

NEWS NOTES OF CURRENT WEEK

Resume of World's Important Events Told in Brief.

Premier Asquith praises the Belgian heroism in the house of commons.

The Germans have imposed a fine of \$300,000 on the Belgian town of Charleroi.

Namur, a principal city in Belgium, has fallen into the hands of the Germans.

The German ambassador, Count von Rex, at Tokio, will sail for Seattle, Wash.

Wheat in Chicago pits is reported may rise in a day or two to \$1.23 per bushel.

A small German cruiser which ran ashore in a fog, was blown up by the Russians.

The burgomaster of the city of Brussels, has surrendered the city to the Germans.

The Russian army is reported crushing the Prussians and making headway toward Berlin.

The French war office admits German victory and the recovery of Lorraine and Alsace.

The French fear an attack on the Louvre and have placed all valuable pictures in vaults.

A persistent report is to the effect that the Crown Prince of Germany was killed in battle.

The French government is permitting 3000 Americans to leave France via Paris, to the United States.

Boston will have no grand opera this winter, owing to the enlistment of many members in the European war.

The Japanese liner Shinyo Maru sailed from San Francisco to Japan escorted by a Japanese armored cruiser.

Armies of the allies are battling to save Paris from the Germans. A conflict between millions is believed to be in progress.

It is officially announced that the Russians have occupied Tilsit, a town 60 miles northeast of Koenigsberg, East Prussia.

One of the largest liners in the world, the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, was sunk by a British cruiser off the coast of Africa.

It is said that British marines have occupied Ostend to prevent the Germans from getting a foothold on the English Channel.

"Bob" Burdette, the famous humorist, is reported dangerously ill at his summer home in Pasadena, Cal. He is 70 years of age.

Xavier de Castelnau, the 12-year-old son of General Castelnau, chief of staff of the French army, was among the killed in a recent action.

The Montenegrin troops, with a bayonet charge, repulsed a fresh Austrian attack at Rahovo, taking 150 prisoners and killing 300 Austrians.

Red Cross society of the United States is urging mayors of large cities to aid the campaign to secure funds to care for the wounded in the European war.

Washington administration officials are preparing a new proclamation setting forth the neutrality of the United States during hostilities between Japan and Germany.

Speaker Clark issued warrants for the arrest of absentee members of the house of representatives. Many members were found at the baseball park, cool cafes and other resorts.

An official statement from the British consulate in Galveston, Tex., says three British warships have been sent at full speed to protect cotton and oil traffic in the Gulf of Mexico.

The correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph at Amsterdam says it is estimated that the total loss of the Belgians, up to date, has been 10,000 in killed, wounded and prisoners.

Home Secretary McKenna, of London, said that no spies had been shot in England. There have been rumors that many persons in the secret employ of Germany had been executed.

The federal inquiry into the higher cost of food since the war began in Europe has not developed that the increases were unwarranted, according to Roger B. Wood, United States assistant district attorney in charge of the investigations at New York.

The Serbian government in a protest to France declares that the Austrian army during its retreat along the Drina river committed cruelties upon old men, women and children in violation of the rules of warfare. The Drina forms the greater part of the boundary between Bosnia and Serbia.

An American warship has been dispatched to Turkey, presumably to carry gold to American missionaries.

Secretary Bryan cabled all American embassies and legations in Europe to urge Americans to leave Europe without delay.

A Boulogne dispatch to the Standard at London says the town of Tournai, capital of the Department of Hainaut, Belgium, occupied by the Germans, was compelled to pay an indemnity of \$400,000 within an hour, the burgomaster being held as a hostage until the money was paid.

Congress Is Busy With Issues Arising From War

Washington, D. C.—To prepare for an emergency arising from the European war, the president and administration leaders are endeavoring to assure the presence of a quorum of both houses of congress in Washington.

House leaders have made imperative demand for return of absentees and they are flocking in on every train. Already there is a substantial quorum.

While the conference primarily is to determine the nature of a war revenue measure to offset losses in revenue, some aspects of the foreign relations of the nation with particular reference may be considered.

Philippine exports are giving the administration concern just at this time, because of the conflict between Japan and Germany. A plan to place a ban on all exports from the islands, except to the United States, while the war in Europe continues is under consideration. It is argued that should the shipments from the islands to Germany or Austria be captured by the Japanese, an embarrassing situation might arise. The same might be true should exports to Japan be seized by Germany.

Administration senators who have been studying the situation believe an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and they are urging action by congress to avert trouble which might be precipitated through Philippine island commerce. They recognize, however, that if commerce is stopped some provision must be made to compensate for losses that will follow.

French Capital Storing Supplies For Emergency

Paris—The French capital has rushed its plans to resist a siege by the German army. The city is being turned into an entrenched camp.

Following the decree issued by the military governor, ordering residents of the district within the city's line of defense forts to desert and destroy their homes within four days, enormous stacks of food were placed within the state warehouses. The Bois de Boulogne presents a picturesque aspect. It has been transformed into a vast pasture filled with cows and sheep. The animals have been divided into groups and are guarded by reserves wearing the large shirts of drovers. The number of sheep pastured in the parks exceeds 10,000.

The decree calling for the evacuation of the military zone around the forts was a formal notice, although army engineers recently made a tour of the environs of the forts and explained that the residents might be called on to destroy their property, which was deemed an obstruction.

Many of the houses in the line of fire are those of poor people whose owners are now at the front. Many of these families lack resources and will be without refuge. Nevertheless, they took the situation without complaint, although they addressed a petition to the military governor, requesting that he use the power vested in him only as a last extremity.

Japanese Are Cautioned to Avoid War Discussions

San Francisco—Japanese associations in this city are circulating a note of advice to Japanese residents in America, which was issued by the Japanese Association of America. It reads:

"Japanese should endeavor to avoid heated talks and discussions with Europeans and Americans on the war situation.

"In California there is a large population of German subjects and special care should be taken in your attitude toward them.

"Japanese should refrain from conversations and actions which might tend to excite the sentiment of Europeans and Americans.

"As the United States declared neutrality, Japanese in America should recognize and bind themselves to the neutrality obligations. Outside of the necessary and proper support of their mother country, they should not give any support or assistance to any of the belligerents."

German Honors His Foe.

Rome—(Via Paris)—A dispatch from Berlin says the defense of Longwy, department of Meurthe-et-Moselle, France, was the most heroic since the beginning of the war. The town surrendered only after an extraordinary display of valor. Of 36 siege guns, all except one had been dismantled.

The Germans so admired the brilliant resistance that Crown Prince Frederick William begged the French commander at the moment of surrender to keep his sword.

10,000 to Flee Albania.

London—The Exchange Telegraph company's correspondent at Barri, Italy, says that the Italian government has arranged for the transportation of 10,000 fugitives who wish to leave Albania as soon as Prince William, of Wied, departs, as they fear anarchy. Prince William has asked Italy to leave the armored yacht Mysuratta at his disposal, as he may be forced to abandon the throne at any time.

Opera Singers Off to War.

Chicago—So many singers are endangering their lives and voices in the European conflict that the directors of the Chicago Grand Opera company, after a despairing two days' meeting, announced that there would be no performances during the coming season. Bernard Ulrich, manager of the company, cabled the singers notifying them their contracts had been canceled.

Suit to Recover 50,000 Acres State Land Urged

Salem—C. B. McConnell, a lawyer of Burns, has conferred with Attorney General Crawford in regard to instituting suits for the recovery by the state of large tracts of grazing land in Harney and Malheur counties, control of which Mr. McConnell charges was obtained by fraud. Suit is pending against the Pacific Livestock company for the recovery of 27,000 acres of school land. The company has entered suit to prevent the adjudication of water rights on the Silver river, and it was while making investigation of its allegations that Mr. McConnell says he found that about 50,000 other acres had been obtained through fraud. This land, he said, is largely held by

cattle companies. According to the lawyer, the land was obtained several years ago through the use of dummies and other alleged settlers, who worked in conjunction with the company.

The Pacific Livestock company is fighting the suit of the state on the grounds that it obtained the land in a legal way and that action by the state should have been started earlier.

Circuit Judge Harris recently, in the Hyde-Benson school land case, which is similar to the one against the livestock company, decided that the state would have to show a good excuse for its delay in bringing suit. The attorney general has appealed on the ground that laches do not apply to the state.

Eugene Light and Power Companies in Rate War

Eugene—A long-anticipated rate war between the municipal power plant and the Oregon Power company was opened here this week with the announcement by the power company that it will not only meet but will undercut the reduction announced by the city plant.

The private company has filed its new schedule of rates with the State railroad commission, declining to announce the extent of the cut.

The city's reduction amounted to 11 per cent and before the cut was made the maximum rate of 9 cents for lighting and 5 cents for power was lower than offered in any city in the Willamette valley outside of the vicinity of Portland. The new schedule of 8 cents maximum for lighting and 4 cents maximum for power, with a minimum of 1.2 cents for 10,000-kilowatt quantities, is almost half the rates in Eugene two years and a half ago, before the entrance of the city plant, which claims the credit for the reduction.

The present rate war was forecast recently when the water board asked the State railroad commission to curb the activities of the private company and the latter responded with a request for unrestricted competition. Neither was wholly granted.

Highway Condemnation Suits Are Being Tried

St. Helens—About 100 farmers, several attorneys and State Highway Engineer Bowley and his assistants, appeared before the County court in the condemnation proceedings for right of way for the Columbia Highway.

Claims for back-hill places on logged-off lands have been put in at \$500 an acre and for agricultural land that is taken nothing less than \$1000 an acre is being asked.

As there are more than 100 claims, the County court will take several days for the hearings, after which its decision will be given on all claims at the same time.

Flour Holds at \$5.20.

The lowest wholesale price of flour in the Portland market now is \$5 a barrel, the only mill that quoted less than that figure having advanced its price 20 cents only a day or two ago. Other mills are asking \$5.20 a barrel. The flour market is keeping pace with the advance in milling wheat. Blue-stem sold at \$1.03 a bushel, a gain of a cent over a preceding day's price. Farmers are holding very firm and are taking advantage of the situation to get all they can for their wheat.

The present price of \$5 a barrel for flour compares with the quotation of \$4.70 on this date last year, \$5.10 on the same date in 1912, \$4.95 three years ago, \$5.35 four years ago, \$6.25 five years ago, and \$4.85 in 1908.

Water System for Fair.

Salem—An independent water system for the State Fair grounds has been decided upon by the board of directors, and the drilling of the first well has been started.

According to Mr. George E. Scott, the contractor, a large river flows under the grounds and Salem, and he advises that the city eventually obtain its water supply from the stream. Secretary Meredith announced that the cottage city district at the fair grounds would be moved to a tract west of the new pavilion before the opening of the fair September 28.

Big Estate Is Inherited.

Pendleton—John Guriado and his sister, Mrs. Tulita Adams, wife of a laborer, are on their way to Los Angeles with Colonel James A. Raley, a prominent attorney of Pendleton, to claim their shares in the estate of their father, John Guriado, who died recently, leaving \$150,000 and no will. Their identity has been established, attorneys say. The elder Guriado and his wife quarreled when the children were young, and the family became split up, the children going with their mother. The mother died a few years ago.

Canadian Company Sued.

Salem—A temporary restraining order against the National Mercantile company doing business in Oregon was issued by Circuit Judge Galloway. The action was started by Attorney General Crawford at the instance of Corporation Commissioner Watson, who alleged that the company had not complied with the corporation laws of the state. The company is a foreign corporation, having headquarters in Vancouver, B. C., and, according to the corporation commissioner, is conducting in Portland a loan business.

Burns, Or., Fire Destroys \$60,000 Worth of Property

Burns—The worst fire in the history of Burns began Monday at midnight and in three hours a large number of business houses were in ruin. The blaze started in the hay loft of McKinnon's livery barn, supposedly by someone sleeping there, and it quickly spread to every building in that block, including the Hotel French and a large two-story building containing a pool hall and living rooms. Three small dwellings in the block to the east were burned and the flames spread to the block to the south. They jumped the Harney County National bank, which is of stone, and caught in two frame buildings, which were quickly destroyed. Then they communicated to the roof of the stone building occupied by the Bedell saloon and barber shop and also to another stone building, occupied by the Donagan & Logan abstract office and Frank Davies' and Charles Ellis' law offices. The postoffice and Harney County News office, adjoining these, were saved. In the lively stable 27 horses were burned to death.

The losses will reach \$60,000, with about \$30,000 insurance.

Several buildings on the west side of the street caught fire, but the flames were extinguished.

The owners of the destroyed property will rebuild.

A heroic fight was made against the blaze by firemen and citizens. It was due to this and favorable wind that the entire city was not wiped out.

Five Fires Burn Over Tract of 2000 Acres

Cottage Grove—Nearly 2000 acres of the forest reserve was burned over in the recent fires in the London country. Probably 200,000 or 300,000 feet of timber was destroyed.

There were five fires in progress at one time, that on Little river, near Black Butte, being the most serious. Fire Warden Frank Brumbaugh and a crew of eight men have this and smaller fires under control.

Fire Warden S. P. Shortridge has gained control of three fires in the same territory. The blaze on Wilson creek is still burning, required a month's fighting with crews ranging from three to six men. Five hundred acres were burned over in the three fires handled by Mr. Shortridge and about 100,000 feet of timber destroyed. He thinks that the fires handled by Mr. Brumbaugh covered 1500 acres. It is probable that at least 200,000 feet of timber was lost.

Several fires occurred in the Row river country during the past week.

Two Months' Work Needed.

Astoria—Captain Groves, superintendent of dredges for the Port of Portland commission, says he expects about two months' work with the dredge Multnomah will be required to open up the Tongue Point channel. The intention is to dig a channel 300 feet wide and 25 feet deep from No. 2 buoy down, a distance of approximately 4000 feet.

The operation of the dredge entails an expense of between \$8000 and \$9000 a month, which is being paid by the Commission.

Hood River Relic Goes.

Hood River—The oldest structure now standing in Hood River, built 28 years ago by Robert Rand, and occupied by the city's first barber, was destroyed by fire Wednesday. The structure was occupied by a plumbing company and the fire started in a pile of tar-covered ropes. Its frame walls were dry as tinder, and the flames were pouring from doors and windows in an instant. Adjoining business blocks were saved by quick work of the volunteer fire department.

Car Line Pays \$74,000.

Oregon City—More than \$100,000 was collected Tuesday in the tax collecting department. Tuesday was the last opportunity for the taxpayers to settle their account with the county without paying the 10 per cent added penalty. The Portland Railway, Light & Power company paid more than \$74,000, the largest amount. Less than \$50,000 will be turned over to the sheriff's office on the delinquent tax list.

Buena Vista Clover Poor.

Buena Vista—Clover hulling, which is in progress in this district, is exposing a poor yield. The midge, grasshoppers, and the long dry spell are blamed for the noted decrease. From one bushel to two and one-half bushels are being obtained. Some growers report even less than a bushel an acre. The Polk county acreage this year is said to be the largest yet planted and estimates for its value has been at a high mark.

Battle Line of Allies Is Moved Backward

Paris—An official statement issued by the war department says: "In the North the Franco-British lines have been moved back a short distance. In a general way our offensive between Nancy and Vosges makes headway. Our right, however, has been obliged to fall back slightly in the region of St. Die.

"In the North resistance continues. The enemy appears to have suffered considerable loss, more than 1500 bodies having been found in a very small space in a trench. Some had been stricken as they stood, in the attitude of firing their rifles.

"A series of fiercely contested combats has been going on during the past three days in the region, which were generally to our advantage.

"A decree will be published authorizing special promotions of officers for the period of the war, regardless of seniority."

London—A closer veil than ever seems to be drawn over the progress of the war. Little news has come to hand concerning the operations on either frontier. The Russians, however, appear to be continuing their advance in East Prussia towards Posen, with the Germans in retreat.

The only news from the French side is that the French troops were attacked along the Alsace-Lorraine line, but repulsed all the attacks successfully. There is no indication that the German attack was in any great force, but if it was, the French success shows that they are now in a stronger position along this frontier, from which they will be driven only by great sacrifices on the part of the Germans.

A more hopeful feeling prevails in England as to the strength of the French defensive position. The repulse the French sustained at Charleroi has been partly due to the desire of the French army to accomplish a brilliant incursion into Alsace and Lorraine, which led them to weaken their forces on the Belgian frontier. Having recognized the danger of this course, they have now reverted to what appears to experts to be a more logical strategy, abandoning their invasion of the provinces and concentrating their strength in the defense of the northern frontier.

Clash of Butte, Mont., Miners Is Renewed

Butte, Mont.—More than 1000 insurgent miners marched to the mines Thursday night with the announced purpose of preventing any Western Federation of Miners members from descending to work.

Arriving at the Anaconda mine, the insurgents, who are now known as the Butte Mine Workers' union, massed their forces around the collar of the shaft and notified the shifts going off work that unless they joined the new union before they went on shift again and were wearing the new union's button, they would be prevented from going to work by a force of the members of the new union.

Following their ultimatum to the members of the Western Federation of Miners, the insurgents again paraded the streets, ending at the Auditorium, where a meeting was held, no one being admitted except those wearing the buttons of the new union.

ABSENTEE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE RETURNING

Washington, D. C.—Prospects of losing a day's pay for each day's absence brought Representatives trooping back to the house and the rollcall showed 267 of the 435 in their seats in the house—the greatest number in weeks.

"This is the second line of reserves arriving," announced the leader of one returning party, "the third line is on the way."

"Who is that man?" demanded Speaker Clark, pointing with his gavel at a strange face. A clerk explained that it was a returned member.

A deluge of applications for leave "on account of illness" came down on the clerk. Majority Leader Underwood announced that the sergeant-at-arms would have to be satisfied of the validity of every such application.

Jews Pray for Peace.

Brooklyn—A prayer for peace between the warring nations of Europe has been prepared by members of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, of which Bernard Drachman is president. It is being sent to all congregations affiliated with the union, with the request to use it in the services during the war. The trend of the prayer is a bitter denunciation of the men who are now ruling the destinies of their soldiers and asks for a quick ending of the slaughter and massacre taking place in Europe.

"All-Water" Voyage Made.

New York—The first all-water voyage from San Francisco to New York by way of the Panama canal was completed here Thursday on the arrival of the Pleiades, of the Luckenbach Steamship company. The Pleiades, which flies the American flag, sailed from San Francisco on July 24 and passed through the canal August 16.

Prince, Surrounded, Dies.

Rome—How Prince Frederick William of Lippe died in the fighting before Liege is described tersely in a dispatch received here from the headquarters of the German army. The Prince's regiment was surrounded by the Belgians under the walls of Liege and he was struck by two bullets while standing among his men. He died instantly.

King Mingles With Troops.

London—According to the Antwerp correspondent of the Daily News, King Albert constantly mingles with his troops, and was in the trenches in the fighting around Malines. He was always at the points of the greatest danger, assisting the encouraging the men. He went among them attired simply as a soldier, and his sympathetic conduct had a remarkable effect.

PARIS TO RAZE OWN SUBURBS

Residences in Way of Forts to Be Destroyed.

Invading German Army Hopeful of Penetrating Lines Before Russians Reach Berlin.

Paris—It is officially announced that the military governor has ordered all residents of the zone within action of the city's defending forts to evacuate and destroy their houses within four days from August 31.

As far as can be learned, the French troops appear to be intact, except for those losses which were inevitable in a week's heavy fighting over a vast front.

If the British and French retire on the western flank it is explained that they do so in order to choose their ground for fiercer resistance. Every new day has seen reinforcements moving up to aid the French troops engaged on the Belgian frontier.

The French operating along the interior lines are able to shift an army corps from one part of the frontier to another swiftly, and it is said that the allies probably are in stronger position than last Sunday.

The Germans, apparently owing to the increasing pressure of Russia, seem to be throwing themselves against intrenched positions and are suffering severely. They are gaining ground and seemingly are hopeful of being able to break through before Berlin is invested.

French wounded are arriving at the provincial towns.

RICHARD HARDING DAVIS, WRITER, ARRESTED AS SPY

London—Only by exceptionally good fortune was the life of Richard Harding Davis, special war correspondent, spared by the Germans, who suspected him of being a spy, according to the story told by James R. Evans, an American engineer, who arrived from Brussels which place he left Thursday night.

For hours the Germans debated whether to shoot Mr. Davis, who had followed in the wake of the German advance. He was some distance south of the Belgian capital when taken into custody by the German officers.

Germany's Naval Loss Off Heligoland Is 670

London—Twenty-nine killed and 38 wounded was the price in men paid by the British for the naval action against the Germans in Heligoland waters Friday.

An official statement issued here says that of 1000 men composing the crews of the warships sunk off Heligoland, only 330 were saved.

The British losses are described as follows:

"The light cruiser Arethusa lost Lieutenant Eric Westmacott and nine men killed, four seriously wounded, and Lieutenant Robinson and 11 men wounded, but not seriously.

"The torpedo-boat destroyer Liberty lost commander Bertelot and six men killed, one man has since died from wounds, one dangerously wounded, five seriously wounded and five slightly wounded.

"The destroyer Laurel suffered ten men killed, one has since died of his wounds, two men dangerously wounded, seven seriously wounded and two slightly wounded."

London Paper Holds Up America as Good Example

London—The Daily News, in an editorial denouncing secret diplomacy says:

"Can Europe ever again tolerate the appalling peril of secret diplomacy? Can we ever again play about on the deck with sails and compasses, making our little laws and imagining that we are self-governing, while down in the hold of our ship of state there is a powder magazine, the existence of which we are not permitted to know? "Secret diplomacy belongs to the traditions of autocratic and personal government. It has no place in a democratic world, and the example of the United States must become the model of the civilized world on this vital matter, if Europe is to be free from menace in the future."

Czar Lauds Scots Greys.

London—The official press bureau has issued the following notice:

"His Majesty the Emperor of Russia, who is colonel in chief of the Scots Greys, has sent the following gracious message to his regiment: 'I am happy to think that my gallant regiment, the Royal Scots Greys, is fighting with Russia against the common enemy. Convinced that they will uphold the glorious traditions of the past, I send them my warm greetings and wish them victory in the battle.'"

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