Weeks Reviews Case of Five Vets In Leavenworth

Hitchcock Pleads for Clemency for Omaha Yank Doing Life Term for Murder In Coblenz.

By E. C. SNYDER.

Washington Correspondent, Omaha Bee. Washington, Oct. 18.-At the hearing today before Secretary of War Weeks, wherein a notable group of members of congress, in-cluding Senators Hitchcock of Nebraska, McKellar of Tennessee, Herreld of Oklahoma, Representatives Jefferis of Nebraska and Par-rish of Texas and Mrs. Antoinette Funk, a well-known female lawyer of Washington, appeared in behalf of five young men now serving lite sentences at Leavenworth peniten-tiary for the alleged crime of having kliled an ex-English officer during a drunken brawl at Ranz, Germany, it developed that the acting judge advocate, General E. A. Kreger, had recommended clemency and full pardon for these men, but which recommendations had been turned down by Secretary Weeks.

The hearing granted to the delegation was for the purpose of reviewing the testimony taken before the court-martial at Coblenz, Ger-many, and to induce Secretary Weeks to reverse his decision and recommend elemency and unconditional pardons to the five ex-soldiers of the American army of occupation in Germany, Roy D. Youngblood of Omaha, James B. Richardson of Texas, Carl I. Bryan of Tennessee. O'Dell and Vangilden.

Hitchcock Pleads.

Senator Hitchcock, who made the principal address for the young men, reviewing the case at considerable length and the extremely doubtful testimony on which the conviction resulted, took occasion to criticize in no uncertain terms the manner in which the trial was conducted, asserting that the young men, who were represented before the courtmartial by two young lieutenants, who had never studied law, had ad-vised the defendants not to testify in their own behalf. He said that he felt very deeply in this matter as it involved the safety of American men who were serving under their country's flag and the rights of American citizens were ruthlessly trampled

One sentence of the senator's gave Secretary Week's a start, "If there are other courts-martial like this one there should be radical reforms immediately instituted by congress in their conduct," said Mr. Hitchcock. This seatiment was re-echoed later by Senator McKellar, who insisted that courts-martial should be con-ducted by the judge advocate gen-eral and according to the forms of

Died of Fight Wounds.

Senator Hitchcock traced the history of the brawl which occurred the night before the young men were leaving Germany for the United States and insisted that there was not a scintilla of evidence to show that any of the five were present at Ranz where the riot took place and in which several ex-English officers participated, resulting in one of the officers being hit on the head with a pitcher, blood poisoning ensuing from which he died 10 days after.

Mrs. Funk followed Senator Hitchcock, asking for clemency and a full pardon for the accused and reviewing the testimony of witnesses, especially the wife of one of the officers, who had failed completely to identify the defendants as connected with the riot which took place nine miles out of Coblenz in June, 1920. Congressman Parrish of Texas

spoke feelingly of James D. Richard-son and his splendid military record, he in turn being followed by Senafor McKellar and Senator Herreld. While Secretary Weeks gave no indications of his action it is thought the review of the evidence made a strong impression upon him.

Buffalo County Farmers

Are Optimistic for Future Kearney, Neb., Oct. 18.—(Special.)

—They may be using corn for fuel in some portions of the state, but not in Buffalo county. Instead the farmers here are cultivating the riendship of their banker, borrowing money to buy cattle and other live stock and "hogging down" their surplus corn. And apparently there is plenty of money available now for purchase of live stock, at least as compared with 90 or even 60 days

Three months ago the feeding of live stock was nil and none had the desire to enter it after their experience of a year ago. But there has come over the feeders a change, a conviction they are in line to retrieve some of their losses and they are going to it. The bankers are helping as far as is possible.

North Platte Prairie Fire

Does Considerable Damage North Platte, Neb., Oct. 18 .-(Special.)-A prairie fire swept over a scope of country northeast of this city destroying considerable hay and range, but fortunately the fighting the flames were able to backfire and thus save buildings. The track of the fire was 15 miles in length and from one to three

The loss of hay and pasture will in a number of instances be keenly felt by the small stockman and farm-er. An automobile stalled on a sand hill road which had been covered with hay backfired, set fire to the hay and the flames spread to the

Third Suspect in Beatrice

Y. M. Tent Robbery Is Held Beatrice, Neb., Oct. 18 .- (Special.) Ern Darwin, alleged to be the third man in the Y, M. C. A. tent robbery northwest of the city, was arrested by Chief of Police Dillow and lodged in the county jail. Spence Horn, taken Saturday night on a similar charge, is in the city jail. Frank Kinaman, the first arrested by the autnorities last week, will have his hearing November 1, and he is out on bond. Darwin or Horn have not yet been arraigned.

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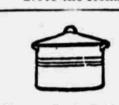


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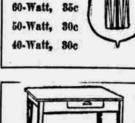
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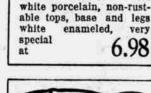
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