

RED CIVIL WAR ENVELOPS ALL RUSSIA; WOMAN PITIFUL LIFE OF FUNSTON MEN

OMAHA MOTHER DENOUNCES CONDITIONS AT ARMY POST; SAYS MEN DIE BY THE SCORE

Mrs. A. B. McConnell Makes Scathing Arraignment of Alleged Treatment of Soldiers at Big Cantonment; Declares Boys Lack Proper Clothing and Sufficient Medical Attention.

A scathing arraignment of alleged deplorable conditions at Camp Funston is made by Mrs. A. B. McConnell, who has passed a great deal of her time in and near the big cantonment since her son, Harold McConnell, was called to the draft army.

SAYS CONDITIONS PATHETIC. Mrs. McConnell declares conditions at Camp Funston are "deplorable and deserve immediate attention."

American boys in training there are freezing to death and dying by the score because of lack of sufficient clothing and medical attention, she alleges.

"Condition of the men is pathetic," declares Mrs. McConnell. "Uncle Sam has been trying to cut down the amount of suffering, but has not succeeded as yet. We mothers should be allowed to help out the dear boys."

"The World-Herald has seen fit to criticize mothers who know the truth. It said the boys were well provided. For that the World-Herald has gained the ill will of all the boys at Funston. If the World-Herald correspondent cares to take a day off I will take him down with me right now and show him what is what."

"The first time I went down was on September 27. When I arrived I was astounded to find the boys in a swamp. I am not for woman suffrage, but if it were left to women to select a training camp for their sons, they would not have picked a swamp in which to kill the young men by degrees."

"On this trip I found that many a boy lacked clothing. They were sleeping on metal springs on which were no mattresses or even blankets. They had no shoes, in some cases. The majority were in overalls and had to use wooden guns. The medical attention was poor."

Moved to Tears. "I must tell you a few incidents to prove my statements. I will not use the names of the boys concerned, for God knows I want to protect the boys from kitchen duty. When I went into camp, I was requested to open my handbag to see if I had a camera. When they found sweaters, they said: 'lady, won't you please send us one.' The appeal brought tears to my eyes. By this time I have sent 14 sweaters to boys who need them most."

"Another time I met a young man on police duty. He said 'We dread tonight. Ten of us have one blanket among us. We will freeze to death.'"

"At another time I went to the hospital and what a sight I saw. Men had been waiting since 10 o'clock in the morning till 4 o'clock in the afternoon and they had not yet been waited on. Some of these men were almost barefooted."

"I am not finding fault with the efforts of the government, I do think, however, that the suffering ought to be stopped. Why not let the mothers who are able to cloth their sons with underwear and socks furnish them to their sons and other soldiers? This could be done until Uncle Sam is ready to furnish them when the outside work could be stopped. In my opinion it is better to save the boys directly than to kill half of them through red tape. We are buying Liberty bonds and Red Cross memberships while our soldiers are dying. Let us do something right away. I never swear, but present conditions make me break my vows. The damned (Continued on Page Twelve, Column Four.)"

FLAG ON HUGE STOCKING IS RISING FAST

Omaha Workers Spurred to Greater Efforts by Report That Two Cities Out-distance Them.

Twenty-five thousand Red Cross members in Omaha! The flag on the Christmas stocking hung on the First National bank building was hoisted to this figure at noon. Forty thousand and more is the goal.

But no satisfaction beams in the faces of the campaign committee. Omaha's record has been bettered by two cities, Kansas City and Minneapolis. Kansas City, with only twice Omaha's population, reported 59,050 members in the first two days of the campaign, and Minneapolis, in an intensive campaign, conducted Sunday between the hours of 2 and 6 in the afternoon, secured more than 58,000 members.

Calls Out the Reserves. Spurred on by the receipt of these wires Wednesday night, the local campaign committee has called out all reserve workers. They telephoned until midnight for more volunteer solicitors, and this morning issued a general call for helpers.

DON'T WEAR A BUTTON IF NOT A MEMBER. Don't wear a Red Cross button unless you are a signed-up member of the Red Cross society.

A federal law provides for a fine of \$500 and imprisonment for one year to the person found guilty of wearing the button under false pretense.

The campaign committee is informed that Omahans have purchased Red Cross buttons for children for small sales and are now wearing these buttons.

The report is being investigated. Warning of the federal law is therefore issued by the local committee.

Mrs. Helen Hickel, a Syrian woman, mother of four children and herself a student at night school, volunteered her services as a canvasser. She obtained 54 memberships in one day's work. Mrs. John M. Mach, canvassing in restaurants, secured 500 names.

The committee urges Omahans to display their Red Cross service flags. "It saves the canvasser's time and you from being solicited again," they say. Workers are also urged to turn in their money and unused supplies.

Only Count Money. "No memberships are counted until the money is in the hands of the committee. The supplies are needed for new volunteer workers."

A Mr. Seaman, who came here from Kansas City several days ago and has some unoccupied time before taking up business connections here, volunteered his services at headquarters.

Brownell Hall is the first Omaha school to come in 100 per cent in Red Cross memberships. Miss Dorothy Judson solicited faculty, students and help, obtaining 120 memberships.

Serbian Mission is On Way to Washington

An Atlantic Port, Dec. 20.—A Serbian diplomatic mission to the United States arrived here today on a French steamship. It is headed by Dr. M. R. Vesnich, who represented Serbia at the inter-alleied conference at Paris. Its members include a number of Serbian army officers. The mission plans to go direct to Washington.

Dr. Vesnich, who is Serbian minister to France, will express to President Wilson his country's appreciation of the help it has received, financial and otherwise, from the United States, and of the president's attitude toward small nations.

What an Odor!



SUGAR SHORTAGE IS ACUTE; CUT CONSUMPTION IS PLEA

More Even Distribution, More Prompt Movement of Cars and Strict Limitation of Sales Imperative, Says Federal Food Administrator in Telegram to Nebraska Aid.

That the sugar shortage is more critical than the average citizen of Nebraska appreciates, was indicated yesterday afternoon in a telegram received from the federal food administrator by Gurdon W. Wattles, federal food administrator for Nebraska. The telegram says:

PLANS FOR RELIEF. INFANTRY INACTIVE. "A more even distribution of sugar, more prompt movement of cars, and strict limitation during the war of sales by producers and other owners of sugar to any purchaser are imperative."

The United States food administration is making plans to relieve the situation. In the meantime dealers in sugar are asked to restrict their sales to customers and to limit distribution to small quantities.

Quite recently the administration suggested that one pound of sugar per person per week was a reasonable supply and purchasers were requested to bear this figure in mind when laying in their supplies.

AVERAGE STILL HIGH. The average consumption of sugar by the people of the United States has been around the 90-pound mark, but statements were made some time ago that the United States had cut this average to 86 pounds through the voluntary action.

The national administration in suggesting the one pound per week per person had in mind the thought that this saving would, in a large measure, provide exportable sugar for the allies in sufficient quantities to greatly relieve the situation across the water.

Food Administrator Wattles, on advice from Washington, has recently requested dealers in sugar not to sell more than 10 pound lots in extreme cases and in ordinary cases to limit the sales to five pounds.

By buying in small quantities and offering Nebraska citizens can all get some sugar where if the big amounts were purchased, many would have to go without.

Prices Lower Here. Omahans are enjoying lower prices on seven fundamental foodstuffs than are those who live in 35 principal cities of the United States. On five they are paying a trifle more than the average, and on two, milk and eggs, they are lower than most of the cities.

These facts are the result of a review by Gurdon W. Wattles, federal food administrator for Nebraska, of a survey made by a national food journal.

MAD MONK FIRED WITH RELIGIOUS ZEAL DOWNS ALL

Defeats Both Cossacks and Maximalists in Province of Samara, Advancing Against Foes Singing Prayer; Russian Soldiers Leave Northern Front; Germany to Propose Peace to Allies.

London, Dec. 20.—Dispatches from Petrograd indicate that the struggle between the Cossacks and the Maximalists in southern Russia is increasing in severity. Reuter's correspondent at Petrograd, telegraphing under date of Tuesday, says the flame of civil war is spreading northward along the Volga river from Astrakhan to Samara.

KAISER WILL OFFER ALLIES WORLD PEACE

Tells Russia Proposals to Be Made to Entente; Washington Receives Outline of "Christmas Terms."

According to press reports, Russia has been informed by the central powers that they intend to make peace proposals to the allies. The Evening Post says the Germans have officially informed the Bolshevik headquarters that the central powers are ready to consider the arrangement of peace on the basis of no annexations and no indemnities, but pointed out that self-definition of nations was impracticable.

Await Word From Allies. The representatives of the central powers informed the Russians they were ready to discuss peace preliminaries, but desired to know the result of Russia's efforts to induce the allies to join in the negotiations before proceeding with them.

They said this point of view might be changed, however, and that they might be willing to discuss peace with Russia alone. The Germans were of the opinion that the Russian armistice might influence the other fronts.

The first conference was devoted merely to a discussion of who would participate in the negotiations. Sound the Allies. This report is published in the Evening Post, which says the representatives of the central powers at the first preliminary peace conference with the Russians held yesterday, announced that their governments intended on principle to put the question of peace before all the powers and that they had asked their allies to do likewise. Russia was requested to take similar steps. It is stated the Russians are endeavoring by all means to sound the allies.

Christmas Peace Terms. Washington, Dec. 20.—What purports to be an outline of the Kaiser's much advertised "Christmas peace terms" has been received through neutral diplomatic channels. The so-called terms include the following: To leave the disposition of Alsace-Lorraine to a plebiscite of inhabitants. England to pay Germany for her lost African colonies and the money to be used for the rehabilitation of Belgium, Serbia, Roumania and northern France.

Russian provinces bordering the Baltic sea, the Black sea and Prussia to become independent under a German plan. Poland to be called an independent state under Austrian suzerainty.

Disarmament, freedom of the seas and commerce to be left to the peace conference. Roumania, Serbia and Montenegro to retain their original boundaries with the right of access to the sea being granted to Serbia.

Turkey to remain intact. Whether such a proposal of terms (Continued on Page Two, Column Four.)

Howard Denounces Shields Bill Before Farmers' Meeting. Edgar Howard, lieutenant and "waiting" governor of Nebraska, denounced the Shields bill in an address made before the farmers' congress. He declared the water in creeks and rivers should be the property of the people and should never be wrested from them and given to private interests.

The audience shouted approval and the congress asked Howard to use his influence to stop passage of the bill or any similar legislation and to petition law-makers against voting in favor of such a bill.

Gas Company Will Give Christmas Entertainment. Following a custom of many years, the Omaha Gas company will give an entertainment and a Christmas tree, with gifts, for the children of the employees this year at the Metropolitan building, 2301 Harney street, December 24, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The program will be patriotic.



Mrs. Wm. S. Rowe

him contrite but happy, the family is reunited. Mrs. Hale's suit for \$25,000 damages against William S. Rowe and his wife, Blanche Maxwell Rowe, whom she alleged to be the beautiful blonde who alienated Mr. Hale's affections, has not been dismissed, but the case is at a standstill and it is understood that the tangle between the two families, formerly the best of friends, is unravelling itself.

Hale and Rowe were close personal friends before the late unpleasantness and the Hales often were guests at the Rowe home. Mrs. Rowe said at the time the suits were filed that it was all a mistake and that she was the innocent victim of Mrs. Hale's suspicions.

Shortly after filing the alienation suit and a general airing of views on the part of all the participants matters began to straighten themselves out without the aid of the law, it is said by those who know. The reconciliation of the Hales renders it impossible to proceed with the alienation suit, attorneys say. Hale was again permitted the use of his latch key to the apartment (Continued on Page Two, Column Four.)

The Weather For Nebraska—Fair; somewhat colder.

Comparative Low (Record).

Highest yesterday... Lowest yesterday... Mean temperature... Precipitation... Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal... Normal precipitation... Excess for the day... Total deficiency since March 1... Deficiency for the day... Total rainfall since March 1... Deficiency for one period... Deficiency for one period... Reports from Stations at 8 a. m. Station and State Temp. High. Rain. Chgo., cloudy... Des Moines, cloudy... Dodge City, part cloudy... Lead, part cloudy... North Platte, cloudy... Omaha, cloudy... Pueblo, clear... Rapid City, cloudy... Salt Lake City, part cloudy... Seattle, clear... St. Paul, cloudy... St. Louis, cloudy... St. Petersburg, cloudy... St. Vincent, cloudy... Tulsa, cloudy... Wichita, cloudy... Y. Ind. temp. of precipitation... Y. Ind. temp. of precipitation... L. A. WILSON, Meteorologist.

Fair prices suggested by Douglas Co. Committee

Table with 10 columns: N.Y., Phila., Wash., Chic., N. Ore., N. Dak., Det., St. Paul, Denver, Seattle, Los Ang., Omaha, Minn., and Chicago. Rows include Rice, Sugar, Bread, Eggs, Milk, Cream, Potatoes, Bacon, Cornmeal, Pure leaf lard, and Pork Chops.