

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

PUBLISHED EVERY MORNING BY The Washington Herald Company 425-427 Eleventh Street. Telephone MAIN 3300.

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FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES: THE S. C. BECKWITH SPECIAL AGENCY, New York Office, Tribune Bldg., Chicago Office, Tribune Bldg., St. Louis Office, Third National Bank Bldg., Detroit Office, Ford Bldg.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY CARRIER: Daily and Sunday, 30 cents per month; Daily and Sunday, \$3.00 per year.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY MAIL: Daily and Sunday, 30 cents per month; Daily and Sunday, \$3.00 per year.

VACATION HERALDS. The Washington Herald will be mailed, upon request, to regular subscribers on vacation.

SAURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1917.

EACH DAY OF THE YEAR.

By John Kendrick Bangs.

THE EILE.

He who in aloofness sits Gathers wool, but never wits; Finds his easy slippers nice, But, poor soul, he cuts no lice.

About the only food the neutrals are receiving from us now is food for thought.

The more we see of this weather, the harder it is to believe that September Morn picture.

"Germany wants no territory," says the Kaiser. Well don't shout about it, you won't get any.

Save all those spare dollars you had left from your vacation. Another liberty loan is coming next month.

Wonder what was the date for delivery for the German gift of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, to Mexico?

"The Turks can go to Hell," Billy Sunday told an audience in California. Most of the civilized world thinks that they do.

The people of Chicago should not be judged by their mayor. They don't like him anymore than the rest of the country.

There is considerable talk of exempting farm hands from the draft. With the experience of two days' work on a farm we would say that life in the trenches is mild in comparison.

The Lokal Anzeiger of Berlin states that the war has exposed in its nakedness much that is low and contemptible. And the Berlin paper certainly should be familiar with such things.

As a Boston paper tells of the theatrical attractions there: "Oh, Boy," "Have a Heart," "Here Comes the Bride," "The Girl I Left Behind Me in Canary Cottage with Old Lady B," and "The Man who Stays at Home with His Little Widows will Turn to the Right."

Four men from Pershing's division have committed suicide since reaching the other side. The War Department can offer no explanation for this condition which is without precedent in the army. Perhaps the circumstances surrounding the individual cases should be made public. Someone else might find the solution.

AND HE DID IT.

Somebody said that it couldn't be done. But he, with a chuckle, replied, "That 'maybe it couldn't be but he would be."

Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried? So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin.

On his face, if he worried he hid it. He started to sing as he tackled the thing. That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed, "Oh, you'll never do that." At least nobody ever has done it. But he took off his coat, and he took off his hat.

And the first thing he knew he'd begun it. With the lift of his chin and a bit of a grin.

If any doubt rose he forbade it. He started to sing as he tackled the thing. That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done. There are thousands to prophesy failure.

There are thousands to point out to you one by one. The dangers that wait to assail you. But just buckle in with a bit of a grin.

Then take off your coat and go to it. Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing. That cannot be done, and you'll do it.

—New York Tribune.

OPHELIA'S SLATE.

Worry is a train of thought that carries passengers to failure.



The Coal Situation.

"A very large proportion of the coal supply available for the coming winter is under contract. These contracts, which are allowed to stand for the present, were made prior to the President's proclamation and very largely limit the amount which may be placed on sale at retail prices based on the President's order."

This is the rather alarming statement which is contained in a bulletin issued by the new Fuel Administrator, Dr. Harry A. Garfield, last night. It is premonitory of a wave of high prices, which the American people have been dreading, but the statement continues:

"It is absolutely essential, however, that a sufficient supply of coal be put on the market at once at these prices to meet the needs of domestic consumers. The Fuel Administration believes that this supply of coal can be made available and will be made available by voluntary arrangements between the operators and those with whom they have contracts, and thus make it unnecessary for the Fuel Administration to exercise or recommend the powers, the exercise of which is provided for in the Lever act."

If these "voluntary arrangements" fail during the early part of the winter, what then? It seems inevitable that the price of coal will go skyrocketing; that the public will be outraged; that confidence in the whole war administration will be undermined, because of its inability to cope with the situation. We rather think that drastic measures should be taken right away to procure as even and widely distributed supply of coal as possible. Fuel is something which cannot be dispensed with by the American people, even in part; it is not subject to the same kind of economic and short-cuts as Mr. Hoover is preaching for wheat, for instance. We may eat "war bread," and bear up with the thought of sacrifice for the nation; but there is no such thing as war fuel. And a policy which will permit prices to go mounting sky-high in the United States while thousands of tons are being shipped abroad—to Italy, for instance, which is sadly in need of it—will not serve to make the war any more popular in this country. It will be a bad political and administrative blunder, in our opinion. The frame work of the organization of the Fuel Administration, as announced by Mr. Garfield, will meet with approval. But it is clear that the power vested in him must be exercised. Surely it is a sad commentary on the existing state of things if previous contracts are allowed to defeat the purpose of the law. In time of war all private contracts should go by the board if public exigencies require it.

Already we hear rumblings and echoes of a new scale of coal prices, based, logically enough on supply and demand. It is clear that the price-fixing for coal at the time has not clarified the retail situation to any great extent. Nor will it be clarified if left to the tender mercies of private manipulation, which has an irresistible temptation before it. Railroad priority should be established for coal whenever necessary. Such a step has already been taken for the Northwestern States. The whole coal supply should be commandeered by the government if that drastic step is necessary to stabilize prices.

Another Voice in Germany—The Centrists.

Mathias Erzberger, leader of the Catholic party in Germany, proponent of parliamentary reform, and prime mover in the Reichstag shake-up, which resulted in the fall of Bethmann-Hollweg six weeks ago, is rapidly becoming one of the most powerful figures in Germany—and mainly because he sees that the future of the German people is not bound up in a slavish, to-the-death adherence to the military autocracy which now rules them, but by a new assertion of their rights, in accordance with those granted every other civilized people.

He has been quick to see that President Wilson's reply to Pope Benedict's peace overtures contains exactly the same germ of constitutional reform for Germany as the contentions of the Centrists themselves contained, and it is little wonder that we find the Centrist, in sber reason, defending the President's reply because it merely asks the German people to do that which they are almost certain to do in any event. It says in effect that it is folly to cast aside the hope of peace contained in the President's note merely because its tone is "offensive" to the pan-German press, which is fighting for the future of the German autocracy, and not for the future of Germany itself.

Doubtless, by taking the initiative for a radical reform of the German government out of the hands of such "outsiders" as President Wilson, by making it appear as the dominant internal political issue, the present agitation of the pan-German press can be counteracted. It is trying to make it appear that President Wilson is assuming the role of a dictator toward the German people. If the Centrist can vie with the Socialists in taking the lead in the campaign for a parliamentary overhauling, if it can skillfully co-ordinate this campaign with one for peace on the fundamental basis which President Wilson has outlined, then indeed a great victory will be gained by Berlin, and Germany will be saved from the abyss.

But all this is merely speculative. All signs point to the fact that the military power can control the internal situation and mould it to its will. It seems determined to face a 1918 campaign rather than yield now. And it is quite clear from the feverish peace propaganda which is being prosecuted now by German agents everywhere, that the real leaders of Germany recognize the consequence of a 1918 campaign—which is nothing less than decisive defeat, and economic, industrial, and financial prostration for decades to come.

Pro-German literature is to be given serious consideration by the government. It is about time that the assumed veil of free speech was lifted from this.

LOADED FOR A LONG, DRY JOURNEY



HOLLAND LETTER

The Biggest Daily Financial News Feature of the Country's Best Newspapers.

Several days before President Wilson answered the peace communication of the Pope the opinion was expressed by some of the leaders in the financial district that with whatever courtesy and dignity the President might reply to that note yet between the lines could be read the inflexible purpose to secure peace through victory, or as one man of financial authority put it, to conquer peace. In no other way could there be secured a peace which would be lasting.

Complete victory over the German army would inevitably more strongly influence the German people than would anything else. That inferred forecast of the real meaning of the President's reply to the Pope is now regarded not only as justified but also as having been clearly understood by the military authorities of Great Britain and of France. Information has been received here from London which indicates that the British military authorities read President Wilson's note with the understanding that it means nothing less than "a fight to a finish."

The United States is making far more rapid progress in preparation for carrying on the war to a finish than was deemed possible as recently as the first of July. Some of the men of finance believe that financial conditions are in such excellent shape that they can without any concern take vacations during the month of September. Some have already gone by way of the Great Lakes to the Northwest, hoping to

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combine recreation with information there obtained. The financial situation is therefore entirely satisfactory and the Federal government will be able to lend to the allies all the money that they will need for the next twelve months.

In the next place our army has been more rapidly mobilized than was deemed possible a few weeks ago. There has been general comment made by military authorities who saw the marching of some twenty-five thousand troops down Fifth avenue a week ago, which indicate that these military men of experience who watched those troops as the procession rolled on for miles are certain that the American army will be made up of as fine a body of men as constitute the best armies now fighting on the West front in France. Furthermore, probably within the next five or six months, considerably more than a million American soldiers will be in France ready and eager to share in what is believed will be the ultimate triumph of the allies there.

Another factor which is serving admirably to speed up the preparations the United States is making for participation in the war is demonstrated by the wonderful efficiency which has been made possible by co-ordination and co-operation with the government by the railroads and the leading industries of the country. That efficiency is soon to be demonstrated by the manner in which the railroads will aid in transportation of food from the harvest fields to those places where it is needed for distribution. It is reported that through the co-operation and co-ordination effected by the railway war board the railroads of the United States were able in a few weeks to distribute nearly 14,000 cars to places where cars were needed. This was done without any regard for the ownership of the cars; in fact, the ownership for the time being and for

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the purposes it was sought to accomplish was in the railway war board. To that extent there was complete unification. The pressure upon the railroads, according to a statement made by Fairfax Harrison, chairman of the railway war board, has been the most terrific to which the railroads of the country have ever been subjected. For in addition to the demand of domestic industries many million tons of various kinds of supplies for the government have been transported without a single accident or any serious delay, and that has been accomplished without interfering seriously with the regular commercial traffic. Within a few weeks there will be placed in the agricultural sections of the country nearly 2,500 cars, which are to be used in distributing the grain which has been harvested or is to be harvested. In addition nearly 5,000 cars have been distributed in the lumber States since the government needs a vast amount of lumber for its shipbuilding plants.

Another factor which can only be reported in a general way is the perfecting of methods by which the submarine boat danger may be greatly lessened, and perhaps eliminated. One of the methods was some weeks ago reported in a general way in this column. There is less and less apprehension on the part of the government of danger in transporting troops and supplies to France, and the belief is growing that the submarine peril, through co-operation between the United States and Great Britain, is soon to be almost negligible.

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The Terrible Tempered Mr. Bang Had to Play a 36-Hole Match With the Man Who Always Takes at Least Five Practice Swings Before Each Shot.



Army and Navy News

Best Service Column in City.

The Marine Corps rifle range, at Winthrop, Md., is being worked to its fullest capacity. Hundreds of Marine Corps officers and men are taking weekly the full course of instruction in rifle shooting as applied to modern warfare. More than 75 per cent of the members of the Marine Corps who fired the prescribed course during 1916 are qualified expert riflemen, sharpshooters, or marksmen.

The Surgeon General's Office of the army in conjunction with the subcommittee of the Council of National Defense has been making preparation for the care and treatment of the eyes of the troops. The committee made a survey of all the eye specialists in the United States; and Maj. Gen. W. C. Gorgas now has a list of all the ophthalmologists who are willing to serve for the war. The committee sent to 9,000 specialists a communication designed to elicit the special training and experience of each, to ascertain his fitness for army service. It sent to those who were approved and who had signified their willingness to serve blank cards for admission to the Medical Reserve Corps. Eye trouble has always been one of the favorite claims of the malingerer; but this section has prepared a set of tests that will certainly land him in the guardhouse, unless he is a specialist. This same section has prepared a list of eye instruments for use in the base hospitals. It has also prepared plans for utilizing one of the wards in each cantonment hospital for eye examination. It recommends that members of the Medical Reserve Corps wishing immediate service apply to the Surgeon General for assignment to one of the medical officers' training camps for instruction in administrative duties, indispensable for properly carrying on work in the Medical Department. There is no provision in the Medical Department for optometrists; and thus far the only manner in which they can be of use is by enlisting as private soldiers. It is a matter of need to that duty for which they are qualified. There is, however, a prospect that a unit of manufacturing opticians may be attached to a proposed special hospital for surgery of the head; but thus far no such unit has definite status.

Show-Window Display As Aid for Hoover

Plans are now being perfected for a widespread campaign in publicity to convince the people of the necessity for food conservation, and to show them the best methods of food substitution. Window displays in the retail stores are to be used to tell the aims of the United States Food Administration. The helpful co-operation necessary for the success of this plan, is being secured through the various mercantile associations of the country. In part, this campaign will be conducted in the form of a contest, with prizes for the best window displays, under the supervision of the United Publishers' Corporation, as representative of the trade papers of the nation. The window displays will be started next week throughout the country.

What They Say at the Washington Herald

It Pays to Come to Washington to Shop

The letter printed below—the third prize in last week's Herald Shopping Contest, is a pretty good example of the way in which our suburban and country cousins in near-by territory make it pay them well to come into town on purpose to shop.

The definite prospective purchaser—who is looking for the right place to spend her or his money—is the kind of people reached at home in the morning through the columns of The Washington Herald.

Third Prize—\$1 Letter.

Shopping Editor, Washington Herald: Dear Sir—Having an engagement in the city I thought before going in I would look over the paper, and see if there were any "specials." My eye caught an ad for flannelette gowns marked at the ridiculously low price of 47 cents. I cut out the ad and when through with my other engagements I went to look at them. To my surprise, I found gowns, the quality of which you could not ordinarily purchase for less than 75 cents, and I doubt if you could get them this winter for less than \$1. As I was in need of flannelette gowns, I purchased three, a saving of the very least of 84 cents. I also purchased in the same department a little school dress made of Anderson gingham for 32 cents, on which I also saved considerable, being a special for that day only. Were it not for the daily Herald we out-of-town people never learn of these bargains. To men are wise who advertise. I would add, "Men are wise who read what they advertise."

Yours respectfully, H. M. A. WALTON, Hyattsville, Md.

HERALD'S READY REFERENCE TO APARTMENTS

Table listing various apartment buildings such as THE MOULTON, ST. CLAIR, THE LEIGH, THE WAVERLY, THE CADIZ, The New Winston, The Wentworth, The Biltmore, New Bloomfield, The Van Dyke, The Westover, and The Park, with their addresses and features.

Look for This Directory Next Tuesday. It Aims to Serve YOU. Use It.

Advertisement for HOTEL HERMITAGE, featuring a circular logo and the text 'Stop!!'.

If you are aiming for New York why not strike the center? This is where the HERMITAGE is located. In the middle of the Times Square district. The HERMITAGE touches elbows at once with the great amusement and business centres of the metropolis.

Advertisement for HOTEL WEBSTER, located at 40 West 45th Street, New York.

Advertisement for Real Estate Loans, PERPETUAL Building Association, Largest in Washington, Assets Over \$4,500,000.

Advertisement for SUMMER RESORTS, featuring ATLANTIC CITY, Traymore Hotel, and HOTEL DAYTON.

Advertisement for Burrelle's Press Clipping Bureau, located at 60 Warren St., New York City.