

## TRAIN CREW BLAMED

Coroners' Jury and B. & M. Officials Place Responsibility for Alliance Disaster on Employees.

Following an inquiry into the cause of the Burlington wreck near Alliance, which resulted in the death of eleven persons and the injury to more than a score of others, a coroners' jury found that the collision was due to negligence on the part of employees of the railroad company. The wreck occurred when passenger train No. 43 ran head on into a work train, telescoping the first two cars of the passenger train. All of the dead and injured were in the second coach. The engineer of the work train stated that he had both central and western time, and thought he had an hour's time to reach the siding. The conductor of the work train had eastern time, which was the time they were supposed to use. Officials of the road declared their men were responsible for the disaster.

In the agricultural exhibits at the state fair this year, Pawnee county with a score of 1,309.4 led the eastern district; Fillmore county stood at the top in the central district with a score of 1,070.4; Kearney county followed close with a score of 1,040.1; Scottsbluff county with a score of 888.0 carried off the honor in the western district. Fourteen counties were entered in the exhibit.

The state's crop report of September 1, says the condition of Nebraska corn crop is 56 per cent of normal. Indicating a production of 149,023,000 bushels compared with 249,450,000 bushels last year, and a four-year average of 175,223,000 bushels. The lack of moisture and hot winds from August 3 to 6 reduced the crop 30 per cent.

Nebraska's allotment of sugar for October is 4,228,000 pounds, according to information received by Food Administrator Wattles at Omaha. The amount is a little more than the September allowance and includes sugar for canning, manufacturing purposes and bakeries.

Great excitement was created in the Auburn high school when pupils discovered in a new text book a page on which was printed "Die Wacht Am Rhein." The page was torn from the book by the students and their actions commended by the faculty.

A bold daylight robbery occurred at North Platte when two men entered the American Express company office, overpowered Mr. Max Hensolt, the agent, and escaped with \$5,000 in money orders and a large sum in cash.

Now that Fort Crook has been made an adjunct to the Omaha Balloon school by the government, the general belief in Omaha is that the 600 acres surrounding the fort will be used for airplane maneuvering.

Nebraska's first oil refinery is soon to be established at Omaha. The plant will occupy a nine-acre tract in the eastern part of the city and is expected to be in operation about the first of the year.

The action of the government putting a price of 9 cents a pound on sugar at the seaboard, means that ultimately consumers in this state will have to pay 11 cents a pound for the product.

State Food Administrator Wattles told a delegation of county food directors at Omaha that restrictions on all food except sugar have been taken off by the federal food administration.

When the final check is completed of the funds raised for the Czechoslovak army through the staging of the Liberty bazaar at Omaha, it is believed the amount will total \$65,000.

The government has decided to abolish land offices at Valentine, North Platte and O'Neill. This action will leave land offices in the state at Alliance, Broken Bow and Lincoln.

The state food administration has ruled that those who wish to use brown or "C" sugar, may purchase an amount equal to two and a half pounds per person per month.

It required 4,500 registrants in a total of 1,800 registration places to enroll Nebraskans between the ages of 18 and 21 and 31 and 45 for military service last Thursday.

Thirty thousand boys and girls of Nebraska have taken up a new war work—collecting fruit pits and nut shells. These are used in making gas masks.

The first rural high school district to file bonds for registration with the state auditor is a district comprising six school districts surrounding the town of Dix, Kimball county. Bonds to the amount of \$25,000 have been registered for the district.

The Board of Regents of the state university decided to turn the new \$225,000 social science building, which was recently completed, into a barracks to house the members of the S. A. T. C., which will be started at the University of Nebraska, October 1.

Receipts of the state fair this year were about the same as in 1917, with considerably higher expenses, owing to the increase in the cost of labor, material and entertainment, according to Secretary Danielson.

When Nebraska men, from 18-year-old youths to men of 45 years, registered for army service last Thursday, one of the registrants was Governor Keith Neville. Another was S. H. McKelvie of Lincoln, republican candidate for governor against Neville. Governor Neville is 34 years old and McKelvie 37.

## ACQUAINTS THE PUBLIC WITH Y. W. C. A. WORK



Miss Miriam Sawyer.

The task of acquainting people of Nebraska with the activities of the Young Women's Christian Association is in charge of Miss Miriam Sawyer of Chicago. Miss Sawyer is an experienced newspaper woman and the campaign which she has already launched is a forerunner of the war fund drive set for Nov. 11 to 13, at which time the association will strive to raise \$15,000,000 over the entire country.

Nebraska is soon to have an airplane factory. Announcement has just been made that the new Hebb Motors company of Havelock will be converted into a \$2,000,000 aircraft plant, capable of turning out ten planes a day. The plant, which will employ 1,000 persons, will be equipped to turn out designs for simple training planes costing \$7,800 up to \$8,000 Handley-Page bombing planes. Engines for the planes will be furnished by the government.

County Agent A. R. Hecht at Lexington has compiled the report sent in by threshermen from 135 different farmers of Dawson county. Last year these 135 farms produced 30,000 bushels of wheat. This year the same produced 113,000 bushels. Dawson county plans three times as much wheat as was produced last year.

The proposed constitutional amendment relating to the right of foreign born to vote only after having completed their naturalization, was given a substantial plurality by both republican and democratic voters at the recent primary. Therefore the proposition becomes a party measure for both factions and all votes cast for it at the general election this fall by either party will be counted.

The Nebraska primary vote of 1918 was less by 57,048 than in 1916, according to the official count. The total vote cast at the last primary was 134,985, against 192,033 in 1916. In that year the republican vote was 102,755, about \$2,443 more than this year, while the democrats cast \$6,889, 22,422 more than the primary vote this year.

Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney, York, Norfolk, Fremont and scores of other cities and towns in Nebraska held patriotic celebrations last Friday in honor of General Pershing's 68th birthday. At Lincoln Governor Neville sent a congratulatory message on behalf of the people of Nebraska to the American general in France.

Members of the First Methodist church at Fremont have abandoned the erecting of a new church because of the war and more than \$30,000 subscribed for the project will be returned to the contributors.

The practice of holding meetings for drafted men before they leave for camp has been abandoned by the Buffalo County Defense Council. This action has been recommended by the government.

J. C. Newson, editor of the North Bend Eagle, has been accepted for Y. M. C. A. service in France. He has leased his newspaper plant to E. O. Holub of Schuyler.

Scottsbluff has been selected by the board of regents of the University of Nebraska as the site for the new irrigation school authorized by the state legislature.

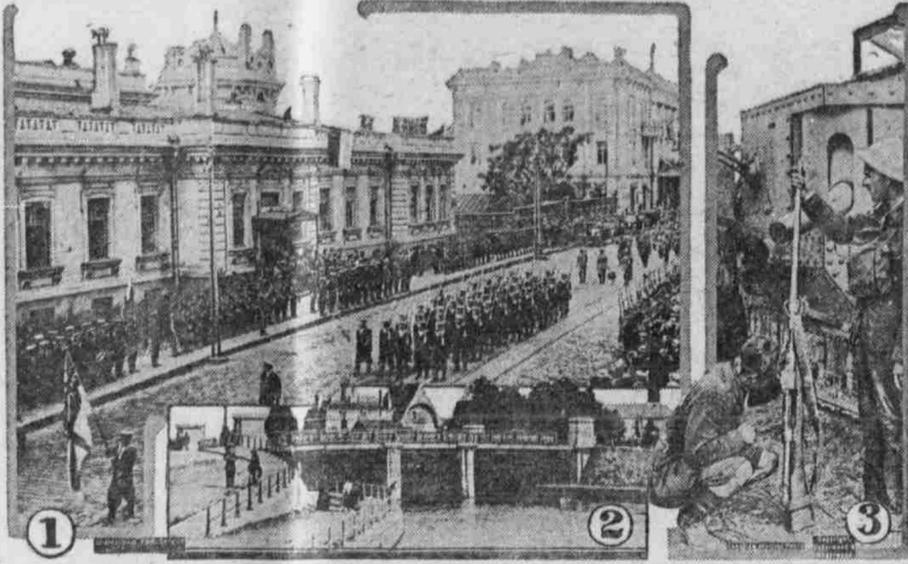
Plans are going forward rapidly at Omaha for the Ak-Sar-Bon festivities, which take place Sept. 25 to Oct. 5. Hogs on the South Omaha market sold last week as high as \$20.25 a hundred, breaking all records.

It required 60 trains of an average of 14 cars to transport some 30,000 troops from Camp Cody, N. M., to the seaboard, prior to departure for France. The old Fourth Nebraska, now the 134th infantry, was a part of the contingent.

Clinton H. Brown of University Place proved to be Nebraska's grand champion baby boy at the better babies' contest at the Nebraska State Fair. He scored 98.5. Wilma H. Stutt of Avoca with a score of 98, was declared grand champion baby girl.

Nebraska's oversubscription to the third Liberty loan amounted to 63 per cent, making this state twelfth in the union in the point of percentage. In Nebraska 176-10 of the population subscribed to the loan.

The 89th division of the U. S. army, which was trained at Camp Funston and which is composed of men from Nebraska and six other middle west states is believed to have been in the first All-American drive launched in France. The attack took place on the Lorraine front, where it has been announced the 89th was stationed.



1—First photograph received showing American troops in Vladivostok; they are following a band of British marines. 2—The bridge near St. Quentin, a hotly contested point. 3—Members of a tank crew examining a captured anti-tank rifle, one of the latest devices of the Hun.

## NEWS REVIEW OF THE GREAT WAR

### American First Army Wipes Out the St. Mihiel Salient East of Verdun.

### BAGS ABOUT 20,000 HUNS

### French Aid in Attack That Threatens the Briey Iron Fields—Germans in Picardy Trying to Halt Retreat Approximately on Hindenburg Line.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

The American First army, General Pershing commanding, started the first great wholly American offensive Thursday, attacking on both sides of the St. Mihiel salient southeast of Verdun. The French assisted by attacking on the point of the salient, but the operation was planned by the American staff and executed by American officers and troops.

By Friday night the operation, so far as the salient was concerned, seemed practically completed, for the big wedge had been flattened out and the new line established by the Americans ran from Pout-a-Mousson down the Moselle to Pagny, thence across the Woivre plateau to Hattonville and along the heights of the Meuse to the old line in front of Verdun. The fact that fully 20,000 prisoners were taken and that the towns and railways abandoned by the enemy had not been destroyed made ridiculous the German official statement that the retirement, "which had been under consideration for some years," was completed without interference.

This American drive threatens the German possession of the great iron fields of the Briey basin west and northwest of Metz.

After a terrific artillery preparation which for four hours smothered the entire region within the German lines with shells, the Yanks went over the top exactly at five o'clock, following a rolling barrage timed for an advance of 100 meters every 40 minutes. Great numbers of tanks supported them and cleared the way by crushing numerous concrete machine gun shelters and breaking down the elaborate wire defenses. American aviators in flocks quickly drove away the few Hun aircraft in sight and thereafter deluged the enemy supply centers, munition dumps and hangars with bombs, while the observation planes directed the work of the artillery. Everything moved like clockwork and the troops speedily gained their objectives and went on to the next ones. Village after village was taken and by Friday the cavalry had advanced far into the center of the salient and occupied strong positions.

Having given up all the ground they won in their great spring drive, and finding themselves back on the old Hindenburg line, and in some places well behind it, the Germans decided to stop their retreat for a while. Marshal Foch did not fully assent to this decision, but powerful concentrations of Hun artillery and reserves in strong positions, coupled with torrential rains throughout Picardy, brought the allied offensive almost to a temporary standstill. Not that the fighting by any means ceased, for the French and British kept pressing forward, though more slowly, and the Germans delivered desperate counter-attacks, which in almost every instance resulted only in severe losses for them.

It is the opinion of expert observers that the halt of the Huns approximately on the Hindenburg line will be only temporary. Indeed, it is believed they cannot stay there long if they would. For many weeks they have been hastily building new lines of defense farther east, and Marcel Hutin in the Echo de Paris says they are now constructing a supreme line from Antwerp to Metz and are putting the Antwerp forts in defensive condition. Their present line depends on Douai, Cambrai, St. Quentin and Laon, and farther to the southeast, on the Chemin des Dames. Douai already was be-

ing evacuated last week and the air-drome moles east of it were being dismantled. The British, fighting fiercely and repulsing heavy counter-attacks, were advancing steadily through Havrincourt, Pezieres and Gouzenecourt and forced a crossing of the Canal du Nord, thus taking the main defense of Cambrai on the southwest. St. Quentin was the goal of a race between the British and the French, the former winning Vermand, Attilly and Vendelles and closing in on the important city from the northwest, while the French southwest of the objective crossed the Crozat canal and took a number of villages. A little farther south the French forces captured Travecy on the Oise, just north of La Fere, and from its heights were able to dominate the latter town, which was reported to have been burned by the Germans. This operation, together with the French advance eastward from Coucy-le-Chateau, threatened to flank on both sides the forest and massif of St. Gobain, the chief defense of Laon. Withdrawal of the enemy from that forest, which is full of guns in strong defensive positions, might thus be compelled without direct attack, which would be expensive and difficult.

At the western end of the Chemin des Dames the Germans were fighting furiously in the region of Laffaux, where they were trying to regain possession of the dominating ridge which the French and Americans had taken from them. Many fresh troops were used in these attacks, but their efforts were all in vain.

Although the stupendous German retreat of the past eight weeks has been conducted skillfully and the enemy line has not been broken through, his armies maintaining contact with one another, it has been in every way a most expensive operation for the Huns. In addition to the loss of great numbers of guns and immense quantities of material, captured or destroyed, they have lost more than 300,000 men, the majority of whom, fortunately, were killed. The morale of the army is being gradually broken by relentless, continuous and successful blows delivered by the allies, the supply of fighting effectives is getting low, and the people at home are becoming daily more dissatisfied and restless. Captured orders reveal that the wounded men are put back in the ranks before they are cured, and prisoners released by Russia are not given time to recover their strength and health. Austria has reluctantly responded to the call for aid and in the quieter sectors German divisions, or Austrian soldiers are used to fill out depleted German regiments. This is taken to mean that there will be no renewal of the Teutonic offensive in Italy this year, if ever.

The war department announced that Americans have been landed at Archangel to take part with the other allied forces there in fighting the bolshevik and re-establishing order in northern Russia. These troops are from some of our northern states and many of them speak Russian. Hitherto the only Americans there were marines and sailors.

In Petrograd, Moscow and other cities of Russia proper the bolshevik government is struggling desperately against the ever-increasing counter-revolutionaries, slaughtering the latter mercilessly whenever they fall into their hands. Petrograd is reported to be given over to massacres and flames and to have been captured by revolting peasants; Yaroslavl and Volodga have been burned by the soviet troops, and Moscow is threatened with the same fate by Trotsky. Two attempts were made on the life of Doctor Helfferich, the new German ambassador to Moscow, but he fled back to Berlin.

The soviet rulers, persistent shouters for peace without annexations and indemnities, have just paid to Germany 250,000,000 rubles, the first installment of the indemnity exacted from the unhappy country by the Huns.

In Siberia the allies, with the Czechoslovaks, Cossacks and loyal Russians, have been making satisfactory progress, but the Austro-German ex-prisoners and the bolsheviks are putting up so obstinate a resistance that Japan is contemplating sending a much stronger force in order to insure the safety of the expedition and its allies before the winter sets in. The Japanese government is convinced

that the American government will abandon its opposition to such a course.

The London Express says it has unquestionable information that the former empress of Russia and all her children have been murdered by bolsheviks. If this is true, the entire immediate family of Nicholas has now been exterminated. The dowager empress and her daughter and son-in-law were attacked by bolsheviks at Yalta, but were saved by men from the Black sea fleet after two weeks of fighting.

The progress of the Czechoslovaks of Austria-Hungary toward the independence recognized by Great Britain and America is encouraging. The existence of the Czechoslovak state was declared by all the Czech deputies in the Austrian parliament and has now been endorsed by all of the clergy of the Bohemian dioceses.

Baron Burian, Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, who still is at odds with Berlin because he insists on an Austrian solution of the Polish problem, nevertheless was employed once more last week to start a Teutonic peace offensive. This, aimed directly at President Wilson, was a suggestion that the central powers and the entente get together for an exchange of views and to consider all the things which are keeping the belligerents apart. He intimated this might make further fighting unnecessary. Though President Wilson is not quoted in reply, Washington dispatches make it clear that he holds unwaveringly the position that the only tolerable peace will be, not negotiated, but dictated to the central powers by the allies, and that that is the kind of peace which the allies will achieve. In this, it is needless to say, he is backed up by the entire nation. No one in a position to predict presumes to believe that such a peace can be attained this year, but no one intends that any other kind of peace shall be accepted by America. We have gone into the war to the finish, and we propose that the finish shall be in accordance with our high aims for the future safety of civilization and freedom, no matter what the cost.

At a most opportune time came the registration day for all Americans between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one and thirty-one and forty-five years. Gladly, with patriotic exaltation, some 13,000,000 youths and older men enrolled themselves for military duty, and from their number 3,000,000 more trained soldiers will soon be ready to move forward to the battle lines. Millions of others, not so fit in one way or another for actual fighting, will be listed for other work directly connected with the carrying on of the war. In a few weeks the relative standing of the 13,000,000 will have been determined. According to Provost Marshal General Crowder, the first to be selected for the cantonments and camps will be those between nineteen and twenty-one and between thirty-one and thirty-six.

The matter of granting deferment to registrants because of the work in which they are engaged is of utmost importance, and the aid of all employers in this has been enlisted. The government is especially desirous that no essential industries shall be disturbed by the draft, but enough men must be selected to maintain a steady flow of registrants to the training camps.

As had been foreseen, here and abroad, the Germans have begun an intensified U-boat campaign directed especially against the transports carrying American troops and supplies. Up to date this has resulted in the torpedoing of the Mount Vernon, formerly the Kronprinzessin Cecelie, which was bringing home wounded and sick soldiers, and of the Persic, carrying 2,800 American troops to Europe. In the former case the casualties were confined to men in the engine rooms and the vessel put back to a French port under her own steam. All the men on the Persic were safely transferred to the conveying vessels, after which the steamship was benched on the English coast. The submarine which attacked it was destroyed by depth charges. In both instances the utmost bravery and coolness were exhibited by the crews and the soldiers aboard.

The British steamship Missanable also was torpedoed while on her way to America for troops and supplies.

## HUNS BID FOR PEACE

LONG HERALDED "OFFENSIVE" IS LAUNCHED BY AUSTRIA.

## RECEIVED COLOLY BY ALLIES

Offer Considered Ruse to Quit Field With Loot Intact—Won't Agree to Round Table Talk.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 17.—Germany's latest peace feeler, advanced through Austria, it has been officially stated, best finds its answer in President Wilson's Baltimore speech delivered last April. "Force, force to the utmost, force without stint or limit, the righteous and triumphant force which shall make right the law of the world, and cast every selfish dominion down in the dust."

That was the president's answer then, and, it was reiterated, it is his answer now. No one doubts that it is the answer of all the allies. This Teutonic bid for peace overshadows even Marshal Foch's hammer blows against the harried Germans.

Austria's proposal, reported from Amsterdam, is recognized as the long heralded peace offensive upon which Germany is counting to arouse enough sentiment for peace among the people of the allied countries to compel an end of the war on terms which substantially would preserve the Prussian conquest.

It has been expected since German arms began to stagger back from the fierce thrusts of the British, French and Americans.

There will be no round table conference, no sounding out process such as Germany proposes, and which she hopes will give opportunity probably to deal with her enemies separately.

If any reply at all is made, it will be after an exchange of views between the United States and the other co-belligerents so that a reply for all may be made in one.

On every side, among American officials and allied diplomats, it seems agreed that the only ground on which Germany may have a conference is the acceptance of the principles laid down by President Wilson, and which have been accepted by all the allies as their watchword.

The allied capitals hailed the call for a conference in neutral soil as another German ruse to get better terms than they might expect when the war has been carried to the Rhine.

They were convinced that Austria, whose people long have been war weary, had been called upon to bear the onus of making peace overtures and thus save the face of Germany.

Not only in Washington, but in London and Paris pacifists found cold comfort. None of the governments involved was inclined to take seriously the request that delegates be sent to such a conference as that proposed by the Austrian ruler.

The assertion that "the central powers leave it in no doubt that they are waging a war of defense for the integrity and security of their territories" was greeted with added skepticism in the face of the Washington disclosures unmasking completely the intrigue which has wrecked Russia.

### Suggests Nonbinding Discussion.

Amsterdam, Sept. 17.—In extending an invitation to all the belligerent governments to enter into non-binding discussions at some neutral meeting place the Austro-Hungarian government stated that the object of the conference would be to secure an exchange of views which would show "whether those prerequisites exist which would make the speedy inauguration of peace negotiations appear promising."

The Austrian proposal suggests that there be no interruption of the war, and that the "discussions would go only so far as considered by the participants to offer prospects of success."

The proposal calls for all the belligerents to send delegates for a "confidential and unbinding discussion on the basic principles for the conclusion of peace, in a place in a neutral country and at a near date, that would yet have to be agreed upon."

The proposal says the conference would be one of "delegates who would be charged to make known to one another the exception of their governments regarding those principles and to receive analogous communications as well as to request and give frank and candid explanations on all those points which need to be precisely defined." The government announces that a note embodying its suggestions had been addressed to the various belligerent powers and that the Holy See had been apprised of the proposal in a special note.

### Britons Receive News With Joy.

London, Sept. 17.—The news of the Franco-American attack to pinch out the St. Mihiel salient, which the Germans drove into the French line in September, 1914, was received here with the greatest enthusiasm.

### U. S. Takes Over Munition Plant.

Washington, D. C., Sept. 17.—The war department has taken over the Smith & Wesson company of Springfield, Mass., and will operate the plant to secure continuous production and prevent industrial disturbances.