

ITALY STARTS BIG DRIVE AGAINST TEUTONS; DISEASE RAGES IN PETROGRAD; LACK FOOD

BAKER'S REPLY TO CRITICS REVEALS MILITARY SECRETS

J. S. Will Have 500,000 Soldiers in France Early This Year; Million and a Half More Ready to Go; Germany in Dark Regarding Actual Number at French Front.

Washington, Jan. 29.—Secretary Baker's statement of America's war plan carrying the assertion that an army of 500,000 would be in France early this year and a million and a half ready to send to France during 1918, remained the center of interest at the capitol today.

PROFOUND IMPRESSION.

The secretary's outline of the army's preparations, revealing many hitherto carefully-guarded military secrets and given yesterday to the senate military committee in answer to criticisms of the War department, made a profound impression on committee members.

Chairman Chamberlain, who had been the department's chief critic, admitted this before Secretary Baker left the stand.

The chairman proposed that Mr. Baker be given a rest and there was no attempt at cross-examination, although when the committee assembled today it was understood the secretary would be recalled for further examination later.

COMMITTEE IS AMAZED.

The secretary was on the stand yesterday virtually the entire day and his statement was heard by many members of congress crowded into the big caucus room of the senate office building.

The committee members seemed amazed when told that men in the 32 National Guard and national army divisional camps were ready to go abroad today.

When Senator Chamberlain asked the secretary why the public had not been taken into confidence in such matters Mr. Baker spoke of the reluctance of military men to reveal army plans and referred to a statement of Von Hindenburg to the effect that America was advertising its war plans.

Germany is Mystified.

"But isn't it a fact that Germany has known all about this?" persisted Senator Chamberlain.

"No," replied Secretary Baker. "The German government is still mystified regarding the number of men now in France."

"They know what is doing on the front but Germany still is in doubt as to the number of men we have abroad."

Train New Draft.

The secretary's statement that the United States "will have 500,000 men in France early in 1918 and a million and a half ready to send to France in 1918" caused many to express the opinion that war plans contemplated the completion of the training of those called in the new draft before the year ended.

The committee was told that it would be tragic if the impression which had gone out that the War department had broken down was allowed to remain unchallenged.

He spoke of the devotion of his associates in the department, military and civilian, in strong terms.

U. S. Making History.

Never in the history of time, he declared, had an army of its size been raised, equipped, trained and prepared for battle as had that of the United States.

Emphasizing that he was not there to defend himself or anybody, the secretary urged the committee again and again to lay bare any shortcomings of the department that it might be corrected.

ALLIED POWERS HOLD SUPREME WAR COUNCIL

U. S. Has Representative at Session; Meeting Will Determine Plans for Spring Campaign of Allies.

Versailles, France, Jan. 29.—Great Britain, France, Italy and the United States were represented at the session of the supreme war council, which was convened here today.

The council was presided over by George Clemenceau, the French premier.

The meeting is regarded as one of extraordinary importance, because the plan of operations during the coming campaign is expected to come before it before determination.

General Bliss Attends.

The United States is represented by General Tasker H. Bliss, chief of staff of the American army. Arthur Hugh Frazier, secretary of the American embassy in Paris, attends as a diplomatic officer to report the proceedings, but not to participate otherwise.

The other participants in the conference are:

For Great Britain, Premier Lloyd George and Major General Sir Henry Hughes Wilson, sub-chief of the British general staff; for Italy, Premier Orlando, Baron Sonnino, the foreign minister, and General Cadorna; for France, Stephen Pichon, the foreign minister; General Ferdinand Foch, chief of staff of the ministry of war, and General Maximo Weygand.

EXPLOSION AND FIRE DESTROY MUNITION PLANT

Marquette, Mich., Jan. 29.—An explosion followed by a fire early today, which destroyed the alcohol refining plant, the primary building and a series of condensers of the Pioneer Iron Furnace company, owned by the Cleveland Cliffs Iron company of Cleveland, O., caused damage estimated at \$50,000.

Seven Persons Dead From Poisoned Eggnog

Muskogee, Okl., Jan. 29.—Seven persons are dead, two others are expected to die and nearly a score are ill as a result of an eggnog party Sunday at Francis, Okl., at which denatured alcohol was used by mistake.

Cable and Telegraph To Petrograd Are Cut

Washington, Jan. 29.—Cable and telegraph lines to Russia have been cut, American Minister Morris at Stockholm reported today and the only remaining routes of communication with Petrograd now are through Persia and Vladivostok.

The land telegraph lines were severed, Mr. Morris reported, at Haparanda and the cables at Vigborang.

He gave no indication of the significance.

Seven Contestants Entered in Friendly Knitting Tournament

Entries in the friendly knitting contest of the National League for Women's Service closed Monday with the entrance of the seventh contestant, Mrs. Etta Siegal, 1938 South Eighteenth street. Mrs. Emil Weyerman, 1016 South Twenty-seventh street; Mrs. Julia Stenicka, 1412 South Thirtieth street; Mrs. Joseph Rynes, 2419 South Sixteenth street; Miss Helen Winklerman, 108 South Forty-first street, and Mrs. Linge Larsen, knitting instructor for the league, are the other contestants.

Each woman will be required to knit a sweater, the work to be done in the service league headquarters in the court house in periods no less than two hours. Two of the contestants have already completed their sweaters but the winner will not be known until all have finished.

George Lorenz, 11-year-old boy, attending Monmouth Park school, has designed a unique poster for the service league. The Atlantic ocean bordered on one side by the east coast of this country and, on the other, by the west coast of Europe is shown. A strip of knitted yarn stretches from the Philippine islands and then returns to Omaha and finally came to St. Joseph.

GERMAN PLANES KILL 47 IN NIGHT RAID ON LONDON

Teutons Lose One Machine, Which Falls 10,000 Feet; Three Occupants Are Burned to Death.

(By Associated Press.)

London, Jan. 29.—German airplanes made their first attacks of the year upon London and its suburbs last night, their bombs inflicting casualties officially reported as 47 killed and 169 injured.

All the victims except one of the killed and seven of the injured were in the London area itself. No serious material damage was done and the raiders suffered the loss of one machine, which fell in flames from a height of 10,000 feet, its three occupants being burned to death.

Machines in Relays.

A large number of machines came over the coast in relays, but apparently only three or four succeeded in getting through the barrage and dropping explosive and incendiary bombs into the town. The gun fire lasted intermittently through five hours and for two hours of that time was almost continuous.

There was an hour's interval before midnight when no fighting was heard except an occasional distant gun off toward the coast.

Residents who were away from their homes at the theaters or in the shops when the raid began concluded it was all over, although the bugles had not sounded "clear" signal and more persons were on the streets than usual at midnight when the heavy guns began to boom again in warding off the second of the two attacks.

British Flyers Active.

The British flyers were more active than ever before, having gained experience in night flying. Besides the Gotha brought down by British scouts over Essex, one was pursued over London by the scouting force and the rattle of machine guns in the air was plainly heard from the streets.

There was a full moon and no clouds of wind. The population had ample time for obtaining shelter, adequate warning having been given.

In the various sections different methods of giving the alarm have been adopted. In some, naval rockets were fired, the reports sounding like the booming of guns. In others colored lights were turned on atop the lamp posts and on towers and high buildings. In one section two steam sirens, which could be heard five miles away, sounded their blasts, while all over town the police and special constables blew their whistles.

Lords in Session.

The tube railways and the buildings of strong construction were crowded during the raid, but the audiences assembled at most of the theaters saw the performances through. The House of Lords was sitting when the raid first appeared, and it continued its deliberations until midnight with an attendance of 40 peers, which was a fair number for that body. The House of Commons had adjourned a few moments before the warning was received.

Motor buses, which had no lack of passengers, ran all over town during the intervals when the gun fire was not heavy.

John Hodge, the minister of pensions, was addressing a public meeting in Battersea, attended by 1,500 persons, when the firing began. He declared to them his only regret was that the Germans had not been given months ago a taste of what they were giving Londoners.

"When a squadron of British and French airplanes bombed Karlsruhe," he remarked, "what a whining was set up about bombing 'my beloved Karlsruhe'."

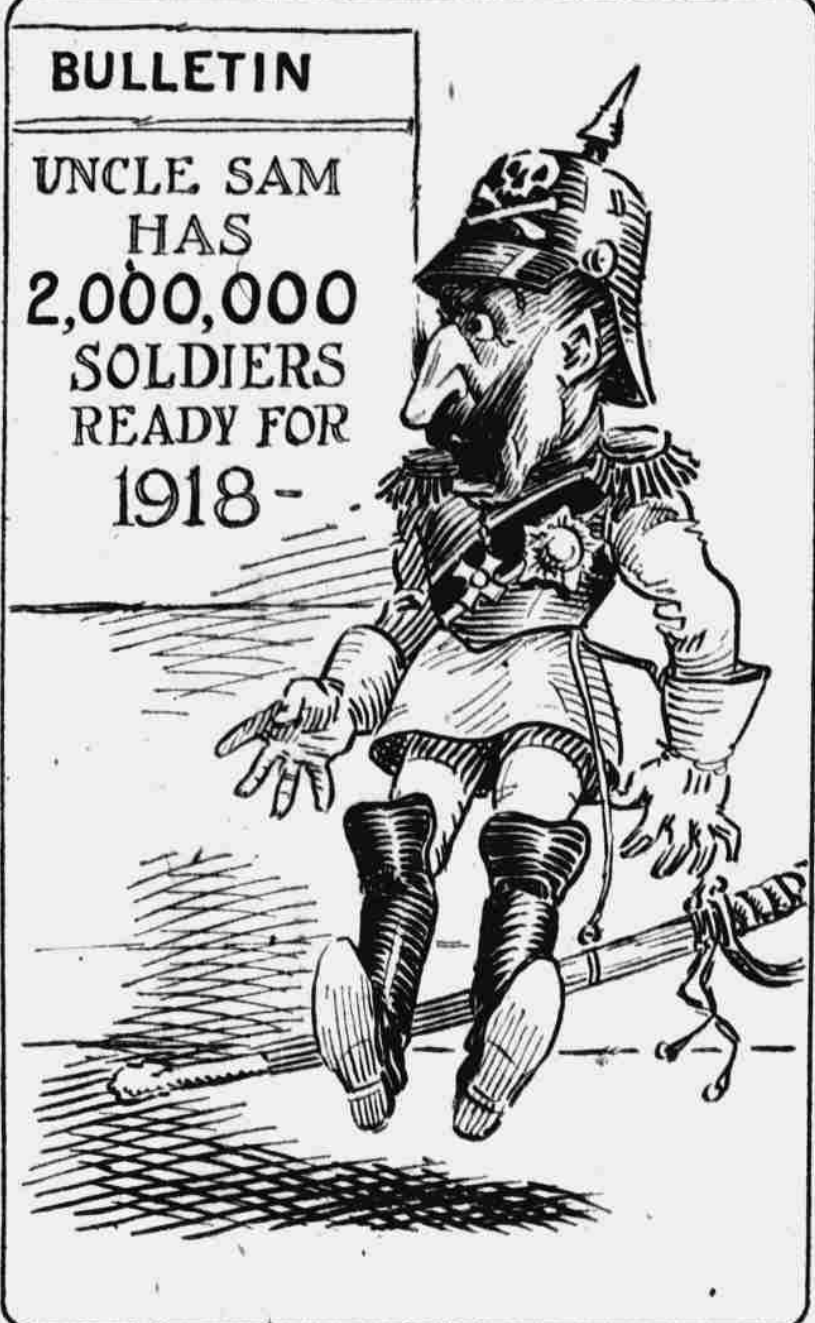
Brown Talks at Fremont.

Fremont, Neb., Jan. 29.—(Special.)—E. P. Brown, chairman of the Lancaster County Council of Defense, and former state senator from Arbor, addressed Fremont merchants and other citizens at the monthly meeting of the retailers on the subject, "Some Brighter Phrases of the War."

Germany Violates Truce with Russia, Says War Department

Washington, Jan. 29.—Charges that Germany is violating the terms of the Russian truce by withdrawing troops from the eastern front and transferring them to the western battle lines were made today by the War department.

Was Ist??



ADULTERATION OF ALL FOODSTUFFS BRINGS BIG EPIDEMIC ON RUSSIANS

Red Government Plans Reprisals on Roumania; Will Seize Gold Reserve at Moscow; Peace Parley Immediately to Be Resumed at Brest-Litovsk; Ukraine Question Unsettled.

(By Associated Press.)

London, Jan. 29.—Confirming the outbreak of the diseases at Petrograd, the Times correspondent says the population is being decimated thereby. The epidemic is attributed to the extreme shortage of food and adulteration with all kinds of injuries admixtures.

Various forms of typhus, as well as smallpox, are rampant. Moreover, extremely unsanitary conditions now prevail in the city, while all the organizations concerned with public health either have been abolished or virtually have ceased operations owing to the revolution.

THREATEN TO LEAVE.

There is no sanitary commission; there are no great specialists, and very few doctors are in practice and the question of exchange of civilians and the treatment of unwounded prisoners of war has not been settled.

According to Berlin advices received via Amsterdam, the Russo-German commissioners at Petrograd have reached a substantial agreement concerning the exchange of invalids and the dispatch of men homeward.

Liverpool, Jan. 29.—Beer was substituted for tea as a beverage at the annual dinner which the mayor of Southport gives to the aged poor of that city. More than 500 guests were served.

The mayor apologized for failing to furnish tea owing to market shortage, and said that instead of the customary tea he had decided to give each of them a glass of beer and six pence.

FORMER OMAHA BOY DEAD ON FRENCH FRONT

St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 29.—(Special Telegram.)—Joseph Ellis, a former Omaha boy, and husband of a Nebraska girl, is dead "somewhere in France." His widow is staying with her sister-in-law in St. Joseph. It is the first fatality recorded for a St. Joseph member of the expeditionary forces, for Ellis enlisted from this point. Word came today from the war department in Washington that Ellis was dead but no information was given as to the manner of his death.

Miss Harriet Hart of Rulo, Neb., was married to Sergeant Ellis at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas last Easter Sunday. He then went to Columbus, N. Mex., where the sergeant was stationed and lived there seven weeks before he was sent abroad with his division, the Quartermaster's department. Letters received by her husband from the sergeant, who was recently made sergeant major, told of the delights of the life in France and of his satisfaction with life of the front.

Sergeant Ellis served throughout the Spanish-American war being only 18 years old when he enlisted. After that war he served four years in the Philippine islands and then returned to Omaha and finally came to St. Joseph.

ITALIANS LAUNCH ATTACK TO FORCE ENEMY FROM HILLS

Berlin Reports Violent Artillery Duel in Progress; Mid-winter Assault Surprise to Teutons; Russ Foreign Minister Trotzky Reported Returning to Brest-Litovsk for Peace Conference with Germans

(By Associated Press.)

London, Jan. 29.—The Bolsheviki have split on the question of peace, a majority being against the conclusion of peace on the German terms and in favor of a holy war, an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Petrograd says.

As the present government is unable to carry on the war, the formation of a coalition of all socialist factions was proposed.

Rome, Jan. 29.—Italian troops made a heavy attack yesterday on the northern mountain front and broke into the enemy lines, the war office reports.

Reinforcements which the enemy was hurrying down the Nos and Campomulo valleys were dispersed by the artillery of the Italians and their allies.

The Italians took more than 1,500 prisoners.

Italy has furnished a military surprise by launching an attack of apparently considerable force on its mountain front in midwinter.

The blow comes on the Asiago plateau, where the Austro-German invaders were halted early in the winter in their effort to push down the Italian plains west of the Brenta river.

ARTILLERY DUEL.

Berlin heralded the attack yesterday in reporting the breaking out of a violent artillery duel in the Selti-Communi region—the Asiago sector.

Its force was reported to have reached a climax at dawn on Monday.

Germans Rain Tons Of Bombs on Romans

Berlin, (Via London), Jan. 29.—A German aerial squadron dropped 21 tons of bombs last Saturday on Castelfranco, Treviso and Mestre, in northern Italy, the war office reports.

Large fires, the statement adds, were seen from a distance.

Rome, Jan. 29.—Twelve enemy airplanes were brought down. The Italians held mastery of the air everywhere.

The Italian war office announced last Sunday that the enemy on the preceding night had carried out raids between the Brenta and Piave rivers, especially on Treviso and Mestre.

Among the victims were six women, three of whom were killed and three wounded. Three hospitals in Mestre were damaged.

in the vicinity of Col Del Rosso, which height stands about midway between Asiago and the Brenta.

NO DETAILS ANNOUNCED.

The supplementary German official report of last night, which was not received until today, announces the opening of the assault in this region, describing it as a violent attack.

There were no accompanying details.

Russian Attitude in Doubt.

Contradictory advices from Petrograd throw doubt on the Russian attitude towards the continuance of the Brest-Litovsk peace negotiations.

A semi-official statement declared that Leon Trotzky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, had not returned to Brest-Litovsk and added that M. Kameneff, one of the Russian delegates to the conference, was going to Stockholm, London and Paris to lay before the entente governments the progress of the peace parleys.

Another circumstantial report from Petrograd was to the effect that Trotzky had returned to the Brest-Litovsk peace conference armed with a vote of confidence by the congress of the council of workmen's and soldiers.

"When the nation has become exhausted and when all the efforts that have been made have proved unsuccessful, then it might be possible for the nation to conclude an undemocratic peace, but the present government has not yet reached that position."

"But, if under force of circumstances it would be forced to sign an undemocratic peace, it would never tell the people that it was a democratic peace."

Austria Ready for Peace.

Foreign Minister Trotzky, addressing the congress of councils of workmen's and soldiers' delegates on the question of peace, tonight declared that the Germans had masked their real intentions with fine words, but were in reality demanding all they could get.

"They thought Russia needed peace at any price," Trotzky said.

"They were mistaken. This is not the position of the workman's and soldiers' government. We still insist on a democratic peace."

"When the nation has become exhausted and when all the efforts that have been made have proved unsuccessful, then it might be possible for the nation to conclude an undemocratic peace, but the present government has not yet reached that position."

The Weather

For Nebraska—Snow; colder. Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

5 a. m.	3
6 a. m.	2
7 a. m.	1
8 a. m.	0
9 a. m.	-1
10 a. m.	-2
11 a. m.	-3
12 m.	-4
1 p. m.	-5
2 p. m.	-6
3 p. m.	-7
4 p. m.	-8
5 p. m.	-9
6 p. m.	-10
7 p. m.	-11
8 p. m.	-12
9 p. m.	-13
10 p. m.	-14
11 p. m.	-15
12 m.	-16

Comparative Local Record.

1918, 1917, 1916, 1915.	
Highest yesterday	18 42 12 20
Lowest yesterday	-9 -1 2 10
Mean temperature	4 33 2 10
Precipitation	.00 .00 .50 .02

Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal:

Normal temperature	21
Deficiency for the day	17
Total deficiency since March 1	469
Normal precipitation	.02 inch
Deficiency for the day	.02 inch
Total rainfall since March 1	21.47 inches
Deficiency since March 1	1.59 inches
Deficiency for cor. period, 1916	11.28 inches
Deficiency for cor. period, 1915	0.58 inches

Reports from Stations at 7 P. M.

Station and State	Temp.	High.	Low.
Omaha	28	36	14
Chicago	26	32	12
Denver	15	22	8
St. Louis	15	22	8
St. Paul	15	22	8
Des Moines	15	22	8
Dodge City	15	22	8
Lincoln	15	22	8
Sioux Falls	15	22	8
Wichita	15	22	8
Omaha, cloud	17	25	10
Pueblo, cloud	19	27	12
Kansas City, clear	19	27	12
Salt Lake City, clear	19	27	12
Santa Fe, clear	19	27	12
Portland, snow	14	22	8
Seattle, snow	14	22	8
San Francisco, snow	14	22	8
Albany, snow	14	22	8
Portland, snow	14	22	8
Seattle, snow	14	22	8
San Francisco, snow	14	22	8
Albany, snow	14	22	8

T Indicates trace of precipitation.

- Indicates below zero.

L. A. WELSH, Meteorologist.

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Peculiar Situations Arise in Registration of Alien Enemies

Registration of alien enemies in the city council chamber causes situations which interest even the registrars.

A man of German nativity, 45 years old, appeared Tuesday morning for his affidavits, which are to be filled out and returned next week. He explained that when he told his employer he had to register as an alien he was discharged from his work.

"I was brought to this country when I was 3 years old and have been here ever since. I voted on what I believed was my father's naturalization, but a few years ago when the election commissioner required evidence of such naturalization I was unable to furnish the evidence, so I

started my own naturalization by declaring my intentions to become an American citizen. I have not completed by naturalization. I am loyal to this country," said this "alien enemy."

The Department of Justice of the United States requires this man to register and technically he is an "alien enemy."