

WORLD'S DOINGS OF CURRENT WEEK

Brief Resume of General News From All Around the Earth.

UNIVERSAL HAPPENINGS IN A NUTSHELL

Live News Items of All Nations and Pacific Northwest Condensed for Our Busy Readers.

Columbus, Ohio, residents are fleeing the lowlands because of the high water in the Scioto.

The rainfall at Portland for March reached 10.91 inches, 1.85 inches less than March, 1873, the highest figure on record.

Villa is fleeing southward hoping to reach the Sierras, where, it is claimed, it will take many months to capture him.

Failure of senate Republicans to take any action at a conference on the Mexican situation leaves the administration unhampered in dealing with the problem.

The senate bill designed to increase the number of cadets at West Point was ordered favorably reported by the house military committee, with a few minor changes.

Turkey has informed the United States it was not a submarine of the Ottoman government which sank the liner Persia in the Mediterranean last winter with loss of American life.

The British infantry storms and take the first and second line German trenches along a front of 600 yards at St. Eloi. The British official communication gives this information.

R. C. Stoddard, of Vancouver, B. C., and two other passengers were seriously injured when the Wolverine Flyer, on the Michigan Central railway, jumped the track near Kalamazoo, Mich.

The British steamer Manchester Engineer, from Philadelphia March 11 for Manchester, has been sunk, according to information received by Lloyds. The members of the crew were taken aboard a tug.

Miss Catherine Prehm, editor and publisher of the Merrill, Ore., Record, was arrested in Klamath Falls on a charge of disturbing the peace by attempting to horsepick George Bradnack, editor and publisher of the Merrill Times.

Twelve men at Kelly's Butte, a workhouse for Portland prisoners, escaped by sawing the bars of a cell. The exit was only 7 inches square, therefore a large number of heavy-weight prisoners were detained. The break was not discovered until daylight.

The most sensational of the Mann act cases in Chicago since the passage of that law, involving William Rufus Edwards, a wealthy St. Paul lumberman, as defendant and Miss Ada Cox as complaining witness, was begun before United States District Judge Anderson.

The literacy test, barring, with a few exceptions, all aliens over 16 years old, physically capable of reading, who cannot read the English language or some other language or dialect, was approved by the house working as the committee of the whole, by a vote of 225 to 82. This presaged the passage of the bill by an overwhelming majority despite the record of Presidential vetoes of several similar measures on account of the literacy test.

Villa is reported to have held up a train and searched it for Americans, but found none.

One of the American columns penetrated 50 miles into Mexico before it was discovered by the natives.

Congress avoids any unnecessary discussion of the Mexican question, but is ready to authorize war measures at a moment's notice.

A dispatch to the Balkan agency from Bucharest says the chief clerk of the American legation at Sofia is reported to have been arrested by the Bulgarian authorities, accused of giving a present to an employe for using greater haste than ordinary in issuing passports.

Men of the Hungarian landsturm born in 1868 and 1869 and also the men belonging to the classes of 1865 and 1897, who hitherto have been employed in making war materials, now are dismissed from this service and ordered to join the army on April 5, according to a Reuter dispatch.

SINKING OF SUSSEX TO BE PROBED; PRESIDENT MAY ASK OPEN RUPTURE

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson's patience has reached the point of exhaustion in connection with the destruction of passenger-carrying vessels in the European war zone. He is gathering all the facts in relation to the sinking of the Sussex. When these are in his possession he will decide whether to advise congress that a situation has arisen which necessitates a rupture of diplomatic negotiations with Germany.

So far as the state department has been advised the circumstances thus far developed:

First—That the quartermaster of the Sussex saw the torpedo coming and sheered away in the hope of escaping.

Second—That the three American passengers swear they distinctly saw the wake of the torpedo.

Third—That a bronze fragment was found on board the Sussex which a French officer says was a part of a German torpedo.

Lieutenant Smith, the American naval attache in Paris, has been directed to examine the fragment. If his opinion should coincide with that of the French officer President Wilson will conclude that the circumstantial evidence is sufficient for action.

The German embassy does not believe that a German submarine was responsible for this catastrophe. It is pointed out that there was no military advantage to be gained by the sinking of the Sussex. In case of the improbable, however, it is declared positively that the German government will disavow the act of the submarine commander, punish him, offer reparation and satisfy the American government that the outrage was in direct violation of the instructions issued by the German admiralty.

But the president is at the point where such steps are of no consequence. The fact is that Germany gave explicit assurances that passenger ships would not be torpedoed without warning, nor sunk until passengers and crew had had an opportunity to escape. If Germany should deny that any of her submarines committed the outrage, which is regarded as extremely probable, the administration will have to rely upon circumstantial evidence. Such evidence, it is pointed out, is stronger than a denial.

The administration knows further that no English submarines were operating in the channel and it scents as impossible the suggestion that one of these vessels fired the fatal torpedo. In the first place the British government would hardly jeopardize the lives of its own subjects as well as those of its ally. Again the British government does not use the bronze torpedoes employed by the Germans. Nor could Germany shift the blame to one of her allies—Austria-Hungary or Bulgaria. Neither of these powers has submarines in the Atlantic.

Delegates Talk Preparedness; Gag Order Comes Too Late

Spokane, Wash.—Shortly after the Northwest preparedness conference began here Tuesday a telegram was received from the war department at Washington instructing army officers not to take part in the conference. The telegram was received too late to affect the appearance of Lieutenant-Colonel David J. Baker, Jr., of Vancouver Barracks, who spoke on the necessity of adequate protection for the northern Pacific states.

Preparedness questions affecting the Pacific Northwest from the viewpoint of military and naval officers featured the addresses despite the telegram from the war department. Under the circumstances pains were taken by the officers to say nothing that could be construed as having a political effect, or bearing on the measures now before congress.

Delegates were present from Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. The conference elected N. W. Durham, of Spokane, chairman; Frank W. Hammond, of Seattle, secretary, and P. N. Bernard, of Kalispell, Mont., assistant secretary.

Colonel Baker was not in uniform, and in the preamble of his address referred to the fact that he spoke only as a private citizen. In speaking of the Japanese question, Colonel Baker said:

"I think there is danger of trouble with Japan through the ignorance, arrogance and narrowness of our own people on this coast who lack knowledge of the Japanese and therefore misunderstand and misjudge them."

Wilhelm Honors Sultan.

Berlin, (By wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—The semi-official Overseas News agency has received advices from Constantinople confirming reports that Field Marshal von Mackensen had reached that city on a mission, given him by Emperor William, to present to the Sultan the Field Marshal's baton which the emperor had bestowed upon the Turkish ruler. The dispatch describes the Field Marshal's reception as most enthusiastic.

BRITISH SEAPLANES BROUGHT DOWN

German Aviators Defeat Three of Fleet of Five Raiders.

LONDON ADMITS LOSS OF DESTROYER

Berlin Claims No Damage Done by Bombs—Crews of Fliers Made Prisoner—Patrol Sunk.

Berlin, by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.—Not fewer than three British hydroplanes, among them a fighting aeroplane, were brought down Sunday by German guns on and about the island of Sylt, during an air raid on Northern Schleswig, according to a German official communication. The crews were taken prisoner.

Bombs dropped in the district of the Hoyer water gate did no damage, says the statement, which follows:

"From two ships, which were accompanied by a cruiser squadron and a flotilla of destroyers, five English hydroplanes started for an attack against the German aeronautic establishments in Northern Schleswig."

"Not fewer than three of them, among which was a fighting aeroplane, were forced down by the defensive service on and about the island of Sylt. The occupants of the machines, who were made prisoners, are four English officers and one non-commissioned officer."

"Bombs were thrown only in the district of the Hoyer water gate. No damage was done."

London—Three British aeroplanes which took part in a raid on German airships in Schleswig-Holstein Sunday are missing.

A dispatch says that two German armed trawlers acting as patrols were sunk by the British outside Sylt harbor.

The admiralty also reports that a torpedo-boat may have been in collision with another of its own fleet in the venture. No fears for the crew are entertained.

The following official statement was issued:

"An attack by British seaplanes was delivered Sunday morning on German airship sheds in Schleswig-Holstein eastward of the island of Sylt. The seaplanes were conveyed to their rendezvous close to the German coast by an escorting force of light cruisers and destroyers under Commodore Tyrwhitt."

"Three of the seaplanes which took part in the attack are missing. The destroyer Medusa was in collision with the destroyer Lavrock and it is feared that in the stormy weather which prevailed the Medusa may have been lost, but no misgivings are felt as to the safety of the crew. Two German armed patrol vessels were sunk by our destroyers."

"No detailed report has yet been received, but from Danish press dispatches it would appear that this operation, which was carried out within the enemy's waters, achieved its object."

Six Lose Lives in Exclusive Country Club Conflagration

San Antonio, Tex.—Six persons lost their lives early Sunday in the burning of the fashionable San Antonio Country club.

Five of the victims were guests at the club, which was the scene of several week-end parties, bringing together a large number of persons prominent in social and business circles to the Southwest.

The dead are: Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Waltham, Judge J. E. Webb, Homer Jones, San Antonio; Mrs. Maco Stewart, Galveston; Helen Cockrell, maid at the club.

The fire had its origin in a collection of paint stored in the basement of the three-story frame clubhouse. It spread quickly to a stairway leading to the first floor and rapidly communicated to the other two floors above.

About 15 guests asleep in the building had narrow escapes, many jumping from the second story windows, so quick was the spread of flames.

Villa General Is Killed.

Queretaro, Mexico—General Pedro Gomez and 22 others, all members of Villa's band, were killed in battle in the neighborhood of Laguna and Dinamita Sunday. In this action between government forces and bandits 10 prisoners also were taken and summarily executed. This information came in a message to the minister of war, General Obregon, who was informed that the campaign against the Villistas was being waged with the utmost vigor.

ENTENTE ALLIES CONFERENCE IN PARIS OF GREAT IMPORT

Paris—The most important conference of the entente allies since the outbreak of the war begun in Paris Monday under the presidency of Premier Briand. The premiers of Great Britain, Italy, Belgium and Serbia participating.

The British foreign secretary, Sir Edward Grey; secretary of war, Field Marshal Earl Kitchener, and commander of the continental forces, General Sir Douglas Haigh; the French commander in chief, General Joffre, and the Italian general, Cadorna, also have seats at the council table. Russia is represented by the foreign minister, M. Iswolsky, and General Gilensky, aide-de-camp to the emperor; Japan by the Japanese ambassador at Paris, and Serbia by Prince Alexander.

Probably nothing will be disclosed concerning the questions under discussion or the decision reached, but it is expected that the allied powers will come to an agreement concerning common military and political actions.

Property Destroyed and Traffic Blocked by Middle West Floods

Chicago—Blizzards, abnormally warm weather, rain and snow much colder weather, all crowded into a few days, have combined to cause much sickness and distress in Middle West states. Floods also are now taking a toll in human life and destroying property.

Northern Illinois cities report many streets submerged and light and power stations out of commission. Warnings are issued in Chicago and all the Northern Illinois territory of imminent peril of typhoid. Eastern Iowa and Southern Michigan, Northern Indiana and Ohio are also facing typhoid conditions.

Dispatches from Southwestern Wisconsin accentuate recent reports of flood damage. Seven have been drowned, with many districts entirely inaccessible. Almost one-eighth of the state is affected. Reports tell of one drowned in Rock county, one in Richland county and one in Grant county. Two perished when a bridge gave way. Others were drowned trying to get through flooded streams by fording.

One in Grant county died trying to lead his cattle from the stable to the hills, when they became so frightened that they trampled him to death.

President Wilson Warns Public Against Mexican War Rumors

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson has issued a warning that "sinister and unscrupulous influences" are spreading alarmist reports about the Mexican situation with the object of forcing intervention by the United States "in the interests of certain American owners of Mexican properties."

In a formal statement the President told the people of the United States to be on their guard and not credit such stories. He urged those who disseminate news to test the source and authenticity of every report from the border, and called attention again to the government's announcement that the sole object of the punitive expedition now in Mexico was to punish Villa and his followers.

The news services supplying newspapers had been asked, the President said, to assist in keeping this view constantly before the Mexican and American people, to the end that the expedition should take on the color of war.

Steamer Hits Log; Sinks.

Portland—After striking a 30-foot sunken log, which tore a huge hole in her hull at the port bow, the steamer Twin Cities, of the Dalles-Columbia line, began to sink near the mouth of North Portland harbor Saturday night. She was successfully beached after a struggle. Quick work on the part of the officers in charge, and the coolness of the members of the crew, prevented loss of life.

The 10 passengers aboard, and the livestock which formed part of the cargo, were landed in safety before the vessel settled in the shallower water near the bank. The steamer lay partially submerged at the south bank, near the mouth of the North Portland harbor. A portion of the rail around the upper deck was awash and the water, which was rising rapidly, was expected to flood the passenger cabins.

Fires Worst In Oregon.

Washington, D. C.—More than 72 per cent of all the damage done by forest fires in government forest reserves during 1915 was in Oregon, according to a bulletin just issued by the Forest service. During the past year forest fires burned over 300,000 acres of forest reserve lands, and destroyed 156,000,000 feet of timber, valued at \$190,000. The report says that 87 per cent of the total loss was confined to Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

ALLIES DECLINE TO DISARM VESSELS

Secretary Lansing's Proposal Dismantle Guns Retained

ENTENTE POWERS POLITE IN REPLY

Alleged Disregard of German Treaties Basis of Rejection Case of Belgium Is Cited

Washington, D. C.—All of the entente powers through their formal responses rejecting the proposal made by the State department its circular memorandum that they enter into a modus vivendi and all of their merchant ships were understanding that the United States government would endeavor to from the central powers a pledge to attack such unarmed ships with warning and without providing the safety of the passengers and crew.

Soon after the proposition broached, through interviews, press and otherwise, responsible officials of the entente powers their decided opposition to such a plan. It was generally believed that the unanimous expression of disapproval inspired the German government to promulgate the new order now in force for attacks with warning by submarine command.

While Secretary Lansing said he had not any opportunity as yet to consider the formal replies, it is that, though based on different lines of reasoning, each of the powers has with polite expressions regret declined to accept the proposal. The nature of their objections indicated in the unofficial statements various officials when the American memorandum was submitted, and understood that they have simply elaborated in the communications for the State department.

It was contended in the discussions that Germany's conduct for treaties and other formal relations as evinced by her treatment of Belgium had made it unsafe to any German pledge. The foundation object urged, however, was that should be no change in the principle of international law during the progress of hostilities such as would be involved in the acceptance of the modus vivendi at this time.

Three Americans Killed on Boat

Douglas, Ariz.—Three Americans and one man, were near Gibson's line ranch on the Mexico-Mexico boundary, eight miles west of Columbus, N. M., between 5 o'clock Wednesday, pressed by Mexicans, according to the report brought here by a party of five Arizona people, who said they arrived on the scene shortly after the boat had been removed by soldiers.

A command of United States soldiers stationed at the Gibson ranch was said to have crossed the border in pursuit of the slayers.

The automobilists were on a pleasure trip. Near the ranch they were stopped by a Twelfth Cavalry patrol who advised them to go to the house immediately so that the automobile there could afford them protection. They were guarded at all night by seven troopers who arrived there from Hachita, N. M., in response to the alarm given when three bodies had been found. The civilians passed a sleepless night crouched around them in the rain on guard. Peals of thunder and intermittent flashes of lightning increased the apprehension of the men.

The soldiers told them that the bodies of the two women and a man had been found in an automobile near the ranch, but they did not know what position had been made of them. They were allowed to proceed toward Hachita. They stopped there, they said, to make about the affair.

Steamer Englishman Sunk

London—The steamer Englishman of the Dominion line, has been according to Lloyd's. It is said that thus far 68 survivors have been counted for. The last record of the steamer Englishman shows that she sailed from Portland, Me., Feb. 17, for St. Nazaire and Avonmouth. The Englishman was a vessel of 1,700 tons and was owned by the Messageries & Dominion Steamship company, Liverpool. She was built in 1892.