

TO-DAY'S MESSAGES.

STEADILY DECLINING.

LONDON, Feb. 18. The cost of living in the United Kingdom continues to fall. The decline in last month was four points to eighty-eight per cent above pre-war level. This drop is mainly due to a reduction of food prices. There has been a continuous decline since November, 1920, apart from a slight interruption in the summer of 1921, and the figure now officially recorded is the lowest since January, 1918.

SCHOONER ABANDONED.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. The Lunenburg schooner, Kathleen Spindler, 196 tons gross, was abandoned at sea 150 miles west of Bermuda Islands, and her crew rescued by the British steamship Argalia, from New Orleans for London, according to a wireless from the Argalia. The Spindler was built at Lunenburg in 1920.

SHIPPING HELD UP.

LONDON, Feb. 18. Shipping trade in Liverpool is dislocated, and liners are unable to enter or leave port, owing to a strike of tugboat men, says an Evening News despatch. The strike is against the owners' demand for increased hours with reduction in wages.

CAIRO UNDER MARTIAL LAW.

LONDON, Feb. 20. A despatch from Cairo says proclamation, under martial law, has been made there, ordering all possessors of firearms to surrender them within four days. In case of refusal persons found with firearms are subject to court martial and the penalty, on conviction, is death. The police are now carrying rifles, and have been ordered to deal summarily with persons attacking them.

INDIAN ARMY SHOULD BE INCREASED.

DELHI, Feb. 20. General Lord Rawlinson, Commander in Chief of British troops in India, explained the military situation to Indian and English journalists to-day, and gave his reasons for the necessity of having armies of great strength, both for frontier and internal defence. He said the tribesmen, if they combined, could raise some 100,000 splendid and well armed fighters. He said British troops had decreased, and the Indian Cavalry had been reduced from forty to 21 regiments. During January eight battalions had assisted the police, and the military had been called out 24 times.

\$50,000 SALARY.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19. Babe Ruth, the home run king, has asked for a salary of close on \$50,000 to play baseball this year. It is reported he received \$25,000 last year.

A JUMP OF 60 DEGREES.

HALIFAX, N.S. Feb. 19. The temperature here made a record jump from 20 degrees below zero to 40 above, within 24 hours filling the streets with snow.

COLOR TROUBLE.

KINGSTON, JA. Feb. 19. A serious clash occurred last night between police and West Indian negro soldiers. Five of the soldiers were wounded. Representations have been made to British authorities for disarmament of the regiment on a charge of periodic misbehaviour.

SOLAR CYCLONES.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Feb. 19. Terrible cyclones on the surface of the sun in the form of gigantic sun spots from 100,000 miles long to 20,000 in breadth, have been observed by astronomers of Allegheny Observatory.

OPIMUM JOINTS RAIDED.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6. Rudely disturbed in a peace that for years has brooded over its crooked streets and mysterious dwellings, Chinatown awoke at dawn yesterday to the sound of pistol volleys and the rending crash of barricaded doors, as police raiders stormed a succession of long suspected opium dens. Eight persons were arrested. Two of the storming party had narrow escapes from injury, when bullets were fired by unseen defenders. Large quantities of opium, with pipes and other paraphernalia, were confiscated.

CLOSING THEATRES.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20. Seven theatres, including the New National and Poli's, two of the principal playhouses in the National Capital, were ordered closed last night. This order followed the inspection of playhouses, as a result of the collapse of the roof of the Knickerbocker Theatre recently, with a loss of ninety-eight lives. Structural weakness and inadequate fire protection are said to have caused the closure of five theatres.

REDUCTION PENDING.

LONDON, Feb. 20. The Times says it understands that in the interest of economy, the Board of Admiralty purposes to reduce the active list of flag officers at the beginning of August from 92 to 57.

DISCUSSION MAY BE LONG.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20. Despite pressure of both Republican and Democratic Senate leaders for

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prompt action, controversies are developing within the Foreign Relations Committee, which may lead to a long conference discussion of the Arms Conference treaties, before any of them is brought to the Senate floor for ratification.

QUITE AN ARMY.

DUBLIN, Feb. 20. Fourteen thousand British troops are now left in Ireland, according to a statement issued by the Publicity Branch of the Irish Republican Army. Fifty military barracks and 150 police barracks have been taken over by the Provisional Government.

ASSESSING DAMAGES.

BELFAST, Feb. 20. The situation in Northern Ireland is considerably calmer than at any time during the last week, and the fear of a clash on the Southern frontier has dwindled almost to the vanishing point. The rival forces, however, retain their positions along the border and hope is expressed that the next few days will see them withdrawn as the proximity of such heavy armed forces is looked upon as a potential menace to peace. Belfast remains quiet, and the cost of the recent violence is now being recorded. Aside from numerous deaths and injuries, there are monetary claims for compensation, amounting to more than 500,000 pounds.

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FIGURES THAT TAKE AWAY THE BREATH.

MOSCOW, (Associated Press)—Mere billions no longer suffice to indicate the amount of paper rubles annually issued by the Soviet Government. It runs into trillions. M. Krestinsky, the Commissar of Finance has informed the Congress of Soviets that the government contemplates the issuance in 1922, of 23,000,000,000 of paper rubles which, he estimates, should have a buying power of 234,000,000 gold rubles. He pointed out to the Congress that this issue which is large in figures is by no means large in buying power for it is based on his estimate that the gold ruble is equivalent in buying power to 100,000 paper rubles. These paper rubles are the ordinary medium of exchange. He explained that the total paper issue for 1915 was 34,000,000,000 rubles; then worth 523,000,000 gold rubles. The issue for 1919 was 123,000,000,000 rubles, worth 390,000,000 gold rubles. The issue for 1920 was 985,000,000,000 rubles, worth 2,000,000,000 gold rubles. The issue for 1921 was 10,000,000,000,000 rubles, worth 200,000,000 gold rubles. This makes the total paper money issue to date 11,142,000,000,000 rubles. The value of one gold ruble has been legally fixed at 100,000 paper rubles for the months of January, February and March, but when this rate was fixed a dollar, which is

worth about two gold rubles, brought in the open market 250,000 to 375,000 paper rubles.

Junkers and Socialists at Odds.

PROPOSED LAW THE CAUSE.
BERLIN, (Associated Press)—The "Junker" press and the Socialists of Germany are at odds over a proposed law intended to protect members of the government from insult and to prevent anybody inciting others to violence against them. Announcement has been made that the government intends to introduce a bill in the Reichstag providing for imprisonment and fine up to 500,000 marks for persons guilty of "insulting the constitution, the president or any member of the Central or Federated government." The Socialists contended that the law is necessary to protect the country against violent and treacherous monarchistic propaganda and chicanery. The Conservative and Nationalist newspapers protest against it as an attack on free speech and free thought. They accuse the Socialists of outraging their own principles, as they formerly fought against laws which protected several royal personages of Germany from slanderous statements. The newspapers now opposing the bill have been wont to entertain readers with lengthy sarcastic or abusive articles about the republican constitution and the government's democratic political leaders.

Solid Food Dangerous.

ORENBURG, Russia.—The danger of giving solid food to starving Russians was illustrated on the platform of the station. When the through train from Tashkent to Moscow halted here, a woman singer, one of its passengers, took pity on a small boy begging at the car window. She gave him a part of a loaf of white bread, which he began to eat ravenously. Within a few minutes he went into choking convulsions and within a half hour was dead.

World's Oldest Mine.

On the outskirts of the town of Falun, in the north of Sweden, is the oldest mine in the world. It began to produce copper in 1225. In the seventeenth century this mine was the chief source of the copper supply of Europe. To-day it no longer produces copper in large quantities, but from its deep-cut galleries come the sulphur pyrites that are used for

the manufacture of sulphuric acid and other chemicals.

It is one of the most old-fashioned mines imaginable. You will find no rapid hauling machinery, no cage that descends at lightning speed into the bowels of the earth. You walk into the mine through sloping galleries, and then climb down to its depths by means of long ladders. As you descend you wish that you had brought an overcoat, for the walls are covered with ice.

Ventilation and drainage are accomplished by means of the most

antiquated pumping gear in existence in any pit.

Besides copper and pyrites, the Falun mine produces gold. From it came all the gold used to make the Swedish crown and sceptre, and it has provided most of the metal for the gold coinage of that country.

Why Salt Melts Snow.

When Fahrenheit, who gave his name to the thermometer in general use to-day, made his interesting ex-

periments with varying degrees of temperature, he found that the lowest temperature he could obtain was that secured from a mixture of ice and salt. This mixture produces a liquid which is much colder than water at the freezing point, or even of snow.

The addition of coarse salt to snow or broken particles of ice, therefore, causes both the snow and the ice to melt, changing the character of both, and producing a liquid which has a much lower freezing point than water.

If salt is applied to snow in extremely cold weather little or no noticeable because the snow is liquid freezes as fast as it is melted. But when the thermometer is twenty-five or thirty degrees below the freezing point, or even of snow, snow will disappear rapidly in the form of brine.

Padre Nangle Expresses Gratitude

Editor Evening Telegram.
Dear Sir.—Please let me express through your columns my thanks and appreciation to those who have assisted in the raising of the Memorial Fund for the War. I am, Sir, very sincerely,
Yours sincerely,
T. NANGLE

Feb. 20, 1922.
I especially want to express thanks to Messrs. Condon and the proprietors of the St. John's Theatre who so kindly and generously placed the theatre at my disposal for the concert. Lastly, I want to express my very sincere thanks to everybody who attended the concert, as it shows that my endeavours to raise funds for the Memorial Fund are appreciated and supported by the community. Thanking you in advance for space, I am,
Yours sincerely,
T. NANGLE

Feb. 20, 1922.

"Tips" at Funeral

WHERE SEXTON MAKES ONE TON FROM MOURNERS.
In several Denbighshire villages there is a queer old burial custom that is still observed. When the first part of the funeral is closed in church, mourners are congregated drop monetary gifts into the collection plate, which becomes the sexton's remuneration. Before the mourners leave the graveside there is another collection—on the sexton's shovel. It is the sexton's property, and it is known to amount to as much as £10. Local people inquire how much is given at So-and-so's funeral, and it is considerable rivalry. It is quite a common thing to see Treasury notes fluttering at the sexton's collection plate and the sexton's shovel.

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