

JAPAN SENDS AN ULTIMATUM

DEMANDS WITHDRAWAL OF GERMAN WARSHIPS.

GERMANS PUSHING FORWARD

Battle of Liege Again in Progress—German Advance is Being Greatly Retarded.

Western Newspaper Union News Service, Tokio.—Japan sent an ultimatum to Germany Saturday night, demanding the withdrawal of German warships from the orient and the evacuation of Kiau Chau and giving Germany until Sunday, August 23, to comply with the demand. Otherwise, the ultimatum states, Japan will take action. The general expectation here is that the ultimatum will be followed by war. Takaki Kato, the Japanese foreign minister, simultaneously with the dispatch of the ultimatum, conferred with George W. Guthrie, the American ambassador, and made to him a broad statement calculated to assure the United States that American interests in the far east would be safeguarded and the integrity of China upheld.

London.—Pushing forward by mere weight of numbers, the German advance across Belgium is slowly but steadily proceeding, and so must come in contact with the allied armies, which, according to an official communication from Brussels, are in battle order at some point unnamed. The Belgians, in the outpost skirmishing, are said to have inflicted severe checks on the German forces, but on the whole the German wing has kept on its way and has reached a little from the north of Namur to Haelen, which suggests that the first big battle will be fought somewhere between Louvain and Diest, where the allies probably will try to block the roads to Brussels and Antwerp, and prevent the German attempt to make north Belgium untenable.

Further south French troops have entered Belgium through Charleroi, going to the relief of their neighbors and to aid in any attack directed toward Namur, while in the east the French are reported to have secured possession of ridges in the Vosges mountains and to hold the passes of LeBonhomme and Sainte Marie-Anne, through which important roads pass, and which, it is asserted, gives them great strategic advantage.

Liege Fight Again Resumed. Brussels.—The fight for the possession of the Liege forts has recommenced. The Germans erected a bridge at Lixhe for the transport of troops and heavy material and it is possible that simultaneously an attempt will be made to cross the river Meuse in front of Liege, for convoys have been sighted proceeding toward Engis. The German advance is being greatly retarded by the Liege fortifications, as they dominate the routes taken by the Germans and also the intervals between the forts by their preventing the passage of artillery and transport wagons.

The Germans appear to be commencing a fresh phase of the war. Their attack through central Belgium having failed, they are entrenching along their Maestricht-Liege front and are employing a number of peasants on the road south through the provinces of Liege and Luxembourg, foreshadowing an attempt to force their way to the south of the river Ourthe and towards the upper Meuse in France.

The German cavalry, which spread itself out over a front extending from St. Trond to Hannut, at the same time sending detachments in the direction of Tirlemont, Hougaerde and Jodigne, have fallen back except at one point where they are keeping in contact with the Belgians.

A fight of importance occurred near Taremont, where a thousand German cavalry, with quick firing guns mounted on horses, attacked a regiment of Belgian lancers. The latter retired owing to inferiority numerically.

London.—Recruits for the army are enlisting at the rate of several thousand a day. The business men are organizing their employees into a fifth line of defense. The majority of the able-bodied men of the country are drilling in their home organizations.

Home.—The Kaiser is making a supreme effort in the courts of Greece, Bulgaria and Roumania to have these nations side with Germany and Austria in the present war. This is admitted in official circles here, where the negotiations of the Kaiser's representatives are being closely followed. That the Balkans must inevitably be drawn into the war is considered certain here. But it is unlikely that they will line up entirely for the Kaiser. Greece and Turkey must inevitably fight, but the latter will range itself on the side of the Kaiser, while Greece will aid England.

St. Petersburg.—The regular troops of the German army, who hitherto had been scattered in small detachments along the frontier, are now concentrating near the Russian border in brigades, composed of two or three regiments each, all in readiness to take the field.

The positions in the border villages have been occupied by units of cavalry and infantry of the German army reserve. No serious encounters have occurred yet on the frontier, but frequent skirmishes between outposts are reported, while German military aeroplanes fly daily in the direction of Kovno, capital of the Russian province of the same name, which has an outlet on the Baltic.

Washington.—Mining of the North sea as part of the plan of the European war not only may close most of the northern European ports to navigation but the golden-laden cruisers Tennessee and North Carolina and neutral passenger vessels bearing Americans from Europe will be confronted with new dangers. The American government has been formally advised by the British embassy that inasmuch as Germany had been "scattering mines indiscriminately," Great Britain could no longer refrain from planting mines near her own ports.

Secretary Bryan says that Americans at home may rest assured that the passenger lines plying between northern European ports will take no chances that will imperil life. It is believed that Americans in northern ports will remain there for the present or make their way south and southeast to such ports as Marseilles or Lisbon to obtain passage for the United States.

Martial Law in Switzerland. Washington.—Charge Huebscher of the Swiss legation has notified the state department that martial law had been declared in Switzerland. Both French and German troops are menacing the integrity of Switzerland with their operations in the vicinity of Basel, which lies close to Mulhausen reported captured by the French. The charge stated that the activities so near the Swiss border have made it necessary to prepare to resist invasion.

Japanese Steamer Fired Upon. Shanghai.—The Japanese steamer Shikoku Maru was seriously damaged and one of her crew killed by a cannon shot fired from the British fort at Hong Kong while the vessel was entering the harbor. The Shikoku Maru paid no attention to the harbor regulations. Two warning shots were fired over her bows, but she did not stop, and a third shell then struck her amidships. A government tug afterwards assisted the steamer to her berth.

Will Act Together. Brussels.—Belgian official reports received by the war office record the important fact that a junction has been effected by Belgian, British and French troops across the line of the German advance through Belgium. The location of the troops of the three armies was not revealed, but in any future operations it is understood that they will act together.

Many Register for Transportation. Paris.—Three thousand Americans have registered their names at the American embassy here and are awaiting transportation home on the steamers which the government at Washington is sending to Europe for the relief of stranded citizens. Additional names are being entered at the rate of 300 or 400 daily.

Paris.—Tommaso Tittoni, Italian ambassador to France, has issued and had posted at the quarters of Paris a signed notice stating that: "Italy has proclaimed and will maintain the strictest neutrality. Therefore there is no need for Italians to be alarmed. They may continue to reside in France in full security."

Rome.—The foreign office has summoned home the Italian ambassadors in Paris, St. Petersburg, London and Berlin, as the government desires to consult them concerning the war situation.

Paris.—It is officially announced that France has broken off diplomatic relations with Austria-Hungary. The French ambassador at Vienna has left the Austrian capital and the Austro-Hungarian ambassador at Paris has asked for his passports.

Rome.—The pope is so overwhelmed with grief by the outbreak of war among all the principal nations of Europe that he is unable to do any work, and sits listless and silent for hours every day. Although his holiness is not ill, his condition is causing grave anxiety to his attendants.

Athens.—Large Turkish forces have concentrated on Bulgarian territory, near Forejik, in the vicinity of the river Maritsa. They are moving apparently in the direction of the frontiers of Thrace and Bulgaria by agreement with Bulgaria.

Japan Causing Worry. Peking, Japan.—Whether Japan will participate in an attack on the German colony of Tsing Tau is a question about which British subjects and other foreigners in China are gravely concerned. It is believed here that "serious conversations" are now proceeding between Tokio and London in order to determine the future status of the place. In the meantime German cruisers are said to be searching the Yellow sea and causing British, French and Russian merchant vessels to remain in the various ports.

NOW IN NEW HANDS

PEACEFUL POSSESSION TAKEN OF MEXICAN CAPITAL.

CANAL OPENED TO COMMERCE

Ships of All Nations May Now Pass Through Great Waterway—Americans Returning Home.

Western Newspaper Union News Service, Mexico City.—The national capital now is in the hands of the constitutionalists. In accordance with a pre-arranged plan, General Obregon marched in with his army and took peaceful possession of the city Saturday afternoon. The citizens greeted him and his soldiers with cheers. The evacuation by the federals has been completed and constitutionalist troops are now quartered in the barracks which the government soldiers recently occupied.

Americans Are Returning. London.—With nine liners sailing from English and Dutch ports more than 1,000 Americans left the war zone Saturday and are now en route home. Eight liners sailed from London, Liverpool and Glasgow and the Noordam put out from Rotterdam. It is declared that within the next three weeks forty-eight liners, capable of carrying 60,000 passengers, will sail for the United States from English ports. This is three times the number of Americans now in England, but they are arriving at the rate of more than 1,000 a day.

CANAL NOW OPEN.

Establishes New Ocean Highway for Trade.

Panama.—The Panama canal is open to the commerce of the world. Henceforth ships may pass to and fro through the great waterway, which establishes a new ocean highway for trade. The steamship Ancon, owned by the United States war department, with many notable people on board, Saturday made the official passage, which signalled the opening of the canal. She left Cristobal at 7 o'clock and reached Balboa on the Pacific end at 4 in the afternoon, having navigated the waterway in nine hours. The Ancon did not anchor at Balboa, but proceeded into deep water in the Pacific beyond the fortified islands, where she anchored in the channel of the canal on her return to Balboa, where she landed her passengers. The Ancon will remain at the Balboa docks for some time discharging her cargo, this being the first commercial voyage made through the canal.

Many Injured When Roaster Bursts. Beatrice, Neb.—A dozen persons were injured, three of them seriously, when a gasoline peanut roaster standing on the walk in front of the place of business of Charles Overstreet exploded. The streets were lined with people waiting for the circus parade at the time of the explosion, and the fact that no one was killed is considered little less than miraculous. The explosion could be heard for blocks, and bits of glass from adjoining windows and parts of the machine were blown across the street by the force of the explosion.

Bibles for Fighting Armies. New York.—Christian agencies of Germany appear to be taking up work among the soldiers in arms. The American Bible society has received an application from Germany for Bibles and parts of Bibles in German, Polish, French and Russian tongues, for distribution at the front. It was learned that the British and Foreign Bible society of London is also taking steps for this Christian work, and is having the co-operation of the French Bible society in Paris.

Asks Aid for Red Cross. Lincoln, Neb.—Governor Morehead has issued a statement endorsing the Red Cross work in the European war and asked the people of Nebraska to make contributions for the purpose of carrying on its operations.

Living Expenses Increase. Chicago.—Increasing cost in living expenses have spread to include most of the most pretentious cafes and clubs, and a general rise of prices was marked on the bills. In spite of threatened investigations by nation, state and city, there was no reduction in the cost of staples for home consumption. At the stock yards there was no change in the wholesale prices of meats. Cattle and hog receipts continue under normal and the packers declaring that they were facing the greatest shortage in their history.

Nebraskan First to Go Through. San Francisco.—The American-Hawaiian steamer Nebraskan put out for New York via the Panama canal. She will be the first merchantman to pass through the canal from the Pacific coast. The Arizona, of the same line, left New York in the opposite direction August 4. Traffic will be received beginning August 15. The Nebraskan bore many tokens of good will and was uproariously greeted by the whistles of all the shipping in the harbor as she got under way.

PEACE TREATIES ARE RATIFIED

INQUIRY STARTED IN BOOSTING OF PRICES.

Eighteen Out of Twenty Treaties Are Put Through the Senate—Carranza Leaves the Capital.

Western Newspaper Union News Service, Washington.—Legal forces, state and federal, all over the country got into action Friday, carrying out President Wilson's suggestion for an investigation of whether food prices are being artificially increased on the pretext of European war, and for criminal prosecutions if that is found to be the case. The national capital led off the campaign with a grand jury investigation, to which commission merchants, wholesalers and retailers, buyers for hotels and restaurants were subpoenaed and citizens having evidence were invited. Special agents of the department of justice began their search for evidence of manipulations or other methods of price-fixing, and Secretary Redfield sent detailed instructions to agents of the department of commerce on carrying out their part of the investigation.

President Leaves City of Mexico. Mexico City.—When the inhabitants of the federal capital awakened Thursday morning the arsenals were empty, the barracks were deserted and the provisional president of the republic, as well as the members of his cabinet, had vanished. President Carranza left the city on a special train bound for Vera Cruz at 3:15 a. m. He left behind him a manifesto to the nation saying that he had done his best in a provisional capacity to save the country from further bloodshed, but his peaceful overtures had been met on the part of the constitutionalists by uncompromising demands for an unconditional surrender.

PEACE TREATIES RATIFIED.

Eighteen of Twenty Put Through the Senate.

Washington.—Eighteen of the twenty peace treaties with foreign nations providing for commissions of inquiry before resort to arms in international disputes, which ordinary resources of diplomacy fail to settle, were ratified by the senate. The treaties with the Dominican republic and Panama were held up for further consideration. Treaties ratified are with Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, Denmark, Italy, Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Persia, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Uruguay, Argentine, Brazil and Chile.

Washington.—Authority has been given American embassies and legations throughout Europe to charter ships in which to bring home Americans.

Stamp Tax May Be Put in Force.

Washington.—Although the United States is at peace with the world, leaders in congress say that a "war tax" must be levied. Prospects that the European war will continue indefinitely will materially reduce imports to this country. It is estimated that one-third of the revenue would be cut off. Majority Leader Underwood, author of the new tariff law, admits that the falling off in revenue from foreign ports is being felt. It is said that a stamp tax, the same as prevailed during the Spanish-American war, will be put in force.

Hard to Verify Dispatches.

New York.—In a notice to its correspondents the Associated Press and United Press and other news service companies advise correspondents and patrons that due to the censorship over all news dispatches out of Europe, it is almost impossible to transmit messages with any degree of satisfaction. Cables are greatly congested and all messages are being delayed from 17 to 48 hours. News is coming largely through Paris and London.

Asks Aid for Red Cross.

Washington.—President Wilson, as head of the American Red Cross, has appealed to the American people to contribute money for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers of the warring European nations.

Mediation May Be Reopened.

Peking.—The Japanese government, in replying to the suggestion of China that the United States, China and Japan should endeavor to mediate the European conflict said its obligations to Great Britain might prevent Japan from doing so. In consequence of this reply China considers further effort useless, although it was stated that the question of mediation might be reopened with the United States in case there were any prospects of success.

Enough Food for a Year.

London.—That Germany has enough food on hand to last one year, even though all communication with the outside world is cut off was admitted here. It was announced that a report to that effect has been made to the Kaiser by a governmental commission appointed for that purpose. The Kaiser has contributed from his personal fortune \$200,000, of which one-half goes to the Red Cross and the remainder for the relief of families of soldiers killed in action.

STANDARD OIL MULE

STATE PAYS \$133 FOR SLAUGHTER OF GLANDERED ANIMALS.

GOSSIP FROM STATE CAPITAL

Items of Interest Gathered from Reliable Sources and Presented in Condensed Form to Our Readers.

Western Newspaper Union News Service, Lincoln.—When the Nebraska legislature in 1911, and again in 1913, appropriated money to pay for glandered horses and mules condemned by the state veterinarian and killed under his orders, it had in mind the protection of farmers who are always the heaviest losers from any live stock disease. The legislature did not know that, under this statute, John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil company would become a claimant against the state and receive an allowance of \$133 for a mule that has just been killed in Lincoln by the state veterinarian. Neither was it aware that a storage and transfer company at Omaha would ask the state to pay it several hundred dollars on account of four horses taken from its stables and put to death because they had glanders. The Standard Oil mule was executed by State Veterinarian Kigin, in accordance with the statute, he has made out a voucher for \$133 to the Rockefeller concern, which the state of Nebraska will pay.

Save the Straw Stacks.

With straw piles from a forty-acre tract worth, according to conservative estimates, \$100 for the fertilizing constituents alone, the agronomy department of the Nebraska College of Agriculture again calls particular attention at this time to the waste of destroying them. According to data gathered from Nebraska farmers, wheat straw may be put to many uses. It has been scattered effectively on the wheat land as a top-dressing to check blowing in the sandy regions. Others find it profitable to scatter the straw on land that is planted to corn. As bedding, it absorbs and holds the liquid excrement, which is the most valuable portion of the manure. In any case, when the straw is applied to the land either as a straw or straw manure, it may be thoroughly disked with the surface soil in order that the best results may be obtained. A few farmers have scattered the ashes after burning, but by so doing they have lost 85 per cent of its value.

Corporations Paying Under New Law.

More than 1,500 corporations of the state have now paid their fees under the 1913 law and the total income therefrom exceeds that under the old law by \$22,000. For the biennium, therefore, it would amount to \$40,000 or more, when all the corporations have come in, according to clerks in the office of the secretary of state, than the legislature appropriated to the Nebraska City armory and the sufferers from the March, 1912, tragedy at the state penitentiary. When the figures were compiled there were 500 corporations that had not paid. When their money has been received it will mean that the total excess payments over the former law will amount to \$25,000 or more for the year.

Appointments to Naval Academy.

Seven appointments to the United States naval academy at Annapolis are to be made soon by Nebraska senators and congressmen. Three of these appointments are to fill vacancies occasioned by this year's graduating class, the others being to fill vacancies already existing. Two of these appointments will be made by Senator Hitchcock; two by Congressman Dan V. Stephens of the Third district, while John A. McGuire and Moses P. Kincaid of the First and Sixth congressional districts respectively, will each nominate one, as will Charles A. Sloan of the Fourth district. Nominations for appointments may be made any time before March 1, 1915.

Decreases of from \$300,000 to \$450,000 assessed valuation of property in the state are looked for over last year's figures, according to estimates made by Secretary Seymour of the state assessment board.

Automobilists Must Pay Up.

Automobile owners under the system evolved by the 1911 legislature are being compelled to keep up their annual registration payments. The change was beneficial in that it put the collection of the fee up to the county treasurers. Before it was a duty of the secretary of state, and under this scheme it was impossible to check up all owners. Despite the fact that cars most seen in the state carry numbers running far beyond the 20,000 or 30,000 mark, the lower numbers are still kept up.

Two cases recently appealed by the Union Pacific to the supreme court are for death losses. The first is that brought by the administrator of the estate of Carl Richert of Platte county. In the lower court the suit was brought for \$30,000, but judgment was obtained for \$10,000. The other suit was brought to recover for the death of Conductor Ray Phillips, killed in a wreck which occurred during a blizzard in the winter of 1912. This verdict was for \$16,000 and from that the road appealed. The suit was brought for \$50,000.

BRIEF NEWS OF NEBRASKA

The Edgar chautauqua drew a big crowd. Five hands will furnish music for the state fair this fall. Merchants' fall market week is being observed at Omaha this week. C. N. and V. C. Herbert are planning to open a new state bank at Harrington.

But four cases of contagious disease were reported in Lincoln last month. Bonds for \$37,000 have been voted for an electric light plant and sewer system.

Flavius Wood and son, Flavius, Jr., were badly injured in an auto accident at Denver. The new \$125,000 high school building at Fremont is being pushed to completion.

J. F. Powell of Lincoln was the successful man at the old fiddlers' contest at Capital Beach. Little Crow, a ninety-nine year old Sioux Indian, was a participant in a tribal dance at Crawford.

John R. Lee, one of the pioneers and one time prominent merchant of Fremont, is dead at Seattle. The new armory of Company L, Fifth regiment, was formally opened at Grand Island last week.

It is reported that there are various places in Richardson county where the corn is practically burned up. Mrs. Anna Doty has been granted a license to operate a ferry over the Missouri river near Plattsmouth.

Patrick Conway's band, which gives the concerts at the state fair, will also have a number of solo opera stars. Southeastern Nebraska growers are shipping grapes of superior quality, and the yield is said to be abundant.

Postoffice employes at Omaha, 400 in number, rebelled when they were ordered to be vaccinated in a bunch. Fire at Waterbury destroyed several buildings in the business center and caused a property loss of \$50,000.

Mrs. John Marquardt of Otoe county was so badly burned by the explosion of a gasoline stove that she died from her injuries. According to assessors' returns, diamonds are a negligible quantity in Nebraska, and those listed are small and of inferior value.

Two weeks of continuous Masonic celebration will mark the dedication of the new Scottish Rite cathedral at Omaha in October. Some change and several boxes of cigars were taken from the store of C. W. Crawford at Fairbury when burglars paid it a visit.

A large hole was torn in the ceiling of the kitchen of the William Sumpston home at Schuyler when the water boiler in the range exploded. When a boat was overturned on the Missouri river near Shubert, Fred Ogg was caught in some fish nets and drowned before help could reach him.

The explosion of a coffee heater in Ray's restaurant at Anselmo destroyed the contents of the building, although the latter was saved by hard fighting. Fremont business men have agreed to give \$4,000 toward the annual fall festival on condition that it be held in the business district instead of in the driving park as planned.

S. E. Kim, a Korean student, who has been cared for in a tent on Hastings college campus, under the direction of Hastings club women, died Thursday of tuberculosis. Amos, ten-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Spicknall, near Holstein, was caught in a cave-in of a sand pit he, and his brother had dug and was dead before he could be rescued.

Charles White, 90 years old, a bachelor residing at Pleasantdale, was found dead at his home by a neighbor who had paid him a visit. Heart disease is thought to have caused his death. Amos, the 10-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Spicknall, residing near Holstein, was smothered to death when he was buried under several tons of sand in a cave which he and his brothers had dug in a pasture.

A horse stepping on a bottle containing an unknown substance caused an explosion that set fire to the barn of Carl Green at Lincoln. The 13-month-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hollister, living near Stromsburg, accidentally got hold of some laxative tablets lying on the window sill and ate a quantity of them, dying a few hours later.

Herman Schaffer, a veteran circus man and resident of Omaha, was the color bearer of the first German troop to aid in wresting Alsace and Lorraine from the French and adding it to the empire of the Fatherland. After suffering for two months, C. A. Lawrence of Bennet discovered his neck was dislocated. Surgeons replaced it and he is on the road to a recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Eimer Altgood of Nemaha county were severely injured when a team of horses which they were driving ran away, throwing them to the ground. A pulmoner saved the life of Bryan States at Capital Beach, Lincoln, whose body was found at the bottom of the bathing pool by his brother. He had been under water for fifteen minutes before his absence was noted.

The little son of Mr. and Mrs. John Corliss of Fremont was badly crushed by a horse that trampled him as he was trying to rescue a toy balloon from under its feet. Clarence Smith, twenty years old, was burned to death near Nora, when a quantity of gasoline in a garage exploded, and he was unable to escape from the building.

An examination of the water thought to be responsible for an epidemic of typhoid fever at North Platte, proved the water to be absolutely free from disease-producing germs.