

# WORLD HAPPENINGS OF CURRENT WEEK

Brief Resume Most Important  
Daily News Items.

COMPILED FOR BUSY READERS

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

The Oregon house of representatives has passed the "bone-dry" law by 53 to 7. It now goes to the senate.

The British government has tightened the German blockade which involves portions of the Danish and Dutch coasts.

Robbers at Los Gatos, Cal., carry away a safe from the office of the newspaper Mail-News, containing books and records and \$5 in money.

Instead of building a fine club house with money appropriated for that purpose, the Rocky Mountain club of New York voted to send the money to relief of the Belgians.

Special examinations will be held in the universities of France before Easter for students belonging to contingents of the recruits of 1918, which probably will be called to the army in the spring.

An ordinance against cats running at large in Portland will come up at the next council meeting. Both advocates and opponents of the felines are expected to appear before the meeting in full force.

A petition in bankruptcy and for a receiver against Van Frantzius & Co., a big stock brokerage house of Chicago, was filed by creditors, who allege that liabilities of \$2,750,000 exceed the assets by about \$1,000,000.

Russia is experiencing famine in the midst of plenty, according to an undated article in the London Times from a correspondent in that country. The article refers chiefly, but not exclusively, to Petrograd and Moscow.

General discussion of President Wilson's world peace address is expected in the senate soon, Senator Cummins having given notice of his intention to call up his resolution to set aside special time for debate on the subject.

The ceremony of saluting the entente allies' flag by Greece was carried out Monday in the Zappeion, in accordance with the arrangement recently entered into between the Greek government and the entente powers, says a dispatch from Athens.

The new revenue bill, embracing excess profits and increased inheritance taxes, designed to produce \$248,000,000, and a bond issue not exceeding \$100,000,000 to meet the threatened deficit next year, is reported by the house ways and means committee.

Revelation of strong-arm methods, of the employment of sluggers and gunmen, of bitter warfare between union factions, of intrigue and arson, that all made up the conspiracy to block building construction work in Chicago, is made from the witness stand in a Chicago court room.

Ex-President Taft, in an address at Bangor, Me., declared President Wilson's recent address to the senate was "an epoch in the history of our foreign policy," and his advocacy of our participation in a world league was a most powerful aid to its formation.

Five hundred women invaded the church of Rev. Paul Smith in San Francisco Thursday to find out what he proposed to do about women of the underworld in carrying out a vice crusade he has been leading. They took the position that they were directly interested.

Groundwork for the expected attack in the senate on President Wilson's proposal that the United States join in a league for peace was laid Thursday in a resolution introduced by Senator Borah reaffirming as a national policy the doctrine of no entangling alliances laid down by Washington and Jefferson.

Flat denials were authorized by the White House and Secretary Lansing of published reports that Mr. Lansing is preparing to resign.

Representations by the United States for a fair trial for two Mexican priests sentenced to death at Zacatecas on a charge of aiding Villa have been successful. The American embassy in Mexico City has been informed that as a result they will not be tried under a law which gives them no opportunity for defense.

Sale of the Hill steamer Minnesota was confirmed Thursday by L. W. Hill, president of the Great Northern railroad. The ship is said to have sold for \$2,750,000.

Lewiston, Idaho — A silver-tip fox pelt estimated to be worth its size in \$100 bills is being exhibited in the Central Idaho country by John Hanson, a Leesburg mining man, who made the lucky capture. It is two feet long from tip to tip and almost black except for a snowball at the end of the brush and a few white spines along the back.

# Doings of State Legislators

## "Bone-Dry" Prohibition Law Passes House by 53 to 7

Salem—Callan, Kubli, Lewis, Mackay, Schimpff, Stott and Willett—these are the names of the only members who voted against the bone-dry prohibition bill Monday.

The bill went through the house late in the afternoon after a four-hour siege of oratory, by a vote of 53 to 7.

As soon as the vote had been taken members of the house were served with individual half-pint bottles of loganberry juice, and the entire assembly rested while the bottles were drained.

The bill, as passed, merely carries into effect the constitutional amendment adopted by the people at the November election prohibiting the importation of alcoholic liquors for beverage purposes. It also remedies the existing prohibition laws so that it will be impossible to buy pure grain alcohol excepting on prescription of a physician or permit of a district attorney.

Inasmuch as the measure carries an emergency clause it will become a law as soon as it is signed by the governor—probably before the end of the week.

Five days are allowed, however, after the governor signs the bill, for the express companies to deliver goods already ordered or in transit.

## Grange and Labor Merge Support for Modified Consolidation Bills

Salem—Representatives of the State Federation of labor, the State grange and the Farmers' union, following a long conference the first of the week, issued a statement indicating their combined attitudes on questions of legislation pending or proposed.

They suggest a form of consolidation for the offices relating to labor, modified from that suggested by the consolidation committee; declare in favor of state aid in marketing purposes and outline their position on various other phases of the legislative situation.

"We, the organized farmers and laborers of Oregon, are unanimously asking your support of the following," they say in a statement addressed to the various members of the legislature.

## Free Textbooks Rejected.

Salem—Free text books in public schools were voted down by the house at noon Tuesday, 38 opposing the measure, 22 favoring it and 4 absent. The measure had been looked upon with suspicion since its introduction, and when it went to the committee it was badly revamped before it saw the light again. The section providing that text books could be secured free by other than public schools was but one feature eliminated before the battle on the floor was staged. Representative Tichenor made a warm defense of his bill, claiming that it was a bill for the benefit of "the poor kids."

## Limit Put on Commission.

Salem—Representative Burdick has introduced a bill in the house providing a complete code of procedure for the operation of a county government. It defines the duties of county commissioners, who are empowered to estimate the amount of money to be raised for county purposes and to make levies in specified sums. The county court is restricted under this bill from undertaking the erection of any courthouse or other public buildings costing more than \$5000 without the approval of a majority of the voters.

## Hearing Likely This Week.

Salem—A public hearing probably will be held this week to consider the provisions of the Eaton bill to increase the rate of the state inheritance tax.

The Eaton bill, which follows the outlines of Governor Withycombe's message, increases the present rate, but many members of the house believe that it does not go far enough. It would levy a tax of 1 per cent on all bequests over \$5000 and up to \$20,000, and 2 per cent on all above \$20,000. The first \$5000, as under the present law, is to be exempt.

## Apprentice Limit Attacked.

Salem—Representative Callan has introduced a bill in the house intended to make it unlawful to restrict the number of persons learning a trade in any given profession. Labor unionists on the ground are opposing the measure already. They say that it will prevent them from enforcing their contracts with employers which fix the ratio of apprentices to skilled mechanics employed in various industries operating under closed-shop agreements.

## Four Appropriations Submitted.

Salem—Four appropriation bills came into the house the first of the week from the ways and means committee, but did not get onto the calendar, as the house already had passed that order of business. They provide appropriations as follows: Oregon National guard, \$155,000; Naval militia, \$15,000; Insane hospital, \$655,936; Tuberculosis hospital, \$75,562.60; total, \$902,498.60.

## Labor Against Prison Plan.

Salem—Organized labor will oppose the recommendation made in the report of the Prison survey commission that the law prohibiting the sale of convict-made goods on the open market be repealed. Labor is strong against such a proposal, but have counter proposal of their own, which, they believe, will solve the problem of idleness at the penitentiary.

## Early Water Power Legislation Asked in Memorial to Congress

Salem—Early development of the water-power resources of the nation is something that this legislature wants congress to provide.

The house, by unanimous vote, adopted Senator Gill's joint memorial urging upon congress "the absolute and urgent necessity of the development of water power in order that the natural resources may be utilized to create new wealth by the settlement of lands, the development of agriculture, the establishment of manufactures of varied nature, the economy and comfort of rail facilities of transportation, the means of transportation enlarged and made cheaper, and traffic congestion relieved by opening to navigation waterways incapable of use because of natural obstructions removable by water-power development in navigable streams, and adequate National defense may be aided, all of which will contribute to the increase and diversification of agriculture, commerce and industry, and as a consequence promote economic security."

The memorial already had passed the senate and now will go forward to Washington with the view of impressing upon congress the vital interest of the people of Oregon in the pending water-power legislation.

The measure did not even evoke debate in the house, so well acquainted and so satisfied were the members with its provisions.

## Five Days of Grace Likely.

Portland—Within 30 days after the "bone-dry" prohibition law is enacted by the legislature and goes into effect the express companies must banish from the state of Oregon the last bottle of booze. Such is one provision of the proposed act, but it must not be construed as affording 30 additional days to a thirsty public for stocking-up purposes.

Five days' grace may be given, however, if rumor is substantiated. Although the proposed law at present contains no such clause, its insertion is anticipated.

"We have learned unofficially," said A. P. Peterson, general agent of Wells, Fargo & Co., "that a clause may be added to house bill 100 permitting five days in which to dispose of shipments en route to Portland or at other points within the state at the time of the passage of the law."

If this provision is made, it will amount to the extending of five days of grace, in which packages of liquor already at the express offices or in transit may be claimed. The 30-day provision of the law merely defines the time in which the companies must remove all undelivered consignments from the state.

## House Does Big Lot of Work.

Salem—Thursday was one of the busiest days that the house has had since the session opened. A big grist of bills was passed, an aggregate of 40 new bills was received, half a dozen important memorials and resolutions were disposed of and a big volume of routine business was transacted.

The house ran twice through its regular order of business and most of the new bills were sent to committees. A big batch of committee reports came in the morning and half a dozen measures were sent to oblivion over the indefinite postponement route.

The first lot of appropriation bills came in from the ways and means committee. They provide revenue for the conduct of the executive, secretary of state and treasury department, for the special apprehension of criminals, the State Training school, the school for the Deaf, the attorney General's office and the Capitol and Supreme court buildings.

## Ashland Site Favored.

Salem—The special committee of the joint ways and means committee named to investigate the feasibility of transferring the Industrial school for girls form Salem either to Weston, Drain or Ashland probably will be able to report next week.

The scheme had its inception in the mind of Representative Ashley, and he was closely seconded by Representative Childs, who is chairman of the committee.

The Industrial school for girls has asked for new buildings in the budget and the School for feeble-minded also has requested money for permanent improvement in the way of new buildings.

## Premium Out Advised.

Salem—Pure-bred livestock men of Oregon, at their convention here, recommended that the Oregon State Fair's request for \$50,000 for livestock premiums be cut to \$40,000. They urged, however, that a livestock coliseum be built at the fair grounds. They also went on record as favoring the Jones bill for a tax on dogs, the money from which would be used to reimburse owners of sheep that are killed by dogs. The stockmen are opposed to the Agricultural commission, as proposed in House bill 172.

## Board Would Get Rise.

Salem—Representative Mann introduced a bill in the house fixing the salaries of Multnomah county commissioners at \$3000 a year and requiring them to give all their time to the work. Their present salary is \$1800 a year, but they do not have to be on the job all the time. Efforts were made to get the whole Multnomah county delegation back of the bill, but they refused to take action.



IT WAS A LUSCIOUS APPLE THAT GOT OLD MOTHER  
EVE INTO TROUBLE, AND APPLES IT IS THAT MAKE  
TROUBLE FOR CONNIE AND THE TWINS.

Mr. Starr, a widower Methodist minister, has been assigned to the congregation at Mount Mark, Ia. He has five daughters, Prudence, the eldest, who keeps house; Fairy, Carol and Lark, who are twins, and Constance. Their advent stirs the curiosity of all Mount Mark, and members of the Ladies' Aid lose no time in getting acquainted and asking a million questions. Prudence, who is nineteen, has her hands full with the mischievous twins and Connie, but is moved to defend them valiantly when some of the good ladies of the congregation suggest that an older woman is needed to run the family.

## CHAPTER III—Continued.

"Indeed they are not," cried Prudence loyally. "They are young, lively, mischievous, I know—and I am glad of it. But I have lived with them ever since they were born, and I ought to know them. They are unselfish, they are sympathetic, they are always generous. They do foolish and irritating things—but never things that are hateful and mean. They are all right at heart, and that is all that counts. They are not bad girls! What have they done today? They were exasperating, and humiliating, too, but what did they do that was really mean? They embarrassed and mortified me, but not intentionally! I can't punish them for the effect on me, you know! Would that be just or fair? At heart, they meant no harm."

It must be confessed that there were many serious faces among the Ladies. Some cheeks were flushed, some eyes were downcast, some lips were compressed and some were trembling. Every mother there was asking in her heart, "Did I punish my children just for the effect on me? Did I judge my children by what was in their hearts, or just by the trouble they made me?"

And the silence lasted so long that it became awkward. Finally Mrs. Prentiss crossed the room and stood by Prudence's side. She laid a hand tenderly on the young girl's arm, and said in a voice that was slightly tremulous: "I believe you are right, my dear. It is what girls are at heart that really counts. I believe your sisters are all you say they are. And one thing I am very sure of—they are happy girls to have a sister so patient and loving and just. Not all real mothers have as much to their credit!"

## CHAPTER IV.

### A Secret Society.

Carol and Lark, in keeping with their twinning, were the dearest chums and comrades. To them the great, rambling barn back of the parsonage was a most delightful place. It had a big cowshed on one side, and horse stalls on the other, with a "heavenly" haymow over all, and with "chutes" for the descent of hay—and twigs!

Now the twins had a secret society—of which they were the founders, the officers and the membership body. Its name was Skull and Crossbones. Lark furnished the brain power for the organization, but her sister was an enthusiastic and energetic second. Carol's club name was Lady Gwendolyn, and Lark's was Sir Alfred Angelcourt ordinarily, although subject to frequent change. The old barn saw stirring times after the coming of the new parsonage family.

"Hark! Hark!" sounded a hissing whisper from the corner, and Connie, eavesdropping outside the barn, shivered sympathetically.

"What is it! Oh, what is it?" wailed the unfortunate lady.

"Look! Look! Run for your life!"

Then while Connie clutched the barn door in a frenzy, there was a sound of rattling corn as the twins scrambled upward, a silence, a low thud, and an unromantic "Ouch" as Carol bumped her head and stumbled.

"Are you assaulted?" shouted the bold Sir Alfred, and Connie heard a wild scuffle as he rescued his companion from the clutches of the old halter on which she had stumbled. Up the haymow ladder they hurried, and then slid recklessly down the hay chutes. Presently the barn door was flung open, and the "society" knocked Connie flying backward, ran madly around the barn a few times, and scurried under the fence and into the chicken coop.

A little later Connie, assailed with shots of corncobs, ran bitterly toward the house. "Peeking" was strictly forbidden when the twins were engaged in Skull and Crossbones activities.

And Connie's soul burned with desire. She felt that this secret society was threatening not only her happiness, but also her health, for she could not sleep for horrid dreams of Skulls and Crossbones at night, and could not eat for envying the twins their secret and mysterious joys. Finally she applied to Prudence, and received assistance.

The afternoon mail brought to the parsonage an envelope addressed to "Misses Carol and Lark Starr, the Methodist Parsonage, Mount Mark,

Iowa," and in the lower left-hand corner was a suggestive drawing of a Skull and Crossbones. The eyes of the mischievous twins twinkled with delight when they saw it, and they carried it to the barn for prompt perusal. It read as follows:

Miss Constance Starr humbly and respectfully craves admittance into the Ancient and Honorable Organization of Skull and Crossbones.

The twins pondered long on a fitting reply, and the next afternoon the postman brought a letter for Connie, waiting impatiently for it. She had approached the twins about it at noon that day.

"Did you get my application?" she had whispered nervously.

But the twins had stared her out of countenance, and Connie realized that she had committed a serious breach of secret society etiquette.

But here was the letter! Her fingers trembled as she opened it. It was decorated lavishly with skulls and crossbones, splashed with red ink, supposedly blood, and written in the same suggestive color.

Skull and Crossbones, great in mercy and in condescension, has listened graciously to the prayer of Constance, the Seeker. Hear the will of the Great Spirit! If the Seeker will, for the length of two weeks, submit herself to the will of Skull and Crossbones, she shall be admitted into the Ancient and Honorable Order.

The week that followed was a gala one for the twins of Skull and Crossbones. Constance swept their room, made their bed, washed their dishes, did their chores, and in every way behaved as a model pledge of the ancient and honorable. The twins were gracious but firm. There was no arguing and no faltering. "It is the will of Skull and Crossbones that the damsel do this," they would say. And the damsel did it.

Prudence did not feel it was a case that called for her interference. So she sat back and watched, while the twins told stories, read and frolicked, and Constance did their daily tasks.

A week passed, ten days, and twelve. Then came a golden October afternoon when the twins sat in the haymow looking out upon a mellow world. Constance was in the yard, reading a fairy story. The situation was a tense one, for the twins were hungry, and time was heavy on their hands.

"The apple trees in Avery's orchard are just loaded," said Lark. "And there are lots on the ground, too. I saw them when I was out in the field this morning."

Carol gazed down into the yard where Constance was absorbed in her book. "Constance oughtn't to read as much as she does," she argued. "It's so bad for the eyes."

"Yes, and what's more, she's been getting off too easy for the last few days. The time is nearly up."

"That's so," said Lark. "Let's call her up here." This was done at once, and the unfortunate Constance stood before them respectfully, as they had instructed her to stand. The twins hesitated, each secretly hoping the other would voice the order. But Lark, as usual, was obliged to be the spokesman.

"Damsel," she said, "it is the will of Skull and Crossbones that you lie ye to yonder orchard—Avery's I mean—and bring hither some of the golden apples basking in the sun."

"What!" ejaculated Connie, startled out of her respect.

Carol frowned.

Connie hastened to modify her tone. "Did they say you might have them?" she inquired politely.

"That concerns thee not; 'tis for thee only to render obedience to the orders of the Society. Go out through our field and sneak under the fence where the wires are loose, and hurry back. We're awfully hungry. The trees are near the fence. There isn't any danger."

"But it's stealing," objected Connie.

"What will Prudence—"

"Damsel!" And Connie turned to obey with despair in her heart.

"Bring twelve," Carol called after her, "that'll be four apiece. And hurry, Connie. And see they don't catch you while you're about it."

After she had gone the twins lay back thoughtfully on the hay and stared at the cobwebby roof above them in silence for a while. Something was hurting them, but whether it was their fear of the wrath of Prudence, or the twinges of tender consciences—who can say?

"She's an unearthly long time about it," exclaimed Lark at last. "Do you suppose they caught her?"

This was an awful thought, and the girls were temporarily suffocated. But they heard the barn door swinging beneath them, and sighed with relief. It was Connie! She climbed the ladder skillfully, and poured her golden treasure before the arch-thieves, Skull and Crossbones.

There were eight big, tempting apples.

"Hum! Eight!" said Carol sternly. "I said twelve."

"Yes, but I was afraid someone was coming. I heard such a noise through the grapevines, so I got what I could and ran for it. There's three apiece for you, and two for me," said Connie, sitting down sociably beside them on the hay.

But Carol rose. "Damsel, begone," she ordered. "When Skull and Crossbones feast, thou canst not yet share the festive board. Rise thee, and speed."

Connie rose, and walked soberly toward the ladder. But before she disappeared she fired this parting shot, "I don't want any of them. Stolen apples don't taste very good, I reckon."

Carol and Lark had the grace to flush a little at this, but however the stolen apples tasted, the twins had no difficulty in disposing of them. Then, full almost beyond the point of comfort, they slid down the hay chutes, went out the back way, turned the corner, and came quietly in through the front door of the parsonage.

Prudence was in the kitchen preparing the evening meal. Fairy was in the sitting room, busy with her books. The twins set the table conscientiously, filled the woodbox, and in every way labored irreproachably. But Prudence had no word of praise for them that evening. She hardly seemed to know they were about the place. She went about her work with a pale face, and never a smile to be seen.

Supper was nearly ready when Connie sauntered in from the barn. After leaving the haymow, she had found a cozy corner in the corner, with two heavy laprobes discarded by the twins in their flight from wolves, and had settled down there to finish her story. As she stepped into the kitchen Prudence turned to her with such a sorry, reproachful gaze that Connie was frightened.

"Are you sick, Prue?" she gasped.

Prudence did not answer. She went to the door and called Fairy. "Finish getting supper, will you, Fairy? And when you are all ready, you and the twins go right on eating. Don't wait for father—he isn't coming home until evening. Come upstairs with me, Connie; I want to talk to you."

Connie followed her sister soberly, and the twins flashed at each other startling and questioning looks.

The three girls were at table when Prudence came into the dining room alone. She fixed a tray-supper quietly and carried it off upstairs. Then she came back and sat down by the table. But her face bore marks of tears, and she had no appetite. The twins had felt small liking for their food before; now each mouthful seemed to choke them. But they dared not ask a question. They were devoutly thankful when Fairy finally voiced their interest.

"What is the matter? Has Connie been in mischief?"

"It's worse than that," faltered Prudence, tears rushing to her eyes again.

"Why, Prudence! What in the world has she done?"

"I may as well tell you, I suppose—you'll have to know it sooner or later. She went out into Avery's orchard and stole some apples this afternoon. I was back in the alley seeing if Mrs. Moon could do the washing, and I saw her from the other side. She went from tree to tree, and when she got through the fence she ran. There's no mistake about it—she confessed."

The twins looked up in agony, but Prudence's face reassured them. Constance had told no tales. "I have told her she must spend all of her time upstairs alone for a week, taking her meals there, too. She will go to school, of course, but that is all. I want her to see the awfulness of it. I told her I didn't think we wanted to eat with a thief—just yet! I said we must get used to the idea of it first. She is heartbroken, but—I must make her see it!"

If you were in Prudence's place would you turn in and give Connie and the twins each a sound spanking—as the most effective sort of punishment?

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Pleasure in Well-Doing. Pleasure has a way of coming indirectly—where least you look for her and when least you expect her. She lurks in the happiness of work well done. She lingers in the consciousness of honest bookkeeping with life, and she always is to be found in the joy of growth and progress. In all these ways honest pleasure is to be found.

This isn't meant to be a dull preachment against anything but work. But it does mean to say that happiness lies in doing and the consciousness of well-doing.

Cane Nearly Century Old. William A. J. Giles of Concord, N. H., bought a cane in an auction shop, some weeks ago, to help him in his lameness. He supposed it was an ordinary cane, but William H. Harris, when inspecting it, pulled off the handle, and with it a steel blade about 15 inches in length. On the blade was engraved the words: "William Mattocks, June 2, 1832."