

## FEARS CROP DECREASE

State Board of Agriculture Asks Food Administrator to Visit Nebraska—Change of Sentiment Needed.

The state board of agriculture has sent an urgent telegram to Washington asking National Food Director Hoover to come to Nebraska and confer with farming and live stock interests of the state. The telegram was signed by E. R. Danielson, secretary of the board; "Nebraska normally produces a surplus of food," the message said, "but unless there is a change of sentiment there is grave danger that this surplus will diminish rather than increase."

Not one man from Hamilton county has been drafted into the United States army. By reason of the large number of men who have volunteered their services to fight for world freedom, Hamilton county has established a record unequalled in Nebraska. Aurora comes in for a great deal of credit for the splendid showing of the county. Hanging in the auditorium of the city high school is a huge service flag with ninety-one stars, showing the enlistment of that many graduates and former students of the schools in the world war. The Aurora schools have just completed the contributions necessary to enroll every one of the 765 pupils as a member of the Junior Red Cross.

Unidentified persons raided the high school rooms at Grand Island, burned 300 German books and threw yellow paint on the Lelander hall and the building of the Boardland Lumber company, whose manager, Richard Goehring, Jr., is alleged to have made an offensive remark about a soldier.

Two carloads of hogs, donated to the Red Cross by farmers of Burt county, were sold at auction at the South Omaha market, bringing more than \$5,000. Burt county is the banner county in Nebraska in Red Cross membership, 72 per cent of its population being enrolled.

Girls of the Beatrice high school senior class have decided that they should wear dresses of washable materials at the annual junior-senior reception to be held in April, as a conservation measure.

The Nebraska food administration has found it necessary to rescind its order permitting the sale of potatoes as a flour substitute on "potato day," to comply with the orders of the national food administration.

C. Sherman, a wealthy Sheridan county rancher, was shot and killed by two unidentified men near Gordon. Robbery was the motive for the crime, it is believed.

Nebraska republicans will hold a delegate loyalty convention at Lincoln in April to make known the attitude of the party in this state and nation as regards to the war.

Wymore volunteer firemen are planning to construct a new headquarters to cost in the neighborhood of \$10,000.

Glen H. Work of Obert, Cedar county, was severely wounded in action in France, March 1, when the Germans raided American trenches.

Registration blanks returned to the Omaha postoffice show there are between 14,000 and 15,000 alien enemies in Nebraska.

A severe epidemic of contagious diseases prevail in Kearney and it has been necessary to close the schools and public meeting places temporarily.

Persistent efforts to burn the town of Trumbull and Juniata has resulted in both villages installing electric lighting systems.

John M. L. Chase, 91, a member of Nebraska's first legislature, and one of the oldest Masons in the state, died at his home at Papillion.

Virtually every wagon bridge across the Platte river in Hall county was destroyed as the result of the sudden breaking up of the ice.

The state council of defense is urging all counties which have no agricultural agent to employ such an official.

Fire of unknown origin destroyed the office of the Palmer Journal at Palmer, also the town electric light plant.

A goose, donated to the Red Cross, was auctioned off at Tekamah, bringing the society the sum of \$1,005.

Governor Neville has lodged a protest against the proposed plan of Provost Marshal Crowder to make the number of men in Class One the basis for the quota each state and county is to furnish in the next draft. The governor contends that the plan would be unfair to patriotic counties.

It is announced that students of the state college of agriculture at Lincoln will be graduated April 5, three weeks earlier than usual, to permit their taking an active part in farm work this spring.

March 23 is the date set for a county adding contest at Beatrice, in which rural and village schools of Gage county will participate. The contest is to select delegates to take part in the district contest during the Southeastern Nebraska Educational association meeting at Beatrice March 27 to 29.

A balloon squadron, trained and equipped at Fort Omaha, was the first American air unit to reach France. The men are now at the front following a special schooling under highly skilled French airmen.

Thomas Norris, who lives on the Clarence Mutton farm, near Arcadia, is believed to be the oldest white man in the United States, and possibly in the world. Mr. Norris was born in Scotland in 1794 and is now in his 125th year. The remnants of the bible in which was inscribed his birth date are still in possession of the Mutton family. Mr. Norris is blind, hardly able to hear and unable to walk.

The petrified body of Miss Anna Hora, 18-year-old school teacher drowned in the Dismal river, February 6, 1916, was found near Theilford by a trapper. The girl's clothing, in good condition, was mottled to her body. Her head and one arm, broken off, were carried away by the current. Identification was made by the clothing. The entire torso was completely turned to stone.

A commission composed of Denn E. A. Burnett and Prof. H. C. Filley of Lincoln, A. E. Cady of St. Paul, W. I. Farley of Aurora and Andrew Weiss of Mitchell has been appointed by Food Administrator Wattles to determine the cost of producing sugar beets in Nebraska and what is a profit to the producer.

Teaching of the German language has been abolished in all Adams county schools. Hastings was the last city in the county to drop the course.

Because he was classed as an alien enemy and feared internment, August Schorman of Arlington committed suicide.

Major J. M. Birkner of Lincoln, of the quartermaster's department of the Fifth Nebraska, is one of the men who will be effected by announcement from General Pershing that no men of German nationality could serve in France. Major Birkner was born in Germany.

A grand jury has been called in Douglas county to air alleged charges of frauds, violation of the dry law and other irregularities growing out of the suit which resulted in the ousting from office of County Commissioner Lynch.

State Food Administrator Wattles has requested that all schools in Nebraska, from the state university to the smallest country school, omit the spring vacation and close earlier to allow students to take up farming and other lines of industrial work.

The council of defense at Eustis issued a statement declaring that reports of pro-German proclivities published over the state were greatly exaggerated. Eustis now has a home guard company of loyal citizens.

The state council of defense and the federal department of justice are investigating conditions at Eustis, where pro-Germans beat up a member of the local exemption board and threatened loyal Americans.

The Commercial club at Gering and at Scottsbluff are solidly behind a movement to call a special election in Scottsbluff county to vote bonds to the amount of \$100,000 for road purposes.

Nebraska farmers had on hand March 1, 139,700,000 bushels of corn and 2,753,000 bushels of wheat, according to a report issued by the Department of Agriculture at Washington.

The new Beatrice home guard started out with a rush, 119 citizens of the town having signed the muster roll. The organization is expected to develop into one of the best of its kind in the state.

The Burlington is arranging to store 75,000 tons of engine coal at Ravenna and the coal is now arriving. It is supposed storage will be placed at a number of points on the system.

The Northwestern railroad plans to spend a half million dollars in Omaha this year in the construction of new passenger car yards.

Lincoln has lost its Western league baseball team, the franchise having been transferred to Sioux City for the 1918 season.

Lutheran churches of Nebraska raised \$12,000 for the Lutheran war time service fund of nearly \$1,000,000.

Prospects are exceedingly good, it is said, for the establishing of a potato plant at Morrman, Cherry county.

York county has given \$2,000 over its quota for the relief of destitute Armenians and Syrians.

The North Platte chapter of the Red Cross will soon open up a moving picture show in the city.

A new \$11,000 farmers' elevator is to be constructed at Arlington.

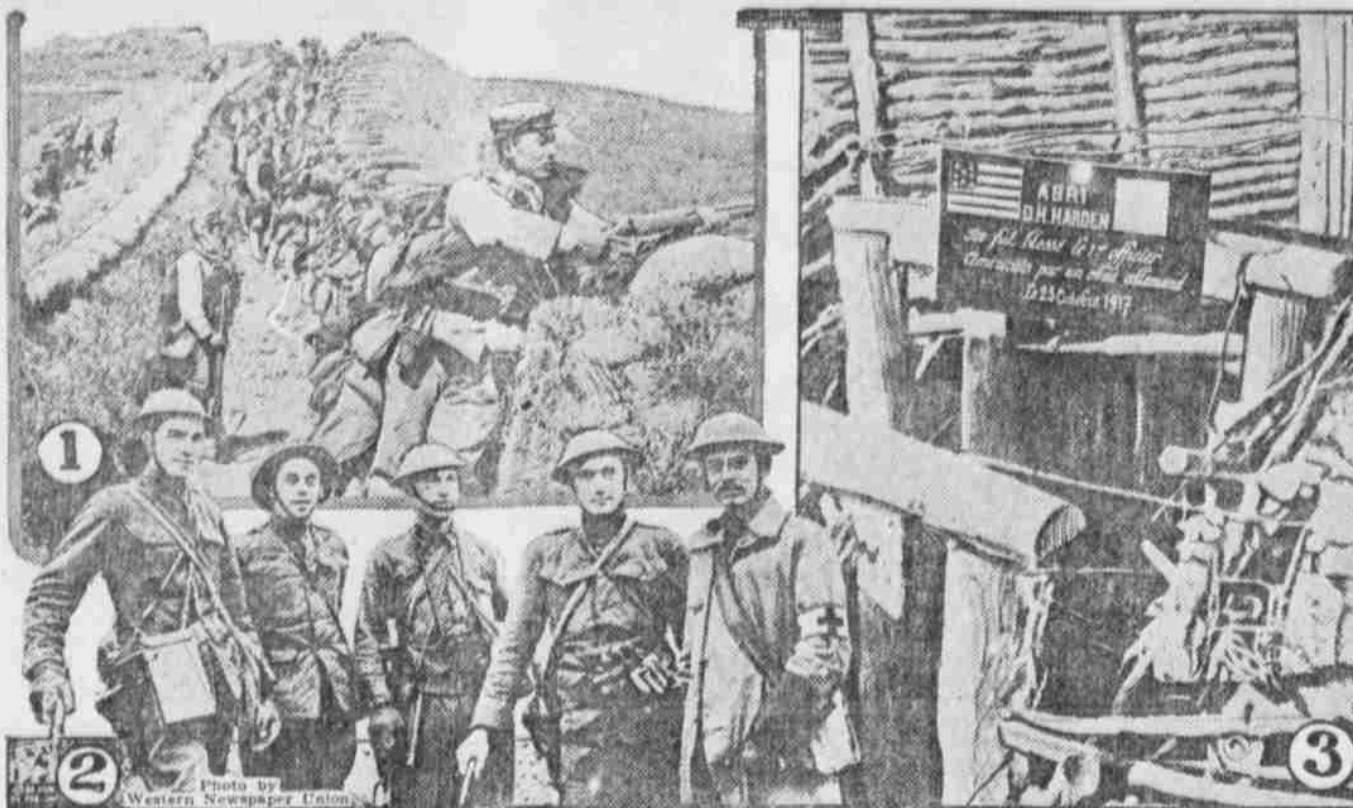
Farmer of Burt county donated 150 head of hogs to the Red Cross.

An appeal to people of Nebraska to contribute to 2,000,000 homeless and helpless Armenians and Syrians has been made by Governor Neville. Contributions may be made through the Nebraska commission for Armenian and Syrian relief, State House, Lincoln.

In investigating the fire which destroyed the Filley Spotlight plant Gage county officials found that oil from a small stove in the rear of the building had been sprinkled over some west paper and then fired.

Articles of incorporation of the Alton & Beaver Valley Railway company have been filed in the office of the secretary of state. The capital stock is placed at \$2,000,000. The road will run up the Beaver valley from Alton to Atkinson, probably through Wheeler county.

State Fire Commissioner Ridgell is seeking the co-operation of Nebraska newspaper publishers in the matter of fire prevention, fearing that the interest taken in the war may cause people to become lax in their vigilance to prevent fires.



1—The Siberian situation as the outgrowth of the Russian debacle is now holding the attention of those following the world war. This picture shows some of the Japanese troops who may soon be sent to Siberia. 2—Officers in command of an American trench in the Lorraine sector on the western front. 3—Dugout where the first American officer, Lieutenant Harden of the Signal corps, was wounded by a German shell; the dugout is decorated with American and French colors.

## NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

Russia Makes Humiliating Peace But Kaiser's Soldiers Continue Invasion.

AMERICANS REPEL RAIDERS

Pershing's Troops, Now Occupying Eight-Mile Front, Hurl Back Strong Forces of Germans—Fight Like Veterans.

Extreme chaos has continued to mark the Russian situation, the only thing that has seemed really clear being that Germany is determined to take advantage of the utter collapse of Russia to seize such territory and supplies as she desires. The bolshevik envoys presented the humiliating spectacle of signing a peace treaty without discussion, fearing as they announced, that negotiations would only result in the imposition of more obnoxious terms. But even after the Russian peace delegates had thus debased themselves the Germans continued their invasion of Russian territory.

Whether the masses of the Russian people will accept the humiliating peace terms agreed to by the bolshevik delegates is a question that only time can settle.

The bolshevik government abandoned Petrograd as the German troops advanced upon that city and moved the administrative offices to Moscow, which city, it was announced, would be made the Russian capital. Leon Trotsky, the bolshevik foreign minister, indicated that he and his associates are concerned with the future of the revolution, rather than the future of Russia as a national entity. He announced that the bolshevik leaders are prepared to withdraw even as far as to the Ural mountains rather than submit to the defeat of the revolution.

The haste of the Russian envoys in signing a treaty of peace with Germany was explained on the ground that the terms proposed by the Teutonic envoys were growing more onerous hourly. At the last minute the Germans demanded three great trans-Caucasian provinces—Karabak, Kars and Batoum—presumably for their Turkish ally, and they got them, of course. The Russian envoys shut their eyes and signed the document as it was pushed across the table by the Hun envoys.

With Russia in thorough subjection, so far as the bolshevik government was concerned, the central powers turned their attention to Roumania, and, as was to be expected, they forced that country to sign a preliminary peace treaty which is little less humiliating than that forced upon the Russians. Under the terms of this treaty Roumania cedes the province of Dobruja, as far as the Danube, to the central powers, agrees to evacuate all occupied Austro-Hungarian territory, promises to demobilize its army and agrees to "support with all its strength the transport of troops of the central powers through Moldavia and Bessarabia to Odessa." The submission by Roumania to any terms imposed by the central powers was expected, as that country, abandoned by Russia, and entirely cut off from all possible aid from the allied powers, was absolutely at the mercy of the Teutonic powers. A peace treaty between Russia and Finland has also been signed.

While Germany was working its will in Russia and Roumania, the diplomatic situation growing out of the proposal of Japan to intervene in Siberia for the purpose of protecting the vast stores of supplies paid for with money furnished by the allies, occupied the attention of the United States and the entente governments. It was indicated that there was some divergence of opinion between President Wilson and

the leaders in England, France and Italy, as to the wisdom of giving Japan a free hand in this connection.

American troops in the front line trenches in France have had their real baptism of fire. They have taken part in several engagements with the enemy, one of which approached the dignity of a real battle. The Americans have repulsed several raids made by the Germans and inflicted heavy losses upon the enemy. The most pretentious engagement was that which resulted from a strong German attack upon the American lines in the Toul sector. A large force of German "shock" troops, trained especially for this operation, attacked the American line after heavy artillery fire had practically leveled the American trenches. The American troops, undismayed by the terrific bombardment, stood their ground and engaged in a hand-to-hand struggle with the German raiders in the trenches. The Germans were driven back into No Man's Land, leaving three prisoners and many dead in the American trenches. The Americans pursued the fleeing Germans and inflicted further losses as the enemy retreated to their own lines. The Americans suffered severe casualties, the dead including three officers and seventeen men, but the American lines were maintained at all points and the raid was declared a complete failure. Many cases of individual heroism on the part of the Americans were reported and several officers and men were decorated by the French premier for bravery.

Other raids upon the American lines in the Chemin des Dames sector and in Lorraine were also repulsed with severe losses to the enemy. In all these engagements the American troops have shown that, despite their inexperience in the new type of warfare, they are now perfectly at home in the trenches and are able to hold their own against the enemy.

The increasingly large part which Pershing's troops are taking in the fighting on the west front is indicated by the announcement that the Americans are now holding something over eight miles of trenches on the battle front. This front is liable to extension at any time to the regular trench allotment for an army corps. The present American sector is understood to be a divisional frontage, which means that at least three divisions of American troops are there to give the necessary support for the front lines. The growing activity of the American troops is further shown by the daily casualty lists which are now coming from General Pershing.

Announcement has been made that the third American Liberty loan will be offered soon. The campaign for subscriptions will open on April 6, the first anniversary of the entry of the United States into the war, and will continue for three or four weeks. The amount of the loan, the interest rate and other features have not been made public but the fact that further legislation will be sought from congress in anticipation of the loan indicates that the amount of the issue will be more than \$3,000,000,000, the remainder of authorized but unissued bonds. The campaign work for the new loan has already been started throughout the country and every district will have been thoroughly organized before the drive begins.

Several steps have been taken by the United States government to further co-ordinate and centralize the work of war preparation. The two outstanding developments along this line were the appointment of Bernard M. Baruch of New York as chairman of the war industries board with greatly enlarged powers, and the assumption by Maj. Gen. Peyton C. March of his duties as acting chief of staff.

Mr. Baruch, according to the president's own announcement, made in his letter of appointment, will have greater powers even than it was proposed by certain members of congress to confer upon a minister of munitions. He will be, in fact, a practical dictator over industrial problems relating to the war and will have, among other things, the last word in determining priority of supplies for the government whenever there is competitive or other conflict of interest among departments. The power placed in the hands

of Mr. Baruch as chairman of the board is indicated by the direction of the president that the ultimate decision of all questions, except the determination of prices, shall rest always with the chairman, the other members of the board acting in an advisory and co-operative capacity. Under this plan, the president seems to have provided for the centralization of power to an even greater degree than has been proposed by those demanding some action of this kind.

The death of John Redmond, the Irish national leader, removes the leading champion of home rule for Ireland and one of the most striking figures that English politics has produced in the past quarter of a century. For more than twenty-five years Redmond had fought for home rule in Ireland and during the greater part of that time, he was the recognized leader of Ireland's "struggle for liberty." His determined fight in parliament for home rule earned for him the sobriquet of "stormy petrel of the house." In paying tribute to the memory of Redmond in the house of commons, Sir Edward Carson, Ulster leader and long-time opponent of Redmond, made this significant statement: "Indeed, we were not very far apart in our attempts at a settlement of the Irish question." Redmond was well-known in the United States, having visited this country in 1908 and again in 1910.

In the case of General March, the new acting chief of staff, the idea of centralization of power is also to be carried out. It is announced that General March will have full power to reorganize the general staff with a view of giving it the highest efficiency in its work of directing the strictly military end of the war. He has been given the power to select his own assistants. One of General March's first acts was to establish the "open door" policy. He arranged to see newspaper correspondents once every day and indicated that he will endeavor to relax the censorship to such an extent that Americans may learn more about what their soldiers are doing in France. The appointment of General March to this position has won wide approval as, in his work as chief of all the American artillery forces in France, he has been in close touch with General Pershing and is intimately familiar with all conditions abroad.

Speculation as to Germany's well-advised offensive on the western front has continued, with opinion divided as to whether such an offensive really will be launched. In some quarters it is believed that Germany is so fully occupied with developments in Russia and is so intent upon accomplishing her designs in the east that she will not undertake an offensive in the west but will be content to maintain a defensive attitude. Those taking this view believe that Germany's idea is that a deadlock on the west front will force the allies to agree to a peace by negotiation and that under such circumstances she will be able to attain all her imperialistic designs in the east.

On the other hand, further concentration of troops on the western front is taken by some authorities as indicating that Germany really intends to launch a determined offensive in France. General Maurice, chief director of military operations at the British war office, declares that the enemy is now ready to strike on the western front at any moment suitable to his purpose. He declares that the allies remain superior in guns, rifles and aircraft, but that the margin of advantage in these particulars is steadily diminishing and an equalization of strength is being approached.

More frequent and more pretentious raids undertaken by both sides along the entire western front are regarded as forerunners of an offensive. The raids are made to feel out the enemy, to find, if possible, the weak spots in his lines. The many German raids are believed to have been made necessary by the air superiority of the allies along the greater part of the western front. Unable to gain the information they need through their airmen, the Germans have been forced to resort to raids in order to learn the strength of the opposing forces at various points on the front.

## BAKER IN WAR ZONE

SECRETARY OF WAR CROSSES SEA TO INSPECT SAMMIES.

MISSION PURELY MILITARY

Ohio Swept By Tornado; Five or More Killed; Property Damage Several Million.

Washington, March 13.—Newton D. Baker, the American secretary of war, with a staff of seven persons, arrived safely at a French port last Sunday on an American armored cruiser. The party was met at the pier by a French general representing the French army, Major General Squier, representing the American army; Admiral Moreau, representing the French navy; Rear Admiral Wilson, representing the American navy and the mayor and councillors of the municipality.

Secretary Baker's party immediately proceeded to Paris, where they were met by General Pershing, Ambassador Sharp and representatives of the French government. Secretary Baker plans to spend but a few days in Paris, where he will meet President Poincare and Premier Clemenceau, after which he will visit the American troops in the field.

Following news of the arrival of Secretary Baker in France, the war department announced that the secretary's visit is purely military and not diplomatic, and is for the purpose of inspection and personal conferences with military officials. For some time Secretary Baker has desired to visit the headquarters of the American expeditionary forces. He sailed from an American port about February 27. He has not determined the length of time he will remain in France, but his stay will be long enough to enable him to make a thorough inspection of the American forces abroad and to hold important conferences with American military officers.

Twelve Die in Movie Disaster.

Winchester, Ky., March 13.—Twelve persons were killed, ten of whom were children, twenty-three persons so severely injured it was found necessary to remove them to a hospital, and about thirty others less seriously hurt here Saturday when the walls of a burned building adjoining a moving picture theater collapsed, crushing in its roof. The wall which collapsed was also used as one wall of the theater, but projected considerably above the roof of the theater building. When it collapsed the people in the theater were thrown into a panic. Apparently no one was hurt in the rush.

Eleven Iowa Soldiers Dead.

Des Moines, Ia., March 13.—Relatives of eleven Iowans have been notified by the war department of the deaths in action on the French front or from disease, of members of their families, while among the list of wounded are the names of twenty more soldiers from Iowa. In accordance with the recent ruling, the dates of action, the locations, and the units of which the dead and wounded soldiers were members, are not given out.

Ohio Swept by Tornado.

Lima, O., March 13.—Five persons are known to be dead, several others are reported killed, scores are injured, scores of homes were completely or partially demolished and hundreds of barns and outbuildings were razed by the tornado which traveled across northwestern Ohio Saturday evening. Estimates of property damage range from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000. The tornado began in Van Wert county, on the Ohio-Indiana state line and then traveled in a northwesterly direction.

Spent \$40,000 to Defeat Prohibition.

Washington, March 13.—Between \$40,000 and \$50,000 was spent by the National German-American alliance to defeat national prohibition, Percy Andree, Chicago, testified before the senate probing subcommittee Saturday afternoon. The alliance's federal starter stipulates that the organization shall not participate in political activities.

March 18-25 "Old Clothes Week."

Washington, March 13.—The American Red Cross has set aside the week of March 18-25 as "old clothes week." Throughout the United States discarded clothing will be collected for shipment to Belgium. It hopes to get 5,000 tons of used garments to garb scantily-clad Belgians. Twelve thousand five hundred tons will be accepted.

Suspend Publishing Casualty Lists.

Washington, March 12.—Issuance of daily lists of casualties among the expeditionary forces abroad has been discontinued by the public information committee as the result of an order of the War department under which the names of the next of kin and emergency addresses of soldiers whose names appear on the lists hereafter will be withheld. The official explanation is that the purpose of the order is to keep information of value from the enemy.