

## KEYSTONE STATE IN SHORT ORDER

Latest News Happenings Gathered From Here and There.

### TOLD IN SHORT PARAGRAPHS

**Sunbury Fire Leaves Three Families Homeless—Ends Life By Jumping In Path Of Freight Train. Worry Led To Suicide.**

Charles Smith, of Emaus, is dying in the Allentown Hospital from the effects of a self-inflicted bullet wound. There is also in Emaus Charles H. Smith, assistant fire chief, to whom a borough check for six dollars for extra services was mailed several days ago. Not getting the check, Charles H. Smith began to make inquiries and found the letter containing the check had been handed by the mail man to plain Charles Smith. Being out of work and money, he had the check cashed. When an officer arrived to arrest him he begged to be excused a moment to go upstairs. As soon as he got up a shot was heard and they found him unconscious on the floor.

After an all-night chase, the police rounded up Edward Curry, 19; William Noonan, 23; William Merritts, 24, and Raymond Richard, 19, charged with robbing the J. G. Metz hardware store, and Joseph Stern's clothing store in Williamsburg. Dr. G. E. Baker, who surprised them at work, identified the one who drove him away at the point of a revolver. Noonan and Merritts were found in the cellar of a log cabin on the outskirts of Altoona, and threatened to shoot the police, but were overpowered and disarmed. The gang confessed and was held for the Grand Jury.

Grief over the suffering and hardships which he thought his wife and two children must have been enduring in their native Austria-Hungary, while he was powerless to help them, is supposed to have driven Andres Kundrek, forty-five years old, formerly of Port Kennedy, to suicide. His body was found floating in the Schuylkill River below Reading. He had been missing since last November.

Fire made three families homeless, and because of poor water pressure threatened to wipe out the business district of Sunbury. The damage was \$7,500. The blaze started in the center of the business district and firemen say the stream of water would not reach the top of a two-story house. The flames communicated to the homes of William Mohn, William Bingham and Ernest Auckers, which were destroyed.

Twenty-five head of cows, seven pigs and two goats on the R. W. Schrack farm, Cain Township, were killed by order of the State Livestock Board because one cow was affected with apthous fever. The farm has been placed under strict quarantine. Inspectors hoped that the disease had been wiped out in Chester county, but this latest finding causes much anxiety among farmers thereabouts.

Helen Smith, nurse at the Burns Private Hospital, Scranton, and Maurice McDonald, college football hero and son of former Senator M. E. McDonald, were married January 14. They had planned to keep the marriage secret until the bride graduated in June, but the bride told a nurse and the nurse let the secret slip, while at a soda fountain.

H. W. Sweeney, said to be a member of a prominent McKeesport family, was held under bail for court by a Shamokin justice, charged with passing a \$50.00 check through a local bank. The paper bore the name of E. S. Erb, a well-known resident of State College, who pronounced it a forgery.

Spurred by the efforts of the W. C. T. U. of Emaus, to jail a number of business men, State Senator Schantz, of Lehigh county, has introduced a bill in the Legislature to repeal that part of the Blue Laws which prevents the sale or delivery of necessities of life on Sundays.

The Allentown carpenters' unions have demanded thirty-seven and one-half cents an hour, fifty hours to constitute a week's work, and the contractors to pay fare when they are sent to work out of town. The rate last year was thirty-five cents an hour.

A man about twenty-five years old, well-dressed in a dark blue suit, gray golf cap, threw himself in front of a Lehigh Valley freight train at Yateville, a suburb. He was instantly killed.

Calvin B. Reedy, employed at the Reading Hardware Plant, Reading, since it was established fifty-five years ago, was stricken with apoplexy at his home there and died in a few minutes.

Laura, wife of George Houston, of Walnutport, thirty-eight years old, died of apoplexy, with which she was stricken while calling at the home of friends.

## GERMAN REPLY TO UNITED STATES

Is a Firm Reiteration of the Retaliation Plan.

### SELF-DEFENSE MEASURE

Points Out With Great Emphasis Big Traffic In Arms Between This Country and Allies—Papers Characterize Reply As Satisfactory.

Berlin, via Amsterdam.—The text of the German reply to the United States' protest against the submarine blockade was made public, and it is, as expected, a firm reiteration of the German claim that her action is a legitimate retaliation against English methods.

In tone the answer is especially friendly to the United States, but it is carefully set forth that Germany took the steps she did only after mature deliberation and "because the English measures are in violation of the accepted principles of international law." The German Government is declared to be "in accord with the United States that it is in a high degree desirable to avoid misunderstandings which might arise from the measures announced by the German Admiralty."

Reference is made to the note of February 4, which, it is stated, "accurately set forth the reasons for the German action."

#### "Measure Of Self-Defense."

"This action is in no way a measure directed against the commerce of neutrals," it says, "but represents solely a measure of self-defense imposed on Germany by her vital interests against England's methods of warfare."

It is stated that Germany at all times has adhered to the valid international rules of warfare and agreed at the very outset of the war to ratify the principles of the declaration of London. It is pointed out that until today Germany has permitted the transportation of provisions from Denmark although she has always been in position to prevent it.

Germany also subscribes to the note of the United States to England on December 29, protesting against British interference with American shipping. The holding up of the Wilhelm's cargo of foodstuffs is referred to as a flagrant breach of international law.

Germany is declared to be off from her overseas supply by the "silent or protesting toleration of neutrals, both as regards conditions and actual contraband of war, while Great Britain is, with the toleration of neutral governments, supplied with both."

#### As To Traffic In Arms.

"The German Government," explains the note, "feels itself obliged to point out with the greatest emphasis that a traffic in arms, estimated at many hundreds of millions, is being carried on between American firms and Germany's enemies. Germany fully comprehends that the practice of right and the toleration of wrong on the part of the neutrals are matters absolutely at the discretion of the neutrals and involve no formal violation of neutrality."

This, it is declared, is merely pointed out because Germany feels that her legitimate commerce rights are severely prejudiced by the fact that neutrals "in safeguarding their rights in legitimate commerce with Germany, according to international law, have up to the present achieved no, or only insignificant results while they are making unlimited use of their right by carrying on contraband traffic with Great Britain and our other enemies."

Obliged To Take Step. It is pointed out that neutrals have the right, which they should exercise, of forcing the cessation of contraband trade, especially in arms, with Germany's enemies. The note then concludes:

"In view of this situation, Germany, after six months of patient waiting, sees herself obliged to answer Great Britain's murderous method of naval warfare with sharp counter-measures. If Great Britain in her fight against Germany summons hunger as an ally for the purpose of imposing upon a civilized people of 70,000,000 the choice between destitution and starvation or submission to Great Britain's commercial will, then Germany today is determined to take up the gauntlet and appeal to similar allies."

Satisfactory, Say Papers. All the German newspapers characterize the German reply as eminently satisfactory to the nation.

Great interest has been aroused by a statement written by Count von Reventlow, the naval expert and critic.

#### TO FIGHT PLAGUE IN HAVANA.

Measures To Be Adopted Approved By Surgeon General Blue.

Washington, D. C.—Surgeon General Blue, of the Public Health Service, approved measures for fighting a bubonic plague outbreak in Havana suggested by cable by Surgeon Giegorio Gutierrez, who was sent from Key West to investigate. There have been three human cases of the plague reported, all of them ending fatally, according to the dispatch from Surgeon Gutierrez.

## FAIR OPENS



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In which he declares that, if anything, the Government has been too conciliatory.

"These shipments of weapons to our enemies referred to by the Government," says Reventlow, "have filled public opinion in Germany with deep indignation and bitterness against the United States. Statistics of the amount of these shipments show the Germans are not justified in speaking of friendly relations."

#### Not Safe Without Convoys.

He declares that unless United States ships are escorted by United States warships submarine commanders cannot be made responsible for their safety.

The Tageblatt characterizes the reply as "calmly firm and an excellent document."

Die Post declares that the note "must convince America that neither the German people nor its leaders will give way in weakly compliance or fear, as plainly is hoped in Washington."

#### MOST COSTLY OF ALL WARS.

\$10,000,000,000 a Year the Cost To the Allies.

London.—The countries fighting against Germany, Austria and Turkey up to the present time have thrown only a third of their strength into the field. To maintain this force and to bring the remaining two-thirds into action will cost £2,000,000,000 (\$10,000,000,000).

This announcement was made in the House of Commons by David Lloyd-George, chancellor of the exchequer, who, with Winston Spencer Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, gave the British public perhaps a closer view of the machinery behind the great struggle than any that has been afforded since the outbreak of the war.

#### NOTED EX-OUTLAW DEAD.

Frank James, Among Last Of James Gang, Succumbs To Apoplexy.

Excelsior Springs, Mo.—Frank James, one of the last surviving members of the notorious James gang, died on his farm near here. James, who was 74 years old, had been in ill health several months, and was stricken with apoplexy early today. One of the last members of a notorious robber band whose almost unparalleled career of crime during the Civil War and the unsettled period that followed kept the people of a dozen States in terror, Frank James had been living the life of a quiet farmer for more than 30 years.

#### DIES AFTER 59-DAY FAST.

Tailor Tried Starvation For Stomach Trouble.

Palo Alto, Cal.—Louis C. Roth, a tailor, died here from starvation, self-inflicted, in an effort to dissipate stomach trouble. Roth began a contest with his malady in the middle of December and for 59 days abstained from food. Last Sunday he announced that his appetite had returned and that he felt himself the victor of his complaint. After that he took small quantities of orange juice, but the weakened digestive organs were unable to retain the nourishment.

#### NO EXTRA SESSION.

Fate Of Ship Bill Will Not Influence Wilson, 'Tis Said.

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson has virtually decided not to call an extra session of Congress on March 5, no matter what the fate of the Ship Bill. No official announcement of his intention was made, but in congressional quarters it is well understood. Work was begun on mapping out the details of the President's trip to the San Francisco Exposition.

## BRITAIN TO CAST WAR RULES ASIDE

Note to U. S. Brings Warning of Drastic Plans.

### FORCED TO IT, SAYS GREY

Reply To Protest Against Interference With Commerce Declares England Has Been Considerate Of Neutrals' Rights.

Washington, D. C.—Great Britain's second and complete reply to the American note of protest, which on December 28 last asked for an early improvement in the treatment of American commerce by the British fleet, was made public by mutual agreement between the State Department and the British Foreign Office.

While dealing mainly with the subject presented by the diplomatic communication from Washington, the note contains a plain intimation that Great Britain, in retaliation for the campaign against British shipping which the German Admiralty has announced it will inaugurate, is about to embark upon a plan of warfare in which rules and precedents will be disregarded.

#### To Retaliate Against Germany.

The note, addressed to Ambassador Page by Sir Edward Grey under date of February 10, denies that the depression in American industries is due to the activity of the British fleet, and suggests, among other causes, the shortage of shipping facilities, the consequent diminution of cotton trade and the destruction by submarine mines, "laid by the enemy indiscriminately," of many neutral vessels.

After giving a lengthy and detailed answer to the charge that American ships and cargoes were being unduly detained, the communication contains in its concluding paragraph the announcement that Great Britain intends to take retaliatory measures against the German submarine campaign against enemy ships, but does not reveal their nature.

Conceding that foodstuffs intended for the civil population of a country are not contraband, the British Government points out that "in any country in which there exists such tremendous organization for war as now obtains in Germany, there is no clear division between those whom the Government is responsible for feeding and those whom it is not."

"It will still be our endeavor," says the final paragraph, "to avoid injury and loss to neutrals, but the announcement by the German Government of their intention to sink merchant vessels and their cargoes without verification of their nationality or character and without making any provision for the safety of non-combatant crews or giving them a chance of saving their lives, has made it necessary for his Majesty's Government to consider what measures they should adopt to protect their interests. It is impossible for one belligerent to depart from rules and precedents and for the other to remain bound by them."

#### LOCK HEAD OF BANK IN CLOSET.

Chicago Bandits Then Make Off With \$2,000.

Chicago.—Four men entered the Western Savings Bank, a private institution on the West Side, forced President Frank Roti into a closet and ran away with \$2,000 they took from the vault. Roti was alone in the bank when the robbers came in.

#### ESCAPE ON JUDGE'S HORSE.

Three Convicts Dig Their Way Out Of Philippi, W. Va., Jail.

Grafton, W. Va.—Howard Davison, convicted cattle thief awaiting transportation to State penitentiary to serve three years, and two other prisoners dug their way out of the Harbour County Jail, at Philippi. They escaped after stealing Judge A. G. Dayton's saddle horse. A posse hunting for the jailbreakers found the horse 30 miles from Philippi.

## A GREAT HAUL FOR GERMANS

64,000 Russian Prisoners and Over 150 Guns Taken.

### AN IKMENSE LOT OF BOOTY

Emperor William's Joyous Message Of Victory To the President Of the Province Of East Prussia.

Berlin.—The president of the Province of East Prussia, at Koenigsberg, has received the following telegram from Emperor William, who has been on the eastern battlefield:

"The Russians are completely beaten. Our beloved East Prussia is free from the enemy."

The official report on the progress of the fighting given out in Berlin says that the Russians taken prisoner by the Germans in East Prussia now number 64,000 men. Continuing, the report says:

Engagements near Plock and Raciez have been decided in favor of the Germans. In these encounters we have taken up to the present 3,500 prisoners.

There is nothing new to report from the south of the Vistula River in Poland.

The results obtained near the East Prussian frontier are increasing in our favor. In addition to the 64,000 prisoners, we have taken 71 guns, more than 100 machine guns, three hospital trains, aircraft, 150 cars filled with ammunition, searchlights, countless cars filled with goods and horses. A further increase of booty can be expected.

The number of French prisoners taken to the northeast of Rheims has been increased. The French losses in this region especially were heavy.

French attacks have ceased in Champagne. To the north of Perthes fighting continues. To the east of Perthes the French were repulsed, suffering heavy losses. The enemy has only in a few instances advanced to the German trenches.

The number of prisoners reported to have been taken by us has been increased to 11 officers and 785 soldiers.

The enemy's attacks against the German positions near Boureuilles and Vauquois, to the east of the Argonne forest and to the east of Verdun, failed completely.

#### NATIONAL MOVIE CENSORS.

Report To House Favors Commission Of Five To License Films.

Washington, D. C.—State or municipal censorship of moving picture films cannot be adequate because of the character of the motion picture industry, says a favorable report on the Hughes bill for a federal motion picture commission, filed with the House. Five commissioners to license films which go into interstate commerce are proposed in the bill. Films not so licensed might not be transported from State to State nor copyrighted.

#### ODDS AGAINST U. S. WAR 5 TO 1.

Lloyds Asks 20 Guineas Per Cent. On Six Months' Policy.

London.—Insurance was placed at Lloyds at 20 guineas per cent on policies covering the holder against war between the United States and Germany within six months. One month ago the premium for this same risk and period of time was 6 guineas per cent. In effect the rate quoted means that wagers are offered at 5 to 1 that the United States will not become involved in war with Germany within the ensuing six months.

#### KILLED IN HOTEL FIRE.

Five Men Dead, Two Missing and Four Badly Injured.

Marsfield, Ore.—Five men are dead, two are missing and four are badly injured as a result of a fire, which destroyed the Bunker Hill Hotel, here. The hotel is near a lumber mill and its occupants were mostly mill employees.

#### PARI-MUTUEL BILL PASSED.

Legalization Of Betting In Nevada Now Up To Governor.

Carson City, Nev.—The Pari-Mutuel bill, amending the Anti-Gambling law so as to legalize betting on horse races under the pari-mutuel system, was passed by the Assembly, 38 to 12. It now goes to Governor Boyle for his signature.

#### TRAIN ROBBERS IN VIRGINIA.

Express Messenger Bound and Safe Rolled From Car.

Washington, D. C.—The Jacksonville express of the Seaboard Air Line Railway was boarded at Alexandria, Va., by two robbers, who after binding and gagging the express messenger, rolled the safe off the train at Franconia, three miles beyond, and escaped. Express company officials here declared there was nothing in the safe.

## ITALY SUFFERS NEW QUAKE

District Visited Several Weeks Ago Again Shaken.

### PART OF ROME UNDER WATER

Bridges Dating Back To Beginning Of Christian Era Threatened With Destruction—Roads Blown Up By Infiltration.

Rome.—Earthquakes and floods are causing additional havoc in portions of Italy and swelling the losses previously sustained.

Renewed shocks occurred in parts of the district in Central Italy visited by seismic disturbances several weeks ago.

One person was killed and six persons were injured in the collapse of a house at Nazzano.

At Rocca Sinibaldi the belfry of the Convent of Santa Maria fell upon several houses, burying 10 persons.

Cittaducale was entirely wrecked and at Veroli several houses were rendered uninhabitable.

The population of Cittaducale is camping in the open air despite the torrential rain that is falling. There are about 2,000 persons in the town, which is in the province of Aquila, five miles east of Rieta.

#### Streams Overflow Everywhere.

Everywhere streams are cut out of their banks, due to heavy rainstorms, which have continued for several days.

In the low-lying quarters the people have been driven from their homes or are prisoners in the upper stories of their houses. The military authorities have taken cognizance of the situation and troops have been sent to aid in rescue work and to carry food to sufferers cut off from supplies.

Information from the upper reaches of the Tiber indicates a further rise in the flood water of a few inches, after which, unless there should come more rain, the waters undoubtedly will begin to go down.

The Leonine City, as the Vatican quarter of Rome is called, is in the lower part of the town, and this section is generally flooded. The water, however, has not reached the Apostolic Palace or St. Peter's. Pope Benedict is taking a sympathetic interest in the situation and has instructed all the parish priests to display the greatest energy in aiding their distressed parishioners.

#### BYRCE SEES U. S. POSITION.

Writes That England Does Not Complain At Recent Note.

London.—"I hope you will let your friends in America understand that we in England comprehend the difficulty and delicacy in which a neutral power finds itself, and we do not complain at it for calling our attention to questions of international law such as always have been raised during a maritime war," said Viscount Bryce, former British Ambassador to the United States, in a letter which was read at a dinner given by American women at the Lyceum Club.

"We have the fullest confidence in the pacific spirit of the American people," Viscount Bryce continued, "and feel sure that any question that may be discussed will be adjusted by mutual good will."

#### ALSACE DIVIDED, BERNE HEARS.

Further Reports Expulsion Of All the Foreigners.

Berne, Switzerland, via Paris.—Alsace is now divided by the Germans into two great parts—a district of operations and a neutral zone. The frontier is marked by barbed wire fences hundreds of miles in length. All foreigners, with a few exceptions, have been expelled from Alsace.

Along the border of the Rhine, which constitutes a neutral zone, the subjects of neutral countries are permitted to remain.

Many of the foreigners who were forced to leave Alsace have been brought over the Rhine to Baden and Wurtemberg, where they are being placed in quarantine for a fortnight before they are permitted to return to their homes.

#### ITALY TO PROTECT ROUMANIA.

Vienna and Berlin Asked For Assurances Against Attack.

Milan, via Paris.—The Italian Government, as the result of reports that Austria was about to invade Roumania, says the Corriere Della Sera, has asked the governments at Vienna and Berlin to give assurances that no attack will be made on Roumania.

#### ARRESTED ON TREASON CHARGE.

Texan Accused Of Conspiracy To Separate Union.

Corpus Christi, Texas.—Anastio Gonzales, of San Diego, Texas, was arrested near here by Federal officers on a charge of seditious conspiracy against the United States Government in connection with what Federal officers say was a plot for a general uprising February 22 to seize several American border States and found a new republic.