

NEWS NOTES OF CURRENT WEEK

Resume of World's Important Events Told in Brief.

Italy busses in San Francisco now give transfers to the municipal street cars.

Germany is reported to be building two railways to the frontier of Alsace-Lorraine.

It is reported that the Russians have pillaged and destroyed 80,000 homes in East Prussia.

The German reichstag has adopted without debate the war estimates, and also passed the foreign estimates.

One of Washington's largest shingle mills, located at Centralia, has reopened since shutting down the first of the year.

Numerous plagues and diseases prevalent in Serbia are reported to be devastating a large percentage of the population.

It is estimated by Alice Clement and Mary Riley, policemen of Chicago, that one woman in each twenty in that city smokes cigarettes.

Governor Spry, of Utah, vetoes prohibition bill passed by the legislature, declaring that the saloon is simply transferred to the drug store.

City of Portland has just completed a municipal barn of the most modern type. The horses will have sanitary stalls, washroom and hospital.

Protesting against the action of the board of regents of the University of Utah, in dismissing four teachers, 14 other professors have resigned.

Washington government considers that the recent notes from the allies do not give the proper answers, which, our government deems, should be in detail.

Austria is reported to be continuing work on the fortifications all along the Italian frontier, and the garrisons have been reinforced by artillery and infantry.

The French chamber of deputies has unanimously passed a bill authorizing the government to raise the limit for the issue of treasury bonds for defense from \$700,000,000 to \$900,000,000.

Another British steamer, the Glenartney, from Bangkok for London loaded with rice, has been torpedoed by a German submarine off Beachy Head in the English Channel. Only one of the crew was drowned.

Testifying before the "American land" investigation, an owner of 12,000 acres in Texas, admitted that tenants with large families were desirable because the children could be pressed into work, especially during the rush season.

Mine-laying drills by the troops at Fort Stevens, Oregon, were commenced this week under the direction of the officers on board the steamer Major Ringgold. The drills are being held in the night, a short distance below the government wharf. The practice will be continued until the opening of the fishing season on May 1.

Wife of ex-Governor Moody of Oregon, dies suddenly at Salem.

United States government will send a sharp protest to England and her allies for the commercial blockade against Germany.

Sinking of the cruiser Dresden by British is claimed to be unfair by the German officers, inasmuch as the vessel was at anchor in neutral waters. It is also claimed that a shell from the British warship killed a woman and child on shore.

The largest superdreadnaught in the world was launched at Newport News by Uncle Sam. She will carry twelve 14-inch guns and has a displacement of 4000 tons more than England's largest warship. The cost to build her is \$14,000,000.

The German sea raider, Prinz Eitel Frederick, at Newport News for repairs, honored America by having the band play the Star-Spangled Banner as the President's yacht passed on its way to the launching of the superdreadnaught Pennsylvania.

Germany has sufficient food to meet her needs for two years, according to W. D. Boyce, editor of the Chicago Ledger, and Horace Herr, editor of the Indianapolis Times, who have just returned from a trip through Germany. Messrs. Boyce and Herr said that Germany was only "bluffing" about a food shortage.

Living on \$6 a week in New York is a simple problem, Miss Dorothy Miller, a 19-year-old shop-girl, told a legislative committee investigating the minimum wage problem. If one wants more clothes, she explained, it is only necessary to eat less food and if more food is wanted, skimp on the clothes allowance.

Great Britain is again accused of using the Stars and Stripes to avoid attacks by German submarines.

The first visit of the James J. Hill big steamer Great Northern, to ply between San Francisco and Astoria, arrived amid the cheers of 10,000 spectators.

Frank Stites, a Los Angeles aviator, aged 30, fell 300 feet in an "air well" at a motion picture city near here late Wednesday, jumped from the aeroplane when 30 feet from the ground and died from his injuries shortly afterward.

Allies Lose Three Ships by Turks' Floating Mines

London—The British battleships Irresistible and Ocean and the French battleship Bouvet were blown up by floating mines while engaged with the remainder of the allied fleet in attacking the forts in The Narrows of the Dardanelles Thursday.

The crews of the two British ships were virtually all saved, having been transferred to other ships under a hot fire, but an internal explosion took place on board the Bouvet after she had fouled the mine and most of her crew was lost.

The Bouvet sank within three minutes of the time that she hit the mine. The waters in which the ships were lost had been swept of mines, but the British admiralty asserts that the Turks and Germans set floating containers of explosives adrift and these were carried down by the current onto the allied ships gathered inside the entrance of the straits.

All the ships that were sunk were old ones, the Bouvet having been completed nearly 20 years ago and the Ocean and Irresistible in 1898. They were useful, however, for the work in which they were engaged in the Dardanelles.

The destroyed British ships are being replaced by the battleships Queen and Implacable, vessels of a similar type. They are said to have started some time ago for near Western waters in anticipation of just such losses as have now occurred. Two other ships engaged in the fighting, the British battle cruiser Exeter and the French battleship Gaulois, were hit by shells and damaged.

The British casualties, according to the British official report, "were not heavy, considering the scale of the operations."

The damage done to the Turkish forts by the heavy bombardment has not yet been ascertained. It is said that the operations against them are continuing. The damage done to the Turkish forts by the heavy bombardment has not yet been ascertained. It is said that the operations against them are continuing. The forts attacked were those on either side of Kephez bay and on Kephez point outside The Narrows and those on Kildid Bahr and Chanak in The Narrows.

The Kephez forts replied strongly when the battleships advanced, firing, up the Dardanelles, and all the ships were hit. It is asserted that these forts finally were silenced and a bombardment of those in The Narrows was undertaken when the three battleships struck mines. The blowing up of the ships did not cause a cessation of the fighting, which continued until darkness intervened. It is understood that the bombardment was resumed.

Five Russian Lines Fall Before Austrian Attack

Vienna, via London—Herr Lennhoff, correspondent of the Zeitung Am Mittag, sends the following dispatch from Austrian headquarters under date of March 18:

"The Russian offensive against the Carpathian line has broken down more quickly than was first expected, considering the vigor with which the attack was begun. The Russians' hope was to break the Austrian and German lines east of Lupkow pass. They sent forward huge forces there, but all attacks were repulsed with enormous Russian losses, and the Austrians and Germans are steadily, if slowly, gaining ground."

"The Russian tactics consisted in charging in five successive lines. As soon as one line was cut down another advanced, until all five had been shot down. The Russians sent forward all available troops, even adjuncts, like the older men who previously were used only as guards for the military workshops. Even military tailors and cooks were forced into the attacking line."

"This caused an apparent relaxation in the vigilance of the Russian vedette service. German troops making a flanking movement over difficult terrain found all the pickets, even the machine gun divisions, sleeping. In battle, however, the Russians fought recklessly, firing while standing with their bodies entirely exposed to the hottest hail of bullets."

"The attacking forces, chiefly Siberians, held their ground stubbornly. Although many hundreds were taken prisoners, none of them surrendered readily, but had to be overpowered in the trenches. It finally became evident that the Russians lacked reserves of equal quality."

Paris Statesman Killed.

Paris—The death of Henri Collingnon, counsellor of state, on the field of battle in Eastern France was announced Saturday. M. Collingnon, although 58 years old, volunteered as a private soldier and used his great influence in public affairs to secure an assignment in active service. He had been fighting for months in the trenches, according to his officers, showing remarkable coolness and bravery. He was recommended several times for promotion to the rank of second lieutenant, but preferred to serve as a private.

Karlsruhe Rumor Grows.

London—The secretary of the British admiralty announces that there is every reason to believe that the German cruiser Karlsruhe was sunk in the neighborhood of the West Indies at the beginning of November. Those of her crew who were rescued, he says, reached Germany early in December on the steamer Rio Grande, which had been acting in concert with the Karlsruhe.

TRADE RESUMING NORMAL BASIS

General Revival of Business Is Seen In All Lines.

Bank Clearings Show Big Gains—Prospects of Large Crops Also Give Impetus.

Chicago—Trade in general lines all over the country has shown seasonable improvement. Encouraging reports come from all sections of the country, embracing the centers of large industries.

Significance attaches to the increase in last week's bank clearings at the agricultural centers, Kansas City showing a gain of 25.5 per cent over figures of a year ago. Minneapolis gained 23.8 per cent. Omaha increased 10.5 per cent. St. Paul and Duluth gained 4 per cent each.

Enormous orders for machinery are a feature of the trade situation, both for domestic and foreign account.

The steel and iron business has held its own. Railroad financing progresses and steel and equipment orders are being placed with more freedom for the more urgent requirements of transportation lines.

Steel mill operations averaged around 69 per cent in the past week, which shows that specifications against contracts are holding up.

Unmistakable evidence of strong underlying confidence that great business activity will come to the United States is reflected in preparations now being made by bankers to meet the conditions.

General business has been creeping steadily back to a normal basis and, as it moves ahead, each week gathering stronger momentum, the country is nearing another agricultural harvest. Winter crops never before furnished such an encouraging outlook and, in view of high prices received for the last yield, dealers believe it is safe to assume that spring plantings of all grains and cereals will be greatly enlarged in acreage this season.

Bankers have gone into seasonable conditions like this before, probably not exactly the same in respect of circumstances which the foreign war has brought up, but they know what the harvest period means to them in requirements of funds with which to finance the movement of farm products.

They also realize that the trade volume promises to attain great height if the coming crops are large ones and that they must prepare to meet twofold force of financial requirements. The plethora of wealth created by the last agricultural production is expected naturally to double the effect of another yield of equal proportions with high prices and world-wide demand.

San Juan Forts Fire On German Ship

San Juan, Porto Rico—The German merchant steamer Odenwald, which attempted to leave port Monday without clearance papers, was stopped as she was passing out the entrance to the harbor by two shots across her bows from a five-inch gun and direct shots from a Maxim. She then returned and was taken in charge by the collector of customs.

Permission to sail was refused the Odenwald by the collector, pending instructions from Washington. The steamer has been at San Juan since August 6. She was bound for European ports from the West Indies with freight and passengers and sought refuge here. She began coaling and taking on provisions three days ago.

Failing to obtain the necessary clearance papers, her commander apparently decided to risk the attempt to put to sea. A heavy gun on Morro Castle sent two shots across her bows as a warning, but it was not until the machine gun opened a direct fire that the steamer stopped and headed back to port.

Germans In Africa Taken.

London—A Capetown dispatch to Reuters says that official announcement has been made that General Botha, commander-in-chief of the army of the Union of South Africa, has captured more than 200 German prisoners and two field guns at Swakopmund, German Southwest Africa. An announcement from London, February 26, was made that serious invasion of German Southwest Africa had been undertaken by forces under General Botha.

Sarah To Act Until Death.

New York—In a letter received here by Lou Tellegen, formerly her leading man, Sarah Bernhardt says: "I am continuing to improve rapidly. You ask if I will go on playing. How can you ask? Until the other leg is buried in my grave, I shall never cease to go on acting. I keep up my spirits and have a ravenous appetite for getting back to work."

Army Uses Neutral Food.

London—It was the German submarine U-23 which seized the Dutch steamers Batavier V and Zaanstroom, according to the Daily News Rotterdam correspondent. U-23 has been for some days sheltering under the lee of the Maas lightship, taking toll from all shipping, especially British.

Southern Landlords Want Child Laborers

Dallas, Texas—J. Tom Pagitt, owner of 12,000 acres of Texas land, described some tenant problems on his estate from the land owner's point of view before the Federal committee on industrial relations at its American land question hearing Saturday. The Pagitt place in Coleman county, he said, has 22 tenant families on about 2000 acres, the remainder being leased to cattlemen.

He said his agent prefers to get tenants with large families of children, because the country is so sparsely settled that the women and children form almost the only available source of extra labor supply in cotton picking season. The women among his tenants, he said, usually chop, hoe, and help with picking cotton. Children begin work in the fields at about 8 years of age.

A tenant, he said, would have difficulty hiring farm hands, because he could not, as a rule, pay their wages until after the crop was sold.

Describing conditions, Mr. Pagitt said the cheapest tenant house on his place has two rooms and cost \$225, while the largest has four rooms, costing \$400. None are screened, he said. "Would you object to a tenant who believed in certain principles of government or reform, advocating them while living on your place?" asked Mr. Walsh.

"No," replied Mr. Pagitt, "but I would not like a tenant who stirred up trouble by talking at the store and trying to make other men dislike his landlord."

"What hours should a tenant spend at work?" asked Commissioner Walsh. "Well," replied Mr. Pagitt, "in crop season some of them go to work at 4 in the morning, some at 6, and they generally work until dark."

U. S. Considers Allies As Not Answering Note

Washington, D. C.—The United States government considers that Great Britain and France, in the British order-in-council and in the accompanying notes, have not answered the questions propounded to them as to what warrant there is under international law for the establishment of an embargo on all commercial intercourse, directly or indirectly, between Germany and neutral countries.

It was declared officially at the State department that this government still does not know whether the action of the allies is intended as a legal blockade or whether the ordinary rules of contraband and non-contraband are to be the legal basis for future detentions. On a determination of this question probably will depend not only the nature of any steps which may be taken by the United States at this time, but also the basis for the many claims for damages arising out of interruptions to American commerce under the new policy of the allies.

Submarine Contract Let.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary Daniels signed contract plans for the navy's first sea-going submarine and announced that it would be known as the Schley, in honor of the late Rear Admiral Schley. The contract, as well as contracts for three harbor defense submarines, was awarded to the Electric Boat company, of Groton, Conn.

Navy officials believe the new sea-going submarine, upon which construction will now be commenced, is the first of that type in the world. Her displacement will be in the neighborhood of 1000 tons, with a surface speed of 20 knots and in underwater speed of between 10 and 12 knots.

80,000 Homes Destroyed.

London—The Star has received a dispatch from its correspondent at Copenhagen who says that statistics furnished by the president of the province of East Prussia show that 80,000 houses have been destroyed in East Prussia by Russian troops. Three thousand refugees are said to have been unable to return to East Prussia because they have no means of livelihood. Out of 100,000 houses only 6,000 remain. A dispatch from Berlin said these houses were private apartments, and had been completely pillaged.

One Woman In 20 Smokes.

Chicago—One woman in every 20 in this city is a cigarette smoker, according to an estimate after an investigation by Alice Clement and Mary Riley, policemen. In the Jewish, Polish and Italian districts the percentage of smokers was smaller, they said, only 2 per cent of the women using tobacco. "We covered all parts of the city," said Miss Clement. "Few working girls or girls of the middle classes smoke. The habit does not seem to be growing."

Officer Loss Is Growing.

London—A casualty list of officers received from the headquarters in the field, under date of March 15, gives the names of 83 officers, including Hindus, who were killed or have died from wounds, and of 123 wounded or missing. This brings up the total casualties among officers since March 10, as officially reported, to 195 killed or dead from wounds and 316 wounded or missing.

Poker Legal in Nevada.

Carson City, Nev.—After rushing through a gambling law the Nevada legislature adjourned early Saturday. The gambling law makes all gambling a felony except poker, whist, solo and five hundred. When no percentage is taken these are lawful games. Otherwise they are felonies. Paris Mutual betting on tracks of licensed associations is permitted.

Largest Battleship Extant Launched at Newport News

Newport News, Va.—Moored to a pier at the shipyard here Wednesday night lay the giant red hull of the new battleship Pennsylvania—the world's greatest fighting craft—awaiting completion after her successful trip from the stocks to the waters of James river. Mechanics were back at work on the vessel almost as soon as tugs could take her in tow when she was safely afloat, the builders seeing to it that not a minute was lost on the task of preparing her for commission not later than February 28, 1916.

Secretary Daniels, of the navy, and Governor Brumbaugh, of Pennsylvania, headed the distinguished company on the launching stand to see the Pennsylvania take the water. Miss Elizabeth Kolb, of Germantown, Pa., named the ship and broke a bottle of champagne against the receding bow after Episcopal Bishop Berry, of Pennsylvania, had delivered a prayer.

Joining with the noisy welcome given the new dreadnaught by the whistles of the presidential yacht Mayflower and harbor craft and the shouts of 10,000 spectators was the hoarse shriek of the siren of the German commerce raider, Prinz Eitel Friedrich, tied up at a nearby pier. Commander Max Thierichens, the German captain, in full uniform, was one of the guests on the launching stand.

A banquet was given at Old Point Comfort by the shipbuilding company in honor of the sponsor, and Secretary Daniels was the principal speaker.

In size and gun power the Pennsylvania is greater even than the Queen Elizabeth, of the British navy, which led the recent terrific assault of the allies on the forts of the Dardanelles. The main battery of the Pennsylvania will consist of 12 14-inch, 45-caliber rifles, set in four turrets, three guns to a turret, the plan of big gun arrangement adopted in the sister ships which preceded her, the Nevada and Oklahoma. Her tonnage measurement is 31,400 against 27,500 for the Nevada and Oklahoma and the Queen Elizabeth. The Queen Elizabeth, however, carries eight 15-inch rifles, set two to a turret.

Old Glory Again Used by Briton for Protection

Montreal—The Stars and Stripes floated from the mast of the liner Corsican while she was steaming down the Mersey on her way from Liverpool to Halifax on her last voyage, because two German submarines were said to be waiting in the waters close by, according to David McKay, of the Canadian Pacific Railway freight department, Winnipeg, a passenger on the Corsican, who has just arrived here from Halifax.

The American flag was hauled down, he says, as soon as the steamship cleared the Mersey and dropped her pilot.

New Liner Welcomed.

Astoria, Or.—James J. Hill's long-planned and much-talked-of freight and passenger service to San Francisco became a reality Tuesday, when the giant turbine liner Great Northern steamed into Flavel harbor to the mighty cheers of a host of Oregon people.

It was an important event in the annals of Oregon, and Oregon seemingly appreciated the fact, for a large portion of her population was on hand to bid the steamship welcome. Seven thousand lined the shores and docks surrounding the harbor, all of them highly enthusiastic and openly displaying their pride.

The Hill invasion was not accomplished, perhaps, in the manner in which it was originally planned. A steamship service has been inaugurated in place of the earlier discussed rail connection.

"The right of way is cheaper and the operating expenses are not so high," said the elder Mr. Hill on his last visit to Portland, in explanation of the substitution of steamship for rail service.

Past's Dead Not Buried.

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson's Colorado coal commission has postponed its visit to Colorado until autumn. The commission reported to the President that 71 of the operators, producing 61 per cent of the coal mined in Colorado, in a joint letter advised that "no useful purpose can be served by the commission going into Colorado," and the temper in which they write says even more eloquently than their words that with them, "the dead past" has not yet "buried its dead."

Milan Folk Demand War.

Paris—The Havas agency received the following dispatch from its correspondent at Milan: "There was a great demonstration here Wednesday in favor of intervention by Italy on the side of the allies. Crowds of manifestants marched through the streets and gathered in front of the cathedral. The republican deputy, Eugenio Chiesa, made a speech to the crowd in front of the chamber of commerce. The police charged and dispersed the crowds, which were shouting: 'Down with Austria; down with Germany.'"

Quake's Dead Are 29,978.

Rome—An official parliamentary report on the earthquake of January 13 gives the number of deaths thus far reported as 29,978, without including persons who afterward died of injuries and illness caused by the disaster. The communes damaged by the earthquake numbered 372.

BLOCKADE IS FOR EUROPEAN SEAS

Text of Diplomatic Exchanges Are Made Known.

Radius of Activity Defined Which Includes Mediterranean—England and France Reply.

Washington, D. C.—Six diplomatic notes were made public Thursday by the State department, constituting the entire correspondence of the last few weeks between the United States and Germany and between the United States and Great Britain and France relative to the abandonment of submarine attacks on merchant ships, the shipment of conditional contraband and foodstuffs to civilians in a belligerent country, the use of neutral flags by belligerent merchantmen, the removal of mines, and the proclamation of a virtual blockade by the allies against Germany.

The communications revealed that the United States government, realizing the difficulties of maintaining an effective blockade by a close guard of an enemy coast, on account of the newly developed activity of submarines, asked that a "radius of activity" be defined. Great Britain and France replied with the announcement that the operations of the blockade would not be conducted "outside of European waters, including the Mediterranean."

While Germany agreed, it is disclosed, to abandon her submarine attacks on "mercantile of any flag" except when they resist visit or search, provided foodstuffs were permitted to reach her civilian population, Great Britain and her allies rejected the proposal, originally made by the United States government in an effort to bring the belligerents into an arrangement which would safeguard the interests of neutrals.

Furthermore, the documents show that in a message of inquiry to Great Britain and France the United States asked whether the embargo on all commerce between Germany and neutral countries was to be carried out under the rules of a blockade or by interference with ships and cargoes, "as if no blockade existed." The two together presented in the view of the American government "a proposed course of action previously unknown to international law."

The answer from both Great Britain and France reveal for the first time that the allies officially regarded their policy as a "blockade," but desire to refrain from exercising the rights of belligerents under a blockade to confiscate ships and cargoes as a penalty for breach of blockade, substituting for it procedure in prize courts and compensation through sale of the detained merchandise.

German Consul at Seattle Is Arrested

Seattle, Wash.—Dr. Wilhelm Mueller, German consul at Seattle, and B. Mat Schulz, secretary of the consulate, were technically placed under arrest Thursday, charged with conspiracy with Dan Tarnatzky to violate the state law making it a penal offense to bribe an employe to influence his action in relation to his master's business.

The consular officials are charged in an information sworn to by County Prosecuting Attorney Lundin with offering a bribe to John Murdock, assistant shipping clerk of the Seattle Construction & Dry Dock company, for evidence to substantiate German Ambassador Bernstorff's accusation, filed at the department of State last month, that submarines were being made by the Seattle company and shipped to Canada, to be completed there for use against Germany.

Murdock was arrested on a warrant sworn to by an official of the construction company, charging him with grand larceny in abstracting bills of lading from the company's office.

Consul Mueller says that Tarnatzky called at the consulate and told Secretary Schulz that he could obtain "valuable information" concerning shipment of parts of submarines from Seattle to Vancouver. He had a "connection," he said, that enabled him to get this information.

Murdock next appeared at the consulate and was introduced by Tarnatzky as the source of the information, but did not say that he was employed at the shipyard, the consul said.

Karlsruhe Thought Sunk.

London—Reuters' Copenhagen correspondent sends a story of the sinking of the German cruiser Karlsruhe, taken from the Stifftidende, which asserts that it obtained the story from an authoritative source. According to the story, a sudden explosion broke the cruiser in two. One-half of the vessel sank immediately, carrying down part of the crew. The other half floated for some time, which enabled about 150 to 200 men to be rescued by a steamer. This steamer reached a German port with the survivors.

Escapes Three Submarines.

London—The Anchor line steamer Camerani, which arrived at Liverpool from New York March 15, with a cargo valued at \$5,000,000, successfully ran the German submarine blockade. The vessel reports that she was chased by three German under-water boats on her voyage through the Irish Sea.