

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.

The British food controller says that if English farmers could get 1,000,000 acres of potatoes under cultivation this year there would be no fear of starvation.

Sir Henry Babington Smith arrived in the United States Thursday from England to assist Lord Reading, Great Britain's special ambassador to the United States.

Despite orders from the high command for the German people to beflag their towns and rejoice over peace with Russia, notes of doubt are not lacking in the German press in regard to the future in the East.

The Germans are still adding to the number of their divisions on the Western front, General F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the London war office, declared in his weekly talk with the press.

At least 730 lives were lost in the disaster at the Hongkong Jockey Club track at Happy Valley last week, when a stand occupied by Chinese collapsed and caught fire. Many charred bodies have been removed from the ruins.

Reorganization of the War Industries board with Bernard M. Baruch as chairman and with vastly increased powers to control the output of American industry during the war was announced Thursday by President Wilson.

Ole Hanson, former member of the Washington state legislature, was chosen mayor of Seattle Tuesday with a majority of more than 4000 votes over James E. Bradford, former corporation counsel, according to returns.

By a vote of 90 to 53 the New York assembly Wednesday adopted the report of the judiciary committee favoring the ratification of the Federal prohibition amendment. The measure was then made a special order for consideration next Tuesday.

A band composed of 1000 harmonica players is being organized at Camp Meade, Maryland. So many soldiers show ability on this instrument that the War department commission on training camp activities is considering organizing a mouth organ band in each division.

A telegram from Representative Charles H. Randall, of California, saying he planned to introduce in congress an amendment to the food act prohibiting the manufacture of any alcoholic liquors was read before the national prohibition convention in Chicago Thursday.

American troops are now holding something over eight miles of trenches on the battle front in France, although in an air line their frontage is only about four and a half miles. This frontage is liable to extension at any time to the regular trench allotment for an army corps.

In response to the Finnish government's request for military assistance, it is announced officially in Berlin, German troops have been landed on the Aland islands. This official announcement confirms recent press dispatches concerning the movement of German troops to Finland.

Over-subscription of the issue of \$500,000,000 treasury certificates of indebtedness, subscriptions for which closed Wednesday, was announced by Secretary McAdoo. The certificates were the first to bear an interest rate of 4 1/2 per cent and were issued in preparation for the third Liberty Loan.

The bill making it a crime to wilfully make or convey false reports or statements to obstruct the government's sale of bonds or other securities, or loans by or to the United States, was passed Wednesday by the house. It awaits action by the senate.

Validity of the section of the Illinois dram shop act making saloon property owners as well as saloon proprietors liable for liquors sold causing loss of support to a wife or family, is upheld by the U. S. Supreme court.

Theodore Roosevelt left the hospital Tuesday after four weeks of convalescing from operations. As he walked to his automobile, the ex-President expressed his satisfaction in response to greetings given him by a small street crowd and his negro chauffeur.

RUSSIANS IN FLIGHT

Terrorized Bolsheviki Move Capital to Moscow While Germans Continue Advance—Bomb Petrograd.

London—The evacuation of Petrograd has begun. Three state ministries, according to a Reuter dispatch from Petrograd dated Tuesday, have started to leave the capital, from which the population also is fleeing hastily.

The Bolsheviki government purposes to declare Moscow the Russian capital and Petrograd a free port.

Marva, 100 miles southwest of Petrograd, has been captured by the Germans, and the enemy is reported to be continuing his advance on Petrograd, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Petrograd dated Monday.

A Petrograd dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company says that, notwithstanding the cessation of hostilities, a German airplane appeared over Petrograd at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and dropped bombs. Airplanes also were seen flying over Nevsky Prospect, and the belief prevailed that the enemy was aiming at Nicholas Station.

Sunday night Zeppelins were observed at Gatchina, 35 miles from Petrograd, flying toward the capital, but they were driven off by the anti-aircraft batteries.

JAPAN WILL ACT IN SIBERIA

Interests of Western Powers Will Be Safeguarded by Move.

Washington, D. C.—The United States is in agreement with Japan, Great Britain and the other co-belligerents on the principle of action in Siberia, but the details remain to be worked out.

This became known Wednesday, as the cabinet met with President Wilson to discuss the subject.

White House officials were disturbed over published reports that the statement had been authorized that the United States was not in accord with the attitude of the allies toward the Japanese plans. It was explained that no statement had been authorized except that the United States had not given its assent to the action under consideration.

The principle upon which all parties to the exchanges are said to be agreed is that if German influence is working harmfully in Siberia, and if there is imminent risk of the loss of the military stores in Vladivostok, Japan will be justified in using whatever measure of force may be necessary to maintain the peace in the Far East.

Differences of opinion are understood to relate to the measures of support to be given to Japan in such an undertaking.

One diplomat remarked that public discussion of the Siberian question seemed to lose sight of the existence of a special treaty between Great Britain and Japan, making it obligatory upon the latter to protect not only her own interests but that of her ally as well on the continent of Asia.

Under this treaty, it is said, in diplomatic quarters that, while, as a matter of courtesy it behooved Japan to keep the entente allies and the United States government of her purposes, it was necessary to make any proposition to the United States government and probably not to her allies except Great Britain.

It was explained at the State department that no direct proposal had been received from Japan regarding Siberia. It is known, however, that the department has been fully informed of the Japanese plans through the British government.

The status of the matter, so far as can be gathered, is that Japan has learned that her allies heartily approve of her entry into Siberia if that should be necessary to carry out her obligations.

So far as the United States government is concerned, the officials apparently believe that it is not necessary for them to give formal assurances on the subject, though it is believed this course can be outlined to Japan in a way to make it perfectly clear that there is no lack of understanding of Japan's position, so that no strain will be placed upon the relations between the two countries through the failure of America to record a formal approval.

Marine Company Insured.

Washington, D. C.—The 80th company, U. S. marines, on active service somewhere in France, is insured for \$2,545,000. This undoubtedly establishes a record for individual company insurance subscription. Of the 255 men in the company, 254 took out insurance for \$10,000 each, the remaining member subscribed to a \$5000 policy. In addition to this, 188 men of the same company made allotments totaling \$2830.50 for the "folks back home."

\$100,000,000 TO BE SAVED EVERY YEAR

Economical Buying by Railroads
Planned by Administration.

TO SPEND HUGE SUM

Bulk of Immense Railroad Purchases
to Be Made by Federal Experts—
John Williams is at Head.

Washington, D. C.—Partial centralization of the purchasing of between \$1,000,000,000 and \$2,000,000,000 worth of railroad supplies and equipment this year under government supervision is involved in a plan for organizing the railroad administration's division of finance and purchases announced Saturday by Director General McAdoo.

John Skelton Williams, as head of this division, will be assisted by a central advisory committee of three expert railway purchasing agents, and regional purchasing committees will be created for the Eastern, Western and Southern operating regions.

Through the central organization will be bought locomotives, cars and steel rails, the principal big quantity purchases of railroads, and an effort will be made not only to economize by wholesale buying methods, but to standardize equipment and supplies.

Coal and other fuel will be bought mainly by individual lines to supply their individual needs, but under the supervision of the regional committees. Cross ties and lumber are to be bought principally by the roads along their own lines, but may be ordered through the central organization.

"All other supplies needed for current operations will be purchased for the time being," said Director General McAdoo's statement, "through the purchasing departments of the respective roads, but all contracts for periods of six months or longer must be approved by the regional committee before completion."

As fast as possible all purchases will be centralized and the regional committees are to draft recommendations for the accomplishment of this. In addition, these three regional bodies will be expected to report details of costs and contracts to the railroad administration, with a view to giving all roads the advantage of efficient methods which may have been developed.

Railroad administration officials believe that eventually they can save more than \$100,000,000 a year by centralizing purchasing, although no definite predictions are made for this year owing to the necessarily slow process of organizing a nation-wide buying system.

Members of the central advisory committee and the regional committee will be appointed soon. All will be practical purchasing agents or vice presidents of railroads. The regional bodies, to be composed of three or more, are to have headquarters respectively in New York, Chicago and Atlanta.

WIRELESS APPARATUS FOUND

Pastor Russell Headquarters Raided
by U. S. Secret Service Men.

New York—A dismantled wireless apparatus which had not been sealed in accordance with orders issued by the government several months ago was found by officers of the Army Intelligence bureau, who Friday made another search of Bethel Home, the headquarters in Brooklyn of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract society and of the International Bible Students' association, it was announced Saturday. Both organizations were formerly headed by "Pastor" Russell.

The apparatus was not seized. The search was made in connection with the Federal investigation of a volume of papers taken in a raid on Bethel Home and the Brooklyn Tabernacle, another Russellite establishment, ten days ago. This examination is being conducted it is said, to determine whether the records contain seditious matter.

Barges Will Carry Oil.

Washington, D. C.—Construction of a fleet of barges to carry oil from the Mexican fields to gulf ports is under consideration by the shipping board. So many tank steamers have been taken out of the gulf trade for transatlantic use that substitutes must be found, and it was said Saturday that barges probably would be chosen because of quick construction. Ten months time is required to build a tanker.

LOAN DRIVES START

British and Italians Respond Liberally
While Queen Alexandra Sends in
Her Bit by Carrier Pigeon.

London—A war-bond campaign of a week to raise £100,000,000 began Monday with a rush. The two largest individual subscriptions were for £1,500,000 each.

The newspapers give prominence to the campaign with such headlines as "Help to Pound the Germans."

Trafalgar Square was an interesting sight with tanks, airplanes, materials captured from the enemy and signs bidding all to make investments at the banks opened in the tanks.

At noon Queen Mother Alexandra released a pigeon which carried her subscription to a tank at the square.

Rome—The current Italian war loan aggregates more than five billion lire.

Finance Minister Nitti told the senate Tuesday that when he decided to float the loan and ask for a billion lire, eminent financiers objected that on account of special circumstances it would not bring as much as previous issues, which had never exceeded three billion lire.

The minister, however, decided to appeal to the public, and subscriptions passed the five billion mark and the success of the loan was assured.

Senator Ruffini urged that efforts be made to attract foreign capital, especially American. The finance minister replied:

"America is lending to us freely and she has given us capital at 3 per cent. She proposes to raise the rate to 4 which is the current rate there. She is thus treating us as she would treat herself. Evidently the debt contracted toward the United States will lead to the establishment of mutual interest and we shall do our utmost to attract American capital."

HUNS BUY RUSSIAN PLATINUM

Sellers Command Own Price for
Precious War Material.

Washington, D. C.—Germany is taking advantage of the peace negotiations with Russia to buy up every available ounce of platinum, according to advices received Wednesday by the American government. Officials said undoubtedly the Germans were badly in need of platinum, but their intention doubtless was also to keep the allies from obtaining it.

The Germans were said to be paying any prices asked without haggling.

Supplies of platinum in the United States amount to between 25,000 and 50,000 ounces, most of which will be taken over by the government under the commandeering order issued last week. While that amount seems sufficient for present needs, the country is short of iridium, a constituent metal of platinum, which it is used to harden. There is not an ounce of iridium for sale in America. Last sales of iridium were made at \$185 an ounce and of platinum at \$90.

With Russia, the world's principal platinum market, closed by German control, the use of platinum for jewelry is expected to cease after present stocks in the hands of manufacturing jewelers are exhausted.

The possibility of increasing American production of platinum is being studied. Heretofore, Nevada, California, Utah and Oregon have turned out about 750 ounces a year, which geologists believe can be increased to 3000 ounces.

GERMANY TO SEIZE FINLAND

Intention to Take Permanent Possession Officially Disavowed.

Washington, D. C.—Germany's occupancy of the Aland islands is only a preliminary to the total occupation of Finland.

Official dispatches to the Swedish legation Wednesday say Germany has announced to the Stockholm Foreign Office her intention to occupy Finland and that Sweden has protested.

Germany advised Sweden, the dispatch says, that it is necessary temporarily to occupy Finland to restore order, but gave assurances that she had no intention to take permanent possession of the territory.

Sweden protested against the Aland islands being placed in the war zone. The occupation of the Aland islands, the dispatches say, is to make them a base for supplying the German occupation of Finland.

Villistas Go On Rampage.

El Paso, Tex.—Villa followers dynamited the power plant of the National Mines & Smelters company, an American company, at Magistral, Durango, killed Caterino Smith and Perciano Saucedo and burned two ore trucks, according to a message received here from Parral. The power plant cost \$1,500,000. Smith, reported killed, is of American and Mexican parentage. Saucedo's family lives here. All Americans escaped.

BOLSHEVIKI WANTS FRIENDSHIP OF U. S.

We Travel Same Road, Trotzky
Says; Can Alight Any Time.

HOSTILITIES STOPPED

Russians Prepared to Retire to Ural
Mountains if Necessary to Save
Revolutionary Government.

Petrograd—Moscow is to be declared the new capital of Russia and the government proposes to publish a statement to this effect immediately. Petrograd will be proclaimed a free port.

Notwithstanding the signing of peace, the government is determining to transfer all the state institutions to Moscow, Nizhi-Novgorod and Kazan. The removal of the ministries of foreign affairs, communications and finance began Thursday.

The population of Petrograd is hastily quitting the city, but there are many transportation difficulties and already the roads leading from Petrograd are crowded with all sorts of vehicles.

The Russian delegates have returned from Brest-Litovsk and will report to the executive of the soviets as soon as possible.

According to the latest reports hostilities have been suspended on all fronts, the Germans having halted on the northern front along the line comprising Narva, Pskov, Vitebsk, Mohiev and Orsha.

The Bolsheviki leaders are prepared to withdraw even as far as to the Ural mountains rather than submit to the defeat of the revolution, said Leon Trotzky, Bolsheviki foreign minister, in an interview with the press.

M. Trotzky said that if the Bolsheviki could go back to the state of affairs which existed last October just before they overthrew the Kerensky government, they would repeat the whole program which has been put through since that time.

"In October we did not exclude the possibility of a holy war," he declared. "Now we consider such a war possible. The soldiers' and workmen's delegates must now fight for organization and order."

M. Trotzky was asked whether the United States might assist in the process of organization by detailing to the Trans-Siberian railway the 300 American railway experts now waiting in Japan, and also what guarantee the Bolsheviki could give that goods imported in consequence of such assistance would not fall into German hands.

He said that if the Russian government fell into German hands it could not protect such supplies, but that all sorts of supplies were being evacuated from Petrograd.

M. Trotzky was asked whether he thought it possible that if Russia's peace efforts failed the United States and Russia might battle together against German oppression. He replied:

"America and Russia may have different aims, but if we have common stations on the same route, I see no reason why we could not travel together in the same car, each having the right to alight when it desired."

IRISH LEADER ANSWERS CALL

John E. Redmond Succumbs in London Following Operation.

London—John E. Redmond, the Irish Nationalist leader, died at 7:45 o'clock Wednesday morning. Death followed a recent operation for an intestinal obstruction. This was borne courageously and it relieved the patient, but heart trouble intervened Tuesday night.

The news of the death of the Nationalist leader brought messages of sorrow and regret from all sections of the community.

Redmond became leader of the Nationalist party after the deposition of Charles Stewart Parnell, "the uncrowned king of Ireland." While uncompromising in his demand for home rule for Ireland, he was not a "separatist," but demanded government by representative consent.

Franz Bopp Not Immune.

San Francisco—Franz Bopp, former German consul general here, and eight Hindu defendants in the Hindu conspiracy trial being held in the United States District Court here Thursday, lost their fight for immunity in the case on trial. Judge William C. Van Fleet, before whom the case is being heard, denied the motion of counsel for Bopp and the others for immunity insofar as testimony so far given is concerned.