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.

Washington Gardner of Albion, Mich., was given a recess appointment as commissioner of pensions. He is a former member of congress and a civil war veteran.

Two cases of typhus fever were reported to the state health department from Galveston, it was announced Tuesday. This makes seven cases reported in Texas since January 1.

The new Greek offensive against the Turks in Asia Minor, planned for the end of March, has been abandoned, at least for the present, according to dispatches to the French foreign office.

Major-General Leonard Wood will retire from active service in the army to become the head of Pennsylvania university after he returns from the Philippines, it was learned at the war department.

Total sales of the Western Electric company during 1920 were $206,112,000, as compared with $135,722,000 for 1919. The annual report shows net earnings amounted to $8,277,414, while those of 1919 were $5,652,089.

Charges that the Pennsylvania railroad was fighting for the open shop and that the road maintained a spy system before the war were subjects of heated discussion before the railroad labor board Tuesday in Chicago.

Opening of a fight to curb the traffic of an international drug ring, said to be headed by business men of Germany, Japan and England, was announced in New York Tuesday by Dr. Carleton Simon, special deputy police commissioner.

A special dispatch from Bremen reports that the captain of the American steamship Deranof was shot and killed by Second Officer Gowan in an altercation. Gowan asserted that the trouble arose through the captain's abusive conduct. Gowan is in custody.

Customs officials have found what they believe to be part of the Russian imperial treasures, including a fragment of the late czar's crown, in the baggage of the Russian commercial delegation to Italy, held in the railway station in Rome pending examination.

Thousands of pushcart ice peddlers and milk wagon drivers in New York, astute in sensing trade for spirituous stimulants among their housewife customers, have developed this potential bootleg market into wholesale proportions, federal prohibition enforcement agents have revealed.

The German reparations bill, imposing a levy of 50 per cent of the value of all German imports to be used toward the payment of reparations, Tuesday passed all the remaining stages in the house of lords without discussion. The measure needs only the king's assent to become a law.

The Russian soviet government has appealed to President Harding and the American government to resume trade relations with Russia, says a wireless message from Moscow. The soviet government proposes to send a delegation to the United States to negotiate a trade agreement, the message said.

Governor Hart of Washington has signed the poll tax bill passed by the last legislature. The bill became effective at once and under it every man and woman in the state between the ages of 21 and 50 years must pay a poll tax of $5 before May 1 of each year. The first year's tax is due before May 1 next.

Publication of the pamphlet report of the United States Steel corporation for 1920 disclosed total earnings of $185,895,359, a gain over 1919 of $32,804,720; balance of earnings after payment of interest on bonds and mortgages of $176,686,894, a net increase of $33,097,855, and net income of $130,002,534, increased $31,959,398.

A formal call for an extra session of congress, to meet April 11 and receive legislative recommendations from the new administration, was issued Tuesday by President Harding. None of the specific problems were named in the proclamation, the president merely declaring an extraordinary occasion required that congress convene "to receive such communications as may be made by the executive."

U. S. TRADE DENIED SOVIET

Big Changes In Economic System and Safety of Life Demanded.

Washington, D. C.—The American government notified the soviet authorities in Russia Saturday that resumption of trade between Russia and the United States could not be considered until fundamental changes had been made in the economic system underlying the soviet regime.

Safety of human life, guaranty of property rights, free labor and observance of the sanctity of contracts were among the requirements laid down in a note by Secretary Hughes as essential if trade relations are to be renewed.

The communication added that "convincing evidence of the consummation of such changes" must be furnished before this government cared even to discuss the subject.

The communication was made public at the state department in the form of a statement by Secretary Hughes with the notation that a copy of it should be sent to the American consul at Reval, Esthonia, to be handed to Litvinoff, soviet representative there.

The note was in reply to the appeal recently addressed by the soviet regime to President Harding and congress asking that trade relations between the United States and Russia be restored and proposing to send a delegation to the United States to negotiate.

Prior to making a final decision, the Russian trade question was discussed by President Harding and his cabinet.

In a statement after the note had been made public, Secretary Hoover declared the conclusion reached "shows the complete agreement of the views of the whole administration."

Unlike previous official pronouncements of the American government's attitude toward the soviet regime, Secretary Hughes' note dealt solely with the economic aspects of the problem, and made no attempt to discuss the political shortcomings of the unrecognized bolshevist government. It set forth in a few words the reason why the United States considers it poor business to trade wiht Russia under existing conditions, but making no indictment against bolshevism as a political system.

Service Men Are First.

Washington, D. C.—Promise that he would observe the spirit as well as the letter of the law giving preference to former service men in the postal service was given by Postmaster-General Hays Saturday to a committee of the American Legion. The legion committee, consisting of Theodore Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy; Thomas W. Miller, alien property custodian, and F. John Markey of Frederick, Md., laid before the postmaster-general several specific cases of alleged discrimination against former service men. Mr. Hays promised to have the cases investigated immediately and assured the committee he was in full sympathy with the law directing officials of the postal service to consider time spent by employes in the military service on their postal records.

State Wants New Name.

Mitchell, S. D.—Directors of the Mitchell chamber of commerce Saturday voted for the appointment of a committee of three to begin a statewide campaign for a constitutional amendment changing the name of South Dakota to Roosevelt. The name was chosen because the late Theodore Roosevelt spent part of his early manhood in Dakota. Among reasons assigned for the campaign to change the state's name is that more than 30 bank failures in North Dakota have been attributed to South Dakota.

"Adipose" Bit Alcoholic.

San Francisco.—"Nobody loves a fat man," least of all customs officers here, who received orders Sunday from Colonel J. S. Irby, surveyor of customs, to pay particular attention to corpulent persons coming ashore at this port. Customs officials discovered that Daniel Fairfax, quartermaster on the Pacific Mail steamer Ecuador, who aspired to embonpoint, had padded himself with a hot water bottle filled with Scotch whisky.

Egg-Rolling Resumed.

Washington, D. C.—After a lapse of four years, Easter egg-rolling was permitted on the White House grounds Sunday, and Washington youngsters roamed at will over the immense lawn. The annual frolic was discontinued by President Wilson in 1917 after was was declared.

Winnipeg Has 10 Below.

Winnipeg, Man.—Below zero temperature with a strong wind prevailed here Sunday. Ten degrees below zero was registered in the morning.

WOMEN ASK THAT WORLD DISARM

Large Easter Mass Meeting Is Held at Capital.

BORAH IN AGREEMENT

Senator Proposes United States, Great Britain and Japan Take Lead. Conference Is Proposed.

Washington, D. C.—A resolution requesting President Harding "to call a conference of the nations on world disarmament" and asking that increased appropriations of congress for armaments be postponed pending such a conference, was adopted Sunday at an Easter mass meeting held under auspices of the women's disarmament committee.

Senator Borah of Idaho again advocated an agreement between the United States, Great Britain and Japan to reduce naval armament and charged authors of the program for increased armaments with being "sedulous patrons of bolshevism, painstaking and industrious gardeners of unrest and misery."

"The ties which bind peoples to their governments are snapping because of the great burden of armaments," he said.

The meeting, it was announced, was held simultaneously with others in 15 states.

Mrs. Florence Kelley, of New York, who presided, said the meetings "mark the spontaneous uprising of women on the first Easter on which they have power."

Edward F. Grady of the American Federation of Labor said the federation joins in demanding that the statesmen do something at once to bring about a definite program for world disarmament.

"We, however, clearly recognize," he added, "that we cannot disarm while other nations are armed. But we want disarmament, the reduction to be gradual and by general agreement."

Among telegrams read was one from W. J. Bryan saying he was "heartily in favor of disarmament—for an agreement with other nations if possible, by our example if necessary."

"There is no way to bring about disarmament except through agreement with the other naval powers," Senator Borah said. "It should never be our purpose to leave our country insecure, but it should be our determined purpose to bring about such an agreement as will bring security without bringing bankruptcy.

"Great Britain has again taken up the program of building. Japan is adding to her program. And we are still to have the greatest navy in the world. So the race is on."

TOKIO IS SWEPT BY GREAT FIRE

Tokio.—Fire, which for a time imperiled the entire city of Tokio, Sunday night destroyed a thousand houses in the northwest part, injured 133 persons, made thousands homeless and caused a loss estimated at about $12,500,000.

Included in the property destroyed were three hospitals, a bank and several large business houses.

For four hours a violent wind drove the flames toward the heart of the city, causing a panic. Four thousand troops aided the firemen, but it was only when the wind let down that their efforts succeeded. Scenes of terror were witnessed in many sections. Streets were choked with despairing refugees from the districts stricken, accompanied by carts loaded with furniture, the confusion being increased by sightseers.

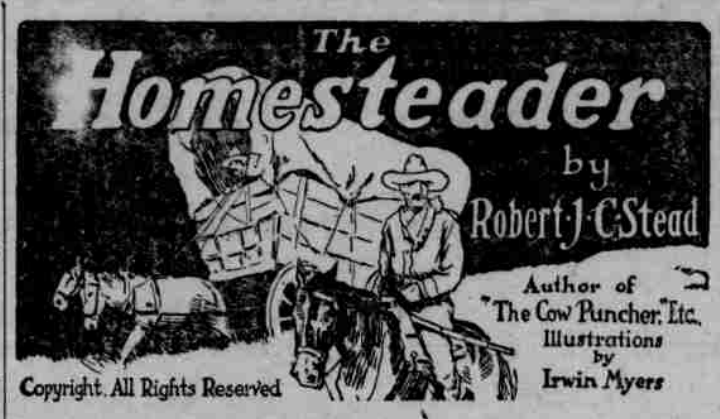
The imperial gardens were opened to the sufferers. The fire burned so fiercely and with such brightness that the skies were illuminated by a fiery halo.

The diet adjourned when the fire's threatening nature was reported.

The fire, which occurred in the Yotsura district, was the worst that Tokio has experienced in a decade.

Allotments Go Direct.

Washington, D. C.—Legislation providing that all sums allowed to disabled soldiers for support of their dependents be paid directly to the designated dependents instead of to the soldiers will be recommended to congress, the federal board for vocational education decided Saturday. Enactment of such legislation, board officials said, would obviate any possible misuse of allowance funds as is now possible.



BEULAH AND JIM.

Synopsis.—Dissatisfied because of the seemingly barren outlook of his position as a school teacher in a Canadian town, John Harris determines to leave it, take up land in Manitoba and become a "homesteader." Mary, the girl whom he loves, declares she will accompany him. They are married and set out for the unknown country. Alec McCrae, pioneer settler and adviser of newcomers, proves an invaluable friend. Leaving his wife with the family of a fellow settler, Fred Arthurs, Harris and McCrae journey over the prairie and select a homestead. Mary insists on accompanying him when he takes possession, and they begin their life work of making the prairie fertile farm land. Returning from selling his first crop, Harris finds his wife despondent almost to insanity from loneliness, and with the immediate expectation of becoming a mother. A son is born to them, to whom they give the name of Allan.

CHAPTER IV.

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In the Spell of the Mirage.

A quarter of a century is a short time as world history goes, but it is a considerable era in the life of the Canadian west. More things—momentous things—than can be hinted at in this narrative occurred in the 25 years following the great inrush of 1882. The boundless prairie reaches of Manitoba were now comparatively well settled, and the tide of immigration, which, after a dozen years' stagnation, had set in again in greater flood than ever, was now sweeping over the newer lands still farther west. The vast sweep of the horizon, once undefiled by any work of man, was pierced and broken with elevators, villages, and farm buildings, and the whiff of coal smoke was blown down the air which had so lately known only the breath of the prairies.

Mary Harris hurried about her capacious kitchen, deep in preparation of the evening meal. The years had taken toll of the freshness of her young beauty; the shoulders, in mute testimony to much hard labor of the hand, had drooped forward over the deepening chest; the hair was thinner, and farther back above the forehead, and streaked with gray at the temples; the mouth lacked the rosy sensuousness of youth, and sat now in a mold, half of resolution, half submission. Yet her foot had lost little of its sprightliness, and the sympathy in her fine eyes seemed to have deepened with the years.

A moist but appetizing steam rose from the vegetable pots on the range, and when she threw back the iron door to feed more coal the hot glow from within danced in reflection along the bright row of utensils hanging from the wall, and even sought out the brass plate on the cream separator at the far end of the big room. Through the screen door came the monotonously redundant clic • • • a • • • clank of the windmill, and a keen ear might have caught the light splash of water as it fell in the wooden horse troughs from the iron nozzle of the pump.

Mary stuck a fork in a potato to ascertain if the "bone" was all gone, meanwhile shielding her face from the steam with the pot lid, held aloft in an aproned hand. Having satisfied herself that the meal was making satisfactory progress, she stepped to the door and sent a quick look across the fields, to where a streak of black smoke was scrawled along the sky.

"Beulah," she called, turning toward the interior part of the house. "Come, Beulah, set the table. They're coming from the field."

In a moment a girl of twenty, plainly attired in a neat calico dress, entered the kitchen. She was fresh and beautiful as her mother had been that first summer in the sod house on the bench, and something in her appearance suggested that with her mother's beauty and fine sensibility she had inherited the indomitable spirit which had made John Harris one of the most prosperous farmers in the district. She moved in an easy, unconscious grace of self-reliance—a reliance that must be just a little irritating to men of old-fashioned notions concerning woman's dependence on the sterner sex—drew the long wooden table, with its covering of white oil cloth, into the center of the kitchen, and began placing the dishes in position.

The scraping of heavy boots on the plow share nailed to the block at the door, and John Harris, followed by Allan and the hired man, Jim, walked into the kitchen. The farmer's frame was heavier than in his younger days, and his hair, too, was streaked with gray, but every muscle in his great body seemed to bulge with strength. His face was brown with the prairie sun and wind of 25 summers, and lines of worry and care had cut their tracings about the mouth and eyes. Beside him stood Allan, his only son, straighter and lither of figure, but almost equally powerful. The younger man was, indeed, a replica of the older, and although they had their disagreements, constant association had developed a fine comradeship, and, on the part of the son, a loyalty equal to any strain. The hired man, Jim, was lighter and finer of feature, and his white teeth gleamed against the nut-brown of his face in a quiet smile that refused to be displaced in any emergency, and at times left the beholder in considerable doubt as to the real emotions working behind.

The men all wore blue overalls, dark blue or gray shirts, and heavy boots. They were guiltless of coat or vest, and tossed their light straw hats on the water bench as they passed. There was a quick splashing of greasy hands at the wash basin, followed by a more effectual rubbing on a towel made from a worn-out grain sack. The hired man paused to change the water and wash his face, but the others proceeded at once to the table, where no time was lost in ceremony. Harris helped himself generously to meat and vegetables and having done so, passed the platters to his son, and in this way they were circulated about the table. There was no talk for the first few minutes, only the sound of knife and fork plied vigorously and interchangeably by father and son, and with some regard for convention by the other members of the family. John Harris had long ago recognized the truth that the destiny of food was the mouth, and whether conveyed on knife or fork made little difference. Mary, too, had found a carelessness of little details both of manner and speech coming over her, as her occasional "ain't" betrayed, but since Jim had joined their table she had been on her guard. Jim seldom said anything, but always that quiet smile lay like a mask over his real emotions.

When the first insistent demands of appetite had been appeased, Harris, resting both elbows on the table, with

"Don't Be Cross, Dad," She Whispered.

knife and fork trained on opposite corners of the ceiling, straightened himself somewhat and remarked:

"Allan an' me's goin' to town tonight; anything you want from Sempter's store, Mary?"

"That lets me in for the cows," said Beulah. "You were in town night before last, too, and it was 9:30 before I got through milking."

"Oh, well, Jim was away that night," said Allan.

"Jim has enough to do, without milking cows after hours," returned the girl. "What do you want to go to town for again tonight, anyway?"

"Got to get more coal," said Harris. "We'll take two teams, an' it'll be late when we get back."

"I think it's all nonsense, this day-an'-night work," persisted Beulah. "Is there never going to be any let-up on it?"

"Beulah, you forget yourself," said her father. "If you'd more to do you'd have less time to fret about it. Your mother did more work in one summer than you have in all your life, an' she's doin' more yet."

"Oh, Beulah's a good help," interposed Mary. "I hope she never has to work like I did."

"I guess the work never hurt us," said Harris, helping himself to preserved strawberries. "Just the same, I'm glad to see you gettin' it a bit easier. But this younger generation—it beats me what we're comin' to. Thinkin' about nothin' but fun and gaddin' to town every night or two. And clo'es—Beulah there's got more clo'es than there were in the whole Plainville settlement the first two or three years."

"I got more neighbors, too," interjected the girl. Then springing up, she stood behind her father's chair and put her arm around his neck.

"Don't be cross, Dad," she whispered. "Your heart's in the right place—but a long way in."

He disengaged her, gently enough. As Beulah said, his heart was all right, but a long way in. Twenty-five years of pitched battle with circumstances—sometimes in victory, sometimes in defeat, but never in despair; always with a load of expense about him, always with the problem of income and outlay to be solved—had made of Harris a man very different from the young idealist of '82. During the first years of struggle for a bare existence in some way the flame of idealism still burned, but with the dawn of the "better times" there came a gradual shifting of standards and a new conception of essentials. The crops of the early years were unprofitable on account of the great distance to market; later, when the railway came to their doors, the crops were still unprofitable, owing to falling prices and diminishing yields due to poor cultivation. Then came a decade during which those who stayed in the country stayed because they could not get out, and it became a current saying that the more land a man farmed the deeper he got in debt.

Then came the swing of the pendulum. No one knows just what started it prosperitywards. Some said it was that the farmers, disheartened with wheat growing, were applying themselves to stock, and certain it is that in "mixed farming" the community eventually found its salvation; others attributed the change to improved agricultural implements, to improved methods of farming, to greater knowledge of prairie conditions, to reductions in the cost of transportation and enlarged facilities for marketing, or to increasing world demand and higher world prices for the product of the farm. But whatever the causes—and no doubt all of the above contributed—the fact gradually dawned upon the settlers that land—their land—was worth money.

It was the farmers from the United States, scouting for cheaper lands than were available in their own communities, who first drove the conviction home. They came with money in their wallets; they were actually prepared to exchange real money for land. Such a thing had never before been heard of in Plainville district.

But a few transactions took place; lands were sold at five dollars, six dollars, eight dollars an acre. The farmers began to realize that land represented wealth—that it was an asset, not a liability—and there was a rush for the cheap railway lands that had so long gone a-begging. Harris was among the first to sense the change in the times, and a beautiful section of railway land that lay next to his homestead he bought at four dollars an acre. The first crop more than paid for the land, and Harris suddenly found himself on the way to riches.

The joy that came with the realization that fortune had knocked at his door and he had heard was the controlling emotion of his heart for a year or more. But gradually, like a fog blown across a moonlit night, came a sense of chill and disappointment. If only he had bought two sections! If at least he had proved up on his preemption, which he might have had for nothing! He saw neighbors about him adding quarter to quarter. None of them had done better than himself, but some had done as well. And in some way the old sense of oneness, the old community interest which had held the little band of pioneers together amid their privations and their poverty, began to weaken and dissolve, and in its place came an individualism and a materialism that measured progress only in dollars and cents. Harris did not know that his gods had fallen, that his ideals had been swept away; even as he sat at supper this summer evening, with his daughter's arm about his neck, he felt that he was still bravely, persistently, pressing on toward the goal, all unaware that years ago he had left that goal like a lighthouse on a rocky shore, and was now sweeping along with the turbulent tide of Mammonism. He still saw the light ahead, but it was now a phantom of the imagination. He said, "When I am worth ten thousand I will have reached it;" when he was worth ten thousand he found the faithless light had moved on to twenty-five thousand. He said, "When I am worth twenty-five thousand I will have reached it;" when he was worth twenty-five thousand he saw the glow still ahead, beckoning him on to fifty thousand. To stop now might mean losing sight of his goal, and John Harris held nothing in heaven or earth so great as its attainment.

So, gently enough, he disengaged his daughter's arm and finished his supper in silence. As soon as it was ended the men started for the barn, and in a few minutes two wagons rattled noisily down the trail.

Beulah helped with the supper dishes, and then came out with the milk pails to the corral where the cows, puffing and chewing, complacently awaited her arrival. But she had not reached the gate when the hired man was at her side and had slipped one of the pails from her arm.

"Now, Jim, I don't think that's fair at all," she said; and there was a tremor in her voice that vexed her. "Here you're slaving all day with coal and water, and I think that's enough, without milking cows at night."

But Jim only smiled and stirred a cow into position.

There was a tuneful song of the tin pails as the white streams rattled on their bottoms.

"Here I've slaved and saved until I'm an old woman."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Turned Out to Be Serious.

"What became of that girl Masherton was flirting with last summer?"

"You mean the girl that Masherton thought he was flirting with? She married him."—London Opinion.