WORLD HAPPENINGS OF CURRENT WEEK

Brief Resume Most Important Daily News Items.

COMPILED FOR YOU

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

The village of Whatworth, Que., 16 miles from Riviere de Loup, was wiped out Monday by forest fires.

A general wage increase of 3 to 5 cents an hour for skilled mechanics and reclassification of mechanics' work are announced by the Southern Pacific lines at Houston, Texas Tuesday.

Two thousand members of the bench and bar heard Secretary of State Hughes plead for America's entrance into the world court Tuesday night at the Kent centennial celebration at Columbia university.

Eugene Meurer, millionaire paper manufacturere of Muskegon, Okla., has married Miss Margaret Wasserman, "his $40,000 cook," whose especially prepared dishes Meurer repeatedly declared meant "life itself" to him.

Woodrow Wilson was serenaded at his S-street home Wednesday by a Shriner patrol from Greenville, S. C., which sang "Dixie" under his window and then at his request followed it with "The Star-Spangled Banner."

President Harding will make 14 addresses en route to the Pacific coast on his Alaskan trip and will speak in five coast cities after returning from Alaska, according to an official announcement of the executive's itinerary late Tuesday at the White House.

Increases in wages ranging from 1 to 3¾ cents an hour and from $6.84 to $10 a month, effective May 16 and aggregating approximately $458,800 annually, have been granted to 8330 employes of the Northern Pacific railroad's maintenance of way department.

Newspaper reports to the effect that Sir Auckland Geddes was retiring from the position of British ambassador to the United States was characterized as entirely unfounded by Ronald McNeill, under secretary of foreign affairs, in the house of commons Monday.

Awarded $50,000, the amount she asked from Dr. Karl Connell for breach of promise, Miss Violet Johnstone of Brooklyn, arrived in New York Wednesday from Omaha, where the suit was tried. The case probably will be appealed, the doctor's attorneys said.

The state department announced late Wednesday it had received a cablegram from Jacob Gould Schurman, American minister at Pekin, which said "there was no definite indication of how long it would be before Americans and others still held by Chinese bandits are released."

The United States air service dirigible TC-1 was destroyed by fire shortly after it moored at Wilbur Wright field at 6 P. M. in Dayton, O., Wednesday. The ship, the largest of its kind in this country, was destroyed during a severe electrical storm. It came to Dayton from Scott field, Illinois, on a test flight.

Sofia.—Profiteers will be subject to public beatings with lashes, confiscation of their property and permanent disbarment from business under a bill submitted to the Sobranje (national assembly) Wednesday. This is the governments' answer to the many complaints that the cost of living has been unnecessarily increased by speculation.

Army efficiency requires that attention be given to religious matters, General Pershing said Wednesday at the opening session of the conference with churchmen and welfare workers, called by the war department. All military training has in it certain elements of moral instruction, General Pershing said, but he added that "religion contains the secret of the impetus toward clean living."

Authoritative denial was given Wednesday to Moscow newspaper reports alleging British interference in soviet Asia. It was declared that the British goverment had never made any agreement with the Emir of Turkestan involving a protectorate of that region and that the statement in the Moscow papers relative to an alleged British promise to finance and arm anti-soviet forces was untrue.

RAIL MERGER IS APPROVED

Southern-Central Pacific Union Upheld by Court of Appeals.

St. Paul. — Approval of the interstate commerce commission's action in authorizing the Southern Pacific railroad to acquire control of the Central Pacific road was announced Monday by the United States circuit court of appeals.

Walter H. Sanborn, senior judge of the court, announced that the court "had concluded that the interstate commerce commission had the authority to authorize and approve the control by lease and stock ownership of the Central Pacific railroad by the Southern Pacific company."

This conclusion, in effect approving provisions of the transportation act of 1920, is declared of far-reaching importance, in that it tends to uphold the present railroad consolidation plan covered by the act.

There will be no opinion filed now, but counsel for the department of justice and for the Southern Pacific were notified to present arguments here on the form the court's decree shall take. Appeal to the supreme court still is open to the government.

The court which, in addition to Judge Sanborn, includes Judges William S. Kenyon, Fort Dodge, Ia., and Robert S. Lewis, Denver, has before it the proposed decree of the railroad company, permitting the control under the conditions laid down by the interstate commerce commission.

Counsel for the railroad on Monday will move acceptance of this form for the decree and the government will have an opportunity to suggest such amendments as it wishes, or may serve notice of intention to appeal to the supreme court.

The court's decree will be under the mandate of the supreme court, issued October 17, 1922, directing the circuit court of appeals to enter a final decree requiring the Southern Pacific to dia decree entered carrying out the terms of this decision.

The supreme court had held the Southern Pacific control of the Central Pacific as in restraint of competition and in violation of the Sherman anti-trust act, and the government sought vest itself of any control of the Central Pacific company.

30 TRAINS CAUGHT IN FLAMING SHED

Philadelphia. — Passengers occupying sleeping cars in the train shed at the Broad Street station of the Pennsylvania railroad were routed out of their berths early Monday by a fire. The shed burst into flames in two or three places. Five alarms were sounded summoning all the fire fighting forces in the center of the city.

Approximately 30 trains were in the shed and several caught fire before they could be moved to safety. Great excitement prevailed among passengers waiting to board outgoing trains until they were ordered from the building by the firemen.

The blaze started shortly after 1 A. M. An hour later the entire train shed was in flames and the baggage room, just outside the waiting room on the second floor, also was burning. One passenger, overcome by the smoke, was taken to a hospital. A number of firemen also have been overcome.

The fire spread to the mail room, under the train shed, between 15th and 16th streets. Scores of men with trucks worked to remove the mail but the blaze drove them out.

The flames spread westward, away from the station proper which is located opposite the city hall, one of the largest municipal buildings in the world. Entrance to the station for trains is on an elevated structure from the Schuylkill river, approximately eight blocks. Under the tracks for about three blocks are express stations and mail room.

All fire apparatus in the city was brought to the scene. Hundreds of streams of water were poured on the flames which shot high into the air. Fire Chief Davis said that he feared the roof, of metal and glass and covering nearly a city block, would collapse.

Hood River, Or.—Monday a valve in a pressure irrigation system in the garden of Mrs. W. L. Smith failed to work. The valve was unscrewed. Mrs. Smith supposing it was clogged by silt. She was surprised when an eight-inch mountain trout shot from the pipe. The system worked well for an hour and again stopped. A wrench was again applied and this time Mrs. Smith discovered a large rainbow trout. It measured 18 inches and weighed 3½ pounds.

FOREIGN NATIONS OBEY LIQUOR LAW

U. S. Government Gratified by Favorable Attitude.

NEW RULES IN EFFECT

Congress May Be Asked to Remove Ban Against Foreign Ships Carrying Beverages.

Washington, D. C.—With the ship liquor regulations effective Sunday, government officials are gratified at the attitude taken toward compliance with the rules by foreign nations.

Announcements coming from Great Britain, France and other important maritime nations that vessels flying their flags will carry only enough liquor to meet requirements for beverage up to the American three-mile limit and that they will return "dry" in this respect have been favorably received. The position of these countries accords with views repeatedly expressed by Secretary of the Treasury Mellon that he did not anticipate difficulty regarding observance of the regulations by important lines.

It is recognized by officials that the regulations are rigid and that they will be a source of inconvenience to foreign lines and will even require suspension of domestic laws of such nations as France and Spain calling for adequate supplies of wines for beverage purposes for ships' crews at all times. Protests from these countries, Great Britain and other nations were conceded to be natural.

At the same time, it is pointed out, the treasury department had no alternative but to obey strictly the decision of the supreme court and administer it as the law of the land. To do otherwise, it is maintained, actually would involve violation by treasury officials of their oath of office and lay them open to impeachment. It was stated that they had nothing to do with the making of the law and are not seeking to pass one way or the other upon its merits or its effect in international relations. Nor, it was added, did the supreme court have any authority other than interpreting the law. Making of the law, it has been emphasized, rests entirely with congress.

Consequently, it is pointed out, if any relief is to come to foreign shipping interests, the source of appeal is congress, which cannot be taken until it meets next December. Meanwhile it will be the purpose of the treasury department to enforce its regulations through the public health office. It has been suggested, though not plainly stated, that the treasury department may take the initiative and ask congress when it convenes to remove the ban against foreign ships carrying liquor for beverage purposes. It is reported that the possibility of such a proposal has been one reason why foreign lines have indicated their purpose to comply strictly with the regulations.

Poincare's Note Sent.

Paris.—Premier Poincare's note on the subject of German reparations was delivered in London Sunday for presentation to the British cabinet tomorrow. It expressed the hope that Great Britain would join France and Belgium in telling Germany that passive resistance in the Ruhr must cease.

It says if Germany complies, France will be disposed to consider with her allies a solution of the reparations question, provided the discussion keeps within the limits of the French proposals of January.

Georgia Has Big Storm.

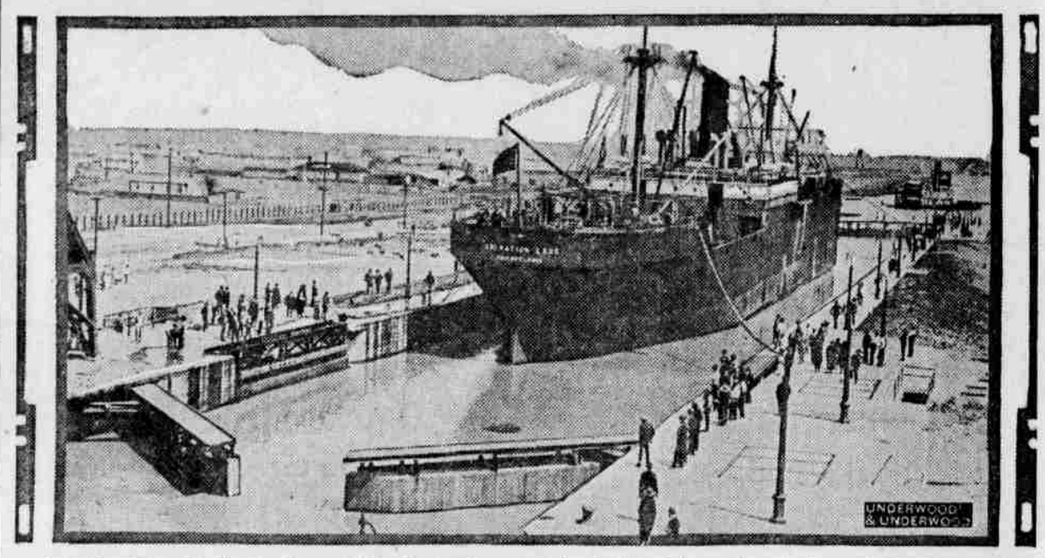
Macon, Ga.—Damage estimated at $1,000,000 was caused to Macon property by a storm that broke over this city at 12:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon. More than six inches of water fell in less than an hour and a half, the weather bureau announced. All of the storm sewers of the city were overloaded. Many of them gave way.

The storm was local, extending about 20 miles from this city in any direction.

Wage Agreement Made.

Chicago.—The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad notified the railroad labor board Saturday that it had made an agreement with its maintenance of way employes affecting 10,000 men. The agreement grants foremen increases in wages of from $4 to $10 a month and 1 cent an hour to other employes.

Great Canal at New Orleans Is Formally Opened



In connection with the tenth annual foreign trade convention in New Orleans that city's new industrial canal and inner harbor was formally opened on May 5 with a water pageant and addresses by eminent men. This photograph shows the final test of the big lock with the 7,800-ton vessel, Salvation Lass.

Radium Treasury Atop Skyscraper

Walls of Lead Protect It and Shield Passers-by From Perils of Its Emanations.

New York.—New York has the only radium reservoir in the world. For greater safety it is hidden away on top of one of the highest and most isolated of the upper Broadway buildings, at Fifty-seventh street, facing Central park. It is swept by the four winds of heaven, without any nearby building to interfere.

From this reservoir is continually pumped the emanation which the radium produces and which is supplied to physicians and hospitals everywhere, provided they are competent to use it as an instrument in the alleviation of human suffering.

As closely guarded as the United States treasury, the reservoir contains the largest supply of pure radium under individual control. Extraordinary precautions are taken to insure its safety, as well as for the safety of those who come in contact with the emanation.

To gain a true conception of the energy of this element undergoing spontaneous disintegration one must remember that the emission is unceasing—almost perpetual motion. Year in and year out, radium, without generally consuming itself, emits energy at a rate constant in proportion to its amount—a feat which no nonradioactive substance can begin to accomplish. Radium is the direct parent of the emanation, and while it is changing more than a hunded thousand times slower than its product, it constantly maintains an equilibrium with its emanation, the life of which is comparatively fleeting.

An observer standing on the rise of ground in Central park beyond the Fifty-ninth street and Columbus circle entrance, if his gaze happened to dwell on the upper parapet of the tallest building in his direct line of vision, must wonder. Looking southeast on a sunny day he would observe a brilliant reflection playing in and about the windows of the western angle of one of the topmost stories. At first it might seem that some occupant was trying with a mirror to concentrate the sun's rays on some one below in the street, but the more the onlooker gazed the more perplexing the problem would become. It was solved by the writer after he had traced the flashes to the reflection of the sun's rays on a number of bright-barred windows behind which is housed a portion of the world's most precious element.

Under Strict Guard.

There was no "welcome" sign on the door which gave access to the place of mystery. A visit was more or less of an intrusion, for the reservoir is under watch and ward of physicists and scientists who are not concerned with advertising its existence. However, they are not afraid of newspaper investigation, and here in this high section of a building towering almost to the skies, the most out-of-the-way place conceivable for a laboratory, there was no resentment toward a visitor who happened to have a nose for news and followed it along a novel and interesting trail in crowded Broadway.

From the beginning the visitor is impressed with the fact that radium at all times is a dangerous thing, and that it is fortunate such a powerful agent therapeutically has, by virtue of its own intrinsic value, been kept from the hands of unskilled operators. The scientists engaged in the work of investigation behind the barred windows showed by their demeanor that they were conscious of their responsibilities. Since the discovery of radioactivity by Henri Becquerel in 1896 and the finding of radium by M. and Mme. Curie, a moderate store of the element has been accumulated. Doctor Kuppelweiser of Vienna gave the Radium Institute of Vienna to the Academy of Sciences of Austria, which turned it over to the department of physics of the University of Vienna. The institute is a research institution, offering no courses of instruction and accepting only investigators of recognized standing. It owns about two grams of relatively pure radium salts.

In Paris the laboratory of Mme. Cure is part of the Sorbonne or University of Paris and now occupies the Radium institute, close to the Pantheon. The radium owned by the laboratory originally was presented to the institute by Mme. Curie in the form of radium residues from which only one gram of radium has been extracted. Recently, during her visit to this country, Mme. Curie was presented with a gram of radium, which she took back to Paris with her.

Difficulty of Handling.

Although the medical value of radium has been sufficiently established, proper treatment involving the use of radium cannot be given by every physician. For example, the radium emanation loses half its strength in a little more than three days. That is to say, after three and a part days, half of the gas has changed into other products. At the end of a month all of it has changed and there is no emanation left. Without some knowledge of radioactivity a physician would not be able to know the strength of the material he was using. Until the discovery of radium the atom was understood to be indivisible. In radium the atoms are constantly and spontaneously splitting up and, after they have split, form new substances. The atoms of radium break up to form radium emanation, which in turn forms an active deposit of another radium, producing another and still another, each instance distinctly different from the atoms of radium which were its forefathers.

From an ordinary office the visitor is led into a laboratory containing an amazingly complicated and delicate apparatus of glass and glistening mercury. On all sides are barred windows electrically articulated so that the least attempt to break in would be instantly recorded, and in a manner that would surprise the most intrepid intruder. This room is the outer portal to the reservoir.

Like a Torture Chamber.

From the barred, prison-like anteroom a massive lead door with three locks opens into a lead room, dark and much like what a youthful and romantic imagination would conjure up as a medieval torture chamber. The room, about twelve or fourteen feet square, has five tons of lead in its walls to protect people passing in the corridors beyond and working in offices adjacent.

In the very center of the lead-lined room, standing like a sacrificial altar, is a safe lifted high into the air by a concrete pedestal. It is the heart of the reservoir, the origin of the never-ceasing flow of energy. Although the emanation is decaying from day to day a fresh crop is being spontaneously manufactured by the radium within the safe. The radium is placed near the ceiling to assist the passage of the emanation through the glass labyrinth leading from the top of the safe. The emanation stops three times on its way out of the lead room or reservoir, each time losing a part of its impurities, until it passes through the lead wall, by its glass tube, into the apparatus in the outer laboratory. Here the emanation, now pure and unmixed with air, is forced by the pressure of mercury and air into a glass capillary tube hardly larger than a thread. It is then sealed and put into a lead box ready to be measured.

No one enters the lead room idly, because in it the radium emanations are unfiltered. But peepholes covered with lead glass enable the observer outside of the lead room to see what is happening within.

Below the reservoir and away from the influence of its contents there is another room—a windowless room—in which are placed the delicate instruments used in measuring the strength of the radium emanation, a galvanometer and a finely adjusted electroscope. In the galvanometer is a tiny mirror hanging by a delicate thread. This mirror reflects an electric light along a scale placed about three feet in front of it. When the emanation is placed over a positive and a negative electrode it causes the bases between the two to become conductors of electricity, bringing about a flow of current from one to the other. This current is carried by wires, close enough to the mirror to make its influence felt, the force of the charge pulling the mirror to one side. This swinging of the mirror is registered by the reflected light on the scale mentioned above.

These readings are checked by the electroscope. This instrument looks like a small nickel cylinder, not quite a foot high, with a telescopic lens on one side. One looks within the lens at a small scale on which a filament of gold leaf registers zero. This leaf, when charged, rises on the scale. The natural leak of that charge of electricity is measured by timing the fall of the leaf on the scale with a stop watch. Then the leaf is recharged and its rate of fall, after the emanation has been placed near, is recorded. This fall is much more rapid because, as with the galvanometer, the emanation imparts the power of conducting electricity to the air around the leaf, carrying its charge away. The rate of descent of the leaf depends on the strength of the emanation, a more rapid fall indicating a greater energy.

Standard of Measurement.

In order to be assured of accuracy in measurements with the galvanometer and electroscope it is necessary to have at hand a standardized tube of radium. The scale readings of the galvanometer and the rate of fall of the electroscope are taken for this known standard and the strength of the unknown calculated by the proportion of its results to those of the standard. This strength is expressed in millicuries—one millicurie of emanation being in equilibrium with one milligram of radium element.

The United States possesses unique deposits of carnotite ores which abound in uranium and radium content. Carnotite is a yellow, crystalline, pulverulent material occurring in white sandstone as an encrustation on the faces of joints and fractures, and is deposited around and between the individual grains of the sandstone, often strongly adhering to the even surface of a grain. Until recently the deposits in this country constituted the largest known supply of radium-bearing minerals in the world. However, rich mines are now being worked in the Belgian Congo, the ore five and six times as high in uranium content as that in the United States.

The future market for radium will depend largely upon the successful use of radium emanation for medical purposes and, as it is now being demonstrated to the satisfaction of the medical profession that radium has a decided use in more than one disease, the demand for it not only will equal the present supply but equal any supply that is likely to be put on the market in the future. In New York hospitals and clinics the emanation is used not only for malignancies but for many kinds of skin diseases, for the nose and throat—even for removing tonsils—as an aid in the work of surgeons, and for treating different conditions of the internal organs.—New York Times.

British Invent Stainless Alloy.

Sheffield, Eng.—A new tarnish-resisting alloy, "stainless silver," has been discovered as the result of research in the laboratory of a local firm. In making this announcement at a meeting of the Institute of Metals, Harold Turner said experiments had been in progress for two years for the discovery of an alloy resistant to ordinary atmospheric corrosion.

Turns Clock to Make Wife Late in Court

Valentino Engessar, twenty-four years old, of Brooklyn, N. Y., was held for trial when arraigned before Magistrate O'Neill on charge of assault preferred by his wife, Helen. The case was set for ten o'clock, and Helen showed up at eleven. Just as the magistrate was about to send an officer to find out why she did not appear, she entered the room.

"Where were you?" asked Magistrate O'Neill.

"You honor," she replied, "my husband set the clock back two hours so as to make me late."