

United States News

WASHINGTON. — President Wilson issued a cable for a special session of Congress to meet May 19. Secretary Tumulty said it would be impossible for the president to be here on the opening day.

Fifty more men convicted during the war for violation of the espionage act have been granted clemency by President Wilson on recommendation of Attorney General Palmer.

Permanent acquisition of the eighty-nine former German ships under the Paris agreement secures the position of the United States as the second maritime power in the world. Great Britain, of course, ranges first and Japan is third. The total deadweight tonnage of steamships, exclusive of tankers, of 500 tons and over now under United States control is 8,607,222.

The federal farm loan system is now doing about 15 per cent. of all agricultural land loan business in the United States. A report of the farm loan board at the conclusion of the second year of operation shows that loans closed in the last twelve months amounted to \$120,238,000. The aggregate of farm loans made by all agencies, public and private, is estimated at about \$800,000,000 annually.

Returning American soldiers are not for the League of Nations, they don't want to police Europe or any other part of the world outside of America and its possessions and they are anxious to get home and settle down. This was the view expressed by Representative Green of Iowa, prominent member of the Ways and Means Committee, who has just returned from a trip to France and England.

PITTSBURG. — The street railway system was tied up by a strike of motormen and conductors.

TOLEDO, O. — The plant of the Willys-Overland Company has been closed by Clarence A. Earl, vice-president, following a clash between strikers and police. Labor officials claim 10,000 men are on strike.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Earl R. Caverley, 25, former bank clerk, charged with embezzling \$14,000 in bonds from the Canadian Bank of Commerce at Vancouver, B. C., was committed to jail here without bail, on instructions from the Canadian authorities.

CHICAGO, Ill. — The fifth Victory loan is oversubscribed. The quota of \$4,500,000,000 has been surpassed, according to a late bulletin flashed from Washington by Secretary of the Treasury Glass.

MINNEAPOLIS. — The millers here declared that although the United States Grain Corporation may provide mills with less expensive wheat from Canada, they did not believe it would be possible for them to reduce flour prices sufficiently to make decreased bread prices possible.

BISMARCK, N.D. — The Non-partisan League of North Dakota, which is in control of the state politically and the influence of which has spread over at least five other northwestern states, has come out against President Wilson's foreign and peace policies through its official newspaper, the Fargo "Courier News".

DES MOINES, Ia. — General Leonard Wood, speaking to the employees of the National Cash Register Company recently, after declaring that "we must prepare for the next war," said: "War will come again. We don't know when or where it will come, but it will come just as surely as epidemics, pestilences, tuberculosis, cancer, and other diseases. We will do our best to prevent them, but they will come. War will always be with us unless God changes the character of the human race."

SIoux CITY, Ia. — The city council found the petition for the recall of Mayor Short sufficient and ordered the recall election for June 16. The recall is demanded because the Mayor recently delivered an address of welcome to an I.W.W. convention here.

PACIFIC GROVE, Cal. — Rear Admiral Clauuncey Thomas, U.S.N., retired, died here after an extended illness. He was 69 years old.

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — The sale of bay rum in West Virginia, except when denatured, is in violation of the state prohibition law.

Luther Burbank.

Luther Burbank, the wizard of the plant world, the man whose experiments and discoveries have revolutionized the world's theories of plant life and the profession connected with it, is now seventy years old. He was born in Lancaster, Mass., on March 7, 1849. At an early age he earned a reputation as a naturalist, and for many years he has gone on with his studies and experiments until the results are now known far and wide. At the Burbank experiment farms near Santa Rosa, Cal., new theories are constantly being proved and their results given to the world, for Burbank, while a scientist working for the satisfaction of individual achievement, is a philanthropist who believes that the results of his labors belong to all mankind.

It is said of him that he began his experiments when a boy on the home farm because of his observations of the extreme difficulties under which plants will sometimes grow and thrive; and that from a desire to make conditions better for plants, some of his most brilliant inspirations have grown. He has to his credit nearly a dozen original fruit productions, not including numerous improvements in pears, apples, grapes, and other fruits. In vegetable life he has perfected several new species; in flowers nine or ten new varieties; in nuts two distinct kinds; in berries seven varieties; and he several years ago gave to the western farmer the spineless cactus, which makes the best food for cattle the plainsman can find.

Commercially the Burbank potato is the wizard's greatest success. It was developed by him at his home in Massachusetts as long ago as 1873, and was one of his first triumphs. Now so general is its use that people hardly ever think to connect it with the scientist who has gone on from that to more intricate things, patiently working them out at his big farm in California.

Some of Mr. Burbank's most striking successes are with relation to chestnuts and walnuts. He produced a chestnut tree that will bear in eighteen months from the time the parent tree is first planted by seed. The average of the chestnut tree known to the public is ten to fifteen years from the time it is planted a seed until it comes into bearing.

In walnuts Mr. Burbank produced a shell that could be crushed in the hand, but found that birds destroyed it, and was obliged to harden the covering to protect the meat. He took the tannin out of the walnut. It is a coloring matter that gives a rather disagreeable flavor. One of the trees has given an annual crop of 400 pounds for the last twenty years.

As an example of delicate plant work, Mr. Burbank's friends refer to his improvement of the dahlia. He removed the disagreeable odor and produced the flower with a fragrance like magnolia.

In Burbank's discovery of the spineless cactus the cattlemen of the desert states have a means of fattening stock which is priceless. The cactus is a substitute for water.

It has been found that the milk flow of the cows is increased 75% when they are fed on cactus, over the amount given when dry alfalfa hay is fed.

Probably the first absolutely new species of fruit ever created by man is the primum berry, made by Burbank from the native California dewberry and the Siberian raspberry. The two were crossed by pollination. Seedlings were raised from the cross, and then followed years of selection. The completed fruit was found to be unlike either parent in form, color or taste. It ripens at the same time as strawberries.

Wit and Humor

SHAKESPEARE ON THE AUTO.

"I will remedy this gear ere long."
—Henry VI, part II.

"The dust hath blinded them."
—Henry VI, part II.

"I like the new wire."
—Much Ado About Nothing.

"As horns are odious they are necessary."
—As You Like It.

"I show thee the best springs."
—The Tempest.

"As one would set up a top."
—Coriolanus.

"Marks upon his battered shield."
—Titus Andronicus.

"Had it been all the worth of his car."
—Cymbeline.

"And you, sir, for this chain arrested me."
—Comedy of Errors.

"Humbleness may drive unto a fine."
—Merchant of Venice.

"How quickly should you speed?"
—Hamlet.

Watch This Space.

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—Anthony and Cleopatra.

"An't please you, deliver."
—Coriolanus.

"I am out of the road of rutting."
—Pericles.

"I have Ford enough; I have my belly full of Ford."
—Merry Wives of Windsor.

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