

# 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.

Unofficial reports still persist, says the *Matin*, that the Ebert-Hasse government has entreated the allies to occupy Berlin.

The American delegates to the peace congress have resolved to advocate the sinking of the surrendered enemy warships and resist any proposition to distribute them on the basis of naval losses.

An American warship was ordered Friday to the Baltic to participate with the British fleet in reopening those waters, preserving order and maintaining the international character of the demonstration.

Representative James R. Mann, of Illinois, republican leader of the house, has formally announced his candidacy for speaker of the house in the next congress, which will be controlled by the republicans.

Trial and punishment of William Hohenzollern and "every one associated with him in violation of the law of nations and the committing of brutal atrocities in the war," is demanded in a joint resolution introduced by Representative Darrow, of Pennsylvania, republican.

The department of commerce and industry of Mexico has chosen San Francisco, New Orleans, Washington and St. Louis as zone headquarters for the development of closer trade relations between the United States and Mexico, S. L. Alariste, in charge of the St. Louis zone, announces.

The necessity of continued conservation of wheat was emphasized in New York recently in a statement by the federal food board, which declared that, despite restrictions imposed last spring, there was less than ten days' supply of the product in America when the 1918 crop was harvested.

At least a year, possibly two years, will be required before the nation can return to normal peace conditions and "we will be fortunate if conditions abroad make demobilization possible at so early a date," said Secretary Daniels Thursday, addressing the conference of state governors at Annapolis, Md.

The German communes of Bussinger and Jestetten near Schaffhausen have asked to be attached to Switzerland. Voralberg, part of the Austrian Tyrol, formally has demanded that the Swiss government permit it to enter the Swiss confederation as a new canton.

That 72½ cents an hour is the lowest living standard wage for an American family is the opinion of Frank P. Walsh, formerly chairman of the employes division of the federal war labor board, according to a letter from him, read in Chicago at the hearing before Federal Judge Samuel Alschuler, arbitrator in the wage controversy between the meat packers and their employes.

Not even the number of delegates to the peace conference has as yet been fixed, said an official note issued in Paris Tuesday denying various reports as to the make-up of the French delegation.

That Pope Benedict is prepared to abandon a custom of nearly half a century and no longer consider himself bound to remain within the grounds of the Vatican is the firm belief in several circles in Rome. Many incidents recently have led the public opinion toward this belief.

President Wilson will leave Paris Christmas eve and go to American general headquarters. From headquarters he will proceed to the American front. He will have Christmas dinner with the American troops, and not with the American commander-in-chief or other officers.

## OPPOSE SINKING HUN FLEET

Steps Taken to Learn Who Is Back of  
Plan to Destroy Graft.

Washington, D. C.—Press dispatches from Paris saying that the American peace delegates with British support will urge the sinking of the surrendered German warships as the solution of the problem of their disposition, led to initiation of steps in the senate to obtain an official statement of the facts and to wide discussion in naval circles.

At the State and Navy departments no information was available. Secretary Daniels repeating his previous statement that he had never heard the suggestion officially, while at the State department it was said that so far as known there no such project was included in the American peace programme.

The first published suggestion that the ships be sunk came from London several days ago, but even before that, it was learned, this had occurred to some naval authorities here as one possible way of settling a vexing problem.

There were many indications that a proposal to sink the ships would meet strong opposition in congress. The Paris dispatch prompted Senator Lodge to introduce a resolution calling on the State department for information as to whether the American delegates are advocating destruction of the enemy ships, and if so, by what authority.

It was recalled that some of the Spanish ships sunk by the American fleet at Santiago in 1898 were raised and used by the American navy and that also Japan made similar use of Russian ships captured in 1904, after rebuilding them.

At the outbreak of the world war Great Britain commandeered a number of warships building in England and Scotland for Turkey and other foreign countries, and these were actively engaged with the grand fleet during the war.

## REGULATION OF MEAT INDUSTRY IS URGED

Washington, D. C.—Stricter control of the meat industry without government acquisition of the packing plants was advocated Saturday by W. B. Colver, chairman of the Federal Trade commission, at the opening of the hearings before the house interstate commerce committee on the Administration bill designed to deal with an alleged monopoly of the industry.

"There is not the slightest reason at present why the industry should not remain in private hands," said Mr. Colver. He added, however, that interlocked with the meat industries was ownership of transportation, stockyards, freight houses and other facilities, "so that competitors are practically helpless."

"The packing industry, standing alone," said Mr. Colver, "will proceed to grow great as a necessary and useful industry, which will be fostered for the public good."

"There are influences at work that are not to the public interest, but these can be controlled without interference with private business without hardship to it or its dislocation. The commission never suggested that the government take over the packing plants and the commission does not do so now."

The "big five" was named by Mr. Colver as Swift & Company, Armour & Company, the Cudahy Packing Company, Morris & Company and Wilson & Company, Incorporated.

Mr. Colver reiterated the charges of the commission regarding control, saying that ownership of yards, exchanges, refrigerator cars and other facilities "gave the big five" an undue advantage over competitors.

### "Flu" Deadlier Than War.

It has been estimated that the war caused the death of 20,000,000 persons in four and half years. Thus, a correspondent points out, influenza has proved itself five times deadlier than war, because in the same period, at its epidemic rate, influenza would have killed 100,000,000. Never since the black death has such a plague swept the world, he says, adding that the need of a new survey of health measures has never been more forcibly illustrated.

## JUSTICE WILL BE DONE, SAYS WILSON

Chief Executive Is Confident of  
Righteous Peace.

NO 'BOSSES' PRESENT

Evils of Vienna Congress Not to be Re-  
peated at Peace Table—Peo-  
ple's Will to Prevail.

Paris.—"I am confident that the big council of statesmen of the world will be able to reach a just and reasonable solution of the problems that will be presented to them, and thus earn the gratitude of the world for the most critical and necessary service which has ever been rendered it," said President Wilson Saturday in an interview, referring to the approaching peace conference.

The interview was given to the correspondent of the *London Times*. In it the president is reported to have stated his views on the discussion of the freedom of the seas and to have contrasted the evils of the Vienna congress with a hopeful outlook for the Versailles congress.

Lord Northcliffe, editor of the *London Times*, has given the Associated Press a copy of the interview from which following extracts have been made:

The congress of Vienna, the correspondent says President Wilson told him, was a congress of "bosses." The delegates were concerned more with their own interests and the classes they represented than the wishes of their peoples.

"Versailles, as President Wilson said," the interviewer continues, "must be a meeting place of the servants of the peoples represented by delegates," and he added: "There is no master mind who can settle the problems of today. If there is anybody who thinks he knows what is in the mind of all peoples, that man is a fool. We have all got to put our heads together and pool everything we have for the benefit of the ideals which are common to all."

"Asked whether he would visit the grand fleet, President Wilson replied that he was afraid he would not have time, adding that he fully realized that behind the great armies there was the strong, silent and watchful support of the British navy in securing the communications of the allies.

"He referred also to the happy comradeship and co-operation between the British and American navies."

The correspondent then adds: "President Wilson, in discussing the role of the British fleet in the maintenance of what, at any rate during the war, had been the freedom of the seas for the free people of the world, spoke with a sincerity which no amount of writing can convey. His accounts convinced me that he is a believer in the decency and honesty of the Anglo-Saxon race. He said: 'It is essential for the future peace of the world that there should be the frankest co-operation and most generous understanding between the two English-speaking democracies. We comprehend and appreciate, I believe, the grave problems which the war has brought to the British people and fully understand the special international questions which arise from the fact of your peculiar position as an island empire.'"

## GENERAL UPSET IS AIM OF HINDENBURG

Paris.—Field Marshal von Hindenburg has telegraphed the Berlin government advising it of his intention to form a new front six miles behind the neutral zone fixed by the armistice, according to a dispatch to *Le Journal* from Zurich Friday.

The government has asked the Field Marshal for an explanation, adds the dispatch, but has not yet received a reply.

It also is announced that two regiments of the active army will be sent to Frankfurt-on-the-Main at an early date.

## STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

All records were smashed at the state hospital for the insane last Wednesday, when 11 patients were received, the largest number in the institution's history for a single day from Portland. This increased the population at the institution to 1704.

A rigid quarantine of houses, in addition to the present health regulations, was decided upon at a recent meeting of the North Bend city council and health department, as a necessary measure to combat and check the spread of the second wave of influenza there.

Edwin B. Hatch, of Portland, has been named a member of the state board of pharmacy to succeed Frank S. Ward, of Salem, secretary of the board. Mr. Hatch was appointed at the request of drug clerks, who believed they should be represented on the board.

The Astoria water commission has received authority from the capital issues committee to sell \$50,000 in bonds of an old \$125,000 issue to raise funds for completing the new high service reservoir which is now in the course of construction. The bonds will be sold during the coming month.

Oregon will have a duty in assisting the government in caring for returning soldiers and putting them on the lands, and as a basis for this work 150,000 acres of Carey act lands in feasible projects not yet reclaimed or settled are mentioned by State Engineer Percy A. Copper, in his biennial report.

Five cases of influenza developed in the dormitory of the Oregon normal school at Monmouth Wednesday, the first to appear there. Accordingly the last week of school at the normal has been dispensed with, vacation was declared, to extend to January 6. The new term of school, however, does not begin until February 10.

That there is no indication of allowing the vocational training move to lag in Oregon was demonstrated here at a conference between members of the Oregon board and representatives of the federal board. While no definite details were arranged or announced, contemplated legislation was thoroughly discussed at an executive session.

The state supreme court Wednesday reversed Circuit Judge Gustav Anderson, of Baker, in the cases of Frank Weygandt and Alonzo V. Robison against the O. W. R. & N. Co., in which damages were asked for the death of Weygandt and injuries to Robison. H. H. Clifford appeared for Weygandt as administrator of his estate.

It is now practically certain that when the revenue bill passes the senate the proposed tax on fruit juices will be eliminated, and that the house will accept the senate amendment. This will either relieve fruit juices of all internal revenue taxes or leave them with the present rate of 1 cent per gallon. The house increased the tax from 1 cent per gallon to 20 per cent of the sale price.

The Port of Astoria commission has just sold \$250,000 of its bonds to P. W. Chapman & Company, of Seattle, at \$95.17 per \$100. This money is to be used for work on several improvement projects, among which are an extension to the main warehouse on the port dock, new administration quarters, a belt line railroad around Smith's Point to the McEachern shipyard and the Astoria paper mill.

Inquiries from numerous Oregon people as to the reserves of insurance companies doing business in this state and as to whether or not the companies would be able to withstand the shock of the influenza epidemic, and war service losses, has caused Insurance Commissioner Wells to compile statistics in that regard as to the stability of the companies and their ability to withstand the losses.

The new lease of the Pacific Chemical company on Summer Lake was approved by the state land board last week and Jason Moore forfeited the \$10,000 which he had deposited to cover the former lease. Under the new lease the first payment of royalty money is due January 15, 1920. The board refused to refund to Mr. Moore interest which has accumulated on the \$10,000 deposit.

## AERIAL PASSENGER LINE STARTS SOON

First Commercial Route to Open  
May 15, 1919.

WILL CROSS ATLANTIC

Big Plan Will Be Announced by Cap-  
tain Lipsner, Formerly Supt.  
Government Air Mail.

New York.—Captain Benjamin B. Lipsner, who resigned recently as superintendent of the government aerial mail service, announces that, backed by a group of wealthy men, he will establish next year the first aerial passenger and express lines in this country.

Captain Lipsner said that he was not at liberty to announce proposed routes, but asserted that the first line would be put into operation on May 15, 1919. The service, he said, would be started with six planes, each with a speed of 110 miles an hour and a capacity of 40 passengers or an equivalent weight in express. Equipment of passenger planes, he said, will include a wireless telephonic system and all latest scientific appliances. The rates "will be within the reach of all," he said.

Captain Lipsner also said that unless some one else has already done so, on June 15 he will make the first trans-Atlantic flight, selecting the same route followed by the transport George Washington in taking President Wilson to France. He added that "a seagoing plane" to be used in the flight is now being constructed.

## U.S.-BRITAIN SAID TO AGREE ON SEA POWER

London.—In the course of an article analyzing the American views on the freedom of the seas, the legal correspondent of the *Times*, after referring to modifications in these views which he says have resulted from the war, continues:

"Far from there being any necessary antagonism between the British and American views of the so-called freedom of the seas, there is revealed the possibility of an Anglo-American agreement respecting the main lines of the declaration of maritime rights and duties to be worked out, not at the peace conference, but at future conferences."

Enumerating the points on which he assumes agreement can even be reached, the correspondent goes on: "Both countries would doubtless insist upon restrictions being imposed upon submarine war, while the practice of strewing mines in the open sea is condemned both by Great Britain and the United States. They both sought in 1907 to prevent abuses of the practice, but were opposed by Germany. Many questions affecting neutrals may be reviewed with the hope of a reasonable settlement if Great Britain and America take the initiative."

The *Times*, in an editorial, emphasizes its conclusion that there is no antagonism between the British and American views and it sees no reason why an agreement should not be concluded. In one form or another, it argues, the doctrine of continuous voyage as developed by England in this war, "latterly with the full consent of the United States," is sure to become a part of recognized international law.

Tacoma city electricians seem certain to walk out because the commissioners will not meet salary demands. Policemen, firemen and other city employes may take similar action if their joint demands for higher wages are not heard. Linemen want a raise of from \$6 to \$8.20 a day. Inside wiremen demand \$8 a day, the scale paid by some contractors, they say. Firemen urge a flat raise of \$15 a month.