



1—Christmas seal boosters arriving in Washington by airplane. 2—Portrait of President Ebert of Germany snapped as she was leaving a government office in Berlin. 3—Scene on the deck of the new United States battleship West Virginia as she was being commissioned with Captain Senn as commander.

## NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

### Coolidge in First Message Favors Tax Reduction, Opposes Soldiers' Bonus.

### FORCES LOSE IN ENGLAND

By EDWARD W. PICKARD  
 The national legislative mill reopened on Monday when the Sixty-eighth congress began its first session. Plenty of grist will be poured into its hoppers, but few if any laws will be ground out for several weeks. So slender is the present Republican majority that the group of progressives was able to block the organization of the house until assurance had been given that there would be opportunity for revision of the rules. Most of the group thereupon voted for the re-election of Speaker Gillett and the deadlock was ended. This took place on Wednesday, and the next day President Coolidge delivered in person his first message to the two houses.

Clearly and concisely, the President declared himself in favor of continuing our present foreign policy and therefore against the ratification of the covenant of the League of Nations. Said he: "The league exists as a foreign agency. We hope it will be helpful. But the United States sees no reason to limit its own freedom and independence of action by joining it. We shall do well to recognize this basic fact in all national affairs and govern ourselves accordingly."

Of the closely related question of American membership in the world court he said: "As I wish to see a court established, and as the proposal presents the only practical plan on which many nations have ever agreed, though it may not meet every desire, I therefore commend it to the favorable consideration of the senate, with the proposed reservations clearly indicating our refusal to adhere to the League of Nations."

Expressing earnest hope that the people of Russia will be restored to their position among the nations of the earth, Mr. Coolidge declared flatly that the soviet government would not be recognized by the United States so long as it refuses to recognize the sanctity of international relations, but he said he was willing to make large concessions, and that our government would offer no objection to the carrying on of commerce by Americans with the people of Russia. Concerning the war debts owed us by other nations, he said he did not favor their cancellation, but saw no objection to adjusting them as was done in the case of Great Britain.

Continuation of the policy of retrenchment and economy by the government was strongly urged, and so was the abolition of the right to issue tax-exempt securities. The President asked congress to avoid constant revising of the tariff law, promising to exercise his power to change the schedules whenever investigation showed this to be wise.

As had been predicted, the President wholeheartedly supported Secretary Mellon's recommendations for the reduction of taxes, saying that "of all services which the congress can render to the country, I have no hesitation in declaring this one to be paramount." He especially commended a decrease on earned incomes and further abolition of admission and message taxes. He also expressed opposition to excess-profits taxes.

After hearing this, congress waited expectantly for the part of the message dealing with the care of the veterans of the World war, and was not surprised when Mr. Coolidge closed that section with the words: "I do not favor the granting of a bonus." However, he declared himself in favor of much of the legislative program which the American Legion will present to congress.

Taking up the troubles of the wheat farmers, Mr. Coolidge said: "Indirectly, the farmer must be relieved by a reduction of national and local taxation. He must be assisted

by the reorganization of the freight-rate structure which could reduce charges on his production. To make this fully effective there ought to be railroad consolidations. Cheaper fertilizers must be provided.

"I do not favor the permanent interference of the government in this problem. That probably would increase the trouble by increasing production. But it seems feasible to provide government assistance to exports; and authority should be given the War Finance corporation to grant, in its discretion, the most liberal terms of payment for furs and grains exported for the direct benefit of the farm."

Considerable space in the message was given to the coal problem. The President said he did not favor government ownership or operation of the mines, and continued: "The supply of coal must be constant. In case of its prospective interruption, the President should have authority to appoint a commission empowered to deal with whatever emergency situation might arise, to aid conciliation and voluntary arbitration, to adjust any existing or threatened controversy between the employer and the employee when collective bargaining fails, and by controlling distribution to prevent profiteering in this vital necessity."

PEACE between the "regular" and "progressive" factions of the Republicans in the house it is supposed will continue for 30 days, during which time the latter will have a chance to bring forward their proposals for the liberalization of the rules. They demonstrated during the deadlock over organization that they hold the balance of power, though they are few in number, but it is far from certain that they can line up enough Democratic votes to change the rules as they desire. The progressives voted, usually 17 strong, for Cooper of Wisconsin for speaker. The Democrats were solid for Finis J. Garrett of Tennessee, who thus becomes the minority leader. The leader of the majority is Nicholas Longworth of Ohio.

SUPPORTERS of President Coolidge for nomination next year were overjoyed last week by the news from South Dakota. In the Republican state proposal convention Mr. Coolidge was given the preference over Senator Hiram Johnson, his only opponent, by a majority of 23,039 out of 77,000 votes cast. Senator Arthur Capper of Kansas was the choice for vice president. The Democratic convention endorsed McCauley by a vote of 30,018 against 5,072 for Henry Ford, and chose Judge James W. Girard of New York for second place on the ticket. The Farmer-Laborites were strongly in favor of the nomination of Senator La Follette. After the President's message was delivered the Hiram Johnson crowd felt a little better, for in it, as is told above, Mr. Coolidge declared himself flatly against the soldiers' bonus, while the South Dakota Republicans adopted a platform containing a strong bonus plank. This question may well develop into the deciding issue of the nomination campaign.

THE British parliamentary elections were held Thursday, and at this writing it appears that the Conservative party with its policy of a protective tariff has been defeated. Delayed returns from country districts may change this, but even then Prime Minister Baldwin would have a slender majority. The reunited Liberal party made considerable gains, and the Laborites, already the second in strength, won many new seats.

One notable feature of the election was the defeat of the women. They had a number of candidates, but only two appear to have won—Lady Astor and Miss Susan Lawrence, a Laborite. Arthur Henderson, one of the most prominent Laborites, lost his seat to a Liberal.

HAVING signed with the industrial magnates of the Ruhr an agreement for resumption of work and of payments in kind, and being urged by Belgium, the French last week began the virtual withdrawal of their forces from the occupied region. To start with, the occupation will be made "invisible," which means the troops will be withdrawn from the cities and towns to points outside. In addition, France is returning to German control twenty-one railway lines in the Ruhr

and two repair shops. The French agree to recommend the most favorable action in the cases of railway workers who were expelled and rail employees in the occupied region will be paid the same wages as those in the rest of Germany. Altogether, the developments of the week indicated that Premier Poincare had adopted a conciliatory policy, and it was hinted that he might soon yield to Great Britain and America and consent to a discussion of the reduction of Germany's debt by the proposed committee of experts subject to the reparations commission.

Chancellor Marx so far is making good in Berlin, for he has induced the socialists to consent to the "enabling act" which gives him dictatorial powers if he needs them and thus may avoid the necessity of dissolving the legislative body. The socialists ceased to oppose the act on receiving a promise that any emergency measures should be submitted to an advisory commission of 21 deputies before being issued. It is reported that Germany has completed negotiations for a foreign loan of \$125,000,000 to support the new permanent currency issue.

CIVIL war has broken out again in Mexico. In the states of Vera Cruz, San Luis Potosi, Chihuahua, Michoacan, Tamaulipas and Guerrero there is active rebellion against the government of President Obregon, the leader of the movement being Adolfo de la Huerta, the Co-operativista party's candidate for president. He and his helpers have told Obregon that they are revolting because the government is violating the sovereignty of the states and otherwise offending the institutions of the republic. Actually, it seems, De la Huerta's chief complaint is that Obregon is supporting Calles for election as his successor.

FEDERAL JUDGE WOODROUGE of Omaha has decided that prohibition agents are not civil officers in any strict or constitutional sense and are without lawful authority to serve search warrants.

Mrs. Mabel Willebrandt, assistant attorney general in charge of prohibition and tax cases, reports to Attorney General Daugherty that litigation over violations of federal laws is on the increase. Under the national prohibition act alone, she says, 40,021 criminal and 4,109 civil cases were begun during the last fiscal year—an increase of 15,889 over the previous year. Federal courts were unable to keep abreast of the number of cases brought, although 42,370 criminal cases were disposed of during the year, with 23,052 criminal and 4,064 civil cases left pending. Rum smuggling, Mrs. Willebrandt's report added, is "the most gigantic criminal problem the United States ever faced on the high seas."

NEWS from Russia is doubtful these days, but there has just come from Moscow a dispatch that is of vast importance if true. It says that Professor Joffe, Russian scientist, has discovered a method for making wire stronger than steel out of common rock salt. The discovery resulted after experiments in mutability of metals by structural chemistry. By submitting rock salt to high heat pressure before the elementary crystals began to decay he arrested the decay by changing the structural arrangement of the atoms and molecules, this change increasing the durability and ductibility of the substance 300 times. It is stated that if the discovery can be applied to metals it will revolutionize the world.

ATTORNEY GENERAL DAUGHERTY has announced that criminal prosecutions will be begun as a result of the investigation, by his department and the special senate committee, of alleged irregularities in the conduct of the veterans' bureau under the former director, Colonel Forbes. Presumably the facts brought out will be placed before a federal grand jury. Gen. Frank T. Hines, now director of the bureau, has sent out a call to the American Legion for aid in finding suitable employment for the rehabilitated ex-service men. There are approximately 71,000 men in vocational training, Director Hines declares, and within the next three months about 10,000 of these will complete their courses

## News of Montana

### Brief Notes Concerning the Treasure State

According to reports received the land office at Miles City transacted more business during November than any other land office in the United States. During the month, 2.5 million applications for entry were received at the office in Miles City. The larger part of these applications were for homestead entry on agricultural land, a few were for mining claims and the remainder covered a varied line of subjects.

A deal was consummated recently whereby the First State Bank of Winnett and the First National Bank of Winnett are to be merged into one banking institution, the resources of which will be greater than any bank in Fergus county, excepting the Lewistown banks. The consolidated bank will work under the state charter as the combined business can be handled more advantageously under the state department.

Search for the body of Ted Ellis, Great Falls man, who, while hunting ducks, was drowned in Bynum reservoir, in Teton county, has been abandoned until spring. More than three inches of ice has formed, and further efforts to locate the body at this time are considered unfeasible. Ellis was drowned November 25, and although most of the reservoir was dragged, no trace of his body was found.

Two carloads of sodalite, a government war explosive which is being distributed for stumping purposes, were ordered the first of November by farmers in western Sanders county through the director of extension. This will cost approximately \$8.75 to \$9 laid down, which includes the cost of carting and freight from Barksdale, Wisconsin. Orders have already been received totaling approximately 45,000 pounds.

A reception was given, at the First Methodist church in Missoula, recently, in honor of the eighty-fifth birthday anniversary of Mrs. W. H. H. Dickinson, who came to Missoula 55 years ago and who was Missoula's first school teacher. Mrs. Dickinson, then Emma Slack, came to western Montana from Maryland in the spring of 1869.

The herd of elk in the Highwood mountains, near Great Falls, which at the time it was started in 1917 numbered 17 head, has now increased to over 50 head, and is in splendid condition, according to A. Weholt, assistant supervisor of the Jefferson national forest.

Miss Elizabeth Hollenbeck has left Missoula for Constantinople, Turkey, to take charge of a nurses' training school in an American hospital on the Bosphorus. Miss Hollenbeck spent several months in Missoula after completing two years' work in Asia Minor and Greece.

Frank R. Menrlan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Menrlan of Grandview, has been appointed to cadetship at the United States Military academy at West Point, on the recommendation of Senator Thomas J. Walsh.

Five trucks and 12 automobiles were burned when fire destroyed the J. T. Armitage garage in Wisdom. The loss is estimated at \$50,000, with insurance of only \$5,000.

### MONTANA PIONEERS ON THE LAST LONG TRAIL

SULLIVAN—D. J. Sullivan, former probation officer for Silver Bow, and a resident of Butte for thirty-five years died at the age of 54 years in Los Angeles.

BIRAN—Dan P. Birran, 65 years of age, who owned the first blacksmith shop in Anaconda, died at Baker, Oregon.

FERGUSON—Peter Ferguson, an old time cowman, who came to Great Falls 38 years ago and was widely known among the early day stock growers, was killed in an accident at Belen, N. M.

LA FLUER—Z. B. D. LaFluer, 74 years of age, for more than thirty-five years a resident of the state capital, died at the home of his son, R. C. G. LaFluer in Martinez, California.



Danner Asks New Trial  
 Five affidavits in support of a motion for a new trial for Seth O. Danner, convicted murderer of Mrs. Florence Sprouse, now awaiting the death penalty in the county jail, have been filed in the district court at Bozeman by Justin M. Smith, attorney for Danner.

## Historic Army Post Strikes Colors To March of Progress

### War Department Will Surrender Fort Keough to Montana Farmers for An Experiment Station

Fort Keough, near Miles City, established in the late seventies by General Nelson A. Miles, and over which the colors have valiantly waved day and night since its establishment, has hauled down the flag in surrender to the march of progress. Turning forts into agricultural experiment stations is a modern way of beating swords into plowshares, and the extensive grounds of the army post will be surrendered by the War Department to the Department of Agriculture for that purpose. On the sixty thousand acres of land the government and state extension workers will carry out experiments in agriculture that will be of greatest benefit to Montana farmers and to the farmers and stock growers of the entire Northwest.

The old military cantonment, which was established in the late seventies by General Nelson A. Miles, and had been in constant use since that time, as an outpost, and later as a cavalry remount station, was abandoned by the government last July, and at that time formal notice was given that the land would be turned over to the interior department, and later in the summer engineers of the geological survey made a complete survey of the reservation for the department of the interior.

Since the survey was made the request has been made by proponents of the plan for the use of more than 60,000 acres of land on the reservation as an experiment farm, to the secretary of agriculture, who is said to be inclined to favor such a project, and this enterprise since then has won the support of local forest service officials.

### MONTANA OIL NOTES

"50" Per. has paid its regular monthly dividend of 1 per cent. This was paid December 1, to stock of record November 26. During the last half of October and first half of November the company produced 12,446 barrels, most of which it is storing until the price of oil gets higher. Its Devil's Basin well is drilling at a depth of 2,150 feet. Sherard-Rhoades well, McGinnis structure, 23 miles north of Lewistown, has a showing of oil at a depth of 1,300 feet.

Campbell-Kevin-Stewart Carlson No. 1 well, Kevin-Sunburst field, has come in as a commercial producer at a depth of 1,530 feet.

Stapleton Oil company has completed its No. 2 well, Kevin-Sunburst field, the oil coming from the Ellis, at 1,630 feet.

Mutual pipeline in October transported 157,091 barrels of oil from the Cat Creek field to Winnett, of which 29,000 was shipped to the Arro refinery at Lewistown, 33,600 to the Lewistown Oil & Refining Co., 10,800 barrels to the Standard Oil of Indiana, 6,500 barrels to the Weona refinery at Winnett and 10,500 barrels to the Yale Oil corporation. Income after operating expenses showed gross profits of close to \$20,000 for the pipeline.

### RANCHER'S WHEAT SACK HELD TWO JUGS OF MOON

All's not wheat that's sacked, as was shown when two jugs containing moonshine hidden in a bag of wheat were found in a Ford driven by Henry Hutchinson in Bozeman when Under-sheriff Orville Jones and Deputy A. M. Howell stopped the auto. The car and the moon were confiscated and Hutchinson was locked up in the county jail. He will be charged with possessing and transporting liquor, contrary to law.

### Buffalo Kill Presents Problem

Not much headway is being made in the slaughtering of buffalo on the government bison and elk range near St. Ignace. A small crew of cowpunchers is endeavoring to run some of the animals into a corral, but is having a hard time of it. Probabilities are that the buffalo will be shot on the range and butchered on the spot. This, however, involves the danger that the rest of the herd will stampede upon smelling the blood.

### U. S. Puts Lien on Oil Property

C. A. Rasmussen, collector of internal revenue for the district of Montana, has filed a tax lien with County Clerk and Recorder John A. Moran, of Toole county, against the Kevin-Sunburst company. The lien states that \$9,900 is still due the government for income taxes, and the amount of the taxes with a 5 per cent penalty will form a sum of more than \$10,000 to be collected, officers said.

### Firemen Face Hail of Bullets

Working in a hail of bullets that flew in all directions from cartridges stored in the building, firemen succeeded in extinguishing a fire in the garage of James Doner in Butte. Several boxes of rifle cartridges were in the place, and when the fire reached them a veritable barrage of lead was thrown out. Although the bullets pierced the walls of the building, no one was wounded. The blaze started from crossed wires, Fire Chief Martin believes.

## State Capital NEWS

### LIST GIVES COUNTIES BY JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

SELDOM has there been found a reference sheet to show what judicial district each county of Montana is in, but Secretary of State C. T. Stewart has prepared such a list, which also designates the counties of the two congressional districts, as follows:

First Congressional District  
 Beaverhead, fifth; Broadwater, fourth; Deer Lodge, third; Flathead, eleventh; Gallatin, ninth; Granite, third; Jefferson, fifth; Lake, fourth; Lewis and Clark, first; Lincoln, eleventh; Madison, fifth; Mineral, fourth; Missoula, fourth; Powell, third; Ravalli, fourth; Sanders, fourth; Silver Bow, second.

### Second Congressional District

Big Horn, thirteenth; Blaine, eighth; Carter, sixteenth; Carbon, thirteenth; Cascade, eighth; Chouteau, twelfth; Custer, sixteenth; Daniels, twentieth; Dawson, seventh; Fallon, sixteenth; Fergus, tenth; Garfield, sixteenth; Glacier, nineteenth; Golden Valley, fifteenth; Hill, eighteenth; Judith Basin, tenth; Liberty, eighteenth; McCone, seventh; Meagher, fourteenth; Musselshell, fifteenth; Park, sixth; Phillips, seventeenth; Pondera, nineteenth; Powder River, sixteenth; Prairie, sixteenth; Richland, seventh; Roosevelt, twentieth; Rosebud, fifteenth; Sheridan, twentieth; Stillwater, sixth; Sweet Grass, sixth; Teton, nineteenth; Toole, nineteenth; Treasure, fifteenth; Valley, seventeenth; Wheatland, fourteenth; Wibaux, seventh; Yellowstone, thirteenth.

### BUTTE DISTRICT MINES MADE MONEY

FOUR of the larger mining companies of the Butte district reported net proceeds for the last fiscal year of \$4,528,092.74, according to the books of the state board of equalization. The previous year many of the mining companies operated at a loss and only one or two reported any net proceeds at all.

The Anaconda company this year, it reported, earned a total of \$3,219,418.77 from its mines in the Butte district of which \$2,757,434.21 was derived from ores from the mines on the Butte hill, \$217,034.58 was from the Emma and \$244,949.98 was from the Nettie. Net proceeds of the Butte-Superior were returned as \$540,022.96. The Elm Orlu show net proceedings of \$226,622.20 and the Davis-Daly had net revenue of \$42,065.59 from the Colorado property and \$194,423.13 from its Hibernia claim or a total of \$237,028.72.

Figures as reported by the various companies were not in every case accepted by the state board, the net proceeds, which are taxable, being raised in most instances slightly, the board disagreeing with the mining companies over deductions allowable, principally taxes. The figures of the mining companies are net after taxes.

### TO STOP SALE OF ILLEGAL BUTTER

THAT George H. Webster, chief of the dairy division of the Montana department of agriculture, will enforce the state dairy law and regulations is taken from a statement he has issued. Complaint has been that some creameries have been putting butter on the markets that do not comply with the regulations as to correct weights and moisture content. In such cases he said there not only will be prosecutions in the courts, but creamery licenses will be revoked.

Commissioner Webster says that since the first of October of the present year, several reports have come to his office from Great Falls that butter was being sold on the market in that city that was both short in weight and too high in moisture content. Two letters were received from one creamery in that city asking what they could do to be relieved of the unfair competition which they had to meet in consequence of this short weight and illegal moisture content. One other creamery in that city sent a formal complaint to Congressman Scott Leavitt and asked him to invoke the aid of the United States bureau of chemistry in making an investigation and if possible getting action taken by the federal government to curtail the activities of those creameries who were putting out this illegal butter.

### UTILITIES PAY LARGE TAX TO STATE

INTER-COUNTY properties of public utilities operating in Montana pay taxes on assessed valuations of more than a quarter of a billion dollars, according to figures supplied by the state board of equalization. The exact amount is given as \$257,500,823. This is in addition to taxes collected by the various counties on assessments which are levied direct by the various county assessors on property owned by the utilities but which is not assessable on valuations made by the state board.

The total of taxes levied by the state board, approximately a half million dollars, does not include all of the taxes paid by corporations by any means, for many corporations do not operate in more than one county and many pay taxes on property which does not class as inter-county. Neither does it include the taxes collected as license taxes on net proceeds, nor the taxes paid on a percentage basis by coal mining, oil producing and refining companies, street car lines which are assessed locally, solvent credits and holdings of the larger as well as smaller corporations or the direct county and city levies.