

NEWS OF THE WEEK

CONDENSATIONS OF GREATER OR LESSER IMPORTANCE.

A BOILING DOWN OF EVENTS

National, Political, Personal and Other Matters in Brief Form for All Classes of Readers.

WAR NEWS.

The French armored cruiser Gaulois was torpedoed in the Mediterranean sea on December 27 and sank in a half hour, with a loss of four lives.

In the month of November the allied powers lost 138 merchant ships of a total of 214,500 gross tons "by the war measures of the central powers."

During the year just closed 178,537 men were recruited in Canada, or nearly half the total of 385,955 since the outbreak of the war.

Three thousand prisoners, six cannon and more than twenty machine guns fell before the advancing Teutonic forces in Wallachia on December 29, according to a Vienna official statement.

The British transport Ivernia has been sunk, and one hundred and fifty military officers and men are missing, according to an official announcement by the British admiralty.

An entire Russian regiment of coast artillery—about 1,500 men—with the exception of 50 men, was lost when the Finnish steamship Ohonue struck a mine near the Gulf of Finland.

The entente governments, in replying to Germany's peace proposal, refuse to consider the proffer and declared it is insincere and ineffective. The suggested conference without conditions is not a peace offer, the note says, but is rather a war maneuver.

Comments of the German papers on the entente reply to the German peace proposals indicate the universal conviction that peace now is impossible and that the central powers must continue to prosecute the war with the utmost vigor.

The increase in the national debt of Great Britain, France, Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary is estimated at \$49,455,000,000 from the beginning of the war to the latter part of 1916, except in the case of Austria-Hungary, in which the estimate extends only to May, 1916.

In 1916 75,500 Germans were captured by the French and 40,000 by the British, while in Serbia and Macedonia the entente allied army took 11,177 Bulgarian and Turk prisoners. During the same period the Italians made prisoners of 52,250 Austrians, while the Russians captured more than 400,000 Germans and Austrians.

GENERAL.

The South Dakota supreme court decided the state tax laws under which express companies are taxed is unconstitutional.

Exports of American manufactures and commodities through the port of New York were \$2,785,231,906 in 1916, or approximately \$1,000,000,000 more than in 1915.

The first Domestic Servants' union reported organization east of the Missouri river, with headquarters at Duluth, Minn., with 100 charter members.

Eleven school children were killed, four probably fatally hurt and eight seriously injured when a tornado wrecked the Vreton rural school house near McAlester, Oklahoma.

The insurance which the Union Pacific railway system recently announced it had placed on the lives of its employees covers 40,000 persons and amounts to \$30,000,000.

Nearly half a million dollars to guard against infantile paralysis in Chicago next summer is the request made of the city council finance committee by health authorities.

Two million oranges, much too ripe for consumption, were destroyed in New York by a squad under the supervision of Lucius P. Brown, head of the bureau of foods and drugs of the department of health.

Under giant Mount MacDonald, in the Selkirk of British Columbia, the Canadian Pacific railway has just completed the longest double track mountain tunnel in the western hemisphere. The tunnel is over five miles long and cost over \$1,000,000.

The death rate for 1916 in New York was the lowest on record, according to a report issued by the department of health. With a population estimated at 5,624,841 there were 77,861 deaths in the year.

Juan T. Burns, consul general at New York for the de facto government, was arrested by federal officers charged with shipping arms into Mexico in violation of President Wilson's embargo proclamation of October, 1915, and with evasion of customs regulations.

Forty-five women inmates and one sister of the St. Ferdinand de Halifax insane asylum at St. Ferdinand de Halifax, Canada, lost their lives when the building they occupied was destroyed.

Industrial accidents in Pennsylvania during 1916 totaled 251,488, of which 2,587 resulted fatally, according to statistics just made public.

Ad Santel, Pacific coast champion heavyweight grappler, will go on the mat at San Francisco February 22 with Joe Stecher of Nebraska, it was announced.

Breaking all its coinage records, the Philadelphia mint during 1916 produced 238,469,769 domestic coins in denominations ranging from 1 cent to half dollars and valued at \$9,344,266.

Eleven persons were killed and 40 injured when a train loaded with persons returning after the New Year holiday collided with a switch engine ten miles outside Edinburg, Scotland.

One hundred persons are believed to have been drowned in Clermont, Queensland, Australia, by a flood which washed away the main street and all the houses in low lying places.

The coronation of Emperor Charles and Empress Zita of Austria as king and queen of Hungary, took place December 30 in St. Mathay church at Budapest.

Fifty-four persons were lynched in the United States in 1916. Fifty of the victims were negroes and four white persons, and included in the record are three negro women.

More than one billion dollars net income from operations was made by the railroads of the country during the year now closing. Statistics gathered by the interstate commerce commission complete for nine months indicate that the total net income from operations will be approximately \$1,098,000,000 for the entire year.

MEXICAN TROUBLE.

Villa followers have captured and looted the town of Sabinas, Hidalgo, between Laredo and Monterey, according to advices reaching the border.

After levying a "war loan" of 100,000 pesos on the city, Villa has evacuated Torreón, according to reports at Juarez. Villa harmed no foreigners or their property in Torreón.

Continuation of the conference of the Mexican-American joint commission without regard to the question of withdrawing American troops from Mexico is proposed by General Carranza in his message refusing to ratify the Atlantic City protocol.

One hundred and forty prisoners were taken, twenty-five were killed and a large quantity of loot taken from Chihuahua City by Carranza's Villa, was recovered by a Carranza force, near Guerrero when the 600 Villa followers were defeated by the de facto forces.

Adherents of Francisco Villa are already arranging details of a Mexican provisional government, to be set up by the bandit chief, and a tentative second of government has been chosen, according to information in the hands of United States authorities on the border.

Increasing evidence that General Carranza's government is being menaced by bands of insurgents, coupled with the prospect that the first chief will not accept the Atlantic City protocol has brought the Mexican situation to a stage that is causing growing concern in Washington. Officials admit that the conditions are embarrassing.

WASHINGTON.

Senator Hitchcock has introduced a bill appropriating \$800,000 for the construction of a dam and reservoir in the North Platte river, near Guernsey, Wyo.

President Wilson has nominated Lieutenant Colonel Chester Harding army engineer corps, to be governor of the Panama canal zone, to succeed Major General Goethals, who resigned.

A bill to patent to the regents of the University of Nebraska 800 acres of land adjoining the agricultural experiment station at Scottsbluff, Neb., was introduced in the house by Congress man Kinkaid. The land is to be used for dry farming experimentation.

Almost nine billion dollars was the aggregate value of all crops of the country last year. In an estimate announced by the department of agriculture, the exact value was set at \$8,934,587,000. That was an increase of \$2,165,389,000 over the value of 1915 crops.

The problem of raising additional revenue for the government to avoid the threatened deficit at the end of the next fiscal year has assumed such proportions that administration leaders are considering the advisability of placing tariff duties on commodities now on the free list.

Exports from the United States during the eleven months of 1916, ending November 30, jumped more than a billion and three-quarters in value for the same period of 1915, the department of commerce announced.

Prompt consideration in congress of President Wilson's proposed railway legislation was predicted after announcement of the termination of conferences between railroad and brotherhood heads in New York in an unsuccessful attempt to settle their differences.

Railroad legislation, deficiency bills and possible oral outcroppings regarding Mexican affairs and European peace developments may make an

INDORSE PEACE NOTE

WILSON'S REQUEST FOR TERMS APPROVED BY SENATE.

VILLISTAS SUFFER HEAVILY

De Facto Forces Defeat Rebels at Jiminez—Many Carloads of Loot Taken at Torreón Recovered.

Washington.—At the conclusion of three days of stirring debate, the United States senate voted to indorse President Wilson's note requesting a statement of peace terms from the warring powers of Europe.

Action came with dramatic suddenness when democratic leaders decided to accept a form of resolution that would not commit the senate to indorsement of the whole of the president's note and ten republicans of the progressive group joined the majority in making the vote 48 to 17.

Senator Martine of New Jersey was the only democrat to vote in the negative.

Discussion of the subject had reached a climax during the day with a sensational declaration by Senator Lewis, chief spokesman for the democrats, replying to republican criticism of the president's course.

Without referring directly to the submarine controversy, the senator said that the United States could not keep out of the war if it continued and that America would not again accept misconception of orders or zeal of an officer as an excuse for an injury to a citizen or property.

The chief objection urged against the original resolution offered by Senator Hitchcock was that it would indorse the president's offer to join in a movement to guarantee world peace and his declaration of the interest of the United States in small nations. Progressive republicans joined Senator Lodge and others in this contention.

The resolution adopted was proposed by Senator Jones, republican of Washington, and was accepted by Senator Hitchcock as a substitute for his own.

It resolves: "The senate approves and strongly indorses the request by the president in the diplomatic notes of December 18 to the nations now engaged in war that those nations state the terms upon which peace might be discussed."

Villa Forces Worsted at Jiminez. Chihuahua City, Mexico.—Villa was defeated at Jiminez January 4th by General Francisco Murguia with a loss of 1,500 rebels dead, wounded and captured, with the noted rebel leader, Martin Lopez, and another Villa general among the slain, according to an official report received here from the Carranza commander.

General Murguia stated that his command pushed back Villa's troops five miles after coming into contact. Machine guns are credited with playing an important part in the offensive, in which both cavalry and infantry were heavily engaged. Villa, according to the report, personally led repeated cavalry attacks against Murguia's infantry, which was checked with heavy losses.

Besides Villa's heavy losses in men, horses, ammunition, arms and other war material, General Murguia claims the recovery of many carloads of the loot brought by the Villa troops from Torreón. Government cavalry is said to have killed about fifty members of Villa's bodyguard.

Plans for the new Gage county jail were submitted to the board of supervisors and accepted by the board. The plans call for a two-story structure with basement. The cost will be about \$25,000.

Three thousand two hundred new cars of all kinds have been ordered by the Union Pacific railroad, beside this 900 new refrigerator cars are to be built in its own shops at Omaha.

Levi D. Phipps, deputy grand custodian of the Masonic lodge of Nebraska, died at his home in Tekamah, just recently.

Worst Blizzard Known.

Bismarck, N. D.—One of the worst blizzards in North Dakota history gripped the central part of the state early this week with a snowfall of seventeen inches in twenty-four hours, breaking the record of the fall during the great blizzard twenty years ago.

Burgomaster Threatens to Quit.

Geneva.—The burgomaster of Vienna, Dr. Weiskirchner, threatens to resign if Hungary continues to refuse to send food to Vienna, according to reports received here.

Packing Firm Makes 20 Million.

Chicago, Ill.—Gross sales of \$75,000,000 and net profits of \$20,465,000 were shown in the report of Swift & Co., packers, for the year ending September 30, 1916, submitted to the stockholders of the company at their annual meeting here.

Twenty-two Are Drowned.

London.—A dispatch from Amsterdam says that twenty-two women and children were drowned through the sinking of a ferryboat in a collision on the Moselle near Bellstein.

Fear of Strikes Diminishing.

Duluth, Minn.—Ten of the logging camps of the Virginia & Rainy Lake Lumber company are working full crews and fear of the spread of the Industrial Workers of the World strike, it is declared, has begun to fade.

Employees to Get Bonus.

Chicago.—A bonus of from one to five weeks' salary, in proportion to the length of service of the employes, has been ordered by the directors of

CONDENSED NEWS

OF INTEREST TO ALL.

EVENTS FOR COMING EVENTS.

January 15-20—State Improved Live Stock association meeting at Lincoln.

Jan. 15 to 20—Organized Agriculture Annual Meeting at Lincoln.

January 16—Nebraska Association of Fair Managers' Meeting at Lincoln.

January 16-17-18—Annual convention of Nebraska Volunteer Firemen at Auburn.

January 18-19—Winter Apple, Floral and Potato Show at Lincoln.

Jan. 19—Northeast Nebraska Editorial Meeting at Norfolk.

Jan. 24-25—Nebraska League of Municipalities convention at Hastings.

Feb. 7-9—Nebraska Retail Lumber Dealers' Association Convention at Omaha.

February 15-20—Volleyball Contest at York.

The Union Stock Yards company of South Omaha just finished the greatest year in its history. The total receipts of live stock of all kinds in 1916 was 7,664,195 head. This remarkable showing assures South Omaha its position as the second stock market in the world. It leads Kansas City for second place by over 500,000 head of all kinds of stock. Chicago is the leading market of the universe. October was the banner month in cattle receipts, 225,511 head being received; February the best for hogs, with 402,152 head; during September the most sheep were registered, 530,992 head; and the mule receipts were the most in September, the total being 3,332. Receipts for the entire twelve months are: Cattle, 1,443,581; hogs, 3,021,927; sheep, 3,171,364, and mules, 27,333.

Thirty newspaper men and business men, associates or friends of Norris A. Huse of the Norfolk Daily News, gathered at the Hotel Fontenelle, Omaha, where they tendered Mr. Huse a farewell banquet on the eve of his departure for New York City where he is to become vice president of the American Press Association.

The citizens of Miller must wait awhile longer before they enjoy municipal water. After the mains had been laid, all connections put in, etc., it was learned that the well was insufficient to supply the water, and now a new well will have to be sunk before the supply of water can be turned on.

A piece of an oak tree 5x18 inches was presented to the Hartington library by J. C. Smith, which had grown around the blade of an old pocket knife. It is thought that the knife was stuck into the tree some fifty years ago, when it was a sapling. The curiosity was found near Hartington by Mr. Smith.

E. M. von Sagger has purchased the West Point Republican from James C. Elliott. Mr. von Sagger was formerly editor of the West Point Volksblatt, a German publication, which has suspended publication. Mr. Elliott has taken up the duties of county attorney of Cumling county.

The Northeast Nebraska Automobile Owners' association, embracing the territory which extends as far north as Niobrara, east to Fremont and south to Columbus, was organized at Norfolk just recently.

Colonel J. C. Elliott, county attorney of Cumling county and the former postmaster and proprietor of West Point Republican, has been appointed a member of the West Point city council.

Winter wheat sold for \$1.92 a bushel on the floor of the Omaha Grain Exchange last week, the highest price ever paid for that variety of grain on the Omaha market.

The city council of Red Cloud has accepted from W. T. Auld, head of the Corn Exchange bank in Omaha, a gift of \$20,000 for a library site, building and equipment for the city.

The year of 1916 saw the placing of better than \$500,000 of improvements in North Platte, the highest figure for improvements of any city of its class in the state for the twelve months.

Auburn invested \$200,000 in permanent improvements during the year 1916. A number of important improvements are being planned for this year.

The taxes of the two railroads operating in Nemaha county, the Missouri Pacific and the Burlington, have been paid in, the first paying \$9,802.86, and the last named \$9,214.01.

It is reported that the Grand Island Brewing company will manufacture "near beer" following the expiration of their license May 1.

Nebraska is the fourth state in the union in crop value, according to the report just issued by the department of agriculture in Washington.

Beatrice parties are promoting a movement for a rest room for men. It is planned to rent a building, equip it with chairs and tables, and open a reading room in order that men may have a place to while away their time when they come to town.

A well defined movement, supported by Hastings teachers, has been started in the west end of the state to split the Nebraska State Teachers' association into two divisions. The matter will come up for decision at the next state meeting.

A new bridge over the Platte river south of Yutan will be erected at a cost of \$98,000. Work will begin in the spring. The state will bear one-half the cost of the structure and the counties of Douglas and Saunders will pay one-fourth each.

All bids for the new government building to be used for the federal court and postoffice at Chadron have been rejected as being above the amount appropriated by congress.

Madison's new hospital, which is the first to be established in the city, will be opened about January 15.

Lancaster county appears to have hung up a record in 1916 in the way of permits to wed and to separate. The county clerk issued 1,044 marriage licenses during the year, while only 214 divorces were granted in the same period. No other county in the state with anywhere near the population of Lancaster can show such a record, it is believed.

All records for a single year's building operations in Omaha were broken in 1916, the total value being \$7,253,000. The largest previous year was in 1909, when the total was \$7,204,000.

The famous Arizona wild horse case, which has been on trial in United States court at Omaha for the last three weeks, ended when the jury returned a verdict finding nine of the eleven defendants guilty and two not guilty. Indictments are yet outstanding against seventeen others, some of whom will be brought to trial, while others of the seventeen will be dismissed. Those found guilty were: J. S. Smith, C. A. Smith, John Boloy and C. M. Thompson, Omaha; J. P. Shirliff, Sank Center, Minn.; R. B. Burwinkle, Des Moines, Iowa; W. Hinkley, Brayton, S. D.; Albert A. Hastings, Silver Creek, Neb.; and Charles W. West, Lincoln. The charge upon which the indictments were returned is that of conspiring to use the mails to defraud, the penalty, upon conviction, being a fine up to \$10,000, or imprisonment for two years, or both.

Omaha has been selected as headquarters for the fifth federal good roads' division, which comprises the states of Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and Missouri. Kansas City was in the field seeking to be chosen as headquarters for the fifth district. The federal government has appropriated a good roads fund, of which \$8,500,000 is apportioned to the district of Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and Missouri. The condition is that before the federal money is available for road building in any state, that state must appropriate an amount of money equal to the amount of federal money it seeks to use.

President Calvin of the Union Pacific announced at Omaha that his company contemplated the expenditure of \$14,180,848 on the system in 1917. This sum covers but three classifications of the entire yearly budget, which is said to be the largest in the history of the road. Nearly \$700,000 of the above sum is to be spent in Omaha, \$250,000 in Grand Island, and \$43,500 in North Platte.

The United States statistical abstract for 1915 states that Nebraska produced 105,990,000 pounds of sugar during that year. Officially the average person consumes 83 pounds of sugar in the course of a year. Since the last census of this state shows a population of 1,258,624, this state supplies sugar for its population with an annual export of over 1,000,000 pounds.

A valuable paint mineral is said to have been discovered on the Y. E. Skidmore farm south of Ewing last summer. The trade name of the mineral is ochre, and it is what is usually used as a pigment in paints. It resembles clay, and the size of the deposit appears to be unlimited, according to reports.

The Hastings Y. M. C. A. building reopened the first of the year. The \$2,500 sought in pledges to take care of possible deficits for three years having been secured. During the period which the association's building was closed, it was thoroughly renovated and repaired.

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DUMB AS OYSTERS

THAT IS NORMAL CONDITION OF AMERICAN SECRETARIES OF STATE.

SURPRISING TO FOREIGNERS

No Intimation of What the Government Intends to Do in Matters of Diplomacy Ever is Given to the People.

By GEORGE CLINTON. Washington.—Ordinarily there is nothing so dumb as an American secretary of state. Let haste be made to say that dumb is used here simply in the sense of "speaks not."

Most people have in mind, probably, the recent speaking twice in one day of Secretary of State Lansing. It was so exceptional, that the American world is not only amazed but staggered, and a part of the rest of the world with it. The truth is that from the dawn of the first day of the republic American secretaries of state remained dumb so far as the public is concerned on every diplomatic project until the hour came to lay the thing before the world.

Foreigners who come to Washington are more than surprised because the American people do not demand, or seemingly even do not care to have, advance information of what the state department intends to do.

President Wilson's appeal for peace fell on the ears of an astonished world. Scarcely anyone had the slightest idea that he was to speak. His secretary of state maintained the stony silence of a good servant, although, according to his own statement later, the matter was under discussion for weeks.

English People Want to Know. Washington students of conditions account for the readiness of the American people to let the state department alone and not to ask for advance information, to the knowledge that the people have that if they do not like what an administration does through its state department they can get rid of the administration. An Englishman said recently in Washington that the people in his country always insist that when some big thing is to be done by the foreign office, an intimation of what it is to be shall be given in advance.

The American public did not know until less than a year ago how close we were to having war with a European nation over South American matters when Theodore Roosevelt was president. The American people did not know in advance anything about Grover Cleveland's intention to address the challenging note that he did to Great Britain on the Venezuela boundary matter. Everything that comes out of our state department comes out like a Jack from its box. The American people do not even realize that a spring is to be pressed or a button to be punched.

Newspaper men go to the state department daily and have been going daily ever since there were any Washington correspondents. The information that they get almost invariably is on things that have been accomplished, not on things that an attempt is to be made to accomplish. Day after day recently the correspondents went to the state department and yet they got no inkling of the administration's intention to give to the world its peace appeal, or rather, its request to the belligerents to make known the terms upon which peace might be acceptable.

Uncle Sam's New Islands. Uncle Sam shortly will take three more islands under his protecting arm—St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix, which are still known as the Danish West Indies, but which soon will drop the adjective Danish.

Both houses of Denmark's parliament have approved the sale of the islands to the United States. Our own senate already has given its approval, and as soon as the formal exchanges have taken place the administration will ask congress for the purchase price, \$25,000,000, and will ask also for the passage of a bill for the proper institution of an American territorial form of government in the acquired islands.

This approval of the sale of the Danish West Indies brings the Panama canal and its provinces again into public notice. Within a few days congress has been told that the isthmian waterway must be better protected than it is today, if it is to be saved in case of war with some nation which might attempt to seize it for its own purposes, or, failing to seize it, might attempt its destruction to prevent its use by the United States.

Plans already have been made for the adequate fortifying and garrisoning of the Isthmian Canal zone. Big guns already are in place on the islands off the two ocean entrances, the Atlantic and the Pacific. It may be, as some army officers view it, that the

amount of work on the soil furnished to an army of employees, with the result of making flowers and vegetables stand the happy farmer in about three times their normal market price. All this witnesses to the increasing appeal of country life, of the Petit Trianon order, and should bring cheer to those who contend that the only way to lower the high cost of living is to make larger use of the land.—New York Post.

"I guess I'll have to go to the dentist." "No way out of it, eh?" "No. I've been to his office twice and the tooth didn't stop aching when I got to his door. There's nothing to it now but to go right on in and let him go to work on it."—Detroit Free Press.

Or Subsidized Him. "So you read Adelpate's novel. How did it come out?" "It's a mystery to me. I guess he must have hypnotized the publisher."—Boston Evening Transcript.

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