

BRIEF NEWS NOTES

WHAT HAS OCCURRED DURING WEEK THROUGHOUT COUNTRY AND ABROAD

EVENTS OF IMPORTANCE

Gathered From All Parts Of The Globe And Told In Short Paragraphs

Domestic

A Boston dispatch says Axel Janssen, a sailor, was sentenced to four months in jail by Judge Morton in federal court on the charge of failing to obey orders and endangering a trans-Atlantic liner by going to sleep in the submarine zone, while supposed to be on watch. The judge announced that in future cases of this kind he would impose the maximum penalty of one year.

The home of John D. Rockefeller at Forest Hill, a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio, took fire at midnight recently. The fire spread with such rapidity through the four-story building that the police said they believed it to have been of incendiary origin. It was impossible to save any of the furnishings and many valuable paintings, bronzes and tapestries were destroyed.

The Southern Textile Exposition of cotton mill machinery exhibits from seventeen states, at Greenville, S. C., closed with a total attendance of 40,000.

The next Southern Textile Exposition will be held at Greenville, S. C. in the fall of 1919, and the Northern exposition will be held at Boston, Mass., next year.

Officers of the Southern Textile Exposition will be elected at the semi-annual meeting to be held at Wrightsville Beach, N. C., next June. A 3-hour battle with riot guns and revolvers, in Bridgeport, Conn., between police and frequenters of a negro club, resulted in the wounding of 1 policeman, 2 white citizens and three negroes. Two will probably die.

In accordance with a federal decree pronouncing the organization of a combination in restraint of trade, dissolution of the News Print Manufacturers' association was voted at a meeting of the association's directors in New York City.

Because Frederick J. Heuser, a Youkers, N. Y., confectioner, sold cakes decorated with the German colors, candies designed as iron crosses and Prussian helmets, and incense representing things Teutonic, federal authorities decided he was spreading German propaganda. He was arrested and interned on Ellis Island as an enemy alien.

The military correspondent of the London Times, in a general review of the military situation, estimates that there are now about 150 German divisions on the western front and 79 on the eastern front, but that apparently all men between 19 and 35 years of age are being drawn for the latter point for service in the west. The writer concurs in the opinion that the Germans probably will try to settle matters in the west before Russia recovers and America is ready, hoping to deliver a decisive blow this winter or in the spring.

Washington

Officials of the Philippine Island government have issued a warning to ship owners to beware of German raiders suspected to be near Singapore, one of the strait settlements.

Two "lightless nights" a week have been ordered by the fuel administration. Sunday night, December 16, is the first, and thereafter Sunday and Thursday of every week will see the city White Ways and advertising signs darkened, only necessary street lights used, and only such lights as the law requires in offices and stores not open for business.

Delays and deficiencies in supplying the war army with ordnance were detailed and explained by Major General Crozier, chief of ordnance, to the senate military committee at the beginning of the general inquiry planned by congress into the conduct of the war. The general admitted that there is a shortage of ordnance at home, a sugar ration of three pounds for each person a month, a porkless day and one wheatless and meatless meal a day will be recommended to householders in a new kitchen card soon to be put out by the food administration. Observation of wheatless and meatless meals will be asked in addition to the wheatless and meatless days called for now.

First steps to place soldiers of German or Austro-Hungarian birth or extraction at duty apart from the actual fighting forces appears in army orders. Orders show the transfer of nearly one hundred enlisted men of the regular or national army to duty to the disciplinary barracks guard at Fort Leavenworth, Kans.

The Cuban house of representatives has passed a resolution declaring that a state of war exists between Austria-Hungary and the republic of Cuba.

A number of American railway engineers have been killed by German aerial bombs in a town somewhere behind the British front. A German bomb fell in a street in a town through which American troops were passing. Pieces of the bomb shattered the windows of a house in which there were officers, showering them with glass, but hurting no one. Two American soldiers have died in hospital from gunshot wounds.

LLOYD GEORGE SETS FORTH WAR AIMS

TEUTONS MUST RESTORE ALL TERRITORY TAKEN AND PAY FOR GREAT HAVOC.

GERMAN PEACE PROPOSALS

Reported That Teutonic Allies Would Offer for Peace and Had Requested Russia to Sound former Allies for Peace.

In the midst of the peace pourparlers that are in progress between the representative of the Teutonic allies and the bolshevik government in Russia, the war aims of Great Britain—and doubtless of all her allies—have been concretely set forth in the house of commons by David Lloyd-George, the British prime minister.

The complete restoration of territory now in the hands of the enemy and compensation for the havoc they have wrought is the price that will be demanded for the laying down of arms and the bringing about of peace.

Great Britain did not seek territorial aggrandizement for herself or for any of her allies when she entered the war, Mr. Lloyd George said but entered into the hostilities merely for the sake of her honor. As to Germany's colonies, all of which are now in the hands of the entente, Mr. Lloyd George said, their disposition must be determined at the peace congress. Jerusalem, however, the premier declared, would never be restored to the Turks.

The statement of the prime minister came almost simultaneously with a report that the Teutonic allies intended to make peace proposals to the entente and that Russia had been requested to take similar steps and was endeavoring to sound her former allies in arms as to their requirements for a cessation of hostilities.

PASSENGER TRAINS CRASH; 38 KILLED; MANY INJURED

Shepherdsville, Ky.—Thirty-eight known dead and 40 to 50 persons injured, some of them seriously, was the toll taken when Louisville & Nashville passenger train No. 7, from Cincinnati to New Orleans, crashed into the rear of a Bardstow, Louisville & Springfield accommodation train 500 yards south of the station here.

The accommodation train had just left the station after making a stop, when the faster train which makes no stop here came in sight moving at a high rate of speed. Efforts to bring it to a halt were futile and the heavy locomotive with the heavy weight of a steel train behind it crashed into the rear of the accommodation train with a terrific impact. The two wooden passenger cars and baggage cars making up the smaller train were splintered.

Virtually every person aboard the accommodation train, both crew and passengers were either killed or badly injured. None of the passengers aboard the fast train were killed, though a number were injured. The locomotive was demolished and the heavy steel coaches making up the train were thrown from the track.

None of the passengers aboard the fast train were killed and none of them received more than minor injuries. Another locomotive and train crew was sent from Louisville and after detaching one baggage car the New Orleans train went on as soon as the right of way was declared.

Jesse Weatherford, telegraph operator at the station here, said that after the accommodation train left the station he had thrown his block to show the track clear and left the office to help handle baggage. When he got outside, he said, he saw the fast train approaching, ran back to the office, pulled his block to show red, seized a lantern and rushed to the platform to flag it. He reached the side of the track just as the heavy locomotive thundered by.

PROPERTY OF AMERICANS IN GERMANY TAKEN OVER

Berlin.—The property of Americans in Germany has been placed under the trusteeship of the German government. There is no intention, however, to confiscate property or to infringe on the personal rights of the property holders.

French Sink Two U-Boats.

Athens.—French destroyers have sunk two enemy submarines in the Gulf of Taranto.

BABST PREDICTS PLENTY OF SUGAR DURING NEW YEAR

Washington.—A plentiful supply of sugar for the American people during the coming year was predicted by Earl D. Babst, president of the American Sugar Refining Company, testifying before the senate investigating committee. He opposed placing a limit on domestic consumption, contending that any such plan would result in a larger surplus than could be shipped abroad.

SLIGHT DECREASE IN SHIPPING LOSSES SHOWN

London.—Fourteen British merchantmen of more than 1,600 tons and three under that tonnage were sunk by mine or submarine during the past week, according to the admiralty statement. One fishing vessel also was sunk. The shipping losses by mine or submarine in the past week are slightly under those of the previous week, when 14 vessels of more than 1,600 tons and seven under that tonnage were destroyed.

HOW U. S. NAVY HAS PREPARED FOR WAR

SECRETARY DANIELS SAYS NAVY NOW HAS MORE THAN 1,000 SHIPS.

TWO YEARS AGO HAD ONLY 300

Contracts Have Been Let for Hundreds of Others Including Dreadnaughts, Cruisers and Destroyers and Auxiliaries—Explain Operation.

Washington.—A recital by Secretary Daniels of how the navy prepared for war by adding several hundred ships to the fleet and letting contracts for hundreds of others, including dreadnaughts, battle cruisers, destroyers and auxiliaries, and explanation of the operation of the navy supply department by Rear Admiral McGowan, paymaster general, marked the opening of the inquiry by a house sub-committee into the navy's war activities.

Representative Britten, of Illinois, asked Secretary Daniels whether the department had received any complaints from Vice Admiral Sims, commanding American naval forces in the war zone. The secretary said the question was improper and that "mess gossip" should not be bandied about, but he added that Admiral Sims had been given everything possible that the navy could give.

Later when Admiral McGowan was called to the stand he submitted an order issued by him some months ago directing that Admiral Sims requests for supplies be acted upon on the same day they were received. "We have 424 ships in course of construction," Secretary Daniels told the committee. "That does not include submarine-chasers, of which we are building 350 and does not include the small craft. The chasers will be in service by early spring." Included in the 424 ships, he said, were battle cruisers, battleships, scout cruisers, destroyers, fuel ships, gunboats, hospital ships, ammunition hips, seagoing tug, mine-sweepers and submarines.

The navy at the beginning of its participation in the war, the witness continued, had at its disposal the money needed for most of the expansion immediately required and in pressing cases where funds were lacking over-obligations were incurred. Within the last few days the navy has had to ask for \$86,000,000 in addition to the regular estimates amounting to \$1,039,000,000 for the next fiscal year, now before the house naval committee.

Secretary Daniels said the navy now had more than one thousand ships in commission as against 300 two years ago and an enlisted personnel of 280,000 officers and men compared with 64,680 men and 4,375 officers when America declared war. "Has the navy measured up?" he asked. "It is my firm belief at the close of the investigation your answer will be, 'It has, and the country has every reason to repose confidence in the navy.'"

AUSTRO-GERMAN FORCE ATTACK ITALIAN LINE

Reinforcements in Large Numbers are Brought Up.

The Austro-Germans have renewed in great strength their effort to pierce the Italian line and debouch upon the plains of Venetia in the region of Bassano. In fierce fighting around Monte Azolone, in which the enemy again suffered severe losses and several times were repulsed, reinforcements in large numbers were brought up and the Italians were compelled to give ground. The fighting lasted through out Tuesday and according to the German war office, more than 2,000 Italians were made prisoner.

Likewise along the southern reaches of the Piave river, the invaders and the Italians are engaged in heavy fighting. A crossing of the Old Piave on pontoon bridges was successfully carried out by one enemy detachment, but later the Italians shoved back the Teutons to the water's edge.

The fighting on the other fronts still remains below normal, although the artillery duels on various sectors continue intense. The artillery activity between the French and Germans in Champagne and in the mountainous regions near the Swiss border is increasing in volume, probably forecasting infantry attacks at an early date.

Again the losses to British shipping through mines or submarines show a decrease. According to the weekly statement of the British admiralty 17 merchantmen were sent to the bottom last week as compared with 21 the previous week.

ARMY CAMP CONDITIONS REPORTED BY GONGAS

Washington.—Insufficient clothing, overcrowding and bad sanitary conditions are held largely responsible for disease epidemic at Camp Sevier, So. Carolina; Camp Bowie, Texas; Camp Funston, Kansas and Camp Doniphan, Oklahoma, by Surgeon General Gongas in reports to Secretary Baker made public on the result of his personal inspection of the camps. With the exception of Funston, none of the camps base hospitals are completed.

U. S. SUBMARINE F-1 RAMMED IN FOG

NINETEEN LIVES ARE LOST WHEN UNDERSEA BOAT GOES DOWN.

NO DETAILS ARE GIVEN OUT

Rammed and Sunk in Home Waters by Another Submersible, F-3, in Fog.—Those Lost Were Mostly From Far Western States.

Washington.—Nineteen lives were lost when the American submarine F-1 was rammed and sunk by submarine F-3 in home waters during a fog. The F-3 was undamaged and picked up five survivors of her victim. Secretary Daniels announced the disaster in a brief statement which gave no further details.

Lieut. A. E. Montgomery, commanding officer of the F-1 was among the five saved. His mother, Mrs. Julia Montgomery Pratt, lives at Fort H. G. Wright, N. Y. Other survivors include: J. M. Schmissauer, machinist; father, Charles C. Schmissauer, Hill City, Tenn.

Henry L. Brown, gunner's mate; father, H. P. Brown, Macon, Ga. The list of those lost announced by the navy department shows men to be from far western states, with the exception of two who are from Ohio and Pennsylvania.

CONGRESS SHUTS DOWN FOR HOLIDAY RECESS

Senate Takes Final Action for Substitution of Prohibition Amendment.

Washington.—Congress closed down for a holiday vacation, leaving behind a series of investigations to proceed during the recess. Both houses adjourned until Thursday, January 3, when war legislation is to take the forefront of the calendar.

In the last day's business, the senate took final action toward submission to the states of a national prohibition amendment to the constitution, ordered two investigations—into railroad legislation and the merchant shipbuilding—and arranged for disposal of the coal and oil land leasing bill on January 7. The house passed the resolution to remove doubt as to application of the new excess profits taxes to congressmen, and arranged for renewal of the battle for woman suffrage on January 10.

Efforts to rush through legislation authorizing the treasury to buy \$100,000,000 of farm loan bonds before adjournment failed. The senate passed the bill, but it was held up in the house to be considered when Congress reassembles.

During the recess, a half-dozen investigations into war activity will be in progress. Heading the list is the railroad inquiry.

Other investigations in addition to those of railroad problems and the shipbuilding situation, deal with army and navy war operations, the sugar and fuel shifrages and the alleged disloyal St. Paul speech of Senator LaFollette.

Some of the congressional committees will work during the holidays on the enormous appropriation bills and other legislation.

HALF-MILLION DOLLAR BLAZE AT BALTIMORE

Baltimore.—Fire which broke out in the five-story clothing establishment of Morris Brothers & Co., in the heart of the wholesale business district, resulted in a loss estimated at close to \$500,000. Several large wholesale establishments suffered heavy loss by water and were threatened by flames.

SOLDIERS ESCAPE FROM BURNING BUILDING

Columbus, Ohio.—Fire broke out in the Knights of Columbus hall, State and Sixth streets, in which 400 soldiers were quartered. All the soldiers, it is believed, escaped.

DISTINCTION OF RANK SOLELY FOR DISCIPLINE

Washington.—In response to a senate resolution asking whether there are war department rules and regulations to prevent social intercourse between officers and men of the army, Secretary Baker wrote Vice President Marshall that distinctions of rank in the army imply no social distinction and are solely in the interest of military discipline. Frequently in a country like this, the advantage of education and culture is in favor of soldier.

ASHEVILLE'S CITY WOOD YARD

Children With Tow Sacks May Get Dime's Worth—Situation is Much Relieved.

Asheville.—Asheville's municipal woodyard has proved a blessing to the city during the present cold snap, as coal has been decidedly scarce, and many of the poorer people have had to depend entirely on the woodyard for fuel. For the past week according to a statement made by a coal man, the coal yards have been leading a hand-to-mouth, or rather, a car-to-wagon existence.

While no actual coal famine has existed as yet, many of the yards have seen the sun go down without a pound of coal on hand for the morrow.

The capacity of the municipal woodyard has been doubled, and it is the busiest place in Asheville at the present time. The city takes all offers of wood, paying \$4.00 a cord, and in addition, is cutting a lot more on various municipal tracts. This wood is cut into stove lengths, and the actual cost of handling is added, bringing the price of wood to \$5.50 per cord.

Children with tow sacks can get a dime's worth of wood at this rate, and a wagon load goes at the same rate. One notable incident of the cold snap was when a chauffeur, driving a high-powered car, drove up and carried off several sacks, with orders that a wagon load should follow as soon as possible.

N. C. Millers to Get Wheat.

Raleigh.—Henry A. Page, federal food administrator for North Carolina, has received assurances that North Carolina millers are not to be permanently cut off from their grain requirements to operate their mills on account of the over estimation of the North Carolina crop that seemed to indicate that this state had wheat enough to supply its home requirements.

The readjustment will permit the North Carolina licensed millers to have their pro rata share of wheat as it is apportioned throughout the country, but none will be permitted to store any large quantities of wheat. The price of wheat and flour in this state is to be controlled under the special government control by the Newport News and Wilmington prices plus the freight to interior Carolina points, the government absolutely controlling the distribution points scales of prices.

Low Water Hurts Mills.

Asheville.—Low water in the French Broad river has caused some curtailment of industrial activity at Asheville, the Asheville Cotton Mills being compelled to shut down virtually all their departments for lack of electric power. The Carolina Wood Products Company is also affected and other industries are curtailed in their work by reason of the lack of power.

Sanatorium Dormitory Burns.

Raleigh.—Brooks Hall, one of the principal dormitories of the state sanatorium, has been reported to the state department of insurance as destroyed by fire. Dr. McBrayer, head of the institution, was obliged to return 30 patients to their homes. The fire loss was \$3,500, partially insured.

Negro Church Destroyed by Fire.

Salisbury.—Moore's Chapel, a negro Methodist church near Livingstone College and one of the largest church buildings in the city, was entirely destroyed by fire. Origin of the fire is unknown. The church was comparatively new and with the furnishings was valued at fifteen thousand.

NORTH CAROLINA BRIEFS.

To date 7,000 cotton samples have been graded for Robeson farmers by T. W. Trogdon, local government grader. Two thousand samples have been graded for Biaden farmers at the local office. This year's record is much better than that of last season when only 4,500 samples were sent in by Robeson farmers.

According to information received, out of the school at Wilmington, 11 applied for service and successfully passed the required examination and will be called into the merchant marine at an early date.

The Warsaw tobacco market, after a very successful season, has closed. Sales were unusually heavy at both warehouses and prices continued good up to the last.

Dr. B. W. Kilgore, director of State Extension Service, is calling attention to the necessity of saving seed for planting next spring. He has written the county agents urging upon them the advisability of making lists of the different kinds of seed in such a way that this information can be secured later.

The badly decomposed body of a man was found ashore on Masonboro sound, near Wilmington. It is believed that it was one of the four fishermen who went out in a boat several weeks ago and have not been seen alive since. This is the second body of a man to be found in that section recently, both believed to have been members of the unfortunate fishing crew.

The Kinston fair association is more than \$13,000 to the good after paying its way the past three years, according to the secretary's annual report, made public.

PROHIBITION WINS IN HOUSE 282 TO 128

GREAT DEMONSTRATION GREETED ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE HOUSE VOTE.

WEBB WAS LEADER IN FIGHT

Resolution Adopted is Identical With That Passed Last August Except That It Gives Seven Years Instead of Six to Ratify.

Washington.—Nation-wide prohibition won in the house and only the adjustment of slight difference in resolution between the house and senate now stands in the way of submitting to state legislatures an amendment to the federal constitution forbidding the manufacture, sale or importation of intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes in the United States or its territories.

The vote in the house, taken after a day of debate before crowded galleries, was 282 to 128, with the parties dividing almost evenly. The margin for prohibition was eight votes more than the two-thirds vote.

Both wets and dries had been predicting victory all day, and it was not until the last few names had been called that the anti-prohibition forces conceded their defeat. When Speaker Clark announced the result, the victors were joined by the galleries in such a demonstration as is rarely permitted in the house. Former Secretary Bryan, an interested spectator nearly all day, appeared on the floor and joined in receiving congratulations with Representative Webb, of North Carolina, who had led "the fight."

The resolution adopted by the house is identical with that passed by the senate last August, except that it gives the states seven years instead of six in which to ratify the amendment.

The President's approval is not required and the state legislatures may act as soon as they please after Vice-President Marshall and Speaker Clark have signed the resolution.

Following is the resolution as adopted:

"Resolved, by the senate and house of representatives that the following amendment to the constitution be, and hereby is, proposed to the states, to become valid as a part of the constitution when ratified by the legislatures of the several states as provided by the constitution:

"Article—Section 1. After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

"Section 2. The Congress and the several states shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

"Section 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the constitution by the legislatures of the several states, as provided in the constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the states by the Congress."

GOETHALS MAY RETURN TO DUTY WITH ARMY.

Has Been Offered Post of Quartermaster General.

Washington.—In explanation of the new war council he has created, Secretary Baker said it was not in any way a result of congressional inquiry into operations of the war department, nor was it related in any way to the inter-allied war conference at Paris.

The secretary was not inclined to discuss in detail the purposes of the new council, but he said it was to deal with larger problems of war preparations and did not infringe on the functions of the general staff. Questions of supply and equipment rather than military operations probably will be within the jurisdiction of the new body.

The council is composed of the secretary, the assistant secretary, the chief of staff, the provost marshal general, the quartermaster general and the chiefs of artillery and ordnance. Major General Goethals has been offered the post of quartermaster general to succeed Major General Sharpe, and it is understood that Brigadier General John D. Barrett has been selected to succeed Major General Weaver as chief of artillery. So far as is known, no successor has been chosen for Major General Crozier, chief of ordnance, who was recently nominated for another term.

HERBERT HOOVER WON'T CAN THE COMING YEAR

Washington.—Officials of the Virginia Cannery's exchange, summoned to explain certain papers found in their files by investigators for the federal trade commission in the course of the inquiry into charges of food speculation made by the food administration, agreed to withdraw all letters and papers which might be construed as suggestions for price-fixing, and to refrain in the future from all activities tending to such an effect.