



1—Aeromarine seaplane taking on a bag of late foreign mail for delivery to the steamer Adriatic, which had left New York for Europe several hours before. 2—Sale of surplus army food in the New York custom house to employees. 3—Senator Thomas of Colorado who denounced as "nothing short of treason" the demands of the railway brotherhoods.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Relations With Mexico Strained When U. S. Troops Cross Border in Chase of Bandits.

CARRANZA PROTEST FUTILE

President Wilson Discusses Peace Treaty With Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Without Visible Result—Progress of the War on Frontiers and Hoarders.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Relations with Mexico flared up again alarmingly last week and the amateur and unofficial prophets freely predicted that we would be at war with our southern neighbor within a short time. Once more American troops have crossed the border, without asking permission of Carranza, for the purpose of capturing Mexicans who have committed outrages against American citizens and for whose actions the whiskered one says he cannot be held responsible.

The capture and holding for ransom of the two army aviators who had lost their way was the act of a small band of bandits, but the administration at Washington shows a growing inclination to step across the border and "clean things up" if the federal government of Mexico cannot do the job. It appears that a stern warning was issued some time ago to Carranza, to which he replied at length, stating that his government would do and was doing all in its power to protect the lives and property of foreigners in Mexico. In this case of the captured aviators—who were released on payment of part of the ransom—federal troops were sent after the offenders. The American punitive expedition consisted of part of the Eighth cavalry, aided by some army flyers. They caught two bandits and killed four others who opened fire on them when surrounded.

Under instructions from his government, Ambassador Bonillas entered protest against the "invasion" and demanded the immediate withdrawal of the troops. The reply, drafted by President Wilson, was a flat refusal to comply with the demand. The press of Mexico City was aroused to loud protest. One or two of the papers there, however, realize the seriousness of the situation that has been created by the numerous outrages against foreigners and admit that unless Carranza radically changes his policies he will invite disaster to himself and to Mexico.

In the United States indignation is by no means confined to the border states or to those who have suffered, financially or otherwise, at the hands of the Mexicans. The demand is general that our government give to American citizens everywhere the full protection to which they are entitled, and there is a feeling that unless it does so our membership in the League of Nations would be farcical.

Which brings us to the second great event of the week, the unprecedented meeting of the senate committee on foreign relations with President Wilson in the White House for the elucidation of many points in connection with the peace treaty and league covenant. In accordance with the desires of both parties, the entire proceedings were given full publicity, but a study of them and of the subsequent comments of the participants does not show that much was accomplished in the way of removing the obstacles to ratification of the treaty. Mr. Wilson made a long preliminary statement to the senators and then answered their many questions with all frankness. His position regarding interpretations and reservations might be summarized thus: If ordinary common sense is used in reading the treaty and covenant they are unnecessary; if they merely accompany the act of ratification there is no objection to them; but if they are made a part of the resolution of ratification, long delays would result because all

the other nations would have to be asked to accept the language of the senate as the language of the treaty; it would be especially humiliating to have to ask the assent of the German national assembly. Senator Fall called the president's attention to the fact that Germany is not to be an original member of the league and consequently any amendments to the covenant proposed before her administration would not be submitted to her. Mr. Wilson admitted this was true and that the point had not occurred to him, but he insisted that Germany already has a relationship to the league and that it was the plan to admit her immediately.

As for article 10, the crux of the whole fight, President Wilson interpreted it as follows: If the league calls on the United States to send troops abroad to preserve the territorial integrity of another member state from external aggression, the United States will be under an absolutely compelling moral obligation, though not a legal obligation, to comply. But the league cannot call on the United States for such aid unless the American member votes his approval in accord with American public sentiment.

After it was all over, Senator Hitchcock said the president had clarified many involved questions in a wonderful manner and that speedy ratification would be the result. Senator Lodge said Mr. Wilson had not given them much real information and that the admissions he had made had vindicated the criticisms leveled at the league covenant. Between these extremes stand the "mild reservationists." To capture their votes, Senator Pittman of Nevada took the reservations they advocate, called them "interpretations or understandings," and put them into a resolution which he presented to the senate for its adoption apart from the resolution of ratification. He asserted that he was acting in the president's approval, whereupon Senator Hitchcock, administration leader, felt himself ignored and showed that Pittman's resolution was not much to his liking. The opponents of the covenant were brutally outspoken in condemning the resolution. In the course of the lively debate Mr. Pittman admitted that the League of Nations was "hardly more than a meeting place where the consensus of the civilized world may be obtained and its moral force brought to bear."

"If you'll write that into the league covenant there will be no difficulty about its ratification," interrupted Senator Reed of Missouri (Dem.).

Paris correspondents predict that the peace conference will adjourn within two or three weeks and that when it reassembles in November or December the United States will not be represented unless in the meantime the senate shall have ratified the treaty and decided that we shall accept mandates. The work for the conference after it reconvenes will be the partition of Turkey and the settlement of the Thracian and Adriatic questions. If the United States does not take part in these, both Italy and Greece expect to win their demands, for the Americans are now their only opponents. As to Thrace, the American delegation insists on the creation of a buffer state that will give Bulgaria access to the sea. The Greeks and Turks, who make up the bulk of the population of Dedeagatch district, involved in this plan, are bitterly opposed to the continuation of anything like Bulgarian rule there and are reported to be preparing to resist it by arms. It is not the intention of the peace conference to leave any part of Thrace in the possession of Bulgaria.

The council of five hopes that the Austrian treaty will be signed within a week. It also is feeling optimistic about Hungary, where a new coalition cabinet has been formed, and thinks it may soon be able to recognize the government at Budapest and present the Hungarian treaty for signature.

The week's news from Russia was somewhat more encouraging, for Admiral Kolchak appeared to have stopped his retreat and to have checked the pursuing bolsheviks. The red forces were ousted from Odessa, and lost ground in some other regions. In the Gulf of Finland a British fleet encountered a number of

bolshevik vessels and sank four of them, thereafter concentrating against Kronstadt. The fortress was bombarded and the city set on fire.

The situation in Upper Silesia is confused and confusing. The Germans and the Poles are fighting each other in a desultory fashion there, and both are contending with the striking workers of the country who have become so violent that the German authorities proclaimed martial law.

The new German constitution has just gone into effect, and a summary of it has been made public in America. It seems to be in most respects an admirable document, designed to establish and maintain a moderate and commendable form of republican government, more strongly centralized than our own. The powers of the president are very great. The equality of all men and women before the law is asserted, and titles of nobility are abolished except as a part of a person's name. It is noticeable, however, that Germany is still called an empire. It may be added, as a matter of interest, that the former kaiser has just bought a place of residence in Holland, and that current reports of his fast falling health are flatly contradicted by a correspondent who sees William nearly every day.

Uncle Sam's war against the profiteers and hoarders went on steadily if not so swiftly as the victims of the H. C. of L. might have hoped. The ultimate consumer hailed with enthusiasm the assertion by Attorney General Palmer that the small retailers and the wholesalers are going to feel the heavy hand of the department of justice. He appeared before the house committee on agriculture to discuss proposed amendments to the food control act, and argued against a provision that would exempt from prosecution as profiteers those retailers who do an annual business below \$100,000. Many of the complaints of extortionate prices, he said, are against the small dealers and he added he would feel hopeless if he were restricted to the larger dealers. Mr. Palmer also asked the committee to withdraw the proposed provision giving the president authority to fix prices. This, he said, he considered unnecessary and calculated to provoke too much discussion. The only amendments he favored were one extending the scope of the act to include wearing apparel and containers of foods, feeds and fertilizers, and one imposing a penalty of \$5,000 or imprisonment for two years for profiteering.

The great quantities of foodstuffs which have been seized in various cities by the agents of the department of justice will not be placed on the market until proper court proceedings have been completed. Meanwhile the government is disposing of its vast surplus army stores practically at cost, and the way in which hundreds of thousands of people struggle for a chance to buy these commodities is sufficient evidence of their need.

The actors' strike, after spreading to Chicago, became so stubborn a struggle there that the unions of musicians and stage hands were called on for help, with the result that nearly every theater was obliged to close. Efforts to end the strike amenable in New York were fruitless, and it was said there it might be extended to cover the entire country and all hall shows, including the movies.

Within a week there probably will be a conference between the officials of the steel workers' unions and representatives of the United States Steel corporation. If it is refused by the latter, a committee headed by Samuel Gompers is empowered to call a strike forthwith. The corporation maintains the open shop, and the unions wish to present to it a rather portentous list of 12 basic demands.

Cudahy, Wis., and Hammond, Ind., were the scenes of strike riots and state troops were hurried to both places to restore order, which they did.

The farmers have won their fight against daylight saving, for although the rest of the population is unanimous in its favor, the bill for repeal of the law was passed by both house and senate over the veto of President Wilson.

NEWS NOTES OF INTEREST TO EVERYONE IN NEBRASKA

The State Railway Commission has received a communication from J. J. Welch, Omaha grain man, in which he says farmers of the western part of Nebraska face the possibility of losing great quantities of wheat unless railroads adopt some new method for moving the grain. He states that thousands of acres of wheat are still in the bundle stage of preparation, and that farmers are frantic in their efforts to get it marketed. They are paying truckmen from one and a half to two cents a bushel and more to get the wheat to town. Every elevator is full to the roof and only an occasional car comes along for loading.

Unmistakable evidence of the working of an incendiary, whose purpose was to burn the wheat crop on the W. H. Grassmeyer farm, near Riverdale, and destroy the threshing outfit working there, was discovered by Sheriff Funk. Boxes of matches were hidden in the bundles of grain which were to be threshed and matches were widely scattered over various parts of the field. Pieces of steel, old bars, etc., were also hidden in the grain bundles, evidently with the deliberate intention of crippling the threshing machinery. Grassmeyer gave the principal evidence which resulted in the internment of the German pastor, Kraudels.

According to figures furnished by Secretary W. H. Osborne of the state board of equalization, from county assessors' returns, the supply of corn on hand in Nebraska at assessment time fell from 45,493,000 a year ago, to 17,749,000 this year, slumping in aggregate value from \$50,000,000 to \$25,000,000, the report says.

York will not wait until the last Sunday in October to turn back the clocks to normal. A petition submitted to the city council and signed by virtually all business men of the city asking the adoption of the old time met with immediate favor. The clocks go back next week.

The highest price ever paid for a large tract of farm land in Boone county was paid Max Wolf of Wolf Brothers for 180 acres east of Allbon. The purchaser is R. P. Peterson of Platte county, and the price was \$800 an acre.

A prairie fire which started about twenty miles west of Alliance burned over more than a thousand acres of valuable range and hay meadow, also a quantity of hay in stack, before it was put under control.

Wheat threshing is now in progress in the extreme northwestern part of the state, with winter wheat yielding from 10 to 18 bushels to the acre and spring wheat from 8 to 15 bushels to the acre.

An epidemic of anthrax exists among cattle in northern Cedar county, some raisers having lost as high as twenty-five head. A campaign to combat the plague has already been started.

The Yankee Girls at Gibbon have erected a large arrow pointing to a beautiful park and inviting automobile tourists on the Lincoln highway to stop there and camp.

Assessors' reports on grain and grain valuation reaching the state board at Lincoln show Valley county with 987,726 bushels of popcorn, valued at over two million dollars.

John Krause, for the last fifty years known as the potato king of Nebraska, died at Alliance, following injuries received from an explosion of gasoline.

The school board of Sidney has let a contract for the construction of a new grade school. The building will cost \$32,000.

Contract has been awarded for the construction of the McCook-Bartley Federal Aid highway. The contract calls for the expenditure of \$95,000.

Frank Mills, Nebraska division commander of Sons of Veterans, organized the T. F. Powers camp No. 37 at Chadron.

Eating too much sand caused the death of \$1,000 worth of hogs owned by R. C. Johnson, Saunders county farmer.

A \$15,000 water extension bond proposition carried at a special election at Ord by a margin of barely ten votes.

When school opens at Aurora two new modern ward buildings, which cost around \$100,000, will be occupied. A quarter section farm near Stella was rented the other day for \$2,000 cash per year.

J. L. Jacobs, Chicago efficiency expert, is at the state house at Lincoln, helping the new departments under the code law get started in an efficient manner.

The selection of candidates for the constitutional convention to be voted upon at the November 4 election was completed without the necessity of a primary in all but twenty-seven districts. This means that in fifty districts there will be no primary and the candidates filed will be the men from whom the voters will choose their delegates at the regular election.

The Tecumseh home guard company has bought a bronze memorial tablet for the soldiers, sailors and marines of Johnson county. Raised letters will give the names of all the men of the county in the world war, with those who made the supreme sacrifice duly prominent.

The University of Nebraska withdrew from the Missouri Valley conference when the governing board of the conference, in session at Kansas City, refused Nebraska permission to play a football game at Omaha this fall.

News that both houses of congress passed the repeal of the daylight saving law over the president's second veto was received with a great deal of satisfaction in virtually all sections of Nebraska. When the clocks go back to normal time, the last Sunday in October, the practice will be a thing of the past. The fight for the repeal of the measure has been centered in the middle west and to the churches and women's organizations goes much credit for its discontinuance.

Frank C. Crocker of Filley, president of the state farm bureau, who recently took up with Congressman McLaughlin, of the Fourth district, the matter of continuing the federal employment bureau at Lincoln, has received word from the congressman stating that the Lincoln bureau will be continued by federal aid alone. The bureau handles farm labor for the state and only recently it had been stated that it would discontinue owing to insufficient funds.

One hundred thousand pounds of government food has been purchased by Aurora for distribution to people of the city at cost. Aurora is the first town in Nebraska outside of Omaha and Lincoln to take advantage of Uncle Sam's offer to sell surplus army food supplies.

Tox Butte county is planning the erection of a soldiers' memorial hall at Alliance in honor of the soldiers of all wars. Petitions for calling an election to finance the enterprise are now being circulated and are receiving enthusiastic support.

Nebraska garage men and auto dealers, who buy cars with mutilated engine numbers and other identifications, will be prosecuted, according to Gus Hyers, chief state law enforcement agent, running down stolen automobiles.

Figures submitted at a high cost of living investigation conducted at Omaha revealed that at the present time 7,853,121 pounds of foodstuffs are stored in ware houses in the Nebraska metropolis.

C. C. Smith of Montrose, Cal., has been made city manager of Alliance. He will have complete charge of the fire and police departments, streets and alleys, the light and water department, the library and the city park.

The Salvation Army will put on a drive Sept. 21-27, to raise \$500,000 in Nebraska. The aim of the Salvation Army is to raise \$15,000,000 in the United States to carry on reconstruction work for home service.

It is reported that thousands of bushels of wheat in Perkins and surrounding counties are rotting in the fields because the growers cannot get help to stack it and the elevator men have no room to receive it.

Chair Fowler, the 5-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Fowler of Gordon, was instantly killed on a Gordon street crossing when he was run down by an automobile driven by William Margrave of Falls City.

Dr. Lincoln Riley of Wisner, crack shot of the Nebraska rifle team, won the "expert in marksmanship" medal at the navy range, Caldwell, N. J., by scoring 47 out of 50 points on the 1,000-yard range.

The preliminary plans for the new \$100,000 science building for the Peru state normal, have been accepted and the board will be able to advertise for bids shortly, it is thought.

While excavating for a dwelling at Wahoo Russell Johnson unearthed a skull of an Indian, along with a stone pipe highly polished and adorned and several other trinkets.

According to figures released by the U. S. geological survey of the \$21,500,000 worth of potash produced in this country in 1918, \$15,000,000 was contributed by Nebraska.

E. W. Nelson of Lincoln was elected second vice president of the retailer credit men's national association at the close of the seventh annual convention at St. Paul, Minn.

The Beatrice Electric company has requested the city commissioner for an increase of 20 per cent in rates as result of increases in the price of coal and labor.

All business houses in Wahoo were closed during the funeral services for Henry Edward Winter, banker and pioneer of the city, who died suddenly.

Rev. M. N. Davis, for two years pastor of the Baptist church in Stella, has accepted a call from the Palestine Baptist church in Platte county.

Preparations are to be made at Gibbon before the snow flies for the laying of twenty-one blocks of paving early next spring.

The school board of Ashland has advertised for bids on a new \$125,000 school house, which it plans to complete next year.

General Pershing has been asked to attend the Ak-Sar-Ben festivities at Omaha, September 24 to October 4. Applications coming into G. A. R. state headquarters at Lincoln indicate that more than 1,200 persons will journey from Nebraska to the national encampment at Columbus, O., September 7 to 14.

After making all preparations for voting on a \$40,000 sewer bond proposition the city authorities of Ord discovered they were working under a law vetoed by the governor. The election was called off.

Lutherans of Nebraska are planning a campaign to raise \$500,000 to make further improvements for Midland college, which has recently moved from Atchison, Kas., to Fremont.

The state government has launched its investigation of profiteering, hoarding, waste and other illegal causes of the high cost of living. The probe started in Omaha last week with Leo Stuhr, secretary of the state department of agriculture, and Attorney General C. A. Davis in charge. Similar hearings will be held at Lincoln and other Nebraska cities.

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