

NEWS NOTES OF CURRENT WEEK

Resume of World's Important Events Told in Brief.

The Middle West is having a severe snow storm.

Austria is said to have refused aid to Turkey in her present engagement with the allies' fleet.

M. F. Berry, originator of the present system of express and postal money orders, is dead.

The Minnesota legislature has refused to submit a woman suffrage amendment to the people.

The British now claim that the war will be short, and that their artillery, once weak, now dominates.

Bombardment of Turkey by the allied fleets continues and the probable results are that Constantinople will fall.

Having "abstained" during all of February, the moon will be full twice during March. This is the first occurrence since 1846.

A prominent St. Paul clubwoman drops dead in the statehouse of that state just after appealing to the legislature for prison reforms.

The officials of the city of Portland have figured that the earnings of the jitney busses total \$2.67 per day. There are 337 cars in use.

Operation of the New York State alien law was suspended by the Supreme court. It was contended the building of the subway would be delayed by the law.

The German submarine U-8 has been sunk by destroyers belonging to the Dover flotilla, according to announcement by the minister of marine. The crew were taken prisoners.

Four fires broke out almost simultaneously in a horse and mule barn at Kansas City in which were 800 horses belonging to the British government. The horses were saved only by opening all the gates of the barn and driving the animals loose into the streets.

After two years of almost continuous session the 63d congress, which revised the tariff and the currency system of the nation, supplemented the trust laws, created an income tax and experienced the first popular election of United States senators, ended at noon March 4.

"Unless neutral nations are prepared to assist in throwing the Germans out of Belgium, no suggestions from them in the matter of preventing the further devastation of that country are wanted," said Sir Edward Grey, the foreign secretary, in the British house of commons.

William Willett's daylight saving bill, which was discussed in the British parliament in the spring of 1909, provided for the earlier use of daylight by putting forward the clock 20 minutes on four successive Sundays in April and reversing the process on four Sundays in September. This procedure, it was argued, would bring more time at the end of the day for recreation while the sun was still up. The measure never became law in England. The author of the bill has just died.

Further relief to Belgians from the United States is not guaranteed by the German government.

An English trawler was sunk in the English channel by a German mine. The crew of 11 men were saved.

Congress has re-convened and it is predicted that the session will hold until the gavel falls at noon March 4.

Many Americans traveling as "horse tenders" on vessels bound for England and France, with promise of good pay and return ticket, are stranded in those countries, and are appealing to the American consuls for assistance.

The exchange of maimed prisoners through Geneva began Wednesday with the arrival of 1800 Frenchmen and 800 Germans. The transfer was made under the auspices of the Swiss Red Cross society. The soldiers traveled in special coaches, which were guarded by the military. Approximately a ton of gifts were there awaiting the unfortunates, who probably will number from 4000 to 5000 men from each country.

The bill charging manslaughter against a provincial police officer and three Canadian soldiers who last fall fired on two American duck hunters, Walter Smith and Charles Dorsch, killing Smith and wounding his companion, was dismissed by the Welland county grand jury. The shooting, which resulted in diplomatic correspondence between the United States and Great Britain, occurred on the Niagara River. After a protest had been made by Washington the Dominion government paid to Smith's relatives \$10,000 and a lesser sum was given to Dorsch.

Two Portland women, touring the Hawaiian Islands, were killed in an automobile accident by being thrown over a precipice.

The press of Germany is practically unanimous in upholding the new note from America dealing with the transportation of foodstuffs by neutrals to belligerents.

Each employe of the City of Portland, is now required to keep a card index which contains the actual number of hours worked per day, enumerating the kinds of work performed, etc.

MEXICO RECEIVES STRONG NOTE FROM UNITED STATES

Washington, D. C. — General Carranza has been informed in a note from the United States government that unless there is an improvement in conditions with respect to foreigners and their interests in Mexican territory under his control, such steps as may be necessary will be taken by the American government to obtain the desired protection.

The note is the strongest and most emphatic document that has been sent by the Washington government to Mexico since the correspondence with Huerta a year ago. Carranza is warned that the United States has viewed with deep concern the growing complaints by foreigners generally against his administration of affairs and now, in effect, demands an early change.

The contents of the communication was revealed to several of the ambassadors and ministers here, who expressed satisfaction at its urgent language. Some regarded it as an entire change of policy toward Mexico on the part of the United States.

Some movements of American warships have been ordered, the effect of which will be a naval demonstration such as, it is hoped by some officials, will convince General Carranza of the determination of the American government to obtain a change in conditions in Mexico City.

Secretary Daniels conferred with President Wilson over the prospects of sending additional warships to Vera Cruz. Only one vessel, the battleship Delaware, has been at Vera Cruz for several weeks, but five warships will be in that vicinity in a few days. It has been planned to send the Delaware to Guantanamo soon to join the Atlantic fleet in its spring maneuvers.

As a result of the latest developments the Delaware will remain at Vera Cruz indefinitely; the cruiser Tacoma left Port au Prince, Hayti, under orders to proceed at once to Vera Cruz; the gunboat Petrel already is enroute from Mobile, Ala., and the cruiser Des Moines is bound from Progreso to Vera Cruz, while the gunboat Sacramento is at Tampico.

Other available light-draft vessels—more valuable than battleships in tropical waters—are the gunboats Wheeling and Nashville, being held in readiness with the armored cruiser Washington, in Haiti, and Dominican waters, while the entire Atlantic fleet of 21 first-class battleships is at Guantanamo, within two and a half day's sail of Vera Cruz.

Mr. Daniels gave this summary of the position of the warships, but declined to discuss future movements.

That conditions again have reached an acute crisis was admitted at all the government departments.

British Collier Sunk by Torpedo on English Coast

London — The admiralty announces that the British collier Bengrove was sunk Sunday, probably by a torpedo, off Ilfracombe, which lies ten miles northeast of Barnstaple, county Devon, England.

Ilfracombe — The British steamer Bengrove was seen in distress and sounding her siren five miles off this shore at 1:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon. Forty minutes later the ship's bow rose from the water and she sank by the stern. Thousands of people stood on the shore and watched her go down.

Two steamers were in the vicinity, one of which, the Paignton, of Liverpool, rescued the crew of 32, and local lifeboats brought them ashore amid the cheers of the populace.

Big Air Fleet Makes Swoop on German Base

London — The admiralty has issued the following statement:

"Wing Commander Longmore reports that an air attack on Ostend was carried out Tuesday afternoon by six aeroplanes of the naval wing. Of these, two had to return owing to their petrol freezing. The remainder reached Ostend and dropped 11 bombs on the submarine repair base and four bombs on the Kurssaal, the headquarters of the military.

"All the machines and pilots returned. It is probable that considerable damage was done. No submarines were seen in the basin. The attack was carried out in a fresh north-north-west wind."

Prince's Message Found.

Paris — The Revue Blue prints the diary of a German sergeant-major, who had charge of the telegraph service in the Verdun district, in which the following telegram, sent by the German crown prince to his wife September 3, was preserved:

"After a hard fight we have forced the passage of the Meuse, always finding the enemy fortified in new positions. This means terrible losses, but we advance. Papa, last night at Marville was very sad. Von Wedel has been killed."

Bernhardt Able to Sit Up.

Bordeaux — The bulletin just issued by Dr. Denuce, who is attending Sarah Bernhardt at the hospital here to which she is a patient, following the recent amputation of her right leg, says: "Madame Bernhardt is able to sit up. Her condition is excellent."

Highway May Open to Astoria by July Fourth

Rainier — Work on the Columbia Highway through Columbia county will be resumed before the end of the month. Major Bowlby, state highway engineer, and a party of his associates, together with a number of Rainier citizens, walked over that portion of the incomplete highway between Rainier and Goble and came to the conclusion that by beginning work as soon as the men and material can be assembled it will be possible to have the road open for traffic all the way from Portland to Astoria before July 4.

The state highway engineer will have available this spring about \$50,000 of the Columbia county road fund for use on the highway that was graded last year and that is unfinished. This he believes will go far toward completing the road through this county.

The party that hiked over the Rainier-Goble link found that the graded roadway had stood the winter well. At a few points the hillside had slid down perceptibly and covered a portion of the graded surface. The engineers figured that these obstacles can be removed with little difficulty or expense. They had expected such behavior by nature.

One important piece of work that remains to be done between Rainier and Goble is at Prospect Point, where the highway must be carried through a solid body of rock about 1600 feet long. Part of the necessary blasting has been done. Major Bowlby estimates that it will require less than \$5000 to do the rest of the work on the strip of highway.

The roadway for the entire distance covered by the party is fully 24 feet wide, in accordance with contract specifications. All the fills and all the culverts in the Rainier-Goble link have been put in place. As the highway commission never was flush with money on the Columbia county job, the work is not finished with the same nicety as in Multnomah county, but it is every bit as substantial and serviceable. The scenic advantages are equal to those of the highway through Multnomah county, with the exception that there are not so many picturesque waterfalls.

Coos County Leads All Counties of United States

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis — With six cow testing associations carrying slightly more than 3000 dairy cows on official test, dairymen of Coos county lead all counties of the United States in this progressive plan of building up the dairy herds. What makes the fact still more remarkable is the comparatively short time in which the work of testing has been in operation in this new Western Oregon county that has put Oregon on the map. Just about one year ago the County court of Coos county, in cooperation with the Agricultural college, completed arrangements to secure the services of a county agricultural agent. J. L. Smith, the present incumbent, was selected by the College Dairy department and Extension division and sent into the field, known to be highly favorable to dairying. His work has resulted in many things of great importance and value to Coos

county and to Oregon, but at the present time nothing else looks so big to those who are following the movements as the wonderful dairy organization.

Cow testing in Coos county has been made to mean precisely what the term implies. Each cow under test has her milk weighed and tested for its butterfat content for each month in the year by a competent, enthusiastic and disinterested official tester working under the supervision of the college dairy officers. The records are accepted by dairymen everywhere as being correct and authentic, and if any cow fails to measure up to standard dairy requirements she is put out of the class of profitable dairy cows and her place in the herd will be supplied by another and better cow. In this way good cows are secured for the present production, and still better cows will be bred for future producers.

Tablet Sent to Oregon.

Salem — R. A. Booth, Governor Withycombe's personal representative at the opening of the Oregon building at the Panama-Pacific Exposition, Thursday telegraphed the executive that the commemorative bronze tablet presented to Oregon by the Exposition officials had been sent to this state. Mr. Booth's telegram is as follows:

"For the official opening of the Oregon building the weather was all that could be desired. We were attended by a splendid crowd, who manifested a spirit of genuine friendliness. President Wilson was represented by M. B. Lamar, the governor by Arthur A. Pratt. Mayor Ralph spoke for the city and Vice President Hale for the exposition. At the close of his address he presented to our state a beautiful commemorative bronze tablet, which I am forwarding to you by express. The Californians have fairly won the admiration of all the people and the Exposition commission has made the whole world their debtors. For you I have expressed a genuine interest and pledged the loyal help of all Oregonians."

Girls Beat Spellers.

Oregon City — The third spelling bee in the all-county schedule arranged by County School Superintendent Calavan and Supervisors Vedder and McCormack, was held at the Brown schoolhouse, near New Era, this week, and spelling teams representing Browns, Leland, Union Hall, Twilight and New Era districts were present. The schools are divided into two divisions, one composed of the fourth and fifth grades and the other of the sixth, seventh and eighth. Miss Ruth Floyd, of the Leland school, won in the lower division, and Miss Easter Noble, of Union Hall, was second.

Telephone Appeal Made.

Salem — Declaring that its long distance service is made available to all Portland patrons of the Home Telephone company by a decree of the United States court, the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company has asked the railroad commission for a modification of its order compelling an interchange of telephone service in the Hotel Benson, in Portland. The order was made when the building occupied by the Benson hotel was a part of the Hotel Oregon. The Home company objects to a reopening of the case.

Lawrence Is Reappointed.

Salem — Arthur Lawrence, of Portland, was reappointed state printer by the board of control Thursday. His salary is \$1800 a year, which is fixed by statute.

R. A. Harris, under the old law, received \$4000 a year. William Plimpton, secretary of the department, received \$2000 a year under the old law, and Mr. Lawrence has suggested to receive that salary, or more, if the board sees fit to allow it.

Shelter Shed and Spur Asked.

Salem — L. R. Gamble, in a complaint filed with the State Railroad commission has asked that the Southern Pacific Company be compelled to provide a shelter shed and spur track at Linn station on the Woodburn-Springfield branch.

Governor Aids Coast Defense.

Salem — Governor Withycombe was notified of his appointment as second vice president of the Pacific Coast Defense League. He sent the league the following telegram:

"I desire to co-operate in all things which will tend to the ultimate betterment and safeguarding of our coast."

Crisis in Mexico Causes Washington Much Alarm

Washington, D. C. — President Wilson was confronted with one of the most serious and perplexing developments that has ever arisen in the Mexican situation. Mexico City is on the verge of starvation. General Obregon, the Carranza commander, refuses to permit an international relief committee composed of wealthy members of the foreign colony to succor the needy.

"Mexico needs no foreign aid," the general is reported to have said.

All the merchants who closed their stores have been ordered to reopen under threat of punishment. Three hundred of them, all Mexicans, have been imprisoned. The people of the city are living in terror of another evacuation, since Obregon has announced that he will not prevent looting or pillaging for food or money.

The Brazilian, British, Spanish and Italian ambassadors called separately at the State department, bringing pessimistic reports of the situation, which corresponded to reports already received by the American government. The foreign diplomats suggested no solution.

Secretary Bryan announced that he had sent an urgent telegram to American Consul Silliman with instructions to lay the situation earnestly before General Carranza, so that General Obregon might be directed to accept the proffered aid of the foreign residents. Freight service is suspended between Mexico City and Vera Cruz. Transportation facilities for relief purposes are withheld by General Obregon on the ground of military necessity.

President Wilson was advised of all the facts as revealed in official messages and reports from the foreign ambassadors. The President was reported to be studying the various phases of the question closely. Should General Obregon continue to refuse outside aid, drastic measures might be necessary, in the view of foreign diplomats. The situation is described by them as more nearly intolerable than it ever has been since revolutionary troubles began in the Southern republic.

Real Winter Is Raging Through Middle States

Chicago — Old Winter played a furious return engagement all over the Middle West Saturday and is rapidly extending the performance to the East and Southeast.

Dispatches tell of heavy snow in Iowa, Nebraska and other states. Trains are delayed in many directions and stalled dead on small branch lines. In the cities transportation was badly crippled, but the storm had its silver lining, for it provided work for thousands of unemployed.

The storm swept up from the Southwest, heralded by a gale of great fury. Then came the snow, preceded by a blast of small hail. There had been no warning of the storm, which struck Chicago shortly after midnight and increased in intensity as morning approached. The city awoke to find an inch of snow over everything and the wind blowing a mad gale. Two hours later the snowfall had increased to two and one-half inches and was turning to rain.

The fury of the storm was most visible on Lake Michigan, which had been whipped into a violent rage. Roaring seas swept over the breakwaters and choked the mouth of the river. Lake mariners said it was the worst storm of the season.

England Continues to Delay U. S. Food Ship

London — Little light was thrown on the steps that Great Britain will take to enforce her declared intention to stop trade to and from Germany. Developments on the declaration hinge on an order-in-council which, it has been promised, will be issued soon, but no definite date for the issuance of which has been announced.

Officials make it clear at every opportunity that the mode of making reprisals will be outlined in such a manner that further negotiations will not be precluded, insofar as the declaration affects neutrals. Meanwhile foodstuffs from the United States destined to neutral countries continue to be delayed without explanations which satisfy shippers.

Chicago packers are much annoyed over the delay at Falmouth since February 20 of the Norwegian steamer Vitalia. There are no prospects for the release of the steamer, although it is said everything possible has been done to comply with the British requirements.

Owners of the cargo gave specific guarantees that the food was for Holland consumption, yet the ship is still being held.

Miners Hold "Till Death."

Wheeling, W. Va. — The convention of the fifth Ohio sub-district, United Mineworkers of America, which represents directly the 15,000 striking Eastern Ohio miners, voted unanimously to hold out for a 47-cent mining rate "till death." The operators have offered 44.61 cents. The action of the convention is expected to have an important bearing on the efforts of Secretary of Labor Wilson to settle the strike. The efforts being made by Secretary Wilson, however, did not enter into the deliberations of the convention.

Socialists Want Honor.

Berlin — The Overseas News Agency gave out the following: "The Socialist deputy, Haenisch, speaking in the Prussian diet, expressed the feelings of the Social Democrats and said that the party desired to secure honorable peace."

GAIN IN WHEAT WILL BE LARGE

940,000,000 Bushels Is Total
In Prospect Now.

New Record Is Expected For Third Consecutive Year—Acreage Increase Is Big.

Chicago — Indications point to a wheat crop of more than 900,000,000 bushels this year, against 891,000,000 bushels harvested last year. This, if realized, will make the third consecutive record-breaking crop.

The United States last year raised 684,990,000 bushels of winter wheat and set a new record. It was one of the best things that ever happened to this country to have a bumper crop, as it enabled the United States to feed all Europe and obtain the highest prices in years.

This year it is possible to raise 700,000,000 bushels of wheat or more of winter wheat with favorable conditions to harvest. This, with a spring wheat crop estimated at 240,000,000 bushels, which is not a high figure, will make the wheat crop reach 940,000,000 bushels. The wheat crop last spring was a poor one—only 206,000,000 bushels.

A winter wheat acreage of 41,263,000, an increase of 4,135,000 acres, or 11.1 per cent more than was needed for the harvest of 1914 is the largest ever known. The plant has come through the winter in unusually good condition and indications are that there will be little less in acreage from various causes up to harvest. The estimate of 700,000,000 bushels of winter wheat is based on a loss of only 263,000 acres up to harvest and yield per acre of slightly more than 17 bushels, or about two bushels an acre less than last year. For spring wheat, which is yet to be seeded, the estimate is based on an acreage of 18,000,000 acres and a yield of 13 bushels an acre, or the same as harvested in 1913, when the crop was 240,000,000 bushels. As prices are high it is expected that with an early spring farmers in the Northwest will put in the largest in years and possibly it may exceed 19,000,000 acres, against 17,533,000 harvested last year.

47 Rescued After 96 Hours Underground

Hinton, W. Va. — Forty-seven miners were rescued alive Sunday from the workings of the Layland mines of the New River & Pocahontas Consolidated Coal company, wrecked by an explosion Tuesday. As from a tomb the men, who had been four days and four nights without food or drink, came again into the light of day to be greeted by joyous relatives and friends.

Rescuers, headed by J. W. Paul, of the bureau of mines; Early Henry, chief of the State department of mines, and H. M. Bertelot, general manager of the company, entered mine No. 3. Tearing down a brattice work to let in fresh air, they found five men who seized and kissed them. The men were able to walk to the mine entrance unaided. They had barricaded themselves under the direction of one of their number, Sam Morici.

Continuing the search, the rescuers encountered another brattice about 500 yards beyond. Here, in entry No. 10, they found 42 men alive. The miners were so weak the rescuers had to carry them to the entrance. As Sam Morici was the hero who compelled his little party to barricade themselves, so did Hugh McMillan and John Whalen practically force the larger party to build a rude barricade to shut out the noxious afterdamp.

Realizing that their only hope for rescue lay in keeping out the gas and afterdamp, McMillan and Whalen made their companions, mostly foreign birth, collect planks for a barricade. Behind this barricade the 42 waited in the darkness 96 hours until the rescuers came.

The rescued men suffered severely from lack of food and drink. Medical aid was given them promptly and they were taken to their homes. All, it is believed, will recover.

Fifty-three men, including those found Sunday, had been rescued alive; 85 bodies had been recovered and 30 or more were unaccounted for. All but 11 of the dead have been brought out.

The rescue parties worked feverishly following the rescue of the 47, but found no more alive.

Submarine Scare Abates.

London — A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company from Flushing, Holland, says an easier feeling with regard to the German submarine blockade is indicated by the announcement that beginning March 9 passenger service to England by the liners of the Zealand company will be considerably extended. At present the British authorities permit only 200 passengers to leave England daily.

The rush of passengers in Flushing bound for England is enormous. Thousands are awaiting accommodations.

French Sent to Africa.

Paris — The ministry of war announces that on account of the situation in the Dardanelles and in order to meet every eventuality the government has decided to concentrate in North Africa an expeditionary force. This will be ready to put to sea at the first sign that it is needed and be directed to the point where its presence is required.