

WEATHER.
Snow or rain tonight. Tomorrow, rain and warm. Lowest temperature tonight, about 32 degrees; moderate easterly winds.
Temperature for the past twenty-four hours: Highest, 36, at 2 p.m. today; lowest, 22, at 7:30 a.m. today.
Full report on page 21.

CLOSING NEW YORK STOCKS PAGE 21.

No. 20,168.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1915.—TWENTY-FOUR PAGES.

"From Press to Home
Within the Hour"

Last Week's Average Not Circulation—
Daily Average, 75,951; Sunday, 94,107.

ONE CENT.

VIENNA IS READY TO DISCUSS LOSS OF AMERICANS ON ANCONA, BUT IT MAKES NO DISAVOWAL

Contrasts "Sharpness" of United States' Demands With an Alleged Lack of Details.

Declines to Recognize Negotiations With Berlin as Establishing Precedent, and Will Insist on Own Interpretation of Law.

VIENNA, December 15, via Berlin and London, December 16, 3:55 p.m.—The situation as regards Austria-Hungary and the United States is considered here to have become less tense since the reply to the American note was dispatched.

LONDON, December 16, 6:22 a.m.—The reply of the Austro-Hungarian government to the note from the United States relative to the sinking of the steamer Ancona by an Austrian submarine, was handed to Frederic C. Penfield, United States ambassador at Vienna, Tuesday, according to a dispatch from Amsterdam to Reuter's Telegraph Company. The correspondent quotes from the reply as follows:

"From the sharpness with which the government of the United States believed it ought to censure the commander of the submarine and from the firmness with which the demands addressed to the Austro-Hungarian government appear to have been brought forward, it could be expected that the American government would clearly give the actual circumstances upon which it relies.

Room for Numerous Doubts.

"As can be easily recognized, the representation of the circumstances contained in the note allows numerous doubts and gives not at all sufficient reasons for blaming the commander of the submarine and the Austro-Hungarian government, even if the representation proves correct in all points and judgment in the case is based on the most rigorous legal interpretation.

"The American government also omitted to indicate the persons to whose statements it refers and to whom it apparently believes it must attribute a higher degree of trustworthiness than to a commander of the imperial royal navy.

Names and Details Lacking.

"As to the number, names and the details concerning the fate of the American citizens, who in the critical moment were aboard the above-mentioned steamer, the note does not give any explanation. But in view of the fact that the Washington cabinet now has given a positive declaration that at the above-mentioned incident subjects of the United States came to grief, the Austro-Hungarian government in principle is prepared to enter into an exchange of opinion with the American government.

"But, in the first instance, it must raise the question of jurisdiction, which is refrained from juridically motivating the demands stated in its note with regard to the special circumstances of the incriminating incident, which are especially pointed out by the American government, and, in the place

of such motivation, mentioned an exchange of correspondence which it had with another government about another affair.

Lacks Knowledge of Notes.

"The Austro-Hungarian government is less able to follow the Washington cabinet in this unusual attitude, as in no way possesses a knowledge of all the correspondence having reference to it.

"The Austro-Hungarian government also is not of the opinion that this knowledge could be sufficient for the purposes which, according to its own information, is materially different from the case or cases to which the American government apparently is referring. Therefore the Austro-Hungarian government must leave it to the Washington cabinet to draw up the individual legal maxima which the commander of the submarine is alleged to have violated when sinking the Ancona.

To Urge Own Contentions.

"The American government also thought it advisable to point out the attitude which the Berlin cabinet in the before-mentioned exchange of correspondence had taken. In the highly esteemed note the Austro-Hungarian government finds no support for its course. If the American government should have intended thereby to express an opinion as if a precedent exists for the present case, the Austro-Hungarian government must declare that it, of course, must preserve full freedom of discussion in the future. The Austro-Hungarian government expresses to Ambassador Penfield full sympathy for the victims of the Ancona sinking, says the correspondent.

only parts are made and taken into Canada for assembling, but the result is the same. A great number of Americans are fighting with the French and British armies.

Cut Off From Ambassador.

"We have not been able to communicate with our ambassador in Vienna, because American officials, although the American ambassador can use cipher. Our side of the case has not been heard, and distorted reports from our enemies receive full credence.

"Now we have received a note couched in terms never before addressed by one nation to another, a note couched in terms of open insult. America considers us held by a former warning delivered to Germany regarding submarine warfare. That note was not communicated to us and cannot be considered binding on us. Austria-Hungary is not an appendix of Germany, but a sovereign state.

"Even if the note had been communicated to us it would have no bearing on the Ancona case, where the steamer's captain admittedly made an effort to flee. We are at an utter loss to know what impels the American government to this course of action, which seems probable that it is due to internal politics in America.

"The general state of mind here is indicated by this statement and by the comments of other prominent persons in Vienna.

The answer to the American note, it is said, will probably contain, among other points, the assertion that Austria is not bound by any warnings served on Germany.

VIENNA REPLY NOT ACCEPTABLE TO U.S.

Diplomatic Relations Between Two Governments at Breaking Point.

WASHINGTON'S NEXT MOVE WAITS ON OFFICIAL TEXT

Austria's reply to Secretary Lansing's note on the Ancona is regarded, on the basis of the unofficial reports received today from London and Amsterdam, as wholly unsatisfactory, unacceptable and disappointing to the United States.

Diplomatic relations between the two countries may safely be described as standing at the breaking point.

Official Comment Reserved.

President Wilson and Secretary Lansing are reserving comment until they have the official translation and text at hand, but it is stated authoritatively that the United States will enter into no exchange of opinions as the Vienna foreign office is represented as suggesting, and absolutely will decline to discuss the facts of the torpedoing and shelling of the Ancona by an Austrian submarine, with loss of American lives. No official word had reached the State department today that the Austrian reply had been delivered to American Ambassador Penfield, but the news dispatches containing excerpts were taken in official quarters as sufficient evidence that the rejoinder is on its way to Washington.

Reply Deemed Vague.

From such part of the unofficial text as is contained in the news dispatches, officials considered the reply vague in many respects, but they were not prepared to decide whether that was caused by the translation.

The suggestion for an exchange of opinions, the virtual request for a bill of particulars of the American complaint against the action of the submarine commander, and the proposal that the Ancona could have notified other ships of his whereabouts. The loss of American lives is regrettable, as well as that of Americans on a vessel belonging to a nation at war with Austria-Hungary.

The government expresses to Ambassador Penfield full sympathy for the victims of the Ancona sinking, says the correspondent in a discussion on the demands of the American note.

"It should be remembered that Austria's feet is her favorite child. It is not only a matter of prestige, but the highest degree. The government might possibly yield points in a matter affecting the army, but disavowal of an act of an Austrian naval officer is hardly thinkable in any but abnormal circumstances. I am certain that officials have to be a very extreme case indeed which could justify in the eyes of all Austrians the humiliation of a naval officer at the behest of a foreign power."

American Note Not Published.

The American note relating to the Ancona has not yet been published by the Austrian newspapers; hence the contents of the note are known to only a few of the most prominent officials. One of the leading men in Vienna has summed up the situation for the Associated Press as follows:

"The situation requires me to keep in close touch with public sentiment, and there is no doubt that that sentiment is. Whether the United States breaks off relations with Austria-Hungary rests entirely with her.

"America could not injure us much more as an open enemy than she has already done. She has supplied munitions of war to our enemies and beyond doubt has prolonged the war, which otherwise would have been over long since. Our diplomatic and consular officers there have been shamelessly harried and persecuted and have been grossly insulted by the press. The entire has recruited soldiers on American soil; submarines are constructed in American shipyards. It is true that



"Europe's Battle-Front Lessons for America"

By Frederick Palmer
A series of pertinent articles by a writer recognized everywhere as an authority on war. "Our Fleet Could Not Keep to the Sea in Case of War" is the title of Mr. Palmer's first article. Read it in The Sunday Star.

300,000 TURKS ARE MASSES FOR ATTACK AGAINST EGYPT

Threat of Moslems and Germans Grave. British Report Defeat of Arabs—Persians Declared Victors Over Russians.

LONDON, December 16.—The Turkish threat against Egypt is a shortening of days, in the belief of military men here, according to advices received here from Rome.

The construction of a railway line from Damascus to the Egyptian frontier, which has been pushed with extraordinary speed, it is stated, and it is expected that it will be finished by the 1st of February, there being only fifty miles more of track to lay before the Sinai peninsula is reached. This railway, being built under German officers, which has double tracks, is considered by military men to permit of a concentration of half a million men in one month, together with the necessary supplies and ammunition, at the Egyptian frontier.

300,000 Men Concentrated.

About 300,000 Ottoman troops, commanded and drilled by German officers, already have been concentrated between Alessandretta, Aleppo and Homs, it is stated. Army engineers are laying miles of tubes for carrying drinking water across the desert and also are providing material for the construction of bridges with which to cross the Suez canal.

Turko-German emissaries are said to be urging the British to attack Egypt from the west, while an attempt also is being made to induce the Abyssinians to march into Sudan. German officers are reported to be acting as propagandists, organizers and military instructors. The Rome newspapers ask if after the lesson of the Balkans the entente powers are going to allow themselves to be taken by surprise in Egypt.

Suggests Abyssinia Freedom.

The Paris Excelsior says the foreign affairs committee of the chamber of deputies is considering a proposal made by Gratien Candace, a colored deputy from Guadeloupe, that France, in conjunction with her allies, immediately consider means of obtaining the military co-operation of Abyssinia under a guarantee of her independence.

This would be a counter stroke, M. Candace believes, to German efforts to induce the Sudan to march on Khartoum and to stir up the Mussulman population against southern Egypt.

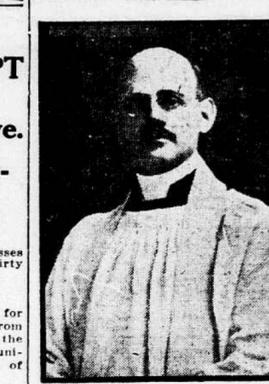
Defeat of Arabs Claimed.

The following British official communication was issued at Cairo yesterday:

"The force under Col. Gordon operating on the 13th, twenty-four miles westward from Matruh (Arabia), encountered a hostile Arab force estimated at 1,200 rifles and with guns and machine guns under Gaafar Pasha. The enemy attacked vigorously, but was driven back with heavy losses. At daylight the British were obliged to withdraw to their camp, which was reached after dark. Col. Gordon's force returned to Matruh, the 14th, and considered means of obtaining the military co-operation of Abyssinia under a guarantee of her independence.

PRESIDENT GETS LICENSE

Rev. Herbert Scott Smith Selected to Officiate at Marriage to Mrs. Galt.



REV. DR. HERBERT SCOTT SMITH.

A license for the marriage of President Woodrow Wilson and Mrs. Edith Bolling Galt was issued late this afternoon by Col. William A. Kroil, in charge of the marriage license bureau. The license was obtained by Irwin H. Hoover, chief of the White House ushers.

Rev. Herbert Scott Smith of St. Mark's Episcopal Church is named in the license as the officiating clergyman.

The age of President Wilson was given as fifty-nine years and that of Mrs. Galt as forty-three years. The license clerk's record shows that Mr. Wilson has been married once before and that his wife is dead, and that Mrs. Galt has been married once before and that her husband is dead.

A. J. DREXEL ORDERED TO PAY WIFE ALIMONY

British Court Decides He Must Keep Agreement and Allow Her \$50,000 a Year.

LONDON, December 16, 1:31 p.m.—A judgment in favor of Margarita Armstrong Drexel, wife of the American banker, Anthony J. Drexel, was rendered today in her suit to recover money under a separation deed. The point involved was Mr. Drexel's motion, made yesterday, to set aside the service of a notice of a writ by the wife to recover money due under the deed, on the ground that his domicile was France, and that therefore he was outside the jurisdiction of the English courts.

The husband was to allow the wife \$50,000 yearly, payable in monthly installments beginning in February, 1913.

Mrs. Drexel deposed in an affidavit that "after 1909 her married life was very unhappy, that her husband assaulted her on more than one occasion and treated her with great indignity."

Mrs. Drexel was Miss Margarita Armstrong of Baltimore, and her father, as she stated, had been estimated at \$10,000,000.

ASKS FOR AN ARMY OF A MILLION MEN TO ALLOW GREEKS TO HOLD ELECTIONS

Senator Works Believes Pacific Coast at Mercy of Asiatics.

WOULD PROVIDE HOMES FOR SOLDIERS' FAMILIES

Sees No Danger of War, But Declares That United States Should Be Prepared.

Senator Works of California told the Senate today that standing an army of 1,000,000 men would be necessary to defend the United States against possible invasions, and declared that the Pacific coast was completely at the mercy of Asiatic attack.

Senator Works spoke on the subject of national defense, particularly to propose as a part of the scheme of preparedness the creation of a mobile land force and military reserve of 200,000 men at the cost of \$50,000,000 a year for ten years.

The proposed enlisted men in civil and military reserve would be settled, according to the Works bill, with their families in comfortable five-acre tracts provided by the government, supplementing ten months of productive work at reforestation, irrigation and flood prevention with two months of military training each year. They would be soldier settlers under the control of the War Department, and would be in line and subject to orders of the War Department in time of war.

"I do not believe we are in the slightest danger of war with any nation, in the near future at least," said Senator Works. "We are probably in less danger of such a conflict now than for many years past."

"But it must be admitted that war between nations is always possible and may happen at any time, as do quarrels and conflicts between men who compose nations. So long as human nature remains as it is, subject to be controlled by selfish and evil passions, men and nations will disagree and endeavor to settle their disputes by force.

"When the prospect of war is mentioned the speaker of Japan rises to terrorize some of our worthy people." Senator Works said that relations of the United States with Japan had always been friendly, but that there were conditions that might lead to war.

"There are enough Japanese in California now to man and destroy every line of communication from the east, isolating California and depriving her of all aid in troops and ammunition. Mexico is open to the entry of the Japanese and, once there, it is but a step across the boundary into the United States.

Settlers Could Be Provided. Outlining the scope of his bill, Senator Works declared a million families could be recruited from the tenement districts of the great cities alone and settled on homestead tracts in the west at a less cost than is now spent in the annual flood wastes of the Mississippi and with two months' energetic military training provided for a reserve force insuring preparedness against invasion, but also against the forces of flood and fire.

His bill would provide that the men should be enlisted for terms of five years. It would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to set aside public lands or to purchase lands and to construct water rights necessary to supply such land. The bill would further direct that these garden farms be so located as to establish not less than an entire regiment in any community on adjacent homes.

Polos Take Military Training. NEW YORK, December 16.—Camps for the military training of Poles have been established in various centers throughout the United States, according to Sublieut. Wladimir Stupinski, who is in command of one of the camps near Livermore, N. Y. A short distance to purchase lands and to construct water rights necessary to supply such land. The bill would further direct that these garden farms be so located as to establish not less than an entire regiment in any community on adjacent homes.

Auguste Germain, Author, Dies. PARIS, December 16.—Auguste Germain, a well known French dramatic author, is dead. He was born in 1862.

Exploratory to Readers. The indulgence of The Star's readers is asked, as the paper has been somewhat late the past two days in reaching them, owing to the unprecedented demand of the Christmas shoppers of Washington to the many attractions in the stores.

Never has there been such activity in the shops as evidenced by the tremendous volume of advertising in yesterday's Star. The total amount of advertising was over 168 columns, or more than twenty-one solid pages of advertising, which was the greatest amount in any daily issue in the history of the paper.

The Star's resources have been taxed to the utmost, but every effort will continue to be made during the next eight days of unusual activity to issue the enlarged papers containing all the news and features as promptly as possible.

Disabled Steamer's Crew Landed. NEW YORK, December 16.—Capt. Loughrane and the crew of eighteen of the American steamer Lucy Neff, which foundered yesterday off the Delaware coast, arrived here today on the British steamer Chasehill. Capt. Loughrane said he called from Palmouth, Jamaica, December 6, with a cargo of logwood intended for American dye makers.

Believed People Will Refuse Abso-lutely to Consent to Bulgarian Invasion to Reach Enemy.

SOFIA, December 16, via London, 3:23 p.m.—A neutral zone extending two kilometers on each side of the frontier has been agreed upon between Greece and Bulgaria, according to an official announcement made here today.

LONDON, December 16.—There is a possibility that an informal truce may be arranged between the belligerents on the Greek frontier in order to permit the Greek electors in the theater of operations to fulfill their national duty at the coming election, according to the Athens correspondent of the Daily Chronicle.

The entente allies have declared themselves favorable to such a course, says the correspondent, and the likelihood of the Germans accepting the arrangement and refraining from hostilities while the election is pending.

The retirement of the Anglo-French forces has caused the attention of the strong positions north of Saloniki, where thus far their opponents have made efforts to disturb the Austro-Hungarian troops, pushing their advance in Montenegro, have reached the vicinity of Biopolje, on the Lim river, about twenty miles west of the Serbian border. It was announced today by German army headquarters in Berlin.

Austrians Claim Advances. In their advance south from Plejta, in northern Montenegro, the army of Gen. von Kossow has taken the Montenegro town of Vranogora. It is announced by the Austro-Hungarian army headquarters. An Austrian column reached the vicinity of Grahovo, on the Lim river, about twenty miles west of the Serbian border. It was announced today by German army headquarters in Berlin.

Believed People Will Refuse Abso-lutely to Consent to Bulgarian Invasion to Reach Enemy.