

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.

Mrs. Frank B. Kellogg, wife of the new American ambassador, was the guest of honor at a luncheon Wednesday given by the American Women's club and attended by 250 American and British women.

Mrs. Warren G. Harding, widow of the late President Harding, is to become an associate editor of the Marion Star and plans to write over her own signature for the newspaper which her husband conducted for 35 years.

Brick and tile manufacturers of Oregon and Washington are planning to co-operate with the Common Brick Manufacturers' Association of America in a programme of advertising and promotion of brick and tile in various construction uses.

In the presence of law enforcement officers of the government, the senate Teapot Dome investigating committee took steps Tuesday to call again before it Albert B. Fall, ex-secretary of the interior, and Harry F. Sinclair, lessee of naval oil reserves in Wyoming.

The smelling of breaths to determine varying degrees of drunkenness is no part of the business of the doctors, internes and nurses employed in Seattle's city emergency hospital, according to the rule laid down by Dr. Hiram M. Read, city health commissioner.

Moved by the increasing acuteness of the economic situation in the central west, President Coolidge Wednesday sent to congress a special message outlining steps for relief and quickened efforts of the federal government to prevent further bank failures in that section.

Miss Madeleine Traverso of New York, motion picture actress, has won a verdict of \$85,473 against Herbert Lyon Smith, wealthy oil and coal man, in her suit based on an alleged default of a contract by which he was to star her in a film corporation to bear her name. She sued for \$222,500.

Eight Salem (Or.) churches have voted adversely to a proposal to invite William A. (Billy) Sunday, the noted evangelist, to come to Salem in June to conduct a series of meetings. Only 19 churches, it was said, voted favorably to the movement. A half-dozen churches were yet to cast their votes.

Ramsay Macdonald, who took office Tuesday as England's first labor premier, gave tacit notice to the country and his colleagues that he expected to give the British people a business-like administration and would look for punctuality on the part of his associates in reporting for duty each day.

Joint state hearing with the interstate commerce commission has been set for March 1, in the federal court room in Yakima, Wash., by the department of public works, in the matter of the new interstate and intrastate rates on northwestern roads on fruit and vegetables shipped from the Wenatchee and Yakima valley districts.

A wage increase of approximately 5 per cent has been agreed upon for 15,000 engineers and firemen of the New York Central lines. Engineers, firemen, hostlers and hostler-helpers receive the following increases: Passenger service, 24 cents a 100 miles; freight service, 36 cents a 100 miles; yard and hostler service, 32 cents a day.

Removal of snarls in the relation of Japanese residents of America with Japan, preparatory to further diplomatic discussions between the two countries, was the object of a bill introduced in the house of peers Tuesday by the cabinet revising the nationality law to the extent of withdrawing Japanese citizenship from Japanese acquiring any other nationality.

Nikolai Lenine, Russia's great bolshevik leader, died suddenly Monday night at his country villa in the village of Gorky, 20 miles from Moscow. The public announcement of the premier's death was withheld until the all-Russian soviet congress met Tuesday morning and only that night did the wires carry to all corners of the soviet federation word of the event, which even Lenine's political opponents declare saddens the nation.

SMALL SALARY TAXES CUT

House Ways and Means Committee Acts—All Under \$5000 Affected.

Washington, D. C.—Income taxpayers got their first slice of the proposed tax relief Monday when the house ways and means committee adopted the recommendation of Secretary Mellon to allow a special 25 per cent reduction in the tax on incomes which are "earned."

All taxable incomes under \$5000 were defined as "earned" for purposes of this reduction, while \$20,000 was set as the maximum amount of incomes on which the reduction could be taken.

Treasury estimates show that about 13,000,000 taxpayers have incomes of less than \$5000 and automatically could deduct from their tax when computed 25 per cent of its total. Thus, a married man with two children, who now pays a tax of \$28 on an income of \$4000 would pay only \$21, this figure not taking into account any normal income tax reductions—a proposition still before the committee.

Disposition of this section of the bill cleared the way with the exception of some odds and ends to be taken up for consideration by the committee of income rates themselves, including the surtaxes, the main point at issue in the tax revision programme.

Some members have declared for writing a republican income rate schedule, while others wish to work out the rates in full committee. Democrats, however, have declared they will stand solidly for their party proposal of a reduction in surtaxes to a 44 per cent maximum instead of 25 per cent, as suggested by Secretary Mellon. The house republican steering committee also discussed the tax situation, but reached no conclusion.

Before taking up the earned income provision, the committee definitely rejected Secretary Mellon's proposal to prohibit husbands and wives in the eight community property law states from dividing their incomes for purposes of taxation. Chairman Green had submitted a substitute proposal, the original already having been defeated, to prohibit this division when the incomes were derived from wages or salaries alone. Representatives Garner, democrat, Texas, and Hadley, republican, Washington, led the fight against this section.

Secretary Mellon's recommendation for special reduction in the taxes on earned incomes provided for the 25 per cent rate to apply on such incomes of any amount and defined earned incomes as that received from wages, salaries and professional services. Representative Garner, author of the democratic tax plan, accepted the earned income proposal in his plan but suggested a reduction of 33 1/2 per cent. The 25 per cent rate, however, will stand in committee, Chairman Green said, because no amendment was offered to change it.

On earned incomes above \$5000 the definition of Mr. Mellon also will hold. Mr. Garner moved to define "earned income" as "reasonable compensation or allowance for personal service where income is derived from combined personal service and capital in the prosecution by unincorporated persons of agriculture or other businesses." This was defeated by a strict party vote.

Home Wrecked; 15 Dead. Pawtucket, R. I.—An explosion which shook the countryside for 20 miles around, wrecked a two-family house at Cumberland Hill, Manville, Monday and in the ruins were found 15 bodies. Many of the victims, in the opinion of the medical examiner, were asphyxiated before the explosion, which resulted from the igniting of illuminating gas and was made more severe by the detonation of some dynamite stored in the cellar.

One entire family, the head of another family and a young woman boarder were killed. They were Adelaide Hamel, his wife and their six sons and five daughters ranging in age from 2 to 21 years; Michael Conway and Miss Apolline Dancour.

Wild West Stuff to Go. Klamath Falls, Or.—Shooting the lights out at Klamath county dances has got to cease, according to Sheriff Low, who opened an official crusade against the abuse Monday with the arrest of Frank Morgan and Bill Brown of Bly, on the upper Sprague, accused of being drunk in a public place and carrying concealed weapons. "A few jolts of this panther milk and these young frontiersmen think they are wolves," explained the sheriff.

Sterling Exchange Up. New York.—Improved prospects for the settlement of the British railway strike contributed to a sharp rise in sterling exchange Monday, the demand rate mounting 2 1/2 cents to \$4.25 1/2. The franc gained 10 points to 4.61 1/2 cents as a measure designed to sustain Paris exchange came to a test vote in the chamber of deputies. Other European exchanges, with the exception of Denmark, advanced in sympathy.

COOLIDGE ACTS TO SIFT OIL CASE

Will Select Special Counsel to Proceed in Courts.

WILL PUNISH GUILTY

Both Political Parties to Be Represented—Cancellation of Leases to Be Considered.

Washington, D. C.—President Coolidge has decided to employ special counsel drawn from both the republican and democratic parties to proceed with court action as a result of evidence adduced at the senate committee hearings on the leasing of naval oil leases.

In a statement issued at midnight Saturday the president declared that "counsel will be instructed to prosecute these cases in the courts so that if there is any guilt it will be punished; if there is any civil liability it will be enforced; if there is any fraud it will be revealed, and if there are any contracts which are illegal they will be cancelled."

The president determined upon this course after being advised by the department of justice that it was in accordance with precedents. Explaining that the justice department had been observing the evidence unfolded in the senate committee, the executive in his statement asserted that "every law will be enforced and every right of the people and the government will be protected."

White House officials, in making public the statement, said that the special counsel would be appointed just as soon as selections could be made. The formal announcement follows: "It is not for the president to determine criminal guilt or render judgment in several causes. That is the function of the courts. It is not for him to pre-judge. I shall do neither. But when facts are revealed to me that require action for the purpose of insuring the enforcement of either civil or criminal liability, such action will be taken. This is the province of the executive."

"Acting under my direction, the department of justice has been observing the course of the evidence which has been revealed at the hearings conducted by the senatorial committee investigating certain oil leases made on naval reserves, which I believe warrants action for the purpose of enforcing the law and protecting the rights of the public. This is confirmed by reports made to me from the committee. If there has been any crime, it must be prosecuted. If there has been any property of the United States illegally transferred or leased, it must be recovered."

"I feel the public is entitled to know that in the conduct of such actions no one is shielded for any party, political or other reasons. As I understand, men are involved who belong to both political parties and, having been advised by the department of justice that it is in accord with former precedents, I propose to employ special counsel of high rank, drawn from both political parties."

40 Miners Entombed. Shanktown, Pa.—Hope for the lives of some 40 miners, entombed late Saturday by an explosion in the Lancashire mine of the Barnes & Tucker Coal company here, was practically given up when rescue workers reported that the wrecked mine was dense with "black damp" and that water was rising rapidly in the underground passageways. The fan house of the mine was wrecked by the terrific blast. The poison gas, the water, the lack of fresh air and a heavy fall of rock impeded the progress of volunteer rescue workers, who dug valiantly in an effort to reach the entombed men.

Lincoln's Friend Dead. Independence, Kan.—Major John Frederick Nolle, 95, personal friend of Abraham Lincoln, is dead at his home here. Major Nolle was a pioneer of the Oregon trail and later, in 1850, a gold seeker in California. He built the first courthouse at Salem, Or. He participated in seven battles of the civil war and was counted among the personal friends of many generals of the union army. He came to Kansas in 1849.

Arms Collected in London Tower. The collection of arms and armor at the Tower of London contains about 6,000 examples from the Middle ages downwards.

CAPTAIN SAZARAC

By Charles Tenney Jackson
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"THE PLOT NAPOLEON"

SYNOPSIS.—Under the name of "Captain Sazarac," and disguised, Jean Lafitte, former freebooter of Barataria, proscribed, returns to the city of New Orleans. He is recognized by two of his old companions, Alderman Dominique and Beluche. At the gaming tables Sazarac has won much money from Colonel Carr, British officer, John Jarvis, the city's first Bohemian of the arts and letters, an oldtime friend of Lafitte, tells of a woman's face and smile. As his last wager, Carr puts up a woman, presumably a slave. Custom compels Sazarac to accept the stake. He wins. His old associates and Count Raoul de Almonaster, now in the city, see the girl, Jeanette, is the girl and in chivalry foregoes his revenge against Carr. Jarvis admires Mademoiselle Lestron. He is a witness of the meeting and picks up a camellia which the girl had thrown, unnoticed, to Sazarac. Jeanette is dangerous; he talks too much in his cups. His old associates of the Barataria days urge Lafitte to take command of the Seraphine, ostensibly to rescue Napoleon but really to fly the black flag and cruise the seas. He hesitates.

CHAPTER IV—Continued.

"He would be at home anywhere—" Beluche watched the jester who had wandered back among the wine tuns searching for his pewter mug: "Do you recall how our rough fellows were amazed when we first tumbled him off a sacked merchantman down among us, and at once—with our pistols at his head—he began to bawl for drink? As I live, thereafter, on the Petrel, he feared nothing save that the next prize might have more gold than liquor!"

"He did us all honor," mused Lafitte. "Eh, the old faces about me!" Jarvis, the youngest of them all, save Raoul, staggered to the table. "Piracy," he lamented, "ruined me! I was treated all too famously by the cutthroats. But, Jean—now, if we had a ship—eh, well! The drink this way!"

"Ah, the ship! It appears we have forgotten why we are here! The ship? We have a ship!"

"A ship?" growled a new voice, Nez Coupe, the small wily Canary islander, with a face most frightfully disfigured by a saber cut, the most lawless of the former Grand Terre privateers, an outlaw still unparadoned, came to the table lamp. "What talk! Not one of us all could purchase a yawl boat!"

Beluche and Dominique sidged. Beluche gestured uneasily to the fastidious De Almonaster. It seemed he must speak; it was for that they had fetched him to the council.

"There is a ship appointed for a purpose," began the count, reservedly. "The Girod ship, fitted by the citizenry—for a certain purpose—"

"Bah! That Napoleon folly!" growled Johanness: "Child's play! Ah, but a ship for your eye, my captain!"

The grim grizzled faces looked from the captain to the youngest man. "It is difficult to announce," continued Raoul. "But I have, this day, taken over my aunt's interest, and that of Monsieur Allain, in the Girod ship. I have, therefore, a word as to her. As you all know, the Napoleon venture is not a secret. The mayor, Rouffignac, the Creole families of the city, are heartily in sympathy with it. I have been against it until—Monsieur Dominique proposed that we intrigue for Captain Sazarac to command."

There was a shout—derision, incredulity, protest. The wilder ones uprose feverishly. Dominique would have spoken, but Jarvis staggered up, cup in hand. "A toast! The plot! Ho, villains, all—to the plot! And he roared the louder.

"The devil take you!" growled Beluche. "The watchman on the corner—"

Sazarac raised his hand. "I, to command? What madness again! The young blades of the town are to man the schooner—they would be spanked to bed if Lafitte was to be known among them!"

"We have thought powerful influence could be brought to bear for your pardon, Monsieur. A rare exploit to reinstate you—seizing the emperor from his prison isle!"

Sazarac laughed idly: "Quite impossible. Gentlemen, I beg you—"

"A ship!" shouted Johanness, as if, suddenly, to his old eyes had leaped the vision of far sea days: "The Seraphine! Jean, and a ship again! A ship shaken free in the gulf, and any flag will serve!"

"Hst!" lamented Dominique. "They can hear you to the levees! Let the young gentlemen talk; then our captain will have it clearly. He shall be Sazarac until we are cleared, Captain Gaspar Sazarac with recommendations from the Americans of the West. Monsieur de Almonaster will vouch for Sazarac. I, myself, the alderman, have known this worthy Sazarac who is to be the secluded house guest of Monsieur de Almonaster, and introduced aught ere we breach the Napoleon matter—"

Jarvis suddenly thrust his drink-swollen face close to the lamp. He grinned with tipsy awakening. "Why, so—this Sazarac! Ho, Jean!—a woman! You are overnight in the town, and at once a woman!" He fumbled in his breast and brought out a crushed flower, and laid it down with a mock flourish. "Did you ever, Captain Gaspar Sazarac—smell camellias in the moonlight?"

Sazarac stood glancing from the Jean Jarvis to the camellia upon the table. The jester was grinning knowingly. The Count de Almonaster turned a puzzled face upon them both.

"The affair of the English woman," grumbled Beluche. "Twaddle of the gossipers on the promenade. A drunken fool, and an evil jest! Sazarac need not challenge. The scandal is upon Carr and his two women."

But Jarvis continued to leer upon the leader's silent face. "I wish I could paint love in a woman's eye—" he mocked. "Then there should be a mistress with a camellia in her hair at my studio." He turned away to draw his measure of wine.

CHAPTER V

Two Gentlemen of Mystery. The honorable the mayor, Monsieur Rouffignac, stood on the stone flags of the City hall, or Prinspal, as it was yet called from the Spanish days, and looked contentedly out on the rue Chartres. He had come early, before the heat of the day, for some business with his clerks.

"Hello-o!" sighed the mayor. "A long day for me! The council will not meet until ten—but I shall cut them short! Ah, there—good morning, Monsieur Mudge!"

Mr. Mudge, of the banking firm of Mudge & Fickert, was turning from the street: a tall and immaculate gentleman in high bell hat and new, long



tight trousers outside his equally tight boots; and behind him, the mayor noted, was Mr. Langhorne, the consul of Great Britain. The greetings were of punctilious respect.

"What makes you so early astir, gentlemen?" queried His Honor. "As for me—I am the most lamentably overworked man in Louisiana. The governor sends me vast communications—all in the English, these days, which, unfortunately, I cannot read so well; and Monsieur La Tour, getting up his new city directory, insists that I read his proofs—and there is not a playmate victrola, nor a mender of pots that he does not get in so that New Orleans may claim rank with Philadelphia or New York! La-la! there are too many of us now!"

"You may well say," rejoined Mr. Mudge hurriedly, "complaint has already been made by the English captain—petty thieves made away with some of his merchandise on the Algerine block. The customs people have pursued them—I believe one fellow was shot in a fracas down Bayou Barataria, near the plantation of Monsieur Berthoud."

"An outrage, sir," protested the consul. "In the name of his majesty I must make representations—"

"It is an affair, sir," said Monsieur Rouffignac politely, "more for the United States authorities."

"Yes, but they are laughing about the town, sir! Rough fellows of the wineshops and the levees are all agog with this rumor that the bandit of Barataria has returned; and at once an outrage is put on the port's shipping!"

"Hum," said the mayor, "I know. Thirty cases of muskets, by some mistake, put out from the English ship on the dock. The port officers—"

"The captain of the Genarou has protested, sir," fumed the consul; "the cargo was destined for the Mexicoes."

But some thieving villains take advantage of the question raised—"

"The Baratarians, Monsieur Mayor!" blustered the merchant; "the pardoned rascals of Jean Lafitte! The very rumor of his return disturbs commerce. Look, now—here comes old Gorgio, the crayfish seller—as big a villain as is unhung, pardoned by the President! And do you think he will trouble himself to step off the banquette when gentlemen come by, when he knows that half of Louisiana has come to think of Jean Lafitte as more patriot than pirate?"

"Hum—hum," mused the placid mayor; "some maintain that he saved the city in 1815. Eh, my dear consul!—but we are very good friends now, are we not? Hum—hum—and here comes Monsieur Dominique, who ought to know something about this idle gossip of Lafitte."

Mudge, the banker, bowed stiffly to the portly alderman; Langhorne, with a frown—there were some fastidious gentry who did not care for equality with the pardoned and Falstaffian buccaneer. The mayor turned slyly to him.

"Ah, Monsieur Dominique! The gentlemen ask of a matter upon which you might enlighten us. Lafitte's reputed return?"

The councilor raised a fat hand. "And if it were true, rue Royale would be ribboned to welcome him, I do believe!"

The respectable banker shrugged. "Enough! Mr. Langhorne, we shall take our business to the customs! The city is a trifter's town! And this other jest—the sailing of the Napoleon ship. Mr. Mayor, the folly leaps and grows! Sober, decent merchants entering the coffee houses are badgered by young roistersers to subscribe to the plot Napoleon! Anything for a fanfaronade, even if it brought England and the United States to war!"

Langhorne, the consul, raised a hand laughingly. "The Seraphine, good sirs, will be well watched once these crackbrains put her nose out the passes! His majesty is not tremble at this frolic!"

And with a bow the two gentlemen departed. Half a square distant, the consul turned to the banker.

"Colonel Carr, sir—has me distracted. He brings credentials from Quebec that I cannot ignore, and yet I mistrust him. Styled as a commissioner to the rebellious subjects of the Spanish king in New Granada, he has seemed overburied up the Mississippi on his way overland."

"You fear Carr's honesty? Faith, the fellow has been too drunken to be dangerous. And you know his brawl with this Captain Sazarac? I should say they are both men of mystery out of the Northwest. The old talk of Aaron Burr's rival republic in the Mississippi valley is revived again; but if England is in it—"

"Perdition, sir! It is not so! He who comes to Louisiana thinking to find friction between the Yankees and the Creoles must be a better diplomat than Colonel Carr, sir—if that is what you mean!"

The merchant took snuff gravely. "We trust that he represents nothing but some malicious fur-traders, sir. Last night, I am informed, he had Madame Page's pension in an uproar. Starting to beat a black girl, he wound up by striking his wife; and then having a set-to with some unknown guest or caller. And the lady who is his wife, sir—is not of mettle to brook outrage."

"Mrs. Carr is of an old Tory family that fled from New York in the first war—bitter against the American government—far more than the British themselves. Then there is Carr's ward—"

"I had heard a famous beauty, sir."

"The young gallants already are agog for a peep at her when she is driven on the Esplanade. But the women seek absolute seclusion, humiliated utterly at Colonel Carr's conduct."

"The girl is of value to Carr's schemes, you think?"

Langhorne took his snuff absently. "That is the question. She was of a family that had great estates in the islands. She is loyal to the Carrs through gratitude to those who saved her life."

The merchant glanced at the clock in the cathedral facade.

"Well, enough of this. The coffee houses have already forgotten the affair of Carr and this adventurer Sazarac."

"This week the sensation is choosing the crew under Bossiere to man the Napoleon ship. Nothing has so tickled the popular fancy of the Creoles!"

"I trust your government does not take it seriously?"

The consul laughed shortly. "We watch it, sir! The clipper may take twosome gallants out of the city, for if the thing is made fashionable enough, the Seraphine would sail with her decks crammed by ambitious admirals, commodores, captains and lieutenants! Bonaparte, himself, would be astounded at the array of perfumed gentlemen who would greet him in his exile!"

"Bossiere is to command," mused Mr. Mudge. "He, at least, is a seaman."

"I am an evil legacy . . . and I am forty-two."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Acquiring Knowledge. I pluck up the good lissome herbs of sentences by pruning, eat them by reading, digest them by musing, and lay them up at length in the high seat of memory.—Queen Elizabeth.