



CURRENT HISTORY

*The engineers and firemen
Of English roads have struck
Which ceases all the traffic
Of England to be stuck.*

The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen has ordered a walkout, owing to a large wage reduction. The fifty-nine thousand members of the Association are said to be almost unanimously in favor of this strike, though the movement has not the approval of the National Union of Railway Men. All of England, Scotland and Wales are affected, practically 80 percent of the traffic being held up. It is said that the Bromley, Secretary of the Association, maintains that it can last as long as two weeks, which will prevent the railroad company from making profits.

The second day found the strikers gaining in supporters and influence. The coal miners may be forced to stop work, because there is no way to take out the coal, and manufacturers may have to cease operations owing to lack of coal.

For the first time in history, the Labor party came into power in England, when Parliament voted a lack of confidence in Premier Baldwin. The vote was 328 to 256. King George at once sent for Mr. James Ramsay MacDonald, the labor leader, and asked him to form a Cabinet. The list was made public almost immediately, much sooner than was expected. Parliament has adjourned until February 12.

*A sudden blow was Lenine's death
It came all unforeseen
And took away a valiant man
On whom they all did lean.*

After a long illness, from which he was supposed to be rapidly recovering, Nicolai Lenine was stricken with paralysis and died, Monday afternoon at 5:40 o'clock. He was at his country home near Moscow, when his respiratory organs were suddenly affected, and death occurred immediately. The death was made public Tuesday morning by the Russian Soviet, of which he had long been Premier. Even by his closest friends, Lenine was supposed to be much better, so the sudden turn for the worse was a blow to all. The government was met in a regular session, when M. Kalina appeared, and as the funeral march was played, announced the death of Soviet Russia's great Premier. It is thought that this event will make no severe disturbance, although it has large political significance. Many Russians, encouraged by the reports of his improving health, had hoped that Lenine would some day come back, but these hopes, too, are now destroyed. It is not known just what effect the death of Lenine will have on European politics.

*The Mexican armies fight
and fight
With no surcease;
And none of them tries to
find a way
They can have peace.*

The federal armies, according to one report, have captured Guadalajara, the capitol of Jalisco. At the same time came messages from El Paso emphatically denying this

statement, and announcing that the forces of General Estrada are at quite a distance from the disputed city and are advancing slowly, if at all. The Federal Secretary of War states his intention of taking the offensive, and making a strong attack against the rebels. Just at present, it is hard to determine what is happening, and it is quite impossible to even make a reasonable guess at what the future holds for turbulent Mexico.

De La Huerta, planning to mine several harbors, was notified by the State Department that such proceedings were unwarranted and would not be allowed. It was understood that pilots were to be provided for neutral vessels, but these will hardly be needed, as the laying of mines is absolutely forbidden.

So much antagonism to the Mellon bill was shown in the recent— and first—House debate on this subject, that the Republicans proposed to form a new bill of their own. It is said that the Mellon plan is so thoroughly in disfavor with everyone that it could not possibly pass now. Representative Treadway, of Massachusetts, member of the Ways and Means committee, proposed the plan for the Republican members to write their own tax rates; this suggestion may be the forerunner of a new bill to be presented.

The cancelling of taxes on telephone and telegraph messages, leased wires, and candy, was discussed and almost agreed to. Taxes on trucks, theatre admissions and several other articles will be taken up tomorrow. The maximum loss in revenue agreed to by the committee as a result of decrease in taxes was \$120,000,000.

FRENCH TRANSLATIONS

The following are Victor Hugo's poems *Extase* and *Resignation*, translated from the French by students of French 5-6:

Extase
I stood alone near the restless wave,
Alone on a starry night;
No cloud on the face of the heaven,
On the sea no sail of white.
And my spirit left the present world,
The world of the here and the now;
And my eyes plunged far through infinity
And I heard I know not how
The murmur confused and indistinct
Of woodland, and hill, and stream,
As they seemed to question the waves of the sea
And the sky with its steady gleam.

And the infinite legion of golden stars,
Bending their fiery crown
Spoke the message of the universe
While its harmony swept down.
And the waves which nothing governs or stays,
Swayed by no earthly rod,
Replied as they tossed back the foam on their crest,
'Tis the Lord, the Lord God.
—Sarah Herndon, '24.

Resignation
The world is sad, oh God, and harmony
Is oft composed of tears and litter sighs
Man, but an atom in this vast infinity,
Lives on—or, vainly struggling, dies.

We, as mere mortals, know that thou on high
Hast little time for sorrow or for grief,
That one who dies is to the human race
As to the tree, the falling of one

leaf.
We know that fruit falls in the moving breeze
That birds their plumage lose and flowers decay
And that creation is a monstrous wheel
Which, to revolve, must crush those in its way.

High above mortals in the sphere of clouds
Far in the azure depths of heaven's heart,
Thy universe is planned and it may be
That in it, sorrows of mankind have part.

Perhaps it is of use to thy designs—
As to all acts, there is a consequence—
That earthly beings made by thee are swept
Into the whirlpool of life's black events.

Our lives are under universal laws,
We cannot soften them, nor disconcert—
And mankind has no right to ask that thou
Should'st disarrange the world to heal its hurt.
—F. Binder, '25.

COMMUNICATION FROM MISS McKEMIE

The following letter was received from Bright McKemie, Class of '23, who is teaching in Brussels, Belgium:

112 Avenue du Longchamp,
Brussels, Belgium,
December thirteenth.

Dear Miss Stipe,
I've thought of you quite often this year but never do have time to really write a letter. I don't think that's done any more but we still speak in such a language. I've thought of you in more ways than one for we have your job and the job of teaching too. Think of two of us running a school, of course, with Belgian teachers and servants, but then they always have to be supervised. We have to plan the meals, inspect rooms, see that they get enough exercise, amusement and, last with them, study. Oh it's loads of fun but who ever pictured me like this?

I've had a perfectly glorious time since I left in August. First I traveled over England and then Scotland. Then I came to Belgium for five days then I flew to London and from there I went through Holland, Occupied Territory, Germany and into Czecho-Slovakia. Prague was so interesting that I could have stayed there months instead of three weeks. Coming back I stopped in Dresden. Everything was so pretty, except the mobs of ragged, hungry looking children who followed us all of the time. It was a pathetic sight.

We are hearing perfectly beautiful music and seeing lovely operas. All the same there are times when I'd like to be home.

Love to your mother and a Merry, Merry Christmas.
Love,
Bright McKemie.

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