



BOY AUTO THIEVES CONFESS; 'LUCKY 7TH' IS DISBANDED

KAISER CALLS OFF RUSS CONFERENCE; UNABLE TO AGREE ON MEETING PLACE

Socialist Party is Stumbling Block to Plans of Kaiser's Government; Berlin Denies Report That General Von Ludendorff Has Resigned; German Crown Council Discusses Demands.

(By Associated Press.)

Russian efforts to have Germany acquiesce in the transfer of the peace negotiations from Brest-Litovsk, in German control, to the neutral city of Stockholm apparently have failed.

An official statement issued at Berlin says that a German crown council meeting discussed the Russian demand, after which it was announced the sittings had been temporarily suspended.

The report from German sources that fear of intrigue in Stockholm on the part of entente interests would endanger the work of the plenipotentiaries is not confirmed from Petrograd. Foreign Minister Trotsky went to Brest-Litovsk in a vain attempt to persuade the Germans to go to Stockholm.

SOCIALISTS MAY DESERT. In Germany the political situation is much disturbed over the attitude of the liberal parties concerning the government's stand upon the proposed transfer. The socialists appear to be the stumbling block and there is danger that they may desert the Reichstag majority, making it necessary for the government to reform the party alignments.

Berlin has issued an official denial that General von Ludendorff, first quartermaster general, has resigned. The general, with his chief, Field Marshal von Hindenburg, was present at the crown council which decided to suspend the Russian negotiations.

Crown Council Meets. London, Jan. 6.—German advisers Saturday were to the effect that the Bolshevik delegates, on finding that the representatives of the Entente allies were at Brest-Litovsk awaiting them, had started for this town, but nothing has come through to show that these had any foundation in fact.

The decision of the Germans to discontinue the sittings was arrived at during a crown council held in Berlin Saturday, which was attended by Field Marshal von Hindenburg and General von Ludendorff, first quartermaster general.

A belated dispatch from Berlin gives as the reason for the refusal of the Germans to consent to Stockholm a place where peace might be advantageously discussed the fear that British, French and American diplomats in the Swedish capital would by intrigue render all endeavors futile.

Situation Serious in Berlin. Dispatches from Berlin indicate that although the Reichstag parties in the main are supporting the government, considerable political unrest is prevalent, and that strong efforts are being made to hold the socialists in line. The socialist organ in Berlin characterizes the situation as extraordinary.

Armistice in Ukraine. An armistice has been declared in the Ukraine region, the Rada, the Ukrainian legislative body, and the Bolsheviks having agreed to a compromise of their difficulties. The Rada is said to be ready to decline to give support to General Kaledines and his Cossacks in return for the withdrawal of the Bolshevik troops from the Ukraine.

The Petrograd Post says the king of Roumania has cabled the entente allies that the Roumanians are determined to continue the war notwithstanding the desires of the troops on the Russian-Roumanian front, and that M. Poincare, the French president, (Continued on Page Six, Column Six.)

REDS PREPARE TO GIVE BATTLE TO GERMAN FOE

Bolsheviki Declares Radicals Do Not Desire Help of Allies, Raising Army to Fight for Ideal.

(By Associated Press.)

London, Jan. 7.—The Bolsheviki are definitely strengthening the front. Petrograd advices say. The correspondent of the Daily News obtained this information from M. Radek, one of the Russian delegates who took a prominent part in the negotiations with the Austrians and Germans at Petrograd. He said the Bolsheviki were intending to send home all who did not wish to fight, so that they would have an army which was willing to fight for an ideal.

The correspondent asked "what would be the attitude of the Bolsheviki in case of actual war, with regard to help from the allies?" M. Radek replied: "We do not desire their help. Our strength lies in our weakness, and if we accepted help from the allies, the significance of our position would be destroyed. The weaker we are the stronger we are. The Germans can drive us back, but what good would it do them?"

Country Has Been Stripped. "The country behind the front has been stripped bare. There is not enough there to feed a single horse. The Germans will not wish millions of starving persons on their hands. We stand for a democratic peace. So do the German working classes. If the German government attacks us it will display itself to its own people in its own true light."

A telegram from Brest-Litovsk to Amsterdam gives a wireless message sent to M. Joffe, chairman of the Russian delegation, by Foreign Minister Kuchim for the German delegation, Foreign Minister Czernin for the Austrians, Foreign Minister Nessimy Bey for the Turks, and Minister of Justice Bopoff for the Bulgarians. It recalls that when the central powers outlined the terms on which they were willing to make peace they stipulated that these terms would be valid only if all the belligerents bound themselves within a certain period to observe them. The Russians then fixed 10 days as the period in which the other belligerents were to decide to join in the negotiations, but, although this time elapsed January 4, nothing has been heard from them.

Discussion Favors Germany. Another telegram from Brest-Litovsk states that informal discussions there Friday between the Germans and Ukrainians took a direction favorable to Germany.

A Petrograd dispatch to the Daily Mail says that General Nissel, head of the French military mission, replied to Foreign Minister Trotsky's complaint respecting French military propaganda by stating that certain news received from Stockholm had been issued by a young officer by mistake. The general promised that no such mistakes would be made again. M. Trotsky replied with a demand that the officer in question leave Russia.

The correspondent adds that it is a pity that some of the allied diplomats pretend to ignore M. Trotsky, while in fact they are obliged to recognize his authority.

City Commissioners Approve Plans for Three Comfort Stations

City commissioners, in committee of the whole, approved plans for three public comfort stations, one to be located in the South Side and two in Omaha proper. The exact locations have not been determined. Sixteenth and Dodge streets and Sixteenth and Harney streets have been recommended. The plans were drawn by the City Planning commission and are the same for the three stations. Estimated cost per station is \$14,183, which will bring the cost within the available fund of \$50,000 received through the sale of bonds authorized by the legislature.

These comfort stations will be placed under sidewalks and will be similar to one now in use at Sixteenth and Douglas streets. Bids for the construction will be called for within a few weeks.

REGIMENT, WHICH GOVERNOR NEVILLE RESIGNED HIS OFFICE TO COMMAND, ORDERED MUSTERED OUT OF SERVICE

War Department at Washington Notified Colonel Neville that Troops Cannot be Used in Federal Service and Adjutant General of Nebraska Immediately Ordered Regiments Mustered Out; Facts Known at Lincoln Since December 15; Delayed in Mails.

The Lucky Seventh, or, as it has become more familiarly known, the Unlucky Seventh, is no more, according to information given out by Governor Keith Neville at Lincoln this morning.

Members of the Seventh received the word at their headquarters with shouts of approval. "At last we know our status in the war," was the opinion expressed, and seemed to be unanimous.

Some members of the regiment who were chafing under what they considered a "raw deal" expressed the opinion that they would enlist with the Canadian troops as an expression of their feelings. They changed their minds immediately when one young man jumped to his feet and shouted:

MEN WILL ENLIST.

"I am going to enlist in the United States army or navy as soon as they will take me and I am going to fight under the Stars and Stripes. I am an American and always will be and that is the country I will fight for."

Governor Neville, who resigned as chief executive of the state, to become colonel of the regiment as soon as it was mustered into federal service, expressed his regrets that the regiment had been ordered disbanded. He said information from the War Department at Washington was to the effect that the regiment would not be sent to the front. The governor expressed the opinion that the troops were not needed for home service and it would be better to disband in order that those who desired could enlist in the regular army or navy.

The orders received by the governor at 11:30 Monday signified that the War Department considered it best to raise the army by the draft method rather than by state organizations. The order was sent from Washington November 6, but was not received by the adjutant general of Nebraska until December 15.

WANTED TO FIGHT. Local officers of the regiment are of the opinion that the majority of the 1,800 enlisted men in the regiment will enlist as soon as the Seventh regiment is formally disbanded. "We enlisted because we wanted to fight," said Captain Higginson. "I will enlist, as I am over the draft age, and I think the rest of the men will do likewise if they can."

A large percentage of the members are under 18 or more than 31 years of age and will not be affected by the draft rulings. It is planned by the governor to give a certificate to the men that they were in the National Guard service and unable to enlist in order that they may yet see active service.

"The formalities of finally disbanding the regiment should not occupy a great deal of time is the opinion of local officers."

Governor Neville will issue an order to the adjutant general to muster out the Seventh regiment. The adjutant general will immediately order Colonel Neville to disband his regiment. The colonel will instruct his company commanders.

No censure is placed upon the governor by the local members, as they feel that he is sincere and desirous of entering the service, and the hope was expressed that he would see fit to have his resignation go into effect and enlist with the rest in regular service.

Hard for Howard. Governor Neville's resignation was conditional. It was to take effect immediately upon the mustering of the regiment into federal service. From the governor's chair he was to step into the colonelcy of the regiment.

Lieutenant Governor Edgar Howard, who once "shuddered at the thought of becoming governor," and later flattered himself that he might actually carry off these honors with tolerable grace, will shudder no more.

For Neville is booked to stick to the big mahogany chair. Howard is booked to notify his personal friends that he will have no appointments to dish out to them. It is known that quite a flock of democratic birds of a certain feather have been hovering over the state house situation for months waiting to snatch up some of the appointments the lieutenant governor would toss out once he got into the executive chair, after first relieving some of the Neville appointees.

EARL READING TO REPRESENT THE ENGLISH IN U. S.

New Ambassador to Deal Mainly With Business Affairs; Northcliffe Not to Return.

London, Jan. 7.—Earl Reading, lord chief justice, will go to the United States as direct representative of the British war cabinet, according to the Daily Express. While Earl Reading will have the title of ambassador, purely diplomatic matters will be in the hands of a charge d'affaires, the earl controlling war activities.

Earl Reading's work will, according to the understanding in official circles, deal mainly with financial and general business matters and he will be relieved of the ordinary ambassadorial functions of handling numerous minor diplomatic negotiations which constitute a large part of the embassy's work. Colonel E. D. Swinton, assistant secretary of the war cabinet and one of the originators of the British tank, will accompany the lord chief justice as an attaché.

The appointment of Earl Reading as the ambassador is primarily for war purposes, it is said, and probably means that Viscount Northcliffe will not return to the United States as head of the permanent British mission. Lord Northcliffe will continue the active direction in England of the American mission offices which have just been established in Crewe house, a spacious old-fashioned mansion in the heart of Mayfair. Lord Crewe has loaned the house to the government for the duration of the war.

Earl Reading was attorney general of England as Sir Rufus Isaacs. In October, 1913, he was appointed lord chief justice to succeed Lord Alverstone and was elevated to the peerage in December of that year.

LONDON PRESS APPROVES WAR AIMS OF GEORGE

Premier's Statement Hailed as Satisfactory to Allies; Germany's Reply Awaited With Interest.

London, Jan. 7.—If the country's opinion, as is probable in the present case, can be judged by expressions in the London press, it may be said that never before has Premier Lloyd George won such universal approval as is given to his statement of Saturday concerning Great Britain's war aims. It is recognized that there will be a divergence of opinion on details like the economical terms of settlement and disposition of Germany's African colonies, but in all essentials his statement is hailed as eminently satisfactory, and the premier is declared to have performed an important service to the country.

All interest is now focused on the question as to how the statement will be received in Germany, Austria-Hungary and, not the least, in Russia, but as yet there is nothing to satisfy this anxious curiosity.

With the exception only of the bellicose Morning Post, which, however, is not opposed to the premier's thesis, the morning newspapers of London join in a chorus of approval.

Important Document. The Times declares it is the most important state document since the declaration of war. It commends the moderation of the statement, which, however, it thinks, may disconcert some tried friends and allies and even lend itself to the enemy misrepresentation.

The Daily Mail says that nothing could be more simple or more democratic than the statement and the whole British people are solid behind it. "The Germans," it declares, "will never get better terms."

Premier Lloyd George's assertion that he was not speaking for the government, but the nation and the empire, the Daily Telegraph thinks, will remove a load of anxiety from many troubled minds. It says that all the primary essentials for peace terms are included in the statement, which, however, it anticipates will draw a cry of incredulous rage from Germany.

Making It Fit



FIVE LADS ADMIT STEALING TWENTY OMAHA MACHINES

Five Lads, Four of Them Under Age, Make Signed Confessions of Thefts on Big Scale; Ringleader Blames Bad Companions and "Joy Riding" for Their Downfall.

Confessions of recent wholesale automobile and merchandise thefts in Omaha were obtained from five youths Monday, according to police.

PRO-GERMANISM CHARGE HURLED AT WOMAN'S CLUB

Motion to Buy Thrift Stamps Voted Down and Mrs. Charles Rosewater Makes Accusation Which Starts Wrangle.

A discussion on buying war thrift stamps, club finances and patriotism terminated in a hopeless tangle and charges of pro-Germanism in the most stirring business meeting of the Omaha Woman's club has held this winter. It was Monday at Metropolitan clubhouse.

Liberal investment of club funds in Liberty bonds and contributions to Young Men's Christian association and Young Women's Christian association war funds made by motion of the house, has drawn so heavily on the club's treasury that a motion was introduced and passed early in Monday's business session that expenditure of club funds should be referred to the club directory for investigation before action by the house.

This was no sooner done than F. A. Brogan addressed the club urging the purchase of war savings certificates and thrift stamps.

Mrs. Charles Rosewater then moved that 10 per cent of the club's yearly income be used to purchase war thrift stamps.

Guided by the first motion passed, the club voted Mrs. Rosewater's motion down.

Charges Pro-Germanism. "I am amazed at the pro-German sentiments expressed in this club," came from Mrs. Rosewater. "You don't need the clubhouse for which you are hoarding the money in the bank. What will you do with a clubhouse if your boys are killed in the war. I'm ashamed of you, every one of you," she exclaimed.

Mrs. F. J. Birss, Mrs. S. A. Collins and others jumped to the floor to refute the charge. "We voted the motion down in order to have the business carried on through the channel indicated by our first motion," they explained.

"You're out of order. It isn't an 'expenditure' of club money; it's an 'investment,'" was Mrs. L. M. Lord's stand.

Wrangle Ensues. The wrangle ensued until one calm person moved to refer the matter to the directory.

Then Mrs. C. W. Hayes moved that the club formally express its loyalty and that it was not of pro-German sentiment, for fear of any misunderstanding, and this the women did by loud and prolonged applause.

Having in effect "kissed and made up," the women continued their business—voting to send telegrams to Nebraska's delegation in congress urging their support of the federal suffrage amendment; to endorse Jeannette Rankin's bill for equal pay for equal work by government women clerks, and to extend an invitation to the state charities and corrections conference to meet in Omaha February 18.

Mrs. Marie A. Leff, head resident of the South Side Social Settlement, was the speaker for the open session of the club.

Food Administration to Control Supply of Twine. Washington, Jan. 7.—The food administration has arranged to control during 1918 the supply of binder twine, so important to farmers, particularly those of the granger states. Reasonable prices—though not so low as former ones, are expected.

Canadian Steamer Ashore. A Canadian Atlantic Port, Jan. 7.—A Canadian steamship of 2,600 tons went ashore today during a dense fog on the Cape Breton coast. Vessels have been dispatched to its assistance.

Army Commanders Uniforms In Stock of Omaha Retail Stores. Officers from the quartermaster department of the army stationed in Omaha a week ago took over all stock on hand of certain sizes of army uniforms. The commanding order applied only to the O. D. (olive drab) wool uniforms worn by enlisted men. Serge uniforms and others carried in stock for sale to officers were not included in the order. The uniforms are now being held awaiting transfer to the quartermaster depot.

New shipments have been received by the various stores since that time, so that Omaha is well prepared to take care of all uniform needs today. The uniforms taken over by the government were to fill temporary needs only.

MAKE SIGNED CONFESSION.

Signed confessions telling of motor car thefts on a scale without parallel in the history of youthful crime in the middle west were made by the lads, detectives said.

The following boys were arrested: William McKenna, 4838 North Thirty-eighth street, 23 years old; O. Allgood, 1821 Cass street, 17 years old; James Holloway, 2124 Sherman avenue, 17 years old; Jay Evans, 2773 Burt street, 20 years old, and Leslie Moore, 324 North Fifteenth street, 20 years old.

Automobile detectives are working on a list of 20 cars said to have been stolen by the boys at various times. McKenna, who acknowledges himself leader of the gang, previously had been bound over to district court on charges of highway robbery and breaking and entering.

In Bad Company. The other four boys, all of whom are under age, have served time in the state reform school. They say the training received there was of great value to them, but declare they fell in with bad companions, whom they blame for their downfall.

"Joy riding," late hours and bad companions tripped me up," admitted McKenna. Holloway and Allgood, both 17 years old, sat stolidly in their cells and refused to talk. "They are blameless," said McKenna. "They just happened to be hanging around with us."

Besides the auto thefts, the boys are suspected of several store robberies, in which they threw a brick through plate glass windows and stole quantities of wearing apparel. Several sweaters, alleged to have been among the goods stolen, were taken from the boys at the time of their arrest.

Dairy Inspector Bossie Submits Annual Report

Dairy and Milk Inspector Bossie reports that during 1917 he gathered 1,236 samples of milk and cream for tests in the city laboratory. Sixty-four cases were taken into court.

"A laboratory for testing of milk, cream, ice, water, culture tubes and any other substances that pertain to the health of the city has been established in the city hall," states the inspector.

During the year 2,723 dairy cows were tested for tuberculosis, of which 83 were condemned, removed from the herds and slaughtered under government supervision on the South Side.

"The year just closed has been one of hardships upon all dairymen. The high cost of feed and labor and increased cost of materials caused 26 dairymen to go out of business and increased the price of milk 20 per cent," the report states.

Mr. Bossie maintains that milk at 12½ cents per quart is still the cheapest food.

Joe Butler, City Gas Commissioner, Arrested

Joseph Butler of "2024 California street," was arrested Monday afternoon at Sixteenth and Farnam streets by State Agents Buell and Mathwig and was booked at Central station on a charge of intoxication and abusing an officer.

The desk sergeant at the police station stated that the prisoner is the city gas commissioner whose address in the city directory is given at 2820 California street.

Two American Aviators Are Killed in France

Washington, Jan. 7.—Deaths of Lieutenant William S. Ely and Sergeant George E. Houdek in an airplane accident in France were reported today by General Pershing. Ely lived at Rochester, N. Y., and Houdek at Chicago.

The Weather

Table with weather data for Nebraska, including temperature, precipitation, and wind speed for various locations like Omaha, Lincoln, and Denver.