

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.

Six German airplanes were put out of action Friday by the French, it is announced officially. Artillery fighting continues at various points on the front but no large infantry actions are reported.

The central powers, within 10 days, will make new declarations regarding Germany's peace conditions, a dispatch from Geneva to the London Daily Express quotes the Munich Nachrichten as saying.

Secretary Baker formally announces the new assignment of the three general officers who Friday returned from France, where they served as divisional commanders with the American expeditionary forces.

Eighteen British merchantmen of 1600 tons or over have been sunk by mine or submarine during the last week, according to the Admiralty statement. Three merchantmen under 1600 tons were also sunk.

The probability of the Germans now taking a vigorous offensive attitude on the western front was pointed out by Major General F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the London War office, in his weekly talk to the press.

The Japanese freighter Shinyo Maru, No. 2, of 5909 tons, Captain Matsumoto, which left an American Pacific port December 22 for an Oriental port, was reported Thursday night to have sent out a distress call from somewhere on the Pacific, saying the ship was on fire.

A heavy demand in London for copies of the American blacklist has developed the fact that the names of a number of representatives of British firms in South America are on the list. Hence the American Consul General and other American officials have been asked for details.

The collapse of the former Russian government and its failure to keep its part of contracts for war supplies, work on which has been in progress at Bridgeport, Conn., for a long time, will cause the discharge of 2500 men by the Remington Arms & Ammunition company, the company announces.

Private George Pidd, B company, 44th Infantry, Camp Lewis, was Thursday dishonorably discharged from the army and sentenced to hard labor for the rest of his life at Leavenworth penitentiary for slugging Lawrence Berquist, a Tacoma taxicab driver, on the night of December 20, near Camp Murray.

Prince Albert of Monaco on New Year's day promulgated a decree restoring the constitution of the principality, which had been suspended since the outbreak of the world war. By the decree the constitution is enlarged and extended in a much more liberal sense, the Prince in this way limiting his own powers.

An engagement by the United States to send a great army against the Germans in time to offset the defection of Russia was disclosed Thursday through the publication by Secretary Lansing of a review of the work and recommendations of the American mission which recently participated in the inter-allied war conferences at Paris.

One of the forts in Kronstadt, the naval base near Petrograd, has been blown up by an extremely violent explosion, according to a Petrograd dispatch to the London Times.

Lighthouse service employees who have been transferred to the service of the War and Navy departments are to be regarded as part of the country's defense forces during the war and so are entitled to war risk insurance, according to a new ruling.

H. R. Gladback, of Fort Wayne, Ind., civilian aviation instructor, and Cadet R. A. Saguin, of Rouse's Point, N. Y., were killed when their machine fell 300 feet Wednesday afternoon at San Antonio, Texas.

In the Monte Tomba region on the Italian northern front the French have captured many positions between Osterai di Monferena and Marankine, the war office announces. They also captured about 1400 men and 60 machine guns and seven cannon.

RIFLES PROMISED ALL

General Crozier States Complete Supplies Will Be On Hand Within Month—Blame is Placed.

Washington, D. C.—Complete supplies of rifles within a month for all American forces under arms were promised Wednesday by Major General Crozier, chief of ordnance, testifying before the senate military committee. Springfield for every regular and National guardsman will be ready before February 1, he said, and the manufacture of remodeled Enfields for the First National army will be finished in a week.

As to machine guns, the General said, a full supply of American makes should be ready by July 1, next. Rifles for the next draft, he declared, would be on hand before the men were in camp. In reply to assertions made recently by other witnesses that the allies had furnished heavy guns to the American expeditionary forces only because the Americans were worse off than they, the General submitted official documents to prove that England and France voluntarily offered to provide cannon, their output having developed to the point where a surplus was being produced.

General Crozier refused to shoulder responsibility for the failure to equip the army adequately with ordnance before the war. He said it belonged to the country and cited the refusal of the Secretary of War and congress in the past to appropriate for "modest" ordnance programs.

The General vigorously defended his course in regard to the Lewis machine gun. He gave the committee the record of the various tests to which the gun was put and reports of the army experts to show it had been demonstrated to be a satisfactory weapon until April, 1916, after which orders for them were given by the department.

RESOURCES EQUAL DEMANDS

Trade Balance Shows United States Has Plenty of Sinews.

Washington, D. C.—America's exports were estimated Tuesday at the Department of Commerce to have passed the \$6,000,000,000 mark in 1917, a new high record. Imports were less than \$3,000,000,000 and the trade balance in favor of the United States probably will be more than \$3,150,000,000.

The country's gold supply showed less increase than last year because of the substitution of credits for cash in handling allied purchases after the United States entered the war. Imports of gold in March amounted to \$139,000,000, but in November were less than \$3,000,000. The total for the year was estimated at \$537,000,000, compared with \$686,000,000 in 1915.

Exports of gold showed a heavy increase over the preceding 12 months, due chiefly to the large movement to Japan, Spain and South American countries. The total was estimated at \$374,000,000, compared with \$155,000,000 last year.

The trade balance of more than \$3,000,000,000 with the country at war was regarded by officials as the best evidence that this country has the economic resources necessary to defeat Germany.

WILSON AT SHIPPING BOARD

Plans for Speeding Up Construction Work Please President.

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson Monday paid a personal visit to the offices of the Shipping Board and conferred for half an hour with Chairman Hurley. He left apparently well pleased with the way affairs are going.

Mr. Hurley outlined to the President the board's plans for speeding construction by putting into shipyards double and triple labor shifts and other measures for hurrying the work. The board has just arranged for installing electric lighting systems in all yards to make night work possible and is about to start its campaign for obtaining additional labor from other industries.

The board will use the services of the committee on information's four-minute men who, speaking in theaters in all industrial centers, will urge men to enter the shipyards to render patriotic service to the government.

A committee of six experts will be sent by the board to the Pacific Coast yards to study means of speeding construction.

Italians Laud Red Cross

Rome—Queen Helena Wednesday telegraphed to the Red Cross committee at Genoa in the name of the king as well as herself, an expression of appreciation of its work in opening a canteen there.

The message says all classes of the people are grateful to the Red Cross and that the desire has been expressed by many to send greetings for the New Year to their benefactors from the United States.

WILL CALL CLASS I TO COLORS FIRST

Nation's Fighting to Be Done by Young, Unattached Men.

MILLION MEN IN SIGHT

To Extend Registration of Men Turning 21 Since June 5, 1917. Will Add 700,000 Annually.

Washington, D. C.—All men for the war armies still to be raised by the United States will come from Class I under the new selective service plan. That means the nation's fighting is to be done by young men without families dependent upon their labor for support and unskilled in necessary industrial or agricultural work.

Provost Marshal General Crowder announced the new policy in a report on the operation of the selective draft law submitted Friday to Secretary Baker and sent to congress. He says Class I should provide men for all military needs of the country and to accomplish that object he urges amendment of the draft law so as to provide that all men who have reached their 21st birthday since June 5, 1917, shall be required to register for classification.

Also, in the interest of fair distribution of the military burden, he proposes that the quotas of states or districts be determined hereafter on the basis of the number of men in Class I and not upon the population.

Available figures indicate, the report says, that there are 1,000,000 qualified men under the present registration who will be found in Class I when all questionnaires have been returned and the classification period ends February 15. To this the extension of registration to men turning 21 since June 5 of last year and thereafter will add 700,000 men a year.

Class I comprises single men without dependent relatives, married men who have habitually failed to support their families, who are dependent upon wives for support or not usefully engaged and whose families are supported by incomes independent of their labor, unskilled farm laborers, unskilled industrial laborers, registrants by or in respect of whom no deferred classification is claimed or made, and all registrants not included in any other division of the schedule.

The plan places upon unattached single men and married men with independent incomes most of the weight of military duty, for the number of men in the other divisions of Class I is very small.

TAKE EXPRESS COMPANIES

Director General McAdoo Has Taken Subject Under Consideration.

Washington, D. C.—Hundreds of passenger trains on railroads east of the Mississippi will be withdrawn from service under orders soon to be issued by Director General McAdoo, based upon recommendations made Friday by a committee of Eastern passenger traffic officers.

The committee was divided as to the advisability of withdrawing most parlor and sleeping cars, leaving only those considered most necessary for important travel routes.

Hours of labor of railway employees under government operation were discussed by the director general with heads of the four railway brotherhoods and the question of wages will be taken up at once.

Mr. McAdoo now is considering whether express companies should be taken over for government operation and has received from his legal advisers opinions on the proper procedure in case he decides this is necessary to maintain the highest efficiency.

The shortage of labor was emphasized in reports of Interstate Commerce commission inspectors on car service and locomotive conditions presented to Mr. McAdoo by Commissioner McChord, who was assigned the task of discovering precisely what were the congested conditions on Eastern roads.

Canadian Draft Operates

Ottawa—The machinery of Canada's military service act was put in motion Saturday and worked smoothly. Men conscripted in the first draft reported in batches as previously arranged by district registrars and will go into training as rapidly as they can be handled and equipped.

The new legislation calls for 100,000 men. The first draft is said to exceed 20,000, although the exact number was withheld for military reasons.

UNIFICATION IS BEGUN

General Order for Pooling of Railroads Under Generalship of Secretary McAdoo is Sent Forth.

Washington, D. C.—Definite steps toward national unification of railroads and improvement of congested conditions were taken Monday by Director General McAdoo in the appointment of a temporary staff and the issuing of his first formal order directing absolute pooling of all traffic, common utilization of terminals, rolling stock and other facilities, hauling of freight by the shortest routes and retention of all present officers and employees.

Special instructions were issued for the clearing of congestion in New York and Chicago through pooling of terminals and other traffic facilities, and Alfred H. Smith, president of the New York Central, was named temporary special assistant to supervise transportation in the trunk line territory east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio rivers, where congestion is greatest.

Walker D. Hines, of New York, a railroad lawyer and for many years a special student of government operation, was appointed assistant director general, pending the formation of a permanent staff. The Interstate Commerce commission was drafted for an immediate investigation by its inspectors of general freight conditions on Eastern trunk lines.

While the director general was conferring with a number of railroad heads, Interstate Commerce commissioners and members of congress, and planning immediate action to remedy faults of transportation, it became known that the demands of the four railway brotherhoods for a 40 per cent wage increase had been denied by the railroads and that consequently the labor men had decided to postpone for probably 60 days the presentation of their case to the government. It was thought probable that President Wilson would take up the labor situation in his address to congress this week.

'SHADY' WORK SEEN IN DEAL

Fat Contracts for Soldiers' Clothing Allowed After Prices Go Up.

Washington, D. C.—The senate war inquiry committee Monday investigated further the canceled scrap uniform cloth picking contracts let by the committee on supplies of the Council of National Defense to the Base Sorting Company of New York, under which witnesses testified the company could have made excessive profits aggregating several hundred thousand dollars annually.

Charles Eisenman, vice chairman of the committee, who approved the contracts and Samuel Kaplan, another member of the committee, whose brother, it was developed, is financially interested in the company, will be summoned to testify, it was announced, in a further inquiry the committee proposes to make. It was further developed that Kaplan's brother is treasurer of the company, owning a Connecticut woolen mill commandeered by the government.

Quartermaster General Sharpe testified that when the War department canceled the contracts last Thursday both Eisenman and Kaplan protested. The government, he explained, will take over the work.

In concluding his testimony regarding clothing and other army supplies, General Sharpe placed responsibility for delay in obtaining supplies of wool for army clothing on the Council of National Defense. The Council's committee, which had taken over the question of wool supplies, the general said, recommended use of shoddy material in making uniforms and delayed accepting raw wool offered last April by Boston dealers. No large purchases were made until September, after prices had risen greatly, he said. Senator Weeks told the committee he was reliably informed that a loss of \$150,000,000 to the government resulted.

Replying to testimony of commanders of Camps Bowie, Tex., and Doniphan, Okla., that overcrowding of tents and lack of winter clothing caused deaths of many men in recent disease epidemics, General Sharpe said the authorities' knew tents would be short for the men suddenly called into service, but that supplies now are ample to reduce the tent quota from 12 to five men, as recommended by Surgeon General Gorgas.

Three British Gunboats Lost

London—Three British torpedo boat destroyers were sunk through being struck by torpedoes or hitting a mine off the Dutch coast on the night of December 22, with a loss of 13 officers and 180 men, the admiralty announced. The statement reads:

"Three of our destroyers were mined or torpedoed during foggy weather off the Dutch coast on the night of December 22. A total of 13 officers and 180 men were lost."

BOLSHSVIKI SPURN HUN PEACE TERMS

Negotiations Broken Off When Germany Shows Hand.

AUDACITY SURPRISES

Slav Delegation Returns to Petrograd and Positive Annexation Plans of Kaiser Made Plain.

Petrograd—The chances of a separate peace between Russia and the central powers being effected seem remote, because of what are regarded as Germany's unreasonable demands.

Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, and his associates, take the stand that the Baltic provinces are in reality under military pressure while they continue to be occupied by Germany, and that their votes with respect to peace must be ignored, as now these provinces are virtually German dependencies, the loyal Russians having fled.

The Russian delegation upon its return from Brest-Litovsk Tuesday laid before the council of commissioners at Petrograd Germany's demands, which caused amazement and the declaration that the council was not favorable to acceptance. An elaboration of the German position in letters and statements which followed the general statement of terms showed that the Germans hold that Poland, Lithuania, Courland, Livonia and Esthonia have already defined themselves nationally within the meaning of the peace terms proposed and insist that they shall not vote again.

The Germans also explained, through General Hoffman, that Germany cannot evacuate Riga, Libau and other occupied points until certain that all Russia sanctions peace; otherwise Germany's enemies might assist Ukraine or other disaffected sections in opposition to the central powers.

The Russian peace delegation returned to Petrograd Thursday and reported to a joint session of the central executive committee of soldiers' and workmen's delegates and the Petrograd Council of Soldiers' and Workmen's Deputies the progress of the negotiations with the Austro-Germans at Brest-Litovsk.

M. Kameneff, a member of the Russian delegation, read the German terms, which he characterized as showing the positive annexation plans of the central powers, and he declared they were unacceptable in their present form. He stated that the terms had not been discussed.

"If after the resumption of negotiations," the delegate said, "the Germans insist upon these terms, Russia will conclude peace not with the German imperialists, but with the representatives of the people, the Socialists of Germany."

ORDNANCE BUREAU CHANGED

Business Men to Direct Important Divisions in Future.

Washington, D. C.—General reorganization of the ordnance bureau, with experienced business men at the head of important divisions under the chief of ordnance, was announced Wednesday night by the War department.

The new plan under which it is proposed to make the bureau a great working unit modeled somewhat after the British ministry of munitions was outlined to the senate military committee recently by Major General Crozier, chief of ordnance, while he was being sharply questioned concerning delays and deficiencies in supplying rifles and cannon. It now has been approved by Secretary of War Baker and put into effect.

General Crozier, whose renomination is pending in the senate, continues as chief, and no change is made in the assignment of Brigadier General Wheeler as acting chief, when General Crozier serves on the war council. Colonel Samuel McRoberts, formerly executive manager of the National City Bank of New York, is named chief of the procurement division.

German Editor Is Held

St. Paul—On a charge of perjury based on allegations that the translations of articles in his paper, Die Freie Presse, were far from being accurate, Reinhold Kintzi was arrested by Joseph Buisson, United States deputy marshal, in Glencoe, Minn., Thursday. Officials in the U. S. district attorney's office declared that many articles, differed materially from the sworn version filed by Kintzi, and contained matter of a seditious import.