

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.

General Pershing reported Sunday the loss of two soldiers swept overboard and drowned from a transport at sea December 17, and the death of two others from gunshot wounds.

The British armed steamer Stephen Furness has been torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine in the Irish Channel, it was officially announced. Six officers and 95 men were lost.

Dr. James Beall Morrison, reputed to have invented the dental chair, the dental engine and many other accessories now used by dentists, died at his home in Kansas City Sunday, aged 88.

Troops passing through Grand Junction, Col., are being given scores of boxes of apples from the orchards of the Grand Valley. Ranchers are donating the apples, and each trainload requires about 25 boxes.

A buffalo has been presented to the Red Cross at Omaha, on which it hopes to realize several hundred dollars within the next day or so. The Red Cross has asked a public market to dispose of this giant buffalo at retail.

Myron B. Rice, theatrical producer and manager, died Saturday at his home in New York, at the age of 53 years. He came into prominence when he produced "My Friend From India" and "The Man From Mexico."

An air raid was attempted on the Kentish coast of England shortly after 6 o'clock Sunday night. One raider was forced to descend close to the coast, the crew of three being captured alive. No other machines have come over land at this time.

Financial figures for the seventh German war loan were 12,635,660,200 marks, according to a Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam, quoting a message from Berlin. Based on 23.82 cents, the value of the German mark before the war, the amount subscribed by the seventh war loan would equal \$3,009,814,259.

It was announced at Republican National Committee headquarters at Washington, D. C., Monday that Chairman Wilcox has called a meeting of the committee in St. Louis February 12. It is understood Chairman Wilcox recently has told friends pressure of other business makes it desirable for him to retire.

A service badge for all officers and men of the regulars and National guard who participated in the occupation of Vera Cruz, the various punitive expeditions across the border and in the border patrol duty for a period of more than two years has been approved by Secretary Baker. The badge is similar in design to the Spanish War badge.

Charles H. Feige was shot and killed by United States Army patrols when he attempted to cross the river to Mexico at El Paso, Tex., Monday. Feige was believed to have been a German spy, and when his papers were examined a notebook, drawings and ground plans of troop camps, Fort Bliss and other fortifications near there were found.

John W. Riis, pacifist, Socialist and exponent of the doctrines of conscientious objectors against war, was sentenced to one year's imprisonment by Judge Johnson in the Federal court at Salt Lake City, for failure to present himself for physical examination in connection with the draft. Riis will be available for military service when his prison term expires.

"Two bits clubs" are being formed under direction of war savings committees in a number of cities. Members agree to buy one 25-cent thrift stamp every day.

The executive council of workmen's and soldiers' deputies has proclaimed a state of siege in Petrograd in an effort to repress disorders due to the looting of wine cellars and shops.

Little material damage was done by the Germans in Tuesday night's air raid over London, Essex and Kent. Ten persons were killed in London and 70 injured. Outside the capital five persons were wounded. One enemy machine was brought down and another is believed to have been destroyed.

The losses to French shipping by mine or submarine for the week ending December 15, were exceedingly light. Only one vessel under 1600 tons was sunk and none over 1600 tons. One was attacked but escaped. No fishing craft was sunk.

The Vassar College at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., will be used for war purposes next summer, it was announced Thursday. A committee of trustees has been appointed to work out plans for a school for the intensive training of students who wish to become registered nurses.

WAR WAS FORESEEN

Bureau Heads Spent Millions for Military Equipment Before America
Made Open Declaration.

Washington, D. C.—Clothing, shoes and food supplies for the American army were investigated by the Senate military committee Saturday, turning its general inquiry into war preparations to the Quarter-Master General's department. It was developed that millions of dollars were spent just before the United States entered the war to provide for the great army since raised.

Major-General Sharpe was before a committee. An hour was given to confidential questions behind closed doors. He was closely examined, especially regarding the admitted shortage of overcoats, which, he said, was principally due to late deliveries of large orders.

Except for overcoats and a few other winter garments, of which, he stated, complete stocks would be in camp by December 31, the general declared there is no clothing shortage.

Shoes, also, General Sharpe said, have been provided in ample quantities per capita, but the average drafted man of the National Army has proved to be so much larger physically than the regulars and guardsmen with whom the department has had to deal in the past, that many of the shoes and overcoats have proved useless.

Manufacture of the smaller sizes has been stopped, but the situation resulted in some hardships for the drafted soldiers before it could be corrected. Food, General Sharpe stated, and the committee members assented, had been ample and of fine quality.

Committee members stated that the investigation of the Quarter-Master General's office had only been begun. Cantonment locations and contracts, sanitation, the relation of the winter clothing shortage to recent disease epidemics and transportation of the army by rail and water are subjects to be taken up later.

General Sharpe told in detail of the vast task of supplying the expanded war army. He said he authorized 30-day service equipment for 1,000,000 more men in February and March, and for another 500,000 men in June. Orders aggregating many millions of dollars were placed before the war and without authorization of a dollar by congress.

By December 31, the General said, complete supplies for 1,078,000 men would be on hand.

MANY IN GERMANY STARVING

Berlin Paper Says Rich and Farmers
Live in Luxury, However.

London—According to a Reuter dispatch from Amsterdam Vorwaerts, of Berlin, in a plain spoken attack on the system of Herr von Waidow, the German food controller, declares that great masses of German people not only are hungry, but are literally starving. The paper adds that agricultural producers and rich residents in towns are living in plenty, as hoarding is no longer prohibited.

"Every war profiteer and millionaire," says the paper, "has his kitchen and cellar full of ham and bacon, the middle class ekes a precarious existence, spending all it possesses on food, but 40,000,000 of the masses are starving and are unlikely to sit silent."

"We might have within a month an absolute catastrophe in Germany and a collapse worse than Russia, resulting in German defeat and loss of the war."

MAY RESUME WAR ON KAISER

Bolshevik Declares if Peace Terms Are
Offensive Struggle Will Go On.

Petrograd—Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, in addressing the council of soldiers and workmen declared that if the German emperor offered "offensive peace terms," the Russians would fight against it.

"We did not overthrow czarism to kneel before the Kaiser," he cried. Continuing he said:

"But if through our exhaustion we had to accept the Kaiser's terms we would do so to rise with the German people against German militarism."

Jail Opens at War's Call.

Astoria, Or.—Delmer G. Stickler, who has been held in the county jail for several weeks in default of \$1000 bond to await the action of the Circuit Court grand jury, on a charge of stealing a boat, was released Monday by Justice of the Peace Carny, on the recommendation of the district attorney. The reason this action was taken was because Stickler has been called under the draft at Goldendale, Wash. The authorities believed that the man would be of greater service in the army than in serving a term in jail.

3 British Aviators Killed.

Fort Worth, Tex.—Three British aviators in training here were killed Monday when two machines collided in the air. Two of the men were in one machine. The collision took place at a low altitude and less than half a mile from the landing field. The dead are: Arthur Eden Webster, 19, Kingston, N. Y.; Lieutenant Russell Jenner, 19, Kingsville, Ont.; Clyde Albert Banker, 20, Kent, England.

Brazil Curbs Dutch Consuls.

Rio de Janeiro—A decree has been promulgated cancelling the exequaturs of Germans acting as consuls of neutral countries in Brazil. The decree is directed against the consuls of Austria and Holland.

GOVERNMENT WILL OPERATE RAILWAYS

Secretary McAdoo is Appointed
Director-General of Lines.

MOVE IS NECESSARY

President Deems Unification of Transportation
Pertinent to Country
During Period of War.

Washington, D. C.—Government possession and operation of the Nation's railroads for the war period was proclaimed by President Wilson Wednesday night, to become effective at noon Friday, December 28. William G. McAdoo, retaining his place in the cabinet as Secretary of the Treasury, is placed in charge as Director General of Railroads.

Every railroad engaged in general transportation, with its appurtenances, including steamship lines, is taken over, and all systems will be operated as under the Director General.

In a statement accompanying his proclamation, the President announced that as soon as congress re-assembled he would recommend legislation guaranteeing pre-war earnings and maintenance of railroad properties in good repair.

The President's move, although forecast for weeks, came at this time as a great surprise to nearly everybody in Washington, including railroad officials. It had been generally believed he would wait the re-assembling of congress before taking any step. He acted through Secretary of War Baker under authority conferred in the army appropriation act.

Direct management of the railroads will remain in the hands of railroad officials, and the Railroad War Board, comprised of five railroad heads, will continue to direct actual operation under Secretary McAdoo's general supervision.

The chief practical effect of government operation will be to permit a complete unification of all rail systems, impossible under private operation because of statutes prohibiting pooling of rail traffic and earnings. The railroads themselves had gone as far as they dared in this direction and it became known only recently that they had been warned by Attorney General Gregory that a violation of anti-pooling laws could not be permitted.

This situation was fully realized by President Wilson, who in his statement declared the roads had gone as far as they could and that already some systems were endangering their earnings in attempting unification.

Although the proclamation applies to all electric lines engaged in general transportation, local interurban systems are specifically exempted.

Congress will be asked to guarantee earnings equivalent to the average net operating income of each railroad in the three-year period ending June 30, 1917. Railroad experts estimate that this will cost the government next year in the neighborhood of \$100,000,000, which can be raised in large part by increased freights if the Interstate Commerce commission grants the 15 per cent increase now pending. Otherwise it will be paid largely out of the general government funds.

The Interstate Commerce commission and other government agencies which have to do with the railroads will continue to perform their functions as heretofore, except that they will be subject to orders of the Director of Railroads.

The President makes it clear that his decision was not made because of any failure on the part of the railroads to perform their whole duty insofar as they could while hampered as they were by legal restrictions. "The committee of railroad executives," said his statement, "have done the utmost that it was possible for them to do, but there were difficulties they neither could expect nor neutralize. In mere fairness to them the full authority of the government must be substituted."

Hunt Takes Over Office.

Phoenix, Ariz.—Thomas E. Campbell turned over the governorship of Arizona to Governor George W. P. Hunt Christmas morning, in obedience to the mandate of the Supreme court of the state which found that Governor Hunt is the legally elected governor by a plurality of 43. The ceremony was almost featureless except for the circumstances of a change in administration under such unusual conditions, and of the knowledge that the transfer marked the end of a most remarkable election contest of the state.

Slavs Violent in Speech.

Petrograd, Wednesday—A mass meeting of anarchists was held on Sunday afternoon at which inflammatory speeches against the United States were delivered, the speakers basing their attacks on the arrest of Emma Goldman, Alexander Berkman and Louis Kramer. Some of the speakers urged violence against the American embassy, but only a mild resolution of protest was the outcome of the affair.

TO AMEND LOAN LAW

Farm Loan Board Advocates Changes
in Banking Act—Attacks on
Amendment Expected.

Washington, D. C.—The federal Farm Loan board announced Monday that it advocates amendments to the farm loan act under which many private farm mortgage bankers may enter the government system as joint stock land banks. At the same time the board also gave warning that it expects those seeking to break down the system to file a suit soon to test the constitutionality of the act.

Amendments to the existing law which will be specifically recommended to congress in the board's forthcoming annual reports are:

To remove the present restriction permitting a joint stock land bank to do business only in the state where it is situated and one contiguous state.

To permit a bank to issue bonds to the amount of twenty times its capital stock, which must be \$250,000 or more, instead of fifteen times, as under existing law; and,

To raise from 6 to 6 1/2 per cent the maximum interest rate which joint stock land banks may charge on loans.

Joint stock land banks would still be compelled to limit interest rates on loans within 1 per cent more than the selling price of their bonds, even though the maximum were raised to 6 1/2 per cent. They also would have to compete with the Federal land banks' new rate of 5 1/2 per cent.

In a statement explaining the financial condition of the Federal land banks, the farm loan board said:

"We are advised that the next move of those who are seeking to break down the system, will be to institute a suit contesting the constitutionality of the farm loan act. The purpose of this suit will be to alarm investors who have already bought bonds, and to dissuade others from buying them."

"There is not the slightest reason to fear it, however. The system is so strong and its administration is of such paramount importance to the agricultural development of the country that attacks on it are bound to fail. It is only proper, however, that this warning should be given in order that the farmers and all friends of the system should grasp the sinister purpose that is behind these attacks."

Recent charges that the Federal land banks are not self-supporting, based on the board's application to congress for an appropriation of \$100,000,000 a year for this and next year, with which the treasury might absorb any farm loan bonds not sold privately, were met by explanation that the average impairment of the \$750,000 capital with which each bank started six months ago, representing government stock subscriptions, amounts to 6 per cent, or \$45,000 each. This is more than counter-balanced by farm loan associations' subscriptions to additional stock, amounting to more than \$1,500,000, or about \$125,000 for each bank. Actual capital of all banks consequently is about \$10,000,000, or \$1,000,000 more than their original capital, furnished by the government.

SHIP OF MYSTERY ARRIVES

Queer Craft Ruled by Committee, Said
to Be Bolshevik.

A Pacific Port—Unheeded and regarded as a mystery ship along the waterfront, the Russian freighter Shilka, Captain Boris Dogal, slipped into the harbor here just before midnight Friday. The Shilka is direct from Vladivostok and is under Bolshevik control.

The steamer left Vladivostok November 24 as a "Kerensky ship," but when a few days out the crew mutinied and took control, declaring for the Bolshevik regime. The wireless operator attempted to send out word of the mutiny and the sailors prepared to shoot him, but changed their minds.

Before the real identity of the ship was learned Saturday members of the crew attended I. W. W. meetings, it is said.

The armed guards at the ship now have orders to allow no one to land from her. The immigration authorities probably will take charge of the craft.

No one in authority would venture to predict what would be done with the ship. It is pointed out that she came into port with the men in command claiming allegiance to the Bolshevik government, which has not been recognized by the United States, and this may cause the temporary internment of the vessel.

Argentina Voices Hatred.

Buenos Aires—Only the utmost vigilance of patrols and mounted troops prevented an outbreak of anti-German rioting Sunday afternoon. The downtown streets were crowded with Christmas shoppers and several attempts were made to organize demonstrations. The crowds dispersed when charged by troops, but patrols trotted through the downtown section all night, preventing marching crowds from joining each other. The publication of additional Luxburg dispatches has caused a new outburst of bitterness against Germany.

Peace Proposals Come.

Geneva, Switzerland—According to a report in diplomatic circles in Berne, the German representatives in neutral countries already have received the German emperor's Christmas proposals for peace, which were divulged to the world Christmas. The conditions reported in the proposals are said to be far more conciliatory than have been former documents on the subject, but vague and elastic and with no explicit declaration of Germany's terms.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Miss Opal Whitely, well-known nature student, who is attending the University of Oregon, sustained painful burns of the face Monday. The accident happened where she has been rooming while attending school.

Attorney General Brown has ruled that Secretary of State Olcott need not audit 54 claims, amounting to \$700, presented by Acting Adjutant General Williams, as officers' allowances for uniforms in the National guard.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hiatt, of Albany, celebrated the 64th anniversary of their marriage Monday. Probably few people within the state of Oregon have celebrated 14 wedding anniversaries after their golden wedding.

Bombs were set off on three sides of the house occupied by Samuel Biesel, wife and five small children on Cedar Flat, near Eugene, Thursday night and Friday morning. Biesel found a warning, with skull and crossbones and the words, "Move out."

The preliminary examinations of Floyd Hertzell and John Walsh on a charge of attacking a 14-year-old girl were held before Judge Cornelius at Astoria Monday. Both men were committed to the county jail to await action of the grand jury.

State Game Warden Shoemaker, during his visit to Coos Bay recently consulted with Deputy Game Warden Thomas and issued an order to close commercial fishing on Tillamook Lake, on the Southern Pacific railway, between Umpqua and Siuslaw rivers.

Reis Evans and Leo Allen, formerly members of the Sheridan high school, but now in the service of Uncle Sam in France, were given credit for high school work as a result of having completed nine months' military service. This will entitle them to their diplomas.

Three directors have been chosen to guide the destinies of the Grande Ronde drainage district which, when completed, will drain 42,000 acres of rich land in this section. Of the total area included in the preliminary survey, 23,000 acres were represented at a recent meeting.

William Albers, C. C. Chapman and W. B. Dodson, of Portland, have been named by Governor Withycombe as members of a commission to investigate creamery and dairying conditions in the state. These men will act with Dairy and Food Commissioner Mickle and W. K. Newell.

Captain W. A. Arnold, who has been organizing the loggers and lumber workers of Coos county, has visited all but one logging camp in the county and has signed approximately 1150 members in the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumber Workers, which represents the logging strength there.

J. W. Sumner, said to be a Mendocino land dealer, was Tuesday made defendant in a suit in the Pendleton Circuit court for \$30,000 damages. The suit was filed by Simeon C. Kilgore. Mr. Kilgore, who is a farmer of Umatilla county, alleges that Sumner alienated the affections of his wife, Frankie F. Kilgore, daughter of Ben P. Ogile, once known as the wheat king of that section. Mr. Kilgore seeks a divorce.

J. W. Brewer, farm help specialist for Oregon for the department of Agriculture, is in Salem working in conjunction with Labor Commissioner Hoff and his assistant, Lester B. Davis, in co-ordinating and combining the work for next year to be carried on in furnishing the farmers of the state with a sufficient supply of help when it is needed.

Neal Bailey, who is a native son of Grant county, died at his home in Prairie City Friday, following a short illness with pneumonia. Mr. Bailey had served as city marshal of Prairie City for 25 years. He is survived by his widow, one sister, of Portland, and five brothers, Dan, Eugene, Jerry and Patrick, of Prairie City, and John D. Bailey, of Boise, Idaho.

One hundred and sixty-five moles, whose skins were worth a total of \$35, were caught in traps by Glenn Bailey, a 14-year-old boy, living east of Eugene. Only four traps were used and the catch was made in a single session. Some firms are paying from 35 cents to 40 cents for male pelts now, it is declared. The demand for them is greater than ever before.

Governor Withycombe has expressed his disapproval of a plan to provide an executive mansion for the president of the Oregon Agricultural College.

The first fatal auto accident in Grant county occurred Friday when a car containing D. A. Yokom and his son, A. C. Yokom, plunged over the grade on Canyon creek. The father was driving and turned his head for an instant to hear a remark the son was making when the machine went over the narrow grade into Canyon creek.

Librarian J. S. Richards, of the Carnegie Library at Marshfield, has issued an order that any books in the possession of families where scarletina had been noted must be burned and the borrowers would be held responsible for their being replaced.

Earl Withycombe, 26 years old, the youngest son of Governor Withycombe, has enlisted in the highway engineers and been sent to Vancouver preparatory to entering active service overseas. It required three attempts on his part before he could finally join the ranks as a private.

ALLIANCE AGAINST BOLSHEVIKI GROWS

Ukraine, Odessa and Cossacks
Unite to Ditch Radicals.

MOBS BEGIN LOOTING

Appearance of German and Austrian
Officers Causes Heartburnings—
Constitutionalists Accused.

London—The Rada, the governing body of the Ukraine, apparently is maintaining its determined stand as to the Bolshevik government. It is reported that it has converted its sympathies with the movement of General Kaledine, the Cossack leader, into a definite alliance.

Advices received from Russia are to the effect that the Bolshevik commissioners, after receiving the Rada's rejection of the Bolshevik ultimatum, sent another one, giving the Ukrainians a further 48 hours in which to reconsider its refusal.

Another report received here says that Odessa now has definitely gone over to the side of the Ukrainians. Details of the capture of Rostov-on-Don printed in Petrograd show there were six days of fighting before the sacks entered the town last Saturday.

The Red Guards lost 800 men killed, and 1000 wounded in the fighting. The Cossacks gave short shrift to the "Red Guards," whom they hate. The Bolshevik chiefs fled from the town on board warships.

There has been no important fighting at Nakhichevan, province of the Don, where the Bolshevik troops have fraternized with the Cossacks. A clash has taken place between the Bolsheviks and Ukrainians at Bolgrad, Bessarabia. The town is on fire.

It is said that a great quantity of valuable property has been taken from houses of the rich in Petrograd by the mobs searching for liquor. The buildings sacked in the past by Grand Duchess Marie Pavlovna, wife of Grand Duke Vladimir.

While the peace delegates are assembling the activity at Petrograd of a number of German and Austrian officers apparently is causing heartburnings. Circulars have been spread alleging that the council of soldiers' and workmen's delegates is in negotiations with these enemy officers. The Pravda the Bolshevik organ prints an unqualified denial and makes a counter charge against the Constitutional Democrats, alleging that they are trying to undermine Trotsky and Lenin.

PLANTS TO CLOSE ONE WEEK

Michigan Coal Shortage Forces Fuel
Administration to Act.

Washington, D. C.—Fuel supplies in Michigan have reached such a low ebb that Administrator W. K. Prudden has asked manufacturers in that state to suspend operations of industrial plants from midnight Saturday until midnight December 23.

The only exceptions are factories making war munitions needed for prompt shipment.

Mr. Prudden's request was contained in telegrams sent after a conference here with Fuel Administrator Garfield. It said:

"In order to conserve the small fuel supply now on hand at industrial plants within the state of Michigan, I suggest and request that every plant engaged in manufacturing, directly or indirectly, any operation from midnight December 22 until midnight December 23."

"No exception should be made except plants engaged in the manufacture of war munitions imperatively needed for prompt shipment. To conserve the greatest amount possible of fuel only such heating as is necessary to avoid great damage by freezing at plants should be allowed."

"A patriotic response and adoption of the within request may obviate issuing positive orders covering a longer period."

"Unless present conditions quickly improve fuel on hand will be needed for household use."

Drug Addicts Increase.

New York—Declarations by Joseph A. Warren, counsel for the New York State department of health, that there was an increase in the number of drug addicts reported by doctors, and that it was apparent many of these doctors "are not attempting to cure these addicts, but are merely supplying them with drugs," were the outstanding features at Monday's session of the joint legislative commission investigating the drug traffic. Mr. Warren suggested that only specially licensed physicians be permitted to prescribe.

Last Alamo Fighter Dead.

San Antonio, Tex.—Enrique Esparsa, the last survivor of the Alamo, is dead. When on March 6, 1836, Santa Ana stormed in the final and successful assault the chapel where a handful of Americans fought to their death, surrounded by piles of Mexican dead, the victors found a group of Mexican women in a barricaded section of the front of the building. Among them was an 8-year-old lad, Enrique Esparsa, who died here Monday aged 89.