

BLANKETED BELGIANS TRYING TO KEEP WARM



The soldiers of Belgium are poorly equipped for winter fighting, but blankets are being distributed among them as rapidly as possible.

AMERICAN FARMS ECLIPSE RECORDS

Total Output in 1914 Nearly Ten Billions.

Decrease in Price of Eggs and Increase in Cattle and Calves Contribute to Result.

Washington, D. C.—American farms during 1914 eclipsed all records for combined value of their products with a total of almost \$10,000,000,000. Secretary Houston, of the department of Agriculture, announced Thursday that the value of all farm crops, farm animal products and farm animals sold and slaughtered aggregated \$9,872,936,000.

That was \$83,000,000 more than the grand total for 1913, the previous record year, and more than double the value of all farm products in 1899.

Crops this year were valued at \$6,044,480,000, and the estimated total value of the animal products and of the farm animals sold and slaughtered was \$3,828,456,000. The value of crop production this year was slightly less than in 1913 on account of the reduced value of the cotton crop, brought about principally by the European war.

The corn and wheat crops, however, were the most valuable ever produced in the United States, bringing the year's crop value total to only \$83,279,000 less than the total for last year, despite the loss of more than \$300,000,000 in the value of the cotton crop.

"The estimated value of the animal products on the farm in 1914," said the Agricultural Outlook, "is distinctly higher than in 1913, which was itself a record year in the value of this class of products."

"This is due to general, but slight, increases in production, except for sheep and swine, and in prices, and more especially to a small increase in the average farm price of eggs and to a more considerable increase in the farm price of cattle and calves sold and slaughtered."

"It must be borne in mind that the amounts of these estimates do not stand for net wealth produced, nor for cash receipts, nor for profit, nor for income in any sense. Each product is valued, as in the census, when it reached commercial form and the grand aggregate of all items is to be regarded as an index number, or from a relative rather than from an absolute point of view."

The sales of crops last year were estimated at \$2,928,000,000; sales of livestock \$2,919,000,000, a total of \$5,847,000,000. The estimated value of total sales per farm was \$892, and sales per capita of rural population, excluding towns, \$139.

The value of the principal farm crops this year was:

Corn, \$1,702,599,000; wheat, \$878,680,000; hay, \$779,068,000; cotton, \$519,616,000; oats, \$499,413,000; potatoes, \$198,609,000; barley, \$105,903,000; tobacco, \$101,411,000; sweet potatoes, \$41,294,000; rye, \$37,018,000; sugar beets, \$27,950,000; rice, \$21,849,000; flaxseed, \$19,540,000, and buckwheat, \$12,892,000.

In the production of the foregoing 14 principal crops, this year's average was about 10 per cent larger than in 1913, and 6 per cent smaller than 1912, which year stands as one of the greatest aggregate productions in the United States. This year two important crops exceeded previous records—wheat, with 891,000,000 bushels, following the 1913 record of 763,000,000 bushels, and cotton, with 15,966,000 bales (preliminary estimate), the previous record being 15,693,000 bales in 1911.

The value per acre of all enumerated crops averaged about \$16.44 this year, compared with \$16.52 in 1913 and \$16.15 in 1912.

Other Neutral Countries May Join With America

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson appealed Wednesday to American shippers of non-contraband goods, such as cotton, not to allow their cargoes to be mixed with contraband articles.

The United States government, he announced, could deal confidently with the difficulties which had arisen in the treatment of American commerce by Great Britain only if supported by absolutely honest manifests.

This statement followed a discussion by the President with his cabinet of the general shipping situation and of the note dispatched to Great Britain protesting at length against the British policy of prolonged detentions of cargoes and other interference with American trade.

NEW BRITISH ARMORED CAR



One of the new armored light cars that the British are using to good effect on the continent. It carries eight men and a Maxim gun in a revolving top and has a speed of forty miles an hour. When in action the driver sits on the floor and guides the car with the aid of a reflex mirror.

Publication of a synopsis of the note, the tenure of which was confirmed at the White House and State department, aroused much interest, not only in diplomatic circles, but in congress and official quarters generally.

Many diplomats of European and South American countries made formal inquiry at the State department concerning the note, and a memorandum on the subject was promised them.

There was a confident feeling in diplomatic quarters that steps would be taken by other leading nations of this hemisphere, as well as by some European neutrals, to point out to Great Britain their acquiescence in the American point of view.

Britain to Move Aliens

London—Notices to leave have been served by the police on persons regarded as undesirable in the coast towns adjoining the Tyne-side district and Sunderland. The persons affected include aliens of enemy countries and naturalized aliens of both sexes, and also British-born descendants of aliens, including the second generation.

Exceptions are made in cases of advanced age or extreme youth. Those affected must leave within eight days to an area 30 miles from the coast, approved by the military authorities.

Italy Irritates Vienna

Venice—Italy's expedition in Avlona, which she occupied several days ago, appears to have produced considerable irritation at Vienna, according to advices from the Austrian capital. It is thought there that possibly the suddenness of the Italian move may have disturbed plans attributed to Prince von Buelow's mission at Rome, which is said to have included an offer of Southern Albania to Italy upon her agreeing to certain conditions.

BUSINESS FUTURE LOOKS PROMISING

Secretary Redfield Sends To All Cheering Message.

Prosperity for Whole Country At Hand and Advice Is Offered To Make Preparations.

Washington, D. C.—Heartened by months of close study of the business outlook of the nation, Secretary Redfield, of the department of Commerce, wrote a New Year's greeting to the merchants and manufacturers of the country, bidding them in characteristic language to reach out for the prosperity he sees within their grasp. There is no warrant, Mr. Redfield declares, for gloom or despair. The ill effects of the European war on American enterprise is passing and new vistas for commercial venture are opening with each new day.

"If you want prosperity, do your share to bring it and do it now," he says. "Get that addition to your shop going; it will cost you less today than six months hence. Is trade a bit dull in the works? Get those improvements begun. Prices are low and likely to rise. You've been thinking of that contract work. Better start yourself before things get the start of you."

"This country slows down a bit now and then, but it never stops growing and it always moves up and not down. We don't know what it means in most of the United States to have real general distress. Think of Belgium and Poland. O man with a grouch, and slink into your hole and pull it in after you. There think of your sins and your blessings and come out with your courage in working order."

"There are lots of good American examples of pluck. Do you remember San Francisco and Galveston and Chicago—Boston, Charleston, Baltimore and Dayton, and many others like them? Remember them as did Edison and lots of your fellow citizens, who showed pluck when things were hard.

"Nothing is the matter with the man with a grouch except an absentee heart and missing nerve. Cheer up, go to work, do your level best, quit talking misery. The war's over yonder—their's living here. It's all clouds there—clear day here.

"Get out and sell some goods. Plant some more acres; do more work than you planned. Talk cheerful talk and you'll find this country of ours a pretty good place after all."

Four German Aircraft Attack Dunkirk, England

London—Four German aeroplanes flew several times over the city of Dunkirk Thursday, dropping bombs as they went, according to the Dunkirk correspondent of the Daily Mail. Soldiers in the streets fired on the machines and one Taube seemed to be hit, but all got away safely.

The official returns of the casualties show that 15 persons were killed and 32 wounded. The bombs were filled with shrapnel.

For half an hour the whole city crackled with rifle shots and bombs, which threw up dense clouds of black smoke. No sooner did one aeroplane seem to depart than another arrived. Buildings in all parts of the city were wrecked. One child's arm was blown off and an old woman was killed outright.

The fifth aeroplane remained as a sentry outside the town, ready to attack any of the allies' aeroplanes that might seek to repel the air assaults.

40 Convicts Are Freed

Columbia, S. C.—Fifty-five New Years' pardons, paroles and commutations granted by Governor Blease reduced the number of prisoners in the state penitentiary, at the state farms and in county convict camps to 149. The governor's action put the total number of prisoners to whom he has granted clemency in his four years of office at 1544. Sixteen full pardons were granted, 24 prisoners were paroled and the sentences of 15 were commuted. Twenty-eight of the 55 were serving terms for homicide.

STERN WARNING GIVEN ENGLAND

Meddling With American Shipping Must Cease.

Definite Statement Asked as to Intentions of Future Conduct—Delay Is Forbidden.

Washington, D. C.—The United States government dispatched Tuesday a long note to Great Britain, insisting on early improvement in the treatment of American commerce by the British fleet. It gave warning that public criticism was general over unwarranted interference with the legitimate foreign trade of the United States.

The document, constituting the strongest representation on this subject made by the United States to any of the belligerents since the outbreak of the war, was cabled to Ambassador Page to be formally presented to Sir Edward Grey, British foreign secretary.

Its preparation was begun a month ago by Solicitor Cone Johnson, Counselor Lansing and Secretary Bryan and finally had the personal attention of President Wilson, who revised its phraseology with minute care.

As the detailed point of view of the United States in numerous specific cases of detentions and seizures of cargoes had been set forth in a series of emphatic protests, most of which have gone unheeded, this communication was couched in general terms, covering the entire subject of the relations between the United States and Great Britain as affected by the latter's naval policy, considered highly objectionable by this government.

Since France has adopted practically the same decrees on contraband as has Great Britain, the note is virtually a statement intended for all the members of the triple entente.

The note declares at the outset that the representations are made in a friendly spirit, but that the United States considers it best to speak in terms of frankness, lest silence be construed as an acquiescence in a policy which infringes the rights of American citizens under the laws of nations.

The document points out that complaints on every side and public criticism in the United States hold the British policy as directly responsible for the depression in many American industries, a situation the seriousness of which must be apparent to Great Britain.

Reimbursement alone for cargoes unlawfully detained or seized, it states, does not remedy the evil, as the chief difficulty is the moral effect of British practice on American exporters, who are restrained by it from taking risks or hazards which in no case ought to surround legitimate trade between the United States and other neutral countries.

Feeling has been aroused on the subject to such an extent, the communication adds, that the American government feels compelled to ask for definite information as to Great Britain's attitude, in order that it may take such measures as will protect American citizens in their rights.

AMERICAN CONSULS TO BELGIUM MUST SUIT GERMANS

Washington, D. C.—United States consuls in Belgium must be acceptable to the German military authorities, and the withdrawal of some now there, for the present at least, is desired by the Berlin government. This was made known in a formal notification to the State department Tuesday.

Secretary Bryan declined to make public the text of the German communication or to comment on it until he had had full opportunity to consider it. The understanding in official circles is that the notice is similar to the one sent Argentina and other neutral countries.

It is said that while the German government does not insist that consuls in Belgium take out new exequaturs from German officers, it announces that such consuls must exercise their functions only by permission from the military in control of the territory in which the consulates are situated.

The United States has consular representatives in Brussels, Antwerp, Liege and Ghent.

Military Plan Offered

Chicago—A plan in line with President Wilson's "citizen soldiery" idea was submitted here by Lieutenant Colonel Charles D. Davis, at the meeting of the Illinois National Guard and Naval Reserve association. Under the proposed plan militia regiments would be mustered out of the state service and into the Federal, but would retain their state designations. Thus, the First infantry, of Chicago would become the First Illinois infantry, U. S. A. The present community system of recruiting would continue.

Exiles on Way to Cuba

Panama—Ten persons deported from Costa Rica as the result of the discovery of an alleged plot to assassinate President Alfredo Gonzales, and start a revolution in the republic, passed through Colon on board the steamer Calamarez, bound for Cuba. The alleged conspirators are said to be members of the Conservative party in Nicaragua, who were attempting to foment trouble in Costa Rica.

U. S. Authorities Nip Plot of Conspiring Filipinos

Manila, P. I.—Disclosures of the checking by American authorities of an uprising of Filipinos set for Thursday night were made here Sunday. Eight arrests have been reported, with more to follow. Christmas eve had been chosen by the conspirators in the belief that the army officers would be engaged in preparations for celebrating the holiday.

Warning was given that 10,000 Filipinos in Manila alone planned a concerted attack on Fort Santiago, the Cuartel Espano, the Cuartel Infante and the Medical department. Acting on this information, the military officers instituted a patrol of the streets at dusk and took other measures of defense.

It is disclosed that secret agents of the Filipino constabulary who are members of the secret societies disclosed the plans for an uprising, thus enabling the constabulary and police to disperse gatherings at Bagumbayan, Paco and Navotas, near Malobon.

The uprising was conducted mostly by followers of Artemio Ricarte, a revolutionary now in Hongkong, to which place he was banished by the officials several months ago. Its failure was due in part to poor organization and lack of good leadership.

Reports from Navotas, a town six miles north of the capital, say that simultaneously with the outbreak at Manila on Christmas eve, 30 men entered the municipal building, seized three policemen on duty there and ineffectually tried to open the safe.

Later the Filipinos seized several attendants conducting midnight mass and also captured the Filipino governor, Meleandres. When reinforcements of police arrived the revolutionaries fired a volley and then retreated. Later they encountered another force of police with which they exchanged shots and in this engagement the constabulary succeeded in arresting 10 men. In all 21 Filipinos were taken prisoners at Navotas.

Diplomatic Issue Is Raised in Belgium

London—British authorities were advised Monday that Germany had announced its refusal to recognize the exequaturs of British consuls to Belgium. This is regarded as preliminary to Germany's formal taking over of the government of Belgium.

It is believed here that refusal to recognize Brand Whitlock as United States minister to Belgium would follow as a matter of course. Spain also has a minister to Belgium whose status would be questioned in the same manner.

Ambassador Page is without official information, but it is said he is keeping the State department at Washington informed as to reports reaching London concerning the situation.

Washington, D. C.—The United States government at a late hour had received no notification from Germany that American consuls, originally accredited to Belgium, would be required to obtain new exequaturs or certificates of authority. Until such a notice is communicated and its form is examined, high officials said the American government would be unable to determine a course of action.

Officials here regarded the points involved as of a delicate character and would say only that they would study various precedents before reaching a decision.

In reply to a question recently as to the status of Brand Whitlock, President Wilson replied that Mr. Whitlock would of course remain American minister to Belgium, even though he left the country indefinitely.

Mr. Whitlock is now in Brussels dealing unofficially with the German military authorities, but is accredited to the Belgian government, whose seat is at Havre, France.

Bryan to Retire?

Washington, D. C.—The Christmas season political rumor is that William Jennings Bryan is to retire soon from the cabinet, and is to be succeeded as secretary of state by Senator Stone, of Missouri.

The politicians base their credence of the rumor on their belief that the Secretary of State must get out of the presidential nomination in 1916. They say his candidacy is an assured fact. Senator Stone, they say, will succeed him in the cabinet because, as chairman of the senate foreign relations committee, the Missouriian has supported the foreign policies of both the President and Mr. Bryan.

Steel Net Saves Fleet

London—A steel net stretched across the entrance to Pola Harbor, the great naval port of Austria, proved the undoing of the French submarine Curie, says a dispatch from the Milan correspondent of Lloyds News. In company with other submarines the Curie was attempting an entrance into the harbor to torpedo an Austrian squadron at anchor there. The Curie had penetrated the harbor bar when she collided with the net. An Austrian merchantman gave the alarm and the forts opened fire.

Oklahoma Battle Fatal

Cleveland, Okla.—An unknown robber was killed, Chief of Police Fenton was shot through the leg and two other citizens were wounded in a battle here following an attempt to hold up 20 men in a pool hall. Fenton was passing the place and happened to see the men inside with their hands up. The police chief stood in the front door and emptied his revolver at the robber, who returned the fire, wounding the three men.

BRITISH LOSE 1 IN AIR BATTLE

Daring Attack on German Port Unprecedented.

Attempt to "Dig Out" Warships of Teutons Results in Battle of Ultra Modern Forces.

London—Assisted by light cruisers, destroyers and submarines, seven British naval airmen, piloting seaplanes, made a daring attack Christmas day on the German naval base of Cuxhaven, at the mouth of the Elbe.

Six of the airmen returned safely, but the seventh, Commander Hewlett, it is feared, has been lost, as his machine was found off Heligoland, wrecked.

What damage was done by the bombs thrown by the attacking party could not be ascertained, but the German report of the affair says that the raid was fruitless.

The enterprise of the British navy in thus attempting to "dig out" the German fleet brought about a battle in which the most modern of war machines, the British squadron, including the light cruisers Arethusa and Undaunted, which have been engaged in previous exploits on the German coast, were attacked by Zeppelins, seaplanes and submarines.

By rapid maneuvers the ships were able to avoid the submarines, while the Zeppelins found the fire of the cruisers too dangerous for them to keep up the fight. German seaplanes dropped bombs, which, according to the British account, fell harmlessly into the sea. The Germans, however, reported they hit two destroyers and their convoy, the latter being set afire.

The British ships remained in the vicinity for three hours without being attacked by any surface warships and picked up the seven pilots and their planes.

The others were picked up by submarines, but their machines were sunk. Commander Hewlett, it is thought, was drowned.

Bomb Is Exploded by Fanatic in Hindu Temple

San Francisco—In the midst of the mystic services of an Oriental cult, a stranger identified only by the name of Vevars, Sunday entered the crowded little auditorium of the Hindu temple here and at the very feet of the officiating Hindu swami exploded a bomb, which literally tore the bomb-thrower to pieces, probably fatally wounding Swami Trigunatita, the leader, and threw scores of worshippers, mostly women, into a panic.

The stranger entered the temple while the swami was in the midst of his address on "The Divine Peace," and with loud steps that attracted the attention of all the members of the cult, walked up the center aisle until he reached the rostrum on which the swami was conducting the services.

While the eyes of all followed his actions, wondering at the meaning of his strange conduct, the man was seen to withdraw a small white package from his black fedora hat and strike it three times on the rostrum.

As his arms descended for the third time there was a fearful explosion that appeared to rock the entire building, filled the air with debris and flying glass. Blood and fragments of the body of the bomb-thrower splattered the congregation, for the moment transfixed in their seats with the horror of the action.

Italy Will Hold Albania Firmly

Rome—It is reliably reported here that the Italian foreign office has notified the powers that Italy is determined that deliberations of the London conferences in connection with Albania shall be unconditionally respected, hence she will not tolerate the slightest attempt against the territorial integrity, independence or neutrality of Albania, will not allow a change of government, and will prevent inhabitants from participating in the war.

The present revolution, the note continues, obviously was projected to create complications; but unless these complications are avoided, Italy will exercise complete liberty of actions toward the restoration of order, despite the lack of interest of some of the signatory powers of the London conference.

More Americans Give Aid

Paris—It is pointed out here that every day Americans are doing something to win the gratitude of French people. During the past week Alfred S. Heidelberg, president of the American chamber of commerce gave 10,000 francs for the benefit of the French soldiers and their allies. Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt contributed 125,000 francs to the American ambulance and Miss Julia Aylward gave 100,000 francs. Twelve children of Berkeley, Cal., contributed articles made by themselves which were sold for 1000 francs.

Turks Send Heavy Guns

Athens, via Rome—The Turks are transporting heavy guns from Adrianople to points on the Sea of Marmora, near the Bosphorus, especially Santo Stefano and Kadi Koi, on opposite sides of the entrance to the Bosphorus and commanding the approach to Constantinople from the Sea of Marmora. It is indispensable that the Dardanelles be defended strongly, since the forcing of the straits means the end of Turkey.