

NEWS NOTES OF CURRENT WEEK

Resume of World's Important Events Told in Brief.

Jitney busses in San Francisco now give transfers to the municipal street cars.

Germany is reported to be building two railways to the frontier of Alsace-Lorraine.

It is reported that the Russians have pillaged and destroyed 80,000 homes in East Prussia.

The German reichstag has adopted without debate the war estimates, and also passed the foreign estimates.

One of Washington's largest shingle mills, located at Centralia, has reopened since shutting down the first of the year.

Numerous plagues and diseases prevalent in Serbia are reported to be devastating a large percentage of the population.

It is estimated by Alice Clement and Mary Riley, policewomen of Chicago, that one woman in each twenty in that city smoke cigarettes.

Governor Spry, of Utah, vetoes prohibition bill passed by the legislature, declaring that the saloon is simply transferred to the drug store.

City of Portland has just completed a municipal barn of the most modern type. The horses will have sanitary stalls, washroom and hospital.

Protesting against the action of the board of regents of the University of Utah, in dismissing four teachers, 14 other professors have resigned.

Washington government considers that the recent notes from the allies do not give the proper answers, which, our government deems, should be in detail.

Austria is reported to be continuing work on the fortifications all along the Italian frontier, and the garrisons have been reinforced by artillery and infantry.

The French chamber of deputies has unanimously passed a bill authorizing the government to raise the limit for the issue of treasury bonds for defense from \$700,000,000 to \$900,000,000.

Another British steamer, the Glenartney, from Bangkok for London loaded with rice, has been torpedoed by a German submarine off Beachy Head in the English Channel. Only one of the crew was drowned.

Testifying before the "American land" investigation, an owner of 12,000 acres in Texas, admitted that tenants with large families were desirable because the children could be pressed into work, especially during the rush season.

Mine-laying drills by the troops at Fort Stevens, Oregon, were commenced this week under the direction of the officers on board the steamer Major Ringgold. The drills are being held in the night, a short distance below the government wharf. The practice will be continued until the opening of the fishing season on May 1.

Wife of ex-Governor Moody of Oregon, dies suddenly at Salem.

United States government will send a sharp protest to England and her allies for the commercial blockade against Germany.

Sinking of the cruiser Dresden by British is claimed to be unfair by the German officers, inasmuch as the vessel was at anchor in neutral waters. It is also claimed that a shell from the British warship killed a woman and child on shore.

The largest superdreadnaught in the world was launched at Newport News by Uncle Sam. She will carry twelve 14-inch guns and has a displacement of 4000 tons more than England's largest warship. The cost to build her is \$14,000,000.

The German sea raider, Prinz Eitel Frederick, at Newport News for repairs, honored America by having the band play the Star-Spangled Banner as the President's yacht passed on its way to the launching of the superdreadnaught Pennsylvania.

Germany has sufficient food to meet her needs for two years, according to W. D. Boyce, editor of the Chicago Ledger, and Horace Herr, editor of the Indianapolis Times, who have just returned from a trip through Germany. Messrs. Boyce and Herr said that Germany was only "bluffing" about a food shortage.

Living on \$6 a week in New York is a simple problem, Miss Dorothy Miller, a 19-year-old shop-girl, told a legislative committee investigating the minimum wage problem. If one wants more clothes, she explained, it is only necessary to eat less food and if more food is wanted, skimp on the clothes allowance.

Largest Battleship Extant Launched at Newport News

Newport News, Va. — Moored to a pier at the shipyard here Wednesday night lay the giant red hull of the new battleship Pennsylvania—the world's greatest fighting craft—awaiting completion after her successful trip from the stocks to the waters of James river. Mechanics were back at work on the vessel almost as soon as tugs could take her in tow when she was safely afloat, the builders seeing to it that not a minute was lost on the task of preparing her for commission not later than February 28, 1916.

Secretary Daniels, of the navy, and Governor Brumbaugh, of Pennsylvania, headed the distinguished company on the launching stand to see the Pennsylvania take the water. Miss Elizabeth Kolb, of Germantown, Pa., named the ship and broke a bottle of champagne against the receding bow after Episcopal Bishop Berry, of Pennsylvania, had delivered a prayer.

Joining with the noisy welcome given the new dreadnaught by the whistles of the presidential yacht Mayflower and harbor craft and the shouts of 10,000 spectators was the hoarse shriek of the siren of the German commerce raider, Prinz Eitel Friedrich, tied up at a nearby pier. Commander Max Thierichens, the German captain, in full uniform, was one of the guests on the launching stand.

A banquet was given at Old Point Comfort by the shipbuilding company in honor of the sponsor, and Secretary Daniels was the principal speaker.

In size and gun power the Pennsylvania is greater even than the Queen Elizabeth, of the British navy, which led the recent terrific assault of the allies on the forts of the Dardanelles. The main battery of the Pennsylvania will consist of 12 14-inch, 45-caliber rifles, set in four turrets, three guns to a turret, the plan of big gun arrangement adopted in the sister ships which preceded her, the Nevada and Oklahoma. Her tonnage measurement is 31,400 against 27,500 for the Nevada and Oklahoma and the Queen Elizabeth. The Queen Elizabeth, however, carries eight 15-inch rifles, set two to a turret.

Old Glory Again Used by Briton for Protection

Montreal — The Stars and Stripes floated from the mast of the liner Corsican while she was steaming down the Mersey on her way from Liverpool to Halifax on her last voyage, because two German submarines were said to be waiting in the waters close by, according to David McKay, of the Canadian Pacific Railway freight department, Winnipeg, a passenger on the Corsican, who has just arrived here from Halifax.

The American flag was hauled down, he says, as soon as the steamship cleared the Mersey and dropped her pilot.

New Liner Welcomed.

Astoria, Or.—James J. Hill's long-planned and much-talked-of freight and passenger service to San Francisco became a reality Tuesday, when the giant turbine liner Great Northern steamed into Flavel harbor to the mighty cheers of a host of Oregon people.

It was an important event in the annals of Oregon, and Oregon seemingly appreciated the fact, for a large portion of her population was on hand to bid the steamship welcome. Seven thousand lined the shores and docks surrounding the harbor, all of them highly enthusiastic and openly displaying their pride.

The Hill invasion was not accomplished, perhaps, in the manner in which it was originally planned. A steamship service has been inaugurated in place of the earlier discussed rail connection.

"The right of way is cheaper and the operating expenses are not so high," said the elder Mr. Hill on his last visit to Portland, in explanation of the substitution of steamship for rail service.

Past's Dead Not Buried.

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson's Colorado coal commission has postponed its visit to Colorado until autumn. The commission reported to the President that 71 of the operators, producing 61 per cent of the coal mined in Colorado, in a joint letter advised that "no useful purpose can be served by the commission going into Colorado," and the temper in which they write says even more eloquently than their words that with them, "the dead past" has not yet "buried its dead."

Quake's Dead Are 29,978.

Rome—An official parliamentary report on the earthquake of January 13 gives the number of deaths thus far reported as 29,978, without including persons who afterward died of injuries and illness caused by the disaster. The communes damaged by the earthquake numbered 372.

BLOCKADE IS FOR EUROPEAN SEAS

Text of Diplomatic Exchanges Are Made Known.

Radius of Activity Defined Which Includes Mediterranean—England and France Reply.

Washington, D. C.—Six diplomatic notes were made public Thursday by the State department, constituting the entire correspondence of the last few weeks between the United States and Germany and between the United States and Great Britain and France relative to the abandonment of submarine attacks on merchant ships, the shipment of conditional contraband and foodstuffs to civilians in a belligerent country, the use of neutral flags by belligerent merchantmen, the removal of mines, and the proclamation of a virtual blockade by the allies against Germany.

The communications revealed that the United States government, realizing the difficulties of maintaining an effective blockade by a close guard of an enemy coast, on account of the newly developed activity of submarines, asked that a "radius of activity" be defined. Great Britain and France replied with the announcement that the operations of the blockade would not be conducted "outside of European waters, including the Mediterranean."

While Germany agreed, it is disclosed, to abandon her submarine attacks on "mercantile of any flag" except when they resist visit or search, provided foodstuffs were permitted to reach her civilian population, Great Britain and her allies rejected the proposal, originally made by the United States government in an effort to bring the belligerents into an arrangement which would safeguard the interests of neutrals.

Furthermore, the documents show that in a message of inquiry to Great Britain and France the United States asked whether the embargo on all commerce between Germany and neutral countries was to be carried out under the rules of a blockade or by interference with ships and cargoes, "as if no blockade existed." The two together presented in the view of the American government "a proposed course of action previously unknown to international law."

The answer from both Great Britain and France reveal for the first time that the allies officially regarded their policy as a "blockade," but desire to refrain from exercising the rights of belligerents under a blockade to confiscate ships and cargoes as a penalty for breach of blockade, substituting for it procedure in prize courts and compensation through sale of the detained merchandise.

German Consul at Seattle Is Arrested

Seattle, Wash.—Dr. Wilhelm Mueller, German consul at Seattle, and B. Mat Schulz, secretary of the consulate, were technically placed under arrest Thursday, charged with conspiracy with Dan Tarnatzky to violate the state law making it a penal offense to bribe an employee to influence his action in relation to his master's business.

The consular officials are charged in an information sworn to by County Prosecuting Attorney Lundin with offering a bribe to John Murdock, assistant shipping clerk of the Seattle Construction & Dry Dock company, for evidence to substantiate German Ambassador Bernstorff's accusation, filed at the department of State last month, that submarines were being made by the Seattle "company" and shipped to Canada, to be completed there for use against Germany.

Murdock was arrested on a warrant sworn to by an official of the construction company, charging him with grand larceny in abstracting bills of lading from the company's office.

Consul Mueller says that Tarnatzky called at the consulate and told Secretary Schulz that he could obtain "valuable information" concerning shipment of parts of submarines from Seattle to Vancouver. He had a "connection," he said, that enabled him to get this information.

Murdock next appeared at the consulate and was introduced by Tarnatzky as the source of the information, but did not say that he was employed at the shipyard, the consul said.

Escapes Three Submarines.

London—The Anchor line steamer Camerani, which arrived at Liverpool from New York March 15, with a cargo valued at \$5,000,000, successfully ran the German submarine blockade. The vessel reports that she was chased by three German under-water boats on her voyage through the Irish Sea.

62 MILLION WHEAT YIELD PREDICTED IN NORTHWEST

Portland — The Pacific Northwest this year will turn out one of the largest wheat crops it has ever produced, if the weather conditions between now and harvest time are favorable. Should the weather not be as good as the farmers wish, the crops will still be equal to last year's in size, according to well-informed grainmen, as there is enough new acreage planted in wheat to offset any probable deficiency in the old acreage.

In all parts of the Pacific Northwest farmers are putting spare land to wheat, and in some sections summer fallowing will be abandoned to increase this year's grain production.

The increased acreage runs as high as 20 per cent in a few localities, but in the Pacific Northwest as a whole it is probable that 10 per cent will be the maximum gain.

This would produce a wheat crop of about 62,000,000 bushels in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Last year's crop was about 56,000,000 bushels. To have a full yield, however, the weather from now on must be satisfactory in every respect.

Taking the Pacific Northwest as a whole, grainmen say that wheat crop conditions are not quite as good as at this time last year. Some wheatgrowing sections are suffering from a deficiency of moisture. This is particularly true of part of Eastern Oregon, but there is ample time for this defect to be remedied. One year ago growing conditions were pronounced ideal in the Northwest. At that time it was predicted the crop would be close to 70,000,000 bushels, but this result was not realized.

This year growers are equally hopeful and even with adverse conditions the yield of last year will be repeated, while the chances for a still larger crop are good.

Whether or not the crop is a bumper one, it is almost certain to bring the farmers more money than any crop they have raised before. According to wheat authorities all over the world, wheat prices are bound to be high this year whether the war continues or not. Wheat growing in Europe is being carried on this year under the greatest difficulties, and even though the neutral exporting countries have bumper yields, it is not likely they can make up for the deficiencies in belligerent countries, where wheat will be most needed.

German Cruiser Is Sunk In South Seas by British

London — "The Dresden has been sunk."

The announcement of the sinking of the German cruiser Dresden came after nightfall Monday, but the news spread quickly through the theaters and restaurants and there was much rejoicing that this commerce raider, whose whereabouts have been a mystery since her escape after the Falkland Islands engagement in December, had at last been sent to the bottom. The fact that all the crew of the Dresden were saved sets a new record for rescue after an action at sea, and a naval battle of five minutes' duration probably is another record. The details furnished by the admiralty are scant, but apparently the British ships were not even hit, for no damage whatever is recorded.

The sinking of the Dresden leaves at large on the high seas, so far as is known, only two German war vessels—the cruiser Karlsruhe, last reported as operating in the West Indies, and the auxiliary cruiser Kronprinz Wilhelm, which is still raiding commerce in the South Atlantic.

The Dresden was a member of the German squadron which was defeated by the British off the Falkland Islands in December. She was the only one of five German warships to escape. The Dresden was said to have fled to the westward but there had been no definite reports as to her whereabouts since that time. She was reported unofficially to have been seen in the Straits of Magellan and later to be in hiding in one of the bays on the Chilean coast.

Court Used for Services.

Berlin—In the main hall of the Criminal court building in Alt-Moabit the first divine services for refugees from the regions of East Prussia devastated by the Russians was held. Several young persons were confirmed and a number of children were baptized.

Monument for Aviator Beachey.

San Francisco—The board of supervisors favored a plan to create a fund for the erection of a monument in Golden Gate Park to the memory of Lincoln Beachey. He is said to have left an estate of several hundred thousand dollars, much of which is government bonds.

EXPECT KAISER TO REPUDIATE ACT

Immediate Settlement for Sinking Frye Looked For.

National Views in Accord as U. S. and Berlin Agree on Question of Food Shipments.

Washington, D. C.—Germany probably will repudiate the action of the captain of the Prinz Eitel Friedrich in sinking the American ship, William P. Frye, and make reparation for the loss of the vessel and cargo, in the opinion of German officials here.

Inasmuch as the United States and Germany are in accordance on the question of shipping foodstuffs from a neutral country to civilians in belligerent territory, no issue is expected to be raised by Germany over the right of the cargo to be sent to its destination without interruption.

Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, after a visit to the State department, indicated that he believed the case would be settled without much difficulty. He told Counsellor Lansing what the captain of the Prinz Eitel had told Captain Boy-Ed, the naval attaché of the German embassy, as to the sinking of the American ship, but the ambassador reserved his opinion on the action of the commander, saying he had no instructions from his government.

Captain Thierichens, of the Prinz Eitel, informed Captain Boy-Ed that his only guide while at sea and for months out of communication with his government was the declaration of London. This would permit the destruction of a neutral prize if carrying a cargo more than half of which could be proved to be contraband, provided it was impossible to take the vessel to a home port without endangering the captor warship.

Aviator Lincoln Beachey Plunges to Death in Bay

San Francisco—The spectacular career of Lincoln Beachey, one of the most daring of American aviators, was ended Sunday when he fell to his death at the Panama-Pacific exposition in plain sight of thousands of spectators.

Beachey, was attempting his second flight of the day at 3:45 p. m. when the fatal accident occurred. Having previously electrified the crowd with a series of aerial somersaults, the intrepid airman sought to add an additional thrill by making one of the sensational perpendicular drops which featured his flights. The accident was attributed to the fact that Beachey entrusted his life for the first time to a new monoplane and an exceptionally large crowd was attracted to see whether he would attempt the same breath-taking stunts in the new machine that had made him and his trim little biplane famous.

On the first flight of the day everything worked properly and all the familiar evolutions were indulged in with the exception of the perpendicular drop. This Beachey had saved for the final climax and this, too, proved too much for the fabric of the monoplane.

The machine was at an altitude of about 3000 feet when Beachey shut off his power. For several hundred feet the machine dropped head on for the earth and then the aviator grasped his control levers to adjust the planes for the graceful descent which characterized his previous flights.

At this instant the wings crumpled like a collapsed umbrella and the aeroplane, turning over and over in its fall, plunged into San Francisco bay, narrowly missing a vessel lying at the government transport docks.

Relief Sent to Palestine.

Philadelphia—Loaded with food and clothing contributed toward the relief of the needy of the Holy Land and supplies for the United States battleships North Carolina and Tennessee, now in the Mediterranean, the United States collier Vulcan sailed from this port Monday for Jaffa, Palestine. The relief cargo represents an expenditure of \$150,000 by the American Jewish relief committee and its principal constituent is flour. L. H. Levin, of Baltimore, and E. W. L. Epstein, of New York, sailed on the vessel and will direct the distribution of the food at Jaffa.

General Pau Praises Foo.

Berlin—The following was given out by the Overseas News agency: "At a reception in Bucharest to General Pau, the French commander, during his recent visit to Roumania, the general said: 'He who has not seen a German army cannot imagine it. It is a host of heroes, unique in history.'"