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 Oregon State Teachers' association is in session in Portland.

Miss Gussie Studebaker, 18 years old, of Portland, was found in an unconscious condition at midnight Thursday in a lonely spot, where she was attacked by some man, unknown to her, who beat her into insensibility when she resisted and screamed.

After an all-day hearing the Interstate Commerce commission Friday took under advisement the question of whether it shall seek to solve the car shortage problem by ordering all railroads to return cars of other lines to their owners immediately on unloading.

Milton A. Morgan, a convict paroled from the Oregon state penitentiary December 14, and a waiter by occupation, was arrested by United States marshal Friday in Portland on a charge of having sent an infernal machine through the mail to James R. Misner, of Albany, Or.

Answering a strong popular demand, the president of police in Berlin has issued an order permitting restaurants and places of amusement to keep open New Year's night until 1 o'clock. This action will make possible the celebration by Berlin of the New Year in the usual manner.

Recent reports from Switzerland have represented the internal conditions in Austro-Hungary as so serious that those governments are prepared to negotiate direct with Great Britain and France, preferring a humiliating peace to what has been termed inevitable bankruptcy and ruin.

Conferences between representatives of the railroads and the four brotherhoods of railway employes in New York, at which were discussed the possibilities of a settlement of the eight-hour controversy, were discontinued abruptly Friday when it became apparent an agreement could not be reached.

In a circular made public Saturday by the military bureau of the War department it is stated that every able-bodied male citizen of the United States between the ages of 18 and 45 years is held liable for service in the National Guard at war time, without further act of congress, by War department regulations for the government of the guard issued under the National Defense act.

Washington, D. C. — One more appeal for modification of the protocol providing for the withdrawal of American troops from Mexico is made by General Carranza in a message delivered to Secretary Lane Friday by Luis Cabrera, chairman of the Mexican members of the joint commission. The Mexican first chief replied to the insistent American demand that the protocol signed by his spokesmen at Atlantic City be ratified with an 800-word document in which he failed to accede to the demand, but refrained from writing anything that could be construed as a flat refusal.

A terrific storm is blowing along the Alaskan coast.

President Wilson's Christmas dinner consisted of all-American dishes.

The Swiss government indorses Wilson's peace note, and freely offers assistance.

France has barred the sale of alcohol throughout that country, another step taken to limit drinking to beer and wine.

Frank J. Gould, says the Paris Herald, has just given $100,000 for the rebuilding of the English Protestant church at Maison la Fitte. There is an important English-American colony at this place, mostly intereted in thoroughbred racing stables.

Colonel William F. Cody, (Buffalo Bill), who has been seriously ill, is improving at the home of his daughter in Denver.

William A. Shaner, a barber in a prominent Portland shop, was shot and instantly killed by another barber Christmas morning.

An overturned canoe found in a slough near Everett, Wash., leads to the belief that three boys lost their lives, as one of the bodies has been found.

It is reported that President Wilson is expected to warn Americans against ocean travel should the peace move fail.

J. R. Misner, of Albany, Ore., received a bomb through the mail. His suspicions being aroused, he tied it to a tree and with a long string pulled the lid open. A terrific explosion followed.

John D. Rockefeller's Christmas present to each of the employes on his Tarrytown estate was a $10 gold piece, inclosed in a case, on which is printed "The Season's Greetings from John D. Rockefeller."

CONFERENCE IS DEADLOCKED

Railroads and Men Can't Agree; Not Stated Whether Strike is Meant.

New York—Special circulars putting up to the 400,000 members responsibility for the next step to be taken by the railroad brotherhoods in their controversy with the railroads over the application and interpretation of the Adamson act were sent broadcast by telegraph after a conference of the four brotherhood chiefs here Saturday.

Announcement of the action taken was made by William G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, prior to his departure for the West. He was accompanied by the other brotherhood leaders, whose conference with the railway managers resulted in a disagreement.

Earlier in the day the four chiefs issued a somewhat cryptic statement over their signatures declaring that the attitude of the railroads threatened to wipe out the benefits that should accrue to the men from the passage of the Adamson act and asserting that for that reason the "entire situation is to be placed before the membership."

The chiefs refused to say whether the action was a vieled threat of another strike vote such as brought about the eight-hour day legislation.

The Mayor of Umatilla.

Mrs. E. E. Starcher was not only elected mayor of Umatilla, Ore., but she had to defeat her husband to win. He had the temerity to run on the opposition ticket, and the women of the city just rose up and swatted him and many other male candidates. Four women were elected to the city council; another was chosen recorder, and another became treasurer. "I am for a rigid enforcement of the law and lower expenses of government," said Mrs. Mayor when she was asked about her policy.

Congress to Act Promptly.

Washington, D. C.—Prompt consideration in congress of President Wilson's proposed railway legislation was predicted here after announcement of the termination of conferences between railway and Brotherhood heads in New York in an unsuccessful attempt to settle their differences. The view was taken that representatives of employers and employes had thrown their entire controversy into the lap of congress for settlement.

Hearings on part of the President's program will begin before the senate commerce committee next week. Under a plan suggested by the President action can be obtained on the entire program once it reaches the floor. The President proposes amending a house railroad proposed legislation instead of introducing it in the form of separate bills.

Brotherhood men, aided by the American Federation of Labor, will fight the proposed strike postponement amendment. They insist that its passage would only give employers time to prepare for strikes and would deny labor the right to refuse to work when conditions are unsatisfactory.

Liquor Used to Lay Dust.

Pheonix, Ariz—Five hundred gallons of fine whiskies, wines and beer were poured into a city water wagon here Saturday, and the streets of the business section sprinkled with the liquor. Two hundred automobiles and several floats formed a parade that followed the "water" wagon. A brass band played a dirge. The sprinkler with its cargo, valued at $20,000, was driven by "dry" advocates. The liquor was confiscated in raids by the sheriff, under the new Arizona prohibition law, and its unique disposition was so ordered.

Famous Airman is Killed.

Berlin, (By wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—Lieutenant Gustav Leffers, the noted German aviator who recently was decorated with the Order Pour le Merite, has been killed in an air engagement on the western front, the Overseas News Agency announces.

A news dispatch in mid-November credited Lieutenant Leffers, aged 19, with having up to that time brought down nine British airplanes.

WILSON INDORSES BONDS FOR DEFICIT

Panama Canal Issues May Be Used for Army and Navy.

LEADERS URGE QUICK ACTION

President May Deliver Special Message to Congress as Spur to Immediate Action on Finance Bills.

Washington, D. C. — Tentative approval having been given by President Wilson to plans for a bond issue to meet a part of the prospective deficit at the end of the next fiscal year, administration leaders in congress are preparing to bring their revenue bills as soon as possible after the holiday recess.

It became known Saturday that they have urged that the President deliver a special message or adopt some other means to spur both houses to prompt action so that the necessary legislation may be passed before the end of the present session.

It has been agreed that any bond issue shall be charged to the account of extraordinary army and navy expenditures.

Representative Hull, of Tennessee, author of the income tax law, has outlined a plan he drafted for consideration of the ways and means committee for separating preparedness accounts from the ordinary expenses and receipts of the government.

He figures that ordinary expenses this year and next will be less than the estimated ordinary receipts and that special taxation and bond issues will be needed only to cover excess disbursements for various purposes, including army, navy and fortifications extensions.

Mr. Hull's plan contemplates the issuance of $125,000,000 of Panama Canal bonds for army and navy expense, $70,000,000 under the shipping act and for the proposed nitrate plant, and $25,000,000 to pay for the Danish West Indies, or a total of $220,000,000.

Standard Oil Man Says Gasoline Supply is Nearly Exhausted

Chicago— A note of alarm concerning the gasoline supply of the country was sounded at the convention of the Society of Agricultural Engineers here Saturday by Dr. Oscar F. Bransky, of the Standard Oil company.

He declared that production was not keeping pace with consumption, and that exhaustion of the supply was drawing near. The tension was considerably relieved, however, when it was calculated that the estimated remaining supply of crude oil, visible and invisible, would last for 138 years at the 1916 rate of consumption.

Dr. Bransky said that next year there would be 3,000,000 automobiles in the United States, or 750,000 more than this year. He estimated that Eastern oil fields are 75 per cent exhausted; mid-continental fields 50 per cent; Texas fields 80 per cent, and California fields 35 per cent exhausted.

Great Britain Battleship Deal Denied by Japanese Authorities

New York—Denial that Great Britain has agreed to furnish Japan, after the war, with six battleships as part of the price of Japanese participation in the conflict was made here Saturday in a cable message from the Japanese government. A rumor of arrangements between the two nations that might have a detrimental effect on the political and commercial interests of the United States had been heard here and in Washintgon and had caused grave disquietude. The substance of the rumor was that Japan was seeking or had obtained an agreement with Great Britain under which a group of British-built superdreadnaughts would be transferred to the Japanese fleets as soon as peace is restored. It is said that the number of dreadnaughts to be transferred to Japan was six.

Submarine Mail to Start.

Berlin—(By wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—The mail to be carried on the merchant submarine Deutschland and her sister ships, the German postal authorities announce, will be known as "submarine mail," and it will be dispatched to the United States, Central and South America, the West Indies, China, the Dutch East Indies and the Philippine Islands.

All letters for transmission by submarine must be sent to Bremen and must bear the inscription, "submarine letter."

10,000 Rabbits Are Killed.

Amarillo, Tex. — Belated reports Monday from the all-Panhandle of Texas jackrabbit drive, held in a united effort to reduce the cost of meat, indicate that no fewer than 10,000 jackrabbits have been killed in the various drives. Hereford, Tex., reported 1000 rabbits killed and sold to a Galveston brokerage concern for shipment to New York, all dressed; St. Francisco reported 500 killed and one drive in Swisher county reports 750.

CAN DRAFT MEN WHEN NECESSARY

War Department Finds Ample Authority in Law.

FROM 18 TO 45 IS AGE LIMIT

Recruiting Officers Instructed to Discourage Enlistment of Men With Families or Others to Keep.

Washington, D. C.—Every able-bodied male citizen of the United States between the ages of 18 and 45 years is held liable for service in the National guard at war time, without further act of congress, by War department regulations for the government of the Guard issued under the National defense act.

In a circular nearly two months ago, but made public only Friday, the Military bureau directs that where a National guard regiment is called out for war service a reserve training battalion to fill vacancies at the front shall be organized out of the National guard reserve and by voluntary enlistment.

"If for any reason," the order continues, "there shall not be enough reservists or enough voluntary enlistments to organize or to keep the reserve battlaion at prescribed strength a sufficient number of unorganized militia shall be drafted by the President to maintain such battalion or lesser unit at the prescribed strength."

Says 3,000,000 Trained Men Are Needed for Defense of Country

The language follows closely that of the National defense act, in which the unorganized militia is defined as including every able-bodied male citizen within the prescribed age limit or those who have declared their intention of becoming citizens.

The National Guard regulations, which will be amplified in great detail later, also strike at the problem of dependent families of soldiers, which has cost the government several millions of dollars already through the border moblization. Recruiting officers for the National guard are directed to discourage the enlistment of married men or those with others dependent upon them. Such persons are to be accepted only for reasons in the public interest, men who wish to become officers being the only class specifically excepted.

It is provided in the regulations that no officer of the guard hereafter shall be recognized as such under the defense act unless he shall have subscribed to an oath binding him to obey the orders of the President and of the governor of his state.

Wilson Threatens Veto.

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson told callers Friday that he would veto the $28,000,000 public buildings bill if it comes to him in the form in which it is now pending in the house. Its advocates plan to seek to obtain a rule for consideration of the measure by the house soon after the Christmas recess.

The President has reached no decision on the rivers and harbors bill laid before him by Chairman Sparkman, of the house rivers and harbors committee.

Explosion Rocks City.

Sapulpa, Okla.—Explosion of a wagonload of nitroglycerine bound for the oil fields shook the country for miles around Saturday night. Two men with the wagon probably were blown to bits, as on trace of their bodies has been found. The explosion occurred five miles west of Keifer, about 10 miles from here. It shattered hundreds of panes of glass here, rocked buildings in the business district and was heard for 25 miles around.

LIMIT EXPIRES; REPLY NOT IN

Carranza Fails to Sign Protodol, but Formal Break Deferred.

Washington, D. C.—Although General Carranza had not replied up to Tuesday night to the demand of the United States that he either ratify or repudiate the protocol drawn by the Mexican-American joint commission, the expiration of the time limit was not made the occasion for formally declaring the negotiations at an end.

While the time expired at midnight, officials were inclined to take into consideration that a reply might have been delayed and indicated that a favorable reply, even though a day or more late, would not be rejected, inasmuch as an adjustment of international difficulties was the chief object.

Refusal to accept the terms of the agreement, under which troops would be withdrawn from Chihuahua, means the closing of negotiations through the joint commission for adjustment of the questions at issue between the United States and the de facto government of Mexico.

What effect the new situation then presented would have on the policy of the United States is not known, but it was said at the State department that any further move would be made through the usual channels and not by the commission, which for more than three months attempted to effect an amicable settlement.

Dr. John R. Mott, one of the American commissioners, conferred with Secretary Lansing in the course of the day, and both expressed the hope that Carranza's reply would be favorable.

The more general opinion among government officials, however, was that the Mexican executive would not alter his repeated declaration that the American troops must be withdrawn unconditionally and any further discussion of international subjects could not take place while foreign troops violated the sovereignty of Mexico.

If Carranza persists in his refusal there will be nothing for the members of the joint commission to do but to hold one last conference to close the record and say good-bye.

Tornado and Blizzard Takes Toll of 21 in Arkansas

Little Rock, Ark.—From 17 to 21 and probably more persons were killed in a tornado that struck South Central Arkansas at 3 o'clock Tuesday, according to reports received here.

Four are known to be dead at England, 17 are reported killed at Keo and several are reported killed at the state convict farm at Tucker.

All wries into the strom-swept district are down and only meager details are available.

The known dead are: Albert L. Swarts, a farmer living near England, and three negroes, one of whom lived two miles north of England, and two who lived two miles south. The Swarts home was picked up and carried about 100 yards. Mrs. Swarts was believed fatally injured and an 18-year-old daughter was badly hurt.

The storm is said to have swept a patch about four miles wide and it is reported that several fires broke out in the wreckage. Every physician in the little town of England has been called to the country to care for the injured.

Villa Takes San Luis Potosi.

El Paso — A report was received Wednesday by sources known to be close to Francisco Villa and by government agents saying that Villa's forces captured San Luis Potosi Tuesday. Many foreigners who left Torreon before Villa attacked that town recently went to San Luis Potosi. No details were available.

San Luis Potosi is southeast of Torreon on the National railroad line between Aguas Calientes and Tampico. Tampico is believed to be Villa's objective in order to obtain a port through which he can import arms, ammunition and suppiles. Villa was reported to be between Torreon and Chihuahua City, and was said to be preparing to launch an attack against Chihuahua City soon.

In anticipation of this attack, General Francisco Murguir was reported to have ordered General Francisco Gonzales, former commander in Juarez, to proceed south at once with his entire brigade to reinforce the Chihuahua garrison.

Leper Colony Mutinies.

Havana—Raising a flag and saying that they would be removed only by violence, 174 inmates of the San Lazaro Hospital for lepers, who were to have been transferred to Mariel, refused to leave the building. After several hours' delay the lepers agreed to leave San Lazaro for Mariel on receiving the promise of health officials to remove them thence to a new hospital now under construction as soon as it is finished. It is reported that more than 20 of the lepers escaped from San Lazaro through a rear exit.

School Children Strike.

Scranton, Pa.—In answer to the school board's decision in not granting a Christmas vacation of one week, 15,000 school children of the 22,000 enrolled in the public schools of this city remained away from sessions Tuesday.

Students from two high schools marched through the city yelling:

"We want a vacation!"

At intermission period at both institutions the "strikers" managed to induce several hundred others to strike.

NATIONAL BANKS GAIN 4 BILLIONS

Resources of All Institutions Reach $15,520,000,000.

TEN-YEAR PERIOD IS DOUBLED

Total of Banks of Germany, England, France, Russia, Italy, Denmark, Spain and Japan Exceeded.

Washington, D. C.—Resources of National banks of the United States, Controller Williams announced Tuesday, have increased more than $4,000,000,000 during the last two years, to now aggregate $15,520,000,000, exceeding by about $1,000,000,000 the total resources of the Bank of England, the Bank of France, the Bank of Russia, the German Reichsbank, the Bank of Italy, the Bank of Spain, the Bank of The Netherlands, the Bank of Denmark, the Swiss National Bank and the Imperial Bank of Japan combined.

In a statement based upon returns from the last bank call November 9, the controller calls attention to the fact that the increase has been at the rate of approximately 18 per cent a year during the past two years as compared with 6 per cent a year for the 10-year period from 1904 to 1914, so that the total resources are at present more than double what they were five years ago.

"The compilation just completed of returns for the last bank call," the controller's statement reads, "shows a condition of strength, progress and growth beyond all precedent. The resources of National banks on the date of the last call are greater than the total resources of all reporting national banks, saving banks, private banks and loan and trust companies throughout the United States at the time of the inauguration of the Federal reserve system about two years ago.

"It is also noteworthy that the resources of our National banks at this time exceeds by $321,000,000 the total resources of all the reporting banking institutions in the United States including state banks, savings banks, loan and trust companies and private banks as well, as late as the year 1904."

The greatest percentage of increase during the two year period in which the Federal reserve system has been in operation, was in the Western states.

Spokane is Selected as One of 12 Farm Loan

Washington, D. C.—Twelve cities in which are to be located the Federal Farm Loan banks were announced Wednesday by the Farm Loan board, and it is expected that within days the new system will be in operation ready to make the loans for which applications already are pouring in from every section of the country.

The banks will be opened in Springfield, Mass.; Baltimore, Md.; Columbia, S. C.; New Orleans, La.; Houston, Tex.; St. Louis, Mo.; Louisville, Ky.; St. Paul, Minn.; Omaha, Neb.; Wichita, Kan.; Spokane, Wash.; Berkeley, Cal.

Stock subscription books of the banks will be opened within the next days, probably about January 3, and remain open for 30 days. It is stated, however, that the government will have to supply most of the capital under that section of the act which empowers the secretary of the treasury to make up the unsubscribed stock.

Temporary directors, five for each bank, will be named by the board as soon as the banks have been organized and borrowers have subscribed 000 of the stock of each bank. The temporary directors will exercise the authority to boards of nine directors each, six of whom will be elected by the farm borrowers and three by the Farm Loan board.

Each borrower must subscribe for stock in the bank from which he borrows to the extent of 5 per cent of his loan, and the original subscribers to the capital stock are asked to surrender their holdings if they may be needed to meet this situation.

Silver Thaw Not Sleet

Washington, D. C.—The much-vaunted "sleet" is going to be scarce this winter before the "storm" and "glaze," Weather officials reported. The campaign for more accurate nomenclature for various kinds of ice. Sleet is officially defined as globules of rain frozen before they reach the earth. When rain falls and forms a glaze on trees, the condition is called sleet, and when this is accompanied by wind, it is a storm.

216 Eggs Gift to Postman

Albany, Or.—Eggs enough for 216 Christmas puddings was one of the Christmas presents received by Joseph [illegible], a rural mail carrier on one of the routes running out of Albany. In recognition of his faithful service and because he worked Christmas Day to make up for delayed Xmas packages on his route telephone subscribers gave him an "egg shower." The eggs he was given totaled a "duck and eight hens."