

DEATH OF HERMAN RIDDER, GREAT CATHOLIC PUBLICIST.

His Last Wish For Peace.
Herman Ridder, publisher of the New Yorker Staats Zeitung and who had been prominent in political and civil affairs for twenty-five years, died yesterday afternoon at his home, 11 West Eighty-first street, in his sixty-fourth year. At 2 o'clock Mr. Ridder, according to his daily custom, had discussed with his eldest son, Bernard H. Ridder, phases of the war in relation to the news and editorial policy of the newspaper, and at the conclusion of the conference of twenty minutes he remarked:

"May peace soon be with us." An hour later he suddenly became unconscious. He expired at 4.15 from the effects of arterial sclerosis. Mr. Ridder last visited his office in the New Yorker Staats-Zeitung building, at 182 William Street, on Dec. 16, 1914, but from his sickroom he had continued to be the guiding spirit and inspiration of the newspaper's policy. At the outbreak of the war he started a special column in the paper under the caption of "The War Day by Day," in the English language, for which he wrote the first article, which has been continued by Bernard H. Ridder over the signature of his father.

His Deep Interest in the War.
During the last year Mr. Ridder, who had taken a deep interest in the war and its effects on this country, became greatly worried over the feeling aroused here, and with the idea of allaying this condition he announced his purpose in presenting his views in English in this statement of his position:

"It was not without many misgivings that I entered upon the conduct of this column. I could not be blind to the dangers of misinterpretation to which I might be open. I assumed the task, as in duty bound, not as a German subject, which I am not, but as an American, which I am; not to create ill-feeling among Americans, of diverse sympathies, but to ally it. Truth alone can survive and upon truth alone can be founded the lasting impressions which must follow inevitably the present war."
Since the war all of his personal means were lost in the failure of the International Typetting Machine Company, of which he was President and he died practically penniless, in fact, his personal estate was insolvent. This he accepted with the philosophical comment: "After all the death of a poor man is one to be envied."

Some months ago friends of Mr. Ridder, and other supporters of his newspapers, assumed the debts of the publisher to insure the integrity of the newspaper property and the continuation of the publications. His death, therefore, will cause no great change in this respect. The papers, which consist of morning and evening editions, will be continued under the joint management and direction of his two sons, Bernard H. and Victor F. Ridder.

Began Career as Errand Boy.
Mr. Ridder, who was born in the house at 400 Greenwich Street, got a few years of study in the Public schools, was in turn an errand boy, a clerk in a Wall Street office, and an insurance company, went into business for himself when he established the Katholisches Volksblatt in 1878. Ten years later he founded The Catholic News, which is now published by his brother, Henry Ridder. Herman Ridder became a stockholder in the New Yorker Staats-Zeitung in 1880.

During the campaign of Mayor Strong Herman Ridder entered politics by aiding to organize the German-American Reform Association. He was active in the Cleveland campaigns and in 1908 Chairman Mack appointed him Treasurer of the Democratic National Committee. He was always active in tariff reform, and although an independent Democrat he supported the candidates of the Tammany organization on several occasions. He had many verbal political tiffs with his political opponents in the Republican Party, the most prominent of which were the dispute with Senator Cannon and his exchange of views with Theodore Roosevelt, when, after his visit to Mr. Bryan, it was reported to Mr. Ridder that President Roosevelt had referred slightly to him. This was denied by Colonel Roosevelt, but not until there had been much comment about it in the public press.

Frequently Mr. Ridder was mentioned for public office, and several times public posts were offered him, but he declined them.
"I don't want public office," he said. "I would rather do what I may as a private citizen. He had broad human sympathies, as shown by his extensive charitable work, and he had a human side that won and retained friends for him. His two

chief recreations were walking and attending baseball games. He was caught by a camera at one of the Giants' games, and a copy of the photograph, showing him in his shirt sleeves on a hot day, was presented to him.
"I'd rather have that picture," said he, "than a painting showing me with royalty."

Some of his many civic activities included membership in the Chamber of Commerce, the German Hospital board, the Catholic Protector, State Board of Charity, Charity Organization Society, and the Legal Aid Society. He was a member of many clubs and societies, and a director in the Mutual Life Insurance Company and the Emigrant Industrial Saving Bank. He was vice-president of the Hudson-Pulton celebration and co-operated with Mayor Gaynor in Fourth of July observance. He was a director of the Associated Press organizing the "safe and sane" and member of the New York City Publishers' Association.—N. Y. Times, November 2.

Editorially the N. Y. Times thus refers to the great publicist who has just passed away:

Herman Ridder was born to the happy fortune of being liked by everybody. It would, indeed, have been difficult to dislike a man possessed of so many of the qualities which invite friendships and make for popularity. His interest in public affairs was very broad indeed, and he gave his personal influence and support and the influence and support of his newspaper to many causes, and to none without sincerity and earnestness. Through his control of one of the chief German-American newspapers in this country he was looked to as a leader by the men of his race and he was keenly alive to their interests and loyal to them.

It has been a source of regret and pain to Mr. Ridder's innumerable friends that the last year of his life was saddened by ill-health, which for many months had incapacitated him from his newspaper duties, and by misfortunes in business ventures quite apart from his newspaper interests.—Catholic Record.

Barbed Wire Entanglements

Several Times the Italians Have Sacrificed Entire Herds of Their Semi-wild Mountain Cattle by Stamping Them Down Hill Against the Austrian Entanglements—a Dodge Reminiscent of the Late Stages of the Boer War When De Wet's Burghers Adopted a Similar Plan and With Like Results

To destroy barbed wire entanglements successfully has become one of the chief problems of the war, and many and ingenious are the expedients that have been devised to that end. Thus, in the fighting around Warsaw last January, the Germans rolled barrels of clay down the slopes against the lines held by the Russians on the Bzura. These moved by their own weight, tore through the barbed wire, and the Germans, of course, followed close behind.

Several times the Italians have sacrificed entire herds of their semi-wild mountain cattle by stampeding them down hill against the Austrian entanglements—a dodge reminiscent of the late stages of the Boer war, when De Wet's burghers adopted a similar plan, and with like results.

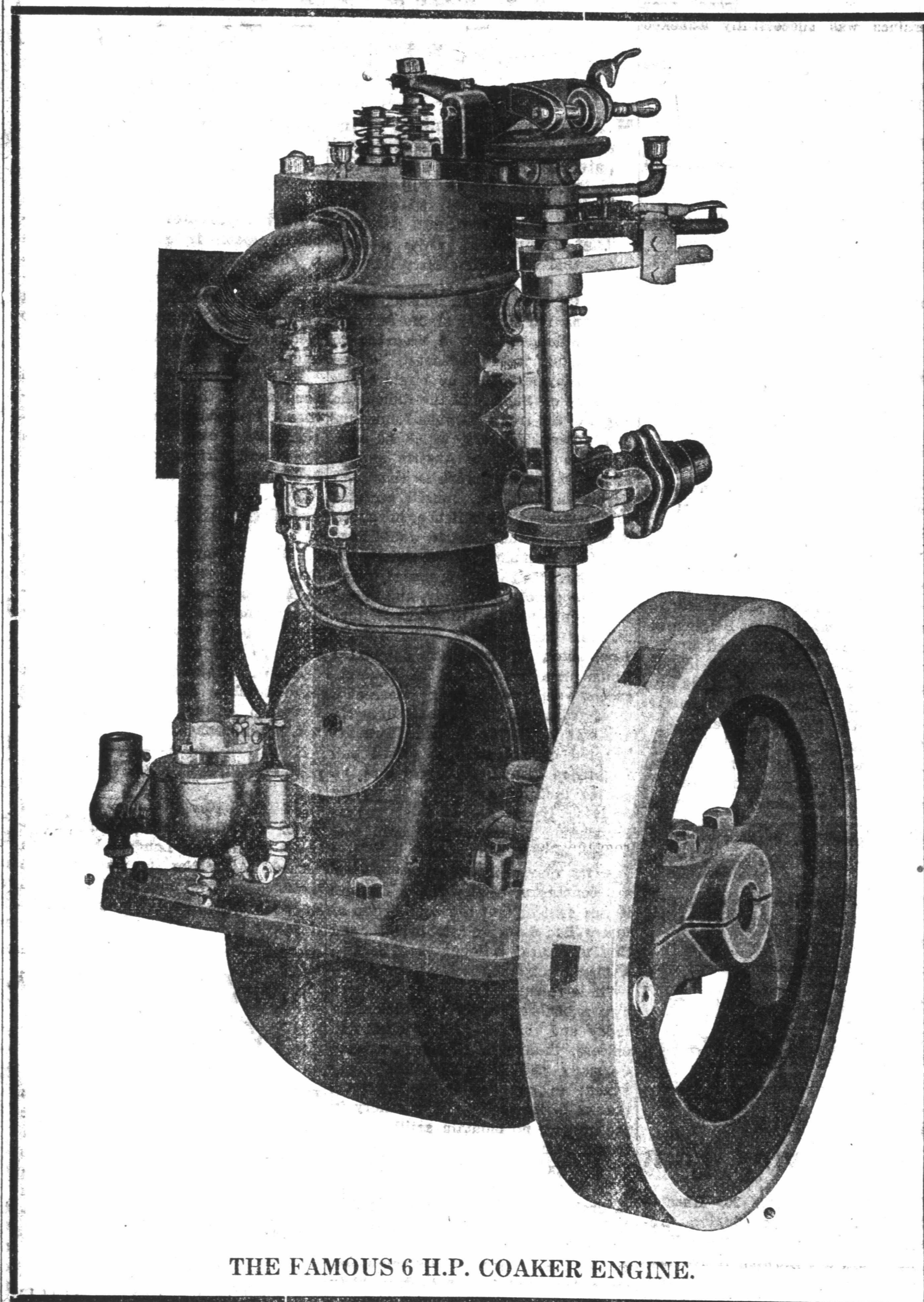
Our Australians and Canadians have used the lasso more than once, tearing up posts and entanglements and yanking them back to their own lines. Upon one occasion, too, a strong-armed cowboy overshot the mark, his lariat landed in a German trench and over the head and shoulders of one of the occupants, who was forth dragged, struggling and kicking, out from among his astonished companions and into our opposing trench some sixty yards distant.

Von Hindenburg's men, again are reported to be in possession of huge expanding pillars, weighing some hundredweights, that are capable of cutting entanglements to pieces at a distance of forty yards, being protected, apparently, from the German trenches across the "dead ground" and worked by machinery at the base. Once, too, this same versatile commander destroyed a section of entanglements by sending a traction engine at full speed against it—a very effective, if somewhat costly expedient.

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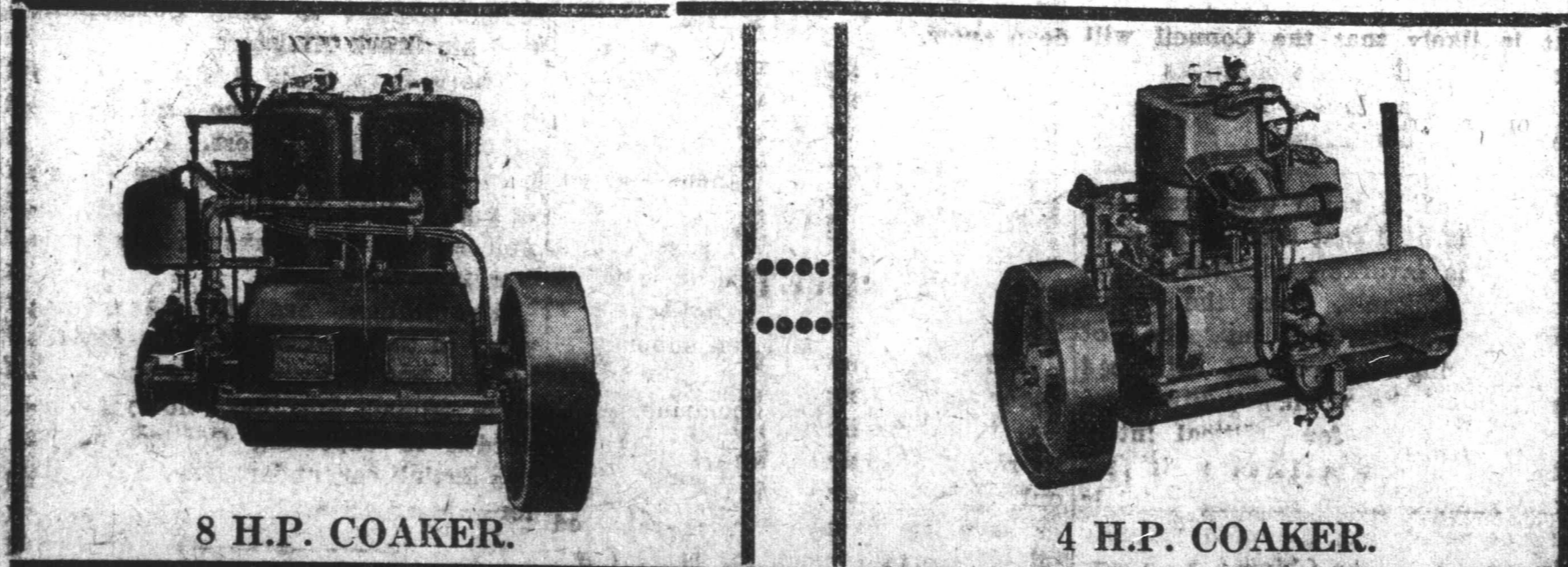
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GERMANY BLEEDING TO DEATH DECLARES BERLIN CORRESPONDENT

Backs up Statement With Figures Giving Detailed Losses for Week Preceding Great Offensive on Western Front

NEW YORK, Nov. 10.—Germany's enormous losses in the fighting, chiefly on the Russian front, toward the close of September, losses since doubled, if not trebled, by the offensives on the western front and in the campaign against Serbia, are the subject of comment in a letter published last week from Hoace Green, special correspondent of the Evening Post, written from Berlin on October 3. Mr. Green writes:
"To-day Germany is like a feverish patient to whom the leech has been applied—the war mania, whose blood has been drained. I worked for some time trying to get the proper figures of this blood-letting. I find the answer on the walls and corridors and written in the tiles of the War Office, just around the corner from the Neue Wilhelm Strasse. Here the casualty lists have been compiled up to October 2. By the newspapers which are not much more than official bulletins, there is little said about the extent of losses, and the war office neither calculates nor encourages their calculations."
"In fact copying and republishing the lists in German papers is strictly forbidden. But for the benefit of friends and relatives the names of individual dead, wounded and missing are systematically and honestly posted each day during severe fighting."
"The German casualties for the single week ending October 1, were 61,955."
"In other words, 61,955 German citizens, or more than 8,850 a day have been killed, wounded or taken prisoners during the last seven days of the Russian warfare. Since it takes a week or more to compile the reports from the front, these figures can have no connection with the great fight of this week along the western front, where with renewed English-French offensive, it is said that the losses were three times greater than in any similar period of the war."
"The seven days from September 23 to 30, inclusive, were not above the average for the last two months. I took the figures because they were the latest and the most easily available. On each column were 120 names, thus Johann Schmidt, Carl Broediger, Rudolph Haenker; after each name, slightly wounded, severely wounded, missing, dead."
"On September 30, there were seventy-two columns of names, making a total of 8640 losses; on September 31, 7,200 names; and the losses for the other days of the week, figured in the same way, were as follows: September 28, 9,000; September 27, 8,625; September 26, no list posted; September 25, 11,080; September 24, 8,810; September 23, 8,700."
"By far the greatest number of losses were sustained by the Prussians. It is reported that the Prussians alone have lost more than 2,000,000 men up to this date. In all Mrs. White eventually obtained permission to publish again on a guarantee of what the police were pleased to call "strict neutrality." The paper, now issued daily instead of weekly has a good circulation.
(killed outright, 59 severely wounded, the remainder slightly wounded, 250. Of these 84 were 'gefallen'.

Greece on Verge of War

ATHENS, Nov. 16.—War or revolution may depend on a meeting of Premier Venizelos with his followers, in progress here today.

The conference was called to consider the war party's attitude toward the new cabinet under Skouloudis. King Constantine's supporters are hopeful that it will be decided to give the ministry a trial, but this is far from certain.
The king's action in creating what he considers a compromise ministry was not as open a defiance of the war majority in parliament as would have been a dissolution of the law-making body. It was entirely different, however, from what the war party wanted, which is Greek participation, on Serbia's side, in the struggle between the Serbs and Bulgars.
Skouloudis and his colleagues were sworn into office Sunday, with the exception of M. Michelikis, who refused to accept the portfolio of public instructor.

To Finance Home Defense Plans

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14.—The principal subject taken up at today's Cabinet meeting was how to raise the money for carrying out the defense plans. No definite conclusion was reached, but the prevailing idea was to avoid a bond issue. The subject will be considered further at conferences between the President and Democratic leaders of the Senate and House.

Secretary Houston said that the agricultural interests of the country were in very good condition. Other optimistic reports of business conditions were laid before the Cabinet.

BRITISH PAPER IN BERLIN

The war has brought The Continental Times, a newspaper printed in English in Berlin, prominently to the front.

It was founded about thirty years ago by Mr. Block, a native of Birmingham, one of the pioneers of English sport in Germany. After the Boer war it was bought for \$1,250 by Count Kolingsmark, who ran it for twelve months, and was glad to sell it to a firm of printers named Heckendorf for \$200. The Heckendorfs afterward parted with the paper to a Mr. Manning, a prominent member of the English community, under whose direction The Times became prosperous. The present editor is Mrs. White, an Austrian married to an Englishman.

For many years the paper eschewed politics and was devoted entirely to the social and musical interests of the English and American colonies, and lived mainly on the advertisements relating to those interests.

In August last the paper was suppressed by order of the police, but 2,000,000 men up to this date. In all Mrs. White eventually obtained permission to publish again on a guarantee of what the police were pleased to call "strict neutrality." The paper, now issued daily instead of weekly has a good circulation.
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TO THE READING PUBLIC!

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