

WEATHER. Fair, warmer tonight. Tomorrow partly cloudy and warmer; gentle to moderate shifting winds, becoming southerly. Temperature for the past twenty-four hours: Highest, 70, at 4 p.m. yesterday; lowest, 41, at 7 a.m. today. Full report on page 17.

CLOSING NEW YORK STOCKS PAGE 17.

No. 20,119.

USKUP IS RETAKEN BY SERBS IS CLAIM; BULGARS RETREAT King Ferdinand's Men Said to Be Falling Back on Velez-Komanovo Front.

VARNA IS BOMBARDED BY A RUSSIAN FLEET. Fierce Fighting in Timok Valley, Both Sides Reporting Successes.

PIROT SAID TO HAVE FALLEN. Bulgarians Also Seize Zajecar Kulajevats, Height of Krenovachava—French March on Istip.

LONDON, October 28.—Unofficial reports from Greek sources represent the situation in southern Serbia as somewhat more favorable to the entente-allies. A dispatch from Athens, which has not been confirmed, states that the Bulgarians have withdrawn from Uskup before the Serbians. Advices from Saloniki tell of a fierce battle along the Velez-Komanovo front, with the Bulgarians retreating. Hope is being revived in London that the Serbians will be able to reform their lines along the Monastir front. In the Strumitsa region the French have occupied the village of Tirteli.

"A Russian fleet arrived at 4 o'clock this morning off the Bulgarian coast," says a Bucharest dispatch, "and immediately began a bombardment of Varna. Shelling was still proceeding at 11 o'clock. Considerable damage has been done to the town."

That the Bulgarians have been repulsed in the Timok valley after two days of desperate fighting is the news conveyed from Italy. One of their regiments is surrounded between the Timok and the Danube, and will be obliged to surrender, it is declared. Two Serbian divisions, under Gen. Glukowitch, are marching against the Austro-Germans.

Berlin Claims Advance. The Austro-German invasion of Serbia has been pushed further to the south, German army headquarters announced today. Gen. Gallwitz had taken 2,022 prisoners since October 23, it is declared.

The Bulgarians have captured Zajecar and Kulajevats, having crossed the Timok river in large force, Berlin announced today. Gen. Gallwitz was on the railroad from Neretin to Nish, against which the Bulgarians are now marching. Kulajevats is about thirty miles from Nish.

The height of Krenovachava, about fifteen miles northwest of Pirot (east of Nish), has also been occupied by the Bulgarians, who have captured several machine gunners and a number of machine guns from the Serbians.

Bulgarians Take Pirot. Bulgarian forces also have occupied the strongly fortified town of Pirot, says a dispatch to the Mail from Saloniki. Pirot is thirty-five miles east of Nish. It is the scene of an important battle between Serbs and Bulgarians in 1855.

Since the allies' troop trains have been run without interruption between Gjevgovi and Velez. This section, it is said, has been entirely cleared of Bulgarians.

The Bulgarian authorities have occupied the railway line between Plochich and Thrace. Rumors are now worked by the Bulgarian state.

Albanians Fight Serbs. Albanians in the Kosovo district of Serbia (the Prizren region) have begun hostilities against the Serbians, according to the official statement issued in Sofia by the Bulgarian war office.

The entire armament on the Bosphorus has been transferred to Tzibitza and Adrianople, while the Turkish garrison has been sent to the Bulgarian frontier. A correspondent at Athens wires that the Bulgarians are expected to be in Constantinople. For fear of raids by Russian aeroplanes Constantinople is being evacuated nightly.

Marching Upon Istip. The correspondent also reports that French-Serbian troops, after retaking Istip, are marching eastward toward Istip, overcoming Bulgarian resistance in that region.

Gen. Kirkoft, in command of the Bulgarian forces along the Greek frontier, has issued an order of the day, in which he says to his troops: "The hour has struck to realize the ancient dream of our fathers and hunt down the ravagers of Macedonia. The Bulgarians will thus dominate from the Adriatic to the Black Sea. Give the birth to the glory of Alexander, the great Bulgarian."

To Make Shells for Neutrals. PITTSBURGH, October 28.—Special machinery is being installed in the Breckinridge plant of the Allegheny Steel Company and next week work will be commenced turning out shells for neutral countries of Europe. A number of orders were recently placed with the company, and the first shipments will be to the Swedish government.

BRAND WILL HEAD FRANCE'S CABINET

Premier Viviani and His Ministry Formally Resign Positions.

PARIS, October 28, 2:30 p.m.—The Viviani ministry resigned today. Aristide Briand, former premier, has been asked to form a new cabinet. It is understood that M. Viviani will be minister of justice in the reorganized cabinet.

The cabinet in its new form will not be ready to appear before parliament this afternoon, according to the impression prevailing in political circles. Paul Deschanel, president of the chamber, will move an adjournment until tomorrow, when the work of reconstruction will be complete.

Information now available indicates that M. Briand will become foreign minister as well as premier, with Jules Cambon, who was ambassador to Germany at the outbreak of the war, as his principal secretary.

Probable Designations. In addition to M. Viviani, probable designations are:

Minister of war, Gen. J. S. Gallieni, military governor of Paris; minister of marine, Rear Admiral Lacaze, minister of agriculture, Etienne Clementel, former minister of agriculture and finance; minister of commerce, L. L. Klotz, former minister of the interior and of finance, or Joseph Thierry, under secretary in the ministry of war; minister of instruction, Emile Combes, former premier.

The other members of the cabinet just resigned, according to this program, may continue in their positions.

Six New Ministers. The Journal states that there will be six ministers of state without portfolios, of whom four will be senators and two deputies. It is also said the undersecretaries will not be filled except in the case of the minister of war, in which department Albert Thomas is to be continued in office, in charge of the output of munitions.

Conferences relative to the ministerial situation, with the idea of so reshaping the cabinet as to command united support of the country and of parliament.

Viviani Desires Rest. The belief was expressed by persons in close touch with the situation that Premier Viviani's long service through the period since the outbreak of the war had taxed his strength severely and that he desired to rest, as well as to bring forward some strong figure who would better unite all elements as his successor.

Briand Issues Statement. The following statement to the press was made by M. Briand: "Premier Viviani took steps to enlarge his cabinet. I am continuing them in my turn, but I have no official mandate, since there is no ministerial crisis. Accordingly, the conversations I have had with various political leaders have been of a semi-official, and I ask you to explain that it is in that sense that my activities must be regarded. Perhaps I may be in a position to say more very soon."

New British Cabinet Not Considered, Claim; Council to Run War

LONDON, October 28.—No reconstruction of the cabinet nor constitution of a smaller cabinet is being considered by the government at the present time, says the parliamentary correspondent of the Daily News. But it has been decided, he says, to give official recognition to a hitherto unofficial "inner war council or committee."

Seven to ten ministers have heretofore met at various times in the deliberations of this body, which is said to be officially appointed with an exact definition of powers and principles. The committee, the newspaper says, will sit daily and will decide on executive acts of war. Such decisions, moreover, need not in future be referred for approval to the full cabinet.

Size Not Decided. It is not yet decided whether membership in the new council shall number three, five or seven. Two proposals as to its formation are being considered. The first is that the balance of political opinion represented in the cabinet should be preserved in the council—in other words that the council should be a miniature of the cabinet. The other proposal is that the council should contain only ministers directly concerned with the conduct of the war.

In the former case the number of members would be five, in either case either three or five. In either case it is understood that Winston Spencer Churchill will no longer serve on the inner body.

Churchill May Resign. Rumors were again current in the lobby of the house of commons last night that Winston Spencer Churchill, chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, was about to resign his seat in the cabinet.

During the recent gossip in London preceding the retirement of Sir Edward Carson as attorney general in the British cabinet there were rumors that several ministers might resign, which is now followed. Among those spoken of in this connection was Mr. Churchill, who, it was declared, was eager to give up the chancellorship of the duchy of Lancaster to go to the front.

SCHOOL BOILING SWEEP BY FLAMES; CHILDREN PERISH

Twenty Pupils of Parochial School in Peabody, Mass., Meet Death.

PEABODY, Mass., October 28.—Twenty pupils of St. John's Parochial School lost their lives in a fire that started in the basement a few minutes after the morning session had opened today and that swept through the three stories of the brick and wooden school building in less than five minutes.

Nineteen of the boys and girls, none of whom was over of their teens, were crushed or burned to death while attempting to escape. A score of others were injured, some dangerously. Of the latter one, Mildred Mead, aged sixteen, died after having been removed to a hospital.

The bodies of the dead were frightfully burned, and of the nineteen at the morgue only two, Elizabeth Nolan, aged seventeen years, and Mary Sullivan, sixteen, both members of the senior class, had been identified this afternoon. Other bodies were believed to be in the ruins, and it was thought that twenty-five had been killed or fatally injured.

The students, who ranged in years from seven to thirteen, were in charge of sixteen sisters. When the fire broke out the sisters marshaled their charges as for a fire drill, and started them down the stairs. The girls, however, were orderly until those from the third floor joined others pouring from the classroom in the second floor.

Children Panic-Stricken. Suddenly there was a cry of fear from one of the throng. It was taken up by a hundred others and panic ensued. Yet there is every ground for the belief that the republican candidate for lieutenant governor will be elected by not less than 25,000 and that the republicans will sweep the legislature.

When it is realized that the democrats would be very much gratified if they could be assured that their would win by 5,000 and the republicans would be pleased now if they could count upon 7,000, it may be seen how uncertain the outcome is regarded. These estimates are on the vote for governor. There is absolutely no certainty in the minds of the leaders of either side as to assured victory, notwithstanding their loud public claims.

St. John's Parochial School stands on Chestnut street. St. John's Catholic Church and the home of Rev. Nicholas Murphy, the pastor. Opposite is St. John's Convent. The first alarm brought a hundred distracted mothers to the school yard, where they were met by the police. The fire had reached the second floor and the children, who had been playing in the yard, were shouting from the windows of the building, held back the unhappy throng.

The school building was erected a few years ago at a cost of about \$100,000. It was square shaped with wood trim and a tiled roof. The brick frame. There were sixteen class rooms on the three floors. At each end of the building wooden stairways led down from the two upper floors.

The head of the school is Mother Superior Sister Aileen, who was assisted by fifteen sisters. The mother superior detected the odor of smoke a few minutes after the school children appeared. She immediately sounded an alarm which started the children to the street.

Pupils Rush to Wrong Exit. According to the version of the sisters, the pupils were marching out in an orderly manner until the leaders who had reached the second floor made the mistake of rushing into the vestibule at the front exit instead of going out at the rear door, which was unobstructed. This caused confusion among those who followed, and congestion in the vestibule. The fire flames had reached the stairways and caught the struggling children.

Two hours after the fire started twenty bodies had been taken from the ruins and others were being sought. There were no escapes on the outside of the building.

Deeds of heroism were not wanting. (Continued on Twenty-third Page.)



HYPHEN-REMOVING ON THE ISTHMUS.

CLOSE VOTE SHOWN BY INSIDE FIGURES

Winning Candidate for Governor of Massachusetts Will Have Small Margin.

INDICATION OF DEFEAT FOR WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE

Republicans Likely to Elect the Lieutenant Governor and Sweep the Legislature.

BY N. O. MESSENGER. BOSTON, October 28.—Indicative of the apprehended close vote by which the Massachusetts gubernatorial election will be decided are the "inside" figures of men close in touch with the Walsh and McCall campaigns.

When it is realized that the democrats would be very much gratified if they could be assured that their would win by 5,000 and the republicans would be pleased now if they could count upon 7,000, it may be seen how uncertain the outcome is regarded. These estimates are on the vote for governor. There is absolutely no certainty in the minds of the leaders of either side as to assured victory, notwithstanding their loud public claims.

Each Side Strenuously Active. With the contest narrowing to such a close margin in these closing days it can be imagined that each side is straining every nerve to overlap that margin. Both sides realize the tremendous moral effect the result in Massachusetts may have upon the country at large.

The republicans feel this anxiety as keenly as the democrats, for if Walsh should win and the republicans still carry the legislature, they say the counterparty would cry, "Massachusetts has gone democratic," all the public interest being centered in the two central figures, Walsh and McCall.

For their part the democrats say that if McCall and the entire ticket go in it will be a hard blow at democratic national prestige and discouraging to the faithful while giving aid and comfort to the enemy.

A heavy vote is promised, much heavier than last year, and the republicans take encouragement from this. They argue that Massachusetts is, at core, a republican state when the full vote turns out. In the last election, when Walsh was elected governor by 13,000, more than 150,000 voters stayed at home, and the republicans claim the majority of the stay-at-homes were republicans.

Suffrage Issue Aids Registration. The pendency of the woman suffrage amendment is partly responsible for the large registration. There is no mistaking the fixed determination of the male voters to overwhelm the women with an avalanche of votes, and no one could be found in the management of either of the old parties who thinks for a moment that woman suffrage will have the ghost of a show.

SEEK MONEYED MEN IN MUNITIONS PLOT

Federal Secret Service Agents After Those Who Supplied the Finances.

INQUIRY BY GRAND JURY TO BEGIN NEXT MONTH

Lieut. Fay, Alleged Head of Conspiracy, Discredited by German Ambassador and in Berlin.

NEW YORK, October 28.—Efforts of federal prosecutors and secret service agents here were directed today to an investigation of the financial backing of the leaders of the conspiracy to blow up war munition plants and ships, of which Lieut. Robert Fay of the Germany army is alleged to be the head.

Federal authorities in charge of the case of the five men accused of conspiracy asserted today that the government was without evidence that Robert Fay, the confessed head of the alleged plot, was acting on any authority other than his own.

Preparing Case for Grand Jury. "We are preparing the legal aspects of the case for grand jury consideration," said United States Attorney H. Snowden Marshall.

"But we have absolutely nothing to lead us to believe that Fay, who says he was a German army lieutenant, in England, has been made a plot to place bombs on the propellers of boats loaded with supplies for the allies."

William J. Flynn, chief of the United States secret service, was quoted today as saying: "I believe we are going to get the financiers of this plot. Fay says he had and spent only \$4,000. Paul Siebs says that Fay told him he had \$7,500 when he started for this country. We believe Fay spent \$30,000."

United States District Attorney H. Snowden Marshall does not believe that the most important of the conspirators have yet been captured, and expects that other arrests will be made.

Alleges He Was Deceived. Paul Siebs said today that he was going to appear against the alleged conspirators as a witness for the state because he had been deceived and led into a trap. Siebs, who declares that he lived in Chicago from 1910 to 1913 as a clerk and traveling auditor, said he came to the United States, after visiting Germany last year, to buy copper for the use of Germany.

BRITISH CRUISER'S TOTAL WRECK

Argyll Runs Aground on East Coast of Scotland—All Aboard Saved.

LONDON, October 28.—The British cruiser Argyll has run aground and may be a total wreck. All hands were rescued. This was made known by the admiralty today in the following announcement:

"H. M. S. Argyll, Capt. James Tancock, R. N., grounded this morning off the east coast of Scotland. Owing to bad weather prevailing, it is feared she may become a total wreck. All hands and the crew have been saved."

The Argyll, 10,850 tons displacement, was laid down in 1902. Her normal complement is 655. She is 460 feet long. Her largest guns are 7.5 inches, of which she carries four. She has six six-inch, two three-inch and twenty-two three-pound guns and two torpedo tubes.

TOTAL OF 700,000 PHOTOS. Pictures Taken of School Pupils for Identification Purposes. NEW YORK, October 28.—Photographs of every pupil in the public schools of this city are being made under the direction of the board of education for "identification." Each boy or girl whose photograph has been made has received a duplicate identification card containing the bearer's photograph, and has been instructed to carry it.

When the collection is complete it will contain about 700,000 photographs. Some of the parents are said to have protested against the photographing of their children.

Gen. Grenville M. Dodge III. COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa, October 28.—Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, only living corps commander of the civil war and a well known railroad builder, is critically ill at his home here. Gen. Dodge returned three weeks ago from New York, where he went to consult a specialist. He is eighty-four years old.

Telephone Main 2440. A telephone message to Main 2440, or postal card mailed now, will start the delivery of The Star tomorrow.

ATTACKS ASSESSMENTS ON DISTRICT PROPERTY

Herbert J. Browne Makes Charge of Favoritism to Large Land Speculators.

Makes Argument Before Joint Select Committee of Congress in Favor of the Single Tax.

An attack upon the assessment of real estate in the District, which he charged was far too low, was made by Herbert J. Browne today before the joint select committee of Congress investigating the fiscal relations between the federal government and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Browne charged that the assessments were not only favorable to large land speculators in the District, but that they had been influenced by men interested in Washington real estate.

He charged that the present District assessor was negligent in his duties in the matter of arriving at the real value of property, and asserted that the assessor relied upon reports made by real estate brokers, instead of going to the District title companies to ascertain the true consideration paid for property.

Arguments were made by Mr. Browne in favor of a single tax, based upon land. Such a system, he insisted, would give a square deal to all parties.

Says Plan Is Not Binding. Herbert J. Browne resumed the stand when the committee met today. He said that he wished to amplify a statement made by himself yesterday to the effect that the half-and-half plan was dead, since the total receipts of all kinds derived from the District annually was in round numbers \$10,000,000, while the federal government's annual appropriation amounts to about \$6,000,000.

Senator Chilton suggested yesterday when I first made this statement that the United States must owe the District a large sum of money if I had stated the case correctly," said Mr. Browne. "I replied that the half-and-half law is not binding upon each succeeding Congress, that in each appropriation bill provision must be made for the half and half. It never was considered permanent. Therefore there is no debt on the part of the United States to the District."

Mr. Browne then took up the question of per capita expenditures in the cities of the District. He said that the average per capita expenditure in the District is \$24.94, which includes cities of from 200,000 to 500,000 population. He showed that the per capita expenditure in these cities was as follows: Buffalo, \$24.73; San Francisco, \$62.49; Los Angeles, \$63.53; Milwaukee, \$25.28; Cincinnati, \$37.47; Newark, \$36.80; New Orleans, \$24.94; Washington, \$35.46; and Minneapolis, \$33.50, the average being \$28.94.

"The per capita expenditure of Washington are only \$36.46," Mr. Browne continued. Representative Gard asked if there were any exceptions, so far as expenditures in Washington were concerned. "None that I know of," said Mr. Browne. He said that the argument seemed to be that the cities of the group 2 chose to mortgage themselves and issue bonds to pay for public improvements. It was his wish, he said, to spare the people of the District from making such sacrifices and such investments.

"What is the indebtedness of the District?" asked Representative Gard. "Small Indebtedness Here." Mr. Browne then gave the indebtedness of the various cities of group two, including Washington, as follows: Washington, \$9,566,137; Buffalo, \$23,654,772; Los Angeles, \$36,640,828; Los Angeles, \$44,430; Milwaukee, \$14,253,888; Cincinnati, \$66,376,079; Newark, \$44,308,700; New Orleans, \$44,167,875; Minneapolis, \$23,199,804.

"Washington has the smallest indebtedness by far," said Mr. Browne. He referred to arguments made by the members of the citizens' joint committee to the effect that the federal government was opposed to the establishment of manufacturing establishments in Washington, except its own.

"I have never been able to find that the government has opposed the establishment of manufactures in Washington," said Mr. Browne. "What has prevented the establishment of these manufactures in Washington are the extraordinary and excessive land values in Washington, which have been brought about through the aid of the federal subsidy to the District and which have themselves made the cost of living in Washington very high. It was impossible for any man to build a house and operate here because of the high cost of land and the high cost of living for operatives."

"Take Baltimore, which is similar to Washington in many ways; the cost of living there is about one-half what it is in Washington, and Baltimore is one of the greatest manufacturing cities for its size in the country." "The anti-smoke law and the laws regulating the height of buildings were not properly to be considered opposition to the establishment of manufacturing plants in the District."

Senator Works called attention to the fact that the laws exist in other cities in the country, including Los Angeles. "I believe we are going to get the financiers of this plot. Fay says he had and spent only \$4,000. Paul Siebs says that Fay told him he had \$7,500 when he started for this country. We believe Fay spent \$30,000."

Germany's Counterpart of Halloween. Though Germany does not observe the English Halloween, Valpurgisnacht, which comes May 1, is much the same; also there are German ghost stories equal to our Halloween ones. Read the article in The Sunday Star.