

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.

The San Francisco board of supervisors has adopted a resolution inviting the Mystic Shrine to hold its next annual convocation here.

The census for Bend, Or., was announced Tuesday as 5414, an increase in population of 4879 persons, or 910.3 per cent over that of 1910.

Two new cases of bubonic plague were reported at Vera Cruz Monday and two deaths among those previously stricken. Friday there were no new cases.

The Petit Parisien says it learns that the Russian soviet government at Moscow has decided to send a mission to England to study the situation of the proletariat.

Ukrainian troops, acting in conjunction with Polish forces, have occupied Odessa, according to a Havas dispatch from Constantinople, quoting reports current there Saturday.

Dublin railway men refuse to abandon their strike, although ordered to do so by the National Railway union. The strike was an outcome of the men's refusal to handle munition trains.

Carl Trimborn, leader of the center party in Germany, has accepted the task of forming a new ministry to succeed that of Premier Braun, which resigned June 8, it was announced Tuesday.

A posse of more than 500 men and boys spent Sunday combing a large timber tract near Red Oak, Ia., for a nude "wild man," who has been terrorizing farmers' wives for the last two weeks. They did not find him.

An unsuccessful attempt was made Sunday night to assassinate Premier Hara of Japan, according to cable advice received by Nippu Jiji, a Japanese language newspaper in Honolulu.

Lynn Melindy, San Francisco aviator, and Clarence and Wallace Johnson of Inglenook, Cal., were killed at Fort Bragg, Cal., Tuesday when the airplane in which they were riding collided with another machine at an altitude of 1000 feet and crashed to the ground in flames.

Four youthful explorers, aged 3, 6, 9 and 12 years, who set sail from Lakeside, Mich., Saturday in a frail rowboat to search for treasure islands in Lake Erie, were picked up Monday 30 miles off shore after having been adrift for 25 hours. The children, three boys and a girl, all of Toledo, were rescued by a passenger steamer.

Alarming confidential reports of an intended uprising in India in the autumn are reaching the British government, according to the London Star, which says that bolshevik literature is known to be behind the movement. The India office when questioned with regard to the Star reports declared that it had received no such information.

Following the announcement by the state laboratory experts that the death of George Gardina at Pensacola, Fla., Friday was undoubtedly due to bubonic plague, steps were inaugurated by the city authorities for an immediate cleanup campaign in an effort to prevent a spread of the disease. The Gardina case is the only one reported.

When a man in a crowd viewing a small gas well near Little Rock, Ark., Monday attempted to light a cigar, the match flame set the well afire and caused the injury of eight persons, several of whom are reported in a critical condition. The gas ignited with a roar and the flames shot out over the crowd. Six of the injured are women whose clothing took fire.

Approximately five billion dollars was appropriated by the 66th congress, said a statement prepared Tuesday by Chairman Good of the house appropriations committee for the final issue of the congressional record. The exact total as given by Mr. Good was \$4,859,890,327. Of this, \$4,373,395,279 is for government expenses in the fiscal year beginning July 1, and \$486,495,048 is to meet deficiencies for the fiscal year ending with this month.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Salem.—Charles H. Record of Union has filed application with the state engineer for the appropriation of water from Goose creek for placer mining purposes.

North Bend.—The Coos Bay Fish & Canning company of this city is engaged in making extensive improvements on its plant preparatory to the opening of the fishing season.

Among the candidates for admission to West Point military academy on July 1 are Private Alonso P. Renton and Private Malcolm B. Caldwell, both of Oregon Agricultural college, Corvallis.

Baker.—Not in several years has the prospect been so favorable for crops in the dry-land districts of Baker county as it is this year. Unless the unforeseen happens the county will turn in a big grain production.

Hood River.—The first motor truck of strawberries to go over the Columbia river highway to Portland this season was one Saturday which delivered to the Starr Canning company a load carrying 3000 pounds of fruit, for which more than \$450 was paid.

Albany.—A carload of 27 heavy draft horses was shipped out of Albany by express Friday, billed to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The expressage amounted to almost \$500, but the shippers estimated that, considering the feed bill and time lost, it would cost almost as much to send the horses by freight.

Astoria.—The great demand for standing fir timber in Clatsop county again was illustrated by a deed filed in the county clerk's office Thursday afternoon. By it William Frazer sells to the Yerrick Logging company a claim of 160 acres of timber in the southeast township of the county for \$40,000.

Roseburg.—The prune market remains quiet here and no attempts have so far been made by buyers to negotiate contracts for this year's crop. Usually by this time the greater portion of the product is contracted by the packers. Some of the companies are still holding a part of last year's crop in warehouses.

Albany.—From the time they enter the city limits until they leave, tourists may pass through Albany without leaving the pavement at any point. The work of paving streets which connect with the Pacific highway at each end of the city has been completed and all other important roads connect with paved streets also.

Baker.—Local wool sellers are wearing a most distressed countenance. Much wool was purchased some time ago for as high as 54 cents a pound, and at present the market is about 15 cents lower. As a result the majority of the dealers are anything but happy and all are hoping for a sudden rise in the wool market.

Medford.—The force of workmen detailed by Superintendent Sparrow of Crater National park to open up the road to Crater Lake has the road open now within four miles of the lake and by Sunday probably will have it open all the way to the lake rim, giving Shriners returning from the Portland convention an opportunity to visit the lake.

Salem.—The secretary of state has received two checks aggregating \$10,193.82, covering the sales of gasoline and distillate in Oregon for the month of May by the Associated Oil Company of California and the Shell Oil company of California. The Associated Oil company tax for the month was \$7,056.65 and the Shell Oil company \$3,137.17.

Salem.—F. A. Elliott, state forester, returned this week from Bend, where he obtained an emergency landing field to be used by aviators engaged in patrolling the forest of central Oregon during the approaching fire season. The field contains several hundred acres and is located near Crane prairie. Another emergency field will be located a short distance south of Mount Jefferson, according to Mr. Elliott.

Bend.—Under the direction of a citizens' committee headed by Mayor Eastes, W. R. Speck, Standard Oil manager, Friday suspended deliveries of gasoline to all garages and service stations. With only 3000 gallons of motor fuel on hand, and no shipments promised, sale of gasoline will be confined to the pine milling companies, mail stages, physicians and proprietors of milk routes.

Albany.—A supply of gasoline to relieve the serious shortage which has existed here the last few weeks is now assured for Albany. A car of 12,500 gallons which the Albany Automobile Dealers' association ordered from Bakersfield, Cal., arrived Friday and three more cars are on the way to arrive at intervals of four days. The dealers say they will have enough now to supply not only the local trade but tourists also.

MONDELL EXPECTS REDUCTION IN TAXES

Way Declared Open for Lifting
of Burdens.

FISCAL YEAR WAITED

Disapproval of Administration Program Indicated—Proposed Law Changes Not Revealed.

Washington, D. C.—Hope for a reduction in taxes is held out by Representative Mondell of Wyoming, republican leader of the house, in a statement prepared for the final issue Monday of the Congressional Record and made public Saturday.

"We shall enter the new session of congress in December and the new congress in March," said Mr. Mondell's statement, "with the way opened for a substantial reduction of the tax burdens."

The republican leader said reductions would not be possible until after the close of the fiscal year which begins next month.

The proposed changes in the tax laws also were not revealed by Mr. Mondell, although he indicated his disapproval of the administration program for the discard of the excess profit levies.

He contended that such action at this time would mean a "shifting of burdens from large incomes and profits to the small and normal incomes and profits."

No hope for a return to pre-war expenditures and appropriations was expressed by the republican leader, although he predicted that for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1921, a reduction "by upwards of \$1,000,000,000" would be effected, making the annual government expenses approximately \$3,250,000,000. Fewer government employes and smaller appropriations for the army and navy were cited by Mr. Mondell as possibilities for reductions after July 1, 1921.

Five Killed in Irish Riot.
Londonderry.—Five persons were killed, ten others seriously wounded, several of them probably fatally, and about 100 others were less seriously injured during desperate rioting here Saturday night.

The fighting was accompanied by several attempts at incendiarism, one of which resulted in the burning of a large store.

The rioting was a continuation of Friday night's disorders, when nationalists and unionists engaged in clashes for several hours, and the military had to be called out.

An unrecorded number of persons suffering from minor wounds went home without receiving treatment. Among the wounded are several shipyard workers with bad gunshot wounds.

The military, fully equipped, had taken position at the head and foot of Bridge street, which is the nationalist quarter, and on Fountain street, the unionist quarter. An armored car was drawn up at Carlisle road, between these localities. Nevertheless another night of terror followed.

From shortly after 9 until 11 o'clock pandemonium reigned, a shot fired from one party into a crowd of rival partisans developed with ominous speed into violent rioting.

Germany Plans Big Loan.

Berlin.—Approval of a credit amounting to 3,000,000,000 marks will be asked of the new reichstag next week, according to an official news bulletin issued Monday. This money to be used to meet urgent emergency expenditures.

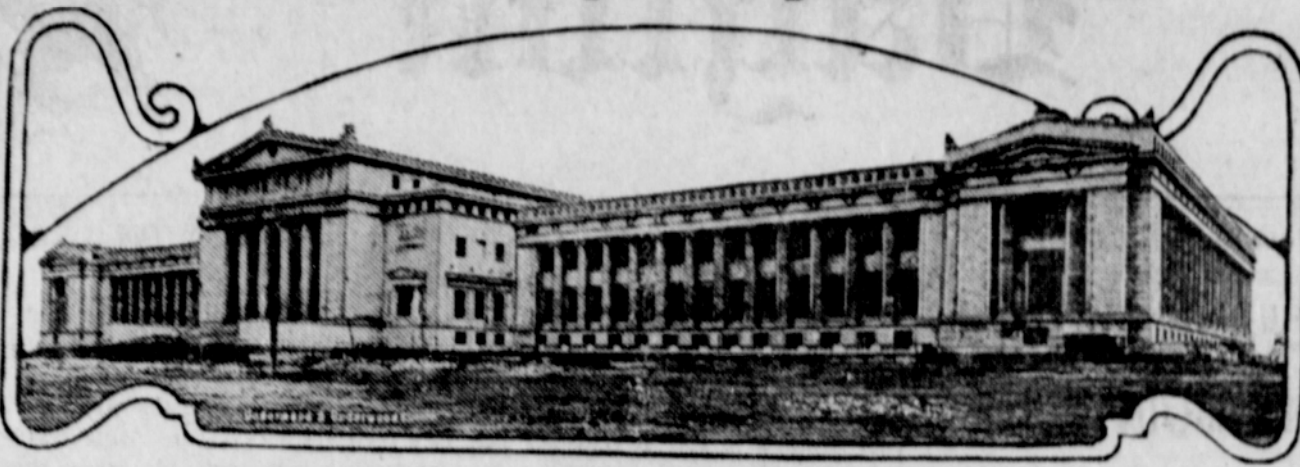
The ministry of finance will also be called upon to mobilize a credit of 5,000,000,000 marks to meet current obligations growing out of the Versailles peace treaty.

Paris.—The Grand National Steeplechase of France, run Sunday on the Auteuil track was won by Coq Gaulois, with Heros XII finishing second, Troytown third and Poethlyn fourth. The stakes are valued at 150,000 francs.

Never since racing came into existence in France has a larger crowd gathered at a race track. The magnificent weather attracted 70,000 persons.

Seattle.—Mayor Caldwell Saturday signed an ordinance recently passed by the city council providing for 10-cent cash and 6 1/2-cent "token" car fares on Seattle's municipal street railway system. The increased fares become effective July 19. Present fares are 5 cents. Under the new ordinance, tokens will be sold in 25-cent lots.

Field Museum, Chicago, Moving Into New Home



This is the new building of the Field Museum of Chicago, to which all the vast collections of the museum are being moved from their temporary home in Jackson park.

Hundreds of Millions Saved

War Unscrambling Almost Finished, Technical Committee Will Be Dissolved.

FROM POWER TO CASTOR OIL

Incidentally the Committee Adjusted the Great Kansas Rabbit Meat Claim Along With Some 200,000 Others.

Washington.—After assisting in saving the country several millions of dollars through adjusting more than 24,000 war contracts which were abruptly terminated by the armistice, the technical advisory committee of the war claims board of the war department is about to be dissolved, according to Campbell Scott, who organized the committee under the direction of Benedict Crowell, assistant secretary of war and director of munitions. The committee, which was composed of experts in practically every branch of engineering and manufacturing, was organized to meet the critical situation which developed as soon as the war claims board attempted to settle the 30,000 contracts in existence at the close of the war.

The greater number of these contracts involved questions of a highly technical nature, and it was to settle these that the technical committee was organized. Many of the contracts involved had been let on a basis of the war lasting four or five years more; the great majority had been placed during the last six months of the conflict. An idea of their scope is obtained when it is understood that there were more than 20,000 contractors who, in turn, had let sub-contracts to more than 200,000 others. In fact, to have finished the war contracts for munitions and supplies of every conceivable nature which were in existence on Armistice day would have meant the tying up of practically 60 per cent of the manufacturing resources of this country.

An outstanding feature of the great work of the investigations which were completed by the technical committee is the fact, contrary to general belief, more than 99 per cent of the contractors were found to be scrupulously honest in their dealings with Uncle Sam.

"We found that the great majority of the contractors," said Chairman Scott yesterday, "had undertaken their work with the prime idea of assisting their country in a time of peril. While they did not forget that business is business, many of them might have made much more money than they did."

"Of course, it is true that the small minority took the viewpoint that the government had made the war and therefore should be made to pay for it, but when it came to adjusting their claims even these were found to be fair and reasonable, indicative of the good spirit which prevailed. Only 20 out of 24,000 contractors have appealed to the court of claims from the awards made to them. This shows the painstaking work done by the technical committee of the war claims board."

Claims Big and Little.

Some of the claims adjusted were distinctly of an extraordinary nature. They ranged from the adjustment of the great power contracts in the Pittsburgh district, which involved 1,900,000,000 horse power, to the re-arrangement of the rabbit meat industry which had sprung up in Kansas. Incidentally, the castor oil contracts—the oil to be used for Liberty motors—have come up before the technical committee. The fact that the entire amount of more than \$3,500,000,000 worth of war contracts was settled at 12 per cent of their total face value shows that real Americanism pervades the industries of this country.

"It is the biggest job of arbitration the world has ever known," is the way in which a prominent member of the administration characterized the work of "unscrambling the war."

One of the most highly technical contracts, and one which required deep investigation, was that affecting the power supply of the Pittsburgh district. This district, the chief products of which were munitions and steel of every kind, was practically tied up in government work during the last year of the war. Additions were built to plants, thousands of new employees were added, and as soon as

the contracts were well under way a serious power shortage developed. Only 40 per cent of the necessary power was available and the munitions companies were forced to arrange their shops so that they could use the power in rotation.

This cut down the possible output practically 60 per cent and the government immediately undertook to provide the additional power needed. Contracts were made with three companies to supply 1,900,000,000 kilowatt hours of electric power, which at the ordinary New York rate would be worth about \$165,000,000. This meant an increase of 1,900,000 horse power, and the government agreed to assist in financing the construction of the new power plants.

When the armistice came these plants were not completed, and there was a clause in the contracts whereby the government agreed to use power for a certain length of time. In addition, the contracts bound the government to pay its proportion of the cost of the plants on a basis of their value three years after the signing of peace. In settling these power contracts all these factors had to be considered. The technical committee solved the problems in a manner which was considered fair to all concerned.

Rabbit Meat Problem.

In contrast to the power contracts was the settlement of the rabbit-meat claims. These arose from an excess of patriotism and were not covered by contracts. When food conservation was being advertised as generally necessary, a public-spirited citizen of Hutchinson, Kan., received information that the war department would be glad to obtain a supply of rabbit meat for the men in training camps. History does not state just where the Hutchinson man obtained this information, but he made all speed for this city and here obtained the financial backing he needed.

Shortly afterward there began a wholesale slaughter of rabbits in the vicinity of Hutchinson, Kan. Three carloads of ammunition arrived there and was distributed to all those who agreed to procure rabbits. A packing plant was erected, and there ensued a perfect deluge of rabbits of all kinds, from the domesticated Belgian hares to the fleet-footed jackrabbits of the western prairies.

As soon as a carload of cold-storage rabbit meat was ready it was shipped to a nearby training camp. To the dismay of the rabbit man, the quartermaster refused to accept it, holding that "it was not an article of issue," as government regulations have it. It then developed that the war department could not use the rabbit meat and the carload was shipped to this city. The markets here refused to absorb it, and in despair it was shipped to England, the impression being that the British were quite hungry enough by that time to relish Kansas rabbit. However, fate intervened, the ship was set on fire by shells from a German U-boat and the rabbit meat was entirely destroyed.

When the war ended there were more than 300,000 rabbit carcasses in storage. These were finally sold as fertilizer to the farmers in the vicinity of Hutchinson. The promoters of the rabbit meat "war baby" appealed to the war claims board and the technical committee passed on their claim. A settlement resulted which the claimant accepted as satisfactory, despite the fact that it represented only a small fraction of the amount claimed.

An interesting claim advised on by the technical committee was that arising from the unprecedented demand for castor oil which the Liberty motors developed. Castor oil was then the only oil these motors could use, and when it was decided to produce Liberty motors by the tens of thousands the government set out procuring an adequate supply of this lubricant. All the castor oil beans in the world would not have made a sufficient quantity of oil, even if the allied airplanes had not needed their supply. The government sent out scouts all over the South to induce the farmers to plant castor oil beans, and more than 8,000 agriculturists put in crops.

Probably the greatest castor oil acreage in the world was planted in the southern states during that period, the seed being supplied by the department of agriculture. Farmers plowed up other crops to put in castor oil beans, and the government scouts did everything possible to insure a tremendous supply of castor oil. In some cases men were even exempted from military service to grow the beans, because the need was so vital.

However, there followed a sad awakening. The bean vines grew luxuriantly but there was less than one bean pod per plant, and there was practically no crop. Investigation showed that while the seed had been successfully imported, the small insect which fertilizes the plant had been forgotten.

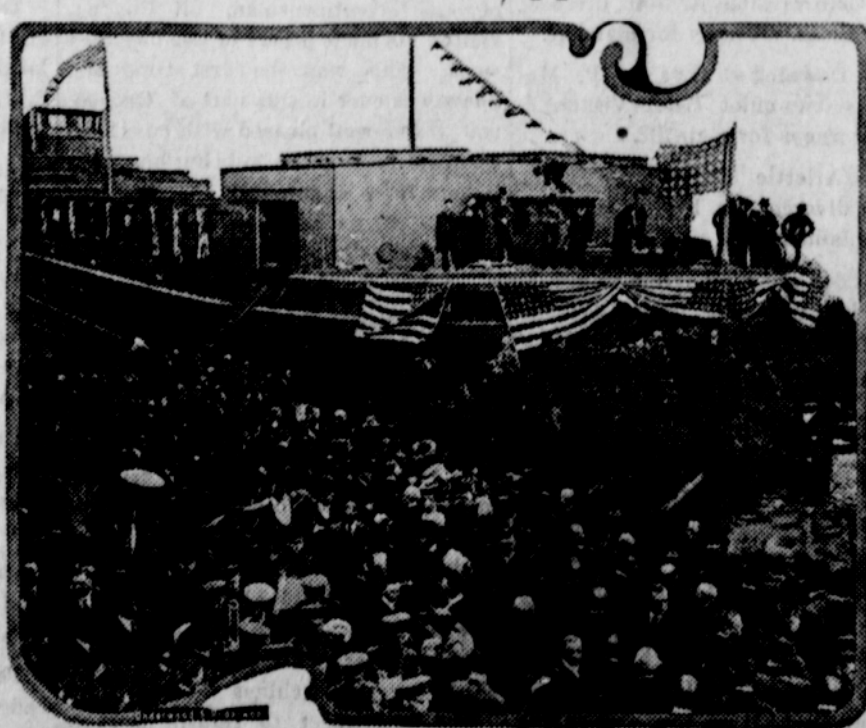
As the result of this futile castor oil culture there was lodged with the war claims board claims aggregating several millions of dollars, and additional claims are still coming in. So far no basis of settlement has been arrived at, but the farmers seem satisfied that they will get a "square deal."

The Men Who Did It.

Other claims of all kinds were adjusted through the advice of the technical committee, and it is stated that not more than 1 per cent of the \$3,500,000,000 worth of claims went through without change, although a satisfactory settlement was reached in all but a score of cases. Among the experts prominently concerned in this work were Campbell Scott of New York, chairman of the committee; W. D. Ennis, who handled the power and mechanical contracts; Ernest P. Goodrich of New York, who placed valuations on plants and structures built for war contracts; Colonel Frank B. Maltby of Philadelphia, who acted as expert on construction and contracts involving civil engineering; Arthur W. Hilson of New York, who advised on chemical and metallurgical contracts; Fred E. Rogers of New York, whose work concerned mechanical and machine equipment, and George B. Frankforter of Minneapolis, who investigated chemical and explosive contracts.

All told there were nearly a score of the leading engineers and industrial experts of the country, who spent practically a year of their time in assisting the war claims board in closing up its contracts.

Revival of Mississippi Traffic



Revival of traffic on the Mississippi river on a large scale is not very far distant, judging by the recent launching, in one day, of two self-propelled steam barges, constructed for the United States government at a cost of \$500,000 each. This is a scene at the shipyard in St. Louis during the christening of the Birmingham.