

THE WEATHER
Washington, April 17.—Cloudy to light; probably fair tomorrow.
TEMPERATURE AT EACH HOUR
8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5
47 49 48 53 54 53 53

Evening Public Ledger

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HOUSES ARE FEW AND RENTS HIGH; NO RELIEF NEAR

One-Time "City of Homes" Now One of Wanderers Vainly Seeking Them

FOUR THOUSAND PERSONS DISPOSSESSED OF ABODE

Immediate Erection of Ten Thousand Dwellings Urged by John Ihlder

Philadelphia, known throughout the country as the "city of homes," is in danger of becoming a city of home hunters. You cannot rent a dwelling house of modest size and price. Unless you are able to pay a relatively high rent you will find it almost impossible to get an apartment with fair surroundings and reasonably modern appointments.

May Force Police to Dwell in Tents

Patrolmen of the Belgrade and Clearfield streets station threaten to pitch tents on the back lots if the "Open Your Home or Get Out" policy of warring landlords continues. The neighborhood of the police station is being plied with propaganda urging people to purchase their own homes. The police, many of whose families live in the vicinity, feel that, with the cost of living soaring, they cannot gather enough money to buy the houses they live in.

CROWN PRINCESS SUES FOR DIVORCE

Frederick William, Eldest Son of Deposed Kaiser, Accused of Gross Cruelty

WIFE BEATING IS ALLEGED

Zurich, April 17.—The former German Crown Princess Cecilie has taken steps to divorce her husband, Frederick William, according to a statement given to Swiss newspapers by the former Grand Duchess Anastasia of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, mother of the former crown princess. The statement says that it long has been the desire of Cecilie to divorce her husband but that the pressure of the Hohenzollern family up to this time had prevented her from carrying it out.

WILSON JOVIAL OVER COY FLEET THAT HATED WAR

"All Dressed Up, With No Place to Go," Says Rear Admiral of Boche Ships

TAKES LUNCHEON AT BELLEVUE-STRATFORD

Is Strong for a Vigorous Merchant Marine Program

"All dressed up and nowhere to go," was the way in which Rear Admiral Henry Baird Wilson, commander of the American naval forces in French waters during the war, described the predicament of the German high seas fleet.



ADMIRAL HENRY B. WILSON

CONFER ON BILL TO OUST WILSON

State Republican Leaders Will Meet Senator Penrose Here This Week

OPEN FIGHT ON VARES

Republican leaders from all over the state are expected tomorrow and Saturday to confer with Senator Penrose on a bill prepared by independent leaders here to rip Director of Public Safety Wilson out of office.

POLICE MAY HALT CHARITY DANCES IN HOTELS HERE

Order Prohibiting Balls Where Liquor Is Sold Threatens Society Events

DAVID PROVAN DIFFERS FROM WILSON VIEWS

Lieutenants Directed to Probe License Court Ruling Violations

Charity dances being conducted by women in the Ritz-Carlton and Walton Hotels may be stopped by an order forbidding dancing in any building where liquor is sold.

Premier's Speech Scored Triumph, the Press Agrees

London Papers Say It Was Diplomatic Victory—Northcliffe Organ, However, Denounces "Buffoonery" Attack on Owner

By the Associated Press. London, April 17.—While opinions are divided regarding the substance of the address of Premier Lloyd George before the House of Commons yesterday, there is a general agreement by the London press that it was a great parliamentary triumph, as, indeed, was shown by the rousing cheers of his audience and the expressions of individual members in the lobby.

With the exception of the Laborite and Northcliffe newspapers, none of the morning journals condemns the premier's statement wholly, while several warmly applaud it. These admit that Mr. Lloyd George revealed nothing of the peace terms, but they do not complain.

The Telegraph, for instance, says his general account on the terms will "give deep satisfaction," and adds that he "demolished the whole structure of his critics built on his supposed departure from his pre-election pledges."

"Retains Confidence"—Post. The Express declares its full belief in the premier's assertion that his pledges will be found embodied in the peace terms, and says that he retains the complete confidence of the nation. The Graphic is equally favorable and says, incidentally, that Mr. Lloyd George's declaration "justifies the assumption that President Wilson has abandoned his opposition, or alleged opposition, to the sterner views of those powers which suffered most in the war."

Those who attack individual members of the Peace Conference when the chief concern of everybody is the public interest are condemned by the Chronicle, which says: "If the peace terms eventually disappoint any sane expectation, the fault will lie less with the statesmen in Paris than with the peoples they represent."

The Post which stands for the eradication of most severe terms from Germany, says the premier's address is susceptible of various interpretations and that although Mr. Lloyd George declared his readiness to print the terms of peace alongside his pledges, "it would be preferable to see the terms alongside the demands of justice and security, and according with them in every particular."

The Daily News admits there may have been serious reasons for withholding information as to the terms of peace, but in the absence of evidence "mere declarations that all pledges will be kept are idle. It is a fact that some of them have not been kept."

Labor Again Critical. Making a similar point the Herald, the labor organ, says: "All the premier's pledges cannot be kept, for they are as contradictory as his speeches." The newspaper declares Mr. Lloyd George "left the international situation where he found it and completely missed his opportunity."

The premier's rejection of any idea of military action in Russia meets with considerable approval. The Telegraph and Express say it will be received with satisfaction.

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RUSSIAN TRUCE IS ALLED PLAN; WILL SEND FOOD

Fridtjof Nansen to Head Relief Measures Taken Through Neutral Channels

FRENCH OBJECTIONS TO ARMISTICE DWINDLING

Germany Must Reply on Peace Within Month, Says Paris Temps

URGE U. S. RULE TURK SOIL

Americans Prefer Burden of Constantinople to Underdeveloped Territory

Germans to Ask Damages for Invasion by Entente

Paris, April 17.—(By A. P.)—Germany intends to claim an indemnity from the Allies, according to the Frankfurt Gazette.

It says the German negotiators at Versailles will ask payment for damages sustained from aerial attacks, from the occupation of German territory by the Allied troops and for the delay in concluding peace and causing a prolongation of the Bolshevik and Spartan troubles.

By CLINTON W. GILBERT Staff Correspondent with the Peace Delegation in Europe. By Wireless. Copyright, 1919, by Public Ledger Co.

Paris, April 17.—The armistice with Lenin is in sight. One of the conditions would be the feeding of the Russians through a neutral organization headed by Fridtjof Nansen.

The French objections to feeding Russia probably will be removed within twenty-four hours. Some agreement probably is being reached with the Bolshevik forces by which the distribution of food will be controlled by Nansen's representatives.

An armistice is one of the plans suggested by Lenin in a letter which William C. Bullitt brought from Moscow. The Bolsheviks are anxious for peace and wish to buy food in order to establish the industrial welfare of Russia. Lenin's own regime will have failed unless he can restore conditions under which the people may continue to live.

America and England are also anxious to have the armistice adopted, on the Nansen proposition, as affording a means of getting their troops out of Russia and establishing peace there without themselves dealing directly with the Bolsheviks.

Nansen is confident Russia can be fed. The problem there is largely one of organizing distribution, restoring the railroads, providing railway materials and bringing in food from the farming regions where plenty exists, to the starving cities.

Some shipments to the big cities in northern Russia will be necessary at first until international traffic conditions are restored. Nansen believes it is possible to supply the necessary ships and food for this purpose.

ALLIES WANT QUICK ANSWER TO TERMS

Other Enemies to Follow Germans to Versailles

Paris, April 17.—(By A. P.)—The Allied governments, according to the Temps, apparently have decided not to wait beyond May 15 for a definite answer from Germany as to whether or not she will sign the peace treaty.

The Entente delegates to the Peace Conference believe Germany will require at least one week after receiving the peace treaty before it can be digested and an answer prepared, and also that the delegates will need about four days for travel between Berlin and Versailles and return. Consequently they express the opinion that it is hardly likely that Germany's answer will be available before May 8 at the earliest.

Holland, Germany's extensively fortified island in the North Sea, barring entrance to the mouths of the Elbe

U. S. SELLS MERCHANTMEN

Starts Disposal of War-Built Fleet With 15 Wooden Vessels

Washington, April 17.—(By A. P.)—Sale of the war-built merchant fleet was begun today by the shipping board, with the transfer of fifteen wooden steamships to the Nacirena Steamship Company of New York, at a price of \$550,000 for each vessel.

This is an average of \$145 per deadweight ton. This fleet is to be operated by the Brooks Steamship Company, of New York, in the transatlantic trade. Five of the fifteen will be operated out of New York, five out of Havana, and five out of New Orleans. Deliveries will be completed within a short time.

SUNDAY LOAN MOVIES MAY BE ABANDONED

The showing of Sunday movies in this city to boost the Victory Loan may be abandoned by direction of Carter Glass secretary of the treasury. This was indicated by information from Washington this afternoon. The first movie was to be shown Easter Sunday evening in Kensington. The Rev. T. T. Mutchler, of the Philadelphia Sabbath Association, wired a protest to Washington.

GERMAN TRIES TO FIRE U. S. TRANSPORT

BOSTON, April 17.—A German agent, allowed on the transport Patricia to look out for German property, attempted to set fire to the vessel last night as it was nearing Boston with more than two thousand American soldiers, according to Major Frank W. Cavanaugh of the 102d Field Artillery, one of the officers on board.

LIMITATION ACT, WHEELER'S PLEA

Counsel Asks Court to Take Former Mexican War Minister Embezzlement Case Out of Jury's Hands

In an effort to have the case taken from the jury and virtually thrown out of court, the statute of limitations was invoked this afternoon by counsel for former Judge William F. Wheeler. The commonwealth closed at 11:25 o'clock. In a two-hour argument William A. Gray, defense counsel, attacked the two indictments on which Wheeler is being tried in Quarter Sessions Court before Judge Johnson.

The statute of limitations, Mr. Gray asserted, absolved the defendant from the first indictment. The second indictment fell, he said, because it wasn't shown that Wheeler had been acting as attorney and agent for the Joyce estate as charged.

Wheeler, a former judge of the Municipal Court, who resigned last January, is accused of embezzling \$48,000 from the estate of John Joyce, Jr.

Offered Restitution. Outstanding developments at the trial today were: Testimony of Elmer J. Rhinehart, a brother of Mrs. Harriet R. Joyce, who is prosecuting Wheeler. Rhinehart was in an army private's uniform. He returned recently from France.

Wheeler, Rhinehart testified, offered to split his \$6000 salary as judge with Mrs. Joyce to make restitution for funds of the Joyce estate.

While admitting that he could not publicly represent the Joyce estate, according to Rhinehart, Wheeler said he could do it "on the side."

The court, from the outset of Mr. Gray's argument on the statute of limitations, apparently did not agree with the defense's contentions.

Speaking to the first indictment, charging the embezzlement of 100 shares of American Light and Traction Company stock, Mr. Gray said:

Indictment Came Too Late. "If any offense was committed it was committed in November, 1915. Mrs. Joyce gave the stock to Wheeler on November 8, 1915, with her indorsement. Wheeler sent it to Emerson Muller Company, of New York, transfer agents, authorizing the transfer of the stock to himself.

"A new certificate, placing the securities in Wheeler's name was issued November 15, 1915. This indictment was found April 19, 1918, two years, four months and five days after the date of the offense."

Continued on Page Six, Column Two

TROOP TRAINS HIT; 20 DIE

12 Americans and 8 Frenchmen Killed in Wreck in France

Brest, April 17.—Twelve American and eight French soldiers were killed, and fifty-six were injured in a rear-end collision of troop trains bound for this city today.

The collision occurred west of Le Mans about 10 p. m.

Thousands Are Ousted

One thousand dispossession notices are now out, according to trustworthy reports. Which means that four or five thousand individuals are at least potentially homeless.

Housing experts see no remedy for the situation. They explain it readily enough, blaming two principal causes. First of these is an actual shortage of small dwellings. Whole rows changed hands with dizzying speed. Each new owner boosts the rent, so that he will have an excuse to sell to somebody else at a profit. Every real estate man in Philadelphia recognizes the fact that houses in Philadelphia are bought to sell again, not to rent to tenants.

John Ihlder, executive secretary of the Philadelphia Housing Association and an expert of national standing, advocates the erection of 10,000 houses to meet the shortage and relieve what has become an impossible situation.

"Before the war," said Mr. Ihlder in an interview, "the normal annual increase in population in this city was from 30,000 to 35,000 a year."

Workers Flocked Here. "In normal years before the war the operative builders erected from 6000 to 7000 houses annually. The last normal building year was 1914, when 7762 houses were built. Costs began to rise in 1917 and building to fall off. It virtually stopped in April of 1917, when war began. By the end of 1917 only 2700 houses had been built. In all of 1918 only 6000 were built, not counting the 2855 houses put up to meet the emergency by the government and rented to war workers."

"Meanwhile the workers were flocking to this city from all parts of the country. The increase is estimated at from 100,000 to 200,000 during the war the scarcity of houses was one of the principal causes of the heavy labor turnover.

"At present the lack of houses has us in a vise here in Philadelphia. Houses are so scarce for renting purposes that owners have lost incentive to keep them in good condition. They can rent anything.

"When the war began the old method of having the operative builder supply the city's housing needs broke down. The government stepped in and built houses. They were not sufficiently numerous, of course, to meet all needs, but they did make the situation less tense. The moral effect likewise was very useful. The people felt that there was some agency at work on their side. It kept men at work and in good spirits.

Never So Serious Before. "The present housing situation is the most serious that this city has ever had to meet. Not a suggestion looking towards its improvement has been received from those who could be counted on for suggestions in the past. The old methods are working, and there are no new methods to suggest.

"The situation is bound to create unrest and discontent. Houses are scarce and rents are high. At the same time men are being laid off from their jobs, though every one hopes only temporarily.

"Instead of anything being done to relieve the situation, advantage is being taken of it to force tenants to buy their houses. There are thousands of cases where the tenant is given the alternative of buying or moving. And if they move, there is no place to go.

"There is some virtue in a man owning the house he lives in, providing he wants to own it. But when he is forced to buy against his inclination and at a price he believes is exorbitant the result is resentment and unrest in the household. It is the same condition existing in England."

BRITONS BAN FOES' STRIKE

English Commander Orders Men to Work in Occupied Zone

Cologne, April 16 (delayed).—(By A. P.)—In consequence of the spread of the German strikes to the Cologne district Lieutenant General Sir Herbert Plumer, in command of the British forces on the Rhine, issued a proclamation today ordering the "immediate return of the men to work and threatening the strongest measures against persons promoting or countenancing strikes in the British zone of occupation.

The general offered military mediation if other means of settlement failed. A squadron of British airplanes flew over the affected district today.

FIRST TO FILL LOAN QUOTA

Charlotte, Mich., Citizens Pledge Themselves for Amount Allotted

Charlotte, Mich., April 17.—(By A. P.)—Charlotte is the first Michigan city, if not the first in the country, to subscribe its full quota for the Victory Liberty Loan. It was announced today that local loan workers and bankers have pledged themselves for the lowly \$75,900 allotted as the city's quota. Efforts will be made to triple the quota.

BAKER DINES WITH WILSON

Little San Marino Confers Citizenship on President

Paris, April 17.—(By A. P.)—Secretary of War Baker was the guest of President Wilson at luncheon in the Paris "White House" today. The President also received Herbert C. Hoover, the Food Administrator, the two having a brief conference.

During the day, President Wilson was made an honorary citizen of San Marino and the Charge d'Affaires of San Marino called the President a certificate of honorary citizenship conferred upon him by the little republic.

BELGIUM FIGURES LOSS

Industrial Damages, on Present Valuations, Are Set at 7 Billions

Brussels, April 17.—(By A. P.)—Belgian industry was damaged to the extent of 35,000,000,000 francs (\$7,000,000,000), according to a report made by the central industrial committee of Belgium, which has completed an investigation of the damage done in Belgium, for which an indemnity could be demanded from Germany.

The committee has reckoned the cost of materials on the basis of prices prevailing at present, declaring that this is the only just method if Belgian industry is to be restored to the condition in which it was in August, 1914.

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'DEUCE OF A LIFE!' SAYS MALE BEAUTY IN "CHICKEN'S" ROLE

Mask and Wig Vampire Shocks Rehearsal Spectators With Scandalous Disregard for Limitations of Feminine Covering

A beautiful young girl, Titian haired and graceful, walked across the stage, singing a soft contralto song. The audience was held spellbound.

Then, from the wings, entirely unobserved, came the voice of the general director, Charles S. Morgan.

"Say," he bawled. "Do you think this is an old man's home?"

The beautiful young lady started afrightedly. Then she doubled her fist and shook it at the temperamental director.

She was the leading chorus lady of the Mask and Wig Club, who was holding its annual spring rehearsal at the Forrest Theatre. "She" is H. L. Curtis, of the Class of 1922, who, when he forsakes trousers for the low-cut gown, is one of the most popular-looking young things that the stage has ever seen—although he bit-

CONFERENCE ON BILL TO OUST WILSON

State Republican Leaders Will Meet Senator Penrose Here This Week

Republican leaders from all over the state are expected tomorrow and Saturday to confer with Senator Penrose on a bill prepared by independent leaders here to rip Director of Public Safety Wilson out of office.

The bill provides for the appointment by the Governor of a police commissioner to take control of the police in the city.

The bill was drafted at the suggestion of independent leaders, who have followed the leadership of Senator Penrose in recent fights to overthrow Vare rule in the city.

After the opinion of the upstate leader has been obtained the ripper measure will likely be submitted to Governor Spruell. Plans have been arranged to have the bill introduced in the Legislature when it is reconvened Monday night.

GOVERNOR HOME SATURDAY

It has been intimated on several occasions that the Governor was opposed to any ripper legislation. He was quoted some weeks ago in Pittsburgh as being opposed to any attempt to rip out of office the small council in that city.

The Governor is expected to reach his home, in Chester, on Saturday from Hot Springs, Va., where he has been recuperating from an attack of rheumatism.

News of the proposed ripper follows closely the announcement that Senator Penrose would go to Harrisburg next week to lead the fight to put through the Philadelphia reform legislation now pending in that body.

Three police bills are now before the Legislature. One bill, introduced by Senator George Woodward, on behalf of the charter revisionists, will meet in the Senate law, which prohibits political activity on the part of policemen and firemen.

Scott is Sponsor. The other two, sponsored by John R. K. Scott, the Vare floor leader in the House, aim to take the police out of politics and keep them out. One of Scott's bills provides for the appointment of a commission of three members to rule the police here. One commissioner is to be appointed by the Governor, another by the Mayor and the third by the two.

The other bill defines political activity and prescribes penalties for violations of the act.

Should Governor Spruell disapprove of the proposed ripper, the Penrose forces, which control a majority in the Senate and House, may attempt to force the bill through the Legislature and let it up to the Governor to approve it or veto it as he sees fit.

The Vare forces are certain to oppose strenuously any attempt to rip Director Wilson out of office.

ALLOTMENTS COME BACK

\$16,000,000 in Checks Fall to Reach Soldiers' Dependents

Washington, April 17.—(By A. P.)—More than \$16,000,000 worth of returned checks are now in the hands of the war risk insurance bureau, many of them marked "unknown" or "unclaimed," as the result of the failure of allottees to notify the bureau of changed addresses. It was announced today that the Red Cross had been enlisted in a campaign to locate such persons, and had taken over 30,000 of the checks.

About half a million checks have been returned since December 1, 1917, and they are coming back at the rate of 1900 a day. Some of them are not payable because of a change in the status of the allottee, but it is estimated that nearly 50 per cent are still payable, if the proper addresses can be found.

Little Eial

Cloudy tonight. Friday, fair. West winds, light. And I don't care; Do you?

"This is a deuce of a life," said the Titian-haired beauty; and did a horrid cackle. She yanked up her skirts right in front of all those men and women and said: "I've got to have a cigarette." Of course, this was done

Continued on Page Nineteen, Column Five