

FRENCH SMASH ON VERDUN FRONT; GERMANS RETIRE WITHOUT FIGHT

JAP MISSION VISITS OMAHA FOR HALF HOUR

Uncle Sam's Distinguished Guests From Nippon Go Through Gate City on Way to Washington.

The Japanese mission to the United States stopped in Omaha last night for half an hour. The special train on which the distinguished gentlemen of Japan are traveling to Washington arrived at the Union station at 6:30 p. m. A little man in a blue serge suit and straw hat met the newspaper men. He was M. Naigai, secretary of the foreign department of the Japanese mission. He speaks very good English.

"It is entirely impossible to see Viscount Ishih, who heads the mission," he said. "Because of the nature of the mission the viscount has declined to talk to newspaper men anywhere. He does not feel free to do this until after he has seen the president in Washington."

Mr. Naigai was asked about the feeling between the Japanese and American people.

"It could not be better," he replied. "Everywhere we have been received most kindly. In the past there may have been small things which have caused some of the 'yellow' newspapers to try to stir up trouble. But this was only a magnifying of molehills into mountains. There are 'yellow' newspapers in Japan as well as in America. Shortly before we left Tokyo Admiral Knight came to Yokohama with the Asiatic fleet and, although it was at a date when the emperor is usually at his summer home, the emperor put off his outing in order to greet Admiral Knight."

Mr. Naigai was asked why Japan has not sent troops to Europe as it would seem an easy thing to send them across Siberia or through the Suez canal.

Transportation Lacking.
"Ah, but that is not so," he said. "The Trans-Siberian railroad is one track and in very poor condition now, utterly inadequate to transport troops. As for the water route, ships are lacking to send troops to Europe that way. But we have supplied Russia with immense quantities of munitions and many Japanese officers are teaching the Russian troops to use the weapons which we supplied to them. The feeling between Japan and Russia is very friendly today."

"We have been amazed and delighted at the great patriotism and war enthusiasm shown in San Francisco and at other places in the United States where we have had opportunity to see it. Japan expects America to do great things in this war. Our people are glad to have America as an ally. In Honolulu we were pleased to learn that a regiment of Japanese had been raised and would be sent to France under the American flag. Such things will help to cement forever the friendly relations of the great republic of America with Japan. It is very pleasing to the intelligent people in both countries."

Is Self-Made Man.
Viscount Ishih who heads the mission is a self-made man. He was plain "Mr." at the beginning of his career. After the Russo-Japanese war he was made Baron Ishih and after further distinguished service, was created viscount. With him on the mission are Admiral Takishita, General Sugano, Consul General Hanihara of San Francisco, Commander Anko of the Japanese navy, Colonel Tanikawa of the Japanese army.

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Says He Is Daniels' Son; Collects Money; Fades

Washington, Aug. 20.—A mysterious stranger, passing himself off as a son of Secretary Daniels, has obtained considerable money and to date has eluded capture.

EXPECT NEBRASKA TROOPS TO START SOUTH WEDNESDAY

Reports Current at National Guard Headquarters Indicate Cornhusker Brigade Will Entrain in 48 Hours.

Reports current at National Guard headquarters in both Omaha and Lincoln last night indicated that all companies of the Nebraska brigade still in the state would entrain at their home stations Wednesday for the first lap of their journey to the training camp at Deming, N. M.

The Omaha battalion of the "Dandy Sixth" yesterday received orders to prepare for entrainment within forty-eight hours. Members of Company D, located at the Auditorium, were instructed to have their baggage packed and be prepared for departure upon a moment's notice.

Take Phone Numbers.
Guardsmen who live at their homes were ordered to keep in close touch with headquarters and officers tabulated the telephone numbers of all such troopers in case the rail to get under way comes when they are absent.

General Harries, commander of the Nebraska brigade, left for Deming last night. At Lincoln last night, it was reported the troops would all leave Wednesday for Kansas City where they would assemble as a unit for the journey to Deming.

Mobilization of the Second and Third Draft Men Delayed

Washington, Aug. 20.—Mobilization of the second increment of draft troops was today delayed from September 15 to 19 and the third increment from September 30 to October 3. Mobilization of the first increment will be as previously announced, September 5.

The postponements are said to be due to delays in local boards getting their quotas ready for service.

Food Administration to Stabilize Sugar Prices

Washington, Aug. 20.—Measures to stabilize sugar prices were discussed today by Herbert C. Hoover with a committee from the New York coffee and sugar exchange. Prices have advanced sharply recently.

Found Dead in Explosion in King Mills, O., Powder Mill

Cincinnati, O., Aug. 20.—Three explosions along what is called the "powder line," a series of small detached buildings at a powder plant at King Mills, O., today caused four deaths and injured two workmen. The main buildings of the plant were not harmed. Four tons of blasting powder let go.

Iowa Brigadier General to Command Men at Deming

Des Moines, Ia., Aug. 20.—Brigadier General Hubert F. Allen of Cedar Rapids, Ia., was ordered today to report at Camp Cody, near Deming, N. M., August 25 to assume command of the Sixty-seventh infantry brigade.

Two Omaha Women Each Adopt Two Nebraska Soldiers to Look After

The motherless boys in the Fifth regiment machine gun company are to have a real mother at last. One day last week two sweet-faced women appeared in the headquarters at the army.

"We want to adopt two boys apiece," they told Lieutenant Rouse. "Two boys that have no home and no mother. We want to be good to them during the remainder of their stay in Omaha and keep in touch with them all the time they are at the front."

"They will be our boys until they are mustered out. We want to give them chicken dinners and automobile rides while they stay. And be sure we'll be on hand to tell them goodbye at the train. We want to write them often and send them papers and nice mysterious little packages of goodies and such things very often at the front."

"Can you find us four such boys?" Lieutenant Rouse could—and he did, in a moment. Four fine young lads filed in, a little embarrassed at the call, but all that vanished as they met the anxious motherly eyes of the two visitors.

The two kind-hearted women were Mrs. A. S. Williams, 4816 Douglas street, and Mrs. William G. Fuller, 708 North Forty-ninth street. The

MERCHANTS' FLOCKING FROM SEVERAL STATES

Come Earlier Than Ever to Take Advantage of the Omaha Market Week Offerings.

During no previous Merchants' Market week held in Omaha did so many merchants arrive on the first day as came today to buy their stocks of goods on the Omaha market.

By 11 o'clock merchants were on the market from fifty miles south of Kansas City, from Montana, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Missouri. Wives and daughters accompanied many of them, for more and more the merchants throughout the Omaha trade territory are depending upon the judgment and taste of their wives and daughters in the matter of laying in stocks of goods, especially in the line of women's apparel.

Come to Buy.
The merchants are a buying crowd. They feel that crop conditions are good throughout most of the territory they will serve, and that consequently business will be exceptionally good this fall and winter.

Those who arrived early got to the big wholesale houses as fast as possible and evinced a keen desire to get a lot of their stock laid in before the big rush of merchants arrives Tuesday and Wednesday. The result was the business was exceptionally brisk at the wholesale houses. Extra help was employed to show goods and help take orders.

Kansas Merchants Optimistic.

Kansas merchants, despite the reports of failure of corn crop in parts of the state, are optimistic for a good fall and winter business, and they insist that the talk of corn failure in their state has been exaggerated. They point out that Kansas is more of a wheat state than a corn state, anyway, and that the wheat yield was good, and also that there will be much good corn in Kansas despite the fact that there are spots where the corn was damaged by the dry weather which prevailed there some weeks ago.

The South Dakota fellows are very optimistic also, saying that the small grain yield was excellent and that there will be much corn in the state despite the fact that some of it is a little late.

General Strike of I. W. W. in Northwest Is Not Called

San Francisco, Aug. 20.—Peace and quiet prevailed today throughout the northwest states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana, where a strike of thousands of Industrial Workers of the World in the construction, harvesting and fruit industries was scheduled to take place under orders of the organization leaders.

A survey of the situation early tonight showed that even the line of industry to be affected by the proposed strike pursued its normal, orderly way and so far as could be ascertained no attempt was made by any I. W. W. leader to carry into effect the strike order issued recently by James Rowman, district secretary, with headquarters at Spokane, who advised farm workers to "let fruit rot on the ground" and calling on construction workers to lay down their tools.

Wattles to Washington On First of September

Washington, Aug. 20.—(Special Telegram.)—Word has reached Washington that Gurdon W. Wattles of Omaha will be in Washington on September 1 to hold a conference with Food Administrator Hoover, when it is thought the entire food control situation will be gone over with several administrative councils and state boards.

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Merchants' Market Week



WESTERFIELD TO MAKE UP FURTHER DUNDEE SHORTAGE

Former Treasurer of the Village is Given Until Saturday to 'Put Back' \$2,500 Still Missing.

Demand has been made upon Ellery H. Westerfield, treasurer of the village of Dundee prior to annexation with Greater Omaha, for \$2,500 additional shortage.

The demand has been made by the department of public accounts and finance and Mr. Westerfield has been granted until next Saturday to pay in the amount.

This additional shortage came to light when interest coupons of district improvement bonds were checked back by John Fead, bond clerk in the city controller's office.

Records Show Shortage.

The \$2,500 was part of an issue of \$7,500 improvement bonds sold by the village of Dundee on June 5, 1915, two weeks before annexation. The bonds were dated May 1, 1915. In the records of Dundee finances as turned over by Mr. Westerfield, there appeared a memorandum showing distribution of only \$5,000 of the \$7,500 bonds.

Chief Clerk Stenica of the department of public accounts and finance in the absence of Superintendent Butler states that the shortage exists and that Mr. Westerfield does not question it and has promised to settle this week.

Shortly after the annexation of Dundee with Greater Omaha the city comptroller discovered that Mr. Westerfield's books could not be reconciled. The more the books were checked the more evident it became that a shortage existed. An exhaustive check disclosed a lax system of accounting and a long list of items which went to make up a total shortage of \$25,000, which was finally paid into the city treasury and prosecution abandoned.

When the shortage was made public Mr. Westerfield left Omaha and his friends reported that he had suffered a "nervous breakdown."

Friends Come to the Rescue.

Relatives and friends went to his rescue and when a settlement of the shortage was arranged, he returned.

Plenty of Buckwheat Cakes For Nation's Breakfast

Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 20.—Buckwheat cakes will be plentiful this winter, according to predictions made today by state officials. Pennsylvania has led the nation in buckwheat production for years, and this season there was an increase of 15 per cent in acreage. Consequently, it is stated that last year's crop of 4,250,000 bushels may be increased to 6,200,000 bushels in 1917.

Bar Silver Up Another Cent on New York Market

New York, Aug. 20.—Bar silver, which has been maintaining the highest prices in more than a generation for some time, went a cent higher today, being quoted at 87 1/2 cents an ounce.

STATE FARMERS TO PLANT GREAT WHEAT ACREAGE

Corn Prospects Better in Eastern Section; Hail Does Heavy Damage in Central Portion.

The Nebraska crop report of the Burlington road for the week ending last Saturday indicates that the small grain raised in the state is all secure in the stack or threshed. Everywhere the yield was satisfactory and the quality unexcelled. The same report conveys the information that all over the state farmers are plowing the stubble fields, preparing to put out the largest acreage of winter wheat in the history of the state.

Relative to corn, weather conditions last week were excellent, there being plenty of moisture, accompanied by fairly high temperatures, causing the plant to grow rapidly.

With the Burlington people who gather data for the report, it is contended that the only thing that will prevent a bumper corn crop will be an unusually early frost.

Corn Better in East Part.

The Burlington estimate on the corn crop at the end of last week, as compared with the condition at the end of the previous week, on the basis of 100 per cent, is:

Division	Last Week	Previous Week
Omaha	99	95
Lincoln	95	90
Wyomere	90	85
McCook	85	80

It is said that a hailstorm that covered quite a large area is responsible for the falling off on the Lincoln division.

The long spell of dry weather did some damage to the potatoes, but the indications are the former estimate of 12,500,000 bushels will not be far from correct.

Pastures have freshened up since the rain set in and all through the range country the condition is up to the average for this season of the year.

Crude Oil Advances to New Mark for Quarter Century

Pittsburgh, Pa., Aug. 20.—Pennsylvania crude oil advanced 25 cents today to \$3.50, the highest in a quarter of a century. Other new prices posted were: Corning, \$2.60; Cabell, \$2.57; Somerset, \$2.40, each price representing an advance of 10 cents.

Lovett to Administer New Transportation Law

Washington, Aug. 20.—Appointment of Robert S. Lovett, chairman of the Union Pacific, to administer the new priority transportation law was announced late today at the White House.

Remember the Soldiers

When through reading this copy of The Bee, by placing a 1-cent stamp on it and depositing it in a mail box, it will be delivered without address to some soldier in field or camp. If you wish a particular soldier to have The Bee sent to him in person every day, subscribe for him. Special price of \$1.50 to next January 1. Just phone or write The Bee.

Petai's Troops Hammer 11-Mile Sector On Meuse

Armies of Tri-Color Make Big Drive Along Line Where One of Greatest Struggles of World War Rages; German Military Chiefs Concede Retirement of Forces Without Resistance.

French Drive Teutons from Talou Without Struggle, Berlin Admits

Berlin, Aug. 20.—(Via London.)—The war office announces that the French, without fighting, have occupied the Talou ridge, on the Verdun front east of the Meuse.

At all other places over a front of more than fourteen and three-eighths miles, the German general staff reports fighting is in full swing. The German high command says that Talou ridge was given up because this line of defense since last March had been occupied only by outposts.

U.S. PREPARES TO TREBLE NUMBER OF DESTROYERS

Daniels in Conference With Shipbuilders With View to Gigantic Increase in the Navy.

Washington, Aug. 20.—Immediate expansion of building facilities of the United States to double or treble the output of destroyers in the next eighteen months was the object of a conference today between Secretary Daniels and representatives of twenty-five or more ship and engine builders.

"If we get what we want," the secretary said, "the United States will have more destroyers than any other power. They are the one thing that a submarine fears."

The secretary indicated that all destroyers the builders could produce would be ordered. Every effort of the department will be laid upon speeding up the many contracts now pending.

Engines Are Scarce.
Every aspect of ship building that bears upon destroyer production was taken up at the conference. There is no shortage of material or plant facilities, but a difficulty in obtaining high-power engines, boilers and reduction gear.

Secretary Daniels said no additional submarine chasers would be ordered at present. The chasers are valuable as harbor and shore patrol, but destroyers are superior even for these duties and have in addition sea-going qualities which make them of far greater value in all other ways.

Every suggestion that the ship and engine builders had to make as to additional motive power for destroyers was given close attention. Equipping some of the new vessels with oil engines was among the suggestions.

To Expand Plants.
As to the plants at which the new destroyers will be laid down, Secretary Daniels said he favored expansion of the plants already building destroyers as the most efficient means of speeding up. Experience gained in previous building will enable such plants to turn out ships more quickly than would be possible for a plant new to the work.

Another aspect is the problem of furnishing convoys to troops and supply ships, which will grow as more Americans go to France. Many officers believe that destroyer convoys guarantee a large degree of security from submarine attack.

No figures have ever been made public as to the number of destroyers under construction. Secretary Daniels said today, however, that they represent the maximum present capacity of the country.

Government Loses Valuable Oil Lands by Court Decision

San Francisco, Cal., Aug. 20.—The government lost title to hundreds of acres of California oil lands in the midways fields held by the Consolidated Mutual and the North American Consolidated Oil companies and others, in an opinion handed down today by the United States circuit court of appeals, reversing judgment of the lower court.

The opinion, written by United States Circuit Judge E. M. Ross, will affect other suits brought by the government in its so-called "billion dollar" oil cases to recover title to these lands, it was said. The opinion held that those in possession of the lands have legal right to the oil contained.

Allies to Confer Before Answering Peace Proposals

London, Aug. 20.—Lord Robert Cecil, minister of blockade and under-secretary for foreign affairs, announced in the House of Commons this afternoon that the entente allied governments would confer before replying to the pope's peace proposals.

Bulletin.
Paris, Aug. 20.—A smashing French victory on the Verdun front is recorded in the official report issued by the war office tonight. The French have captured the enemy defenses on both sides of the Meuse over a front of more than eleven miles, penetrating the German line at divers points to a depth of a mile and a quarter. More than 4,000 un wounded German prisoners have been taken.

(By Associated Press.)
The French took the offensive this morning on the Verdun front, striking along a sector of eleven miles on both banks of the Meuse. Early official reports from Paris say the battle has developed to the advantage of the French and that prisoners are coming in.

The first reports do not show whether the French have inaugurated a major offensive, although the indications are that the operation is unusually important. There has been sharp fighting recently near Verdun.

Scene of Former Defeat.
It was in this sector that the German crown prince early last year attempted to break the French line, losing several hundred thousand men without gaining any material advantages. Last week the Germans made a sharp local attack there, possibly hoping to break up the French preparations.

In the north the Germans counter attacked on the positions taken yesterday by the British near Epehy. London reports the assault as repulsed completely. The British line on the Ypres front has been advanced slightly.

Fight on the Italian Front.
Heavy fighting is in progress on the Italian front. The Austrian war office announced yesterday that an Italian offensive has been inaugurated on a thirty-seven-mile front, from the region of Tolmino to a point near the Adriatic. The Italian official statement of yesterday did not mention the attack, but press dispatches from Rome today speak of the new advance.

Another great aerial raid over Belgium was made by British airplanes Saturday night. The British planes returned safely.

Canadians Establish Posts.
Canadian Headquarters in France, Aug. 20.—(By Canadian Press, Ltd.)—Northwest of Lens, amidst the trenches and railway cuttings, which form the last line of German defense in that quarter, the Canadians have established strong posts in a special trench which was the scene of desperate and indecisive fighting two days ago.

These new posts give command of the last bit of ground from which defenders of the city could overlook the advance from the west. They are now in a hollow all around the front.

(Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

Senate Confirms Nominations Of Many New Army Officers

Washington, Aug. 20.—Without opposition the senate today confirmed nominations of former Representative Victor Murdock of Kansas to the Federal Trade commission, and all except one of nearly 200 major-generals and brigadier-generals recently named by President Wilson.

The Sunday Score

Advertising in The Bee (Warfield Agency Measurements)
Another Big Gain

Local Display	924
Foreign Display	71 1/2
Automobile	971
Classified	692 1/2
Total	2,660

Same Sunday Last Year:
Local Display..... 726
Foreign Display..... 64
Automobile..... 510
Classified..... 544 1/2
Total..... 1,844 1/2

GAINS 81 1/2 PER CENT.
Keep Your Eye on The Bee
Improving Every Day

The Weather

For Nebraska—Fair; not much change in temperature.

Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

Hour	Deg.
5 a. m.	67
6 a. m.	68
7 a. m.	69
8 a. m.	70
9 a. m.	71
10 a. m.	72
11 a. m.	73
12 m.	74
1 p. m.	75
2 p. m.	76
3 p. m.	77
4 p. m.	78
5 p. m.	79
6 p. m.	80
7 p. m.	81
8 p. m.	82
9 p. m.	83
10 p. m.	84
11 p. m.	85
12 m.	86

Comparative Local Record, 1917, 1916, 1915, 1914.

Year	Highest	Lowest	Mean	Precipitation
1917	87	67	75	0.12
1916	92	75	83	0.08
1915	91	73	82	0.05
1914	90	72	81	0.03

Reports from Stations at 7 P. M.

Station and State	Temp.	High.	Rain.
Omaha, Neb.	82	84	0.00
Davenport, Ia.	82	84	0.00
Des Moines, Ia.	82	84	0.00
Dodge City, Kan.	82	84	0.00
Landar, Neb.	82	84	0.00
North Platte, Neb.	82	84	0.00
Omaha, clear	82	84	0.00
Pueblo, clear	82	84	0.00
Chicago, cloudy	82	84	0.00
Salt Lake City, clear	82	84	0.00
St. Paul, Neb.	82	84	0.00
Sioux City, Neb.	82	84	0.00
Valparaiso, Neb.	82	84	0.00

L. A. WELSH, Meteorologist.