

CIRCULATION STATEMENT

The average daily circulation of THE EVENING HERALD for the month of November was 2,514.

The Evening Herald

THE WEATHER

Generally fair and not quite so cold tonight and Friday; light variable winds.

VOL. XXXVII NO 74

Established as a Weekly 1881. Established as a Semi-Weekly 1883. Established as a Daily 1914.

MANCHESTER, CONN., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1917.

Try The Herald's For Sale Column. The cost is 10 cents for 20 words or less

PRICE TWO CENTS

KAISER AND EMPEROR BOTH FAVOR NO ANNEXATIONS OR INDEMNITIES

GOVERNOR HOLCOMB DENIES CRITICISING THE PRESIDENT

Repudiates Alleged Interview in Which He is Alleged to Have Disapproved Mr. Wilson's Action in Taking Over Railroads - Chagrined - "Explicitly Refused to be Quoted"

Governor Marcus H. Holcomb, in a statement issued today, denied an "alleged interview" with him printed in the Hartford Courant today, in which he was made to appear as criticizing the President for taking over control of the railroads. Governor Holcomb declared that when he telegraphed to President Wilson last spring, "You may depend upon the loyal support of Connecticut," he included himself with all other citizens of the state, and does not intend to hamper the nation's war effort by criticism.

ITALIANS GIVE UP TWO FORTIFIED HEIGHTS TO TEUTON INVADERS

Latter, by Huge Concentration of Troops and Artillery, Manage to Push Back Defenders - Five-Mile Mountain Wall Still Guards Venetian Plain. London, Dec. 27.—Although the Italians have been compelled to give up two more fortified heights to the Austro-German invaders, a mountain wall five miles wide still separates the Teutons from the northern border of the rich Venetian plain. Advances from Rome admitted that the Italians had abandoned Col del Rosso and Monte Valbella in the face of savage Austro-German attacks, but they fell back to previously fortified positions of great strength. The Austro-German attacks, directed personally by Field Marshal Baron Conrad von Hoetzendorf, the Austrian chief of staff, were carried out by tremendous forces of troops, supported by vast concentrations of artillery.

SINKINGS BY GERMANS TAKE ANOTHER DROP LONDON ANNOUNCES

Only Eleven Merchantmen of 1,600 Tons or More Sunk by Mine and Submarine in Week Ending Yesterday - Admiral Jellicoe Retires and Gets a Peerage. London, Dec. 27.—Sinkings by the Germans show another drop for last week. The admiralty announces that eleven merchantmen of 1,600 tons or more were sunk by both mine and submarine, one merchantman under that tonnage and one fishing vessel. Twelve merchantmen were unsuccessfully attacked. There were 2,316 arrivals and 2,465 sailings. During the week previous, ending Dec. 19, seventeen British merchant men were sunk, fourteen of them of more than 1,600 tons. The week before that there were twenty-one vessels sunk, of which fourteen were over 1,600 tons. Vice-Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss has been made First Sea Lord, succeeding Admiral Sir John R. Jellicoe, who has been given a peerage in recognition of his distinguished services.

WILD DAY ON EXCHANGE AS RAILS ADVANCE TO HIGHEST OF MONTHS

Prices in Some Cases 15 to 20 Points Over Final Quotations Yesterday

SOME RECESSIONS AFTER FIRST RALLY

Industrials and Other Shares Go Up in General Movement - Record Fluctuations. New York, Dec. 27.—Sharp upturns ranging from five to 14 points were recorded in the railroad issues at the opening of the stock market today. Union Pacific rose 8 1/2 points to 112 and Atchison rose 10 points to 88. Delaware and Hudson advanced 14 points to 106 and St. Paul rose nearly 12 points to 48. New York Central advanced 7 1/2 points to 71, while Reading rose three points to 70 1/2. Baltimore and Ohio, which fell to 29, rose 4 1/2 points to 33 1/2. Industrials Up, Too. The industrials showed a strong tone, gains of from one to three points being made in nearly everything traded in. Steel Common rose nearly three points to 86 1/2; Crucible Steel two points to 51; Bethlehem Steel B to 70 1/2 and General Electric two points to 124 1/2. New Haven rose over two points to 29 and Northern Pacific nearly five points to 81. Trading Becomes Less Wild. After the violent gains at the start the trading became more orderly, with prices easing off from three to nine points. St. Paul Preferred, after its opening gain of 18 points to 81, reacted to 71 1/2, while Delaware and Hudson yielded seven points to 99. Baltimore and Ohio declined to 7 1/2 points from its top price to 49 1/2, while St. Paul fell to 43 1/2, a loss of 4 1/2. Pennsylvania opened at 45 1/2, a gain of nearly three points. It was noted by brokers that while buying orders were numerous, they were generally of moderate amounts and few of them were for more than 1,000 shares at a time. Baltimore and Ohio, after its advance of 16 1/2 points to 57, reacted to 49 1/2, and St. Paul, which had sold at 49, yielded to 45 1/2, later rallying to 46. Both that stock and Baltimore and Ohio continued to range about 10 points above yesterday's final prices. New York Central, after selling at 72, reacted to 69 1/2, and St. Paul preferred dropped from 81 to 75, which was still over 11 points above yesterday's closing. Bethlehem Steel B rose 1 1/2 to 70 1/2, followed by a reaction to 69 1/2. U. S. Steel Common, after advancing 2 1/2 to 86 1/2, reacted to 84 1/2. U. S. Steel Preferred yielded 1/2 to 102 1/2. Money loaning at six per cent. Clearing House statement: Exchanges, \$572,676,560; balances \$43,660,815.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL DENIES 100,000 IN CAMP LACK WINTER OVERCOATS

Major General Sharpe, Under Grill of Senate Military Affairs Committee Today, Tells What He Knows About Clothing of Men in Training Camps. Washington, Dec. 27.—Major General Henry G. Sharpe, Quartermaster General of the Army, was subjected to a vigorous grilling when he reappeared before the Senate military affairs committee today to tell why recruits in the training camps are short of overcoats and woolen blouses. "This is a vital matter," exclaimed Senator Hitchcock with a show of impatience. "Can you recall the dates when they were contracted for?" Sharpe could not remember. The general couldn't. Senator Chamberlain then wanted to know if it was a fact "that you surrendered your authority to the Eisenman, of the National Defense Council." "Yes," said the general. "So that the contracts he made you were nullified?" "Yes," said the general. "Did you know that you had been ordered to do that?" "Yes," said the general. "I am sorry that I am not a lawyer." "I do not know," said General Sharpe. "I carry less track of details." "This isn't a question of details, it's a question of overcoats," snapped Senator Kellar. "A hundred thousand of our boys are in camps this winter without overcoats." "That's not so," contradicted the general. Senator Kellar called his attention to replies received by the committee yesterday to telegraphic inquiries to the various camps showing a shortage of at least 20,000 overcoats and 47,000 woolen blouses in eight camps. Roads' Task Impossible. "Coal is responsible for one-half the congested traffic, and thousands of cars are being backed up at bottle-neck points through which the railroads have endeavored to move large amounts," he explained. "The only thing to do is just what we have done—ask Judge Lovett for a priority order for coal and to appeal to operators to shoot whatever coal they can to points where most needed. That has helped in some respects."

CHARLES S. MELLEN APPROVES R. R. MOVE

Bankers Have Stockholders' Proxies Now, He Says in Interview

BOARDS DON'T DIRECT

Vice-President of Trainmen Says Brotherhoods are Behind Government - British Wage Plan Probable. Stockbridge, Mass., Dec. 27.—Former President Charles S. Mellen of the "New Haven" road declared today that the taking over of the railroads by the government is a wise move in the interest of efficiency. He said: "Banking control has broken down, directors do not direct, stockholders only vote by proxy and the bankers get the proxy. Railroad competition will now cease in every form and business follow the lines of least resistance. Mistakes will be made, of course, criticism will be fierce, but in the end results will be much better and we would not return to the old conditions if we could. It is a move for the benefit of the people as a whole." "I assume that the profits allowed the roads will be based on the average earnings of the last three years and that President Wilson will apply the British system in the wage matter. Under this system, an increase in wages would be granted, based on the increase of the cost of living." Sines also said that W. G. Lee, Warren S. Stone, A. B. Garretson and W. S. Carter, heads of the four brotherhoods, are now in Washington to discuss wage questions with government authorities. Referring to the coal stringency Sines said: "The railroads have put in inexperienced men to handle trains because thousands of regular railroad employees have left the service to enter the army. In my organization alone, 2,500 members have gone to the front. This has seriously affected the railroads and is largely responsible for the present coal situation."

REV. DR. HESSELGRAVE WILL SAIL FOR FRANCE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK

Passed Final Examinations in New York Yesterday - Special Communion Service at Center Church Next Sunday.

REV. DR. HESSELGRAVE WILL SAIL FOR FRANCE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK

Rev. Dr. C. E. Hesselgrave will sail for France next week to engage in Y. M. C. A. work. He was in New York yesterday and took his final examinations, arranged for his passport and completed other details for sailing. He expects to leave town the first of January and sail on or about the third. The church and Ecclesiastical society voted to give Dr. Hesselgrave a year's leave of absence with full salary, some two weeks ago. Since then Dr. Hesselgrave has been through a light attack of grip and was unable, until yesterday, to satisfy the Y. M. C. A. authorities in New York that his physical condition was up to the arduous requirements of his task. Now that this barrier has been cleared away he is hastening his final plans for leaving. In view of his departure next week the quarterly communion service at the Center church which would fall on the first Sunday in January, will be observed next Sunday. It has been definitely decided that Dr. Hesselgrave will be assigned to work in France, although the exact nature of his duties will not be determined until his arrival on the other side. He speaks both French and German and his knowledge of those languages will greatly aid him in his work. Mrs. Hesselgrave expects to remain in Manchester during the greater part of her husband's absence. Miss Ruth Hesselgrave, their daughter, who is spending the holidays at home, will return to Middlebury College, where she will graduate next May. She intends to teach after her graduation. No arrangements have yet been made for a substitute at the Center church during Dr. Hesselgrave's absence, but the matter is in the hands of the society's committee.

BACK TERMS OF CZERNIN

Washington Says It Has No Official Information of New Peace Offer by Central Powers - Dispatches via Russia or Sweden Only Source of News of Peace Conference

Stockholm, Dec. 27.—A wireless message, evidently sent out by Petrograd, was picked up today stating that the central powers have accepted in principle the peace terms of the Bolsheviks. The Austro-German envoys to the peace parley at Brest-Litovsk were quoted as saying that Germany is "opposed to a war of conquest" and is willing to negotiate peace without any annexations nor indemnities if all the belligerents give the same pledge and guarantee not to exclude Germany from international agreements after the war. The Hague Conference Report. The Hague Conference on the Causes of the War. The conference is expected to make a general peace offer, but of no forced annexations or indemnities, spoke by ambassadors of both the Kaiser and the Emperor of Austria, according to information received here today. The belief is held in neutral diplomatic circles that the Austrian minister was virtually making a peace offer to the Allies and that his remarks did not refer specifically to the terms of a separate peace with Russia. Washington Officially Ignorant. Washington, Dec. 27.—The State department early today was without any information regarding a new peace offer by the Central powers. Only press dispatches had reached officials. These came via Russian and Swedish posts and state that at the peace conference at Brest Litovsk yesterday Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, made a statement to the Russian delegates announcing that the Central powers were ready immediately to conclude a general peace with all nations on a basis of no forcible annexations and indemnities. Officials refused to discuss the proposition in the absence of any official word. It is believed here that, if this really is the long promised German peace offer, it shortly will be communicated to the Entente and the United States through either Dutch or Swedish sources. While unwilling to be placed in the position of seeming to dispose of a momentous question without consideration, officials privately expressed the view today that this was simply a renewal of the suggestions already made and disposed of by President Wilson in his reply to the Pope. Bolshevik Power Waning. Copenhagen, Dec. 27.—Although the power of Bolshevik government in Petrograd is reported to be waning, the delegates appointed to negotiate a separate peace with the Central empires are going ahead with their work with all possible speed. TUG SUNK. New York, Dec. 27.—Six harbor boat men saved their lives here today by leaping clear of the tug "Janita" which was rammed and sunk in the icy waters near Governors Island by the steamship "Anson" which was towing the tug. The "Janita" was rammed. A strong tide is believed to have been responsible for the accident. The six men were picked up by a tug.

U. S. CONTROL OF COAL INEVITABLE IF WAR KEEPS UP - GARFIELD

Washington, December 27.—Federal control of coal mines "is inevitable if the war continues," says Fuel Administrator Garfield. He says he is working hard in the direction of government control, and to obtain it has ordered that when the present contracts expire new ones shall provide for the furnishing of only limited amounts of coal. "The big coal operators of the country have assured me they are ready to deliver their properties the moment the Government asks for them," he said. Shortage This Year. "There was a shortage in available coal between Aug. 18 and Nov. 24 of 20,166,442 tons, simply because of the car shortage. We have asked railroad co-operation—and I am not criticizing the railroads—but I deem it absolutely essential to successful distribution of coal where it is most needed that the railroads be put in a condition to handle the output of the mines."

AMERICAN R. R. ENGINEERS RETURNING FROM RUSSIA

Unable to Cooperate With Bolshevik Government They Are Coming Back to U. S. Tokio, Dec. 27.—Unable to cooperate with the Bolshevik government, 316 American railroad engineers have come from Vladivostok, arriving at Nagasaki today. John F. Stevens, who headed the American Railway Commission to Russia, has arrived at Yokohama. It is understood that the United States government has asked Japan to stop all ships carrying supplies to Vladivostok. There are now at least ten ships on the Pacific bound for the Russian port.

GIRLS DRIVEN TO STREET BY BIG BOSTON BLAZE

Wholesale Paper District Threatened - Six Men Trapped on Top Floor. Boston, Dec. 27.—Boston's wholesale paper district was threatened today by a four alarm fire which destroyed the five story brick building of the William Bevan Company, at 7 Sears street, near India Wharf, and taxed the efforts of the ice covered fire fighters to prevent its spread throughout the district. Seventeen girls employed in a cocoa factory were driven to the street, scantily clad, while the mercury stood ten above zero. Six men, trapped in the top floor of the Bevan building escaped with difficulty, the flames shooting from the basement to the roof before the first piece of apparatus arrived. District Chief John O. Taber, was cut by flying glass in the first assault of the firemen upon the burning building. Many other firemen suffered intensely from the cold.

JAPAN CONSIDERS RUSSIAN PEACE EVENTUALITY

Tokio, Dec. 27.—An important crown council, which was held to determine what attitude Japan should take in the event Russia concludes a separate peace with Germany, has just come to an end at Osaka. Those taking part in it were the Emperor, Viscount Matono, the foreign secretary, Prince Yamagata, General Matsuoka and Viscount Saloni. The last three are members of the Japanese war council.

RECORD IN MAKING OF COINS GOES GLIMMERING

Denver, Dec. 27.—The Denver Government Mint is working day and night to meet the demand for pennies and other small coins caused by the "odd" change necessary in the payment of the new war taxes. Exactly 19,004,000 pieces were coined during November. This was a record-breaker for the Denver mint. The superintendent said today the record for this month will be the greatest in the history of the mint. During December, 65,309,300 coins were minted this year, the largest in denominations being 5-cent pieces.

(Continued on page 2)

