

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.

A number of members of the chamber of deputies intend shortly to endeavor to induce Premier Clemenceau to become a candidate for the presidency of France.

Another American oil well, one of the largest in the Tampico region, has been closed by order of the Mexican government, the state department was advised recently.

Premier Nitti expressed the opinion Saturday that from 12,000,000,000 to 15,000,000,000 lire were to be subscribed to the Italian victory loan, the sale of which begins January 5.

Constitutionality of a state law designed to curtail use of the foreign languages in Nebraska schools as an Americanization measure was upheld by the state circuit court Friday.

William Fogel, an American farmer living south of Juarez, Mexico, has been missing for some time. These advices were received by Edward A. Dow, American consul at Juarez.

William Peyton, a negro, died Friday at Little Hocking, Ohio, at the age of 128 years. As a slave and a freed man he served one family through six generations, it was said.

Los Angeles formerly had a group of a dozen or more institutes for the cure of the liquor habit; now it has one and that one is running at a loss, according to W. M. Brown, the manager.

A Reval dispatch says an agreement has been reached at the Dorpat conference under which Esthonia will obtain 10,000,000 rubles. This is one-hundredth part of the Russian gold reserve.

Uruguay was linked to the United States Friday through the all-American cable by the opening of a new line from Buenos Aires to Montevideo, putting New York and Montevideo in direct telegraphic communication with each other for the first time.

Half the Imperial hotel in Tokio, housing 40 American tourists, burned late Sunday night. There were no casualties among the Americans, many of whom were prominent and several of whom were women or children. A considerable quantity of their baggage was lost.

Frank Kelley, a negro, arrested at Newark, N. J., Saturday on suspicion of having been implicated in the murder last week of Catherine Dunn, a maid employed in the home of Clarence S. Clark of Brooklyn, has confessed the crime, according to an announcement by District Attorney Lewis.

The Turkish grand vizier has requested Tewfik Pasha, head of the commission appointed to prepare defense of Turkey's interests before the peace conference, to hasten the work of the commission because the Turkish delegates may be summoned to Paris next week, according to advices from Constantinople.

Four robbers entered a New York grocery store late Saturday, bound the proprietor hand and foot, and hanged him by the neck from a wall bracket while they looted his safe and cash register of \$418. A little girl sent to the store on an errand saw the body suspended and notified the police. The man was alive when cut down.

An increase of 82.2 per cent in the cost of living for American wage-earners between July, 1914, and November, 1919, was shown in a statement issued by the national industrial conference board Sunday. This represented an advance of 10.4 per cent since November, 1918, 13.6 per cent since March, 1919, when prices dropped temporarily, and 5.8 per cent since last July.

MEDAL AWARDS UP FOR QUIZ

House and Senate Act to Settle Navy Controversy.

Washington, D. C.—Full investigation of the controversy over awards of decorations for war service to naval officers brought to a head by Rear Admiral William R. Sims' recent protest against the tentative list issued by the navy department, will be made both by congress and by the department.

On the heels of Secretary Daniels' announcement that the naval board headed by Rear Admiral Knight had been ordered reconvened to review its findings on recommendations for medals or other decorations, Representative Lufkin, republican, Massachusetts, of the house naval committee conferred with members of the senate committee and stated that a joint committee would take up the entire question when congress reconvened.

Representative Lufkin said Secretary Daniels, Admirals Knight, Sims and other officers would be called before the joint committee. Changes made by Mr. Daniels in the board list of awards as well as the action of the board in each case will be examined, he said.

Secretary Daniels said Saturday that in revising the list of decorations and in passing on new recommendations for awards, the Knight board would be instructed to follow in general the policy he adopted in revising the original lists, giving due consideration to the objections voiced by officers who have criticised some of the awards.

The names of Admiral Henry B. Wilson, who commanded American naval forces in French waters during the war, and of Rear Admiral Henry T. Mayo, who was in command of the Atlantic fleet during the same period, were added to the list of officers who have written the secretary regarding the awards.

PRICE GUARANTEE SENTIMENT ASKED

Washington, D. C.—Business interests, labor unions and the public generally are to be sounded out as to the sentiment in regard to the guarantee-against-price-decline system said to be in use by many manufacturers and wholesalers in the sale of goods. The federal trade commission announced Sunday night that it had sent out several thousand letters inquiring as to the opinion of the plan.

The guarantee-against-price-decline system amounts to a guarantee by manufacturers and wholesalers in selling goods that should a decline in price occur before delivery of the goods the buyers shall benefit by the decline, but if the market should rise before delivery the manufacturer and wholesaler would assume the loss.

Complaints lodged with the commission assert that working out of the plan tends to prevent a decrease in the cost of living.

Kolchak's Rule Ends.

Vladivostok.—Admiral Kolchak, commanding the all-Russian governmental forces opposing the bolsheviks in Siberia, has retired from active command because of ill health and has appointed General Semenov to succeed as commander-in-chief, according to a message received Saturday by General Semenov's representative.

The message quoting Admiral Kolchak's order, said:

"In order to unite all armed forces fighting to make secure our political organization, I name General Semenov commander-in-chief with headquarters in the Irkutsk and trans-Baikal Russian military districts. All military commanders will be subordinated to him."

Family of 34 Intact.

St. Louis, Mo.—An unusual family is that of Mr. and Mrs. John Wels of Overland Park, St. Louis county, who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary December 12, and among whose descendants, to the fourth generation, there has never been a death. Five sons, two daughters, 21 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren have been born, and every one of them is living.

General David L. Stanton, aged 80, a famous commander of union forces in the civil war, died in Baltimore Friday.

76 LIVES CLAIMED BY HOLIDAY DRINK

Source of Poison Liquor Found
In New York.

"KING PIN" ARRESTED

Undertaker Taken in Net; Reports of
Death Grow—Wood Alcohol
Used in Mixture.

New York. — Seventy-six persons died on Christmas day and scores of others are suffering from paralysis and blindness, due to drinking wood-alcohol "whisky," according to reports received from eight eastern cities and Chicago.

The toll of poisonous liquor was the highest in New England, where 68 deaths have been recorded.

Two women at Chicopee Falls, Mass., and one at Springfield, Mass., are included in this list.

In connection with the New England deaths and the six reported in New York city, police, internal revenue officers and agents of the department of justice are seeking Adolph Paraneli, importer and commission merchant of this city, who, they assert, sold 12 barrels of the poisonous liquor. The police charges that the "whisky" was concocted in Paraneli's store.

In Chicopee, Mass., 33 men and two women died; in Springfield, three men and one woman; Holyoke, six men, and in Greenfield, Mass., one man. In Hartford, Conn., 13 persons died. In Thompsonville, Conn., two deaths were reported.

Chicago reported eight deaths. Two deaths were announced at Newark, N. J.

New York.—Federal agents late Sunday night arrested five men who they claimed were the heads of an organized band which has been responsible for the recent widespread sale of wood alcohol concoctions through five states. One of the men arrested was described by the government agents as "the kingpin of the ring." Two of the men in custody were described as New York business men.

For ten days, since the first fatalities were reported from wood alcohol poisoning, Colonel D. L. Porter, supervising revenue agent for New York, and H. B. Dobbs, special federal agent, have been working on the theory that the poison which has caused scores of deaths throughout New England and New York, originated in this city.

The arrests were made in widely separated parts of the city.

Three of the prisoners arrested are Adolph Panarelli, a wine and liquor dealer; John Ramanelli, an undertaker, and Samuel K. Saleeby, a druggist.

Panarelli said: "I am glad you got me. I will tell all I know."

Panarelli, according to Dobbs, said he had a friend named Salsberg in Hartford, Conn., who asked him to get some liquor for Christmas. He then got in touch with Saleeby, the druggist.

When the druggist was taken into custody, according to Dobbs, he accused Romanelli of being the "king pin" of the wood alcohol traffic. Dobbs claims he traced Romanelli to a store in Brooklyn where 50 men were found playing cards.

According to Dobbs, Panarelli, after his arrest said:

"For God's sake don't send me to Connecticut. I don't want to be lynched. I am an innocent man. My name has been published in all the papers and it would mean certain death."

Wilson Observes Sixty-third Birthday.

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson observed his 63rd birthday quietly Sunday much improved in health, surrounded by the members of his family with the exception of Mrs. W. G. McAdoo, who was unable to be present. Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Sayre arrived from Cambridge, Mass., and Miss Margaret Wilson has been at the White House since her father's illness.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Pendleton.—A store for the sale of surplus army supplies is to open here about the first of the year. The order has been sent in for the first carload of supplies. A. R. Roberts of Portland will be manager of sales. The first carload to be received in this county was unloaded in Stanfield last week.

Salem.—E. H. Hartwig of Hood River has filed application with the state engineer covering the appropriation of water from McGuire spring for domestic purposes. George H. Smith of Illahee has asked for appropriation of water from the north fork of Foster creek for the irrigation of a small tract of land in Curry county.

Salem.—The Vulcan Oil & Gas company, with a capitalization of \$3,000,000, has been granted permission to operate in Oregon by J. H. Schulderman, state corporation commissioner. The corporation was organized under the laws of Washington and E. H. Janney, 1123 West Main street, Medford, is named as Oregon representative for the concern.

Eugene.—While reports come in from all parts of the valley that Chinese pheasants have died in considerable numbers, not one of the 1000 at the new state game farm near Eugene perished during the cold weather, according to L. E. Bean, who was largely instrumental in having the farm established here. This fact has proved the sound judgment of the state game commission in establishing farms for the propagation of these game birds, in the opinion of Mr. Bean.

Salem.—The Oregon Duroc Jersey Swine Breeders' association has completed arrangements for a swine show to be held at the state fair grounds here on Wednesday, February 4. Hogs will be exhibited by a number of the leading breeders of Durocs in Oregon as well as from Washington and California. An auction sale will follow the show. A get-together meeting will be held in the commercial club rooms as an entertainment feature for the visitors. The members of the association include many of the leading breeders of the state.

Eugene.—The recent freezing weather killed the mammoth blackberry vines as far down as the snow level, according to C. E. Stewart, county fruit inspector, but as far as he is able to observe the loganberry and raspberry vines were unharmed. The mammoth blackberry vines are quite tender, Mr. Stewart said, and they were the first of the small fruits to be affected by the extreme cold weather. Reports have come in that apples in storage in different parts of the country were badly frozen and in some instances are expected to be a total loss.

Salem.—During the period between February 26 and November 30, 1919, enough gasoline was sold in Oregon to operate each motor vehicle now licensed in the state for a distance of approximately 5400 miles, based on an average of 15 miles to each gallon of gasoline consumed, according to a statement issued by Sam A. Kozar, assistant secretary of state. Nearly 30,000,000 gallons of gasoline was sold to Oregon motor vehicle owners during the period covered in Mr. Kozar's statement. To transport this amount of fuel oil would require about 3000 10,000-gallon tankers, which would make an oil train 25 miles in length and would cover the distance from Salem to Aurora or from Portland to a point one mile beyond Forest Grove.

Salem.—That the late freeze resulted in considerable more damage to the fruit industry of the Willamette valley than at first estimated, was the information brought here by growers during the past few days. The Evergreen blackberry, which early in the storm was thought immune to injury, has suffered the fate of the loganberry, and where vines were unprotected they were badly frozen. It was believed by growers that this crop for 1920 will be materially shortened. Loganberry vines also suffered considerably from the below-zero weather and in most instances vines have been killed to the snow line in the trellised yards. Peaches probably suffered the most certain fate of any fruit grown in this vicinity, according to growers. The buds have not only been killed, but the small limbs have also been frozen. It was said that it will be at least two or three years before these trees will grow a new top and resume bearing.

ROAD BUILDING

ORDER ALL MATERIAL EARLY

United Action Urged to Overcome Inefficiency in Open-Top Cars—Much Work Ahead.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

While the expenditures during 1919 for hard-surface highways, according to estimates of the bureau of public roads of the United States department of agriculture, will set a new record with a total of \$138,000,000, this figure is small in comparison with the computed available total for 1920 or \$633,000,000, the spending of which promises to be dependent chiefly on the quality of materials the present limited railway facilities can transport.

The items entering into next year's estimate are: Brought forward from unfinished work, 1919 contracts, \$165,000,000; funds available from state and county taxes and federal aid, \$275,000,000; one-fifth state and county bond issues not before available, \$39,000,000; one-third unexpended balance of state and county bond issues previously available, \$45,000,000; available from new bond issues to be voted on in the fall of 1919 and spring of 1920, \$100,000,000.

Unless the available open-top cars, many of which normally lie idle in the late winter, are utilized in that slack season the work which can be done will necessarily be curtailed for lack of materials. The total for 1920 is more than four times the amount that has been expended during any previous year for like purposes. Therefore there must be a tremendous increase not only in the material supplies and shipping facilities, but also in the labor supply, and an enlargement of contractors' organizations. First of all, according to Thomas H. MacDonald, chief of the bureau of public roads, the attention of all state, county and city road-building interests should be directed toward overcoming this car shortage.

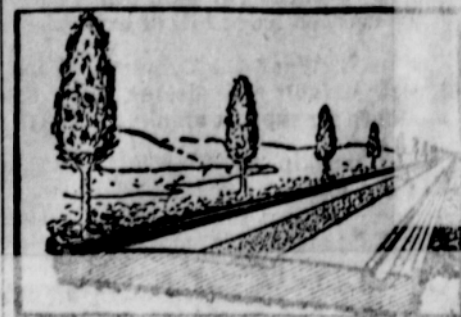
It has been customary to wait until contractors' organizations were ready to begin work before starting the shipment of material. Under these conditions many thousands of open-top cars lie idle during the latter part of February, all of March, and the earlier part of April. During the latter part of the winter the number of open-top cars that were idle totaled more than 2,000. This, of course, was partly unavoidable, owing to the late date at which work got under way, following the signing of the armistice. By awarding contracts as early as possible contractors will be able to ascertain their material requirements at different points, and so will be in position to place orders dependent on rail transportation a considerable time in advance.

While the placing of material in storage, which may result from such a course, involves some expense, it will be small compared to the loss that will result if contractors are not in a position to go ahead with the work because of lack of materials. In view of the experience of 1919 and the greatly increased program for next year, it seems probable, according to the bureau of public roads, that contracts which are not awarded during the winter months will have little opportunity for being supplied with material which require transportation.

CEMENT RAIL FOR HIGHWAYS

Invention of Texas Man Relates More Particularly to Safety Road Making Means.

The Scientific American, in illustrating and describing a cement rail for highways and roads, the invention of J. F. O'Rourke of El Paso, Tex., says: This invention relates generally to roads and highways for vehicular traffic, and more particularly to safety road making means in the form of spaced parallel rails, which may be



A Perspective View of the Roadway.

quickly constructed of plastic material, which may be molded or laid in sections. The roadway consists of spaced parallel side tracks and a central track of which the central track has a plane surface and the side tracks longitudinal wheel-receiving depressions.