

SOLONS MAY CONVENE

Gov. May Call Legislators Together to Provide Means for Taking Vote of Soldiers.

Governor Neville announced that he is considering the calling of a special session of the legislature to enact laws to provide means whereby Nebraska soldiers, not members of the regular army, may vote during their terms of service. The announcement was made following a decision by Judge Day in the district court at Omaha that soldiers in any arm of the service, enlisted after the outbreak of the war, are entitled to the right of franchise while serving in the army. The purpose of the legislation sought is to provide the machinery for the soldier vote. A suit has been filed in the supreme court to test the validity of the law passed by the last session of the legislature which permits soldiers to vote.

An attack on the referendum petition against the suffrage law enacted by the last legislature, was made in Lincoln when attorneys representing the Equal Suffrage association, filed a suit in the Lancaster district court asking a restraining order preventing Secretary of State Pool from submitting the referendum petition to a vote of the people. The suit attacks the legality of 14,000 out of the 32,980 signers of the referendum petition and charges of forgery and fraud are made.

Mrs. Ida Hermann of Lincoln, mother of Fred W. Hermann, victim of the Tuscania, whose body was buried in Scotland, with 163 other bodies, has asked the War department to send the body to Lincoln.

P. C. Perryman of Ord was elected president of the Nebraska Retail Clothiers' association at the closing session of the convention at Omaha. The convention will be held in Omaha again next year.

The War department at Washington announced that Nebraska will furnish 1,130 men of the first draft to be sent to Camp Funston for training March 4. This will be the last increment of the first call.

A conference of county food administrators is to be held February 25 and 26. On those days county administrators north of the Platte river will meet at Omaha and those south of the Platte will meet at Lincoln.

Marshall Davison, Gage county farmer, has obtained a test of 100 per cent from his seed corn. He planted 90 kernels and every one of them germinated, the stalks now being about five inches in height.

German text books were stolen from the Fairmont high school the other night. The school board had been asked to discontinue German in the schools, but had been negligent in granting the request. It was claimed.

A petition has been presented to the city council of Wynmore asking that a weighmaster for that place be appointed. An ordinance providing for the appointment of such officer is being prepared.

Randolph high school reports that in a recent thrift stamp drive every scholar from the first grade to the 12th subscribed, and the total amount will run close to \$2,000.

Announcement has been made that the Nebraska quota for the first draft is filled and no men will be sent from this state in response to the call for the last 15 per cent.

For the purpose of conserving the egg supply the federal food administration has ordered that no hens be slaughtered between February 23 and May 1.

Omaha is making a concerted effort to bring the national swine show to the city again for 1918. St. Louis and Peoria, Ill., are after the show.

An ordinance is before the city commissioners of Omaha to permit jitneys to operate in the city under a small license.

Every county in Northwest Nebraska was represented at the dedication of the east wing of the State Normal School at Chadron.

The total actual cash war saving stamp sale for Nebraska up to February 8, 1918, was \$4,620,601, according to official figures.

Twenty-six thousand dollars' worth of thrift stamps were sold at a big patriotic rally at Madison.

County Agent Rist who has been making a thorough canvass of the seed corn situation and winter wheat condition in Gage county, reports that in 150 tests of seed corn conducted, the test showed an average of 61 per cent germinating.

Fire Commissioner Redgall's annual report shows that 57 persons were burned to death in Nebraska last year and that fire destroyed \$2,805,335 worth of property in the state. A total of 1,649 fires occurred in the whole state during the year.

The Classical association of the middle west will hold its fourteenth annual meeting in Omaha April 4, 5 and 6. Thirty states will be represented and about 300 delegates are expected to attend.

A movement is under way at Kearney to utilize every vacant lot in the city for garden purposes this summer. It is planned to have school children do most of the work.

The Norfolk Landwehr Verein, an organization composed of former German soldiers, has a new title. It is now known as the Columbia Club of Norfolk. Charges preferred against the club by the county council of defense resulted in the change of the name. The German flag owned by the club was torn to pieces by its officers.

According to State Auditor Smith, taxes due for state administration from 1917 assessments amount to \$4,471,547.13, based on an assessed valuation of \$527,209,696. On this basis, the actual tax valuation of Nebraska is \$2,636,048,330—five times the assessed valuation.

Governor Neville has appointed Commissioner Mayfield of the board of control as Nebraska's representative on the war prison labor board, which is being organized for the purpose of utilizing the labor of all prisoners in county jails and state prisons and reformatories.

Nebraska taxpayers will contribute \$30,000,000 in taxes for the current fiscal year, according to an estimate of Secretary Bernecker of the state board of equalization. The average tax levy for the state will be 57.50 mills, but in Omaha and Lincoln it is double that amount.

James W. Tanner, well known Nebraska newspaper man, and founder of the Fallerton Post, died last night at Filer, Idaho. At the time of his death he was editing the Filer Journal. He was a brother of State Senator John M. Tanner of Omaha.

Following reports that a great spring wheat seed shortage existed in Madison county an investigation brought to light that farmers in the county are holding large quantities of seed wheat for higher prices.

The proposed plan to have a county farm agent appointed in Buffalo county is meeting with considerable opposition. It is stated an organized effort is under foot to defeat the agent plan.

The Big Chief Oil & Gas company's well near Red Cloud has reached a depth of 1,825 feet. The drill is going through a stratum of blue shale and experienced oil men state that the prospect for finding oil is excellent.

The State Banking Board has been notified that the Third State Bank of Wood Lake has gone into voluntary liquidation. Wood Lake has a population of about 300, and has three banks.

The torpedoing of the transport Tuscania, loaded with United States troops, has proven a great stimulant for army recruiting in Omaha. Following the first reports 70 men enlisted in the army.

According to present plans there are seven labor candidates, seven socialist candidates and scores of individual candidates who will aspire for city commissioner at Omaha at the primaries April 9.

Judge Good, in the district court at Aurora, ruled that hog breeders who use the word "immune" in their advertisements must warrant absolute immunity from cholera.

Henry J. Buss, farmer near Sterling, picked an ear of corn from his field that contained 26 rows, with 1,448 kernels. He thinks he has beaten the record.

Gage county millers have signed an agreement not to exchange flour for wheat unless the owner of the wheat is willing to take an equal amount of wheat substitute.

Two hundred thousand bushels of Nebraska potatoes have gone to ruin in Box Butte county, alone, because of lack of market facilities, according to reports.

Schools of Valley will hold Saturday sessions for the remainder of the year in order that the larger boys may be released early for farm work.

Pawnee County Food Administrator A. E. Henry is considering the advisability of issuing in the near future flour and sugar cards.

Webster county farmers will hold a big mass meeting at Red Cloud next Saturday to consider employing a county agent.

Twenty Nebraska chapters of the National League for Women's Service will attend the state convention at Omaha February 28.

The Lincoln school board has abolished spring vacations, to release 12,000 pupils two weeks earlier for farm work.

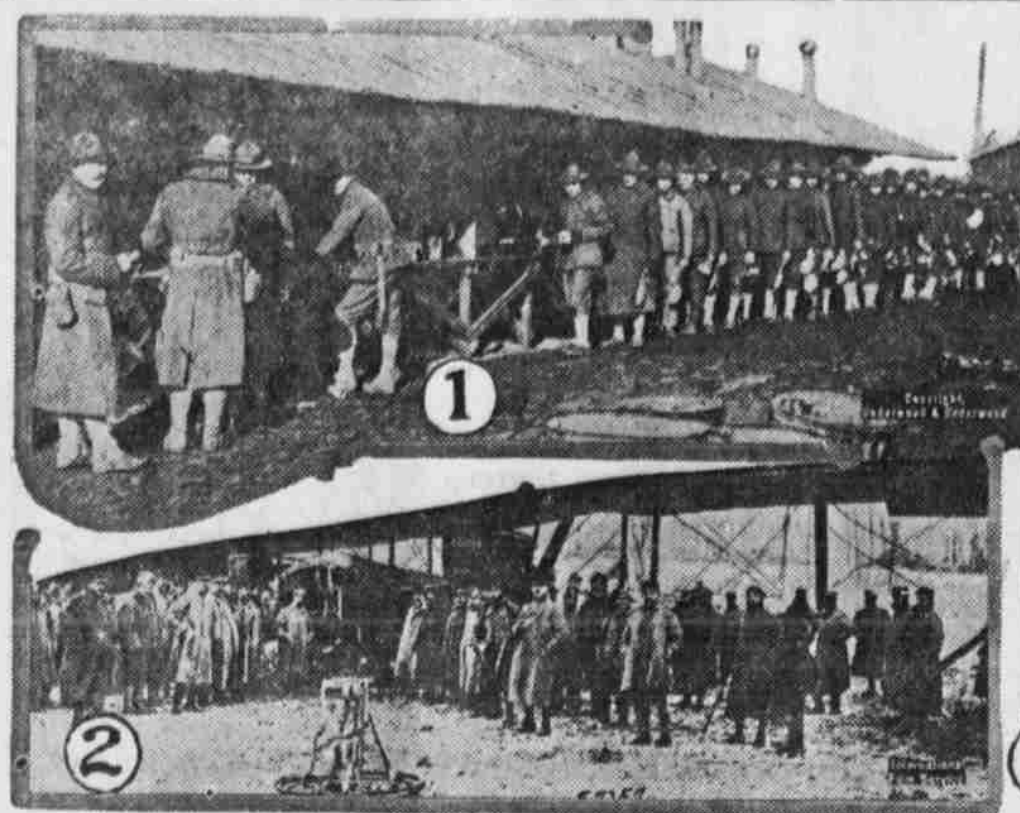
Recruiting for the army and navy has been exceedingly brisk over the state since the torpedoing of the Tuscania.

The council of defense of Cumina county has decided to adopt the card index system of enrollment for each person in the county. This will cover all property possessed, donations made for war purposes and much other valuable information.

A carload of Red Cross supplies, made by organizations in Nebraska, was loaded and shipped to an Atlantic port from Omaha a few days ago.

Governor Neville has called upon all Nebraska children to enlist as junior members of the Red Cross.

C. M. Gruenther of Platte Center, executive secretary of war savings for Platte county, has reported that county chairmen of war savings from all over Nebraska have been inquiring of him as to how the Platte county war savings drive, which more than pledged the quota of the county in one day was accomplished.



1—American troops, just arrived in France, lined up to get their soup. 2—One of the new giant German airplanes, with three cars, that was brought down by French gunfire near Soissons. 3—Friedrich von Payer, German vice chancellor and leader of the progressive party, who played an important role in suppressing the great strikes in the empire.



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NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

President Wilson More Hopeful of Austrian Peace Than Is Lloyd George.

AGAIN SETS FORTH DEMANDS

Bolshevik Perplex the Germans by Abandoning the War Without Signing Treaty—Ukraine Makes Separate Peace—All Ready for West Front Offensive.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

President Wilson believes Count Czernin meant what he seemed to say in his recent speech on peace, and still hopes Austria-Hungary may be separated from Germany and that the war may be brought to an end without a great deal more of fighting. Premier Lloyd-George believes that in its real substance the Czernin address was an uncompromising statement of Chancellor von Hertling and that the allied war council at Versailles was right when it declared peace must be won by force of arms.

In his address to congress on Monday Mr. Wilson enunciated the four cardinal principles to which he said the enemy must agree before general peace pourparlers can be begun. Briefly, these are:

Each part of the final settlement must be based on essential justice to insure permanent peace.

No peoples shall be bartered for the gain of any sovereignty or to retain the now discredited "balance of power."

Territorial settlements must be for the benefit of the people and not of neighboring states.

All well defined national aspirations must be satisfied.

Until a peace based upon these principles is secured, the president asserted, America has no choice but to go on, and will continue its mobilization of its resources until the whole strength of the nation has been put into this war of emancipation. He denounced the stand of the imperial chancellor, but seemed to invite Count Czernin to lead Austria away from its autocratic ally.

Though hailed as a sign of weakening by most of the Teutonic press, the president's speech is not so regarded by his fellow countrymen. Many of them may believe he is overoptimistic concerning Austria, as does Lloyd-George, but they accept at its face value his statement of the nation's determination not to stop fighting until the results he demands have been achieved. They feel no harm can result from leaving open the door to possible negotiations with any one of the central powers, provided there is no leup in our war preparations because of the bare chance that they may not be needed.

Premier Lloyd-George's stand in supporting the Versailles council and maintaining secrecy concerning the plans decided on by it was endorsed by parliament, which gave him a vote of confidence by an overwhelming majority.

The German press warns Mr. Wilson again that his efforts to separate Germany and Austria-Hungary will be futile and calls his references to American mobilization mere bluff.

The kaiser, it may be noted, also delivered a speech, in which he said any peace must be preceded by an admission of German victory.

The outside world is not permitted to know much of what is going on in Austria, but such information as does escape the censor really indicates that President Wilson may not be far astray in his hopes. It is said Austria shows increasing reluctance to sending her troops to fight against the British and Americans in France. The Berliner Tageblatt admits that the internal situation in Austria is serious and that government "is no longer possible, since the Czechs, Jugo-Slavs and Poles form an important majority, against

which the German parties are powerless."

According to an American correspondent in France, the peace program of Hindenburg, Ludendorff and the crown prince, forced on Von Kuehlmann and the emperor, includes the extending of the East Prussian frontier, making an autonomous protectorate of the Baltic provinces, dismembering Belgium and annexing or otherwise controlling the Briey-Longwy industrial region of northern France. The question of Poland apparently is left to Austria.

Meanwhile Trotzky and his bolshevik comrades have handed Germany a hard nut to crack. Flatly refusing to sign a peace treaty, they declared the war with the central powers, so far as Russia is concerned, has ended. They decline to fight longer against the workers and peasants of Germany and Austria. Simultaneously, the complete demobilization of the Russian armies was ordered, although it was reported that this order was immediately countermanded and that the reorganization of the Red guard was begun. At first the people of Germany and Austria hailed this great "victory" with extravagant joy, but in a few hours they and their governments began to wonder what it would avail them. They cannot obtain treaty recognition for their intended annexations on the east front, and they are far from sure that it will be safe to move to the west or nearly all their troops. As the bolshevik leaders long ago admitted, the Teutons can easily push a long way into Russia, but what ultimate good will that do them?

The bolsheviks always have maintained that they are operating, not for the benefit of Russia or any other nation, but for the workers and peasants of all nations, and they are persistently continuing the spreading of their propaganda all over the world. Whatever may be the real motives of Lenin, Trotzky et al, they appear to have the Prussian autocrats up in the air just now.

Ukraine, one of the independent governments into which Russia has split, has presented a complication that may be more serious for the allied cause than the gutting of the bolshevik. It has signed a separate peace treaty with the central powers which opens to them the possibility of obtaining immense stores of food from that rich grain country. However, as pointed out in these columns some time ago, the transportation system of that part of Russia is so utterly inadequate that supplies can be got out only extremely slowly, and besides, the crops have been sadly neglected ever since the war began. The treaty gave Ukraine quite a slice of Poland, which aroused the Poles to bitter opposition.

Germany during the week attempted to put the screws on Roumania, demanding that it accept peace terms within 24 hours or suffer the consequences. But the Roumanians defied the kaiser, declaring they still had unshaken confidence in their allies and would continue to fight to the finish. Their armies now occupy all of Bessarabia, where they have repeatedly defeated the bolshevik troops. It is believed they were nerved to take this determined stand by prospects of an allied offensive in the Balkans which they might aid by attacking the Bulgarians and Austrians from the north.

There are increasing evidences that such a drive, to cut off Turkey and reduce Bulgaria, is contemplated. A new Roumanian cabinet is headed by General Avarescu.

In southern Finland, where the Red guards are still holding out against the government, horrible conditions prevail. Murders and all other crimes are committed openly and the bolsheviks are running amuck. Sweden still fears to violate neutrality and send help to the government. Recent reports from Stockholm said certain Red guard leaders had asked General Mannerheim to consider peace negotiations.

There is little to say of the Italian front except that the fighting there was mainly by the artillery and aviators and that neither side had any marked advantage.

Seemingly the stage is set for Germany's supreme military effort on the west front, and Field Marshal von Woyrsch, the invader of Poland in

1915, is said to have been selected to lead it. Allied aviators report that the kaiser has gathered about 2,100,000 men there and that elaborate rehearsals are going on behind the lines. Where the blow will fall has not been revealed, but the commanders of the allied armies evince no fear that it cannot be repulsed. They have made every preparation that their skill and resources permit and are sitting tight. All feeling-out movements by the enemy have been checked and the French, in their turn, have been making some strong raids that carried them far into the German lines. In every way possible the Germans have been seeking to test the strength of the American forces, and there are indications that Pershing's men will be in the thick of the fighting when Hindenburg orders the forward movement.

It is believed in London and hoped by naval men, that Germany plans to combine a naval drive with her spring offensive. The kaiser is supposed to have a number of "super-submarines" which have not yet been in operation and which may then be put to work.

Switzerland is growing very nervous with fear that the kaiser will determine to tear up another scrap of paper and invade her territory in order to attempt to turn the right flank of the French armies. There have been large concentrations of German troops near the Swiss frontier, and Teutons in Zurich have openly boasted that the conquest of the little republic would be a matter of but a few days. It was said skeleton governments for the cantons already had been prepared by the authorities in Berlin.

Just in case his spring drive doesn't succeed, as the allies are determined it shall not, Wilhelm has been constructing most elaborate and expensive systems of defensive works back of his present lines all the way from the North sea to the Swiss frontier.

Vice Admiral Sims went to Rome last week, presumably to confer regarding plans to clear the Mediterranean of U-boats, which have worked havoc there with allied shipping for a long time.

Efforts of the government to recruit a great army of shipyard workers are meeting with considerable success, but the work of building our marine was threatened by a prospective strike of 50,000 members of the marine woodworkers' union. They demanded \$6.40 a day instead of the \$4.80 allowed by the shipping board, and the government got busy at once to try to settle the dispute.

Chairman Hurley of the shipping board sent a telegram to the union heads warning them that the fathers who have sent their sons to war will not long permit continued interference with the shipping program and urging that the workmen continue their labors and trust to the fairness of the wage adjustment board.

Charges of gross mismanagement and reckless spending of money in connection with the new government shipyard at Hog Island, Pa., having been made, the president ordered an investigation to determine whether there had been any criminal misuse of funds. Rear Admiral Bowles, general manager of the Emergency Fleet corporation, said he was confident all expenditures ordered by the board would be vindicated.

Reorganization in the war department reached the general staff last week. It has been restored to its former power and under General March as acting chief of staff are now five new members—Generals Pierce, Jervoy and Graves, and Colonel Ketchan.

Owing to good work by Director General McAdoo and his assistants and milder weather, traffic conditions have greatly improved, and Fuel Controller Garfield felt warranted in rescinding the order for heatless Mondays. The railroads are now giving much attention to the transportation of corn and wheat, for the former must be marketed and the distribution of wheat and flour still is very faulty.

Bolo Pasha, the Levantine financier who conspired to break down the French morale and to bring about a dishonorable peace and who was fanned by Germany, was found guilty of high treason and sentenced to death. "They order those things better in France," as Uncle Toby used to say.

TROUBLE IN POLAND

GERMANY FACES MAZE OF DIFFICULTIES IN EAST.

POLES IN STATE OF REVOLT

Austria Refuses to War On Russia—Berlin Authorities Fear Reds May Harm German Prisoners.

London, Feb. 19.—Germany has suddenly found herself involved in a maze of difficulties on the eastern front and is in danger of losing all the large benefits she was calmly preparing to realize from her peace with the Ukraine and the bolshevik withdrawal of Russia from the war.

Poland, that land, which so frequently in the course of history has proved a thorn in the side of military conquerors, is threatening to constitute herself the rock on which the German hope of peace and gainful expansion in the east may be shattered.

Embittered by the tearing off of a strip of their territory to be given to the Ukraine for breaking away from the bolshevik and signing a peace with the central powers, the Poles are in what appears to be virtually a state of revolt.

Austria Won't Aid in Russ War. Amsterdam, Feb. 19.—German forces are already being concentrated in the Ukraine to attack the bolshevik according to a Berlin dispatch to the Tijd. The German authorities are anxiously regarding the fate of German prisoners in north Russia, whom the bolshevik are holding as hostages and who Berlin dispatches say, may be killed if the bolshevik are driven to desperation. Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, has notified Berlin that Austrian troops must not be used against Russia to support any policy which Austria has not approved, but only for purposes of self-defense against marauding bands.

Berlin, Feb. 19.—The armistice between the Russian and German forces which has been in existence for several weeks on the Russian front has expired, according to an official statement issued at the German army headquarters. In conformity therewith, the official statement says, the German government reserves a free hand in every direction.

Wilson Scores Strikers. Washington, Feb. 18.—President Wilson issued a sharp rebuke to William L. Hutchison, president of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, who after refusing to send striking eastern ship carpenters back to work pending action by the shipbuilding labor adjustment board, had asked for a personal conference to put the situation before the president. In effect the president declared that if Hutchison did not want to give aid and comfort to the enemy he would send the men to work and leave a settlement of differences to the adjustment board, and declined to see him until he had done so.

British Chief of Staff Quits. London, Feb. 18.—General Sir William Robertson, chief of the British imperial staff, has resigned, it was officially announced. General Wilson, sub-chief of staff, takes the vacant place. General Robertson was unable, the statement says, to accept a position as military representative on the supreme war council at Versailles or to continue as chief of the imperial staff with limited power. The announcement apparently indicates that something approaching an allied general staff was created by the supreme war council in its recent session at Versailles.

No Sign of "Great" Offensive. With the American Army in France, Feb. 18.—American troops now are in battle on three sectors on their own line east of St. Mihiel and with the French in Champagne and on one of the most famous battle fronts in the world, where ruined villages and the devastated country generally tell the tale of hard fought battles when the Germans pushed forward their line and ultimately were driven back by the French. There still is no indication of the rear approach of the expected big line in France and Belgium.

Russ Action Threatens Far East. New York, Feb. 18.—Dr. T. Ivenaga, a prominent Japanese publicist and director of the East and West news bureau, a Japanese organization, speaking at a luncheon here, said that chaos in Russia is threatening peace in the east, and suggested the possibility of Japanese intervention in restoring order in Russia.

May Make Texas Dry. Austin, Tex., Feb. 19.—Measures to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor within ten miles of any army camp in Texas, and making violation of such measures a felony, will be submitted to a special session of the Texas legislature called to convene Tuesday, February 26, by Governor W. P. Hobby, in a proclamation just issued. The governor's recommendations, if passed by the legislature, would practically make Texas a "dry" state.