



1—View of Treves, headquarters of the American army of occupation in Germany. 2—Five hundred French veterans in San Francisco on their way from the European battle front to Siberia, given flowers and cigarettes by Red Cross workers. 3—One of the hundreds of improvised schoolhouses erected in northern France by the American Red Cross.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Great Britain and Mr. Wilson Likely to Agree as to the "Freedom of Seas."

ENGLAND'S POSITION STATED

Allies Will Demand That Germany Pay Their War Bill of \$120,000,000,000—Conditions in Land of Huns Still Are Chaotic—President Reaches France.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

There are indications in the dispatches from Europe that the biggest problems of the peace conference may be solved more easily and amicably than had been feared. The greatest of these, possibly, is the matter of the "freedom of the seas." The Germans and certain others had been hoping that this rather nebulous question would be the cause of trouble between America and Great Britain, and there is no doubt that the British have been preparing to contend firmly that they must not give up the weapon that really saved the world from the Huns and that is so necessary to the safety of their widespread empire. Their public men, from Lloyd George down, all have said this frankly without waiting for President Wilson to define publicly just what he means by the phrase "freedom of the seas." London now professes to have assurance that the differences between Mr. Wilson and the British in this matter will not be difficult of adjustment.

Mr. Frederick E. Smith, attorney general, expressed succinctly Britain's attitude when he said: "I am not sure that Great Britain will not have to say to the allies at the peace conference: 'We shall be quite satisfied with such a definition of freedom of the seas as will enable the British navy in the unfortunate event of future wars to do exactly what the British navy, aided by the American navy, has been doing for the last eighteen months.'"

The premier himself, addressing a meeting at Bristol, said emphatically: "Wherever the request comes from, we are not going to give up the protection of the navy, so far as Great Britain is concerned."

It is to be regretted that some voices are being raised in England as well as in America in favor of a "soft peace," for fear the German people will be resentful! On this question Lloyd George again may be quoted. Reiterating his declaration that Germany should pay to the utmost limit of her capacity, he said the war bill of the allies against the Huns is \$120,000,000,000. The whole wealth of Germany, as estimated before the war, would fall short of this sum by between twenty and forty-five billions. However, the premier says the allies propose to exact the entire cost of the war from Germany, that it can be exacted in such a way that it will do no more harm to the country that receives it than to the country that pays it, and that the demands of the allies must come in front of the German national war debt. A British commission already has reported on Germany's capacity to pay.

Belgium, France and the other victorious nations of Europe, it may be assumed, are no less determined than is Great Britain to compel Germany to stand the full cost of the fearful conflict she started. It is likely France will occupy the German lands west of the Rhine until payment has been made.

Belgium probably will come out of the war greater in territory than when she went in. She intends to ask the restoration of the parts of the provinces of Limburg and Luxemburg which went to Germany and Holland by the international treaty of 1839, and also to ask that the Dutch return the land which includes the lower Rhine.

While the allied nations, generally agreeing that the former kaiser and his fellow conspirators must be brought to trial for their crimes, are discussing ways and means of bringing this about, William Hohenzollern is preparing to resist extradition from Holland, and is getting ready his defense in case Wilhelm's government does give him up. The Dutch premier declares the former emperor is entitled to the right of sanctuary in Holland, and is not interned, since he went there as a private citizen after renouncing his throne, and that his return to Germany cannot be legally demanded. In taking this position, he asserts, Holland is not unneutral but is observing the law and treaties. An unconfirmed report came across that William attempted suicide, and other stories have him quite ill.

Premier Ebert, who may not become the first president of the German republic, appears to be gaining the upper hand, though slowly and with difficulty. Doctor Liebknecht and his Spartacus group have been badly worsted in several elections for members of the soldiers and workmen's council, and his advertised revolution resulted only in a series of rather bloody riots in Berlin and some other cities. There are other elements, however, that enter into the complicated situation, notably the Prussian Guard and other still intact bodies of troops that refuse to disarm and join wholeheartedly with the socialists when they return from the front. This, in the opinion of some Germans, portends a counter-revolution, presumably for the restoration of the monarchy; and a nucleus for such a movement has been provided by Prince Henry of Prussia, brother of the former kaiser, who has proclaimed the establishment of a royalist party in Germany. For the present the Prussian Guard is supporting Ebert.

The executive committee of the soldiers and workmen's council invited Russian bolsheviks to Berlin to take part in a conference on December 16, but the cabinet has asked the Russian government not to send these delegates, because of the "present situation in Germany." The cabinet was much disturbed by the rash boasting of Joffe, bolshevik ambassador to Germany, that several of the ministers were actively seconding his plan to introduce Russian methods into Germany.

The anxiety of the German people is greatly increased by the belief that the allies will not conclude a peace until a stable form of government is established, and that their chances of getting food from their conquerors are very slim while disorder rules in their land. In order to give the Ebert government a parliamentary basis the reichstag probably will be convened soon. Incidentally, Ebert has got rid of Doctor Solf, who has resigned as minister of foreign affairs.

President Wilson was vociferously welcomed when he landed at Brest Friday. His journey to Paris was a triumphal progress, and at the capital he was wildly acclaimed. The welcome he received from the civil and military chiefs of France was most flattering. It was announced that his "official" visit in Paris would last only 48 hours, after which he would settle down to the serious business that has taken him overseas.

The French socialists are taking every advantage of Mr. Wilson's presence in France, and among those who greeted him was a large delegation of the socialist members of the chamber of deputies. The French general labor federation has caused meetings of workmen to be held throughout the country to adopt resolutions offering President Wilson their help "to bring about a triumph for his conception of a people's peace."

It is announced that the president will visit the devastated parts of Belgium and France and also that he will go to Italy. He has, however, scornfully declined in advance any invitations to visit Germany.

Unless Italy tones down her course on the east coast of the Adriatic the Jugo-Slavs are going to have serious complaints to lay before the conference of the allies. A considerable part of the territory the Italians have occupied there is claimed by the new

Jugo-Slav republic which hopes for international recognition, and in Cattaro, Dalmatia, an armed conflict, it is said, was averted only by the active intervention of the commander of the American contingent there. Prince Alexander of Serbia has been made regent of the state of Jugo-Slavia.

Conditions in Vienna and in German Austria generally are growing desperate. Food and coal are almost exhausted and the former soldiers, who are said to possess 100,000 rifles and many machine guns, have declared that unless food arrives speedily they will be at liberty to find it where they can. The Czechs could send the Austrians food and fuel, but will not do so until the latter agree to the Czech claims for certain Austro-German territory. The Vienna authorities are praying for the arrival of allied troops, preferably Americans, to check the rising disorder and bolshevism.

Bolshevik power in Russia is gradually dwindling, but there is little else in that country to encourage the allies. Admiral Kolchak, who was made dictator at Omsk, is disposed to cooperate with the allied forces, but their governments have not recognized him. The Russians and the Czechs do not know what the American and Japanese policies are—they are not alone in that—and the latter are reported to be hard pressed by their enemies in some quarters. Meanwhile, according to Stockholm advices, a new government for Russia is being formed in that city under the leadership of former Premier Trepoff, Prince Volkonsky, Baron Taube and Senator Jassladko. It is alleged this government will be supported by the entente and will carry on matters of state in Stockholm until the bolsheviks are finally crushed. In southern Russia Grand Duke Nicholasievitch, former commander in chief of the Russian armies, is in command of a formidable force of Cossacks. What his intentions are is not stated. The bolsheviks in the Volga region continue to attack the Russo-allied forces, without success. What is doing in Siberia, if anything, is concealed by the Japanese censorship.

Advocates of leniency toward the Germans will find little support for their arguments in the reports that come from the allied armies of occupation. While the Germans in the occupied territory are giving their conquerors little trouble, they maintain their haughty and even insolent demeanor, and unbend only for the purpose of getting trade benefits. There is not the slightest trace of repentance for the crimes of their former government and their armies, and east of the Rhine those armies are being received as unconquered heroes and hailed as the chief support of the new state.

The American commanders have chosen not to interfere with the civil life of the inhabitants of the occupied cities more than is absolutely necessary. But in the regions occupied by the French and British strict regulations are enforced. When the Huns wall, they are reminded that these are almost copied from the mildest of the regulations imposed on the French and Belgians by the Germans.

The German armistice delegates asked that they be permitted to maintain communication with the provinces west of the Rhine now being occupied by the allies, but Marshal Foch told them it was necessary to maintain the blockade of Germany as provided by the armistice. It appeared likely last week that the armistice would be extended.

Director General McAdoo, expressing, he says, not only his own opinion but that of President Wilson as well, recommends that congress adopt legislation extending the period of government control of railroads to January 1, 1924. He says the prosperity of the nation depends largely on the efficiency of railroads; that to continue government operation under present conditions for 21 months after peace is declared, the limit set by the present law, is impossible, and that unless congress takes the action recommended the roads must be returned to private ownership at the earliest possible moment.

PLACES FOR SOLDIERS

Assurance Reaches State Labor Commissioner Nebraska Will Take Care of Returning Troops.

Labor Commissioner George E. Norman recently sent a letter to all public service reserve agents in this state calling attention to the demobilization of troops and asking them to confer with local councils of defense to take a canvass of the town to discover the number of boys in service and the number that could be received back in either their former places or in new jobs. Already Mr. Norman is receiving assurances that as a general proposition the boys will be taken care of and that Nebraska soldiers either in service over there or over here, will find little difficulty in getting employment.

According to a statement issued by Governor Neville on the enforcement of prohibition in Nebraska in the period beginning May 1, 1917, when the law went into effect and ending October 31, 1918, the amount of fines collected amounted to \$142,306.55, the number of prosecutions 5,145, and the convictions 3,822.

Nebraska grain and live stock for the year 1918 will be worth approximately \$662,650,000, according to a report issued by the state board of agriculture. The report covers the value of wheat, corn, oats, rye, barley, the five principal grains, and horses, mules, cattle, hogs and sheep.

The annual convention of the Nebraska State Teachers' association which was to be held at Omaha Dec. 26 to 28, has been called off because of the prevalence of influenza in the state. Officials of the associations decided it would be best to hold no session this year.

Secretary of the Interior Lane estimates that Nebraska has more than 500,000 acres of waste wet land, of which 100,000 acres are wet grazing lands and 412,100 acres periodically overflowed.

Jumbo, giant Nebraska steer, shipped to the South Omaha market by the Nye-Schneider-Fowler company of Fremont, tipped the scales at 1990 pounds and brought the sum of \$308.45.

The Nebraska farmers' congress, which was to meet in Omaha December 17, 18 and 19, has been indefinitely postponed. The influenza situation is responsible for the postponement.

Out of the 15,700 ballots mailed out by the state election commissioner to Nebraska soldiers, including 3,500 sent overseas, only 2,534 came back, or less than 11 per cent.

Governor-elect McKelvie has announced the appointment of J. E. Hart, a York banker, as secretary of the state banking board, to succeed J. J. Tooley of Broken Bow.

The Nebraska supreme court has ruled in a Douglas county case that an advertiser in a newspaper has no right to advertise goods for sale which he has not on hand.

Fire of unknown origin destroyed the plant of the Fremont Creamery company at Fremont, causing a loss of \$15,000. The plant will be rebuilt at once.

A movement is on foot at Kearney for the erection of a new hospital, a modern structure that will cost approximately one hundred thousand dollars.

The Farmers Equity Union national convention, which was to be held at Omaha, December 18, was abandoned because of the influenza epidemic everywhere.

Bank clearings in Nebraska for the past eleven months totaled \$2,588,319,034, an increase of almost 50 per cent over the same period in 1917.

A report issued by the state board of agriculture shows that cultivated acreage in Nebraska has increased 1,906,000 acres since the war began.

James Malone, chief of police of Lincoln, and well known as a police officer throughout the west and mid-west, died last week.

Snyder and Dodge have re-established the influenza ban. At Snyder crowds are limited to six and at Dodge to twelve persons.

With more than 400 influenza cases registered at West Point, no deaths thus far have occurred in the city from the disease.

Prof. Fransen of the dairy department of the University of Nebraska has called a state-wide meeting to be held at the state farm at Lincoln the first week in January to consider methods to increase the supply of dairy products in this state.

To General Harries, well known Nebraska military man, fell the honor of being the first American general to enter Berlin. The Nebraska general and his staff reached the German capital one day last week on an official mission.

Two Kearney auto dealers and mechanics have invented and patented a hydraulic auto clutch and transmission, which eliminates the gears and clutch of the auto, also does away with the fly-wheel.

Differences between Omaha street car men and the traction company, which resulted in the worst strike in the history of the city, are to be ironed out by the War Labor Board on January 2 at Omaha. The men went back to work last Thursday, after more than a week's strike, with that understanding.

STATE'S INDEBTEDNESS GROWS.

Bonded indebtedness of the ninety-three counties of Nebraska has increased more than \$3,000,000 during the past two years. The state's total outstanding bonds of all kinds aggregate \$45,192,342, divided as follows: Municipal bonds, \$29,611,847; school district, \$10,642,625; irrigation and drainage, \$1,239,505; county, \$3,398,367; precinct, \$290,500. State Auditor Smith has prepared the following tabulation showing the condition of each county:

Table with columns: County, Total, and County, Total. Lists counties from Adams to Howard with their respective bond amounts.

The Nebraska supreme court handed down a decision in the famous potash case last week, it holding that neither T. L. Briggs, who went into the Lancaster county courts, nor the state have a right to lease the potash lands. Briggs claimed this right under the agricultural lease and the state under a mineral lease. The court holds that the state must put the leases up to the highest bidder and must reimburse against any losses sustained.

A frightful news story concerning a former Nebraskan appeared in the Los Angeles Times a few days ago. The account says that little Titanka Willard, daughter of Dan Willard, former Fremont railroad man, ventured too close to a bear's cage at Venice, a pleasure resort. The bear seized the little girl by her limb, jerked her against the cage and then with terrific force, tore the leg from the child's body. A keeper shot the bear. The child died on the way to a hospital.

The Norfolk schools have been closed because the superintendent, the principle of the high school, eight teachers and a large number of students are sick with influenza. The schools will remain closed until January 6.

Administration of the soldier voting law in Nebraska took \$11,511.20 of the \$25,000 appropriated by the special session of the legislature early this year, according to a report made by Election Commissioner Pool to Governor Neville.

When additions to the Skinner Macaroni manufacturing plant at Omaha, which the company is planning to make the coming spring, are completed, it will be the largest factory of that kind in the world.

Kearney has adopted a plan of quarantining all houses where "flu" cases are discovered. The quarantine covers not alone the patient, but all people in the family domiciled in that particular home.

Will Maupin, state publicity director, suggests that returning soldiers who are unable to find employment be used by the government on the two big irrigation projects now under way in western Nebraska.

The state supreme court handed down a decision at Lincoln to the effect that members of the State Railway Commission do not have to furnish bonds.

More than 165 homes have been quarantined at Norfolk with influenza cases. The health board threatened prosecution of doctors unless they report all cases.

Omaha's automobile show, expected to be the largest auto show in the country, will be held March 10 to 15, next.

Thomas Kerl, wealthy Burt county farmer, was found guilty of seditious in federal court at Omaha and fined \$2,000 and costs.

A coroner's jury at Scottsbluff returned a verdict finding that Clifford Landry, a Denver detective, killed, without felonious intent, Miss Sylvia Kelley, a former Fremont college girl at Henry, near the Wyoming border. Miss Kelley was fatally shot when the detective fired at an automobile in which she and her uncle, James Nolan of Torrington, Wyo., were riding.

Restoration of motor service on the Kearney to Callaway branch line is possible in the immediate future, it is said.

Twelve hundred dollars in prize money was won by stock from the University of Nebraska state farm at Lincoln at the international live stock show at Chicago, the largest amount ever won by the university. Despite the fact that two members of the Nebraska judging team were stricken with influenza after reaching Chicago, first place was won in judging horses and cattle.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.) (Copyright, 1918, Western Newspaper Union.)

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 29

JOSEPH CARES FOR HIS KINDRED.

LESSON TEXT—Genesis 47:1-12. GOLDEN TEXT—Honor thy father and mother.—Ephesians 6:2. DEVOTIONAL READING—Psalms 34. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—Genesis 4:16-50:26.

Since we took the birth of the Savior for our Christmas lesson, today, instead of a review, we will go back and take up the alternative lesson for December 22. It will be more profitable to complete the study of Joseph in his attitude toward his kindred than to undertake the review.

I. Joseph Sends to Canaan for His Father (45:17-28).

After Joseph had made himself known to his brethren he sent them back to his father in Canaan with the good news not only that he was alive, but that the Lord had exalted him to be lord over all Egypt, and that his father and brethren with their families should come down to Egypt where he would give them the best of the land and that they should eat of the "fat of the land." This illustrates how one day Jesus Christ shall disclose his identity to his brethren the Jews, and that his exaltation at the right hand of the Father was to make preparation for them against the awful day of trial which shall be visited upon them (Acts 3:19-21).

II. Joseph Meets His Father in the Land of Goshen (46:29-34).

Jacob experienced a double delight—that of seeing his beloved son whom he had long mourned as dead, and of being welcomed to the new and strange land by his prime minister. Joseph instructed his father and brethren how to place their request before Pharaoh. Since their occupation was that of shepherds he knew that some tact should be employed in their approach to the king, for "every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians."

III. Jacob and His Sons Presented to Pharaoh (47:1-7).

Though Joseph was high in authority he was not ashamed to bring his father and brethren into the presence of the great Pharaoh, even though they were humble farmers.

1. Pharaoh's Question (vv. 3, 4). He inquired as to their occupation. They answered that both they and their father were shepherds. They went a little beyond what they were asked by Pharaoh and instructed to do by Joseph. They requested the land of Goshen, for they knew it was a good place for pasture for their flocks.

2. Pharaoh's Instructions to Joseph (vv. 5, 6). He told him to make his father and brethren to dwell in the best of the land—even Goshen, and that if he knew of any men of ability among them to give them the charge of his cattle. He assumed that since Joseph was so capable and trustworthy that some of his brethren would also possess suitable qualifications of administration.

IV. Jacob Blessed Pharaoh (47:7-10).

Though Jacob was a pilgrim in Egypt, dependent upon Pharaoh even for food to eat, in the dignity of his faith of what God would do with him, and through him, he pronounced a blessing upon the great Egyptian king. The less is blessed by the greater (Hebrews 7:7). Though conscious of his place of superiority through the divine covenant he did not manifest officiousness, but rather the desire to convey a vital blessing. He recognized that he was the channel through which great blessings would come to Pharaoh, in accordance with the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 12:1-3). Israel is one day to be the channel through which the blessings of salvation shall flow to the Gentile nations (Romans 11:12-15).

V. Joseph Nourished His Father and Brethren (47:11, 12).

According to the instructions of Pharaoh, Joseph placed his father and brethren in the best of the land and made provision for them. Jesus Christ will one day, when the famine of the great tribulation is exceeding sore, be reconciled to his brethren, the Jews, and will give them a possession in the best of the land and nourish them. Christ is now seated with the Father on his throne, and one day will reveal himself to his brethren the Jews and will feed them on the "fat of the land."

Jacob lived in Egypt 17 years. When the time of his death approached he exacted from Joseph a promise that he would bury him in Canaan. He blessed Joseph's sons and issued a prophecy concerning his own sons.

General Order No. 1.

It has been given as a binding order to every man worthy of the name and who respects the stamp put upon his being by God, his Father and Creator, never to become the slave of men. Bondage is the supreme shame and supreme misery for a man conscious of his nobility and divine origin.—Charles Wagner, in Christian Herald.

From Innermost Being. The things which come to us are not unrelated to us, but grow out from our inmost being.—Agnes Edwards.