



45 DROWNED IN TROLLEY WRECK AT NIAGARA FALLS; DEMAND PUNISHMENT OF VILLISCA AX MURDERERS; BAKER REPUDIATES BOARD'S COAL RATE AGREEMENT

WAR SECRETARY DECLARES DEFENSE COUNCIL HAS NO POWER TO FIX FUEL PRICES

Head of Army Department Contends Price of \$3 at Mines for Coal is "Exorbitant, Unjust and Oppressive;" Daniels Says Navy Department Will Not Be Bound By Agreement.

Washington, July 1.—Secretary of War Baker, as president of the Council of National Defense, repudiated tonight an agreement fixing a tentative price of \$3 a ton for bituminous coal, reached at a conference here Thursday between coal producers, Secretary Lane, a member of the Defense Council, members of the council's coal production committee and the federal trade commission.

Neither the council nor its committees, Secretary Baker said in a letter to W. S. Gifford of the council, has power to fix prices. He added that the price of \$3 at the mines, suggested for bituminous coal, is "exorbitant, unjust and oppressive."

NAVY NOT AFFECTED.

Secretary Daniels, another member of the council, earlier in the day said the agreement would in no way affect coal purchases for the navy. The navy, he said, will continue to buy from the mines at \$2.33 a ton, leaving a price to be determined after the Federal Trade commission has ascertained production costs.

In his letter to Mr. Gifford, Mr. Baker asserted that he believed no members of the Defense Council disagree with him as to the limitations on the powers of the Council and its committees and as to the effects of the action taken.

The fact that the conferences were attended by members of the council and of the Trade commission, he declared, gave no legality to the agreement.

Result of Conference.

The price fixing agreement was reported after 400 operators, called here by the coal production committee, had adopted resolutions authorizing their committees to give assent to such maximum bituminous prices as might be named by the secretary of the interior, the Federal Trade commission and the coal committee.

Had Inside Information.

An official announcement made through the public information committee said that in the final conference cost prices and other confidential information was laid on the table and the government representatives, acting as judges, decided what would be the highest prices paid at the mines, the prices to go into effect July 1, and to remain in effect until investigations are made and other prices arranged.

Bakers' Letter to Gifford.

His letter to Mr. Gifford said: "My attention has been called through the newspapers to the action reported to have been taken at Washington, D. C., during the last week by the so-called committee on coal production of the Council of National Defense, in co-operation with certain coal producers and representatives of coal mining enterprises, with regard to the price of bituminous and anthracite coal.

"The facts seem to be that the coal production committee invited to Washington various coal operators and arranged conferences between them, members of the coal production committee and members of the federal trade commission, leading to the adoption of resolutions in favor of an early and accurate determination of the costs involved in the production of bituminous and anthracite coal, as a basis for some future action by some official agency of the government in fixing fair and just prices for these products, should any such agency be given power to do so.

Should Remain in Force.

"Pending such an ascertainment of costs this meeting seems to have adopted a resolution whereby the operators present agreed to sell bituminous coal at a price no higher than \$3 per ton, and that this obligation

Cossacks Want Conquered Lands Returned to Them

Petrograd, July 1.—The congress of Cossacks has resolved that lands formerly belonging to the Cossacks by right of conquest and later given by the crown to private owners must be returned to the Cossacks under conditions to be approved by the constituent assembly. The congress recommended that peasant land remain in status quo where legally owned and occupied.

FORT WORTH, TEX., TENTATIVELY AS CAMP OF N. N. G.

Plan for July 25 Call May Be Changed to August 5; Secretary of War Baker to Decide.

Washington, July 1.—The Nebraska National Guard will be sent to camp at Fort Worth, Tex., when it is drafted into the federal service, if tentative plans of the War department are carried out.

In announcing the tentative selection of camps for the central states the War department also reversed its previously announced decision to hold the National Guard at local armories for two or three weeks after it is drafted into the federal service. Instead, under plans now proposed, all the National Guard will be sent directly to camp immediately after mobilization.

The tentative selection of camps for the National Guard of the central states, as announced, is as follows: Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota and Dakotas Division—Fort Worth, Tex. Illinois Division—Waco, Tex. Indiana-Kentucky Division—Anniston, Ala. Michigan-Wisconsin Division—Houston, Tex.

These selections are not final, as there are two camps in the southeastern department which are yet to be selected by General Wood. It is hardly likely this will change the location of the central troops, as the eastern state troops will be distributed among the camps in General Wood's department.

The only change in the plan at present considered is one delaying until August 5 the date when all National Guard units are to be drafted into the federal service. This plan has been urged as necessary to prevent inequalities in rank, since the relative rank of officers dates from their draft, and those called out July 15 would have an advantage over those called out July 25 and August 5.

Killed on Lens Salient

British Army Headquarters in France, July 1.—Serge Basset, a distinguished French war correspondent attached to the British armies, was killed by rifle fire while watching the fighting about the Lens salient. Although several correspondents have been wounded, Serge Basset is the first to be killed in the field during the present war. He has been awarded the legion of honor for literary and dramatic work. He will be buried tomorrow with military honors.

The Weather

Generally fair Monday; fresh northwest wind. Temperatures at Omaha yesterday.

Table with columns for Hour, Deg., and Comparative Local Record. Includes data for highest, lowest, mean, and precipitation.

Comparative Local Record. 1917, 1916, 1915, 1914. Highest yesterday, 84; lowest yesterday, 67; mean temperature, 75.7; precipitation, .00.

Commanding Officers of "Fighting Fourth" Nebraska Regiment Inspire Confidence of Mothers Who Gave Sons to Their Country

All of Them Have Seen Service and Rose From the Ranks; Colonel Baehr Chased Aguinaldo in Philippines.

By SAMUEL SLOTKY. When the "Fighting Fourth," one of Nebraska's crack regiments, unlimbers for action "somewhere in France" mothers with sons in the organization may rest assured that their



COLONEL Y. E. BAEHR boys will be led to victory by officers who have seen actual service and who "know what it is to tote a gun."



Major Geo. H. Holdeman

ter qualified than those of the "Fighting Fourth." From the colonel down to the junior major, all have had years of military experience, first as privates and up through the ranks to "gold braids."

The "old man," Colonel William Baehr, known better to his officers as Colonel "Bill" Baehr has seen continental service with the organization he now commands twenty-one years. In 1896 Colonel Baehr got a hankering that he wanted to be a military man. He joined Company L of the First Nebraska with the rank of a private. In 1898 Colonel Baehr, still a private, was sent to the Philippines, with his regiment to help in putting a stop to Aguinaldo's depredations. Colonel Baehr "soldiered" all over the islands taking part in thirty engagements. His experience gained there is expected to be invaluable when he goes to the front.

Russian Sailors Accept Challenge of Bravery

Petrograd, June 30.—Two hundred sailors from the Baltic fleet have appeared at Riga to join the army and lead in an attack upon the enemy, according to the Ruskaya Volk. Their action, says the newspaper was taken as the result of a declaration by an army officer that if "200 brave men willing to die for their country could be found, the whole army would fight."

Roumanian Mission Purely Unofficial

Washington, July 1.—The Roumanian war mission now in Washington was said at the State department today to be purely unofficial, having as its only purpose to unite Roumanians here and to recruit as many as possible for home service. The mission will pay a call of courtesy on Secretary Lansing Monday.

GORGE ROUTE CAR PLUNGES INTO RIVER BELOW RAGING CATARACT AND TURNS OVER

Of Sixty Passengers on Board, Forty are Missing and Several in Hospitals, Seriously Hurt; Exact Number of Dead Not Known; Caused by Washout.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., July 1.—A trolley car on the Gorge route, carrying sixty persons, jumped the track and ran into the Niagara river about 3:30 o'clock this afternoon.

At 6 o'clock the police reported that 45 persons were missing and several were in hospitals seriously hurt.

The car left the track just below the cantilever bridge on the American side of the river and turned bottom side up in the rushing current.

Four hours after the accident officials of the Gorge Route and the International railway, with which it connects, were unable to determine the number of dead.

It was definitely known however, that the car had a capacity of 60 persons and was filled and that only a few of those on board escaped.

The cause of the accident was said to have been a washout. The road bed under the cantilever bridge at the point where it occurred is a clay fill and recent heavy rains washed it out, below the surface of the road bed.

When the heavily loaded car struck the weak spot this afternoon, the rail on the river side about ten feet from the waer gave way. The car turned on its side, slid down into the water and as it struck the rock bottom of the river turned completely over, the top of the car resting on the bottom of the river.

Not more than half a minute elapsed between the time the car left the rails and the time it came to a standstill in the river.

ELEVEN DIE WHEN SHIP IS CRUSHED BY FALLING TANK

Steamer Crashes Into Wharf, Loosening Fifty-Ton Reservoir That Falls on Crowded Decks.

Milwaukee, July 1.—Eleven persons met death and at least ten others were injured, some seriously, Saturday, the result of a fifty-ton water tank, erected on the Milwaukee river front, toppling down on the whale-back steamer Christopher Columbus, as that vessel was being swung around preparatory to making its return trip with about 400 passengers for Chicago.

The steamer was in tow of two tugs when it rammed the East Water street dock, abutting the warehouse of the Yahr & Lange Drug company, with such force as to cause the steel supports which held the fifty-ton water tank to give way, resulting in the lofty reservoir crashing down, hitting the vessel near the bridge and not stopping until it had ripped through two decks, causing a panic and carrying death or injury to all who were in its path.

Captain Moody, who was on the bridge at the time of the accident, gave it as his opinion that the tugs secured unable to hold the boat and that had there been a leeway of but six inches, the accident would not have happened.

Famous German Aviator Is Killed in Action

Copenhagen, July 1.—Lieutenant Allmaeroeder, a German aviator, who was one of the brightest stars of Lieutenant Baron von Richthofen's battle squadron, has been killed in aerial combat. Lieutenant Allmaeroeder had a record of thirty victories, although he only passed the pilot examination last January.

Russ Schooner Sunk By German Submarine

Chattam, N. B., July 1.—The Russian schooner Sibens, 323 tons, from Cadiz for this port with a cargo of salt, has been sunk by a German submarine, according to cable messages today.

South Dakota Saloons Wind Up Their Business

Sioux Falls, S. D., July 1.—Saloons here did a bumper business today preparatory to closing tonight, when the state-wide prohibition law became effective. Several saloons closed their doors early today, having exhausted their stock and most drinks were selling at a premium.

JOE STILLINGER, FATHER OF TWO VICTIMS FOULY SLAIN, PLEADS JUSTICE BE DONE

Detective Wilkerson, Who Called Meeting, Arrested on Conspiracy Charge and Prevented by Injunction From Speaking; Citizens Aghast at Unseen Power; Attempt to Send Kelly to Asylum.

Red Oak, Ia., July 1.—(Special Telegram.)—A mass meeting of Red Oak citizens and residents from all parts of Montgomery county was held here Saturday afternoon to raise funds to carry out an exhaustive investigation of the Villisca ax murders of five years ago.

Prosecution of the guilty parties, if ferreted out, was demanded. A preliminary fund of \$700 to start the work was raised at the meeting.

From the platform it was openly charged that an attempt is being made to "railroad" Rev. George Lynn J. Kelly, now in jail at Logan, charged with the crime, to the insane asylum.

HAPPY FATHERS MAKE REPORT NOW IN POLICE COURT

Tell Sergeant Wilson They Are Living Lives of Sobriety, and Kiddies They Bring Are Living Witnesses.

"Good morning, sergeant," a well dressed middle aged man greeted Court Sergeant W. R. Wilson pleasantly after the morning session of police court Saturday.

"I brought the baby down town to get a new pair of shoes and some candy and thought I would come in and report."

After a few minutes conversation, the man picked up the child and with a smile, departed.

"I never expect to see him here again," the sergeant remarked.

"The judge has paroled several men to me who were in the habit of getting drunk and abusing their families," said Sergeant Wilson by way of explanation. This man was one of them, but I just told him he would not have to come again. He doesn't look much like the sot he was a few months ago and from the appearance of his child, I guess his family is not suffering now.

Families Suffer. "Nothing ever tore my heart strings more here to see men of families come here as they did before prohibition became a law. Since May 1, few have come back. Several who have reported in the last few days looked so prosperous I did not know them at first. One of the most confirmed cases, I visited a few days ago. I found one of the happiest and nicest little families in Omaha. I consider prohibition the greatest law on our statute books. It certainly has made life worth living for the women and children of a great many men."

During the month past, but five men have been arrested for abusing their families in various ways. One year ago sixteen men were arrested on this charge. Police officers are unanimous in declaring prohibition is responsible for this change.

Saves Dempsey Work. Police Captain Dempsey when asked of the noticeable effects of the first two months of the prohibition law said: "It has saved us a great deal of work. We cannot notice much difference in the criminals, but we do not have as many vagrants and beggars as before. I do not know whether they have gone to work or left town, but they do not loaf around the streets. We rarely have reports of men abusing their families, and drunkards are almost strangers here."

"The big plants are having their effect now," said Prosecuting Attorney T. J. McGuire. "The supply stored away in the homes is running out and men who stored away large amounts are taking chances. Several have employed agents working the streets with one bottle at a time, but we have a line on them and several big arrests will be made as soon as we have sufficient evidence to land the man higher up. We will not let up in the enforcement of this law."

Number of Arrests. Arrests for drunkenness have fallen off during June from May, although there were eight more arrests on other charges. Following is a comparative statement of the number of arrests during May and June of this year and a year ago:

Table with columns for May 1916, Arrests, Drunkenness, May 1917, Arrests, Drunkenness, June 1916, Arrests, Drunkenness, June 1917, Arrests, Drunkenness.

Fifty-eight arrests were made during June for violations of the prohibition law. All but two of the offenders have been tried. Twenty-eight were fined \$100 and costs. One bond was forfeited and two were soldiers and turned over to the United States army officers. Ten were discharged on insufficient evidence, etc. Fifteen were found guilty and given thirty day jail sentences.

Hindenburg Again Offers Armistice to Russians

Copenhagen, July 1.—It is reported from German sources that Field Marshal von Hindenburg, chief of the general staff, in a wireless message has again offered an armistice to Russia. This time his wish is to suspend hostilities during the election of delegates to the Russian constitutional convention.

Hot Winds Shatter All Kansas Heat Records

Topeka, Kan., July 1.—Hot winds and a blazing sun combined today to shatter Kansas heat records for June 30. The maximum temperature of 102 degrees registered here at 4 o'clock this afternoon was the highest for this date in thirty years, according to the government bureau.