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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

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. "This league," says he, "not coercive, but moral, can make peace forever permanent on the western hemisphere, avoid European and Asiatic interference in American affairs, and preserve inviolate the Monroe doctrine."

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

Gathering mistletoe in a tree-top for his mother, Lyman Hearn, an Easton, 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. None of the passengers was injured.

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. She requested in her will that her body be cremated and the ashes placed in an urn inscribed with her full name, date of death and the words: "The last surviving child of Gen. Robert E. Lee."

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 Thessalonica and wounded three Greek soldiers. The Greeks returned the fire and went over 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 is said now that Germany will found 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.

K. 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 the permanent enlisted strength of the navy from 131,000 men to 217,000 has been recommended to the house naval affairs committee by Capt. H. Laning, acting chief of the bureau of navigation. This would include 175,000 seamen, 24,000 apprentice seamen and firemen in training, 12,000 in trade schools in training and 6,000 in the flying corps.

We are told 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 kindle animosity between the United States and her associates in the war. State department officials are reticent as to the report, but some of them say it is a "pipe dream."

The director of the Russian information bureau in New York says that Russia lost eight million men before she quit the war. Three million of these 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. There is no developed plan as to its disposition, but many say it would be waste to sink such fine ships.

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 Über 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 Puerto Rico, 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, 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 forecastle 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 betrayal that Roumania into 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.

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, 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.

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.

SERIOUS RIOT IS RESULT OF INSULT

AMERICAN FLAG FIRED UPON CAUSES BLOODY FIGHTING ON STREETS OF POSEN.

CAUSED BY GERMAN OFFICER

Delegation from British Mission Protested to German Commander Who Declared He Had No Control.

London.—Firing by German officers on an allied automobile carrying an American flag was the cause of street fighting in Posen late Friday, says a dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Copenhagen. The Germans were defeated in the fighting. About 138 persons, including a number of women and children, were killed during the rioting.

The dispatch says: "There was severe fighting between the poles and Germans in Posen Friday, which resulted in 38 women and children and about one hundred Germans and Poles being killed. The affray originated as a result of a German officer firing on an allied automobile which was proceeding to Warsaw, carrying the American flag."

"The Germans insulted the flag and the Polish guard was called out. The fighting lasted several hours and the Germans were defeated."

"A delegation from the British mission to Posen protested to the German commander in the town. General Schimmelfeng, but the German officer declared that he had no control over the soldiers."

EFFORTS MADE TO PROVE INNOCENCE OF EX-KAISER

Berlin.—A "league for the protection of the kaiser," has been formed and will issue an appeal to the former advisers of the ex-emperor, as well as diplomats with whom he was associated, to submit all possible documents to prove the kaiser's innocence of bringing about the war. Prince Henry, of Prussia, who was proposed for president of the league, suggested Von Hindenburg for the post.

HORSE MEAT EXPERIENCES ANOTHER ADVANCE IN PRICE

With the American Army of Occupation.—Horse meat again has experienced another advance in Germany. Meatless days are being generally observed throughout Germany.

In Coblenz, the week beginning December 16, was a meatless one. The ruling prices of horse meat in the area occupied by the American army is at present as follows per pound: Horse sausage, one mark, 80 pfennigs; horse meat, one mark, 60 pfennigs; horse liver, one mark, 40 pfennigs.

GREAT FIRE CAUSES LOSS OF \$1,000,000 IN PROPERTY

Bristol, Tenn.—Va.—Fire which originated in the five-story building occupied by Mitchell-Powers Hardware company in State street, on the Virginia side, completely destroyed the structure and four other buildings in the heart of the business district, an estimated loss of \$1,000,000 partial, as covered by insurance. The other buildings destroyed were occupied by the Bristol Gas & Electric company offices, the Lynn-Kaylor company, and the other two by clothing stores.

The fire, which was the most disastrous in the history of the city, was gotten under control shortly after midnight when it reached the Dominion National bank building on the north and the Strauss department store on the south, damaging these buildings.

Lack of water and the explosions of powder and shell in the Mitchell-Powers building greatly handicapped the firemen and when the blaze began to spread on each side of this building an appeal was made for assistance from Kingsport and Johnson City.

24 WARSHIPS WILL BRING OUR TROOPS FROM OVERSEAS

Washington.—Fourteen battleships and 10 cruisers have been assigned by the navy department to help bring American troops home from France. The work of altering the battleships to fit them for transport work is being rapidly completed and several of them already are in service. All of the 10 cruisers have been fitted up and the navy department announced that one had sailed from Brest with its first load of troops.

BERLIN NEWSPAPER SAYS THE EBERT CABINET HAS FALLEN

The Hague.—Brutus Molkenbuih, Liebknecht supporter and former leader of the executive committee in the Berlin soldiers' council has been made military commandant of Berlin. This, of course, means a complete victory for the Spartacus group. Herr Scheidemann has fled and Ebert's government virtually no longer exists. According to a report, marines and other troops who joined them are virtually masters of Berlin.

\$633,528.80 TURNED OVER TO TREASURY

REVENUE DERIVED FROM SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE FOR BIENNIAL PERIOD.

DISPATCHES FROM RALEIGH

Things and Happenings That Mark the Progress of North Carolina People, Gathered Around the State Capital.

For the two year period ending November 30, 1918, Col. J. Bryan Grimes, secretary of state, has turned over to the state treasury a total of \$633,528.80 in fees and taxes according to his biennial report prepared for the Governor and the General Assembly.

The largest item in the list, by all odds, of course, is the revenue obtained from automobile registration totaling \$321,776.03 in 1917 and \$422,709.76 in 1918, representing the automobiles and motor vehicles in operation during that time.

At the end of the automobile year, June 30, 1917, there were 39,809 automobiles registered, 1,401 motorcycles, and 407 dealers. At the same period in 1918 there were 62,072 automobiles registered, 1,432 motorcycles and 601 dealers. There have been registered at the close of the fiscal year, November 30, 1918, a total of 72,313 automobiles, representing an increase of more than 10,000 over the total registered for the year which ended June 30, 1918.

The payments to the treasurer represent funds derived from the following sources:

	1917	1918
Automobiles	\$321,776.03	\$422,709.76
Corporation tax	25,329.80	23,624.50
Foreign corporations		
Firms	5,145.00	5,142.00
Corporation		
seals	1,354.00	1,223.00
Corporation fees	3,293.86	2,778.95
General fees	1,463.65	536.69
Seals	654.00	223.00
Supreme court reports	5,387.23	4,728.08
Laws and journals	389.25	404.05
Miscellaneous	241.74	114.47
Trade marks	103.10	21.60
Land grants fees	61.50	49.70
Postage	8.80	7.10
Land grants	4,138.54	2,625.45
Total	\$369,346.50	\$464,182.30

Farm Lands for Soldiers.

A special list of talk about the plans of the departments of the interior and labor to settle the returning soldiers on lands that are now unused. As has been reported before, agents are at work in Southern states, locating tracts of tillable soil. The investigation and inspection service is now going into North and South Carolina with agents to list unoccupied usable farm lands by county, township and section, giving the nearest market and nearest postoffice address, and further identifying the land by the name of the owner. This will be supplemented by statements covering the entire county, as to the general topography, nature of the soil, etc. This information will then be in the department of labor so that the returning soldier or any other person seeking employment through the land will be able to locate definitely where these unoccupied lands are.

North Carolina Gaining.

Major W. A. Graham, commissioner of agriculture, is rejoicing over North Carolina's splendid stride the past year in taking seventh place among the states of the Union in the matter of the money value of farm crops. Her record is shown by the government report, just out, to be \$57,450,000, there being only six states in all the country with higher records. This does not include the value of the truck crops or such products as soja beans and numbers of the other special crops that North Carolina has developed the past years in very considerable scale.

Accident or Suicide.

Murray G. Toye, employed in the mechanical department of Edwards & Broughton, died in Rex Hospital as a result of a bullet wound in his left temple. He never regained consciousness. The manner in which the wound was inflicted has not been determined by the police. Rumors in circulation were to the effect that he committed suicide but members of the family later denied that he killed himself intentionally and stated to friends that he was accidentally shot while cleaning his pistol.

In Hands of Receiver.

Mr. J. M. Broughton has been appointed receiver for the stores operated by J. E. Befarah in Raleigh, the Princess, 112 Fayetteville street; The Specialty Shop, 125 Fayetteville street, and the Raleigh Bargain House on Martin street, the latter doing a wholesale jobbing business. Mr. Broughton was appointed receiver by Judge Connor at Wilson, pending the outcome of bankruptcy proceedings. Mr. J. L. Emmanuel was appointed general manager by Mr. Broughton and the stores will continue to operate.

Retiring Boards Thanked.

"The country can never compensate you for the sacrifices you have made," writes Gov. T. W. Bickett to exemption board officials in thanking them for the services rendered during the period of the emergency. The letter is a final word of thanks from the governor prior to an anticipated early release of all the board of the state.

"You are now approaching the end of your labors," writes the governor, "and common justice requires me to bear testimony to the character of service you have rendered your country in the greatest crisis of its history."

Government Land Purchases.

Under the Weeks law, the national forest reservation commission has purchased in the Appalachian mountains of the south and the White mountains of New England 1,132,793 acres up to June 30, 1918. In addition, 509,011.31 acres have been approved for purchase.

The North Carolina purchase areas are:

	Acres	Sum Paid
Avery	13,107.13	\$2,428.22
Buncombe	9,455.66	109,241.24
Burke	13,319.29	66,596.44
Henderson	12,628.50	25,000.33
Jackson	16,949.97	84,083.18
McDowell	1,370.20	8,614.47
Macon	35,102.08	253,217.45
Macon	31,712.70	298,307.88
Macon	30,552.33	241,337.63
Swain	2,303.50	13,564.37
Transylvania	46,775.45	223,456.76
Yancey	10,481.45	113,793.00
Total	223,759.20	\$1,464,641.07

Cotton Ginned in State.

Washington (Special).—Director S. L. Rogers, of the census, department of commerce, announces the report of cotton ginned by counties, in North Carolina, for the crops of 1918 and 1917. The quantities are in running bales, counting round as half bales, and not including linters.

The report follows:

County	1918	1917
The state	648,515	482,521
Alexander	1,010	454
Anson	21,298	17,852
Ashe	8,199	4,342
Bertie	8,389	6,462
Bladen	8,220	6,279
Cabarrus	8,752	5,813
Camden	1,531	992
Carteret	1,692	1,093
Catawba	6,029	3,014
Chatham	5,613	3,333
Chowan	3,844	2,250
Cleveland	20,025	13,004
Columbus	6,204	6,626
Craven	4,309	3,112
Cumberland	16,094	11,897
Davidson	1,068	634
Davie	1,176	671
Duplin	10,312	6,296
Durham	381	296
Edgecombe	23,320	15,137
Franklin	12,477	8,178
Gaston	6,311	4,158
Gates	2,175	2,603
Greene	6,608	5,178
Halifax	25,205	16,057
Harnett	21,469	16,249
Hertford	2,782	2,077
Hoke	14,459	11,219
Iredell	8,149	4,421
Johnston	37,525	29,251
Jones	4,414	2,784
Lee	5,257	3,605
Lenoir	10,581	7,437
Lincoln	5,145	3,084
Martin	6,941	4,646
Mecklenburg	18,149	13,029
Montgomery	3,745	2,505
Moore	2,738	1,721
Nash	17,536	14,795
Northampton	13,509	8,994
Cuslaw	4,141	3,505
Orange	766	659
Pamlico	3,328	1,922
Pasquotank	2,090	2,243
Pender	2,531	1,513
Perquimans	3,501	3,062
Pitt	17,717	12,298
Richmond	12,347	9,348
Robeson	51,678	43,713
Rowan	5,581	3,782
Rutherford	7,458	4,638
Sampson	20,776	15,764
Scotland	28,267	26,589
Stanly	4,262	3,661
Union	19,434	15,417
Van	3,908	3,307
Wake	17,913	14,664
Warren	3,232	2,332
Washington	2,393	1,310
Wayne	25,138	18,415
Wilson	18,739	14,227
All other	4,069	3,431

Some New Corporations.

Certificates of incorporation were filed in the office of the secretary of state for the following corporations: Farmers Ginney, Inc., of Laurel Hill, with \$50,000 authorized capital and \$15,000 subscribed. The incorporators are J. D. McDonald, J. M. Patterson and Edwin Morgan, all of Laurel Hill.

Liberty Savings Bank, of Wilmington, with \$25,000 authorized capital and \$25,000 subscribed. The incorporators are Ralph Harrett, J. C. Rourke, and W. L. Gore, all of Wilmington.

Saved \$8,024 in Food.

Despite the fact that the epidemic of influenza made it very hard to carry on a rat-killing contest in Rutherford county, Mr. C. C. Proffitt, county agent, reports that the boys and girls in his county did kill a total of 4,012 food eaters during the contest which he recently conducted. Authorities of the agricultural extension service at Raleigh figure that a single rat will destroy \$2 worth of food in a year. According to this, Rutherford county has saved \$8,024 worth of food by the simple elimination of 4,012 rats.