



1—King and queen of Belgium being welcomed in the public square of Bruges by the burgomaster of the city. 2—"Mustered out" at Camp Dix; a scene that is being repeated at all the great army camps. 3—Col. Theodore Reinach, head of the French educational commission that is in America as guest of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

President Wilson to Sail Tuesday for Peace Conference in Paris.

WHOLE WORLD IN TURMOIL

Greatest Armed Struggle of History Has Shaken Whole Structure of Civilization—Change, Disorder and Fighting, Features of European Situation.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Unless the unexpected happens—which seems to be the rule rather than the exception nowadays—President Wilson will sail for the peace conference in Paris Tuesday on the George Washington, immediately after delivering his message to congress, which resumes Monday, Friday night President Wilson announced the appointment of the peace commission. He names himself as a member and will act as chairman during his stay of six weeks or more in Paris. Returning, he will be replaced by Secretary of War Baker; Secretary of State Lansing will succeed him as chairman. Other members of the commission are: Col. Edward M. House, the president's chief confidant; Henry White, formerly ambassador to Italy and France; Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, American military adviser of the supreme war council.

Those who criticize the president for going must admit that his temptation is great. Setting aside the fact that he may feel it his duty to attend, it is the literal truth that such a meeting of sovereigns, presidents, premiers, chancellors and high dignitaries of the nations of the earth the world has never seen. It is likely to be preceded by a grand review of designated units of the victorious armies and fleets. It will certainly be preceded by consultations of the heads of many nations. As to the conference itself, it has no parallel in history. And among these great ones of the earth, who will be more prominent than Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States of America, both by reason of his own activities in the world struggle and of the unique position of his country?

Moreover, Mr. Wilson will have an opportunity to be a modern Solomon to the many applicants for his personal aid. These appeals have come to him from victor and vanquished, from new nations and old, from the independent and from those seeking independence—from Turkey, Luxemburg, Austria, Germany, Russia, Ireland, Poland, Roumania; from the Jugo-Slavs and the Czechoslovaks. Turkey asks for United States administration of finances, etc.; Luxemburg for protection as a small independent state; Austria for occupation by American troops to prevent civil war among newly formed nations, and so on. Each request presents a different problem.

On the other hand, the peace conference faces the tremendous problem of reconstructing a world. Thrown without warning into the greatest armed struggle of all time, the nations emerge from the bloody conflict to find that it is not only the lands that have been trampled under foot that must be reconstructed, but that the whole structure of modern civilization has been shaken. Ancient institutions and time-honored traditions are overthrown. Mankind finds itself among civic and economic ruins. It will be too much to expect of human nature to count on this peace conference being entirely peaceful. It is more likely to be a rough-and-tumble affair.

There are many possibilities of trouble. Suppose our allies point out that America's traditional policy has been one of detachment from European affairs and that for two years and a half she observed neutrality and then suggest that she return to her detachment and allow the nations most intimately concerned to arrange a settlement. Suppose the fundamental principles of justice and right, given world-wide publicity as the things for which America was fighting and unofficially

accepted by our allies, are thrown overboard by the conference. Take but one of the many great questions, the "freedom of the seas." Nobody seems to know just what this means, but it needs no prophet to know that Great Britain regards her position as the dominant sea power of the world as a matter of life and death.

Of course Mr. Wilson is strong because he speaks for a nation that wants nothing for itself and holds the purse strings for the world. Yet who loves the player who comes into the game late and holds all the big cards?

Who will act as president during Mr. Wilson's absence? Opinions differ. G. W. Wickersham, attorney general in the Taft cabinet, says that the Constitution makes it mandatory upon Vice President Marshall to act as president because of the president's "inability to discharge the duties of said office." C. D. Hilles, former chairman of the Republican national committee, says that the Constitution does not cover the situation, as its makers did not contemplate the absence of the president. "The next in line," he says, "is the secretary of state, who is also going to Europe; then comes the secretary of the treasury, who has resigned." Still, there would seem to be no cause for worry, as the president intends to administer the office on board ship and in Paris. He says there are no constitutional difficulties and wireless and cable solve the physical problem. Besides, he leaves in Washington Secretary of War Baker, holding him to be the ranking member of the cabinet upon the retirement of Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo.

And what of the United States senate, "the most august body on earth"? Under the Constitution it is the duty of this august body to serve as adviser and counselor to the executive authority in the making of treaties and to act as a ratifying body. Certainly the senate will not do much advising and counseling; Mr. Wilson will be where he cannot be advised and counseled to any great extent. And as to ratification—the senate fears that will probably be about the same story.

Mr. McAdoo's resignation from the treasury department and from the directorship of railroads is naturally a topic of nation-wide discussion, for the reason that it appears to contain a concealed significance. He says he quits because the compensation is too small and his health is impaired by overwork. Some take his statement at its face value. Others who have seen in him a presidential candidate in the making, ready to receive the mantle of succession without flinching, think he quits because he does not care to be identified with what he considers the president's set purpose to impose government ownership or control on all public utilities in this country. They do not say that he has given up any presidential aspirations he may have had. They do say that recent government action has made the situation so acute that he was compelled to resign or to remain in office and help to formulate a policy which he does not approve. One thing is sure: Mr. McAdoo's resignation from the president's official family has set the whole country to discussing government ownership of public utilities. It is no new question, but it is one on which the American people have never passed. They have the right in times of peace to be heard on measures taken in war for the "duration of the war." They will insist on being heard.

It is understood in Washington that Bernard M. Baruch, chairman of the war industries board, has been offered the post of secretary of the treasury.

Change and disorder, if not actual fighting, are features of the European news. In southeastern Europe a million Austrian army deserters have established fortified camps in various districts; these and hordes of released prisoners are a menace. From Russia come reports of the assassination of Admiral Kolchak, dictator of Siberia, at Omsk; the wholesale massacre of Jews in Warsaw and parts of Galicia, and the massacre by the bolsheviks of former Russian officers in Petrograd. Polish troops have captured Lemberg, capital of Galicia, and Poles and Ukrainians have declared an armistice, looking toward President Wilson as arbitrator. Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia has been appointed regent of the Jugo-Slav state that is forming.

Roumania has dissolved its parliament and convened a constituent assembly. Roumanian Transylvania has declared its independence. Efforts to reinstate Emperor Karl are reported from Vienna. King Albert of Belgium has promised equal suffrage to his subjects.

The German government, it is stated, will invite President Wilson to visit Germany while he is in Europe. What is the German government? Nobody knows. The news sent out from Germany, even if true, simply confuses the situation. And is the news true? The German has proved himself the worst liar in all history. Can the leopard change his spots? The socialists are struggling among themselves for place and power. Are they making any progress toward a government that the allies can recognize? On the information at hand it is impossible to say. The feeling is growing that the allies will ultimately have to occupy Germany until order and government are restored.

Delayed reports show that the German line in front of the American army of occupation Sunday ran from Bitburg to Treves, Oberemmel, Oberzif and Losheim. Marshal Foch arrived in Strassburg Wednesday and reviewed the army of occupation. Twenty-eight German U-boats surrendered Sunday at Harwich and 27 Wednesday. The total to date is now 114. Included in the latest surrender is the noted submarine cruiser, Deutschland, which made two trips to the United States as a cargo ship before being converted and raiding shipping off the Atlantic coast.

Many indications of a purpose to extradite the former kaiser and try him for his crimes against civilization and humanity are seen in France and England. Even the extreme socialists in Germany express a desire to lay hands on him as a traitor to his country. Holland says he is there as a private citizen and that he must go if his presence becomes perilous to the country.

The total of 238,117 for the casualties of the American expeditionary forces, according to General Pershing's official report to the war department, is unexpectedly large. That 36,154 are classified as "killed and died of wounds" is proof that our brilliant victories during the latter days of the war were won by fierce fighting. The total of 179,625 "wounded" is believed to include many whose wounds were very slight. About 90,000 casualties have been furnished to the press to date. Casualties that occurred in late September and early October are being reported now. The delay is stated to be due to the inability of the cables to carry the lists. If from now on the lists average 3,000 a day, as promised, it will take about 50 days to complete publication in the newspapers.

Thirty divisions of American troops, approximately 1,200,000 men, will probably be kept in Europe for occupation purposes. This leaves about 1,000,000 men to be sent home as fast and as quickly as possible. It is likely to be a slow job.

The sentence of Thomas J. Mooney, sentenced to be hanged December 13 in connection with the deaths of ten persons from a bomb explosion in San Francisco during the Preparedness day parade July 22, 1916, has been commuted by Gov. W. D. Stephens to imprisonment for life. Mooney has been under sentence since February 24, 1917, and the legal fight to save him has made his case famous.

It is officially announced that total subscriptions in the United War Work campaign are \$203,179,008, or \$32,675,038 in excess of the amount asked by the seven war relief organizations. This is the largest sum ever raised in history as an outright gift. Its significance is tremendous. One reason for our strong position in European affairs is the general belief in our high ideals and the spiritual quality of our motives. To our Red Cross and other relief agencies is largely due this belief. Moreover, this campaign has brought Americans of all races and creeds closer together. Score a triumph for humanitarianism!

Chicago is staging a federal grand jury inquiry into food prices. It is announced that even the food administration will be investigated.

INCLUDE STATE UNITS

Men of the Old Fourth and Sixth Nebraska to Return With the Thirty-fourth Division.

Several units of Nebraska guardsmen will be included in the four army divisions and parts of eight others scheduled for an early return home from France by General Pershing. These troops, General March announced at Washington, will total 3,451 officers and 79,933 men. The Nebraska contingents include the 127th field artillery, formerly the 4th Nebraska regiment; 50th field artillery, including men from this state; 10th ammunition train, a part of the old Sixth Nebraska, and the 10th engineer, another unit of the Lucky Sixth. All the Nebraska units slated for early convey from France are a part of the 34th division.

In the opinion of Rate Expert N. G. Powell of the Nebraska railway commission, the rate schedule proposed by Director General McAdoo, and which the commission declined to approve, would place a heavy burden upon shippers of this state and would give Chicago, St. Louis and the other big wholesale centers outside of Nebraska more favorable rates for reaching the retail trade in this territory than the jobbers of Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, Norfolk and other Nebraska towns. From 15 to 18 per cent increase over freight rates now in effect in Nebraska, which in themselves are uniformly 25 per cent above the rates charged up to late July, would be involved in the McAdoo scale, Mr. Powell figures.

Nebraska tenants on the 100,000 acres of land owned by heirs of the late Lord William Skully are planning a collective strike if rents are raised, as threatened. This increase will amount to from 50 to 100 per cent to present rental. An organization of 225 tenants, living on 40,000 acres of the Skully land in Nebolt county, has been formed. Other county organizations will follow.

For the third time the date for the dedication of the new Dodge county courthouse has been set by the county board of supervisors. December 31 is now the time selected to formally dedicate the building.

Nebraska's road building program for 1919 calls for 752 miles to cost \$1,557,000, of which the federal government pays half and state and local authorities pay half, according to State Engineer Johnson.

One thousand miles, owned by the Italian government, will spend the winter in Fremont. As the Italian government does not need them now, they will be kept in Nebraska and shipped next spring.

The state supreme court has ruled that the suffrage referendum now being held up in the Lancaster county district court, may be submitted at the next state election, if the petition is found sufficient.

When the government edict closing all breweries and malt beverage plants became effective Nov. 30, to save grain, four big plants in Omaha, valued at \$6,000,000, and employing 1,500 persons, shut down.

Fire believed to have been caused by a defective flue completely destroyed the modern rural school at Buda, Buffalo county, entailing a loss of about \$7,000.

Demobilization of the students army training camp at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, which started the first of the month, will be completed about Dec. 26.

Miss Annie King, one of the wealthiest young women in western Nebraska, has sold her interest in the King and Murray ranch, near Alliance, for \$50,000.

The run of hogs at the South Omaha market during the past month was 280,487 head, or 93,000 head more than during November a year ago.

Douglas county plans to float a good roads bond issue of \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000, with which to pave every road leading out of Omaha.

After having been at a standstill for more than a year, work has been resumed on Kearney's new hotel building.

All restrictions on the sale and use of sugar have been withdrawn by the state food administration.

Business men of Alliance have formed an association having for its purpose the furthering of the "own your home" movement. A fund has been raised for the purpose of advancing money to people who desire to construct homes.

Miss May Pershing, sister of General John J. Pershing, will christen the American ship which Lincoln has the privilege of naming as the result of the city's record in the Fourth Liberty loan. The vessel will be named "The City of Lincoln."

Before the smallest Thanksgiving crowds in the history of the game of football at the State University at Lincoln, the Cornhuskers and the Notre Dame teams battled throughout the entire contest without either side scoring.

A number of north Nebraska towns are planning Fourth of July celebrations. Because the soldiers are expected to return home in small groups it is impossible to give home coming receptions to all and they have decided that the Fourth of July would be a suitable time for this event.

A war department announcement reveals that Nebraska soldiers were in four of the forty-one combat divisions on various fronts, November 7. The 89th—Funston—division, was at Tully and St. Dizier. This is made up of the first draft men from Nebraska. The 88th division from Camp Dodge, which contains many men from this state, was at Montreaux Chateau and Is-sur-Tille. The 34th—Sandstorm—division, composed of former Nebraska and Iowa national guardsmen, and formerly stationed at Camp Cody, was at Castros.

Nebraska potash men are awaiting with interest the result of the recent conference in Washington between Secretary Lane, Bernard Baruch, chairman of the war industries board, and Vance McCormick of the war trade board, on the policy of the government toward the potash business. Nearly \$10,000,000 worth of potash is in storage in the country, awaiting fixing of a price. Sixty per cent of this amount was produced in western Nebraska.

The yield of winter and spring wheat in Nebraska this year is estimated to be 28,400,000 bushels more than last year and 24,000,000 below normal production. Last year's yield was 12,900,000 bushels. Acreage of wheat is estimated to be 4,500,000 greater than last year. Quality will be much better. Railroad crops experts say all wheat will be marketable.

A new series of war savings stamps will be placed on sale early in 1919. They will have a maturity date of January 1, 1924, and will undoubtedly be issued on the same terms and in the same manner as the series of 1918. Even though peace is assured, heads of the War Savings campaign in Nebraska urge the stamps be kept on sale for at least another year.

Insurgents of the Nebraska State Teachers' association, opposed to holding the annual convention in Omaha, are scheduled to meet December 26 at Hastings under the name of the Nebraska Educational association. The date is the same as the opening day of the annual meeting of the Nebraska State Teachers' association in Omaha.

It is estimated that Nebraska's best sugar crop, produced by the four big factories in the western part of the state, will aggregate 100,000,000 pounds. The acreage planted to sugar beets this year was the largest ever reported. The yield averaged twelve to fifteen tons to the acre. The growers are getting around \$10 a ton.

In the face of an official ruling by Attorney General Willis E. Reed that school boards cannot pay the 13,000 Nebraska teachers out of school during the state influenza quarantine, State Superintendent W. H. Clemmons has issued an order to all boards to pay teachers in full.

Preparations are being made at Omaha for a fitting welcome and entertainment for Nebraska troops when they return from service overseas. It is probable that men from this district will be mustered out at Omaha.

A Douglas county representative-elect is preparing a bill to introduce at the coming session of the state legislature to make all public school buildings in Nebraska available for community gatherings.

W. T. Fagan, former bandmaster at the State Industrial School at Geneva, who was convicted of a crime against a girl at the institution, was sentenced to one year in the state prison.

Nebraska's Red Cross rooster, which has been sold and resold at auction until he raised \$55,850 for the Red Cross, finally has been disposed of to Jack Finnegan of Fremont for \$10.

The national convention of the Farmers' Equity union will be held in Omaha December 18 and 19. Two hundred delegates are expected.

The coming session of the Nebraska legislature, which opens January 21, promises to be an exceedingly interesting one.

It is estimated that about 35,000 Nebraska boys were enrolled in the United States Boys' Working Reserve last month.

Roscoe (Dusty) Rhodes of Ansley, university of Nebraska football star, was killed in action October 24.

Omaha will hold its annual automobile show, the dates having been set for February 24 to March 1.

December 15 to 18 the Nebraska Farmers' congress will convene in the Castle hotel at Omaha.

Dana Mutz, editor of the Utica Sun, succumbed to the dreaded influenza. He was a popular young man in the community, having been fuel administrator, chairman of the four-minute men and a member of the home guard.

Valuation of 85,711 acres of state school lands in Keith, Rock and Red Willow county has been increased \$76,100, by action of the state board of educational lands and funds. This adds \$4,566 to the state school revenue.

Joe Stecher, Nebraska's champion wrestler, and Wladek Zbyszko wrestled for an hour without either being able to gain a fall in the war drive benefit show at Madison Square Garden, New York.

A plan is on foot in Hamilton county to construct, as a memorial for the country's soldiers and sailors, a public auditorium at Aurora, on the walls of which will be placed the names of the Hamilton county men. Of the 500 young men who went from Hamilton county, 14 have fallen in battle or died in camp.

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Up to Date. Secretary Lane, speaking of the way in which the war has changed our viewpoint of life, tells the following: They were to be married shortly and now they were sitting in the study meditating on the blissfulness of futurity.

"Algy," said the girl suddenly, "every morn you bring me violets which at even you have culled, don't you?" "I do," responded the ever faithful, "let them cost what they will."

"I've been thinking," continued the girl, "that if you would send beef-steaks and mutton chops instead it would make a lot bigger bill with father and mother, and be a lot cheaper for you, too."

Casus Belli. "I fear these two citizens are having a warm argument about the war." "You are mistaken. Each is trying to convince the other that he has the better furnace." "Is that anything to quarrel about?" "It wouldn't be if they had the same make, but they haven't, and since each one regards himself as an authority on heat units, hostilities are liable to begin at any moment."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Its Variety. She (coldly)—Have you a family tree? He (enthusiastically)—Yes, and it's a peach!

No man can always do his best, but he can always keep trying to.

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