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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.

Princess Bunchu Pushimi, 33, aunt of Admiral Pushimi, died Sunday at Yenshoi, Japan in Nara convent.

The deadlock over a candidate for the shipping board from the Pacific northwest entered its 12th week Monday with the identity of President Coolidge's eventual selection as uncertain as ever.

Two robbers sauntered into the lobby of the Alpine hotel in Oakland, Cal., early Sunday, held up two hotel employes, five guests and a policeman, and locked them in a cloakroom. The pair drove away with \$460 in cash and jewelry.

After an absence of ten years from the operatic stage, Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink announced in New York Sunday she would reappear with the Metropolitan Opera company in Wagnerian roles. She will make her first appearance March 25 at Erda in Das Rheingold.

Bishop Thomas W. Drumm, who has just returned to Des Moines, Ia., from a visit at the Vatican, Rome, Sunday disclaimed all knowledge concerning reports that he is to be elevated to be archbishop at Portland, Or. He declared the rumor to be without substantial foundation.

Three trainmen were burned to death Sunday when a freight train on the Erie railroad crashed into another, 12 miles west of Meadville, Pa. The men were pinned under a caboose, which took fire and a wrecking train was required to move the mass of wreckage from their bodies.

The house virtually completed consideration of the army appropriation bill Saturday, approving \$50,000,000 for rivers and harbors, \$18,050,000 for aviation, and funds to maintain the army, national guard and organized reserves at their present strength. A final vote was deferred until Tuesday.

Walter J. Matson, son of the late Captain William Matson, shipping magnate, was charged with a shortage which may total \$300,000 in accusations placed before District Attorney Brady in San Francisco Saturday by officials of the Honolulu Plantation company. Matson is secretary-treasurer of the company.

The Western Union Telegraph company will distribute \$2,726,000 to 33,625 of its 63,450 employes. The money represents their bonus for the last six months, and brings the total for the year up to \$3,330,000 or the largest sum paid since adoption of the company's income plan in 1920, when \$3,200,000 was distributed.

Thousands of Mississippi and Louisiana farmers have laid aside the pitchfork and plow to participate in a diamond rush. Mineral rights for land have gone sky high following the report of M. W. Deland, a Chicago geologist, that the stones found near here are real diamonds. Three weekly papers have announced they will begin publishing daily editions.

Palestine is rapidly becoming a land of business opportunities and investments as a result of the colonization activities which have placed thousands of Jews from eastern and central Europe in the country, according to a report of the Trade and Industry department of the Palestine Zionist Executive made public Saturday by Stephen S. Wise, chairman of the United Palestine Appeal.

A young man was found Saturday tied to a tombstone in St. Joseph's cemetery in Peoria, Ill., with a tattered sheet at his feet. He told astonished police that he was there because girl students from Bradley institute insisted upon tying him up. He said he had been stationed in the cemetery to frighten the girls who were being initiated into a sorority. His ghastly attire and fearsome groans had little effect. The girls sailed in, pulled his hair, ripped off his masquerade and used stout ropes in lashing him to a gravestone.

Harsh British Labor Rule

It was not until 1795 that a workman in England could legally travel out of his parish to find employment.

TO FIGHT BREAD MONOPOLY

Government Declares War on Huge Bakery Combine.

Washington, D. C.—The federal government moved Monday to prevent formation of "a gigantic combination for monopolistic control" of the baking business and to force dissolution of such of its component parts as are alleged already to have been assembled.

Proceedings were started by the department of justice in the federal court at Baltimore against seven great baking corporations and eight individuals, including the recently chartered Ward Food Products corporation and William H. Ward. The court was asked to view the defendants as having violated both the Sherman anti-trust law and the Clayton act and to permanently enjoin them from continuing further in the alleged merger.

Other defendants named in the action were the Ward Baking corporation, the Ward Baking company, General Baking corporation, General Baking company, Continental Baking corporation, United Bakeries corporation and Howard H. Ward, William Deisinger, Paul H. Helms, J. W. Rumbough, B. E. Peterson, George G. Barber and George B. Smith.

The department of justice, in a statement, declared the action had resulted from investigations which began with the first rumors of important mergers in the baking and related fields, and continued against the baking concerns as soon as the Ward Food Products corporation received its charter in Maryland last week.

Announcement of plans for a \$2,000,000,000 organization was claimed by the department to have confirmed its findings that foundation stones for a huge combine were being gathered together. It charged in court papers that the control proposed by the defendants extended both to local and interstate competition.

Attention was called by the department to the unique character of the action, inasmuch as it seeks to prevent the formation of a combination in restraint of trade. It was asserted, however, that all of the elements necessary to the amalgamation had been pressed into three large concerns and named them as the Ward Baking corporation, the General Baking corporation and the Continental Baking corporation. Each of these, but chiefly the Continental, the court petitioned, had acquired numerous competing bakeries and they, with the Ward Food Products corporation, have the same resident agent in Maryland.

Formation of the alleged monopoly was charged by the department to have been conceived several years ago by William H. Ward and his associates, and that there plans had been directed to that end particularly since 1921.

WORLD COURT PLAN

FACES NEW ATTACK

Washington, D. C.—An effort to invoke the power of the American courts to prevent entrance of the United States into the world court was made in a proceeding begun here Monday by Benjamin Catchings, a Washington lawyer.

The action was brought in the supreme court, which was asked by Catchings for permission to file a suit requiring Secretary Kellogg to show cause why he should not be restrained from consummating this country's entrance into the world tribunal.

Contending that membership in the tribunal would be unconstitutional, the petitioner declared the resolution of adherence adopted by the senate rested on an invalid use of judicial and legislative authority.

Mr. Chamberlain Gains.

Washington, D. C.—The condition of George E. Chamberlain, ex-senator of Oregon, who is ill at his home here, had so far improved Monday night that it was decided not to summon his relatives from Portland, reports from his bedside stated.

Ex-Senator Chamberlain was taken suddenly ill Sunday night and Dr. Edward F. Pickford, who was summoned to attend him, stated that he had suffered a hemorrhage. A nurse was called into attendance immediately and has been with him constantly.

Frozen Body Identified.

Paulsboro, N. J.—The body of the young woman found Sunday encased in a cake of ice on the Delaware river, here is identified as that of Mrs. Mary Rujaek, 29, of Pottstown, Pa. Mrs. Rujaek, who disappeared from her home November 17 last, was in ill health and was believed to have been drowned in the Schuylkill river. The Schuylkill river flows into the Delaware six miles above where the body was found.

TAX BILL PASSED BY UPPER HOUSE

Saving of \$456,000,000 Now Provided for.

BILL IN CONFERENCE

President Now Confident Promise to Be Worked Out Will Be Acceptable.

Washington, D. C.—The senate late Friday night passed the tax reduction bill, providing a saving of \$456,000,000 in taxes this year to federal taxpayers, and sent it to conference for adjustment of differences with the house.

Passage of the bill, which came suddenly and somewhat as a surprise, even to senate leaders, is expected to assure benefits of the proposed tax cut in the payment of first income tax installments March 15.

The vote was 58 to 9. Senators opposing the bill were Frazier of North Dakota, La Follette of Wisconsin, McMaster and Norbeck of South Dakota, Norris of Nebraska and Nye of North Dakota, republicans; Shipstead, farmer-laborer, of Minnesota and Reed of Missouri and Wheeler of Montana, democrats.

Going far beyond the appointed hour set for adjournment, the senate accepted all reductions voted by the house and, in addition, slashed taxes by another \$125,000,000.

The administration has declared the extent of reduction provided by the bill excessive, but confidence was expressed at the White House that the measure as finally drafted by the conference committee would lower the total cuts to within limits acceptable to President Coolidge.

Not more than a week is expected to be taken by the conferees in reaching a compromise, after which the senate and house must ratify the agreement before the bill is sent to the White House for the signature of the president.

Thirty-four republicans and 24 democrats voted for the measure, while six republicans, two democrats and the old farmer-labor member opposed it.

Washington, D. C.—The additional tax reduction voted by the senate was assailed an "economic folly," by Chairman Green of the house ways and means committee, Sunday night, on the eve of the meeting of senate and house conferees to adjust differences in the tax bill as it passed the two chambers.

The senate, in going \$126,000,000 beyond the total approved by the house in its \$330,000,000 bill, not only threatened a treasury deficit, but jeopardized the enactment of many pending bills calling for increased government expenditures, including the public buildings bill, said Mr. Green, who will head the house conferees.

Chairman Green is supported in his position by other house leaders, who point out that the measure they enacted kept within the bounds set forth by the treasury, and feel that the non-partisan manner in which it was considered in that chamber would take tax reduction out of politics if their bill was approved.

EGYPT ANNOUNCES GIFT BY JOHN D. JR.

Cairo, Egypt.—The gift of \$10,000,000 by John D. Rockefeller Jr., of New York, to King Fuad and the Egyptian people for the establishment of a great museum and archaeological institute at Cairo was announced here Sunday by Professor James H. Breasted, acting as the representative of Mr. Rockefeller here, although New York dispatches denied the gift had been made.

Professor Breasted, as chairman, and V. Everett Macy and Raymond B. Fosdick of New York compose the board of trustees to whom Mr. Rockefeller has entrusted what is believed to be the largest sum yet offered for humanitarian science and research.

Elk Round-up Costly.

Missoula, Mont.—An elk herd, now being loaded at Moiese, on the Flathead Indian reservation, for shipment to Massachusetts, is going to prove expensive for the National Elk Grazing and Breeding association, which contracted to take the animals to the New England hills. Expenses incident to the rounding up of the first 200 head have mounted until it is estimated it will cost \$80,000 to deliver the elk in Massachusetts.

The Next Best

Give me victory or give me an alibi. —Simpson Simpsonian.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF

Salem.—The Heeningsh Holding corporation, with headquarters in Portland and capitalized at \$1,000,000, filed articles of incorporation with the state corporation department here Tuesday.

Monmouth.—The annual report of the Monmouth co-operative creamery, recently made public, showed an increase in profits over the previous year and an addition to the surplus of \$1654.55. This company is one of the few successful co-operative institutions in this part of the country.

Eugene.—Kenneth Stephenson of Portland has been appointed assistant graduate manager, according to a recent announcement. Mr. Stephenson, who is a senior in the school of business administration, will work only part time.

Mill City.—Five men are working on the Detroit to Mill City telephone line of the forest service, changing the wire from trees to poles and thus making the line more reliable. This work was started last year and will be completed this year.

Pendleton.—S. S. Stokes, deputy sheriff in Umatilla county for about one year, has tendered his resignation to Sheriff Cookingham. Mr. Stokes came here from Walla Walla, where for several years he was on the staff of Washington state prison.

Salem.—Thomas K. Campbell, public service commissioner, was Saturday notified of his appointment to membership on the committee on express and other contract carriers and the special committee on uniform regulatory laws in the National Association of Railway and Utility Commissioners.

Baker.—Declaring that the 2-mill levy asked by the county court if voted at the coming primaries would put the county on a normal financial basis, J. L. Dodson, county judge, has issued a complete report on the total expenditures made by the county for the last five year in the construction and maintenance of roads.

Salem.—Edwin Carter, Silver Creek Falls logger, who lost his life as a result of an accident, is the only fatality listed among 551 accidents reported to the state industrial accident commission for the week ending February 4. Of the 551 accidents reported for the week, 441 were subject to the provisions of the workmen's compensation act.

Vale.—The first week in February saw the beginning of Vale's promised land settlement boom of 1926. A Spokane man was here to plat lands around Vale which are for sale and also the lands in this district which are open to homestead entry. This information will be supplied 111 home-seekers from Minneapolis and 12 from Spokane.

McMinville.—The county fair board for this year was named Saturday by the Yamhill county court. S. S. Duncan, county school superintendent, is an ex-officio member. Other members are Chester Mulkey and Lee Fletcher, farmers in the McMinville district, and Frank Carlyle of Springbrook. Yamhill county will have its first fair this fall since 1922.

Eugene.—The Lane county court will be asked to obtain additional right of way on the McKenzie highway from Springfield to Thurston, a distance of five miles, to widen it from 40 feet to 86 feet, according to Roy Klein, state highway engineer, and J. S. Sawyer, district engineer, who were here conferring with the members of the Lane court.

Salem.—The state tax on gasoline and distillate used in Oregon during 1925 aggregated \$3,127,188.27, a gain of 17 per cent over the revenue from the same source in 1924, according to a statement prepared by Secretary of State Koser. Collections of state taxes on motor fuel oils for 1924 are shown in the statement as \$2,672,481.98.

Salem.—The state tax investigating committee created by the last legislature Saturday announced a meeting in Salem on February 23 and 24. The first day of the session will be given over to hearing arguments on taxation problems by any who wish to appear. Newspapers are to be especially invited. The second day is to be devoted to a conference with county assessors.

Klamath Falls.—Decision to open bids February 23 for the sale of \$75,000 worth of county school bonds to finance an impressive construction program this year was announced Saturday by County School Superintendent Fred Peterson. The money will be utilized to build new schools, new play sheds and teachers' cottages in primary county school districts throughout the county.

If Really Busy

A body who keeps busy hardly ever becomes a busybody. —Boston Transcript.

The BLACK GANG

By CYRIL McNEILE SAPPER

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CHAPTER VII

In Which Hugh Drummond Makes a Discovery

The prospect in front of Count Zadowa alias Mr. Atkinson was not a very alluring one, and the more he thought about it the less he liked it. Either the diamonds were blown to dust, or they were in the hands of the authorities. In the first event he had the Reverend Theodosius to reckon with; in the second the police. And for preference the police won in a cinch.

"He was under no delusions, was the hunchback. This mysterious man who signed all his communications by the enigmatic letter X, and whose real appearance was known probably only to the girl who was his constant companion, so wonderful and varied were his disguises, was not a person whom it paid to have any delusions about. With a shudder Count Zadowa remembered the fate of certain men he had known in the past, men who had been employed, even as he was now employed, on one of the innumerable schemes of their chief. No project, from the restoration of a monarchy to the downfall of a business combine, was too great for the man who now called himself the Reverend Theodosius Longmoor. All that mattered was that there should be money in it. Why he should be interesting himself in the spread of Communism in England it was not for Count Zadowa to inquire, even though he was the head of that particular activity. Presumably he was being paid for it by others; it was no business of Count Zadowa's."

And as he undressed that night in the quiet hotel in Bloomsbury where he lived the hunchback cursed bitterly under his breath. It was such a cruel stroke of luck.

"He had already decided that his only method lay in going down to the office next morning as usual. He would find it, of course, in the possession of the police, and would be told what had happened. And then he would have to trust to luck to discover what he could."

Punctually at half-past nine the next morning he arrived at 3 Green street. As he had expected, a constable was standing at the door. "Who are you, sir?" The policeman was barring his entrance.

"My name is Atkinson," said the count, with well-feigned surprise. "May I ask what you're doing here?" "Haven't you heard, sir?" said the constable. "There was a bomb outrage here last night. In your office upstairs."

"A bomb outrage?" Mr. Atkinson gazed at the constable in amazement, and a loafer standing by began to laugh.

"Not 'arf' gov'nor," he remarked cheerfully. "The ole ruddy place is gone to blazes."

"You dry up," admonished the policeman. "Move along, can't you?" "Ort ritte, or ritte," grumbled the other, shuffling off. "Not allowed to live soon, we won't be."

"You'd better go up, sir," continued the constable. "The inspector is upstairs."

Mr. Atkinson needed no second invitation. Viewed by the light of day which came streaming in through the great hole in the wall the ruin was complete. In the center—and it was there—Mr. Atkinson's eyes strayed continuously even while he was acknowledging the greetings of the inspector—stood the remnants of the desk. And as he looked at it any faint hope he may have cherished vanished completely. It was literally split to pieces in every direction; there was not left a hiding-place for a pea, much less a bag of diamonds.

The inspector was speaking and Mr. Atkinson pulled himself together. He had a part to play, and whatever happened no suspicious must be aroused.

"I feel quite staggered, inspector." His glance traveled to a snifter-looking heap in the corner—a heap roughly covered with an old rug. The wall above it was stained a dull red, and from under the rug stretched out two long streams of the same color—streams which were not yet dry.

"What on earth has happened?" "There seems very little doubt about that, sir," remarked the inspector. "Evidently their idea was burglary. What happened, then, of course, it is hard to say exactly. Presumably they started using explosive to force your safe, and explosive is funny stuff even for the expert."

The inspector waved a hand at the heap in the corner. "Maybe that loafer was not there entirely by chance. And if not, what was he after?"

THOSE DIAMONDS

BYNONSIS.—To a gathering of anarchists in Parkington, London suburb, Zaboloff, foreign agitator, tells of the operations of a body of men who have become a menace to their activities. He says they are masked and wear long black cloaks and are acting without the law. 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. Mr. Bryan Johnston, director of criminal investigation, hears from Inspector McElver, sent to arrest Zaboloff the night before, of his disappearance. He had been seized and chloroformed and his raid frustrated.

Hugh Drummond, man of letters, tells Johnston of seeing the kidnappers and their victims. He becomes an unpaid agent of the police, under McElyer. William Atkinson, ostensibly parish clerk and money lender, really Count Zadowa, director of anarchy in England, does business in another London suburb. A mysterious stranger invades the premises. Drummond attempts to burglarize the premises to get evidence. While so engaged, with two companions, a bomb is hurled at them. The explosion kills "Ginger Martin," says the doctor, Drummond and his friend escape, taking with them a bag they find in the floor. At a fashionable hotel Rev. Theodosius Longmoor and his daughter Janet are guests.

"Longmoor" really is Carl Peterson, interested crook, with whom Drummond has an old feud. Zadowa tells them of the bomb he had ordered and the death of the three invaders.

CHAPTER VI—Continued

"Bombs!" he snarled. "Bombs! Tell me what you did, you dog!" "Why," stammered the frightened hunchback, "I threw one into the room. I no longer wanted it as an office, and . . . Ah, heaven, don't murder me! . . . What have I done?"

His words died away in a dreadful gurgle, as the clergyman, his face diabolical with fury, sprang on him and gripped him by the throat. He shook the hunchback as a terrier shakes a rat, cursing horribly under his breath—and for a moment or two it seemed as if the other's fear was justified.

There was murder in the big man's face, until the touch of the girl's hand on his arm steadied him and brought him to his senses. With a last spasm of fury he hurried the wretched Zadowa into a corner, and left him lying there; then his iron self-control came back to him.

"Get up," he ordered tensely, "and answer some questions." Trembling all over, the hunchback staggered to his feet and came into the center of the room.

"Monsieur," he whined, "I do not understand. What have I done?" "You don't need to understand!" snarled the clergyman. "Tell me exactly what happened when the bomb burst."

"It killed the three men, monsieur," stammered the other. "I killed the three men! He lifted his clenched fist, and Zadowa shrank back. "What happened to the room?"

"It was wrecked utterly. A great hole was blown in the wall." "And what happened to the desk?" "I don't know exactly, monsieur," stammered the other. "I didn't go back to see. But it must have been blown to matchwood. Only as there was nothing inside of importance it makes no odds."

"Did you look in the secret drawer at the back of the center opening. You didn't know there was one, did you? Only I knew of its existence, and shot it of taking the desk to pieces, no one would be able to find it. And Zadowa, didn't you? You blew it to pieces, Zadowa, didn't you? Just to kill the leader of this trampy gang, Zadowa, you cursed fool?"

Step by step the hunchback was retreating before the other, terror conquering his face, until the wall brought him to an abrupt stop.

"You blew the desk to pieces, Zadowa," continued the Reverend Theodosius standing in front of him, "a desk that contained the six, most perfect diamonds in the world. Zadowa, why your wretched bomb, you scorn, you destroyed a fortune. What have you got to say?"

"I didn't know, monsieur," cried the other. "How could I know? When were they put there?" "I put them there this afternoon for safety. Not in my wildest imagination did I dream that you would start throwing bombs about the place."



He Pointed to the Door, and Without Another Word, the Hunchback Went.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Costly Luxuries

There is nothing dearer to a man than a good wife—with the exception of her shopping expeditions. —Edinburgh Weekly Scotsman.