

### BANKERS SAVE STELLA FARMER FROM "CON" MEN

Two Claim Swindlers Foiled in Effort to Get Ten Thousand Dollars From John Coons.

The alertness of C. E. Price, president of the Commercial National bank, Council Bluffs, and of J. R. Cain, jr., vice president of the State Bank of Omaha, saved John Coons, wealthy farmer of Stella, Neb., from being swindled out of \$10,000.

The game by which Coons was lured to Omaha and Council Bluffs bears all the earmarks that distinguished the swindling of Farmer Schroeder of De Witt a few days ago. Bankers are sure the two deals, as well as others within the last few weeks, were carried on by the same gang. In fact, the two farmers, Schroeder and Coons, were brought to the same bank, the Commercial National, Council Bluffs.

Coons owns a fine half-section farm near Stella. Recently a stranger appeared at his home and offered to buy the farm for \$250 an acre. The farmer's confidence was gained by this deal, the stranger representing himself as a man of wealth who had a nephew who had run through a fortune. He wished, he said, to buy the farm and see whether he couldn't guide him into the straight and narrow path.

**Comes with Draft.**

Presumably the plausible stranger suggested some other deal in connection with the farm purchase. He induced Coons to come to Omaha and Coons came with a draft of \$10,000 issued by the State bank of Stella and drawn on the State bank of Omaha. In Omaha a second stranger joined the uncle of the wayward nephew.

The two strangers took good care not to bring their intended victim to the State Bank of Omaha on which his draft was drawn, for the vice president of that bank has known Coons for 20 years. Instead, they guided him to the Commercial National bank of Council Bluffs. There the \$10,000 draft was presented.

**Declines to Pay.**

President Price's suspicions were aroused when the confidence man asked for cash. Mr. Price declined to pay that sum of money even on a draft without more thorough investigation. He ordered the draft sent to the bank in Stella, requesting that a draft be issued payable to the Commercial National bank if the draft was good.

Vice President Cain of the State Bank of Omaha was communicated with and he telephoned to the bankers at Stella.

And here enter the features which prove that the deal was a "con" game. A letter was received by the Stella bank signed with Coons' name and complaining that the bank's delay in issuing the draft was delaying a business deal. Later a telegram signed with his name was received by the bank. Both these were forgeries. Coons knew nothing of them until he saw them at the bank.

**Banner County Has Oil Scare; Wells to Be Sunk**

The oil boom has hit Banner county, this state, and, according to advices to the Union Pacific, thousands of acres of land are being taken over on oil leases, preparatory to sinking wells. Near Harrisburg the Standard Oil company is on the ground with a drilling rig and is getting ready to put down a 20-inch well. Plans contemplate going down 5,000 feet unless oil is struck at a lesser depth.

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### GERMANS FORCED TO RETREAT ON WESTERN FRONT

(Continued from Page One.)

northeast of Soissons and south of Laon, according to Berlin.

Probably the Germans have only retired across the Ailette river from Chavignon to Craonne, a distance of about 13 miles, or they may have started on a retreat paralleling that of last March to the Somme, when they finally fell back before Anglo-French pressure from Arras to Soissons.

Even if they have only withdrawn across the Ailette, it is not unlikely because of General Petain's successful drive of last week, when he reached the Oise-Aisne canal, eight miles southwest of Laon, and captured more than 12,000 prisoners. From the positions gained then the French bombarded the Germans clinging to the hilly strip between the Chemin des Dames and the Ailette.

The hills on the northern bank of the Ailette generally are not as high as those on the south, and the crown prince may have gone back to the line of the Ardon river, which runs southwest from Laon and joins the Ailette north of Chavignon. It is improbable that the Germans did not retreat across the Ailette, as not to do so might place them in a worse position than on top of the ridge.

**May Have Left Laon.**

The retirement might include Laon, the reputed southern citadel of the Hindenburg line of last March, but if the front of the Ailette is given up, a line from St. Quentin through La Fere, Laon and Montaigne to Neufchâtel-Sur-Aisne, along the railroad between La Fere and Neufchâtel might offer a good halting place.

A retirement only to the northern bank of the Ailette between Chavignon and Craonne might not affect the line from Chavignon north to St. Quentin, but a further retreat would involve the present lines as far as La Fere at least. On the eastern end of the Chemin des Dames, if the retirement is not made secure quickly, there is the possibility of a French blow in Champagne which might straighten out the entire front from Craonne to Verdun.

**Cadorna Making Stand.**

General Cadorna has halted on the western bank of the Tagliamento, momentarily at least, to face the oncoming Austro-Germans. The eastern bank of the river, Berlin reports, has been cleared of Italians from the Fella valley, where the Tagliamento turns westward near Tolmezzo to the Adriatic.

Italian guns are bombing the invaders along the new line, but apparently no attempt has yet been made by the Austro-Germans to force a crossing of the river. There are no indications as to the whereabouts of the Austro-Germans reported driving through the Carnic Alps early in the week in an attempt to turn the flank of the Tagliamento.

Reports from Switzerland say the

Germans are hurrying troops and guns into the Trentino. This might mean either to strengthen the Austrians there or to start a drive south from Trent, in an attempt to cut off the Italians now on the Venetian plains.

### Continue Short Skirts, Say Paris Designers

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)

Paris, Sept. 15.—The Paris Dress-makers' Syndicate chamber, the association of all the chief houses, has informed the government, in answer to an official inquiry, that the length of wool cloth for dresses for the winter of 1917-18 will not exceed four and a half meters, a little less than five yards.

The director of one of the best known houses in Paris and London, interviewed on this decision, which seems to foreshadow the continued use of short skirts and to insure the tailor-made costume as general wear, said:

"The diminution of the length of cloth used in wool costumes has really been in effect since last season. Without any general agreement, merely under the pressure of necessity, dress-makers had already restricted the amount used before the war by 25 per cent. Army needs, in America as well as France, and the diminished production in the two countries oblige us to continue along these lines. Of course, we shall make no attempt to get round the chamber's decision by ordering cloth of greater width; we shall rather try to employ a mixture of materials, combining wool materials with silk and silk or cotton velvet.

"The recent decision cannot affect our models for next winter's gowns, for they were ready before it was reached."

### Russians and Germans Fraternize, Says Diary

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)

Petrograd, Sept. 15.—The German soldier who is fond of fraternizing is more often a spy, according to a diary found on a captured Russian sergeant, says a Petrograd Gazette correspondent at the front.

Only those German soldiers qualified for their acuteness in observing are allowed to fraternize with their Russian opponents, the diary shows. The document disclosed that its writer had been supplied with several bottles of vodka, which with characteristic German thoroughness had been specially brewed for distribution among the Russians.

The diary contained a minute record of the fraternizers' acts and observations, carefully headed, sub-headed and numbered. Among the headings were: "Questions and Answers About an Armistice," "Conditions of the Russian Army," "Attitude Towards Peace Talk," "Invitations to Future Meetings."

Among the entries were: "Russians warned us that their artillery was about to fire," "White peace poster pasted up" and "Russians report they will not listen to orders to attack us."

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### Suitable Gloves For Present Wear

Milady who is well dressed naturally pays particular attention to her gloves. They are so essential. The finest French Kid Gloves are Trefousse. Correctly styled for all occasions. Shown in white, colors and black, \$2, \$2.50, \$3.25 a pair.

For street wear we have washable leathers in gray, Newport, patty, ivory and champagne, \$2.25, \$2.50, \$2.75 a pair.

### Lisle and Cotton Hose for Service

These Different Qualities: Fine ribbed lisle hose for 29c and 35c a pair.

Black or gray lisle hose are 39c a pair.

Black cotton hose with ribbed tops, 50c a pair.

Black lisle hose, 59c.

Very sheer fine lisle or silk lisle hose with garter tops and double soles, 75c a pair.

## THOMPSON, BELDEN & CO.

The Fashion Center for Women

Ready for Winter—It Will Soon Be Upon Us

### Very Attractive New Neckwear

Collars of satin, wool crepe, Georgette and organdie—also fine pique.

Neckwear sets in organdie, Georgette and pique.

Pique and satin vests and net chemisettes.

Velvet and plush scarfs—made to order.

### Wool Eiderdown

Excellent qualities in white and plain shades; suitable for carriage robes, dressing sacques, bath robes and other winter articles. One yard wide, \$1.125, \$1.50, \$1.75 a yard.

Basement

### Wonderful New Coats

Exclusive Fashions

Expressing the newest style notes of the season. Fine in quality and distinctive in fabrics.

Rich Silvertones, Pom Poms, Velours, Velvets, Plushes and Novelty Weaves.

Exceedingly well tailored, with particular attention to details.

\$50, \$65, \$75, \$95, \$110.50

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An Exhibition Tomorrow

Including a selection from

A. Jaekel & Co.

Fifth Avenue, New York.

Your attention is invited to this display, as it is one of the most complete and beautiful we have been privileged to offer.

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### THE BEST OF BEDDING

Wool Blankets For Real Warmth

Wool Comforts Of Fine Quality

Made of the best fleete wool, without a vestige of cotton in them. Three-quarter and double bed sizes, in block plaids, plain gray and white, \$7 to \$12 a pair.

Coverings of Cambric and Silkoline, in pretty patterns and various colors. Cut size 72x84. Tomorrow, priced \$6, \$6.50, \$7.

Bedding Basement

WANTED—Girl, 16 years of age or over, for wrapping parcels and inspection service. Permanent work, under good surroundings.

Apply to general manager

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Visiting Teachers As Well as All Omaha Women Will Welcome News of This Important Sale of

Suits-Coats-Dresses \$19.50

To make your visit to Omaha's greatest apparel house doubly interesting we have prepared a most startling sale affecting more than 300 stunning new Suits, Coats and Dresses—all greatly reduced in price.

80 SUITS AT \$19.50

Worth to \$35.00

Every color that's good, every suit fabric that's wanted are represented in this lot—smartly tailored; all sizes. The suit event of the day.

120 COATS AT \$19.50

Worth to \$29.50

Clever new styles, fashioned from Kerseys, Velours, Broadcloths; all the favored colors; all the newest modes of trimming. It's surely your coat buying opportunity.

112 DRESSES AT \$19.50

Worth to \$35.00

Fine Men's-Wear Serges, Satins and Silks; all colors; wide variety of smartest styles. You'll wonder how such beautiful dresses can be offered for so little as \$19.50.

## MEN!

Let's get into shape before we go. Uncle Sam needs men physically fit. Join the

# Y. M. C. A.

and get into trim to do your bit when called.

Special Rates All This Week

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For One Year of Full Privileges

You will be kept in good standing during your term of enlistment and the unexpired term of your membership will be given upon your return.

Help Keep the Home Base Strong

RALPH YEOMEN, Membership Secretary.

SHOP EARLY "GIVE ELECTRICAL GIFTS"

Nebraska Power Co. Your Electric Service Company. Tyler Three, One Hundred.

Get the Habit of Drinking Hot Water Before Breakfast

Says we can't look or feel right with the system full of poisons.

Millions of folks bathe internally now instead of loading their system with drugs. "What's an inside bath?" you say. Well, it is guaranteed to perform miracles if you could believe these hot water enthusiasts. There are vast numbers of men and women who, immediately upon arising in the morning, drink a glass of real hot water with a teaspoonful of limestone phosphate in it. This is a very excellent health measure. It is intended to flush the stomach, liver, kidneys and the thirty feet of intestines of the previous day's waste, sour bile and indigestible material left over in the body which if not eliminated every day, become food for the millions of bacteria which infest the bowels, the quick result is poisons and toxins which are then absorbed into the blood, causing headache, bilious attacks, foul breath, bad taste, colds, stomach trouble, kidney misery, sleeplessness, impure blood and all sorts of ailments. People who feel good one day and badly the next, but who simply can not get feeling right, are urged to obtain a quarter pound of limestone phosphate at the drug store. This will cost very little, but is sufficient to make anyone a real crank on the subject of internal sanitation. Just as soap and hot water act on the skin, cleansing, sweetening and freshening, so limestone phosphate and hot water act on the stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels. It is vastly more important to bathe on the inside than on the outside, because the skin pores do not absorb impurities into the blood, while the bowel pores do.—Adv.

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