

**GERMAN GENERAL WAR STAFF FIRST**

**Picked Body of Men Runs the War and Kaiser is Forced to Agree.**

BERLIN, Dec. 3.—No man in the German empire can overrule the kaiser, but there is one power before which his will yields.

This is the concentrated energy of the five hundred brains of the great general staff—undoubtedly the greatest collection of military knowledge and ability ever assembled in the history of the world.

It runs the war. It does so without consulting the kaiser. It is stronger than he.

Strictly speaking the question of which is supreme has not come to a test. The kaiser, an able military leader himself knows better than that. He realizes that there are several individual brains in the great general staff much deeper than his own. Before the impressive collective ability of the five hundred he bows.

**Is Strictly German.**

Every army has a general staff, but this great general staff has many features strictly German. Its members wear a broad red stripe slashed down the trouser leg. They are the picked talent of the Prussian, Saxon, Bavarian and Wuertemberg armies.

The great general staff dates from Scharnhorst and Clausewitz and was all powerful in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, when it overruled the Iron Chancellor Bismarck as to the method of attack and the nature of the settlement to be extorted from the vanquished.

Even the war office is powerless to counter the general staff's prerogatives or actions. Their respective jurisdictions are clearly defined and unmistakably separate. It is the business of the war office to raise, equip, and feed the army. It is the business of the general staff, once the army is at its disposal, to use it. The staff alone is responsible for the army's strategy and tactics, and for nothing but that, and in order that it may fulfill its all-vital function untrammelled by either physical organization details or external interference of any sort whatsoever, it has to ask nobody any questions. It plans. It decides. It acts. Nominally subordinate to the will of the kaiser.

When the first Moltke wrote "omnipotence" as the general staff's first law he invented a corollary; that established merit alone should be the passport to its sacrosanct precincts.

**Must Deserve Honor.**

To be a generalstabler was to win the iron cross of peace. Family, birth, influence or any sort, cut no figure in the selection of men for the brains' department of the German army. No officer ever won his red stripes who did not prove that he deserved it.

Men not ambitious to make a career of the army seldom advance beyond the rank of major. Those who go in for it as a life occupation, with an aspiration to shine, demonstrate the spirit within them by passing the stiff examination for the German staff college—the academy of war.

This test is severe and searching. It comprises tactics, strategy, technical knowledge, history, foreign languages and mathematics. Lieutenants who weather this examination are "seconded" for the three years' course at the academy, where they undergo expert training as brigade, division, corps and army commanders.

It is while at the academy that the would-be Hindenburgs indulge in the celebrated Kriegspiel (war game) at the expense of every imaginable combination of Germany's enemies.

When the three-year course at the academy is ended lieutenants subject themselves to re-examination, and those who pass out highest are assigned to duty either at the general staff or the war office. If in practical service at the staff or the Kriegspielministerium their ability is amply demonstrated they are permanently appointed to the general staff.

The brains' department is at the seat of war almost always, or certainly whenever and wherever its presence is desirable. The daily German official bulletins from all fronts are dated Grosses Hauptquartier (great headquarters) and usually denote the base of the general staff. Since the magic or a great name failed to preserve the lesser von Moltke from official decapitation after the Marne, general von Falkenhayn, the present chief of staff, has been in the field for most of the time. With the other "brains" of the army at his elbow, he dictates the strategy of the campaign on the spot.

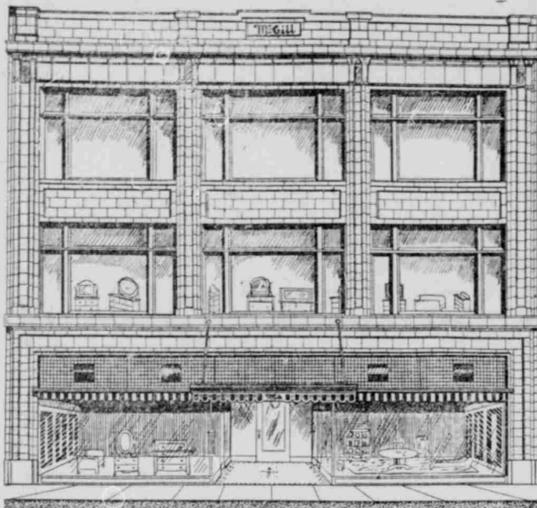
**B. AND O. HEAD DIES**

Edward R. Bacon Succumbs to Appendicitis Operation.

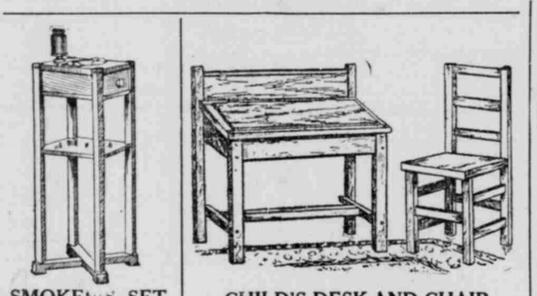
BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 3.—Edward Radborne Bacon of New York, first vice president and member of the board of directors of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, and at one time president of the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern railroad, died Thursday night at the Johns Hopkins hospital from the results of an operation for appendicitis which was performed more than a week ago.

One of our most cherished idols has shown its feet of clay. It has been disclosed that the famous Boston beans come from Michigan and California.—Wheeling News

**McGill's Big Holiday Carnival**



**McGill's, the Big Store**



**SMOKER'S SET**  
Either fumed or Early English finish. Made throughout of solid oak. Has match holder, ash tray, cigar case. Price ..... **\$1.50**

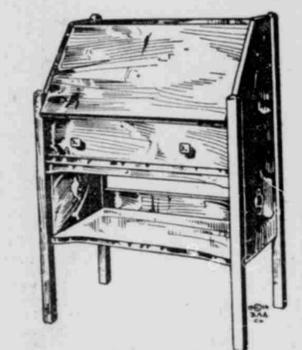
**CHILD'S DESK AND CHAIR**  
Here's a neat design that any child will enjoy. Mission Oak finish—has hinged lid on desk top and plenty of room inside of desk for papers, slate, crayons, etc. Price ..... **\$2.75**



**HORSE AND WAGON**  
Let the children see this feature—A wagon full of groceries and household necessaries. Price ..... **98c**



**MEOWING CAT**  
Our best toy without a doubt. Runs over the floor and meows like a live cat. Buy before they're all sold. Price ..... **98c**



**WRITING DESKS**  
This will be one of the most popular gifts for the Yule-tide season. There's always a place for a desk in every home. On our floors you'll find desks in all finishes priced up from ..... **\$7.75**



**SLEEPING DOLLS**  
This big American beauty sleeping doll stands 24 inches high—has natural hair and is fully dressed. Let the girls see these dolls in our windows at ..... **\$2.50**  
Other dolls from 98c up.

**You are Invited to Open a Charge Account at McGill's**

If you do not have a charge account at McGill's you can open one tomorrow by simply purchasing some article—McGill will charge the goods and you can pay next year. There is no extra interest charge for this service.

Every part of our big organization is in full, active operation, concentrating on holiday merchandise. It's a real holiday selling carnival with the lid off. We have directed the full force of our big buying power on novel, sensible, last-a-life-time goods so that **Our Gift Shop** on the first floor looks like a fairyland of all the beautiful things home people could wish for and as far as worrying about economy you'll be surprised at our low prices—Just think what a fine thing a charge account at "THE BIG STORE" is at this season,—you can charge anything you want and pay next year in payments so small that you will scarcely miss them. We will gladly arrange terms especially for you—any way you would like—when we say that, we mean it, we are "talking turkey" as the saying goes.

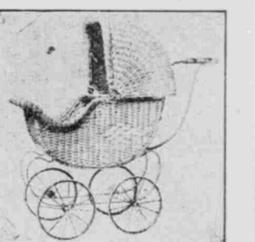
It is not a bit too early to do your Christmas shopping right now, for by doing so you get the "yolk in the egg" of our holiday display. Goods purchased now, held for future delivery.



**McGILL'S SPECIAL AUTO \$3.75**  
Steering wheel, rubber tired wheels. Operated by foot pedals. Enameled in different colors. Buy the boy one today. Priced up from **\$3.75.**



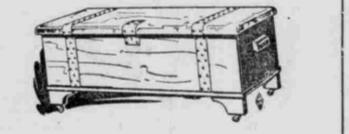
**CANDY SHOP 98c**  
A miniature store that's filled with fresh candy put up in glass jars and sold regularly for much more than we ask. The house alone is worth 98c, and will last a long time.



**REED DOLL CABS**  
Buy the little girl a doll cab today. They're made from strong reed and come in any color desired. Priced **\$1.75 to \$7.50**



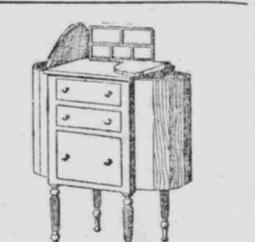
**SOLID MAHOGANY DINNER WAGON \$11.25**  
Has heavy rubber tired artillery wheels—also removable glass tray. See this today and you'll buy it.



**RED CEDAR CHESTS**  
Everybody longs for a Cedar Chest to put clothes or furs in. Buy your cedar chest from the largest display in Northern Indiana. Prices up from ..... **\$6.75**



**RUGS**  
Brighten up your home for Christmas by selecting new rugs for home today. A wonderful assortment in all sizes, colors and at reasonable prices. See our rugs today in daylight.



**MARTHA WASHINGTON SEWING TABLE**  
Made of genuine mahogany—exactly as pictured—Extra special at ..... **\$12.50**



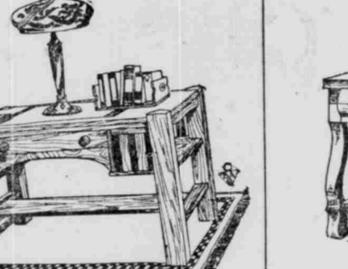
**GAS AND ELECTRIC LAMPS**  
Wouldn't a reading lamp for that library table improve the coziness of your living room for these winter evenings? Over 30 patterns in lamps to select from. See our big gift line of lamps in fumed oak frame and you'll know what's new in lamps. Prices up from... **\$4.50**



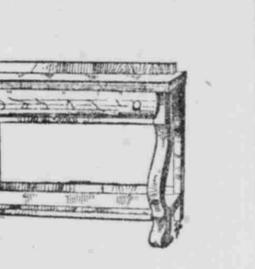
**BLACKBOARDS**  
Here's a royal chance to buy the little ones a blackboard. We have them with alphabets complete from **\$1.98 to 19c**



**COASTER WAGON \$1.98**  
The hard wood body measures 13x28 inches. The roller bearing wheels measure 8 inches in diameter and have heavy steel axles. A great gift for a boy.



**Library Tables**  
Every day someone is selecting a library table for Christmas delivery. See the large variety that we offer in the 80 patterns which we show. Fumed oak, mahogany, golden oak and Early English finishes. A size and price to suit every room and purse.



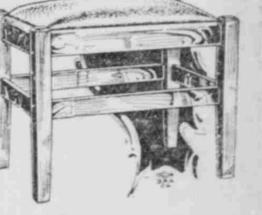
**LADIES' DESKS**  
This store is headquarters for ladies' writing desks. Over 30 patterns to select from in Mahogany, Fumed, Early English and Bird's Eye Maple finishes. A good piece of furniture for parlor or bedroom. Prices up from **\$5.75 to \$25.00**



**CHILD'S REED ROCKER**  
Strongly made of brown reed—has flat reed arms and is 22 inches high. Extra special at ..... **\$1.98**

**A List of Toys For Little Tots**

- Table and Chair Sets
- Grocery Stores
- Candy Stores
- Kitchen Cabinets
- Character Dolls
- Doll Cabs
- Tool Chests
- Wash Sets
- Blackboards
- Pianos
- Tool Benches
- Loaded Trucks
- Bassinettes
- Shoot-the-Chutes
- Boy Scout Drums
- Creeping Dolls
- Toy Farms
- Automobiles
- Baby Dolls
- Train and Tracks
- Desk and Chair Sets



**FOOT STOOL \$1.00**  
Comes in golden or fumed finish—covered with Imperial Spanish leather. Buy one today.

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