News From at Home and Abroad

(By Associated Press)

American Aviator Killed

HOUSTON, Texas, Feb. 4.—Wyles B. Bradley of Mt. Vernon, New York, while flying at Ellington Field, was burned to death today. He fell thirty feet, his gas tank exploding.

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Strike Leader Gets Five Years

BERLIN, Feb. 4.—Wilhelm Dittman, the Radical Socialist deputy, who was tried by an extraordinary courtmartial on the charge of inciting high treason and resistance to public authorities, and who had taken an aggressive part in the direction of the general strike, was today sentenced to five years' imprisonment in a fortress.

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Chicago Suffers Fuel Famine

CHICAGO, Feb. 4.—The third heatless Monday found the city in the grip of the worst fuel famine in its history. The suffering was widespread, hundreds besieging the office of the fuel administration for the pink coal slips which were later found valueless at many yards which were closed because of lack of fuel. The thermometer registered 10 below zero. Many closed their homes and went to hotels. Families of relatives gathered in one house. Neighbors gathered in one flat.

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Strikes Virtually End

LONDON, Feb. 4.—Meager reports reaching neutral countries of the economic situation in Germany and of the general strick prevailing in the empire last week indicated that the strike had virtually ended. The opposition of the military authorities had much to do with breaking up the movement of the workers. Their leaders are reported to have advised the men to return to work. With the summary courtmartial of strikers in the Berlin district no disorders have occurred like those early in the week. Industrial quietude pervades the entire district except at Zena, the capital of Saxe Weimar, where new trouble has arisen. The German and Austrian foreign ministers and General Luedendorff are to meet in a conference in an effort to ameliorate and settle the economic and political questions affecting the dual monarchy and to meet the peace desires of the people of the two countries.

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Americans Outgame the Germans

LONDON, Feb. 4.—Although the German attack in the sector in Lorraine held by the Americans Saturday was a sudden one and the Germans placed a heavy barrage fire along the American line for several miles, the Americans responded with avidity and with their 75 guns tore up the German trenches and dugouts and cut their barbed wire entanglements, and caused damage that will require several days to repair. Little damage was done the American positions. It was seen that the Americans outgamed the enemy at his initial point of assault and later they even extended their bombardment over a wide region. On the other battlefronts the infantry figured in minor engagements and artillery duels were intense in Belgium and France. The total British casualties for the week were 6354, the smallest in months.

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Bakers Must Obey Food Rules

PORTLAND, Feb. 4.—Bakers of Oregon, Washington and California appeared late this afternoon before a conference of Pacific Coast food administrators and were told that the food administration expected of them careful compliance on their part to the food conservation program. They were asked to avoid over-production, and to cut wastage to a minimum. They were told that the schedule of substitutes of other cereals for flour in bread must be followed closely. By February 24 all bread sold must contain not less than 20 per cent of substitutes for wheat flour.

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Shipping is a Vital Problem

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—A 50 per cent reduction of imports is one of the measures advocated by the administration to make available shipping for transportation of troops. Overseas transportation is recognized as a real problem by the government. To make effective the men on the firing line, the fighting force must be kept in supplies. The tonnage required to support the army in France varies from four to seven tons in continual service for each man. The government has now in all services about 4,000,000 tons of shipping, one quarter of which is required to bring materials here considered essential to the national industrial life. If negotiations now under way with neutral countries are successful, a large amount of new tonnage will become available for transporting supplies to the American troops abroad.

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WAR CABINET BILLS ARE DEBATED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The controversy over the war efficiency cabinet and munitions director bills was renewed in the Senate today in a debate which lasted the entire day. Senator Hitchcock, Democratic member of the military committee, made a two-hour prepared speech supporting the two bills which the President sharply opposes. He sharply criticized the war department and charged that Secretary Baker had unintentionally misled the country by "absolutely preposterous statements" regarding the country's ability to get soldiers abroad. Senator Williams of Mississippi and Reed of Missouri opposed the war reorganization bills as proposals to usurp the President's authority. The discussion will be renewed tomorrow when Senator Dadsworth of New York, a Republican member of the committee, will support the war reorganization legislation. Senators Thomas of Colorado and Kirby of Arkansas, Democratic members of the committee, and Chairman Chamberlain, will also speak.

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BOLO PASHA TRIAL BEGINS

PARIS, Feb. 4.—The trial of Bolo Pasha on the charge of treason and spreading German propaganda began today.

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NO SPECIAL SESSION FOR IDAHO

BOISE, Feb. 4.—Governor Alexander has decided that he will not call a special session of the legislature to act on war measures. The Idaho Council of Defense has petitioned for a special session.

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VENICE AND VENETIAN TOWNS BOMBED

ROME, Feb. 4.—Venice and the towns of the Venetian plains were bombed by enemy airmen. There was no damage and do casualties in Venice, but some damage in Padue, Treviso and Mestre. No civilians were killed or wounded.

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PRIORITY ORDER IS ISSUED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—A far reaching program of regulation was issued tonight by the war industries board establishing priority in supplying war industries to be recognized by all individuals, firms, associations and corporations produceign copper, iron and steel products. Priority in supplying coal, coke or food and feed is not provided by the war industries board, but by the fuel or food administration.

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RAILROADS TO BE RETURNED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The house Interstate Commerce Committee today approved the section of the administration railroad bill providing for the return of the roads by the government, and also the section creating a revolving fund of $500,000,000 for operation and expenses. It was agreed to report the bill by Wednesday at the latest.

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COAL SITUATION IN EAST CRITICAL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The critical coal situation in the East was disclosed to Fuel Administrator Garfield today by a dozen state fuel administrators called to Washington to attend a conference on the fuel condition. Serious shortage exists in some states, and the fuel administrators urged that there be no suspension of the Monday closing order until conditions are bettered. The people in many states are just one day ahead in their coal supplies.

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GOVERNMENT TO CONTROL FUEL OIL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Government control of industries was extended to oil production by proclamation of President Wilson tonight, putting under license the manufacture and distribution of all fuel oils. No mention is made of other oil products, such as gasoline and kerosene, but they, too, may soon come under federal control. The authority is vested in Mark L. Requa of California, recently appointed chief of the fuel administration's oil division. Licenses will be issued after February 11 to all manufacturers and distributors whose gross sales of fuel oil, including gasoline, is more than 100,000 barrels every year. Under regulation of the fuel administration, a preferred list of consumers in the East will be supplied in regular order, regardless of existing contracts.

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STREET CAR STRIKE IN ST. LOUIS

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 4.—The second day of the street car strike was marked by increasing violence, riot calls and paralysis of transportation. In spite ofefforts at settlement, no cars were running tonight. Mayor Kiel, on the advice of the city counsellor, summoned the United Railway officials and local union street car men to his office this evening. The labor union men obeyed the summons, but the railway company officials refused to participate.

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CANADA TO SUSPEND MANUFACTURING

OTTAWA, Ont., Feb. 4.—An order in council was adopted by the cabinet on the recommendation of C. A. MacGrath, dominion fuel controller, suspending the operation of manufacturing establishments February 9, 10 and 11 as a fuel conservation measure. The order includes munition plants. It does not apply to maritime ports or Western Canada.

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NAVY HAS THE NECESSARY TRANSPORTS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—Secretary Daniels authorizes the statement that the navy had the necessary transport facilities for carrying 500,000 American troops to France early this year. He made this statement when informed that Secretary Baker forecast as to the number of American troops which would be landed in France had been challenged by Senator Hitchcock.

When Banks Are Closed—Holidays that Delay World's Business

New York City's Financial District Decorated in Honor of a Foreign War Mission.

French Citizens Celebrating the Fall of the Bastile.

Only 84 Days in 1918 in Which the World's Business Is Not Interrupted Somewhere by Holidays and Sundays.

CURIOUS HOLIDAY FACTS.

There is no national legal holiday in the United States.

Massachusetts does not serve New Year's Day as a legal holiday.

Five Christian countries do not observe Christmas as a legal holiday.

New Year's Day is the only holiday observed throughout the world.

Eleven different dates are observed as New Year's Day in different parts of the world.

International business will be interfered with by holidays or Sundays on 281 days in 1918, of these 261 days being holidays.

This leaves only 84 days in which universal banking business is possible.

November, with 26 holidays in different parts of the world, leads the months.

March, with 19, has the fewest holidays.

Brazil leads the nations of the world with 84 holidays.

The United States comes next with 54.

By GARRET SMITH.

WHILE man plays or prays the world's business will be interfered with on 281 days during 1918. In other words, there will be only 84 days in this coming year that are not Sundays or special holidays in one or more important commercial regions of the earth. Nor is this an unusual condition created by the war. We are accustomed to jump remarkable conditions into the category of war evils these days. On the contrary, some of the fighting nations have for the time being stripped their decks of minor and unusually superfluous holidays.

Ever since man was condemned to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow he has been putting in a lot of spare time trumping up methods of beating the game. Next to working into the boss's job the invention of the holiday has been one of his ablest little achievements in this line. Likewise ever since bosses and holidays evolved, along about history's sunrise, the former have been cursing the latter as troublesome breaks in the year's work. By the Middle Ages holidays had become so numerous that they seriously interfered with industrial pursuits. A valuable result of the Reformation not generally appreciated was the abolition of a large portion of these holidays.

But as time went on political and religious milestones accumulated again. Today, while the year's overload in any one country is by no means as serious as in the Middle Ages, the growth of international finance has made the world's aggregate of closed days a serious factor and an expensive one. Not until now, however, has any attempt been made to compile an exhaustive list of holidays for the guidance of bankers and merchants. This list has just been compiled by the Guaranty Trust Company of New York city. The results have been published in a booklet that should be a valuable addition to the reference library of every bank in the country doing more than a purely local business.

Importance of Bank Holidays.

Suppose a bank has a commercial paper collectable in Peking or Athens or Cape Town on January 5. It is important to know whether the bank in that particular city will be open that day. Does any one around the place know whether January 5 is a bank holiday in Peking or Athens or Cape Town? Usually no one does. It's hard enough to keep tabs on the 54 holidays rampant in these United States. It therefore becomes necessary to send an expensive cablegram to get the information. This sort of thing happens not once, but many times, in every banking house with an extensive foreign business.

Among the holidays established by custom the occasion is generally the anniversary of an important political event or the birthday of a national hero. Such holidays are therefore local, while church holidays are for the most part general. The former class prevails in the newer and more democratic countries, while the older ones confine themselves largely to the church fasts and festivals.

Where Holidays Are Thickest.

Contrary to the popular notion, the new democracies of the west enjoy a greater number of holidays than their sister nations of the eastern hemisphere. Of the 97 nations or dependencies listed Brazil leads, with 84 holidays. The United States, with 54, is a close second, although she, unlike Brazil, practically ignores the church days. Another popular delusion is shattered when we find that France has only 18 formally observed days and Italy only 23. We had supposed the Latins always outdid us in this particular. Among the other belligerents Germany, it is presumed, will observe 20 days next year, Great Britain 16, Japan 15 and Russia 17. In most of these countries numerous local holidays ordinarily observed have been abandoned during the war.

The study of holidays is fascinating to the historian. Those of our own country offer a particularly rich field. If one knew the meaning of all the half a hundred days celebrated in the United States, with the collateral events connected with each, he would be well versed in the nation's history.

One of the first surprises in store for such a student is to learn that the United States has no national holiday. The reader will at once think of Fourth of July and of the President's Thanksgiving proclamation. But not even these are national. Acts of Congress and Presidents' pronouncements in this respect apply only to the District of Columbia and the territories. The states usually follow suit, but as a matter of custom only and not of law. Here is a chance to win some bets from your friends.

America's Red Letter Days.

American local holidays are rich in historical significance. Of such are the commemorations of Bunker Hill and Bennington and New Orleans and San Jacinto; the all but forgotten Fast Day of New England, still surviving in New Hampshire; Patriots' Day in Maine and Old Defender's Day in Baltimore, Pioneer Day in Idaho and the various Admission Days popular with other Western states, Confederate Memorial Day in the South, together with the birthdays of Lee and other heroes of the Confederacy.

Two states have Independence Days of their own. Texas observes her separation from Mexico on March 2. North Carolina commemorates the Halifax independence resolutions on April 12 and the Mecklenburg declaration on May 20.

It remains for Frederick county, Md., to celebrate all alone the repudiation of the stamp act, one of the most local celebrations of an important national event on record.

Among the favorite months for holidays the world over November leads, with 26 out of its possible 30 days. May comes next, with 25 and an additional Sunday not otherwise celebrated, thus actually tying November in the number of days closed to business. March, on the other hand, is the [illegible] all around business month [illegible] only 19 holidays. Thus a [illegible] of every month in[illegible] the first day of inter[illegible]

[illegible] observed festivals is [illegible] New Year's Day [illegible] upon by the banks [illegible] the international ca[illegible]

New Year's Day is the only [illegible] universally observed. But, alas, it falls on 11 different dates in different parts of the globe, and some countries observe more than one of them. An exhaustive study of these New Year celebrations would give one a pretty fair knowledge of the ancient history of the world. Curiously enough, one of our own states, Massachusetts, does not make this a legal holiday, though her citizens generally observe it.

Where Chistmas Is Not Observed.

Christmas Day, due to its religious significance, is not so generally observed as New Year's Day. It has, moreover, only three different dates. It was not generally observed on December 25 until the fourth century. The early church, lacking any authentic knowledge as to the date of Christ's birth, celebrated it without uniformity in May, April and January. The Armenian Church still observes January 6. Why the December date was finally selected is uncertain. Some see in it a displacement of the Roman Saturnalia; others declare it a survival of the Feast of the Winter Solstice, and still others point to its coincidence with the old German Yuletide Feast. Countries where the old style calendar prevails still celebrate January 7.

In the Puritan days Scotch Presbyterians and English Non-Conformists rejected Christmas Day altogether as "savoring of papistry," and in New England Thanksgiving Day was devised to replace it. [illegible] ous thing that there [illegible] Christian countries [illegible] served legally. [illegible] Panama, Peru, Portugal [illegible] South African Union.

The last named, however, still observes the old English institution of Boxing Day on December 26. This was the day when the English gentry, having had their own Christmas celebration the day before, turned their attention to the poor by presenting them with Christmas boxes. The day later became the day for general giving of Christmas gifts.

Portugal Drops Traditions.

The only country on earth a study of whose holidays reveals little of its political, racial or religious origin is Portugal. The first attempt to establish a republic in Portugal was made on January 31, 1891. This is reflected in its calendar of holidays, which runs: "January 1, dedicated to universal brotherhood; January 31, dedicated to the memory of all those who fought and died to establish the republic in Portugal; May [illegible] in memory of the discovery of Brazil by the Portuguese; June 13, municipal holiday [illegible]; June 29, municipal [illegible] Oporto; October 5, the [illegible] the Portuguese [illegible] December 1, Flag [illegible] the independ[illegible] December 25.

These [illegible] on holidays touch [illegible] dates [illegible] filled with [illegible] and curious information relating to the manner of celebrating them.

SUMMERVILLE ITEMS

Stockholders Meet to Adopt By-Laws to Comply With Demands of Forestry Service.

SUMMERVILLE, Or., Feb. 1.—(Special)—Stock raisers of the north end of the county met in large attendance here on Thursday to adopt new by-laws to meet with the demands of the forestry service. The forest ranger was present to extend any necessary information.

J. N. Chandler, C. A. Galloway and William Hill, of Elgin were here to attend the stock meeting.

Earl Parks was a business visitor in Imbler on Wednesday.

Daughter-in-Law Dead.

Mr. and Mrs. Enos Fisher received a telegram bearing the sad news of the death of their daughter-in-law, Mrs. Walter Fisher, in Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Niederer were business visitors in La Grande this week.

After spending a few days with friends in La Grande and Baker Miss Lydia M. Hug expects to go to Grants Pass to visit with her brother, A. F. Hug, for a few months.

Cold Weather Appreciated.

The snow and cold weather were greatly appreciated at the McKenzie sawmill. Logging is on in full blast and Mr. McKenzie expects to deck two million feet of logs before Spring.

The high winds have kept the lineman busy this week putting telephone lines in order.

Some fear that school will be closed on account of the measles which are spreading rapidly.

Judging by the good attendance in school in this stormy weather, Miss Marcia Becker is teaching a very successful term of school in the Dry Creek school district.

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Better than money because they earn money; buy a WAR SAVINGS STAMP TO-DAY.