

# WORLD HAPPENINGS OF CURRENT WEEK

Brief Resume Most Important Daily News Items.

COMPILED FOR YOU

Events of Noted People, Governments and Pacific Northwest, and Other Things Worth Knowing.

Legality of the action of the Colorado legislature in ratifying the prohibition amendment to the federal constitution without submitting the question to a referendum vote was upheld by the state supreme court Monday.

Leutenants Usher and Wolf, aviators, flying from El Paso to Nogales, Ariz., made a forced landing Monday near Naco, Sonora, 79 miles south of Douglas. They are reported to be held by the municipal authorities of Naco.

Formation of a tribunal by the soviet of Irkutsk to try Admiral Kolchak, ex-head of the all-Russian government in Siberia, was reported in a dispatch to the London Daily Mail from the town of Manchuria, near the border between Siberia and northern China.

Dispatches to Buenos Aires from the state of Minas Geraes, Brazil, report that an earthquake Sunday shook down a number of houses in the country districts, creating great panic among the inhabitants. The dispatches say that in intensity the earth shock is without precedent in that region.

Barbers in Modesto, Cal., increased the price of haircuts to 65 cents and shaves to 35 cents. One reason given is that prohibition has sent the price of hair tonics so high that customers prefer to grow bald rather than pay for treatments, and the rises on haircuts and shaves are expected to take care of the loss.

New low records for British, French, Belgian, Italian and Danish exchange were established in the New York market Monday on a resumption of recent pressure to sell. The pound sterling at \$3.43 1/2 was 4 1/2 cents under its previous minimum for a discount of about 29 per cent from the normal of \$4.86 1/2.

The purchase of 17,000 caskets at a cost of \$1,104,508 to be used for the return of army dead from Europe has been completed by the war department, in accordance with its announced policy to return as soon as practicable the bodies of American soldiers buried in France to the next of kin for interment in this country.

Secretary Glass has asked congress for two million dollars for use in stopping the smuggling of liquors into the United States. Mounted inspectors will be placed on duty along the Mexican and Canadian borders in sufficient numbers "to patrol hundreds of highways, paths and streams that afford easy means of egress for smugglers."

Three months' bickering and an almost unbreakable deadlock on the oil land leasing bill were ended late Monday through agreement by house and senate conferees. Senator Smoot, Utah chairman of the senate managers, announced the conference report would be submitted to the house and an effort made to obtain immediate consideration.

Elimination of useless employees in non-productive business, the speeding up of all lines of industry commensurate with the present activity of the farmers and determination of retailers and jobbers to exact only a reasonable profit were recommended as a solution for the high cost of living problem by Edwin T. Meredith on taking the oath of office as secretary of agriculture.

More than \$4,000,000 worth of furs were sold Monday in St. Louis at the opening of the winter auction of the international fur exchange. Price advances were recorded in virtually every lot sold. Nine thousand government sealskins brought \$1,282,000 and 4000 for the Canadian government netted \$572,000. The top price on seal was \$177 a pelt, a 55 per cent increase over last September.

Rural mail carriers are now resigning at the rate of 50 a day, W. D. Brown, representing the National Rural Mail Carriers' association, told the senate postal committee, adding that the service faced serious difficulties unless financial relief was accorded the employees soon. He asked a permanent increase of approximately 60 per cent over the present base pay of \$1200 per annum, with a minimum base of \$1920. The increased annual expense would be about \$58,000,000, he said.

## TREASURY TO REDUCE BANKS

Reduction in Number of Depositories Plan—To Save Interest.

Washington, D. C.—Drastic reduction in the number of national banks designated as government depositories is being made by the treasury department with the result that less than 400 of 1341 such institutions holding federal funds on June 30, 1919, are expected to escape the pruning knife.

Changes in the government's financial situation, brought about by war's fiscal operations, it was said officially here, have made it necessary to abolish hundreds of the depositories and revise the plan for distribution of government monies among banks employed since prior to 1912.

While the treasury is cutting off the inactive accounts, it also is reducing the balances carried by many other banks—in all, in fact, where government transactions do not require the use of large sums.

"Scientific apportionments," it is said, "will be the basis in the future for disposition of surplus funds." Officials explained the new policy as to depositories would operate so that each bank would be able to realize equal returns on the basis of business done for the government.

Included in the list of national banks already struck off are 566 banks which had accounts of only \$1000 and which were designated as government depositories during the administration of Franklin McVeagh as secretary of the treasury under President Taft.

Practically half of the banks to be deprived of government balances already have been eliminated from the rolls and outstanding balances thus have been reduced from \$52,000,000 to \$27,000,000. Officials were reticent as to the geographical location of the depositories canceled.

## VOICES FROM AIR STARTLE KEYMEN

New York.—The possibility of carrying on wireless telephone conversations at any distance is believed to have been brought within reach by experiments conducted by Robert F. Gowen, engineer in charge of the De Forest Radio company station on Overton road, Ossining, the results of which were made public Sunday. Employing a small aerial, a wave length of only 375 meters and one-third kilowatt of power, Mr. Gowen has talked to Chicago and other western cities in ordinary tones and been heard without difficulty.

His apparatus is a development of that used during the war, but his achievement goes far ahead of anything accomplished then. During the war conversations were engaged in between airplanes and the ground or by ships a few miles distant from one another. In Mr. Gowen's experiments which have been carried on during the last 30 days, he has talked over a distance of 90 miles.

"We have reached the commercial development of the wireless telephone I should say," he stated, "for a distance of at least 300 miles—a service that is identical with the long-distance telephone."

An important phase of the work is that it has progressed during great static and atmospheric disturbance and interference from other stations. "In spite of all this," said Mr. Gowen, "when I picked up the telephone transmitting apparatus at Ossining and spoke into it, just as anyone might speak into the ordinary telephone, I discovered that my voice was being distinctly heard, first of all, in the little town of St. Mary's, O. The radio amateur at St. Mary's, it seems, was at that time picking up the local dots and dashes, and when he heard this voice from out of the air, the sending locator of which was reported to be Ossining, N. Y., he was, to say the least, somewhat startled."

"He immediately answered by sending me a telegraph inquiry which I distinctly heard in my own receiving apparatus. I then repeated my conversation to him and asked him to confirm the conversation immediately by letter. This he did."

### Wet Cargo to Be Seized.

New York.—The \$4,800,000 cargo of whisky aboard the Black Star liner Yarmouth, now in New York harbor, supposedly undergoing repairs, will be seized, according to James Shevlin, prohibition enforcement officer for New York. The vessel, owned and operated exclusively by negroes, put out from New York for Havana the day before the prohibition amendment became effective, but turned back for "repairs."

Honorary certificates will be presented to the next of kin of the American soldiers, sailors and marines who died in the war, by the French government, through the posts of the American Legion on Washington's birthday, it was announced at legion headquarters in Indianapolis.

## RAILROAD BILL TO U. S. \$700,000,000

Government Control Shows Constant Deficit.

## COAL STRIKE BLAMED

Decrease in Deficit Would Have Resulted if Rate Increase Had Come Earlier, Is View.

Washington, D. C.—Operation of the railroads, Pullman lines, express companies and waterways, unified under federal control, has cost the nation approximately \$700,000,000, according to official calculation, since they were taken over two years ago.

Figures made public by the railroad administration Saturday night revealed a net loss of \$594,200,000 from railroad operation alone in the two years. Statistics, gathered from official sources as to operating costs of the Pullman lines and waterways and express companies while operated by the government show the addition of \$100,000,000 to the transportation cost.

Heavy losses of November and December are charged to the coal strike, in a statement by the railroad administration. A deficit of \$111,500,000 was shown for those two months after the two months' proportion of the annual rental was paid. December revenues were said to be about \$12,700,000 above actual operating expenses, while the revenues for November, according to interstate commerce commission figures, exceeded actual operating expenses by approximately \$19,000,000. The monthly share of the annual rental has been computed generally at \$75,000,000.

Much of the loss during 1919 should be charged to the first six months of the year, according to the official explanation.

The statement shows that of a loss of \$349,200,000 for the 12 months, \$228,700,000 came during the first six months when there was "a prolonged slump in freight business following the signing of the armistice." It adds that "if the rate increase which went into effect in June, 1918, had become effective the previous January, the loss for the two years would probably not have exceeded \$104,000,000."

Preliminary reports upon which the compilation of revenue results was based, indicates "a serious dislocation of freight traffic," during November and December. This could not be estimated closely, officials said. Passenger traffic for the last two months of the year showed an increase, however. An increase also was shown for the 11 months ended with November, as compared with the corresponding period of 1918.

### Planet Signal Prize Up.

Paris.—The academy of sciences evidently considers communication between the earth and the planets as among the possibilities, for it has undertaken to act as judge for a prize of 100,000 francs to be given for the best means of making a sign to any heavenly body and the receipt of a reply. It has been the custom of the academy always to refuse to handle prizes for any feat which it considers a mere waste of time. In presenting the prize for competition the academy makes the provision that "the planet Mars is included as being sufficiently near."

### Princesses Find Sledding Hard.

Geneva.—Several Hungarian princesses, refugees in Switzerland, finding themselves poor through the low exchange rate, are seeking positions as governesses and companions. But the people generally hesitate to employ them, fearing they will instill extravagant ideas in the children. A number of princely and aristocratic Hungarian families here are awaiting funds to emigrate to America, where they hope to find wealth and happiness.

### Medal Policies Asked.

Washington, D. C.—By direction of Secretary Daniels, Rear Admiral Knapp, commanding naval forces in European waters, is seeking information as to the policy of European governments in the matter of decorations for naval officers whose ships were destroyed by enemy submarines. Inquiry by Admiral Knapp already has developed in the case of Great Britain that no set principle was adhered to, but each case judged on its merits.

Kalamazoo, Mich.—Mrs. Sarah Tabor was bound over to circuit court Saturday on the charge of murdering her daughter, Maud, and of burying her body in the cellar of the Tabor home at Lawton. No bail was fixed for the prisoner, who is 86 years of age.

## STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Bend.—Enrollment in the Bend schools on the second day of the spring term reached a total of 1219. There were 1042 recorded for the opening day of the fall term.

Salem.—Representatives of the Teel irrigation district in Umatilla county appeared before the state irrigation securities commission here last week, and made application for payment of interest by the state on bonds issued by the project in the sum of \$930,000. The district comprises 16,000 acres.

Eugene.—A sale of 68,000,000 feet of timber in the Santiam national forest east of Albany has been made during the last few days by the forest service to the Merrill Lumber and Shingle company, according to an announcement by F. E. Ames, assistant district forester, in charge of all timber sales in this district.

Eugene.—Active construction work on the Booth-Kelly Lumber company's system of logging railways above Wendling is under way. The line is being extended across the summit of the ridge to the McKenzie side of the mountains, tapping a tract of timber that has never been touched and said to be some of the finest in the county.

Medford.—S. J. Skewis and S. S. Bullis have purchased the old Eugene Lumber company on the Portland & Eugene road near Medford and will start operations at once under the name of the Southern Oregon Lumber company. The company plans to saw 20,000,000 feet of lumber a year, according to statements of the proprietors.

Salem.—Plans have been made by F. A. Elliott, state forester, to send either O. C. Scott, assistant state forester, or H. J. Eberly, also employed in the state forester's office, to the forest patrol school which opens at March field, Riverside, Cal., on February 20. Training men for patrol work in accompanying airplane pilots is the purpose of the course of instruction to be offered.

Marshfield.—The collegiate board of education awarded contracts for the construction of the new high school building separately, the structure going to A. E. Sykes of Portland for \$49,433, and the plumbing and heating to C. L. Willey & Son of Coquille, for \$8942. Both contracts are contingent upon the electors of the city voting an additional \$11,000 bonds at a special election on February 14.

Albany.—The Albany Lumber company has sold its sawmill here to J. P. Van Orsdal and associates, through a transaction just completed. The mill will be enlarged and additional machinery will be installed. The capacity of the plant will be increased materially. Mr. Van Orsdal has been manager of the plant of the Coast Range Lumber company at Mabel.

Toledo.—F. W. Kehrl, bull association specialist of the United States department of agriculture, will arrive in Toledo soon to take up with the county agent the plans for organizing a Jersey bull association in the county. Considerable preliminary work has already been done on the project under the guidance of Claus Christiansen. Tentative arrangements have already been made for the formation of association blocks at Orion, Siletz, Little Beaver, Olalla and Upper Yaquina.

Klamath Falls.—Rabies, stamped out after a severe outbreak three years ago, is again appearing among coyotes in Klamath county. Analysis by the state board of health has shown the rabies germ existent in the heads of two animals killed within the last two months and J. Frank Adams, a prominent stockraiser of the Merrill district, reports the death of four head of cattle since November, all showing distinct symptoms of the disease.

Moro.—Some 20 Grass Valley farmers have formed a club, with L. A. Olds as president, for the purpose of keeping comprehensive farm records from which they will be able to get at the cost of producing wheat in their section, as well as make a more careful study of other farm operations. As a group each gets the benefit of the experience of all the others, besides the help of the county agent can be secured any time they meet. The account books are furnished by the Citizens' bank. Moro farmers are planning to form a similar club next week.

Klamath Falls.—Arrangements are being made by the livestock committee of the Klamath county farm bureau for importation of a carload of registered Shorthorn cattle for sale at public auction about March 1. This is the first step in the farm bureau's plan to establish an annual pure bred breeders' sale. While pure-bred breeding is still in its infancy in this county, there is some stock on hand, and the distribution of a carload of registered animals will give the industry a big impetus, in the opinion of L. A. West, committee chairman.

## Dromedaries Succeed Where Other Transports Fail in Manchurian Desert



Photograph shows supplies being carried across the Manchurian desert by means of dromedaries. These "ships of the desert" succeeded where motor and other vehicles failed.

## Men Who Develop Into Murderers Five Feet, Seven Inches, Average Height

Are you a murderer?

If you are about 5 feet, 7 inches in stature, a little over thirty-five years of age and have a subnormal temperature, science may brand you a murderer. At least, such are the ideal specifications for a murderer, based on measurements of more than 1,500 convicted slayers at the Waupun (Wis.) state prison.

Other interesting data of the genus are that frequent headaches, insomnia and periods of intense depression are common. Teeth that have grown bad through neglect are evident in half of the cases.

A third of the murderers never attended school, while only 3 per cent completed high school. More than half were at work before they were twelve years old and 90 per cent before they were fifteen. Almost half of them were unable to retain the same job or position a full year. Half of them, records show, murdered while under the influence of liquor.

## "Hello" Purely American Expression, but Originated With French Wolf Hunters

You should try to learn the old wolf hunter's call, because you know the wolf is a scout, and that should be the scout call, writes Dan Beard in Boy's Life.

This call was used in France first and afterwards in England, but there are no wolves in England now and the bugle call has been forgotten in both countries, therefore we "paint it green and call it our own." Even though William Tell and Robin Hood bugled the same calls before America was discovered, we can make it American the same as we have made the old French wolf hunter's cry American. French was spoken in English court circles, so the titled wolf hunters used the French cry "hab le loup" or "a lou loup, loup," being pronounced loo, the cry being a la loo; the English put on the H and made it halloo, and we made it hell-o, which is an American expression, as all the telephone girls know.

So the old wolf hunter's bugle calls which came here with the Huguenots will also be American when blown through wooden flat-boatmen's trumpets.

## Cooksu, Korean Delicacy and Great National Dish

The great national dish of Korea is cooksu, Sumner R. Vinton writes in Travel. To make it, you plunge a large lump of ice into a bowl partly filled with steaming vermicelli of the endless variety. Over this you pour a portion of hot beef stew. The ice congeals the beef fat into little islands of grease, and you never know whether the portion dangling from the end of your chopsticks will be icy cold or burning hot. The vermicelli, which is very tough, is to be lifted to the mouth with the chopsticks. Keeping a firm hold on it with lips and teeth, you slip the chopsticks down to lift again and take up the slack by sucking.

## Kilt, Highlander's Garb, of Scandinavian Origin

The kilt is part of the characteristic and ancient dress of the natives of the Highlands of Scotland. The word means "that which is girded or tucked up." It is of Scandinavian origin. The Danish word kilts, in use today, means "to tuck up." The kilt of the Highlander is short but has a very full skirt, set in at the waist, and reaching to about the knees. The early kilt was not a separate garment, but merely the lower part of the plaid in which the Highlander wrapped himself, hanging down in folds below the belt.

## About 40,000,000 Tons of Anthracite Coal Are Mined Every Year by Wet Process

The rivers of Pennsylvania yield about 250,000 tons of coal every year. About 40,000,000 tons of anthracite coal are mined every year by the "wet process" in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Carbon, Schuylkill and Northumberland counties. The process requires the use of vast quantities of water, which when it is discharged carries in suspension millions of tons of culm or coal dust fine enough to pass through the smallest screen in a dry process breaker. Much of the culm finds its way into the rivers of the anthracite district, the Lackawanna, the Susquehanna, the Schuylkill and the Lehigh. They carry culm waste for many miles downstream, to drop it at last in shallows and eddies behind dams and on valley bottoms. Much of the coal thus scattered is recovered by dredging with suction dredges or with the more familiar bucket type of dredge. The machinery, which is usually mounted on a stern-wheel, flat-bottom boat, dumps the coal into scows that carry 12 to 14 tons. The recovered river coal brings from 70 to 90 cents at the wharf.

## FACTS AND FANCIES

It takes three men six months to make a cashmere shawl, which requires ten goats' fleeces. The skin of an elephant, when tanned, is very expensive, the tanning taking about six months. Corsica produces the largest quantity of wax in all the countries in Europe, if not in the world. When the average man expresses his gratitude it is merely an offhand way he has of asking for more. It is the easiest thing in the world to stir up trouble. All you have to do is to tell the truth at all times.

## Vast Quantities of Coal Remain in the Mines in an Unminable Condition

Mining is still conducted with serious loss of life and a waste of material amounting to \$1,000,000 a day. A government estimate shows that of 9,000,000,000 tons of coal mined in one year (1914-1915), 3,000,000 was left underground in unminable condition, says Boys' Life. It is believed that more than one-half of this loss is preventable; \$50,000,000 worth of petroleum is wasted annually and \$75,000,000 in coking coal. In 1914, 2,454 persons were killed in coal mines.

To study and remedy such conditions the government established in 1910 a bureau of mines with headquarters at Washington, an experiment station at Pittsburgh, and an office for the study of smelter problems at San Francisco. This bureau investigates mine explosions and safety conditions, studies mining methods with a view to preventing waste and inefficiency, and instructs miners in first-aid and rescue work.

## England Eats Larger Part of Europe's Cheese Output

Statisticians have figured out that England eats the larger part of Europe's output of cheese. Europe's output amounts to 340,000,000 kilograms. England alone consumes 180,000,000 kilograms of this amount. Next comes Holland, which takes 56,000,000; Switzerland takes 43,000,000; France, 31,000,000, and Germany 20,000,000 kilograms. The only people on earth who eat no cheese are the Chinese.

## Chile's Claim to Distinction.

Chile claims that the island of Chilo, off its west coast, is the original home of the potato and that it has been cultivated there since early in the fifteenth century.