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## BUSINESS CHIEFS THINK THAT SLUMP IS NEARLY ENDED

The New Year Will See A Revival Along Normal And Healthy Lines

## RICHEST COUNTRY ON EARTH

Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.—Industrial leaders of the United States assembled in Washington for the second reunion of the War Industries Board are almost unanimous in predicting that the slump in business which the country is now experiencing is drawing to a close and that the coming year will see a revival of prosperity along normal and healthy lines. This view coincides with that of economists, financiers and Government trade experts who have been taking stock of the changed situation. The deflation period in the view of these men, is a natural corollary of readjustment and there is nothing in the new conditions to warrant a panicky feeling.

Bernard M. Baruch, former chairman of the War Industries Board, believes the country has passed through the worst of its industrial troubles. He thinks the crux of the world's industrial and commercial problem lies in the exact reparation Germany must make to the Allies. The fixing of the reparation will, in his opinion, be followed by an immediate rise in world exchange, increase of purchasing power of all the nations and a world-wide resumption of trade.

Worst is Over, and Best Ahead  
Touching on domestic conditions Baruch said today:

"Capital usually is most fearful when conditions are safest. Capital was confident when prices were highest and conditions most unsatisfactory. You will recall that I predicted last spring there would be a break in prices. It has come and the nation has endured. I think we have passed through the worst of our troubles. Pessimism is over done. There is nothing to prevent the country from experiencing prosperity."

Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, is one of the former War Industries Board members who today stated his reasons for believing that the nation soon will be restored to a sound economical basis. "In this country we have everything we need," said President Willard. "We have not been crippled by the war. We have not passed through any disasters that have not passed through any other country. We have not lost a million men. We produce more than any nation in the world; we are the richest country on earth and have the smallest debt. With all these factors making for prosperity, what reason can there be for pessimism?"

The railroads have not felt any great recession of business and do not anticipate any. President Willard continued. He said that the amount of business handled by the railroads in the first week of December showed a falling off of only 20 per cent as compared with the greatest volume of business done in any week by the transportation systems.

## A RIFLE THAT FIRES 50 SHOTS IN LESS THAN TWO SECONDS

A remarkable rifle has been invented by Brigadier-General John T. Thompson, U. S. A. retired, that was successfully demonstrated at Dear, N. J., recently. This weapon fired fifty shots in less than two seconds, the greatest rapidity of fire ever attained by any gun in the world.

General Thompson, inventor of the gun, was director of arsenals in charge of the production of small arms for the U. S. Army during the war.

The rifle, which fires a forty-five calibre bullet has been adopted for riot duty by police and constabulary forces throughout the country.

## BLUE SQUARE, WHITE FIELD, RED SWASTIKA, LEAGUE ARMY'S FLAG

Warsaw, Dec. 14.—The league of nations international army to supervise the plebiscite at Vilna will probably establish its base at Memel, which is under the league's control. Troops and supplies could be landed there without touching Prussian territory. An army of 2,000 from Sweden, Spain, Denmark, Belgium, France and England probably will march into Vilna in January ready for the plebiscite, which will be held in February. Holland will probably have a contingent, but the participation of Norway and Italy are considered uncertain.

C. L. Chardigny, commanding the league's army, will establish his quarters at Vilna. The army's flag will be a blue square with a white field, in the left-hand corner bearing a red swastika in the center.

## GOOD NEWS FOR WORKERS

Salem, Mass., Dec. 14.—The 1190 operatives of the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company were notified that the directors have decided to continue operating the mills with no immediate reduction in the rate of wages and no curtailment of production or of working hours. The announcement, coming on the heels of the recent conference of mill owners in Boston, at which a cut of 22½ per cent in wages was predicted, was hailed with satisfaction here. It applies to the Bleachery department in Peabody, as well as to the main plant, manufacturing sheetings and cotton duck, in this city.

The official statement said the company planned to continue its present policy of full-time operation, with a maximum output, as long as possible, as it was figured that big production reduced the cost per yard of cloth.

## HUGHES LIKELY TO BE MADE SECRETARY OF STATE

His Appointment Considered Certain Following Conference With Harding

## PARTY LEADER 1916

Marion, Ohio, Dec. 14.—Charles Evans Hughes to be Secretary of State. This is the one Cabinet appointment to be regarded almost as a certainty.

The presence of Mr. Hughes in Marion to confer with President-elect Harding is generally construed to mean that the leader of the Republican party in 1916 has been offered the premiership of the incoming administration.

There are many reasons for this. First in importance is that the foreign policies of the President-elect and Mr. Hughes are similar. Mr. Hughes, during a visit to Marion in August, announced himself in favor of the recreation of a world court as the best means toward permanent peace. The President-elect endorses the idea fully in his plan for an association of nations, which could be realized in the establishment of an enlarged Hague Tribunal.

The appointment of Mr. Hughes to the premiership would meet with none of the objections that inevitably would be placed in the way of the naming of Senator Lodge or Knox.

## PONZI BEGINS FIVE YEARS

Plymouth, Mass., Dec. 13.—Charles Ponzi today entered upon service of his sentence of five years at the Plymouth county jail that was imposed by the Federal Court as punishment for fraud by which he obtained millions of dollars from thousands of persons.

Accompanied by his wife and Federal officers he was brought here from the East Cambridge jail, where he has been confined since his arrest in August. Ponzi today put on prison garb for the third time in his career of attempts to make easy money, having previously served time at Montreal and Atlanta. Then he rejoined his youthful wife for a farewell. She intends to leave the mansion home which he bought in Lexington to come here and work in order to be near him.

## SCHOOL FOR 'SOAP BOX' ORATORS IN OPPOSITION TO SOCIALISM OPENED

Racine, Wis., Dec. 13.—Announcement was made here today that a country-wide correspondence school course will be conducted by the Constitutional Defense League of Wisconsin, which is also opening in Racine what is said to be the first school in the country to train "soap box" orators to combat socialism.

The course, it is said, includes fundamentals of economics, a study of the policy and tactics of socialists, I. W. W. and bolsheviks and also embraces study in public speaking and methods of conducting "soap box" meetings.

## DAN LITTLE OF OHIO EARNS \$75 IN A DAY

A Maryland Coal Digger Drew \$382, The First Two Weeks In November

## LYTLE MINED 22 TON

Cumberland, Md., Dec. 14.—What is believed to be a record wage for a day's work was made last week by Dan Lytle, of Ohio. Lytle, employed at Kendall mine No. 1, of the Anderson Coal Co., mined 33.17 tons of coal in one day. The wage rate is \$2 a ton with yardage additional, giving the man \$75 for one day's work. In the first two weeks of November he drew \$382. Coal at the mine is shot.

## FRENCHMEN FLIES 194.5 MILES AN HOUR

Paris, Dec. 14.—Sadi Lecoq, the aviator, today broke the world's airplane speed record for 4 kilometers.

Flying at Villacoublay, Lecoq negotiated the distance in 46 seconds, or at the rate of 194.4 miles per hour.

## MADERO'S ASSASSIN KILLS SELF, MEXICANS HEAR

Vera Cruz, Mexico, Dec. 14.—According to a dispatch received here from Guatemala, Francisco Cardenas, formerly a general in the Mexican army, and the man who assassinated President Madero and Vice-President Pino Suarez, committed suicide in Guatemala City on December 10. It is reported that he blew his brains out with a pistol.

## VOTED FOR A CHANGE, ARE GETTING IT

It is now only five weeks since Harding and Coolidge were elected by a very large majority and that the Republican party secured a large majority in both branches of Congress. In that short time the following things have happened:

Over 500,000 men have been thrown out of work in different industries in various part of the United States.

Over 2,000,000 are reduced to working part time or have had their wages cut from 20 to 50 per cent.

Farm products have depreciated in value nearly \$1,000,000,000 and small farmers at least are facing bankruptcy.

The market price of securities on the various exchanges throughout the country has shrunk about \$500,000,000.

A large number of corporations have reduced or stopped paying their dividends and more are doing so every day. Confidence is gone, and this only on the assurance that we are to have Harding next March. What will happen when he gets there? The people wanted a change. They are going to get all the change they want. The American people have been bamboozled again. They will have to take their medicine and learn a lesson.

C. A. MOUFLAGE, Phil Record.

## FIRST SEA HORNET LAUNCHED BY NAVY

A Hinged Bow Conceals The Torpedo is Feature of The Fast Service Craft

## ATTACK IN SWARMS

New York, Dec. 14.—A high-powered motorboat, which during times of peace can be carried on battleships as a service launch and in war converted in a few moments into a deadly torpedo boat, was demonstrated here today in the launching of the first vessel of new naval auxiliary known as "type A-3 sea hornet."

The vessel is designed to form an important part of a coast defense. The launching took place in the presence of more than 100 regular army and national guard officers, as well as representatives of the navy and the governors of New York and New Jersey.

The "sea hornet" type was conceived during the war and was held as a navy secret its operation being prevented by the armistice. It is a twin screw 600-horsepower motorboat 58 feet long, with a hinged bow which drops from place. In the bow is a 21-inch torpedo, carrying in its warhead 600 pounds of high explosives. Two additional torpedoes are carried, as well as six depth bombs. When in operation as a war craft the "sea hornet," which carries a crew of four men sinks until but a little more than one foot of the hull is above the waterline.

The plan of the inventor and those interested in the invention is to have these boats to attack in swarms.

## WHICH GIRL WILL RUN THE DODGE AUTOMOBILE PLANT

The Brothers Who Were Partners in The Big Business Left a Daughter Each AS Heir

## SOCIETY GIRLS

Which of the two beautiful heiresses to the immense Dodge fortune will manage the big automobile plant in Detroit?

The death of Horace E. Dodge at Palm Beach on Friday has raised this question. The two society girls, strangers to business, are the last of their line.

The Dodge automobile plant is one of the biggest in the country employing 18,000 men. The two girls are cousins. One is the daughter of John F. Dodge, who died at the Ritz-Carlton last January. The other is the daughter of Horace.

The Dodge brother's lives were parallel in many ways. Together they began as merchandisers. They set up a partnership in 1901 manufacturing automobile chassis in a small way. Their later success was through their joint effort. Even death separated them by only a few months. Each brother left one daughter. The two girls are inseparable chums.

Miss Delphine Dodge, Horace Dodge's daughter, was married last June to James H. R. Cromwell, of Philadelphia, a son of Oliver Cromwell, of Washington.

## HON. CLAUD KITCHIN HAS INDICATED INTENTION TO RESIGN

Washington, Dec. 14.—Representative Kitchin, Democrat, of North Carolina, has informed the ways and means committee of his intention to resign at an early date because of ill health, Chairman Fordney said today.

Mr. Kitchin was chairman of the committee during the period of Democratic control of the House, and had been expected by his colleagues to take a leading part in the framing of new tariff legislation, hearings on which have just been started.

## FOUR OAKS MERCHANT KILLS HIMSELF

Four Oaks, Dec. 14.—R. C. Lassiter, prominent young merchant of this city, committed suicide yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Business worries are held responsible for the deed. He did an extensive time business and it is understood that his creditors have been crowding him. As he was unable to collect from the farmers because of the low prices he could not meet his obligations. The body was found by Mrs. Lassiter who had no intimation of her husband's purpose until she heard the report of the pistol with which he ended his life. He had gone out on the back porch spread a rug and lain down on it. He shot himself in the mouth the ball ranging upward into the brain.

Mr. Lassiter was a son of W. L. Lassiter, a well-to-do and prominent citizen, the family being one of the most respected in Johnston county. Mrs. Lassiter is a daughter of J. C. Keen, also a well known and esteemed citizen. There are several small children.

The funeral was held this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

## RANGE OF HEARING CAN BE INCREASED BY DRUGS IS FOUND

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 14.—Dr. David I. Macht, of the Johns Hopkins University, who is conducting research work in pharmacology, has discovered drugs that when used in just the proper doses and at the right time will increase the sensitiveness of the human ear and thus enable an individual to hear over a wider range.

Quinine is one of the drugs that in small doses increase acuity of hearing. Antipyrin and pyfaminol, also in small doses, had that effect. Acetanilid and salol administered separately impaired hearing, but a combination of the two was found to increase its sensitiveness.

## COTTON MARKET

December	15.07
January	15.07
March	15.40
May	15.50
July	15.69
Local Market	13c.
Cotton Seed	34½ per bushel.

The engagement of Miss Isabel Dodge, daughter of John F. Dodge, to George Sloane, a son of Mrs. Stanley T. Cozzens, of No. 410 Park avenue, was announced last week.