

THE WEEK'S EVENTS

IMPORTANT NEWS OF STATE, NATION AND THE WORLD BRIEFLY TOLD

ROUND ABOUT THE WORLD

A Condensed Record Of Happenings Of Interest From All Points Of The World

Domestic

John Barrett, director general of the pan-American bureau in Washington, says a pan-American treaty to secure peace on the western hemisphere is urgent and important.

The strike in Kansas City of the trainmen of the Kansas City Railway company has grown serious. It is feared state troops may be resorted to quell disorders resulting from the clashes between strikebreakers and strikers.

Gathering mistletoe in a tree-top for his mother, Lyman Hearn, an Eaton, Ga., boy, touched a live wire, and was instantly electrocuted.

Responsibility for the disposition of the surplus stocks of equipment and supplies acquired by the war department during the war has been assumed by Assistant Secretary Crowell, at the request of President Wilson.

The second section of the Dixie Flyer, which recently left Chattanooga, Tenn., was wrecked six miles this side of Chattanooga as a result of spreading rails, which caused the locomotive, tender, two mail coaches and the baggage car, to leave the track.

The will of Miss Mary Custis Lee, daughter of Gen. Robert E. Lee, was admitted to probate in Washington, D. C., recently with the register of wills, in which she made bequests to Virginia institutions and relatives aggregating \$157,000.

European

A report sent out from Copenhagen says the former German empress will hardly live to see the new year. Her ailment is heart disease, and she has grown gradually worse since the German debacle.

The Sinn Feiners of Ireland want to meet President Wilson, and have invited him to listen to their side of the question. The president may visit Dublin before returning to France.

The Montenegrins are hot after their king. They don't like his flight from the country when they had to give up to the central powers.

Italy will act as trustee for 500,000 tons of Austrian shipping now in Italian ports and distribute it for use exclusively for war supply and transportation, none to be used for commercial traffic.

Bulgarian troops fired on the Greeks near Trousova and wounded three Greek soldiers. The Greeks returned fire and went over the top. The Bulgarian hot footed to Mont Beles.

By way of Copenhagen comes the report that a "school of revolution" has been established at Moscow. The school is attended by Chinese and representatives of nearly every European country.

Reports are to the effect that Russian teachers are studying all the languages of the earth in order to teach the philosophy of the Russian revolution to the world.

The whole Russian question of Russia is under serious consideration by the allies. No plan has been formulated, however, because President Wilson has not yet made known his views. The president has already told the world that no one man has the secret of solving present world problems.

It seems now that Germany will be a republic. The executive head will have authority midway between that of the president of the United States and the present king of Great Britain.

Dr. von Buch, German minister to Luxembourg since March, 1914, has, together with his advisers, been expelled from the country by the grand ducal government.

Legislation authorizing increase of permanent enlisted strength of army from 131,000 men to 217,000 has been recommended to the house by a committee by Capt. H. H. Hays, acting chief of the bureau of legislation. This would include 175,000 men, 24,000 apprentice seamen, 12,000 in training, 12,000 in trade schools in training and 6,000 in the fly corps.

It is reported that German propaganda is still rampant in the United States. It is being directed, according to the report by a German professor at The Hague, and is trying to create animosity between the United States and her associates in the war.

Department officials are reticent about the report, but some of them say it is a "pipe dream."

Director of the Russian information bureau in New York says that at least eight million men before the war. Three million of them were killed and one million disabled for life.

Reports current in Washington are that the people of the United States as represented in their senate, who are supposed to read correctly the public barometer and write their wishes into law, will violently oppose the sinking of the German navy.

Declaring that the widest diversity of opinion exists regarding formation of a league of nations and on the definition of freedom of the seas, Senator Knox of Pennsylvania, formerly secretary of state, in an address to the senate, urged postponement of these questions until after the peace conference.

Amsterdam hears that a revolution has broken out in Bulgaria, and is in full swing.

German soldiers, according to reports from French officers in Berlin, are returning home like conquerors. They are singing "Deutschland Uber Alles" with all the enthusiasm of victors, and are bedecked with flowers like gladiators, of old.

A. J. Sack, director of the Russian information bureau, recently told the New York Foreign Commerce Club that Russia's pitiful condition was due to exhaustion from war in behalf of democratic ideals. "She is lying in seas of blood and tears, and, further, millions of her people are facing death, this time from starvation. She exhausted her food supply from the war."

There is much speculation as to what will be the final outcome in Germany. Many believe the peace of the world will best be subserved by keeping a strong central government as opposed to a league of states like, for instance the "joke league" of Balkan states.

Washington

Under the spur of war, mineral production in the United States has reached the unprecedented value of \$5,010,948,000 in 1917, exceeding by 43 per cent the previous record made in 1917.

Don Leopoldo Ochoa, Spanish vice consul at Puruandiro, state of Michoacan Mexico, recently was assassinated by a captain of the Mexican government forces, according to stories told in Havana, Cuba on the arrival from Mexico of the steamer Estrada Palma.

It is reported that Emiliana Zapata, a rebel, has captured the Jalapa, capital of the state of Vera Cruz, Mexico, and rebels are reported to be constantly attacking trains running between Mexico and Vera Cruz and removing from them executing Carranza soldier escorts.

The general opinion expressed in all quarters toward the south is that the Carranza government in Mexico is slowly tottering.

The latest report from Mexico is that followers of Felix Diaz are contemplating a revolution.

The American battleship squadron attached to the British grand fleet displayed a spirit of true comradeship throughout its period of service, declared Admiral Sir David Beatty, the commander-in-chief of the grand fleet, in a farewell address on board the U. S. S. New York, on December 1, the day the squadron was detached from the grand fleet. All hands had been called to muster on the fore-castle to hear Admiral Beatty.

President Wilson gave his personal impressions at a meeting with representatives of the American press of his experiences thus far in France. At the same time announcement was made that the members of the American commission to negotiate peace would meet daily with the press.

"I am confident that the big council of statesmen of the world will be able to reach a just and reasonable solution of the problems that will be presented to them, and thus earn the gratitude of the world for the most critical and necessary service which has ever been rendered it," said President Wilson, in an interview, referring to the approaching peace conference.

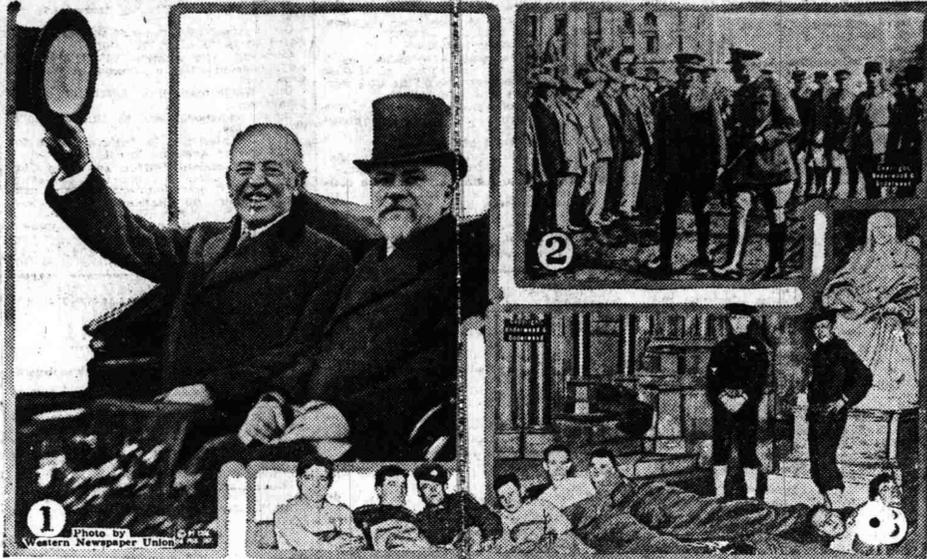
It is the observation of all statesmen in all countries that President Wilson is truly representing the American people abroad regardless of politics or other sentiments. His contention that "we have got to put our heads together and pool everything we have got for the benefit of the ideals which are common to all," has almost become the shibboleth of the Labor Party of Great Britain.

President Wilson says the Versailles congress was a conference of "bosses," and further opines that we have advanced too far to permit the conference for world-peace to be anything more than a meeting place of the servants of the peoples represented by delegates. "There is no master mind who can, alone and unaided, settle the problems of today. If there is anybody who thinks he knows what is in the minds of all peoples, that man is a fool."

The royal castle in Coblenz, to prevent the removal of valuables, is being guarded by American troops.

"It was owing to the action of the Russian Bolsheviks that hundreds of thousands of German troops were let loose to hurl themselves against our men on the western front. It was owing to their betrayal that Roumania with all its rich resources in grain and oil fell into the hands of the Germans." This is the explanation the British secretary of war offers for the keeping of allied troops in Russia.

Undoubtedly Kerensky and his followers want to represent Russia in the peace conference, but whether their status will be recognized is entirely another question.



1—President Wilson and President Poincaré of France riding down the Champs Elysees on the day of Mr. Wilson's arrival in Paris. 2—First photograph showing the British occupation of Constantinople; Gen. Sir Henry Wilson inspecting released prisoners of war. 3—American sailors in London on shore leave sleeping in the great hall of the royal courts of justice, turned over to them by order of the lord chancellor.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

PRESIDENT WILSON GIVEN ROYAL WELCOME BY THE BRITISH KING AND PEOPLE.

CONFERS WITH WAR CABINET

League of Nations Subject of Warm Debate, Here and Abroad—Progress of Germany's Revolution Watched With Suspicion by Allied Nations.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Mingling business and pleasure, President Wilson spent a busy Christmas week in France and England. After two days of conference in which several pressing problems, notably that of supplying food to the hungry peoples of Europe, were thoroughly discussed, Mr. Wilson and his party were taken to Chaumont to spend Christmas day with the American troops there. General Pershing was his host, but the president devoted much of his time to the doughboys and both he and they enjoyed the day immensely. A review of 10,000 American troops was a feature of the day's doings. In the course of his address to the men of the First army Mr. Wilson said: "It was the privilege of America to present the chart for peace and now the process of settlement has been made comparatively simple by the fact that all the nations concerned have accepted the chart."

Next the presidential party traveled to Calais and thence to Dover and London, arriving in the British capital Thursday afternoon. Throughout the trip they were accorded all the honors that royalty could claim, and the short drive through London was like a royal progress. King George, Queen Mary and Princess Mary met them at the station and the Household Cavalry acted as escort. As it was a holiday—boxing day—the entire population of the metropolis seemed to be out, determined to see the famous American.

After a night's rest in Buckingham palace Mr. Wilson met the British war cabinet and discussed with it the British peace terms that the cabinet had formulated for presentation to the interallied conference preceding the peace congress. On Saturday he conferred with Premier Lloyd George, Foreign Secretary Balfour and Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law, and on Sunday went to Carlisle, where his mother spent her girlhood.

In London there was more than a hint that the chief object of Mr. Wilson's visit to England, aside from the courtesy feature, was to ascertain definitely the views of the British government on the question of the terms of restitution to be imposed on Germany. It was said he had found opinion on the continent very hard set on this question, which is not in the least surprising. The people who were most directly hit by the hardships and horrors of the war are not likely to be forgiving and altruistic in their attitude toward the conquered Huns. If, as has been often said, America is to ask nothing from Germany, it would seem to most of us that the matter of payment might well be left to the victorious nations of Europe, who do intend to be repaid, so far as is possible, for their enormous losses.

The proposed league of nations and the cognate question of the freedom of the seas are still the subject of warm discussion, both abroad and in America. President Wilson seems to be seeking the support of the neutral nations in the matter of the league, and his plans are backed up by various organizations in France and England. It is reported that the neutrals will be permitted to participate in the deliberations incident to the formation of the proposed league, though they will not be admitted to the peace conference itself. It is believed many of them will favor the formation of the league, which, under

any plan of representation yet suggested, would give them much greater power in world affairs than they now wield.

In the United States senate there is likely to be a showdown on the league of nations plan in a very short time, as its opponents, and others, too, feel that the president should know definitely the majority opinion of the body that must finally accept or reject the peace treaty that he and his colleagues assent to at Versailles. Though the Republicans in the senate are nearly all opposed to the president's plan to make the organization of the league a part of the peace treaty, they do not stand alone. Quite a number of the Democratic senators also are against that proposition, believing that at least the question should be made the subject of a separate treaty after matters relating directly to the war shall have been disposed of.

As for the freedom of the seas, the expression is now interpreted to mean that Britain may not at one and the same time have the largest navy and be the exclusive interpreter of sea laws, and this it is believed Britain will accept, consenting to an agreement among nations regarding the laws and rules of the sea to which all must submit.

Prompt denial came from Paris of the report that the American delegation had agreed to the sinking of the surrendered German war vessels. The president said he was absolutely opposed to such a course, and Secretary Lansing declared the proposition had not even been discussed.

It is not likely that the general peace conference will assemble before the middle of January, nor is any official statement expected before then as to the number of governments to be represented. It is considered probable that the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and perhaps Belgium will determine the matter of admission of delegates. The representatives of the central powers will not be called in until the final stages are reached, for they will be compelled to accept whatever the others decide upon and to have been present during the preliminary discussions would only prolong the proceedings unnecessarily.

The entente nations are rather coldly and skeptically watching the apparently desperate efforts of the new German government to establish itself. The distrust of the Hun, engendered by the war and destined to last for generations, is applied to present events and the attitude of the conquerors is rightly one of cynical watchfulness. The "revolution" was in the main so easily and smoothly accomplished and the unprotesting pillars of autocracy are so rapidly sliding into positions of power behind the nominal heads of the people's government that there is reason to be suspicious. Hindenburg still controls a large part of the army and his unexplained intention of forming a new defensive line a few miles from the Rhine has been accepted by Ebert and his colleagues. Such men as Prince Max and the treacherous and hypocritical Von Bernstorff are still powers in the land. It almost seems that the only genuine, sincere advocates of a real revolution in Germany are the bolsheviks. Under the leadership of Liebknecht and Ledebur, they are unrelenting in their struggle to overturn the Ebert government, their latest manifestation being a bloody revolt in Berlin last week.

Mutinous sailors seized the red palace and neighboring buildings and for two days fought the republican guard, about 100 persons being killed. The sailors demanded that Ebert and Haase resign, to be replaced by Ledebur and Liebknecht. In the end the mutineers were forced to surrender and were permitted to leave the city under guard.

This was regarded as a virtual victory by the Spartacists, and next day they seized the plant of the Socialist organ Vorwarts and the offices of the Prussian war ministry, and announced that they would at once proclaim the downfall of the Ebert government. The chancellor called out all the troops in Berlin. This was the last that had been heard from the German capital at the time of writing.

The German democratic party, in assembly at Coblenz, adopted a platform on which it will stand in the national assembly. Combating both the reactionaries and the socialists, it calls for a united Germany, including German Austria; equality of all citizens, male and female; freedom of thought, religion, press and speech. Officials of the Rhenish province have suggested another plan of reorganization, the formation of seven minor republics, which shall be united under a central government.

In all their planning and scheming the Germans of all shades of opinion and sincerity are counting more and more on the influence of President Wilson and of Americans generally to obtain easier terms from their conquerors. Their words and actions make this evident, notwithstanding the fact that there is little on which they have any right to base such hopes. Our army of occupation, according to reports, is having an elaborate exposition of the German policy of spreading soft soap, and the Boches there took full advantage of the Christmas spirit that pervaded the troops.

Charles R. Crane of Chicago, just returned from Siberia, says: "No one knows anything about Russia. It is a tragedy." That sums up the situation in the distracted, starving country that spreads from the Baltic to the Pacific. No one knows just what is happening there, still less what is likely to happen. The stories of those who claim to have accurate information are utterly conflicting and confusing. One says the bolsheviks are gaining in strength and are the only force that can be counted on to restore order and save the country from absolute disaster. Another avers that the bolshevik movement is waning and that the government at Omsk must be relied on. Yet others call loudly for intervention in force by allies, and they are opposed by those who declare the allied troops must be withdrawn and the Russians left to work out their own salvation.

In the Baltic provinces the bolsheviks continue to push back their opponents, including such Germans as remain there, and both Prussia and Poland are becoming anxious concerning their borders. On the Archangel front the Lenin forces are said to be numerous and well organized and the position of the allied expedition in that region is none too comfortable.

General Semenov, the anti-bolshevik leader who refused to recognize the authority of Admiral Kolchak, dictator in the Omsk government, is said to have consented to give his recognition provided Kolchak retires in favor of General Denikine, hetman of the Cossacks, as soon as a junction of the eastern and western forces is effected. The Russian statesmen who are in Paris, headed by Prince Lvoff, are relying largely on Kolchak and Denikine, but they are also urging that an allied expedition of at least 150,000 be sent. They have not received much encouragement of their plea for intervention.

Here is one of the many instances that made it impossible for the outsider to understand what is going on in Russia: Last summer Skoropadski, hetman of the Ukraine, was deposed and driven out because he was notoriously the tool of the Germans. A few days ago a dispatch from Warsaw said Skoropadski and the French troops were advancing from Odessa to bring the Ukrainian situation under control.

Italy and the Jugo-Slavs are no nearer agreement concerning the western coast of the Adriatic than they were a week ago, and their dispute undoubtedly must be settled by the interallied conference. Jugo-Slavia has not yet been recognized as a nation and its leaders want to know who will represent its component parts, Serbia, Montenegro and large parts of the former Austrian empire, in the peace congress.

The senate passed, without a roll call, the largest tax measure in the world's history. It is designed to raise \$6,000,000,000 in 1919 and \$4,000,000,000 in 1920. Among the amendments accepted was one making the District of Columbia "bone dry" and another levying a 100 per cent tax on all campaign contributions in excess of \$500. The latter, it is supposed, will weaken the influence of "big business" in politics.

PEACE LEAGUE IS PRIME NECESSITY

SOME TRIBUNAL MUST LIMIT SCALE OF INTERNATIONAL ARMAMENT.

MUST GIVE MEN AND MONEY

With Completion of New Three Year Building Program America Will Still Rank Second.

Washington.—Unless a league of nations or other tribunal that will make certain the limitation of international armament is established, the United States must build the greatest navy in the world, Secretary Daniels told the house naval committee.

"It is my firm conviction," declared the secretary, "that if the conference at Versailles does not result in a general agreement to put an end to naval building on the part of all the nations, then the United States must bend her will and bend her energies, must give her men and give her money to the task of the creation of incomparably the greatest navy in the world."

With the completion of the proposed new three-year building program, adding 10 dreadnaughts, 6 battle cruisers, 10 scout cruisers and 130 smaller craft to the fleet, America still will rank second in naval strength to Great Britain, said the secretary, who appeared before the committee to make his final recommendations for the 1920 naval bill.

THE MOST ACTIVE DAY IN PEACE CONFERENCE CIRCLES

Paris.—This has been the most active day's discussion in peace conference circles since the American delegation arrived, as the declarations of Premier Clemenceau and Foreign Minister Pichon in the chamber of deputies gave a rallying point in the form of the first official announcement on the plans of the French government.

The statements disclosed that France had determined upon its line of action on practically all the questions involved, including a society of nations.

Premier Clemenceau's statement on the freedom of the seas was the first announcement from a high authoritative source. This was accepted as showing that the British and French viewpoints were in accord. M. Clemenceau's reference to his talks with President Wilson indicated that they had tended to bring out the significance of the French premier's previous conversation with the British prime minister regarding the action of the British fleet during the war, without which he admitted France could not have continued the war, as well as his favorable attitude toward the future British fleet.

The sentiment prevails in conference circles here that the American attitude will not become definite until further knowledge is obtained concerning the conversations between President Wilson, Premier Clemenceau and Premier Lloyd George.

M. Clemenceau's overwhelming majority in the vote of confidence in the chamber of deputies makes him a commanding figure in France, similar to that of Lloyd George as a result of the British elections.

CAMPAIGN SOON OPENS TO SELL \$2,000,000,000 STAMPS

Washington.—The 1919 war savings campaign will be opened actively by a nation-wide celebration on January 17, the anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin. District war savings directors in conference here were so informed by Harold Braddock, the new national director of the war savings movements.

The day will be devoted particularly, Mr. Braddock said, to the organization of thousands of war savings societies to systematize the preaching of thrift and promote the sales of \$2,000,000,000 worth of stamps during the year.

NORTH CAROLINA DOCTORS TO BE KEPT IN SERVICE

Washington.—The services of North Carolina doctors are so badly needed by the government that they will not now be released from the army for health work in the state. The surgeon general holds that, because of the large number of returning soldiers who must be examined and treated, it is necessary to retain the experts for this work.

Many communities in North Carolina are asking for their doctors.

CITY OF LYNCHBURG SCENE OF GREAT CONFLAGRATION

Lynchburg, Va.—Fire originating in a four-story brick building in the heart of Lynchburg's business section burned fiercely for about an hour destroying the building, damaging the Y. M. C. A. building slightly and for a time seriously menacing others, but was soon under control. The stock of a Main street florist and a clothing store were ruined, causing the greater part of the \$40,000 loss.