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HAPPENINGS OF CURRENT WEEK

Bits of Best News Items From Everywhere.

PUT IN CONCISE FORM

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

Dr. J. Whitcomb Brougher, for 16 years pastor of the Temple Baptist church in Los Angeles, Cal., resigned his pastorate Sunday. He is to accept a call to the first Baptist church of Oakland, Cal.

Felipe Timocuela, lieutenant-governor of the province of Catanduanes, Philippines, was shot and killed Sunday by Bernardo Surtidado, chief of police of the town of Virac. The shooting was the culmination of a political quarrel. Surtidado was arrested.

Major-General William H. Hart, quartermaster-general of the army, died early Saturday at Walter Reid hospital. He was operated on two weeks ago for what it was feared was a cancerous growth. For a time he had appeared to be convalescing. He was in his 62d year.

The annual \$10,000 prize of the American Association for the Advancement of Science to the author of the most notable contribution to science was awarded in Kansas city Saturday to Dr. Dayton C. Miller, professor of physics at the Case School of Applied Science, Cleveland, Ohio.

President Coolidge is preparing to ask congress probably this week, for appropriations to cover American participation in the preparatory commission which will consider disarmament questions at Geneva in February. The amount to be asked has not been disclosed but is not expected to be large.

The conviction of Colonel Charles R. Forbes, ex-head of the United States veterans' bureau, and John W. Thompson, St. Louis contractor, on charges of conspiracy to defraud the government in letting contracts for veterans' hospitals, was upheld Saturday in Chicago by the United States circuit court of appeals.

One out of every five world war veterans entitled to compensation under the bonus act had failed to apply for the relief granted by congress up to December 1, 1925. The total number of application rejected up to that date was 2,769,677, of which 2,669,370 were certified to the veterans' bureau as being valid, the others having been discovered or where at that time in process of correction.

General approval of the house tax-reduction bill, with some modification, was given Saturday by a conference between Secretary Mellon and Chairman Smoot of the senate finance committee, which will start consideration of the measure Monday. Plans were discussed, however, to rearrange the income surtax schedule so that some reduction might be made on the lower brackets while retaining the maximum rate of 25 per cent, as approved by the house.

A statement reviewing the "1925 progress in prohibition activities" was issued Sunday night by Wayne B. Wheeler, general counsel of the Anti-Saloon league. "Prohibition," he said, "made advances in legislation, judicial conditions, administrative efficiency and as a hygienic and economic force in 1925. The 68th congress rejected all wet legislation, voted \$11,000,000 for enforcement, including \$1,300,000 for narcotic enforcement, \$59,000,000 for posters appealing for law observance, \$150,000 for special counsel for the department of justice for prohibition prosecution, and provided for storage of all liquors in government warehouses where such are available."

Physicians and scientists have sought through the generations to invent or develop apparatus capable of controlling organic matter, always without success. It has remained for a Portland man, Joe H. Pos, a civil engineer who has carried on scientific research for years, to produce apparatus, according to several of Portland's reputable physicians, has actual merit. The apparatus, known as the Pos blood pressure regulator, is operated on the electric radio principle, and was built by the inventor in three days primarily to demonstrate two principles: First, that it is possible to control the activities of organic matter and cellular life in the human body; second, that energy can be directed to a predetermined physical body without requiring any physical connection between the apparatus and the body.

FARMERS ALLEGE DISPARITY

Ask Investigation of Wheat Prices in Big Bend Country.

Washington, D. C.—Investigation of reports that wheat growers in the Inland Empire region of Oregon, Washington and Idaho were receiving from 15 to 20 cents per bushel lower than the prices prevailing on the Chicago market, was asked of the department of justice bureau of markets of the department agriculture and federal trade commission Monday by Representative John W. Summers, republican, of Walla Walla.

Summers announced receipt of several letters from farmers in the Big Bend country declaring the price of wheat for export at Portland and Seattle had been on a parity with that at Chicago early in the fall but had begun to decline about six weeks ago and at the time of writing was considerably below the Chicago level.

A similar investigation initiated by Summers in 1923 and undertaken by the department of justice resulted in return of wheat prices in the Inland Empire section to a parity with those at Chicago, discounting freight rates to the export markets, he stated.

The Walla Walla representative did not charge a conspiracy between exporters and millers, but said that he believed "an arrangement" between coast wheat buyers might be responsible for the market decline in the Pacific northwest. The department of justice will probably order its operations at Seattle and Portland to look into the situation.

SIGNS OF BREAKDOWN SEND PERSHING HOME

Washington, D. C.—Alarming symptoms of failing health may compel General John J. Pershing to surrender his work as president of the Tacoma Arica plebiscitary commission, set up in President Coolidge's arbitral award in the disputes over these provinces between Chile and Peru, and return to the United States within the next month.

Abnormal blood pressure, which has developed since the ex-commander of the American expeditionary forces undertook his difficult task at Arica, is known to have prompted his personal physician, Major Glenn L. Jones of the army medical corps, to recommend his return to this country not later than January 15.

Colonel Jay J. Morrow, American member of the boundary commission established by President Coolidge to aid in settling the dispute, also may sail for the United States soon.

Heart Ills Kill 176,671.

Washington, D. C.—Heart disease took a toll of 176,671 lives during 1924, causing nearly twice as many deaths as were attributed to any one of the other leading diseases, including pneumonia, tuberculosis, cancer or nephritis, the department of commerce reported Monday.

A total of 1,753,990 deaths in the country's death registration area, comprising 39 states, the District of Columbia and 18 cities in non-registration states, established a death rate of 11.9 for 1000 population as compared with 12.3 in 1923, 11.8 in 1922 and 11.6 in 1921.

The decrease in the rate from influenza, from 44.7 for 100,000 population in 1923 to 19.6 in 1924, and from pneumonia of all forms, from 109 to 98.4, accounts for nearly three-fourths of the decrease in the rate from all causes. It was pointed out in the report. Some of the other causes for which the rate decreased are measles, diphtheria, diarrhoea and enteritis and tuberculosis in all forms.

Miss Barton's Aide Dies.

Washington, D. C.—Miss Antoinette Margot, co-founder with Clara Barton of the American Red Cross is dead at her home here. Born in Lyons, France, Miss Margot served as a nurse on the battlefields of France in the Franco-Prussian war, where she met Miss Barton. The two became attached to one another and after the war Miss Barton took her friend, then a young girl, to the United States to help her establish the organization.

100 Drinkers Stranded.

El Paso, Texas.—More than 100 El Pasoans who crossed the Rio Grande Thursday night to celebrate Christmas eve in Juarez unaccompanied by the 15th amendment failed to reach the international boundary bridge by the 9 o'clock closing hour and were stranded in the Mexican city.

Officials said the law couldn't be stayed for those wanting "just one more."

\$100,000 Gems Stolen.

New York.—Unset diamonds valued at \$100,000 were stolen Sunday when four men invaded the lower east side jewelry store of Henry Goldberg. The robbers beat the proprietor unconscious, intimidated four successive customers, and escaped in an automobile.

SIX MONTHS' WORK FACING CONGRESS

No Major Problems Settled Since Assembling.

FARM CROPS ISSUE

Conferences Scheduled to Take Up Matter of Disposing of Surplus Products.

Washington, D. C.—With the Christmas recess behind it, congress reassembled Monday to remain continuously in session for probably six months.

All of the major problems which faced it when it first met a month ago still are to be solved and new ones are yet to be met.

While the world court is the unfinished business before the senate and appropriation bills are the order of business in the house, the most troublesome problem confronting administration leaders is that of working out some means of handling surplus farm crops.

Conferences looking to this end have been called for this month by Secretary Jardine, but meanwhile members of the Iowa congressional delegation will introduce surplus crop bills and seek immediate hearings before the house agriculture committee.

Fiscal legislation will be taken up by committees of both houses, the senate finance committee beginning closed hearings on the tax reduction bill and the house ways and means committee taking up consideration of the foreign debt settlement agreement.

Although the world court has right of way in the senate, it probably will be displaced temporarily by the legal case, in which is involved the right of the governor of North Dakota to fill a senate vacancy by appointment. Leaders hope to dispose of this within two or three days.

After disposing of the treasury and postoffice appropriation bill the house Thursday will take up a resolution proposing the appointment of a joint congressional commission to receive bids for the Muscle Shoals power and nitrate plant. The interior appropriation bill will be the next measure on the house calendar.

An investigation which is expected to have far-reaching consequences will be started during the week by the house interstate commerce commission. It will center around a resolution alleging manipulation of crude rubber by the British colonial government.

At the same time the senate interstate commerce commission will begin hearings on the Gooding bill, which would prohibit railroads from making a greater charge for a short haul than for a long haul. This is one of the several pieces of railroad legislation to be pressed at this session.

Blast Kills 12; 10 Hurt.

Pensacola, Fla.—With the known dead numbering 12, 10 injured in hospitals and five workmen missing, firemen continued to battle flames which resulted Saturday when a fire retort at the Newport Tar & Turpentine company exploded, with the expectation that the bodies of the missing would be recovered.

Fire officials estimated the property damage at \$200,000. The blast, which came a little more than an hour after the plant opened, demolished one unit of the large plant in which 22 men were working.

Girl's Grief Welcomed.

Rock Island, Ill.—Constance Russo, in a hospital here, recovering from serious gunshot wounds inflicted by a jilted lover, must regain her health without the moral support of her parents. Police said she had been living with her assailant, an ex-husband of her sister. The parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Russo of Centerville, Ia., sent this message to the girl: "Mother and father glad. You should have been shot long ago."

Four Drown in Idaho Lake.

Granite, Idaho.—Waters of Kelso lake, 2 1/2 miles west of Granite, claimed the lives of a father, mother and two children Sunday night when the ice gave way beneath Mr. and Mrs. Roy S. Clark and two of their sons. A fifth member of the family, Paul, aged 7, escaped.

Forty Die in Explosion.

London.—Forty persons have been killed and 50 injured and 200 others are missing in an explosion at a fireworks factory at Macao, says a dispatch to the Daily Mail from Hongkong.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Haines.—Peter McGovern, deputy game warden, recently arrested Paul Harbenson, who resides four miles west of here, for illegal possession of elk antlers and hide. His hearing will be held in Baker.

The Dalles.—Edward C. Pease, for many years in business activities here, Saturday received word that he had been named a director of the branch federal reserve bank for Oregon, which also has jurisdiction over five counties in Washington.

Salem.—It was reported Sunday that sufficient money had been paid in by the stockholders to purchase a site for the linen mill and start building operations. Other assessments will be levied against the stockholders as funds are required for development purposes.

Salem.—Suits to test the so-called motor vehicle registration law, now in operation in Oregon, probably will be filed in the circuit court here soon, according to information received from Eugene. It was said that a Eugene attorney is preparing papers in the case.

Salem.—William H. Harcombe of Dallas, Or., was appointed by Governor Pierce Saturday district attorney of Polk county, effective January 1, to succeed Joseph Heigerson, who resigned recently to enter the United States district attorney's office in Portland.

Salem.—There were two fatalities in Oregon due to industrial accidents during the week ended December 24, according to a report prepared by the state industrial accident commission Saturday. The victims were Dean L. Stanley, Algoma, night yard foreman, and Nathan W. Beckett, Portland, laborer.

Salem.—The Pacific Telephone company has taken over the Tillamook County Mutual Telephone company, with headquarters at Tillamook, according to announcement made at the offices of the public service commission Saturday. The order of consolidation will become effective as of January 2, 1926.

Salem.—Marion Alzman, 23, was in a hospital here Sunday suffering from a partly severed arm and other injuries sustained late Saturday night when an automobile in which he was riding crashed into a telephone pole a few miles west of Salem. Russell Lehman, who was at the wheel of the machine, escaped with a few scratches and bruises.

Albany.—Two automobiles and occupants took a ferryboat ride down the Willamette river several miles Friday when the cable on the ferry at Irish Bend broke, hit the ferryman in the eye and knocked him unconscious. Small boats were used to land the women and children passengers, and a launch from Peoria went up and towed the ferry down to Peoria, where it was tied up.

Bend.—Mandamus proceedings to force a recall election for Bend's city administration will be opposed with all available legal argument, it was indicated Saturday by Louis Bennett, city recorder, against whom the mandamus petition was filed Thursday. An alternative writ, granted by T. E. J. Duffy, circuit judge, gave Bennett until December 31 to show cause why he should not call an election.

Eugene.—Howard Merriam of Goshon was elected president of Lane county horticultural society at its annual meeting at the Eugene chamber of commerce Saturday. F. B. Chase of Springfield was elected vice-president. R. E. Corum of Eugene secretary-treasurer and George A. Dorris, of Springfield, C. E. Stewart, Cottage Grove, and M. H. Harlow, Eugene, were chosen on the executive committee.

Pendleton.—Fragments of the helium gas bag, the inclosing gray silk bag and a small piece of the aluminum frame of the giant dirigible Shenandoah that was wrecked September 8 are on display in the windows of a local store. The souvenirs were obtained by Rev. J. M. Connors, missionary to the Indians on the Umatilla reservation, while he was doing field work in Ohio during the fall for the national board of missions of the Presbyterian church.

Pendleton.—The names of six women were included in the venire which has been drawn by the sheriff and the county clerk to serve on trial juries in the January term of circuit court. The term will get under way January 11, and Judge Wilson of The Dalles is expected to be here to preside. The women whose names were drawn include Mrs. J. W. Withersell, Maude Reeder, Mrs. Willard Bond, Julia J. Sanders, Beattie Munsell and Ruth Booher.

The BLACK GANG

By CYRIL McNEILE
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"BULLDOG" AGAIN

SYNOPSIS.—To a gathering of anarchists in Berkeley, London suburb, Zaboloff, foreign agitator, tells of the operations of a body of men who have become a menace to their activities. He is interrupted by the men he is describing (the Black Gang), who break up the meeting, sentencing some of the participants to condign punishment and carrying away others. A memorandum found on Zaboloff gives an address in Boston, which the leader of the attacking party considers of importance. Sir Bryan Johnstone, director of criminal investigation, hears from Inspector Melver, sent to arrest Zaboloff the night before, of his discomfiture. He had been seized and chloroformed and his raid frustrated.

CHAPTER II—Continued

"Great Scott! I hope not," cried Hugh in alarm. "Phyllis gave me complete instructions about the brutes before she toddled off. I make a noise like an ant's egg, and drop them in the sink every morning. No, old lad of the village, it is something of vast import: a stain upon the escutcheon of your force. Last night—let us whisper it in Gath—I dined and further supped not wisely but too well. In fact I deeply regret to admit that I became a trifle blotto—not to say tanked. Of course it wouldn't have happened if Phyllis had been prepping up the jolly old home, don't you know; but she's away in the country with the nightingales and slugs and things. Well, as I say, in the young hours of the morning I thought I'd totter along home. I'd been with some birds, male birds, Tumkins—he stared sternly at Sir Bryan, while Melver stiffened into rigid horror at such an incredible nickname—and when I left it was about 2 a. m. Well, I wandered along through Leicester square, and stopped just outside Scott's to let one of those watering carts water my head for me. While I was lying in the road, steaming at the brow, a motor car went past, and it stopped in Piccadilly circus."

Melver's air of irritation vanished suddenly, and a quick glance passed between him and Sir Bryan.

"Nothing much you observe in that, Tumkins," he burbled on, quite unconscious of the sudden attention of his hearers. "But wait, old lad—I haven't got to the motto yet. From this car there stepped large numbers of men; at least, so it seemed to me, and you must remember I'd recently had a shampoo. And just as I got abreast of them they lifted out another warbler, who appeared to me to be unconscious. They put him on the pavement and got back into the car again just as I tottered alongside.

"What 'ho! souls," I murmured, "what is this and that, so to speak?" "Binged, old bean, badly binged," said the driver of the car. "We're leaving him there to cool."

"And with that the car drove off. There was I, Tumkins, in a partially binged condition alone in Piccadilly circus with a bird in a completely binged condition.

"How now," I said to myself. "Shall I go and induce you water merchant to return—as a matter of fact I was beginning to feel I could do with another whack myself—or shall I leave you here—as your pals observed—to cool?"

"I bent over him as I pondered this knotty point, and as I did so, Tumkins, I became aware of a strange smell."

Hugh paused dramatically and selected another cigarette, while Sir Bryan flashed a quick glance of warning at Melver, who was obviously bursting with suppressed excitement.

"A peculiar and sickly odor, Tumkins," resumed the speaker with mad-dening deliberation. "A strange and elusive perfume. For a long while it eluded me—that smell; I just couldn't place it. And then suddenly I got it: right in the middle, old boy—plumb in the center of the windpipe. It was chloroform: the bird wasn't drunk—he was doped."

Completely exhausted Hugh lay back in his chair, and once again Sir Bryan flashed a warning glance at his exasperated subordinate.

"Would you be able to recognize any of the men in the car if you saw them again?" he asked quietly.

er. Who better, I thought, than old Tum-tum to listen to my madly secreted. And he . . .

"One moment, Hugh," Sir Bryan held up his hand. "Do you mind if I speak to Inspector Melver for a moment?"

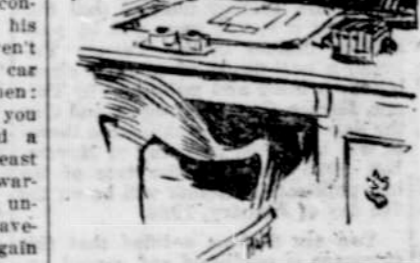
"Anything you like, old lad," murmured Drummond. "But be merciful, remember my innocent wife in the country."

And silence settled on the room, broken only by the low-voiced conversation between Melver and his chief in the window. After a while a strangled moan from the chair announced that Drummond was ceasing to take an intelligent interest in things mundane.

"He's an extraordinary fellow, Melver," said Sir Bryan, glancing at the sleeper with a smile. "I've known him ever since we were boys at school. And he's not quite such a fool as he makes himself out. You remember that extraordinary case over the man Peterson a year or so ago. Well, it was he who did the whole thing. His complete disability to be cunning utterly defeated that master-crook, who was always looking for subtlety that wasn't there. And of course his strength is absolutely phenomenal."

"I know, sir," said Melver doubtfully, "but would he consent to take on such a job—and do exactly as he was told?"

They were both looking out of the window, while in the room behind them the heavy breathing of the sleeper rose and fell monotonously. And when the whole audience is asleep it ceases to be necessary to talk in undertones. Which was why Sir Bryan and the inspector during the



"My Business Won't Take You a Minute," Sir Bryan.

next ten minutes discussed certain matters of import which they would not have discussed through megaphones at the Savoy. They concerned Hugh and other things, and the other things particularly were of interest. And they continued discussing these other things until, with a dreadful noise like a racing motor back-drifting, the sleeper sat up in his chair and stretched himself.

"Tumkins," he cried. "I have committed sacrilege. I have slept in the Holy of Holies. Have you decided on my fate? Am I to be shot at dawn?"

Sir Bryan left the window and sat down at his desk. For a moment or two he rubbed his chin thoughtfully with his left hand, as if trying to make up his mind.

"Would you like to do a job of work, old man?"

Hugh started as if he had been stung by a wasp, and Sir Bryan smiled.

"Not real work," he said reassuringly. "But by mere luck last night you saw something which Inspector Melver would have given a good deal to see. Or to be more accurate, you saw some men whom Melver particularly wants to meet."

hands on. To be more accurate there was one man there whom we wanted. He'd been shadowed ever since he'd landed in England that morning, shadowed the whole way from docks to the house. And sure enough when Melver and his men surrounded the house, there was our friend and all his pals. In one of the downstairs rooms. It was then that this peculiar thing happened. I gather from Melver that he heard the noise of an owl hooting, also a faint scuffle and a curse. And after that he heard nothing more. He was chloroformed from behind, and went straight out of the picture."

"Great Scott!" murmured Hugh, staring incredulously at Melver. "What an amazing thing!"

"And this is where you come in, Hugh," continued Sir Bryan.

"Me!" Hugh sat up abruptly. "Why me?"

"One of the men inside the room was an interesting fellow known as Flash Jim. He is a burglar of no mean repute, though he is quite ready to tackle any sort of job which carries money with it. And when Melver, having recovered himself in the morning, ran Flash Jim to ground in one of his haunts he was quite under the impression that the men who had doped him and the other officers were pals of Flash Jim. But after he'd talked to him he changed his mind. All Flash Jim could tell him was that on the previous night he and some friends had been discussing business at this house. He didn't attempt to deny that. He went on to say that suddenly the room had been filled with a number of masked men, and that he'd had a clip over the back of the head which knocked him out. After that presumably he was given a whiff of chloroform to keep him quiet, and the next thing he remembers is being kicked back into activity by the policeman-at-large. Sir Bryan paused a moment to emphasize the point—"at Piccadilly circus."

"Good Lord!" said Hugh dazedly. "Then that bird I saw last night sleeping it off on the pavement was Flash Jim?"

"Precisely," answered Sir Bryan. "But what is far more to the point, old man, is that the two birds you think you would be able to recognize and who were in the car, are two of the masked men who first of all laid out Melver and subsequently surrounded Flash Jim and his pals inside."

"But what did they want to do that for?" asked Hugh in bewilderment.

"That is just what we want to find out," replied Sir Bryan. "As far as we can see at the moment they are not criminals in the accepted sense of the word. They fogged two of the men who are there last night, and there are no two men in England who more richly deserved it. They kidnapped two others, one of whom was the man we particularly wanted. Then to wind up, they planted Flash Jim as I've told you, let the others go, and brought Melver and all his men back to Melver's house, where they left them to cool on the pavement. And what I want to know is this: If we give you warning would you care to go with Melver the next time he has any job on, where he thinks it is likely this gang may turn up? We have a pretty shrewd idea as to the type of thing they specialize in."

Hugh passed his hand dazedly over his forehead.

"Sort of mother's help you mean," and Melver frowned hoarsely. "While the bird biffs Melver, I biff the bird. Is that the notion?"

"That is the notion," agreed Sir Bryan. "Of course you'll have to do exactly what Melver tells you, and the whole thing is most unusual. But in view of the special features of the case . . . What is it, Miss Forbes?" He glanced up at his secretary, who was standing in the doorway, with a slight frown.

"He insists on seeing you at once, Sir Bryan."

"She came forward with a card, which Sir Bryan took."

"Charles Latter." The frown deepened. "What the deuce does he want?"

The answer was supplied by the gentleman himself, who appeared at that moment in the doorway. He was evidently in a state of great agitation and Sir Bryan rose.

"I am engaged at the moment, Mr. Latter," he said coldly.

"My business won't take you a minute, Sir Bryan," he cried. "But what I want to know is this. Is this country civilized or is it not? Look at what I received by the afternoon post."

If "Bulldog" Drummond is going to mix up in the case things certainly will be interesting. And who's Charles Latter?

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Enviably Immunity

To the envy of the shoplifter, time steals on and cannot be arrested.