

SIGHT BETTER MESS

FRESH MEAT, VEGETABLES AND BREAD RECOMMENDED FOR GUARDS.

SANITARY CONDITIONS GOOD

Items of General Interest Gathered From Reliable Sources Around the State House.

Western Newspaper Union News Service. Nebraska guardsmen now stationed on the Texas border are to have better food or in the vernacular of the soldier, better mess.

Major General Tasker H. Bliss, assistant chief of the staff of the United States army, visited Llano Grande camp last week and was favorably impressed with all he saw except the quantity and quality of the food given the guardsmen.

More fresh meat, vegetables and fresh baked bread daily were some of the recommendations given by the head of the commanding officers here.

"There's no reason at all," said General Bliss, "why the commissary officers cannot get fresh beef daily from Brownsville or other Texas cities



J. W. EVANS Editor Fairfield Independent, Second Lieutenant Co. H, Fifth Nebraska, now stationed near the Mexican border.

where large packing plants are operated. I cannot see the need why men should be given all canned rations while in camp. Those kind of rations were meant only for use when the men are called into service. One of these days if the call is given the officers will be up against it when it comes to traveling rations.

"I shall ask that large ovens be erected and bakers from among the enlisted men provide fresh bread. Hard tack is all right in its place, but it was never meant for any permanent camp."

General Bliss stated that the sanitary conditions of the camp were good. He continued his inspection tour to the lower border and departed for Fort Sam Houston.

Take Care of Health. Nothing has been overlooked by way of safeguarding the health of the men and bringing up to the highest standard the living conditions around Camp Llano. At all hours of the day and until the late hours of the night Colonel Eberly can be seen walking about the camp, stopping here and there, giving fatherly advice to some of the men; instructing others and ordering others to do this and that.

Naval Exhibit at State Fair. If the plans of J. B. Zimmerman, navy recruiting officer at Lincoln are carried out, the department will have an interesting exhibit at the state fair this year. A booth has been obtained for the purpose and Zimmerman is waiting for the approval of the department at Washington. He contemplates showing models of dreadnoughts, submarines, the U. S. S. Nebraska and other types of naval vessels as well as materials and paraphernalia. The exhibits would come from the department headquarters.

An appropriation to allow a thorough investigation into the cause of the settling of the east wing of the capital building will be asked by Assistant State Engineer Steckelberg. In view of the reports that this side of the building was erected on a sand-pit, although the foundation was arched, it is said, to overcome the difficulty. Mr. Steckelberg believes that it is not too late to investigate a comprehensive survey to determine the actual cause of the sinking, to enable proper measures to be taken to remedy the situation.

SPEAKS VERY HIGHLY.

General Bliss Commends Conditions in Nebraska Camps.

Sanitary conditions, appearance of the camp and the personnel of the officers and men of the two Nebraska regiments at Camp Llano were "highly satisfactory" and pleasing to General Tasker H. Bliss, chief of staff of the United States army who with General Edward Plaummer in command made a tour of inspection of the entire camp. Colonels Eberly and Paul were congratulated by the distinguished visitor. General Bliss suggested to commanding officers of two regiments that they would profit "very materially" by a visit to the Nebraska camps. Sanitary conditions in the Nebraska quarters could not be improved upon said General Bliss. Captain Herbert Smith of Fremont and Major John Birkner are in charge of sanitation.

New General Hospital.

A general hospital has been established at Brownsville, forty miles from Camp Llano, and all soldiers from Brownsville to Sam Fordyce who become ill will be sent to this hospital. Emergency field hospitals will be maintained at all camps along the line, where sick or injured men requiring immediate attention can be cared for. A sanitary train, provided with all hospital facilities, will leave Brownsville every day, stopping at each camp and picking up sick and injured.

The Fifth Nebraska regiment field hospital under Major John F. Spearman of Lincoln, was assigned to care for all sick and injured of all the troops encamped here. Under the new order this unit will care only for those needing immediate attention. School of instructions for the hospital men will soon be established.

Must Name Specific Gravity.

Shipment of naphtha into this state to mix with gasoline and thus form low-grade products sold under the name of the latter will not be tolerated, according to Oil Commissioner Harman. The latter has announced that prosecutions would be started at once in the case of parties who have done this. The gravity tested out at less than fifty, according to Harman, and he proposes to prevent the sale of the mixed products. Likewise, he has announced that he will require all dealers to label containers of gasoline with the specific gravity. This provision of law, he says, has been wantonly abused during the past several months.

State's Expenses for Second Quarter.

State expenses amounted to \$1,032,457 during the months of April, May and June this year. The quarter previous the expense amounted to \$1,421,840, according to the quarterly statement of Auditor William Smith.

Of the amount used during the past quarter \$335,073 was spent by the board of control for the fifteen state institutions under its charge.

The governor's department spent \$2,042, practically all of it for regular salaries of employes.

The national guard spent \$8,730 of which nearly half was for armory rental, a charge that is not on the books at the present time owing to the absence of the guard on the border.

Many Members Ask for Discharge.

More than one hundred men of the Fourth Nebraska regiment at Camp Llano have made application for discharge from further duty under President Wilson's recommendation that all militiamen who have persons depending upon them should be discharged. Each application for release must be accompanied by affidavits from three witnesses substantiating the claims of the soldier. It will be at least ten days before final action can be taken on these cases. The Fifth regiment will also lose some of its men but the number of discharges in this regiment is expected to be much lower than in the Fourth.

Goes into Reserve.

The first Nebraskan at Camp Llano to become a member of the reserves under the new Chamberlain bill is Otto G. Hallgren, Company B, Fourth regiment. Three years ago Hallgren enlisted in Company B. Most of the men who are now officers of the company were privates then. His term of enlistment expired July 13 and he is now ready and most eager to start for the northland.

Nebraska Boys Take Daily March.

Nebraska troops on the border, practicing daily marches, have reached an average speed of four miles an hour. A program has been outlined for the first five weeks of camp prescribing a daily hike of ten to twelve miles, gradually increasing in length through the weeks. The first week the march is to be taken with canteens full. The second week canteens and haversacks will be carried. The load will be gradually increased until full equipment is carried.

Captain Leedom Celebrated Birthday.

Wednesday, July 19, was the birthday of Capt. J. W. Leedom. As a birthday gift his company was mounted as guard and he was therefore officer of the day. To add to the joy of the occasion the canal carrying the water supply broke down and a trip on foot was made in a hurry out to shut the gates controlling the stream. The captain says that it was one of the busiest birthdays he has celebrated in some years.

RUSS ROUT TEUTONS

CZAR'S TROOPS DRIVE THEIR WAY INTO BRODY, KEY TO LEMBERG.

GERMANS ADMIT RETREAT

Captured City in Flames, Though It is Not Known Whether Town Was Fired by Shells or Put to the Torch by Austrians.

London, July 31.—The Russians have captured Brody. This most important single victory of the great Russian drive, which started two months ago, is chronicled in an official bulletin from Petrograd. Simultaneously the Slavs have smashed the entire Austro-German line west of Lutsk, where they had been held up for weeks in their drive upon the stronghold of Kovel. Capture of this great railroad center now appears imminent.

The capture of Brody, which is one of the main railroad centers in eastern Galicia, marks an advance of six miles in a single day, by the czar's forces, a speed almost unprecedented in the great war for large bodies of troops. Thursday's official reports showed the Russians six miles from the town at their nearest point of attack and the capture indicates not only a defeat of its Austrian defenders but their absolute rout.

The captured city is in flames. This much is disclosed by the report from Petrograd, though it is not made clear whether the town was fired by Russian shells before its fall or was put to the torch by the fleeing Austrians.

Sweeping Russian victories in Volhynia and Galicia peril the entire Austro-German system of defense on a front of more than 100 miles, and according to military experts here will precipitate a general retreat and reorganization of the whole Teutonic front which now protects Kovel and Lemberg, the two chief objectives of the Slav drive. Vladimir Volynski, another stronghold, lies in the way of the Russian advance, but no serious obstacle in the nature of permanent fortifications now looms between the Russians and Lemberg.

The Russian advance, announced from Petrograd, was forecast in part by an official report from Berlin which announced a retreat by the forces of General von Linsingen northeast of Svinichy, in southern Volhynia, and only a few miles southeast of Vladimir Volynski.

GREAT TIME FOR MOTORISTS

National Touring Week, Beginning August 6, Will Find Them on the Road by the Thousand.

Chicago, July 29.—The dawn of August 6 will find untold thousands of American automobilists on the road for the greatest concerted vacation ever devised. The day will be the first of the National Touring week, preparations for which have engrossed the attention of manufacturers, dealers and car owners for months. The "see American first" idea is thoroughly aroused, but the spirit is concentrated in "see your home state first." The touring week is to be a big family affair, for every motorist is planning to take his wife and children, if he has any, into the great open where they will find the rejuvenation that comes from rest and a change of scene.

From the Atlantic to the Pacific the week of August 6 will be made memorable and many thousands of Americans will discover beauties of their own land hitherto unknown to them.

LONGUEVAL IN BRITISH HANDS

Last German Stronghold in Village is Cleared Up—All Delville Wood Now Held.

London, July 31.—The last German strongholds in Longueval have been captured by the British troops, according to the official statement given out by the war office. Hand-to-hand fighting continued throughout the day in the vicinity of Pozieres, the statement adds.

The British also have possession of the entire Delville wood, the fifth Brandenburg division, the last Germans in the wood, being cleared out with the capture of three officers and 158 men.

VALUE J. P. MORGAN'S ESTATE

Transfer Tax Appraiser Sets \$78,149,024 on Property in New York.

New York, July 31.—The total assets of the estate of J. Pierpont Morgan, who died March 31, 1913, are fixed at \$78,149,024, exclusive of property outside New York state, in a report which will be filed with the state comptroller by Transfer Tax Appraiser Lyons.

Baby Plague Abating?

New York, July 31.—A slight decrease in infantile paralysis cases was noted in the 24 hours ending at 10 a. m. Friday, but it was not sufficient to lead the authorities to assert that the epidemic had been broken.

England Bars Cocaine.

London, July 31.—The importation of opium and cocaine into the United Kingdom is prohibited by a royal proclamation issued here. The growth of "cocaine sniffing" has become alarmingly prevalent.

RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN IN TURKEY



1—Russians capture Erzurum, Turkish fortress and military base in Asia Minor. 2—The evacuation of Erzurum obliges the Turks to move their fighting line virtually 150 miles west to Sivas, which now is the next objective of the Russian advance. 3—Angora, which is 350 miles west of Erzurum, is the chief objective of the Russian campaign. It is the terminus of the railroad to Constantinople.

GREAT DEFENSE SUM 22 PERISH IN TUNNEL

ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL OF \$314,000,000 IS PASSED.

An Amendment Giving the Soldiers on the Border the Right to Vote on the Field Eliminated.

Washington, July 29.—Nearly \$700,000,000 for national defense in the fiscal year 1917 is the aggregate of proposed appropriations reached in the senate with the passage of the army appropriation bill, carrying in round numbers \$314,000,000.

This grand total for preparedness still is subject to revision, however, because the army bill will follow the naval bill into conference, where reductions are probable, despite the firm attitude of President Wilson in supporting the liberal response of the senate to the call for adequate defense.

The appropriations for preparedness as they now stand are as follows: Army \$313,970,447.10; Navy \$16,329,343.50; Fortifications (day) \$5,748,056.00; Military Academy \$2,228,228.57; Army and navy deficiency \$7,559,348.00.

Total \$685,343,017.27. As it passed the senate the army bill exceeded the appropriations made by the house by more than \$131,000,000. In the final hours of debate on the measure the senate agreed to an appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the relief of dependent families of National Guardsmen and regular army soldiers in service in the Mexican emergency.

Distribution of the fund is left to the discretion of the secretary of war, but in no case shall any dependent family receive more than \$50 a month.

An amendment giving soldiers on the border the right to vote in the field at the November election was eliminated from the bill on a point of order just before passage.

As soon as the army bill was out of the way the senate took up and passed, after brief debate, the military academy appropriation bill, carrying \$2,228,228.57, an increase of \$1,019,524 over the house authorization.

BRITISH GET U. S. PROTEST

Note Charging Treaty Violation Now in the Hands of London Foreign Office.

Washington, July 29.—The American protest against the British boycott now is in the hands of the British foreign office. Acting Secretary of State Polk let it be known that the protest was approved by President Wilson.

It is understood that the protest was compiled by President Wilson personally. It will be made public next Monday morning. Officials at the White House and state department expressed themselves as hopeful that the British government will modify considerably its position in view of the emphatic opposition enunciated by the United States.

NEW TERRITORY FOR THE U. S.

Negotiations Completed by Which Danish West Indies Come Under Stars and Stripes.

Washington, July 27.—Official announcement was made at the White House that negotiations have practically been completed for the purchase of the Danish West Indies by the United States from Denmark for \$25,000,000.

While details of the treaty were not given out, it is understood that the United States will come into complete possession of the islands. Word has been received from Denmark that the treaty is practically certain of being ratified by the Danish parliament.

Fisher Fleet is Sunk.

London, July 31.—A German submarine has raided a British fleet of herring fishing boats. Eight of the vessels were sunk. The crews were landed at the North sea port of Tyne.

May Probe Packing Business.

Washington, July 31.—The federal trade commission has been requested by the house of representatives to make an estimate of what an investigation into the meat packing industry would cost.

Disaster Results in Heavy Loss of Human Life.

Intrepid Band, Eager to Save Their Comrades, Are Themselves Victims of Disaster.

Cleveland, O., July 27.—At least twenty men are known to be dead and a dozen injured as a result of an explosion of gas in a water works tunnel under construction between a pumping station on land and an intake crib five miles out in Lake Erie.

The men were working 50 feet below the bottom of the lake, which is 70 feet deep at that point, placing them 120 feet below the surface. They were 1,700 feet shoreward from the crib. The explosion came as the tunnel workers broke through a gas vein with their picks and shovels and the fumes ignited from electric sparks.

At eight o'clock 11 men descended the shaft. An hour later workmen on the surface detected gas and attempted to signal the men in the tube. Receiving no response they sent rocket signals into the air to attract lifesavers on shore, there being no other means of communication. It was almost midnight before aid reached the scene and then a rescue party was quickly formed which made the descent. Of this party of 11 rescuers seven succumbed to the fumes, the original 11 having perished.

After the first rescue party had met the same fate as the 11 workmen, no more men would volunteer to aid in the rescue work until helmets could be procured. There was considerable delay in getting helmets and not until after daylight was the rescue work taken up by men properly equipped.

SOLDIERS WORK ON ROADS

As Punishment for Minor Offenses Troops Are Made Useful on Texas Thoroughfares.

El Paso, Tex., July 27.—Twelve hundred militiamen, prisoners in a warless war, were put to work constructing military roads in the vicinity of El Paso. The men have been arrested at various times during the last several weeks for minor offenses, mostly failing to return to camp at the proper time.

ALL TRADE RECORDS BROKEN

United States Closes the Greatest Year in Commercial History of the Country.

Washington, July 31.—Foreign trade of the United States closed its greatest year in history June 30 with a balance of \$2,136,000,000 in favor of American exporters.

The year's exports aggregated \$4,334,000,000, the department of commerce announced, and imports were valued at \$2,198,000,000.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES

Ottawa, Ont., July 27.—The war is costing the Dominion of Canada \$1,000,000 a day, an official announcement said.

London, July 27.—Sir Roger Casement, convicted of treason because of his part in the rebellion in Ireland, will be executed publicly, according to the Daily Chronicle.

Mitchell, S. D., July 29.—A vigilance committee was organized in Mitchell to deal with the lawless harvest hands who are passing through the city by hundreds.

Air Craft Bombard Durazzo.

Rome, July 29.—A squadron of Italian aircraft, after a long flight across the Adriatic, bombarded the Albanian port of Durazzo, which is now held by the Austro-Hungarians, it has been officially announced.

Turkish Regiment Mutinies.

Athens, July 29.—Advices from Smyrna state that an entire Turkish regiment mutinied at Sevekeny, taking refuge in a forest on Mount Simolou. Loyal Turks gave chase, setting the forest on fire.

MEXICO'S PLAN O.K'D

UNITED STATES AGREES TO CARRANZA'S PROPOSAL FOR SETTLING DIFFICULTIES.

NOW UP TO FIRST CHIEF

State Department Sends Note to Mexico Suggesting That Other Matters Be Settled in the Same Way.

Washington, July 28.—The United States government accepted in full the Carranza proposal for the appointment of a joint commission to consider the causes of difference between the two republics and make recommendations on which the governments in turn shall act. The series of conferences between Acting Secretary of State Polk and Eliseo Arredondo, Carranza's ambassador designate, have thus ended exactly as Carranza asked.

With the acceptance of the Mexican proposal the state department made public the text of the note to Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations Aguilar, in which there is a suggestion that the joint commission may eventually continue deliberations so as to settle in advance other points of probable difference and thus effect an arrangement tending to improve mutual relations.

The note also requests notification that the Mexican government approves the arrangement, so that the United States may immediately appoint its three commissioners and aid in fixing the date and place of the conference. Presumably the conference will be held in this country.

U. S. STEEL BREAKS RECORD

Earns \$6,000,000 More Than the Official Estimate, Which Was Considered Beyond Belief.

New York, July 27.—Net earnings of the Steel corporation in the June quarter were at the rate of 47 per cent per annum on the \$508,312,500 common stock—after allowing for interest charges, sinking fund requirements and the regular disbursements on the preferred shares. An extra dividend of one per cent was declared on the junior issue.

The net receipts \$81,126,048, were \$6,000,000 beyond the official estimates made last month, which appeared to be incredible to the financial district. The income in the last three months is equal to 1 1/4 per cent on the common certificates for the entire year.

BLISS TO WEED OUT GUARD

Will Recommend Liberal Construction on Policy of Releasing Men With Dependent Relatives.

El Paso, Tex., July 28.—To "weed out" the disgruntled militiamen along the border, Maj. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss will recommend to the war department that a most liberal construction be placed on its policy of releasing guardsmen with dependent relatives.

This conclusion was reached by the assistant chief of staff after an inspection of Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Michigan militia camps here.

"For," he said, "it would be far better to have smaller organizations of contented men, than larger ones in which there is an element of dissatisfaction."

BOARD MEMBERS ARE NAMED

President Sends to Senate Names of Four Members of the Farm Loan Body.

Washington, July 29.—President Wilson sent to the senate the nominations of the four members of the farm loan board created by the rural credits act. The nominees are Judge Charles E. Lobdell, Republican, of Great Bend, Kan.; George M. Norris, Democrat, of Philadelphia; Capt. W. S. A. Smith, Republican, of Sioux City, Ia., and Herbert Quick, Democrat, of Berkeley Springs, W. Va. Their early confirmation is expected.

BRITISH BIPLANE SHOT DOWN

German Submarine Captures Aeroplane and Its Pilot and Observer—Taken to Zebrugge.

Berlin, via Sayville wireless, July 27.—The capture of a British aeroplane and its pilot and observer by a German submarine was reported by the admiralty in the following official statement: "On Monday afternoon a German submarine brought down with its fire a British biplane. The inmates, two officers, were made prisoners by the Germans and transported, together with the enemy machine, to Zebrugge on a torpedo boat."

New School of Musketry.

Washington, July 31.—The war department announced that a "school of musketry" would be opened at once at Fort Sill, Okla., in order to give special training to enlisted men in the handling of machine guns.

Calls Conditions Better.

Mexico City, July 31.—Minister of War Obregon has issued official reports from government commanders to show that conditions in northern Mexico are fast becoming settled owing to the efforts of the government.