

LAST ROUMANIAN DANUBE PORT NOW AT TEUTON MERCY

German Forces Follow Retreating Russians and Rumanians Along Whole Eastern Line.

FIVE TOWNS OCCUPIED

Berlin Reports Heavy Fighting South of Riga and Nine Hundred Prisoners Captured.

TURKS REPULSE BRITISH

Along a 100-mile front in southeastern Moldavia the troops of the central powers are slowly pressing the retreating Russians and Rumanians back upon the line of the Sereth river.

The Sereth has been reached by the troops of Field Marshal von Mackensen at two points between Fokshani and Galatz, the last Rumanian port on the Danube, and which is reported under the fire of German guns.

From the Uzul valley to Galatz the Austro-Germans have been successful at several points and have compelled the Russians and Rumanians to retire before their attacks. At one point in the Uzul valley the Russians were victorious in a battle for the possession of a height.

Heavy fighting is reported in the region of Soveia in the Sutchiza valley, about ten miles inside the Moldavian frontier. South of the Trotsy valley the Austro-Germans in their latest advance have taken 300 prisoners.

Mackensen Takes Five Towns.

In southern Moldavia Field Marshal von Mackensen followed up his capture of Braila with the occupation of five towns south of the Sereth and between Fokshani and Galatz. North of Braila Petrograd admits that the Russians and Rumanians have retired across the Sereth.

Severe fighting has taken place around Riga, at the northern end of the long eastern front. German forces, Berlin says, were successful in engagements south of Riga and near the river Aa, capturing 900 prisoners and several machine guns. Russian attacks farther south along the Dvina river failed.

Russian troops, says Petrograd, were successful in combats west of Riga, taking 275 prisoners and one battery.

British Enter German Trench.

There has been little activity along the rest of the eastern front, except in the Carpathians, where a Russian attack in the region of Kirilbaba was repulsed.

North of the river Ancre, in northern France, British troops in a night attack entered a German advanced trench. Northeast of Verdun a German raid was made into the French lines. Artillery engagements are taking place at other points on this front.

An attack by a strong British force against Turkish positions near Inam Muhamed, on the Tigris front, was repulsed with heavy losses, Constantinople reports, and the British retired to their trenches.

East of Hamadan, in Persia, the Turks repulsed a Russian attack with severe casualties. Near Sakbiz Russian attacks were also repulsed by the Turks.

Best Man Murders Bridesmaid Who Refused to Wed Him

Chicago, Jan. 6.—Joseph Soboj did not understand that a custom in Poland that the principal attendants of a bridal couple at a wedding will themselves be married at an early date is not necessarily a custom in Chicago.

Consequently Miss Celia Rudon is dead, and Soboj is held by the police on a charge of killing her. Miss Rudon was bridesmaid at a Polish wedding six months ago, at which Soboj was best man. Subsequently he proposed matrimony. Her refusal cost her her life, for the rejected best man hid under her home and shot her as she walked by, the police said. Then Soboj fired two shots at himself. When after a few moments of unconsciousness it was discovered that he had merely cut holes in his shirt, the destination of the ambulance in which he was riding was changed from the hospital to the police station.

The Weather

For Nebraska—Fair and somewhat colder. Temperature at Omaha yesterday.

| Hour | Deg. |
|----------|------|
| 5 a. m. | 35 |
| 6 a. m. | 35 |
| 7 a. m. | 35 |
| 8 a. m. | 35 |
| 9 a. m. | 35 |
| 10 a. m. | 37 |
| 11 a. m. | 37 |
| 12 m. | 41 |
| 1 p. m. | 41 |
| 2 p. m. | 45 |
| 3 p. m. | 45 |
| 4 p. m. | 44 |
| 5 p. m. | 44 |
| 6 p. m. | 42 |
| 7 p. m. | 40 |
| 8 p. m. | 40 |
| 9 p. m. | 40 |
| 10 p. m. | 40 |
| 11 p. m. | 40 |
| 12 m. | 40 |

Comparative Local Records
1917. 1916. 1915. 1914.

Highest yesterday. 45 22 32 28
Lowest yesterday. 34 12 27 23
Mean temperature. 40 31 35 34
Precipitation. 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00

Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal at Omaha since March 1, and compared with the last two years:
Normal temperature. 31
Excess for the day. 9
Total excess since March 1. 238
Normal precipitation. 42 inch
Deficiency for the day. 0.02 inch
Total deficiency since March 1. 12.45 inches
Deficiency since March 1. 12.45 inches
Deficiency for cor. period, 1915. 1.98 inches
Deficiency for cor. period, 1914. 3.35 inches

FIXING IDENTITY OF MRS. BARRETT

California Woman Murdered by Her Husband May Have Been Involved in Colorado Murder.

CRIME SIXTEEN YEARS AGO

Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 6.—Irene Barrett, alleged to have been murdered with her son, Raymond Wright, by her husband, Benton Barrett, aged, San Monica rancher, was said today by Dr. L. L. Clock to be a Mrs. Myrtle Wright, implicated in a mysterious death in Colorado, by which she collected \$30,000 insurance.

Dr. Clock, held in the county jail, charged with a statutory crime, identified a photograph of Mrs. Barrett as that of Mrs. Wright. Barrett's attorneys contend that the woman and her son are alive.

Clock Tells His Story.
Dr. Clock said he was called to a hotel in Pagosa Springs, Colo., in 1901, where he found Mrs. Wright and a man, Neff, beside the body of George Barber, who left Webster City, Ia., to accompany the woman to Colorado. Barber was dead. He said the circumstances were such that he reported the case to the authorities.

The body was exhumed and an autopsy and examination of the heart in Denver showed the presence of poison. Mrs. Wright and Neff were held for a time, but released, when it was shown that death would have occurred without the poison, which might have been used as a stimulant.

Collected the Insurance.
The woman collected \$30,000 insurance. Dr. Clock said, and left with Neff. Six years later Dr. Clock received an inquiry from a Pueblo lodge, asking for the address of Mrs. Wright, to whom a lodge member who had died, left his insurance.

Barrett was arrested and charged with murder, when he was taken to the district attorney's office, October 21, 1916, by his attorney, and confessed he killed his wife and stepson three days before and burned their bodies in the yard of his ranch. Bones were found, but experts disagreed as to whether they were those of either or both of the victims.

Several witnesses were said to have been found by the defense, who had seen Mrs. Barrett and her son after the time of the alleged murder. None of these was called at Barrett's preliminary hearing, when he was held for trial March 7.

Confesses to Killing.
Barrett in his confession said he killed his wife and stepson when they attacked him. Barrett carried some insurance, payable to his wife, but not enough, according to the police, to have tempted his wife to kill him. Barrett, it was found, had shown disapproval of other men's attentions to his wife.

The defense advanced several theories to reconcile Barrett's confession with the theory his two victims were alive. One of these was that Barrett was hypnotized.

Death of Barber.
Pagosa Springs, Colo., Jan. 6.—A man named George Barber died in a Pagosa Springs hotel in November, 1900, under strange circumstances. Myrtle A. Wright and W. P. Neff, who brought him to this city, were arrested and charged with administering poison to him. A Sioux City life insurance company is said to have lost heavily by Barber's death.

After a delay of many weeks the charges against Mrs. Wright and Neff were dismissed. Barber was still when he arrived in Pagosa Springs it was necessary to carry him from the train to the hotel, where he died next day. Mrs. Wright set up a claim for Barber's insurance, alleging she was his fiancée and that their marriage had been delayed by Barber's illness.

December 17, 1900, the day the inquest was to be held, the prosecuting attorney sprang a surprise by announcing that instead of holding the inquest he would file information against Myrtle R. Wright and W. P. Neff, charging them with committing murder by administration of poison. Despite objection by the counsel for the two they were held in \$7,000 bond for the preliminary hearing, which was set for ten days later. Neither was able to furnish bond.

Doctor Seward reported to the Odd Fellows' Annuity Life Insurance association of Des Moines, in which Barber had \$2,800 worth of insurance, that Barber undoubtedly came to his death by the administration of an organic poison. The company spent \$1,100 or more investigating the case.

Mrs. Wright formerly was Nettie Sears. After her marriage to Al Wright of Sterling, Colo., she lived in that town several years.

FEDERAL FARM LOAN BANK BOOKS WILL OPEN SOON

Next Year Will Lay Date Fixed for Who Desire to Take Stock in New Financial Institutions.

CONTINUE THIRTY DAYS

Collector of Internal Revenue Sent Here Designated as the Receiving Officer.

CASH MUST ACCOMPANY

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

Washington, Jan. 6.—(Special Telegram.)—The federal farm loan board has announced that subscription books for the sale of stock for the twelve federal land banks will be opened simultaneously in all of the twelve cities next Wednesday, January 10. Under the terms of the farm loan act this stock is to remain on sale thirty days. The books will close February 9, and immediately thereafter the secretary of the treasury, on behalf of the United States, will subscribe to all of the remaining unsold stock. Each bank will be capitalized at \$750,000. The shares will be \$5 each.

George W. Norris, farm loan commissioner, has sent subscription books and subscription blanks to each of the cities, and notices will be posted in all of the federal buildings of the twelve cities advertising the stock for sale.

The collector of internal revenue, George L. Loomis, has been designated to receive subscriptions for the Omaha bank, and in whose custody the stock books will remain for thirty days. Subscriptions may also be made direct to the federal farm loan board, Washington. Each subscription must be accompanied by cash or a certified check equal to 20 per cent of the subscription, the balance to be paid upon the issuance of the stock.

Nebraskans in Evidence.

The republican members of congress from Nebraska were considerably in evidence yesterday during the consideration of the agricultural appropriation bill. Mr. Reavis took occasion to say a number of pleasant things about the farmer whom he said was engaged in working, not only to keep starvation from the people of the United States, but from the world at large.

Mr. Sloan spoke at length on the dairy situation, while Mr. Kinkaid announced the amendment in the bill, providing appropriation for the Nebraska national forest and giving the secretary of agriculture authority to acquire lands by purchase, or condemnation adjacent to the Niobrara division of the Nebraska national forest, suitable for nursery sites, to be used for the purpose of growing trees for planting on the Nebraska national forest.

Colonel W. F. Cody Is Reported Dying By His Physician

Glenwood Springs, Colo., Jan. 6.—The condition of Colonel William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) took a turn for the worse early today and his physician announced he was hurrying the colonel back to Denver.

"Colonel Cody is slowly nearing the end and cannot recover from his present illness," Dr. W. W. Cook, in attendance, announced.

Colonel Cody came to this resort this week in the hope of recovering his health. He suffered a nervous collapse last night and, as a result, his mental faculties are in a serious condition, according to Dr. Cook.

Elector Lightner Of Columbus Quits; Byrnes Succeeds

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

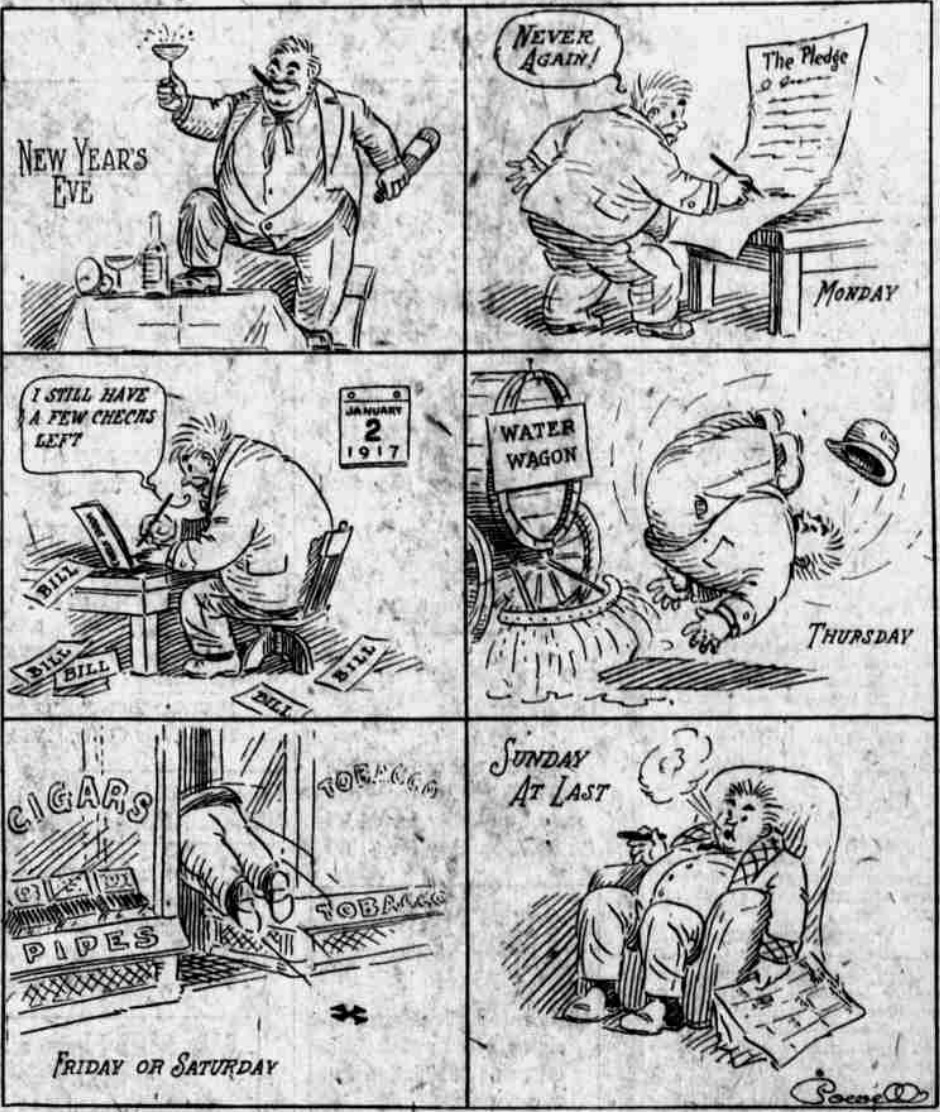
Lincoln, Jan. 6.—(Special Telegram.)—Democratic electors met at the office of Governor Neff at noon today and organized, with W. M. Morning of Lincoln chairman and Otto Baumann of Omaha secretary. Louis Lightner of Columbus was present and presented his resignation as an elector and the remaining electors filled the vacancy by electing John C. Byrnes of Columbus in his place. The electors will meet Monday to select the messenger to carry the vote to Washington.

Prisoners in County Jail to Read Much-Censored Newspapers

The British war office censors see to it that the prisoners do not get a chance to con over such choice bits of scandal, stories of crime and certain other items as delight seekers of the sensational in the outside world. Just as a prisoner starts to read a story to the effect that the so-and-so club is agitating a reform in social circles and advising officials to take some action in regards thereto, he'll encounter a black space where the censorship board of one has been at work.

Nevertheless the county prisoners will be allowed to read all the weighty editorials they want to and can at least keep up with the prospects-for-peace situation, the H. C. of L. Lumbles and, perchance, Tom Lawson's latest leap into the first column position.

Diary of a Strenuous Week



Speaker Something of Dead Letter As Committees Are Chosen Now

Committee of Committees Picked by Districts Even Before Caucus Met.

WHO HELD RESPONSIBLE

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

Lincoln, Jan. 6.—(Special.)—Just now some of the members of the lower branch of the Nebraska legislature are wondering whether the modern plan of selecting the standing committees of the legislature brings good results.

Under the former plan, the speaker of the house, who was to a great extent held responsible for good or bad legislation, selected the standing committees of that body. Usually he called in a number of the members in whom he had confidence and the selections were made usually by placing men in the chairmanships who were especially qualified for the position.

Under the present plan, the standing committees are selected by a special committee, which has neither the

authority of rules of procedure nor of the majority of the majority party of that body, nor has it the sanction, perhaps, of the speaker elected, who must stand responsible for legislation.

The special committee known as the committee on committees was selected by the democrats of each congressional district electing two or three from their own district to compose the committee. After a sturdy battle of wits between the Hitchcock faction in the legislature and the Bryan faction, in which Representative Norton of Polk was backed by the latter, while friends of Senator Hitchcock got behind Mr. Taylor for the purpose of defeating the Bryan man, Taylor won out.

Now it is understood that Norton controls the committee and the selections for the standing committees will be made by a minority of the democratic members and the speaker, who should have much to say in the selection, is not even a member of that committee, and no one appears to know whether he has been advised with.

TWO GOVERNORS SIT ON LID IN ARIZONA

Legislature Divides Itself Into Three Factions; and Work of Session at Standstill.

REPUBLICANS HOLD KEY

Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 6.—Chaotic conditions rule in the Arizona legislative circles tonight, two days of the assembly of that body, because two men are seeking to exercise the executive function. These conditions will not be settled, even temporarily until the supreme court decides next week on the petition of Thomas E. Campbell, to oust G. W. P. Hunt from possession of the office.

Three groups exist among the legislators, pro-Hunt, anti-Hunt and Campbell. None has outlined a program and while there are a number of candidates for the speakership, no formal caucus has been held so far to choose a candidate, as the leader of any of the group.

Both Hunt and Campbell are preparing to submit messages to the assembly. It is asserted by students of the situation, that Hunt will control the organization of the house, while the senate it is asserted will be the scene of a close contest with the five republican members holding the balance of power.

Young Farmer Killed As Auto Jumps Bridge

Silver Creek, Neb., Jan. 6.—(Special Telegram.)—Frank Zipper, a young man residing seven miles southeast of Silver Creek, was killed on the Platte river bridge south of here last night, when his auto ran into two wooden railings of the bridge and dropped to the ice twelve feet below. He was caught beneath the car and his neck broken. A companion, Tony Stovick of Tarnov, escaped with minor bruises.

Douglas County Files Claim With the State

(From a Staff Correspondent.)
Lincoln, Jan. 6.—(Special.)—The county of Douglas today filed a claim against the state with Auditor Smith for \$2,013.18 being the amount due for taking juveniles to state institutions. The bill includes \$103.04 for feeding and \$258.94 for conveying prisoners to the penitentiary.

RUSS LINE ALONG SERETH THREATENED

Tentons Capture Braila and Moving Toward Galatz, Twelve Miles North.

DANGER AT TWO POINTS

(Associated Press War Summary.)

The capture of Braila by Field Marshal von Mackensen, his advance on Galatz, twelve miles north; the clearing of Dobruja of Russians, and further Teutonic successes in Moldavia, have brought the Rumanian campaign to a new phase.

The Braila bridgehead, while not itself an integral part of the Sereth line, now held by the Russians, running northward from the Danube toward the Moldavian frontier mountains, formed an outlying defense of that line on the Danube end, and its capture weakens the eastern flank of the Sereth position.

Galatz, likewise on the Danube, lies just behind the Sereth line, and that town now is menaced by a Germano-Bulgarian movement across the Danube from it to Dobruja, made possible by the Russian evacuation of the province.

It is not only here, however, that the Sereth line is threatened, for despite a tenacious defense by the Russians and Rumanians, the line northward beyond the Buzeu river is not holding well against the Teutonic pressure, while the efforts to keep the Teutons in check in the Moldavian frontier valleys is apparently proving still less successful.

A break in this line on the southern front would imperil the Moldavian frontier position, while the piercing of the frontier line itself, not an apparent improbability, would endanger the entire line running southwestward to the Danube.

In these circumstances commentators in entente capitals are considering the possibility of the Russians being compelled to abandon the line of the Sereth and withdraw to the Russian frontier or beyond it, to Bessarabia.

The French, British and Italian premiers and important military subordinates in several entente ministries, are holding a war council in Rome for consideration of the general situation. Emperor William is quoted as declaring in an order issued to the army, and navy that as Germany's offer of peace negotiations had been refused, the war would be continued with a view to an understanding forced by arms.

Snow Fast Disappearing Over the Entire State

According to reports to railroad headquarters, the weather all through Nebraska is of a brand similar to that prevailing in Omaha. All through the western and central portions of the state temperatures started in this morning at a little above freezing and the snow is rapidly disappearing.

Substance that Controls Growth Of Body Isolated by Scientists

Berkeley, Cal., Jan. 6.—Scientists at the University of California have discovered the substance that produces growth in the human body, it was announced today. Tetelin is what they call it; it is located in the pituitary body at the base of the brain and by retarding or accelerating its functions it may be possible, according to the Berkeley scientists, to control the stature of human beings.

HOUSE SENDS FOR SEVEN FINANCIAL NEWS GATHERERS

Heads of Wall Street Bureau Are Also Requested to Bring Ticker Tapes of Dec. 20.

GARDNER SURE OF LEAK

Bay State Congressman Reads Message Over Ticker Forecasting Peace Note.

WOOD AGAIN TESTIFIES

Washington, Jan. 6.—Subpoenas for seven men were ordered issued today by the house rules committee at the outset of today's session of the "leak" investigation.

The men to be called are John Boyle and Henry F. Bland of the Wall Street Journal, and W. A. Crawford, Ernst A. Knorr, jr., A. L. Geiger, Nelson M. Shepard and A. M. Jamieson, employees of the Central News of America, a news service which supplies information to Financial America, a Wall street newspaper.

The heads of the bureaus also were requested to bring the ticker tapes of their services for from 10 a. m. throughout the day of December 20, 1916.

The committee wants to learn what time the Central News and Wall Street Journal bureaus made public the fact that a note was forthcoming from the president.

Ask Brokers to Keep Records.

A motion by Representative Campbell, republican, to have the New York and Chicago exchanges notify all their members to preserve their sale slips from December 10 to December 23 was adopted.

Announcement was made by Chairman Henry that Bernard E. Baruch, who is declared by the mysterious "A. Curtis" to have profited by the so-called leak, and Otto H. Kuhn of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., whom Representative Wood suggested should be called, would be here Monday to testify.

On motion of Representative Henry, Mr. Baruch was ordered to bring before the committee all of his brokers' commission slips from December 10 to December 23.

Representative Chipfield of Illinois, republican, declared at the hearing that he understood Thomas W. Lawson of Boston had been the chief beneficiary of the falling market which followed the president's peace note.

Wood Again Testifies.
Representative Wood, author of the inquiry resolution, had been called to the stand and a wrangle between republican and democratic members had been precipitated, when Representative Harrison, democrat, asked Mr. Wood why he had not satisfied himself as to the identity of the mysterious "A. Curtis."

"Representative Wood is not the author of the charges under inquiry here," protested Mr. Chipfield, "and his motives cannot be impugned. I think that we are losing sight of the fact that these scandalous charges were made by Thomas W. Lawson of Boston, and it is my understanding that Mr. Lawson was the chief beneficiary of this falling market."

Representative Harrison, democrat, called attention to the fact that Wood's first resolution was produced before Lawson had made any statement or before the letter from "A. Curtis" alleged New York broker, had been received.

"The question," Mr. Chipfield insisted, "is whether there was a leak and whether government officials improperly profited by it."

"Do you think there was a leak?" asked Representative Campbell of Mr. Harrison.

"Yes," replied Mr. Harrison, "but I think the leak came from the representatives of those two Wall street papers, or else the leak came back from foreign centers."

Gardner Cites Message.

Representative Gardner of Massachusetts, who on the floor of the house on January 3 said he knew there was a leak and that the whole stock exchange transactions showed it, was then called to the witness stand.

Representative Gardner testified he was convinced there had been a "leak" because at 2:05 p. m. December 20, ten hours before the peace note was released for publication and four hours before it had been placed in the hands of the news agencies, the following dispatch was sent out over the Dow, Jones & Co. ticker:

"The renewed selling of the market is due to reports received by brokers' private wires from Washington to the effect that the administration will in the near future address to the belligerents some suggestions or proposals in regard to peace. Nothing definite is obtainable in administration circles."

"There is your proof of a leak," said Mr. Gardner. "Miracles don't go on."

(Continued on Page Four, Column Three.)

Bee
Want Ad Service
for the
Big Sunday Section
is in operation until
9 o'clock tonight.
Get the Best Results
at the Lowest Cost by
calling
Tyler 1000
You are as close to
The Bee Want Ad Dept.
as your phone is to you.