

To-Day's Messages.

10.00 A.M.

THE SUGAR SITUATION.

WASHINGTON, To-day. Sir Joseph White Todd and J. Ramsey Drake, Allied representatives on the International Sugar Committee which has just worked out a plan for dividing next year's Cuban crop among the Allies and the United States, discussed the sugar situation here to-day with Food Administrator Hoover. They were en route from New York to Cuba. The Allies, they said, must again depend upon the Western Hemisphere next year for their sugar supplies, as lack of ships makes it impossible to obtain sugar from the east.

RATIONING SWITZERLAND.

WASHINGTON, To-day. The War Trade Board in an announcement to-day confirmed despatches from abroad telling of an agreement to ration Switzerland, and gave rules of procedure for exporters to follow in making shipments. No details of the agreement were given, but it is known it fixes the amount of foodstuffs the United States will ship to Switzerland in return for assurances that none of the shipments will be permitted to go through to Germany.

CONTROLLING CORN SALES.

CHICAGO, To-day. All trading in corn for delivery in store by grade alone in Chicago in the month of December was ordered stopped by the Board of Directors of the Board of Trade to-day. A committee will be named to-morrow to fix the price at which existing contracts will be settled.

POOLING OF AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

WASHINGTON, To-day. Soon after the American railroads fall under Government operation at noon to-morrow, Director General McAdoo will issue his first official order wiping out competitive conditions and providing for the complete pooling of traffic equipment, terminals, etc., and for the retention of the present officers and employees. The immediate result will be the re-routing of traffic over the shortest lines regardless of the company with whom shipments originate, and the common use of terminals. Without anticipating wonders under the new plan, officials look forward to a material improvement in the present traffic congestion within a few weeks, but problems whose solution must press close on the heels of actual transportation questions are the equitable reimbursement of the roads for the use of their property, increased wages for railway employees, the financing of

necessary improvements, and the building of additional lines of facilities. Before most of these questions can be settled special legislation will be necessary, and to urge this President Wilson is preparing a message to be delivered to Congress soon after it convenes after the holiday recess next Thursday. McAdoo to-day made his first public utterance since his appointment last night in a statement saying that, at least until he has time to mature his plans and policies, railroad operations will be conducted through existing railroad organizations.

WAR REVIEW.

The terms under which the Teutonic Allies would be willing to make an immediate and general peace have been made known to the Russian Delegates engaged in the peace pour parlers at Brest-Litovsk. The terms have been set forth in an address by Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister. As in previous Teutonic intimations of what will be required from the Germanic viewpoint to bring about a cessation of hostilities and eventual peace, the latest terms are hedged about by conditions which seemingly are inseparable from the standpoint of the United States and the Entente Allies. The basic principles of the peace terms of the Russian revolutionary masses, no annexations and no indemnities, the Count said he believed could be made the basis of a general peace, but the Teutonic Allies couldn't bind themselves to these conditions unless a guarantee were given that Russia's Allies would recognize and fulfil them. Notable omissions in the statement of Count Czernin connected with the concrete demands of the United States, Britain and France, as already known, are the questions particularly of the rebuilding of Belgium and Serbia, the return of Alsace-Lorraine to France and the overthrow of the militarist government in Germany and the formation in its place of a government that can believe (?) the latter demand as set forth by President Wilson in his address to Congress calling for war with Austria-Hungary. Within the Russian Empire fighting between the revolutionary elements continues at various points. While the Bolshevik troops at Harbin, Manchuria, have been defeated in a battle by the Chinese, Ukrainian forces who are opposed to the Bolsheviks have occupied several Rumanian divisional headquarters on the battle front, disarming those of the Rumanians who offered resistance. As an indication that things in Germany are not going in accordance with the Government's desire, is the report that more than thirty members of the German minority Socialist party were arrested in numerous cities on Christmas Eve. This branch of the Socialists has long desired peace and refused to acquiesce in the Governments war programme. The Germans have again endeavoured to break the French front on the Verdun sector but again have failed. Two

assaults delivered north of Courieres Wood resulted in the defeat of the enemy. The Germans at one point succeeded in penetrating a French front line trench but were immediately ejected. On the Northern Italian Front there has been an abatement in artillery activity but intensive duels between the Brenas and Piave continue. The infantry forces of the belligerents are virtually inactive. An Austro-German air squadron attempting to bomb the Venetian plain towns of Treviso and Monte Belluno, suffered the loss of eleven planes in aerial battles with British-Italian aviators over Treviso. 25 enemy machines were attacked and forced to flee with the loss of eight planes, while a later squadron of eight Austro-Germans in a fight over Monte Belluno lost 3 machines. All the British and Italian machines returned safely to their bases.

ROULERS WRECKED BY BRITISH AIRMAN.

AMSTERDAM, To-day. The town of Rousselaere (Roulers) in Belgium was almost laid waste recently by a terrific explosion of an ammunition train caused by bombs dropped by a British airman, according to a frontier correspondent to the Telegraf. The machine itself was brought down by the aerial pressure. Many Germans and a few Belgians, the latter engaged in forced labor, were killed.

THE GREAT AIR VICTORY.

ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS IN NORTHERN ITALY. (By Associated Press). One of the heaviest air raids the enemy has attempted on this front came to grief yesterday, when nearly half of a fleet of twenty-five machines were destroyed. The big fleet swept over a camp west of Treviso at 8 o'clock a.m. yesterday, flying low and discharging machine guns. Considerable damage was done. Notwithstanding the surprise, Italian and British machines were soon in the air and engaged the enemy at close quarters, eight enemy cars being brought down. The others beat a hasty retreat. The raiders, however, returned at eleven o'clock and several more were disposed of, two falling in this attack within the Italian lines. An observer who has just returned says that the scene of the conflict is covered with wreckage of the enemy aircraft. One of the machines brought down was a Drednought, carrying three persons. All of the men were killed, wounded or captured.

HONEST, AT ANY RATE.

AMSTERDAM, To-day. The ideas of King Ferdinand of Bulgaria about annexations are very different from those expounded by Count Czernin. The Neue Prele Presse (Vienna) quotes him as saying that Bulgaria would hold what she had won.

VORWAERTS ALONE TRUTHFUL, AS USUAL.

AMSTERDAM, To-day. The Berlin papers dilate on the importance of the Brest Litovsk peace negotiations. The Vossische Zeitung says: "The result so far is an agreement in principle on those questions calculated to form the outlines of future peace. It is of the greatest importance that this fact be noted by the Russian negotiators themselves. The most democratic Government in the world has thereby given testimony that the Central Powers' peace policy is entirely free of all lust of conquest, all striving after violence." The Tageblatt says: "Even now it is a question whether those who are ready for peace will overthrow the wall erected and continually strengthened by the Chauvinists. Meanwhile, nothing can so contribute to shake the walls of arms as this new public diplomacy." The Vorwaerts says: "The German Government will have seriously to consider whether further negotiations are possible on the basis of a Russian peace. The programme is framed in such theoretical and abstract terms that a number of concrete points in the contention can't at once be decided."

GERMAN MYSTERY SHIP OFF BRAZIL COAST.

BUENOS AIRES, To-day. Brazilian newspapers received here to-day are filled with accounts of movements of a German corsair off the Brazilian coast a few weeks ago. The newspapers assert that a mysterious vessel was identified as a German and that it unloaded an immense cargo of heavy cases at Carqueira and Armacas several days later. The steamer returned to Armacas with an additional cargo which newspaper accounts say it is believed she received from a larger ship out of sight of land. From Armacas the vessel proceeded to Calouro, where another portion of the cargo was loaded. These ports are not guarded and it is asserted that the cargoes landed were mysteriously smuggled away. Later the German vessel was sighted close to the shore at San Pedro de Aldera, where two persons are now under ar-

rest as a result of their relations with the boat. They are charged with being spies. The newspapers say the steamer disappeared as mysteriously as she came and that the Brazilians believe she brought supplies for a submarine base.

THE AUSTRALIAN REFERENDUM.

MELBOURNE, To-day. The latest figures on the Conscription referendum are 889,000 for, 1,072,000 against, including Australian forces 23,000 for, and 32,000 against.

FRANCE'S POLICY TOWARDS RUSSIA.

PARIS, To-day. The Government was interpellated in the Chamber of Deputies to-day on its Russian policy by Deputies Moutet, Mistral, Lafrel, Margaine and Soubat. Stephen Pichon, Foreign Minister, in reply made a speech dealing with the reply of the Central Powers to Russia. An opposition resolution proposed by Deputy Longuet was voted down by 411 to 90. A resolution approving the Government's declaration and expressing confidence in the Ministry was carried by a vote of 384 to 0.

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER.

NEW YORK, To-day. The consensus of the editorial opinion of New York morning newspapers on the peace proposals of the Central Powers is that they are merely a camouflage for Germany and are not in good faith and that they would not have been made were there any chance of them being accepted.

1.00 P. M.

OF COURSE.

AMSTERDAM, To-day. The tenor of Austrian comment on the Brest-Litovsk negotiations is that the Entente Powers have no longer any excuse for the continued flourishing of the sword and that nobody can deny the sincerity of the Central Powers' desire for peace.

GREEK SHIP SUNK BY SUB.

AN ATLANTIC PORT, To-day. Seventy members of the crew of the Greek steamer Ionina, which was recently sunk by the crew of a German submarine, arrived at this port to-day on a British vessel. The members of the Ionina's crew, all of whom were saved, said the undersize boat halted their ship, stripped her of everything of value, including brass fittings, then sank her with bombs. The crew took to the lifeboats and were picked up later by a British vessel.

FRENCH OFFICIAL.

PARIS, To-day. The French war office issued the following official statement last night: In the Argonne we repulsed an enemy surprise attack on the right bank of the Meuse. Activity of the artillery on both sides continued very lively in the region of Courieres Wood, and Bezonvaux. Northeast of Bezonvaux our batteries caught under their fire an enemy troop concentration which was dispersed with losses.

FIVE NORWEGIANS SUNK.

LONDON, To-day. Thirty Norwegian sailors are believed to have been killed in the sinking of five Norwegian steamers by German submarines, according to a statement issued by the Norwegian Foreign Office and forwarded by the Copenhagen correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph. The steamers sunk were the Regin, 1,845 tons; Start, 728 tons; Ragna, 1,747 tons; Noirdpol, 1,300 tons, and the Spre.

MORE NOTES FROM TROTSKY.

PETROGRAD, To-day. The delegates of the Central Powers to the peace conference at Brest-Litovsk have agreed to a ten day recess in the peace negotiations, which will be resumed in January at a place not yet determined. Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik Foreign Minister, is reported to be drafting a new note to the Entente Allies' Embassies, again asking them to participate in the peace conference. Trotsky is also said to be preparing a new message to the peoples of the world. The Russian delegates to the peace conference will return to Petrograd on Saturday. An armistice is reported to have been reached between the Bolsheviks and the troops of General Kaledin at Rostov with a neutral zone between the opposing lines.

BRITISH ATTITUDE TOWARDS PEACE PROPOSALS.

LONDON, To-day. A statement purporting to give in broad outline the view taken in high British political circles of the German peace terms is printed by the Daily Express. It says that two things are known here: First, that Germany does not want a separate peace with Russia, but a general peace; and second, that Germany fears the Bolshevik influence, being afraid of its effect on the German working classes. A stiff upper lip is the attitude in this

country at present, the statement declares. The peace terms are not sufficient to lead us to lay down our arms. We must be watchful; it is up to Germany to show that she is sincere.

SEIZE PRIVATE BANKS.

PETROGRAD, To-day. Soldiers, acting under the orders of Finance Commissioner Menshinsky, to-day surrounded and seized all the private banks in Petrograd, including the branch of the National City Bank of New York.

AMERICANS KILLED.

With the American armies in France.—During a recent moonlight night German aviators dropped bombs near a certain town and two American privates who were in a camp in a wood were killed. A Corporal of the American Engineers was killed and one private was wounded on Christmas Eve, when a German shell dropped near a party of American Engineers working in trenches on a section of the French front.

Police Court.

(Before Judge Morris). A resident of the Battery, who was arrested last night for drunk and disorderly conduct in his mother's house, was before court to-day, also charged with damaging the door of a neighbour's house and with assaulting a woman neighbour. He was released on giving \$50 bonds to appear when called upon to answer the assault charge in which the complainant was not able to be present to-day.

McMurdo's Store News

FRIDAY, Dec. 28th, 1917. We have just opened a new consignment of the famous D. D. D. Prescriptions which has given such remarkable results in eczema, psoriasis, barbers itch, and skin diseases of the kind. Some cases of long standing have been cured by its use, while in practically every case it gives relief more or less complete. Price \$1.30 a bottle.

Enquirers of Orchard White while we were out of stock of this well known lotion, will now find us fully stocked with the same.

Reid's Boats.

The Argyle left Lawn at 2.35 p.m. yesterday. The Clyde is at Lewisporte. The Dundee left Port Blandford at 9.20 p.m. yesterday. The Exile arrived at Humbermouth at 2 p.m. yesterday. The Glencoe left Fortune at 1.55 p.m. yesterday, going west. The Home left Springdale at 2 p.m. yesterday, outward. The Wren not reported since leaving Clarendville on the 24th inst.

Train Notes.

Yesterday's outgoing express left Howley at 8.50 a.m. to-day. The incoming express left Port aux Basques at 8.40 a.m. to-day. When you want Sausages, why—get ELLIS'; they're the best.



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