

RIGA, ONCE FINE PORT IS SAD MONUMENT TO RED DESTRUCTION

(By Associated Press)
RIGA, Latvia, Dec. 13.—Riga, which was known before the war as the pearl of the Baltic and ranked as Russia's second port, is one of the saddest monuments to the destruction wrought by six years of ceaseless fighting, much of which took place on the soil of the new republic of Latvia, erected on the ruins of the old Russian governments of Livonia and Courland.

Half a million persons lived in Riga before the war and over 400 large factories kept it busy and prosperous. Now there are only about 200,000 inhabitants and less than a score of factories are operating. The empty shells of the various industries stand awaiting the return of machinery which the Russians shipped eastward before the German advance. Lenin and Trotsky have promised to return all the machinery which belonged to Russian subjects. But many of the factories were owned by foreign capitalists and consequently cannot hope to recover their plants.

Shops Are Idle
Great rubber plants, carshops, wood-working shops and saw mills stand idle awaiting capital to buy machinery. The river Dvina and various lakes and inlets lying about the city are filled with logs. But there are no mills to convert them into lumber, no ships to carry them into foreign markets. The docks are idle. Few trains operate and those are fired with wood.

Of the 1,500,000 persons in the new republic, nearly all are dependent upon agriculture for a living. The crops were a failure this year and consequently the outlook is blue for the new government headed by Umanis, the American trained minister-president. But the Letts have learned the joy of freedom in their few months of independence. They fought bravely against the Bolsheviks and later against the Baltic barons who tried to enslave them under General Bermond. And they are courageously building up a national life and a national consciousness in the face of terrible odds.

Movie Seats at \$10, in Chicago Stop Rumors of Theatre Attendance Slump

(By Associated Press)
CHICAGO, Dec. 13.—The theatrical slump anticipated as being coincident with the general industrial letup, has failed to reach Chicago. A very slight falling off in attendance has been noted during the past few days, but managers say it is no more than usual each year as the holiday season approaches.

Five loop theatres have broken all house records during the past few weeks according to their managers, and in two of the five, drama is the offering, while a third is presenting light opera. The other two are musical shows.

Three new legitimate theatres are under construction together with two big picture houses, the investment in which is as great as in any of the theatres housing spoken attractions. With the completion of the new houses theatrical men say Chicago will take its place as a producing center.

That there is no limit in the prices which can be charged was indicated recently when the manager of one house which has never housed anything but musical shows announced that he had booked a moving picture for an indefinite run, with seats selling at \$10 on the opening night. The same day another manager announced plans for a series of concerts by noted artists, with seats selling at fifty cents.

VIENNA UNEMPLOYED NUMBER DROPS 75 PERCENT IN YEAR

(By Associated Press)
VIENNA, Dec. 13.—The number of unemployed in Vienna has been reduced to 14,480, as against 60,000 a year ago. The reduction is accounted for by the system of employing a larger number of persons on shorter working hours. The fall in the exchange value of the crown also has resulted in a considerable increase of export trade.

NEW SHIPPING BOARD TAKES OFFICE, 7 MEMBERS SWORN IN



Left to right: John N. Teel, Frederick I. Thompson, Guy D. Goff, Admiral William S. Benson (chairman), Charles Sutter, Chester R. Towell and John A. Donald. Standing is John J. Flaherty, secretary of the board.

ALBERT OF BELGIUM SETS NEW PRECEDENT IN VISITING PORTUGAL

(By Associated Press)
LISBON, Dec. 13.—King Albert and Queen Elizabeth of the Belgians received an enthusiastic popular reception when they arrived here on their return from Brazil. This was the first visit by a crowned head to Portugal since the birth of the republic and the unusual event attracted thousands of people who filled the squares and streets.

As the royal party passed through, flowers were showered upon the queen by women in richly decorated windows and as they approached the royal stand erected in the Praça do Commercio, a group of university students flung their gowns across the red carpet for her to walk upon.

King Albert was cordially greeted by the president, Dr. Antonio Jose d'Almeida. He looked wonderfully well but appeared grave and preoccupied.

The day was crowded with official receptions and a military review at which the Portuguese government invested the King with the Order of the Tower and Sword. The review was marred by the bad weather, and the queen who wore a thin décolleté dress, looked positively blue with the cold before it ended.

Information was given to the police that the royalist "Integralist" party intended to take advantage of the visit of the Belgian royal family to make a manifestation in favor of restoration of the monarchy in Portugal. Some arrests were made. The government had fully intended to grant the long-discussed amnesty to all political prisoners in celebration of the visit of the Belgian king, but this was so strongly opposed by some political leaders that it was again postponed.

INTERNATIONAL PATENT BUREAU IN BRUSSELS SOON

(By Associated Press)
PARIS, Dec. 13.—An international patent bureau is to be established at Brussels under a convention signed Nov. 15 by France, Belgium, Brazil and nine other countries. The bureau is intended to facilitate the work of an inventor in protecting his rights.

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Jan Advocates Renewal of Alliance With England

(By Associated Press)
TOKIO, Dec. 13.—Baron Sakamoto, a member of the House of Peers, advocates renewal of the Anglo-Japanese alliance and insists on the removal of the clause which exempts Great Britain from any obligations to Japan in the event of a dispute with America.

Baron Sakamoto points out that this exemption clause has been a dead letter for the last 10 years.

The baron argues that the clause is against the spirit of Article X of the league covenant which places an equal obligation upon each member of the league of nations in respect of mutual defense against territorial aggression.

Finally, he argues that the peace of the Pacific is now maintained by the balance of power of Great Britain, America and Japan. If Great Britain is relieved of her obligation by means of the arbitration treaty the equilibrium of power in the Pacific will be destroyed, he asserts.

The corporation of the city of Bombay has decided that women shall be eligible to election as municipal councilors, thus removing the sex bar which has, up to now, been raised against them.

AMERICAN VISIT TO JAP FLEET CORDIAL

(By Associated Press)
PEKING, Dec. 13.—Utmost cordiality marked the exchange of visits between Admiral Gleaves, commander of the American Asiatic fleet, and General Yui, the Japanese commander in Tsingtau, during the Admiral's recent visit in that port. A special dispatch reaching Peking laid stress upon that feature of an otherwise formal event. Dinners were exchanged on board the flag ship and at the principal hotel, whereat sentiments of the most friendly character were exchanged.

General Yui, in proposing a toast to the visitors, referred to disquieting reports concerning relations between the countries and expressed the conviction that they were due to misconceptions by an uninformed element of the population both in Japan and America.

Admiral Gleaves, in replying, is quoted as having voiced a similar opinion. Motor cars were placed at the disposal of the naval officers for extended sight-seeing expeditions, which with the social events arranged, filled the entire three-days' visit.

French Rail Lines Start Electrification Program

(By Associated Press)
PARIS, Dec. 13.—Electrification of the various French railroad systems has been planned for years but work began only recently. A few miles have been transformed around Paris but operation has not yet commenced.

The Midi system has now announced a ten-year program of electrification. By 1925, 1,000 miles will be converted and by 1930 the remaining 700 miles of the company will be changed.

Twelve waterpower plants will furnish the current which will be direct instead of alternating, because the latter has been found to interfere with telephone and telegraph transmission on lines closely following the railroad.

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abroad, and may lead ultimately, it is said, to the creation of an international patent, valid in all countries signing the convention.



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SINCE our first announcement of "Brass Tacks" prices on Player-Pianos many have asked us just what we mean. "Have you got the Lowest-Priced Player-Piano in the world? Is \$595 the lowest price anybody names today?" Bless you, No! No! NO! We wouldn't dare to offer the very lowest-priced stuff. We have a reputation to protect. But we do offer the best low-priced Player!

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