

WORLD HAPPENINGS OF CURRENT WEEK

Brief Resume Most Important Daily News Items.

COMPILED FOR BUSY READERS

Events of Noted People, Governments and Pacific Northwest and Other Things Worth Knowing.

The Oregon house of representatives has passed the "bone-dry" law by 53 to 7. It now goes to the senate.

The British government has tightened the German blockade which involves portions of the Danish and Dutch coasts.

Robbers at Los Gatos, Cal., carry away a safe from the office of the newspaper Mail-News, containing books and records and \$5 in money.

Instead of building a fine club house with money appropriated for that purpose, the Rocky Mountain club of New York voted to send the money to relief of the Belgians.

Special examinations will be held in the universities of France before Easter for students belonging to contingents of the recruits of 1918, which probably will be called to the army in the spring.

An ordinance against cats running at large in Portland will come up at the next council meeting. Both advocates and opponents of the felines are expected to appear before the meeting in full force.

A petition in bankruptcy and for a receiver against Van Frantzius & Co., a big stock brokerage house of Chicago, was filed by creditors, who allege that liabilities of \$2,750,000 exceed the assets by about \$1,000,000.

Russia is experiencing famine in the midst of plenty, according to an undated article in the London Times from a correspondent in that country. The article refers chiefly, but not exclusively, to Petrograd and Moscow.

General discussion of President Wilson's world peace address is expected in the senate soon, Senator Cummins having given notice of his intention to call up his resolution to set aside special time for debate on the subject.

The ceremony of saluting the entente allies' flag by Greece was carried out Monday in the Zappeion, in accordance with the arrangement recently entered into between the Greek government and the entente powers, says a dispatch from Athens.

The new revenue bill, embracing excess profits and increased inheritance taxes, designed to produce \$248,000,000, and a bond issue not exceeding \$100,000,000 to meet the threatened deficit next year, is reported by the house ways and means committee.

Revelation of strong-arm methods, of the employment of sluggers and gunmen, of bitter warfare between union factions, of intrigue and arson, that all made up the conspiracy to block building construction work in Chicago, is made from the witness stand in a Chicago court room.

Ex-President Taft, in an address at Bangor, Me., declared President Wilson's recent address to the senate was "an epoch in the history of our foreign policy," and his advocacy of our participation in a world league was a most powerful aid to its formation.

Five hundred women invaded the church of Rev. Paul Smith in San Francisco Thursday to find out what he proposed to do about women of the underworld in carrying out a vice crusade he has been leading. They took the position that they were directly interested.

Groundwork for the expected attack in the senate on President Wilson's proposal that the United States join in a league for peace was laid Thursday in a resolution introduced by Senator Borah reaffirming as a national policy the doctrine of no entangling alliances laid down by Washington and Jefferson.

Flat denials were authorized by the White House and Secretary Lansing of published reports that Mr. Lansing is preparing to resign.

Representations by the United States for a fair trial for two Mexican priests sentenced to death at Zacatecas on a charge of aiding Villa have been successful. The American embassy in Mexico City has been informed that as a result they will not be tried under a law which gives them no opportunity for defense.

Sale of the Hill steamer Minnesota was confirmed Thursday by L. W. Hill, president of the Great Northern railroad. The ship is said to have sold for \$2,750,000.

Lewiston, Idaho — A silver-tip fox pelt estimated to be worth its size in \$100 bills is being exhibited in the Central Idaho country by John Hanson, a Leesburg mining man, who made the lucky capture. It is two feet long from tip to tip and almost black except for a snowball at the end of the brush and a few white spines along the back.

LEAK PROBE HITS HOT TRAIL

Informant Had Excellent Resume of President's Peace Note.

New York—From the files of a Wall street brokerage house congressional inquirers Wednesday brought to light private and confidential telegrams regarded in some quarters as definitely indicating that there was a "leak" on President Wilson's recent peace note.

The most sensational telegram, containing a brief but remarkably accurate forecast of the contents of the note, was sent by E. F. Hutton & Co., one of the largest brokerage houses in the street, over its private wires to scores of other brokers with whom it did business throughout the country on the afternoon of December 20, more than three hours before the first copies of the note were handed to newspapers by Secretary Lansing.

At the time the Hutton message was sent, according to the testimony of Secretary Lansing before the committee in Washington, no one in this country save persons connected with the preparation and dispatch of the note had as much information regarding its contents as the message revealed.

The note previously had been sent abroad in code. Publication of the note followed transmission of the Hutton message to various brokers by more than 10 hours.

Information on which the message to brokers was based, Edward F. Hutton, head of the firm, testified, came in another message, now missing, from F. A. Connelly, of F. A. Connelly & Co., a Washington brokerage house, in which R. W. Bolling, a brother-in-law of President Wilson, is a partner.

Hutton testified that his understanding was that Connelly's information regarding the note was based on general rumor. Indicative that other brokerage concerns were in possession of similar information, Hutton said, was another message he produced which Clement, Curtis & Co., of Chicago, sent his house prior to Connelly's first message referring to a statement to be issued by the State department "intended to promote peace prospects." This message contained no details.

Certain members of the committee, however, privately expressed conviction that the person who originally supplied the information on which Connelly's missing message was based either had read the President's note or obtained an excellent resume of it.

Relentless War on Sea is Forecast; Warning to Come

Washington, D. C.—Information has reached here that Germany and her allies are considering communicating to the State department a virtual warning that Americans should keep off of armed merchant ships of belligerent nations. This became known Wednesday following the intimation in official circles quite recently that the United States might issue soon a new memorandum setting forth its attitude toward armed merchantmen.

It is not known just when or in what manner the warning may be conveyed, but Germany apparently has been paving the way for such a step several weeks past by submitting to the State department a series of statements alleging specific instances in which merchant craft of the entente powers have used offensively against submarines guns carried ostensibly for defense.

Bryan Has New Bugaboo.

Nashville, Tenn.—William Bryan, addressing the legislature at a joint session Wednesday, said army and navy officials were lionized at Washington above civilian officials of such departments as agriculture, commerce and labor, and declared that "if this is to be a democratic nation there must be a lifting up of the latter to the plane of the soldier or a leveling of the soldier." He said that munition makers and professional soldiers are trying to convert the United States into a military nation.

260 Lost When Ship is Sunk.

London—About 260 were lost in the sinking of the auxiliary cruiser Laurentic, many of them having been killed by the explosion of the mine which sent the former White Star liner to the bottom last Thursday, says a dispatch from Belfast. The admiralty announces officially that a mine and not a torpedo sunk the Laurentic. The dispatch says the Laurentic struck the mine off the North coast of Ireland and sank in about 10 minutes. A big hole was blown in the side of the ship.

Russia Curbs Luxuries.

Washington, D. C.—Russia has added many articles to her list of commodities excluded by her on the ground of not being necessities. The new list of articles has reached the department of Commerce and among them are most kinds of vehicles except those for mailed tracks, precious metals, jewelry, wall paper and decorations and table delicacies. Already there is a general restriction on imports except by special permit to Russia ports.

Mercury is at Extremes.

Washington, D. C.—A phenomenon unusual in weather bureau records resulted Wednesday in a disparity of more than 100 degrees between readings in the southwest and the northeast of the United States. In some parts of Texas the mercury stood at 86 above, while near the Canadian line of the Rockies it was 20 below.

Doings of State Legislators

"Bone-Dry" Prohibition Law Passes House by 53 to 7

Salem—Callan, Kubii, Lewis, Mackay, Schimpff, Stott and Willett—these are the names of the only members who voted against the bone-dry prohibition bill Monday.

The bill went through the house late in the afternoon after a four-hour siege of oratory, by a vote of 53 to 7.

As soon as the vote had been taken members of the house were served with individual half-pint bottles of loganberry juice, and the entire assembly rested while the bottles were drained.

The bill, as passed, merely carries into effect the constitutional amendment adopted by the people at the November election prohibiting the importation of alcoholic liquors for beverage purposes. It also remedies the existing prohibition laws so that it will be impossible to buy pure grain alcohol excepting on prescription of a physician or permit of a district attorney.

Inasmuch as the measure carries an emergency clause it will become a law as soon as it is signed by the governor—probably before the end of the week.

Five days are allowed, however, after the governor signs the bill, for the express companies to deliver goods already ordered or in transit.

Grange and Labor Merge Support for Modified Consolidation Bills

Salem—Representatives of the State federation of labor, the State grange and the Farmers' union, following a long conference the first of the week, issued a statement indicating their combined attitudes on questions of legislation pending or proposed.

They suggest a form of consolidation for the offices relating to labor, modified from that suggested by the consolidation committee; declare in favor of state aid in marketing problems and outline their position on various other phases of the legislative situation.

"We, the organized farmers and laborers of Oregon, are unanimously asking your support of the following," they say in a statement addressed to the various members of the legislature.

Free Textbooks Rejected.

Salem—Free text books in public schools were voted down by the house at noon Tuesday, 38 opposing the measure, 22 favoring it and 4 absent. The measure had been looked upon with suspicion since its introduction, and when it went to the committee it was badly revamped before it saw the light again. The section providing that text books could be secured free by other than public schools was but one feature eliminated before the battle on the floor was staged. Representative Tichenor made a warm defense of his bill, claiming that it was a bill for the benefit of "the poor kids."

Limit Put on Commission.

Salem—Representative Burdick has introduced a bill in the house providing a complete code of procedure for the operation of a county government. It defines the duties of county commissioners, who are empowered to estimate the amount of money to be raised for county purposes and to make levies in specified sums. The county court is restricted under this bill from undertaking the erection of any courthouse or other public buildings costing more than \$5000 without the approval of a majority of the voters.

Hearing Likely This Week.

Salem—A public hearing probably will be held this week to consider the provisions of the Eaton bill to increase the rate of the state inheritance tax.

The Eaton bill, which follows the outlines of Governor Withycombe's message, increases the present rate, but many members of the house believe that it does not go far enough. It would levy a tax of 1 per cent on all bequests over \$5000 and up to \$20,000, and 2 per cent on all above \$20,000. The first \$5000, as under the present law, is to be exempt.

Apprentice Limit Attacked.

Salem—Representative Callan has introduced a bill in the house intended to make it unlawful to restrict the number of persons learning a trade in any given profession. Labor unionists on the ground are opposing the measure already. They say that it will prevent them from enforcing their contracts with employers which fix the ratio of apprentices to skilled mechanics employed in various industries operating under closed-shop agreements.

Four Appropriations Submitted.

Salem—Four appropriation bills came into the house the first of the week from the ways and means committee, but did not get onto the calendar, as the house already had passed that order of business. They provide appropriations as follows: Oregon National guard, \$155,000; Naval militia, \$15,000; Insane hospital, \$656,936; Tuberculosis hospital, \$75,562.60; total, \$902,498.60.

Labor Against Prison Plan.

Salem—Organized labor will oppose the recommendation made in the report of the Prison survey commission that the law prohibiting the sale of convict-made goods on the open market be repealed. Labor is strong against such a proposal, but have counter proposals of their own, which, they believe, will solve the problem of idleness at the penitentiary.

Early Water Power Legislation Asked in Memorial to Congress

Salem—Early development of the water-power resources of the nation is something that this legislature wants congress to provide.

The house, by unanimous vote, adopted Senator Gill's joint memorial urging upon congress "the absolute and urgent necessity of the development of water power in order that the natural resources may be utilized to create new wealth by the settlement of lands, the development of agriculture, the establishment of manufactures of varied nature, the economy and comfort of rail facilities of transportation, the means of transportation enlarged and made cheaper, and traffic congestion relieved by opening to navigation waterways incapable of use because of natural obstructions removable by water-power development in navigable streams, and adequate National defense may be aided, all of which will contribute to the increase and diversification of agriculture, commerce and industry, and as a consequence promote economic security."

The memorial already had passed the senate and now will go forward to Washington with the view of impressing upon congress the vital interest of the people of Oregon in the pending water-power legislation.

The measure did not even evoke debate in the house, so well acquainted and so satisfied were the members with its provisions.

Five Days of Grace Likely.

Portland—Within 30 days after the "bone-dry" prohibition law is enacted by the legislature and goes into effect the express companies must banish from the state of Oregon the last bottle of booze. Such is one provision of the proposed act, but it must not be construed as affording 30 additional days to a thirsty public for stocking-up purposes.

Five days' grace may be given, however, if rumor is substantiated. Although the proposed law at present contains no such clause, its insertion is anticipated.

"We have learned unofficially," said A. P. Peterson, general agent of Wells, Fargo & Co., "that a clause may be added to house bill 100 permitting five days in which to dispose of shipments en route to Portland or to other points within the state at the time of the passage of the law."

If this provision is made, it will amount to the extending of five days of grace, in which packages of liquor already at the express offices or in transit may be claimed. The 30-day provision of the law merely defines the time in which the companies must remove all undelivered consignments from the state.

House Does Big Lot of Work.

Salem—Thursday was one of the busiest days that the house has had since the session opened. A big list of bills was passed, an aggregate of 40 new bills was received, half a dozen important memorials and resolutions were disposed of and a big volume of routine business was transacted.

The house ran twice through its regular order of business and most of the new bills were sent to committees. A big batch of committee reports came in the morning and half a dozen measures were sent to oblivion over the indefinite postponement route.

The first lot of appropriation bills came in from the ways and means committee. They provide revenue for the conduct of the executive, secretary of state and treasury department, for the special apprehension of criminals, the State Training school, the school for the Deaf, the attorney General's office and the Capitol and Supreme court buildings.

Ashland Site Favored.

Salem—The special committee of the joint ways and means committee named to investigate the feasibility of transferring the Industrial school for girls from Salem either to Weston, Drain or Ashland probably will be able to report next week.

The scheme had its inception in the mind of Representative Ashley, and he was closely seconded by Representative Childs, who is chairman of the committee.

The Industrial school for girls has asked for new buildings in the budget and the School for feeble-minded also has requested money for permanent improvement in the way of new buildings.

Premium Cut Advised.

Salem—Pure-bred livestock men of Oregon, at their convention here, recommended that the Oregon State Fair's request for \$50,000 for livestock premiums be cut to \$40,000. They urged, however, that a livestock coliseum be built at the fair grounds. They also went on record as favoring the Jones bill for a tax on dogs, the money from which would be used to reimburse owners of sheep that are killed by dogs. The stockmen are opposed to the Agricultural commission, as proposed in House bill 172.

Board Would Get Rise.

Salem—Representative Mann introduced a bill in the house fixing the salaries of Multnomah county commissioners at \$3000 a year and requiring them to give all their time to the work. Their present salary is \$1800 a year, but they do not have to be on the job all the time. Efforts were made to get the whole Multnomah county delegation back of the bill, but they refused to take action.

WILSON URGES HIS PROGRAM

President Will Expect Action on All Leading Bills This Session

Washington, D. C.—After a series of conferences at the Capitol on practically all features of his legislation programme, President Wilson told his advisers Tuesday he believed action could be secured at this session on every important measure in which he is interested. With different members of the senate and house he had discussed means of preventing railroad strikes, vocational education, revenue, flood control, the general land-leasing bill, the Porto Rico bill, a measure to allow American importers to form common selling agencies abroad, increased pay for Federal employes and the placing postmasters under civil service.

The President told Senator Poindexter, author of an amendment to the legislative, judicial and executive appropriation bill, adopted by the senate, which would extend the civil service requirements to all postmasters, that he favored the change. At present only postmasters in small towns in the fourth class are selected by examination, and the remainder are appointed by the President and confirmed by the senate.

Mr. Wilson said he would be gratified to have the amendment agreed to in the conference. He has previously urged a proposal of this kind, and Postmaster General Burleson has endorsed it in his annual report. It is expected to meet with some opposition. Representative Sims, of Tennessee, a member of the house interstate commerce committee, considering the railroad program, told the President he did not believe the house would approve the part of the administration recommendations prohibiting strikes or lockout pending investigation.

The President said he would not insist on any particular form of legislation, but it was absolutely necessary to decide on some means of preventing strikes on the railroads of the country. Administration leaders now are working on a compromise measure which, they say, the President probably will endorse. It provides for an investigating board made up of representatives of both sides, as suggested by the railroad brotherhoods, but adds a representative of the public.

New York Financier Says Lawson Was "Romancing"

New York—Some of the most sensational charges of Thomas W. Lawson made in testifying recently in the house rules committee "leak" investigation were vehemently denied Monday by Pliny Fisk and Archibald S. White, two widely known New York financiers, when they appeared here before the congressional inquirers. Mr. Fisk, named by Lawson as the banker member of an alleged trio composed of a cabinet member, Secretary McAdoo; a member of congress, known as "Senator O," and a banker, who had a joint account in Wall street, declared emphatically that no such combination ever existed.

White, who was declared by Lawson to have told him Fisk had boasted to him that he controlled Secretary McAdoo and had offered to call the Secretary from his bed by telephone at 1:30 o'clock in the morning to prove his assertion, insisted that Lawson was "romancing."

President Vetoes Immigration Bill; Literacy Test Objectional

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson Monday vetoed the immigration bill, passed recently by congress, because of its literacy test provision.

When the message was read in the house it was ordered to lie on the table until Thursday morning, and champions of the bill began laying their plans for an effort to override the veto. Chairman Burnett announced that he would move for a vote Thursday. The house two years ago lacked only four votes of the necessary two-thirds majority to pass the bill over the veto, the ayes being 261 and the noes 136. The attempt having failed in the house no action was taken by the senate.

France Suffers in Cold.

Paris — France continues to suffer from exceptionally cold weather, the temperature ranging from 10 to 15 degrees Fahrenheit above zero. The coal supply of Paris is running low, owing to the freezing of the canals of the interior water transportation system.

Traffic has been suspended entirely in the central canal, by which coal is transported from Monceau-les-Mines, and the barges are imprisoned in the ice. Several deaths from cold have been reported in Paris.

Labor to Be Enforced.

Copenhagen — The Schleswigsche Grenzpost, a copy of which has been received here, declares the general commanding the district of the Ninth German army corps has proclaimed that all interned and other civilians belonging to Nations hostile to Germany shall be forced to do public labor.

This will be similar to that required of Germans called upon for civilian services.

Manila Would Sell Coin.

Manila—A bill has been introduced in the legislature authorizing the sale of 18,000,000 silver pesos now held in the government vaults at Corregidor, at a profit of \$1,250,000. The bill, which seems certain of passage, means that hereafter the island's silver certificates will be guaranteed by gold.

U-BOAT WARFARE IS UNRESTRICTED

All Hopes of Peace Are Blasted When Kaiser Sends Note.

STARVATION OF ENGLAND PLAN

Washington is Staggered by Decision to Use Every Weapon Against Allies—Super-Crisis Comes.

Washington, D. C.—Germany has declared unrestricted submarine warfare.

A starvation blockade of England, the like of which the world has never seen, was announced to the world Wednesday in notes delivered to American Ambassador Gerard in Berlin and to the State department here by Count von Bernstorff.

Thus begins the long-feared campaign of ruthlessness, conceived by Von Hindenburg, it is said here, on a magnitude never even contemplated by Von Tirpitz. Again the United States faces severance of diplomatic relations with Germany with all its eventual possibilities. President Wilson's repeated warnings of "a world-afire" and Secretary Lansing's "verge-of-war" statement are being recalled in the capital with feelings of apprehension and misgiving.

Germany's action is super-crisis of all those that have stirred the American government in two and a half years of world war.

Talk of peace in Europe and of means of preserving the peace of the world has gone glimmering. President Wilson, incredulous at first when the unofficial text of Germany's warning was brought to him, at once called for the official document, which had just been presented to Secretary Lansing by the German ambassador. Mr. Lansing absolutely refused to comment. President Wilson began immediately a careful study of the document.

The President has the task of deciding what shall be the course of the United States. Three immediate steps appear among the possibilities. The United States might solemnly warn Germany against a violation of her pledges; it might be decided that the German warning is sufficient notice of an intention to disregard those pledges and a sufficient warrant for breaking off diplomatic relations; it might be decided to await the results of the blockade and determine the course of the United States as the actual operations develop.

On almost every side Germany's drastic action is interpreted as an open confession of the effectiveness of the British food blockade. It is regarded as a determination to strike back in kind.

German officials in the United States estimate the food supply on the British Isles will last a month.

Admittedly, the plan is to carry starvation to the door of England with swift, staggering strokes, as a fulfillment of Germany's announced determination to use every weapon and agency at her command to end the war quickly. She counts on the operations of an unheated number of submarines to deliver blows to bring England to her knees within 60 days. One German official here predicted the war would be over in a month.

Plot to Kill Lloyd George and Others Laid to English Women

Derby, Eng.—Four persons were arraigned in the Police court at the Derby Guildhall Thursday, charged with plotting the murder of Premier Lloyd-George and Arthur Henderson, the premier's right-hand man in the war council.

The accused persons indignantly denied the charges, declaring they had been trumpeted up as punishment for their conscientious objections to compulsory service.

Proceedings at the Guildhall, over which the mayor presided, were merely of a formal nature. No details of the charges or evidence were divulged, although gossip has been busy with rumors of various details since the news of the arrest was received.

Bank Robbery is Failure.

Ceres, Cal.—Bank robbers isolated Ceres early Thursday by cutting telephone wires, manacled a watchman with his own handcuffs, and then exploded seven charges of nitro-glycerine in an unsuccessful attempt to crack the safe of the Bank of Ceres. The robbers reached Ceres in an automobile stolen from another banker. The California Bankers' association warned country bankers to be vigilant, as it is believed a gang operating previously in the Middle West has transferred the scene of its operations.

Britain to Keep Colonies.

London—The colonies captured from Germany during the war will never be returned, said Walter Hume Long, secretary of state for the colonies, speaking as a representative of the Overseas Dominions, in an address Thursday.

"We acquired possession of different German colonies in various parts of the world as a consequence of this war," he said. "Let no man think these territories will ever return to German rule."