



BLACKMAIL CHARGES INVOLVING 6 OMAHA MEN ON TRIAL AT CHADRON

TEUTON RUSHES UNABLE TO BREAK NEW FRENCH LINE

Series of Desperate Assaults by Germans to Regain Lost Ground Results in Failure.

Associated Press War Summary. Desperate attempts by the Germans to push back the French from the vantage ground won in the recent attacks by General Petain's forges in the Champagne region have been renewed.

As a whole, the French line remained intact under the successive severe blows dealt it early today in a sustained effort of an extremely violent and sanguinary character, gas shells being liberally employed.

One Slight Dent Made. The front was dented at only one point and this but slightly, the crown prince's troops gaining a footing in some advanced trenches northeast of Mont Haut.

At the Teton, the Casque, at positions northwest of Auberville and at Mont Blond, on the front against which the attacks were launched, the net German gain was nil, the valuable ground which the French need for the pushing of a further offensive, particularly for observation purposes, being retained intact.

Raid on British Front. Along the British line in France the comparative quiet continues, broken into only by trench raids. Increased artillery activity from the Arras battle front, however, is reported today, the big guns on both sides having started up again in somewhat lively fashion near Bullecourt and further north along the Scarpe east of Arras.

French Official Report. Paris, May 31.—The Germans attacked the French lines in the Champagne with extreme violence at several points last night.

The attacking forces were checked at some places by the French fire and others at the point of the bayonet, the Germans retiring each time after heavy losses, the war office announced today.

The fighting was particularly desperate in the region of the Teton, the Casque and Mont Haut, the attack being launched in four successive waves after a heavy bombardment from large caliber guns and suffocating gas shells.

The French took prisoners during the fighting, including two officers. The statement follows:

"There was pronounced activity by the artillery south of St. Quentin and on the Chemin-Des-Dames, north of Jouy, near Cerny and in the vicinity of Hurbise, where a number of patrol encounters also occurred. "In the Champagne the enemy made sharp attacks at several points during the night, following violent bombardment, in which poisonous gas shells from large caliber guns were discharged. Northwest of Auberville and at Mont Blond all the German efforts were checked. "The enemy attacked with particular strength our positions at the Teton, the Casque and Mont Haut. We repulsed four different attacks after a struggle of extreme severity. The fighting began at about 2 o'clock and was continued until daybreak. Broken up by our fire or repulsed by the bayonet, the attacking troops each time were hurled back in disorder to the trenches whence they came after having suffered heavy losses. Only at one point on the front attacks northeast of Mont Haut did enemy troops gain a footing in some advanced positions. We took a number of prisoners, of whom two are officers. "On the left bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) the artillery fighting was spirited in the region of Hill 304. The attacks by the enemy were repulsed."

The Weather For Nebraska—Fair; rising temperature. Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday. Hour. Deg. 5 a. m. 57 6 a. m. 57 7 a. m. 57 8 a. m. 57 9 a. m. 57 10 a. m. 57 11 a. m. 57 12 m. 57 1 p. m. 57 2 p. m. 57 3 p. m. 57 4 p. m. 57 5 p. m. 57 6 p. m. 57 7 p. m. 57 8 p. m. 57 9 p. m. 57 10 p. m. 57 11 p. m. 57

American Gives Purse As Bounty on U-Boats

Nice, May 31.—H. W. Barol, an American resident here, has given 125,000 francs to the ministry of marine as prizes for officers and gunners on merchantmen who sink submarines. The money is to be distributed in prizes of 5,000 francs.

FEDERAL AGENTS DISCOVER PLOT AMONG COLLEGES

Arrest of Three Students in New York Reveals Anti-Draft Organization Covering Many Schools.

New York, May 31.—Federal agents took action here today against an alleged conspiracy to defeat selective draft registration in New York. Three students—two youths from Columbia university and a young woman, a senior at Barnard college—were arrested and held by a United States commissioner for examination tomorrow. Bond for each was fixed at \$1,500.

The defendants are Owen Cattell, son of James McKeen Cattell of Garrison, N. Y., a noted psychologist and a professor at Columbia; C. E. Phillips of Columbia; and Miss Eleanor Wilson Parker, who will be graduated in June from Barnard. The three are members of the Collegiate Anti-Militarism league, in the rooms of which a meeting of college students was held here May 8, when plans are alleged to have been made "against the peace of the United States and their dignity."

Membership Widespread. A pamphlet of this organization on file at the federal district attorney's office shows that it has members at Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Cornell, Columbia, Oberlin, Amherst, Syracuse, Hobart, Pennsylvania, Radcliffe, Bryn Mawr, Iowa, Nevada, Leland Stanford, Rutgers and other colleges, universities and theological institutions throughout the country. Miss Parker is executive secretary.

According to the complaint filed by Assistant United States Attorney H. A. Content, Cattell, Phillips and Miss Parker conspired to induce "divers persons whose names are unknown" to fail to register June 5. These "divers persons" are set forth as males between the ages of 21 and 30 years inclusive.

Alleged Pamphleteers. The defendants, alleged to be a committee selected at the meeting on May 8, are accused of having endeavored on May 24 to have the Graphic Press print pamphlets entitled "Will You Be Drafted?" The complaint alleges that the three defendants signed their names to manuscript copy sent to the Graphic Press to be prepared in folder form.

Arrests in Kansas City. Kansas City, May 31.—Four persons had been arrested late today in connection with alleged anti-draft activities. Two of them were Raymond I. Moore and Thomas Sullivan, both of whom had sought unsuccessfully earlier in the day to obtain an injunction preventing state, county and city authorities from enforcing the draft registration. The four were arraigned before a federal commissioner.

Information against fifty persons alleged to have been connected with anti-conscription plots was filed in the federal court by Arthur Bagley, investigator of the Department of Justice; Francis M. Wilson, federal district attorney for western Missouri; and other federal officials. Injunction Denied. Judge Daniel Bird, in the circuit court here this afternoon denied an injunction to prevent state officials from enforcing the draft registration next Tuesday. The injunction was sought on the ground that the draft act was unconstitutional.

Plot at Cleveland. Columbus, O., May 31.—An anti-conscription plot, with national headquarters in this city, to induce young men of military age to refrain from registering for conscription next Tuesday has been uncovered by state and government secret service agents, Agitator Jailed at Cleveland. Cleveland, O., May 31.—Charged with disorderly conduct in making a speech against conscription, Andrew Anderson was fined \$25 and costs and sentenced to thirty days' imprisonment.

according to announcement made this afternoon by Governor James M. Cox. A printing shop has been raided and a mass of literature seized. Ammon Hennacy, a graduate of Ohio State university, and Albert Valnispier, a car builder, have been arrested for distribution of anti-conscription literature. Labor Council Against Draft. Seattle, Wash., May 31.—The Seattle labor council, with which virtually

(Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

First Feminine Mail Carriers for Paris. Paris, May 31.—Wearing trim dark blue uniforms and glazed straw hats with the French tri-color ribbon, the first women letter carriers made their appearance on the streets of Paris today. They are paid 5 francs, 50 centimes per day with extra allowances for the high cost of living.

WILL PROCLAIM STATE OF SIEGE IN SPAIN SOON

Nation is in Ferment Over the German Aggression and Situation Becomes More Confused Hourly.

Madrid, May 31.—(Via Paris.)—According to the newspapers, the constitutional guarantees will be suspended again in two or three days. Former Premier Count Romanones has declared to an intimate friend that he regretted he had not invited to the mass meeting held by pro-ally sympathizers last Sunday. He said that if he had been present he would have maintained the declarations made in his letter to King Alfonso at the time he resigned. He added that many liberals, who were partisans of the allies, would also have liked to be present.

Situation Much Confused. Discussing the same subject with the correspondent of a French newspaper, Count Romanones said: "The meeting was of enormous importance. It will perhaps exercise a greater influence on foreign than on home policies." Asked what he thought of the situation in Spain, the former premier declared that it became more grave and more confused "every day and every hour of the day." Questioned as to whether he thought the Cortes would be summoned, Count Romanones smiled and answered: "I am not too sure of that."

Suppresses Demonstrations. Minister of the Interior Burels has prohibited all public manifestations relative to international questions as "dangerous to the interests of the country, in view of the important diplomatic negotiations now going on." Several such demonstrations had been planned in Madrid and other cities. The constitutional guarantees were suspended in Spain at the end of March following several strikes and serious disorders throughout the country. It was reported in Washington that a revolutionary movement was in progress, but this was denied by the Spanish ambassador. The operations of the censorship have cut off definite information regarding the recent internal situation in Spain.

Railroad Commissions Oppose Freight Raise

Washington, May 31.—Railroad commissions from eight states voiced their protests against the proposed 15 per cent advance in freight rates at the continuation today of hearings before the Interstate Commerce commission. These states were: Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota and Louisiana. L. G. Powell, rate accountant for the Nebraska State railway commission, presented statistics designed to show that freight now is bearing an unfair portion of transportation charges. He urged that passenger rates be raised if necessary for increased revenue to be shown.

Bank Clearings Show Splendid Gains for May

Omaha bank clearings for May reached the high water mark: They aggregated \$152,677,898.33, an increase of \$55,586,036.29 over the corresponding month of one year ago. But once before has the Omaha Clearing House figures attained such proportions. During March of this year the Omaha clearings reached \$164,000,000. However, the gain, as compared with the previous March was only \$49,000,000. Real estate transactions during May showed a substantial increase as compared with May of 1916. During May of this year there were 705 deeds filed, as against 617 in May of last year.

Political Machinery To Aid Draft Officers

Washington, May 31.—In a joint statement issued today from their respective party headquarters here, Chairman Wilcox of the republican national committee, and Chairman McCormick of the democratic national committee, called upon party committeemen and workers in all communities throughout the country to put their machinery into operation to aid army draft registration officers.

Funeral Services for Ambassador to Japan

Pittsburgh, May 31.—The funeral of George W. Guthrie, American ambassador to Japan, who died at his post in Tokio, took place here today. The Japanese government was represented by Ambassador Sato, who arrived from Washington last night, and the American government by Breckenridge Long, third assistant secretary of state.

Soldiers Want Emperor in Close Confinement

Petrograd, May 31.—(Via London.)—The congress of delegates from the front has decided to demand that the next general congress of workmen and soldiers' delegates from all Russia should cause the transfer of former Emperor Nicholas to the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul.



POET'S BRAVERY URGES ITALIANS ON TO VICTORY

D'Annunzio's Example Causes Countrymen to Drive Austrians From Before Sar Giovanni.

Udine, Italy, May 31.—(Via Paris.)—The Austrians in attempting to recapture San Giovanni on the southern portion of the Carso plateau, came into terrible hand-to-hand fighting with the Italians. Among the Italians was Gabriele D'Annunzio, the poet and playwright, whose work and example animated the soldiers in the heroic struggle, which ended in the annihilation of the enemy.

Occupy More Villages.

Rome, May 31.—(Via London.)—Italian troops in Albania have occupied the villages of Cerovoda, Velicest, Osoja and Cafa, the war office announced today.

Russ Repulse Attacks.

Petrograd, May 31.—(Via London.)—(British Admiralty per Wireless Press.)—Troops of the Russian Caucasus army have successfully beaten off hostile attacks at several points in Armenia and on the Mesopotamian front, the war office announced today.

Death Toll Reaches 36 in Missouri Tornado

St. Louis, May 31.—Fourteen persons were killed and scores injured in a tornado, that devastated Wayne county Wednesday afternoon, according to a telegram received from Piedmont, Mo., tonight. The dead were listed as follows: Granite Bend, two women; Chaonia, Ben Montgomery, wife and four children; McGee, an inland town, reports one killed. A dispatch from Salem, Mo., this afternoon saying that Mrs. Samuel Goade and daughter were killed near there by a tornado, and that Mrs. John A. Fett was killed at Dillard, brought the death toll of yesterday's storms to thirty-six.

Big Sugar Refinery To Open at Savannah

Savannah, Ga., May 31.—After thirteen months of the fastest construction work ever done on any sugar refinery, the Savannah Sugar Refining corporation's \$2,000,000 plant, which covers five acres, has been completed. It will start making white sugar at the rate of 1,000,000 pounds a day June 15. There are five other refineries in the United States at New York, Boston, Philadelphia, New Orleans and San Francisco.

England Is Promised Sufficient Wheat Crop

London, May 31.—Rowland E. Prothero, president of the board of agriculture, in an address today said that under a plan devised by the government, the success of which he believed to be assured, Great Britain would grow sufficient wheat in 1918 for all the needs of the population with a liberal supply left over for live stock.

COUPLAND SAYS ONLY 10 PERCENT WHEAT IN GROUND

Nebraska Defense Council Member Says Likelihood Entire Winter Growth in State Commandeered for Seed.

Lincoln, Neb., May 31.—George Coupland, food conservation member of the Nebraska State Council of Defense, today issued an announcement that a survey of the winter wheat situation in Nebraska by state and federal crop experts, had disclosed the surviving winter wheat acreage is only 10 per cent of the crop sown. The estimated yield is between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 bushels, against a yield last year of nearly 69,000,000 bushels.

County defense councils have been directed to prevent shipment of winter wheat from any county, "without first providing for the necessary seed requirements for next fall."

It is announced as probable that the entire winter wheat crop in the state will be commandeered for seed.

Italian Prince Delivers King's Message to Senate

Washington, May 31.—Prince Udine, head of the Italian mission, delivered in the senate chamber today a message from King Victor Emmanuel to the American people. Resplendently garbed in uniforms of gold and blue, with green shoulder sashes, the mission was enthusiastically received.

The union of effort and purpose of Italy and the United States was emphasized by the prince, who spoke in part as follows: "In this hour of danger, in which military absolutism is threatening everyone, there are nations that have forgotten old and new competitions and have united to defeat this menace to the common safety."

"We are in a more fortunate position. Between the United States of America and Italy there has never been any cause of conflict. This new and closer union means for us a greater bond of sympathy and solidarity, added to those which already linked us."

"This long friendship without strife, this union without mistrust, this cloudless future are enhanced by the fact that both our peoples are at war to defend the same ideals of humanity and justice."

Slackers Try to Leave U. S. in Motor Launches

Jacksonville, Fla., May 31.—Sheriffs along the Florida coast today maintained close watch for slackers who might attempt to leave the state for foreign shores by launch or steamer to escape registration.

Under instructions from Governor Catts, who says he has information that not a few draft subjects have already left for Cuba, the sheriffs will from now until next Tuesday detain any person within the age limit suspected of trying to escape. Washington, May 31.—It was announced today that steps had been taken to prevent men subject to military registration from leaving the country before June 5.

DAWES COUNTY COURT ROOM CROWDED WHEN CONSPIRACY CASE OPENS BEFORE SLATTERY

Detective Sutton of Omaha Testifies Mrs. Elsie Phelps Framed Deal by Which She Gave Way Alleged Plot to Blackmail County Attorney Crites and Others—Robert Hood Leaves. Leaves Town.

By EDWARD BLACK. Staff Correspondent for The Omaha Bee.

Chadron, Neb., May 31.—(Special Telegram.)—Testimony introduced this afternoon in county court before Judge Slattery in the Omaha factional embroglio and the local Crites-Fisher fight was given by Detective Paul Sutton to show that he had framed a job with Mrs. Elsie Phelps to reveal the workings of an alleged conspiracy to blackmail involving six Omaha and three Chadron men.

Both the Omaha detective and County Attorney Crites were on the stand in the preliminary hearing of the case and practically completed their showing.

The local prominence of the principals, Crites and Fisher, added zest to the legal battle. The injection of Omaha police and detective affairs served to embellish the repast, which is crowding the court room to the rear walls.

Opinion here is strong that Crites is more desirous of convicting Fisher than to get the Omaha men. Maloney, Wolfe, Dolan, Winckler, Tylee and Attorney Baker were eyed with curiosity wherever they went.

It is alleged that the defendants conspired to get Crites and Mrs. Hood in a compromising situation and demand \$500 from Crites, \$500 from Mrs. Hood and \$1,000 from Mr. Hood.

SUTTON ADMITS DEAL. The locale of the case changed from Omaha to Chadron and vice versa, with lightning rapidity. Sutton frankly admitted that he had been investigating the Omaha Detective association for months. He said he had been sent here with knowledge of Superintendent Kugel and that when Elsie Phelps had first announced her intention of working for the detective association, she confided in him, reported to him, and told him Manager Dolan of the association offered her a bonus of \$500 to compromise Crites with Mrs. Hood. That Mrs. Phelps played a double role in her detective game was brought out and her double crossing of the persons who first engaged her was admitted by Sutton.

The evidence thus far showed that Mrs. Phelps worked both ends of the game at Chadron with considerable skill, ingratiating herself with the workable material of both sides. Crites testified his first knowledge of the alleged conspiracy to blackmail was received in a registered letter from Sutton, this being followed by Sutton's recommendation to Crites by W. C. Ramsey, assistant county attorney of Omaha, a cousin of Crites.

Crites testified that he met Mrs. Hood at his office with full knowledge of the alleged plot, but upon cross-examination said no demands for money or to drop prosecution had been made of him by any of the nine defendants.

Official Acted Part. His testimony plainly showed that he acted his part, as he expressed it, according to suggestions of Mrs. Phelps and Sutton, who told him that plans had been arranged in Fisher's office.

Mrs. Hood was the woman with whom Crites was to be found in his office, who fell into the plot by going to Crites' office on the evening of May 14, "the evening of the late unpleasantness," as Judge Baker designated that eventful eve.

Begin Shortly Before Noon. The alleged conspirators and their lawyers entered the court room at 11:10, Omaha time. Judge Slattery allowed the crowd several minutes to settle down while determining identities of the principals in the case. Maloney, clad in a natty blue suit, and Elsie Phelps, are the center of interest. The seating arrangements placed Sutton, Mrs. Phelps and Ford against the wall, facing Maloney. It has been twenty years since the county court held such a large crowd.

Judge Slattery Will Sit. The preliminary hearing opened with a sharp legal polemic over the qualifications of Judge Slattery to try the case on account of his relationship to County Attorney Crites and his former relations of counsel for Hood.

The judge overruled the objections of the defense and announced that he is bound by law to hear the case. He said he would give it a fair and impartial hearing, notwithstanding his long acquaintance with Crites and Hood.

Defendants pleaded not guilty, waived reading the complaint and court adjourned till 1 o'clock. The court, on reconvening, ap-

(Continued on Page Two, Column Two.)

Identify Prowler Shot By Illinois Guardsman. Chicago, May 31.—A prowler, shot and killed last night by a private of the First Illinois infantry, was identified today as Fred William Struder, formerly an inmate of the asylum for the insane at Elgin, Ill.

German Government to Curtail Rail Traffic. Copenhagen (Via London), May 31.—A Berlin dispatch says passenger traffic in Germany will be restricted soon and railroads will be limited to one fast train daily in each direction. The military authorities have been empowered to confiscate rolling stock of private railroads. The measure is due to the shortage of rolling stock.

Pastor Arrested for Seditious Statements. Minneapolis, May 31.—Rev. Charles L. Lehnert, pastor of the Central German Methodist Episcopal church, was arrested here today by agents of the Department of Justice on a warrant issued in St. Paul, charging him with making seditious statements.

Australian Potatoes On Chicago Market. Chicago, May 31.—Australian potatoes were placed on the Chicago market today for the first time in history. They were dug in February and are beginning to sprout. The importer ordered thirty car loads of them.