case of robbery, and the police can find no motive - save possibly some kind of a quarrel and feud in the

affairs of a ~~woman's~~^{womens} club. Today they were questioning club associates of the prominent feminine leader, working along the theory that the crime may turn out to be - the women's club murder.

FLEET

At San Pedro, California, today, Vice Admiral Walter S. Delany warned that U. S. Navy operations in the Pacific may have to be curtailed drastically -- ~~curtailed~~ because of a critical shortage of personnel. Commander of battleships and cruisers in the Pacific, Delany, says Uncle Sam's Navy is dangerously low on man power. "The ships are so badly undermanned," he says, "that it's only through the hard work and enthusiasm of the small crews remaining on the ships that they can participate in the forthcoming fleet exercises."

Delany made his statement just twenty-four hours after the Navy Department announced the de-activation of the cruisers "Los Angeles" and "Bremerton" -- all because of personnel shortages. Two new cruisers ^{To Join} what the Navy terms the "mothball" fleet. Ships stored away for emergencies.

Mayor Fletcher Bowron of Los Angeles also had something to say about the unavoidable laying up of the "Los Angeles." "When we raised more than Eighty Million Dollars for that cruiser, we didn't think we were financing a museum piece," he said bitterly. "It seems a crying shame."

But that's how it is. The Navy is short of men, and you can't man battleships without the gobs

CRASH

From Ketchikan, Alaska, news about that missing plane. The DC-4 crashed into the summit of a three-thousand-six-hundred foot mountain, only three minutes' flying time from the landing field it had been fighting to reach against a heavy gale. The wreckage of the plane found embedded in snow after a week's search for the missing ship - the one from which the pilot radioed that he was turning round heading for Juneau.

The latest from Ketchikan; no survivors.

HURRICANE

Here's a late story - a denial. It is not true that the government of the United States caused the recent hurricane ^{to} ~~that~~ hit Georgia. Well, why would ^{Uncle Sam do that to} ~~the government do that to~~ Georgia? ^{Didn't Sherman do enough?} It all ties in with that newest of marvels, devised by the weather experts - the dropping of dry ice as a means of creating rain and snow, and otherwise affecting the course of the elements. It was much talked about, that the dry ice treatment might break up a hurricane - and the new marvel was actually tried out on that hurricane which blasted Georgia. Well, the scientific wonder did not abolish the tropical storm, and the charge has been made that all it did was ~~to~~ make the hurricane change its course - ~~such~~ to the disadvantage of Georgia.

We may recall that the tempest behaved in a most erratic way, was heading out to the Atlantic, and then reversed itself, ~~making a detour to the Georgia coast~~ ^{it} So, did the dry ice treatment cause the hurricane to behave in that freakish fashion and change course unexpectedly? The chief forecaster at the Miami Weather Bureau suggested, maybe - yes. He said

it was - "entirely possible".

That's what draws the late denial tonight, a denial from the Weather Bureau in Washington. The experts there say that the experiment with dry ice had nothing to do with the way the hurricane traveled. It was merely a small experiment, and only eighty pounds of dry ice was dropped - just for test purposes, to see if there was any effect at all. That bit of research)
~~research~~ was, in the words of the Washington Weather Bureau, "so limited in scale that it could not possibly have had any effect on the general character of the storm."

NEW ENGLAND

The village of Brownfield, Maine, is going to rise from its ashes. That was decided today by the people of Brownfield - their town having been destroyed, burned out, by the giant forest fires in Maine last week.

Brownfield never was any metropolis, the ~~man~~ population eight hundred - but it was typically New England, white houses with green blinds, shaded by elm trees, a school and a church, all in ^{the} style ~~of~~ ^{of} the Down East Yankees. The forest fire swept Brownfield right off the map, little more than ashes left, the church and the school a flattened out space of charred rubbish.

Today, the people of Brownfield gathered again - homeless fugitives from the forest fire, who ~~had~~ had narrowly escaped with their lives when the flaming tempest from the woodland swept upon their village. ~~They were one of the many Maine communities evacuated in desperate haste. So now they had to decide - what to do. They held a New England town~~ ^{They held a New England} ^{town} meeting - although they were without a town. They looked

over the ruins and, in a garage spared by the forest fire, they took a vote. Yes, they'd rebuild - that was taken for granted. But what should they rebuild first - what public building? That produced a debate. It was agreed that, in putting up new homes, the kids would have to go to school. So it was decided that, first, they'd rebuild the church. Down East Yankees always had a lot of religion - the old New England way.

Today Selectman Herbert Blake told of the debate and the decision. "If we build the church," said he, "we can hold school there ~~in~~ for a while." And he added: "I guess everybody wanted the church first - so they could have a chance to thank God ~~in~~ they got out alive."

And now Nelson what from you?