



100 BLOCKS IN ATLANTA FIRE-SWEPT; NEBRASKA RED CROSS NURSE SHOT

SHELL EXPLODES ON U.S. STEAMER ON WAY TO FRANCE

Two Red Cross Nurses Killed and One, Miss Matzen Injured.

New York, May 21.—Victims of an explosion during the practice firing of a gun on the American armed merchantman at sea Sunday afternoon...

Unofficial reports were that a defective shell was responsible. One account had it that the shell exploded prematurely after leaving the gun...

Cartridge as Boomerang.

It was learned, however, that the opinion of those aboard the ship best competent to judge was that the shell was not defective, but that in some unexplainable manner a portion of the structure of the cartridge had been diverted from its course boomerang fashion...

One of the two women killed was struck in the heart and the other in the head. They were members of base hospital No. 12, with a personnel of more than 250.

Women All on Deck.

It was a beautiful afternoon when the tragedy occurred and nearly all the sixty women nurses of the hospital were on deck watching target practice. According to Major Frederick Besley, professor of surgery at Northwestern university and commander of the unit, the gun crew was not aware that anybody had been killed until so informed, which seems to dispose of the theory that it was a breach explosion.

Major Besley said that the moral of the nurses and surgeons after the accident and since was splendid. Miss Matzen received prompt attention and is said to be on the road to recovery at the New York navy yard hospital. An informal inquiry was made aboard ship and statements were taken of the circumstances in affidavit form.

No Exact Evidence.

"There is no accurate evidence," said Major Besley, "to warrant making a positive statement as to the exact cause of the accident. That will be determined in an inquiry to be made by a naval board."

The ship will be held here, it is understood until the evidence necessary for the navy inquiry has been obtained.

Columbus, Neb., May 21.—(Special Telegram.)—Miss Emma Matzen, Red Cross nurse, who was injured while on her way to France, is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Matzen of Columbus. She was born near Leigh, Neb., thirty-five years ago and graduated from the Illinois Training School for Nurses and attached to Cook county hospital in 1913. She has been practicing her profession in Chicago.

Two of her sisters, Misses Mamie and Stella Matzen, who reside here, are also registered Red Cross nurses. Four other brothers and sisters also live here.

Miss Matzen left Chicago with the Red Cross unit to which she was attached last Wednesday evening.

Gwinn Knew Nurse.

When Bert Gwinn, Union Pacific station agent, residing at Salina, Kan., saw The Bee bulletin announcing the explosion of the ship, he immediately made inquiries as to the whereabouts and welfare of Miss Ola Reed, who was on the same ship.

The name of Miss Reed does not appear in the list of injured and Gwinn is anxious to know if she escaped. He received a letter from her a few days ago, stating that she would leave on the ship carrying the Red Cross nurses to the battlefield in France, but she did not give the name of the ship nor its sailing date. He says he is well acquainted with Edith Ayres and has met Emma Matzen.

Memorial Service for Choate in London Church

London, May 21.—Several hundred persons attended a service in memory of Joseph H. Choate of New York at St. Margaret's church, Westminster, today. The archbishop of Canterbury spoke of Mr. Choate's services for the American and British nations.

Among those at the service were: Ambassador Page, Mrs. Page, Robert P. Skinner, the American consul general, Mrs. Skinner, Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, former Premier Asquith, Viscount Bryce, Lord Bessford, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Lady Randolph Churchill, Sir Thomas Lipton, Lady Gilbert Parker and Sir Robert B. Finlay, lord high chancellor. The British Pilgrim's society, under whose auspices the service was arranged, was largely represented and a number of American diplomatic and consular officials were present.

Hopes U. S. Will Not See the Swiss Starve

Berne, May 20.—(Via Paris, May 21.)—President Schulthess, speaking today on the Swiss economic situation at a radical democratic congress, dwelt particularly on the possible consequences of the entry of the United States into the war to Switzerland's food supply. He expressed the firm hope of the federal government that the United States would not make Switzerland's existence impossible. President Schulthess also voiced the conviction that the entire nation would be behind the federal council at the critical moment to safeguard the country's independence on a footing of the strictest neutrality.

ITALIAN MISSION, NO AMERICAN SOIL, TO VISIT CAPITOL

Prince Udine, Cousin of King Victor Emmanuel, Heads Distinguished War Party En Route to Washington.

Washington, May 21.—The Italian war commission, headed by Prince Udine, first cousin of King Victor Emmanuel, will arrive in Washington tomorrow.

Its personnel is: Prince Ferdinando Di Savoia of Udine; Enrico Arletta, minister of transportation; Marquis Luigi Borsarelli di Ririeddo, under secretary of state for foreign affairs; Guglielmo Marconi, senator; Augusto Ciuffelli, deputy, former minister of public works; Francesco Saverio Nitti, deputy, former minister of agriculture.

Attaches accompanying the mission are: Cavaliere De Parente, secretary of legation and secretary of the mission; Naval Lieutenant De Zara, aide-de-camp of Prince of Udine; Cavaliere Alvisio Bragadin and Cavaliere Guido Pardo, secretaries to Signor Arlotto Duca Di Sangro, and Signor Di Sousa, secretary of Senator Marconi; Cavaliere Angeli, secretary to Signor Ciuffelli and Cavaliere D'Amato.

Party Lands Safely.

The fact that the commission had landed safely on this continent became known officially today through the State department. One of its members Enrico Arlotto, minister of transportation in the Italian cabinet, already is here and has had preliminary conferences with government officials.

Arrangements for receiving and entertaining the visitors have been made by a departmental committee. The mission is coming on a visit of courtesy and to discuss with American officials the shipping and food problems and the adjustment of rates of exchange.

Food and Munitions Bill Reported Back to House

Washington, May 21.—Favorable report on the administration bill to preferential shipments of food, munitions and other war traffic was made today to the house.

The report says the bill is "Germane to the earnest effort we are making to utilize to the highest degree of efficiency during the war the transportation facilities of the country and to promote the efforts of the administration to carry on the war by requiring preferential shipments of all freight which, in the judgment of the president, is essential to the public security and defense."

The section as to movements of transportation, the report explains, "has no reference, as has been erroneously stated in some quarters, to any disputes between carriers and their employees."

"Fortunately," it adds, "there is a truce on that subject during the war."

Exemption Clause on Drivers' Passes is Void

Washington, May 21.—Federal laws prohibiting railroads from giving passes, the supreme court decided today, do not exempt them from liability to live stock attorneys injured while traveling on a driver's pass issued under the uniform live stock contract. It was successfully contended that the driver's pass was not a gratuity, but a part of the live stock transportation rate and that the liability exemption clause was void.

Newman Elected Captain of Aurora Guards

Aurora, Neb., May 21.—(Special Telegram.)—At the election of officers in Company H, Fifth regiment, held Saturday and Sunday, O. M. Newman was elected captain. W. E. Dorland first lieutenant, Clyde Widaman second lieutenant, Elgie Bute of Hampton was defeated by Widaman by two votes for second lieutenant.

The First National bank of Aurora has subscribed for \$100,000 worth of the liberty loan.

Old Suit to Prohibit Liquor Sales Dismissed

Washington, May 21.—Suit to prohibit liquor sales in Nebraska was dismissed today by the supreme court. Prohibitionists contended a law passed in 1855 made the state dry, but state courts held that subsequent legislation had repealed the measure and permitted liquor sales until a new dry constitutional amendment became effective May 1, 1917.

Can We Beat Him to It?



MORE RECRUITS IS URGENT PLEA OF WAR OFFICES

Army, Navy, Marine Corps and National Guard All Are Far Below Standard War Strength.

"Men, men and ever more men!" The cry of the nation voiced through the recruiting offices of army, navy, marine corps and National Guard is for patriotic, red-blooded men to rally to the colors at once.

In no department has Nebraska filled its quota and the recruiting officers are looking eagerly for men to aid in bringing the enlistments of the state up to standard.

Even the Omaha companies of National Guardsmen are calling for more recruits. The latest order from the War department having made it necessary for the Fourth Nebraska to recruit to war strength, leaving each Omaha company short about fifty men. A total of at least 670 men is needed to bring the regiment to war strength.

Only three men were recruited for guard companies up to noon for Monday's record.

Army headquarters tell a little better story, a dozen recruits having been mustered in during the morning. Twenty men left Sunday night for Fort Logan to be mustered into various departments.

Navy is Favored.

Better results also seemed in view for the naval station, the waiting room of the department much resembling an employment office on the eve of the departure of Coxy's army. Men were lined up all around the room, waiting their turn to interview the recruiting officers. One man had even stretched out on a bench, pulled his hat over his eyes and was sleeping until called, evidencing his determination to remain "on the job" until his application for enlistment had either been accepted or rejected.

At the recruiting office of the marine corps eight new recruits were reported. They will be sent to Port Royal, S. C., at once for training. To reach the required war strength standard the navy still needs 40,000 men, recruiting officers report. The marine corps is short about 10,000 men to bring it up to its new standard of 30,000 men. Western Iowa and the state of Nebraska, which comprise the territory of the Omaha army office, must furnish 1,780 men as yet to complete the quota called for by the war office.

Boys Eager to Serve.

If the army were able to take school boys there would be no difficulty in filling the ranks, officers assert. Letters from all over the state constantly bring inquiries from lads under 18, but these youthful patriots cannot be accepted for service, even

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Oats Traders Invade Chicago Wheat Pit

Chicago, May 21.—With speculation in wheat all but eliminated on the board of trade by the establishment of maximum prices, oats traders today took possession of the pit historically sacred to wheat, although there was little trading. A notice in the new oats pit stated that with the approach of warmer weather the augmented oats group, reinforced by many former wheat brokers, needed roomier quarters.

Wheat prices dropped 8 to 10 cents early, but recovered.

MAKE THURSDAY 'LIBERTY LOAN DAY' FOR OMAHA

Frank R. Wilson, Secretary McAdoo's Advance Man, Arrives to Pave Way for Distinguished Visitor.

Next Thursday will be "Liberty Loan day" in Omaha if the suggestion of Frank R. Wilson is carried out. Mr. Wilson was in Omaha yesterday. He is the "advance man" for Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, who is making a tour of the country in the interest of the \$7,000,000,000 war loan and will be in Omaha Thursday.

The mayor is to be asked to issue a proclamation making the day a semi-holiday during which the people's attention will be directed to the big loan and everybody will be urged to subscribe for a part of it.

Secretary McAdoo will speak at the Commercial club at 12 o'clock noon and at the Auditorium at 2 p. m. At both of these meetings W. P. G. Harding, governor of the Federal Reserve board, will speak also. Other details for the day are being worked out by Mayor Dahlman and T. C. Byrne.

"The people must be taught that investment in this loan is not only a patriotic duty, but it is a safe investment and a paying one. It is the largest loan ever floated by any nation."

Few Americans Own Bonds.

"The people of the United States are not naturally bondholders like the people of France and England. Only one-fifth of 1 per cent of the people here own bonds. In France and England 12 per cent of the people have bought war bonds."

"Another thing to be borne in mind is that these bonds are exempt from all taxes with the exception of inheritance taxes. Also, it should be remembered that they can be bought on installments, thus putting them within the reach of everyone. On payment of only 2 per cent of the bond a purchaser can secure it and make payments at regular intervals, thus adding to his own savings and helping the government at the same time."

Mr. Wilson is publicity director for the Federal Farm Loan bureau.

Many Young Americans Are Crossing Into Canada

Spokane, Wash., May 21.—American citizens of conscriptive ages are crossing the border into Canada in large numbers, according to United States inspectors here.

FOOD CONGRESS OPENS TONIGHT AT AUDITORIUM

Mayor Dahlman to Welcome the Delegates and Governor Neville and Secretary Vrooman Speak.

The State Food Conservation conference will open formally in the Auditorium at 8 o'clock tonight. Mayor Dahlman will welcome the delegates.

Governor Neville will address the convention on the purpose of the call and the necessity of a united effort at conservation. W. J. Taylor of Meru, Ia., is to deliver an address, and Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Vrooman will arrive in Omaha in time to speak on the subject, "What We Are Facing."

The conference will continue four days. Much committee work is to be done, as there are many committees on various phases of conservation, and all will have to make their reports to the general conference.

Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo will speak Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Tells of His Efforts.

William T. Judy of Kearney cannot attend the conference, but he is in favor of conservation. He has written the executive office in Omaha, setting forth his ideas and the plan he personally expects to follow on his thoroughbred stock farm, that of W. T. Judy & Son. His letter says in part:

"We have 200 cows and heifers on the place, but are not offering any of them for sale. We aim to raise all we can from them and we feel we should do this. I believe and urge that all others should keep their heifer calves, not sell them as veal, as it makes only a few pounds of meat anyway, and we will be short on breeding cows in a little while. The same is true of hogs. We were thinking of putting most of our sows on the market, as the price is high, but realizing how short we are of pork for our people, and also for other nations, we are breeding 150 sows for fall litters. Of these we will sell fifty at our sale May 24, but they will be bought by those who will use them to raise more pigs, not by the packing houses."

Check Elevator Men.

W. H. Reynolds, insurance man from Chadron, wrote, giving his views on regulation of distribution. "We regulate the railroads because they are rendering service to the public," he says, "and if the middle men who control elevator storage houses and supplies of food are not rendering service for the public, they should be prohibited from doing business. We

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'Frisco Ad Club Delegates Are Traveling by Auto

San Francisco, May 21.—Fourteen automobiles bearing San Francisco's delegation to the annual National Ad Men's association convention were on the way to St. Louis today. The cars will traverse the Lincoln Highway, expecting to reach their destination June 3.

MILLIONS OF DAMAGE FROM FLAMES THAT BURN UNCHECKED FOR HOURS IN BEAUTIFUL GEORGIA CAPITAL CITY

Several Square Miles in Residence Section of Jewel City of South in Ruins When Conflagration Sweeps On Unchecked in Spite of Efforts of Thousands of Fire Fighters.

MANY BUILDINGS DEMOLISHED BY DYNAMITE

High Explosives Used on Every Hand, But Blaze Leaps Street After Street in Fury, Wiping Up Fine Homes As Well as Poor, in Its Path of Destruction

ONLY ONE PERSON LOSES LIFE EARLY REPORT

Atlanta, Ga., May 21.—Several square miles of the residential section in northeastern Atlanta was swept by fire late this afternoon. Many fine residences were destroyed, the flames going beyond the control of the fire department and raging over a great section without hindrance. By 4 o'clock about forty blocks had been burned and the fire was still progressing unchecked before a high wind.

HUNDRED BLOCKS SWEEPED.

At 4 o'clock about forty blocks had been swept, extending from about Decatur street northward to Merritts avenue, taking a toll of many fine residences. At that time the flames had not reached Ponce de Leon avenue, but there appeared to be nothing to stop its progress northward.

By 6 o'clock it was estimated 100 blocks had been burned over.

BUILDINGS ARE DYNAMITED.

The firemen, aided by 1,000 men from the officers' training camp at Fort McPherson, made a stand on Boulevard Place, two blocks from exclusive Ponce de Leon avenue, and shortly after 4 o'clock began dynamiting, hoping to clear a space wide enough to check the flames.

Aid was asked from Macon, Chattanooga, Augusta, Newman and Griffin.

The dynamiting did not prove entirely effective and at 4:30 the blaze jumped across Ponce de Leon avenue and was moving on northeastward.

RESIDENCES DESTROYED.

Shortly after 5 o'clock the fire got into the Ponce de Leon section, which includes some of the city's best residences and several large apartment houses. The dynamiters had to abandon their stand at Boulevard Place and move on past Ponce de Leon avenue.

Up to 5:15 p. m. only one death, that of Miss Bessie Hodges, who died from shock, had been reported. It became increasingly difficult to get accurate reports from the burned area. Wires were cut and streets were choked with debris, street cars that did not get out of the area in time and vehicles of all sorts.

LOSS WILL BE MILLIONS.

Shortly before 6 o'clock the blaze started to move westward on Forest avenue, where the destruction had been great two hours previously. It rapidly approached Peachtree street. No estimate of the loss can be made but it will be counted in millions.

Court Construes New York Workmen's Compensation Law

Washington, May 21.—The New York workmen's compensation law, recently upheld as constitutional by the supreme court, was construed today by the court as not applicable to workmen injured on ships while in New York navigable waters. The general and federal maritime laws, the court decided, are exclusive and paramount.

Again Last Sunday Advertising in The Bee

(Warfield Agency Measurements)

First in Total Display First in Auto Display Also First in Gains

Table with 2 columns: Display Type and Gains. Rows include Sunday, May 20, 1917; Local Display; Foreign Display; Automobile; Classified; Total; Same Sunday Last Year; Local Display; Foreign Display; Automobile; Classified; Total; GAINS—986 INCHES; Keep Your Eye On The Bee.