

WORLD HAPPENINGS OF CURRENT WEEK

Brief Resume Most Important Daily News Items.

COMPILED FOR YOU

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

The administration bill to increase the number of cadets at the Annapolis Naval academy was passed late Monday by the house without debate, and now goes to the senate.

German naval forces have made a foray into the North Sea and surprised a convoy of merchant ships, sinking one British and five neutral vessels and four mine sweepers.

The period of virtual inactivity continues in France and Belgium, except for reciprocal bombardments on various sectors and here and there smaller operations by reconnoitering parties.

Mrs. Jean Kellet of North Yakima, Wash., has received a telegram from Halifax, N. S., saying that all members of the family of her sister, Mrs. J. B. Hillis, were killed in the recent disaster there.

The second court-martial of enlisted men of the 24th Infantry, negroes, growing out of the riot and mutiny of members of that regiment at Houston, the night of August 23 last, was begun Tuesday at Fort Sam Houston.

No restrictions upon the price or distribution of lead are deemed necessary at this time by the war industries board. This was announced Tuesday after a conference between the board and the principal lead producers of the country.

Miss Harriet A. Varney, a nurse of West Upton, Mass., was found guilty of the murder of Mrs. Pauline Keyes, the 10-months bride of George H. Keyes, a Boston real estate man, by a jury in the Norfolk county Superior court.

Unidentified bodies of 200 victims of the explosion at the Halifax, N. S., disaster were buried Monday after public funeral services conducted by Protestant and Catholic clergymen. Nearly 100 of the bodies were charred beyond recognition.

The official text of the armistice between the Russians and the Teutonic allies confirms the unofficial reports that it is to run from December 17 to January 14. The compact embraces all the fighting fronts where Russian troops have been engaged and also extends to the naval forces of the contracting parties.

President Felix Galonder, in the first public speech he has delivered since his recent election, said at Geneva, Tuesday, that the Swiss people were ready to pour out their blood against anyone who might attempt to invade their country. Switzerland, declared the President, would defend her neutrality to the end.

A mob of more than 100 men stormed the county jail at Billings, Mont., Tuesday night, apparently in an effort to seize Juan Juarez, a Mexican section hand, who shot and killed Patrolman Enos Nelson. After battering down the front door of the jail the mob was held by Sheriff Stone Matlock and his deputies until police officers arrived and dispersed it.

The residence of John D. Rockefeller in the suburbs of Cleveland was totally destroyed by fire Tuesday. The rapid spread of the flames led to the belief that the fire was of incendiary origin. Mr. Rockefeller is now living at his winter home in Tarrytown, N. Y., and the estate at Cleveland was in charge of a caretaker. The house contained many valuable paintings, tapestries and bronzes.

Another payment of \$25,000,000 to Italy Thursday, the first for many weeks, brought the total actually paid to that government from the \$500,000,000 credit allowed up to \$320,000,000.

Western railroad lines were ordered by the Railroad War board Thursday to send 100 locomotives to aid in relieving traffic congestion.

The Bolsheviks have dispersed the senate, the highest Russian court, and all the other courts at Petrograd, in keeping with the recent decree of the people's commissaries, substituting new revolutionary tribunals. The only opposition met was at the congress of county judges, who refused to be dispersed. They were arrested.

Bishop Paul Jones, of the diocese of Utah, of the Protestant Episcopal church, Thursday appeared before a committee of three bishops which met in St. Louis, to consider charges of disloyalty that have been made against him.

Havana—The house of representatives Thursday night adopted a resolution declaring a state of war to exist between Austria-Hungary and the Republic of Cuba. The action was taken following the reading of a message from President Menocal recommending such a declaration.

BRITONS SURPRISED

Destruction of Eleven Vessels in North Sea by Germans Announced in House of Commons.

London—The successful attack by German warships on a convoy in the North sea, resulting in the sinking of 11 vessels, as announced in the house of commons Tuesday, came as an uncomfortable surprise to the British public. It is expected to cause a revival of the serious criticism of the admiralty, such as at the time of the successful German attack on a convoy of Scandinavian merchantmen in October.

Added to this is the raid made off the Tyne last Wednesday by German warships. As a result of these two expeditions one British destroyer has been sunk, another seriously damaged, five trawlers and eight merchantmen have been sent to the bottom, another trawler has been damaged and a number of men have been killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

Among the prisoners is a nephew of Viscount Grey, former foreign secretary.

According to the Danish accounts, the force which attacked the convoy consisted of four cruisers, in addition to destroyers. A painful aspect of the affair, from the British public's point of view, is that apparently all the attacking vessels escaped and returned to their bases. Another unpleasant feature is that the British cruiser squadron detailed to protect the convoy against surface attacks, for some unexplained reason, was not on the scene. Vice Admiral Beatty immediately opened an inquiry. The investigation will be hastened as much as possible.

According to the testimony of survivors, both here and in Scandinavia, the fighting was of most violent character. The Germans poured hundreds of shots into the ill-fated vessels.

Testimony given at the inquest over the victims of the German attack on the British convoy shows that the attack occurred between 4 and 5 o'clock Wednesday morning, and that the enemy destroyers fired as rapidly as possible for a few minutes. A Swedish steamer was torpedoed twice, the second torpedo cutting the vessel completely in two. Of the crew of 20 on board, 16 were either killed or are missing.

No assistance was rendered by the enemy boats. British destroyers came upon the scene and rescued the survivors.

TROOPS ATTACK BOLSHEVIKI

Fighting Continues in Region of Don—Capture Ammunition.

London—Reports on the Russian internal situation Wednesday indicate that fighting is continuing in the Don region and that reinforcements have been sent south from Petrograd.

A Kiev dispatch reports that during the disarmament of the Maximalist units there the Ukrainian troops seized 72 cannon, 350 machine guns and 5,000,000 cartridges.

It is stated in other advices that the Russian government commissioners are drafting an ultimatum addressed to the Ukraine and recognizing the independence of the Ukraine but demanding "an immediate expression of the rada's attitude towards the Bolshevik authorities.

The rada had issued a statement declining to recognize the people's commissioners as comprising the government of all Russia, inasmuch as the Don, the Caucasus, Siberia and other parts of Russia have their own governments.

In connection with the signing and publication of terms of armistice on the Russian front, it is stated that the Russian delegation at Brest-Litovsk has been augmented to include M. Pokrovsky, president of the Moscow soldiers' and workmen's council, and others.

The Maximalist organ Prava takes occasion to denounce as untruths the allegations that the Germans in the armistice negotiations demanded the evacuation of Petrograd and Finland, the disarmament of the Russian army and a grant to Germany of a monopoly in grain exports.

Naval Reserves Exempt.

Washington, D. C.—Amendments eliminating from the oil land leasing bill all references to the opening of California Naval Reserve lands were introduced Tuesday when the bill came up in the senate. Senator Pittman, in charge of the measure, agreed to accept them. Speeches in support of the bill were made by Senator Kendrick and Senator Borah. Senator Borah said the people in the Western states are opposed to the leasing plan, but owing to war conditions, realized that some action was necessary.

Tax Extension Proposed.

Washington, D. C.—Legislation to subject all federal officials except the President and members of the Supreme court to the excess profits tax was agreed upon Tuesday by the house ways and means committee. There has been criticism because the "occupational tax" of the war bill lays upon the income of professional and salaried men, when they exceed \$6000, a tax of 8 per cent in addition to the regular income tax, but exempted members of congress.

INTERNEED SHIP IS WIRELESS STATION

Dairy of Captain Exposes Trick Played at Honolulu.

BAND DROWNS SOUND

Revolutionary Propaganda is Disseminated From Hawaii at Instigation of German Government.

Honolulu—While her band was playing lively tunes to drown out all talk of the wireless apparatus of the German unprotected cruiser Geier, interned in this harbor, relayed messages between German agents in the United States and Japan in furtherance of a plot to smother the two countries in war, according to an article appearing in the Star-Bulletin here.

The article, which is published with the authority of the United States Naval Intelligence Bureau, declares that the seal placed on the Geier's wireless by the American government was broken by the Germans in order that the messages might be sent.

The information regarding the Geier's activity in this supposed plot was obtained from the dairy of Captain Grashof, of that vessel, the article asserts.

"Grashof's dairy says, according to the article, that in November, 1914, and February, 1917, messages ordering the widespread promulgation of reports that Japanese forces were to land in Mexico and German forces in Canada were handled by the Geier's wireless, the operators working night and day in order that there would be no delay in the transmission of these radiograms."

According to the diary Count von Bernstorff, ex-German ambassador to the United States, and Captains Boy-Ed and Von Pappen, his principal aides, figured prominently in the plot. George Roedick and H. A. Schroeder, ex-German consuls at Honolulu and Manila, respectively, are also implicated.

Both pleaded guilty in San Francisco recently to complicity in a plot to establish a revolutionary government in India.

A German secret agent known as "K-17" was said in the dairy to have aided in the transmission of these messages, and also to have advised the German government of the sailing times of Danish vessels from here and elsewhere.

SHARK PULLS ANGLER TO SEA

Woman Fighting from Boulder Drowns When Fish Takes Bait.

San Francisco—A large fish, presumably a shark, pulled Mrs. Anna Connors to her death on the rocks of Moss Beach near here Sunday. Mrs. Connors was fishing from a large boulder. A companion, Emil Bedenbeck, heard her cry in alarm and turned to see her bracing herself against a strong pull upon her line. Before Bedenbeck could reach her she was dragged into the surf.

Bedenbeck, after an hour's battle, brought the woman's unconscious body back to the ledge upon which she was fishing. He then scaled the adjoining cliff and summoned aid. When he returned he discovered the body had been swept out to the sea. It had not been recovered up to a late hour.

"Garabed" to Be Tested.

Washington, D. C.—The bill providing for tests of a mysterious machine for utilizing free energy devised by Garabed T. K. Giragosian, an Armenian inventor from Boston, was passed Saturday by the house after lengthy debate. The measure provides for securing the discoverer's rights if the machine is demonstrated to be practicable and that the government may use it without charge.

A similar bill passed by the last session of congress was vetoed by President Wilson. The new measure was introduced to meet the President's objection to providing that there shall be no patent on the general principle involved.

Japan Needs More Sheep.

Seattle, Wash.—Dr. Issa Tanimura who has been sent by the Japanese government to study the American sheep industry, arrived here Sunday night. He intends to remain here a few days and then tour the sheep-raising sections of the nation. "Japan needs 10,000,000 sheep to supply the demands of the country for woolen goods and food," he said. "To meet that demand the country has a total of 3000 wool sheep of various breeds." Dr. Tanimura said he expects to obtain sheep here for foundations of flocks.

Teuton Republic Urged.

Washington, D. C.—The committee on public information makes public an article written by Germans and circulated in Germany urging the overthrow of the German war lords and the proclaiming of a republic. The document, which was distributed through German republicans in Switzerland, declares that peace will not come until Hohenzollernism is overthrown and the German people take their stand for democracy and civilization.



WHAT an interest centered in that babe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger at Bethlehem! Prophets were interested, angels were interested, the ages have been most deeply interested since. The shepherds had perhaps some premonition. The seventy weeks of Daniel's prophecy were about fulfilled. It may be at that very time they were talking of the coming of Christ.

Suddenly their attention was arrested by a strange sight in the heavens. It grew brighter and took the form of an angel, and then they heard a voice announcing the birth of Christ as glad tidings for all people, not to the Jews only. Then suddenly the air was filled with angels singing as if they had come right out from the air.

We know not their wonderful song, but part came to mortal ears, "Glory to God in the highest," etc. We know not who those angels were, but we fancy they were the redeemed. Adam was there; Eve was there. Eve, who in her maternal earnestness declared at the birth of her firstborn, "I have got a man from the Lord," hoping that that was he who should bruise the serpent's head. Now, in the fullness of time she had come to witness the birth of the babe who was to be the Saviour of her race. David, Elijah, Moses, the patriarchs, we believe, were with the heavenly host.

This song reveals three things:

First.—The glorification of God through the incarnation. God has glory through his vast work in nature, his providence building up and casting down nations, etc.

In the incarnation there was special glory. It was glory to God in the highest—highest, in that it was above all other glory, in that it extended to all time and in that it wrought such wondrous good.

Second.—The great results to the earth. It would result in peace. Strife, thorns and thistles were abounding. The earth was torn and bleeding by constant contention. With Christ came peace. The result would be universal peace.

Third.—The effect on the individual man. "Good will toward men," from one another, from God. Out of this good will would finally spring peace on earth and glory to God in the highest.—Dr. Matthew Simpson.

To Make a True Christmas.

Don't forget the lonely, the suffering, the poor, on Christmas. Remember that the first and greatest Christmas gift was sent not to the rich and powerful, but to the poor and needy. Give to those who are near and dear to you, but somewhere, somehow, in your ordinary life find some one who is near and dear to no one else and make Christmas for him or her.

Some Christmas Legends

There is a Bosnian legend that the sun leaps in the heavens and the stars dance around it. A great peace comes stealing down over mountain and forest. The rotten stumps stand straight and green on the hillside. The grass is bespoken with blossoms, and the birds sing on the mountain tops in thanks to God. In Poland the heavens open and Jacob's ladder is set up between earth and sky. In Austria the candles are set in the window that the Christ Child may not stumble when he comes to bless the home. In north Germany the tables are spread and the lights left burning for the incoming of the Virgin Mary and her attending angel.

The English superstition is admirably voiced by the myriad-minded Shakespeare in "Hamlet":

Some say that ever 'gainst that season comes
Wherein our Lord's birth is celebrated,
The bird of dawn singeth all night long,
And then they say no spirit can walk abroad,
The nights are wholesome. Then no planets strike,
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,
So hallowed and so gracious is the time.

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"Don't Open Until Christmas!"

My Love hath sent a gift to me,
But though that gift I long to see,
The packet's label says me nay—
"Don't open until Christmas day."

Till Christmas day—how long to wait
And pine, yet hold inviolate
The ban, too strict for Adam's clay,
"Don't open until Christmas day!"

On Christmas day shall I be here
To joy in that which now were dear?
And must I heed these runes that say,
"Don't open until Christmas day!"
Should Time, the churl, have power to hold
In check each word, each deed of old!
Through this decree of drear delay,
"Don't open until Christmas day!"

For there be hearts—and purses, too—
Locked fast to Love the long year through
By that same word, which fools obey,
"Don't open until Christmas day!"

Ah, Love, the sages all allow
The time for any joy is now!
Then charge me never more, I pray,
"Don't open until Christmas day!"

—Arthur Guiterman in Life.

The Golden Christmastide

UNDER the far blue Syrian sky
Was born the Conqueror of Death,
Who bore credentials from on high
In Bethlehem and Nazareth.
Then came the new and better times;
One lone star signaled far and wide,
And now we ring melodious chimes
To mark the holy Christmastide.

Come young and old from every side;
Come rosy maid and gentle swain,
It is the holy Christmastide
That joyously we meet again.
The holly hangs upon the door,
It is no time for soot or soot.

Now jollity commands the floor,
And joy comes with the mistletoe,
Bring in the Yule log's ancient flame,
The soused boar's head, a rich repast.
Let sorrow go the way it came;
Let care be to oblivion cast.
The sweet clear voices sound without
Sackbut and shawm, make wholesome glee.

Twined is the boar's head round about
With garlands rich and rosemary.
And now the foaming wassail bowl
Shall bring us comfort and delight.
This is the season of the soul,
From golden morn to starry night.
Nought care we for the piercing cold,
The drifted snow or raging blast,
For Christmas never shall grow old
From eons new or centuries past.

Quaint mummers mingle in the scene
Where pudding mates with Christmas pie.
The rooms are thick with evergreen,
And happiness lights every eye.
Let Fortunatus turn his horn
Of basket loads to famished need,
For on this day the One was born
Who knew no mark of class or creed.

Then welcome, merry Christmastide,
Another hour before we go.
The rosy girl close at our side
We'll kiss beneath the mistletoe,
Deep, mellow bells salute the air
With benediction sent far wide.

Good will and joy go everywhere
Upon the golden Christmastide.
—Joel Benton.

The Sweetest of All.
Christmas is a jolly day, but let us not forget that it is Christ's birthday and that to make someone else happy is the sweetest thing of all.



IN a place built, like Bethlehem, in many cases against the soft limestone rock it often happens that the existence of a cave where the house was to be a great attraction since it offered a ready made, dry, above ground cellar as well as a specially suitable spot for the household animals and for a storeroom. It would seem that Joseph was at last able to get room in some such back portion of a house, and there, we are told, Mary bore her divine Son.

A cave below the high altar of the Church of the Nativity is now shown as the very place where this august event transpired; a little recess, shaped like a clam shell, its floor of marble wrought into a star in the center, bearing in Latin the words, "Here Jesus Christ Was Born of the Virgin Mary." A row of lamps hangs round the outer edge, the right to attend to them being a jealously watched matter, each of the ancient churches, the Greek, the Latin, the Armenian and the Coptic, having one or more of these under its care.

The evidence for this site is so strong that most persons accept it as sufficient, reaching up, as it does, to within living memory of the days of the apostles. But even if this be an illusion the fact remains that in this petty village the Saviour of the world was made man for our redemption. No wonder that we read of the anthem of the angels, for surely nothing could draw forth the interest of the heavenly population like the exceeding grace God was showing to sinful man.

The scene of the visit of the shepherds is pointed out as on a rough slope, facing the village, at some distance to the east, Bethlehem lying far above on its mountain seat. One can follow the shepherds in their journey to see the unspeakable wonder. They would go along the rich valley of Poaz and then up the terraced hill by a path still in use, nor is it unconstructive to reflect that, while simple shepherds were led by angels to the manger, the high priest and the great of Jerusalem, so near, slept through that most illustrious night of all history, quite unconscious of what had happened. But we know of it, and may God grant that if we cannot go with the shepherds to Bethlehem we may one day go to the right hand of God and worship him there, who that night lay a little child in Mary's arms.—Dr. Cunningham Geikie.

One Christmas Pudding

Perhaps the most heroic attempt to keep Christmas in conventional fashion under unconventional conditions was that made by the late Lord Wolseley, when a young officer, in the trenches before Sebastopol during the Crimean war sixty years ago. He and his comrades decided that the Christmas should be honored and that there should be a plum pudding. The "pudding" was compounded of biscuit, grease and such fruit as could be obtained, the ingredients being mixed in a fragment of a Russian shell. Wrapped in a cloth, it was boiled for some hours, and a tasty reminder of the great festival was eagerly looked forward to by the hungry officers. But before the pudding was considered "cooked" orders came transferring Wolseley and his tent companions to a distant part of the works.

Should they leave the pudding until their return or eat it as it was? They were hungry, and the latter course was decided upon. The "pudding" was duly swallowed, and away they went in obedience to orders. Late that night Wolseley was troubled with internal disturbances that necessitated the doctor's kindly ministrations. It seemed, said the future field marshal, as if pieces of Russian shell were rolling against each other inside. It was the only pudding, the first and last, he ever made.