

TODAY'S PRICES
Mexican bank notes (state bills) \$16.94
-Mexican pesos (National bills) 17
-Carranza currency 1-1/2 Bar silver (Mex-
ico) 4.80
-Carranza currency (National bills) 17
-Carranza currency (National bills) 17
-Carranza currency (National bills) 17

HOME EDITION
WEATHER FORECAST
El Paso and West Texas, Fair; New Mex-
ico, fair; Arizona, fair, warmer.

LATEST NEWS BY ASSOCIATED PRESS. SINGLE COPY FIVE CENTS. EL PASO, TEXAS, MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 3, 1916. DELIVERED ANYWHERE 40 CENTS A MONTH. TWELVE PAGES TODAY.

FRANCE ACCEDES TO AMERICAN DEMANDS ALL FREE TRADE BARRIERS DETAINED GERMANS

Immediate Release Of Men Taken From U. S. Ships By Cruiser Ordered.

U. S. HAD CLAIMED SEIZURES ILLEGAL

Note To France Declared American Ships Same As American Soil.

FOOD PRODUCTS GO TO WARTIME PRICES IN THE U. S. DURING YEAR

With Exception of Three Years, Prices of Food in This Country Were Highest in 37 Years During 1914; Drug Prices Also Reach Record Prices for Many Years; Farm Products Sell For High Prices.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 2.—Food prices in the United States during 1914 were higher than at any time during the last 37 years with the exception of the years 1882, when they were four per cent higher than 1914 prices, 1883 when they were on the same level, and in 1912 when they were one per cent higher. The Bureau of Labor statistics, in its annual bulletin just issued on wholesale prices of commodities, reviewing the years from 1880 to 1914 discloses that in the 55 years food prices were highest in 1884, when they were 76 per cent more than 1914 prices, and lowest in 1888 when they were 49 per cent below.

ONE IS KILLED, OTHERS INJURED IN FIRE

Explosion Precedes Fire On Board Steamer Aztec At Brooklyn Drydock.

MANY MEN ARE CUT OFF IN HOLD

The Ship Had Just Returned From France and Had Been Placed In Drydock.

GEN. HUERTA VERY NEAR DEATH; DOCTORS FEAR HE HAS A CANCER

Quart of Pus is Removed From the Former Provisional President of Mexico, Who Refuses to Take Anesthetic, But Stoically Watches the Surgeons Cut Into His Side—Physical Condition Very Poor.

EMBASSY DELIVERS PROMISE TO U. S.

If Austrian Submarine Is To Blame, Satisfaction Will Be Given America.

U. S. IS AROUSED BY THE TRAGEDY

President Hastens To Washington To Take Charge During New Crisis.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 2.—The state department was officially advised today that the French government, in response to representations made by the United States, has ordered the immediate release of German prisoners recently removed from American ships on the high seas by the French cruiser Descartes.

This action of France accedes to the demands embodied in a note recently addressed by the state department to France calling for the release of the seized German on the ground that aliens were not entitled to seizure from American ships than from the American mainland.

Officers of the Descartes, in placing the German under arrest from three American ships, declared they had orders from the French ministry of marine authorizing them to take such action.

The seizures were made last month in the waters outside San Juan, Porto Rico.

Men held at Marlinjager.

The vessels today were received through the French embassy. The state department also was informed that the men arrested would be turned over to the American consul at Port de France, Marlinjager, where they were taken for detention.

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NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—One man was killed, ten were seriously injured and at least 18 others are missing, following an explosion and fire today on the steamship Aztec at a Brooklyn dry dock.

The explosion occurred in the hold, cut off from rescue by flames.

The Aztec was a Norwegian oil tanker, under charter to the Inter-Oceanic Transport company of this city. She arrived from France on December 24 and was at once sent into dry docks.

Gas Tank Explodes.

The fire was caused by the explosion of a 10,000 gallon tank of gas. The firemen who were summoned were driven back by the flames and could do nothing to aid the men who were believed to be below decks.

Other Tanks In Danger.

There were three other gas tanks on board, each holding 24,000 gallons. The imminent risk of the explosion of these tanks caused the police to order everyone from the vicinity.

The dockyards were besieged by a large crowd of women relatives of the crew and dock workers when the police had difficulty in handling.

No Escape For Trapped Men.

Five men were rescued after the fire started that they had been unable to escape. The other men were trapped on board the vessel when it occurred.

Members of the fire department said none of these men could possibly escape, as the ship was then completely covered by flames.

GEN. VICTORIANO HUERTA, former provisional president of Mexico, is near unto death at his home on west Boulevard. The aged general was operated upon Saturday afternoon and a quart of pus was taken from the gall bladder. A consultation of physicians was held as it was said that the symptoms were those of cancer of the gall bladder. The general was not in a good physical condition to stand the operation, but notwithstanding this he refused to take an anesthetic. Notably the aged general watched the doctors make the incision in his side and extract the pus. Shortly after the operation he fell into a sleep and apparently was greatly relaxed, but because of his weakened condition, the doctors are much concerned for his recovery.

A bulletin issued by Dr. M. P. Schuster at noon Monday said of the general's condition: "Pulse and temperature normal. Condition will be serious."

To Be Operated On Again.

Gen. Huerta will be operated upon again late this afternoon at his home. The operation will be a duplicate of that performed Saturday afternoon, when an incision was made in his right side and a quantity of liquid matter taken from him. The right side will be opened this afternoon and the draining operation will be repeated in order to relieve the condition of the old general's gall bladder.

Released on Own Recognizance.

Gen. Huerta has been released on his personal recognizance in the sum of \$500 awaiting the action of the grand jury in San Antonio on the charges brought against him of violating the neutrality laws. Mayor Tom Lea, whose firm, Lea, McFarley and Thompson, are attorneys for Gen. Huerta, received advice Monday morning that United States district attorney J. L. Camp had made a motion before Judge T. S. Maxey at San Antonio for the general's release on his personal recognizance, and the motion was granted.

According to the conditions of the bond on which the general was released, when arrested here on a charge of "conspiring to violate the neutrality laws of the United States," he was to appear at San Antonio today, to answer for trial, but, owing to his condition, assistant U. S. district attorney R. E. Crawford joined the general's lawyers in writing to district attorney Maxey at San Antonio and asking that the bond be not forfeited. It was also arranged that the general need not appear at San Antonio until the actual date of his trial. It is not necessary for him to appear before the grand jury, which will be charged today with investigating his case. The bond will continue in force to insure his appearance at court on the date of the trial and to insure that he will appear in court to answer for trial for this term of court, even if the general should survive his present ordeal. The guards who have been watching Gen. Huerta for several months past, were removed Saturday afternoon, following his operation, on the request of his attorneys.

Mr. Crawford left Sunday night for San Antonio, to be present at the term of court opening there today, in connection with the Huerta case and others in which he is interested.



VICTORIANO HUERTA

RUSSIANS GIVE BATTLE ON SEVERAL WAR FRONTS

Petrograd, Russia, Jan. 2.—That the Russians are giving battle on several fronts is indicated by the Russian official statement of Sunday night, which reads:

"On the Russian front: In the Higa region of the Eastern front, a live fire and bombardment occurred in which a German armored motor car was destroyed. In the district of Jacobstadt and near the Podunany farm, there was lively artillery and rifle firing. In the district of the Fomich railway, the Germans threw into our trenches some hand grenades and smoke bombs."

"North of Chortorysk the enemy twice attacked our fortifications but met with heavy losses and was thrown back on his own trenches. We captured an officer and 70 men."

"On the Strips front the enemy, under our pressure, was obliged to fall back on new fortified positions. A particularly fierce engagement occurred near Gornoye, where we occupied several heights and captured officers, 500 men, three machine guns and one bomb mortar."

RUSSIANS DRIVE ENEMY BACKWARD

Czar's Troops Gain on Galician Front; Advance West From Stripa.

London, Eng., Jan. 2.—The latest dispatches from the southern extremity of the Russian front indicate that heavy fighting is continuing with the Russian army of Gen. Ivanoff gaining ground in Galicia.

One correspondent reports these operations reached their offensive point on the part of the Austrians, designated to straighten their line, and that the Germans, who had been attacking the Russians, assumed the initiative. It is evident that the Russian advance has now extended a considerable distance beyond the Stripa river.

Two Offensives Clash.

In other dispatches it is asserted that two great offensive actions clashed, the Russian and the German, in the Balkan operations, while the Austrians and Germans felt the necessity of improving their positions against the attack expected from Gen. Ivanoff early in the spring.

Whatever may be the facts, there is no doubt that the result of these operations will be a decisive one, especially in the future plans of Rumania.

Tensions to Attack Saloniki.

It is reported that the central powers are planning an attack on Saloniki, but they are said to be experiencing difficulties with Bulgaria which, according to these reports, does not wish to participate in such a campaign unless it promises something more than the expulsion of the allies from Saloniki.

MUCH CONCERNED OVER FINANCIERS

Gov. Ferguson Sees Prosperity Ahead if All War Loans Are Stopped.

Austin, Texas, Jan. 2.—Governor Ferguson today expressed himself on the business and financial outlook for 1916 and what may be expected. He said:

"Though we have peace at home our relations with the world are such as to make our financial condition at all times controlled by conditions elsewhere. The war in Europe may last but a short time or it may last five years. I learned upon my recent trip east that the financiers of the world appear to be of the opinion that the war will last at least a year longer. However they all say that no more money will be loaned by the financial institutions of this country to the warring nations of Europe unless ample security is furnished on the road to victory."

Much Depends Upon Financiers.

Much depends upon the attitude assumed by the financiers of this nation in the next few years to come. Balled down to a short statement, it would be that the capital confines its activity and extends its aid to the people of the United States the business and financial outlook for 1916 and years to come offers much hope, happiness and prosperity to our people. If, on the other hand, our general public shall lose sight of the needs of the great masses of our people and shall continue to extend their loans to the warring nations that only promises financial gain to them and nothing for the good of the public, I do not hesitate to say that the financial outlook would offer small hope."

Let us feel our way carefully; let us have faith in each other; let us understand each other; let us cultivate each other, and with the inspiration that we have, let us hope that the financial activities of 1916 will be a milestone on the road to great achievements."

APPORTIONMENT OF \$1 PER CAPITA FOR SCHOOLS MADE

Austin, Texas, Jan. 2.—An apportionment of \$1 per capita based on the 1915-16 school census in the state, was today announced by Prof. W. F. Doughty, state superintendent of public instruction, the amount apportioned being \$3,129,152.

This makes \$1.50 to date that has been paid for the school fund for the year 1915-16, as against \$1 paid to January 1, 1915, on the apportionment of 1914-15.

The remainder of this year's apportionment will be prorated from month to month as funds accumulate in the state treasury for this purpose.

WILSON RETURNS TO WASHINGTON

Washington, D. C., Jan. 2.—Baron Zweidinek, charge of the Austrian embassy here, called at the state department today and declared that if it were found that the sinking of the British liner Persia was caused by an Austrian submarine, satisfaction and prompt reparation would be given the United States for the death of any Americans. It is believed here that the Austrian government may disavow the act, coming on the heels of the Arizona tragedy. The Austrian charge asked that judgment be suspended until the facts in connection with the sinking of the Persia are definitely ascertained.

Wilson Returns to Washington.

Unofficial dispatches from Cairo, Egypt, received here today, stated that the British steamship Persia, sunk in the Mediterranean on Thursday, was torpedoed without warning and sank in five minutes.

One hundred and fifty-eight survivors had been landed at Alexandria, Egypt.

Believe U. S. Consul Drowned.

Robert N. McNulty, American consul at Aden, Arabia, is believed to have been drowned. Reuter's Cairo correspondent was received inside it appear that the consul was last seen by Charles H. Grant, of Boston, was saved.

Details of the sinking of the Persia came in slowly but such information as was received inside it appear that the number of persons who escaped in the four boats which were put off was larger than was hoped when the first news was received Saturday. A Lloyd's dispatch gives the number of survivors as 153, made up of 53 passengers, of whom 15 are women, and 34 members of the crew, including 10 officers. The survivors include 10 military officers and eight persons who are not British subjects.

The ship was struck amidships on the port side at 1:10 p. m. says Reuter's correspondent at Cairo. "She had disappeared completely by 1:15."

"Survivors say it was little short of a miracle that anyone was saved. There was no panic. Four boats were launched with the utmost promptness."

"The captain was drowned. When last seen he was swimming after the liner had plunged beneath the surface."

Persia Mounted One Gun.

The state department instructed ambassador Penfield at Vienna to make inquiries for information to determine the nationality of the submarine and develop the facts in the case.

The fact that the Persia mounted one gun was disclosed in a dispatch from American consul Garret at Alexandria. What effect that will have on the situation, however, cannot be definitely determined until it is known whether the gun was mounted for offense or defense.

Wilson May Summon Leaders.

Chairman Stone, of the senate foreign relations committee, conferred with secretary of state Lansing at the secretary's invitation, but was non-committal about the visit. Senator Stone admitted that the abrogating crisis had been discussed and that he expected to confer with president Wilson on the latter's return tomorrow. He said he did not know whether the crisis would be considered by the foreign relations committee "just yet."

There seemed to be a growing impression in official quarters that to narrow the president may call the congressional leaders together and act.

(Continued on page 3, Col. 7.)

CONSCRIPTION WILL NOT BE EXTENDED TO IRELAND

London, Eng., Jan. 2.—It is now believed that the conscription bill to be introduced in parliament by the premier will not include Ireland, inasmuch as it is feared that an attempt to conscript even Ireland's unmarried men might lead to disorders in that country.

Nevertheless, it is believed the Nationalist party in Ireland will fight a compulsory military service bill. The Ulster party is expected to take the opposite side. So far as England and Scotland are concerned, no great opposition to the conscription plan is expected in parliament.

ARMENIANS ARE SUFFERING MORE THAN EVER BEFORE

Denver, Colo., Jan. 2.—Thirty thousand Armenian refugees at Uruphah are suffering more than ever before, according to a letter received by Rev. Dr. Frank T. Bailey from his daughter, Mrs. Harry P. Packard, a missionary.

The letter, written in October, said there was absolutely no food for the refugees and that the Armenian refugees were trying to secure one bed comforter for each family, there being no hope for securing more than that amount.

Mrs. Packard's husband, Dr. Harry Packard, is ministering to Armenian women and girls who had been mistreated by Turks. According to the letter, girls seven and ten years old had been violated.

GEN. SCOTT SUGGESTS PLAN FOR CENSORSHIP

Washington, D. C., Jan. 2.—In the annual report of Maj. Gen. H. L. Scott, chief of staff, now made public, there is a suggestion that an army officer and a navy officer be assigned to confer with heads of newspapers, magazines and press associations regarding censorship to be established in time of war over all publications and means of communication. The report further suggests:

"That such a measure, after approval by the judges advocate general of the army, be either submitted to congress or be periodically renewed when conditions seem to warrant favorable action, as the president may deem proper. Regulations should include record of each cable, wireless and telegraph station which would require supervision by censor; lists of all newspapers, periodicals and correspondence, selection of army and navy officers, preferably retired, and of experienced newspaper men as personnel of the censorate post."

SAYS CONGRESS WILL VOTE \$4,000,000 TO FIGHT CANKER

Austin, Texas, Jan. 2.—Ed L. Ayers, head of the bureau of inspection, division of the state department of agriculture, who returned today from a two weeks stay at Washington, D. C., announced that congress will without doubt make the appropriation of \$4,000,000 to be used by the southern states in the elimination of citrus canker.

Mr. Ayers has been at Washington representing the Texas department in connection with this appropriation, and says that it has been practically agreed that seven states in the south that produce citrus fruit will be beneficiaries through this appropriation.

DEDICATION OF ELEPHANT BUTTE DAM TO BE HELD HERE NEXT FALL

United States Government Orders Exercises to Take Place in El Paso Simultaneously With the Meeting Here of International Farm Congress-Soil Products Exposition and the Irrigation Congress.

ALLIES ORDER 1500 MILES OF PIPE TO EGYPT

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 2.—Fifteen hundred miles of wrought iron pipe are being loaded here on the British steamer Shadwell and Oceana. It is understood the pipe is to be used for an immense water system for their camps in the Egyptian desert.

The Shadwell and the Oceana are expected to leave Baltimore on Tuesday or Wednesday, bound for Alexandria, Egypt. Under the three mile limit they will be met by a convoy of allied warships, big enough, it was stated, to put beyond possibility any disaster to the cargo.

PEAR AMERICAN KILLED'S RETREAT

Douglas, Ariz., Jan. 2.—Pear, an American, was killed by Villa troops during Villa's recent retreat through Arizona. Anson, who was partially paralyzed, remained at the Milator mine near the Sonora-Chihuahua line after other foreigners had fled. Since then his friends have heard nothing of him.

The War At a Glance

THERE is still uncertainty regarding the number of lives lost in the sinking of the liner Persia, but it is feared the death list may reach 200. Washington is reserving judgment regarding the sinking of the ship.

Japanese Squadron to Suez.—Sinking of the Japanese freighter Kankoku Maru by a German submarine was announced in Tokyo today. Japan has decided to send a squadron to the Suez canal waters, presumably for the protection of Japanese vessels, a Tokio newspaper announced.

Pacifics Go Through Germany.—Under strict regulations the Henry Ford peace party has been given permission to pass through Germany. The party is expected to have been on the British steamer Glyndale, sunk in the Mediterranean on Sunday while homeward bound from Shanghai.

British reports the success of German mining operations on a large scale on the western front.

French Returnees Seized Germans.—Germans recently removed from American ships on the high seas by the French cruiser Descartes have been ordered released by the French government.

W. I. DRUMMOND, chairman of the board of governors of the International Farm congress, is in receipt of a letter from the department of the interior at Washington notifying him that the department will instruct the United States reclamation service to hold the exercises of the formal dedication of the Elephant Butte dam in El Paso at the time of the holding of the International Farm congress and Soil Products exposition and International Irrigation congress next fall.

Mr. Drummond was also notified that the department of the interior will make an effort to join with the department of agriculture in making a creditable exhibit at the Soil Products show.

The department of agriculture has been in the habit of making exhibits at the Soil Products expositions since the first one was inaugurated years ago. The cost of the agricultural department's exhibit at Denver last September was \$10,000, and it is expected that the Denver exhibit will at least be duplicated, if not exceeded, by the exhibit to be made at El Paso by the government next fall.

Mr. Drummond has received replies from the governors of nearly all the states of the union with the exception of Mississippi, endorsing the International Farm congress and agreeing that not only should their respective states be represented by exhibits in the Soil Products exposition, but saying that they would make earnest endeavors to secure the necessary appropriation.

Unfortunately the legislatures of a number of western states will not meet

BASEBALL COMMISSION IS DISCUSSING PLED PLAYERS

Cincinnati, O., Jan. 2.—With several matters before it pertaining to the peace treaty recently signed here, the National Baseball commission began its annual session shortly after noon today.

It became known today that the question as to whether former Federal league players would be subject to the waiver rule had been incorporated in the peace treaty, but that in making numerous corrections, it had been omitted from the agreement.

KING PETER OF SERBIA TO VISIT GREEK KING

Athens, Greece, Jan. 2.—King Peter of Serbia will go to Athens to visit King Constantine after an inspection of the Serbian troops at Saloniki, it is generally believed.

HERALD BEST BUSINESS GETTER

Editor El Paso Herald:

We cannot restrain ourselves from complimenting you upon the value of your want ads.

We recently had occasion to use a half-inch ad for three times, asking for high-class representatives. Judging from the phenomenal results obtained, we believe you have an unusually large circulation, not only in El Paso, but throughout New Mexico, Arizona and Texas.

We are using some 20 newspapers, in different sections of the country, and the results from your paper exceed those from any other paper by 100 percent.

We will use your paper exclusively in the future, as we want results, and have set The Herald want ads above all others.

Trans-Pecos Oil Company,
By F. R. Rogers, Sales Manager.

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