

# NEWS NOTES OF CURRENT WEEK

## Resume of World's Important Events Told in Brief.

United States exports increase 86 per cent in January.

Seven deaths were caused by heavy snow storm in New York.

The price of bread in Chicago has risen one cent—to 6 cents a loaf.

Two hundred of the 670 members of the English parliament are serving at the front.

Reports have it that Serbia is to be invaded again by a large army of Austro-Germans.

A German dynamite a Canadian railroad bridge and escapes to the United States.

A London dispatch announces that the Germans lost 6000 killed on a Polish front less than a mile long.

General Villa en route to Tampico, captures San Luis Potosi and is in full possession of the city and vicinity.

The steamer Northland loses rudder in storm off California coast, but was taken in tow by the steamer Nann Smith.

W. H. Hornbrook, editor of the Albany, Ore., Daily Democrat, has been appointed by President Wilson as minister to Siam.

Victoria, B. C., film censors in the last 12 months barred 50 per cent of the pictures because there was used too much Stars and Stripes.

An indication of possible action by Italy is to be found in a notification issued to Italian reservists in England to prepare to join the colors.

A German statistician denies that Germany can be "starved out" in the present war and declares the country's granaries are stocked with abundance of cereals.

Reports reaching Holland say that the new bread regulations in Germany have caused so much unrest that 12,000 special constables have been appointed to guard the bakeries in Berlin.

England notifies U. S. that shipments of foodstuffs for Germany and Austria will be considered as contraband and will confiscate all cargoes captured without compensation to the shippers.

According to reports in circulation at the Vatican, Great Britain, Germany and Austria have answered favorably Pope Benedict's proposal for an exchange of civil prisoners—women and children and men above the age of 65.

With the opening of the British parliament the political truce was renewed. The government, while assuming all responsibility for the war, welcomed the opposition's support and the ministers announced that they would reply readily to all criticism and endeavor to avoid controversial matters.

Jitney-bus bandits, operating for the first time in Seattle, Wash., kidnapped two passengers from the down-town districts, took them to a lonely spot on the boulevard near Lake Washington, beat them, and, after stealing \$5.00 in cash and two watches, left them to find their way back to the city after they recovered consciousness.

A conscience-stricken person sent \$15 to the Seattle office of the United Pacific railroad, and the fund has been forwarded to the Portland headquarters. Bills amounting to \$15 were pinned to the following note: "U. P. R. R. Co.—I have been in your debt this amount since 1882." No explanation whatever is given as to how the company was defrauded, and the identity of the remitter remains hidden.

A Portland highwayman said to be sixty years old, secured 40 cents from a victim.

Carranza troops enter Mexico City and with little resistance take charge of the government.

Germans are reported to be using a new shell containing a higher explosive than heretofore known.

A Babylonian tablet, believed to have been buried in the earth more than 4000 years ago and containing the earliest law code, recently has been unearthed and is now in possession of Yale University. The laws are written in the Sumerian language, the language of Southern Babylonia prior to its conquest by the Semites or Accadians in the time of Hammurabi.

Owing to imperfect knowledge of the language the work of deciphering is extremely difficult. The laws that have been translated refer to legislation concerning injury to women, the reputation of children who have been adopted, elopement, the hire of boats and cattle, and provision for the killing of a hired ox by a lion.

During the year ended June 30 last a total of 10,302 persons, including 265 passengers, lost their lives in accidents on railroads and in railroad shops reporting to the Interstate Commerce commission. In addition, 192,662 persons were injured, of whom 15,121 were passengers.

A dispatch from Lima, Peru, says that Dr. Gazzani, Peruvian ex-minister of foreign affairs, was seriously wounded in a duel with Juan Durand. Durand is a brother of Dr. Augusto Durand, the Peruvian revolutionary leader, who was compelled to leave Chilean territory last August.

"Mother Jones," union sympathizer, who held a conference with John D. Rockefeller, Jr., declares the latter's eyes have been "opened" to the needs of labor.

Action by the government on the deficit caused by decreasing revenue receipts will not be made at present. The administration hesitates over extending the war tax.

Senator Burton, of Ohio, suggests in a speech before the New York Peace society, that if the Panama canal proves to be a financial disappointment, it be operated by all nations.

## German Army Officer Dynamites Canadian Bridge

Vanceboro, Me.—Another international problem incident to the war was thrust upon the United States by the action of Werner van Horn, who, operating on the Canadian side of the border, dynamited the railway bridge over the St. Croix river and then escaped into this state.

A few hours later, in a room at a hotel here, Van Horn quietly submitted to arrest, but immediately proclaimed himself an officer of the German army and set up the contention that he had committed an act of war, and, having fled to a neutral country, could not be legally surrendered to an enemy of the fatherland.

The Canadian authorities, however, at once instituted proceedings to obtain Van Horn's extradition on a charge of destruction of railroad property. Pending the outcome of these efforts, Van Horn is held at the immigration office here in custody of Deputy Sheriff George W. Ross, of Washington county.

The bridge which Van Horn sought to destroy was not greatly damaged.

The St. Croix river for some distance forms the boundary between Maine and New Brunswick.

The bridge is owned jointly by the Maine Central and the Canadian Pacific railways and is on the direct route of the Canadian Pacific from Western Canada to the maritime provinces.

Over this road has been shipped large quantities of war materials for the allies which were placed on board ships at St. John and Halifax.

Franklin T. Griffith, president of the company, was present at the hearing, but the examination for the company was conducted by E. A. Leiter, Mr. Hagenah, representing the Council of Jewish Women, said it would be unjust and unwise at this time to continue the school. It was not a mercenary question, she urged, but an economical one, and a duty that should be performed. The fact that only a comparatively few girls had been taken care of was no reason for doing away with the school, she said.

Permanent Registration for Voters Approved by House

State Capitol, Salem—Permanent registration of voters and compulsory voting are provided for in a bill passed in the house. The measure was introduced by the joint committee on judiciary and revision of laws and combined the essential features of bills previously submitted by Representative Kuehn, of Portland, and the Marion county delegation. Under its provisions the clerks are required to keep a card index system for the registered voters. When a person registers the record becomes permanent and can be used indefinitely at future elections. If a voter moves from one precinct to another within the same county or desires to change his or her political affiliation it will be necessary only to advise the county clerk. To accomplish voters to move from one county to another, the county clerks are authorized to send the cards from one to another upon request.

Naturalized citizens will not be required to show their naturalization papers at the time they register. They will be required only to swear that they are naturalized and give the dates in connection therewith.

Labor Losses Three Bills.

State Capitol, Salem—Three more of the bills introduced by Representative Oscar W. Horne, of Portland, and endorsed by the State Federation of Labor failed to get past the house. One was postponed indefinitely, meaning that it was put to sleep beyond possible reawakening, another was amended and another was referred.

Mr. Horne made a determined effort to save one of his measures—the one competing contractors on public works to enforce the eight-hour law more scrupulously. The bill is aimed particularly at "station work" or contract labor through which groups of workmen are enabled to work more than eight hours a day on the ground that they are working for themselves.

60-Day Session Plan Lost.

State Capitol, Salem—Representative Lewis' plan to change the limit on legislative sessions from 40 to 60 days was defeated in the house. His resolution made the pay of the legislators \$5 a day instead of \$3 and provided a recess of 14 days after the fortieth day, to reconsider bills, but without pay. After the house turned down the resolution Lewis offered another providing that sessions in the house begin at 9 o'clock in the morning.

The speaker ruled him out of order. Mr. Lewis himself is at his desk every morning at 7:30 o'clock and brings his lunch to the house chamber.

Governor Signs Six Bills.

State Capitol, Salem—Governor Withycombe has signed the following house bills:

Creating district courts, defining their jurisdiction and providing system of procedure.

Exempting chickens and other domestic animals from execution of attachment.

Abolishing justice courts and creating districts. Further defining jurisdiction of district courts.

Giving laborers in logging camps lien upon their products.

Limiting catch of crabs in waters of Coos bay.

Anaesthetic Law Whacked.

State Capitol, Salem—Senator Dimick's bill repealing a law providing that only graduate nurses with licenses be allowed to administer anaesthetics was passed by the senate. The Clackamas legislator contended that the present law was class legislation; "a nice little game put over by the nurses two years ago so they would have all this work." In the interest of humanity, he said, country physicians were forced to violate the law daily. Senators J. C. Smith and Wood, physicians, opposed the present law.

"Blue Book" May Be Issued.

State Capitol, Salem—Another "Oregon Blue Book" will be issued by the secretary of state if the senate concurs in the action of the house. An appropriation of \$2200 was voted for the purpose, and an issue of 20,000 books authorized. The publication is to be similar to the one issued two years ago, and will contain official information pertaining to the state government, its officials, boards and departments, together with similar information concerning the various district and county officials of the state.

House Passes First Relief Bill.

State Capitol, Salem—The house has passed its first relief bill. It provides \$2000 for Ada E. Lundborg, of Bend, whose husband, a laborer, was killed on the Tumalo irrigation canal, in Central Oregon. The Desert Land board already has set aside \$2000 from the Tumalo fund to pay Mrs. Lundborg. The action of the legislature is a mere formality.

Anti-Lobby Bill Notwithstanding a gallant defense by Dimick, the Schuebel anti-lobby bill, passed in the house by a large majority, was buried under an avalanche of votes in the senate. The Clackamas senator and Kelaher were its only supporters. Two years ago the bill was defeated in precisely the same way. The judiciary committee reported the measure unfavorably with a minority report advocating it. Dimick said it would curtail the privileges of none except those sent to Salem and paid salaries.

## DOINGS OF OREGON'S LEGISLATURE

A Brief Resume of Proceedings of the People's Representatives at the State Capital, Bills Introduced, Passed, Rejected, Etc.

### Portland Electric Light Co. Says It's Worth \$60,000,000

State Capitol, Salem—A valuation of approximately \$60,000,000 is made for the property of the Portland Railway, Light & Power company, according to figures produced before the State Railroad commission in the general investigation hearing into the rates and service of the company.

The valuation figures were brought out through the testimony of W. J. Hagenah, utility expert, testifying in behalf of the company. It was under his direction that the company made an inventory of its property to be submitted to the commission in the present investigation.

What valuation has been placed by the commission's engineering experts has not been developed in the testimony, but the line of questions shot at Hagenah indicated that the commission has figures that will range considerably under those of the company.

Among the largest items are \$8,694,000 for roadway and tracks; \$9,076,326 for land; \$4,987,000 for equipment; \$44,357,000 for buildings, fixtures and grounds, \$4,557,000 for rolling stock and floating equipment, \$8046 for hydraulic power works, \$1,767,000 for water powers, and \$9,962,000 for cost of development.

### New Workmen's Compensation Act Is Filed in Senate

State Capitol, Salem—A bill providing for workmen's compensation similar to the Michigan law was introduced in the senate by Bingham. It is different in many phases from the present compensation law, and its author says it will solve the perplexing question of aiding injured workmen in this state.

An important feature of the new act is that employees will make no contributions. Those sustaining minor injuries will receive no benefits until the 15th day after the injuries were sustained. Persons incapacitated from work for four weeks or longer will receive compensation from the time of the accident.

The law provides for the appointment by the governor of one industrial accident commissioner, who shall receive \$3000 a year. In case of dispute as to the amount of compensation, two other persons, selected by those interested, shall fix the amount. Employers may provide compensation through casualty companies, mutual insurance, pay it themselves or come under a provision for state compensation.

Under the present law the payment of compensation is according to the size of the families of the injured persons, but the new act makes the earning capacity the basis of compensation. Senator Bingham said one of the important features of his bill is that it would induce employers to provide all safety appliances, that accidents should be reduced to a minimum.

"Under practically this same law operating in Michigan 90 to 95 per cent of the employers have come under its provisions," said Senator Bingham, "and out of 600,000 employees less than 15 have rejected it since the law went into effect, about two and one-half years ago."

### House Passes Bill to Repeal Many Appropriations

State Capitol, Salem—Friends of the Oregon National guard made an effort in the house to save the \$70,000 continuing appropriation provided for that organization before the Schuebel bill, providing for a general repeal of all continuing appropriations, was passed and sent over to the senate.

Although it was plain from the start that the National guard fund, as a continuing appropriation, would be wiped out if the Schuebel bill carried, members of the guard made no protest against the measure until just before it was placed on its final reading. Then Representative Allen, of Marion county, who is a member of the guard, appealed to the house to save the item out of the bill. His pleas fell on deaf ears.

He pointed out that the National guard fund had been placed on a continuing basis for the purpose of taking the guard out of politics and urged that by passing the measure in its present form it would be necessary for the officers of the guard to come before the legislature every two years and ask for money to carry on their work.

### Voting Machine Law Stands.

State Capitol, Salem—Multnomah county will continue to have the option of purchasing and operating voting machines if it so elects. The house committee on revision of laws reported adversely on the Michelbrock bill, providing for the repeal of the law authorizing any county in the state that chooses to use voting machines.

The 1913 act never has been taken advantage of. However, the committee took the attitude that some county may at some future time desire to use them.

### Anti-Lobby Bill Notwithstanding a gallant defense by Dimick, the Schuebel anti-lobby bill, passed in the house by a large majority, was buried under an avalanche of votes in the senate. The Clackamas senator and Kelaher were its only supporters. Two years ago the bill was defeated in precisely the same way. The judiciary committee reported the measure unfavorably with a minority report advocating it. Dimick said it would curtail the privileges of none except those sent to Salem and paid salaries.

### Prominent Women Plead for School for Girls

State Capitol, Salem—Declaring that there was real need for the institution and that it was the duty of the state, to take care of and educate its wayward girls, 12 women, representing various clubs, appeared before the joint ways and means committee this week and protested against the proposed recommendation to the legislature that the Industrial School for Girls be abolished.

Representatives of the women's clubs spoke frankly, as did members of the committee, and it is believed a plan will be agreed upon that will be satisfactory to all concerned. Mrs. S. M. Blumauer, representing the Council of Jewish Women, said it would be unjust and unwise at this time to continue the school. It was not a mercenary question, she urged, but an economical one, and a duty that should be performed. The fact that only a comparatively few girls had been taken care of was no reason for doing away with the school, she said.

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## OLD LADY NUMBER 31

By LOUISE FORSSLUND  
AUTHOR OF "THE STORY OF SARAH," "THE SHIP OF DREAMS," ETC. COPYRIGHT BY THE CENTURY CO.

### SYNOPSIS.

Captain Abraham Rose and Angelina, his wife, have lost their little home through Abe's unwise purchase of Tomahawk gold mining stock. Their household goods sold, the \$100 auction money, all they have left, will place Abe in the Old Lady's home, or any in the Old Ladies home. Both are self-sacrificing but Abe decides "My dear this is the first time I've had a chance to take the worst of it." The old couple bid good-by to the little house. "Terror of what folks will say" sends them along by-path to the gate of the Old Ladies' home. Miss Abigail, matron of the Old Ladies' home, hears of the ill fortune of the old couple. She tells the other old ladies, and Blossy, who has paid a double fee for the only double bed-chamber, voices the unanimous verdict that a double must be taken in with his wife. Abe awakens next morning to find that he is "Old Lady No. 31." The old ladies give him such a warm welcome that he is made to feel at home at once.

### CHAPTER IV—Continued.

But what was this? Blossy, leading all the others in a resounding call of "Welcome!" and then Blossy drawing her two hands from behind her back. One held a huge blue cup, the other the saucer to match. She placed the cup in the saucer and held it out to Abraham. He trudged down the few steps to receive it, unashamed now of the tears that coursed down his cheeks. With a burst of delight he perceived that it was a mistake cup, such as the one he had always used at home until it had been put for safe-keeping on the top pantry shelf to await the price of eleven cents with half a paper of tacks thrown in.

And now as the tears cleared away he saw, also, what Angey's eyes had already noted, the inscription in warm crimson letters on the shining blue side of the cup, "To Our Beloved Brother."

### CHAPTER V.

The Head of the Corner. Everybody wore their company manners to the breakfast table—the first time in the whole history of the home when company manners had graced the initial meal of the day. Being pleasant at supper was easy enough, Aunt Nancy used to say, for every one save the unreasonably cantankerous, and being agreeable at dinner was not especially difficult; but no one short of a saint could be expected to smile of mornings until sufficient time had been given to discover whether one had stepped out on the wrong or the right side of the bed.

This morning, however, no time was needed to demonstrate that everybody in the place had gotten out on the happy side of his couch. Even the deaf-and-dumb gardener had untwisted his surly temper, and as Abraham entered the dining-room, looked in at the east window with a conciliatory grin and nod which said plainly as words:

"'Tis a welcome sight indeed to see one of my own kind around this establishment!"

"Why don't he come in?" questioned Abe, waving back a greeting as well as he could with the treasured cup in one of his hands and the saucer in the other; whereupon Sarah Jane, that ugly duckling, explained that the fellow, being a confirmed woman

hater, cooked all his own meals in the smoke house, and insisted upon all his orders being left on a slate outside the tool-house door. Abe sniffed disdainfully, contemplating her homely countenance, over which this morning's mood had cast a not unlovely transforming glow.

"Why, the scawlawg!" he frowned so at the face in the window that it immediately disappeared. "Yew don't mean ter tell me he's sot agin' yew gals? He must be crazy! Seech a handsome, clever set o' women I never did see!"

Sarah Jane blushed to the roots of her thin, straight hair and sat down, suddenly dismayed of every porcine quill that she had hidden under her wings; while there was an agreeable little stir among the sisters.

"Set down, all hands! Set down!" enjoined Miss Abigail, futtering about with the heaviness of a fat goose. "Brother Abe—that's what we've agreed to call yew, by unanimous vote—yew set right here at the foot of the table. Aunt Nancy always had the head an' me the foot; but I only kept the foot, partly becuz that wa'n't no man fer the place, and partly becuz I was tew sizable ter squeeze in anywhere else. Seein' ter Sister Angey is sech a little mite, though, I guess she kin eazy make room fer me 't'her side o' her."

Abe could only bow his thanks as he put his gift down on the table and took the prominent place assigned to him. The others seated, there was a solemn moment of waiting with bowed heads. Aunt Nancy's trembling voice arose—the voice which had jealously guarded the right of saying grace at table in the Old Ladies' home for twenty years—not, however, in the customary words of "thanksgiving, but in a peremptory "Brother Abe!"

Abraham looked up. Could she possibly mean that he was to establish himself as the head of the household by repeating grace? "Brother Abe!" he called out to him again. "Yew've asked a blessin' fer one woman fer many a year; soppin' yew ask it fer thirty!"

Amid the amazement of the other sisters, Abe mumbled, and muttered, and murmured—no one knew what words; but all understood the overwhelming gratitude behind his incoherence, and all joined heartily in the Amen. Then, while Mrs. Homan, the cook of the week, went bustling out into the kitchen, Aunt Nancy felt that it devolved upon her to explain her action. It would never do, she thought, for her to gain a reputation for self-offacement and sweetness of disposition at her time of life.

"Son, I want yew to understand one thing naow at the start. Yew treat us right, an' we'll treat yew right. That's all we ask o' yew. Miss Ellie, pass the radishes."

claspin' her hands together and bringin' Abe's attention to herself.

"Really! You surprise me! You don't mean to say folks talk about us like that!"

"Slender is a dretful long-legged critter," amended Miss Abigail, smiling and sighing in the same breath.

"Sary Jane," inquired Mrs. Homan sweetly, "what's the matter with that pepper pot? Does it smell fillin'?"

And so began the reign of peace in the Old Ladies' home.

CHAPTER VI.  
Indian Summer.

Miss Abigail had not banked in vain on the "foresightedness of the Lord." At the end of six months, instead of there being a shortage in her accounts because of Abe's presence, she was able to show the directors such a balance sheet as excelled all her previous commendable records.

"How do you explain it?" they asked her.

"We cast our bread on the waters," she answered, "an' Providence jest kep' a-cendin' out the loaves." Again she said, "Yew is grinnin' that done it. Brother Abe he kep' the gardener good-natured, an' the gardener he jest grinnin' at the garden sass until it was ashamed not ter flourish; an' Brother Abe kep' the gals good-natured an' they wa'n't no naisy about what they eat; an' he kep' the visitors a-laughin' jest ter see him here, an' when yew make folks laugh they want ter turr

around an' dew somethin' fer yew. I tell yew, ef yew kin only keep gritt enough ter grin, yew kin drive away a drought."

In truth, there had been no drought in the garden that summer, but almost a double yield of corn and beans; no drought in the gifts sent to the home, but showers of plenty. Some of these came in the form of fresh fish and clams left at the back door; some in luscious fruits; some in barrels of clothing. And the barrels of clothing solved another problem; for no longer did their contents consist solely of articles of feminine attire. "Bled shirts" poured out of them; socks and breeches, derby hats, coats and negligees; until Aunt Nancy with a humorous twist to her thin lips inquired if there were thirty men in this establishment and one woman.

"I never thought I'd come to wearin' a quilted silk basque with toesels on it," Abe remarked one day on being urged to try on a handsome smoking jacket. "Dew I look like one of them sissy-boys, er jest a dude?"

"It's dretful becoming," insisted Angey, "bewtiful! Ain't it, gals?"

Every old lady nodded her head with an air of proud proprietorship, as if to say, "Nothin' could fall to become our brother." And Angey nodded her head, too, in delighted approval of their appreciation of "our brother" and "my husband."

Beautiful, joy-steeped, pleasure-filled days these were for the couple, who had been cramped for life's smallest necessities so many meager years. Angey felt that she had been made miraculously young by the birth of this new Abraham—almost as if at last she had been given the son for whom in her youth she had prayed with impassioned appeal. Her old-wife love became rejuvenated into a curious mixture of proud mother-love and young-wife leaning, as she saw Abe win every heart and become the center of the community.

"Why, the sisters all think the sun rises an' sets in him," Angey would whisper to herself sometimes, awed by the glorious wonder of it all.

The sisters fairly vied with one another to see how much each could do for the one man among them. Their own preferences and prejudices were magnanimously thrust aside. In a body they besought their guest to smoke as freely in the house as out of doors. Miss Abigail even traded some of her garden produce for tobacco, while Miss Ellie made the old gentleman a tobacco pouch of red flannel so generous in its proportions that on a pinch it could be used as a chest protector.

Then Ruby Lee, not to be outdone by anybody, produced, from no one ever discovered where, a mother-of-pearl manicure set for the delight and mystification of the hero; and even Lazy Daisy went so far as to cut some red and yellow tissue paper into squares under the delusion that some time, somehow, she would find the lighting to roll these into spools for the benefit of Abe's pipe. And each and every sister from time to time contributed some gift or suggestion to her "brother's" comfort.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)  
Daily Thought.  
The world would be better and brighter if people were taught the duty of being happy as well as the happiness of doing their duty. To be happy ourselves is a most effectual contribution to the happiness of others.—Sir John Lubbock.



"I Never See Such a Clever Lot of Women."