MARKET REPORTS

NEW YORK STOCKS.

New York, Dec. 27.—The widespread approval of the government's proposed action in taking over the railroads and allied properties of the country found reflection in a buoyant advance of prices at the active opening of today's stock market. The shorts were almost panic stricken in the rush to cover contracts, some of which were made as recently as yesterday.

Included among the more substantial advances of the first half hour were Baltimore and Ohio, which rose 17 points; Delaware and Hudson, 14; St. Paul, 12¼; Atchison, 10; Atlantic Coast Line, 9½; Northern Pacific, 9; Norfolk and Western, 8½; Union Pacific and Southern Pacific, 8 each; New York Central, 7½; Louisville and Nashville, 6½; Lackawanna and Chesapeake and Ohio, 5 each; Canadian Pacific and "Soo," 4 each; and others two to three points.

Industrials, coppers, shippings and an unusual array of specialties rose two to four points, the movement being the broadest and most extensive since the middle of the year.

There was considerable profi taking on the early rise with consequent recessions of two to five points.

St. Paul preferred which rose almost 18 points in the initial dealings reacted ten points.

NEW YORK COTTON MARKET.

New York, Dec. 27.—The cotton market was somewhat irregular at the opening today, first prices being 27 points higher to two points lower, with near months relatively firm. Trading was comparatively quiet at the start but became more active as though sympathizing with the srtength and excitement of the stock marekt. January sold up to 30.80, with March advancing to 30.08, and May 29.80, or into new high ground for the season and about 15 to 27 points net higher shortly after the call. Trade interests were again moderate buyers and the advance was encouraged by bullish spot advices, including reports that there was a good inquiry from spinners today. The action of the government in taking over the railroads was much discussed around the ring but any influence it may have exerted on the early market was supposed to be reflected in the buying by brokers with Wall street connections.

CHICAGO GRAIN

Chicago, Dec. 27.—Notice that the government would take possession of the railways had a bearish effect today on the corn market. Opening priced which ranged from unchanged figures to ⅝@½ lower with January 1.26¼, and May 1.24½ to 1.24⅞, were followed by moderate setback all around.

Although at first oats showed considerable strength, the market later took a downward swing with corn.

Provisions were irregular and dull. Pork showed a small decline, but lard and ribs scored slight gains.

YESTERDAY'S LATE MARKET REPORTS

NEW YORK STOCK LIST.

American Beet Sugar	64¾
American Can	34
American Car & Foundry	63
American Locomotive	49
Amer. Smelting & Refining	b93
Anaconda Copper	56⅝
Atchison	78
Baldwin Locomotive	54⅝
Baltimore & Ohio	39¾
Bethlehem Steel "B"	68⅞
Canadian Pacific	130
Central Leather	58½
Chesapeake & Ohio	42⅝
Chicago, Mil. & St. Paul	36⅝
Chicago, R. I. & Pac. Ry.	17¼
Chino Copper	38¾
Colorado Fuel & Iron	32⅝
Columbia Gas and Electric	30½
Corn Products	28⅝
Crucible Steel	49
Cuba Cane Sugar	25⅝
Erie	13⅝
General Motors	93
Great Northern pfd	80½
Great Northern Ore Ctfs	24
Inspiration Copper	39½
Int. Mer. Marine pfd	78¼
Kennecott Copper	30
Louisville & Nashville	106
Maxwell Motor Co.	21⅝
Mexican Petroleum	72⅞
Miami Copper	26⅝
Midvale Steel	41⅞
Missouri Pacific	22½
Nevada Copper	17
New York Central	63½
Norfolk and Western	96⅝
Northern Pacific	75¾
Ohio Cities Gas	33⅞
Pennsylvania	42¼
Pittsburg Coal	40
Ray Consondated Copper	20⅝
Reading	67⅝
Republic Iron and Steel	74¾
Sinclair Oil	27
Southern Pacific	77¾
Southern Railway	22
Studebaker Co.	42⅝
Tennessee Copper	11⅞
Texas Co.	125½
Tobacco Products	46
Union Pacific	103¾
United Cigar Stores	87
U. S. Industrial Alcohol	109¼
U. S. Rubber	49
United States Steel	83½
Utah Copper	74⅛
Wabash Pfd. "A"	37
Westinghouse Electric	36
Willys-Overland	18¼
A. T. & T.	99¾
Illinois Central	86½
Atlantic Coast Line	83½
Gulf States Steel ....B	83
Seaboard Air Line ....B	7½
Sloss-Shef. Steel and Iron	36½
United Fruit	111
Virginia Caro. Chem.	31¾
General Electric	22¾

NEW YORK SPOT COTTON.

New York, Dec. 26.—Spot cotton quiet; middling 31.50.

NEW YORK COTTON CLOSE.

New York, Dec. 26.—Cotton closed strong.

	Open	Close
January	30.55	30.53
March	29.95	29.93
May	29.55	29.53
July	29.16	29.14
October	27.60	27.98

CASH GRAIN PRICES.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Corn Nos. 2 and 3 yellow nominal; No. 4 yellow 1.65@1.70.

Oats No. 3 white 80@81; standard 81@⅛.

Rye No. 2, 1.82½; barley 1.38@1.57; timothy 5.00@7.50; clover 20.00@26.00.

NOTED EXPLORER ARRIVES SAFELY

Stefansson, Arctic Explorer, Reaches Fort Yukon—He Had Not Been Heard From Since March, 1916

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 27.—Vilhjamur Stefanssen, the Arctic explorer, last heard from in a letter received in March, 1916, has arrived with his party at Fort Yukon, according to word received by the naval department.

Stefanssen, head of the Canadian arctic expedition, has been in the far north since 1913 and lately there has been some anxiety as to his safety.

The expedition was divided into the northern and southern divisions. Steffanssen, in charge of the northern, set out to explore unknown parts of Beaufort sea and search for new land. His party started on the government steamer Karluk. Near Point Barrow the vessel was icebound and carried eastward to Thesis island.

Stefanssen, with a small party, started on foot for the mainland. During their absence the Karluk was crushed by the ice and sunk, eight members of the party losing their lives in an attempt to reach Herald island. Nine men made their escape.

Despite this disaster Stefanssen continued his work in the far north, making arrangements to journey on foot over the ice in unknown parts of Beaufort sea. After extensive explorations he returned to Prince Patrick island in 1915 but with Kellet as his base, he went on with his researches within the Arctic circle through 1916, being joined in May of that year by a party on the Palor Bear at Cape James Murray.

Fort Yukon, where Stefanssen is reported to have arrived, is a trading post and station of Alaska on the Arctic circle and on the great bend of the Yukon river in about longitude 145 degrees, 20 minutes west.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Hogs receipts receipts 26,000, strong. Bulk 16.90@17.25; light 16.25@17.20; mixed 16.70@17.30; heavy 16.65@17.30; rough 16.65@16.80; pigs 12.00@15.90.

Cattle receipts 11,000, strong. Native steers 7.45@14.40; western steers not quoted; season over until next August. Stockers and feeders 6.65@10.30; cows and heifers 5.30@11.40; calves 8.50@15.50.

Sheep receipts 19,000, weak. Wethers 8.00@13.00; lambs 12.60@16.50.

CHICAGO PRODUCE.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—Butter lower; creamery, 39@48½.

Eggs higher; receipts, 4,460 cases. Firsts, 48@51; ordinary firsts, 44@46; at mark cases included 44@50; refrigerator firsts, 37@38.

Potatoes higher; receipts, 40 cars. Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota bulk, 1.90@2.10; do sacks, 2.00@2.15.

Poultry, alive, higher; fowls, 18@23; springs, 21.

CHICAGO GRAIN & PROVISIONS.

Chicago, Dec. 26.—

	Open	Close
CORN—		
January	1.26	1.25⅝
May	1.24½	1.24⅞
OATS—		
December	78	79½
May	75¼	76½
PORK—		
January	.....	46.00
May	.....	45.60
LARD—		
January	24.80	24.20
May	24.80	24.57
RIBS—		
January	24.35	24.17
May	24.85	24.67

Knight Motor Makes History in World War

Quietly and without any blare of trumpets or advertising to acclaim its triumphs, the Knight sleeve-valve motor has come into its own in the Great War, and today not only the Allied armies but the enemy as well are depending very largely upon the efficiency and reliability of the Knight engine on the field of battle, says J. C. Williams, local dealer of Overland and Willys-Knight cars.

"If we trace the history of the European war—which war depends to a large extent upon gasoline—we find the Knight engine in the thick of it from the very beginning back in 1914," he continues.

"When the British army went over, the motor transports furnished by the British government were all Knight-motored and from that day to this practically all of the British army movements have been carried forth by Daimler-Knight busses and motor transports.

"And again it was the Knight motor that helped save Paris. For when the famous 'taxicab army' went forth from the French capital the bulk of them were carried by Panhard-Knights.

"Then late in 1915 came the supreme achievement of the Knight motor. For when the British 'tanks' were designed the Knight motor was the unanimous choice of the British staff.

"The tank is a veritable moving fort, weighing many tons and of tremendous strength and power. Its success, of course, and the lives of its crew depend first and foremost upon the power plant, for should this fail in even the slightest degree, or even falter, the tank is doomed.

"The British, of course, knew this, and when it came to deciding upon the engines Daimler-Knights were specified and two 6-cylinder sleeve-valve motors were installed in each tank to furnish the power.

"That is, without question, the greatest compliment ever paid the sleeve-valve motor, and is the crowning achievement of a long list of notable triumphs which include, among others, the breaking of all world's records, the acknowledgment by European motoring circles that the Knight is supreme, establishment of a new British record, establishment of a new American record, adoption by the London Omnibus company, and adoption by the Fifth Avenue Bus company and the Westcott Express company of New York with 150 Willys-Knight taxicabs, the LaSalle Hotel Taxicab company of Chicago with 100 Willys-Knight cars." (1t)

Issues Proclamation Taking Over Railroads

(Continued from Page 1)

is necessary for the complete mobilization of our resources that the transportation systems of the country should be organized and employed under a single authority and a simplified method of co-ordination which have not proved possible under private management and control. The committee of railway executives who have been co-operating with the government in this all-important matter have done the utmost that it was possible for them to do; have done it with patriotic zeal and with great ability but there were difficulties that they could neither escape nor neutralize. Complete unity of administration in present circumstances involves upon occasion and at many points a serious dislocation of earnings and the committee was, of course, without power or authority to re-arrange charges or effect proper compensations and adjustments of earnings. Several roads which were willingly and with admirable public spirit accepting the orders of the committee have already suffered from these circumstances and should not be required to suffer further. In mere fairness to them, the full authority of the government must be substituted. The government itself will thereby gain an immense increase of efficiency in the conduct of the war and of the innumerable activities upon which its successful conduct depends.

To Protect Investors.

"The public interest must be first served, and in addition, the financial interests of the government and the financial interests of the railways must be brought under a common direction. The financial operations of the railways need not then interfere with the borrowings of the government, and they themselves can be conducted at a greater advantage. Investors in railway securities may rest assured that their rights and interests will be as scrupulously looked after by the government as they could be by the directors of the several railway systems. Immediately upon the reassembling of congress I shall recommend that these definite guarantees be given; first, of course, that the railway properties will be maintained during the period of federal control in as good repair and as complete equipment as when taken over by the government, and, second, that the roads shall receive a net operating income equal in each case to the average net income of the three years preceding June 30, 1917; and I am entirely confident that the congress will be disposed in this case, as in others, to see that justice is done and full security assured to the owners and creditors of the great systems which the government must now use under its own direction or else suffer serious embarrassment.

McAdoo Fit For Place.

"The secretary of war and I are agreed that, all the circumstances being taken into consideration, the best results can be obtained under the immediate executive direction of the Honorable Wm. G. McAdoo, whose practical experience peculiarly fits him for the service and whose authority as secretary of the treasury will enable him to co-ordinate as no other man could the manly financial interests which will be involved and which might, unless systematically directed, suffer very embarrassing entanglements.

"The government of the United States is the only great government now engaged in the war which has not already assumed control of this sort. It was thought to be in the spirit of American institutions to attempt to do everything that was necessary through private management, and if zeal and ability and patriotic motive could have accomplished the necessary unification of administration, it would certainly have been accomplished; but no zeal or ability could overcome insuperable obstacles, and I have deemed it my duty to recognize that fact in all candor, now it is demonstrated and to use without reserve the great authority reposed in me. A great national necessity dictated the action and I was therefore not at liberty to abstain from it.

"Woodrow Wilson."

The presidential proclamation begins by quoting the congressional resolutions declaring a state of war to exist with Germany and Austria-Hungary, which resolved "that the president be and hereby is directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the government to carry on war" against the imperial German government and Austro-Hungarian government; "and to bring the conflict to a successful termination, all of the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the congress of the United States" also quoting the act making appropriations for the support of the army for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1917, and "for other purposes," which empowered the president, through the secretary of war to take possession and assume control of any system or systems of transportation," and then says:

"And, whereas, it has now become necessary in the national defense to take possession and assume control of certain system of transportation and to utilize the same, to the exclusion as far as may be necessary of other than war traffic thereon, for the transportation of troops, war material and equipment therefore, and for other needful and desirable purposes connected with the prosecution of the war;

Possession Friday.

"Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States, under and by virtue of the power vested in me by the foregoing resolutions and statute, and by virtue of all other powers thereto me enabling, do hereby through Newton D. Baker, secretary of war, take possession and assume control at 12 o'clock noon on the twenty-eighth day of December, 1917, of each and every system of transportation and the appurtenances thereof located wholly or in part within the boundaries of the continental United States and consisting of railroads, and owned or controlled systems of coastwise and inland transportation, engaged in general transportation, whether operated by steam or by electric power, including also terminals, terminal companies and terminal associations, sleeping and parlor cars, private cars, and private lines, elevators, warehouses, telegraph and telephone lines and all other equipment and appurtenances commonly used upon or operated as a part of such rail or combined rail and water system of transportation; to the end that such systems of transportation be utilized for the transfer and transportation of troops, war material and equipment, to the exclusion so far as may be necessary of all other traffic thereon; and that so far as such exclusive use be not necessary or desirable, such systems of transportation be operated and utilized in the performance of such other services as the national interest may require and of the usual and ordinary business and duties of common carriers.

For Indefinite Period.

"It is hereby directed that the possession, control, operation and utilization of such transportation systems hereby by me undertaken shall be exercised by and through Wm. G. McAdoo, who is hereby appointed and designated director-general of railroads. Said director may perform the duties imposed upon him, so long and to such extent as he shall determine, through the boards of directors, receivers, officers and employes of said system of transportation. Until and except so far as said director shall from time to time by general or special orders otherwise provide, the boards of directors, receivers, officers and employes of the various transportation systems shall continue the operation thereof in the usual and ordinary course of the business of common carriers, in the names of their respective companies.

"Until and except so far as said director shall from time to time otherwise by general or special orders determine, such systems of transportation shall remain subject to all existing statutes and orders of the interstate commerce commission and to all states and orders of regulating commissions of the various states in which said systems or any part thereof may be situated. But any orders, general or special, hereafter made by said director, shall have paramount authority and be obeyed as such.

"Nothing herein shall be construed as now affecting the possession, operation and control of street electric passenger railways, including railways commonly called interurbans, whether such railways be or be not owned or controlled by such railroad companies or systems. By subsequent order and proclamation if, and when it shall be found necessary or desirable, possession, control, or operation may be taken of all or any part of such street railway systems, including subways and tunnels; and by subsequent order and proclamation, possession, control and operation in whole or in part may also be relinquished to the owners thereof of any part of the railroad systems or rail and water systems, possession and control of which are hereby assumed.

"The director shall as soon as may be after having assumed such possession and control enter upon negotiations with the several companies looking to agreements for just and reasonable compensation for the possession, use and control of their respective properties on the basis of an annual guaranteed compensation, above accruing depreciation and the maintenance of their properties, equivalent, as nearly as may be, to the average of the net operating income thereof for the three-year period ending June 30, 1917—the results of such negotiations to be reported to me for such action as may be appropriate and lawful.

"But nothing herein contained, expressed or implied, or hereafter done or suffered hereunder, shall be deemed in any way to impair the rights of the stockholders, bondholders, creditors and other persons having interests in said systems of transportation or in the profits thereof to receive just and adequate compensation for the use and control and operation of their property hereby assumed.

"Regular dividends hitherto declared, and maturing interest upon bonds, debentures and other obligations, may be paid in due course; and such regular dividends and interest may continue to be paid until and unless the said director, the various carriers may agree upon and arrange for the renewal and extension of maturing obligations.

"Except with the prior written assent of said director, no attachment by mesne process or on execution shall be levied on or against any of the property used by any of said transportation systems in the conduct of their business as common carriers; but suits may be brought by and against said carriers and judgments rendered as hitherto until and except so far as said director may, by general or special orders, otherwise determine.

"From and after 12 o'clock on said twenty-eighth day of December, 1917, all transportation systems included in this order and proclamation shall conclusively be deemed within the possession and control of said director without further act or notice. But for the purpose of accounting, said possession and control shall date from 12 o'clock midnight on December 31, 1917.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

"Done by the president through Newton D. Baker, secretary of war, in the District of Columbia, this 26th day of December, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen and of the independence of the United States in the one hundred and forty-second.

"WOODROW WILSON.

"NEWTON D. BAKER,
"Secretary of War."

"By the President:

"ROBERT LANSING,
"Secretary of State."

Bankers and Business Men Approve.

New York, Dec. 27.—Almost without exception, leading bankers and executives of railroads having their headquarters here today expressed their approval of the action of President Wilson in taking over the country's railroad lines. The action of the president had been anticipated by railway officials for some time and most of them agreed that the government's program as a whole met their expectations.

In the financial district bankers expressed relief that the uncertainty over the situation had been ended. The president's statement regarding guarantee of compensation to the railroads will have the effect of reassuring holders of railway securities, it was asserted.

Colds Cause Headache and Grip. LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE Tablets remove the cause. There is only one "Bromo Quinine." E. W. GROVE'S signature on box. 30c.

It is a maxim of old that among themselves all things are common to friends.—Terrence.

COUNT CZERNIN GIVES BASIC CLAUSES OF PEACE

(Continued from Page 1)

can be made the basis of such a peace.

"The delegations of the quadruple alliance are agreed immediately to conclude a general peace without forcible annexations and indemnities. They share the view of the Russian delegation which condemns the continuation of the war purely for aims of conquest.

"The statesmen of the allied (Teutonic) governments in programmes and statements have emphasized time and again that for the sake of conquest they will not prolong the war a single day. The governments of the allies unswervingly have followed this view all the time. They solemnly declare their resolve immediately to sign terms of peace which will stop this war on the above terms, equally just to all belligerents without exception.

"It is necessary, however, to indicate most clearly that the proposals of the Russian delegation could be realized only in case all the powers participating in the war obligate themselves scrupulously to adhere to the terms in common with all peoples.

Six Basic Clauses.

"The powers of the quadruple alliance now negotiating with Russia cannot, of course, one-sidedly bind themselves to such terms, not having the guarantee that Russia's allies will recognize and carry out these terms honestly without reservation with regard to the quadruple alliance. Starting upon these principles and regarding the six clauses proposed by the Russian delegation as a basis of negotiations, the following must be stated:

"Clause 1.—Forcible annexations of territories seized during the war does not enter into the intentions of the allied powers. About troops now occupying seized territories, it must be stipulated in the peace treaty, if there is no agreement before, regarding the evacuation of these places.

"Clause 2—It is not the intention of the allies to deprive the political independence of those nations which lost it during the war.

"Clause 3—The question of subjection to that or the other country of those nationalities who have not political independence cannot, in the opinion of the powers of the quadruple alliance, be solved internationally. In this case it must be solved by each government together with its peoples in a manner established by the constitution.

"Clause 4—Likewise, in accordance with the declarations of the statement of the quadruple alliance, the protection of the rights of minorities constitutes an essential part of the right of peoples of self-definition, indicated by a constitution.

"Clause 5—The governments also realize this principle in life when there is a material possibility of mutual refusal not only to refund war expenditures, but also to pay damages caused by the war. In accordance with this each belligerent would have to bear only the expense of its subjects made war prisoners and also to pay damages caused on their own territory to civil subjects of an adversary by deliberate violation of international law. The creation of a special fund for this purpose, as suggested by the Russian government, can be discussed only in case other belligerents join in peace negotiations before the expiration of a certain time.

Clause 6—Of the four allied powers, Germany alone possesses colonies. On the part of the German delegation, in full accord with the Russian proposals regarding that, the following is declared: The return of colonial territories forcible seized during the war constitutes an essential part of German demands, which Germany cannot renounce under any circumstances. Likewise, the Russian demand for immediate evacuation of territories occupied by an adversary conforms to German intentions. Having in view the native of the colonial territories of Germany, the realization of the right of self-determination, beside the above outlined considerations in the form proposed by the Russian delegation, is at present practically impossible.

Colonies Remain Faithful.

"The circumstances that in the German colonies, the natives, notwithstanding the greatest difficulties and the improbability of victory in a struggle against an adversary many times stronger and who had the advantage of unlimited import by sea, remained in the gravest circumstances faithful to their German friends, may serve as proof of their attachment and their resolve by all means to preserve allegiance to Germany, proof which by its significance and weight is far superior to any expression of popular will.

"The principles of economic relations proposed by the Russian delegation in connection with the above six clauses are approved wholly by the delegations of the small allied powers who have always have denied any economic restrictions and who see in the re-establishment of regulated economic relations, which are economic relations, which are in accord with the interests of all people concerned, one of the most important conditions for bringing about friendly relations between the powers now engaged in the war."

As To Self-Definition of Peoples.

Chairman Joffre, of the Russian delegation, expressed gratification at the willingness of Germany to conclude peace on the basis of no annexations, no indemnities and the self-definition of peoples but pointed out that the self-definition of peoples within the limits granted by constitution, as stated by the German reply, was not complete.

"Renouncing the application of the right of the stronger nation with regard to territories occupied during the war," he said, "the powers of the quadruple alliance at the same time give all their opponents an immediate peace ground. They affirm that the right of the stronger, after unprecedented bloodshed, shall be preserved with all its integrity within each of the countries with no regard for little and oppressed nationalities.

"The war cannot end without the violated rights of those nationalities being re-established. The Russian delegation insists that those nationalities must in the very next peace treaty establishing a general peace among all nationalities receive on the basis of international agreement, guarantees that their lawful rights will be protected. The lapse of time in no case legalizes the violation of one people by another."

Regarding compensation for the maintainance of prisoners of war, the Russian chairman said it might be construed as an indemnity. He insisted that an international fund be used to pay damages against private persons. He had no objection to Germany's request that her colonies be evacuated by entente troops.

Wants Immediate Negotiations

Russia's delegation, he stated, in conclusion, notwithstanding differences of opinion thought the German declaration that Germany has no aggressive plans offered the possibility of the immediate beginning negotiations for a general peace among all belligerents. He proposed a ten days recess until January 4, "so that the peoples whose governments have not yet joined in the negotiations for a general peace may have an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the principles of such a peace as now is being established."

At the expiration of the indicated time," he declared, "the negotiations must be resumed, disregarding whether or not other belligerents have joined in the negotiations or how many."

LAST CALL!

Hundreds of Ladies have come to our sale today and bought of the wonderful bargains. Have you bought yours? Special for Friday, Saturday and Monday—

$8, $10 and $12 Shoes in Odds and Ends

Last Call **$2.95** Last Call

POLLOCK'S

ON PATTON AVENUE

American Officials Doubt Sincerity of Peace Proposal

Washington, Dec. 27.—The conditions surrounding Count Czernin's proposal for a basis of peace cause officials here to feel some apprehension for their sincerity. There is a disposition to feel that the object of the German plenipotentiaries is simply to protract the negotiation with the double purpose of leading the German people to believe that their government really is desirous of making peace, and of gaining time for the further strengthening of the German lines in the west.

One condition regarded impossible for the present, at least, is that the adherence of all the belligerents must be secured to the peace the Germans trying to make with Russia before it can become effective. This is accompanied by a demand for the return of the German colonies now in the possession of Russia's allies.

Our Position Unchanged.

It can be stated authoritatively that the position of the American government has not changed in any respect with regard to its determination to enter into no agreement with a government which does not represent the free will of the governed people. This would dispose of any hope the Germans might have that the Russians could induce America to subscribe to the peace treaty which they are now trying to arrange. As for the German colonies, the American government has never recorded itself on the subject, and Lloyd George recently declared that was a subject for the peace conference.

May Propose Plebescite.

No provision is made in Count Czernin's terms for the return to France of Alsace-Lorraine, which is regarded heer as a condition that must be met as a preliminary to any peace agreement; an understanding declared by PPresident Wilson in his message to congress. In the light of the extraordinary efforts Germany has been making to rid those provinces of French inhabitants, it is believed here that Germany may propose a plebescite of inhabitants, relying upon the vote of German soldiers and the imported German demands are met. But officials note there is a reservation, almost inseparable from German diplomacy, in the shape of "guarantees" which Germany requires to insure the execution of all these complicated factors of the peace treaty.

From public declarations of German statesmen and publicists, it is understood that as "guarantees" Germany would insist o nretaining control of Belgium for an indefinite period.

No New Nationalities.

The German insistance that the pledge to restore the political independence of countries occupied by the central powers shall not apply to nationalities which did not previously enjoy independence is regarded as aimed directly at the projected Polish state. Eevn were such a state credited as a result of the peace treaty it would have to be on the lines of the subject kingdom which Germany and Austria already have created.

It is accepted by Washington officials that the central powers are prepared to make every effort to regain control of Russian trade and markets, which are threatening to pass to America in return for America's substantial assistance in the war.

FUNERAL SERVICES TODAY MRS. CORDELIA G. ASTON

The funeral services for Mrs. Cordelia G. Aston, aged 86, who died Tuesday night at her home, No. 2 Aston place, were held at the Central Methodist church this morning at 11:30 o'clock. Interment followed at Riverside cemetery. Rev. Dr. Charles W. Byrd, pastor of the church, of which Mrs. Aston had long been a consistent member, officiated at the services.

The following acted as pallbearers: W. F. Randolph, James H. Wood, J. W. Sluder, B. M. Lee, S. F. Chapman and E. L. Ray.

DUCK PIN CONTESTS ARE WON BY HOFFMAN

Hoffman's team won two out of three games in the duck pin tournament last night at the Young Men's Christian association and the contests were of much interest to the large number of spectators present.

The scores for last night's games follow:

Hall	91	91	110—	292
Terry	85	118	106—	309
Miller	88	101	99—	288
Alport	83	83	84—	250
Total	347	393	399—	1139
Hoffman	108	87	85—	280
Harris	103	139	85—	327
Neely	115	98	112—	325
Humphries	80	92	80—	252
Total	406	416	362—	1184

Too Late to Classify

FOR RENT—Three unfurnished down stairs rooms, 56 Orchard. $8.00 per month. (P-1247-12-26-3t)

THE WEATHER

	Lowest Last Night.	Highest Yesterday.	Precipitation Last 24 Hours.
ASHEVILLE	20	31	.00
Atlantic City	28	36	.00
Augusta	30	40	.00
Boston	4	24	.00
Buffalo	12	24	.00
Charleston	32	38	.00
Charlotte	18	36	.00
Cincinnati	18	26	.00
Denver	40	58	.00
Galveston	44	48	.00
Jacksonville	40	56	.52
Kansas City	32	34	.04
Knoxville	32	38	.00
Louisville	22	32	.00
Memphis	30	36	.00
Mobile	42	42	.00
Nashville	30	34	.00
New York	12	26	.00
Oklahoma	32	42	.00
Portland, Ore.	50	58	.78
Raleigh	18	32	.00
Richmond	16	30	.00
Salt Lake City	44	52	.00
San Antonio	38	54	.00
San Francisco	54	62	.00
Shreveport	32	48	.01
St. Louis	26	36	.00
Wilmington	28	34	.01

Note: Wind velocities of less than 10 miles an hour and amounts of precipitation of less than .01 inch are not published hereon.

Weather Forecast Till 8 p. m. Friday.

For Asheville and vicinity: Fair and continued cold tonight and Friday.

For North Carolina: Fair and continued cold tonight and Friday.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Intense anticyclonic weather conditions prevail over the greater portion of the country this morning with two distinct centers of high pressure; one over the St. Lawrence valley and the other over Montana. There is a slight disturbance over the upper Mississippi valley which is causing snow in that section. Rain has occurred in the south Atlantic and north Pacific states and snow in the northern Rocky Mountain region. It is somewhat warmer in the Mississippi valley and colder in the Atlantic states and the northwest with temperatures ranging from 4 degrees below zero to 18 degrees below in Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas.

Normal temperature, 36 degress.
Normal precipitation, .14 inch.
River stage at 8 a. m., 0.3 feet.

T. R. TAYLOR,
Official in charge.

Can Check Hunger.

According to an Italian physician, the channel from the mouth to the stomach is the seat of the senses of hunger and thirst, which he claims to have suppressed by cocaine injections.

Four Inches Equals 218 Miles.

Engineers estimate that standing four inches away from the telephone when talking is equivalent to lengthening the line 218 miles.

Serves Double Purpose.

Basic slag, otherwise known as Thomas' phosphate, is the only known phosphate material that serves the double purpose of phosphating and liming crops.

Ignorance is not innocence, but sin. —R. Browning.