

SPECIAL NOTICES

THREE THOUSAND SQUARE FEET OF OFFICE space for rent with electric light and heat; water, telephone, and water. Inquire, MARTIN SCHNEIDER, 1215 14th St. N.W.

FROM IT MAY CONCERN: ON AND after December 14, 1917, I will not be responsible for any debts contracted by me personally or by my signature. RANDOLF A. SPAN

SAVE WHILE YOU MAY. YOU WILL ALWAYS be able to spend. The Home Building Association, organized in 1882, offers inducements for the purchase of stock. Ask about it. E. E. Claughton, president; Wm. T. Gallinger and J. Paul Smith, directors. Office, 1215 14th St. N.W., Room 200. Edw. R. Westcott, secretary, 1207 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., under supervision of the United States controller of currency.

DR. CONRAD FRANKFURT, OSTEOPATHIC physician, wishes to advise his patients and friends that he will resume practice January 2, 1918. Professional office, Franklin 3535.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS of the American Security and Trust Company, for the election of directors for the ensuing year, the presentation of the annual report and the transaction of other business, will be held at the office of the company on Tuesday, January 1, 1918, at 11:30 o'clock a.m.

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DISCUSSES CAUSE OF FREIGHT TIE-UP

Due to Failure to Centralize Powers, Chairman Hall Tells Committee.

RELIEF IS PREDICTED

The principal cause of freight congestion, which precipitated the taking over of the railroads by the government, was said by Chairman Hall of the interstate commerce commission at a hearing before the Senate interstate commerce committee yesterday to be the failure to centralize powers to make priority orders.

Chairman Hall was summoned before the Senate committee to explain the recommendations of the interstate commerce commission for the unification of the carriers. Many of the priority orders which have been issued, he told the committee, were unnecessary and carelessly drawn, and added to the general confusion on the railroads.

He predicted that the situation would be greatly relieved by the President's action in taking over the roads.

Questions Evaded by Chairman. Efforts of certain members of the committee to have pointed out in the hearing the fact that the roads had failed in their efforts to unify the carriers were evaded by the commission's chairman, who praised their work and declared they had obtained great results.

The anti-trust and anti-pollution laws, he said, were being greatly in their work, he said. Chairman Hall predicted that under present conditions the railroads would be operated with reasonable promptness because by operating them in one system many embosoms which have been in effect would be removed.

Chairman Hall took occasion to extend commendations to the interstate commerce board of blame in connection with the issuance of unnecessary orders, but placed responsibility on the War and Navy departments as well as with the shipping board, which designates which freight for these departments is to be carried.

"Could not the President have improved the situation last July by having these priority orders pass through one man?" asked Senator Kellogg.

"You can draw your own conclusions as well as I can," Chairman Hall replied.

Government Control Not Costly. The head of the commission, in response to a question regarding the probable expenditure that would result from government control of the railroads, said that the cost would be approximately \$100,000,000, but that this would be offset by the savings in the operation of the roads.

The hearings will be resumed next Monday, when Chairman Hall will continue his statement.

The question of the selection of a chairman of the interstate commerce commission was in abeyance yesterday. Neither Senator Smith of Florida nor Senator Foraker of Ohio, the chief aspirants for the chairmanship, reached Washington in time to appear before the committee yesterday, as they had expected to do.

The democratic steering committee this week.

SECRETARY HOUSTON BUSY WITH NITRATE QUESTION

Declares Arrangements Have Been Completed for Delivery of 100,000 Tons.

In connection with the purchase of 100,000 tons of Chilean nitrate for fertilizer under the provision of the food control act, which authorizes the President to provide nitrate of soda for this purpose and to supply farmers at cost, Secretary of Agriculture Houston said last evening he has been giving considerable attention to the nitrate question.

"I have been in daily touch with the war industries board, which was to purchase and deliver the material at the seaboard, and also the shipping board," he said. "Arrangements were completed several weeks ago, through the war industries board, to purchase approximately 100,000 tons of nitrate of soda in Chile in accordance with the authorization for such purpose in the food control act."

Secretary Houston said that within the last few days preparations have been completed for the delivery of 100,000 tons during January at the seaboard. He said the approximate price for the nitrate will be \$75 on board cars at the seaboard. Farmers are being invited to freight charges to their local stations.

CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

Mrs. Adelle Cohen was re-elected president of the Deborah Lodge, at its last meeting; Mrs. Celia Michaels, vice president; L. Mosher, secretary, and Mrs. J. Haas, treasurer.

Arrangements are being made for a drill by the 2d Cavalry at Fort Myer in the riding hall, January 4 at 2 o'clock p.m. Tickets can be obtained from the adjutant at the post.

A meeting of the Day Nursery and Dispensary Association has been called for Wednesday morning at 10:30 o'clock, at the New Ebbitt House.

A check for \$100 from W. T. Gallinger for the share of the Liberty of the American Jewish relief committee for war sufferers has been received by the local committee in charge of the campaign in this city. Washington is trying to raise \$50,000.

The membership committee of the Chamber of Commerce met yesterday in the rooms of the chamber and approved the following committee for the year: Reeves, Clarence E. Bright, Frank A. O'Neil, Maurice Fitzgerald and C. T. Forchies.

National headquarters, Suffrage Federation League, 1626 Rhode Island avenue, will keep open house from 3 until 5 o'clock on New Year's day. It is cordially invited, especially those from out of town engaged in government service. Women of the Federation League are invited to assist in receiving and to extend their hospitality.

WOULD MAKE NEWPORT DRY. Committee Requests President to Prohibit Sale of Liquor in the Town.

NEWPORT, R. I., December 29.—President Wilson has been requested in resolutions adopted by the Newport war camp and community service committee to prohibit the sale of liquor here because the presence of intoxicants "might be a source of disaster to vital government interests." The resolutions, signed by Mayor Clark Burdick, as chairman of the committee, which is composed of Army and Navy officers, ministers and leading men and women were telegraphed to the President. They urge that "through the control of the supply of liquor by internal revenue officials no intoxicating liquor be allowed to be sent to Newport."

SHRAPNEL Sidelights on the War

—BY— OLIVER OWEN KUHN.

Premier Lloyd George of England declares he can learn more in an hour's conversation than he can in a year's correspondence.

Totatoes played an important part in the letter "K" has figured largely in the present war. Kitchener was the organizing genius of England. Kerenky has played an important role in Russia, while Kornilov and Kaledin are counted on to eventually save Russia from the bolshevik. The Kaiser hatched Kruppian to spread Kultur.

In view of the fact that many of the most famous writers have been men with physical disabilities of some character, there has been much speculation as to what impetus literature will receive as the result of the wounding of hundreds of thousands of men in battle, men whose thoughts will turn to letters in lieu of their inability to occupy positions requiring all physical faculties.

The American legation building was damaged and the consulate destroyed, the dispatch said, but American and other foreign diplomats were safe. The legation was crowded with refugees.

This message of condolence has been sent by President Wilson to Estrada Cabrera, President of Guatemala, and to "In the great affliction with which you are now visited let me express my own behalf and on behalf of the people of the United States the greatest of sympathy. If there is any way in which we can be of assistance to you in your trouble, or in which we may alleviate some of the sorrow and suffering you will experience because of the calamity we respect the United States will be ready to render some material assistance. We take this opportunity to convey to the people of your country the sympathy which we feel for them in the circumstances—a sympathy more profound in respect to the railroad carriers of our country and the relation of our people to yours."

The more than two hundred American Indians attached to the Canadian expeditionary force in France have given a good account of themselves.

Buddhists have contributed liberally to British war funds, but they have specifically stated that the funds shall be employed in any branch of endeavor not connected with the taking of life.

The high degree of education of American soldiers now in France has caused wide comment among European soldiers. The high school graduates of the American army have a high school education.

"Munich, 'the place of monks,' is declared to be the wickedest city in Germany. It is assailed in the popular mind with beer and art.

Grandfather's Sword Inherited by S. C. Rowan. Maj. Hamilton Rowan's Will Is Filed for Probate—Money Is Left to Widow.

The will of Maj. Hamilton Rowan, U. S. A., retired, dated March 6, 1912, and modified by codicil of October 18, 1916, has been offered for probate. He leaves his grandfather's sword and portrait to his son, Stephen C. Rowan, and provides that the widow, Elizabeth H. Rowan, shall have the income for life from the remaining estate.

On the death of the widow \$2,000 is to be paid to the son, Stephen C. Rowan, and \$9,000 to another son, Hugh W. Rowan, a high school graduate, aged 25 years. The testator explains the difference by saying that the elder son had said he believed the plan could be carried out without great cost. No money might be needed at once, he said, except for additional terminal facilities at some points.

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WEATHER.

For the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, fair and continued cold today and tomorrow; moderate north and northwesterly winds.

For West Virginia, western Pennsylvania and western New York, generally fair today and tomorrow; continued cold.

Yesterday's Temperatures. Midnight, 17; 2 a.m., 12; 4 a.m., 10; 6 a.m., 9; 8 a.m., 6; 10 a.m., 7; 12 noon, 8; 2 p.m., 7; 4 p.m., 7; 6 p.m., 6; 8 p.m., 5; 10 p.m., 4. Highest, 17; lowest, 5.

Relative humidity—8 a.m., 84; 2 p.m., 74; 8 p.m., 68.

Percentage of possible sunshine, 0.

Temperature of the day last year—Highest, 39; lowest, 24.

Tide Tables. (Compiled by United States coast and geodetic survey.)

Today—Low tide, 3:55 a.m. and 3:49 p.m.; high tide, 9:23 a.m. and 9:37 p.m. Tomorrow—Low tide, 4:19 a.m. and 4:24 p.m.; high tide, 10:36 a.m. and 10:20 p.m.

The Sun and Moon. Today—Sun rose 7:27 a.m.; sun sets 4:55 p.m. Tomorrow—Sun rises 7:27 a.m.; sun sets 4:56 p.m.

Moon rises 7:22 p.m.; sets 8:51 a.m. Automobile lamps to be lighted one-half hour after sunset.

Weather in Various Cities.

Precipitation. Max. Min. Sat. 8 p.m. Ashville, N. C., 24 22 29 0.20. Atlanta, Ga., 34 29 34 0.20. Atlantic City, N. J., 10 10 4 0.00. Baltimore, Md., 10 6 6 0.00. Banarack, N. D., 0 36 0 0.02. Boston, Mass., 0 4 4 0.00. Chicago, Ill., 12 0 6 0.01. Cincinnati, Ohio, 12 4 4 0.14. Cleveland, Ohio, 12 0 6 0.02. Danvers, Iowa, 4 19 0 0.02. Des Moines, Iowa, 2 16 4 0.00. Detroit, Mich., 12 4 4 0.00. Duluth, Minn., 30 10 10 0.00. El Paso, Tex., 56 32 54 0.00. Evansville, Ind., 32 26 36 0.00. Galveston, Texas, 30 0 32 0.02. Indianapolis, Ind., 12 2 20 0.06. Kansasville, Mo., 32 42 44 0.01. Kansas City, Mo., 8 8 8 0.00. Little Rock, Ark., 36 28 36 0.00. Los Angeles, Cal., 8 4 0 0.03. Marquette, Mich., 8 4 0 0.00. Memphis, Tenn., 12 14 14 0.00. Miami, Fla., 74 52 66 0.00. New Orleans, La., 44 20 42 0.10. New York, N. Y., 22 2 2 0.06. North Platte, Neb., 4 2 4 0.06. Omaha, Neb., 12 4 4 0.00. Philadelphia, Pa., 8 4 4 0.00. Phoenix, Ariz., 80 42 70 0.00. Pittsburgh, Pa., 2 2 2 0.00. Portland, Me., 4 10 6 0.04. Portland, Ore., 42 42 42 0.00. St. Louis, Mo., 8 2 6 0.01. Salt Lake City, Utah, 32 26 36 0.00. St. Paul, Minn., 30 10 10 0.00. San Antonio, Tex., 36 24 30 0.00. San Francisco, Cal., 54 54 54 0.00. Springfield, Ill., 12 4 4 0.00. Tampa, Fla., 64 48 56 0.00. Washington, D. C., 12 14 14 0.00. Wichita, Kan., 24 20 20 0.00. WASHINGTON, D. C., 8 6 5 0.05.

CITY FOUR-FIFTHS RUINED BY QUAKE

Thousands Homeless in Guatemala—President Wilson Wires Sympathy.

Eighty per cent of Guatemala City was demolished by earthquake which began December 26 and continued two days, the State Department was advised yesterday in a wireless dispatch from the American charge there. Forty deaths had been officially reported and thousands were homeless. Martial law had been established and good order prevailed.

The American legation building was damaged and the consulate destroyed, the dispatch said, but American and other foreign diplomats were safe. The legation was crowded with refugees.

This message of condolence has been sent by President Wilson to Estrada Cabrera, President of Guatemala, and to "In the great affliction with which you are now visited let me express my own behalf and on behalf of the people of the United States the greatest of sympathy. If there is any way in which we can be of assistance to you in your trouble, or in which we may alleviate some of the sorrow and suffering you will experience because of the calamity we respect the United States will be ready to render some material assistance. We take this opportunity to convey to the people of your country the sympathy which we feel for them in the circumstances—a sympathy more profound in respect to the railroad carriers of our country and the relation of our people to yours."

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ASKED TO PROVIDE HOUSES FOR CLERKS

Householders Urged to Make Room for Strangers Expected Here in January.

A large increase in the number of new government clerks in Washington after New Year day was predicted by William H. Baldwin, chairman of the District council of defense, last night, in urging every housekeeper in the city to make room for a stranger and to send in now the record of rooms available.

Mr. Baldwin announced that through the courtesy of Charles J. Langmaid, who secured the use of the office at 1321 New York avenue northwest for the headquarters of the central room bureau, made possible by the President's allotment of \$1,000 a month from his emergency fund for a housing survey here.

It probably will be open, however, before the bureau will be week and men. Lists of rooms should be sent to the council, room, 502 District building. The Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A. also will form the work of directing the room-seekers to the rooms listed with the council until the bureau is opened.

Officials of the Civil Service Commission who are deeply interested in helping men. The majority of accommodations hampers them in getting clerks to come here, feel that while the room bureau will relieve the situation for the present, further action by the government will be necessary within a few months.

HOUSEHOLDERS URGED TO BUY THREE-POUND BROTHERS AND FRIERS.

Old hens weighing up to five or six pounds are economical for stewing, but housewives who wish to help relieve the meat situation will buy three-pound broilers and friers and refuse to use "squab chickens" weighing a pound or less, says the Department of Agriculture.

A three-pound broiler or frier of one of the utility breeds, the specialists say, reached by Max Katzen, a grocer, in Washington, and was sold by him to several customers before the presence of the broiler was detected. Several of her children and grandchildren were made ill. It is believed that the poison was in the salt. Several a mild case of cholera has been reported to the Department of Agriculture at Washington. The Maryland State College is making a survey.

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