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.

More wheat was exported from the Columbia river during December, 1923, than from all of the other ports in the United States combined.

Sergeant C. E. Conrad, Kelly field, at San Antonio, Tex., broke the world's record altitude parachute jump Wednesday. He leaped from 21,500 feet.

Twenty-seven Mexican convicts, some of them serving terms for murder, escaped from the Blue Ridge prison farm, 18 miles from Houston, Tex. The escape was staged between 10 and 11 o'clock Wednesday night.

Ex-Field Marshal Ludendorf, Adolph Hitler, leader of the Bavarian fascisti, and seven other defendants were placed on trial for their connection with the "putsch" of last November. All of the defendants except one are charged with high treason.

Believed to be of the Neolithic period, or later stone age, a boat 11 feet long and three feet wide, hollowed out of the trunk of an oak tree, has been found in the mud at Elmley Ferry marshes, near Sittingbourne, Kent, England. It is estimated by experts to be 5000 years old.

Congress laid aside legislative business Wednesday to pay tribute to the memory of Warren G. Harding. The house and senate joined in a memorial service, held in the house chamber, with Secretary Hughes as the only speaker and President Coolidge, his cabinet, supreme court justices and foreign diplomats in attendance.

Mayor Brown and Alfred H. Lundin were nominated as mayoralty candidates in the primary election held in Seattle, Wash., Tuesday, according to complete returns from all of the city's 294 precincts. Mayor Brown polled a plurality of 4551 votes over Lundin. The unofficial returns tabulated from the 294 precincts gave: Brown, 27,592; Lundin, 23,041; Erickson, 17,344.

A chemical discovery said to be one of the most important of the 20th century has just been made at the Fixed Nitrogen Research laboratory at Washington, Professor Arthur B. Lamb of Harvard announced Tuesday night. The discovery is a net catalyst which will bring about the permanent union of hydrogen and nitrogen atoms and will yield 14 per cent of ammonia, Professor Lamb said.

Further slashes in operating expenses have been determined upon by President Palmer of the emergency fleet corporation. On top of the reduction of $18,000 in the salaries of the corporation's four vice-presidents, a similar sum will be saved through elimination of the position of managing director of United States lines, made vacant Wednesday by the resignation of William J. Love.

Serious interference with telegraphic and radio communication is predicted by Dr. David Todd, professor emeritus of Amherst college, in a statement in which he announced the discovery of a new outbreak of "sun spots." The area affected, according to Dr. Todd, is about 9000 miles in diameter. He believes the outbreak to be the beginning of a "sun spot period," with auroral displays and consequent difficulty in electric and radio transmission.

President Donnelly of the Northern Pacific railway Tuesday denounced the pending attack on the road's land grants as "an attempt through some form of congressional action to circumvent the decisions of the courts." President Coolidge has asked Chairman Lenroot of the senate public lands committee to look into the situation under which the interior department, unless action is taken, will soon be called upon to turn over to the railroad 2,900,000 acres of public lands, some of it including forest reserves.

The students' millenium—the day when there will be no exams—is coming on apace, in the view of educators. Speakers before the annual convention of the department of superintendence, National Education association, in Chicago, Tuesday ruled out the periodic examination "and all its moral hazards" as unsound, unscientific and "generally meaningless." For the examination mark, it seems, has been proved by years of testing by educational psychologists to have absolutely no fixed relation to mental capacity or intellectual ability.

MORE GRAFT CHARGES MADE

Senate to Investigate in Forbes Case—Conference Is Held.

Washington, D. C.—Evidence that "two members of congress" improperly accepted money, laid before the Chicago grand jury that indicted Charles R. Forbes, will be inquired into by the senate veterans' committee.

A telegram was sent Monday night to the district attorney at Chicago requesting that he advise the committee as to this evidence, and asking whether it indicated sufficient connection with the veterans' bureau to come within the committee's jurisdiction.

The action followed a conference between President Coolidge and Senator Reed, republican, Pennsylvania, chairman of the committee, at which the grand jury's report was discussed. Whether immediate action also is to be taken by the executive branch of the government upon matters discussed in the report other than the indictments handed down was not disclosed after the conference.

The special report of the grand jury announced that other sensational developments involving alleged graft had been developed before it in the course of the inquiry which led to the indictment of Forbes. These developments were not pursued, the grand jury reported, because they were not within its jurisdiction.

The jury stated that the developments included speculation by one or more officials of the government, involving the use of official information, the payment of certain sums of money to two members of congress and that money was collected by certain persons, not attorneys, for obtaining permits for intoxicating liquor.

The jury also said it had information indicating that the files of one department were turned over to persons having no official connection with the department and that money was accepted by persons who were not attorneys, to obtain clemency for prisoners, these persons basing their efforts upon their intimacy with officials.

REVENUE IS REDUCED ABOUT $446,000,000

Washington, D. C.—The tax bill as passed by the house will produce $446,000,000 less revenue than the existing law, in the opinion of the treasury actuaries.

It would produce $113,000,000 more, the treasury figures indicate, than the Garner democratic plan.

The treasury surplus under the present rates, according to present estimates, will be only $323,000,000, so that the house bill if finally enacted, would result in a deficit of $123,000,000.

Losses in revenue under the bill as passed by the house are estimated to be $130,000,000 in normal income taxes, $150,000,000 in surtaxes, $90,000,000 in earned income and $126,000,000 in miscellaneous taxes. These same taxes as carried in the Garner plan would have resulted, according to the treasury, in losses from existing amounts of $227,000,000 in normal income taxes, $171,000,000 in surtaxes, $85,000,000 in earned income and $126,000,000 in miscellaneous taxes.

Provisions of both the Garner plan and the bill as passed by the house would bring $50,000,000 more into the treasury than under existing law under the capital loss and limited deduction section.

Parcel Post Is Probed.

Washington, D. C.—The postoffice department is conducting an inquiry into its parcel post business, Assistant Postmaster-General Stewart announced, to determine whether that service cannot be so reorganized as to bear the cost of increased salaries for postal employes.

Mr. Stewart appeared before a joint senate and house committee which is considering a salary bill, but said the department would be unable to formulate recommendations until a report on the parcel post inquiry was in hand, probably in May.

Tax Refunds Are Huge.

Washington, D. C.—Refunds on tax payments totaling $123,992,820.94 were made by the treasury in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1923, according to a report by the department. The refunds, made to 263,320 persons, covered payments for several years and were made on account of "illegal or erroneously collected taxes." The report showed 10,152 persons had received more than $1000 each in reimbursements.

Washington, D. C.—The public debt has been cut more than $4,500,000,000 in the four and a half years since the great war indebtedness was at its peak, August 31, 1919. Figures made public Monday by the treasury show that at the opening of business Saturday the national debt was $21,781,966,852. It has been reduced $933,000,000 in the last year.

HONDURAN REVOLTS MENACE AMERICANS

Marine Guard Around Ceiba Consulate Is Doubled

WARSHIPS TO REMAIN

Tangled Affairs of Central American Republic Fails to Respond to Adjustment.

Washington, D. C.—With a force of American marines and bluejackets guarding the consulate at Ceiba and an American destroyer speeding from Jamaica to the Honduran port of Puerto Cortes, the Washington government has been forced to take action in connection with the confusing revolutionary outbreaks in the Honduran republic, which already have cost the life of one American citizen.

An American negro, whose name has not been reported, was killed in the recent fight at Ceiba during which the consulate was repeatedly struck by bullets.

Rear-Admiral Dayton, commanding the special service squadron in central American waters, and whose flagship, the cruiser Denver, is at Ceiba, has found it necessary to double the marine guard of 35 men first sent ashore to protect the consulate. An additional force of 35 bluejackets has joined the marines of the guard and Admiral Dayton reported that the situation at Ceiba was so menacing to American interests that he did not consider it wise to withdraw his ship from that place at present.

While the revolutionary movement which followed the failure to elect a new president by constitutional means has been a double-headed affair from the first, apparently there are separate revolts by various leaders also in progress, and banditry has broken out in some places.

Recent reports from Ceiba indicate that the fighting there, which caused the landing of American marines and sailors, was between the forces of the de facto government headed by President Guiterriez and an unorganized bandit force headed by a leader named Munguia. Whether Munguia is supporting one of the revolutionary parties or operating without any connection with the revolutionary movements has not been disclosed.

The third presidential candidate, Bonilla, also is said to have some military support, but just which force is seeking his preferment is not known.

MELLON TO FIGHT TAX BILL CHANGES

Washington, D. C.—Administration influence will be brought to bear to cause the modification of the house tax bill by the senate finance committee in important particulars.

Not only will a drive be made to bring about a reduction in surtax rates, but an effort also will be made to obtain the elimination of a number of amendments added on the floor of the house which are considered by Secretary of the Treasury Mellon to be objectionable.

The house amendment to which Secretary Mellon is expected to offer the most serious objections is that which increases present taxes on estates. Secretary Mellon in his last annual report declared that the present estate taxes, ranging from 1 to 25 per cent, were so high as to be confiscatory. The house boosted the maximum rate to 40 per cent over the protest of republicans who acted as spokesmen for the treasury viewpoint. It is understood that Secretary Mellon either in a letter to the senate finance committee or in testimony before the committee, will urge strongly that the estate taxes be reduced at least to the present level.

Secretary Mellon also is expected to criticize the gift tax amendment adopted by the house. Treasury experts have taken the position that the tax on gifts cannot be administered successfully and that it will not accomplish much toward providing evasion of high surtaxes and high estate taxes.

18 Known to Be Dead.

New Brunswick, N. J.—The number of known dead as the result of Saturday's disastrous TNT explosion and celluloid fire at the little town of Nixen is placed at 18. Only one additional body, the torso of a woman, was found Sunday. Rescuers who worked in the smoking ruins throughout the day stated eight persons are missing, six are unaccounted for and 60 are being treated for injuries suffered in the disaster.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Governor Neff of Texas has issued a proclamation placing an embargo on importation of livestock from California and prohibiting importation from Oregon, Arizona and Nevada except after proper inspection

Klamath Falls.—Construction will start soon at Klamath Falls on a new sawmill with a capacity of 70,000 feet per day, to be located in the outskirts of the city near the juncture of the Strahorn and Southern Pacific railroads.

Astoria.—The body of a boy baby about one day old was found near Bugby station Monday by Joseph J. Saul of this city. He notified C. O. Botts and H. N. Boyd of the Crossett Western Timber company, who reported the case to Coroner Hughes.

Salem.—Governor Pierce, who a week ago underwent an operation for the removal of his gall bladder at a local hospital, probably will be recovered sufficiently to return to his home late this week. This was announced by the attending physicians.

Pendleton.—Purchase of 75,000 asparagus plants with which to plant 15 acres of land in the Hermiston district has been closed with a Walla Walla dealer, according to Fred Bennion, county agent. Otto Heinl of Hermiston conducted the purchase for a committee of west end growers.

Pendleton.—Fire of unknown origin practically destroyed a house and contents on Beauregard street occupied by L. C. Graham Sunday morning at 3 o'clock. The fire was not discovered until it had made considerable headway. Mr. and Mrs. Graham and their children were absent on a visit with relatives in Walla Walla.

Hillsboro.—The Oregon state dairymen elected the following officers at their annual convention here Friday: C. L. Mulkey, McMinnville, president; C. W. Laughlin of Astoria, first vice-president; H. W. Cooley of Jefferson, second vice-president; P. M. Brandt of Corvallis, secretary-treasurer; Horace Addis of Portland, assistant secretary.

Bend.—Earl Denny, 30, stepped off a cliff near Terre Bonne late Saturday night, falling 35 feet and suffering fatal injuries. His skull was fractured and he lived only 25 minutes after the accident. Denny is thought to be from Idaho Falls, Idaho, and Coroner Niswonger began efforts to find his friends or relatives in that city.

Salem.—The Willamette valley loganberry crop for the year 1924 will be approximately 70 per cent of normal, according to officials of the Drager Fruit company. In some parts of the valley the entire loganberry acreage was destroyed by the frost, while in other sections the crop will be 100 per cent. The average loss will be 30 per cent, officials said.

Salem.—Approximately 10,000 state income tax returns, representing payments of $40,000, have been received at the offices of the income tax collecting department here, according to announcement made Saturday by Earl Fisher, state tax commissioner. Mr. Fisher estimated that not less than 75,000 returns will be filed with the department by March 31. Of the 10,000 returns received up until Friday night 4400 were classified as taxable, while 5600 were non-taxable.

Pendleton.—Plans are being made to test every milk cow in Umatilla county this year to insure that the present low rate of tuberculosis is not permitted to show an increase, according to Fred Bennion, county agent. The tests conducted in 1923 of 440 herds, consisting of 2837 head, showed 13 reactors and eight suspects. Dr. G. W. Overhause of the bureau of animal husbandry, stationed at La Grande, will conduct the tests in Umatilla county, which are to begin about March 10.

St. Helens.—With the departure of the steamer Multnomah Friday night lumber shipments from St. Helens for the week amounted to about 3,000,000 feet; all shipments being for California ports. The steamer E. H. Meyer, which departed Wednesday afternoon for San Pedro, was laden with 1,016,000 feet of lumber, and the steamer Cejilo which left Thursday night carried a 975,000-foot cargo of lumber and piling for San Pedro and San Diego. The steamer also had a fair passenger list.

Klamath Falls.—Before a full gallery of Indians the marital difficulties of Sarah Jim and Brick Jim, full-blooded Klamath Indians, were aired in the circuit court here Friday in a contested divorce case, in which Sarah Jim attempted to show she could be freed from marriage ties with Brick Jim, who had chased her on a horse and beat her over the head. Mrs. Jim's testimony was taken through an interpreter, since she speaks only the Klamath language. Judge Leavitt denied the divorce.