

Partly cloudy today and tomorrow. Temperature for twenty-four hours ending 10 o'clock last night: Highest, 42; lowest, 32. Full report on page 5.

78 DEAD, 100 ILL, FROM DRINK MADE OF WOOD ALCOHOL

59 Die in New England—Four Arrested for Murder, Five for Manslaughter.

ONE CONFESSES HE SOLD 45 GALLONS OF "LIQUOR"

New York Detectives Believe Fatal "Whisky" Manufactured in That City.

CHIOPEE, Mass., December 27.—The death resulting from the drinking of "whisky" sold by Medical Examiner Fletcher to contain wood alcohol during the Christmas festivities had reached forty-six in this city, Springfield, Greenfield and Holyoke early tonight.

Four men are held at Hartford on charges of murder. They will appear in police court next Wednesday. Jacob Broner, one of those held, is reported by the police to have sold "whisky" ring, and is alleged to have made a profit of \$75,000 from illegal liquor sales since July.

Twelve barrels of materials brought from New York city, the police say, were made into twenty-four barrels by the use of water and then distributed over the bar in Hartford and sold in bulk to persons in Chicopee and Holyoke.

Thomas Oczkyski, proprietor of a saloon in Chicopee, was charged with manslaughter.

Three more arrests also were made by the local police today. One was a porter at the Chicopee Hotel, another was a member of the liquor firm of Frederic, Thomas and Joe Grabie, bartender for Thomas and Joe Grabie.

All saloons in this city and Holyoke were closed this afternoon by the police on orders from the district attorney.

SIX DEAD IN NEW YORK. Two men were found dead, another died in a hospital and a third died from what is believed by physicians to be wood alcohol poisoning.

Conferees between manufacturers of wood alcohol and members of the health committee of the city and county boards will be held today to discuss the alarming number of deaths from beverages mixed with the poisonous liquid.

Eight, Two Women, Die in Chicago. CHICAGO, December 27.—Four persons, two of them women, died today from drinking a beverage which contained a total of eight such deaths in Chicago in forty-eight hours, or thirty-four since the epidemic broke out.

Two Deaths in Newark. NEWARK, N. J., December 27.—Wood alcohol poisoning today caused the death of two persons in the City Hospital, bringing the death list from that cause to five during the last two weeks.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., December 27.—The death has been reported here from the effects of a drink containing wood alcohol.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, December 27.—One death from "whisky" containing wood alcohol has been reported here.

Blind Persons in Denver. DENVER, Col., December 27.—Not less than twenty persons are confined in hospitals suffering from blindness contracted from drinking liquor which had as its base wood alcohol, according to a statement made by one of the leading physicians here today.

Several III in Louisiana. LAKE CHARLES, La., December 27.—Several persons are dangerously ill here as a result of drinking a whisky substitute, branded "Jamaica ginger," 90 per cent alcohol.

DEATH TOLL FROM WOOD ALCOHOL SOLD TO WHISKY DRINKERS

Seventy-eight deaths from "whisky" said to contain wood alcohol have been reported in New England, New York, Newark and Chicago.

Fifty-nine deaths have occurred in Chicopee, Springfield, Greenfield and Holyoke, Mass., in New York, eight in Chicago, two in Newark, two in Pittsburgh and one in Cleveland.

A dozen are in hospitals in Denver, blinded from the effects of drinking the liquor.

CITY LEADERS ASK TO RAISE SCHOOLS TO HIGHEST MARK

Publicity Campaign to Have Organizations' Support. Joint Session Held.

Plans for a big publicity campaign which will result in putting the public school system in Washington in condition to meet fully all requirements now and in the future was launched last night at a meeting of spokesmen of the Board of Trade, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and Federation of Citizens' Associations.

The school committees of the four organizations, with William E. Westlake, president of the Federation of Citizens' Associations, as chairman, will meet in the board room at the District building, Friday night, January 2, to discuss and take action upon cost estimates and details of the publicity scheme, which will be prepared by Roland Robbins, president of the Rotary Club.

Mr. Westlake, Mr. Corby, Mr. Clavin and Mr. Robbins, there were present at the meeting of the Board of Trade, and Jesse C. Suter, chairman of the school committee of the Citizens' Federation.

They decided the essentials for improved schools are: (1) Higher pay for teachers, (2) more teachers, (3) comprehensive building program, (4) better school plant, (5) better school clerks and (5) a retirement system for teachers.

The primary need is much better pay for teachers, declared Mr. Thurston. "Adequate pay will attract high grade teachers and fill our depleted ranks," he said.

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AMERICANS FIND GERMANY NO PLACE TO DO BUSINESS

Soon Lose Pep and Begin to Worry How They Are Going to Get Home—Berlin Becoming Gloom City of World.

Special Cablegram to The Star and New York World, Copyright, 1919. BERLIN, December 27.—Berlin is fast becoming the gloom center of the globe. Vienna is dying gracefully, but Berlin is just going to its end stolidly, worldly, unpretentiously and uninterestingly steeped in gloom.

Many visiting Americans have fallen victims to the all-pervading atmosphere of depression after the first few days' novelty and interest have worn off.

Many American business men who arrived full of pep and breezy optimism have had their spirits quickly cleaned up and get away, have found it impossible to do any business at all with Germany.

Others have had here what is known as the "German exchange" and with the general unfavorable conditions, they have been unable to do any business.

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R. O. EMPLOVES SEE TO HOPE AGAINST ANTI-STRIKE CLAUSE

Count on House Conferees to Defeat It; if Not, President to Veto.

WORKERS' LEADERS HERE TO DRAFT PRINCIPLES

Believed Other Trades Will Back Machinists, Who Voted to Quit if Provision Enacted.

Railroad employes, on the eve of labor legislative conferences, are banking on two things—first, that the House conferees will stand stubbornly against acceptance of the anti-strike clause in the Cummins railroad bill substituted for the Esch bill, and that the House will by a big majority support such action; second, that if both houses of Congress approve an anti-strike clause President Wilson will veto the measure.

Admit Double Hope. This double hope of the railroad workers was admitted by their leaders last night, who have come here at the call of Samuel Gompers to draw up a declaration of principles tomorrow, just as the House and Senate conferees are meeting to thrash out differences between the Esch and Cummins bills, with the main points of difference affecting the labor organizations.

Those members of Congress who are in town believe that the strongest foundation for the expectation that the House will fight strongly against the anti-strike clause is the prediction of Cummins bill than there is that President Wilson will veto the measure sent to him by Congress.

Labor leaders declared that "nothing drastic was to be expected," but they were confident that the railroad workers would stand by the railway machinists' union, which voted to quit work if Congress enacted the anti-strike provision.

Discussion Presidential Veto. The possibility of a presidential veto has been given serious consideration by members of Congress who realize the necessity of enacting proper legislation before the roads are handed over to the government on March 1. Labor leaders in discussing this eventuality also called attention to the fact that the president in his message to Congress four weeks ago:

"The right of individuals to strike is inviolate and ought not to be interfered with by any process of government, but there is no objection to the enactment of laws to protect all of its people and to assert its power and majesty against the challenge of lawless conduct."

This one sentence was variously interpreted by brotherhood officers as a virtual promise that the president would not sign a bill denying the right to strike, and by Senator Cummins as a promise that he would not support an amendment to eliminate the section.

The heads of the four big brotherhoods and the ten affiliated trades will be in conference with President Gompers tomorrow to draw up their declaration of principles on pending railroad legislation. Committees representing the six shop trades have an appointment tomorrow with Director General Hines for discussion of wage demands.

It was emphasized at the Federation of Labor conference that the two conferences had nothing in common, although it was admitted that the demands were somewhat changed, in view of President Wilson's definite decision to turn the roads over to the government in a few months.

In view of the short period of government control there was a feeling in some quarters that the directors would not be able to saddle a wage increase on the roads on the eve of their return to private operation.

Some of the demands were insisted, however, that the demands would not be rejected, since President Wilson has promised to use his influence to get more wages for railway men if the government failed to reduce the cost of living.

Every effort will be made to expedite railroad legislation. Great pressure is being put on the Senate and House to speed up work, but there is little hope of getting the bill out of conference before the end of January.

Grounds Offered for Sale. The Gallinger playground on F street between 21st and 22d streets is to be abandoned as a playground at any time. It has a daily average attendance of 150 persons, but the city is contemplating purchase of this site, but believes Congress should buy a piece of ground in this neighborhood.

The Park View ground, near the school of the same name, also is in danger of being lost. The city is planning to purchase the site, but believes Congress should buy a piece of ground in this neighborhood.

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SAYS CATTLE SHORTAGE WILL KEEP BEEF PRICES HIGH FOR SEVEN YEARS

CHICAGO, December 27.—A shortage of 1,000,000 cattle in the year just closing will cause high prices for beef and beef products for at least seven years, according to a report by M. F. Horne, statistician for the Union stock yards, in his annual report today.

Mr. Horne said it will be impossible to make good the shortage of 1919 before 1927, says his report. Agriculture's report concerning the number of cattle in the United States was too optimistic.

An increase of 37,000 animals of all kinds recorded at the Union stock yards for the year 1919 over 1918 was reported. Cattle receipts, however, decreased 230,000.

Decreased cattle slaughter was also reported by the markets in Kansas City, Omaha, St. Joseph, St. Louis and Sioux City.

DISTRICT LIKELY TO BE DEPLETED OF PLAY SPACES

Proposed Sale of Privately Owned Recreation Grounds Prompts Appeal to Congress.

Washington soon may lose four or five of its playgrounds which are located on private property and loaned to the District by the owners.

News that several of these loaned grounds are to be sold or built upon has brought forth a petition to the attention of Mrs. Susie Root Rhodes, superintendent of playgrounds, the fact that desirable sites for recreational centers in the thickly populated sections are rapidly being filled up with buildings.

The probability of losing some of these loaned spaces has caused Mrs. Rhodes to appeal to Congress for the purchase of new playgrounds in sections of the city a few years from now there may be no desirable places available.

With the co-operation of the civic bodies of the city, Mrs. Rhodes hopes to convince Congress of the need for acquiring additional ground on which to build playgrounds.

The latest official intimation from White House circles of the President's intention was following the dinner he gave last night to the national committee men two years ago and in the course of the conversation made some remarks about the need for writing in the future. That was construed by some present as a renunciation of a third term and the gossip was that the President was necessary to have a semi-official announcement that no such construction should be placed on his leaving the subject in the air, where it still floats as a great shadow to a number of the faithful.

One President, it is remembered, made a flat renunciation of third term ambitions, on the night of his reelection in 1908, and then he died to nullify it by running for a third term, conditions seeming to warrant it.

Rumor is persistent among democrats that William J. Bryan will shy away from the ring again—at an opportune moment, he is expected to ask the nomination at the hands of the party he has served so assiduously for so long.

A democratic politician in the national organization expressed today the belief that the President would not seek the nomination, will not go hunting for delegates but will attempt to repeat the coup of 1896 and stand by his conviction in the face of a deadlock, such as existed at Baltimore, step forward as the compromise candidate.

Bryan Vindication Claimed. The political gossip which brings out Mr. Bryan's name at this time floats the suggestion that Mr. Bryan will not run for a third term.

Washington has gone ahead and developed a plan, said Mrs. Rhodes, "without making adequate provision for recreation for the children."

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DEMOCRATIC POTENTIALS OF BRYAN

Seven Cities Seek Honor of Entertaining National Convention.

WOULD-BE CANDIDATES WATCHING MR. WILSON

"Vindicated" Bryan Floats on Gossip—Friends of McAdoo and Palmer Hopeful.

BY N. O. MESSENGER. Democratic national politics will seethe and sizzle when the democratic national committee meets in this city January 8 to select time and place for holding the national convention of the party and when the faithful assemble around the banquet board spread in honor of Jackson Day.

Most of the seething, however, will be in the confabulations, out of meeting. Presidential candidates will be the boiling topic of the hour.

Seven cities are contending, with more or less ardor, for the honor of entertaining the national convention—Chicago, San Francisco, St. Louis, Kansas City, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Indianapolis. Indications at present point to a choice between Chicago and San Francisco, with Chicago, for utilitarian reasons quite obvious, in the lead