

NEWS OF THE WEEK

General Resume of Important Events Throughout the World.

Business in Paris is said to be better now than at any time since the war began.

Berlin goes wild over victory of army against Russia in Poland, and enthusiasm runs riot.

Repairs of the damage done to the English coast towns by the German fleet are rapidly being made.

Rear Admiral Fiske admits there is one foreign navy that leads in gunnery, but refuses to name the country.

A British shipbuilding concern built a modern battleship in ten and one-half months, said to be the shortest time on record.

Deputy Game Warden Hubbard, of Ashland, Ore., is shot by alleged game poachers, when he attempts to search their cabins.

It is reported from Amsterdam that two British ships were sunk Friday off the coast of England, but the rumor is not confirmed.

Mexican troops on the border show no signs of heeding the warning of President Wilson, that firing into American territory should be stopped.

Report comes from South Shields, England, that three ships were sunk by mines; one is believed to be a passenger vessel, and the other two are unknown.

Food exports from the United States during November showed an increase of 300 per cent over same month last year. The great increase is attributed to the European war.

E. Henry Wemme, prominent Portland citizen and good roads enthusiast, dies suddenly in Los Angeles. He is reputed to have purchased the first automobile ever brought to Portland, likewise an aeroplane.

A German diplomat in New York upholds the attack on the English coast towns on the grounds that they were either fortified or defended, which does not conflict with the decision of The Hague convention of Oct. 16, 1907.

A letter from Robert Fulton to General William Duane, March 1, 1813, telling him of torpedoes invented by him capable of destroying any foreign invaders of New York harbor, was sold for \$92.50 at the auction sale of the library of the late Adrian H. Joline. "I am happy to find you continue the firm friend to torpedoes," Fulton wrote, "an infant art which requires only support and practice to produce a change in maritime affairs of immense importance to this country. Expecting the enemy here, I have not been idle. I have prepared nine torpedoes, with locks that strike fire by concussion, and four with clockwork locks."

Vienna officials admit of the retaking of Belgrade by the Servians.

President Wilson expresses deep interest in the uplift of the negro.

Pendleton, Oregon, is sending 100 barrels of flour to aid the Belgians.

Russians were forced to retreat before the Austrians in West Galicia.

It is reported in Tokio that the German armed merchantman Oxford has been captured by the British in the Indian Ocean. The German converted cruiser Cormorant has entered the harbor of Guam, in the Ladrone Archipelago.

The postoffice department has advised that hereafter all Oregon postal savings funds at offices without a local depository bank, will be remitted to the Portland office, which will serve as a clearing house for the payment of withdrawals.

President Wilson was asked by a delegation representing the Masters' and Pilots' association to support an amendment to the administration ship purchase bill to restrict employment of officers of government-owned vessels to America.

All the street lamps in Paris are being extinguished at midnight. The reason for this precaution is said to be the receipt of a report that two Zeppelin dirigible balloons had been sighted at Amiens, proceeding in the direction of Paris.

The mikado's budget for 1915, which shows an estimated expenditure of 556,000,000 yen (\$278,000,000), and a decrease of the revenues of \$40,500,000, is now before the house of representatives for consideration. Considerable opposition to it has developed. There is good reason to believe that unless the house passes the budget it will be dissolved. The right of dissolving the house of representatives is among the prerogatives of the emperor.

General Scott Ready to Confer With Mexicans

Naco, Ariz. — General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the United States army, arrived here Monday and at once began an investigation of the Mexican border trouble here, which has resulted in the killing of five persons and the wounding of 47 by Mexican bullets crossing the line during the 10 weeks' siege of Naco, Sonora.

General Scott began a series of conversations with persons informed on Mexican affairs and also with those in touch with General Hill, the Carranza commander entrenched in Naco, Sonora, and Governor Maytorena, the Villa besieger. This investigation is preliminary to conferences General Scott expects to hold with Hill and Maytorena in an effort to secure some agreement which will eliminate further Mexican fighting along the border.

It is recognized that, whatever care the Mexican factions might exercise not to fire into the United States, stray bullets would continue to fall here, either through bad marksmanship or individual disobedience of orders.

General Scott's peace conference will be held with an army of 4700 men, under command of Brigadier General Tasker H. Bliss, encamped opposite the Mexican battleground. The American army forces now consist of the Eleventh, Eighteenth and Twenty-second Infantry, 10 troops each of the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry, and three batteries each of the Fifth and Sixth Field Artillery. This is a force greater than the combined forces of the two Mexican camps, with artillery also superior to that of the Mexicans.

Maytorena Will Withdraw.

Washington, D. C. — Consular Agent Carothers telegraphed the State department Monday that Governor Maytorena, commanding the Villa forces besieging General Hill's garrison at Naco, Sonora, was preparing to withdraw his troops to a point 10 or 12 miles from the border to eliminate the possibility of firing into American territory.

This move has been awaited by officials here since Provisional President Gutierrez announced that he had directed Maytorena to abandon the attack on Naco unless the operations could be carried on without sending bullets across the international line.

Brigadier General Bliss, in command of the artillery, infantry and cavalry concentrated about Naco, Ariz., to enforce the American government's demand that firing across the line cease, reported earlier in the day that Maytorena apparently had withdrawn.

Congress Will Consider Mail Department Reforms

Washington, D. C. — After several days of hot words, which culminated in an exchange of invitations to personal combat between Representatives Heflin, of Alabama, and Moon, of Tennessee, the house adopted a special rule to consider legislation for reforms demanded by the Postoffice department in connection with the annual postal appropriation bill.

A defection of Democrats from the leaders defeated a similar rule, which provided for consideration of amendments decreasing postmasters' salaries, the elimination of assistant postmasters, experimental substitution of contract service for the rural delivery service, increased salaries for rural carriers, changes in the compensation paid railroads for carrying the mails and other reorganization plans for the department.

The rule was passed late Tuesday with the provisions for cutting postmasters' salaries, abolishing assistant postmasters and the rural service substitution scheme eliminated.

A speech by Representative Moon following the defeat of the original rule, in which he intimated that some "railroad influence" had operated to shift Democratic votes, caused bitter debate.

Cotton Mills Reopen.

Lowell, Mass. — Orders were given by which the machinery of the Tremont and Suffolk cotton mills will be run 24 hours a day, beginning immediately. This applies particularly to the weaving department. About 2400 employees will be hired on the extra orders. An expected demand for fabrics early in the year is given as the reason for the increase in production.

Allies' Yser Loss 215,000.

Berlin, via The Hague and London — The Neusten Nachrichten prints a Brussels dispatch estimating the losses of the allies in the Yser campaign at 215,000 up to December 12. This total is made up of 60,000 Belgians, 80,000 British and 75,000 French.

Kaiser Is Again at Front.

London — A dispatch to Reuters' Telegram company from Amsterdam says: "The German emperor has completely recovered and has returned to the front, according to an announcement from the Berlin main headquarters."

FLEET HELPS ARMY

Germans Ashore Mowed Down by Warships of Allies.

Superiority of French Artillery Is Shown by Interruptions of Enemy's Fire.

London — A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company Monday from Amsterdam says:

"The Germans have evacuated Dixmude, but the report that the allies have taken Middelkerke is untrue."

Amsterdam — The Sluis, Netherlands, correspondent of the Telegraaf sends the following:

"A dispatch says that violent fighting occurred on the Yser. The fleet's guns are playing havoc in the German ranks. Trains filled with wounded are entering Bruges. Most of these trains proceed eastward."

"The allies have not occupied Roulers, but the fighting is raging between there and Ypres and Dixmude."

Paris — The following official communication was given out in Paris:

"From the sea to the Ys we have gained a little ground before Nieupoort and St. Georges."

"To the east and south of Ypres, where the enemy reinforced his organizations, defensive artillery battles occurred and there was slight progress on our part."

"From the Ys to the Oise the allied forces have seized a portion of the German trenches in the first line on the front running through Richebourg, L'Avenue and Givenchey 'Lez-La Bassee."

"To the southeast of Albert the trench captured by us on the 17th near Maricourt and lost on the 18th, was recaptured on the 20th."

"In the region of Lihons the Germans made two violent attacks for the purpose of retaking the trenches won by us on the 18th. They were repulsed."

"From the Oise to the Argonne the superiority of our artillery continued to be manifested by the interruption of the enemy's fire, the destruction of machine gun shelters and observatories, and the dispersion of a considerable number of troops."

"In the Argonne, the forest of La Grurie, we have repulsed three attacks, two on Fontaine Madame, and one at St. Hubert."

"Between the Argonne and the Vosges there has been no salient incident to report."

Co-operation Plan of Scandinavian Nations Assured

Stockholm — King Christian, of Denmark; King Gustave, of Sweden, and King Haakon, of Norway, who, with their foreign ministers, met in conference at Malmoe on Friday and Saturday to formulate a plan to combine their respective interests during the war, reached an agreement on the special questions raised. The statement is made in an official communication, in substance as follows:

"The meeting of the three monarchs was inaugurated Friday with a speech by King Gustave, who alluded to the unanimous desire of the kingdoms of the North to preserve their neutrality and pointed to the desirability of limited co-operation between the kingdoms as a safeguard to their common interests. Kings Haakon and Christian replied, expressing their hope that the conference would have good and happy results for the three peoples."

"The deliberations consolidated the good relations among the three kingdoms and resulted in an agreement to pursue the co-operation so happily begun and to arrange, when circumstances should occur, for fresh meetings between representatives of the three governments."

Banker Morgan Is Big Loser in Railroad Deal

Washington, D. C. — Financial affairs of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad, now in the hands of a receiver for the second time since 1905, were related at length before Commissioner Hall, of the Interstate Commerce commission by Frederick W. Stevens, formerly an official of that line and the Pere Marquette, whose affairs are interwoven with those of the Dayton system.

Mr. Stevens appeared as an associate of J. P. Morgan & Co. The burden of his testimony was a statement supported by many documents involving millions of dollars in stock and bond transaction, that when the late J. P. Morgan bought the controlling interest of the C. H. & D. for the Erie in 1905 he had no knowledge of the financial results of the preceding year to the road.

Big German Victory Over Czar Sets Berlin Aglow

Berlin, via London — The people of Berlin were aroused to enthusiasm Friday by the announcement of a great Austro-German victory over the Russians in Poland. An official bulletin to this effect was issued shortly after noon. Within half an hour extra editions of the papers appeared and the whole city literally flashed into bunting.

American visitors, who a few days ago commented on the non-display of flags, scarcely recognized the streets, which everywhere were gay with the German black, white and red, and the Austrian orange and black, at many places intertwined.

At the Reichstag, where a Red Cross meeting was in session, word was received from the palace that the greatest victory of the war had been won. The schools were closed so that the children might aid in celebrating the event.

The first intimation of the nature and extent of the Russian defeat was received Thursday night and circulated in official quarters, but nothing was known of it generally until the official bulletin was published. It has been understood that the Russians were in a precarious position, but it was not hinted that a decisive result was at hand.

The official bulletin reported Thursday that the operations were "proceeding normally," which phrase is the ultimatum of the official report. It is known now that thousands of Russians have been taken prisoners.

Vaudeville Lions Escape and Terrorize Audience

New York — Six trained lions escaped from their cage on the stage of an East Eighty-sixth street vaudeville theater Friday, and bounding into the audience, consisting principally of women and children, created a panic.

One lioness, Alice, the largest of the pack, escaped into a crowded street. Policemen pursued her into the hallway of a nearby apartment house and in shooting at her probably fatally wounded a companion, Sergeant Daniel Glenn. Two other officers were slightly wounded by the claws of the beast in a battle at close range.

At sight of the lions hundreds of persons in the theater fled screaming to the exits. Mothers delayed by gathering up their children crowded into corners and places of supposed safety. Scores fainted and many, numbed by the sight of the animals among them, sat transfixed in their seats.

With the exception of Alice none of the beasts displayed great ferocity. A few persons who got in their paths were scratched, but none of them was seriously hurt.

Five of the animals still were roaming about the theater when the last of the audience escaped. In their rush to safety, spectators left behind all kinds of wearing apparel and personal belongings.

Meantime the beasts roamed over the house from gallery to basement. Within an hour after the last spectator left they were rounded up in the lobby and driven into their shipping box, none of them being injured.

Fierce Gale Whips Southern California Coast Towns

Los Angeles — Heavy seas, whipped up by a 40-mile southeaster that swept the Southern coast Friday night and early Saturday, wrought damage amounting to more than \$100,000 at Long Beach and at Hueneme. John Caspinola, a fisherman, was washed off the launch Roma, one of the vessels sent out to search for a disabled motor boat, which was blown out to sea with six members of the family of J. H. Blake, of Rodondo. The Blakes, however, were saved by another vessel.

At Long Beach the gale rolled up the highest seas seen at that point this year. Breakers dashed into the strand, tearing out bulkheads and cement walks, wrecking several residences close to the waterfront, flooding streets and sending spray high over 60-foot buildings back of the promenades.

The greatest damage was sustained in the Seaside park and Alamitos Bay districts. Huge waves battered down houses, marooned several families in their homes and flooded streets and streetcar tracks to depths of from one to three feet. Several factories and two schools were among the buildings flooded and workmen and students took a compulsory holiday.

Most Wounded Recover.

Paris — No fewer than 54 per cent of the French wounded returned to the firing line before December 12, according to interesting figures supplied by the surgical department of the ministry of war. Of the remainder 24 per cent had received convalescent leaves, 17 per cent were still in hospitals and 1 1/2 per cent had been discharged from the army. Three and a half per cent of the wounded died.

INCREASE GRANTED

Railroads to Advance Rates Adding \$30,000,000 Annually.

War in Europe, Added to Already Existing Conditions, Sways Interstate Board.

Washington, D. C. — Further increases in freight rates were granted Saturday to the Eastern railroads by the Interstate Commerce commission in a decision from which Chairman Harlan and Commissioner Clements dissented vigorously.

With the exception of lake-and-rail traffic, coal, coke, iron ore and certain other traffic on which the commission has heretofore fixed rates adjudicated "reasonable," all the railroad systems operating between the Atlantic seaboard and the Mississippi north of the Potomac and Ohio rivers were allowed to make the flat 5 per cent increase for which they have been asking for the last four years.

The roads hoped to get increases which would add to the annual revenue some \$50,000,000. The commission's decision is expected to give them additional revenue approximating \$30,000,000.

The roads east of a north-and-south line drawn through Buffalo, Pittsburg and Charleston, W. Va., won by the decision the increases, other than on the traffic expected, which were denied them in the commission's decision last August. The roads west of this line, which obtained partial advances in the August decision, received further advances, so that now all the roads in what is described as "official classification territory" will enjoy uniform advances in both class and commodity rates.

In its decision the majority of the commission held that the roads had established in the latest hearings a greater need of additional net income than ever before. This was due, in part, to exigencies which arose out of the war in Europe, and in part to the already existing necessity, in the judgment of the commission, for additional revenues to maintain the railroad properties.

Chairman Harlan, in his dissenting opinion, held that sufficient aid had been given the roads by the decision of August 1 last, and that the findings of the majority were "morally wrong." Commissioner Clements based his dissent on what he regarded as the inability in law, of the commission to take cognizance of everything in the making of rates other than their justice and reasonableness.

Traffic on which no increase was allowed by the commission represents about 55 per cent of the entire volume of freight handled by the roads. Coal, coke and iron ore, however, are bulky commodities, taking low rates, consequently the amount of revenue derived from them is relatively small.

The coal roads, in the opinion of the commission, already are profitable.

Germans Evacuate Lodz, Is Claim of Russians

Petrograd — A newspaper here quotes a high authority as saying the Germans have evacuated Lodz, having found that the town would not serve as a base of operations.

It is believed the German plan to capture the right bank of the Vistula and then advance from Mlawa and exert pressure on the left bank has completely failed.

London — At the same time that the Germans are cautioned by a Berlin military critic that talk of a destructive defeat of the Russian forces is a "useless and misleading exaggeration."

"Grandma" Todd Dies at Great Age of 105 Years

Walla Walla, Wash. — Mrs. Sarah Todd, the oldest resident of Walla Walla and probably of the Northwest, died at the Northwest Christian Home Friday. Had she lived until March 29, 1915, she would have been 105.

Mrs. Todd came to Walla Walla nine months ago from Eugene, Or., where the Christian Home was first located.

Despite her age, she was active to the last and retained all her mental faculties.

Mrs. Todd was an inveterate user of tobacco, sucking a pipe constantly.

Belgian Editors Defiant.

Amsterdam — Efforts of General von Bissing, the governor of Belgium, to induce the leading newspapers of Brussels and Antwerp to resume publication have proved to be futile. The editors of these newspapers informed the governor that so long as Belgium's king was absent from Brussels and the German censorship continued, the papers would not be published.