

HAIFA, N. S., PORT OF DESTRUCTION
MILITARY COLLAPSE AND LOSS OF
LIFE AND PROPERTY

More Than 2,000 People Killed—Thousands More
Are Injured—North End of City Laid Waste
—Property Damage Will Reach into Millions
—Buildings Not Destroyed by Explosion Are
Burned—Railway Station, Arena Rink, Military
Gymnasium, Sugar Refinery and Elevator
Collapse—Crews of Ships in Harbor
Killed—Catastrophe Originates in Collision
of French Munitions Vessel, Mont Blanc, and
Belgian Relief Steamship, Ioma, the Former's
Cargo Exploding—Zone of Destruction in
City Covers Area of Two Square Miles—Part
of Town of Dartmouth Across Harbor, Is
Wrecked.

HAIFA, N. S., Dec. 6.—More than 2,000 persons were killed, according to careful estimates tonight, when the French munitions ship, Mont Blanc, blew up in Haifa harbor after a collision with a Belgian relief steamship Ioma at nine o'clock this morning. Thousands were injured and it is expected many of them will die.

RICHMOND SECTION IN RUINS.
The zone of destruction in Haifa itself extends from the North street railway station as far north as Attivev to Bedford Basin and covers an area of about two square miles in the section known as Richmond. The buildings which were not demolished by the force of the terrific explosion were destroyed by the fire which followed.

SHIP'S CREWS KILLED.
The damage along the water front cannot be estimated. Many of the men composing the crews of the ships in the harbor were killed and injured. On one steamer, the Florida, it is reported that 21 of the crew of 41 were killed. Bodies of many men have been picked up in the harbor. Rescue parties working among the ruins of buildings are removing the bodies of the dead.

THE MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK
of Burlington, Vt.
Commercial and family accounts solicited.
Special tellers' window for ladies.
Prompt and efficient service.
W. C. ISHAM, Cashier.

Why not enjoy GOOD tea when we sell you the same grade Oolong we have sold you for years, at the same old price per pound 40c

Our 40c Japan Tea is the same grade and it is still at the old price.
F. E. Perkins, 'Phone 130
200-202 Main St.

THE TEST OF A GOOD CIGAR
rests upon the first question: Second, has it the pure tobacco aroma? Third, does it burn evenly?
Golden Wedding Cigar, 10c High-Grade, Hand-Made—Junior, 5c
has been selling for 25 years—its quality is well made. It's made of the purest Havana filler, and is wrapped in a really good guarantee of a truly good piped top burning cigarette.
O. C. Taylor & Co., Burlington, Vt.

GERMANS' FORCES
FOR DECLARATION
24 HOURS

Abandon Dangerous Sectors before
Cambral for More
Tenable Line.
GERMANS LOSE IN.
In Italy the Enemy Make Frantic but
Unsuccessful Attempts to Break
through Defending Lines

ONE OF THE WORLD'S
GREAT DISASTERS
Outside the toll of life claimed on land and sea by the war, the catastrophe at Haifa, if reports of 2,000 dead are borne out, is by far the heaviest disaster in many years.

REAR CROSS TOAD
CITY OF HAIFA
Washington, Dec. 6.—All for the stricken city of Haifa started forward tonight by the American Red Cross. On the special train sent from Boston by the Governor of Massachusetts were six experienced disaster relief workers with supplies of all kinds, including clothing and a special Red Cross train from New York carried food, mattresses, blankets, sweaters, overcoats, and a large quantity of clothing for women.

PEOPLE PANIC STRICKEN.
Five minutes after the explosion the streets in all parts of Haifa were filled with frenzied, panic-stricken throngs straggling to the outskirts in all efforts to establish what they believed was a safe place. It is believed scores of persons who had been injured by the flames from which they were helpless to flee.

FAMILIES BURN IN HOMES.
In scores of families the contents of houses who had escaped without injury or who were only slightly hurt were buried under the flames of their homes. Hundreds of their families and were forced to sleep in the streets. Hundreds of them had been their homes because funeral pyres for loved ones.

MYSTERIOUS FIRE IN
TORONTO IRON WORKS
Toronto, Ont., Dec. 6.—Fire which originated in the pattern shop of the Toronto Iron Works, a manufacturing plant, broke out last night, completely destroyed the building, a large freight boat and badly damaged a large freight boat and a tug. The total damage was estimated for the Toronto Iron Works at \$200,000. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

LLOYD GEORGE IS ILL.
London, Dec. 6.—Premier David Lloyd George is slightly indisposed, having suffered a chill. The dinner arranged for November 11, the day on which American troops were first sent to France, will now probably be postponed for a week.

EMPEROR BREAKS AGAIN.
Amsterdam, Dec. 6.—At the reception of the Dutch delegations to the Hague, the Emperor of the Netherlands, King Albert of Belgium, and the President of the Parliament, a "Viva" was the first cry of joy as the Emperor and his suite were greeted.

GERMANS' FORCES
FOR DECLARATION
24 HOURS

Resolutions Relative to Austria
Considered in House and
Senate Today.
DEBATE WILL BE BRIEF.
Turkey and Bulgaria Will Not Be Included
among America's Enemies
At the Present Time.

The carefully laid plans of General Byrd to withdraw his troops at various points on the Cambrai salient to more tenable positions have been carried out perfectly and apparently with the consent of the Germans even having knowledge of the movement.

On the Italian front the Austro-Germans are making frantic attempts to break through the Italian lines and to reach the Adriatic coast. The Italian army is making a determined effort to hold the line.

RUSSIAN BREAK IN WIRE
SERVICE TO HAIFA
Daily Operator for Associated Press
New York, Dec. 6.—At ten o'clock tonight there was a sudden break in the wire of Haifa. The Associated Press office of the Associated Press over the wires of the Canadian Press, the only one in operation into that city since the explosion. Efforts to raise Haifa were unavailing.

WANDERLIP SAYS THRIFT
IS A WAR WINNER
Amount of Materials U. S. Workshop
Can Produce Will Give Force to Blow.
New York, Dec. 6.—The force of the blow which the United States is able to strike at the German war effort will be increased by the amount of materials which the United States is able to produce.

BALLOT ON MUTUALIZATION.
New York, Dec. 6.—Police holders of the Mutual Life Assurance Society cast 900 ballots in person and by proxy at the election held today on the question of mutualizing the society. The State superintendent of insurance conducted the election.

STATIONERY FOR GIFTS
Eaton's Highland Linen
Writing Paper
OLD ENGLISH INITIALS
Delicate grey tint with gold letter
50 cents per box.

WEATHER FORECAST: FAIR, CONTINUED COLDER.

F. D. ABERNETHY
The Head of Church Street.
In every department our extensive stocks are unsurpassed and we strongly advise our patrons to make their selections early.
In shopping for one you get suggestions for others.
To-day we direct attention to
An Unusual Display
of
Beautiful Lamps
Highly decorative, out-of-the-ordinary and extremely useful in their varied shapes and sizes.
Floor Lamps of mahogany with handsome silk shades.
Adjustable Metal Lamps painted to harmonize in tone with the color scheme of the room, especially adapted to a man's den.
A great variety of lamps for the living room, unique in design, some having shades decorated with attractive scenes in soft colorings, others of the decidedly popular silk type while the
NEWEST OF ALL
Screen Shade of Parchment
exquisitely hand painted with some pretty oriental scene or gaily decorated with Japanese figures in their quaint apparel.
SHAPED SHADES
for wall lamps, dressing table or other small lamps are featured in trench novelty work, also original designs employing real butterflys, etc.

Stationery for Gifts
Equally appropriate to remember the intimate friend or an acquaintance. Writing paper is the clothing of one's letter. An attractive paper to look at and a pleasant surface to write upon offers itself here, emphasized in
Eaton's Highland Linen
Writing Paper
OLD ENGLISH INITIALS
Delicate grey tint with gold letter
50 cents per box.

Marine Linen Writing Paper
A very beautiful as well as a real surprise box of letter paper—one of the most pleasing gift articles that could be conceived 58 cents per box
Assorted colors, white, lavender, pink, champagne, 12 sheets of paper and 12 envelopes of each color, also gilt edged cards.
Send your order for this box by mail.

The expression of one's thoughts is not enough—CORRECT STATIONERY stands in the same relation to correspondence that dress does to the individual.
A gift both dainty and inviting may be selected from
CRANE'S LINED PAPER—quilt box 50 cents
CRANE'S KID FINISH PAPER—quilt box 50 cents
HIGHLAND LINEN, size especially for men 40 cents
PATRICIAN PAPER, blue, green, pink, gray and lavender tints, new and very smart 65 cents
HIGHLAND LINEN, delicate tints attractively edged with white 85 cents
RILETT BOND, prettily lined envelopes \$1.00
CORRESPONDENCE CARDS with gold, silver or colored edge 75 and 85 cents

Pleasing selections may be made from
Madeira Embroidered Linens
Finest hand embroidered linen to be procured—at prices very much under present values.
ROUND DOYLEY SETS OF 13 PIECES
6—6 inch size; 6—10 inch size; 1—24 inch size.
Price \$7.50, \$17.50 and \$27.50 per set.
Madeira Embroidered Pillow Cases
Price \$7.75, \$8.50, and \$9.75 per pair.
MADEIRA EMBROIDERED SCARFS
Price \$17.45 inches.
Price \$3.90, \$5.75, \$6.75, \$7.00 and \$7.75.
MADEIRA EMBROIDERED ROUND TABLE COVERS
Size 45 inches
Price \$11.50 and \$13.50
Size 54 inches
Price \$16.50

Every stitch of the very fine embroidery upon this linen is hand work done by the residents of the Madeira islands and known throughout the world as the finest and most delicate work of the kind to be procured.
Every woman appreciates something in wearing apparel.
Why Not Give a Blouse?
For a limited period only
A discount of 25 per cent is offered on
FINE WAISTS AND BLOUSES

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STRICKEN HALIFAX IS NOW SWEEP BY RAGING BLIZZARD

Rescue Workers Forced to Suspend Operations—All the Injured Buried Under Ruins Have Probably Perished of Cold and Hunger—Survivors in Windowless Houses Suffer from Cold—Entire City Is in Darkness Except for Light of Oil Lamps—Temporary Hospitals Filled with Injured People—If Storm Continues Food Supply May Be Threatened—The List of Dead Remains at 2,000, with 3,000 Injured.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 7.—Stricken Halifax was swept to-night by a raging blizzard. So fierce was the storm that rescue workers were forced to suspend their operations in the devastated section. It is believed certain that all the injured buriers under the wreckage of shattered buildings have perished of cold and hunger.

Battered by a biting wind and blinding snow, the plight of the survivors of the storm was forecast in a little short of desperate. The windows and doors of the wrecked houses in the city were shattered by the explosion which devastated a large section of the town. Improvised barricades of boards give little protection against the elements and attempts to heat buildings into which the snow is steadily drifting are hopeless.

CITY IN DARKNESS

The city is again in darkness to-night by a again supply of oil lamps and candles. The power lines were shattered by the explosion as soon as light of the gas which whistles through the slight chinks. Only a small percentage of the buildings have received this slight protection from the storm. The sufferings of those who are in the few available blankets, quilt and other portable has been questioned for the hundreds of injured in the temporary hospitals. Many of these are so gravely wounded their only hope lies in the help of care. Serious fears are felt that cold, shock and exposure will result in an outbreak of pneumonia.

RELIEF TRAINS LEAVE NEW YORK

600 Workmen, Tools, Lumber, Portable Houses, Etc. Being Rushed to Halifax.

New York, Dec. 7.—Several special trains furnished by the New York Central railway left New York to-night for Halifax to-night with every facility for supplying aid to the stricken city. They carried 600 workmen, tools, lumber, portable houses, \$50,000 worth of lumber, 1,000 portable houses, and other supplies. The train includes a special salvage corps under expert engineers who will restore what houses can be saved and direct the construction of temporary shelter as rapidly as possible.

Dr. Thomas Darlington, former health commissioner of New York city, who also is on his way to Halifax, has been placed in charge of the temporary housing program. He will co-operate with the health department of Halifax in maintaining sanitary conditions throughout the devastated district.

On board the Red Cross train which left New York to-night for Halifax, were Capt. A. B. Boyce, who had charge of the forwarding of Christmas gifts to the medical corps at Governor's Island, and Miss Jeanne, who had charge of the Red Cross parcels and a consoling of foodstuffs.

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for republication of all news dispatches hereon. It is understood that other newspapers and news agencies may use the material hereon for their own use, provided they pay the usual fee therefor.

THE MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

INCORPORATED 1910. Safe deposit boxes for rent. Separate vaults for valuables of bulk. No insurance required. Inquiries invited.

W. C. ISHAM, Cashier.

THE TEST OF A GOOD CIGAR

rests upon three things: First, is it well made? Second, has it the pure and delicate flavor of a genuine, imported Sumatra wrapper—pretty good guarantee of all flavors, and free burning quality.

O. C. Taylor & Co., Burlington, Vt.

ENEMY AIR ATTACK IN GREAT BRITAIN

Superior Numbers at Asiago Plateau—LINE UNBROKEN, HOWEVER—Romanians on Eastern Front Ally Themselves with Russians during the Pending Armistice.

The Berlin war office in an announcement of fresh victories achieved against the Italians asserts that 4000 additional men have been made prisoners, bringing the total since the new offensive began to 15,000.

Only minor operations are in progress in the other Italian fronts. The cessation of hostilities along the Asiago plateau has now extended to a part of the line held by the Romanians. An official communication from Jassy, the Rumanian capital, says that as a result of the Russian having proposed an armistice to the enemy it has been decided that the Romanians should assist themselves with the Russians, and the Romanians, however, have declined all attempts by the enemy to fraternize with them.

ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS IN NORTHERN ITALY, Dec. 6.—The latest reports from the front show that the Italian line is unbroken, and that the Romanians, however, have declined all attempts by the enemy to fraternize with them.

It is estimated that the forces employed by the enemy were about twice as large as the Italian forces before the Italian line was retired to its present position.

Jassy, Rumania, Dec. 7.—An official announcement made to-day states that the Romanians have accepted an armistice to the enemy and to the front. It is decided that the Romanians should assist themselves with the Russians, and the Romanians, however, have declined all attempts by the enemy to fraternize with them.

Petrograd, Thursday, Dec. 6.—Fifty-five hundred Bolshevik troops are reported to have been sent to Vladivostok.

The above report, it true, possibly would indicate that the Bolshevik government is now in control of the Trans-Siberian railway which runs from Petrograd a distance of 6,421 miles to Vladivostok, Russia's principal seaport on the Pacific.

HALIFAX DISASTER TO BE INVESTIGATED

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 7.—The department of justice has announced that a special tribunal will be set up to investigate the Halifax disaster. The tribunal will be composed of L. A. Dempsy, Dominion commissioner of wrecks, will investigate shipping accidents, and a member of the municipal government will be appointed as a judge of the Nova Scotia supreme court, and two technical advisers, one appointed by the government and one by the municipal government.

STEAMSHIP SIMCOE REPORTED SINKING

Quebec, Dec. 7.—A wireless message received to-night from the Point St. Charles "S. O. S." had been picked up by the Canadian coast guard cutter Simcoe, which reported that she was sinking.

The message gave the Simcoe's position as off the Magdalen Islands. The vessel was commanded by Captain J. H. Macdonald and crew of 43 men.

FAR BEHIND RECORD

New York, Dec. 7.—Persistent efforts of Ege and Drobach, who as a result of their record in the 1916 mile behind the eight leaders, who in the 1916 mile bicycle race, furnished the only thrill of the winter at Madison Square Garden. Both riders made dramatic attempts to better their score, but despite tempting bonuses offered by the management if they gained a lead, neither could make any headway.

Midnight score, 19th hour: Eight leading teams 1.18 miles in 30; Ege and Drobach 2.183 miles in 34; Chapman and Ege 2.183 miles in 34; Record for this year 2.184 miles in 34, made by Moran and McNamara in 1914.

BIG LEAGUES TO CONFER

Cincinnati, Oh., Dec. 7.—August Herrmann, chairman of the national baseball commission, said to-night the joint conference between the National and American Leagues would be held next Thursday in Chicago and was scheduled, Mr. Herrmann said.

WEATHER FORECAST: FAIR; CONTINUED COLD.

F. D. ABERNETHY The Head of Church Street. Your Christmas List for 1917 LET US HELP COMPLETE IT. There is much truth in the statement that Christmas is the time when we count our friends. The larger the circle that measures our Christmas list the better—it means more friends. Instead of drawing the circle in as small as possible then, widen it.

Remembrance counts and here it is so easy to find the unexpected gift to fill the very place that seemed impossible to provide for.

Noticed about the shop. Boxes of Lingerie Nainsook To the woman who prefers to make her own dainty undergarments a few yards of one of these fine silky finished Japanese nainsooks will prove most acceptable. The quality is exceptional and the price remarkably moderate. 10 yard pieces attractively boxed, \$3.50 and \$4.00 per box.

COLD WEATHER REQUIRES MANY WARM COMFORTABLE GARMENTS. New Knitted Spencers with long sleeves will appeal to women when there is a chill in the air and these Spencers are unusually pretty too; shown in grey, pink and white price \$3.25

Japanese Quilted Jackets that stand between and keep the cold at bay. Easy to slip on, weight almost nothing, with warmth incalculable, two styles for selection.

SLEEVELESS JACKETS of black lined with purple or white, \$2.25 each. JACKETS WITH SLEEVES, outside black, lined with purple or white; outside grey, lined with white... \$3.75 each

Smart Satin Striped Blouses \$4.75 and upward. Taffeta Silk Underskirts \$4.90. Neatly boxed ready for giving and priced very much under the actual worth—large variety of colors for selection.

Among the attractive novelties contributed by the Far East for Christmas giving are: Artistic Lacquer Boxes fitted with decorated China Compartments for holding sweetmeats. BEAUTIFUL LACQUER TRAYS of varied sizes priced accordingly.

The Possibilities of Aprons Cannot be reckoned where gifts are concerned, but our collection includes the daintiest conceits called aprons as well as the regulation style for the nurse and waitress.

FANCY APRONS OF LAWN AND DOTTED SWISS, 30c to \$1.50. CAMBRIC APRONS without bib—purses' style... \$1.00 and \$1.25. WAISTRESSES' APRONS of plain lawn and dotted Swiss, 50c to \$2.25.

Extraordinary Offering of Fine Dress Silks, \$1.75

During the holiday shopping season, we shall conduct a special sale of finest dress silks comprising more than 2,000 yards of

Taffeta Silk and Satin Messaline at \$1.75 per yard. 36 inches wide—actual value \$2.25.

The collection includes a complete assortment of evening shades and all the most wanted darker colors, also black and white.

These silks are sold with a guarantee as to perfection in every particular including wearing quality. Specially priced during the holiday shopping season at \$1.75 per yard. Dress patterns will be boxed ready for gift purposes upon request—6 yards will be sufficient for a full garment.

Fine Silken Lingerie Undergarments of soft crepe de chene make one of the most acceptable gifts that one woman can offer another.

Crepe de chene models of charming simplicity hemstitched and finished with flat folds... \$6.50. Another style emphasizes the empire effect, prettily trimmed with filet lace... \$6.75.

WOMEN STREET BY CONDUCTORS. New York, Dec. 7.—Nineteen nautically uniformed young women suddenly appeared on Broadway to-day as street railway conductors, filling the voids represented by so many blue stars in service flag of the New York Railway company.

One of the best first day conductors I ever saw, she was the comment of a motorman who got his signals to-day one of the women conductors. The young women are wearing blue skirts and rather mannish coats, with caps like those of the men conductors.

YAGALS ON WARTHOP. Nogales, Ariz., Dec. 7.—Yagals Indians prettily and daintily dressed in blue skirts and rather mannish coats, with caps like those of the men conductors.

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STROKE OF DEATH IS RAGING BLIZZARD

(Continued from page one.) The fire which had been raging for 24 hours in the north end was brought under control early today and the city is no longer menaced by the infernal flames...

ON BOARD MASSACHUSETTS RAIL TRAIN VIA AMHERST, N. S.

Dec. 7.—The first official word from Halifax reached today on the special train from Boston, speeding to the relief of the stricken city only to add to the story of death and suffering already indescribably sad...

IN TRENCH OF BLIZZARD

Through most of the day the relief train was racing in the face of a blizzard. At the distance to Halifax was cut down the storm increased and snow piled higher...

SMITH ON DICKMAN'S STAFF

(Special to the Free Press.) Montreal, Dec. 7.—Capt. E. F. Smith of the Machine Gun company, First World Regiment, has been assigned to General Dickman's staff...

TOUGE BROTHERS CLOSED BAR

It is at once a man's bar and a woman's bar. Uncommon beauty and luxury, appeal alike to both sexes—so do the substantial construction, light weight and economy of operation.

Big Four Three-Passenger Touring Coupe \$1285

More than a quarter of a million in use—and now at the height of its development. It is so good that it is with the whole chassis over, represents the highest development of years of experience in building touring cars.

CHARLES F. LOWE ON RED CROSS SOCIETY BOARD

(Special to the Free Press.) Montreal, Dec. 7.—Gov. H. E. Graham has appointed Charles F. Lowe, president of the Montreal Savings Bank & Trust company, as a member of the Executive Board of the Vermont branch of the Red Cross society.

Garage Burns

W. G. Ballan Auto Sales Rooms Destroyed at White River Junction. (Special to the Free Press.) White River Junction, Dec. 7.—The garage and garage of W. G. Ballan was totally destroyed by fire that broke out here on Monday night.

Baso Killed at Danby

(Special to the Free Press.) Montreal, Dec. 7.—The fatal accident of Danby was killed December 4, while employed by the Vermont Marble company, has been received by the company.

Churchill & Lockwood 87-89 St. Paul St., Burlington, Vt.

Now Being Rushed across New England toward the Stricken City.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Two special American Red Cross trains are carrying the personnel and equipment of an entire base hospital to the stricken city of Halifax. The trains are being rushed across New England toward the stricken city of Halifax.

WAR SAVINGS MANAGERS

County Heads Instructed at Meeting with Governor by State Director. (Special to the Free Press.) Montpelier, Dec. 7.—Pursuant to the request of A. P. Howland, State director of war savings, a meeting of county managers was held at the State House this evening.

IS WELL SUPPLIED.

St. Albans Has Plenty of Oats and Corn on Hand. (Special to the Free Press.) St. Albans, Dec. 7.—Notice of the embargo against the shipment of oats and corn having been received in this city, the local supply of these products on hand is considered to be ample.

WINS \$125 VERDICT.

James Swinton Sued George Zeakind for Damages in Automobile Case. (Special to the Free Press.) Middlebury, Dec. 7.—James Swinton has won a \$125 verdict in his suit against George Zeakind of Burlington for alleged negligence in driving an automobile in Burlington a year ago.

PUBLICITY PROFITABLE.

Hillings Now Has Plenty of Teachers on His List. (Special to the Free Press.) Champlain, Dec. 7.—The Chamber of Education M. B. Hillings has found the publicity given last week of his list of available teachers profitable.

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Plans to Restore Hundreds of Thousands by Reclamation Camp Methods.

New York, Dec. 7.—How hundreds of thousands of acres of rejected city lands are being reclaimed by the plan of the reclamation camp method is being demonstrated by the work of the Reclamation Service in the State of Ohio.

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Plans to Restore Hundreds of Thousands by Reclamation Camp Methods.

New York, Dec. 7.—How hundreds of thousands of acres of rejected city lands are being reclaimed by the plan of the reclamation camp method is being demonstrated by the work of the Reclamation Service in the State of Ohio.

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Suits For Men!

For the man or young man who doesn't care for a belted suit, there's nothing in better taste than the new Varsity Fifty Five Suits by Hart Schaffner & Marx.

Single or double breasted sack with one, two or three buttons; stylish lapels; patch pockets if you wish.

They're all wool, too and guaranteed to satisfy you in every particular.

At \$22.50 to \$35.00. Other models of suits at . . . \$18 and up. Red Cross Christmas Seals for sale here.

THE BLUE STORE

H. C. HUMPHREY 85 CHURCH STREET BURLINGTON

GERMANS CAPTURE MTE. SISEMUL BY STORM

Number of Italian Prisoners Taken Has Increased to 15,000. Berlin, Dec. 7, via London.—The official army bulletin tonight states: Italian front: As a result of our offensive, the troops of Marshal Conrad have been able to take Monte SiseMul by storm. The number of prisoners taken is 15,000. Western front: Front of Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria. Fighting on the second with 28 and Pennsylvania third 22nd salient, which was heavier at times with 18.

READ & DOWER

Federal Directors and Embalmers 184 Pearl St. Phone 1878-W

Slate Vaults!

As enduring as the rock ribbed hills of New England. Made of inch thick slate slabs, set in cement and hermetically sealed, these vaults of slate are meeting a long felt want for an inexpensive yet durable vault that has all the advantages of a granite vault without the disadvantage of its excessive cost. We also have in stock the Gallon Arco Iron Vaults, air tight and indestructible.

ALL THESE PIANOS

Must Now Be Sold

To make room for Brunswick Phonographs I must sell every PIANO in stock. Following is a list and their regular prices:

The Fine Christmas Gift

No Reasonable Offer Will Be Considered. We won't state here the net prices of these pianos, but request that you come and let us tell you. We will, though, say this much—everyone who is offered at a marked discount from the quoted prices—prices so low as to make them the biggest piano bargains of the season. Time or cash. Everyone of these pianos must positively be sold before the end of this month and the net prices will surely surprise you.

- One fine A. B. Chase Piano, regular price . . . \$575
One fine A. B. Chase Piano, regular price . . . \$560
One James & Holmstrom Piano, regular price . . . \$450
One Gable Piano, regular price . . . \$425
Seven Bogart Pianos, style ten, each . . . \$350
Three Bogart Pianos, style five, each . . . \$375
One Jacob Bros. Piano, regular price . . . \$350
One fine Bogart Player Piano, regular price . . . \$600
One beautiful Dunham Player Piano, regular price . . . \$600

Also several slightly used pianos in fine condition.

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There are no cheap, poor pianos in this stock—every one is high-grade.

If you cannot come to the store send at once for catalogue.

Adams Music Store 186 Bank St. Burlington, Vt.

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DOMESTIC DIPLOMACY
Gives Allies Week in Which to Accept or Reject Armistice Plans.

London, Dec. 29.—A Russian government dispatch dated Thursday and received here by wireless, says that the Bolshevik foreign minister, has sent to all the allied embassies and legations in Petrograd a note stating that the armistice negotiations with the central powers have been suspended for one week, in the interests of the Russian delegation for the purpose of providing copies of information to the people and the governments of the allied countries of the existence of such negotiations and their tendency.

The note adds that the armistice will be signed only on condition that troops will not be transferred from one front to another, and that German troops are cleared from the island group of the Sound. It generally indicates the points for the negotiations in accordance with the wireless statement received from Petrograd Thursday, and concludes: "The period of delay is thus given, either in the existing disturbed condition of international affairs, or in the attempt to afford the allied governments opportunity to define their attitude toward the peace negotiations in accordance with their willingness or refusal to participate in negotiations for an armistice and peace."

In case of refusal, the note says clearly and definitely before all mankind that the Russian government will not be called to shed their blood during the fourth year of the war.

NO AMERICANS KILLED IN HALIFAX EXPLOSION
All U. S. Diplomats American and Citizens in Stricken City Reported Safe.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 29.—No Americans were killed in the explosion according to reports received here. The British War Office, American consul-general, Theodore Fisher, and the British consul, Sir Robert Buxton, have had a conference with the British flying squad commander, Major G. W. Watts, who has received a number of telegrams from the state department regarding the situation, especially regarding the names of the British flying squad members who were promptly filed, apparently by flying squad commander, Major G. W. Watts.

PROHIBITION AFTER WAR, SAYS W. C. T. U.
Washington, Dec. 29.—"Win the war first, then prohibit," is the slogan of the Christian Temperance Union delegates who are in the city for the purpose of making a statement which they left for their homes yesterday.

CHURCHES MAY UNITE.
St. Albans Congregations Are Getting Together to Save Cost.
(Special to the Free Press.)

SPRINGFIELD CONCERN HAS \$15,000 CAPITAL
(Montpelier, Dec. 29.—The Springfield Operating Company, Inc., of Springfield, Vt., has received from the state secretary of state's office for the purpose of conducting hotels, restaurants, "ice cream parlors" and other amusements, the indicated summer resort business.

HINDENBURG-LUDENDORFF TEAM ON CAMBRIDGE FRONT

LOOK YOURSELF OVER CAREFULLY
And see if your condition is not such as to make your best investment the purchase of Hood's Sarsaparil, Pepsin and Bile Beans.

And see if your condition is not such as to make your best investment the purchase of Hood's Sarsaparil, Pepsin and Bile Beans. This course of medicine will be worth the cost of the most expensive doctoring, that weakens the body, opens the way for disease, that backaches the back, produces indigestion, constipation, and that rough touch of rheumatism.

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Austrian Foreign Minister Comments on Keynote of Message.
(Continued from page one.)

Amsterdam, Dec. 29.—Replying to a question asked by Count Andriasy regarding the Austro-Hungarian agreement with the Allies, the Austrian Foreign Minister, Count Czernin is quoted in a Reuter despatch from Amsterdam as having replied at the close of the conference on the above affairs.

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U-BOAT TOOK NO CHANCES.
The U-boat commander made sure he took no chances in the attack on the destroyer.

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They See Only American and British Capitalists Eager for More War.
Petrograd, Saturday, Dec. 29.—Commenting on President Wilson's message to Congress the Army and Fleet Journal this morning points American and Great Britain as the only countries in the world in order that they may triumph completely over the central powers.

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Best Clothes to Buy
Your interests and ours in buying or selling clothes in this store are identical—we can't do anything better for ourselves than to do our best for you.

It's a very simple rule of business—if you get the "just correct thing" we've got both satisfaction. That's why we say "buy our Hart Schaffner & Marx clothes."

Belted Overcoats
For men of affairs; for young men of spirit, the Hart Schaffner & Marx Belted Overcoats for winter are the things. Belts all around, slip-ons, loosely fitting models—they're very striking styles and the fabrics, quality and prices are right.

THE BLUE STORE
H. C. HUMPHREY
85 CHURCH STREET BURLINGTON

SECRETARY BAKER ENDORSES CHILD LABOR LAW
Secretary Newton D. Baker has written the national child labor committee in response to its plan for a child labor day for synagogues, churches and schools throughout the country on January 26, 1918.

SEIZED SHIPS DISTRIBUTED.
Shanghai, Dec. 29.—The Austrian and German steamers seized here during the war have been distributed as follows: Silesia and China, both Austrian, to the United States; Bohemia, Austria, and Albatross and Germania, both German, to Italy; Delke Rickmers, German, to Italy; Katha, German, to France and Saxa and Helena, German, to Great Britain.

CASTORIA
For Infants and Children
In Use For Over 30 Years
Always Pure
The Signature of Chas. H. Watson

THESE PIANOS Must Now Be Sold
To make room for Brunswick Phonographs I must sell every PIANO in stock. Following is a list of their regular prices:

One fine A. B. Chase Piano, regular price \$575
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CHURCH AND LOCKWOOD

SPRINGFIELD CONCERN HAS \$15,000 CAPITAL

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THESE PIANOS Must Now Be Sold

Men Will Be Taken from Six Counties to Fill Up Coast Artillery. (Special to the Free Press.)

Montpelier, Dec. 11.—Col. H. T. Johnson is to be detailed to ascertain from the provost marshal general what form would be used in the drafting of the men to go to the coast artillery destination.

When this change became known the adjutant-general called from the following: Adams, 18; Bennington, 12; Orange, 8; Addison, 12; Rutland first district, 12; Windsor, 12. Each local board in those counties is notified to call accordingly. There being 23 examined, no new examinations are needed.

RED CROSS PREPARES ITS CHRISTMAS DRIVE

Ten Million New Members Wanted—President Wilson Requests It. Washington, Dec. 11.—"With the slogan 'make it a Red Cross Christmas,' an effort is being made to recruit ten million new members to the organization. Only one week has been allotted for the drive, but it is expected that this will be enough. This is the first organized effort the Red Cross has made since the war started.

The president's appeal is as follows: "Ten million Americans are invited to join the American Red Cross during the week ending with Christmas eve. The times require that every branch of our great national effort should be kept up and it is peculiarly fitting that at Christmas season the Red Cross should be at the front. I urge you to your willingness to help is expressed.

You should join the American Red Cross because it alone can carry the pledges of Christmas good will to those who are bearing for us the real burdens of the world. It is the only organization in the nation upon whose territory the flag of our country is waving and fought out. Your confidence in its faithfulness is necessary for their heartening.

You should join the Red Cross because this arm of the national service is steadily and efficiently relieving suffering and administering our millions wisely and well. It is the only organization in which the work of the Red Cross is left unimpeded. Red Cross membership is the Christmas spirit in terms of service.

(Signed) WOODROW WILSON, President of the American Red Cross.

RIGID EXAMINATION FOR GENERAL OFFICERS

Government to Determine Fitness for Service Abroad. Washington, Dec. 11.—The general officers of the regular army and national guards are being examined by medical boards on efficiency boards with a view to determining their fitness for service abroad.

Commanders for American troops at the front are being examined by medical boards on efficiency boards with a view to determining their fitness for service abroad.

The secretary of war announced today that all general officers of the regular army and the national guards are being examined by medical boards and efficiency boards, with a view to determining their fitness for service abroad.

The determination of fitness for service abroad is being made by medical boards and efficiency boards, with a view to determining their fitness for service abroad.

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SCROFULA AND HUMORS GIVEN AWAY

There are many things learned from experience and observation that generation should impress upon the younger. Among them is the fact that scrofula and humors, which produce eczema, boils, pimples and other eruptions, are most successfully treated with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

This great medicine is a peculiar compound of the most potent purifying and health-giving roots, herbs and minerals, which are gathered especially for Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Hood's Sarsaparilla has stood the test of 40 years. It is a tonic and a purifier, and it is the only medicine on hand.

NEARLY 150 RECRUITED

Lieut. Cheney Reports That Number Enlisted So Far in State for 1st Vermont. (Special to the Free Press.)

St. Albans, Dec. 11.—About 25 men reported to Lieut. Clarence Cheney, that they were in this city today for examination for enlistment in the first Vermont regiment. Of this number nine were accepted. These men will be sent to White River Junction for the army examination.

Lieut. Cheney reports that the number enlisted so far in the state for the 1st Vermont is nearly 150. The men are being recruited throughout the state up to this time.

SCHOOLS NOT TO CLOSE

Federal Fuel Administrator, Gerald Wines Governor Grabs That His Opinion is Entirely Sound. (Special to the Free Press.)

Montpelier, Dec. 11.—That the Vermont schools are not to be closed has been settled, even though there has been considerable comment relative to the matter, for the federal fuel administrator has sent the following telegram to Governor Graham regarding the matter. It was received this morning by Governor Graham.

"The proposed plan to close schools during the winter months is entirely unsound. It is entirely unsound in principle and in practice. It is entirely unsound in principle and in practice. It is entirely unsound in principle and in practice.

FARMERS' EXCHANGE

Washington County Organization Incorporated with \$2000 Capital. (Special to the Free Press.)

Montpelier, Dec. 11.—The Washington County Farmers' Exchange, Inc. has filed articles of incorporation with the secretary of state for the purpose of conducting a business profitable to the farmers in Washington county.

The capital is \$2,000 while there are 200 shares of stock. The officers are: E. C. Gould, Allen and A. J. Smith of Cabot; P. A. Badger of East Montpelier; H. J. Dodge and Mark Moody of Waterbury; and Mark Lord of Waterbury.

CARRIER PIGEON MYSTERY IN HALIFAX

Exhausted Bird Seeks Refuge near Burned Area. Halifax, N. S., Dec. 11.—The capture of an exhausted carrier pigeon which sought refuge in a house near the burned area in Halifax, N. S., was the subject of investigation by the police of Dartmouth and the military police of Halifax.

The officers stated that the bird was found in a house near the burned area. It was exhausted and appeared to have been flying for a long time.

CHRISTMAS GIFT BAG FOR EVERY SOLDIER

Paris, Dec. 11.—Every American soldier in France including those attached to the American Expeditionary Force, the French and British armies, will receive a Christmas gift bag. The gift bags are made daily, but final distribution will not be made until Christmas.

The gift bags contain two packages of cigarettes, two packages of soap, two packages of tooth powder, two packages of tooth paste, a wash cloth, a pair of shoe laces, needles, and a comb. The bags have been made up by the Women's War Relief Corps of the American Expeditionary Force.

The gift bags are being distributed to the soldiers in France. They are being distributed to the soldiers in France. They are being distributed to the soldiers in France.

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1918 Chevrolet Models

Four-Ninety—Baby Grand New Features ALL IMPROVEMENTS Electric Self-Starters and Electric Lights. Mountable Rims. Slanting Wind Shield. One-Man Top. Extra and Tire Carrier. Have a demonstration on the Hill. Four-Ninety, 2 pass. \$1000.00. Baby-Grand, 5 pass. \$1000.00. (P. O. Factory.)

Citizens Board Blazing Munitions Ship and Quell the Flames.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 11.—With complete disregard for their own lives, an effort was made to save this desolated city from another catastrophe a group of Dartmouth citizens early today boarded a steamship said to have been laden with munitions which was afire, and was being abandoned. After that work the flames were extinguished. The crew remained ashore to-day preferring the social relief work to the fire.

Since the explosion on the Mont Blanc crews of French munition vessels are reported to be unwilling to enter Halifax harbor. According to statements obtained today from the line of the Norwegian steamer Imo, which collided with the Mont Blanc, the latter ship flew no red flag to indicate that she carried a cargo of explosives. They declared also that they were not aware of the fact that the Imo was laden, and that when they saw her crew running away they thought it was a fire and not a collision.

They asserted the Mont Blanc was coming into the harbor on the wrong side when the collision occurred. There was a slight mist, they said, and the narrow bay was very dark. Two blasts, indicating that a ship was approaching on the Halifax side of the bridge, were heard. The Imo's course was directed toward the Dartmouth side and while taking a sharp turn to starboard, the vessel which indicated a vessel was on the right side. The Imo attempted to stop but was struck under the bridge, starboard.

The ship was abandoned to-day for 60 men who were loading provisions on the steamer Pilot at the Acadia sugar refinery. There were shells on the ship and when she broke out on the Mont Blanc they decided most of them knew the Mont Blanc carried munitions. As the shock came, the pier to which the ship was moored collapsed, a mass of men were hurled in the air.

In order to augment the police force for the night, a number of prominent men of the city undertook the work of a regular constabulary.

WEBB BILL DENOUNCED BY SENATOR REED

He Says It Would Destroy Force of Sherman Anti-Trust Law. Washington, Dec. 11.—Warning that the United States must prepare to assume the responsibility of the Sherman anti-trust law today in the Senate by Senator Reed vigorously opposing a recent suggestion that the Sherman anti-trust law be amended to include the Webb bill.

All money or supplies to be sent there should be through the Red Cross, an established organization which will give an accounting for the money spent, which probably can not be obtained in any other manner.

The suggestion above resulted from Superintendent Walker of the State prison, Burlington, who has been sent to Halifax to look after the prisoners.

SCHOOLS HAVE COAL

Only in Two Towns Has Winter's Fuel Not Been Obtained. (Special to the Free Press.)

Montpelier, Dec. 11.—The superintendent of Education M. B. Illiwick has received reports from the school boards of the two towns which have not obtained their winter supply of coal, are Montpelier and Ferrisburgh.

References—National Pupils, Butter and Eggs Association, Chicago, Equitable Trust Co., Boston and W. S. W.

Poultry and Eggs command our service.

A. B. YOUNG CO., Com. Mer. 1000.00. References—National Pupils, Butter and Eggs Association, Chicago, Equitable Trust Co., Boston and W. S. W.

A Few Christmas Suggestions to be Found at the Free Press Store

Christmas Stationery from 25c to \$2.50 a Box

Correspondence Cards Engraved Christmas Cards Gibson's Christmas Postals

Dennison's Seals and Tags Address Books Shopping Lists Ward's Tourist Tablets Postal Card Albums

1918 Chevrolet Models

Four-Ninety—Baby Grand New Features ALL IMPROVEMENTS Electric Self-Starters and Electric Lights. Mountable Rims. Slanting Wind Shield. One-Man Top. Extra and Tire Carrier. Have a demonstration on the Hill. Four-Ninety, 2 pass. \$1000.00. Baby-Grand, 5 pass. \$1000.00. (P. O. Factory.)

Churchill & Lockwood, 87-89 St. Paul St., Burlington

BANQUET FOR RECRUITS

Montpelier Public Safety Committee Honors Men Who Have Joined First Vermont. (Special to the Free Press.)

Montpelier, Dec. 11.—The Montpelier public safety committee tonight banqueted the volunteers from this section who joined the first Vermont regiment in this drive. Mayor F. Mitchell, H. T. Johnson and J. B. Estee spoke.

"AMERICA" CHRISTMAS

Gov. Graham to Ask Homes in State Thus to Honor Soldiers in Service Abroad. (Special to the Free Press.)

Montpelier, Dec. 11.—Gov. H. F. Graham has arranged through the office of the commissioner of education that there shall be sent to the homes in the State a call that each home should sing of "America" take place at nine o'clock Christmas morning, the purpose being to follow out a country-wide effort to appreciate of the soldiers abroad. The notice will be sent to each school in the State and the message taken to the homes by the children.

STATE RED CROSS AID FOR STRICKEN HALIFAX

(Special to the Free Press.)

Montpelier, Dec. 11.—The announcement has been made by the Red Cross relative to sending to Halifax that all needed has been done so far as the Vermont Red Cross is concerned. Requests for supplies come from those in charge of the Red Cross in Halifax and the Vermont Red Cross for contributions of whatever nature the above need in carrying on the work. It appears from reports received by the Vermont Red Cross that the surgical dressings at the base hospital in Boston have been made by the Red Cross.

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It's Economy to Choose Your Overcoat Here!

You can't afford cheap clothes year—after all years. Quality is vital—for quality m long wear and long wear means f clothes for you to buy in the long r

Hart Schaffner & Marx Quality Clothes

They're all wool and are made wear a long time—such overcoats money for you, year in and year out. Better buy now—you'll have to more next year.

THE BLUE STONE H. C. HUMPHREY

85 CHURCH STREET BURLINGTON

Where Will You Be at Sixty?

Statistics show that out of 100 wealthy men at age 25: 36 will be dead at 65. 1 will be rich. 4 will be wealthy. 5 will be supporting themselves.

54 will be dependent upon friends, relatives or charity.

A Policy in the New England Mutual Insurance Co. of Boston, Mass., will the problem for YOU with absolute tainty.

Glenn A. Wilkins, General Agent

Morrisville, Vt.

Torpedo Struck U. S. Ship

Blowing Away in British Waters. Example of the 13th October. The torpedo struck the U. S. S. Albatross, a minesweeper, in British waters. The ship was blown away in British waters.

JONES DESTROYED AFTER TARGET

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PUNISHED WITH BOY IN THE

Waterbury, Conn., Dec. 11.—The survivors of the d perished to be doing well.

14-YEAR-OLD BOY CHARGED WITH

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Small Pill, Small Price, Big Results

Small Pill, Small Price, Big Results. Carter's Little Liver Pills.

Carter's Little Liver Pills

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WEATHER FORECAST: SNOW; RISING TEMPERATURE

F. D. ABERNETHY
The Head of Church Street.

Gift buying presents no difficulties those visiting this store—if you have a invite idea—perhaps something a little different—you will find it here. If you are undecided, our collection of beautiful and useful articles will furnish many helpful hints.

DISTINCTIVE APPAREL FOR GIFT
Also accessories that are essential.

An Important Offering of Practical Serge Dresses
\$14.50

UNUSUALLY SMART STYLES
The right dress for school or office wear and quite the hit put under a fur coat.
ACTUALLY WORTH TO-DAY \$18.00
Special price \$14.50.

Dainty Silk Petticoats
Boxed for giving
\$4.90

A Taffeta Petticoat always proves acceptable: among number, a variety of styles and a wide range of fashion colors.

ORDER A PETTICOAT TO-DAY BY MAIL

Gloves

EVERY WOMAN WANTS GLOVES
She never has too many of the right kind and our stocks this season are always filled with gloves that are right at a considerably lower than asked elsewhere.

FOR STREET WEAR
REYNIER AND CIE IMPORTED KID GLOVES, one c sewn overcasts—black and white with contrasting stick tans, grey and white with self stitching . . . \$1.75 per pair

FOR WINTER WEAR WITH MUFF
HEAVY WASHABLE CAPE GLOVES, one clas, price shown in tan only . . . \$1.75 per pair

FOR SPORTS WEAR
FOWNE'S DOUBLE SILK GLOVES, heavy quality, two style—black, grey and white . . . \$1.50 per pair

FOR SPORTS WEAR
FOWNE'S WHITE KNITTED GLOVES, gauntlet wrist, exceptional quality, also shown in red and grey. . . \$1.25 per pair

Silk Hosiery in Abundance

Satisfactory shopping may be accomplished in the busy department when so many suitable kinds for gifts are tucked.

Send us your order by mail for Silk Hosiery. It will be filled with greatest care and packed in gift boxes if so desired.

A Special Number of Women's All Silk Hose

Medium weight silk of fine, firm quality, full fashioned at foot reinforced with silk, elastic silk top interlined with lial black, white, bronze, navy, yellow, sky, gold, battenfash & purple in choice . . . \$2.25 per pair

Men's Silk Half Hose
75 cents per pair.

The extra wearing qualities of these socks make them alw in demand—foot reinforced with lisle. Colors slate, blue & navy, also black.

Blouse Patterns and Dress Lengths
BOXED FOR GIVING.

Printed Percalé . . . \$1
Printed Voile . . . \$1
Scotch Dimity . . . \$2
American Dimity . . . \$1

Regarding the SCOTCH DIMITIES, these are v dainty Dresden patterns which cannot now be obtained a possibly will not be available for some years to come.

Tub Silk . . . \$3.
Embroidered Voile . . . \$1.
Handkerchief Linen \$1.

SLIGHT GENERAL

CAIN A CABRAL

Attempt to Drive Wedge into British Line Falls Short of Complete Success.

TEUTONS' LOSSES LARGE.

How Falling in Italian Mountains Tends to Check Invaders—Cossacks Trim Bolshevik Twice.

The Germans, following their heavy artillery preparations of recent days, have attempted to drive a wedge into the British line west of Cambrai, but although they had succeeded in forcing the British to retreat they were only a minor gain.

The attack, launched between Bulcourt and Cambrai, was similar to that adopted by Crown Prince Rupprecht's troops when they pierced General Byng's front south of the salient General Byng previously had driven toward Cambrai. A like plan was doubtless involved in the latter attack, and for its execution huge holdings of munitions were stored in the area of Bavarians being thrown into an endeavor to overpower the British.

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DEADLY U-BOAT STILL AT WORK

14 British Merchantmen Exceeding 1,600 Tons Each Are Sunk in Week.

London, Dec. 12.—A slight increase in the losses of British merchantmen by or submarine in the past week is noted in the admiralty statement to-night. Fourteen vessels of more than 1,600 tons were sunk, well as one under that tonnage, and six were damaged.

CUBA JOINS U. S. AGAINST AUSTRIA

Formal Declaration of War against Dual Monarchy Is Voted.

Havana, Dec. 12.—The House of Representatives to-night passed a resolution declaring a state of war to exist between Austria-Hungary and the United States, and the resolution was adopted by a vote of 237 to 10.

NEWSPRINT PAPER TRUST DISSOLVES

Directors Celebrate Event with a Farewell Dinner in New York.

New York, Dec. 12.—In accordance with a federal decree pronouncing the organization a combination in restraint of trade, dissolution of the Newprint Manufacturers' association was voted at a meeting of the association's directors to-day.

The directors held an informal dinner to-night in the nature of a farewell to the organization that had disbanded with the passing of the decree. Several of them took trains to-night for their homes.

PROPAGANDA IN IS CANDE

New York, Dec. 12.—The character of the cakes, candies and tchings which Frederick J. Hauser, a New York confectioner, manufactured and sent to his customers caused the federal authorities to-day to intern him on Ellis Island because of an enemy alien.

4,000 SHRAPNEL SHELLS EXPLODE

Incident of Fire in Bethlehem Steel Plant—Probably Not an Accident.

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 12.—Officials of the projectile loading plant of the Bethlehem Steel corporation to-day revealed that 4,000 three-inch shrapnel shells exploded during a fire to-night, killing one man and wounding several others. The origin of the blast was an accident. A statement given out to-night by P. G. Paris, superintendent of the plant said:

"Although I have not yet completed my investigation as to the origin of the fire, I believe it could have been an accidental. Four or five men who happened to be in the neighborhood of the plant at the time the fire started were detained and held by the guards of the company until I could examine them. They were not held as suspects but only so that I could aid our investigation as to the cause of the fire. Later all were allowed to return to their homes."

"About 4,000 shells all loaded with T. N. T. but not as yet filled with bursting charge, were exploded in the plant when the shells in the plant were unloaded and there was no danger of a great explosion. An estimate of the damage is hard to make at this time, but I do not believe it will exceed \$50,000."

The fire was caused by Theodore Jacobson, chief of the company's guards.

EMBARGO ON EXPORT FREIGHT

New York, Dec. 12.—An embargo on all export freight, except for the United States, was placed on the railroads to-day in connection with the authority of the transportation managers comprising the export duties for export, except for the United States, and all existing permits are cancelled.

BASEBALL CONFERENCE FRIDAY.

New York, Dec. 12.—Just before adjournment it was announced that a long discussion telephone message had been received from Ben Shibe in Chicago.

PROVIDES RESTRICTIONS FOR NEW ENEMIES HERE.

President's War Proclamation Shortage of Ordnance in U. S., He Says, but There Is Plenty Abroad.

AFFECTS MILLION PEOPLE.

Rules for Austrian Subjects, However, Are by No Means So Stringent as Those for Germans.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Austro-Hungarian subjects in the United States, most of the million or more who are laborers and are loyal to the allied war cause, will suffer further restrictions as a result of the shortage of the lands of their birth and adoption.

In proclamation to-day declaring a state of war against Austria-Hungary in accordance with the act of Congress, President Wilson specified that unnaturalized Austro-Hungarians, unlike the Germans in this country, should be free to live and not enter or leave the United States without permission, and those suspected of enemy activity may be interned. They may have property in the United States and need not register with police or postoffice officials, as Germans will be required to do.

The president's motive in drawing distinctions between Germans and Austro-Hungarians, as two-fold. First, it was realized that the sympathy of Hungarians, Roumanians, Poles, Serbians, Czechs, Slovaks and other immigrants from the Austro-Hungarian empire, generally is not with that of the mother country in the war and they have not been guilty of the multifarious campaign of violence practiced throughout the German war system.

Secondly, such a large proportion of laborers in mines consists of Austrian subjects that it was found practically impossible to administer against them the rigid regulations imposed on the Germans, who are not so numerous and more individualistic.

The department of justice even abated its restrictions on Austro-Hungarians along with Germans because of the immensity of the task and the administration of whom demonstrated an embarrassment to Austrians, who are of whom are demonstrated their loyalty to this country by enlistment in the army and navy.

The president's difference in feeling toward subjects of the dual monarchy it was pointed out that those in the proclamation did not use the phrase "alien enemies" as referring to "natives, citizens, denizens, and subjects of Austria-Hungary."

ATTY-GENERAL'S EXPLANATION. Attorney-General Gregory explained the proclamation in this statement: "The proclamation issued by the President to-day provides for the treatment of existing between this country and Austria-Hungary, and upon all citizens to perform their duty, war subjects of the enemy to conform to our laws and regulations, and to the extent of their treating subjects of the enemy the duty remain loyal to the United States, and to their friends and relatives who are compatible with loyalty and allegiance to the United States."

This proclamation differs from the preceding proclamation relating to the German empire, in while it authorizes the president to intern any of any subjects of the dual empire, whose activities may be a menace to the safety of the country, the only restrictions which it contains are prohibitions against States without or leaving the United States, and to the extent of their treating subjects of the enemy the duty remain loyal to the United States, and to their friends and relatives who are compatible with loyalty and allegiance to the United States."

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SHORTAGE OF ORDNANCE IN U. S., HE SAYS, BUT THERE IS PLenty ABROAD.

President's War Proclamation Shortage of Ordnance in U. S., He Says, but There Is Plenty Abroad.

FIRST WAR INQUIRY ON.

Among Reasons for Delays in Supplying Ordnance Are Shortages of Coal, Grease and Labor Trouble.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Delays and deficiencies in supplying the war army with ordnance were detailed and explained to-day by Major-General Crozier, chief of ordnance, to the Senate military committee. The hearing of the general inquiry planned by Congress into conduct of the war.

The initial hearing was public and will be continued to-morrow with General Crozier on the stand. Later executive sessions will be held for the discussion of subjects involving military matters. There is a shortage of ordnance at home for the purpose of the general Crozier admitted, but he said there is no shortage "on the other side" and will be none. It has been possible, he said, to purchase English and French artillery for use in Europe, and he predicted that by next summer the principal ordnance shortages for training purposes would be met.

Delays in supply ordnance, General Crozier said, are due to several causes, including time taken for preparing estimates and appropriations before Congress and labor difficulties in private plants. He said there is no shortage of skilled munition labor in this country, and told of a plan to retain such labor which may be submitted to Congress.

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STATE DELEGATIONS TO WOMEN'S CONVENTION INTERVIEW CONGRESSMEN.

Arkansas Solid for Amendment and Missouri Is Nearly So—Favorable Reports From Other States.

MISSOURI DELEGATIONS TO WOMEN'S CONVENTION INTERVIEW CONGRESSMEN.

Washington, Dec. 12.—Important gains among members of Congress on the federal suffrage amendment were reported to the opening session here to-day of the annual convention of the National American Woman Suffrage association by State delegations of women who earlier in the day braved a snowstorm to present arguments to their congressional representatives at the capitol.

The Missouri delegations reported that Speaker Clark had definitely announced support for the amendment and had told congressmen that if necessary he would vote for the amendment. His vote would be cast only in the event of a tie. Nearly all other members of the Missouri delegation in Congress had declared for the amendment. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the association, Mrs. Norman DeR. Whitehouse, president of the State Suffrage committee, Mrs. J. Hay and Mrs. Raymond Brown were the speakers. All the congressmen responded, a number of them in the affirmative. Senator Harding also spoke for the amendment. Representative Calder received the New York delegation to the convention. Senator Wadsworth appeared for a moment. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the association, Mrs. Norman DeR. Whitehouse, president of the State Suffrage committee, Mrs. J. Hay and Mrs. Raymond Brown were the speakers. All the congressmen responded, a number of them in the affirmative. 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