

BEST IN COUNTRY

ONLY "WHITE SPOT" ON MAP-NORTHWEST IOWA AND CORNERS OF OTHER STATES.

BUSINESS PROSPECTS GOOD

Winter Wheat and Sheep Production to Be Large—Buying of Automobiles Uninterrupted—Purchase of War Horses Stimulates Trade.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Sloux City, Ia.—Sloux City and its trade territory constitute the only section in the United States where business conditions are pronounced "absolutely good" in the annual report of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

In northern Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and a small section of western Indiana business conditions are said to be fair.

Business conditions throughout the country generally are classed as fair, with a spirit of optimism regarding the future.

Furrows of horses for the European market is cited as having a tendency to make better conditions over the country.

SUFFERS IN NOVEL UNDERTAKING

Prepares to Insure Against Failure to Win Vote in 1915.

New York.—Insuring against possible failure to win the vote in the 1915 campaign in this state is the latest move of the suffragists.

"We will not insure for less than \$25,000," said a member of the insurance committee, "and of course we may not be able to pay the premium."

British Reply Not Ready.

Washington, D. C.—Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, called on the state department Monday for the first time since the American note of protest on shipping was sent to Great Britain.

MISTAKE COSTS MAN'S LIFE

Pitcher of Los Angeles Coast League Club Fires at Supposed Wildcat and Kills Hunter.

Nordhoff, Cal., Dec. 30.—Mistaken for a wildcat, Herbert Lathrop, best-known guide-hunter in Ventura county, was shot and killed at night by Floyd (Pol) Ferritt, pitcher of the Los Angeles Coast league club.

Two Kentuckians Are Killed.

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 29.—Albert Gillan and Uriah Everly, Gillan's brother-in-law, were shot to death at Island, Ky., by Chief of Police Park Taylor.

Family Wiped Out.

Lebanon, Ill., Dec. 29.—The death within forty minutes of each other of Viola Marie, aged eight, and Frank Hagaman, aged ten, children of A. F. Hagaman, marked the wiping out of his family by typhoid fever.

Birds Face Starvation.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 29.—The state game department has sent notice that owing to the heavy snow over practically all of Illinois game birds face starvation and has appealed to farmers to scatter grain for them.

More Work for Shep Men.

Terre Haute, Ind., Dec. 29.—The thirteen railroad shops here will work an hour longer each day beginning Monday and receive a corresponding increase in pay.

AUSTRIANS FLEE FOE

FRANZ JOSEPH'S FORCES ROUTED IN CARPATHIANS—BERLIN ADMITS LOSS.

15,200 ARE TAKEN PRISONERS

Russians Said to Be Holding Germans in Check Along the Lower Vistula and the Pilica—Losses Are Heavy—Passes Held by Russ.

Berlin, Dec. 31.—The following comment on the military situation was issued on Tuesday by the official press bureau:

"In view of the fact that previous reports from headquarters that operations were proceeding favorably generally have been followed eventually by reports of victories, one is justified in considering the situation in the East as promising a successful outcome for the Germans."

"This view, however, is undoubtedly too optimistic and the fact must be faced that the Russians' extreme left wing is proving itself superior to its opponents' for the present."

"The Russians' action in strengthening their forces there undoubtedly is due to their realization of what the encircling of their flank in Galicia would signify."

London, Dec. 31.—The main Austrian army, under General Boehm-Ermlich, which was prevented from joining the western Austrian army by the Russians on Christmas day, apparently is nearing dissolution.

Vienna officially admits that the Austrians are "avoiding the Russian attacks," and that the attacks in the Carpathian passes are "very severe."

A Petrograd paper reports that the retreating Austrians, estimated to number 175,000, are struggling in disorderly fashion through the Carpathians, with the retreat becoming more and more disorderly.

"The Russians are now holding the Germans in check along the lower Vistula and the Pilica. The German armies were shattered by their futile attacks against the Russian stone wall. The Germans have lost many thousands in killed and wounded during the recent fighting."

BIG LOSSES ARE INFLICTED

Germans Pour Terrible Fire into Attackers, Who Finally Capture St. Georges.

London, Dec. 31.—Definite and important successes were recorded by the allies in their advance from Neuport and in their attack on Muelhausen—the two extremes of the battle front—in official statements issued on Tuesday by the French war office.

While the Franco-Belgian troops were occupying St. Georges, in the environs of which there has been most bitter fighting, and establishing themselves in the trenches, the French army in that position two miles east of Neuport, the French forces commanded by General Pau, operating in Upper Alsace, were investing Steinbach, in the Vosges, north of the line between Cornay and Thann.

The most prolonged and desperate of these forest battles was fought in the vicinity of the burned wood west of Apremont. Here the French retook the line of trenches the Germans occupied a few days ago.

But the recapture of the coveted position cost the French dearly. French cannonades preceded each attack. As the salvos ended the infantry rushed across the lead-swept field to the best cover at hand. Many dead and wounded were left in their wake, but the survivors pressed on, until finally they wrote their names on the map.

At some places within thirty yards of the German trenches. By firing of grenades and sharp musketry attacks the Germans were compelled to retire.

ACTOR KILLED IN THE STREET

Scuffling Falls From Hotel and W. S. Dickinson Loses Life—Five Workers Hurt.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 29.—One man was killed and five were dangerously injured when a scaffolding on the new Muehlenbach hotel here collapsed. Walter S. Dickinson, a vaudeville actor, was caught under the falling structure as he was walking along the street and his skull was fractured. He died at a hospital. He was well known on the vaudeville stage and had been brought here for a special act on an all star bill to open a theater. The injured men all were workmen of the building.

WILL OUST U. S. CONSULS

State Department Informed That Military Officials Will Name Undesirable Diplomats.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The German government has formally notified the American state department that American consuls in Belgium must be acceptable to the German military authorities, and that it is desirable that some of the consuls be withdrawn for the present at least.

VOTE CASES UP SOON

JUDGE A. B. ANDERSON TO HEAR PLEAS ON JANUARY 12.

Six More Terre Haute Officials Taken in Custody by Federal Officers.

Indianapolis, Dec. 30.—The Terre Haute men arrested on a federal indictment charging them with conspiracy to corrupt the election in Terre Haute November 3 will be arraigned before Federal Judge A. B. Anderson here January 12, according to an announcement made here.

The round-up of the men named in the indictment continues in Terre Haute, six more having been taken into custody, making the total number of arrests thus far 102. Sixteen of the 21 prisoners brought to the Marion county jail Saturday night when they were unable to give bond remain in custody. Four men were released today.

Those taken into custody were Frank Lockwood, a politician; E. E. Talbot, city controller of Terre Haute; George Ehrenhardt, a member of the Terre Haute board of public works; Hilton Redman, an attorney and son of Circuit Judge Ell H. Redman, who surrendered to the federal authorities; Frank Kizer, a saloonkeeper, and Robert Lockwood, who surrendered to the federal authorities.

Kizer and Frank Lockwood were released on bonds. Robert Lockwood was released on his personal bond. United States District Attorney Karch of Danville, Ill., is communicating with District Attorney Daley here for what he can do in regard to prosecutions for "interstate voting," which was revealed by the grand jury exposures.

VILLA LIFTS SIEGE OF NACO

Arizona Border Town Sees Governor Maytorena Withdraw Five Miles Away.

Naco, Ariz., Dec. 29.—United States citizens of this town came out of their bomb-proofs, took down the steel plates from their windows and joyously topped over the baled hay barricades surrounding their bullet-riddled dwellings.

The siege of the Mexican town of Naco was lifted Saturday night. Saturday morning it was seen that Gov. Jose Maria Maytorena, the commander of the Mexican hostlers, had evacuated his entrenchments under cover of darkness and withdrawn his forces a distance of five miles to the east, south and west of the position he had held for the last two months.

ASKS RELIEF FOR MEXICANS

Consul General Hanna at Monterey Appeals to Red Cross for Blankets and Food.

New York, Dec. 29.—Telegraphing to the American Red Cross, Consul General Hanna asks that 2,000 cheap blankets be sent to him at Monterey, Mexico, to relieve the suffering natives who have appealed for help. He reports that food supplies are short, though citizens of San Antonio, Tex., have sent him a carload of food and clothing.

"Several outlying towns are appealing for help," he continues. "If the winter keeps cold there would be great suffering from hunger and cold. After four years of war this whole country is short of food. I will make all supplies and money go as far as possible."

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GERMAN AIRMEN KILL 15

Attack Also Made on Dunkirk and King Albert's Headquarters at Furnes—Five Machines in Raid.

London, Jan. 2.—Seventeen bombs were dropped on Dunkirk on Wednesday by German air raiders. Fifteen persons were killed and more than thirty wounded. A number of women and children were among the victims. The raid was carried out by five aviators. Reports from Furnes state that German aviators also dropped two bombs to wipe out the Belgian headquarters, where King Albert is at present. No damage was done.

Postmistress Chases Robbers.

Attleboro, Mass., Jan. 2.—Miss Ella Thompson, postmistress at Attleboro Falls, led a four-mile chase after two men who blew open the safe in her post office and secured \$200 in stamps and money. The men escaped.

Bloomington Man Slain.

Bloomington, Ill., Jan. 2.—Bertha Elston, alias Pearl Lowe of Springfield, shot and instantly killed Ben Gramp, former night county jailer. She says Gramp refused to allow her to go to work in hotel.

Zapata Troops Are Defeated.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Five thousand men led by Gen. Uremio Zapata, brother of Emiliano Zapata, were defeated at Tepic, state of Puebla, by four thousand Carranzistas. Zapata lost 100 men killed.

Suffrage Vote January 12.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Woman suffragists who called on Representative Henry learned that the proposed suffrage constitutional amendment probably would be voted on in the house January 12.

TO DISCUSS PROTEST

FOREIGN SECRETARY GREY RETURNS TO LONDON AND CABINET MEETING CALLED.

U. S. NOTE STUDIED CLOSELY

Communication Accepted as Friendly Action Intended to Clear Up Situation That Might Become Serious—Points in Protest Against Britain.

London, Jan. 2.—Cutting short his vacation as a result of the American protest against British interference with United States commerce, Sir Edward Grey, foreign secretary, returned unexpectedly to London, on Wednesday and hastened to his office in Downing street.

He was conferred at length with Viscount Haldane, who had been acting as head of the foreign office, and later consulted with Premier Asquith. As a result of the second conference the entire cabinet was summoned to discuss the protest from the United States.

It is understood that the American ambassador will be invited by Sir Edward to discuss the whole question with him very soon.

Officials of the British foreign office are closely studying the American note of protest against the treatment given to American commerce during the war, and the indications are that a reply will be made as soon as possible. Members of the diplomatic corps scout the idea expressed in some quarters that the matter will lead to friction between the United States and England.

The foreign office has accepted the protest as a friendly action intended to clear up a situation that might have become serious had it been allowed to continue without a clear understanding. Even the statement of President Wilson that compensation will be asked because of the damage done to American commerce has failed to roll the British press, which is usually quick to take offense.

Washington, Jan. 2.—The general points of the protest sent to Great Britain by the United States government are as follows:

1. American cargoes have been searched on the high seas—a belligerent right that is not denied—but the ships also have been diverted to ports for further examination, a circumstance held not justified under international law unless full proof of hostile destination is presented at the time.

2. Great Britain has regarded absolute and conditional contraband as in the same class. The general understanding in international law has been that absolute contraband includes those articles which are intended for use by a belligerent force and directly destined to it. Conditional contraband, including foodstuffs, comprises the articles which are susceptible of use by an army or navy, but it must be proven that, instead of being intended for the civil population of a country, these products are destined for use by its army or navy.

3. Irrespective of the controversy over what constitutes absolute or conditional contraband in the commerce between a neutral and a belligerent country, the note sets forth that in respect to commerce between two neutral countries there ought to be no question of contraband at all, for the relations are those of peace and not of war. Since the Civil war the United States has upheld the doctrine of "continuous voyage," which permitted the seizure of a cargo even in its journey between neutral ports, provided eventually it was destined for a belligerent.

The American note, however, takes the position that proof of such hostile destination must be shown at time of seizure.

FRANK APPEAL IS ALLOWED

Atlanta (Ga.) Factory Superintendent Convicted of Murdering Girl to Get Stay of Execution.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Associate Justice Lamar of the United States Supreme court on Monday allowed the appeal of Lec M. Frank, the Atlanta (Ga.) factory superintendent, convicted of the murder of Mary Phagan. This means that a stay of execution will be granted and that Frank cannot be hanged until the high court passes on the constitutional questions raised in the case.

BOMB THROWER ENDS LIFE

Dynamiter Hurle Explosive in Temple at San Francisco, Cal.—Five Persons Wounded.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 29.—A man named Vavara, believed to have been a religious fanatic, wrecked the Hindu temple at Filbert and Webster streets on Sunday, exploding a dynamite bomb at the feet of the Swami Trigunatita during services. Vavara was instantly killed, the bomb blowing him almost in two. The swami was horribly injured about the legs and feet. Of the congregation four were injured.

Rush to Join Army.

London, Dec. 30.—A "Christmas rush" of recruits is reported by many recruiting stations to the war office. Many Englishmen have evidently delayed enlisting purposely so as to be able to spend Christmas at home.

Blood for Sale.

New York, Dec. 30.—One hundred called and offered to sell their blood in response to a request for donations of blood to save three patients at Beth Israel hospital. Only two applicants were found suitable.

England Full of Wounded.

London, Dec. 30.—England is becoming so full of wounded soldiers that some who have been so badly disabled that they cannot re-enter the service are being sent to South Africa for the convalescent period.

BANDITS GET \$10,840

PASSENGERS ON TRAIN IN TEXAS ARE ROBBED.

Three Robbers Hold Up the Sunset Limited But Overlook \$16,000 and Valuable Jewels.

San Antonio, Tex., Jan. 1.—Three bandits who robbed passengers in the two sleepers by the west-bound Sunset Express on the Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio railway got \$7,840 and jewelry valued at \$3,000, as shown by passengers' reports. They boarded the train at Cline and escaped as the train neared Spofford.

Jose Martinez, a wealthy Mexican from Durango, who, with his wife and daughter, occupied a drawing-room, was overlooked by the bandits. He carried \$16,000, besides jewelry of great value. So elated was Martinez when he discovered he had escaped that he gave \$25 to \$150 to each victim of the robbery.

Mrs. J. Carson of Houston, who occupied a lower berth with her four-month-old baby, became hysterical when the robbers demanded her valuables. The leader called out: "Let her go, she's only a baby." Under her pillow was \$185.

SPARKS FROM THE WIRE

Madison Square Garden, New York, Dec. 31.—After ten rounds of the best boxing seen in New York in years Charlie White was the winner over Joe Shugrue by his margin on Tuesday night. His superior hitting ability enabled him to place Shugrue in distress on several occasions. White's left hook was in evidence, but Shugrue showed great ability to stand punishment, and made a great fight. Both men weighed in at 133 pounds.

New York, Dec. 30.—New York city's death rate for 1914 will be the lowest recorded since 1866. In a statement issued by the department of health the probable rate for the expiring year was put at 13.36 per 1,000 of population.

London, Dec. 29.—Five thousand horses have been purchased for the British army in Argentina by Cunningham Graham, a government agent, who was recently sent to South America.

Kalamazoo, Mich., Dec. 29.—Kalamazoo physicians are amazed at the vitality shown by Zedak Willis, eighty-four, who has lived on water alone since November 13.

New York, Dec. 30.—Mrs. Norma Cliff Andrews will collect \$30,000 back alimony from her former husband, James Montfort Schley, Jr., nephew of the late Admiral Schley, according to a decision handed down in the supreme court by Justice Gieglrich. After her second marriage Schley stopped paying alimony.

7,000 CARRANZA MEN DESERT

Troops at Tepic Join Villa Forces—U. S. Gunboat Ordered to San Blas.

On Board U. S. S. San Diego, En Route to San Diego, Cal., Dec. 30. Wireless.—Seven thousand troops of General Carranza's forces declared for General Villa at Tepic, in the state of that name, on the west coast of Mexico. Foreigners at San Blas and Tepic have taken refuge aboard the United States supply ship Glaciar. Rear Admiral Howard, in command of the Pacific fleet, on receipt of the news, ordered the gunboat Annapolis by wireless to San Blas, but no trouble is expected.

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Aged Couple Burned to Death.

Terre Haute, Ind., Dec. 30.—Mr. and Mrs. Knott Hillman, an aged couple, were burned to death Sunday when, upon return from a visit with their children, Hillman lit the kitchen fire with kerosene.

GET UNJUST TERMS

PRISONERS' CASES CONSIDERED BY CHARITIES BOARD—BIENNIAL REPORT ON FILE.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

From the Capital City, the Various State Institutions and from Many Different Parts of the Sunshine State.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Pierre.—That many men are unjustly sentenced to the penitentiary, is the holding of the state board of charities and corrections in its biennial report to the governor. The report says:

"With all due respect to the courts of our state, we are thoroughly convinced that there are many men who have and who are now serving time in our state penitentiary who are unjustly punished by so doing. A great many of the people sent to the penitentiary are those who are non-residents of the state or of the community in which the crime for which they are punished was committed."

The board recommends that the indeterminate sentence act of the state be extended to cover all crimes except murder and treason, and that no fixed sentences be pronounced save for conviction on these charges; that when a prisoner is sent to the penitentiary his commitment papers be accompanied by the names of the presiding judge, the prosecuting attorney, the attorney for the defense, the jurors, and the witnesses sworn at the trial, along with a copy of the testimony, and all record of the past life of the prisoner which can be secured. The board indorses the farm policy at the penitentiary for open-air work for honor convicts; condemns the shirt contract at that institution, and asks that it be wiped out at the end of the present contract, March 10, next, and that the twine plant be enlarged to care for men now working in the shirt factory, and for the farm workers in the winter season. The board showed as grounds for expansion of that industry that the state plant turns out practically three million pounds of twine each year, while the state uses fifteen million pounds.

The equipment for care of the boys and girls at the state training school is declared to be inefficient, and a request is made for an appropriation to provide equipment to give the boys and girls training which will help them after they leave that institution.

The report of the state parole officer indicates that it is his opinion the parents are to blame for many of the boys going to the state training school, and that stepfathers and stepmothers are included in his list of causes of bringing children to that institution. He shows that from June 21, 1913, to July 1, 1914, forty-five had been paroled from the penitentiary, of which three were returned to that institution, and two had broken parole and are yet at large. For the training school, twenty had been paroled, two had been returned to that institution, and one had broken parole and had not been located.

Farm Labor Problem. Pierre Immigration Commissioner McCreese has just returned from a trip to Kansas City, where, at a meeting of immigration and labor officials of western states, an organization was formed, to be known as the National Farm Labor Exchange, and Mr. McCreese was selected as president of the organization. In speaking of the aims and desires of this organization Mr. McCreese said that the general purpose was to prevent such movement of farm labor as that of last year when men were sent into South Dakota several weeks ahead of the harvest, and into states farther south after the harvest work was done. The details of the handling of men have been arranged, and this work is expected to be planned in detail, so as to care for the best interests of the laborers and of the farmers, at a meeting which has been called at Omaha for February 1, where labor and immigration officers of the different western states and representatives of various civic and business organizations, and other interested parties in the states from Texas to the northern boundary line, are expected to gather and formulate some definite method of meeting the problem. Besides the local state organizations, the exchange expects to work through centrally located points, like Kansas City, where the Missouri Free Labor Bureau will handle the work, and at Sloux City, where some arrangement will be perfected to keep the stream of labor moving.

To Install Oil Burners.

Centerville.—Northwestern officials have notified Agent Paulson that oil storage tanks will be installed here soon, and that the locomotives on this division will be operated by oil instead of coal. This is a new departure in railroading in this state, and the oil burners on this division will be the first introduced for service in South Dakota. The Northwestern line enters the Casper, Wyo., oil fields, and this connection enables it to get an unlimited supply of oil.

The Joseph B. Glanser Farm South of Bridgewater, comprising 240 acres, has been sold recently to Joseph Pullman, a neighbor, for \$26,400, or \$110 an acre. Under the new revenue law, the deed conveying this property required \$26.50 in revenue stamps.

At a sale of Indian lands conducted by government officers at the Yankton Indian agency, an aggregate of 797 acres was sold, bringing a total of \$37,907.59, an average of \$47.54 per acre. One tract of 200 acres was sold to a white farmer for \$10,300.

Statistics for Leading Cities.

Mitchell.—Municipal statistics concerning the 10 leading cities of South Dakota have just been compiled by S. S. Orvitt, city auditor of Huron, and forwarded to the auditors of the other nine cities. The statistics take into account the total amount of assessment, the total appropriation, the amount of the levy and the amount of the school and city bonded indebtedness of each of the 10 municipalities. In amount of total assessment, which includes real estate, personal, railroads and telephones, Sloux Falls is in the lead with \$23,164,998. Aberdeen is second with \$14,409,541. Lead is third with \$9,274,791, and Mitchell fourth, with \$8,541,044. Huron, Rapid City, Pierre, Brookings and Redfield follow in order. Sloux Falls also leads in amount of appropriations for the present fiscal year, with \$315,000. Aberdeen's budget is second in size, amounting to \$230,904. Mitchell ranks third with \$91,240. Pierre has the highest mill levy for state, county, city and school purposes. It is 27.3 mills. Sloux Falls is next with 24.7 mills. Brookings next with 22.67 mills. The others are as follows: Rapid City, 22.34 mills; Aberdeen, 20.7 mills; Mitchell, 19.4 mills; Watertown, 19.1 mills; Redfield, 17.9 mills; Lead, 16.3 mills. Pierre's bonded school indebtedness exceeds that of any of her neighbors. Pierre has her schools bonded at \$125,000; Lead at \$117,000, Mitchell at \$84,000, and Sloux Falls at \$75,000. The bonded municipal indebtedness of Sloux Falls is placed at \$831,000. The others are ranked thus: Aberdeen, 494,500; Huron, 279,907; Pierre, \$253,490; Mitchell, \$197,500.

Lawyers to Meet.

Sloux Falls.—John H. Voorhees, of this city, secretary of the South Dakota Bar association, and other members of the organization have completed the program for the sixteenth annual convention of the association, which will be held at Pierre on Wednesday and Thursday, January 13 and 14. One of the features will be the annual addresses of Judge Dick Haney, of Mitchell, president of the association. The chief address during the convention will be made by Rome G. Brown, of Minneapolis, on the subject, "The Judicial Recall—An Instrument of Socialism." This address will be delivered on Wednesday, January 13. A paper will be read by Justice Howard Gates, of the state supreme court, on the subject, "The Classification of Municipal Corporations." P. C. Morrison, of Moberly, will make an address on "Banking Legislation." A paper will be read by Howard C. Fuller, of Pierre, on the subject, "The Responsibility of the Press for the Prevention of Impartial Trials in Criminal Cases."

New Corporations.

Pierre.—The secretary of state has chartered the following domestic corporations: Gaskell-Torrence company, of Colome, capital stock \$10,000; incorporators, George Torrence, of Burke, and Ora O. Gaskell and L. D. Gaskell, of Colome. Avenue Lumber & Manufacturing Co., of Huron, capital stock \$25,000; incorporators, Frank Joehm, R. H. Joehm, J. M. Jonason and D. K. Scruby, of Huron. Baskerville & Dahl Co., of Watertown, capital stock \$100,000; incorporators, M. R. Baskerville, H. E. Dahl and H. G. Bork. Will Olson company of Wessington Springs, capital stock \$10,000; incorporators, H. P. Will, L. A. Will and H. M. Olson. McKinney Allen company, of Sloux Falls, capital stock \$100,000; incorporators, D. L. McKinney, C. E. McKinney, J. J. Allen and Jay B. Allen.

Horticulturists to Meet.

Yankton.—The twenty-sixth annual meeting of the South Dakota State Horticultural society will be held at Yankton, January 19 to 21 in the city hall. Liberal premiums are offered for the best county and individual exhibits of apples and for the best individual display of vegetables. Secretary N. E. Hansen, of Brookings, and President John Murray, of Spearfish, are making plans to make this the best convention of fruit growers ever held in the state. Special information concerning the meetings may be obtained in circular form by writing to Prof. N. E. Hansen, Brookings.

Increase in Auto