

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.

To date 1,227,000 Americans have been called to the colors under the selective service act.

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.

Saloonkeepers in New York City were notified Thursday by Brigadier General C. H. Sherrill, adjutant general of New York State, that alcoholic liquors must not be sold to drafted men, even though they are not in uniform.

British troops on May 7 entered the Turkish town of Kerkuk, 80 miles southeast of Mosul, in Mesopotamia, the British War office announces. The British met with no opposition. The Turks on retiring left 600 men in the Kerkuk hospital.

Emperor William has returned to Potsdam owing to the political crisis resulting from the recent rejection of suffrage reform by the Prussian diet. Count von Hertling, the imperial chancellor, has been summoned to Potsdam to report on the situation.

Serious disturbances in the Austrian-Hungarian fleet have caused changes in the high command, a dispatch from Switzerland says. The crews, composed largely of Slavs and men of Italian descent, have made much trouble and the disturbances were put down with difficulty.

Unofficial advices tell of an order for the expulsion from Mexico of Robert H. Murray, the representative of the committee on public information in Mexico City, who, in that capacity, has been in charge of the work conducted by the American government to offset German propaganda.

Joseph F. Rutherford, successor to "Pastor" Russell as head of the International Bible Students' association, and five other leaders of the organizations founded by Russell, were arrested in a raid by Federal authorities on the headquarters of the Bible Students' Association in Brooklyn Thursday.

An order for 100,000 wrist watches and 100,000 radio compasses for the officers of the American army are among the unexpected requests that have come to the American supply department in Paris. These new implements of war are being rapidly assembled from Swiss and other European stocks.

"When you are as old as I am you won't be looking under an automobile," said Thomas Prather, of Olympia, jokingly Thursday to a woman acquaintance who was examining her machine. With these words he fell to the pavement and died on the street. He was 86 years of age and one of the oldest Olympia pioneers.

Estimates submitted to congress Thursday by the shipping board call for an appropriation of \$2,223,835,000. For the cost of construction of ships authorized by the urgent deficiency bill of 1917 the board has requested an appropriation of \$1,386,100,000, and for the purchasing and requisitioning of plants and materials, \$652,000,000.

The War Trade board has issued regulations holding imports of crude rubber to the United States to a basis of 100,000 tons annually and limiting issuance of licenses for such importation to 25,000 tons from May 6 to July 31. The cut amounts to something more than one-third of America's imports. The order goes into effect immediately.

Two women spies, Josephine Alvarez and Victoria Faucher, condemned to death by courtmartial January 25, at Nantes, France, were executed Tuesday morning.

May 6 was the hottest in the history of the New York City weather bureau. At mid-afternoon, the official thermometer registered 84, breaking by four degrees the record established on May 6, 1896.

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 bushels 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.

23 BILLION NEEDED FOR WAR PURPOSES

Vast Outlay for Coming Year Predicted by Treasury.

CONGRESS INFORMED

Indications Are That Further Bond Issues Will Be Authorized Regardless of Revenue Action.

Washington, D. C.—Congressional leaders have been advised by Secretary McAdoo that legislation at this session of congress is imperative to provide revenue to meet the unexpected increase in expenses incident to the vast expansion of the nation's war program.

The basis of calculation upon which \$23,000,000,000 is fixed upon as the amount needed for next year necessarily is inexact, since conditions which cannot be foreseen may either increase or reduce the actual governmental outlays.

A statement of the country's financial situation, upon which the amount of additional taxes and bonds needed may be calculated, has been prepared at the treasury for submission within the next two or three days to the committees of the senate and house.

Whether congress will undertake at the present session upward revision of the war revenue law of last fall, leaders at the capitol said Friday, depends upon the impression made by this statement.

If it demonstrates that it is essential to act now instead of waiting until December, as planned, hope of adjournment by July 1 will go glimmering and congress probably will be here until fall.

Secretary McAdoo's belief that legislation must be enacted at once was expressed in a letter to Senator Simmons, of North Carolina, chairman of the senate finance committee.

The unexpected heavy estimates of expenditures for the coming year include the \$15,000,000,000 army program, about \$1,500,000,000 for the navy, with further estimates expected, and \$2,250,000,000 for the Shipping Board.

Senator Simmons said the tacit agreement to defer further revenue legislation until next December was made before these new estimates were submitted. The situation now, he said, is materially changed and will have to be considered in the new light when Secretary McAdoo's formal statement is presented.

2 STATES HIT BY TORNADES

Storms Strike Illinois and Iowa, Causing Deaths and Much Damage.

Chicago—At least 11 persons were killed and more than 150 more or less seriously injured by a tornado which swept over Central Illinois and Central and Northeastern Iowa late Thursday, according to advices received here.

Hundreds of houses were blown down and the property damage was heavy in many localities.

The known dead are at the following places: New Hampton, Ia., four; Nashua, Ia., two; Toulon, Ill., two; Franklin, Ill., three.

The storm was accompanied by torrential rains, which washed out miles of railway track, while the wind uprooted trees and telegraph and telephone poles, paralyzing wire communication for many hours. Many buildings were destroyed and crops and gardens ruined.

At Franklin, Morgan county, Illinois, three persons were killed by a falling roof. At Toulon, Ill., a farmer and his son were killed when their home was wrecked. Near Nashua, Ia., a farmer was reported to have been killed. At Eldridge a score of persons were injured when their homes were demolished and one woman was carried through the air for 300 feet, sustaining a broken collar bone. Several persons were injured near Muscatine.

At Pana, Ill., a passenger train was wrecked by a washout, but no one was seriously injured.

Costa Rica is Regretful.

San Jose, Costa Rica—The Costa Rican congress by a vote of 28 to 3 has voted confidence in the government of President Federico A. Tinoco and at the same time adopted a resolution expressing regret at the attitude of the American government toward Costa Rica. The Tinoco government came into power in January, 1917, after the deposition of President Gonzalez. The United States refused to recognize the government.

HUNS OFFER PEACE

To Keep Alsace-Lorraine, However; Austria to Make Concessions, is Report—Balfour Denies.

London—Germany's peace emissary, according to the Daily Mail, has been busily working here, but has made no progress in any direction. There is reason to believe, it says, that the German agent, who has been reported to be a Dutch financier, returns to Germany to report that there is nothing doing.

A Central News dispatch from The Hague says the Dutch intermediary is reported to be Jonkheer Colyn, former minister of war.

The proposals made by Jonkheer Colyn, the dispatch reports, are said there to have been as follows:

1. Germany to renounce all claims in the west.
 2. Restoration of Belgium.
 3. Alsace-Lorraine to be autonomous, within the German federation.
 4. The status in the east to remain as at present.
 5. Austria to make certain concessions to Italy in the Trentino.
 6. Balkan question to be solved by an international conference.
 7. All colonial questions affecting Africa and Asia Minor to be settled by a conference of all the belligerents.
 8. Germany to abandon all claims to her former Chinese protectorate of Kiaochow, but in exchange to receive certain economic concessions in China.
- Jonkheer Colyn came to England last week at the head of a mission whose purpose was said to be to explain to the British the difficulties caused by Germany's demand on Holland concerning the transfer of German materials across Holland to Belgium.
- Foreign Secretary Balfour told the house of commons Monday that no peace offers had been made recently by the enemy. He added:
- "There is no representative of a neutral nation in this country who has made tentative or informal suggestions of peace negotiations."

Rome—No favorable occasion for a further peace move by Pope Benedict has presented itself, nor does one seem near, it was stated at the Vatican when inquiry was made there regarding the report that his holiness would make a new peace offer on Whit Sunday.

HUN CIVILIANS SEE NO PEACE

Hope Each Day Will Bring Decision—Speak of Battle as Wicked.

With the British Army in France, Sunday—Interesting comments by German civilians have been furnished from an enemy mail bag captured by the British on a section of the Flanders front. Almost without exception, references are made in the letters to the stoppage of leave and the parcel post from the front. The tone is resigned rather than recalcitrant. One letter from Berlin dated April 25 said:

"Peace does not seem to be coming along, as we fondly hoped. All this in the West is too wicked for anything. We hope every day it will come to a decision and the British will be driven into the North sea, but they stand firm."

"We have such a scarcity of shoes in Ettlingen it is impossible to get them. If there are any in Belgium please send me a pair," says a letter dated in Ettlingen on April 26.

"Are you not coming home on leave soon? How much longer is it going to last?" reads a third letter.

A note from Rhumspringe, dated April 23, says:

"The mustering of the 1920 class took place here last Friday. Most of them were accepted."

Bond Printing Expedited.

Washington, D. C.—To supply liberty bonds to subscribers promptly, extra shifts of printers were set to work Tuesday by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and it is planned to deliver all bonds within two weeks. About 18,000,000 bonds already have been printed and more than 10,000,000 have been distributed.

Secretary McAdoo formally announced that he would make allotments of all subscriptions in full.

The total of subscriptions tabulated by the Treasury department Monday night was nearly \$3,500,000,000, nearly \$500,000,000 more probably will be reported before the total is announced, some time after next Monday.

Great Mine Field is Plan.

London—According to Archibald Hurd, in the Daily Telegraph, the area in the North Sea recently announced by the British government as prohibited as dangerous to shipping after May 15, will be the greatest mine field ever laid for the special purpose of foiling submarines. It will embrace 121,782 square miles, the base forming a line between Norway and Scotland, and the peak extending northward into the Arctic circle.

FAMINE FOLLOWS IN WAKE OF BIG WAR

Starving Persians Turn to Dogs and Cannibalism.

TYPHUS JOINS HUNGER

Fook Situation in Germany Growing Worse Daily—Ukraine Granaries Offer Only Slight Relief.

Washington, D. C.—Conditions in Persia are described as desperate in a dispatch to the State Department Wednesday from the American legation at Teheran. Famine is increasing, and typhus, the message said, is prevalent in most of the cities.

The food shortage, the legation reported, has forced the population to eat dogs and even practice cannibalism.

Through American relief societies the United States has already done much to help the Persians.

Some time ago the State department was obliged to explain to the Persian government, in response to a request for a loan, that it was not possible for the United States to lend money directly except to co-belligerents, but the department interested private parties who supplied more money than was asked for by the Persians in the shape of a government loan.

Washington, D. C.—Further information revealing how critical the food situation in Germany has become reached the State department in semi-official dispatches.

The munitions committees of the reichstag and landtag have been holding daily sittings. The question of reducing the present rations has not been decided.

It is indicated there is small hope of relief from the Ukraine, where the large cities are already suffering from insufficient food. Even if Ukraine supplies are obtained it will not give an increase in the food ration.

An official report made public in Germany on May 2 said there were 12,000 carloads of grain ready in Roumania for shipment to Germany, but even if it is transported it will do no more than to prevent a reduction of food allotments.

San Francisco—Approximately 15,000,000 pounds of excess wheat flour held in warehouses and by wholesalers, retailers, restaurants, bakers and individuals throughout the state, will be assembled immediately for direct shipment to France, it was announced Wednesday by Ralph P. Merritt, federal food commissioner for California.

The 15,000,000 pounds represents California's surplus over the official allotment of six pounds a month a person and had been acquired prior to the formulation of the new wheat saving program. The excess was determined by an exhaustive survey by county food administrators.

Nicaraguans Declare War on Germany.

San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua, May 7.—The Nicaraguan congress today declared war on Germany and her allies. The declaration of war was adopted by congress at the suggestion of President Chamorro with only four dissenting votes.

Congress also adopted a declaration of solidarity with the United States and other American republics at war with Germany and Austria, and authorized the president to take steps to utilize to a full measure the nation's forces in the war.

It is the 20th nation which has declared war against Germany.

Oil Relief Bill Approved.

Washington, D. C.—Representatives of the oil interests on the Pacific Coast in conference with Secretary Daniels and Mark L. Requa, oil controller for the Fuel administration, approved the bill now before congress under which the Navy, by Presidential proclamation, will take over and operate all oil and gas wells in the naval oil reserves in California. This action is expected to pave the way for relief from the threatened oil famine in that district.

Cancel French Debt, Says Kenyon.

Washington, D. C.—Cancellation of France's financial obligations to the United States is proposed in a resolution introduced Tuesday by Senator Kenyon, of Iowa.

The resolution provides that "all obligations of the Republic of France to the United States of America for moneys borrowed or funds advanced since the commencement of the present war, including interest thereon, be and are hereby canceled."