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NEWS NOTES OF CURRENT WEEK

Resume of World's Important Events Told in Brief.

Wife of ex-Governor Moody of Oregon, dies suddenly at Salem.

Great Britain is again accused of using the Stars and Stripes to avoid attacks by German submarines.

United States government will send a sharp protest to England and her allies for the commercial blockade against Germany.

The French government is reported as having 25,000,000 shells together with 7,000,000 men at the front awaiting orders to advance on the Germans.

The first visit of the James J. Hill big steamer Great Northern, to ply between San Francisco and Astoria, arrived amid the cheers of 10,000 spectators.

The once pugilist champion of the world, Robert Fitzsimmons, will take his fourth wife, who resides in Portland, Ore. He is 56 years old and the bride to be is 28.

In a long statement, Provisional President Roque Gonzales Garza, of Mexico, promises protection of the public in Mexico City. All business houses, after 18 days' suspension, have opened.

Frank Stites, a Los Angeles aviator, aged 30, fell 300 feet in an "air well" at a motion picture city near here late Wednesday, jumped from the airplane when 30 feet from the ground and died from his injuries shortly afterward.

Sinking of the cruiser Dresden by British is claimed to be unfair by the German officers, inasmuch as the vessel was at anchor in neutral waters. It is also claimed that a shell from the British warship killed a woman and child on shore.

The largest superdreadnaught in the world was launched at Newport News by Uncle Sam. She will carry twelve 14-inch guns and has a displacement of 4000 tons more than England's largest warship. The cost to build her is \$14,000,000.

The German sea raider, Prinz Eitel Frederick, at Newport News for repairs, honored America by having the band play the Star-Spangled Banner as the President's yacht passed on its way to the launching of the superdreadnaught Pennsylvania.

Germany has sufficient food to meet her needs for two years, according to W. D. Boyce, editor of the Chicago Ledger, and Horace Herr, editor of the Indianapolis Times, who have just returned from a trip through Germany. Messrs. Boyce and Herr said that Germany was only "bluffing" about a food shortage.

Living on \$6 a week in New York is a simple problem, Miss Dorothy Miller, a 19-year-old shop-girl, told a legislative committee investigating the minimum wage problem. If one wants more clothes, she explained, it is only necessary to eat less food and if more food is wanted, skimp on the clothes allowance.

Fergus Falls, Minn.—Professor J. O. A. Larson, of the Park region college at Fergus Falls, has received a letter recently that went down with the Empress of Ireland. The message was gone from the envelope, but the letter was in a good state of preservation and easily read. It was rescued from the wreck by divers. Mr. Larson was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford, Eng., at the time the vessel sank, and the letter was addressed to him there, and was forwarded to England and then to this city.

The last of Newfoundland's contingent of 1000 men has reached England to enter the ranks of the British forces.

Spies are becoming so active in France that stringent measures are being taken against all foreign residents.

Arrangements are said to have been completed between Russia and Germany for the exchange of 200,000 war prisoners. The exchange, it is reported, will be made by way of Stockholm harbor, beginning in April.

Reports from Tenedos say that the Turkish artillery grows weaker daily, and that the last bombardment by the allied warships badly damaged the forts at Chanak Kalesi. Two big cruisers spent the night in the straits protecting the vessels engaged in mine sweeping.

Dispatches from Rome indicate that the German ambassador, Prince von Buelow, has renewed his negotiations with the Italian government with the object of securing the continued neutrality of that country in return for territorial concessions in Austria, Austria, however, is said to be opposed to making any such concessions as would satisfy Italy.

Shipment of American-made cannon for the Russian forces is delayed by a longshoremen's strike at Vancouver, B. C.

Rector of Trinity church, one of the wealthiest in the country, declares that divorce was "the shameful luxury of the rich and well-to-do."

The police department of Washington, D. C., have been ordered to place strict guard over the residences of British, Russian, Turkish, German, French and Austrian ambassadors, as threatening letters have been received by them.

62 MILLION WHEAT YIELD PREDICTED IN NORTHWEST

Portland—The Pacific Northwest this year will turn out one of the largest wheat crops it has ever produced, if the weather conditions between now and harvest time are favorable. Should the weather not be as good as the farmers wish, the crops will still be equal to last year's in size, according to well-informed grainmen, as there is enough new acreage planted in wheat to offset any probable deficiency in the old acreage.

In all parts of the Pacific Northwest farmers are putting spare land to wheat, and in some sections summer fallowing will be abandoned to increase this year's grain production.

The increased acreage runs as high as 20 per cent in a few localities, but in the Pacific Northwest as a whole it is probable that 10 per cent will be the maximum gain.

This would produce a wheat crop of about 62,000,000 bushels in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Last year's crop was about 56,000,000 bushels. To have a full yield, however, the weather from now on must be satisfactory in every respect.

Taking the Pacific Northwest as a whole, grainmen say that wheat crop conditions are not quite as good as at this time last year. Some wheatgrowing sections are suffering from a deficiency of moisture. This is particularly true of part of Eastern Oregon, but there is ample time for this defect to be remedied. One year ago growing conditions were pronounced ideal in the Northwest. At that time it was predicted the crop would be close to 70,000,000 bushels, but this result was not realized.

This year growers are equally hopeful and even with adverse conditions the yield of last year will be repeated, while the chances for a still larger crop are good.

Whether or not the crop is a bumper one, it is almost certain to bring the farmers more money than any crop they have raised before. According to wheat authorities all over the world, wheat prices are bound to be high this year whether the war continues or not. Wheat growing in Europe is being carried on this year under the greatest difficulties, and even though the neutral exporting countries have bumper yields, it is not likely they can make up for the deficiencies in belligerent countries, where wheat will be most needed.

German Cruiser Is Sunk In South Seas by British

London—"The Dresden has been sunk."

The announcement of the sinking of the German cruiser Dresden came after nightfall Monday, but the news spread quickly through the theaters and restaurants and there was much rejoicing that this commerce raider, whose whereabouts have been a mystery since her escape after the Falkland Islands engagement in December, had at last been sent to the bottom. The fact that all the crew of the Dresden were saved sets a new record for rescue after an action at sea, and a naval battle of five minutes' duration probably is another record. The details furnished by the admiralty are scant, but apparently the British ships were not even hit, for no damage whatever is recorded.

The sinking of the Dresden leaves at large on the high seas, so far as is known, only two German war vessels—the cruiser Karlsruhe, last reported as operating in the West Indies, and the auxiliary cruiser Kronprinz Wilhelm, which is still raiding commerce in the South Atlantic.

The Dresden was a member of the German squadron which was defeated by the British off the Falkland Islands in December. She was the only one of five German warships to escape. The Dresden was said to have fled to the westward but there had been no definite reports as to her whereabouts since that time. She was reported unofficially to have been seen in the Straits of Magellan and later to be in hiding in one of the bays on the Chilean coast.

Rich Folk Leave Germany

Copenhagen, via London—The hotels and the better-class boarding houses here are crowded with well-to-do Germans, who are ineligible for military service. It is said that those people, responding to an appeal from their government, are leaving Germany in large numbers, in order that there will be fewer people to feed while the war lasts.

It is reported from Sweden and Norway that many other Germans of similar class have arrived in those countries.

Court Used for Services

Berlin—In the main hall of the Criminal court building in Alt-Moabit the first divine services for refugees from the regions of East Prussia devastated by the Russians was held. Several young persons were confirmed and a number of children were baptized.

Monument for Aviator Beachey

San Francisco—The board of supervisors favored a plan to create a fund for the erection of a monument in Golden Gate Park to the memory of Lincoln Beachey. He is said to have left an estate of several hundred thousand dollars, much of which is government bonds.

Hood River Apple Growers' Association Votes to Secede

Hood River—The board of directors of the Hood River Apple Growers' association has recommended that the Hood River association withdraw from the North Pacific Fruit Distributors.

Final action, however, rests with the members of the local association, who will vote on the question at the annual meeting in April. The vote of the directors was unanimous. A series of meetings will be held throughout the valley to discuss the action of the directors.

Prominent growers who are acquainted with the sentiment throughout the community declare that the action of the board of directors will receive practically the unanimous support of the organization's membership.

"I know of a tonnage of at least 100,000 boxes of apples that will be immediately signed up with the association," says Oscar Vanderbilt, a member of the recently elected Growers' Council, "as soon as it is learned that the Apple Growers' association is no longer an affiliation of the Distributors."

While it was expected that the growers at the April meeting would in all probability take action to withdraw from the Distributors, this action on the part of the board of directors came as a great surprise. The haste with which the board acted probably comes as a direct result of the failure of Mr. Vanderbilt Saturday to accept a nomination to the board for the coming year.

Saving of Over Half Million Dollars Shown

Salem—Notwithstanding the high cost of living and the increasing demands of the state because of growing population and wealth, the recent legislature made a net saving in appropriations over the preceding one of \$644,690.05, according to a summary of Secretary of State Olcott.

The figures show a total saving under existing laws for the biennium of 1915 and 1916 over the biennium of 1913 and 1914 of \$381,313.41. For 1913 and 1914 the appropriations by the legislature netted \$4,610,175.75, and for 1915 and 1916 \$3,965,615.70. The total appropriations under existing laws for 1913 and 1914 were \$6,691,962.08, and for 1915 and 1916 \$6,310,648.87.

Another important feature of the saving is that several laws passed at the session of 1913 provided for appropriations for only one year, notably the workmen's compensation act and the act creating the state highway fund. The appropriations for these departments for the current biennium for that reason total about \$300,000 more.

While the saving over the former biennium is somewhat less than leaders of the recent house and senate figured it would be, members of the session in speaking of it express gratification and declare that the campaign pledges of the members for economy have been kept.

J. E. Allison, bookkeeper for the

Autos Oust Horses From State Fair Program

Salem—At a meeting the State Fair board decided to discontinue after 1915 the classic futurity races at the State Fair. The reason for the decision is that the breeding of fast horses in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest is on the wane since the automobile has come into general use.

The board named opening day, September 27, as children's day; Wednesday will be Salem day; Thursday, Portland day; Friday, Press and Oregon Manufacturers' day, and Saturday, Shrimers' day. Nothing was arranged for Tuesday.

For the six days of racing the board will offer a card of 18 events with cash prizes of \$16,400. The big days of the Fair from the racing standpoint will be Salem day and Portland day. There will be a 3-year-old pace, a futurity event, with a purse of \$1500, Salem day. Purses for this race will go to the winners of the best two in three heats. The 2:08 pace, for a \$2000 purse, also will be run Wednesday. It will be run in five heats. The 2:30 trot is scheduled for Salem day.

The board has allotted the 2:12 trot, best three in five heats, and has hung up a purse of \$2000 for the winners for Portland day. The 2:20 pace for a \$600 purse and the 2:15 pace for a \$700 purse, also will be run Thursday. Tuesday's card will include the 3-year-old trot, futurity, for a \$2000 purse. All races are early-closing events excepting the futurities.

Oregon Asked for Militia

Salem—Governor Withycombe has made application to the Navy department for the assignment of the old battleship Oregon to Portland for use by the Naval Militia of the state. It

Fair Board Job Held Up

Salem—The State Fair board has decided to postpone the appointment of a secretary until after March 15, when the terms of two members will expire and successors will be appointed by the governor. It was thought that W. Al Jones, a member of the board, and Frank Meredith, present secretary, had about an even number of supporters. Mr. Jones, however, will have to resign as a member of the board before he can be elected secretary. All members of the board were present except Mrs. Edith Tosler Weathered.

American Citizen Slain by Zapata in Mexico City

Washington, D. C.—Encouraging advice telling of the relief of the food famine in Mexico City through the evacuation of the capital by the forces of General Obregon, the Carranza commander, were beclouded Saturday by the news that on the entry of the Zapata troops, John B. McMann, an American citizen, was murdered—shot down in his home, the door of which had been sealed with the coat of arms of the United States, and over which flew the Stars and Stripes.

Instant demand was made by the Brazilian minister on behalf of the United States government for the punishment of those guilty of the crime. After a conference between President Wilson and his cabinet, Secretary Bryan telegraphed the Brazilian minister approving of the action he had taken and adding a demand for reparation to the family of the victim. The minister was instructed to insist on the early punishment of the offenders and to impress on the post commander at Mexico City—General Salazar—the seriousness with which the American government viewed the occurrence.

The general—who is not related to the independent chief who has been conducting a revolutionary movement in Northern Mexico since escape from American custody last year—promised that the demands of the United States would be met promptly.

British Cruiser Is Sunk by German Torpedo

London—The admiralty announces the loss of the auxiliary cruiser Bayano while the vessel was engaged in patrol duty. In its statement of the disaster, the admiralty says:

"On March 11 wreckage of the Bayano and bodies were discovered, and circumstances point to her having been sunk by an enemy torpedo. Eight officers and 15 men were rescued, but it is feared the remainder of the crew were lost."

"The captain of the Belfast steamer, Castlereagh reports passing Thursday morning a quantity of wreckage and dead bodies floating in life belts. He attempted to search for possible survivors, but was prevented by the presence of an enemy submarine, which gave chase for 20 minutes."

The Bayano was a comparatively new steamer. She was built at Glasgow in 1913 and was owned by Elder & Fyfe before she was taken over by the British government and fitted out as an auxiliary cruiser.

The Bayano was of 3500 tons displacement and 416 feet long.

Mrs. John D. Rockefeller Dies at Country Home

Tarrytown, N. Y.—Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, wife of the richest man in the world, died suddenly Friday in her 76th year at the Rockefeller country home in Pocantico Hills. She had been an invalid for a year, but during the last few months her health had so improved that the rapid turn for the worse which her illness took was not expected by her family.

For this reason it happened that the only relative at her bedside when she died at 10:20 a. m. was her sister, Miss Lucy M. Spelman.

Her husband and her son, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., were at Ormond, Fla., where they went—Mr. Rockefeller, Sr., on February 28 and his son last Friday, accompanied by his wife—believing that Mrs. Rockefeller was growing better. Informed over the long-distance telephone early in the day of the critical change in her condition, they left at once for Jacksonville, where arrangements were quickly made for a special train to bring them to New York. They were expected to arrive here some time Sunday night.

Mrs. E. Palmalee Prentice, one of Mrs. Rockefeller's two daughters, was summoned from New York, but failed to arrive before her mother died. The other daughter, Mrs. Harold Fowler McCormick, of Chicago, is in Switzerland, recuperating from an illness. Her husband was about to sail to join her, but cancelled his passage and came here at once.

Snakes' Slumber at End

Portland—The awakening of the snakes at Washington Park zoo, after several months in hibernation, is heralded by Animal Keeper Herman as the first genuine dependable sign of spring. When the big rattler began to move about Sunday, Mr. Herman says he was jubilant, for he was sure the winter season had passed. Traps will be set soon to catch a supply of mice and sparrows for the first spring meal of the snakes. Mr. Herman says he expects they will be ready for their breakfast about the middle of April.

125 Merchantmen Sunk

Amsterdam—The Mittag Zeitung, of Berlin, has published a list of merchantmen said to have been destroyed by the German navy since the beginning of the war. According to it German vessels have sunk 111 steamers with a total tonnage of 400,000; four auxiliary cruisers with a total tonnage of 32,500; one sailing vessel, one schooner, eight mine sweepers and one troop transport.

"Hobo King" Gets \$250,000

Los Angeles—James Eads How, "millionaire hobo king," inherited property here worth \$125,000 and the income from a trust fund of equal size. The bequest is in the will of his mother, filed here dividing her estate between her sons. A "hobo," according to How, is a man who wants to work and cannot get it.

French Yet Buy Klamath Horses

Klamath Falls—J. Frank Adams, of this city, has begun the purchase for the French government of more horses. Several hundred were recently bought here and at Merrill for war purposes. Mr. Adams and his agents will scour Klamath and Lake counties for desirable stock, and the government representative will be here March 23 to accept the purchases.

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