

MANY RUM SHIPS BRING WHISKEY

EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS WORTH
OF LIQUOR ANCHORS ALONG
RUM ROW.

TWENTY-ONE LOADED VESSELS

Cargo Will Be Sold at Fifty Dollars
Per Case F. O. B. The
Ships.

New York.—Slipping in from the high seas under cover of a heavy fog, 21 vessels, headed by the British steam yacht Istar, dropped anchor along Rum Row to dispose of 160,000 cases of liquor—\$8,000,000 worth.

Thus the squadron presented to coast guard cutters who reported its discovery, approximately prehistoric strength. There were 23 rum ships of the line before Christmas but customs authorities say there are enough larger vessels there now to more than make up in cargo capacity for the slightly smaller number.

The price—also according to customs authorities—will be approximately \$50 a case f. o. b. Rum Row. They admitted their efforts to board the Istar met with as little success as attended a similar strategy attempt a year ago with the British yacht first became "the flagship Ustar" and "peen of the fleet."

Six steamships, all former tramp freighters, were described as the backbone of the fleet. There were two converted yachts smaller than the Istar, nine three masted schooners and four nondescripts which the customs men termed "sea going tubs, gas and sail." There were several new name plates among them and enough new paint to indicate that a few commanders had taken advantage of the heavy weather and dull markets to slip off to a quiet haven for repairs as well as fresh cargoes.

Coast guard cutters men said they had discovered a new system of liaison established between the fleet and the shore since the proposed treaty with Great Britain authorized search and seizure within 12 miles, or an hour's sail from port. Between the "mother ships" and the small two man motor boats whose deep water zone of operations is limited, has been established a secondary fleet of intermediate sized craft, it was reported.

Some Deserters Again Citizens.
Washington.—President Coolidge by proclamation restored the rights of American citizenship to all deserters from the army and navy during the three year period between the armistice and the formal ending of the World war.

The proclamation issued upon the recommendation of Secretaries Denby and Weeks, affects in no wise those who deserted in the face of the enemy or at any time before the armistice, and does not remit or commute the court-martial sentences of those who deserted after the armistice, and prior to the technical ending of the war.

Kaiser Bill Plans His Early Garden.
Doorn, Holland.—The former German Emperor is curtailing his wood-cutting activities, and has started making ready his yard and garden for Spring. Nearly every day recently he has worked among the rose bushes and other shrubbery on the estate near here.

Other improvements on the place include alteration of the old conservatory which, because of a shortage of rooms in the home, is to be converted into a nursery for the children of Princess Hermine.

Wilson Tobacco Market Sets Record
Wilson, N. C.—The world's record in the sale of tobacco on a single market was broken this season by Wilson tobacco market, it was announced here at the closing of the market by H. B. Johnson, supervisor of sales of the Wilson Tobacco Board of Trade. The total sales of the season were given out as 71,617,284 pounds, which sold for \$15,856,541.43 making an average of \$22.17 per hundred pounds.

The sale of this season showed an increase of 29,174,990 pounds over last season, an increase of 9,275,284 pounds over the banner season of 1920. It was stated when 62,242,066 pounds were sold. Since 1902 the Wilson market has sold 622,044,672 pounds, and one third of the amount was sold within the last four seasons, it was declared.

Chemicals Ruin Cleveland Water.
Cleveland, Ohio.—Virtually all of greater Cleveland depended on springs and the distributors of distilled water for their drinking and cooking supplies. This situation, one of the most acute in the city's history, was brought about by the strong taste of phenol and chlorine in the water pumped from Lake Erie.

Hundreds of Clevelanders stood for hours awaiting their turn at seven approved springs. Policemen were stationed at the springs to handle the crowds.

NEW TAX BILL TO CUT REVENUE \$446,000,000?

Washington.—The new tax bill, as passed by the house will produce \$446,000,000 less revenue than the existing law in the opinion of treasury actuaries.

Chairman Smoot, of the senate finance committee, said he expected to take up the revenue bill with the committee Thursday. The committee will decide to what extent hearings will be held. Mr. Smoot expressing the opinion few if any persons would be heard in view of the exhaustive hearings conducted by the house ways and means committee on all sections of the bill.

FIND THE BODY OF A WOMAN

FIRE CONTINUE TO BURST FORTH IN SCATTERED HEAPS OF THE DEBRIS.

Cause of Explosion Still a Mystery;
Several Investigations Will Begin
Immediately.

New Brunswick, N. J.—The number of known dead as a result of disastrous TNT explosion and celluloid fire at the little town of Nixon was placed in 18. Only one additional body, the torso of a woman, was found. Rescuers who worked in the smoking ruins throughout the day say eight persons are missing, six are unaccounted for and sixty are being treated for injuries suffered in the disaster.

The body found was that of Mrs. Arthur Dumas, who, with her three little children and a visiting woman friend, was killed when her car outside the Nixon plant boundaries was demolished. The bodies of the Dumas children and Miss Janice Rockfeller, the friend, were found.

Firemen with tractors resumed tearing at the masses of twisted steel and shattered tile that remains of the Nixon Nitration works, 45 buildings, where were manufactured celluloid novelties. They also dug among the wrecked tanks, railroad cars and heaps of TNT and ammonium in boxes and barrels which fringe the gigantic center marking the site of the explosion.

Fires continued to burst forth in scattered heaps of the debris, but authorities asserted that all were under control. The rows of magazines filled with tons of highly inflammable celluloid in sheets—most of them with doors blown off or roofs crushed in—were believed out of danger.

What caused the explosion remained a mystery, and prompted several investigations. Officers of the Raritan Arsenal, adjoining the destroyed properties, and where a half dozen of the scores of magazines stuffed with high explosive shells were blown in, will conduct an inquiry for the government. The TNT which exploded had been salvaged at the arsenal and removed to the Nixon plant to be prepared for nitrates to be used as farm fertilizers.

The most generally accepted theory was that the explosive properties had not been eliminated from the TNT before it was transferred from the arsenal to the 300 foot building of the Ammonia company, where the blast occurred.

Wilmington Making Record.
Wilmington, N. C.—During the month of February a total of 12 seafarers and schooners arrived at the port of Wilmington, while in the month preceding 16 steamships and sailing vessels arrived, making a total of 28 for the first two months of the present year, considered to be a splendid record by customs house officials.

Sixteen steamships and sailing ships cleared from the port during January, while in the month just past 13 ships departed from Wilmington. The total ships arriving during the months of January and February totalled 57.

Traveling Man Is Killed By Pastor.
Mexico, Mo.—Rev. Asa Q. Burns shot and seriously wounded H. D. Conger, a traveling salesman of Lincoln, Neb.

The minister had just returned from Chicago where he had been taking special course at Chicago University.

Conger and Dr. Burns met on the Main Street of Melco and the minister opened fire, one bullet striking Conger in a lung, inflicted a serious wound, and another hitting him in the hand.

Rev. Mr. Burns surrendered to officers following the shooting but refused to give any explanation of the cause of the quarrel.

Industrial and Trade Activity.
Washington.—The increased industrial and trade activity with which the current year started continues to be well maintained as a characteristic of the country's business condition, the federal reserve board said in its February survey of business. Financial and commercial interests, the review said, generally view the future with confidence and are shaping their policies accordingly.

With the increased business activity there was a larger volume of bank credit, the statement said.

OFFER OF FORD REACHES HOUSE

MUSCLE SHOALS BILL TAKEN UP WITH DEBATE LIMITED TO TEN HOURS.

FINAL VOTE DURING WEEK

Proposition of the Detroit Manager is
Alternately Commanded and
Attacked.

Washington.—Henry Ford's offer to Muscle Shoals, pending before congressional committees for more than two years, finally reached the floor of the house.

Under an agreement limiting debate to 10 hours the McKenzie bill, providing for acceptance of the bid was taken up, with a final vote in sight before the end of the week.

As the discussion got under way the proposition of the Detroit manufacturer was alternately commanded and attacked. Representative McKenzie, republican, Illinois, led the fight in half of the offer, while the opposition rested chiefly in the hands of four republican members of the military committee which recommended acceptance of the bid—Representatives Merin, Pennsylvania; Hull, Iowa; Hill, Maryland; and Wainright, New York, former assistant secretary of war.

As reported, the McKenzie bill provides for the sale to Mr. Ford of the two nitrate plants at Muscle Shoals with the understanding that he is to manufacture fertilizer there and the leasing of dams number two and three for the development of power. The measure was amended in committee to provide for the replacement by the government of the Gorgas steam power plant, recently sold to the Alabama Power company.

The McKenzie bill was brought up for consideration under a resolution reported without opposition by the rules committee. Representative Burton of Ohio, a republican member of the committee, offered the resolution for adoption, although indicating in a brief speech that he was opposed to acceptance of the Ford bid. Mr. Burton, like a number of other members of the house was not opposed to the threshing out of the vexing Muscle Shoals problem at this time, although determined to conduct a vigorous fight against the Ford bid as embodied in the McKenzie proposal.

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What caused the explosion remained a mystery, and prompted several investigations. Officers of the Raritan Arsenal, adjoining the destroyed properties, and where a half dozen of the scores of magazines stuffed with high explosive shells were blown in, will conduct an inquiry for the government.

The prisoners denied the charge. Local authorities are not familiar with the evidence in the case. Women with the party were detained at the police station but not locked up.

The accused men are connected with a large band of the nomads roaming through this section in recent months.

Gasoline Supply in U. S.

Los Angeles, Calif.—An essential need exists for constant exploration for oil to meet increasing demands, Paul Shoup, vice president of the Southern Railway company and president of the Pacific and Associated Companies, declared in a statement saying that less than a 60-day supply of gasoline is on hand in the United States.

He declared that three great producing fields of California have not returned money invested in them, although producing \$250,000,000 to date. The American public must come to realize the necessity for search for new oil fields, he said.

The three California oil fields, Shoup said, produced up to date 228,136,000 barrels at an estimated value of \$250,000,000. He enumerated expense for this production, totaling \$217,800,000, exclusive of taxes and other costs as support for his statement that the fields had not been profitable.

Knight Is Named to Fill Oil Seats.

Washington.—The nomination of Samuel Knight, of San Francisco, to be special Government counsel in litigation to determine validity of titles held by the Standard Oil Company of California to certain oil lands in California, was sent to the Senate by President Coolidge.

Treasury Makes Refund.

Washington.—Refunds on tax payments totaling \$123,992,820.94 were made by the treasury in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1923, according to a report sent to the house ways and means committee by the department.

The refunds, which were made to 282,820 persons, covered payments for several years and were made on account of "illegal or erroneously collected taxes." The report showed 10,162 persons had received more than \$1,000 in reimbursements.

WOMAN KILLED; MAN HURT IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT.

Asheville.—Mrs. B. B. Todd, owner of the Franklin hotel at Brevard, was instantly killed, and W. W. Croshorn, prominent business man of Transylvania county, was painfully injured when an automobile in which the couple were riding overturned on the Hendersonville road, near Busbee.

It was sometime after the accident before they were discovered by passersby. Mrs. Todd was already dead, while Croshorn was rushed to local hospital. Attending physicians say his injuries although painful are not considered serious.

THOMPSON HELD FOR SAME

18 CHARGED WITH ACCEPTING BRIBE AND OTHER LAW VIOLATION.

Federal Grand Jury at Chicago Returns Indictments After Month's Investigation.

Chicago.—Charles R. Forbes former director of the United States Veterans bureau, and John W. Thompson, contractor of Chicago and St. Louis, were named in four indictments returned by the federal grand jury which has spent a month investigating charges of waste, graft and debauchery in connection with Forbes' administration.

Forbes and Thompson were named jointly in two indictments charging conspiracy to commit bribery and of offenses against the government, and conspiracy to defraud the United States government. Forbes was named alone in a third indictment on a charge of accepting a bribe, and Thompson in a fourth charging that he had indirectly given a bribe.

In a special report which accompanied the indictments, the grand jury indicated that other sensational developments involving alleged graft had been uncovered, but because they were not within the jurisdiction of the court had not been pursued.

"We do not feel," the special report said, "that it would subserve the best interests of the government for this jury at this time to make public the details of these transactions. This jury feels that it will suffice to report what they involve:

"1. Speculation by one or more officials of the government wherein it has been asserted that official information was used for purposes of speculation.

"2. That certain sums of money were paid to two members of Congress.

"3. That possession of a file of one of the departments for about a month was had by persons having no official connection with such departments.

"4. That money was accepted by certain individuals (not attorneys) for the purpose of obtaining clemency for prisoners through their intimacy with officials.

"5. That money was collected by certain individuals (not attorneys) for obtaining through such intimacy permits for intoxicating liquor."

Bonded Rum Worth Million Missing.

Chicago.—Eight thousand cases of pre-war bonded whiskey valued at nearly \$1,000,000 have vanished from the Federal concentration depot at the Sibley warehouse and storage company here, according to a copyrighted news story in The Chicago Herald and Examiner, which adds the amount of missing liquor may run much higher.

Withdrawal of the whiskey from the Government supervised warehouse, in which the accumulation of liquor was among the largest in the entire country, was accomplished by forged or raised permits for medicinal whiskey, the newspaper says. All withdrawal records of the company are said to have vanished.

Investigation has been ordered by Roy A. Haynes, prohibition commissioner, according to the newspaper. The forged and raised permits have been circulated for months, and some dating back to last November have been uncovered, the newspaper says.

Plans Association of Colleges.

Greenville, S. C.—Plans for the organization of a permanent association of colleges of the south for the purpose of meeting annually to discuss international problems were initiated soon after the first session of the international relations conference opened at Furman university. C. V. Bishop, president of the Furman university international relations club, was elected temporary chairman, with authority to appoint a committee on recommendations and nominations.

Big Additions at Rail Plant.

Salisbury.—Construction of a new 37 stall roundhouse, annex machine shop, glue and babbitt shop, 100-foot turn table, two 100-foot engine inspection pits, and a 220-foot runway to accommodate a ten-ton traveling crane to convey heavy parts from the new roundhouse to the glue, babbitt, and machine shops, will be begun at Spencer by the Southern Railway just as soon as minor details can be completed and contracts let, according to an announcement made by H. W. Miller, of Washington.

The refunds, which were made to 282,820 persons, covered payments for several years and were made on account of "illegal or erroneously collected taxes." The report showed 10,162 persons had received more than \$1,000 in reimbursements.

TRADE ACTIVITY IS STILL STRONG

BUSINESS INCREASE SHOWS THE COUNTRY IS IN BETTER CONDITION.

THE RESERVE BOARD SAYS

Federal Body Gives Out Survey of
Business For February; More
Bank Credit.

Washington.—The increased industrial and trade activity with which the current year started continues to be well maintained as a characteristic of the country's business condition, the federal reserve board said in its February survey of business. Financial and commercial interests, the review said, generally view the future with confidence and are shaping their policies accordingly.

With the increased business activity there was a large volume of bank credit, the statement said. The volume of commercial loans which decreased continuously after October began early in January to increase and the trend was marked in the first half of February when these loans were about \$327,000,000 or approximately 5 per cent above the level of 1923. The growth in loans, however, was larger offset by a decrease in investment holdings with the consequence that total loans and investments of banks in the larger centers were only about \$125,000,000 larger than a year ago.

During the last half of 1923, production declined and even after the sharp recovery of January and early February the rate still was about 5 per cent below the high point of last May, but board officials said there was no reason to believe it would continue lower.

The distribution of commodities at wholesale and the shipments of merchandise increased in January, as did the output of manufacturers. This increase was sufficient to place the general level for the two months of '24 above the average for 1923 and taken with the changes in production from late 1923 and the movements of prices reflected the extent and character of the recent business readjustments.

The board's private index of conditions shows general commodity production in January was almost on a level with that of 12 months before. The output of basic materials increased about 8 per cent over December when production was lowest after a steady decline of seven months' duration.

Steel industries showed particularly large increases in output, which at the end of January were as large as at any time in 1923. Unfilled orders turned upward in December after nine months of downward tendencies. The demand for steel to meet railroad requirements continued large and there was distinct addition to the call for steel from the automobile and building industries.

Stocks of certain commodities were found by the board to have been larger in January than in December or in January a year ago. The increases were particularly large in coal, production of which was interrupted by the strike prior to January 1923, and in petroleum and gasoline. The general list of other stocks on hand was about the same as a year ago.

League Secretary Reveals Surprise.

Genoa.—The league of nations secretary, in charge of the registration of treaties, got something new the other day when he received from the British foreign office a copy of a treaty between Great Britain and