

WEATHER.

Partly cloudy tonight and tomorrow; slightly colder tonight; lowest temperature tonight about 30 degrees; fresh northwest winds.

CLOSING NEW YORK STOCKS PAGE 19.

The Evening Star

"From Press to Home Within the Hour" Last Week's Sworn Net Circulation—Daily Average, 75,119; Sunday, 55,448.

No. 20,161. WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1915.—TWENTY-FOUR PAGES. ONE CENT.

BULGARS CAPTURE FOUR SERB TOWNS; FRENCH HOLD FIRM

New Allied Lines Vigorously Attacked, But Inflict Heavy Losses on Foe, Is Claim.

FIGHTING IS SEVERE IN PAST 24 HOURS

King Ferdinand's Men Reported Decimated by Entente Artillery Fire.

SOFIA REPORTS SUCCESSES

Annihilation of French Battalion Claimed—Strong Concentration of Invading Armies in Region of Doiran Reported.

LONDON, December 9.—Four towns near the southwestern Serbian frontier have been captured by the Bulgarians, the war office announced today.

The annihilation of a French battalion by a Bulgarian bayonet attack during a battle near Petroz, in southern Serbia, is announced in an official statement issued Tuesday by Bulgarian army headquarters in Sofia.

Although the Bulgarians have been vigorously attacking the new lines established by the French in southern Serbia, they have made no impression on the French defenses, and have sustained heavy losses, under the accurate fire of the French artillery, Saloniki advices declare.

Serbian soil has been entirely cleared of Serbians with the exception of a small district near Ochrida lake, in the southwestern part of the country occupied by the remnant of the Monastir army, according to Berlin advices.

French Move Strategical.

The French retirement from the Krivolak-Cerna positions must be regarded as a purely strategical move with which the recent Bulgarian activity in southern Serbia had little to do, a Reuter dispatch from Saloniki declares.

Connection With British.

The French having retired eastward, their new position is now closely connected with the strong positions held by the British.

There has been severe fighting on the Serbian front during the past twenty-four hours, according to press dispatches from Saloniki.

Serbs Have 220,000 Men.

Official Serbian advices place the number of Serbian troops who retired into Albania at 220,000.

The Austro-German forces employed in the Serbian campaign are estimated at twenty divisions, 240,000 men. Five of the divisions are said to be Austrian.

Stephen Phillips, Poet, Dead.

MEXICO APPOINTS AN ENVOY TO U. S.

First Step Taken Toward Resuming Diplomatic Relations With Latin Republic.

CHOICE OF CARRANZA IS ELISEO ARREDONDO

President Wilson Expected to Transfer H. P. Fletcher From Chile to First Chief's Capital.



The first step toward the resumption of full diplomatic relations between Mexico and the United States was taken today in the appointment of Eliseo Arredondo, Gen. Carranza's confidential representative at Washington, as Mexican ambassador to the United States.

The appointment of an American ambassador to Mexico, in all likelihood Henry P. Fletcher, at present ambassador to Chile, soon will be announced.

No Intercourse in Three Years.

For nearly three years there has been no government in Mexico recognized by the world powers. Mr. Fletcher, it is said, has been selected for the delicate task of representing the United States during the reconstruction period in Mexico, particularly because of his familiarity with Latin American affairs and the marked success which has met his conduct of the mission to Chile.

Mr. Fletcher From Pennsylvania.

Mr. Fletcher's home is in Chambersburg, Pa. He is forty-three years old, unmarried, and a lawyer.

An Interesting Fact

According to a full-page announcement in the Editor and Publisher, a New York trade paper, the seven largest evening papers in New York city during the eleven months of this year gained 1,655,715 lines of advertising over the same period last year.

Yesterday's Figures

Table with 2 columns: Newspaper Name and Lines. Includes The Evening Star (27,426), The 2nd Newspaper (11,841), The 3rd Newspaper (8,537), The 4th Newspaper (6,504), Total (26,882).

For the past two days The Evening Star alone printed more advertising of local merchants than all of the other Washington papers combined.

PRESIDENT TO PASS ON "DUMPING" BILL

Measure Now Being Drafted and Will Be Submitted to Congress.

STRINGENT LAW PROPOSED TO SHIELD U. S. INDUSTRY

Administration Officials Think It Should Go Farther Than Special Import Duties.

President Wilson soon will have before him for approval or modification a stringently drawn proposed law to prevent "dumping" in the United States. Of great importance is the fact that while the proposed law is primarily intended to meet the possibilities at the close of the European war, its object goes further than that and proposes to take care of "dumping" at any time in the future.

"Dumping" is the commercial term for selling goods in a foreign country at lower prices than the market price in the country of production.

At Work on a Bill.

Secretary Redfield and Solicitor Thurman of the Department of Commerce, together with the members of the Federal trade commission, which is regarded by President Wilson as having many of the powers of a tariff commission, are now at work collaborating in the preparation of a bill, and when it is completed will submit it to President Wilson for action before it finally goes to Congress with a request for enactment into law.

Secretary Redfield and Chairman Davies of the trade commission have long been giving consideration to the seriousness of dumping as it may manifest itself when the European countries again begin industrial production and look to American markets as a ready outlet for their goods. They talked over the problems with the President some time ago, pointing out to him that dumping is not always a result of overproduction or a bona fide purpose to relieve home markets, but has frequently in the past been resorted to with the intent of destroying or hindering the development of some competing industry in a foreign market.

Ruined Dye Industry.

It has been asserted in high quarters and in commercial circles in the United States that Germany finally obtained a monopoly on the world market in the dumping of dyes. American attempts to establish coal tar plants in this country, whenever a position in their past reaches a position to offer to show the competition of German dyes in the home markets they have put out of business by the dumping process. It is estimated that the value of the dumped goods would at once be dropped below the reasonable cost of production in this country, and the new industries would curl up and die. Invariably the same thing has happened in other foreign countries in industry that were not strong enough to compete with foreign combinations.

Australian Law a Model.

Secretary Redfield does not believe, it is said, that additional import or dumping duties would meet prospective conditions, inasmuch as foreign combinations and trusts were the cause of the extra duties and compete ruinously with American industry. Therefore the new bill is being drawn up along the lines of the Australian law, which classes dumping as "unfair competition" and puts the burden of the law on the courts to prevent dumping through injunction whenever the director general of Australian customs initiates action and establishes the unfairness of the competition from a foreign country.

Forced to Divide Work.

The testimony of William P. Barba, manager of the Midvale Steel Company, was to the effect that while it had underbid its two competitors for armor plate, it could not make all this armor plate. Divide it among the three.

SCORES OF ANIMALS DROWN.

Hundreds of Cattle and Sheep Thrown Into River by Collision. NEW YORK, December 9.—Battery Park and the mouth of the Hudson river on the park were the scene early today of a regular western round-up of cattle, sheep and calves as the result of a collision between the steamship North Star leaving for Portland, Me., and a barge loaded with live stock bound from Jersey shore to an abattoir on the East river shore.

To Help Jewish Immigrants.

NEW YORK, December 9.—A movement to provide for the tide of Jewish immigrants expected from Europe after the war was inaugurated today by the Federation of Jewish Farmers of America as the result of a convention here. The federation decided to arrange a conference between representatives of Jewish organizations to consider methods of educating the immigrants in agriculture and citizenship.

A VOCIFEROUS SILENCE.



TORONTO, December 8.—"I cannot speak in Toronto until the war is over. I cannot speak except on what is in my heart, and the thing that is in my heart now is war. I am criticising our government in my own country and I cannot do so elsewhere."

U. S. ARMOR PLANT IS TILLMAN'S PLAN

South Carolina Senator to Press Bill Providing Its Erection.

The first big gun for national preparedness will be fired in the Senate tomorrow, when Senator Tillman, chairman of the committee on naval affairs, will introduce a bill for the establishment of a government armor-plate factory.

At Mercy of Manufacturers.

He said that in past years the government had been at the mercy of the private armor plate manufacturers, that it would continue to be at their mercy unless steps were taken which would place the armor plate industry under the control of the government.

Representative Mann Agrees With Administration Plans for Greater Preparedness

Representative Mann, republican leader of the House, conferring with President Wilson today on defense plans, agreed that the army should be prepared to meet the emergency caused by the institution of a conscription law.

Finances of Institution.

The secretary, Dr. Walcott, presented his report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, which included the finances and the activities of the institution and its branches.

Two Girls Lead Bloodthirsty Band In Brazil

Both of them under ten years of age, they claim supernatural powers, and their rule is absolute. Read this story of a strange band of revolutionists by Robert F. Wilson in The Sunday Star.



SITE IS SELECTED FOR ART GALLERY

Gift of Charles L. Freer to Be Erected at 12th and B Streets Southwest.

WORK TO BEGIN IN SPRING, IT IS ANNOUNCED TODAY

Board of Regents of Smithsonian Institution Hears Report of Researches at Annual Meeting.

The site for the million-dollar gallery of art which Charles L. Freer of Detroit is to add to the Smithsonian Institution was selected this morning at the annual meeting of the board of regents.

Other Field Expeditions.

Among other expeditions and field parties sent out or participated in by the institution, its branches there were mentioned in the report, C. W. Gilmore's search for vertebrate fossils in Montana; Dr. T. Wayland Vaughan's coral investigations on the coast of Florida and the West Indies; the work of H. C. Raven in Borneo, and the Celebes in collecting some 3,000 specimens of zoological and ethnological material.

Study of Negro Child.

In connection with the museum's work in physical anthropology, and under the joint auspices of the institution and the Panama California exposition, a study of a Negro child in this country was made.

Searching for Enemy Subjects.

SEARCHING FOR ENEMY SUBJECTS. The Porto Rico liner Coamo was stopped this morning by the French cruiser Descartes, which took German fishermen from the merchantman on board the warship.

G. O. P. COMMITTEE TO MEET TUESDAY

Will Choose Place for Holding the Next National Convention.

Next on the program, ladies and gentlemen, will be the foregathering of the republican national committee, and passing rapidly to the right, we view the room in the New Willard where next Tuesday, at 11 o'clock, the board of directors of the republican party will occupy the space but lately filled by the democrats and choose time and place for their national convention.

Political Pot Will Boil. This gathering will fairly seethe with politics, however, though it will not show on the surface, nor in the formal proceedings of selecting the convention city.

Four Cities Want Convention.

Four cities will contest for the convention—Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia and San Francisco. Honolulu wants honorable mention as having "the most beautiful view of good faith" in \$100,000 and Chicago, St. Louis and San Francisco are reported ready with the cash while Philadelphia is understood to be engaged in subscribing to the convention.

Porto Rican Liners Halted and German Subjects Taken Aboard Warship.

NEW YORK, December 9.—Two American vessels were stopped and searched by a French cruiser, according to a cablegram from San Juan received today by the New York and Porto Rico line, stating that their vessels Coamo and Carolina had been held up and searched.

U. S. SHIPS SEARCHED BY A FRENCH CRUISER

Both vessels by the American flag, Karl Schade, a steward, was taken off the Carolina, the message stated, and four fishermen had been removed from the Coamo.

Answers Socialist Query.

The address of Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, which has been awaited with extraordinary interest, was made in response to the socialist interpellation. "Is the imperial chancellor ready to give information as to the conditions under which he would be willing to entertain peace negotiations?"

Responsibility Denied.

"If our enemies make peace proposals compatible with Germany's dignity and safety, then we shall always be ready to discuss them. Fully conscious of our unshaken military successes, we decline responsibility for continuation of the misery which now fills Europe and the whole world. No one can say that we continue the war because we still desire to conquer this or that country as a guarantee."

ENEMY MUST MAKE PEACE OFFERS, SAYS BETHMANN HOLLWEG

Would Be Folly for Germany to Propose End of Conflict, Chancellor Declares.

DEMANDS ASSURANCE WAR NEVER WILL RETURN

Denies Teuton Responsibility for Continuation of Misery in Europe.

SUPPLIES FOR MANY YEARS

Nation Prepared in Food and Other Necessities, He Declares—Dr. Scheidemann, Socialist, Asserts Peace Is Important to All.



BERLIN, December 9, by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.—"If our enemies make peace proposals compatible with Germany's dignity and safety, then we shall always be ready to discuss them," said the imperial chancellor, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, in addressing the reichstag today.

The chancellor made it clear that in his opinion it would be folly for Germany to propose peace "as long as in the countries of our enemies the guilt and ignorance of statesmen are entangled with confusion of public opinion."

"The war can be terminated only by a peace which will give the certitude that war will not return," the chancellor declared. "We all agree about that."

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