

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.

A 2000-room hotel to be called the Coolidge, in honor of the president, will be started in Chicago within 60 days.

During the world war, Eric Haggard of Owlshead, Me., served and escaped on two transports which were torpedoed.

Handshaking has been prohibited among all city employees in Mantua, Italy by an order.

An Atlantic City dispatch says the sinking of the two-masted barge John Howard approximately six miles east by northeast of Brigantine gas buoy Sunday morning shortly after 11 o'clock and the complete disappearance of her crew of 15 men is clouded in mystery.

Duplication of the cable from Bamfield, Vancouver Island, to Fanning Island, in mid-Pacific, will be completed by September 30 this year.

Gem experts of seven nationalities are contending for possession of part of the famous Romanoff crown jewels, which the soviet government has placed on the market.

A stipulation that husband and wife be full partners and share equally their joint net income will be contained in a marriage contract for which Doris Stevens, president of the National Woman's party and wife of Dudley Field Malone, will seek legislative sanction.

Sixteen citations into court for violation of the 123-year-old state Sunday blue law were made in Nashville, Tenn. Sunday. Among those summoned for operating their business on the Sabbath were the publishers of two newspapers and the manager of the city street car company.

Hundreds of persons Sunday watched the transfer of more than 900 prisoners to the new Los Angeles county jail. The prisoners staged a small riot before leaving the old overcrowded prison, wrecking two tanks and endangering the building for a while by setting fire to a pile of debris.

Information spread in government circles Sunday that the department of justice was prepared to move quickly against certain phases of bread and food products mergers. The character of the proceedings remained a carefully guarded secret and no official of the department would discuss it.

Word from the state of Chiapas, southern Mexico, says the tomb of Cuauhtemoc, the last emperor of Mexico, has been discovered in the mountains, where the memory of the heroic Aztec still is revered. According to the story, the guarding of the tomb has been handed down from generation to generation.

In one of the largest transactions of its kind in the industrial history, involving approximately \$165,000,000, Blair & Co., Inc., and the Chase Securities corporation of New York, Saturday acquired control of the Associated Oil company, one of the largest producing and refining companies on the Pacific coast.

Prohibition was the foremost topic in New York church circles Sunday. Several ministers discussed the subject in their sermons, referring to the statement last week by Rev. James Empringham, secretary of the church temperance society, who now favors modification of the Volstead act to legalize light wines and beer.

Twenty robbers early Saturday snatched a small town railroad office near Peoria, Ill., seizing equipment which they later used to hold up and rob a Rock Island freight train, from which they took about \$10,000 worth of alcohol. Cutting the air hose on the 70-car train, the robbers held the crew prisoners while their mates carted the barrels of alcohol away in trucks.

Premier Mussolini's speech in the chamber of deputies Saturday, in which he warned Germany against the anti-Italian campaign carried on in the reich, was characterized frequently in political circles as almost equivalent to a declaration of war against Germany. All day long Mussolini's words of warning were discussed, and his speech was declared to be one of the best, certainly the most significant, of his international statements since the Corfu incident.

TO FIGHT BREAD MONOPOLY Government Declares War on Huge Bakery Combine.

Washington, D. C.—The federal government moved Monday to prevent formation of "a gigantic combination for monopolistic control" of the baking business and to force dissolution of such of its component parts as are alleged already to have been assembled.

Proceedings were started by the department of justice in the federal court at Baltimore against seven great baking corporations and eight individuals, including the recently chartered Ward Food Products corporation and William B. Ward. The court was asked to view the defendants as having violated both the Sherman anti-trust law and the Clayton act and to permanently enjoin them from continuing further in the alleged merger.

Other defendants named in the action were the Ward Baking corporation, the Ward Baking company, General Baking corporation, General Baking company, Continental Baking corporation, United Bakeries corporation and Howard B. Ward, William Deinger, Paul H. Helms, J. W. Rumbough, B. E. Peterson, George G. Barber and George B. Smith.

The department of justice, in a statement, declared the action had resulted from investigations which began with the first rumors of important mergers in the baking and related fields, and continued against the baking concerns as soon as the Ward Food Products corporation received its charter in Maryland last week.

Announcement of plans for a \$2,000,000,000 organization was claimed by the department to have confirmed its findings that foundation stones for a huge combine were being gathered together. It charged in court papers that the control proposed by the defendants extended both to local and interstate competition.

Attention was called by the department to the unique character of the action, inasmuch as it seeks to prevent the formation of a combination in restraint of trade. It was asserted, however, that all of the elements necessary to the amalgamation had been pressed into three large concerns and named them as the Ward Baking corporation, the General Baking corporation and the Continental Baking corporation. Each of these, but chiefly the Continental, the court petition said, had acquired numerous competing bakeries and they, with the Ward Food Products corporation, have the same resident agent in Maryland.

Formation of the alleged monopoly was charged by the department to have been conceived several years ago by William B. Ward and his associates, and that there plans had been directed to that end particularly since 1921.

WORLD COURT PLAN FACES NEW ATTACK

Washington, D. C.—An effort to invoke the power of the American courts to prevent entrance of the United States into the world court was made in a proceeding begun here Monday by Benjamin Catchings, a Washington lawyer.

The action was brought in the supreme court, which was asked by Catchings for permission to file a suit requiring Secretary Kellogg to show cause why he should not be restrained from consummating this country's entrance into the world tribunal.

Contending that membership in the tribunal would be unconstitutional, the petitioner declared the resolution of adherence adopted by the senate rested on an invalid use of judicial and legislative authority.

The petition will not necessarily end in a decision by the supreme court upon the validity of the world court resolution. It merely asks leave to file a suit which would require an answer from Secretary Kellogg. It will be passed upon by the court after it reconvenes March 1.

Mr. Chamberlain Gains.

Washington, D. C.—The condition of George E. Chamberlain, ex-senator of Oregon, who is ill at his home here, had so far improved Monday night that it was decided not to summon his relatives from Portland, reports from his bedside stated.

Ex-Senator Chamberlain was taken suddenly ill Sunday night and Dr. Edward F. Pickford, who was summoned to attend him, stated that he had suffered a hemorrhage. A nurse was called into attendance immediately and has been with him constantly.

Frozen Body Identified.

Paulsboro, N. J.—The body of the young woman found Sunday encased in a cake of ice on the Delaware river shore is identified as that of Mrs. Mary Rujack, 29, of Pottstown, Pa. Mrs. Rujack, who disappeared from her home November 17 last, was in ill health and was believed to have been drowned in the Schuylkill river. The Schuylkill river flows into the Delaware six miles above where the body was found.

Missing Priest Traced.

Kansas City, Mo.—Two new clues were uncovered Monday by detectives searching for Rev. Francis E. Hagedorn, Catholic priest, who disappeared Saturday night. Records at the priest's bank revealed that he drew \$170 Saturday, virtually exhausting his account. A man dressed as a priest later was reported to have been seen in the back seat of an automobile speeding toward the outskirts of the city.

FARMERS WELL OFF, U. S. REPORT SAYS

General Gain in Production Declared Undesirable.

LESS DEMAND SEEN

Slightly Smaller Crop of Wheat Indicated With Stocks "Not Burdensome."

Washington, D. C.—Declaring the farmers generally in a better position today than at any other time since 1920, the department of agriculture, in a statement Sunday night on the farm outlook for 1926, said: "Any general expansion in production this year would tend to place farmers in a less favorable economic position than at present."

There was little likelihood, the department said, of a larger domestic and foreign demand for agricultural products. On the contrary, there were indications of a possible decrease in the demand in the latter part of the year.

"No reduction in farm wages may be expected," it was added, "and the cost of farm equipment will probably remain at present levels. Sufficient funds will be available for agricultural credit in most regions at about the same rates as in 1925."

A slightly smaller world crop of wheat was indicated, with world stocks at the beginning of the new crop year "not burdensome."

Domestic stocks were likely to be smaller, and the statement declared it an average of hard spring wheat equal to that of last year was planted and average yields secured, export and domestic prices might be expected to be "more in line with those in other exporting countries than at present."

Corn acreage equal to last year, the statement added, would suffice, with average yields, to meet feeding and commercial requirements as fully as in 1925. Relatively low prices probably would continue for oats unless yields were greatly reduced.

For cattle, the department said the "immediate and long time outlook" was favorable with a "reasonable constant demand" for beef anticipated. The number of steers was said to be the lowest in many years, but present breeding stocks were apparently large enough to "supply as much beef as it will pay cattle producers to raise."

The outlook for the hog industry appeared favorable, with prices maintained at high levels. Hogs in areas of commercial production were said to be the smallest in five years and the present "strong domestic demand for pork products" seemed likely to continue most of 1926.

Although profits were likely to be less than during the last two years, the department forecast a "good year" for the sheep industry.

The dairy industry generally was said to be in a relatively strong position. Slight increases in young stock during the next two years might be desirable, the department said. Should the present trend in foreign production continue upward, however, and consumption in Europe fall to increase, foreign competition in domestic markets would be an important price factor.

CLAMS PROPAGATED FROM EGG TO ADULT

Albany, N. Y.—Science has stolen another march on mother nature, the state conservation commission announced Sunday it had learned to propagate from eggs to adult little neck clams, soft shell clams, scallops and mussels. The commission last September announced it had successfully domesticated the wild oyster and was raising it by hand, so to speak, in the Glenn Cove hatchery.

William Firth Wells, conservation biologist, perfected the oyster culture work and laid the foundation for other shellfish propagation.

The commission believes that Mr. Wells' discoveries will not only assist a falling industry for the business of taking shellfish constantly becomes more precarious because of the uncertain supply—but will also increase a very desirable food.

Father Kills Family.

San Diego, Cal.—Thomas M. Petset, his wife and one daughter are dead and another daughter is in a serious condition as a result of what police say was Petset's attempt to blot out his family with gas. The four were found in the gas-filled kitchen of Petset's home. An automatic pistol was found near Petset and it was thought that the man forced his family to lie down on the kitchen floor while he turned on the gas.

Soviet Holds American.

Harbin, Manchuria.—An American named Bunting, an ex-employee of the Baldwin Locomotive works, was arrested Sunday and marched pinioned through the streets. His arrest was due to a dispute with Russians over the ownership of a factory. Later, through the intercession of the consul, Bunting was released. The police, however, removed the American flag which was flown over the factory.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF

Salem.—The Henningsen Holding corporation, with headquarters in Portland and capitalized at \$1,000,000, filed articles of incorporation with the state corporation department here Tuesday.

Monmouth.—The annual report of the Monmouth co-operative creamery, recently made public, showed an increase in profits over the previous year and an addition to the surplus of \$1854.55. This company is one of the few successful co-operative institutions in this part of the country.

Tillamook.—A special election will be held at Bay City February 18 to vote on a new charter and a new bond issue.

Salem.—John T. Brown, 66 years old, Marion county farmer, experienced his first ride on a railroad train this week, when with a daughter, he left for Savannah, Ga. Bowen was born on a farm on Howell prairie between Salem and Ilwaco and has resided in the immediate vicinity ever since.

Eugene.—Kenneth Stephenson of Portland has been appointed assistant graduate manager, according to a recent announcement. Mr. Stephenson, who is a senior in the school of business administration, will work only part time.

Mill City.—Five men are working on the Detroit to Mill City telephone line of the forest service, changing the wire from trees to poles and thus making the line more reliable. This work was started last year and will be completed this year.

Pendleton.—S. S. Stokes, deputy sheriff in Umatilla county for about one year, has tendered his resignation to Sheriff Cookingham. Mr. Stokes came here from Walla Walla, where for several years he was on the staff of Washington state prison.

Salem.—Thomas K. Campbell, public service commissioner, was Saturday notified of his appointment to membership on the committee on express and other contract carriers and the special committee on uniform regulatory laws in the National Association of Railway and Utility Commissioners.

Baker.—Declaring that the 2-mill levy asked by the county court if voted at the coming primaries would put the county on a normal financial basis, J. L. Dodson, county judge, has issued a complete report on the total expenditures made by the county for the last five year in the construction and maintenance of roads.

Salem.—Edwin Carter, Silver Creek Falls logger, who lost his life as a result of an accident, is the only fatality listed among 551 accidents reported to the state industrial accident commission for the week ending February 4. Of the 551 accidents reported for the week, 441 were subject to the provisions of the workmen's compensation act.

Vale.—The first week in February saw the beginning of Vale's promised land settlement boom of 1926. A Spokane man was here to plat lands around Vale which are for sale and also the lands in this district which are open to homestead entry. This information will be supplied 111 home-seekers from Minneapolis and 12 from Spokane.

McMinnville.—The county fair board for this year was named Saturday by the Yamhill county court. S. S. Duncan, county school superintendent, is an ex-officio member. Other members are Chester Mulkey and Lee Fletcher, farmers in the McMinnville district, and Frank Carlyle of Springfield. Yamhill county will have its first fair this fall since 1922.

Eugene.—The Lane county court will be asked to obtain additional right of way on the McKenzie highway from Springfield to Thurston, a distance of five miles, to widen it from 40 feet to 56 feet, according to Roy Klein, state highway engineer, and J. S. Sawyer, district engineer, who were here conferring with the members of the Lane court.

Salem.—The state tax on gasoline and distillate used in Oregon during 1925 aggregated \$3,127,188.27, a gain of 17 per cent over the revenue from the same source in 1924, according to a statement prepared by Secretary of State Koser. Collections of state taxes on motor fuel oils for 1924 are shown in the statement as \$2,672,481.98.

Salem.—The state tax investigating committee created by the last legislature Saturday announced a meeting in Salem on February 22 and 24. The first day of the session will be given over to hearing arguments on taxation problems by any who wish to appear. Newspapers are to be especially invited. The second day is to be devoted to a conference with county assessors.

Klamath Falls.—Decision to open bids February 23 for the sale of \$75,000 worth of county school bonds to finance an impressive construction program this year was announced Saturday by County School Superintendent Fred Peterson. The money will be utilized to build new schools, new play sheds and teachers' cottages in primary county school districts throughout the county.

If Really Busy A body who keeps busy hardly ever becomes a busybody.—Boston Transcript.

GUATEMALA ADOPTS QUETZAL, NEW COIN

Turns From Paper Money to Silver Coin.

Washington.—A new coin has made its appearance in the money-changing marts of the world. It is called the quetzal, and is the silver standard of Guatemala. After 28 years of a paper money regime the Central American republic is now issuing silver money, to be followed shortly by gold coins, and smaller fractional ones of copper. "A step forward in finance is in keeping with other developments of this most populous, and perhaps most richly endowed, of all the Central American countries," says a bulletin from the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic society. "Guatemala possesses the largest railroad mileage of any country between Mexico and South America, and, although figures vary from time to time, the value of its exports, well up in the millions, will be found each year ranking first or second among Central American countries."

Leadership Traditional. "Guatemala's place near the front of the Central American procession is traditional. At the coming of the first Europeans the region was inhabited by the Maya-Quiche Indians, fierce fighters but among the most highly civilized peoples of their time. Their history reads like a romance and the remarkable ruins they have left indicate a widespread realm of power and influence. The Spaniards made Guatemala the administrative center of all of Central America and part of Mexico.

"After throwing off the Spanish yoke the country was for a time a part of the empire of Mexico, but in 1823 an independent nation was formed under the title of the Central American federation, embracing also the present Honduras, Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. One by one the states seceded and formed independent republics.

"Another unsuccessful attempt to unite several Central American countries was made in 1921. A treaty ratified by Guatemala, Honduras and Salvador resulted in a federation known as the Republic of Central America, with Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, the administrative seat. The new republic, however, was short-lived. Guatemala today continues in a sole role with the other nations of the world, although many co-operative agreements, especially in relation to international railroads, have been made between the members of this effervescent Latin-American family.

"Guatemala has an area about equal to that of the state of Louisiana and is the second largest of the Central American republics. As it is about midway between the United States and South America, and fronting both on the Caribbean and the Pacific, it occupies a strategic position, both politically and economically. Mountains near the west coast, however, divide its population unequally.

"Coffee might justly be said to be the commercial patron saint of Guatemala, for other potential riches have been overlooked or ignored in the development of great plantations to help feed America and Europe supplied with the cup that cheers. Volcanoes that so often level its buildings and houses make rich returns in deposits of volcanic ash that renew the soil and make fertilization unnecessary. A large part of the chicle that goes into the manufacture of chewing gum in the United States comes from Guatemala. Banana farms in the tropical lowlands have lately begun to rival the coffee plantations in production.

"Guatemala City, the nation's capital, presents another example of the progressive spirit of the country. Practically destroyed by a violent earthquake in 1917, there are hardly any traces of the catastrophe in the orderly, well-built city of churches, theaters, clubs, shops and homes of today.

Natives Largely Indians. "About 60 per cent of the population is of pure Indian blood and almost half the remainder are half-castes. In the mountains of northwestern Guatemala live thousands of pure-blooded Indians, maintaining the traditions of their forefathers. They have won the admiration of travelers for their physique, cleanliness and scrupulous honesty. One visitor tells of trying to buy a ring from an Indian girl who refused to sell because it was not pure gold, and she did not wish to sell a stranger an imitation!

"The nature lover finds the tropical lowlands of Guatemala a fascinating land, with their dense forests covering more than a million acres. Giant trees are linked together by trailing vines above a gorgeous carpet of orchids, waxen begonias, the peculiar blossoms of the plantain, and scarlet poinsettias.

"The new coin bears the name of the bird that is the national emblem of liberty of Guatemala. The quetzal is more truly a bird of liberty than the American eagle, for the quetzal will not even live if kept in captivity. It is still, as it was to their Maya ancestors, a more or less sacred symbol to the Guatemalans. A story is told concerning the part a quetzal played in the unequal duel between the Maya king Tecun Uman, and Don Pedro de Alvarado, the Spanish conqueror, which was fought to prevent further bloodshed. A quetzal, in his efforts to aid the king, pecked at the eyes of Don Pedro through the holes in his helmet, the only vulnerable spot, as he was clad in steel from head to foot."

Safety for Children

It is notable that the Lincoln highway is free from annoyance or danger from that class which has been instrumental in robberies and murders on some transcontinental roads. The reason for this is that the Lincoln highway is away from the main transcontinental railroad lines. Hoboes and tramps and robbers travel on these railroads and holdups and thefts of cars practically all occur in the vicinity of the rail lines.

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