Associated Press Leased Wire Report

THE ROCK ISLAND ARGUS.

Member of Audit Bureau of Circulations

SIXTY-SIXTH YEAR NO. 54. WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20, 1916—SIXTEEN PAGES. PRICE TWO CENTS.

PEACE GAINS WAY

BRITISH PLAN FOR SHIPPING PUZZLES U.S.

Nationalization Mentioned by Lloyd George Causes Stir in America.

WONDER AT ITS EFFECT

What It Would Do to Foreign Trade and Sub Situation Questioned.

[illegible]

Aid To Sub Situation

[illegible]

EXPLOSION CAUSES STAMPEDE IN MINE

[illegible]

SAFE BLOWERS GET $20,000 OUT OF BANK

[illegible]

THE WAR TODAY

Further developments in the peace movement in Europe now await the presentation of the formal reply of the entente allies to the proposals of the central powers. David Lloyd-George, the British premier, and Premier Briand of France have indicated that this reply will speedily be forthcoming.

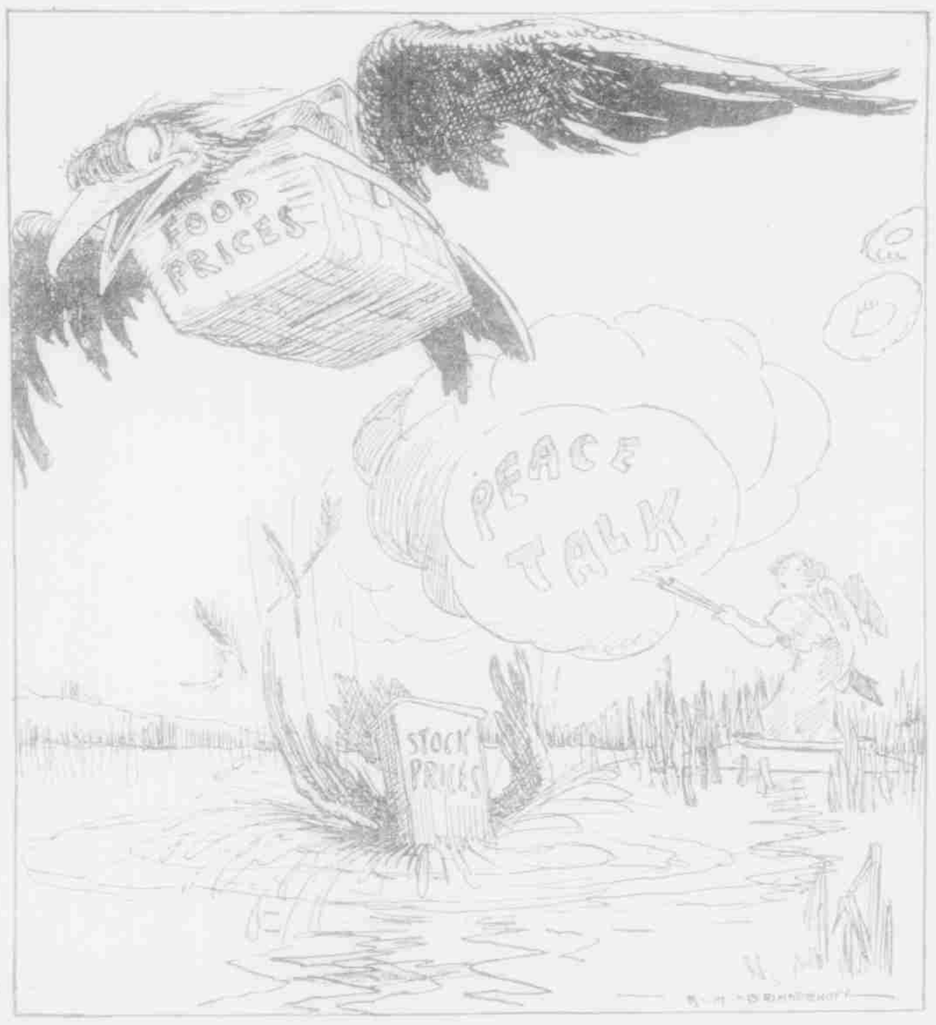
Military operations in the European field of war are at a low ebb.

The driving campaign of Field Marshal von Mackensen in Rumania seems nearly at an end. In any event, whether or not some further move of an important nature is in contemplation in this war theatre, the reports show comparative quiet to be prevailing at present.

On the Franco-Belgian front also there is a lull with the quieting down of the recent activity at Verdun while latest reports from both the Russian and Austro-Italian fronts show little but artillery duels and skirmishes.

In Macedonia, the reports show rains and fog prevailing with no military movements with the exception of patrol engagements.

"NEVER TOUCHED ME"



Homeless of Rumania Go Over to Russ

Petrograd Dec 19. (via London Dec. 20, 2:55 a. m.)—The passage across the Russian frontier of thousands of Rumanians who have abandoned their homes and property in the care of the invading Germans and Bulgarians has cast the shadow of a new refugee problem on the Russian empire. These refugees have been pouring into Odessa, Kiev, and other southern Russian cities in a destitute and helpless condition and present a problem which threatens to be more difficult even than which has confronted a belligerent power since the invasion of Belgium.

Russia has only partly succeeded in colonizing and assimilating the millions of homeless Poles, Jews and members of other races who fled to the interior during the first year and a half of the war. The magnitude of Russia's economic burden is appreciable when it is considered that the country has received already since the beginning of the war a refugee population far exceeding the combined population of the Scandinavian countries while the resources of the country have been taxed to the utmost to provide for the wandering peoples.

The wretched condition of the refugees has been steadily improved through the systematic efforts of the Russian government working through the various refugee committees.

The American relief committee, headed by Thomas Whitemore, working in conjunction with the Tatiana committee, organized by the empress, has made valuable contributions to the relief work.

WIDELY KNOWN ACTRESS DEAD.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—Mrs. Andrew Waldron, 79 years old, widely known to theatregoers of the 80's in New York and Chicago as Jennie Calef of the Calef sisters, a team of soubrettes, is dead at her home here. Mrs. Waldron retired 20 years ago.

RUSS TROOPS REPEL ENEMY

Petrograd, Dec. 20 (British admiralty per wireless.)—Russian troops operating in the region of the river Bystritsa, in Galicia, says the Russian official statement issued today, broke through the barbed wire entanglements in front of the Austro-German advanced post yesterday and penetrated into Bohordczany Stare, southwest of Stanislau. The Teutons are said to have fled in disorder, leaving some prisoners in the hands of the Russians.

200 YANKEES DETAINED IN SYRIA LET GO

Turkish Military Authorities to Free Americans Long Held Prisoners.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The 200 Americans detained in Syria and Palestine by the Turkish military authorities have been granted permission to leave via Beirut on condition that they be kept at Beirut for a month to make valueless any military information they may have.

The United States has repeatedly made diplomatic efforts to free the Americans, some of whom are missionaries and others naturalized citizens. Ambassador Elkus at Constantinople reported the porte's action to the state department today. Efforts will be made to have the time of internment shortened.

The cruiser Des Moines, now at Alexandria, will go to Beirut to take on the refugees.

STATES' ATTORNEYS FOR ASSEMBLE DEC. 28

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 20.—Illinois state's attorneys are to meet here Dec. 28 and 29. Reform in criminal procedure will be under discussion. Governor Dunne and Governor-elect Lowden have been asked to speak at a banquet the first day of the convention.

Latest Bulletins

San Salvador, Republic of Salvador, Dec. 20. — A volcanic explosion near the small village of Lower Vera Paz, Guatemala, has caused the death of 15 persons.

Brest, Dec. 20.—The British steamship Flimston has been sunk by a submarine. Her captain and first engineer were taken prisoners. The others of the crew were rescued.

Juarez Dec. 20.—Bandelio Uribe, a follower of Villa, who is said to have instituted the practice of cutting off the ears of Carranza prisoners, and 17 of his band were executed by "home guards" and "many Villa troops" killed in a battle southwest of Chihuahua City, a member of the "home guards" reported today.

Say English Food Ruling Is a Failure

London, Dec 20.—According to some of the newspapers (no days' experience of the first food control measure, which regulates the supplies and prices of courses served in hotels and restaurants) has been sufficient to prove a failure. They say that not only has it failed to check consumption, but that in many instances it has increased it. It is claimed that there is no supervision and that many customers imagine that they can indulge in several servings of the same dish, without having more than one course counted against them have avoided themselves freely of this imposition. Moreover, there is nothing to prevent any one from taking a succession of meals in different places. The papers urge food tickets or a tax on hotels and restaurant bills in Paris.

BOSTONIANS VOTE TO KEEP SALOONS

In Hottest Fight In History of City Wets Clinch Victory With 53,459 Against 29,997.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 20. Boston yesterday voted to continue the licensed sale of liquor after the hottest campaign on the liquor question that the city has had in years. The vote in favor of license was 53,459, with 29,997 against. Last year the vote for license was 46,115 and 31,877 against.

Boston has been in the license column for 41 consecutive years. In 1875 the city was "dry."

North Adams went to license yesterday for the first time in 29 years by a vote of 1,624 to 1,596. Last year the license forces won, 1,241 to 1,557.

MORE MEN TO QUIT BORDER

San Antonio, Dec. 20.—Dates for departure of several national guard organizations, included in the 16,000 troops designated to leave the border and return home to be mustered out of the federal service, have been set. The first to get away will be the Illinois signal company at Camp Wilson, scheduled to start tomorrow. Other units are scheduled to move as follows: Iowa engineers, Brownsville, Dec. 22; Seventh Illinois infantry, San Antonio, Dec. 27.

BRITAIN BELIEVES BERLIN WILL ACCEPT INVITATION TO CITE TEUTONIC TERMS

Public of Great Britain Has Much to Reflect With New Premier!

DOMESTIC PLANS BIG

Program of New Government Too Broad in Scope to Easily Adjust.

London, Dec. 20. (11:17 a. m.)—The British public had much to reflect on this morning. The reply of Premier Lloyd-George to the German peace proposals has been anticipated and passages of his speech dealing with that question appeared in the late editions of yesterday evening's newspapers. The domestic program of the new government however, was not published until this morning, and it was but too well and too fully indicated by the immediate crystallization of opinion.

The most important of these points formulated by the premier was the general mobilization of labor for war and the vital industries. Mr. Lloyd-George intended to await to begin with a voluntary plan and that if this failed he would ask parliament to give the government compulsory powers to place all the labor of the state at its services. His proposal therefore follows somewhat on the line of the Gorthas mass levy.

Labor Problem Acute.

When Mr. Lloyd George invited the labor representatives to join his cabinet this scheme was put before them, but they deferred judgment until the bills were given to them. While expressing the opinion that after examination of the bills that, after compulsory military service, industrial conscription is not impracticable the labor leaders are dubious as to its success feeling the outcome depends entirely on how the workmen take it. If there is passion in the ranks and the of organized labor, the scheme, they believe, will fail.

Up to Chamberlain.

The task allotted to Neville Chamberlain, who has been appointed director general of national service for scheduling certain industries as indispensible and concerning itself with the necessary labor and material, and at the same time putting the indispensable industries on "dole" allowances of labor, raw material and man power is considered a stupendous one, but Mr Chamberlain's great experience in business is expected to carry him through. He will have a military director under him to conduct recruiting for the army and a civil director in charge of recruiting for industry.

To Adopt French System.

Dealing with the relations of the war cabinet with the general government, Mr Lloyd-George suggested that the connection be maintained by circulation of reports of the proceedings of the cabinet. As to parliament, he hinted that the French committee system might be adopted.

Shipping and coal mines are to be put under the same kind of control as railways.

Irish Question Hopeful.

The fact that the premier passed straight from Ireland to the imperial conference suggests that he hopes to find a solution of the Irish problem in this conference. It had been promised previously that Ireland would be one of the subjects of discussion at the next imperial conference and as most of the dominions favor some form of home rule it is believed this would be the next means of settling the long-disputed question.

The government probably will require the whole eight weeks of the parliamentary recess to produce the measures foreshadowed, which also include more drastic dealing with excess profits and an increase in food production by an extension of cultivation.

THE WEATHER

Forecast Till 7 P. M. Tomorrow, for Rock Island, Davenport, Moline and Vicinity.

Unsettled weather and continued colder tonight and Thursday, with the lowest temperature tonight at about 5 degrees below zero.

Temperature at 7 a. m., zero. Highest yesterday, 24. Lowest last night, 2 degrees below zero.

Precipitation, .18 inch.

Relative humidity at 7 p. m., 78; at 7 a. m., 93; at 1 p. m., 71.

Stage of water, 2.8 feet, with a fall of .4 of a foot in the last 24 hours.

J. M. SHERIER, Local Forecaster.

Amsterdam, Holland, Dec. 20. (via London, 1:30 p. m.)—The Neue Freie Journal published in Vienna says:

"The reply of the entente allies to the peace proposals of the central powers will certainly be as equivocal as the speeches of Premier Lloyd-George, Premier Briand and the British former minister, Baron Rosebery. Never, unless the idea of peace has made a step forward."

GERMAN PAPERS HIT PEACE REPLY

Lloyd-George's Speech Sharply Criticized By Press Throughout Germany.

Amsterdam, Dec. 20. (via London, 12:50 a. m.)—Commenting on Premier Lloyd-George's speech the Tageblatt of Berlin says:

"Reparation must be demanded by England now if Germany had declared war on England if we were so blind on the war, if we had committed crimes against international law and if we had been defeated."

The Lokal Anzeiger takes the viewpoint that Mr. Lloyd-George's remarks about reparation are of no value because much as nothing has been said about war aims or peace conditions.

The paper continues: "If Lloyd-George means to reinforce or stiffen Europe's desire for peace, until the time when the entente is successful in conquering Germany, Austria and those of our allies, then the whole of Europe, as well as Lloyd-George, knows full well that his accomplishment means mortal war, rather it is in the power of the German command to bring it to an earlier term when Lloyd-George supposes.

The Vossische says it seems to avoid the grounded reply of the entente, saying:

"For the present it appears that the gulf is very great between Lloyd-George's standpoint and that of nations from the German and all the neutral powers."

The following is from the morning newspaper Vorwaerts:

Lloyd-George says that whoever seriously proposes the war will hear a stone upon his soul. The last three words imply strong self condemnation if England repeats the machinations offered by the central powers."

NATIONAL PROBE OF COAL NEEDED

Chicago Dealers Declare Situation Is Too Broad for State and City Investigations.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—Following a series of conferences Chicago coal dealers, facing a possible coal famine, today announced that an appeal for an inquiry into the local situation had been made to the federal trade commission.

After stating their view that the shortage in fuel began in New England a year ago and since has extended to the Rocky mountains, the dealers made this statement:

"The cause must be dealt with according to its dimensions. The coal shortage is national. An investigation that is less broad than the cause must fail in its purpose. Local investigations by cities and states will do no good."

Railroad men and coal dealers asserted today, however, that they saw some relief from the shortage, which seriously handicapped the heating of some of the larger buildings in the city, in the fact that coal has begun to move into Chicago again.

PASSENGER TRAIN WRECKED; ONE DEAD

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 20.—One passenger was killed and several persons injured when the Seminole limited, from Jacksonville for Chicago, running on the Central of Georgia railway tracks, was derailed today nine miles from Opelika, Ala.

WAR CRITIC QUITS PAPER.

Amsterdam, via London, Dec. 20.—The Deutsche Tages Zeitung says that Major Moraht has ceased to be military critic of the Tageblatt and has joined another paper. It is supposed that he was unable to agree with the Tageblatt's attitude during the war.

If Germany Desires to End the War British Believe She Will Accede.

MUST SHOW HER HAND

Is Declared Up to Teutonic Allies to Make "Show Down" to Entente.

London, Dec. 20. (10:15 a. m.)—Premier Lloyd-George's reply to Germany's peace proposal meets with a chorus of approval in the British press and the general comment is that if Germany really wants peace she will, when the joint reply of the allies is received, state terms which can form a basis of discussion. The Manchester Guardian says:

"Premier Lloyd-George has not shut the door on peace with that resounding bang for which some of his less balanced supporters in the press have been clamoring. It is true he insisted on the impossibility of accepting the German invitation as it stands. In this he was only seconded by Mr. Asquith and will be approved by the country. The German chancellor must be much more modest and more explicit before he can expect any favorable answer to his overtures. But the real delight in the situation which he offer created was that the allies, this country in particular, might be let loose on a direct and sweeping refusal, not merely of the actual invitation but of any proposal for discussion peace terms. This share Lloyd-George has avoided.

Invitation Not Rejection.

The Guardian says that as the speech invited Germany to be more explicit, "we do not then cast out every idea of settlement and the neutral world cannot take exception to this attitude."

The Guardian notes that the speech contained no idea of the crushing of Germany, but says discussion of any matter is conditioned on restitution. In the present form, it continues, reparation is impossible for the despoiled women cannot be undone.

"Reparation we certainly require," the Guardian continues. "The best security is the firm, unbroken front of the alliance formed when the war ends, be a more great league to enforce peace. In such a league America would play a great part, and her presence alone would be no small security."

Expressing the opinion that Premier Briand and Baron Sonnino will adopt the attitude that the proposals of the entente allies, as outlined by Mr. Lloyd-George, formed a basis for discussion, the Guardian says:

"There is in this as in all countries at war, a great volume of opinion, too little vocal, unfortunately, in favor of a serious effort on the part of Europe's statesmen to put an end to the curious which is desolating the whole generation of the young.

COAL SEIZED FOR SHIVERING POOR

Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 20.—Police Sergeant Skinner and half a dozen patrolmen, by order of Mayor MacVicar, this afternoon seized a car load of coal in the local yards of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad. The mayor announced that the coal was to be delivered to the poor. Policemen mounted guard over the coal.

The mayor informed the railroad and the Bloomfield Coal company, owners of the coal, that it had been seized "by virtue of dire necessity and in accordance with the law."

A check, paying for the coal at the prevailing wholesale rate was mailed the coal company.

DAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE.

Senator Newlands urged compromise flood control bill before commerce committee.

Resumed consideration of District of Columbia prohibition bill.

HOUSE.

Considered urgent deficiency appropriation bill.

Rear Admirals Strauss and Griffin testified before the naval affairs committee. General Crozier appeared before military affairs committee.