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THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

THE WEATHER
Cloudy; Colder

VOL. XLVI.—NO. 206. OMAHA, WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 14, 1917—TEN PAGES. On Trains, at Hotels, News Stands, Etc., 3c. SINGLE COPY TWO CENTS.

VILLISTAS CROSS BOUNDARY: CARRY AWAY PRISONERS

Armed Band Reported to Have Entered U. S. Northwest of Hachita and Escaped With Men and Loot.

KIDNAP THREE MORMONS

Number of Mexican Ranch Hands and Live Stock Also Seized by Raiders.

FAMILIES MADE CAPTIVE

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 13.—Armed Mexicans, believed to have been Villa followers, crossed the border sixty miles southwest of Hachita, N. M., today and took prisoners three Mormons, a number of Mexican ranch hands and live stock, according to a telegram received here late today from Hachita by an American cattleman.

The message was received from Bob Morehead, foreman of the Alamo Hueco ranch, saying the "Corner ranch," which is on the American side of the line, was raided by armed and mounted Mexicans.

Included among the property taken was thirty-five mules, $1,500 in commissary stores and other ranch stock. The Mexican families also were asid to have been forced to accompany the bandits, in addition to the Mexican ranch hands, according to the telegram.

Seek to Confirm Report.

Columbus, N. M., Feb. 13.—Military officers here were making every effort tonight to confirm the reported raid of the "Corner Ranch" on the American side of the border, southwest of Hachita, N. M.

Another message received by American cattlemen here today told of a raid on the Nogales ranch, located on the Mexican side of the boundary, south of Hachita, N. M., but which is owned by American cattlemen.

The "Corner Ranch," so-called because it is located in a corner formed by an offset in the international boundary, near Monument No. 53, extends for several miles along the American side of the boundary and is located entirely in American territory.

Ten dead horses were found on the Nogales ranch after the Mexicans had raided it and a large quantity of supplies, ranch stock and other property was taken, the message stated. Several ranch employes were made prisoners.

Traffic Is Suspended.

Juarez, Feb. 13.—All passenger traffic has been suspended on the Mexican Central railroad between here and Chihuahua City in order to use the passenger equipment for moving troops to Juarez and into the Casas Grandes country to oppose the advance of the Villa forces toward the border.

Another troop train arrived at 4 a. m. today with 250 calvalry from the Chihuahua City garrison, increasing the strength of the local garrison to 1,000 men, according to General Jose Carlos Murguia. Other troop trains are scheduled to arrive late today and tomorrow, carrying the remaind of the 1,500 cavalry reinforcements from the state capital.

As soon as these arrive General Murguia personally will take the field against Jose Ynez Salazar, who is reported in the vicinity of Palomas, and will leave General Pablo Gonzales in temporary command of the border garrison here. These troops will leave the railroad at Barreal, forty miles southwest of here, and march overland toward Palomas to engage the Villa forces, it was announced.

Eight-Hour Law for Women Workers Gets Death Blow

Charleston, S. C., Feb. 13.—The bill providing for an eight-hour day for women was practically killed today when the house by a vote of 44 to 42 declined to recall the measure from the committee, where action on it had been indefinitely postponed.

The Weather

For Nebraska—Cloudy; colder.

Temperatures at Omaha.

Hour.	Deg.
5 a. m.	27
6 a. m.	26
7 a. m.	27
8 a. m.	24
9 a. m.	23
10 a. m.	26
11 a. m.	27
12 m.	28
1 p. m.	30
2 p. m.	30
3 p. m.	32
4 p. m.	32
5 p. m.	32
6 p. m.	31
7 p. m.	30
8 p. m.	28

Comparative Local Record.

	1917.	1916.	1915.	1914.
Highest yesterday	33	14	58	20
Lowest yesterday	24	—4	27	10
Mean temperature	28	5	38	15
Precipitation	.00	.08	.08	.00

Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal:

Normal temperature	23
Excess for the day	5
Total excess since March 1	140
Normal precipitation	.03 inch
Deficiency for the day	.03 inch
Total rainfall since March 1	17.42 inches
Deficiency since March 1	12.93 inches
Deficiency cor. period, 1915	.69 inch
Deficiency cor. period, 1914	1.54 inches

Reports from Stations at 7 p. m.

Station and State of Weather.	Temp. 7 p. m.	High-est.	Rain-fall.
Cheyenne, snowing	26	28	.10
Davenport, cear	28	34	.00
Denver, snowing	28	30	.01
Des Moines, clear	32	34	.00
Dodge City, cloudy	32	42	.00
Lander, cloudy	28	34	.20
North Platte, cloudy	28	30	.00
Omaha, part cloudy	30	33	.00
Pueblo, cloudy	36	48	.00
Rapid City, clear	28	34	.00
Salt Lake City, cloudy	42	54	.04
Santa Fe, snowing	36	52	T
Sheridan, part cloudy	30	36	.00
Sioux City, cloudy	26	30	.00
Valentine, clear	26	32	.00

T indicates trace of precipitation.
— indicates below zero.

L. A. WELSH, Meteorologist.

BILL DIRECTED AT RUTHLESS WARFARE

Proposed Law Would Open Ports of U. S. to Warships of Nations Fighting It.

OFFERED BY SAULSBURY

Washington, Feb. 13.—A bill directed against ruthless submarine warfare and proposing to open the ports, harbors and waters of the United States in time of war to warships or vessels of belligerents against whom such warfare is waged, was introduced today by Senator Saulsbury of Delaware, president pro tempore of the senate and a member of the foreign relations committee. At his request it was referred to the committee.

The bill is entitled "an act to discourage the violation of international law upon the high seas."

"This measure," said Senator Saulsbury, "may enable the government, without a declaration of war, to assist in preventing violation of international rights at sea, by giving assistance to those engaged in abating unrecognized and unwarranted systems of warfare. It is a step that may be effective in the present international crisis without a declaration of war on our part."

Other senators pointed out that the bill would permit the United States to give aid to the entente allies as long as the German submarine campaign is maintained, without any further action of congress, giving the president authority to use armed forces of the nation to protect American seamen and property on the seas.

There was no discussion of the bill in the senate, although many senators after its introduction pointed out that in the present situation the measure would open the ports of the United States to British, French or other allied warships convoying merchant vessels, and also would enable belligerents to patrol the waters of the United States freely in a campaign against German raiders.

National Defense Council Names Committee Heads

Washington, Feb. 13.—Further progress toward premanent provisions for mobilization of the nation's industries and resources in war time was made today at the second joint meeting this week of the national defense council and its civilian advisory commission. Seven committees were appointed to take charge of the division work, with a member of the commission as chairman of each committee.

The committee and chairmen are as follows:

Medicine—Dr. Franklin H. Martin of Chicago.
Labor—Samuel Gompers of Washington.
Transportation—Daniel Willard of Baltimore.
Science and Research—Dr. Hollis Godfrey of Philadelphia.
Raw Materials—Bernard Baruch of New York.
Munitions—Howard E. Coffin of Detroit.
Supplies—Julius Rosenwald of Chicago.

The chairmen were authorized to select committeemen from either government or civil life.

Resigning Pastor Says Money Not Why He's Leaving Omaha

Rev. J. A. Maxwell, pastor of Calvary Baptist church, has resigned and will accept a call to the First Baptist church at Williamsport, Pa. He expects to assume his new duties March 4.

Rev. Mr. Maxwell will tell his congregation why he decided to leave the local church at the services next Sunday. He came here in November, 1913, and at once won the regards of his parishioners. He receives an annual salary of $2,400 in Omaha. The Williamsport church offers him $100 a year more. "But," said the resigning pastor, "the matter of salary did not prompt my decision to leave."

I. W. Carpenter, one of the church trustees, said the question of salary would eagerly be met by the congregation, if any kind of a monetary adjustment could keep him here.

Port of Athens Is Swept by Fire; Many Lives Lost

London, Feb. 13.—Fire is sweeping through a large section of the Piraeus and has caused a heavy loss of life, according to a Reuter's dispatch sent from the Greek port last night. At the time the dispatch was filed the fire had been raging for four hours and was uncontrolled, in spite of the combined efforts of all the available Greek firemen and soldiers, aided by French, British and Italian sailors. The conflagration started in a munition factory late Monday afternoon and spread rapidly over a considerable area.

A dispatch to Renter's Telegram company from Piraeus this evening, says the fire is under control.

Nebraska Delegation Back From Cumberland Gap

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

Washington, Feb. 13.—(Special Telegram.)—Senator Norris and Representatives Sloan and Reavis, the latter accompanied by Mrs. Reavis, returned today from Cumberland Gap, Tenn., where they participated in the exerecises commemorative of Lincoln day at Lincoln university. The Nebraska participants in the exe cises speak of it as among the pleasantest in their memory, the occasion being inspiring to a large degree.

Senator Norris and Congressman Sloan with others made short addresses during the two days' celebration.

WHITE STAR LINE SHIP AFRIC SUNK BY A SUBMARINE

Seventeen of Crew of Steamer Torpedoed by German U-Boat Missing, Others Being Reported Saved.

ANNOUNCED BY LLOYDS

Big British Vessel in the South African Trade Reported Destroyed.

PART OF CREW LANDED

London, Feb. 13.—Lloyds Shipping Agency this afternoon announces that the White Star line steamship Afric, of 11,999 tons gross, had been sunk. Part of the crew of the liner was landed.

The Exchange Telegram company says the Afric was sunk by a submarine and that seventeen of its crew are missing.

The report that seventeen of the Afric's crew are missing was confirmed this evening.

New York, Feb. 13.—The White Star Line has a report that the steamship Afric has been sunk. Officials of the company say they have no confirmation. The Afric has a gross tonnage of 11,999. It was last reported in the maritime register as leaving Capetown, Africa, on December 3, with its destination not given.

The Afric belonged to the Oceanic Steam Navigation company, a subsidiary company of the White Star line. Steamship men here familiar with the vessel said it had accommodations for about 500 passengers, second class only. It was engaged in the Capetown and Australian service. At the office of the White Star line here it was said the ship had been engaged in admiralty service, but whether so engaged when sunk they did not know.

Two Liners Reach New York.

New York, Feb. 13.—Two British passenger liners, the Laconia, from Liverpool February 3, and the Ascania, from London January 25, reached here today and reported having passed through the war zone without sighting anything unusual.

On the Laconia were thirty-seven passengers and on the Ascania seventeen, the majority being Canadians returning from visits to England.

Passengers on the Ascania said that prior to leaving London reports were being circulated that the German raider Moewe had been captured by British cruisers and was then in that port.

Canopic at Boston.

Boston, Feb. 13.—The White Star liner Canopic from Mediterranean ports with passengers arrived at quarantine today.

American on Saxonian Wounded.

Queenstown, Feb. 13.—(Via London.)—Of the three American firemen who were aboard the British steamship Saxonian when it was shelled, torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine last Wednesday one of them, James Weyguard, was wounded by a shell splinter and is now in the hospital here.

Elwood Moore of St. Louis, American fireman on the Saxonian, said the submarine which sank the vessel gave no warning, but immediately began to shell the ship on sighting it. While getting into one of the boats Weyguard was wounded by the shell splinter. Thomas Williams, boatswain, was injured badly and afterward died.

The attack was made at a point fully 250 miles from shore. One boat containing twenty-three men was afloat for sixty-eight hours before the occupants were picked up. The captain was taken prisoner on the submarine.

Two More Ships Sunk.

London, Feb. 13.—The sinking of the British steamer Foreland is also announced by Lloyds.

The Norwegian motor vessel West has been sunk, Lloyds Shipping agency announced today. The crew was landed.

The Foreland was a steamer of 1,960 tons gross, built at Sunderland, in 1914 and owned in London.

The Norwegian motor vessel West is not listed in available shipping records.

Several Lost.

Newport News, Va., Feb. 13.—Members of the crew of the British steamer Oxonian, brought into port today a story that the Ononian sunk by gunfire an Austrian submarine which attacked it in the Mediterranean, December 28. They said some of the men on the submarine were saved by a French patrol boat, but that several were believed lost.

Lloyds Report of Sinking.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Lloyds report today of ships sunk by submarines shows a total of 6,808 tons. All the vessels named have been reported by news dispatches except the British brigantine Ada which the Lloyds report said had been sunk by gunfire without warning. Its crew was rescued.

Canned Food Will Be One-Third Higher, Say Jobbers

Chicago, Feb. 13.—Wholesale grocers in Chicago today greeted the government's high cost of living investigation with the announcement that canned goods will be about 33 1-3 per cent higher this year than in 1916. Because of the Florida frosts, which will keep a great quantity of fresh fruit and vegetables out of the market, canned goods will be more in demand as a staple, wholesalers say. It was also asserted that the can manufacturers cannot get enough tin; that the farmers are demanding about 100 per cent more for their crops and that the general consumption has increased.

A Valentine for All of Us

GERARD WILL REACH PARIS TOMORROW

American Legation at Berne Thronged With People Seeking to Get Home.

MINISTER WON'T TALK

Paris, Feb. 13.—James W. Gerard, former American ambassador to Germany, and Mrs. Gerard are expected to arrive in Paris Thursday. They will be guests of William Graves Sharp, American ambassador to France, and Mrs. Sharp.

Berne (Via Paris), Feb. 13.—Ambassador Gerard announced today that he probably would elave for Paris on Tuesday evening with the immediate embassy staff. He informed other Americans desirous of returning to America that they were welcome to accompany him, but must make their passport and other arrangements through the legation here, which now has sole jurisdiction.

In consequence, the legation has been thronged by about a hundred Americans whose passports are good only for Germany and neutral countries and must be validated for France by special State department authorization. Anxious crowds also inquired about railroad communications, especially sleepers, which supply apparently will prove inadequate if everyone wants to leave with Mr. Gerard.

Berne, already flooded with Americans, was today awaiting further influx with the impending arrival of another trainload, including consuls who were unable to catch the ambassadorial train, because Mr. Gerard was cut off from telegraphic and mail facilities and could not instruct them in time. In addition, another contingent of civilians who could not leave Germany is expected.

Mr. Gerard maintained his reticence today and merely shrugged his shoulders when shown an alleged semi-official announcement in the Cologne Gazette declaring that Germany expects war with America.

Twenty-Five Millions In Gold from Canada

New York, Feb. 13.—Gold amounting to $25,000,000 has arrived from Canada for J. P. Morgan & Co. for account of the British government, it was learned today. This is the first large consignment for British account since early in January when the movement was suspended with the placing of the British loan in this market.

CUBAN PRESIDENT ASKS VOLUNTEERS

Former Head of Republic, General Gomez, Has Landed in Island.

CAMAGUEY FORCES REVOLT

Havanna, Feb. 13.—President Menocal has just issued a decree authorizing a call for volunteers between the ages of 18 to 45 years to serve for a period of ninety days. It is rumored that the former president, General Jose Miguel Gomez, has landed at Camaguey and that Lieutenant Colonel Quinones, commander of the Camaguey forces has revolted with all his men.

Communication with Camaguey still is severed and no train has arrived from there since yesterday.

The president's decree calling for volunteers announces that it is not necessary for those responding to be Cuban citizens, nor that they should be able to read or write Spanish.

Fighting is also reported at Canas, forty miles from here.

General Gomez is one of the leaders of the liberal party in Cuba and was often mentioned as a possible candidate for re-election as president. He was once quoted as saying that the election of President Menocal would mean revolution. It was reported that he left Havana aboard his private yacht on Friday just before the revolutionary outbreak.

Bill Proposes Duty On Sugar from Newly Acquired Islands

Washington, Feb. 13.—Appointment of a commission to investigate conditions and needs of the newly acquired Danish West Indies is proposed in a bill prepared by Senators Stone, Hitchcock and Lodge. The bill would provide for a provisional government administration of affairs pending the commission's report.

Under the terms of the bill tariff regulations of United States would be applied to the islands, provided that United States and Danish West Indian products would be interchanged free of duty. Exception would be made, however, on exportation of sugar to the United States, on which there would be levied an export duty of $8 a ton.

DAKOTA REGIMENT MUSTERED OUT HERE

Fourth Guard Organization Coming to Fort Crook With Field Hospital.

SIGNAL CORPS OUT AHEAD

Although February 21 has been set as the day when the Fifth regiment will bem ustered out of the federal service, the signal corps of Fremont, commanded by Captain Jess, will be allowed to leave Fort Crook February 16. This has been decided upon by Captain James Everington, senior mustering-out officer, and as a result, army officers are now turning all their attention to the Fremont organization so that it can leave the post on the day set.

The reason for mustering out the signal corps is that it is a separate organization and not connected with the Fifth regiment. At present there are sixty-three men and officers in the organization. Thirty-two horses, which the corps used on the border, will be taken to Fremont for the wire men to use in their drills.

Word received at Fort Crook is that Nebraska field hospital, the only Nebraska unit now on the border, will not be sent to Fort Crook until the Fifth reiment has left. With the field hospital will come the Fourth South Dakota infantry, which will be mustered out at Fort Crook.

Captain James Everington, detailed Tuesday by the War department inspector-instructor of the Nebraska National Guard, will make his home, following the departure of the troops, at Lincoln.

Aged Veterinarian Cuts His Own Throat At Walthill, Neb.

Lyons, Neb., Feb. 13.—(Special.)—Dr. Cass Smith, 82 years old, a traveling veterinarian, who has been a familiar character in this part of the state for years, lies at the point of death in a Walthill hospital. Despondent over financial difficulties, he cut his own throat Monday afternoon.

Dr. Smith arrived in Walthill Monday morning. He is said to have threatened several times to take his own life if his practice did not pick up. For years Dr. Smith made his home in this town. He has a son, Fred Smith, at Guering, Neb., and a daughter in California.

Swifts Offer Aid in Probe Of High Cost of Foodstuffs

Washington, Feb. 13.—Swift & Company, Chicago packers offered their co-operation to the federal trade commission today in its food price investigation. Louis F. Swift telegraphing that he believed one of the first questions taken up should be the failure of live stock production to keep pace with the population.

The commission today asked President Wilson to approve a $400,000 appropriation for the investigation. The Department of Agriculture which will assist in the inquiry also will ask for a sum.

Caucus Revenue Bill Is Reported to Senate

Washington, Feb. 13.—The revenue bill as agreed upon by the senate democratic caucus and designed to raise about $350,000,000, was reported to the senate today by Chairman Simmons of the finance committee. Senator Gallinger, republican leader, said he believed republican senators would be satisfied if it were taken up Friday, and that plan probably will be adopted.

German People Are Weary of War, But Devoted to the Military Leaders

Rotterdam, Feb. 12.—(Via London, Feb. 13.)—Two Americans who have reached Rotterdam since the break in diplomatic relations between Germany and the United States—although in both cases their passports had been applied for before the rupture—gave similar accounts of present conditions in Germany to the Associated Press today. One of these men came from Berlin, the other from Frankfort. Each had been in Germany a little more than a year and in that time each man lost thirty pounds in weight.

Theodore Wurslin, an engineer of Jamaica, N. Y., said his experiences with working men in Berlin showed him that they were tired of the war, but nevertheless determined to hold out. Many of them earn good wages, virtually all of which they spend for food, and they are thus better off than persons higher in the social scale. Mr. Wurslin said he often saw groups of British, French and Russian war prisoners, especially Russians, sweeping the streets, carting goods and performing other labor. He said they were never molested or insulted. Of Mr. Wurslin's ten American associates, about half had decided to remain in Germany whatever happened.

The other American is a New York business man, who said the food situation was very bad in Frankfort. He told harrowing stories of the hardships undergone by the people, who, he said, were utterly weary of the war, but entirely devoted to the military leaders.

Both of these men asserted that the break between Germany and America had caused no excitement, that Americans in Germany were being well treated and that no apprehension need be felt for the welfare of those left behind. While agreeing that most articles of food were still to be had by persons with well-filled purses, they said the poorer classes were suffering, but that the country is not near the starvation point.

NEW NOTE SENT TO GERMANY ON ROVER CAPTIVES

Formal Notice from Berlin that the Day of Grace to All Nations of the World Has Expired.

SITUATION IS MORE ACUTE

Washington Officials Now Fear that Overt Act May Come at Any Moment.

BIG ISSUES TO MEET

Washington, Feb. 13.—Another communication has been sent to Germany through the Swiss minister here, looking to the release of the American seamen taken to Germany on the prize ship Yarrowdale and now retained while, Germany seeks assurances of the status of its seamen in American ports. The exact nature of the communication is not disclosed, but it is believed to be a demand for the release of the Americans.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Berlin's formal announcement that the time has expired for all exceptions in the campaign of ruthlessness, turned attention here today to the questions which confront the American government in whatever next steps may be taken to meet the situation.

President Wilson abandoned his usual morning game of golf and remained at work in his study. In the afternoon the cabinet met and went over the situation.

Among the questions now being carefully considered are:

The proposed conference of neutrals to outline the rights of the nations not engaged in the war. This has not taken form and its exact status has not been divulged; nevertheless it is known the idea has not been abandoned.

Loaning guns for the arming of American merchant ships. The preponderance of opinion among officials who have advised the president on this point favors having the navy furnish the guns.

Action on Austria's situation in the new campaign. The new ambassador, Count Tarnowski, still is waiting to present his credentials.

A reply to Mexico's suggestion for embargoes on food and ammunition to the belligerents.

Any or all of these questions are expected to be decided in the near future.

While it was reiterated today that the president would not be rushed into war, it was plain that all officials realized that the much feared overt act might come at any time.

Official Warning Given.

Amsterdam, Feb. 13.—(Via London.)—All periods of grace for neutral ships entering the zones announced as prohibited by Germany have now expired, according to a Berlin official statement received here. The statement says that immunity ceases in respect to the Atlantic and English channel zones on the night of February 12, for the North sea zone February 6 and for the Mediterranean zone on February 10. It continues:

"From now on, therefore, in all prohibited zones the warning which has been issued is in full force and shipping can no longer expect individual warning. Vessels which enter the prohibited areas do so with a full knowledge of the dangers threatening them and their crews. It is expressly stated that all news spread from enemy sources about any torpedoing of neutral ships without previous warning, before the dates mentioned for the various prohibited areas, is incorrect.

"The periods of grace mentioned were also in force for enemy passenger vessels because it was possible that they were carrying neutral passengers who were perhaps ignorant of the new blockade regulations."

Issue Up to Wilson.

London, Feb. 13.—"President Wilson wishes to make an attempt to break the German blockade; the American government must be responsible for what happens," says the Berlin Vossische Zeitung in commenting on the report that two American merchant vessels had left for the blockaded zone, according to the Exchange Telegraph company's Copenhagen correspondent.

The correspondent reports that the announcement of the vessels' departure had caused a pronounced sensation in Berlin.

The American vessels referred to doubtless are the unarmed freight steamers Orleans and Rochester, which sailed from New York for Bordeaux on Saturday.

New York's Coldest Day For Exactly Three Years

New York, Feb. 13.—This is New York's coldest day in exactly three years. Temperatures dropped officially to the zero mark for the first time since February 13, 1914, when the reading was one degree below.

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