

Spray Courier

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WORLD'S DOINGS OF CURRENT WEEK

Brief Resume of General News From All Around the Earth.

UNIVERSAL HAPPENINGS IN A NUTSHELL

Live News Items of All Nations and Pacific Northwest Condensed for Our Busy Readers.

Roofs of two large Seattle churches collapsed under the weight of snow.

German officials have seized all textile products suitable for army or navy use.

The Premier of Russia, Jean L. Goremykin, has resigned on account of ill health.

Paris reporters find Colonel House, special agent of President Wilson, a regular Sphinx.

A Constantinople dispatch reports the suicide of Crown Prince Yusof Iseddin, alleging ill health as the cause.

Portland theaters enjoy an immense patronage from people who were unable to get home during the snow blockade.

The crew of the Takata Maru, which collided with the tank ship Silver Shell, has been saved, but the steamer was abandoned in a sinking condition.

E. A. Taylor, a Southern Pacific engineer, died in the baggage car of his train near Watsonville, Cal., from the nervous shock caused by running into a narrow caught on the track.

The country home of Archibald Rogers, Standard Oil millionaire, at Hyde Park, on the Hudson, was entered by burglars and silverware and many valuable sporting trophies stolen.

London cable dispatches from Batavia report that floods are continuing in Central Java. Thus far 120,000 native houses have been wrecked, many cattle drowned and many miles of railway destroyed.

Great Britain has promised the United States to permit the prompt transportation from Rotterdam of a large quantity of sugar beet seed bought in Austria for sugar beet farms in Utah. This is expected to make the United States independent of the European supply.

Miss Minnie B. Werner, who fell 16 stories from a window of the Transportation building in Chicago, has recovered consciousness. Her first words were: "I must be hard to kill." Physicians believe the girl will recover. She owes her escape to the fact that she fell on top of a covered auto truck.

The Canadian Pacific, the Canadian Northern and the Grand Trunk Pacific railroads announced at Calgary that on instructions from the Dominion government officials, an embargo has been placed on shipments of rolled oats from Canada to the United States. The ruling applies to all special mill products manufactured from oats.

The missing K-5 submarine is reported in her regular course off the coast of Florida.

Many sections of the Middle West are experiencing floods and much damage to property is reported.

President Wilson declares the U. S. navy is prepared for immediate war, but it is inadequate in size.

Pheasants driven by hunger are swarming Portland Heights, and are being fed by streetcar men and residents.

A negro attacks an auto party near Buffalo, N. Y., killing mother and son and seriously wounding the daughter. Robbery was the motive.

Every employe of the Bunker Hill & Sullivan Mining Co., of Kellogg, Idaho, above and below the surface, will receive an increase of wages of approximately 50 cents a day if the price of lead keeps up. It is known that the company for some time has been contemplating this advance.

Canada will send 20,000 more men to the front in Europe.

Many looters are caught by U. S. marines in the flood-stricken districts of California.

Senator Reed, of Missouri, attacks Roosevelt in the senate by declaring "It is a happy thing for this country that there has been insistence on American rights, and equally fortunate that there has not been some hot-headed, impetuous demagogue in the White House."

PRESIDENT WILSON URGES SPEED ON PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

Washington, D. C.—Efforts to speed up the work of congress on the army and navy bills will be continued this week by President Wilson. He will see a large number of members of the senate and house, and will impress on them his belief that it is necessary to dispose of the preparedness program as quickly as possible, so work may be begun on the shipping bill, the tariff commission bill and revenue legislation.

On the result of his interviews with members of congress, as well as on the outcome of the Lusitania negotiations, will depend whether the President will make another series of speeches. He has not learned yet whether his tour through the Middle West has had a definite effect on members of congress.

JOSHUA W. ALEXANDER



Congressman Joshua W. Alexander of Missouri, chairman of the house merchant marine and fisheries committee, is working on the draft of the administration substitute for the shipping bill that failed last session. It is expected this bill will be one of the "pets" of the administration this year. It carries a \$50,000,000 appropriation for the purpose of merchant ships to be used as naval auxiliaries.

Mr. Wilson will confer with Chairman Jones, of the house insular committee, on the Philippine bill passed by the senate last week. It is understood that some of the President's advisers in the house are not satisfied with all of the provisions of the bill, and that there is a likelihood that amendments will be offered in the house. The President is understood, however, to have approved the general features of the bill as amended in the senate, with its provision for giving independence to the Philippines within two to four years unless circumstances make a change in policy necessary.

Appam Is Held War Prize.

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson is understood to hold the opinion that the British steamship Appam, brought into Hampton Roads by a German crew, must be considered as a prize of Germany under the Prussian-American treaty in 1828. It is said here that this accords with the view of the State department. The President has not had an opportunity to discuss the case with Secretary Daniels and therefore no final decision has been reached as to the length of time the Appam will be allowed to remain in an American port.

Liquor Law to Be Fought.

Seward, Alaska—Men on whose property bootleggers have been arrested at Anchorage are preparing to make a strong fight against confiscation of their lots under the provision in the deeds prohibiting the sale of liquor at Anchorage.

A letter received from Delegate Wickersham said the general land office at Washington was determined to enforce forfeiture of all lots on which liquor has been sold.

British Guns Dominating.

Paris—The inauguration of an offensive movement by the German and Bulgarian forces which have been stationed along the Greek frontier is reported in a Saloniki dispatch. It is said an artillery duel has been in progress for two days in the neighborhood of Doiran and that the British heavy guns are dominating those of their adversaries.

SCORE OF TOWNS IN ARKANSAS FLOODED

Sixteen Dead, Thousands Driven From Homes, Water Rising.

DANGER INCREASING AS FLOOD GAINS

Mississippi Continues Encroachments on Levees—Many Who Ignored Warnings Swept to Death.

Little Rock, Ark.—The rapidly-widening lake in Southeastern Arkansas, formed by the flood waters of the Arkansas river pouring through breaks in the levees, had engulfed a score of towns Sunday night, leaving several thousand persons homeless, taking a toll of 16 lives and doing damage estimated at many thousands of dollars.

Still greater damage is feared if the Mississippi continues to rise. Predicted stages at Arkansas City threaten a break in the Mississippi levees, which would precipitate the greatest calamity.

All day 700 men who remained in Arkansas City toiled in an effort to strengthen the levees and they were hopeful that the town would be saved.

The narrow strip of levee is the only land in sight there. On one side is the great river, swollen until its surface is 15 feet above the level of the town. On the other side is a great flood lake, nearly 40 miles long and 20 miles wide. From it only the upper stories of buildings in Arkansas City protrude. At the levee are three steamboats ready to carry the plucky fighters to safety should they lose their battle with the flood.

The river rose two-tenths of a foot Sunday, to the level of 55.7 feet at Arkansas City and was still rising.

Telegraph service with the town still is maintained, and the last word from there was optimism.

"We'll win the fight," flashed the operator.

At Gaines Landing, four miles north of Lake village, 400 persons were on the levee without shelter.

In Clearcreek, on the White river, where the levee broke, water was six feet deep in the highest portions of the town. The river had attained a stage of 37.4 feet and still was rising.

Little is known of conditions in the rural districts of the flooded area, but there seems little doubt that many who refused to leave their homes in face of repeated warnings have perished.

The present flood had been the most disastrous in the last 40 years of Arkansas history, so far as loss of life and suffering are concerned. The property loss has not been so great because there are now no crops to be destroyed.

Police Guarding Gotham Subway.

New York—Police have been assigned to protect the subway system from the Brooklyn terminal to the Bronx terminal and the Hudson and Manhattan tubes on the strength of a report that a threat has been made to dynamite the underground roads.

The Interborough Rapid Transit company has admitted that police help has been asked.

A dozen uniformed policemen are guarding the Hudson Terminal building.

War Call Makes Canadians Panicky.

Niagara Falls, Ont.—Several towns in Western Ontario were thrown into panic late Sunday night by a hurried call to arms of the home guards. Buglers hurried through the streets sounding the alarm and bridged rumors that one of the unfortified here had been blown up added to the excitement.

At Saint Catharines, theater audiences were dismissed when the men began to leave in response to the bugle call. Guards were doubled at ammunition depots there. No official at Saint Catharines would say who ordered out the guard, but it was understood to have been a general order throughout the province.

Pulpit Left for Defense.

New York—Rev. Charles A. Eaton resigned Sunday as pastor of the Madison avenue Baptist church here to participate "in the shaping of the new Americanism—the new era of Christianity which must inevitably follow the European war."

Dr. Eaton, one of the most widely-known clergymen of his denomination, is an advocate of preparedness and said that he plans to write and lecture on the subject.

GERMANS TAKE BRITISH PRIZE INTO AMERICAN PORT; NEW ISSUE

Norfolk, Va.—Given up for lost days ago, the British passenger liner Appam, plying in the West African trade, sailed like an apparition into Hampton Roads Wednesday, flying the German naval ensign and with her ship's company under guard of a German prize crew.

She brought word of a mysterious German commerce raider, the Moewe, which now roams the seas, and had on board the crews of seven British merchantmen and admiralty transports captured by the Moewe before she seized the Appam and started her across the Atlantic for an American port with Lieutenant Hans Berge, of the German naval reserve, and 22 men in charge.

According to the story told with great reserve by Lieutenant Berge to Collector Hamilton when he formally

JUDGE BEN B. LINDSEY



Ben B. Lindsey of Denver, member of the Ford peace party, has left Holland for Berlin to study the needs of children in the belligerent countries. It is said Henry Ford told Mr. Lindsey that if it were feasible he would provide ample funds to help the children. Judge Lindsey hopes later to go to England and will leave there for the United States.

reported his presence in American territorial waters, the Moewe captured the Appam bound from Dakar, French West Africa, for Liverpool, after a brief show of resistance on January 16, 60 miles north of the Madeira Islands.

Washington, D. C.—Until it is decided whether the German commander aboard the British steamer Appam brought the ship to an American port as a prize of war or as a converted auxiliary cruiser of the German navy, there will be no determination of the American government's course respecting the ship.

When certain formalities have been complied with, the ship's passengers, including several British colonial officials, will be released and their disposition passed on by immigration authorities. Any prisoner of war will be released, because international law permits no holding of war prisoners in a neutral country.

The United States then finally will have to deal with the German crew, and if they are accounted in naval service of Germany, as were the crews of the Prinz Eitel Friedrich and the Kronprinz Wilhelm, already interned at the Norfolk navy yard, they, too, will be interned unless their ship goes to sea to run the cordon of British cruisers outside.

As to the disposition of the Appam herself, if she is held to be an auxiliary cruiser her commander will have the option of putting to sea after a certain time to make repairs and take provisions.

If she is declared a prize, the situation becomes more complex, and in that event it is admitted that the United States will have to deal with probably the most novel question concerning its neutrality that has arisen during the war. As one of the first steps, the problem probably would be referred to the neutrality board, which is an unofficial body whose function is merely advisory.

Middies Asked to Leave.

Annapolis, Md.—Two hundred and twenty midshipmen, about one-quarter of the whole number at the Naval academy, will be asked to resign within the next few days, owing to their failure to pass in certain subjects at the semi-annual examinations, which have just been concluded.

The number in each class is about as follows:
First or graduating class, 20; second, 60; third, 60; fourth, 80.

BIG VALUE TO FARMER

Prairie Chicken Is Efficient Destroyer of Farm Pests.

Nearly 15 Per Cent of Birds' Food Consists of Insects, Bulk of Them Grasshoppers—Destroys Many Beetles.

The prairie chicken, now common only in Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, the Dakotas and Manitoba, is one of



Prairie Chicken.

the birds which formerly occurred over a much wider range than at present and in far greater abundance. It has been reduced principally by hunters, as have so many of our finest species of birds. Many sportsmen declare allegiance to the highest principles of game preservation yet fail to practice these principles.

Like birds of its family the prairie chicken is very prolific, and if adequately protected would soon become numerous in its old haunts. The bird is easily domesticated, hence is eminently suited for propagation on preserves.

The prairie chicken is valuable not only as game, but as an efficient destroyer of farm pests, and any farmer would profit by having these birds reared on his place. Almost 15 per cent of the birds' food consists of



Ruffed Grouse.

weed seeds, including those of such pests as foxtail grass, smartweed, and ragweed. The prairie chicken eats a great deal of grain, but takes most of it from stubble. The bird is fond

VALUE OF STRAW FOR STOCK

Comfortable Stable and Good Bed Is as Necessary for Animals as It Is for Human Beings.

All stock should be given a thick bed of straw, leaves or sawdust. A comfortable stable and a good bed is as necessary for animals as it is for human beings. If straw is wanted for feed, forest leaves may be used instead.

Leaves contain a large percentage of ash, and though not so valuable as straw for litters, are very good. Sawdust makes an excellent litter for all stock. It not only adds bulk, which is of value, as thus the manure is divided, and is more easily and evenly distributed, but it decays both in the heap and in the soil, thus affording organic matter and ash to the plant, while it retains all the valuable qualities of the manure.

Sawdust absorbs the urine, and when this saturated sawdust is thrown out into a pile in the yard, it will soon ferment, and if the manure is not kept moist and well plas-

of such mast as hazelnuts and acorns. Nearly 15 per cent of the birds' food consists of insects, the bulk of them being grasshoppers. Among other pests eaten by this species are the Colorado potato beetle, cucumber beetle, May beetle, cotton worm, army worm, cutworm and chinch bug.

The ruffed grouse, called "partridge" in the northwestern states and pheasant in some other parts of its range, is one of our most widely ranging game birds. It inhabits wooded regions from Canada and Alaska south to California, Colorado, Tennessee and northern Georgia. It responds to protection in a gratifying manner and has proved to be well adapted to propagation under artificial conditions. On account of these qualities and its desirability as a game species it is a good subject for game farming.

Wild fruits, mast, and browse make up the bulk of the vegetable food of this bird. It is very fond of hazelnuts, beechnuts, chestnuts and acorns, and it eats practically all kinds of wild berries and other fruits. Various weed seeds are also consumed. More than 10 per cent of the food consists of insects, about half of which are destructive beetles.

GROWING SUGAR-BEET SEED

Outbreak of European War Has Cut Off Supply From Germany—Farmer Must Find New Source.

The greater part of the sugar-beet seed sown each year in the United States has formerly been imported from Europe, principally from Germany and Russia. The outbreak of the present war has cut off this supply and now the problem is to find new sources for obtaining seed. The growing of beet seed has been neglected in this country due to a decreasing sugar content in beets from native grown seed and also to the scarcity of the hand labor necessary in harvesting the crop. But now it is up to the American farmer to grow his own seed.

Although most of the factories have sufficient seed on hand for the 1916 sowing, yet a considerable acreage has been set to seed beets. The beets are set out early in spring in rows four feet apart, the crown of the beet being just level with the surface of the ground.

First a large thick cluster of leaves grows up to about 18 inches in height and then the seed stalks appear. Some beets send up but one large branching seed stalk but the majority have several, four to ten, of the tall branching stalks.

The beets are cultivated both ways similar to corn until about the first of July when the seed stalks get so tall, in some cases reaching up five and six feet, and bending over prevent cultivation. When viewed near by a field of these plants does not present a very prepossessing appearance, the tall, straggling seed stalks greatly resembling large plants of the narrow-leaved or curly dock.

Size of First-Class Tubers.

First-class potatoes, says an expert, should contain no tubers that will go through a hole one and seven-eighths inches square. It may be added that over-large potatoes should also be left out if one is putting up a car of first-class potatoes. The more uniform the potatoes, the better price they will usually bring.

Storage for Sweet Potatoes.

If sweet potatoes are put in a dry cave that can be heated by a stove they can be piled in and kept the same as Irish potatoes. Until they are dried out the cave should be kept at 65 to 75 degrees; after that there should be an even temperature of about 60. This is the experience of a market gardener.

Prevent Vegetables Wilting.

Cover carrots, beets, and other root crops lightly with dry sand to prevent wilting.

tered much of the ammonia in the manure will evaporate into the air. The better plan is to mix the horse manure with the cow manure, using plenty of plaster and wood's earth. A layer of each kind of manure mixed with a few shovels of wood's earth will add vegetable matter and prevent the loss of the urine, which is the most valuable portion of the manure.

Straw is worth fully \$2.50 per ton for bedding alone, and if dry and of good quality, worth twice this for feed. In cold, frosty weather plenty of bedding is a great comfort to a work-horse, and, in fact, to any animal. Bed the sheep pens with a little straw once a day. Most of the straw will be eaten if of good quality.

Marshy Land for Geese.

Geese do well on wet or marshy land where hens and turkeys would not thrive.

Most Profitable Cow.

The cow to be profitable must be a vigorous member of a milk-producing breed.