

FROM ALL SECTIONS OF THIS MAJESTIC STATE

Reports of Interesting Happenings Throughout Nebraska Condensed to a Few Lines for Quick Perusal.

In 1913 a total of 25,517 automobile licenses were issued in Nebraska. During the year just passed the number tallied over 175,000. Based on population, this is one automobile to every 6.7 persons in the state. Douglas county has the largest number, 14,988, Lancaster coming next with 9,651, Custer county stands third with 4,219, while Hooker has the least number, 145.

Rural mail carriers in the southern part of the state are having their troubles because of the rough, frozen roads. Automobiles cannot be used and owners of good horses will not let them out on the horrible roads, consequently the delivery of mail is a tough problem.

In a letter to Nebraska county councils of defense the state council thanks the various bodies for their work during the war and reiterates the necessity of the prohibition of the teaching of foreign languages in public and private schools of Nebraska. The first step in connecting Nebraska cities with the Wyoming oil fields by pipe line is to be made next spring, when work will begin on the laying of a crude oil main from the Lance Creek field in Wyoming to the potash plants near Alliance.

Of the 27,395 exemption claims filed with the South Platte draft appeal board, 8,714 claimants were held for service. Deferred classification was allowed 10,000 farmers. Of 4,087 dependency claims, the board allowed 2,306 appeals.

A movement is on foot at Omaha to organize an Aero club for Nebraska. It is estimated that over 400 men in this state have had aviation experience. The club would be patterned after aero clubs in the east.

Alliance delegates to the annual State Firemen's convention at Fremont January 21, 22 and 23, will be accompanied by the Alliance fire department band. Alliance business men have raised \$1,000 to send the band to Fremont.

Hundreds of cottontails and jackrabbits were killed, but not a wolf was sighted in the big hunt staged in Saunders county by more than 200 men and boys. Farmers say that wolves are numerous in the county.

By a vote of two to one citizens of Sidney at a special election, favored bonding the city for the purpose of raising money to buy and erect a water works system and electric lighting and power plant.

Mrs. E. Angelica Scully has filed a deed at Beatrice, transferring 24,500 acres of Gage county land to her son, Frederick Scully. This is part of the land, tenants of which are protesting against increased rentals.

A quadruple funeral took place at Randolph when three members of the Tatge family of Norfolk and a cousin, who lived at Randolph, were buried there. Influenza caused the death of the four young people.

Lamb feeders of Nebraska will gather at the University Farm, at Lincoln, January 14, for their annual meeting and to hear the results of the state feeding experiments of the state experiment station.

Merchants throughout the northern part of Nebraska are unanimous in the declaration that 1918 was a record-breaker in every line, despite the six weeks' slump due to the "flu" epidemic.

The Dodge county Medical society passed a resolution at Fremont declaring it was the sense of the society that the state-wide quarantine for influenza was absolutely worthless.

New express rates, considerably higher than former charges, went into effect in Nebraska the first of the year, in spite of the opposition of the state railway commission.

State Food Administrator Wattles was presented with a silver platter by the county food administrators in appreciation of his work. The presentation was made at Omaha.

Boys' and girls' clubs in Nebraska, under the supervision of the extension service of the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture have a total enrollment of 28,394.

Wauweta has one of the youngest, if not the youngest, bank cashier in Nebraska. He is Wayne McCullom, 16 years old, who was recently elected assistant cashier of the People's bank at Wauweta.

Improvements made by the Burlington during 1918 include the building of a second track from Crawford to Rutland, cost \$147,500; change in line and new bridge over the Platte at Phillips, cost \$271,000, and new terminal facilities at Bridgeport, entailing an expenditure of \$82,000.

The Omaha real estate board has instructed its executive secretary to ask Secretary of the Interior Lane to send government engineers to survey the possibilities of water power development in Nebraska.

Ninety-three per cent of the school children of Nebraska are junior members of the Red Cross, a record in the United States, according to Leonard Trester, director of Junior Red Cross activities. On July 1, 1918, there were 135,392 Junior Red Cross members. Following the last drive there were 211,701 members.

At the close of a mass meeting of 500 citizens at Creighton, called for the purpose of discussing the foreign language question the following resolution was unanimously adopted by a standing vote: "Resolved: That this mass meeting of citizens shall go on record as being opposed to any use of the German language being taught, preached or spoken in any school, church or at any public gathering in this vicinity."

C. M. Smith of Eddyville, who admitted robbing a U. P. baggage car of which he was in charge, was sentenced to from one to seven years in the state penitentiary by the district court at North Platte. When the theft was first discovered, Smith claimed he had been struck with an iron bar and robbed. Later he confessed to the crime.

Live-stock receipts at the South Omaha market during 1918 show a decided increase over the previous year. Cattle receipts for the past year were 1,385,835 head, an increase of 15 per cent over 1917. Hog receipts were 3,434,535 head, a 23 per cent increase. Sheep receipts increased 16 per cent, the total being 3,498,624.

The sum of \$40,244 was raised in 320 northern Nebraska towns for the relief of Belgian babies. The sum was raised through the sale of "forget-me-not" souvenir flowers of the Belgian queen. This flower was sold for not less than 10 cents and many people paid as high as \$50 for one of them.

Omaha's new wheel tax law, which went into effect the first of the year, and which levies a tax ranging from \$2 to \$7 on all automobiles, trucks and horse-drawn vehicles, is expected to bring \$50,000 a year into the city treasury.

A nation-wide campaign to enroll the children under the banner of health will be launched by the National Tuberculosis association, beginning February 1 and extending to May 24. Thousands of Nebraska children will be enrolled.

As a special courtesy to the men of DeWitt and vicinity who have served with the colors, Rev. C. E. Brown, rector of the Episcopal church, has offered his services free to any of these who desire to be married.

Active campaigning has been started by the representatives of Hastings college for raising \$200,000 among the presbyteries of Nebraska for the benefit of the college in that city.

During the last three months of 1918 Omaha had 1,594 deaths compared with 582 in the corresponding months in 1917. The increase was due to the influenza epidemic.

An agreement has been made whereby the Nebraska Gas and Electric company of Beatrice is to furnish Wyoming with current for the next five years.

Stella's board of health has lifted the ban on public gatherings, and church services are again being held for the first time since Thanksgiving. During 1918 the people of Omaha donated \$1,228,297 to war activities outside of Red Cross memberships and invested \$23,912,446 in war securities.

Costs for the upkeep of county roads and the building of new bridges throughout Douglas county amounted to \$221,758.13 for the year 1918.

Ice cutting began throughout Nebraska last week. Some inches of the state report ice sixteen inches thick and a good harvest is anticipated.

The executive committee of the Nebraska State Press association has called the annual meeting for February 20, 21 and 22 in Lincoln.

R. H. Mann, widely known throughout western Nebraska as "Daddy Mann," was instantly killed by a Burlington train at Bridgeport.

For the first time in the history of Fremont schools classes were held on New Year's day, when the city schools took no vacation.

Over 5,400,000 pounds of flour was shipped to the American army and the allied nations from Beatrice during the war.

Omaha had 974 deaths from influenza between October 5, when the epidemic began, and December 31, 1918.

The Nebraska conference of Social Workers will meet in annual convention in Lincoln February 2, 3 and 4.

Only nine new residences were built in Fremont during the past year, as against fifty-four in 1917.

Commissioners of Madison county have organized a health board to combat the influenza epidemic.

Buffalo county sent approximately 600 men to war, nearly 100 of whom volunteered their services.

After several weeks of restrictions the flu "lid" has been lifted in Tecumseh. The churches now hold regular services and school sessions are being held as usual.

The 1918 business of the Omaha federal land bank will show an increase of \$25,000,000, the best record of any land bank in the country, Frank G. Odell, secretary of the bank, says.

Roads are in unusually rocky condition in many parts of Nebraska, as a result of the freeze after the recent rain. Traveling via automobile is being abandoned.

The Nebraska headquarters for the campaign January 12 to 19 for relief for starving Armenians, Syrians and others in the near east, at Omaha, received a telegram stating that 2,000 people in Urman are absolutely destitute. Ten thousand Kurds are starving at Sofbink, and 30,000 are destitute at Fabriz. Starvation is increasing daily.



1—Lieut. Gen. Sir R. Haking and his aide of the British armistice commission at Spa, acknowledging the salute of a German soldier on guard duty. 2—Czech-Slovak soldiers going over the top in a raid on bolshevik trenches in Siberia. 3—Vincent Astor, who is to command a yeoman guard that will form part of the guard at the Palace of Versailles during the peace conference.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Poles Fighting the Germans on the West and the Advancing Bolsheviks on East.

CALL ON ALLIES FOR HELP

Lenine's Forces Meet Disastrous Defeat at Perm, but Capture Ufa—President Wilson Visits Rome—Secretary Daniels' Program for the Greatest Navy.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

So far as fighting is concerned, the absorbing news is coming from Poland just now. The Poles, having enthusiastically welcomed the head of their new republic, Ignace Jan Paderewski, the famous musician, are following his lead against the Germans on the one side and the Russian bolsheviks on the other. They are determined to add to their state the province of Posen, Danzig and other parts of Prussia, and the government at Berlin is equally determined that they shall not lay hands on German territory. The result is a series of conflicts, with varying results. As this is written a report comes that a Polish army of 30,000 men is marching on Berlin and that Gustav Noske, member of the Ebert cabinet in charge of military affairs, has ordered the Fifth German division to advance to meet the Poles.

The Poles entered Frankfurt on the Oder, 50 miles east of Berlin, and also Reuthen in Prussian Silesia, and Bromberg, in the province of Posen. In the city of Posen the Poles occupied the fortress, disarming 20,000 German soldiers, and the fighting there has been almost continuous. Many Jews are said to have been slain.

The German authorities admit the Polish question is serious and that it will be difficult to prevent the establishment of a free Poland. The Poles are masters of most of the towns and have cut all means of communication. It is on their eastern borders that the Poles are having the worst time. There they are contending not only against the bolshevik armies in their sweep through Lithuania, but also against the Ukrainians, who are disputing with the Poles the possession of the southern part of Lithuania. General Pilsudski commands a rather small army of loyal Poles, and General Haller, who commanded the Poles in France, has landed at Danzig with a body of troops; but they are a long way apart, with hostile armies between them. There is considerable demand that the allies extend quick and strong aid to the Poles, since the establishment of Poland as a buffer state not only would keep Germany from grabbing the Baltic provinces and eventually controlling Russia, but also would deprive the Germans of most of the coal deposits on which they rely. The bolshevik menace and the industrial disorder in Poland make it impossible for the Poles to await the settlement of their problem by the peace congress, say their leaders. Most of their factories were destroyed by the Germans and the thousands of Poles now sent back by Germany are clamoring for food and employment and in some places are taking the law into their own hands and plundering their former employers.

Lately the bolsheviks have both lost and won in eastern Russia. Their chief loss was at Perm, in the Urals, which was captured by General Gaida at the head of Czech-Slovak and Siberian forces. The bolshevik Third army was virtually destroyed and Nikolai Lenine, the bolshevik premier, who was directing operations from an armored train, narrowly escaped capture. Gaida completely surprised the bolsheviks and captured 31,000 men, 5,000 railway cars, 120 field guns, 1,800 machine guns and much other equipment. Ten regiments were annihilated and the remainder of the enemy driven across the Kama river.

The bolsheviks claimed the capture, on Tuesday, of the city of Ufa, capital of the nonbolshevik government in the region west of the Ural mountains, and also of the town of Sterlitamak, south of Ufa.

In Lithuania the advance of the bolshevik forces was so threatening that the bourgeois government was moved from Vilna to Keveno, and in Estonia and Livonia the Lenin troops were moving forward against Reval and Riga, occupying Romershof on the Dvina. Swedish volunteer troops have gone to the aid of the Estonians.

At the time of writing this, news comes that the Germans have evacuated Riga and that the British have landed troops, under all arms, at that port and also at Libau and Windau, the chief ports of Courland on the Baltic.

The allied forces in the Archangel region are still awaiting an announcement of policy by their governments, but they are not inactive, having recently defeated the enemy along the Onega river and greatly improved their positions. Michigan and Wisconsin troops played a notable part in these operations, which were carried out in zero temperature and deep snow.

Liebknecht has not yet succeeded in overthrowing the Ebert government in Berlin, but the independent socialist members of the government have been ousted, and it is now reported that Ebert and Scheidemann are in secret agreement with the leaders of the bourgeois party to combat the extremists, who include the independents, the Spartacists and the sailors. The bourgeois leaders, it is said, are convinced that civil war cannot be averted.

The Spartacus group, assembled in congress, hewed down a proposition made by Liebknecht that they take part in the election of members of the new national assembly. Led by Rosa Luxemburg, they declared the meeting of the assembly must be prevented at all costs. Radek, head of the bolshevik mission to Germany, tells the Spartacists he would welcome an entente occupation of Germany, because the invaders would become infected with bolshevism and spread its doctrines to the west. Kurt Eisner, premier of the "republic" of Bavaria, is said to be siding with the independent socialists against Ebert, and Hindenburg is so discouraged by the disorder in Berlin that he has said he would support the occupation of the city by the British.

Returning from England to Paris early in the week, President Wilson left for Italy Wednesday evening. When he arrived in Rome he was welcomed by the king and queen and a host of other notables, and the Roman population gave him so enthusiastic a reception that it was evident they had made up their minds to oust the Londoners and Parisians. The streets and buildings were lavishly decorated and the freedom of the Eternal City was bestowed on the American president. Banquets, official calls and conferences took up most of his time in Rome.

While he was in Italy, it is understood, President Wilson studied carefully the conflicting claims of Italy and the Jugoslavs for possession of the lands along the east coast of the Adriatic.

When on the same day President Wilson in Manchester declared against the old "balance of power" methods and in favor of the league of nations, and Premier Clemenceau told the French that he still stood for a balance of power, the croakers at once discovered that there was to be great difficulty in bringing about a reconciliation between the views of the two leaders. There really did seem to be a chance for trouble there; but Colonel House called on M. Clemenceau and on New Year's day he told Mr. Wilson all about it. The result, according to hints thrown out by some of the American delegates, was that the president was assured there was nothing in Clemenceau's attitude that would justify an apprehension of any marked differences between the entente powers and the United States. Colonel House also saw Mr. Balfour and found that they were in full agreement. It is stated that Clemenceau meant that he stands for a dominating league of nations ready to use force to maintain peace.

President Wilson, it was announced,

would be back in Paris by the beginning of the week, and M. Clemenceau was expected back from a brief vacation at the same time. Mr. Lloyd George arrived in the French capital Saturday. Conferences among the representatives of the allies were to begin at once. It seems probable that the number of delegates to the peace conference will be enlarged so that experts in certain lines may sit at the board when the things they know most about are being discussed. Great Britain's delegates include Lloyd George, Balfour and Bonar Law, and among the advisers on special matters are such men as Viscount Hardinge, Sir William G. Tyrrell, Sir Louis Mallet, Sir Esme Howard, Sir Ralph Paget, Sir Eyre Crowe and Lord Robert Cecil—an imposing list of truly big men thoroughly trained in diplomacy and statecraft.

The numerous and complicated questions that the peace conference must take up and settle have given rise to the suggestion that the congress should be a continuing body so that future developments might be taken into consideration and matters decided that are now too hazy for clear vision. If this plan were adopted, the formation of the league of nations might not be so pressing a question as it is now considered by President Wilson and many others who support his views.

General satisfaction is expressed with the desire of the department of justice to have deported most of the enemy aliens now interned for their pernicious activities. These men and women—a few of the gentler sex are included—were either German spies and agents, taking their chances as such, or else traitors to the country that had given them shelter. In either case they are not wanted in America and should be sent back to the land they came from or that they served. There are a lot of others who might well be deported, but we are too ill-mannered a people for our own good in such matters.

Secretary Daniels tells the congressional committee that his determination to have a great navy is based on the argument that if the league of nations is formed the United States will be sharing its share of the policing of the world if its navy is not as big as Great Britain's; and that if the league is not established and a curtailment of armament is not agreed upon, we must have "incomparably the greatest navy in the world" to defend the Monroe doctrine and protect the weak nations. His program, according to his own admission, is intended as an argument by which President Wilson can bring the other nations to accept the proposed reduction of armament. The secretary says the president backs up his policy if competitive building is to continue. Mr. Daniels' new three-year building program calls for the appropriation of \$690,000,000 to provide for 156 additional naval ships, including ten dreadnaughts and six battle cruisers.

Two severe attacks on the administration were made in the senate last week. First Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the committee on military affairs, assailed the "dilatory" policy followed in demobilization, asserting that the administration is as unprepared for disbanding the army as it was for the war itself. He warned his party that it would be held responsible if it failed to adopt an adequate program for taking care of them. The other attack was made by a Republican, Senator Weeks of Massachusetts, who bitterly criticized the war department for delays and errors in compiling casualties among the expeditionary forces and for failure to cooperate with the Red Cross in the matter of forwarding letters from wounded soldiers to their relatives in this country. In many instances, Mr. Weeks said, parents were incorrectly informed that their sons had been killed. Also several hundred American soldiers reported as missing by the war department had been located in French hospitals by the Red Cross and letters written by them had not been forwarded because of an order by the department.

The senate commerce committee has extended its investigation of the Hog Island shipyard to a general inquiry into the doings of the shipping board.

ROOSEVELT IS DEAD

FORMER PRESIDENT SUCCEEDS AT OYSTER BAY HOME.

PASSED AWAY VERY SUDDENLY

Blood Clot On Heart Said to Have Brought On Death—Was 61 Years of Age.

Oyster Bay, N. Y., Jan. 7.—Colonel Theodore Roosevelt died at his home, Sagamore Hill, Monday morning. A clot of blood on the heart caused death, it was stated at the house. The colonel went to bed Sunday night feeling well. His end was peaceful. Several members of the family were



Colonel Theodore Roosevelt.

at the bedside, Roosevelt returned home Christmas day from Roosevelt hospital, New York, where he had been ill for some time with sciatica.

The house at Sagamore Hill was closed and nobody allowed to enter the grounds after the colonel died.

Farmer Slays Entire Family.

Onawa, Ia., Jan. 6.—Denied the love of a woman, William Barnes, a farmer, known throughout this neighborhood as the "one-armed crack shot," Friday night shot and killed five persons—two women, two children and a man.

Then he sat in a chair, took off his left shoe and stocking, placed a toe on the trigger of his shotgun and blew off the top of his head.

One of his victims was Mrs. Alice Jones, 21, recently divorced, whose love he wanted.

The other victims were: Wilbur Johnson, 55, Mrs. Jones' father.

Mrs. Johnson, 48, Their son, Rex Johnson, 12, Mrs. Jones' son, Reid, 2.

In September Barnes and Mrs. Jones ran away together. Two weeks ago the young woman returned to her parents' home. She told friends there she had found she did not love Barnes.

Barnes returned Friday morning. He was sullen to persons he met in Decatur, Neb. He bought a shotgun and shells there, and said he was going hunting. He used the gun to wipe out the Johnson family and kill himself.

The tragedy occurred on Holmer's island, comprising about 1,000 acres, on the Nebraska side of the river, but still a part of Iowa. Johnson was a well-to-do farmer.

An investigation, which was started Monday, is expected to solve the mystery of several deaths during the past 18 months in the vicinity of Onawa, Monona county.

Authorities of Monona county have recalled, since the tragedy at the Johnson home, that Barnes' wife and daughter died under singular circumstances in their home about a year ago. At the time of Mrs. Barnes' death speculation was rife among neighbors, many of whom openly expressed the opinion the woman met with foul play.

The man's 17-year-old daughter, who kept house for her father for a short while following her mother's death, ended her own life, supposedly, by drinking poison.

Barnes is known to have been a desperate character, and there are many in this community who believe him directly responsible for the deaths of his wife and daughter.

White House Open to Visitors.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 7.—After being closed to the public for nearly two years because of the war, the White House was reopened to visitors a few days ago.

Youth Draws Huge Salary.

Detroit, Mich., Jan. 7.—The newly-named president of the Ford Motor company, Edsel Ford, son of Henry Ford, is drawing one of the biggest salaries in the country \$150,000 a year, although he is only 24 years old.