

MILLION-DOLLAR HOTEL FOR OMAHA?

Great Modern Building Will Rise from Ruins of Continental Block, Rumor Says.

TEAR WALLS DOWN NOW

Rumors in wake of the Continental block fire are to the effect that owners of the site will erect a million-dollar store and hotel building there soon to accommodate former store tenants of the building and a hotel tenant.

E. P. Marquis and Warren Breyfogle of Kansas City, here as representatives of the corporation owning the location, refused to confirm or deny the rumors.

"We are considering what would be best to do," they said, "and cannot say what the company will do with the ground until we report and the directors hold a meeting."

Mr. Marquis said the building was covered with insurance to about 80 per cent of its value.

Workmen have begun to remove the safes from the Berg and Hartman basements, and to prepare to pull down the remaining walls. Opening of the safes and vaults will not be attempted for a day or two, as opening them too soon would cause the hot contents to burst into flames upon exposure to the air.

Loss Near Million.

Total losses of about \$800,000, as printed Friday by The Bee, were declared approximately correct by the persons interested. Total insurance of from 50 to 80 per cent covered the losses, it was said.

Leon Hartman of Chicago is on his way here from Pasadena, where he was at the time of the fire, and is expected here Monday. Milton Hartman is coming from Chicago.

Move Started to Mark Places Where British Dead Buried

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.) London, Feb. 1.—The national cemeteries on the battlefields of the American civil war which serve as permanent reminders to the people of the United States of the price paid for freedom, are referred to frequently in this country in connection with the work of perpetuating the graves of the British soldiers in France and Belgium. Especially was this done when the prince of Wales returned from the western battle front and announced that 150,000 British graves in France and Belgium had been identified and registered in 400 burial grounds.

The prince of Wales heads the committee for the care of soldiers' graves, which has undertaken the task of looking after the resting places of the dead after they have been marked out by the graves registration unit. The prince announced that more than sixty of the 400 burial grounds have already been laid out and planted under the direction of the director of the Royal Botanic gardens at Kew on the Thames near London.

"I have seen how beautiful these cemeteries look when the flowers are out," said the prince, who has been an indefatigable worker for the preservation of these lasting monuments to the British soldiers.

The prince told from his own observation, something of what has been done. Last year, he said, the French government moved many thousand sorrowing hearts in this country to a deep emotion by the simple and gracious offer to set apart forever, in special honor, the burial places of British dead in France.

Holding Record for Duels, Dorcier Is Victim of War

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.) Paris, Feb. 15.—The only Frenchman who of late years had kept alive on the boulevards of Paris some of the traditions of the epoch of d'Artagnan and Cyrano de Bergerac, Rouzier-Dorcier, is one of the war's latest victims. "The Last Musketeer," as he was often called, had participated in more duels than any man of his time and perhaps he held the world's record. He fought for his own account more than a score of times and directed as second more than a hundred encounters.

Like both d'Artagnan and Cyrano de Bergerac, Dorcier had the quick blood of the south of France in his veins and was romantic in speech and act. His wide brimmed felt hat, his shining black locks and aggressive bristling mustache and imperial were familiar to every habitue of the boulevard cafes, nearly every one of which had at some time or other resounded with his discourses, controversies or proclamations. He was one of the figures of Paris that were pointed out to visiting provincials. He was not himself a particularly expert man with a sword, but his impetuosity often made up for lack of skill and overwhelmed his adversary at the outset.

At the outbreak of the war Dorcier enlisted as a machine gunner in the aviation corps and contracted in the service the illness from which he died.

Municipal Finances of Paris Are Going to Show Deficit

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.) Paris, Jan. 30.—Municipal finances of Paris for 1917 will again show a deficit, according to the forecast of the budget committee. The deficit is estimated at 111,641,470 francs and is due to increased charges and decreased receipts, both resulting from the war. The deficit for 1916, not yet definitely known, was estimated by M. Delanney, prefect of the Seine, at 143,000,000 francs. The deficit, head of the budget committee, puts it at 134,400,000 francs in 1914 and 156,835,297 francs in 1915, about equally divided between reduced receipts from city taxes on food and other products and increased expenditures for war relief.

Indemnities to city employes on account of the high cost of living add \$3,770,000 francs to the budget of 1917.

All the deficits since the beginning of the war have been provided for by the sale of one-year municipal bonds, the first issues at 5 1/2 per cent and the second at 6 per cent.

Rule No. 11: Tenants Must Not Keep Dogs; Janitors Must Not Gossip

Building Owners and Managers Adopt Rule to Govern the Conduct of Their Janitors.

KEEP GARBAGE CANS CLEAN

"Do not gossip or argue with tenants. Their affairs are not yours, nor ours."

This is one of the twenty-eight new rules the Building Owners' and Managers' association of Omaha has adopted for its janitors. So in the future janitors shall not stand in the halls and gossip with tenants nor argue with them.

Dogs will have to make a hasty retreat. Tenants in the apartment houses may not have dogs to fondle

GERMANS HUNGRY, BUT NOT STARVING

Organization Does Much to Alleviate Suffering, but Lack of Food Exists.

ROUMANIA DISAPPOINTS

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.) Berlin, Feb. 10.—Back last spring, when butter first began to run short and the waiting lines first began to form, two housewives were quarreling over their respective rights in line. They quarreled so vociferously that they attracted the attention of a policeman.

Laboriously he separated the pair, and, when he had placed them far apart, he addressed them and all the other women in the long "butter line."

"Stop the controversy. Don't fight. You're not going to starve, but you are going to go hungry."

His words were more effective in the original German because of the similarity of the two verbs. "Verhungern werdet ihr nicht, aber hungern wohnt!"

The policeman was no prophet, yet in March of 1916 he almost exactly outlined a situation that now exists.

There are no longer butter lines, and a few potato lines that began to form during the last month of the last year have been done away with. Organization has done that, though it has failed to supply any more butter than there was on hand in the spring, or any more potatoes than there were in November.

On the contrary, there is much less butter than there used to be, a fact which is attested to by the comparison of 50 grams allowed each person per week now, as against 250 in the spring. There are less potatoes, and the visible supply at very best will last until next July—when a new harvest will be in.

Small Meat Supply.
A summary of the German food situation today shows: Very little butter with little, if any, prospect that there will be more in the immediate future. An equally small amount of margarine or other substitutes for butter. A supply of meat that does not bid fair to increase, because there is so little feed on which the cattle can be nourished and fattened. A minimum amount of sugar, since less than the usual supply of sugar beet was raised in 1916, and a part of the supply has to go toward making chemicals. An almost complete failure of the potato crop, so that the bread ration is to be "stretched" with barley instead of potato flour, to the consequent diminishing of the beer production. An almost negligible supply of coffee and a very slender amount of tea.

On the credit side of the ledger stand the vegetables that were raised in great quantities during the last summer, and that with German thoughtfulness and system have been dried in great quantities and will be available for the winter. Likewise there are great quantities of marmelade, or near-marmelade, which have been stored up as a substitute for butter. The substitute is very poor, but better than nothing.

The average German will insist that Roumania stands on the credit side of the ledger, too, and that it is a big item. But it is extremely probable that the amount of food found in Roumania is far smaller than had been anticipated. Turkey, Bulgaria, Hungary and Austria all also have a claim on whatever there may be. Though Germany is running the military situation in Roumania, Germany is very far away. Its authorities have known for weeks that there was little to expect from Roumania, and have tried to break the evil news gently. First came the announcement that the size of the supplies captured was unknown, then the word that what ever might be found would not be used, but kept as a reserve.

Big Cities Suffer.
It is, of course, the big German cities that are suffering, and that are going to suffer increasingly as the war continues. Lack of transportation facilities is an increasingly important factor.

Germany, which before the war had somewhat more than ample freight cars for its own needs, now has to make the number of cars, approximately, do for all of the German empire, nearly all of Belgium, northern France, all of Poland, and a big piece

of Russia, in addition to Serbia, Montenegro and the biggest half of Roumania. Only a relatively small number of cars captured in Belgium have been added to the German rolling stock.

As the war has gone on the condition of this rolling stock has deteriorated steadily, and scarcely any of it has been replaced. A shortage of oils has not allowed the proper care of what cars there are; hot boxes on both passenger and freight cars are everyday occurrences. The engines have to draw such heavy loads that they are going to pieces faster than they used to.

Feed and fodder conditions for German live stock improved somewhat through last year's harvests, but only somewhat. The cattle are still thin and scraggly. The milch cows give less than ever and there is little milk that can be spared for cheese. The cattle, when slaughtered, give less meat than they used to, and so horse meat has had to be resorted to in a degree that is unprecedented.

A German Mistake.
The available supply of swine has never recovered from the original German mistake of 1914 and 1915, when millions of pigs were slaughtered to save the food that they devoured, only thereby reducing the supply of fat to a dangerous point. The Germans have never forgiven themselves for that short-sightedness.

The same is a measure holds true of sugar. There had been an over-supply in 1914, and solemn warnings went out not to plant so much land to sugar beets and more to grain. The peasantry followed the advice too literally, and Germany awoke to find that it had hardly more than enough sugar for purposes other than food. So the big cities are in part living on saccharine now, and there isn't enough of that.

The coffee "stretching" process began last spring, and has continued so diligently that real coffee is an almost unobtainable rarity, and the average "coffee" that is available is so poor as to prove undrinkable for the person used to real coffee. Substitutes such as chicory, herbs, mixtures of all kinds, have taken coffee's place.

The most perfect organization and system in the world has stepped in and so regulated the food affairs that every adult in the empire is pretty well assured of half a pound of meat a week. But nearly every ounce of that half pound is lean meat. The fat rarely reaches the purchaser, for it is jealously hoarded by the government.

System likewise has provided that there shall be no butter riots, or bread riots, or meat lines. There is now a so-called "customers' list," whereby each resident of any large city is registered with one dairy store and one baker, and one butcher. The customer has a number, and on stated days may purchase his or her quota of food by number. Government secret service agents have been busy ferreting out cases of extortion and overcharging, and heavy fines and imprisonments have been salutary in their effect. Likewise the custom of hoarding, which the Germans call "hamstering" after the animal, "hamster" or groundhog, has been discouraged to a great extent by fines and other punishments.

During the final months of 1916 Germans of the wealthier class helped out their scanty larders with butter, eggs, cheese and the like, which they procured from convenient "relatives" whom they discovered in Holland and Denmark. Now that has been done away with. From the first of January on the German government, through its Central Purchasing company, will buy all the food in adjoining foreign countries that those countries will or may sell and will distribute equitably in Germany.

Big Gift for Parochial School.
Shenandoah, Ia., Feb. 27.—(Special.)—JohW. Shunick has subscribed \$12,500 to the proposed new Catholic parochial school in Shenandoah. While it is not definitely assured that the school will be built, a few more liberal contributions and the building will be a reality. It is the plan to establish a school that will attract students not only the counties around, but the entire state. An endowment fund of \$100,000 is contemplated.

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Heavy Hoisting
E. J. DAVIS

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GETS FINE TRIP FOR THE BUSINESS PRODUCED.



R. M. DALE

R. M. Dale, who is associated with the German American Life Insurance company of Omaha in the year just closed produced in personal writing over half a million dollars in business. All upon the twenty-year payment plan. Mr. Dale continues his business exclusively to the state of Nebraska. He lives in Dundee.

As an appreciation of the business produced, Mr. Dale was presented with a beautiful loving cup from the president of the company, and as an additional appreciation for the business produced in the last year the German American Life Insurance

company has given Mr. Dale a pleasure trip to Havana, Cuba, by way of New Orleans and returning by New York.

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Fearing Spanking, He Runs Away From Home; Expelled from School

Shoots Paper Airship from Gallery of Theater at Glee Club Concert.

SLEEPS IN STORE LOBBY

Fearing that he would get a spanking if he went home after being expelled from an undergraduate class at Creighton, Alphonse Groeger, aged 15, whose mother and seven sisters live at 4014 Burt street, ran away a week ago Friday and was found at 3 o'clock yesterday morning asleep in the lobby of the Brandeis building by a watchman. He had been sleeping in doorways and similar places every

night and subsisting on food supplied by comrades.

He told Police Captain Heitfield he was expelled because he made an "airship" out of a piece of paper as he sat in the gallery of the Brandeis theater a week ago, when the Glee club was giving its concert, and sailed it down into the audience on the lower floor. When found he had not eaten for nearly twenty-four hours, so a collection was taken up among the station attaches and he was given enough food to make up for all he had missed.

Police records failed to reveal any complaint of his absence from home. He was turned over to Probation Officer Miller, who returned the lad to his parents.

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One Place on Earth Where American Coin Is at Discount

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.) Mexico City, Feb. 15.—Mexico is one place where the American dollar is at a discount. This discount ranges from 10 to 40 per cent, according to locality. This has been caused by the scarcity of Mexican gold and silver coins and the fact that certain taxes and rents and the wages of employes now, according to decree, he paid in Mexican coin.

"Hidalgo" or Mexican gold ten peso pieces, in Mexico City now sell for \$3.50 and in some of the remote states the price has reached as high as \$2.50, while they used to sell for \$4.00.

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Eighth Death in Fifty-Five Days From Meningitis

Winona Fullerton, 4 years of age, residing at 3412 Evans street, died Friday evening from cerebral spinal meningitis, this being the eighth death from this disease since January 1.

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