

# HAPPENINGS OF CURRENT WEEK

Bits of Best News Items From Everywhere.

## PUT IN CONCISE FORM

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

Henry Berenger, the newly appointed French ambassador to the United States, will leave for his new post January 6.

Alexander P. Moore, the retiring American ambassador to Spain, was given a touching sendoff when he left Madrid for Paris on his way home.

The condition of the Japanese emperor, who became ill Sunday with fainting spells, was reported improved Monday. His physicians were observing his condition closely.

The Sunday Times "understands" that the Mussolini government, in full agreement with the Italian crown, intends in the course of the coming year to proclaim Italy an empire.

Lindsey Coleman, negro, was lynched in Clarkdale, Miss., Saturday night a few minutes after a jury in circuit court had declared him not guilty of the murder of Grover C. Nicholas, plantation store manager.

Duluth was selected as the 1926 convention city by the Western Surgical association at the final session of its 35th annual convention in Wichita, Kan., Saturday. Dr. Robert C. Coffey of Portland, Or., is the new president.

The Reichrat composed of representatives of the various German states, has approved the budget for 1926. The budget balances at 7,500,000,000 marks, 600,000,000 of which will be expended for reparations.

The budget bureau was charged in the house Saturday by Representative Byrns of Tennessee with giving the public "the false impression" that government expenditures "are decreasing to a greater extent than is actually the case."

A new Egyptian law promulgated prohibits the planting of more than one-third the arable lands with cotton in 1926. The penalty for infringement is a fine or imprisonment, or both.

The death is announced at Paris of Sir Paul Vinogradoff, corpus professor of jurisprudence, Oxford university since 1903. Recently the University of Paris conferred a high degree on him. He was born at Kostroma, Russia, in 1854.

Appointment of Colonel William Mitchell, under sentence of five years suspension from his army rank, pay and duties, as police commissioner of New York city was proposed Sunday to Mayor-elect Walker by Representative Bloom, democrat, New York.

Ten new operating records were established by railroads in 1925 in handling the largest freight traffic that has ever been offered to them by the shippers. A report embodying the records is to be submitted to a meeting of the board of directors of the American Railway association in Chicago.

Net food exports of the United States for the crop year 1925-26 probably will fall to a figure below the annual average for the five years immediately preceding the war and may approach the low mark of 1913-14, when imports of foodstuffs almost equaled exports, says a statement by the department of agriculture.

Children apparently are becoming slightly less inclined to criminality in the United States. A research undertaken last year by the children's bureau has disclosed that 3399 minors under 18 years of age, were committed to jails, penitentiaries or other places of penal detention in the first six months of 1923, while the total for the full year of 1919 was 10,000.

Secretary Davis is preparing to read the riot act to certain elements in the army if the Mitchell court-martial verdict fails to make a sufficient impression on officers involved as a disciplinary object lesson. He is reported by officers familiar with his views as being determined to bring complete team work back to the whole service, even if drastic measures are necessary.

The riot of words over prohibition continued unabated Sunday with new ramifications adding fury to the controversy, and fresh incitements in prospect. The Sunday developments included disclosure that a file of government records in the Mayflower hotel liquor case had been stolen from prohibition headquarters and an announcement by dry leaders that counter moves would be made against the new onslaught by the wets. The drys are preparing to counter the wet "liberalizing" moves with efforts to amend the Volstead act to tighten further its provisions respecting search of private homes.

## LOANS TO CONTINUE HERE

Funding Settlements to Stand Regardless of Acts of Lawmakers.

Washington, D. C.—Foreign powers which have negotiated funding settlements here will be permitted to continue their financing in this country, regardless of what action congress may take on the agreements, it was declared Monday at the treasury.

Officials see no reason for penalizing foreign nations or their citizens by refusal of loans in this country after they have entered into an agreement here upon apparent good faith. This amplification of the administration's policy with respect to foreign loans was given in response to inquiries prompted by the slow progress being made toward ratification of the funding agreement in congress. The congressional situation has led some observers to believe that rejection of several of the settlements was a possibility, but it may be said that the treasury is confident of ultimate ratification of all of them.

The treasury recognizes that the foreign nations which have entered into funding agreements have acted in good faith and it feels that if congress refuses to accept the terms which the American debt commission thought was proper, there should be no action by the administrative authorities solely on that account.

Most of the agreements have been ratified by the foreign governments and similar action by the American congress is all that is needed to make them operative. Secretary Mellon regards the early approval of the settlements by the foreign governments as evidence of the sincerity of their purpose to carry them through.

Informal advices have been received from various quarters abroad indicating that large loans will be sought in the United States during the late winter and early spring. Some of them will be in the form of refunding operations for government account, while a larger number will come from industrial interests purposing to expand their facilities.

### Chile Appeal Received.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary Kellogg summoned the Peruvian and Chilean ambassadors to the state department late Monday to notify them formally of the receipt of Chile's appeal from the Tacna-Arica plebiscitary commission, headed by General Pershing, to President Coolidge as arbitrator in the dispute.

The ambassadors also were requested to furnish the arbitrator certain documents, including speeches by their commissioners and remarks before the commission at Arica. The appeal to the arbitrator grew out of objections by the Chileans to the course of the plebiscitary commission with respect to the promulgation of voting regulations and the fixing of a date for the plebiscite.

### Canes Go Way of Fads.

Boston, Mass.—Cane carrying, once a Boston vogue, has gone the way of silk hats, double-breasted frock coats, round cuffs and mutton chop whiskers. A canvass of haberdasheries has disclosed that most of them have canes only for display purposes. Those who look back mournfully at the days when callers from Beacon Hill were never without their canes admit that nothing short of a social revolution will cause revival of the fad.

### Contempt Case Dropped.

Santa Fe, N. M.—The state supreme court has ordered dismissal of charges of contempt against Carl Magee, Albuquerque editor, instituted against him in the district court of San Miguel county. The decision was issued on an application for a writ of habeas corpus. Magee had been pardoned by the then Governor Hinkle, but the sheriff refused to recognize the pardon on the ground that the action was beyond executive power.

### Hawaiian Plan Adopted.

Washington, D. C.—The house naval committee has adopted the program for development of the Hawaiian defenses submitted by a sub-committee. The sub-committee recommended immediate expenditure of \$2,218,000 for Pearl harbor, \$1,000,000 to be used in improving its channel to the sea, \$700,000 for waterfront development and further expenditures, now or later, for a naval air station.

### Entry Denied Captain.

New York.—A special board of inquiry at Ellis island Monday denied Captain Sydney H. Fortune, ex-officer of the British army, admission to the United States. "Moral grounds," based on his divorce in 1918, were given as the cause of exclusion. Captain Fortune was formerly a member of the Graves commission in the near east.

### Feng Reported Routed.

London.—General Liching-Ling, civil governor of Chihli province, was reported in a dispatch to the Daily Mail as having repulsed the forces of Feng Yu-Hsiang in a new battle on the Yangtun front Friday. Feng, who heads the national people's army, was said to have suffered serious losses.

### Nippon Laborers Clash.

Tokyo.—One hundred casualties, including several killed, were reported to have occurred in a gun battle Monday. The battle occurred between laborers near Tokyo.

# \$325,000,000 CUT IN TAXES PASSED

Record in Legislation Set by House Members.

## FINAL VOTE 390 TO 25

More Difficult Part of Measure's Legislative Journey Ahead in Upper House.

Washington, D. C.—A \$325,000,000 Christmas gift to federal taxpayers, useful throughout the year, was voted Friday by the house in passing the tax reduction bill.

Bearing the indorsement of President Coolidge as well as leaders of both parties in the house, the non-partisan measure was directed to the senate for the more difficult part of its legislative journey by a vote of 390 to 25.

Almost every member of the house was on the floor as the bill was called up for passage.

As the last of more than 50 proposed amendments to the bill was moved down by the usual overwhelming majority, Representative Tilson of Connecticut, the republican leader, congratulated the house on "establishing a new record of promptness in the consideration of an important measure."

His words of congratulations to the non-partisan manner in which the bill had been acted upon had hardly died, however, when Representative Rainey, democrat, Illinois, moved to recommend to committee with instructions to cut the income and inheritance rate maximum from 20 per cent to 25 per cent.

For the second time during consideration of the bill the house divided almost on party lines, 133 democrats voting for the motion, which was defeated, 267 to 147.

Previously some of those who opposed the bill expressed in short speeches their dissatisfaction with it, but as leaders pressed forward for a vote, the large majority of proponents sat silent, expressing their views occasionally merely with cries of "vote." The final vote was not reached until after dark and its passage less than two weeks after introduction set a peace-time record in revenue legislation.

### Rubber Inquiry Sought.

Washington, D. C.—Another blow was aimed at the British monopoly controlling crude rubber prices Friday when Representative Tilson, Connecticut, republican floor leader, after a conference with Secretary Hoover, introduced a resolution calling for an investigation into the situation by the house commerce committee.

The resolution charged that extortionate profits were being taken in the rubber supplied to American consumers, through a British monopoly and asked the committee to recommend a course of action for the government to protect the public.

Mr. Tilson repeated figures first made current by Mr. Hoover who has charged that for this year alone \$666,000,000 will be unfairly obtained from American rubber users through the workings of the monopoly which he said was only one of several operating in the supply of essential raw materials to industry in the United States.

### Larger Body Favored.

Washington, D. C.—A proposal to increase the membership of the interstate commerce commission by one or two commissioners, now pending in congress, has the approval of President Coolidge.

The committee now has a membership of 11, and the southern quarter of the United States is, in the president's opinion, entitled to one more commissioner. The new appointee, if authorized, probably would be a democrat.

### Puzzle Causes Tragedy.

New York, N. Y.—Angered because his bride of 17 months would not help him solve a crossword puzzle, Theodore Koerner seriously wounded her and killed himself. Koerner last night asked Mrs. Koerner for help in solving a difficult combination of letters. "I have a headache," she replied. "I think I'll go and lie down."

A moment later as she was in the bedroom Koerner appeared and fired without speaking.

### Italians Destroy Town.

Rome.—Official announcement was made Friday that Bergal, capital of the sultanate of Mijertins, Italian Somaliland, has been occupied and destroyed by Italian military forces as reprisals for the killing of two Italian non-commissioned officers and one artillery man by native forces of Sultan Ohmand Mahomed. An Italian naval squadron is blockading the entire coast.

### Paris Bread Prices Up.

Paris, France.—The people of Paris will have to pay the highest price yet charged for bread after December 29. It was announced Saturday from that date the price will be one franc and 79 centimes a kilogram (about 3 cents a pound).

# STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Salem.—The Marion county grand jury, after returning several indictments here Saturday, launched upon an official investigation of the state flax plant, operated in connection with the Oregon state penitentiary.

La Grande.—After allowing automobile owners three months of grace, traffic officers in this part of the state have inaugurated a campaign to enforce strictly the automobile light law. Six arrests have been recorded this week.

Salem.—A. N. Peterson of Silverton and J. R. Patton of Salem, Saturday were arrested by William Levens, state prohibition director. Peterson is charged with selling and Patton with transporting liquor. Bail was fixed at \$500.

Salem.—The Oregon Linen Mills, Inc., which was organized here recently with capital stock of \$40,000, will be erected early next year, despite the fact a number of Canadians who originally agreed to take some of the stock have withdrawn from the corporation.

Estacada.—Five granges of eastern Clackamas county will hold a joint public installation of officers January 2 at the Estacada park pavilion. Mrs. Thomas Millar will be installing officer. Governor Pierce and several state grange officers are expected to be present.

Baker.—A remarkable record among the dairy herds of Baker county was revealed here Saturday when it was reported that out of 1155 cows tested for tuberculosis, but seven were found to be tubercular. These were slaughtered. Of the total number tested, 1113 are grade stock and 25 purebred.

Mount Angel.—Berning brothers received word that Berylwood Price De Kol, a junior bull calf in which they are jointly interested with the Billwack farm of San Paulo, Cal., had been selected by the National Holstein-Friesian association as the all star junior bull calf in the United States.

Albany.—Dr. J. C. Booth of Lebanon "went back" 20 years in making a call on a home in the mountains near there last week when he was called upon to ride horseback 12 miles through snow and elect to treat five cases of smallpox in one family. Twenty-two children in the school district were vaccinated by the doctor.

Baker.—Announcement has been made by officers of the Idaho Copper corporation of the acquisition of control of the Iron Dyke Copper company mine and mill located on the Snake river at Homestead, Baker county. The announcement states that the cash terms have been accepted by the principals and their representatives.

Salem.—During 1926 there will be paid into the Oregon treasury in motor vehicle fees and gasoline taxes approximately \$9,000,000, or nearly twice as much money as will be derived from the state tax levied recently by the state tax commission. This was the estimate made here Saturday by Sam A. Kozler, secretary of state.

Salem.—The Kansas City Women's club, with headquarters in Forest Grove and capital stock of \$1000, has been incorporated by Mrs. Nellie Oglesby, Mrs. Elsie Esslinger, Mrs. Lora Hamilton, Mrs. Minnie Lewis and Mrs. Stella Waldron. Notice of dissolution was filed by V. A. Crum of Portland and the Oregon-Indiana Land company of Portland.

Baker.—Out of 44 parties married in Baker county in the last three months, 21 of the couples had been previously married, a compilation from the county records shows. The 88 persons have been married a total of 127 times, averaging a little less than 1.5 times for each person. One person married for the fourth time, many for the second or third time.

Pendleton.—The building and contents of the Boardman Trading company's store at Boardman, owned by J. C. Cobb, were destroyed Friday morning by a fire that started from an oil stove explosion. F. C. Dillingham, manager of the store, barely escaped the burning building. The stock is said to have had a value of about \$14,000, with \$3000 insurance.

Pendleton.—The condition of fall sown wheat, which has been a matter of considerable gravity to wheat ranchers all fall, due to the lack of normal rainfall, is gradually improving, and if winter weather is normal the stand will be satisfactory, according to growers. Some wheat that was seeded early in the fall laid in the ground for from eight to ten weeks before germinating, but the rains of the past two weeks have brought it up, and stands that were thin for several weeks have become thicker.

Salem.—The assessment roll for Oregon for 1925, on which tax levies for 1926 will be based, is \$1,084,537,518.91, or an increase of \$25,656,882.30, when compared with the roll for last year. Of the total of \$1,084,537,518.91, the amount of \$929,483,911.20 represents the summary of the various counties as equalized by the county boards of equalization, while \$155,053,707.71 is the total assessed property of public service corporations as equalized and apportioned by the state tax commission. The assessment roll for last year was \$1,058,880,736.61, of which \$910,425,790.32 was the summary of the various counties and \$148,454,946.29 the utility figures.

# ROAD BUILDING

AUTOS ONLY TO USE THIS 160-FOOT ROAD

Plans are being made for a road to be built from Chicago to Milwaukee which will exclude all crossings, pedestrians and rail cars.

The road will be wide enough to accommodate 10 cars abreast. It will be possible to make the entire trip in 75 minutes over this highway.

"We won't have any speed cops," says St. Mayer, secretary of the Chicago police department and president of the Illinois Safety council, who has planned this superhighway.

The new drive will have six separate lanes for cars. The inside lanes will be for high-power autos which go from 60 to 90 miles an hour.

The second lane will be for cars going from 30 to 60 miles an hour, and the outside lanes are for cars going from 14 to 30 miles an hour.

This road is to be built 1,200 feet out from the present shore line on re-filled land. It will be 150 feet wide, 80 miles long, and 12 feet above the lake level.

The crossroads do not cross the main track. They tunnel through and go under the main drive, having ramps leading up to the main road.

At each tunnel there will be facilities for pedestrians to reach the lake beaches beyond the roadway. But there will be no space on the elevated road above for pedestrians.

It is estimated that this new road will cost \$100,000 a mile, but the saving in time and life is expected to make up for the huge construction cost.

Mayer will put his proposed road plan before the mayors and city and county officials of Wilmette, Winnetka, Evanston, Highland Park, Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, Waukegan, all in Illinois, and Kenosha, Racine and Milwaukee, all in Wisconsin.

"It's bound to come," says Mayer, "for we have proven it to be a life and money-saver in Chicago with the Wacker drive."

## Effect of Highways on Cost of Driving Motors

When you drive a motor vehicle down the roadway it may be costing you all the way from seven cents to seventy cents a mile, depending on the size, load, make and condition of the machine, the kind of tire used and the road over which you drive. Data on the actual cost of motor transportation is given fully in a bulletin of the Iowa engineering experiment station as worked out by T. R. Agg, highway engineer.

The most valuable results contained in the bulletin are those for motor trucks, since a wide variety of these were available and accurate cost records were kept. Several passenger cars were also studied. A composite car cost exactly 8.49 cents per mile to operate over all kinds of Iowa roads. One hundred and twenty-seven five-ton trucks belonging to the Iowa highway commission cost 64.42 cents per mile.

Professor Agg says that there is a growing tendency to place the cost of highway construction upon the motorist, and this will make a considerable increase in actual transportation costs. This is largely offset, however, by the fact that it costs a great deal more to drive over a dirt road, poorly surfaced and graded, than it does over a smooth paved highway. There is from one to three cents a mile difference between dirt roads and good pavement for ordinary passenger cars.

## Limestone Dust Road Is Under Test in Missouri

A road a mile long made of limestone dust in Clay county, Missouri, is a new departure in roadmaking and is being watched with more than usual interest. The state did not build a road through Nashua, seven miles northwest of Liberty, but turned west just before reaching Nashua, in going north. However, the state and Clay county have made a road through the town of Limestone screenings which is put down to a thickness of six inches and made smooth and solid at the time it is placed on the road. Twenty-two carloads of screenings from Nebo Hill quarry, south of Liberty, were shipped to Nashua and the Clay county engineer, with his road crew, leveled and packed the screenings so the road is hard now. The test of material is being watched carefully as the cost is lower and the road seems durable. The expense was 17 cents per square yard, while other material, according to the county engineer, costs around \$1.50 per square yard. Heavy trucks are being driven over this road every day and, although purely an experiment, it is holding up in good shape.

## Rubber Roads Are Good

That rubber roads are entirely practicable and highly satisfactory has already been demonstrated. A statement on this point by army officers follows: "A rubber pavement laid in the city of London in 1870 was renewed for the first time less than two years ago. An experimental rubber roadway laid in a center of heavy traffic at Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, was found to have worn down only one-eighth of an inch in 11 years. Boston is developing it for bridge surfacing."

## Make Roads Last Longer

With better shoulders on the roads drivers could afford to drive nearer the edges with safety, and thus use portions of the roads which seldom wear out, assuming that the roads are properly built or maintained. With stronger construction along the "tracks," where the roads receive their hardest wear, roads could be made to last until the nation gets some return on its investment in those sections of the roads which are not wasted.

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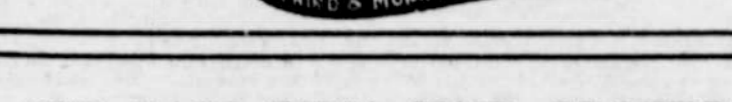
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