

U. S. RIVAL TO GERMANY'S 42-CENTIMETRE GUN



Here is the largest gun ever made in this country. It was photographed at the Watertown, Mass., Arsenal, where it was taken to have a carriage made. It will be sent to the Panama Canal for coast defense. It fires a shell weighing 2370 pounds a distance of 10 miles. The shell is only 14-inch less in diameter than those fired by the famous 42-centimetre howitzers of the German army.

CHINESE OPINIONS AS JAPAN MENACES SOVEREIGN RIGHTS

Demands From Tokio Regarded as Threat to Nation and Likely to Arouse World Powers.

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—Cabled advices received here by houses having important connections in the East serve to confirm press reports of the indignation felt among all classes of Chinese society against Japan, provoked by the demands of the latter nation as formulated in the note handed to the Chinese Government on January 23, through the Japanese Minister.

This paper set forth "requests," the most important of which are: That China surrender to Japan all extrajurisdictional concessions in favor of Austria and Germany and bind herself not to grant any future concessions except to Japan; permission to build a railroad through a certain district of north China, bordering on Manchuria and turn over to Japan certain highly valuable mining privileges in the Yangtze Valley, and in Shan Tung and Fukien provinces.

Compliance with the demands of the Mikado's Government would amount to almost a surrender of Chinese sovereignty, giving the Japanese a grip on certain essential avenues of national wealth which would nullify the efforts of the central Chinese Government. It is commonly recognized that the Chinese army would rapidly become virtually Japanese provinces.

The spirit of the Chinese people is also sorely chafed because of the report as to the Mikado's intention to reorganize the army to be reorganized by German officers. This is absolutely denied in the highest circles.

China is watching with anxious eyes the apparent preparations of Japan to retain its hold on the side of its own population. It is the culminating incident in a series of aggressions which have imbued the peaceful Chinaman with a flaming hate of the Japanese.

In an attempt to prepare an answer to the note of the Mikado's Ministers the Chinese Government is confronted with another difficulty. Compliance would inevitably bring a storm of protest from other nations, and the Chinese Government is in a position to make a powerful neighbor.

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DELAY IN TRANSIT ACTION COSTS CITY \$1024 EVERY DAY

Necessity for Prompt Action by Councils Shown by Losses Sustained by Sacrifice of Time.

Every day that the city is deprived of high-speed transit the people of Philadelphia lose \$1024. Councils can prevent this daily loss by passing the ordinance calling for a special election to increase the city's borrowing capacity.



Through the day exchange tickets alone the city loses \$100,000 annually. In addition to this the hundreds of thousands of riders lose \$1,250,000 a year by loss of time in traveling. This is based on an average of 5 cents an hour.

The increase in realty values, which would be brought by the subway-extended lines and the tax returned to the city on such increased values as shown by comparison with West Philadelphia and high-speed lines in cities, would amount to \$1,000,000.

The loss on exchange tickets, loss of time and loss of increase in realty value make a total yearly loss of \$1,750,000. The pro rata loss for one day would therefore be \$1024.

If Common Council passes the special election ordinance on Thursday, February 4, it can be passed by Select Council on Thursday, February 11. A few days later the election can be advertised. The advertising must continue for 30 days, excluding Sundays, and would continue until March 23. Three days later, March 26, the election could be held and on the following Thursday, April 1, Common Council would pass the ordinance making the loan available. The loan would have to be advertised for four weeks. The apparent procedure up to April 23, and on the last day of the advertising Select Council could pass the ordinance making it possible to start work immediately.

The widespread interest in the transit question has convinced the members of Councils of the determination of the people, and it is generally believed no political subterfuge will be attempted to block the progress already made.

KAISER'S BIRTHDAY FETES Germans Here to Celebrate in Honor of Day.

The 56th birthday of the German Kaiser will be celebrated in this city tonight by veterans who have served at any time in the German army. Nearly 200 members of the 12 German societies in Philadelphia will meet at Casino Hall, 24 street and Girard avenue, to banquet and do honor to the German Emperor.

Magistrate Emely will speak on the present situation in Europe and the Rev. George Bomboffe, pastor of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 3d and Brown streets, will discuss the life of the Emperor. William Yost will preside.

"DAN" LAYTON RESIGNS Former Penn Pitcher Gives Up a Sinecure.

DOVER, Del., Jan. 27.—For the first time in many years, a Legislature sinecure is unfilled, as Daniel J. Layton, Jr., of Georgetown, former University of Pennsylvania pitcher, resigned the office of Attorney to the Senate today.

In a statement accompanying his resignation, Mr. Layton said his private practice required his attention. The Senate attorneys' pay between \$1200 and \$2000. A successor has not been named.

CAUGHT BETWEEN AUTOS Michael Grimes, chauffeur for Henry Tattall, of Bryn Mawr, vice president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, is in the Medico-Chirurgical Hospital as the result of an accident in the garage of the Automobile Club, 23d and Ludlow streets, when he was caught between two autos. He is 21 years old, lives on Montgomery avenue, Bryn Mawr.

EXPLOSION IN LUNCH ROOM The explosion of a small heating lamp, containing cyanide of potassium, caused considerable excitement in the Home & Hardart lunch room at 11th and Ludlow streets at noon today. Rudolph Bow, 146 North Park avenue, who was manager of the lunch room, was slightly burned and was removed to the Jefferson Hospital. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

THE WEATHER Official Forecast WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—For eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey: Slightly to light snow; moderate cold; Thursday; sea to moderate northeast winds, becoming variable.

The great of the Eastern area of high barometer has moved to the Gulf of Mexico, but the pressure has not decreased materially over the Eastern half of the country during the last 24 hours. However, the temperatures have risen slightly at most places and cloudiness has increased over the Atlantic States. An intense cold wave has moved into the Missouri basin from the far Northwest. The barometric pressure is above 30 inches over the Dakotas, with a temperature 40 degrees below zero reported from Williston and 42 degrees below from Appella, directly north of Williston. A light snow is falling on the advance of the cold wave.

U. S. Weather Bureau Bulletin Station. 8 a.m. 10 a.m. 11 a.m. 12 m. 1 p.m. 2 p.m. 3 p.m. 4 p.m. 5 p.m. 6 p.m. 7 p.m. 8 p.m. 9 p.m. 10 p.m. 11 p.m. Clear. Partly cloudy. Cloudy. Rain. Snow. Wind. Force. Direction. Bar. Therm. Humid. Precip. State.

\$20,000,000 MERGER OF STEEL AND IRON CONCERNS PLANNED

Largest Independent Companies in Wheeling District Take First Steps Toward Consolidation.

WHEELING, W. Va., Jan. 27.—Preliminary steps have been taken to consolidate the La Belle Iron Works and the Wheeling Steel and Iron Company, the two largest independent concerns in the Wheeling district.

The proposed new company will have a capital of about \$20,000,000 and the deal will embrace the new plant of the Wheeling Sheet and Tin Plate Company, at Tiltonville, Ohio. This company is about to be merged with the Wheeling Steel and Iron Company.

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NEW POST FOR BRUMBAUGH Governor Elected President of State Board of Agriculture.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 27.—The Pennsylvania State Board of Agriculture today elected Governor Martin G. Brumbaugh president, and the following other officers for the coming year:

Vice president—F. D. Kerkick, Bradford County; J. P. Young, Franklin County; C. H. Dewitt, Tioga County; Secretary—N. H. Critchfield, Secretary of Agriculture; Assistant secretary—R. J. Wolf, Warren County.

Executive Committee—S. S. Blydenber, Armstrong County; G. F. Barbee, York County; P. F. Prater, Adams County; Howard G. McEwen, Berks County; M. H. Naezley, Mifflin County; R. H. Kahler, Lehigh County; Clark H. Bower, Perry County; Matthew C. Jankin, Juniata County; and John Shoener, Schuylkill County.

The morning was given over to addresses by Prof. H. A. Surface, State Economic Zoologist, and Dr. Joseph Kautsky, secretary of the State Game Commission.

WHEAT EXPORTERS HERE SEEK TO LIMIT EUROPE'S DEMANDS Prices, Too High, a Danger to This Country, Says Statement of Shane Bros. & Wilson Co.

"Why should the price of wheat go up? It should not," says a statement issued by the Shane Brothers & Wilson Company, exporter of breadstuffs, of this city, to its foreign correspondents.

Foreign buyers have been offering too much for grain and flour, according to the statement; the prices offered and paid have been too large and it is only by an analysis of the true situation that the market can be returned to a normal condition.

"While the crop harvested in 1914 exceeded that of 1913 by 128,000,000 bushels, the total available supply for the crop year exceeded the preceding year by only 14,000,000 bushels, for the reason that the carry-over on July 1, 1914, was 14,000,000 bushels less than the preceding year.

"There is no doubt that the little wheat remaining in this country for export will command a very high price. There seems to be no limit to the price that foreigners are willing to pay for it, and indeed this is not astonishing when one considers that the European crop is 250,000,000 bushels less than last year and that the Russian crop is 100,000,000 bushels less than last year and that the Mediterranean is closed. Unless the Allies can open the Russian grain to the hungry millions in western Europe we are likely to see very much higher prices for wheat than have already been recorded."

POULTRY COURT CHRONICLES

It is great to be a member of the All-Star Aggregation of International Entertainers—that is when one walks down the main street of a small town and has glory reflected from the bill boards. Sixteen-year-old Charles Lehrer, of Cromer, N. J., thought so. That's why he went on the stage.

A magician came to Cromer. Charlie helped him and was fascinated. In return, the magician showed the boy a lot of tricks. Charlie went on the stage at one of the "amateur night" performances, and while he was changing cards into eggs and dice into chickens, the manager of the All-Star Aggregation of International Entertainers saw him. He offered the boy an engagement at a big salary and the lad was billed with the address which only a showman can command. The show appeared in such widely known towns as Island, N. J., Rahway, Lambertville and other municipalities which appear in small print on the map.

It appears that the inhabitants, who were disturbed by the high cost of living, did not appreciate the A. S. A. of I. E. This caused friction among the manager and artists, and in the complications which followed Charlie was forgotten and left near Metuchen in a barn.

From then on he slept in stables and performed tricks for the natives of little towns. Finally he was found by the A. S. A. That's where Policeman Sessame found him hungry and tired. He brought the boy to City Hall. The young magician performed a number of tricks for the police. He turned watches into eggs and vice versa and read cards without seeing them and made things disappear with a snap of his hand. But as the magician could not make a full meal appear, the police bought him one and he made it disappear in a decidedly normal fashion. He was sent home.

A man who admitted he had an unquenchable thirst was brought before Magistrate Emely at the Fourth and York streets police station. His statement was borne out by his condition. "I can drink it as fast as the brewers make it," he said. "I can't get along without it."

"Hear 'Billy' Sunday and hit the trail," the judge suggested. "I'm hopeless," said the prisoner. "What's your name?" "I can't think of it. Last time I remembered it was 'Bill' Turner."

TONS OF BAD MEAT PRONOUNCED UNFIT FOR USE AS FOOD

Condemned by State Agent and Will Be Converted Into Fertilizer—Storage Men Lose Heavily.

Nearly 8000 pounds of meat, stored in the warehouse of the Delaware Storage and Freezing Company, was condemned today by Pure Food Agent Robert Simmers as unfit for public use. More than 9,000 pounds of lamb, beef and veal, 9,000 pounds of mutton, and 10,000 pounds of other meats were expected to buy it accepted lower prices offered in Australia and the Argentine Republic, is being examined by the Government agents. At the office of the Delaware County officials refused to make a statement.

Beside the meat which came under the ban today, Mr. Simmers said this morning, he had just completed tagging 11,000 pounds which is unsalable in Pennsylvania. Owners of part of the meat condemned as decomposed objected to his decision and he says he had to call in Dr. C. A. Schaeffer, of the United States Bureau of Animal Industry, to pass judgment on 292 additional pounds of mutton, veal and mutton. This, which was stored in the Delaware warehouse, was ordered sent to Point Breeze where it will be converted into fertilizer. The agents say some of the condemned meat had been refrozen in order to give it a sufficiently fresh appearance to sell for sausage.

According to Mr. Simmers local warehouses are loaded with an unprecedented stock of various kinds of meat. Pennsylvania laws permit that meat, mutton, veal, lamb, beef, pork, mutton, four months; veal, three months; mutton, six months; and eggs, eight months.

The time limit of thousands of pounds of this meat is explained daily according to the inspectors who made special trips were inspected during the last week. Meat which is condemned as being unfit for sale in this State is sold in other parts of the country, and is shipped to Europe.

Several large dealers, it is declared, will lose small fortunes as a result of a misarrangement of their plans. These dealers, it is asserted, former a plan to sell a large percentage of the country's supply of meat to the warring nations in Europe and a considerable quantity of the carcasses are stored in the Philadelphia warehouses.

European buyers, having obtained lower prices elsewhere, refused, despite the fact that the inspectors who made special trips abroad, to contract for any of the shipments which were held up here. As it will be impossible to arrange for the sale of tons of meat even at reduced prices it is said much of it will have to be used as fertilizer.

BILL AIMED AT USURERS

Dunn Thus Describes Measures Providing Semi-monthly Pay.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 27.—Representative James A. Dunn, of Philadelphia, introduced a bill in the House today, to have the city employees of Philadelphia paid semi-monthly, instead of monthly. He introduced a similar measure yesterday, which was referred to this afternoon's meeting.

Both measures are aimed at the loan sharks, he said. Under the system of monthly payment many men, and county employees are forced to borrow from loan sharks for their current expenses, and their lives are made uncomfortable by "hounding." With a pay envelope awaiting them twice a month, instead of only once, very few will have to borrow, and, in addition to being a convenience to the city and county employees, the new system of payment would help to keep them out of the clutches of the loan sharks.

BIG MERCANTILE TAX IN CITY

Size of Collections an Indication of Prosperity.

There is no depression in mercantile business in Philadelphia if the amount of taxes collected by the mercantile appraisers and returned to the City Treasurer for 1915 can be regarded as an indication.

The total mercantile tax collections thus far in January aggregate \$487,851 an amount far in excess of the payments during the same period of 1914. The growth of mercantile business in Philadelphia indicated by the tax returns, has occasioned surprise to State and city officials.

MAJOR BLANKENBURG WILL SPEAK AT "NEW PHILADELPHIA DINNER" AT THE MANUFACTURERS' CLUB, ON FEBRUARY 5, WHEN 500 OF THE LEADING REPRESENTATIVES OF THIS CITY'S BANKING, MANUFACTURING AND MARITIME INTERESTS MEET TO LAUNCH THE CAMPAIGN TO ADVERTISE PHILADELPHIA AS "THE WORLD'S GREATEST WORK-SHOP"

It was understood for some time that the Mayor would be present but not until this morning was it announced that he would be one of the speakers. The committee in charge today announced the following list of speakers:

Alma B. Johnson, president of Baldwin Locomotive Works; J. Howell Cummings, president of the John B. Steihs Company; Curtis H. K. Curtis, president of the Curtis Publishing Company and of the Curtis Lumber Company; George W. Norris, Director of the Department of Wharves, Docks and Ferries.

S. W. Helton, president of the Philadelphia Maritime Exchange; John Gribbel, president of the Fairmount Savings Trust Company and the Royal Electric Company; Samuel Curwen, president of the J. G. Brill Company; Levi L. Rue, president of the Philadelphia National Bank; James B. Heston, president of the Supreme-Biddle Hardware Company.

W. W. Atterbury, vice president of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company; William L. Turner, vice president of the Quaker Lace Company; Edward J. Cattell, city statistician; Ernest T. Trigg, chairman of the committee on the part of the industry; and visiting speakers it had been the thought of the committee to select men who were widely known in the particular field in which they were engaged. Each man, in a five-minute address, will explain why Philadelphia's branch of the industry he represents leads the world, and each will explain the course of development by which this pre-eminence was attained.

The form of the invitations was agreed upon at the meeting of the committee in the Bourse yesterday afternoon. These will be sent out late this week. The detailed plan of the campaign will not be made public until the time of the dinner, which is to be held at the Bourse on February 5. The plan of the campaign will not be made public until the time of the dinner, which is to be held at the Bourse on February 5.

TWO BILLS TO PROHIBIT CASE BEER SALES OFFERED

Measures in Legislature Would Restrict Delivery to Licensed Dealers.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 27.—Two bills were introduced in the Legislature yesterday, one by Mr. Sensesich, of Westmoreland, in the Senate, and the other by Mr. Glinery, of Clearfield, in the House, which together with case beer and "family trade" in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Sensesich, according to accounts, has his speech in the club in mind when he offered a measure prohibiting brewers, distillers and wholesalers from selling their products to any one except licensed liquor dealers. In addition to this he explained that the primary object of his bill was to prevent the wholesalers from sending into mining towns, where there are no licensed saloons, liquor by the wagon load. The bill is a strong substitute for the same lines, the penalty provided being a fine of \$1000 and the loss of license for five years.

MOTION PICTURE MEN MEET TO FIGHT CENSORSHIP LAW

Exhibitors' Association Plans to Organize a Lobby.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 27.—Manufacturers and exhibitors men are conducting today's meeting in the Pennsylvania Picture Exhibitors' Association, which is holding a three days' session here for the purpose of organizing a fight to repeal the censorship law of the State.

The organization of men engaged in all branches of the motion picture business was perfected at the two meetings held yesterday, with the exception of the picture exhibitors. They will be selected at this afternoon's meeting.

Tomorrow a committee of five will be appointed to take charge of the fight against the censorship law. The committee will be organized by the exhibitors and other Republican leaders.

The 50 motion picture men who are attending the session are confident that the censorship law will be repealed. They have the support of Senator Tenrose and other Republican leaders.

Eight members of the Legislature attended the session, and all pledged their support of any plans the association might draft. They are Senator Joseph H. Thompson, of Hanover, and Representatives William H. Wilson, Harry L. Hackett and Isadora Stern, of Philadelphia, and Wallace B. Benn, Norman A. Whitten, William Dodds and A. C. Stein, of Allegheny.

FORMER PRESIDENT DECLARES PRIVATE CAPITAL WILL NOT BE INVESTED IN COMPETITION WITH UNITED STATES

By PERRY ARNOLD United Press Staff Correspondent. (Copyright, 1915, by United Press.)

NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—In opposition to the Administration shipping bill, pending in the Senate, was declared here today by William Howard Taft. In an interview with the United Press, the former President vigorously commended the filibuster against the bill, led by Senator Burton, of Ohio.

"I am positively opposed to the shipping bill," he said. "I do not think it will pass. That seems to depend now on the success of the filibuster."

Mr. Taft passed through this city from New Haven early today on his way to the University of Virginia to deliver a lecture. He is intensely interested in the shipping bill in its relation to commerce and economic conditions.

"American private capital will certainly not be invested in a business which comes in competition with the Government," Mr. Taft said. "That is exactly the situation presented in the proposed shipping bill. I am vigorously opposed to Government ownership of a type of Government ownership—the Panama Railroad and the Panama Steamship line. But they were of a different character."

"I agree with Senator Root. I do not know how long the Republican filibuster in the Senate can continue. I am not sure, but Senator Burton has had considerable experience as a filibuster."

"It also depends on the extra session question. Every one, I think, wants to avoid a session at this time. The bill for the purpose of passing appropriation measures scheduled for consideration during this short session, but which might be blocked by an unbroken filibuster."

"I can see the possibility of the shipping measure, and my opposition to it is unalterable."

Mr. Taft refused to be drawn into any political discussion. He flatly declined to comment on President Wilson's speech at Indianapolis.

Sixty-five pounds below his weight as President, Mr. Taft appeared in perfect physical condition. He seemed happy in his role of college professor and private citizen. He smilingly said he was, and he traveled alone, with a handbag and a suitcase.

BILL PUTS SUFFRAGE ISSUE UP TO VOTERS

Continued from Page One

First class shall not be less than 2 1/2 mills and not more than 6 mills on the dollar of total assessment.

The proposed amendment allows the School Board to graduate the school tax according to the condition of improvement of the property. The assessment of school tax will, therefore, be in the hands of the voters. The amendment provides for improved property, 3 mills on suburban property and 2 1/2 mills on farm land.

On the eve of the introduction of the amendment, a meeting was held at which the House chamber tonight. It was noticeable to the leaders that a bitter fight has been planned against them if they attempt to defeat the amendment at the polls.

Senator Moses E. Clapp, of Minnesota, was the principal speaker. He delivered a clean-cut argument for woman suffrage. He was introduced by Speaker Ambler. Major Cronise Jones presided, and also spoke.

Governor Brumbaugh today continued his conferences with the heads of departments regarding the State finances. The Auditor General has been asked to submit figures on the estimated decrease in the State revenues for the next two years. As Secretary of the State, Governor Brumbaugh will confer with Senator Clarence J. Buckman, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and James A. Dunn, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, to plan ways and means of increasing the revenue and keeping the appropriations within the estimated income. Until this has been arranged the appropriations measures will not be acted upon by the Legislature.

The Tenor recess appointments, which include the duties of the Commission, will be informally discussed at a meeting of the Senate Committee on Executive Nominations to be held in Philadelphia next Saturday. Governor Brumbaugh's attitude toward the present personnel of the Public Service Commission is expected to become known at that time.

Governor Brumbaugh from time to time will confer with the representatives of the labor unions of Pennsylvania regarding legislation affecting workmen. John Bonner, of Tamaqua, and James Oates, of Pittsburgh, will be present at the labor unions at these conferences. The Governor at a conference in the executive mansion last night, asked the labor men's committee to report on the proposed contract with a view to hastening work on a fair compensation act.

6 OUT OF 24 FIRE HOSE SECTIONS FAIL IN TEST

One, 1 1/2 Years Old, Had a Cracked Inner Tube.

Six sections of fire hose out of 24 examined were found defective today at the headquarters of the Fire Bureau, Juniper and Race streets, in the test of old hose. The hose so far tested in the property of the Fire Bureau, No. 37, 23d street and Columbia avenue.

All hose more than three years old is to be tested by Edward Horter, of the Bureau of Fire. There are 25,000 feet in the department, and it is estimated it would require two months, working day and night, to do the work.

The three pieces of hose found defective today were old. One, the inner tube of which was cracked, was 3 1/2 years old. The two others were 8 years old. Pin holes were found in them.

Each section, 50 feet long, is to be subjected to a pressure of 250 pounds. The old section that was broken was under 175 pounds at the time. J. H. Howland, engineer for the committee of fire prevention of the National Board of Underwriters, said that it was estimated it would require two months, working day and night, to do the work.

A GOVERNOR INVITES SUNDAY "Billy" Sunday and Mrs. Sunday received an invitation today from Governor Hatfield of West Virginia, to attend the annual convention of the West Virginia State Legislature on Friday night. Owing to the Philadelphia campaign work the evangelist found it necessary to decline the invitation. Mr. Sunday and Governor Hatfield have been friends for a long time. It is said that the campaign of the evangelist in West Virginia last year was largely responsible for its voting to go "dry."

THEIRS BOB NORRISTOWN RESIDENCE NORRISTOWN, Pa., Jan. 27.—Jewelry and clothing valued at several hundred dollars and 60 in cash were stolen from the home of Aaron Swartz, Jr., a son of Judge Swartz, of the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court, on Dekalb street, last night, while the family was away from home.

WILLIAM H. HARRIS NEW YORK, Jan. 27.—William H. Harris, formerly vice president of the American Tobacco Company, and associated with the Curtis Lumber Company, died Monday at his home at Irvington, N. Y., in his 65th year. He was at one time chairman of the British-American Tobacco Company, and took active part in obtaining foreign trade.

PRESIDENT SENDS GREETING TO KAISER WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—President Wilson today congratulated the Emperor of Germany on his 56th birthday. His cablegram follows:

"In behalf of the Government and people of the United States, I have the pleasure to extend to your Majesty cordial felicitations on the anniversary of your birth, as well as my own good wishes for your welfare."

"WOODROW WILSON."