

PREPARING NEW NOTE ON CONTRABAND

Document Will Point Out That United States Need Accept No Responsibility if War Materials Reach Belligerents.

TIME AT HAND WHEN POLICY MUST BE KNOWN

Asserts Allowances Were Made at Beginning of War, But Five Months Now Have Passed Without Change.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—That the United States government has prepared a new note dealing specifically with Great Britain's attitude on contraband was learned definitely tonight from official sources.

It is pointed out to Great Britain in the draft of the note on contraband: "1. That a merchant of the United States can sell to France, Germany, Austria, or any nation in the world anything that is manufactured in this country or is a product of this country."

"2. That the United States has control over such freedom of commerce, which is the international right of an American citizen.

"The United States contends that the sole duty of preventing the products of the United States from getting into the hands of the enemy even if they are contraband goods, rests upon the belligerent nations.

"As a corollary of this it is asserted that it is not the duty of American officials to exercise espionage over exports at ports in the United States. No Treaty Obligations.

"It is further contended that the belligerent nations if they cannot prevent the arrival of vessels at destinations in the United States, they are bound to accept the consequences.

"The assertion is made that there is no treaty or implication or expression in the history of maritime law which imposes upon the United States the duty of preventing the export of war materials or any other materials to any port in the world.

"The principle is admitted incidentally that filibustering expeditions should be prevented.

"Sec'y of State Bryan said today that he could not discuss these new propositions. It appears that the note is being prepared and already in draft form elsewhere in the state department than in the secretary of state's office.

"The text of the American protest to the British government on the question of neutral shipping was made public by the state department tonight simultaneously with its publication by the British foreign office in London.

"Although the note is a plain warning to Great Britain that the present condition of American trade with the neutral European countries is such that if it does not improve it may arouse a feeling contrary to that which has long existed between the American and British peoples, it is throughout couched in friendly terms and there is no suggestion that the relations of the two governments are strained. Following is the text of the note forwarded to the American ambassador at London by Sec'y of State Bryan on Dec. 25.

"The present condition of foreign trade resulting from the frequent seizures and detentions of American cargoes destined to neutral European ports has become so serious as to require a candid statement of the views of this government in order that the British government may be fully informed as to the attitude of the United States toward the policy which has been pursued by the British authorities during the present year.

"You will therefore communicate the following to his majesty's principal secretary of state for foreign affairs, but in doing so you will assure him that it is done in the most friendly spirit and in the belief that frankness will better serve the continuance of cordial relations between the two countries than the attitude which may be misconstrued into acquiescence in a course of conduct which this government cannot but consider to be an infringement upon the right of American citizens.

"Made Allowances at First. "The government of the United States has viewed with growing concern a large number of vessels laden with American goods destined to neutral ports in Europe which have been seized on the high seas, taken into British ports and detained sometimes for weeks by the British authorities. During the early days of the war this government assumed that the policy adopted by the British government was due to the unexpected outbreak of hostilities and the necessity of immediate action to prevent contraband from reaching the enemy. For this reason it was not disposed to judge this policy harshly or protest it vigorously, although it was manifestly injurious to American trade with neutral countries of Europe. This government, relying confidently upon the high regard which Great Britain has so often exhibited in the past for the rights of other nations, confidently awaited adoption of a course of action which denied to neutral commerce the freedom to which it was entitled by the law of nations.

"That expectation seemed to be rendered the more assured by the statement of the foreign office early in November that the British government was satisfied with guarantees offered by the American, Swedish and Danish governments as to non-exportation of contraband goods when consignees to named persons in the territories of those governments, and

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

through the year, while the horses thus thrown out of service were turned over to the city of South Bend for further service. Altogether the department expended \$9,307.81 for new apparatus and repairs. Out of the original appropriation for this department—\$11,750—the smallest balance of any of the city's departments was turned back into the general fund. After all expenses had been paid there was only a balance of 24 cents.

New Appointments. New appointments for the year were Otto H. Schultz, Hubert Rozewicz, Orla J. Parker, Arthur F. Peterson, Stanley Duszynski and Edward Welkowitz. In July Otto Lockstid was promoted from lieutenant to captain at No. 5 station. In the same month James Auer was promoted from a regular to a lieutenant. Harry Bracy and Leo J. Bauer resigned through the year.

Among the newer improvements installed were a furnace and boiler room at No. 4 station at a cost of \$514. No. 2 station, house was fitted out with a new heating system furnished by the Stalabaker corporation at a cost of \$300. More than 1,000 feet of hose was purchased at a cost of \$800.

Hubbard claims that while a resident of East St. Louis he was in the commission business and was prevented from carrying on business by the National stock yards.

Services in Churches. Services were held in many of the churches last night to mark the new year in and the old year out. At the Quincy Street Baptist church a watch party was held after the services. A reception was held at 6:30 in the church parlors by Mrs. T. J. Parsons, pastor of the church.

At a business meeting held at the church reports were given by the officers of the past year and the new officers for the ensuing year were elected. A program of vocal and instrumental music was given and a social time was had until the new year came to them.

The annual business meeting of the Indiana Avenue Christian church was held last night which consisted of election of officers for the new year and a reading of the business of the old year. The L. O. C. orchestra was present and furnished many musical numbers. A reading was given by Mrs. A. L. Brenner, D. J. C. Lavenog entertained with a clarinet solo and a quartet gave a number of songs. After the program was ended a social time was held until midnight.

Watch night services at the Trinity Presbyterian church were conducted by the pastor, Rev. J. F. Burns. The services opened at 8 o'clock. "A review of the old year," giving the spiritual and material progress was presented. The Outlook of the New Year" was a topic talked on by a number of the people present. Music, recitations and games were features of the program. Refreshments were had after the program was under the direction of the Epworth league of the First M. E. church and consisted of a social time with selections by the male quartet from the First M. E. church and by the Carter sisters. Light refreshments were served. Between 11 o'clock and 12 the consecration service was observed.

Today the mission will observe open house and the public will be cordially invited to call and inspect the quarters. Music will be furnished to enliven the day and refreshments will be served.

Firemen Din. New Year's eve was observed by the firemen at the Central station with a dinner. Members of that company participated in the affair. Following the dinner the firemen were entertained with selections on a Victrola and a player-piano which were donated for the occasion.

REAR ADMIRAL HOWISON DIES AFTER OPERATION. Saw Active Service During Civil War, Taking Part in Capture of Fort Sumpter and Mobile Bay Battle.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Rear Admiral Henry Leurgous Howison, U. S. N., retired, died today at his home in Yonkers as the result of an operation for intestinal trouble. He was 77 years old and had an unusually active service record in the civil war. In the last years before his retirement he was commandant of the navy yards at Boston and San Francisco. He was appointed to the United States naval academy in 1858 and served through the war as a lieutenant, taking part in the capture of Fort Sumter, the battle of Mobile bay and other leading engagements of the war. The funeral arrangements will be announced later.

CHARGED WITH MURDER. TOLEDO, O., Dec. 31.—Samuel Moorehead, 54, a farmer near Van Buren, Ind., was lodged in jail in Van Wert, O., this morning on the charge of murdering his nephew, O. G. Manley, Moorehead, without warning, appointed to the life of his nephew last night. Moorehead charged that Manley had broken up his home.

KILLED BY PEANUT. SHAWANO, Wis., Dec. 31.—Irene Blank, who was pushed by a special train to a hospital in Milwaukee when a peanut lodged in her throat, died on the train just before reaching Milwaukee today.

A CITY FREE FROM BIG FIRE LOSSES DURING PAST YEAR

Annual Report From Chief Sibel Shows Only One Big Blaze, Twentieth Century Garage and Davies Laundry.

Taken as a whole the year 1914 in the South Bend fire department, according to figures compiled by Chief Sibel, a Clerk Josephson, of the safety board, was far from a disastrous one when the loss from conflagrations is compared with that of other years. There were no large fires in which there were huge losses both of the buildings themselves and their contents.

Probably the largest fire loss registered was that of the Twentieth Century garage in which the loss on the building was reported by Fire Chief Sibel to be \$6,000. At the same time, Nov. 19, the Davies laundry was damaged from the blaze of the garage to the extent of \$6,000 while the loss on the contents of the laundry was considerably less. The dozens or more automobiles and the fixtures of the garage, all of which were destroyed, were valued at \$4,000.

Statistics for Past Months. For the first 11 months of the year the following statistics are presented by the fire department in the form of a report to the board of safety:

Table with columns: Bids, at risk, Contents risk, Loss on bids, Loss on contents. Rows for months from January to November.

Table with columns: Feet of hose laid, Chemicals used, Feet of ladders used. Rows for months from January to November.

Table with columns: Runs, Miles traveled. Rows for months from January to November.

The number of alarms for each month were as follows: January, 28; February, 27; March, 32; April, 30; May, 26; June, 32; July, 47; August, 56; September, 32; October, 22; November, 31. The months of July and August were the periods in which the various sections of the city received the greatest number of calls. It was at this time of the year, according to Fire Chief Sibel that grass fires were common. In August grass fires caused the loss of thousands of dollars to nearby buildings.

Insurance on Buildings. Commencing with May, the insurance upon the buildings insured by flames was \$7,320; June, \$12,730; July, \$22,385; August, \$30,670; September, \$18,900; October, \$43,925. The property insured was compared favorably with those uninsured. This city is said to contain as large a percentage of insurance upon its buildings as any city in the state.

The year 1913 marked the first of Fire Chief Irving W. Sibel acting in that capacity, he having been appointed on March 21, 1913, in the stead of Wilfrid Grant. The latter asked for a leave of six months at the end of which time he tendered the board of public safety his resignation to accept the position of fire chief of the Gary fire department.

The year was unusual in the small amount of serious accidents which occurred to members of the department. Capt. Entzian and Capt. Strickler were injured. The former was injured most seriously, according to the report compiled by Clerk Josephson, of the safety board. The former was injured about the eyes on April 21, when a George Sibel was injured by the explosion of a Babcock was responsible for his wounds.

Strickler was injured Nov. 19 during the progress of the Twentieth Century garage fire. Falling walls and timbers entrapped him, injuring him so that he was compelled to spend several days in the hospital. The driver of a broken hip when he fell from a bicycle. He was crashed into by a motorcycle rider, and died from his injuries the next day. The only other fatality through the year was the death of John Shrope, who died July 4 from natural causes.

Repairs Cost \$586.88. The board of safety was compelled to pay \$36.88 for repairs upon a hose wagon which was wrecked at Michigan and Wayne sts. to avoid crashing into a woman who was directly in its path while at full speed. The driver, who fatally drove the machine into the curb rather than probably kill the woman. The truck was wrecked so that a complete overhauling was necessary.

An accident of a similar nature occurred at 622 N. Hill st. in June when Capt. Freeh and P. Alford were injured in the collision of their truck with a tree. The machine was sent into the tree to avoid crashing into a buggy which started across its path just as a street car from the opposite direction approached.

Chester Van Arsdale suffered a broken hip when he fell from the second floor of central station to the cement floor below. He was taken to Epworth hospital where his injuries were attended and from which institution he was not removed for several weeks. It was at first thought that he had suffered from internal injuries. Fire stations Nos. 4 and 6 were equipped with new auto apparatus

SAYS ST. LOUIS YARDS HAVE BUSINESS CORNER

BELLELEVILLE, Ill., Dec. 31.—Atty. Gen. Lucey this morning filed a quo warranto in the circuit court here to restrain the National stock yards of East St. Louis from doing business. The papers, which were filed at the instigation of Elbert Hubbard, charge the National stock yards with being a monopoly operating in restraint of trade.

Hubbard claims that while a resident of East St. Louis he was in the commission business and was prevented from carrying on business by the National stock yards.

URGES 100,000 STANDING ARMY; MILLIONS RESERVE

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Standing army of 200,000 men in times of peace and a reserve army of 8,000,000 times of war for the United States was urged today by Col. H. O. S. Heislend, adjutant general of the central department of the United States army with headquarters in Chicago. Col. Heislend addressed the convention of the American stalwarts.

He urged a military system based on the national defense of Switzerland.

FOUR MORE TAKEN

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 31.—Four Terre Haute prisoners were brought to Indianapolis this afternoon and charged with the murder of a man arrested in Terre Haute charged with complicity in election frauds and had been unable to furnish satisfactory bonds. They are Joseph Strause, Claude Patton, Timothy Conway and Alex. Stelle. The total number of Terre Haute men now in the government net is 113.

SPEND \$150,000 TO PROTECT CITY

Expenditures For Year Divided Between Police, Fire, Electrical and Weights and Measures Departments.

Practically \$150,000 was expended during the past year for the maintenance of the police, fire protection and other departments under the supervision of the board of public safety. According to figures given out by the board expenditures for the year amounted to \$149,281.38, leaving a balance of \$3,043.62 from the appropriation of \$152,325 made by the city council.

These expenditures were for the support of the police, fire, electrical and weights and measures departments and includes the salaries of the surgeon and all employees of the board of safety. Appropriations, expenditures and balances for the year are as follows:

Table with columns: Appropriations, Expenditures. Rows for Police dept. misc., Police dept. salaries, Fire dept. misc., Fire dept. salaries, New year's...

Weights and measures, Board, clerk, sealer, and surgeon, Total.

CITY WELCOMES NEW YEAR AMID GREAT DIN OF JOY

South Bend Celebrates Evening Sedately But Burst of Noise Greets Advent of 1915—Watch Parties Feature.

Father Time has deposited another of his countless children. At midnight last night, wrinkled and worn "1914," bearing his heavy burden of experience, shuffled away to his reward. Into the big footprints of "1914" capered frivolous and capricious "1915."

South Bend was prepared for the arrival of this new unit of time and the entrance of "1915" was welcomed appropriately. Just as the clock struck the first note of midnight, bells of many churches rang out, factory whistles sounded, horns tooted and the city was filled with a din of joy.

Theaters held midnight performances and practically every show house was packed when "1914" made his exit. One noticeable feature of the New Year's was the obvious lack of rowdiness, although there was a spirit of general good feeling prevailing.

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EGER ASKS RECEIVER FOR VACUUM ICE COMPANY

William F. Eger, 307 Laporte av., filed a petition in the federal court at Indianapolis Thursday asking that the South Bend Vacuum Ice Co. be declared bankrupt. Walter Redwood & Co., Terre Haute, and the Central Electric Co. of South Bend also signed the bankruptcy petition. The claims of the petitioners amount to \$2,591.35. In connection with the petition for bankruptcy, Mr. Eger also filed, asking for the appointment of Thad M. Talcott, United States commissioner of this city, as receiver for the ice company.

JUDGE VAN FLEET HONORED BY BAR

Resolutions Passed By Association Tender Retiring Superior Court Jurist Full Approval of His Administration.

In recognition of the services of Vernon W. Van Fleet in his official capacity as judge of the St. Joseph superior court, members of the bar association gathered in the superior court room Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock and gave expression to their appreciation of these services. Judge G. A. Parahaugh presided at the meeting. Informal speeches were made by members of the association after which a resolution was adopted with the request that it be spread upon the records of the court. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 o'clock at which time Judge Van Fleet adjourned the court until 9 o'clock Friday morning.

The speeches of the afternoon were laudatory of the expeditious, efficient and economical manner in which the courts of St. Joseph have been conducted. Particular attention was called to the fact that the decisions of Judge Van Fleet had stood almost as a whole without appeal. The retiring judge was praised for his maintenance of the bench and also for the fact that often he had departed so far from his work as to give lawyers at various times valuable aid in the handling of cases. It was pointed out that the retiring judge had done much toward bringing honor to the St. Joseph county courts and in adding to the public confidence in the judiciary.

Formal Address. George Ford, judge-elect, was the first speaker. He stated it as his opinion that Judge Van Fleet had not been accorded fair treatment by the republican party and he added that Judge Van Fleet had secured the nomination he would gladly have given him his full support. Judge Walter A. Funk also spoke. He briefly called attention to the cordial relations which had existed between himself and Judge Van Fleet. Other speakers were Stuart Mackibbin, Samuel Parker, A. G. Graham, W. A. McInerney, Eli Seebert, Thomas A. Slack, Paul S. Shury, Victor Hubbard, W. G. Crabb, Vitis Jones and Judge Van Fleet.

When Judge Van Fleet was called upon he was requested to again take the chair which he was vacating as he spoke. He spoke during an hour and a half and thanked those who had so forcibly expressed their regard. He said that it had been only through the hearty cooperation of the members of the bar, who were as well as lawyers, that he had been enabled to accomplish what he had accomplished.

In a brief preamble to the resolution which was adopted it was recalled how Judge Van Fleet had been given a circuit court because of the increase of business which had made it impracticable for a judge to care for the litigation of more than one hundred cases. During the period from 1900 to 1907 the population of South Bend had increased 50 percent and the population of Mishawaka approximately 100 percent. Litigation increased proportionately until finally in 1907 the legislature created the St. Joseph superior court with practically concurrent jurisdiction with the St. Joseph circuit court.

The governor had appointed Vernon W. Van Fleet to preside over the new court, recognizing "the peculiar fitness, scholarly attainments and general qualifications" of the man for the place. During the seven years in which Judge Van Fleet has held the position the higher courts have in very few instances interfered with the decisions rendered by him. He has made for himself such a reputation that he has been called to act as special judge in many important cases outside of his home district.

Resolution Adopted. The resolution was adopted as follows: "In recognition of the untiring services rendered by Judge Van Fleet, his impartial and fearless administration of justice, the dispatch with which he has transacted the business of his court, his gentlemanly demeanor and his qualifications as a man, we, in a special meeting assembled, desire to express our gratitude and extend to him our thanks for past services and to wish him the best in practice which he justly merits.

"Now, therefore, he is resolved by the St. Joseph County Bar association at a special meeting assembled, that the committee which drafted the resolution, Messrs. S. J. Crumbacker, L. M. Hammerschmidt and Ernest Morris be and they are authorized to present the same to the committee which drafted the resolution."

GETS \$2,700 AFTER LONG SEARCH. BLOOMINGTON, Ill., Dec. 31.—An inheritance of \$2,700 was sent by check Thursday to Mrs. Flora Heist, who was located at Dayton, O., after a search of 16 years. The money was her share of the estate of her father who lives here.

FRENCH ARE DRAWING ON AGAINST FOE

Capture Part of Village of Steinbach By Storm After Terrific Fighting, Paris Official Statement Reveals.

BATTLESHIP TORPEDOED IN OTRANTO CHANNEL. Parisian Ministry of Marine Admits Loss of Vessel, But Details Are Lacking—Tonnage Checked in East.

PARIS, Dec. 31.—The ministry of marine states that a French battleship has been torpedoed in the Otranto channel (between Italy and Albania). No details are given.

PARIS, Dec. 31.—Official news of the capture by storm of part of the village of Steinbach, in upper Alsace, marking a further advance in this section and indicating that the French troops have finally occupied the drive against the German defenses of the Rhine was being persistently followed up, was the cheering information which today's communiques gave to Paris.

The French success at Steinbach was not easily won. Even the usually terse official phraseology emphasizes the desperate nature of the combat which resulted finally in half the village falling into the hands of the French invaders, by speaking of the "terrific house to house combat."

Steinbach, commanding the roads leading to Altkirch and Muehlhausen, is conceded to be the key position in the Alsatian theater of activity. Should the French succeed in driving the Germans entirely out of the town, their further advance would be expedited to say the least.

Germans Strengthen Place. Realizing this the Germans have taken every precaution to strengthen the place.

The French literally had to batter their way from one house to the next in dispossessing the defenders who from machine guns on the roofs and in windows kept up a galling fire to the last possible moment.

In places along the Franco-Belgian frontier the situation of the allies apparently continues to improve, despite the terse announcement in the official communiques that "there is nothing to report" from the quarter.

One of the most notable successes of the day is reported from the village of St. Georgeskapelle, which the French troops have finally occupied after several days of stubborn fighting. In this they have been materially aided by the Belgian troops.

The occupation of the village had been reported as a success by the French and Belgians had repeatedly forced the Germans to abandon it they had in turn been driven out themselves after each partial victory.

GERMANS ACCEPT REPULSE. PETROGRAD, Dec. 31.—The Germans have accepted with the best grace possible their repulse from the River Buzza. Their attacks on the French lines also were finally repulsed. The Russian heavy artillery has been turned against their own.

Their last attack on the Buzza was made from the village of Miodazy on the left bank on a stark bank. The Russian army on the opposite bank maintained a dead silence with all bivouac fires and lights extinguished. The Germans with carts laden with pontoons drawn by horses, moved slowly through the village towards the river. Meanwhile new German forces were gathering with machine and field guns.

The complete silence continued on the Russian side and the Germans began to cross, the machine guns first and the infantry following.

Just before dawn they deployed crossed the river on a dark bank. Suddenly a salvo met them from the Russian side followed by others and soon the whole bank was one mass of fire.

Shells Sweep Enemy. The Russian shells swept down the enemy by tens and then by hundreds and soon were smashing the pontoons and bridge and sweeping the confused and panic-stricken masses of the German infantry into the river. Some tried to swim across, but were drowned in the swift current. By 9 o'clock nothing remained but heaps of German corpses.

The final attack upon the Buzza was made one frosty night when they forded the river from the shallow sandy banks. They were allowed to cross and advanced about two-thirds of a mile. When they came upon the Russians, the Germans started to charge with their bayonets, but at a distance of 100 yards from the Russian position they were met with machine gun and rifle fire.

The German ranks recoiled immediately, but it was too late. The Russians had not behind them. The Germans, who had been met with such a furious attack, the battle lasting several hours. The Germans lost before the Russian shells.

DOWNETTES WORSHIP AGAIN. ZION CITY, Ill., Dec. 31.—The Downtettes will hold public worship Monday night for the first time in several weeks as the result of the lifting of the smallpox quarantine.

FOUR FIREMEN HURT. CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Four firemen were injured Thursday when fire swept a three-story apartment at 423 W. Sixty-third st., perilling 12 families and doing \$25,000 damage.