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The Daily Gate City.

THE WEATHER
Snow. Continued cold. Local temp—7 p. m. 25; 7 a. m. 20.

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EIGHT PAGES

BRITISH SURROUNDED BY TURKS

HALF HEARTED SUPPORT OF PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

Many Democratic Congressmen are Only Lukewarm Over the Plans of President Wilson.

BRYAN'S INFLUENCE IS FEARED

Woman's Peace Party Files a Protest Against Great Increase of the Army and Navy.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Rising opposition to the administration preparedness plan was considered at today's cabinet meeting. The president conferred on the same subject with Chairman Hay of the house military committee. It was understood Hay told the executive the continental army plan apparently is doomed, but that sentiment favors some increase in the regular army and expansion of the national guard as a reserve army. In addition to making speeches supporting the preparedness program, it was learned today the president plans to wield his personal influence with senators and representatives to counteract the influence of former Secretary Bryan.

On the senate side where Democratic Leader Kern is for preparedness generally, but says he has not made up his mind as to the best plan, Chairman Chamberlain and Tillman, respectively of the military and naval committees are behind the administration measures but Senators Gore and Vardaman are openly opposed. A compromise of both the army and navy programs between congress and the white house today appeared the probable upshot, after more discussion.

Women Protest. WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—Vigorous protest against the administration's preparedness program was formally presented to congress today by the Woman's Peace party, holding its second convention here. Miss Jane Addams, chairman, and a delegation of the party, appeared before the house and senate foreign affairs committee. Their peace and anti-preparedness plan urged.

A congressional joint committee to investigate within six months, the condition of national defense; probability of hostile action by any foreign power; and plans to reduce international friction by legislation and diplomacy. A peace conference of neutral nations to be called at once. Government ownership of munitions plants. A joint commission of Americans, Japanese and Chinese to study orientational questions. Practically all convention delegates attended the committee hearing. Other speakers besides Miss Jane Addams were Mrs. Crystal Eastman, Mrs. Lucia Ames Mead of Boston and Miss S. P. Breckinridge, dean of the Woman's college of Chicago.

STILL THINK ROOSEVELT IS ONLY MAN ON EARTH

Progressive Enthusiasts Want Republicans to Name Him as Their Candidate.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] CHICAGO, Jan. 11.—Three-fourths of the progressive national committee here today to select a date for the national convention, favor amalgamation with the republican party if it can be accomplished "with honor." As the committee prepared to meet at the Congress hotel at 11 a. m. today, sentiment of both eastern and western committeemen indicated a return to the G. O. P. fold is more than possible. It is all up to the republicans.

Roosevelt is the only possibility of defeating Woodrow Wilson. Hotchkiss echoed the sentiment. Every mention of Roosevelt's name in the committee meeting today was expected to provoke cheers. The Perkins dinner last night left no doubt where the "moose stand" with their leader. Scores of the committeemen think it is more than possible that a majority of the republicans feel the same way about the colossus. A somewhat difficult task lay ahead of the committee. In its early session today. It must arrange representation in the convention, based on Roosevelt's vote in the states in 1912. This matter, though merely perfunctory, if there is possibility of a combine with the republicans, was to occupy several hours time today.

Chances early today were considered nine to one in favor of a progressive national convention in Chicago June 7, simultaneous with the republican convention. It can be stated with positive assurance that if Theodore Roosevelt or some other progressive republican candidate is nominated by the G. O. P., the bull moose will become a member. The dramatic bolt of the Roosevelt clans from the republican convention here four years ago will have an equally dramatic contrast in the return to the fold. The only bar to this program today was the fear of the more radical progressives that standpatters will be in absolute control of the G. O. P. convention. This element of the bull moose party fears that Roosevelt's boom will be squashed by the reactionaries, before it has opportunity to develop in the convention. Committeemen today considered the address of Geo. W. Perkins at his dinner last night as the keynote of the party's stand.

"We did not desire nor provoke the conflict of 1912," Perkins declared, "it was forced on us against our will. Now we should place country above party." Statements today by Col. Cecil Lyon, of Texas, and William H. Hotchkiss, of New York, were considered as indicative of sentiment among both western and eastern progressives. Colonel Lyon declared a combine of the republicans and progressives on

GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] BERLIN, (via wireless to Sayville, L. I.) Jan. 11.—Determined attempts by the French to recapture positions conquered by the Germans northwest of Massiges in the Sunday offensive, have been repulsed, the war office announced this morning. The Germans took 380 prisoners. "A French battle aircraft, armed with 3.8 centimetre gun, was forced by German fire to land near Jumen, south of Dixmude," said the official statement. "The air craft and pilots were unhurt and are in German hands. A British biplane was shot down in an air fight near Tournai."

THE FOOD SUPPLY. BERLIN, (via wireless to Sayville, L. I.) Jan. 11.—Careful use of bread and corn stocks is necessary, the government announced in an official proclamation issued today, warning the people against food extravagances. Emphasizing this necessity, the government has ordered that the system of distribution of food supplies in operation before last summer be re-established. "Statistics made public on November 16 showed there were sufficient bread and corn stocks in Germany," said the official statement, "but since the government increased the rate of distribution at the beginning of the second year of the war, the impression arose that stocks were superabundant. "Many are now only provided with sufficient stocks and therefore careful use of stocks is necessary. The government therefore abolishes the distribution order of last August and re-established the original plan of distribution, while maintaining, however, sufficient bread rations for hard working people."

ACCUSE AMERICAN. BERLIN, (via wireless to Sayville, L. I.) Jan. 11.—The German government is investigating the case of United States Consul Higgins at Stuttgart, alleged to have made statements hostile to Germany, the Berlin papers declared today. The Cologne Gazette recently quoted the New York Staats Zeitung as stating that Higgins' remarks had violated the neutrality of the United States.

FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] PARIS, Jan. 11.—At least 60,000 Germans participated in the Sunday offensive movement against the French lines in the Champagne region. It was established today. "Our artillery fire, together with the brilliant defense of our soldiers and the subsequent counter attacks, have completely nullified the effects of the German attack," the war office reported.

"It is now established that the attack was made by three German divisions." To Take Up Contraband Note. [United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, Jan. 11.—While no official word had been received at the state department regarding receipt by Berlin of the Lusitania agreement reached yesterday by Secretary Lansing and Ambassador Bernstorff, officials believed the paper would be handed to Foreign Minister Von Jagow by Ambassador Gerard before tonight. These officials were confident complete acceptance of its terms would be forthcoming.

With the Lusitania matter out of the way, Secretary Lansing today was expected to devote much of his time to completion of the lengthy contraband note which is in course of preparation. There has been no official statement that this note would be directed against Great Britain, but in view of the British command of the seas, it is certain Great Britain's published lists of what she considers contraband will be the first subject of protest. Officials today refused even to approximate the time that will elapse before this note is ready, even in rough draft, for the president.

Iowa Supreme Court Decisions. [Special to The Gate City.] DES MOINES, Jan. 11.—State vs. Sayles, Pottawattamie county, affirmed; Ladd, Justice. Hatz et al. vs. board of supervisors of Plymouth county, Iowa, Plymouth, dismissed per curiam. In the matter of the estate of John W. Stone, deceased, Woodbury county, affirmed, opinion on rehearing; Weaver, Justice. In re estate of Bennison vs. Bennison, Black Hawk county, affirmed; Weaver, Justice. Dobbertin vs. Emmet county et al, Emmet county, reversed and remanded; Weaver.

AUSTRIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] BERLIN, (via wireless to Sayville, L. I.) Jan. 11.—The Italian steamer Porto Said, sunk by an Austrian submarine, attempted to escape and then tried to ram and sink the submarine, Vienna dispatches reported today. "In this fact, Vienna asserted the remainder of the submarine took unusual precautions to safeguard the lives of persons aboard the steamer, though in so doing he imperiled the safety of his own men. "The submarine first ordered the steamer to stop, but she attempted to escape," said Vienna dispatches. "Then she ran up the white flag and stopped. "When the submarine approached the steamer suddenly steered against the submarine in order to ram her. The submarine then opened fire and hit the steamer which again stopped and began lowering her boats. "The submarine stopped firing and upon approaching, found boats were pulling away, paying no heed to persons swimming in the water, but heading for the coast. The submarine commander therefore halted a boat containing the Porto Said's captain and threatened to shoot him if he did not put about and save these persons. "Returning to the steamer, the crew of the submarine found aboard her two persons, one of whom was wounded. They were taken aboard the submarine and after the wounds had been bandaged, were transferred to the captain's boat. "Not until this was done, was the steamer torpedoed. Meanwhile the submarine while still engaged in aiding persons from the Porto Said was shelled by the enemy's torpedo boats and a yacht."

BALKANS. ATHENS, Jan. 11.—Anglo-French soldiers were stationed outside a Bulgarian church at Salonika yesterday and arrested several Bulgarians they suspected of espionage, according to advices received here today. The incident is expected to cause fresh protests from the Greek government. The newspaper Hestia, friendly to the allies, declared today that Greek ships detained at Malta and other ports of the allies have been released. The entente powers, it was stated, have guaranteed not to hinder the shipment of supplies to Greece within the limits prescribed by a commission sitting at Paris. The Greek parliament will convene on January 24, when newly elected deputies will take their seats. The government is seeking assurances from the Venizelists that they will curb their utterances in parliamentary debate so that King Constantine may not be embarrassed in his dealings with either group of diplomats here.

ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] LONDON, Jan. 11.—The government's heaviest artillery batteries were to open in commons this afternoon in defense of the conscription bill. First Minister of Munitions Lloyd George, virtual leader of the conscription fight in the cabinet, was to answer the criticism of labor advocates. He was to be followed by Arthur Henderson, labor's representative in the cabinet, who was expected to explain why he and other labor members of parliament believe adoption of the compulsory measure necessary. The conscription measure came up for a second reading today with the understanding that debate would continue for two days, the vote being taken either tomorrow night or Thursday.

THIRTEEN DROWNED. LONDON, Jan. 11.—The British steamer Clan McFarlane has been sunk by a submarine. It was announced this afternoon. The Clan McFarlane was one of the fleet of steamers owned by the Clan Line of Glasgow. She displaced 4,823 tons, was 400 feet long and fifty feet at her beam. She was built in 1908. Thirteen persons perished when the steamer was torpedoed. Twenty-four others have been rescued.

BELGIUM

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] HAVRE, Jan. 11.—"South of Frolinghen, our artillery provoked heavy fire from the enemy," said an official statement from the Belgian war office today. "Artillery duels occurred around Ypres."

Strike Failed to Materialize. [United Press Leased Wire Service.] YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, Jan. 11.—Plans to extend the strike of common laborers to the Carnegie and Brier Hill Steel companies failed to materialize today. The scheduled walk-out was to occur at noon after the men received their weekly pay, and was planned to help fellow workmen at the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company and the Republic Iron and Steel company to obtain an increase in pay to 25 cents an hour. Failure of the walk-out was taken to indicate there will be no sympathetic strike in Mahoning Valley and that the men are satisfied with the recent grant of a ten per cent wage increase.

TURKEY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] LONDON, Jan. 11.—British forces marching to the relief of Kut-El-Amara are within seventeen miles of the beleaguered garrison, according to best information available here today. They must fight their way eastward through a Turkish army believed to outnumber them two to one. No news of the fate of the Kut-El-Amara garrison has reached London since the arrival of official dispatches covering Saturday night's fighting and it is believed possible the decisive battle already has been fought. Not since the Boers surrounded a British force at Ladysmith, has a British army faced similar peril. For that reason, news of the progress of the relief expedition is being awaited with the greatest anxiety, if not alarm. The latest dispatches indicated that the relief forces under General Aylmer and General Campbell were at grips with the Turks in the bend of the Tigris east of Kut-El-Amara. Weather conditions, it was stated, were impeding the British advance. Though details are almost completely lacking, it is believed here that the Turks encircled the British right at Kut-El-Amara, throwing a strong force between the garrison and the river Tigris. Constantinople reported such an enveloping movement in progress a week ago. If this is true, the relief expedition must fight its way eastward through this force to save the garrison from capture. India office officials today viewed the situation hopefully. Kut-El-Amara undoubtedly is provisioned sufficiently to withstand a long siege, they said, having been used as a base for the campaign against Bagdad. The town itself is well fortified. Defenses were first built by the Turks who intended that Kut-El-Amara's fortifications should check the British advance into Mesopotamia. The British improved these works when they took the town. It is believed they are impregnable to assault by the light artillery the Turks have drawn down the river from Bagdad.

Work of Fire Bugs. OTTUMWA, Iowa, Jan. 11.—During the progress of the big Main street conflagration early this morning, fires were started in three other large business houses by fire bugs, the police declare. The police state that the Friedman store was fired in the same manner. Mayor Carter has called the city council together and a thorough investigation has been ordered.

NOTICE

The subscription price of The Daily Gate City by mail has been \$3.00 in the towns and \$2.50 on rural routes. These two different rates have caused so much confusion and dissatisfaction that after February 1, 1916, there will be but one price for the daily by mail and that \$3.00 per year. The subscription price of the daily in Keokuk remains the same—10 cents per week.

Run Over by Train. CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa, Jan. 11.—W. S. Linsley, 60, night watchman for the Dearborn Gas company, was run over by a switch engine, while walking home on the Northwestern tracks last night and both legs severed. He died later in St. Luke's hospital. He was deaf and it is supposed he did not hear the approaching engine. He is survived by his mother and one sister.

Death in Snow Slide. TELLURIDE, Colo., Jan. 11.—Four Austrians were swept to death in a snow slide near here today, making eight such deaths in Colorado within the last week. Frank Batocchi, caught at the edge of the slide, dug himself out and struggled to Ophir where he gave the alarm.

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HALF BLOCK IN ASHES IN HEART OF THE CITY

Big Blaze at Ottumwa This Morning Wiped Out Eight Business Concerns on Main Street.

FIRE BUGS BUSY DURING THE NIGHT

Several Other Fires Were Started by Incendiaries While the Firemen Were Busy in Business District.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] OTTUMWA, Iowa, Jan. 11.—Fire this morning destroyed half a city block in the heart of the retail district on Main street, causing a \$750,000 loss. Among the establishments burned are: N. Friedman's department store. James Swirles' dry goods store. Stevens Shoe company. Wallace Printing company. A. H. Nelson's Ladies' Wear store. The Swearingen store. Woolworth's 5 and 10 cents store. W. W. Bruckman Tailoring Co.

Hotel Destroyed. SAULT STE. MARIE, Mich., Jan. 11.—Guests in the new International Hotel at the Ontario Soo were forced to face a sixty mile gale and blinding blizzard in their night clothes early today when fire destroyed the hotel. The entire business district of the city was threatened until aid was sent by the Michigan Soo, Algonquin, Mich., and Steelton, Ont., fire departments. The hotel was considered the finest north of Toronto and was valued at \$250,000.

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Fire at Coaling Station. NEW LONDON, Conn., Jan. 11.—A \$25,000 fire of unknown origin threatened to destroy the coaling station of the United States submarine base here early today. Only the favorable direction of the wind made it possible to check the blaze. Lieutenant Commander Pinney said today he did not believe the fire was of incendiary origin. An investigation is being made, however, he said, and a report will be sent to Washington at once. "The fire," said Pinney, "started in a coaling pocket on the 800 foot pier of the old coaling station which is being used by the submarine. There were vessels alongside the dock which moved away as soon as the fire was discovered and were not damaged."

Will Investigate. OTTUMWA, Iowa, Jan. 11.—Belief that Ottumwa's three fires last night, one of which caused more than \$500,000 damage, were of incendiary origin, gained impetus this afternoon when it was learned that Fire Chief Sloan and Mayor Carter will call upon State Fire Marshal Ole Roe to come here and conduct an investigation. Sloan's announcement of his intention to take such steps, followed investigation by himself and the mayor of the costly Main street holocaust and the blaze in the rear of the Ottumwa Bugry Co., and the G. B. Baker Piano establishments. Late estimates of damage amount to almost half of the buildings on the south side of Main street.

POPE HAS PEACE PLAN WITH BELGIUM AS LEVER

Delegates to Talk the Matter Over and Negotiate for Ending of War.

[By Henry Wood, United Press Staff Correspondent.] ROME, Jan. 11.—Pope Benedict hopes to take his first practical step toward peace this week. Cardinal Mercier, with Monsignor Heylen, bishop of Namur, is expected to arrive here from Belgium today or tomorrow. They will be received in audience by his holiness and are expected to tell him upon what terms the people of Belgium will agree to an early peace.

The Ford Peace Party. [By Charles P. Stewart, United Press Staff Correspondent.] THE HAGUE, Jan. 11.—Several Scandinavian delegates attached to the Ford peace party are threatening to secede today, because they do not approve the manner in which the expedition is conducted. The Scandinavians believe plans of the Ford leaders should assume a more definite form, since the neutral peace conference is about to begin its sessions. They are disgruntled, too, because the American "steering" committee is in absolute control. The first public meeting in Holland was held last night in the auditorium of the Zoological garden and the speakers received liberal applause. Several American delegates who insisted on smoking were expelled by the Dutch guards. Student members of the expedition, numbering about fifty, sailed for New York today aboard the Noordam.

Pope Benedict has been convinced from the beginning of the war that the restoration of Belgium by Germany was an imperative preliminary to any peace proposals, i.e. is understood in vatican circles, i.e. is understood to have made this fact known both to Germany and the allies. At the recent papal consistory, Cardinal Hartmann of Cologne, is reported to have submitted to his holiness the terms upon which Germany will consent to evacuate Belgian territory. The pontiff's next step was to arrange to learn the views of the Belgians themselves and Germany readily consented to a visit to Rome by the Belgian prelates. Several members of the Belgian relief committee from London are already in Rome. It is understood that their views will be solicited also by the vatican. Having learned Belgium's terms, the pope plans to submit them to Germany, hoping through these negotiations to begin the series of compromises he suggested necessary for peace in his elocution to the consistory.

Menace Publishers on Trial. [United Press Leased Wire Service.] JOPLIN, Mo., Jan. 11.—Four publishers of the anti-Catholic paper, the Menace, went to trial in the federal court today charged with mailing obscene matter. They are: Wilbur Phelps, Bruce M. Phelps, Theodore Walker, Marvin Brown. The defendants are also charged with being parties to the distribution of a book containing alleged obscene matter. Was Tired of Life. [United Press Leased Wire Service.] CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa, Jan. 11.—Isaac Gorton, 55, attempted suicide in an alley in the rear of Grene's opera house today by cutting his throat with a razor. He was discovered by passers-by who took him to St. Luke's hospital, where his injuries were dressed. He may recover. He left a statement that he was tired of life.