

REDUCE RUSS ARMY

ARMISTICE WITH GERMANY ALSO SOUGHT BY THE BOL-SHEVIKI.

KAISER MAKES PEACE OFFER

Diplomat Reported to Have Left Stockholm With Proposal From the Central Powers for Lenin.

Stockholm, Sweden, Nov. 20.—According to the Tidningen, a Russian diplomat left Stockholm on Thursday for Petrograd with orders to hand to the Russian revolutionary government proposals for peace by the central powers.

The bolshevik government at Petrograd, according to a report from Haparanda, has sent representatives to meet German Socialist delegates, probably at Stockholm, to arrange an armistice and negotiate a peace. It is understood that the delegates from both sides will hide their identity.

Petrograd, Nov. 20.—A reduction of the Russian armies, beginning with the class conscription in 1909, has been proclaimed by M. Lenine, the bolshevik leader, in an official announcement. The order is to take effect immediately.

The note of Leon Trotzky, the bolshevik foreign minister, to the allied embassies, conveying the announcement of the proposal for an armistice, reached the embassies. The text follows:

"I herewith have the honor to inform you, Mr. Ambassador, that the all-Russian congress of soldiers and workmen's delegates organized on October 26 a new government in the form of a council of national commissioners. The head of this government is Vladimir Ilch Lenine. The direction of the foreign policy has been entrusted to me, in the capacity of national commissioner for foreign affairs.

"Drawing attention to the text of the offer of an armistice and a democratic peace on the basis of no annexations or indemnities and the self-determination of nations, approved by the all-Russian congress of soldiers and workmen's delegates, I have the honor to beg you to regard the above document as a formal offer of an immediate armistice on all fronts and the immediate opening of peace negotiations—an offer with which the authoritative government of the Russian republic has addressed itself simultaneously to all the belligerent peoples and their governments.

"Accept my assurance, Mr. Ambassador, of the profound respect of the soldiers and workmen's government for the people of France, which cannot help aiming at peace, as well as all the rest of the nations exhausted and made bloodless by this unexampled slaughter.

"L. TROTZKY, National Commissioner for Foreign Affairs."

U. S. BARS BRITISH HONORS

Americans Combating Submarines May Not Take Decorations From Foreign Country.

Washington, Nov. 20.—An offer by the British admiralty to decorate certain officers and men of two American destroyers for their services in combating German submarines has been declined, Secretary Daniels announced, because the laws of this country prevent soldiers and sailors from receiving decorations from foreign governments.

Lieutenant Commanders Charles A. Blakley and George F. Neal were to be nominated for the distinguished service order; Lieut. Frank Loftin and Ensign Henry N. Fallon for the distinguished service cross, and Quartermaster W. H. Justice and Chief Machinist Mate R. G. McNaughton for the distinguished service medal. The names of the ships to which the officers and men are attached were withheld for military reasons. The American destroyers sank two U-boats with depth bombs when they were about to attack merchant ships which were being convoyed through the war zone.

BIG U. S. FORCE IN FRANCE

Arrival of U. S. Troops Fulfills Hopes of Officials—Baker Declines to Give Number of Soldiers Sent.

Washington, Nov. 20.—Arrival of American troops in France has kept pace with the expectation of the war department, Secretary Baker said on Friday in the first statement he has ever authorized in connection with the progress being made in increasing General Pershing's forces.

Mr. Baker indicated that an official statement of the number of American troops in France was not to be expected at any time during the war.

Holdup Men Get \$28,000.

Erie, Pa., Nov. 20.—Timothy Carroll, paymaster of the T. M. Nagle Boiler and Engine company, was held up and robbed of \$28,000 by two men here. Carroll had drawn the money from the bank to pay the company's employees.

Warned About Licenses.

Washington, Nov. 20.—All state food administrators were instructed by Food Administrator Hoover to ascertain and report the names of manufacturers and dealers subject to federal license who failed to get them November 1.

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM WEIGEL



Brig. Gen. William Weigel is commander of Massachusetts troops now in France. He has had long experience in military affairs.

DIES AS SHIP SINKS

COMMANDER OF U. S. DESTROYER STICKS TO POST.

Three Officers and Eighteen Men Lost When the Chauncey Goes to the Bottom.

Washington, Nov. 23.—Three officers and 18 enlisted men lost their lives when the United States destroyer Chauncey was sunk in the dark by a collision early Monday in the war zone.

Vice Admiral Sims reported the accident. He said the Chauncey's commander, Lieutenant Commander Walter E. Reno, died at his post on the bridge.

The official announcement made by the navy department gives no details. It was learned unofficially, however, the Chauncey was rammed by a large merchantman dashing to port. Both ships had all lights out.

The Chauncey sank within a few minutes after being struck. It was believed in naval circles, because of the heavy casualty list. The vessel's normal complement was 91 men, indicating that at least 70 were saved.

ALIENS LEAVE BARRED ZONES

Thousands of Germans Who Failed to Become American Citizens Forced to Vacate Homes.

Washington, Nov. 23.—The wholesale exodus of thousands of unnaturalized Germans from their homes and offices near docks, piers, warehouses, railway terminals and other establishments declared barred zones by President Wilson's alien enemy proclamation has started.

The surrender of their homes, often residences of many years, offices and jobs in the restricted areas was the signal for widespread protest on the part of those affected, but, having failed to become American citizens, the department of justice was inexorable in ordering and effecting their removal.

Hoboken, N. J., Nov. 23.—Hoboken aliens who are German spies, friends of spies or simply sullen anti-Americans, are running to cover. The Germans fear another roundup by the soldiers.

DRAFT SYSTEM WORKS FINE

Men Called to Colors in First Selection Will Be in Training Camps by January 1.

Washington, Nov. 22.—Six hundred and eighty-seven thousand young men drawn to the colors in the first draft under the selective service law will be in training by January 1, Provost Marshal General Crowder announced. While construction work is still under way in some of the training camps, most of the work is completed and all will be finished before the end of the present year. The manufacture of clothing for the drafted men likewise is proceeding rapidly and it is expected there will be an ample supply of uniforms for all the selected men when the first draft is completed.

AGREES TO SPARE VENICE

Austria Responds to the Appeal of the Vatican—City Will Not Be Defended.

Paris, Nov. 22.—The Matin says the Austrians have agreed to spare Venice in response to an appeal from the Vatican, but say that all authority must be left in the hands of the patriarch. It is certain, the newspaper adds, that Venice will not be defended in the event that a further retreat of the Italian forces becomes necessary.

Hurley Needs Many Men.

Washington, Nov. 24.—Chairman Edward N. Hurley of the United States shipping board sent out an appeal for 100,000 men. The men are needed to man the merchant fleet of the United States, now building.

Clemenceau Sees Pershing.

Paris, Nov. 24.—Premier Clemenceau had a long and cordial talk with General Pershing, the commander of the American forces, at the ministry of war on Wednesday. The conversation was in English.

GOVERNOR NEVILLE TENDERS RESIGNATION

TAKES STEPS TO VACATE OFFICE TO BE IN READINESS FOR CALL

NEWS FROM STATE CAPITAL

Items of Varied Interest Gathered from Reliable Sources at the State House

Governor Neville's formal resignation as the chief executive of Nebraska, to take effect whenever he enters the military service of the United States as colonel of the Seventh regiment, is now in the hands of Secretary of State Pool, and a copy of it is on its way to Washington for the information of the war department.

The governor will continue to hold the office until such time as the Seventh regiment is either drafted or called and mustered in as a federal organization. This time is uncertain, but as the inspection of the regiment has just been completed by an army officer the summons to war may come soon after his report is received at Washington.

It will require no further action by Governor Neville to vacate the executive office when he enters the active service of the United States. Upon being mustered in he will automatically cease to be governor, under terms of his resignation on file with the secretary of state, and Lieutenant Governor Howard will thereupon step into the gubernatorial shoes.

Other officers of the Seventh who must resign their civil positions, are: Captain H. E. Gooch of Lincoln, who is a member of the state council of defense; Captain Lee Metcalfe, who is the governor's secretary, and Major Ray Abbott, who is an assistant in the Douglas county district attorney's office.

No Deeds Issued to Aliens

State Land Commissioner G. L. Shumway has taken the law into his own hands and declares that hereafter no deeds to state land will be issued aliens. He will refuse to sign such deeds. With a view to carrying out his plan he has issued notices to county treasurers, county clerks and county attorneys. He says Nebraska has an alien land law which is obsolete and he proposes to enforce it.

The federal government is taking steps under an act of congress to take property from enemy aliens when deemed necessary, but the right of the state land commissioner to do so under the Nebraska law may result in a lively dispute. It is alleged the "alien" land law which Commissioner Shumway refers to is not an alien law, but a law applying to non-resident aliens; that it is not obsolete by any means but has been enforced on many occasions. Commissioner Shumway's announcement would deprive resident aliens of the right to own land in Nebraska, and may result in another dispute such as took place in California over the right of Japanese to own real estate. Treaties between countries may yet figure in this matter.

Special Courses at State Farm.

It has been definitely announced that both the school and college of agriculture will offer courses in practically every line of work during the special term of school which will open December 3. Among the courses will be farm management, dairying, horticulture, poultry husbandry, diseases of farm animals, live stock judging, soils and fertilizers, blacksmithing and carpentry. Already many inquiries have been received regarding the agricultural courses and this leads to the belief that there will be a good registration. The other university departments will also offer practically all first year courses. It is believed that the fact that many farm boys and girls will attend the session will make the agricultural courses of special appeal and for that reason practically every branch of agriculture will be represented the same as during the regular school year.

Mrs. Josephine M. Wild, legal stenographer in the office of Attorney General Reed, has been admitted to practice in the Nebraska supreme court.

Stock Feeders at State Farm

Approximately 250 farmers and stockmen were in attendance at the annual stock feeding day held at the state farm last week. It was essentially a feeders' get together meeting, with short talks, general discussion of the merits of different rations and an inspection of the various lots of stock now on test at the farm. Unusual importance attended many of the discussions because of the high cost of corn this year and the necessity of finding as far as possible economical feedings.

The regimental staff, headquarters company, sanitary detachment and company H, of the Seventh regiment, were inspected by the federal inspection officers at the national guard armory at Lincoln, last Tuesday afternoon. Over two hundred members of the Nebraska Seventh passed before the federal inspecting officers. One hundred and twenty-four of these were members of Company H, recruited in Lincoln. Major Severson at the close of the inspection complimented the staff and the Lincoln company on its showing.

NEBRASKA 1917 CROP REPORT

Less Than 8,000,000 Bushels of Wheat and 223,000,000 of Corn
The crop acreage for 1917 in Nebraska, as reported by Secretary E. R. Danielson is 17,350,998, an increase of 2,115 acres over the acreage of 1916. The report shows, however, that there is a decrease of 2,466,479 in the acreage of wheat. This decrease in the wheat acreage of 1917 was more than made up by an increase in the acreage of corn and oats. There was an increase of 1,191,847 acres of corn planted 1917 over 1916 and an increase of 804,713 acres of oats.

The report says: 597,277 acres of winter wheat produced 7,676,357 bushels, an average yield of 13. bushels per acre.

Three hundred forty thousand, nine hundred and seventy-eight acres of spring wheat produced 4,925,640 bushels of wheat, an average of 15.1 bushels per acre.

Even million, nine hundred thirty-two thousand, six hundred and fifty acres of corn produced 223,488,778 bushels of corn, an average of 28.4 bushels per acre.

Two million, nine hundred seventy-eight thousand, nine hundred and forty-nine acres of oats produced 116,551,989 bushels of oats, an average of 39.1 bushels per acre.

Will Cut No Serious Figure

The lapsing of \$10,000 in a fund known as the state aid fund for the support of training in agriculture, manual training, and home economics in high schools accredited to the university, consolidated rural high school, rural high school, or county high school, caused by the failure of the state superintendent's office to apportion to such support from the state will do no harm, according to State Superintendent W. H. Clemmons. The money was in the fund appropriated by the legislature of 1915. It lapsed on account of non-use April 1, 1917. Superintendent Clemmons explains that he was ill at the time it should have been apportioned. So the matter was not attended to by his deputy and assistants.

Nebraska Acreage Shows Increase

Nebraska's total acreage of twenty-three cereal, forage, vegetable and other agricultural crops shows a small increase for this year over 1916, as computed by the state board of agriculture. Notwithstanding the great shrinkage in the winter wheat area, due to freezing out of that crop last winter, farmers have made pretty full use of their lands and have raised other things to take the place of the wheat.

Less than 20 per cent of a normal winter wheat acreage was grown during the past season, but spring wheat gained 18 per cent, corn 16 and oats approximately 38 per cent, in comparison with the preceding year.

The gross acreage of all the crops listed was 17,350,998, which is 2,115 acres, more than was planted to the same crops in 1916.

Charged with Defrauding State

After filing criminal charges against Ernest E. Wright, former Lincoln restaurant keeper, for making false claims in alleged padded accounts for the feeding of national guardsmen, Attorney General Willis E. Reed has filed in the district court a civil suit for \$1,019.65, the amount he is alleged to have collected from the state over what was due him. On June 15, Wright filed a claim for \$125, for furnishing 500 meals, declared by the petition to be an overcharge of \$15.50. Another claim July 12 for 1,413 meals amounted to \$494.55, said to have been \$80.05 too much, and on the third claim, August 15, Wright is alleged to have collected \$1,262.10, which the attorney general says was \$996.10 too much. Wright is now in the county jail unable to get \$1,400 bail to release him to the federal grand jury on charges growing out of the same alleged padded claims.

State Superintendent W. H. Clemmons has received answer from parents who were asked to sign government food cards which he will turn over to the state council of defense for such action as that body may deem advisable.

The food cards are intended as pledges for the conservation of food. The state superintendent is assisting in their circulation through county superintendents of schools. The latter sent the cards to teachers who send them into homes through the pupils. The children were asked to return the cards to the teachers.

Of Poor Germinating Quality

A great deal of the seed corn selected by Nebraska farmers during September and October is turning out to be of very poor germinating quality and the state council of defense is calling attention to the situation thus presented. Tests made on a great many samples show an unusually low percentage of germination.

Farmers are therefore urged to make careful selections now and see that ears are immediately dried so that the seed will not further deteriorate.

Any farmer who has good corn of the 1916 crop still on hand, is advised to keep enough of it for next year's seed instead of depending upon an indifferent quality raised in 1917.

On all shipments of coal for state institutions, the state is now paying the freight direct. Heretofore, the dealers have paid the freight and collected from the board of control, but if this practice had been continued the board of control would have to pay war tax. When the state pays the freight bill the war tax is not collected.

SENT IT TO BOTTOM

AMERICAN DESTROYER CAPTURES GERMAN U-BOAT CREW.

WARNING TO FOOD DEALERS

Must Get Licenses at Once or Suffer the Consequences—Mine Operators Ordered to Keep Going.

Washington.—A German submarine captured recently by two American destroyers was sent to the bottom by members of her crew opening coxks below while their shipmates stood on deck with hands raised in signal of surrender. All of the crew were taken prisoners. One of the Germans was drowned while being transferred to a destroyer and another died. The latter was buried with military honors.

Secretary Daniels announced the character and sinking of the submarine, but made no mention of prisoners, nor of the reason of the boat sinking. The details leaked out at the department later, but the secretary would neither confirm nor deny them, saying he had issued the statement in agreement with the British admiralty and could not add to it.

There was a report in naval circles that approximately forty men, including five officers, were taken off the submarine.

Mine Operators Must Keep Going

Washington.—Oklahoma coal operators have been threatened by Fuel Administrator Garfield with government seizure and operation of their mines if they permit production to halt pending action on their demand for higher prices. The producers had notified Dr. Garfield they could not pay wage increases asked by the miners unless they are given more than 45 cents a ton increase granted by Dr. Garfield, and that they would not make the wage increases retroactive to November 1 as directed by the fuel administrator.

The new wage agreement has been under negotiation for several weeks and was adopted by the miners only after Dr. Garfield had threatened to take drastic action to end strikes. The point at issue was the clause insisted on by the fuel administration penalizing strikes and lockouts.

WARNING TO FOOD DEALERS

Must Get Licenses Immediately or Suffer Consequences

Washington.—Food dealers who have failed to comply with President Wilson's proclamation placing them under license must obtain licenses immediately or face proceedings aiming at suspending their operations. This was made known when the food administration advised federal advisers in each state that some concerns had not complied with the regulations and that action at once was necessary.

Appeal to Live Stock Men.

Omaha.—Immediate and concerted action by feeders of live stock and bankers throughout the state is urged by the live stock committee of the Nebraska federal food administration, through E. L. Burke, chairman. With these agencies co-operating, as suggested, it is believed that a great increase in live stock production will result. The first appeal is made to seven thousand feeders of live stock, in a letter which was sent Saturday to every feeder in the state. It urges the immediate buying of live stock and the feeding of soft corn, which is prevalent in the state.

Ten Killed When Bomb Explodes.

Milwaukee.—Ten persons were killed and several injured when a bomb, designed to destroy the Italian settlement exploded in central police station, where it had been carried for examination. The bomb, which was of scientific construction and evidently with a time fuse attached, was found in the basement of a church having a large foreign attendance.

Earnings Less Than Last Year

Washington.—Final compilations of railway earnings for September, completed by the interstate commerce commission, state the net revenue from operations was \$114,121,000, as compared with \$121,835,000 in September last year.

New Record at U. S. Treasury

Washington.—The crest of the tide of inflowing liberty loan dollars was reached when the net balance in the United States treasury showed the new high record of \$1,921,000,000. Most officials believe this mark will not be exceeded for several months, when the huge returns from income and excess profits taxes and from future liberty loans roll in although payments on the new issue of certificates of indebtedness, planned to counteract the tax returns, cannot be determined until after December 1.

Judgment Against Ex-Czar

New York.—A writ of attachment on the personal property here of Nicholas Romanoff, former emperor of Russia, was signed by State Supreme Court Justice Russell Benedict in a suit for \$2,800,000 brought against Mr. Romanoff by the Marine Transportation service corporation for alleged breach of contract. According to the attorney for the corporation, the former emperor has several million dollars worth of property in this city, mostly money in banks, which will be seized under writ as soon as located.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By REV. B. B. SUTCLIFFE, Extension Department, Moody Bible Institute.) (Copyright, 1917, Western Newspaper Union.)

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 2

NEHEMIAH BUILDS THE WALL OF JERUSALEM.

LESSON TEXT—Nehemiah 4:7-21. GOLDEN TEXT—The Lord is my Helper and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.—Hebrews 13:6.

The lesson of November 18 spoke of Nehemiah journeying to Jerusalem. After his arrival he spent three days in looking over the work; then he told the priests and other leaders his plans. Enthusiasm was awakened, all classes were aroused, the work of the building of the wall of the city was apportioned among the people, and soon half of the wall was completed "for the people had a mind to work."

I. The Wrath of the Enemy, vv. 7-9. The progress of the work kept up the anger of Sanballat the Horonite and his friends who formed an alliance to hinder the wall being built (vv. 7, 8). When God begins to work through his people, Satan is aroused and tries to interfere. It is no sign that a Christian is out of the will of God when opposition is felt. The enemy will always be on hand to try to hinder whenever a real work for God is going forward. Dead formal Christianity runs smoothly and with deadly monotony and Satan lets it alone, but as soon as some results of real work are seen, opposition is at once felt. Thus it was when God sent his Son into the world, and so it has been in every movement for God in the church, and so it will be in the individual Christian life. From the next verse (9) we would almost think that Nehemiah had heard our Lord's injunction to "watch and pray."

Many do much watching and fall; many do much praying and fall; but none ever turns to watching and praying without finding victory. Prayer alone means sloth; watching alone means pride; but watching and praying victory.

II. Internal Opposition, vv. 10-14.

Sanballat and his friends were not the only ones Nehemiah had to contend with. Among those that worked on the wall were some shirkers and grumblers. They had become discouraged in the work and began to say they could never complete it (v. 10). If Satan fails to hinder the work from the outside, he will attempt to create dissatisfaction on the inside. Internal confusion of the church is more to be dreaded than open opposition from a known enemy. Dissension and confusion in the church can usually be traced to workers becoming discouraged. The plot of the enemy to make a surprise attack was discovered by the Jews who lived outside the city. They reported it not once, but ten times, with the suggestion that the work on the wall be stopped, and safety sought by leaving the city altogether (vv. 11, 12). When the enemy's open opposition fails and discouragement has been tried, an attempt is made to bring fear upon the workers. But the Bible is full of exhortations for Christians to "fear not." Could these workers on the walls of Jerusalem have seen the unseen, it would have made little difference to them whether the enemies were numbered by tens or thousands, and could Christians today realize that God is for them, all opposition would be as nothing. (I Cor. 10:13; Rom. 8:31; Phil. 4:13). Nehemiah at once proceeded to allay the fears (13, 14). Armed forces were arranged about the walls to guard against the reported surprise attack. The warriors were placed so that in the event of battle they would be protecting their own particular families. Then Nehemiah made a short speech of encouragement to the people, the heart of which was "Remember the Lord which is great and terrible." Remembering him would drive the fear away. They who are on the Lord's side are already victors even before the battle has begun. Someone said to a great general before a certain battle began: "I hope the Lord is on our side." The reply was: "I trust we are on the Lord's side." When this is true, there need be no fear whether the enemies be few or many. Nehemiah then exhorted them to fight for their families and their homes. This two-fold secret of the victory is presented to us over and over in this book of Nehemiah, and nowhere is so prominent as in this lesson. Victory for the Christian depends on two things: We must trust in the Lord as though all depended on him, and we must work and fight as though all depended on us. This is the secret of the success of Nehemiah.

III. The Progress of the Work, (vv. 15-21).

The speech of Nehemiah having quieted the fears of the people and the enemy having heard that their plans were known and that God had brought their counsel to naught, all the people returned to the work with renewed enthusiasm and purpose (15). There was a rearrangement of forces (16-21). Half of the people worked; half, full armed, stood guard. A trumpeter was beside Nehemiah, so that at the first alarm from outside all the workers and warriors could be called to the threatened spot. Then they went ahead with building of the wall