

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.

Pastor Charles W. Wagner, author of the widely known book, "The Simple Life," is dead at his home in Paris. He was 67 years old.

Lieutenant Benjamin V. Maurice, of New York, died at Ellington Field, Houston, Tuesday, of injuries received when his airplane fell on April 16.

Bread tickets as a war-time measure in Chicago may be necessary, according to sentiment among 12,000 master bakers of that city in session there Wednesday.

John Verburg, of Chicago, was shot and killed by his crippled son, John, Jr., because he had struck the youth's mother when she objected to his demands that a 15-year-old daughter get employment.

Major Ralph Royce, of Hancock, Mich.; First Lieutenant Herbert R. Garside, of New York, and Lieutenant Paul Meyers, of Milwaukee, Wis., have been decorated with the war cross by a French general.

Count James Minotto, son-in-law of Louis F. Swift, the packer, was taken into custody in Chicago Wednesday by deputy United States marshals, two weeks after his arrest was ordered on a Presidential warrant.

The chief features of an agreement to strengthen the alliance between Germany and Austria-Hungary have been laid down, says an official statement issued in Berlin in regard to the visit of Emperor Charles to German great headquarters.

Orchestras composed entirely of women will be seen in the near future throughout the country, according to Mrs. Enos P. James, of San Diego, Cal., the only woman delegate attending the 23d annual convention of the American Federation of Musicians in Chicago Tuesday.

Women of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, won their 40 years' fight for full lay membership in the church when the general conference in session at Atlanta, Ga., struck from the church law the prohibition against their election as church stewards and as delegates to the general conference.

British mounted troops, after capturing Kirkut, in Mesopotamia, pursued the Turks for a distance of 20 miles to the northward, says an official statement issued by the British war office. On May 11 the Turks were driven across the Lesser Zab river at Altyn Kupri. The latter place is 60 miles southeast of Mosul.

The Right Honorable William Morris Hughes, premier of Australia, arrived at a Pacific port in the United States Wednesday with a party of Australian officials en route to a war conference in London. Passengers on the vessel said a German raider had attacked and damaged a British transport on which the premier had sailed previously.

Nothing further has reached Ottawa officially as to the disposition of the United States troops in France. The statement contained in the cable from the British war cabinet and issued at Ottawa by the director of public information that the Americans were not to be utilized in the fighting line until they had a complete self-supporting army has not been changed or modified in any way.

An anti-loafing bill, modeled in some respects after statutes in effect in Maryland and New Jersey, was signed by Governor Whitman, of New York, Wednesday. It requires all able-bodied men from 18 to 50 years of age, after proclamation by the governor, to be "habitually and regularly engaged in some lawful, useful and recognized business, profession, occupation, trade or employment until the termination of the war."

Sergeant L. Baylies, of New Bedford, Mass., an American flyer in France, has brought down seven German airplanes within the last two months, says an official dispatch from France.

Seven young men of Brussels, born in Belgium of German parentage, but Belgian citizens by adoption, have been taken to Germany to be enrolled in the army, according to an official dispatch from France.

SUBMARINE WHIPPED

U-Boats Being Sunk by Allies Faster Than Enemy Builds Them—Less Shipping Lost Per Month.

Paris—The effectiveness of the German submarine campaign is declining. The German government is aware of this fact, declared George Leygeus, minister of marine, before the naval committee of the chamber of deputies Monday, but has made the greatest efforts to conceal it. He said the situation was most favorable and that the sinkings of submarines in the first three months of 1918 through allied measures was greater than the number built by the enemy.

Minister Leygeus referred to the statement made in the reichstag on April 17 by Vice Admiral von Capelle, German minister of marine, in which he said 600,000 tons of allies' shipping were sunk monthly. This figure, the minister said, was incorrect.

It was reached and passed in April, May and June of 1917. In July it declined and in November it fell below 400,000 and since has diminished continuously.

M. Leygeus said that in February, March and April 3723 French steamers and 788 French sailing vessels passed through the danger zone where a few months ago losses by torpedo had been very heavy. Not a single ship was sunk.

On the other hand, he said, the number of submarines destroyed had increased progressively since January in such proportion that the effectiveness of enemy squadrons cannot be maintained at the minimum required by the regulations. The number of enemy U-boats destroyed in January, February and March was far greater in each month than the number constructed in the same month. In February and April the number of submarines destroyed was three less than the total destroyed in the previous three months.

These results, the ministry declared, were due to the methodical character of the war against submarines; to the close co-ordination of the allied navies; to the intrepidity and spirit animating the officers and crews of naval and aerial squadrons and to the intensification of the use of old methods and the employment of new ones.

YANKES TAN HUNS' HIDE

American Shell Fire Keeps Teutons in Hellish Torment.

With the American Army in France—A gigantic enemy ammunition dump at Cantigny was fired by the American artillery Monday morning. At the same time two fires were started in Montdidier, followed by numerous explosions.

The weather continues misty and rainy. There was no infantry action and only intermittent machine gun and rifle fire. The position of the Germans is becoming more and more intolerable, while the Americans are entrenching their positions more firmly. Any hopes the enemy might have had of breaking through in this sector are diminishing.

The Americans take nothing for granted, but return fire two to one, which is believed to set a new pace in this sector. What appears to trouble the Germans most is that the Americans never turn back when the enemy uses gas. They give him a double dose of the same, with everything else the enemy tries.

Improved weather conditions led to increased air activity in the Toul sector Tuesday. Many American planes were working over the enemy lines and observation balloons were sent up for the first time in many days.

The American artillery Monday night and Tuesday morning directed a heavy and harassing fire on German rear areas, where it is known troops are billeted and it is suspected that others are moving.

To Increase Freight Rates.

Washington, D. C.—Estimates made Tuesday by railroad administration officials indicate that an increase of at least 25 per cent in freight and passenger rates will be necessary this year to meet the higher costs of fuel, wages, equipment and other operating expenses now set at between \$600,000,000 and \$750,000,000 more than last year.

Recommendation that rates be raised by approximately this percentage has been made to Director General McAduo by his advisers. He is expected to act within the next six weeks and to put increases into effect immediately.

20,000 Refugees Aided.

Cairo, Egypt—The British government is transporting 1500 Armenian refugees from Jerusalem to Port Said. Others are coming from the south-east.

Rev. Stephen Trowbridge, representative of the American committee for Armenian and Syrian relief, said that 20,000 refugees had been given assistance in Jerusalem by the committee. A hospital has been established at Mejdal, near Gaza.

MAY SEIZE RUSSIA

Country Faces Prospect of Becoming Colony of German War Lord—Teuton Centrists May Split.

London—Russia has been suddenly faced with events that may again change the political outlook. The Petrograd correspondent of the Daily Express telegraphs. Germany, he says, has apparently found that economic dominion over Russian territory is insufficient and is now seeking military occupation.

An extra session of the Bolshevik government council has been held in Petrograd to discuss the situation created by the ultimatum recently delivered by the German ambassador, Count von Mirbach, which embodied demands of a character apparently calculated to turn Russia virtually into a German colony.

Premier Lenine's speech at this meeting was extremely pessimistic, the correspondent reports.

According to the newspaper Podnia, the question of transferring the capital to Nijni-Novgorod was broached, as was the subject of immediate military measures for the defense of Moscow against possible aerial attacks.

The situation in Ukraine has become so disturbing that the Germans have dispatched large detachments of Bavarian cavalry from Flanders on the way to Ukraine, the correspondent of Amsterdam of the Exchange Telegraph company reports.

Word that fighting is to be renewed in Ukraine has been received from Liege, Belgium, according to the dispatch. The Bavarian cavalry detachments are said to have arrived at that city.

The likelihood of a split in the Centrist party, one of the most powerful in the reichstag of which Chancellor von Hertling is a member, is discussed in Berlin newspapers, an Amsterdam dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company reports. Dissension has arisen over the chancellor's Eastern policy. The newspapers say the anti-Hertling faction, headed by Mathias Erzberger, may be able to cause the chancellor's fall.

M. von Engel is quoted by the correspondent as reporting the situation in Petrograd still precarious owing to the scarcity and dearth of food. The Lenin government, however, is gaining in stability and power, he says, subduing the unruly elements and making an effort to reorganize the army.

The number of unemployed is great and industry is completely at a standstill.

The peasantry, who are the principal supporters of the Bolshevik government, the minister added, are still looking to that government for a free distribution of land, most of which in the meantime has been left uncultivated.

KAISER RULE GRIPS HOLLAND

Dutch Threatened With Fate of Roumania—Allied Nations Uneasy.

London—Germany has made claims on Holland which are described in a Central News dispatch from The Hague as very serious stipulations that would bring Holland to a great extent under the economic influence of the Germans.

These claims are in addition to the one respecting the Dutch tonnage which is demanded for use after the war, as an offset to the tonnage which the allies are now using.

"Germany is actually endeavoring to make a second Roumania of Holland," says the dispatch.

At a conference a few days ago between Foreign Minister Louvon and the ministers of the United States, Great Britain, France and Italy, it was pointed out that the entente is viewing with great apprehension the situation between Holland and Germany.

Holland was told of the dangers which might befall from agreement with the German claims in connection with grain shipments from America.

The entente representatives promised not to put difficulties in the way of Holland, but made it plain that their governments had not departed from their original viewpoint.

Germany now makes an agreement on economic questions dependent upon acceptance by Holland of its claims regarding the shipping question. This might again give rise to serious difficulties.

German Industrial Conditions Bad.

Amsterdam—Herr Kraetzig, a Socialist member of the Reichstag, asserted in Wednesday's debate on the appropriations to meet the imperial economic demand that four-fifths of the textile industries of Germany were completely paralyzed, and that the position of the idle textile workers was rapidly growing desperate. He demanded that provision be made to keep skilled workers in readiness for resumption of industries after the war.

WHEAT CROP IS HUGE

Adverse Weather and Labor Conditions Curtail Planted Area, but Crop Will be Near Record.

Washington, D. C.—Hope for the billion-bushel wheat crop, for which the government is striving this year, was strengthened Thursday by the department of Agriculture's May crop report forecasting a production of 572,539,000 bushels of winter wheat.

Secretary Houston, in a statement Thursday, said there was every reason to anticipate increased farm yields this year over the record production of last year.

He added, however, that the promise did not warrant relaxed efforts for greater production and for greater conservation, and he called upon the people of towns and cities to realize that the farmer cannot work miracles and to lend him the assistance needed at harvest time.

Realization of a winter wheat crop as large as that forecast would place this year's harvest of that grain as the third largest ever gathered. The estimate is 12,500,000 bushels more than forecast in April from conditions then existing, and 154,400,000 bushel more than the crop harvested last summer.

On conditions from now until harvest time will depend whether the crop will be larger or smaller than the present forecast, based on conditions May 1.

In the week since then generally favorable weather for wheat development continued and the crop has made excellent progress in all principal producing areas.

Efforts have been made to stimulate production of spring wheat and preliminary reports indicate an increase in the acreage of that crop which may be sufficient under good growing conditions to bring the total wheat production this year well toward the billion-bushel mark.

No official report has yet been made on the acreage of spring wheat; the first announcement will be made in June. Reports indicate the seed already planted has germinated well generally.

HALF MILLION TROOPS OVER

Baker Declares His Promise to Congress More Than Fulfilled.

Washington, D. C.—More than 500,000 American soldiers have been sent to France. Secretary Baker Thursday authorized the statement that his forecast to congress in January that 500,000 troops would be dispatched to France early in the present year now had been surpassed.

Mr. Baker dictated the following statement:

"In January I told the senate committee that there was strong likelihood that early in the present year 500,000 American troops would be dispatched to France. I cannot either now or perhaps later discuss the number of American troops in France, but I am glad to be able to say that the forecast I made in January has been surpassed."

The secretary chose his words about the troops in France with the utmost care. He would not amplify the statement in any way, and specially asked that the press refrain from speculation as to what precise figures his guarded remarks covered or as to what possibilities of early further increase in the force on the other side there might be.

There have been repeated official announcements, however, that the government is bending every energy to rush men across to back up the allied lines in France, and officers directly in charge of the transportation have expressed satisfaction with the progress being made.

Misfit Shell Kills Nine.

Fort Worth, Tex.—Nine American gunners were killed and seven injured more or less seriously near Benbrook, a few miles west of Fort Worth, when a three-inch shell exploded Wednesday afternoon.

One gun crew, comprised of members of the headquarters company of the 141st infantry, was entirely wiped out and a second crew from headquarters company of the 142d infantry suffered heavy casualties.

An attempt on the part of a gunner to force the shell, which apparently did not fit, down a trench mortar, is believed to have been responsible for the accident.

Minimum Wage Now \$9.60.

San Francisco—The Industrial Welfare commission of California issued an order Thursday establishing a minimum wage of \$9.60 for a 48-hour week, or 20 cents an hour, for all women in the state engaged in unskilled and unclassified occupations. Under the term "unclassified occupations" the commission includes all occupations which have not been classified as the mechanical, factory, laundry or canning industries, office or professional.

HUGE U. S. ARMY TO OPPOSE HUNS SOON

Allies Sure Line Will Hold Until Uncle Sam Can Strike.

DO NOT FEAR BOCHE

Foch's Method of Fighting and Retiring Only After Enemy Has Paid Awful Toll Is Vindicated.

Ottawa—So confident is the entente of its ability to withstand any drive the Germans can launch that it has been decided not to use the American army until it becomes a complete power and force, according to cable summary of operations on the west front.

"The position now is," said the summary, "that the Germans, determined to concentrate every available unit on one enormous offensive, are draining their country dry to force a decision before it is too late, while the entente are so confident that, having been given the choice of a small immediate American army for defense or waiting till they are reinforced by a complete, powerful, self-supporting American army, they have chosen the latter."

"The German commander, seeing how nearly he is delivering himself to the allied reserve, has been compelled to accept temporary failure and call a halt. His position is tactically exposed in two dangerous salients on waterlogged ground. His countrymen are dangerously dissatisfied at the immense price paid for his failure to terminate their sufferings. His allies are on the verge of quarreling and daily exhibit their growing dislike and distrust of the taskmaster who robs them of their lives and food.

"His reserves have nearly reached complete exhaustion. Those of the Franco-British are still in being, while the American preparations develop. The time draws closer when defeat is inevitable. Therefore, he must renew the offensive.

"The allies may have complete confidence in the results. For the enemy the issue is a desperate endeavor to avoid defeat; for the allies the issue is only that of victory deferred.

"The coming battle will be a repetition of Verdun on a large scale, and if both sides should be exhausted the allies have vast powers of recuperation, while Germany has drafted her resources already.

"To the sledge hammer uses of masses of men by the enemy the allies are opposing the strategy of meeting the blow with the smallest force capable of standing up to the shock, while keeping the strongest reserve possible.

Troops on the wings are permitted to give ground within limits wherever the enemy has been made to pay a greater price than the ground is worth, the whole aim being to reduce the enemy to such a state of exhaustion that our reserve at the right moment can restore the situation."

HUNS FED ON ABSURD LIES

Gullible People Told American Troops in Training Camps Mutiny.

Washington, D. C.—A German wireless message saying that grave insubordination is a daily occurrence in American army training camps was made public Monday by the State department as an illustration of the lengths to which the German government is going in an effort to keep up the spirits of the civil population.

The message, which was sent out May 9, and was given out by the State department without comment, said:

"According to information from Christiania, Norwegians recently arrived from America say that grave cases of insubordination occur daily in American training camps. At first breaches of discipline were punished by death, but this was stopped owing to the number of cases. In a particularly flagrant instance all the soldiers in a camp acted collectively and obtained not only immunity for the mutineers but punishment for all officers. Furthermore, much damage to work and material is being done."

Substitutes Should Be Cheaper.

Washington, D. C.—Wheat flour substitutes should sell from 10 to 20 per cent less than wheat flour, Food Administrator Hoover notified state food administrators Saturday. The administrators were instructed to direct wholesalers to stop dealing with retailers who cannot justify their prices on the basis of cost. Cornmeal and oatmeal should sell 20 per cent below the price of wheat flour and corn and barley flour 10 per cent below.