

NIGHT EXTRA CLOSING STOCK PRICES

THE EVENING TELEGRAPH

THE WEATHER Washington, Dec. 19.—Fair today, cloudy tomorrow.

VOL. V.—NO. 83 PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1918

SKIP-STOP 'JURY' TO BE INFORMED OF TWO DEATHS

West Philadelphians Will Complain to P. R. T. Committee CITY WILL TAKE HAND

“Weary Mother” Appeals Against the Skip-Stop

The following letter, addressed to the President of Common Council, was read in that chamber this afternoon: “A poor woman, compelled to work for her living (takes a young baby to be cared for while out and calls for it to take home on her return asks in mercy, stop the skip-stop.”

“If you who have private cars to take you on pleasure trips could only exchange places with the working class for one day, rush a few blocks out of your way both going and coming home, you would be the first to stop and say, ‘Please stop the skip-stop.’

“A WEARY MOTHER.” West Philadelphia business men will tell the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company's committee of thirteen tomorrow that skip-stops are directly responsible for at least two trolley deaths in South Sixth street.

A delegation of five representatives from the South Sixth Street Business and Improvement Association will attend the Rapid Transit Company's first public hearing on skip-stops.

W. O. Dodson and Daniel Foster, two of the delegates, said today they would tell the committee that the company's system was to blame for the two trolley deaths.

The victims, they say, were: Simon Brodsky, 445 South Sixth street, a boy who was crushed to death at Sixth street and Larchwood avenue.

Mrs. Nellie Smith, Sixty-second and Christian streets, who was run down at Sixth and Catharine streets.

Skip-stops at both these corners have since been eliminated. In the meantime Council's Street Railway Committee will take up the skip-stop problem this afternoon.

Death Ended Skips After Mrs. Smith was killed at Sixth and Catharine streets, the skip-stop there was eliminated. The Brodsky boy lost his life at Sixth and Catharine street and Larchwood avenue.

When Mrs. Smith was killed today that the committee of thirteen would meet tomorrow afternoon, he appointed a delegation of five, including himself and Mr. Foster, to attend. The others are J. E. Trainer, Joseph Smith and John P. Fallon. Mr. Smith is a former president of the Traction Company.

An ordinance compelling the Rapid Transit Company to stop at every “dead-end” block and two resolutions calling upon the City Solicitor and the State Public Service Commission to act, will be discussed by the Council's Committee.

Admission by Company The Rapid Transit Company admits its skip-stop system is open to criticism. The reason it gives is that the plan was adopted as a war measure and stops were not properly placed.

To remedy the situation, skip-stop experts from other cities will be brought here to revise the entire system, establishing an average of six stops to a mile. When their work is completed, a vote of patrons of each trolley line will be taken to decide whether the scheme will be retained.

All this was disclosed in a statement made by T. E. Mitten, president of the P. R. T. The statement was made to the committee while at every “dead-end” block and two resolutions calling upon the City Solicitor and the State Public Service Commission to act, will be discussed by the Council's Committee.

ESCAPING STEAM KILLS FIREMAN; INJURES OTHERS

One Man Dead, Two Scalded, in Broad Street Office Building

One man was scalded to death by escaping steam and two others were burned today when a boiler blew out in the basement of the Parkway Building, Broad and Cherry streets.

Charles Worrell, fifty-six years old, Fourth and Buttonwood streets, a fireman, was killed. He literally was roasted to death by the steam and had no chance to escape.

Charles Best, thirty-five years old, Twenty-fifth street and Ridge avenue, one of two mechanics who had been repairing the boiler, was severely burned by the steam. He is in the Hahnemann Hospital.

William Lorenz, 2029 Snyder avenue, the other mechanic, was slightly burned on the hands and body. Lorenz carried Best to safety.

Lorenz and Best had been working on the boiler for some time before the accident occurred. Worrell was standing alongside the huge boiler.

Without warning a valve popped out, live steam pouring through the aperture, enveloping Worrell and scalding Best and Lorenz. Best fell to the floor and was dragged away by his companion.

The latter returned for the fireman, but the unfortunate man was scalded from head to foot. He was dead when dragged away from the boiler.

The accident shut down the elevator service in the building.

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QUISTCONCK'S DIP WAS PREMATURE, PIEZ TESTIFIES

Says Hog Island Will Deliver Two More Ships Before January 1

SENATORIAL PROBE ON Total Expenditures to Date Amount to About \$58,000,000, Witness Asserts

By the Associated Press Washington, Dec. 19.

Investigation of the construction of the Hog Island shipyard was resumed today by the Senate Commerce Committee.

Charles Piez, general manager of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, and Charles M. Schwab, until recently director general, were the principal witnesses.

Decision to reopen the inquiry resulted from a statement recently made in the Senate that \$58,000,000 had been spent so far on construction work and that the one ship completed at Hog Island was not seaworthy until returned to the yards for modifications.

The vessel is the Quistconck, now in the merchant marine service.

Mr. Piez testified that the total expenditures to date amounted to about \$58,000,000 and that the American International Shipbuilding Corporation, which has the contract for building the ship, has not been paid anything.

Most of the work, he said, was done by subcontractors. According to unconfirmed reports, he added, the American International Company has expended nearly a million dollars of its own money on the plant.

Mr. Piez thought a 5 per cent commission would be a reasonable amount to pay the American International Company.

Under questions of various Senators it was brought out that, while construction work has been under the direction of former Rear Admiral Bowles, responsibility for carrying out the full program covering construction of fifty warships instead of thirty-one, rested on the Emergency Fleet Corporation.

Mr. Piez said that the full program was carried out by the plan to limit the size of the yard was proposed by Admiral Bowles, he said, which delayed it being placed in service by about sixty days. But, Mr. Piez added, the vessel was given the highest rating by Lloyd's.

Mr. Piez said he anticipated the delivery of at least two more ships before January 1. He praised the work performed by the Skinner and Eddy plant, at Seattle, Wash., which produced twenty-six ships there on a five-year contract.

This plant holds the record for production.

Under cross-examination of Senator Johnson, of California, it was brought out that approximately 18 1/2 per cent of the construction work at the Hog Island yards was sublet. These contracts totaled about \$12,000,000.

Mr. Piez said that the American International Company will not interfere with the production of ships by the fleet corporation, which will go on laying keels under present contracts.

REJECTS SERB PREMIERSHIP Nikolai Pashitch Declines Post. To Form New Ministry

POLICE BULLET GRAVELY WOUNDS FUGITIVE YOUTH

Alleged “Lookout” for Boy Highwaymen Shot While Fleeing Arrest

Joseph Doris, eighteen years old, who acted as lookout, the police say, while three boy highwaymen robbed a man at Ninth street and Ridge avenue, tonight was shot by Police Sergeant Kolodsky of the Tenth and Buttonwood streets station. He is in a serious condition at the Hahnemann Hospital.

Kolodsky and Patrolman Lambert noticed three youths acting suspiciously. They hid in a doorway, it is said, until Henry Shackleton, of Darby, was about to pass. Two of the three drew revolvers and after ordering Shackleton to throw up his hands, took \$10 in cash from him.

The police said that Doris, who was a warning whistler and the highwayman fled, Kolodsky ordered him to the ground. Doris, however, turned and Doris fell with a bullet wound in his stomach. The others escaped.

A few minutes later three youths, said to be suspicious characters, were arrested in the neighborhood. They gave their names as John Ward, Fifteenth and Quarry streets; Michael Kippen, eighteen years, Tenth street and Germantown avenue; and Thomas Dowling, eighteen years old, Race and Marvins streets.

RENT RISE ANGRERS KIN OF SOLDIERS Families in Webster Street, 59th to 60th, Say Increase Unwarranted

PROTESTS A R E FILED An attempt by three West Philadelphia landlords to increase the rent of several women tenants whose sons are in the United States army and navy, as well as that of other householders, has brought a general protest from residents of Webster street from Fifty-ninth to Sixtieth streets.

The present rental for these houses is \$21, and the landlords demand \$25 beginning January 1.

At a meeting held by residents of the street it was contended that the threatened increase is unwarranted, and in view of the fact that it affects the families of several men in the country's service.

An appeal has been made to the Federal authorities and also placed before the fuel administration.

Call Demand Unreasonable In a petition now being circulated, it is pointed out that as there has been no increase in taxes, real estate valuation, or in the cost of the properties in question, the proposed rent advance is unreasonable.

The tenants also said that any plea that the cost of maintenance warrants advanced rental is unwarranted, because repairs made to their homes in the last year would be fully covered by \$300 for the entire block.

At the neighborhood meeting held at Fifty-ninth and Webster streets, many of the householders declared their homes were badly in need of repairs.

SON ON SUPPLY SHIP Among other who have sons in the country's service is Mrs. M. E. Lewis, 515 Webster street.

“My son is on a supply ship in the navy,” she said in discussing the subject, “and this increase comes at an especially inopportune time. Once before I was notified by Louis Harlan, the agent, that my rent would be increased, but I called the matter to the attention of my attorney and the agent was warned that he had better not impose unwarranted burdens on the relatives of men in the country's service. Mr. Harlan changed his mind and the increase was not made.”

DALLAS KOONS DIES IN FRANCE No Details in Message From Brother of Philadelphia

Private Dallas Koons, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Koons, of 13 South Twenty-first street, died in France Saturday morning. He was twenty-two years old and was a member of the First City Troop and after some preliminary training for the cavalry was transferred to the 106th Field Battery, with a number of other troopers.

CABINET RULING GERMANY QUILTS, REPORT ASSERTS

Ebert Ministry Resigns Following Council Disorder, Says Rumor

OUTBREAKS AT DANZIG Conference May Be Convoked December 29 to Elect President

Events in Germany are moving with such rapidity that every hour is being watched with possibilities of a complete change in the governmental situation. A report via Stuttgart says the Ebert Government has resigned.

A Copenhagen dispatch, on the other hand, says the German Government will convene a conference on December 29 to elect a President of the German republic. A Berlin message dated last night says the coalition Government has been dissolved unanimously by the Soldiers' Council.

Paris, Dec. 19. The German Government headed by Friedrich Ebert has resigned as a result of events on Tuesday, according to a dispatch received at Zurich from Stuttgart, says the Journal's correspondent there.

Copenhagen, Dec. 19.—(By A. P.)—The German Government has decided to convene a conference of representatives of all the States of the German republic on December 29 to elect a president of the German republic, according to a Berlin report. This step is said to have been taken in order to avoid fresh outbreaks.

Friedrich Ebert, who was named a minister of the interior in the cabinet of Prince Maximilian of Baden, on November 13 and became Imperial Chancellor on November 8, took command of the situation in Berlin following the revolutionary uprising there. On November 15 he was announced that he had become premier and had chosen his cabinet, naming Hugo Haase, Philip Scheidemann, Wilhelm Dittman, Herr Landsberg and Richard Krieger as secretaries in charge of the cabinet created by the revolutionary government.

The central congress of the delegates from Soldiers and Workmen's Councils met at Berlin on Monday. The first session resulted in disorderly scenes in which there were many personal encounters. On Tuesday turbulent scenes continued, George Ledebour, a leader of the Independent Socialists, making a bitter attack upon Premier Ebert.

Resolutions adopted by the Soldiers and Workmen's Council, composed of six members, including the national provisional government, Administration of military affairs, will be subject to approval by a parliamentary executive committee, elected by the Soldiers.

The National Workmen and Soldiers' Council has received proposals that the German republic elect a president Sunday. Prompt action in this connection is necessary, it is asserted, to give the Allies guarantee that Germany will have a responsible government when the Peace Conference begins.

The Government has suppressed the Bolshevik rule at Neu Oeln, arresting members of the Workmen and Soldiers' Council.

Basel, Dec. 19.—(By A. P.)—The executive committee of the Soldiers and Workmen's Council for Berlin and its suburbs intended to resign, according to messages received from the German capital. It is said that it will be replaced by an executive committee elected by the general assembly and the Soldiers and Workmen's Councils of the empire.

Amsterdam, Dec. 19.—(By A. P.)—Three of the principal directors of the Krupp munition works at Essen, including Doctor Bransberger, inventor of the big Bertha, have been arrested by the revolutionary committee in that city, according to advices received here.

Zurich, Dec. 19.—(By A. P.)—Serious disorders have broken out at Danzig, West Prussia, according to dispatches received here. Civil and military prisons have been opened and the inmates set at liberty. It is said, and street fighting is reported.

Berlin, Dec. 17 (delayed)—(By A. P.)—The second day's session of the Congress of the Soldiers and Workmen's Councils of Germany was marked by bitter scenes. Herr Landsberg, one of the majority Socialist members of the Government, denounced the business methods and dictatorial attitude of the Soldiers and Workmen's Council of Berlin. He declared that the executive committee of the council had presented a chaotic bill which the congress rejected. The statements of Commissioner Landsberg indicated that a new executive committee, more in harmony with the Government, might be elected.

Foerster, Ebert, after supporting the defense of the Government's policy concerning demobilization and food supply, which had been attacked by Herr Landsberg, said that he was transferred to Camp Greene where he completed his training and went overseas.

THE WEATHER VANE Fair tonight with east winds blase. Tomorrow slightly warmer. There, please remember, girls—Do your Christmas shopping early.

“FREEDOM OF SEAS” ONLY GULF BETWEEN WILSON AND BRITISH

Both Have Complete Plan for League of Nations, With Right of Blockade Believed the One Big Difference

AGREEMENT ON OCEAN POLICIES WOULD GIVE PRESIDENT SUCCESS

England's Naval Power Would Suffer Nothing if Nation Agreed to American Program—Workable World League Would Enforce Peace

By CLINTON W. GILBERT Staff Correspondent of the Evening Public Ledger With the Peace Delegation in France By Special Cable Copyright, 1918, by Public Ledger Co.

Paris, Dec. 19. The British delegates to the Peace Conference will bring to Paris complete plans for a league of nations, as worked out by Lord Robert Cecil, official head of the league of nations section of the British mission, including many difficult points like the basis of representation for the nations.

It is understood that President Wilson has also brought a complete plan to Paris. Lord Northcliffe is now on his way to the conference to conduct propaganda in his newspapers for a world league. Apparently, British support of the league is strong.

The only big point at issue between England and America is freedom of the seas. It is urged here that Wilson should speak out, explaining just what he means by “freedom of the seas,” after which it is believed that the differences between English and American views would appear less.

The London Times, discussing the subject, answers the American question, “Why recognize the right of capture of private property on the high seas, when it is not recognized on land?” as follows: “An island power is at the intolerable disadvantage in war of not being at liberty to stop completely the enemy's traffic overseas. This disadvantage is becoming much greater, since the railways enable a belligerent on the continent to import supplies through neutral ports.”

Blockade Is Real Issue The Times, a strong advocate of a league of nations, thus presents the real issue between the two nations as a question of applying a marine blockade, like the recent English blockade of Germany, in future wars.

England has always upheld this right as essential to her security. America has always opposed such a blockade, although in war the United States has often acted inconsistently with her own position on this subject. Thus the freedom of the seas issue is one of long standing.

If President Wilson's plan prevails, a blockade could only be ordered by the league of nations. England thus would apparently sacrifice her one means of defense. Advocates of President Wilson's position point out that England's sacrifice would be much more apparent than real. If the league of nations is really workable, the league actually will keep peace on the seas. If the league failed, the world would naturally revert to the present practice.

Will Retain Big Navies The United States administration's own program favors that plan. If the league of nations fails, England would still have the biggest navy in the world or at least a navy equalling that of America. She would be just where she would be if no league were attempted. England, having the largest navy afloat, would have to pursue the course she actually did in blockading Germany.

No course restricting England's capacity to become at once master of the seas, if the league should break down, would be proposed to the Peace Conference or considered by it. This is the view some of President Wilson's friends here hold.

England may ask more, namely, an understanding with America on her sea policy in case the world league should fail. To such an understanding, if arranged openly, Wilson might consent. England would probably give much for such an agreement. If England should get together with the President on the freedom of the seas, America would probably have England's general support in the Peace Conference and Mr. Wilson would be able to get all he wants.

INDEPENDENTS LOSE IN BUDGET FIGHT The 1919 budget for the receiver of taxes, carrying an appropriation of \$308,930 and guaranteeing continuance of eight branch offices, against which the opposition of the Independent-Peasants faction was centered, was passed by Councils this afternoon, 34 to 16. Chairman Gaffney, of Councils Finance Committee, Vore floor leader, made the fight for the bill, and Charles H. Von Tagen, Independent, of the Forty-second Ward, led the opposition.

APPROVE BILL ENDING SKIP-STOP A bill providing for the elimination of skip-stops all over the city was favorably reported this afternoon by Councils Committee on Street Railways. The measure also provides that cars must stop at every numbered block and slow down to a five-mile speed on approaching all crossings.

SEVEN SHIPS BRINGING TROOPS ESTHONIA UNDER THE ENTENTE

WILSON MAY RETURN SOON FROM FRANCE

Anxious to Speed Visit to England to Reassure British Opinion

ITALIAN MONARCH ARRIVES IN PARIS Clemenceau Repays Call Supports Plan for League of Nations

FAVOR SINKING SHIPS Paris Convinces Wilson Peace League and Treaty Are Inseparable

By the Associated Press Paris, Dec. 19. Premier Clemenceau and Colonel E. M. House visited President Wilson this morning at his Paris residence, the Marat mansion. The callers arrived at the presidential residence at about 10 o'clock.

The French Premier and the President were engaged for more than an hour in an intimate discussion. Colonel House also conferred with the President during the morning.

The President's engagements for the day caused him to postpone his plans for recreation, but he hoped to take a short drive with Mrs. Wilson.

Italy's King in Paris King Victor Emmanuel of Italy arrived here today and was welcomed by President Poincare, Premier Clemenceau and other ministers. The King was accompanied by his son, the Prince of Piedmont.

The Italian ruler and his heir arrived at the Bois de Boulogne station. Notwithstanding unsettled weather conditions and squalls of wind, large crowds lined the streets.

A luncheon was given by President Poincare at the Palace of the Elysee in honor of the Italian King and Prince. The guests included: Premier Orlando, Foreign Minister Sonnino and Food Minister Crespi, of the Italian Cabinet; Count Masochi di Cellere, Italian ambassador to the United States; former President Loubet, former President Fallieres, Marshal Joffre, Marshal Foch, Marshal Petain and the ministers and ambassadors credited to France.

An invitation has been extended to President Wilson to visit London at Christmas time, but it is improbable that he will go then, as he has full planned to dine Christmas Day with the American troops in the field.

Some announcement concerning the visit to England may be expected soon. It can be definitely stated that his trip to London will not conflict with his intention to dine with the American troops in the field, although the date of his visit probably will be earlier than had been anticipated.

May Return to Washington The reason given for President Wilson's desire to make an early visit to England, it is understood, is that he has found it might be necessary to return to Washington much sooner than he had expected. Whether this means a change in the President's entire program, including his journey to Italy, is not known here.

An interesting feature of the discussion of the President's intended visit, beginning next Thursday, is that the present British cabinet is technically not in a position to speak for the Government until the result of the recent elections are known December 28.

There is little doubt, however, that Premier Lloyd George and his associates have been re-elected. President Wilson personally has taken a hand in seeing that the United States is informed of what is going on in the Peace Conference. He took the first step last night at the conference with the other American delegates. It was decided and later announced that the delegates would see American newspaper correspondents each morning for a frank discussion of developments and the proceedings of the conferences.

The American peace commissioners conferred with American newspaper correspondents for the first time today. All other correspondents were excluded. It was stipulated that none of the announcements to be made was for purposes of publication, being only for the guidance of the correspondents.

No Date for Meeting The date of the first meeting of the Inter-Allied Conference has not yet been determined, nor has the date of the first assembling of the Peace Congress. It has not been determined whether the actual sessions will be open. President Wilson's inclination is said to be that the sessions be open as far as is possible, but it is expected that it will develop that much of the work will be done confidentially and then perfected openly.

It seems probable that German representatives will not figure in the preliminaries, and until these are disposed of it cannot be decided whether the