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.

Work was resumed on Tutankhamen's tomb Wednesday morning after the customary break for the weekly market day, which also this time happened to be Christmas.

An avalanche Wednesday carried away a cottage between Roseland and Beaufort, France, 30 miles northeast of Chambery, killing nine of the 11 occupants of the building.

James Nippert, 23, University of Cincinnati football player, died Tuesday of blood poisoning which resulted from a slight cut in the leg suffered in a football game Thanksgiving day.

Heavy snow storms and avalanches are reported from several points in Switzerland. One man was killed and several cattle destroyed in the collapse of stables in Ringgenberg, in the Bernese oberland.

Cleo de Merode, French motion picture actress, has lost her suit for 100,000 francs against the owners of the film "Peacock Alley," which she charged injured her reputation by burlesquing incidents in her career.

Seventeen persons are known to have perished Wednesday night in a fire which destroyed a part of one of the frame structures of the Chicago state hospital for the insane at Dunning, on the northwest edge of Chicago.

The ministry for Jewish affairs in Lithuania is to be discontinued, the national assembly having rejected the bill providing for its financial maintenance. The ministry for the affairs of the white Russian population was accorded similar treatment.

Religious and civic organizations will be asked to join with officials of the Presbyterian church in a congress to be held at Washington February 13 and 14, to plan a campaign for national legislation to bring all motion picture exhibitions under federal control.

Three New York persons, two of them women more than 60 years old, were dead, two were in a critical condition and more than a score of others were in hospitals Tuesday night as a result of drinking poisonous Christmas liquor. Some of the victims were in a serious condition.

Production of meat this year was the greatest in history, exceeding last year's figures by 1,500,000,000 pounds, according to estimates by the Institute of American Meat Packers. A big jump in pork production was largely responsible for the increase, 10,000,000 more hogs being bought by the packers than in 1922.

If the American people approve the plans selected by the jury of the $100,000 American peace award created by Edward W. Bok, Mr. Bok will take a second step toward the advancement of world peace with a far wider scope and intent and an award larger and more important in every respect, he announces in the January issue of the Atlantic Monthly.

The veritable queen of the bootleggers will arrive in New York shortly from Nassau, capital of the Bahamas and capital also of the West Indies bootlegging trade. She is coming to invest some of her wealth in Fifth avenue finery and to "do" Broadway as she has always longed to do it, but, according to her few intimates in Nassau, her chief desire is marriage with "the right man" and a suburban cottage, for which she would gladly forego the adventure and large income of her present post.

Lieutenant Osborne C. Wood, son of Governor-General Leonard Wood of the Philippines, who is reported to have accumulated a fortune of between $700,000 and $800,000 in Wall street, received the information on which he acted through a Wall street "tipster" service, which sent him nightly cablegrams and for which he is reported to have paid $1000 a month, including cable charges. According to the New York Times, the war department investigated the young officer's transactions and found no cause for censure.

Realistic.

In a school essay a child wrote that a thrush said, "Mrs. Hewitt, Mrs. Hewitt" so often and so clearly in their village that at last Mrs. Hewitt came to her door and said "Yes?"

U. S. ARMS TO GO TO MEXICO

Time and Place of Delivery Kept Secret—Airplanes Included.

Washington, D. C.—Details of the contemplated sale of surplus army war materials to the Mexican government occupied war department officials Sunday and it was indicated that orders to depot commanders from which the rifles and other equipment are to be taken will go forward within a day or two.

Final decision to grant the request of the Obregon government and make the sale direct by the Washington government was not reached until Saturday, although the request is understood to have been before administration officials practically all of last week. Although there has been no indication that the proposal was the subject of extended discussion at the cabinet meetings on last Tuesday and Friday, it is unlikely that President Coolidge reached the decision to depart from the policy of the Harding administration in relation to the sale of surplus arms without laying the matter before his advisors.

Presumably no publicity will be given by the Washington government to the time or place where any of the supplies are to be turned over to Mexican forces. Reasons of military prudence would require the Mexican officials to conceal the route by which the arms are to be taken into Mexico, so far as that is possible. The deliveries, however, will be made from the depots of the Eighth Army corps area.

Difficulties of the Obregon government in transporting military supplies to the active front between Vera Cruz and Mexico City are increased by the fact that the rebel stronghold at Vera Cruz closest to the federal forces requires the sea route of delivery.

There have been no large outbreaks of revolutionary activity in northern Mexico, however, and presumably officials at Mexico City are satisfied that they can safely transport arms and ammunition from the border to the Mexican government storehouses in the capital.

Aid For Veterans Asked.

Washington, D. C.—Assistance in the task of finding jobs for rehabilitated former service men has been asked by President Coolidge in letters to the American Federation of Labor, the United States chamber of commerce and the chambers of commerce of the larger cities.

The president, in letters addressed to these organizations and made public by the veterans' bureau, declared that "while much has been achieved, especially by the United States veterans' bureau, in this very vital problem, there is still much to be accomplished for the approximately 70,000 who are still in training and who are to become ready for employment at the rate of about 5000 per month."

Invents New Microphone.

New York.—Perfection of an electric ultra-audible microphone, invented by Dr. Phillips Thomas, which, it is claimed, will permit scientists to record sound vibrations which now are too faint for the human ear to catch, was announced Saturday by the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing company.

In its experimental stage, according to S. M. Kintner, director of research for the Westinghouse company, the microphone has been used successfully to transmit by radio the highest notes of the voice and of musical instruments, which the ordinary transmitter and receiver reproduce as mere noise.

Mr. Kintner declared the device had been perfected and simplified to a point where it could be used by vessels at sea in picking up the warnings of fog horns or other sound warnings beyond the range of the human ear; in studying the finer sound vibrations of organs of the human body, such as the heart and the brain, and in the realm of the entomologist who has tried in vain to pick up sounds known to be made by tiny insects, but inaudible to humans.

Dauntless Is Wrecked.

Seattle, Wash.—Crewless and helpless in the grip of a 60-mile gale, the steamer Dauntless, owned and operated by the Puget Sound Freight line, broke loose from its moorings at Kingston, Bainbridge island, Saturday night, drifted across Puget sound and was pounded to pieces on the rocks at Meadow point, near the town of Richmond Beach, ten miles north of Seattle. The boat, valued at $60,000, is a total loss.

Venizelos on Way Home.

Marseilles.—The Andros, a Greek steamer, flying the British flag, with M. Venizelos aboard, left Sunday for Greece, notwithstanding the bad weather prevailing. M. Venizelos, who is returning to his homeland in an endeavor to straighten out the political situation, went aboard Saturday night. He declined to see any persons but intimate friends.

TAX BILL FOLLOWS MELLON PROPOSALS

Seeks 25 Per Cent Exemption on "Earned Income."

PENALTIES LOWERED

Several Hundred Amendments to Existing Revenue Law Are Proposed.

Washington, D. C.—The complete text of the new tax bill was made public Friday by Chairman Green of the house ways and means committee, which will meet again as soon as congress reassembles on January 3 to continue its study of the sweeping revisions proposed by the administration.

In all its features the bill follows the recommendations previously made public by Secretary Mellon. It proposes several hundred amendments of the existing revenue law, many of them of a highly technical nature and designed to put an end to tax evasions, and many others dealing with the changes advocated by Mr. Mellon in income and other tax schedules.

So far the bill has been the subject of only a preliminary study by the committee, which has made no attempt to reach decisions as to what, if any, changes it will make before the measure is reported to the house. It has been agreed, however, that the administrative provisions shall be passed upon first, before any attention is given to Mr. Mellon's proposals for changes in tax schedules.

One of the principal revisions provided in the bill is a reduction of surtax rates so that the surtax would begin at 1 per cent on net incomes from $10,000 to $12,000; would provide an additional 1 per cent for each additional $2000 up to $36,000; 1 per cent additional for the next $4000; and would then add 1 per cent for each $6000 up to a maximum of 25 per cent on incomes of $100,000 or more.

Under the present law surtaxes begin at 1 per cent on net incomes between $6000 and $10,000 and scale upward to a maximum of 50 per cent on net incomes exceeding $200,000. The new bill also provides that the normal tax on incomes shall be 3 per cent where it now is 4 per cent, and 6 per cent where it now is 8 per cent—a reduction which the treasury estimates will result in a loss of revenue of $91,600,000 a year.

Provisions also is made in the bill that 25 per cent of "earned income" which is defined as wages, salaries and professional fees, shall be counted as exempt in computing tax returns. The greater part of this exemption is expected to fall to those having small incomes, which the result that the treasury expects a reduction of $97,500,000 from this section alone.

The bill proposes the outright repeal of the present taxes on telegrams, telephone and radio messages, theater admissions and of certain other nuisance taxes, including the levies on silver-plated flat silverware, pencils and fountain pens selling for not more than $1, and clocks and watches selling for not more than $5.

The administrative features of the bill include a provision for creating a board of tax appeals, composed of not less than seven nor more than 28 members, appointed for ten-year terms at salaries of $10,000 each by the secretary of the treasury and without senate confirmation. The board would hear and determine cases involving the assessment of taxes, but both the government and the taxpayer would be privileged to appeal any decision to the courts.

Uncle Sam Gets Blame

Paris.—The United States was held chiefly responsible for present conditions in Europe by Paul Raynaud, speaking in the chamber of deputies Saturday during interpellations on the government's foreign policy.

M. Reynaud, referring to the interallied debts and their effect upon Europe, said:

"America weighs upon England's shoulders. England weighs on ours and we are a burden to Germany. This is a strangely impressive pyramid.

Volcano Belches Lava.

Hilo, T. H.—Superintendent Boles of the Hawaii national park telephoned from Volcano house this morning that the volcano Kilauea had shown unusual activity ever since dark last night.

At least 10 to 15 feet of lava, he said, has overflowed into the main pit of the crater, covering an area of about 40 acres, and a number of fountains of lava, were spurting from openings in the pit.

A Debt of Honor

By JANE OSBORN

A depressing and unaccustomed silence hung over the supper table in the Yates dining room. Occasionally Mrs. Yates cast knowing looks at her husband, with side glances at her daughter, Dorothy, who was eating valiantly in spite of her aching heart. Her brother, Samuel Yates, was silent because the only thing he wanted to talk about was the thing that his father had ordered him not to mention. Grandmother Yates, knowing nothing about the situation, was wondering whether she had grown so deaf that she couldn't hear what people said or whether the unusual silence was real.

Finally Father Yates said, "Ahem," by way of beginning, and then after a pause and with his eyes on his wife to see that she approved he began: "I suppose you have heard the news, Dorothy.

"Yes," was all she answered.

"And you don't know where he has gone?"

"I do not," said Dorothy. "If he wants to go, I suppose he has a right."

At least, reflected Mr. Yates, thankfully, there had been no tears.

"Have you any idea what made him leave?"

"No, father," she said, and then bit her lip and looked down to stifle the sob in her voice.

"Well, then, there is something crooked about it. He would have told you, I guess, if there hadn't been."

Dorothy's eyes, now raised daringly, were glowing with indignation. "How can you say that?" she asked. "You know Tom Payson didn't take anything with him. I know what you've been doing all day. You've been asking down at the bank and all around to see if he forged a check or anything, and you and the men have been looking all over the place to see if he went off with anything."

"That's just what we have been doing," said the father. "So far everything seems to be O. K. And the funny thing about it is that he went off without even getting a cent of what's due him for the work he has done."

"Why, papa," interjected Mrs. Yates, "Tom has worked here nearly three months. Why in the world didn't you pay him regularly, same as the other hired men?"

"'Cause he asked me not to when he came," said Mr. Yates, with satisfaction at not being to blame. "He said he'd rather have the money piling up, or something of the sort. I suppose he was afraid he'd spend it. I was looking in the time book, and it appears he's worked a mite over ninety-eight days. His wages was four dollars a day—which would make it that I owed him $392, to be perfectly accurate."

"Well," put in Grandma Yates, who was just getting the drift of events, "that's kinda queer." She paused to laugh. "I've heard of having people clear out owing you something, but I never heard of having them clear out when you owed them something."

"Yes," reflected Mr. Yates, "I've had the other thing happen, but I don't know as I ever heard of just this sort of thing. I remember the time Henry Glover cleared out owing me for horse fodder I'd been supplying him all winter. It was his idea that the fodder wasn't O. K. He lost a horse and he laid it to the fodder, though later he admitted he was wrong; but we'd had such a time over it by then that he swore he'd never pay me that money even if he was right. Henry was a great boy. My best friend until that happened."

"How much did he owe you, dad?" asked the practical Samuel.

"Just three hundred and ninety-two dollars," said Mr. Yates. "I remember—" Then he stopped short and looked around at the faces of members of his family round the supper table. They had all been struck by the same fact at the same time.

"Queer coincidence," reflected Mrs. Yates, and Grandma Yates laughed and said she wasn't sure it was a coincidence.

"Did it ever strike you, Mr. Yates," asked his wife slowly, "that this fellow looked a mite like Harry Glover—like enough to be his son?"

"But how could he be his son when his name is Payson?" asked Dorothy. "Besides, I'm sure he isn't the son of a man who would be so dishonorable."

Somehow supper progressed without much further reference to the disappearance of the young man who had come to the Yates farm four months before asking for work. He had been taken on as an extra hand to work for the summer and had been housed with the other hired men in the old farm house where a special housekeeper provided meals. The Yateses were up-to-date farmers and one of the points that Mr. Yates insisted on for his wife's sake was that the hired men should never have to be provided for in their kitchen or dining room.

A week later Mr. Yates announced at supper that he had had a letter from "that fellow that disappeared."

"And I guess sis has been getting letters from him right along," put in Sam. "If that square envelope that came to you was from him, why then she has, because I've got the mail every day this week, and there has been a letter in one of these envelopes with the same handwriting every day from the one after he went away."

Dorothy tried to glower at her brother, but was not eminently successful. It was not easy to blush and to glower at the same time.

"What I was going to say," said Mr. Yates, "is that this young fellow, Tom Payson, is Glover's nephew. He went out West and so did his folks, and seems like now old Glover has died and Payson found out that he'd left this debt. More'n likely the old fellow wanted to pay it, but didn't have a chance. He never was over shrewd and the chances are he didn't any more'n keep the wolf from the door. Might have been a dying request of the old man's. And so Payson comes on and pays the debt in the only way he can, by working it out, and he didn't tell us until it was all worked out. He doesn't say it in just that many words in his letter," Mr. Yates continued, "but I judge that is what happened. He says, though, that he still owes the interest, but he'll get around to paying that in cash. Now, that's what I call being pretty honest. I shouldn't say," added Mr. Yates, talking for his daughter's benefit, but not looking at her, "that Tom Payson amounted to a whole lot. Probably won't ever be anything but a hired man, and not a real smart one at that; but he earned his four dollars a day all right. A fellow that's only a hired man at his age—near thirty, I should say—won't probably ever be anything but a hired man."

Dorothy pouted.

"Maybe he's never had a chance," she defended.

After supper Dorothy went to her father as he sat reading a magazine in the family living room.

"I suppose you'd feel awfully disappointed if I was to marry a hired man," she said.

"I'd rather you didn't," said Mr. Yates. "Still, Tom Payson's a mighty honest fellow, even if he is a hired man."

"But he isn't, dad," said Dorothy, and then from the passageway between the living room and the front door appeared Tom Payson, only a completely transformed Tom Payson. Dorothy ushered him into the presence of Mr. Yates and, after rather embarrassed greetings, went on, "he's a mining engineer, dad, and no more a hired man than I am."

They all talked for a while, but eventually Mr. Yates put the question that puzzled him. "If you are an up and coming mining engineer, then why didn't you pay that debt in cash instead of giving up your time to it?" he asked.

"Because," said Tom, "my uncle told me about the difficulty between you and him and said that though he felt that he was probably to blame he wouldn't pay it and made me promise never to pay it, either. You see, he had made quite a fortune, a million or so, and left me as his only heir. I couldn't take that money without paying his debts. I promised not to pay money. I didn't promise not to pay in work. But I didn't say anything about paying interest. I'll figure that out, Mr. Yates, and pay it at once, and then we'll be square and I hope you'll be willing to forget the little difficulty with my uncle."

"A million or so," said Mr. Yates stupefied. "I'm blessed! Well, I see no reason why you shouldn't marry Dorothy."

And so Mr. Yates gave his consent before it was asked.

WAS REAL "DUTCH TREAT"

Invited to Dinner and Theater by Friend, He Has to Pay One-Half the Bill.

At the insistence of his friend Sam Jones, Bill Smith stayed in town for dinner and a show the other night, although to do so he had to cancel a pleasant engagement in Suburbia. But Jones had said "You simply must, Bill. I put that deal through today and I want to celebrate."

They dined at an expensive restaurant, Jones ordering elaborately and without thought of cost. He paid the check, tipped the waiter, and then doing a sum in mental arithmetic, turned to Bill Smith. "You owe me," he said, "exactly—" naming half the price of the check. The same thing occurred at the theater after Jones purchased the tickets.

Smith felt properly angry. However, he was too polite to say anything, but on the way to the train after the theater he turned to Sam as they were passing an ex-saloon. "Sam," said he, "let's drop in for a glass of near beer."

Jones agreed, and with their drinks before them Smith handed the bartender a quarter and received a nickel in change. Pocketing this he raised his glass and without a smile said to Jones: "Sam, you owe me ten cents."
—New York Sun and Globe.

Increase in Coffee Drinking.

Americans, always heavy users of coffee, are drinking more than they did last year, according to figures secured by the foreign commerce department of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

In a pamphlet issued by them covering the volume of the principal exports and imports between the United States and chief foreign markets for the six-months period, January to June, 1923, importations of coffee for the first six months of this year were 699,088,000 pounds, as against 639,941,000 pounds for the same period in 1922.

This shows an increase of 59,147,000 pounds, or 9.2 per cent.