

# NEWS NOTES OF CURRENT WEEK

## Resume of World's Important Events Told in Brief.

Canada increases tax for war purposes.

A San Francisco woman has started a jitneyette—for women only.

England declares that more stringent action will be taken against German trade.

Russians in East Prussia are reported retreating before the German forces.

Two hundred and twenty thousand Serbs are now fit for service in the European war theater.

Relief workers find that the Belgians especially enjoy the American brand of "pork and beans."

President Wilson in a lecture before the National Council of Boy Scouts, advised them to develop character by serving others.

Commissioner Dieck, of Portland, has inaugurated a demerit system against city employes who are negligent about paying their personal bills.

Five hundred workmen employed in the auto-truck body building department of the Theodor Kundtz plant, of Cleveland, O., went on strike.

The United States government sends notes to England and Germany, protesting against interference by those countries of American shipping, property and citizens.

Secretary Lane will represent President Wilson at the formal opening of the Panama-Pacific Exposition at San Francisco February 20. The President plans to go in March.

Judge Gatens, of Portland, halts trial between warring factions of the Methodist church, in hopes of adjustment out of court, the question of disposition of the Taylor Street church.

German financiers have been summoned to a conference in Berlin with the finance minister, who considers that a new loan of \$1,250,000,000 is required for the continuance of the war, says a dispatch from Amsterdam.

The British government has capitulated at last to the insistent demand for more news from the front. Prime Minister Asquith promised that arrangements would be made to publish communications from Sir John French, the British commander-in-chief, twice weekly.

Man tailors in session in Chicago, declaring that economy in dress is necessary, limit \$1005 yearly for clothes, which includes eight walking suits, four overcoats, one full-dress suit and six pairs of trousers. By the same decree women should use only \$250 yearly.

The New Hamburger Zeitung in an officially inspired article says that the German admiralty has issued orders that neutral ships shall not be interfered with if they are not suspected of carrying contraband, but that every British ship, whether a war vessel or a merchantman, will be unconditionally sent to the bottom of the sea.

Seven persons are injured in Seattle, when a jitney bus turns turtle on a prominent thoroughfare.

A Catholic priest and his housekeeper are found murdered in their home in New Britain, Conn.

Music by an orchestra in New York, was heard over a long distance telephone by Mayor Rolph, in San Francisco.

French artillerymen succeed in bringing down a German aeroplane, the machine, however, fell in the German lines.

Lease of lakes Summer and Ebert, in Oregon, containing valuable salt deposits, was ratified by the house of representatives.

Large orders for barrel staves from the Armour Packing company, Chicago, are received by Aberdeen, Wash., sawmills.

The first girl born in Avezzano, Italy, since the earthquake arrived in the village Wednesday. She was baptized and given the name of Eleana Amata Regina Italia, which means Helena, beloved Queen of Italy.

The American steamer *Wilhelmina*, with grain aboard for Hamburg, has arrived at Falmouth It was thought possible that she had been ordered there by one of the British patrol ships, as the British government had announced its intention of preventing her from proceeding to Germany and of submitting the question of her cargo to a prize court. A dispatch from Falmouth, however, says that the captain of the *Wilhelmina* declared he had proceeded to that port of his own free will.

Notes to England and Germany concerning the "war zone" and the use of the Stars and Stripes by belligerent countries, is ready for transmission by the United States.

A deputy sheriff at Chehalis, Wash., shoots a 15-year-old boy, who was fleeing from the training school. The boy is not seriously injured and the deputy claims the shot was accidental.

Ex-President Taft writes a letter to a professor in Harvard university that the ban put on munitions of war by the United States may sometime react to the detriment of this country.

## General Carranza Issues Defiant Demand

Washington, D. C.—General Venustiano Carranza, as first chief of the constitutional army, notified the world Tuesday that all communications to his government from outside sources must pass through him.

Carranza's decree reached Washington through Rafael Zubaran Capmany, his minister of the interior, who telegraphed it to Elisea Arredondo, Carranza's local representative. The order apparently will make it impossible for diplomatic representatives of foreign governments to deal with the Carranza government except by going to Vera Cruz, which they are unwilling to do lest such action be construed as formal recognition.

Already most of the diplomats at Mexico City have asked their governments for permission to leave when the situation becomes intolerable, and some of them have been advised to use their own discretion.

The order may also affect the activity of American consular representatives, who heretofore have dealt with the de facto government, whatever it happened to be.

## Accused Aide of Mc-Namara Bros. Found

New York — Matthew A. Schmidt, 34 years old, was arrested here Monday as a fugitive from justice on an indictment found in Los Angeles in October, 1912, charging him with having been implicated in dynamiting the Los Angeles Times building. The arrest was made on Upper Broadway, where detectives had traced him after a search of four years.

Detective William J. Burns, who accompanied the officer making the arrest, said the indictment charged that Schmidt was one of the two men who went with J. B. McNamara to the works of the Giant Powder company in California and purchased, 1000 pounds of dynamite.

Schmidt was held in Magistrate's court, on short affidavit, with bail until February 24 to await extradition. When arranged before Magistrate McQuade the prisoner said he was a mechanic, 34 years old, but refused to answer the other customary questions. After the arraignment, however, the magistrate said the man had confessed to him in his chambers that he was Matthew A. Schmidt, as alleged in the Los Angeles indictment.

## Britain to Divert Food.

London — The foreign office announced definitely that if the cargo of the American steamship *Wilhelmina* should be diverted for the relief of the distressed in Belgium, the decision to send her cargo to a British prize court would be reconsidered. Otherwise her cargo must be submitted to the decision of the court.

The *Wilhelmina*, which sailed from New York with a cargo of food products for Germany, is at present at Falmouth. A. G. Hays, an attorney representing the Green company, the consignors of the cargo of the *Wilhelmina*, called at the American embassy, and went to Falmouth later. He said he had not yet received his instructions concerning the case, but in the meantime was endeavoring to learn all he could about the status of the vessel and her cargo.

## Los Angeles Children Thrifty.

Los Angeles—A canvas of the banks here shows that 40,000 children under sixteen years of age have almost \$1,000,000 in savings deposits, an average of \$25 each. One bank has 15,000 depositors between the ages of two and fourteen years. The largest account is that of a twelve-year old boy who has \$1,572. He began seven years ago with 50 cents. A leading financier declared on this showing that Los Angeles children are the thriftiest in the world, which he ascribes largely to business instruction in the schools.

## Tiniest Exhibit Arrives.

San Francisco — The smallest and most valuable exhibit at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition will be the fraction of a grain of mesothorium, a derivative of radium, valued at nearly \$300,000 which will be placed in the German section of the Palace of Liberal Arts. The exhibit is now on its way from Hamburg in a lead box, carried by a personal representative of the discoverer, D. Hugo Lieber.

## British Strike Averted.

London — The threatened strike of several thousand railroad men throughout Great Britain, demanding an increase of wages, seems to have been averted. Announcement was made following a conference between railroad managers and representatives of the union that an agreement had been reached, the terms of which will be announced later.

## Eight Slain in Panama Fight.

Panama—A fight between soldiers and native policemen here resulted, according to first reports of the conflict, in the deaths of five policemen and three soldiers and the wounding of many of the combatants. A carnival was in progress and many of the soldiers were on leave to attend the festivity.

## SHARP WARNING IS SENT ENGLAND AND GERMANY

Washington, D. C.—Publication by the State department Friday of the texts of the notes sent to Great Britain and Germany, respectively, revealed that both countries had been warned in most emphatic terms against menacing the vessels or lives of American citizens traversing the recently proclaimed sea zones of war.

Germany was advised that the United States "would be constrained to hold the imperial government to a strict accountability" for such acts of its naval authorities as might result in the destruction of American vessels or the loss of American lives, and that "if such a deplorable situation should arise," the American government would "take any steps that might be necessary to take to safeguard American lives and property."

To Great Britain the United States pointed out "the measure of responsibility" which would seem to be imposed on the British government "for the loss of American vessels and lives in case of an attack by a German naval force." If England sanctioned the general misuse of the American flag by British vessels, and thereby cast doubt on the valid character of the neutral ensigns.

The two communications were presented respectively to the British government by Ambassador Page and the German foreign office by Ambassador Gerard. They were prepared by Counselor Robert Lansing and revised by President Wilson and Secretary Bryan after consultation with the entire cabinet.

The British, Spanish and Brazilian ambassadors, who happened to call at the State department, received copies of the notes, as did the ministers of Sweden, Norway and Denmark, who especially requested them. The documents created something of a sensation among the diplomats generally because of what some regarded as their drastic implication.

## Neutral Envoys Approve Uncle Sam's Protests

Washington, D. C.—Reading of the official texts of the two notes from the United States to Germany and Great Britain developed Saturday an intense interest among officials and diplomats in the question of what would be the nature of the replies from the two belligerent governments.

That Great Britain would give assurances of no intention to sanction the general use of neutral flags by British merchant ships was the belief of many officials. The widest sort of speculation, based on a variety of conceptions of Germany's plans in waging a submarine war on merchant ships was heard as to the probable response of the Berlin foreign office.

Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, declined to discuss the note to Germany, as he had received no advices from Berlin concerning it, and the British embassy also was silent.

What excited most attention in congress and among diplomats, however, was the serious tone of the notes, even though qualified by polite terms of diplomatic usage. The determination of the United States government to have the American flag used only by ships entitled to fly it and the warning that Germany would be held to a "strict accountability" if American lives or vessels were lost in the attacks on merchant vessels in the new sea zones of war were practically the sole topic of discussion in executive and congressional circles, as well as among the ambassadors and representatives of belligerent and neutral nations.

While there were no authorized expressions, it was evident that the neutral diplomats in general gave both notes their approval because of the identity of interests of their governments and of the United States in the circumstances.

## Less "Uplift" Is Wanted.

Indianapolis — Henry Lane Wilson, ex-ambassador to Mexico, speaking here before the Columbia club, said: "There will be no hope for Mexico until either the present administration reverses its policy in entirety or until a new administration, committed to less uplift, but more genuine practical advice and assistance in the way of intelligent evolution, comes into power." Mr. Wilson said it was not his purpose "to question the intention or patriotism of the President, but the performance of the administration."

## West Getting Big Orders.

Aberdeen, Wash. — Two orders for barrel staves, the value of which aggregates \$57,500, and which will take more than 70 cars to carry them to the East, have been received within the last few days by the Western Coopers company. The first is from the Chicago headquarters of the Armour Packing company, and is for \$50,000 of lard barrel stock. This order alone will make 60 carloads of staves. The other order is for \$7500 worth of short barrel staves and comes from a New Hampshire firm.

## Unfit To Be Exchanged.

Berlin — The first exchanges of disabled prisoners of war under the plan of Pope Benedict were arranged through the Berlin embassy. One hundred and forty-six British prisoners unfit for further service will leave Germany February 16, and Great Britain will release 107 Germans. The exchanges apparently are not on a numerical basis, but all those who are disabled will be included within the scope of the order eventually.

## SENATE CLOSES 54-HOUR SESSION

### Filibuster on Ship-Purchase Bill Comes to Naught.

#### Extra Session Regarded Inevitable —Administration Will Not Admit Cause Lost.

Washington, D. C.—Republican and Democratic senators who oppose the government ship purchase bill, aided by Senators Norris and Kenyon, Progressive Republicans, who have stood by the bill, forced an adjournment Wednesday night of the longest continuous session in the history of the senate and made more uncertain than ever the fate of the measure which the administration has so urgently pressed on congress.

On the adjournment, after 54 hours and 11 minutes of continuous debate, leading members of both houses of congress conceded that an extra session to be called soon after March 4 seemed inevitable. There were some, however, who still hoped that there yet might be time to dispose of appropriation bills and the ship purchase measure in some form before adjournment.

Adjournment came on a motion made by Senator O'Gorman, which prevailed by 48 to 46, after Senator Norris, deploring the fatiguing filibuster, had proclaimed his conclusion that opponents of the ship purchase bill could filibuster it to its death.

Disappointed over the loss of support from the Progressive Republicans, but still hopeful that something yet could be done to save the bill, administration leaders of the senate would not admit that the cause was lost. Anticipating a break in the senate, President Wilson had been conferring throughout the past few days with house leaders on plans of getting the bill before the house, and such course may be taken, though the senate Republicans insist that their fight will continue until the end of the session, no matter what the administration forces may accomplish on the house side.

## President Wilson Sends New Envoy to Mexico

Washington, D. C.—Duval West, ex-United States district attorney at San Antonio, Texas, was selected as the personal representative of President Wilson.

Secretary Bryan announced Mr. West's selection. The mission is similar to that of Paul Fuller, who some time ago conferred with the various leaders and returned to this country with his reports.

Mr. West carries no written instructions, but is commissioned to make general inquiries into the conditions, interview the principal leaders, including Carranza, Villa and Zapata, and make clear to them the position of the United States government with respect to the protection of foreigners and their interests.

The length of time the President's envoy in Mexico has not been determined, nor has any announcement been made as to whether he will see Carranza or Villa first. Eventually he will go to Mexico City, there to operate with the Brazilian minister, who is caring for American interests, and John Silliman, also acting for this government.

It is understood that while Mr. West will point out the growing necessity for a permanent settlement of affairs in Mexico, he does not take any plan or suggestions from the United States. He has lived a number of years in Mexico and is understood to be generally familiar with the situation in the southern republic.

## Sues to Retain Job.

Mandamus proceedings against the Portland board of education were started by Mrs. Maud L. Richards, formerly English teacher in the trade school, who was summarily removed from her position by City Superintendent Alderman on January 5 when he discovered she had been married the day before. She was married January 4, and immediately notified the superintendent. She reported for duty the following morning, and taught her classes until noon, when Mr. Alderman sent word that her services were no longer required and a new teacher was put in her place.

## Flood Reservoirs Asked.

Denver — The Kansas legislature asked the Colorado legislature to join in a memorial to congress, petitioning the National government to construct a series of dams and reservoirs east of the Rocky mountains to impound all flood waters. The Kansas memorial has already been sent to congress. The memorial proposes an appropriation to be used in the construction of a series of canals, ditches and reservoirs. The two-fold benefits of the project, would be the reclamation of the land and the prevention of overflow of the rivers.

## Germans Lose Balloon.

Paris—A semi-official note says: "In the region of Cagny, one of our aviators has destroyed a signal balloon. A German aeroplane has been brought down near Verdun. The pilot, Lieutenant von Hildebrand, had, in September, thrown bombs on Paris and proclamations inviting Parisians to surrender."

## General Villa Refuses to Accept Peace Appeal

San Antonio, Tex.—Francisco Villa declines to heed the appeal of the Mexican peace conference held here Saturday. In a reply received by Federico Gamboa, chairman of the committee named by the conference to transmit to the leaders of the warring Mexican factions its resolution asking them to lay down their arms and proclaim peace, Villa bitterly arraigns the men who called the conference and rejects the plan proposed.

Villa signs himself "Chief of Operations." His reply was telegraphed from Penjamo, Guanajuato. He says: "It would be an excellent idea of yours if it would not conceal an insane ambition and an immoderate wish to cause more bloodshed and make the republic poorer."

"In the convention were present the big landowners, who saw in the poor people nothing but slaves to serve them. They are the so-called scientificos, who only employ their science in exploiting the men and helping the tyrants. There are the clericals, ambitious and rapacious. There are the professional politicians, only preoccupied to exploit the men under them, and you yourself, Mr. Gamboa, have an advantageous place in that group, as a conspicuous person who served as a tool for the Huerta administration, the usurper and assassin."

"I do not know why the men who have originated this state of affairs should find fault with it, being as it is that they have fled to a strange land and left here all of the people, like myself, who are trying to save the republic with all of our strength and blood."

"Personally I have not any ambition and I emphatically declare that I am ready to retire from the political affairs of Mexico as soon as the peace of the nation is established and when I see that the men who have made her poor and who lived on the people have retired."

## Twenty-One Miners Perish By Rush of Waters

Nanaimo, B. C.—Twenty-one lives were snuffed out at 11:30 Wednesday morning at the South Wellington mine of the Pacific Coast Coal mines, limited, when Fire Boss David Nillert fired a shot which broke through into the old working of the Southfield mine of the Old Vancouver Coal company, a mine abandoned some 20 years ago.

The old workings were filled with water and when the shot broke through the rushing waters drowned all the men in the section of the mine affected by the exception of W. Murdock, who, after a hard struggle, succeeded in reaching safety.

Among the victims of the disaster are Joseph Foy, manager of the mine, and David Nillert, fire boss.

Foy was on the surface at the time, but upon hearing of the old workings being tapped went below ground with the intention of getting all the men to the surface. He opened a trap door of the old stope and immediately was met by a flood of water which hurled him against the timbers.

Thomas Watson was working his first shift, and, along with William Anderson, had reached a place of safety, but went back to rescue their partners and lost their lives in the attempt.

Mine Inspector John Newton took charge of the situation and immediately ordered big pumps installed to pump out the water to recover the bodies of the victims, which it is expected will take at least two months' time, owing to the swampy nature of the ground and the extensive nature of the workings of the Old Southfield mine.

## Duma Cheers Union of Russian People

Petrograd—The short session of the Duma opened Thursday in the presence of the ministers, the members of the Council of the Empire, the diplomatic representatives and a throng that filled the balconies of the chamber. The opening was preceded by an impressive half-hour religious service in the immense foyer of the Duma chamber, in which cabinet ministers and the Duma officials participated. The session proper opened with the singing by the entire assemblage of the Russian national anthem.

President Rodzianko in his formal opening address made a complimentary reference to the work of the allies in the war, whereupon the entire body of members rose and faced the box in which sat the ambassadors of France, Great Britain and Japan, and gave them an ovation, with handclapping and cheering.

Foreign Minister Sazonoff repeatedly was interrupted by applause during his discourse.

## Oregon Ultra "Dry."

Salem, Or.—For the first time the senate went on record on the prohibition question, and the answer was ultra "dry." The minority report of the committee on alcoholic traffic was adopted by a vote of 15 to 13. It retains the sentence: "It shall be unlawful for any one person or family within this state to receive from any common carrier more than two quarts of spirituous or vinous liquors within a period of four successive weeks."

## Shells Drop on Swiss.

Lausanne, Switzerland—The Gazette de Lausanne has published a dispatch from Porentruy, 38 miles northwest of Berne and close to the French frontier, which says that German artillerymen, firing on a French battery near the Swiss frontier, sent shells into Swiss territory. This, the dispatch adds, is the second happening of the kind.

## KAISER SUMMONS U. S. AMBASSADOR

### Gerard to Confer With Emperor On American Notes.

#### Choice of Friendship of Two Nations Seems Offered—Situation Very Delicate.

London — The German emperor, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from The Hague, has invited the American ambassador to Germany, James W. Gerard, to a conference at eastern headquarters.

Washington, D. C.—A situation of the utmost delicacy for the United States has arisen in relation to the European war. Its character is indicated by the request of Emperor William that Ambassador Gerard in company with Heli von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German chancellor, shall come at once to his headquarters in the eastern theater of war.

This request is equivalent to a command. Mr. Gerard and the chancellor will go without delay. Mr. Gerard has been equipped with the proper instructions, approved by the President. These instructions are in line with the principles laid down in the note to the German government protesting against the enforcement of the German "war zone" decree.

What results will follow from the audience which the emperor, surrounded by his troops, will grant to the American ambassador, no one in Washington knows. It will be a dramatic setting for the conference. Within the armed camp of a marvelously efficient military power will be the diplomatic representative of the United States, who realizes that the regular army of his country comprises only 80,000 men. This force constitutes only two army corps.

Under Emperor William's command in the theater of war to which Mr. Gerard has been summoned, there are about 1,000,000 Germans—26 army corps. There are also a larger number of Austro-Hungarians.

Backed by the bayonets around him, Emperor William will feel his power. With the recollection of what the United States has, Mr. Gerard cannot but make comparisons which German diplomacy perhaps hopes will cause him to feel at a disadvantage.

The German emperor is playing for great stakes. It is nothing more nor less than victory in the war. If the United States can be brought to the point of insisting that its cargoes of foodstuffs shall pass freely to Germany, the emperor believes his cause will be as good as won. Either Great Britain must abandon its seizures of such foodstuffs, in which event the policy of "starving out" Germany will no longer be effective, or continue to do so in spite of objection of the American government and thus force drastic action on the part of the United States.

## Belgian Socialists Give Aid to Needy Countrymen

London—The organization of the Socialist party in Brussels is doing splendid work in alleviating distress, according to a report from the American Commission for Relief. It has two bakeries, employing 185 men, with a possible weekly output of 220 tons of bread. At present they are baking and distributing about half that amount. Their bakeries are not allowed to sell for money, but for every ounce of flour they receive from the commission for relief they turn in a coupon signed by the head of a Belgian family saying he has received the bread.

"When a man makes application for help," said the Socialist secretary, "we ascertain his business and if possible how many of his family are dependent on him and how many have trades of their own. If it is possible for him to do work that will assist the commission for relief we let him pay for the coupons by doing that work."

"For example, if a man is a shoemaker we let him make boots that are turned in to the commission. This particular form of work is, however, becoming impossible on account of the failure of the supplies of raw material of all kinds. The number of the unemployed among the many weavers, bookbinders, miners, etc., in Brussels and the country at large is increasing enormously."

## Canadian Harbors Mined.

Ottawa, Ont.—The Naval Service department of Canada issued notice that circumstances have arisen which may necessitate the prohibition of all entrance to certain parts of the Dominion, and mariners are instructed that on approaching the shores of Canada, and especially the ports of Halifax, Esquimaux, B. C., and Quebec, a sharp lookout be kept for signals from patrol vessels, which would indicate that obstructions may exist. The extra precautions are taken to mean that Canadian ports are being heavily mined.

## Kaiser to Control Oats.

Berlin—The Bundesrath has decided to expropriate all the domestic stocks of oats, with the exception of seed oats and the grain necessary for fodder for horses. The order became effective February 16. The Bundesrath also raised the maximum price of oats by 50 marks (\$12.50) per metric ton.