

THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

OMAHA, SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 11, 1917—FIVE SECTION—FORTY PAGES.

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THE WEATHER
Fair; Cold

AMERICAN LINE ASKS WILSON FOR CONVOYS OR GUNS

President Franklin Says St. Louis and Other Ships Won't Sail Unless Guarded by U. S. Force.

CANNOT EQUIP VESSELS

Cannon, With Men to Man Them, Demanded Unless Warships Attend.

DANTE ALIGHIERI IN PORT

New York, Feb. 10.—Unless the United States government provides convoys or guns and gunners to protect its ships, the American Line, owners of the steamships, St. Louis, St. Paul and other liners, will not send them across the Atlantic, it was announced here today by P. A. S. Franklin, president of the International Mercantile Marine.

Safe arrival at Genoa last Thursday of the Italian steamer, Sante Alighieri, which left this port January 24, was announced here today in a cablegram received by the ship's agents. It carried between 400 and 500 passengers.

Depends on Government.

This decision was reached after the failure of efforts to provide their own defensive armament. Mr. Franklin said, "The only source of supply of guns in this country," he added, "seems to be the United States government, and our government seems disinclined to afford this protection."

"As far as the American line is concerned," said Mr. Franklin, "we have done our best in trying to secure the necessary guns and gun crews, but it does not seem possible that private corporations will be able properly to equip their ships with defensive armament."

Otherwise Can't Sail.

The American Line steamers will not be able to sail at all unless the government decides either to provide convoys or put on each of our steamers the guns and trained gunners essential to the safety of the passengers and the crew."

The sailing of the Swedish-American liner, Stockholm, from this port Monday, February 12, for Gothenburg, has been postponed indefinitely by instructions received today by the line's home office.

Woman Run Over When Auto Turns To Avoid Crash

Trying to avoid collision with another auto, H. O. Friedrichs, 3115 Davenport street, drove his car up on the sidewalk at Seventeenth street and St. Mary's avenue. The machine struck down and ran over Miss Barbara Bulin, aged 22 years, of Council Bluffs, who was on her way from the City National Bank building, where she works, to the Young Women's Christian Association building.

Mr. Friedrichs took Miss Bulin to the Ford hospital. Her face and hands are badly lacerated and her legs were bruised. But she suffered no injuries that might prove fatal, doctors report. The police are investigating the case and seeking to determine who drove the car that Friedrichs sought to avoid.

Despondent Farmer Shoots Himself Dead in His Field

Bearcat, Neb., Feb. 10.—(Special Telegram.)—Randolph Schell, 52 years of age, committed suicide last night in a cornfield near his home two miles northwest of Cortland by shooting himself through the head with a small rifle.

Mr. Schell left home last night and when he failed to return searching parties were organized, 200 farmers with a pair of bloodhounds form this city joining in the search. The body was found this afternoon in the field. Mr. Schell was an old resident of Gage county. He leaves a widow and several children. He had \$150 on his person. Despondency is supposed to have been the cause for his act.

Fair and Warmer Weather Is Prediction for Week

Washington, Feb. 10.—Weather predictions for the week beginning Sunday issued by the weather bureau are:

Plains states and upper and middle Mississippi valley, generally fair; warmer.

The Weather

For Nebraska—Fair and continued cold. Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

Hour. Deg.
1 a. m. 5
2 a. m. 12
3 a. m. 15
4 a. m. 18
5 a. m. 21
6 a. m. 23
7 a. m. 25
8 a. m. 28
9 a. m. 30
10 a. m. 32
11 a. m. 34
12 p. m. 35
1 p. m. 36
2 p. m. 37
3 p. m. 38
4 p. m. 39
5 p. m. 40
6 p. m. 41
7 p. m. 42
8 p. m. 43
9 p. m. 44
10 p. m. 45
11 p. m. 46
12 a. m. 47

Comparative Local Record.

1917. 1916. 1915. 1914.

Highest yesterday... 21 26 16 40

Lowest yesterday... 8 16 22 31

Mean temperature... 10 21 40 36

Precipitation... 0 .00 .00 .00

Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal: Normal temperature... 22 Deficiency for the day... 13 Total excess since March 1... 131 Normal precipitation... 1.00 Deficiency for the day... 1.00 Total rainfall since March 1... 17.42 inches Deficiency since March 1... 12.84 inches Deficiency for cor. period... 1915... .62 inch Deficiency for cor. period... 1916... .62 inches

*Indicates trace of precipitation.

L. A. WELSH, Meteorologist.

HOWELL ADMITS HE ERRED IN JUDGMENT

Senator Confesses His Mistake in Sponsoring Original Ward Election Bill.

TRYING TO MAKE AMENDS

State Senator Howell yesterday admitted publicly that in sponsoring the original ward-election school board bill, he erred, egregiously erred, and in a contrite manner he said he was doing his level best to make amends and get beyond the range of the withering fire since directed against him. He explained that his bill had been withdrawn and that he proposed to offer amendments to a similar bill coming up from the house.

The meeting at the council club rooms was attended by a goodly of prominent men and women, who exchanged a wide range of views and at time engaged in sharp polemics.

The net result of the meeting was that M. A. Hall secured adoption of a resolution, that it was the sense of the meeting that the Douglas county representatives and senators use their influence to defeat any legislation which would require election of Omaha school board members by wards.

Mr. Hall tried to secure adoption of another resolution against the primary school bill, but he failed in that effort. Senator Strehlow announced that on next Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock, in the state senate chamber, the committee on privileges and elections, will grant a hearing.

Committee To Protest.

Special committee of two women and three men will be selected to represent the protestants. It is believed the meeting will yield interesting expressions of opinions.

Senator Howell explained that he proposed to amend the Goodall ward-election bill in the house to provide that an election would be held in 1920 and every two years thereafter, which would not legislate any members of the present board out of office, but would extend the terms of some of the members. He said he was opposed to legislating anybody out of office.

"This is not a ward-election bill, because everybody would vote for the candidates of all wards and at the regular election would likewise vote for the nominees of all wards," explained Senator Howell. He added that the primary school bill applied to all cities of the state having more than 10,000 population.

Goodall Defends Bill.

Representative Goodall, defending his bill in the house, said: "I will stand by my bill. Our present system of electing school board members is taxation without representation. We should have members on the board from the districts where they raise kids by the bushel."

"Beat the bill if you can, but don't try to beat it over my shoulders. I have done my best to correct my mistake. If you resolve to oppose the primary bill you will antagonize the legislature. The legislature may do away with your entire school board," was the consolation offered by Senator Howell, when the discussion began.

"We got good results last fall without any school board majority. It is hard enough to get good men to run for the board without imposing the primary feature upon them," interjected M. A. Hall. Senator Howell took vigorous issue with Mr. Hall and Dr. Harold Gifford. S. Arion Lewis and Alfred Hoye supported the ward feature.

Women Disapprove.

Mrs. C. R. Thiem, president of the Miller Park Mothers' club, expressed her disapproval of ward election of school board members in this manner: "Every ward may not have men capable of serving as school board members," Mrs. Halleck Rose and Miss Kate McHugh opposed the ward bill.

City Attorney Rine, Robert Smith and J. H. Dumont were among those who led the fight in favor of the primary election for school board members, with the result that the meeting finally agreed not to take action against the primary bill, particularly in view of the fact that it applied to all cities of more than 10,000 population and said to have been made state-wide with a view of purifying school politics in Lincoln.

The Douglas county senators made it plain that if Omaha people want to kill this school board legislation, they must prevail upon the privileges and elections next Thursday afternoon at Lincoln.

Bill to Tax Dogs Meets Opposition of Fanciers

Fremont, Neb., Feb. 10.—(Special) Through the Fremont Kennel club, which has been instrumental in promoting the largest dog show held in this section of the country in the last five years, heroic efforts will be made to defeat the bill introduced to tax owners of dogs to make an insurance fund for sheep owners, as Secretary Otto Pohl of the Kennel club put it. Mr. Pohl, with other Fremont dog fanciers, will go to Lincoln, Tuesday, to present when the bill is presented. The bill is known as House Roll No. 477, by J. A. Ollis of Valley county. It is said to have the backing of the sheep raisers of the state. Mr. Pohl contends that the bill becomes law it will cost \$12 a year to keep a dog. He denounces the measure as an injustice to dog breeders.

Nebraska Field Hospital Leaves Border February 18

Washington, Feb. 10.—It was stated today at the Department of Justice that the federal grand jury in New York is about to begin investigating whether there is a criminal conspiracy in restraint of trade in the news print paper situation. Bainbridge Colby and Mark Hyman will represent the government as special assistants to the attorney general.

Grand Jury Will Probe Rise in Price of Paper

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VON BERNSTORFF AND PARTY WILL GO WEDNESDAY

German Ambassador on the Scandinavian Ship Frederik VIII.

GERARD TO START HOME

American Diplomat Will Be Met at Border by Agents of Swiss Government.

STATEMENT BY LANSING

(By Associated Press.)

The Swiss legation in Washington has been informed that Ambassador Gerard, his staff and that the American citizens would leave Berlin Saturday night by special train for Zurich, Switzerland.

Arrangements have been completed for the departure from New York on Wednesday next of Count von Bernstorff and his staff on board the steamer Frederik VIII for Christiansia, Norway. Agents of the Scandinavian-American line in New York received permission from the owners in Copenhagen to use the vessel to carry the German ambassador across the Atlantic.

Madrid (Via Paris), Feb. 10.—A wireless message from the Spanish ambassador at Berlin to the American ambassador here, transmitted at the request of Ambassador Gerard, asked passage for the ambassador, Mrs. Gerard and the ambassador's suite to be engaged on the Alfonso XIII, leaving Barcelona on February 21, or on the Infanta Isabel, steaming on February 25.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Arrangements today were completed for the departure on Wednesday of Count von Bernstorff and his staff aboard the steamer Frederik VIII for Christiansia, Norway. The former ambassador and the personnel of the embassy will leave Washington Tuesday night.

"We have done our best in trying to secure the necessary guns and gun crews, but it does not seem possible that private corporations will be able properly to equip their ships with defensive armament."

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U-BOATS INCREASE AVERAGE A TRIFLE

Submarines Account for 3,000 Tons More Friday Than on Previous Day.

FOUR STEAMERS GO DOWN

(By Associated Press.)

Four steamers, aggregating 13,535 tons, sunk or believed to have been sunk, constituted the harvest of the German submarine campaign Saturday. Three of these were British, the Mantola, 6,826 tons; the Lullingstone, 2,816 tons, and the Beechtree, 1,277 tons. The fourth was the Norwegian steamer Solbakkien, 2,616 tons. This is an increase of upward of 3,000 tons over the amount of tonnage destroyed Friday.

The total number of vessels destroyed in the period of submarine operations of February 1 to 9, inclusive, is said to be eighty-nine, of which twenty-one were neutral vessels. During that period, it is stated, more than 1,100 vessels arrived at or sailed unharmed from ports of the United Kingdom.

Ambassador Gerard authorized the Associated Press today to say that he has neither given nor will, under any circumstance, give an interview of any kind or description to anyone before he reports personally to President Wilson.

Lansing Doubts Von Sturm Story.

Washington, Feb. 10.—The statement attributed to Dr. William von Sturm, German under secretary for foreign affairs, that Germany has detained Ambassador Gerard, because Count von Bernstorff had been prevented by this country from telegraphing that he had received his passports, was held by Secretary Lansing today to be improbable.

"I doubt the authenticity of a statement of that kind, which is so directly contrary to the facts. Every facility and convenience has been placed before Count von Bernstorff, and he would have been allowed to send a full statement by wireless regarding the severance.

"Whether he availed himself of this or is not his responsibility. The German government has been informed with the fullest detail of all events in this country through two different sources, the Swiss minister here, who has been empowered to represent German interests, and the Spanish ambassador in Berlin, through whom communications have gone. I have no reason not to believe that there has been a very unusual delay in Ambassador Gerard's departure."

Secretary Lansing announces today receipt of advice from the Swiss minister here that Mr. Gerard, his staff and fifty other Americans would leave Berlin tonight for the Swiss border, where he will be met by officials of the Swiss government.

A Berlin dispatch last night said that Mr. Gerard's departure had been again changed and that he would not leave Germany until Count von Bernstorff and his suite leave this country on February 13 has not been confirmed through official channels.

Absolute incredulity was expressed, however, that the German government would take such action.

Teutons Moving Food and Fuel from Roumania

Berlin, Feb. 10.—(By Wireless to Sayville, Feb. 10)—A German submarine has returned from the Atlantic, where it sank ten ships of an aggregate tonnage of 19,000, the Overseas News agency says. In addition, it sank a British steamer of 3,000 tons, the British trollers Shamrock and Thistle and two other trollers, one British and one French.

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Nebraska Field Hospital Leaves Border February 18

San Antonio, Tex., Feb. 10.—The Second Wisconsin infantry left here today for Fort Sheridan to be mustered out.

Additional schedules announced today were:

First battalion Minnesota Field artillery, at Llano Grande, February 17; Fourth South Dakota infantry, today paid Mrs. Tagge, a farmer woman, \$8.13 for eight hens of the Plymouth Rock variety.

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