

BRIEF BRIGHT BREEZY BITS OF NEWS

A PRESENT REMINDING DAILY OF THE GIVER—A YEAR'S PAID SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BEE.

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

VOL. 48—NO. 158.

Entered as second-class matter May 28, 1906, at Omaha, P. O. under act of March 3, 1879.

OMAHA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1918. ***

By Mail (1 year), Daily, \$4.50; Sunday, \$2.50; Daily and Sun., \$5.50; outside Neb. postage extra.

TWO CENTS.

THE WEATHER:

Unsettled Thursday with rain or snow in east or central portions; Friday fair.

Thermometer Readings table with columns for time and temperature.

SHOPPING IN LONDON EXCEEDS ALL RECORDS.

London, Dec. 18.—Christmas shopping in London is exceeding all previous records. In some of the great commercial establishments admission to stores of would-be purchasers has been regulated, owing to the large crowds.

The general holidays are to be on a more extensive scale than ever before. A large number of wartime restrictions have been removed and many of the food orders modified. All soldiers in England are to have 12 days leave of absence.

RECESS FOR HOLIDAYS PLANNED BY THE HOUSE.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Democratic Leader Kitchin, at the request of members, outlined to the house today the program for a holiday recess. He said at tomorrow's session adjournment will be taken until next Monday. A three-day recess for Christmas will begin Tuesday, he said, with only a formal "no business" session being held on the following Friday, when adjournment will be taken until December 30.

FOOD ADMINISTRATION WINDING UP ITS AFFAIRS.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Paid employees of all state, county and local food administrators will be discharged January 1 and all activities requiring paid staffs, including the work of sugar equalization board, will be discontinued on that date, it was announced today by the food administration. Voluntary workers and the various food administrators will remain until the national food administration is dissolved as a governmental agency by President Wilson.

The work at the food administration office here is gradually being brought to an end.

The boards administering the milling regulations and for co-ordination of purchases for the allies for enforcement and for distribution, it was announced today will be continued pending instructions from Administrator Hoover, following his conference with President Wilson in Paris.

WOULD PUT RED FLAG OUTSIDE PALE OF LAW.

Washington, Dec. 18.—In introducing today a bill to make it unlawful to display the red flag in the United States, Senator New of Indiana, republican, said "the red flag movement in this country is nothing less than sacrilege upon the sacred memory of our boys who have given their all on the battlefields of France."

CRIPPLED SOLDIERS MAY BECOME TOY MAKERS.

New York, Dec. 18.—Thousands of crippled soldiers will be offered employment making toys, it was announced today at the annual convention of the toy manufacturers of America.

Material with which toys may be made will be sent to soldiers who are unable to leave their homes. The work was declared to be light and interesting and the need great in order to fill the demand in this country.

FOUR SONS WILL COME BACK FROM ARMY UNHARMED

Mrs. Clara Bonham of Council Bluffs Hears from Boys; James Promoted to Rank of Captain.

Mrs. Clara Bonham, 215 West Washington street, Council Bluffs, who has four stalwart sons in military service, is the proudest and happiest mother in Council Bluffs. Every one of her boys is coming back to her without a blemish, and all have distinguished themselves.

A letter received yesterday from her son, James, modestly announced that he had received his full commission of captain. He was a sergeant when he left Council Bluffs with company L boys, was promoted to second and first lieutenant for meritorious action in the field, and now, after being twice cited for bravery and efficiency in action, has had fuller recognition of his qualities as a leader of men by getting the next higher office. At an early stage of the battle of the Marne, Lieutenant Bonham plunged through the river and led a battalion of Iowa boys against a horde of Hunns that outnumbered them 10 to one, and turned the tide of battle in his favor. When they were crossing the river the water was being churned into foam by machine gun bullets fired at close range from the opposite bank. Lieutenant Bonham set the example to his fellows by constantly diving as they waded and swam to the hostile shore and thus escaped annihilation. Newspaper correspondents cabled a column story about the exploit.

Mrs. Bonham does not know when her boys will be home, but she has heard from all of them since the war ended and is confident they will all come back safely.

Chicago Air Mail Service Gets Off to Poor Start

Chicago, Dec. 18.—An aerial mail service between New York and Chicago began at 7:20 a. m. today when Pilot Leon D. Smith took to the air at Belmont park, Long Island, his biplane carrying 400 pounds of mail. According to schedule he was to have transferred his mail pouches to another machine at Bellefonte, Pa., but he met with delays and was forced to land and the mail he carried was sent to Cleveland by a train.

Postoffice officials said that it would take several days before the service was running on regular schedule.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS LINKED WITH PEACE PACT BY WILSON

PROGRESS MADE IN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

Delegates Expected to Enter Conference in Spirit of Accommodation; No One Nation to Be Master.

By Associated Press. Paris, Dec. 18.—After four days of gathering views of leaders in France, President Wilson's closest advisers say he has seen no reason to change his belief that the foundation of a league of nations is inseparable from the actual peace treaty itself.

These advisers say that the president in explaining his definition of "the freedom of the seas" will reassure Premier Lloyd George that he has no intention of demanding a reduction of the British navy to a point involving the unsafety of the empire, but will emphasize his feeling that the plan of a league will strengthen the empire.

Friendly Toward Italy. King Victor Emmanuel, who is expected to arrive on Thursday, already has been fully advised of the president's plans through conferences with Count Di Celleri, Italian ambassador to the United States, but the president will take the opportunity to make personal explanations to the king and also to make clear his friendliness toward Italy.

The hope is expressed by those surrounding the president that the exchanges of views will clear away all partial misunderstandings which may exist in regard to Mr. Wilson's attitude and prepare the way for the assembling of the conference with complexities removed, so that it will be ready to deal with principles and any outstanding differences of opinion that remain.

In all his conferences the president has taken opportunity to impress his views, it is said by those who are authorized to speak for him, that no one nation is entitled to assume the role of master, or dictate the manner or the conditions of the representation of others.

Americans See Way Clearly. There is some indication that headway is being made in this direction and that the members of the American mission are now seeing their way clearly. All express the conviction that delegates will enter the conference in a spirit of accommodation.

Some undercurrents are interpreted as showing indications of regret because the acceptance of President Wilson's points in a general way prevented some nations from achieving their own objects which might have been gained if Germany's collapse had been made even more complete. In reply, it has been made plain to those with whom the president conferred that the United States government does not consider the war a victory of arms alone and that victory would be incomplete without an organization of nations to guarantee world peace.

Statement by President. President Wilson this afternoon gave out the following statement: "The Paris edition of the Chicago Tribune this morning, in a dispatch accredited to its correspondent at Washington, declared that before leaving for France I gave assurance that I approved of a plan formulated by the League to Enforce Peace. This statement is entirely false.

"I am, as everyone knows, not (Continued on Page Two, Column Two.)

WILSON SETS LONDON VISIT FOR NEXT WEEK

His Suggestion Is Welcomed by British Government; Will Make Trip to Rome in January.

London, Dec. 18.—President Wilson is expected in England December 26.

It is on the president's own suggestion that he is coming to England next week. A communication to that effect was received by the British government this morning. A reply was sent to the president, welcoming the suggestion.

As a result it will not be necessary for Premier Lloyd George and Mr. Balfour to go to Paris, as it is expected that the conferences between the president and the British statesmen preliminary to the inter-allied conference in Paris can be completed during the president's stay here.

To Visit Italy in January. Paris, Dec. 18.—Unless the interview arranged between the president and the Italian king tomorrow causes a change in the program, the president will visit Italy about the middle of January.

The papal letter presented to President Wilson yesterday by Monsignor Geretti, the papal under-secretary of state, pleaded for assistance on behalf of small oppressed nationalities, especially Armenia and Poland. The pope's letter also expressed the hope of a just and durable peace being reached through enlightened action.

Pope Benedict also spoke in behalf of the new countries arising from the partition of the dual monarchy, mentioning especially Rumania. The pontiff asked President Wilson to help those countries to realize their ambitions regardless of race and religion.

Christmas Roll Call membership headquarters at Sixteenth and Farnham, late Wednesday afternoon.

The mishaps occurred because everyone in the vicinity was watching a man on the top of the United States National bank building as he tried to manipulate the rope which drew the indicator upward to the desired goal, 40,000, instead of watching their step or passing automobiles.

"If everybody is going to watch the thermometer instead of looking where they are going, you'll have to change those figures in the wee, small hours of the morning," the traffic officer threatened.

Added thrills were registered when the rope broke as the indicator (Continued on Page Two, Column Three.)

Year Before Normal Times; McKelvie Talks Co-Operation

Secretary Daniels Tells Governors Peace Conditions May Be Long Ways Off; Must Keep Navy.

Annapolis, Dec. 18.—War government of the states, before adjourning their annual conference tonight, inspected the new superdreadnought, Mississippi, anchored in Chesapeake bay. They made the trip to the big craft as guests of Secretary Daniels on the presidential yacht Mayflower. Earlier in the day the governors heard addresses by Mr. Daniels and Secretary Lane, who praised President Wilson for going to Europe.

At the suggestion of Gov. Miliken of Maine, the executives agreed to discuss with their respective congressional delegations the question of reimbursement by the federal government of colleges and universities which suffered heavy loss by discontinuance of student army training courses.

Too Many Social Affairs. Many of the governors expressed disappointment that social affairs on the program had prevented adequate discussion during the conference of practical matters of state legislation and administration.

Alaska will be the meeting place for another conference of the governors next summer providing one-half of them can attend, and Thomas Ruggles, jr., today obtained the promise from Secretary Daniels to provide a ship for the trip. Selection of the meeting place for the next annual conference was left to a committee which is to choose either Alaska or Utah.

A year, possibly two years, will be required before the nation can return to normal peace conditions and "we will be fortunate if conditions abroad make demobilization possible so early a date," said Secretary Daniels in his formal address.

Iowa Governor Talks. The navy, said the secretary, must be increased and strengthened to enable the United States to contribute as many units as any other nation to an international police force, but he added: "I look to see the peace conference put an end to competitive big navy building."

Governor-elect J. B. A. Robertson of Oklahoma expressed the opinion that the trend of returning soldiers to the farms is a development that "no more than 7 per cent of the men who left the farm will return."

Gov. W. L. Harding of Iowa also urged co-operation for marketing. The "food gambler" must be abolished, he said, and an efficient system of gathering information on the production of foodstuffs developed to guide farmers in determining when to buy and when to sell.

Non-Resident Ownership an Evil. "In Nebraska there are large tracts owned and controlled by non-residents; practically 50 per cent of the farmers in the state are tenants. Mr. McKelvie believes that land ownership should complete home building, but tenantry discourages it. Therefore non-resident land ownership is an evil. Although the speaker thought it would be a mistake to apply fully the revolutionary processes of the single tax as a solution of the land problem, he suggested that this problem can be (Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

Atties Thanked For Action. Washington, Dec. 18.—Formal thanks of the all-Russian government at Omsk to the victorious associated nations for their action in requiring Germany to evacuate Russian territory, is expressed in a cablegram received at the Russian embassy today from the acting minister of foreign affairs at Omsk for transmission to the State department.

After voicing regret that Russia was unable to continue in the war to the end the cablegram says the Omsk government will accept with gratitude any assistance the allies will give in the regeneration of Russia and declares that Russia should not and shall not remain in her present state, which "threatens the world with new and great commotions."

American Warship to Join British Fleet in Baltic. Paris, Dec. 18.—An American warship was ordered today to the Baltic to participate with the British fleet in reopening those waters, preserving order and maintaining the international character of the demonstration.

Senate Votes for 10 Per Cent Tax on Profits Made from Child Labor. Washington, Dec. 18.—Adoption of a committee amendment imposing a 10 per cent tax on profits from child labor products entering interstate commerce was the only action by the senate today on the war revenue bill. The vote on the amendment was 50 to 12 with democrats casting all the negative votes.

War Department Denies Promotions to Officers. Washington, Dec. 18.—Secretary Baker said today that the War department is pursuing a fixed policy in denying all promotions to officers on active service. The blanket order of November 11, cutting off promotions both in the home forces and overseas, he indicated, will not be modified and the only way in which officers who have been recommended for promotion can attain the advanced rank is through the inactive list of the officers' reserve corps.

War Minister Resigns. Copenhagen, Dec. 18.—Herr Landsberg, secretary of publicity in the German government, has announced that General Schuech, the Prussian minister of war, had resigned.

There were loud protests from all parts of the chamber and the chairman called Ledebour to order. Some delegates demanded that Ledebour be deprived of the privilege of the floor. An uproar for 15 minutes ensued, after which Ledebour was permitted to continue, but was warned against slanderous utterances.

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AMERICANS WILL HOLD GIBRALTAR OF RHINE RIVER

Fortress of Ehrenbreitstein, Opposite Coblenz, Being Prepared for Occupation by U. S. Troops.

Coblenz, Dec. 18.—The German fortress of Ehrenbreitstein, often called the Gibraltar of the Rhine, just across the river from Coblenz, is being prepared for occupation by the American troops.

Until December 9, the day after the American advance guard arrived in Coblenz, the fortress was occupied by several regiments of Germans. Since then the fortress has been cleaned thoroughly by German soldiers, assisted by scores of women.

The fortress and the grounds occupy more than 100 acres on a rocky promontory, which is 400 feet above the river.

An American postoffice has been established in Coblenz. Owing to the recent fluctuation in the value of the German mark, only French and American money is accepted. The official rate of exchange is 142 marks for 100 francs.

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MILLIONS IN RUSSIA ARE STARVING IN WINTER COLD

Slav Nation's Pitiful Plight Due to Exhaustion from War, Says Envoy in Appeal for Help.

New York, Dec. 18.—Estimating Russian casualties in the world war at "not less than 8,000,000 men, of whom 3,000,000 were killed and about 1,000,000 disabled for life," A. J. Sack, director of the Russian information bureau, declared in an address before the Foreign Commerce club here today that "Russia's present pitiful condition is due to her exhaustion from war."

"She is lying in seas of blood and tears," he continued "and further, millions of her people are facing death, this time from starvation. About 20,000,000 Russians will die this winter unless the allied countries render the unfortunate country immediate help on a generous scale. Sacrifices Tremendous.

"Russia has sacrificed millions of her sons and all her happiness to make the triumph of the allied cause possible and at this solemn moment of victory the thought of the democratic nations should be devoted to Russia and they should not feel any right to joy and happiness until Russia is made again great, free and happy."

"After the Bolshevik tyranny is crushed and civic rights are re-established the Russian people will again all a constituent assembly on the basis of universal, direct, equal and secret suffrage, and the assembly will define the constitution of the state and will solve Russia's main social problems."

Allies Thanked For Action. Washington, Dec. 18.—Formal thanks of the all-Russian government at Omsk to the victorious associated nations for their action in requiring Germany to evacuate Russian territory, is expressed in a cablegram received at the Russian embassy today from the acting minister of foreign affairs at Omsk for transmission to the State department.

After voicing regret that Russia was unable to continue in the war to the end the cablegram says the Omsk government will accept with gratitude any assistance the allies will give in the regeneration of Russia and declares that Russia should not and shall not remain in her present state, which "threatens the world with new and great commotions."

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U. S. Delegates Advocate Sinking Enemy Warships

England Acquiesces in Plan But Some Lesser Powers May Demand Distribution of Prizes.

Paris, Dec. 18.—The American delegates to the peace congress have resolved to advocate the sinking of the surrendered enemy warships and resist any proposition to distribute them on the basis of naval losses. This announcement is made by those in close touch with the American representatives, who it is added, feel that such a position would result in avoiding contention and materially support President Wilson's declaration that the war was not based on aggression or the acquisition of property.

England, through Sir Eric Geddes, first lord of the admiralty, had previously acquiesced in the American plan to destroy the captured or surrendered warships, and it is declared, will continue to support the United States although it is expected some of the lesser naval powers will demand that the prizes be distributed.

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