

SEATTLE IS FLOOD BOUND ONCE MORE

Railroad Bridges on Milwaukee and Great Northern Are Washed Out.

ISOLATION NOW COMPLETE

Almost Unprecedented Rainfall and Chinook Wind Does Much Damage in Towns Along Nooksack.

Tacoma Power Plant Out.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 29.—With washouts on practically every railroad entering Seattle and with highways to the south and east closed by floods in the White, Snoqualmie and Cedar rivers, the city tonight is again flood-bound for the second time in less than two weeks. A warm rain was melting snow in the Cascades, and tonight there was no immediate relief in prospect.

Late today a washout on the Milwaukee, near Maple Valley, and the loss of a bridge near Monroe, was reported, and the isolation of the city by transcontinental lines was complete. A steel span 150 feet in length near Sultan, on the transcontinental line of the Great Northern, has gone out, and it will be several days before the damage can be repaired.

Present Flood More Destructive. The bridge over the north fork of Elkhorn at Index, on the Scenic Highway, has been carried out. The present flood is proving more destructive than its predecessor.

BELLINGHAM, Wash., Dec. 29.—An almost unprecedented rainfall for this region and a chinook wind, which melted the sleet that covered the greater part of the country north of Bellingham, has brought a flood of waters that is menacing towns along the Nooksack River, washing out railroad tracks and generally demolishing railroad and telephone service.

Everton Is Flooded. Early today the river had overflowed its banks at Everton and water was reported to be eight inches deep in some of the stores. At Ferndale the river was rising at the rate of a foot an hour. A number of residents of Marista were forced to move to higher ground.

The rainfall last night amounted to 2.05 inches and brought the total precipitation for the month up to 13 inches.

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—At 1:15 this afternoon the high tension line of the Tacoma Railway & Power Company from the power plant at Lake Tapp to Tacoma became damaged by the flood.

Tacoma Streets Stop. At that time the power to Tacoma was shut off and the system ceased running. By 2:15 the break in the line had been repaired and cars started operating again.

The city power plant is having serious trouble in operating. The water has risen 1 foot 2 inches above the dam, said Superintendent Evans, and, since the dam is 260 feet wide, a torrent of water is rushing into the harbor. The water has brought down large barks of logs and timber, which have choked up the intake gates and only a small amount of water is getting into the plant.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Lowlands throughout Grays Harbor County are again flooded as a result of the heavy downpour of the past week and high water, which is blowing over the harbor. The floods, however, are not as severe as those of several weeks ago, but the water continues to rise.

The rainfall at noon was 28 inches for the month, making this the wettest December in 22 years. Trains are still operating on time, but automobile roads are blocked by the high water. The rain has been steadily continuing.

HOQUIAM, Wash., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Flood conditions in the Grays Harbor district are higher than at any time this winter in the past six years.

Chehalis River Out of Its Banks. The Chehalis River is far out of its banks and the entire valley is flooded. The flood is higher in all streams of the Harbor district than the early part of last week.

The Olympic Highway is impassable between Montesano and Aberdeen, due to high water, which has flooded it, and near Tulpe, where it is under about three feet of water, shutting off traffic through to the beach and Lake Quinalt. Three stage lines are ferrying their passengers past the flooded sections of the road by boat.

Railway schedules are disrupted again and all trains are being held and one or two have been annulled. The Northern Pacific beach line is blocked by a slide near Sunset and a freight train is caught west of it. Telegraph lines to the Harbor are in bad shape and lines to the Sound are down. Long distance telephone wires still were working tonight.

WENATCHEE, Wash., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—The rivers of North Central Washington are now at flood stage, the highest since 1906. Little snow now remains in the mountains, it having gone off during the present soft spell.

Wenatchee Out of Banks. The Wenatchee River is particularly turbulent and the continued rain of the past few days has sent it out of its banks.

This afternoon the North Cashmere bridge was carried out by the high water and the main bridge at Cashmere was washed several feet out of place. A large crew is now at work trying to save it. Other bridges on the Wenatchee are also threatened.

Three bridges on the Blount Pass road have been swept away. From all portions of the district are reports of damage by the high water.

The Columbia, which until this week was at its lowest stage for many years, is now rising at the rate of about 18 inches per day.

ALL EAST IS IN THE COLD

(Continued From First Page.)

Ign Central trains were tied up at Gibson, Ind. by snow and street deep. Government control of the railroads was seen when station painters were taken from that work and put to shoveling snow.

The cold wave hit the East today, western New York shows eight degrees below zero, with snow. New York and Boston are below the zero mark and the frigidity is traveling south along the Atlantic seaboard rapidly.

Washington is at the zero mark tonight and there are snow and very cold weather in North and South Carolina. All of the South, with the exception of the lower tip of Florida, is cold.

There is no prospect of relief before

Tuesday, except in the territory of the Great Lakes, where the large bodies of water, which have not yet become chilled through, temper the weather for a distance of about two miles from the shores. This explains why Chicago has a temperature of zero and down state points, a hundred miles or more south show eight and 12 degrees below zero.

NEW ENGLAND SUFFERS MUCH Cold Wave Worst in Several Years and Fuel Supply Short.

BOSTON, Dec. 29.—New England was in the grip of the coldest wave of several winters tonight with thousands of homes without sufficient fuel because of the coal shortage. The suffering among the poor in the tenement districts of the cities was especially severe.

With the thermometer at the weather bureau here registering 5 below zero at 8 P. M., the Government forecaster announced "continued cold" for tomorrow. Fuel Administration officers were besieged today by families whose coal bins were depleted. A fleet of coal barges destined for this port was reported tonight stormbound in harbors south of Cape Cod. The vessels have 10,000 tons of this city and 7000 tons for Northern New England ports. James J. Storror, New England fuel administrator, said he had arranged for many loads to come direct from the mines by rail, but tonight the cold had upset all railroad schedules.

ALL EAST OF MISSISSIPPI COLD Snow Falls in Atlantic Coast States. Rain in Other Sections.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Practically all the country east of the Mississippi River is shivering in a cold wave almost as severe as that experienced early in the month. Actual suffering is expected in many places because of coal shortages.

Snow fell today in the Atlantic Coast states, with rain in other sections, but fair weather generally is forecast in the East tomorrow and Monday. Abatement of the cold is not expected before Monday and Tuesday, higher temperatures being promised Monday in the Ohio Valley and Upper Lake region and Tuesday in the Coast states.

The blanket of cold has extended over the Missouri Valley and Rocky Mountain region for several days, but temperatures in that section went up today and rainfall was reported in the North Pacific states.

MERCURY 6 BELOW AT N. Y. Metropolis Has Coldest December Weather Ever Known There.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—With a minimum temperature of six degrees below zero at 6 o'clock tonight, the city had the coldest weather ever officially recorded for December. Only once before—on December 30, 1880—was that temperature reached, according to the records of the local weather bureau. From 8 o'clock this morning, when the official thermometer registered one degree below zero, the mercury never rose more than two degrees above.

There was much suffering among the poor, many families without coal being obliged to burn wood in kitchen ranges and use the kitchen as a living-room. The situation in handling the coal shortage here made extremely difficult for coal dealers, the barge men on the river and the coal-carrying railroads, which were obliged to thaw out all the coal shipped across the Hudson River from New Jersey.

SON GETS HONOR CROSS

SPOKANE MOTHER MADE HAPPY BY WORD FROM BOY IN FRANCE.

Young Soldier's Modesty Gives No Hint of Act of Bravery Cited by French Government.

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Word that her son, William Thomas, who is in the 16th Infantry Regiment, U. S. Regular Army, has received a cross of honor from the French government for bravery was received yesterday by Mrs. Ellen Potts, who lives at 811 Second avenue.

With a modesty which Mrs. Potts declares characteristic of her son, his letter begins with reference to receipt of a letter from her and to a slight snowfall the morning before.

Not until the middle of the second page does he mention the signal honor paid him, and even then he fails to tell what act of bravery the cross was conferred.

"I received a cross of honor yesterday from the French government for bravery," he writes. "It is impossible for me to send you the citation, as I am not permitted to mail it until Congress approves of it. I hope to hear that all are well. Write me real soon, for I am far away from home. Tell brother that the war will last 15 years longer he can take my place."

Young Thomas is only 22 years old. He was born in Lake Charles, La., and lived there most of his life until eight months ago, when he enlisted and was sent to Jefferson Barracks, Mo. His father was a physician. Mrs. Potts received the letter from the French government in a letter from the French government in a letter from the French government.

The envelope bears the censor's stamp and, written in ink, the words, "O. K. L. E. Monroe, Lt. Inf." The same censor's signature appears on the last page of the letter.

VON HERTLING SPOKESMAN

(Continued From First Page.)

does to a country, and they know their tenure is precarious. The separate peace they brandish before the allies may please them off their eminence over night and the next regime may be less scrupulous in its treatment of enemies than was the amiable Kereken.

Bolsheviks to Be Ignored.

The certainty that no Bolshevik communications will be accepted here does not mean that other communications will necessarily be received. Ambassador Francis will, of course, transmit anything of interest, but would be as a matter of information, and not as a state paper. Germany wants to talk to America she can do it through the Swiss Legation, but whatever peace is taken, the proposals will have to bear the plain mark, "made in Germany," before we pay any attention. As to the nature of our reply, that depends on the subject matter.

We will decline to regard the Kaiser's deputy as any more dependable than his boss, and go right on building ships and shipping soldiers for the big fight in the Spring.

Phone your want ads to The Oregonian, Main 7070, A 5935.

MUNITIONS PLANTS ARE SHORT OF COAL

War Contracts for Clothing and Other Supplies May Be Halted.

NEW ENGLAND SHIVERING

"Immediate, Real, Practical Relief"

Is Demand of Fuel Administrator—Factories Get 20 Per Cent of Requirements.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—James J. Storror, fuel administrator for New England, today told Secretary Baker, that war contracts calling for hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of clothing and war munitions could not be carried to completion at the present rate of coal supply. "Immediate, real, practical relief" was asked, and the New England administrator left it to the Government's executive officials to decide how the fuel could be supplied.

Some factories working on war contracts have fuel supplies for only two weeks, Mr. Storror said.

Chairman Hurley, of the Shipping Board, also was called into the conference between Secretary Baker and Mr. Storror. Mr. Storror later made this statement: "The railroad congestion which now has reduced the coal supply for commercial coal at the Pennsylvania mines is bringing us less than 20 per cent of our contract requirements and no coal whatever for the hundreds of New England plants which depend upon buying spot coal in the market."

Water Movement Also Cut. The taking of our tugs and ships for Governmental purposes also has greatly reduced the supply of coal moving by water from the West Virginia mines to Boston, Providence, Portland and other New England coal-distributing points.

Immediate and effective action is taken by the Government within a few days to increase the supply of coal in New England, the tremendous amount of war equipment which the Government is expected to produce will not be produced. Many people do not realize that even though we are at war, many millions of tons of coal must be burned for purposes which come ahead even of rifles, cartridges and poison gas.

Homes Must Be Warned.

"In the first place, it takes over 15,000,000 tons of coal a year to keep the houses in New England warm and cook their daily food. It takes over 6,000,000 tons to keep the New England railroads running. It requires many millions of tons for the trolley lines, without the operation of which people cannot get to the great New England ship-building plant and the rest of our industrial establishments. Also, our gas and electric light plants, which burn millions of tons of coal to keep going. Our hospitals, schools, office buildings, and countless other establishments must be kept going. It was 30 degrees below zero in Northern New England this morning."

There is one New England company alone which has undertaken to turn out 3,500,000 yards of shirting for our soldiers, 3,500,000 yards of overcoat, 4,000,000 yards of cloth to make overalls and 3,500,000 yards of blanket. I cite this case merely for illustration. I cannot say what Government action may be taken. The New England crisis unquestionably will require Secretary Baker and also Dr. Garfield and Chairman Hurley very careful consideration with a view to finding a prompt and effective remedy. I have no doubt the situation will be taken up with Secretary McAdoo and his advice and assistance sought."

SPEED UP, SAYS M'ADOO

RAILROAD CONTROLLER SENDS ORDER TO GILMAN.

First Message Under New Arrangement Bearing on Transportation Reaches Portland.

L. C. Gilman, president of the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway, received the first order from William G. McAdoo, the director-general of the railroads, which has reached Portland. A telegram came to the man's office yesterday announcing that McAdoo has taken over the control of the railroads, in accordance with the proclamation of the President of December 26, and directing that President Gilman continue the operation of the lines of which he is the head until further orders.

"You are requested to make every possible effort to increase efficiency," read the order, "and to move traffic by the most convenient and expeditious routes. I confidently count on your hearty co-operation. It is only through united effort, under my supervision, that we can win this war and America's future be secured."

President Gilman replied to the effect that instructions would be followed and the fullest co-operation would be given. The order will be relayed to officials of the whole system for their information and guidance. Similar orders are expected by other rail system heads in this territory.

Judge Thomas C. Burke, ex-collector of Customs, wired Secretary McAdoo yesterday, advising that much traffic congestion can be relieved and many cars freed for use by the diversion of freight now held in cars on Puget Sound and at San Francisco to the Columbia River district loading on ships here. Dock space was by Judge Burke to be available here for this purpose.

Seized I. W. W. Papers Returned. CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—More than 2000 subscription lists and pamphlets seized by Federal agents two weeks ago in a raid on one of the local I. W. W. headquarters were ordered released for distribution today by United States Commissioner Lewis P. Mason on motion of Attorney George F. Vanderveer, counsel for the members of the I. W. W. under indictment in Chicago for disloyalty and sedition. The attorney explained that the papers are to be used in raising funds for the defense of the indicted men.

Danish Government Protests.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—According to a German newspaper, the Danish government has protested to Washington against the internment of German sailors at St. Thomas, until December 8. The Danish West Indies, the United States is said to have guaranteed that the Germans there would be treated as neutrals until the end of the war.

Rengo Belt Reducing Corset

These famous corsets are positively guaranteed against breakage—the warranty being offered after nine years of the most severe test. There is a great deal of meaning in this guarantee, as Rengo Belt Corsets are designed exclusively for medium and full figures, where the superlative strength necessary in reducing garments is demanded, and where excessive wearing strain is the rule rather than the exception. Regular materials and ordinary methods of tailoring are not sufficient for Rengo Belt Corsets. The method of accomplishing abdominal reduction—the one most important reduction in all stout figures—is in the tailoring of the exclusive Rengo Abdominal Belt from which these scientific corsets take their name. There is no corset strength equal to Rengo Belt strength, either as to the material or the double watch-spring steels.

All Styles and Sizes \$2, \$2.50 \$3.50 Pr.

Robert's Bros. THIRD & MORRISON

BIG BOMBS "FIXED" German Charged With Mutilating Torpedoes.

MISSILES MADE USELESS Clever Teuton Mechanic Employed in Munitions Factory Held for Maliciously Aiding Germany by Clogging Machinery.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Paul Hennig, a naturalized German, who has been employed as a foreman in a Brooklyn factory engaged in the making of torpedoes for the United States Government, was remanded to jail without bail in Federal court here today, charged with treason.

Hennig, authorities say, superintended the assembling of the gyroscopes, which control the course of the torpedoes. According to District Attorney Francis, some of these gyroscopes have been found "maliciously mutilated." This was done in such a way as to render useless the torpedoes in which the gyroscopes were installed.

"Not only would these torpedoes have been worthless as weapons, but it is possible they would have proved engines of destruction for their own users," said the District Attorney.

Hennig came to the United States in 1908 and was naturalized in 1916. Naval inspectors, it was stated, have had him under close observation for several weeks, imperfections in the parts of the gyroscopes which he assembled in Hennig's department having aroused suspicion.

The gyroscopes, which have been termed the brain of the torpedo, are of such intricate construction, authorities say, that a defect, which could be detected only by an expert, would divert the missile from its course. Hennig has been interned as an alien enemy at Ellis Island.

When arraigned before Federal Judge Veder in Brooklyn today, Hennig, in an accent which was unmistakably German, pleaded "not guilty." He was ordered held without bail until January 2, when a date will be set for his hearing.

ST. LOUIS MAJOR IS OUT

Man Who Held "Slacking" Not Federal Offense Put Out of Army.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 29.—Major Joseph Whelan, of St. Louis, until December 8, Judge Advocate-General of the Central Department of the Army, with headquarters at Chicago, has been honor-

"THE STORE THAT UNDERSELLS BECAUSE IT SELLS FOR CASH" Great January Clean-Up Sale

Important Price Reductions Prevail Throughout Every Section of This Great Store.

Keeping stocks cleared of broken lines is an important factor in this store's programme. It is the purpose of the January Sales. Though assortments are somewhat incomplete the merchandise is desirable and dependable in every way and bears our guarantee of quality.

Clean-up Sale of Broken Lines of Women's Shoes \$3.37

This season's styles in button and lace models, English and regulation lasts with medium or high heels; all sizes; good, durable, fashionable footwear considerably underpriced.

Velour Flannels at 15c Yd.

Best standard quality Velour Flannels—many pretty designs and colorings to select from—brand-new goods at a bargain price.

Seamless Sheets 81 by 90 inches—now on sale at...

Cotton Batts, 72 by 84 inches, 3-lb. Batts.....\$98c

Plaid Blankets, full double bed size, on sale at.....\$4.95

Store Opens at 8:30 A. M. Saturdays at 9 A. M.

Store Closes at 5:30 P. M. Saturdays at 6 P. M.

Robert's Bros. THIRD & MORRISON

The Most in Value—The Best in Quality

A Timely and Important Sale of Women's Rain Coats Ten Dollars

If you have not already purchased your Raincoat you'll enjoy the "price treat" we're giving here now. They come in the best styles in fine waterproofed and cravenetted fabrics in olive, tan, gray, navy and black. All sizes in 52 and 54-inch styles. Garments of guaranteed quality.

About Half Price for Women's Black Sateen Petticoats At 65c

Well-made garments in good styles in 40, 42 and 44-inch lengths—broken lines from regular stock to close at a bargain price.

Great Half-Price Sale of Hundreds of Remnants in Domestic Goods

Desirable lengths, patterns and colorings in Percales, Sateens, Gingham, Galateas, Crepes, Silk Mixed Goods, Suitings, Poplins, Mercerized Pongees, White Goods, etc. Now is the time and this is the sale at which prudent women will purchase for both present and future needs. Come, choose from the entire assortment at ONE-HALF REGULAR REMNANT PRICES.

Half-Wool Suitings at 69c Yard.

St. Nicholas Cloth—a half-wool fabric shown in neat stripe styles in dark colorings—an exceedingly durable material.

Progress of the War.

Cold weather and snow in the European fighting zone have reduced military activities to a minimum in most sectors. Only in Northern Italy has there been any movement of importance in the last 48 hours. Even there an infantry operation is reported from only one point on the battle line. The Italians took the initiative, delivering a blow at the Austro-German line near the town of Padua, on the mountain front, just to the west of Piave. The German War Office reports this engagement, declaring that the Italian attack was broken up by the defensive fire.

The principal aerial activity also is reported from the Italian front. Austrian airmen recently began off from Treviso with the loss of 11 airplanes, carried out a bombing raid Friday night in which the city of Padua, rich in art treasures, was attacked. None of the 13 persons and injured 69 others. Bombs dropped on Treviso and two other towns closer to the fighting lines than Padua, which is some 35 miles from the front, caused no damage or casualties.

In naval warfare, torpedoes or mines scored against British torpedo-boats and destroyers operating off the Dutch coast. Three of these craft were sunk on the night of December 23 during foggy weather, with the loss of 153 officers and men.

The displacing of Admiral Sir John R. Jellicoe by Vice-Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss as First Sea Lord is partly attributed in England to the loss of these destroyers with many of their personnel.

King Ferdinand of Roumania has abkined the throne in favor of Crown Prince Charles, according to an unconfirmed rumor in Petrograd.

This follows previous reports of a revolutionary plot against Ferdinand and other indications of a political crisis in the kingdom, as described in dispatches received at the Bolshevik headquarters in Petrograd last Monday.

Petrograd special dispatches do not indicate clearly what the reception has been in Russia of the central powers' reply to the Russian peace proposals. One view taken is that Northern Russia is disposed to accept peace on almost any terms, while the attitude of the remainder of the nation is uncertain.

Another correspondent considers the Bolshevik disinclined at the German declaration to accept the principle that nationalities hitherto without political independence be allowed to decide their own future, this refusal being considered a stumbling-block for further negotiations.

Meanwhile, Germans who have arrived in Petrograd are being permitted to spread their propaganda and German newspapers are circulating freely. Postal service with entente countries, on the other hand, is lacking, and allied residents of Petrograd, as well as the Russians as a whole, remain in complete ignorance of what has gone on in allied countries for the past six weeks.

WHO IS NUMBER ONE?

HUNDREDS of thousands throughout America have seen Kathleen Clifford in the Paramount serial. Anna Katharine Green's story is the most baffling mystery tale of the year. Ask any of your friends. They've all seen "Who is 'Number One?'" The verdict is unanimous. "Undoubtedly the finest of all motion picture melodramas."

See this serial at the Globe Theater, Eleventh and Morrison, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday each week.

WILSON EATS \$567 BUTTER

Product Auctioned by Red Cross Is Sent to White House.

MARBLE ROCK, Ia., Dec. 29.—The pound of butter recently auctioned here by the Red Cross for \$567 and sent to the White House for Christmas, has brought a letter from President Wilson in which he says: "I shall partake of the pound of butter."

Jackson Committee Keeps at Work.

MEDFORD, Ore., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Medford and Jackson County with other counties noted for their active participation in the Red Cross campaign in a supreme effort to reach the required allotment. When the campaign closed Monday Jackson County had reached only 54 per cent of its quota. A. S. V. Carpenter, county manager of the campaign, was forced to give up active work because of the pressure of ranch work and his place has been taken by T. E. Daniels, who managed the first Red Cross campaign.

FURNITURE SHOWER GIVEN

Major Northington, Burned Out at Tacoma, Finds Many Friends.

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Two hundred strong, women carrying packages of all shapes, meanings and pieces of furniture from a bedroom set to the living-room rug, officers of the medical corps, nurses from the base hospital and Rotarians and their friends marched in upon amazed and wondering Major and Mrs. Eugene G. Northington at the home of Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick C. Smith last night.

Last Sunday the newly furnished Northington house at Camp Murray contained all the personal effects of Major and Mrs. Northington burned out of the ground. This Sunday the Major and his wife will move into a new house which will be completely furnished with the help of their friends upon them. Major Northington was formerly a Portland physician.

Slackers' Game Is Foiled

Prison Term Hereafter Goes With Dishonorable Discharge.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Dishonorable discharges from the Army, which many officers believe have been seized upon by slackers and objectors as the vehicle of escape from military service, will no longer provide such an opportunity under an order issued today by Secretary Baker.

For several weeks the Army has been losing men at the rate of 100 to 150 a day. They chose to commit offenses which led to their dishonorable discharge.

In the future, Secretary Baker ordered, such men will get terms of imprisonment for their discharge, and whenever possible some other form of sentence will be used.

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