

WORLD HAPPENINGS OF CURRENT WEEK

Brief Resume Most Important Daily News Items.

COMPILED FOR BUSY READERS

Events of Noted People, Governments and Pacific Northwest and Other Things Worth Knowing.

The Austrians are again actively bombarding the Italian advance positions on the Carso front of the Austro-Italian theater.

A sharp controversy over the future of the National guard is foreseen in congress when the matter reaches the senate and house.

By order of Mayor MacVicar, of Des Moines, Ia., the police seized a carload of coal in the local yards of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad. The mayor announced that the coal was to be delivered to the poor.

Copenhagen—After a single reading the Folketing passed the bill ratifying the treaty for the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States. The vote was 90 in favor of and 16 against ratification. Five members were absent.

Attempts to obtain action on the Adamson resolution to extend the life of the Newlands railroad committee, now investigation all phases of the railroad situation, until January 7, 1918, were abandoned. They will be taken up after the holiday recess of congress.

Vallejo, Cal.—A centrifugal machine gun, said to throw 3000 projectiles a minute at an initial velocity of 4000 feet a second, was tested by naval authorities here. The initial velocity of the army rifle is 2000 feet per second. The centrifugal gun is operated wholly by electricity.

Viscount Motono, foreign minister at Tokio, told members of parliament that he believes the German peace proposal lacked sincerity and that Germany does not really desire peace. He added that Japan's reply to the proposal would be made after consultation with her allies.

Pekin—Hsia Ti Ying, vice minister of foreign affairs, appeared before the lower house of parliament and answered a rumor that China was preparing to join the entente. He declared that China absolutely was not considering entering the European struggle and that she would maintain the strictest neutrality.

In the opinion of Senator Borah, congress will be unable to pass an effective compulsory arbitration bill, such as President Wilson recommended in his opening address to congress, and such as he also advocated last August. While Senator Borah recognizes the ability of congress to pass a law such as the President demands, he does not believe it would stand the test in court.

An urgent deficiency appropriation bill, carrying approximately \$4,500,000, was passed Friday by house and senate and sent to the President for approval. It provides \$4,250,000 for dependents of national guardsmen engaged in Mexican border service; \$210,000 for the Philadelphia, \$37,000 for the Denver, and \$25,500 for the San Francisco mints, and \$45,000 for the New York assay office.

A new record for butter production has been established by a cow belonging to M. J. Smiley, at Belle Fourche, S. D., it is claimed. The official test made by Professor Larson, of the State college, shows a production of 47.77 pounds of butter in seven days.

Cuba's sugar yield for 1916-17 will be a record-breaking one, according to cable advices received in New York by the Federal Sugar Refining company. The current crop will amount to 3,466,000 tons, as compared with 3,006,000 tons last year, and 2,582,245 in the previous season, according to the messages. The large output is attributed largely to the favorable weather.

French capture 11,387 Germans in three days' fighting along the Verdun front.

All publishers of papers in the United States are asked to communicate with the Federal Trade commission, which is investigating the high cost of newspaper stock.

Minneapolis millers Wednesday began operation on half-time basis because of the car shortage. They said they hoped to maintain at least that basis if sufficient cars could be secured.

The British government has cut service in hotels to 3-course dinners. For breakfasts and luncheons two courses only are allowed.

Companies of state militia from Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, North Dakota and Utah, numbering 16,647, are ordered to their respective states.

Directors of the Crucible Steel Company of America, at Pittsburgh, declare an extra dividend of 2 per cent on the preferred stock on account of deferred dividends. It will be payable January 31.

ENGLAND STILL SUSPICIOUS

"Something Behind" Belief Prevalent in Minds of Many.

London—The Monday morning newspapers again are giving ample space to President Wilson's note, assiduously seeking to penetrate any possibly concealed motive that may have led the President to what is considered here a most inopportune movement.

According to the Washington correspondents of London newspapers the opinion in the United States as well as here is that there must be "something behind it," and it is the opinion of many of the newspaper writers that this act was inadvertently revealed by Secretary of State Lansing when he referred to the United States as on the verge of being drawn into the war.

The suggestion is put forward by some of the writers that what would possibly so involve the United States would be a resumption on a still

Lord Curzon Will Wed Another American Beauty



The engagement of Lord Curzon, just named a member of the British war council, to Mrs. Grace Elvina Duggan, widow of Alfred Duggan, of Buenos Ayres, and daughter of the late J. Munroe Hinds, once American minister to Brazil, has been announced in London.

His wife, Mary Victoria Leiter, daughter of the Chicago millionaire, died ten years ago. Mrs. Duggan is a native of Alabama. She is tall and handsome, and has been known in European capitals for some years. Her former husband made a large fortune in Argentina.

greater scale of Germany's submarine policy.

The passage in the President's note to which he professes to find the aims of both belligerent groups identical and his qualifying phrase in the context, "as stated in general terms to their own people and to the world," for the most part is ignored, except in the columns of newspapers of pacifist tendencies. It cannot be said that these late press opinions show less opposition to the President's action than those of last week.

The Morning Post says the king's speech in parliament was perhaps the best answer that could be made to "the President's amiable proposal." Alluding to the President's belief that the nations are ready to welcome a league of peace, the newspaper says: "With our experience with these leagues of peace behind us, we should think twice and three before throwing over trusted allies in order to put our fortunes to the vote of Guatemala, Haiti, Siam and other nations, large and small, which would compose such a federation."

The Daily News, one of the most favorable of the newspapers to President Wilson, says editorially that the reception of his note was respectful but uncompromising. "What had to be said has been said, for the most part in language which America will neither misunderstand nor resent."

El Arish Lost by Turks.

London—El Arish, 90 miles east of the Suez canal, was captured Saturday by the British. The text of the British official statement says:

"Saturday the Egyptian town of El Arish was occupied by our troops after being for two years in the hands of the enemy. From the fact that the enemy had constructed a strong entrenched position covering the town and that a large amount of work recently had been carried out there, it appeared that the enemy had every intention of offering a stubborn resistance."

Coins Carry New Designs.

Denver—The Denver mint Monday began turning out the newly designed half-dollar pieces, and for an indefinite period will coin an average of more than 150,000 pieces daily. The new coin bears the full length of the Statue of Liberty, with the Stars and Stripes flying to the wind as a background. Branches of oak also are imprinted. On the reverse side an eagle is perched high on a crag, wings unfolded. The coin bears the usual wording.

Treaty is Ratified Again.

Copenhagen—King Christian in the cabinet council Monday ratified the treaty providing for the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States. This follows the passage by both houses of the Danish parliament of the bill for the ratification of the treaty.

COURT INVALIDATES TITLE TO 600 ACRES

Judge Galloway, Salem, Finds Fraud in Hyde Entries.

37,000 ACRES ARE AT STAKE

Decision in Linn County Case is First in Seven Actions Pending—State Must Return \$1.25 an Acre.

Salem, Ore.—Judge William Galloway, in the Circuit court here late Saturday, decided that title to 600 acres of land in Linn county was obtained by F. A. Hyde and his associates through fraud and collusion and that the title in equity to such lands, because of the fraud and collusion, still is vested in the State of Oregon.

But, he determined, that the \$1.25 an acre paid to the state for the land should be repaid. The money has been a portion of the state school fund, bearing six per cent interest. As to whether the interest which the state has received on this money should be repaid as well is still to be decided when the findings of fact and conclusions of law are signed by the court next week.

While the cause in question involves only 600 acres of land, the decision is of widespread interest, as this is the first to be decided of the seven Hyde-Benson cases, which have been submitted by Attorney General Brown and Assistant Attorney General Bailey. All told, the cases involve 37,000 acres of land situated in Linn, Lane, Clackamas, Hood River, Crook, Klamath and Josephine counties.

If the lower court's contention that the \$1.25 an acre should be repaid from the state school fund, proves to be correct on appeal, it will take from the fund approximately \$46,250, with the possibility of payment of six per cent interest on that amount running from 1898.

The court found that Hyde and his associates, through "dummy" entries, obtained 47,000 acres of school lands in the state. Before the fraud and collusion were discovered the United States had patented 10,000 acres of the land, and this was disposed of by Hyde and his associates, and the land forfeited as far as the state was concerned.

\$4000 is Obtained by Lone Robber From Bickleton Bank

North Yakima, Wash.—The Bank of Bickleton, 20 miles southwest of Mabton, Wash., was robbed of \$4000 late Friday by a lone robber, who rode into town on horseback, held up the bank and escaped.

The robber compelled S. A. Rossier, the cashier, to hand over the money, and after locking Rossier in a room, mounted his horse and rode away.

A posse was formed as soon as Mr. Rossier could free himself and give the alarm.

The robber's abandoned horse was found by the posse 30 miles from the scene of the robbery. The bandit had ridden the animal until it was exhausted and then had continued his flight on foot. The posse was said to be in close pursuit.

Two thousand dollars which the robber left behind when he abandoned his horse was recovered.

Pupils Made for Eyes.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Through a marvelous operation Mrs. Susan B. Johnson, of 113 Charlevioux street, Pasadena, has regained her sight. Artificial pupils have been made to allow the light to penetrate and focus on the retina. Removing a small section of the iris, the surgeons made artificial pupils above the natural ones, and opposite the clear part of the cornea.

The bandages were removed Saturday and Mrs. Johnson saw clearly for the first time within her recollection.

Peace Meeting Planned.

New York—Monster peace demonstrations, at which will be read a manifesto "from the American people to the world in the cause of peace," will be held at midnight on New Year's eve in Chicago, Denver, San Francisco and this city, it was announced here Monday by the American Neutral Conference committee.

At each meeting a community chorus will ring out the present year with song.

\$36,000 Paid for Farm.

Pendleton, Or.—The old Prospect farm, near Stanfield, one of the oldest in Umatilla county, again changed hands, David R. Wood, of Weston, buying it for \$36,000 from William Robbins and wife, who purchased the place about a year ago. The farm consists of 1600 acres of wheat land. Robbins took in trade as part payment a house and lot in Weston, a chop mill and warehouse in Weston and a house and lot in Milton. At one time the place sold at nearly \$78,000.

TWENTY MISSING IN MASONIC HOME FIRE

Aged and Children Are Believed Lost at Wichita, Kansas.

DEFECTIVE FURNACE IS CAUSE

Eight Tots Trapped in Burning Wing With Rescue Impossible—Institution Thrown Into Darkness.

Wichita, Kan.—Of more than 100 persons in the Kansas Masonic Home here, which burned early Friday, only 80 had been accounted for at 3 a. m., according to Superintendent Daniel P. Burdick.

Eight children, trapped in a wing through which flames were sweeping, and which had been entirely cut off from an entrance by the fire, were given up for lost after rescuers had made many frantic efforts to enter the building to rescue the helpless little ones.

Aside from the tragic destruction of the Masonic Home, the fire began to assume serious financial aspects as several nearby houses began burning. Efforts to obtain telegraph operators to man wires to the outside world were hindered by the fact that five men from the telegraph office had been summoned home because their residences were on fire.

The majority of the older persons in the Masonic Home apparently escaped. Many of them were unhurt, but in the scanty clothing which they were able to snatch in their exit from the home, they suffered keenly in a temperature close to the zero mark. The refugees took shelter in a nearby chapel and first aid was rushed to them. Frozen fire plugs proved a serious handicap to the firemen in their efforts to check the flames, so that rescue work could be carried on.

One woman, caught under a falling stairway, received injuries which probably will prove fatal.

The fire is thought to have originated in the basement of the home.

Paul Zeilke, 15, an inmate of the home five years, was sleeping in the basement. Zeilke was awakened shortly before 2 o'clock by fire and smoke. He rushed to an electric switch and pulled it, shutting off the motor that pumped oil to the furnace. This also threw the entire building in darkness.

Revised figures indicate that there were 99 inmates in the home besides the assistants and help. Of these but 46 have been accounted for, but dozens of others are known to have been rescued and taken to nearby homes.

Universal Military Training Bill to Reach Congress Next Month

Washington, D. C.—A definite plan for universal military training will be laid before congress next month in the shape of a bill formulated by the general staff of the army, accompanied by complete estimates of cost, as compared to the present volunteer system. Major General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff, told the house military committee Friday that the work was in progress, and would require about a month to complete. Chairman Dent said the committee would be glad to see the bill.

Auto Robbers Get \$3000.

Los Angeles—Julius R. Miller, a chauffeur, was shot through the right shoulder by one of two automobile robbers who attempted to rob him. Miller fled when they ordered him to halt and the robbers opened fire but did not pursue him. Jewelry valued at \$3000 and \$5 in cash had been taken from Frank R. Strong, wealthy real estate broker, by two automobile bandits shortly before the shooting of Miller. Charles Stewart also reported that he had been held up by two robbers in an automobile and forced to give up \$7.

Irish to Be Released.

London—The government has decided to release the Irish prisoners who were interned after the rebellion in Ireland, Henry E. Duke, chief secretary of Ireland, announced Friday.

"The time has come when the advantages of releasing these men far outweigh the risk, and I have so advised the government. Steps, therefore, will be taken to proceed with the least possible delay to return the interned prisoners to their homes."

Christmas Pardon Given.

Albany, N. Y.—A Christmas pardon was granted by Governor Whitman Saturday to William J. Cummins, who has served three years and two months of a state's prison sentence of four years and eight months for his part in the wrecking of the Carnegie Trust company, of New York, several years ago. Governor Whitman said that letters and petitions asking for clemency had been received from nearly every state in the Union.

Luther Burbank Wedded.

San Francisco—Luther Burbank, the famous plant evolutionist, was married here Thursday to his secretary, Miss Elizabeth Waters, by Rev. C. S. S. Dutton, pastor of the First Unitarian church. The ceremony was private and Mr. Burbank and his bride were whisked away in a taxicab.

NATIONAL GUARD IS FAILURE

Only Hope Lies in Universal Military Training, Declare Generals.

Washington, D. C.—The mobilization of the National Guard for border service was described as a military failure, emphasizing the urgent necessity for abandoning the volunteer system as the nation's reliance for defense, in statements Tuesday by Major General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the army, and Major General Leonard Wood, commanding the Eastern department, before the senate subcommittee considering the Chamberlain universal military training bill.

Both of the generals advocated universal military training. General Wood declared that the country now was utterly defenseless against a well-organized foe; and that if the guardsmen had met good troops they "would never have known what hit them." General Scott told the committee that lessons drawn from the present war proved that in case of war with a first-class power the United States would need immediately a trained force of 1,500,000 men, with another 1,500,000 available within 90 days.

On the other side of the question the committee heard Walter L. Fisher, of Chicago, former secretary of the interior, who opposed universal service, though he stood for adequate defense measures and suggested a regular army of 500,000. He thought if the pay of privates were raised to \$30 a month the service would be more attractive to recruits.

General Wood, from whose department went 85,000 of the guardsmen sent to the border, said that of the men enrolled when the call came, an average of 30 per cent of each company had to be dropped for physical defects, and the organizations went to the border filled with green men.

"It's been a tragedy," he said, "but worth all it cost if we only profit by it. It was not the fault of the officers or men, but of a defective system. If we had been compelled to meet good troops down there, it would have been a scene of carnage. The guardsmen would never have known what hit them."

"There is practically no military defense for this country today," General Wood continued. "We are dealing in consideration of this proposed universal training, with a matter of national life-saving. Universal training is the only way in which we will ever get an adequate military defense in this country. It is anti-militaristic and purely democratic. We must get it and get it quickly."

National Education Association to Meet in Portland in July

Portland—Portland will house the annual convention of the National Education association, the world's largest organization of teachers, next July.

The executive committee of the association which met in Albany, N. Y., Monday, decided in favor of this city after having had the matter under advisement since last summer. At that time, Asbury, N. J., was favored, with Portland second choice, and the Middle West runner-up for the honor.

In deciding to bring the 1917 convention to Portland it was stipulated that this will be the convention city in the event the Transcontinental Passenger association makes satisfactory transportation rates. It is believed here that the railroads will not hesitate to grant rates such as are desired, as this is invariably done for this convention.

Membership in the National Education association numbers 15,000 from all parts of the United States. As the coming convention will be the first time the association has ever met in the Pacific Northwest, a large attendance is looked for, probably close to 15,000. These visitors will come from every section of the country.

Sessions of the convention will be held in the new Portland auditorium now under way. Assurances are given that it will be completed before that time. The exact dates are yet to be set, but it is expected a week near the middle of July will be fixed upon within a short time.

Pope to Keep Hands Off.

Rome—Pope Benedict has no intention of attempting to mediate among the belligerents at present, according to a statement issued Tuesday by the Vatican. The net result of several resolutions introduced in the chamber of deputies regarding the German peace offer and a prolonged discussion among the senators and deputies was the decision by the legislators that no peace would be accepted unless in accordance with national aspirations and the rights of peoples based on the principle of nationality.

Estate is \$20,000,000.

New York—The will of John D. Archbold, president of the Standard Oil company, filed for probate Tuesday, divides an estate roughly estimated at about \$20,000,000 among his widow and children, with the exception of a few minor bequests. The widow receives Mr. Archbold's Tarrytown home and a one-third share of the estate. The children, Mrs. Marie A. Van Beuren, Mrs. Annie Sanders and J. F. Archbold, receive the remainder.

4000 Get 10 Per Cent Rise.

Gary, W. V.—The United States Coal & Coke company, a subsidiary of the United States Steel company, announces that it will give its 4000 employees a Christmas present in the form of a 10 per cent increase in wages.

WILSON CALLS FOR TERMS FOR PEACE

President Sends Appeal to Warring Nations.

BASIS FOR DISCUSSION SHOULD BE

Action Taken Without Notice of Belligerents—Is Not Proposal of Peace Nor Mediation Offer.

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson has appealed to all the belligerents to discuss terms of peace.

Without actually proposing mediation, the President sent formal notes to the governments of all the warring nations suggesting that "an early occasion be sought to call out from the nations now at arms such an avowal of their respective views as to the terms upon which war might be concluded and the arrangements which would be satisfactory as a guarantee against renewal or the kindling of any conflict in the future, as would be possible frankly to compare their views wholly without notice and contrary to what administration officials have described as his course, President Wilson Wednesday night dispatched the notes to all the belligerents to all the neutrals for their information. Summarized in the President's own words as contained in the note, his attitude is as follows:

"The President is not proposing peace; he is not even offering mediation. He is merely proposing soundings be taken in order that we may learn, the neutral nations through the belligerent, how near all the warring nations are to a peace which they long for with an intense and increasing longing. He believes that the time in which he speaks and the time in which he seeks will be understood by all concerned, and he confidently looks for a response which will bring a light into the affairs of the world."

This latest development in the moving world events toward a discussion of peace was not permitted to come known until the notes were on their way to the American ambassadors in the belligerent capitals.

It was a most distinct surprise to official Washington, which had led to believe that with the transmission of the proposals of the Central Powers the offices of the United States would await further news between the belligerents themselves and that certainly, in view of a speech of Premier Lloyd George of the announcements in Russia, France and Italy, further action by the United States would depend upon the next and delicate moves of the belligerents.

The whole tenor of official opinion throughout Washington, when President's action became known, was that it immeasurably improved prospects for some sort of ending of the war without impairing the position of the United States should they be unable to find a good ground on which to approach one another.

At the White House no statement whatever could be obtained as to whether any of the powers had intimated how they would receive the note, and there was every indication that the same careful secrecy which had prevented anything whatever coming known about the President's action until it had been taken, surrounded any of the succeeding events.

Nowhere on the surface appeared any indication of the history of the events which diplomats have been since the German allies brought their proposals to dispel the prevalent belief that such an action on the part of President Wilson was unacceptable to the entente powers.

The wish and hope of the powers that President Wilson would intercede in some way has long been known and has been conveyed in one way or another to the White House. The attitude of the entente allies of peace by their statesmen, and until recently in official circles to the American government, was that a peace offer by the United States would be considered almost anything to unfriendly.

Attempted to Burn Her Baby.

Waterloo, Ia.—Mrs. Ruth Elgin, killed one of her 3-year-old twin babies by hitting the child on the back of the head, and then set her own throat on fire Sunday morning, according to a report received here Wednesday. The second child is in a serious condition and may not live. Mrs. Elgin also is in a serious condition. Family and financial troubles are said to have been responsible for the tragedy.

16,000 Guardsmen Ordered.

San Antonio, Tex.—Ordered Wednesday by Maj. Gen. ... line with the war department to return the guardsmen to their homes when their presence unnecessary on the border. A home body of 16,000 men from border duty. They were represented in the ... ed to move and because of rolling stock the troops were ed into groups for the ...