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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

Foreign

A London dispatch says that American joined in the praises of A. J. Balfour, head of the British mission at the Washington conference in his welcome to the homeland, when the American ambassador, George Harvey, addressed the Pilgrims' Society dinner at which three hundred persons were present. The duke of York represented the royal family and the others included ministers of the cabinet, civil and military leaders and official and unofficial representatives of the American community. It was a "personal welcome" for a great pilgrim, according to Lord Curzon, in contrast to the official welcome accorded Mr. Balfour by the government luncheon recently.

Chinese shipping companies, lacking government production from pirates who have been seizing and looting ocean-going vessels in buccaneer style, have taken to arming their ships and placing details of guards aboard.

The Standard Oil company has definitely suspended all work at its refineries near Tampico, and workmen numbering upward of a thousand will be discharged immediately, according to advices from Tampico which say orders to this effect have been received from New York. Only the pump workers will be retained, it was added.

The British military evacuation of Ireland is expected to be resumed it was declared by Michael Collins, head of the provisional Irish government, on his return from London, where he interviewed, Winston Spencer Churchill, secretary for colonies. General MacReady, British military commander in Ireland, visited Mr. Collins, and their conversation, it was assumed, was in connection with the withdrawal of the troops. Up until recently the troop movement had not been resumed but preparations were under way for the immediate shipment of hundreds of tons of army stores.

The first person who can prove that supernatural causes are not responsible for uncanny happenings at Alex MacDonald's farm in Caledonia Mills, near Halifax, N. S., will receive \$100 if an offer made by Detective Carroll of the provincial police and Harold Whidden, a Halifax reporter, holds good.

Firing in the Stanhope street area, when the disorders broke out anew recently, after a lull of several hours, became so intense that police, hurried to the scene, were forced to use their arms to subdue the snipers.

Protesting his innocence, the Rev. Adelard Delorme, Catholic priest, charged with the murder of his half-brother, Raoul, an Ottawa university student, pleaded to be tried as soon as possible.

The resignation of Czechoslovakia as "guardian" of Austria is declared in diplomatic circles for discussion between Dr. Eduard Benes, the Czech premier, and foreign minister and the British government during the visit in London of Dr. Benes.

The permanent court of international justice was opened recently at The Hague with fitting ceremonies. Several of the royal families were in attendance.

Washington

Burton E. Sweet, Republican member of the house from the third Iowa district, announces he will enter the Republican primaries in June as a candidate to succeed Senator Kenyon, who will become a federal circuit judge.

The Keay bill to aid idle men of the country has been recommittees, and it is believed that the return of the measure to the committee means its "death."

Decrease of more than 200,000 tons in the world's production of coal in 1921 compared with the output in 1920, was noted in a recent statement on mining activities issued by the geological survey.

President Harding has informed the senate that he cannot comply with its request for records of the four-power Pacific treaty negotiations because no such records ever existed and because he considered it incompatible with the public interest to reveal "informal and confidential conversations."

Despite the pressure of both Republican and Democratic senate leaders for prompt action, controversies are developing within the foreign relations committee which may lead to a long discussion of the arms conference treaties before any of them is brought

to the senate floor for ratification.

The war department has ordered a further reduction of officers and men in the American forces in Germany. There remains a total of 169 officers and 2,217 men.

Proposals were made before the interstate commerce commission at the hearing by S. Davie Warfield, president of the National Association of Owners of Railroad Securities, preliminary to a report by the board of economics and engineering appointed by the association advocating methods for the economical handling of railroad equipment.

Administration leaders in the senate cleared away many of the obstacles in the pathway of the four-power Pacific treaty by indicating that they would accept without a fight a blank-et reservation drafted to cover the objections of those who oppose unreserved ratification.

Differences between the Republicans of the senate finance committee and the house ways and means committee over tariff valuation principles were recently aired at a three hours' secret conference without any tangible concrete result.

A demand for an immediate investigation of reports that the "fertilizer industry" is maintaining an expensive lobby not to defeat Henry Ford's offer for the Muscle Shoals nitrate project was made in the senate by Senator McKellar, Tennessee.

Congress was torn recently between passing a sales tax to pay a soldier bonus and dropping altogether the cash bonus, stipulating therefor paid-up insurance or land grants. This was the situation in the wake of President Harding's letter suggesting the sales tax for abandonment as the alternatives for the bonus.

Domestic

The Roma, largest semi-rigid aircraft in the world, made a careening swoop down from the clouds. She shuddered as her huge bag came into contact with high-voltage electric wires 200 feet from the earth. Then there was a deafening roar and a towering sheet of flame. The giant turned turtle and, keel in the air, crashed to earth at Norfolk, Va. Thirty-four of her human cargo—army officers and a few civilians—were thrown into or about the blazing wreck—and perished. Eleven others, some of them terribly injured, survived. Of the survivors three were not hurt. Such is the story of the greatest disaster in the history of the American army air service. As in the case of the fatal explosion of the ZR-2 over Hullengien, last August, the airship was one purchased from a foreign government by the United States. The ZR-2 was purchased by the navy from Great Britain. The Roma was sold to the army by Italy.

Milton Drury, former cotton mill worker, of Winona, Miss., a son of Mrs. Ada Drury Converse, whose partially burned body was found near Hazlehurst, about ten days ago, is being sought by Sheriff H. E. Ramsey, of Coflah county, for questioning in connection with the crime.

Harmonious action developed in the recent conference at Chicago of representatives of farmer and labor blocs, railroad and miners' unions, socialists, farmer-labor party leaders and others dissatisfied with America's present political leadership and resulted in the appointment of a national committee to meet in New York December 11, to organize what is expected to be a new political party.

With the arrival of four companies of Rhode Island coast artillery at Pawtucket, following the most serious rioting of the New England cotton mill strike, the city was very quiet.

Chief of Police Talbert arrested a man at Concord, N. C., suspected of being Edward F. Sands, who is wanted in connection with the willing of William Desmond Taylor, the movie director, in California.

Judge Morris, in the United States district court, Wilmington, Del., recently granted a dismissal of the complaint, with costs to the petitioners, for a receiver for the Columbia Graphophone Manufacturing company.

The wife of Rev. Thomas N. Denny, Jr., aged 33, dean of New Orleans College, Delaware, Ohio, has preferred charges against him for non-support. He disappeared last July, and she thought he had suicided. When she found he was alive, she filed charges of non-support against him.

The Nebraska board of education has decided that instructors in any of the Nebraska normal colleges hereafter will be refused leaves of absence to study or attend the Universities of Columbia, Chicago and Northwestern, "because it has been shown that students at these institutions smoke cigarettes, especially the women."

Supreme Court Justice Mullin of New York denied application of Edith Kelly Gould for an order vacating the divorce decree obtained in Paris some time since by Frank J. Gould. The court set forth that the action had not been brought in good faith by the actress and that "The limit of her hope



MANLY B. BLACKBURN
(From an old photograph)

Died in Baltimore February 17. 63 years old.
"He loved his fellow man."

is to coerce the defendant."

Positive identification of the mutilated and charred remains of a woman found in a ravine at Hazlehurst, Miss., recently, as that of Mrs. Ada Drury Converse, formerly of Wichita Falls, and Warsaw, Texas, but more recently of Selma, Ala., was made by her 29 year old son.

Judge Kennesaw Mountain Landis will end his seventeen years' service on the federal bench March 1 to devote his entire time to his duties as national commissioner of baseball, he recently announced, and has forwarded his resignation to President Harding.

District Attorney Banton of New York says that he believes that not 10 per cent of the fraud victims of bucket-shops have reported their losses, notwithstanding the docket is crowded so that it will take months to clear it.

Chicago churches are making special plans to care for the spiritual welfare of church members addicted to playing golf on Sunday mornings. It is planned to install wireless receiving stations as soon as the links are opening in the spring, and members may "enjoy" a sermon while smoking a cigarette on the verandah.

EDUCATIONAL DAY IN ALAMANCE

Big Event Will Be Held in Graham Early in April, According to the Program.

Burlington.—The program for the annual educational day in Alamance county has been announced by the central committee that was appointed several weeks ago to make the preparations for the annual occasion. The big event will be held at Graham on Friday, April 7. The program for the day includes a parade at 10:30 a. m., to be participated in by all rural and city schools of the county, followed by the address of the day, which will be delivered by Miss Elizabeth Kelly, of Raleigh, who is affiliated with the state department of education, and vice-president of the North Carolina Teachers' assembly. In the afternoon various contests will be held and prizes awarded to the winners. These annual gatherings are participated in by practically all rural and city schools in the county, and the attendance is usually large, the occasion bringing together not only pupils of the various schools in the county, but school committees, patrons and friends of the schools.

Col. Lamb Dies in Rocky Mount.

Raleigh.—Col. Wilson Gray Lamb, Sr., chairman of the state board of elections, thrice a delegate to national democratic conventions, and president of the North Carolina society of the Cincinnati, died at Parkview hospital, in Rocky Mount. He had been ill for a month, and his condition had been serious for the last ten days. Members of his family were at his bedside when he died.

Colonel Lamb was 82 years of age and had long been a prominent figure in the public life of the state. Besides his interest in public affairs and his connections with the Society of the Cincinnati, he was active in Masonic affairs, a leading member of the Episcopal church and prominent among Confederate veterans.

Surviving him are John C. Lamb, Wilson G. Lamb, Jr., Luke Lamb, Mrs. Fred F. Bullock, Miss Mayo Lamb, Mrs. C. H. C. Mills and Miss Annie Stratton Lamb.

Railway Development Goes Forward.

Asheville.—Construction of a scenic highway from Black Mountain to the top of Mt. Mitchell, highest peak east of the Mississippi, will go forward without further delay, it was announced, following the receipt of news that the supreme court had upheld Judge Brock's decision in dissolving the injunction of the Mountain Retreat association.

Mine Ballast for Highways.

Spencer.—Contractors have erected tents to accommodate 500 laborers on the Davidson side of the Yadkin river near Spencer, the men to be used in mining ballast for the construction of a stretch of the National highway between Spencer and Lexington. The ten mile section of the road is now under construction. It is said the laborers have been secured from South Carolina at \$1.50 per day and that it will take perhaps a year to dig the ballast and build the road.

Engstrom Plan With Weeks.

Washington.—Consideration was given by both the war department and the house military committee on the question of disposing of the government's power and nitrate projects at Muscle Shoals, Ala.

At the war department, Secretary Weeks revealed the final draft of the offer made by Frederick E. Engstrom, of Wilmington, N. C., for completion of the Wilson dam and operation of the nitrate plants for the fixation of nitrogen from the air and production of fertilizers under a proposed 50-year lease.

Would Investigate Eligibility.

Washington.—Investigation by the senate judiciary committee into the eligibility of Senator Smoot, Republican, Utah, and Representative Burton, Republican, Ohio, to serve on the allied debt commission, was proposed in a resolution introduced by Senator Walsh, democrat, Montana. Action on the resolution went over.

Soldiers Run German Trains.

Coblenz.—Branch lines of German government railways within the occupied area are being operated by several American engineer battalions as part of a course of instruction of the army railway school established some time ago by officers of the American forces in Germany.

The train crews are made up entirely of American soldiers and even the train dispatching on the short lines is done by members of the organization who are taking courses in railroad telegraphy.

New Types of Tomato Perfected.

State College, Pa.—Professor C. Emory Myers, of Penn State College Agricultural school, announced the perfection of three new types of tomatoes which are expected to add to tomato production for market purposes. Two are new varieties resulting from cross-breeding and the other is a selection. All have been tested to yield from eight to ten tons an acre more than the general Pennsylvania average. It was announced. The average yield of tomatoes in this state is between five and six tons an acre.

34 PERISH WHEN AIRSHIP EXPLODES

AIRSHIP ROMA PLUNGES 1,000 FEET, HITS HIGH-TENSION WIRE AND BURNS UP.

FIRE BURNED FIVE HOURS

Most of 45 Men Aboard Giant Airship Are Caught in Roaring Furnace of Burning Hydrogen.

Norfolk, Va.—Flung earthward, presumably by a broken rudder, the giant airship Roma plunged a thousand feet or more to strike ground at the Hampton Roads army base, capsize across a high tension electric line and burst into a roaring furnace of blazing hydrogen gas in which at least 34 of her army crew and passengers perished.

The 34 dead includes officers of the army air service.

Her contact with the high voltage wires which she tore asunder started her gas bag afire, and the explosion followed as the nose of the craft struck a pile of car material a few feet beyond.

The explosion sent flames 300 feet in the air, as eight of her survivors leaped from the "deck" of the ship. Three others were dragged from the mass of wreckage and flames.

Only those in the forward part of the operating compartment of the ship had a chance for their lives. Several were injured severely by jumping, but three came out practically unhurt and were discharged from the hospital within a few hours after the disaster.

Lieutenant Burt, who with Captain Reed was the principal pilot of the Roma, was one of these. He jumped when the ship was only a few yards from the ground.

At nightfall, many hours after her fall, the ship was still a mass of flames from one end to the other of her 410-foot mass. The fire was feeding on the million cubic feet of gas that had distended the great bag for the flight.

Barely a dozen or more than two score men aboard had been picked up alive. One died en route to a hospital. All of those who survived the fire escaped by jumping as the ship struck. The others, pinned in the hull beneath the fallen bag, were burned to death.

Heat of the fire fought back rescuers for hours.

Three fire departments fought the flames with chemicals and by 7 p. m. it was out. Derricks began picking up the wreckage as the flames were driven back. There was scarcely more than the aluminum frame work and six Liberty motors to move.

Within the wreckage lay the bodies, many of them charred beyond direct recognition. Thirty-one bodies had been taken out at 7 o'clock. Three or four more were thought to be still in the charred mass that alone remained of what had been the largest ship of her type in the world.

Eye witnesses who watched the smash agreed that the huge kite-like structure of the stern rudder, itself as large as a bombing plane, had slipped to one side as the Roma dove along a thousand feet above the army base.

So swift was the flare of the gas flame that rescuers were driven back before its terrific heat. They watched helplessly as the great bag shrivelled in the fierce blaze of the liberated gas. The Roma was a wall of flames a city block long and until the thousands of gallons of chemicals and water had checked the holocaust, it was impossible to reach the comrades mangled and dead in that fiery furnace.

The ship left no passenger list behind her when she set out for a brief trial run from Langley. She is known to have carried many officers and men as passengers, however, in addition to her operating crews.

As she rose from the field, her commander leaned out to signal that he had 44 persons on board. It is believed he did not include one civilian on the ship and that she actually carried 45.

Of the forty-five men who left the Langley Field air station this afternoon, eleven found their way, alive, to the United States public health service. Those men, some more dead than alive, lay on their cots, with burned and broken limbs swathed in bandages. Some had their faces smeared with cream to relieve them of their intense suffering, while others lay asleep or unconscious with only their closed eyes visible. All who were able to talk were suffering from shock. Several of the victims, it is believed, were instantly killed.

MEN OF SERVICE TO MEET IN CHARLOTTE

STATE CONVENTION OF DISABLED VETERANS WILL BE HELD IN MARCH.

MANY EXPECTED TO ATTEND

To Discuss Hospitalization, Compensation, Vocational Training and the Welfare of Disabled Men.

Charlotte.—One of the biggest conventions that Charlotte will be called upon to entertain this year will be in session here on March 24 and 25 when a large per cent of the 4,000 men in the state who received wounds of major or minor nature in the World War will come here to perfect the North Carolina division of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War. It is expected that there will be between 1,500 and 2,000 men here. Announcement of the forthcoming convention is made by E. J. Tillman, commander, and W. B. Williamson, secretary, of the Charlotte chapter of the Disabled American Veterans.

The Charlotte chapter is the pioneer of the state, and Charlotte is, therefore, selected by disabled veterans of the state as the logical place to have the convention. Another reason is that many veterans are here to take treatment in hospitals at government expense and to receive vocational training.

A Charlotte man, Zebulon B. Thornburg, a first lieutenant in the 30th division during the war and connected with the redoubtable 118th infantry of that division, will call the convention to order here as state executive chairman. He wears the Military Cross of Honor, the American Distinguished Service Medal, the French Croix de Guerre, is a wearer of two gold chevrons as the result of two severe wounds and has to his credit one of the most conspicuous records of any officer of the 30th (Old Hickory) Division. He served gallantly in the fighting which the 30th division went through at Vormoselle, Belgium; Bellecour and Busany, France, and at other places. He is endorsed by disabled veterans here and in many parts of the state as the proper man for state commander of the perfected disabled veterans' organization.

In addition to the visitors here from all parts of the state, there will be several national officers here for the convention. Ralph A. Horr, of Seattle, Washington, vice commander of the national organization of disabled veterans, will be one of them. Col. C. R. Forbes, head of the veterans' bureau at Washington, will be another distinguished visitor, and M. Bogan, director of the Fifth district for veterans, relief headquarters in Atlanta, will be another.

At the convention the subjects to be discussed principally will be hospitalization, compensation, vocational training and the welfare of disabled men.

The election of officers for the perfected state organization will take place here and delegates selected to attend the national convention of the disabled veterans at San Francisco June 26-30.

The sessions of the convention will be held in the City Auditorium. Arrangements are being made to hold a dance on the last night of the convention and to have as guests at that time the membership of the Hornets Nest Post of the American Legion.

Wilmington.—An index to economic conditions are shown daily when an increasingly large number of reputable business men are haled before court for failure to pay their license and special privilege taxes. According to the court officials never in the history of the city have so many been in trouble over the matter of city licenses. Few judgments are being rendered, however, it being the policy of the court to allow the defendants to settle and not pros the charges.

Kinston Man Burned to Death.

Kinston.—Charles F. Stewart, aged 46, machine room superintendent of the local plant of the Imperial Tobacco company, was overcome by smoke and burned to death when fire partially destroyed his home at 219 West Lenoir avenue. His body was found in the room against a door, after the fire had been brought under control by the firemen.

A lamp left burning in the bath room as a measure for preventing frozen water pipes is believed to have exploded and ignited the house.