

BIG BATTLE ON WEST FRONT SOON, SAYS SECRETARY BAKER

Declares Allies Are Prepared for Death Struggle With Enemy; Predicts Utter Collapse of German Offensive; Teutons Aggressive on Italian Battle Line.

Washington, Feb. 20.—After extensive preparations silently and systematically carried on, it is apparent that both the Germans and the allies are ready for the long expected offensive in the west, Secretary Newton D. Baker of the War department says today in his review of military operations for the week ending February 16.

BOTH ARMIES READY.

"While there have been outwardly no new developments in the military situation in the west during the period under review," says the communique, "yet it is apparent that both the enemy and the allies, after extensive preparations which have been silently and systematically carried on, are ready for battle."

"The Germans have recently withdrawn a number of their veteran west front units from the first line trenches and are busily training them in mobile warfare."

"According to advices received, the German general staff hopes that by massing a large number of these picked shock battalions which have been intensively trained they may deliver a crushing blow."

Germans Are Untrained.

"The bulk of the German forces are now assembled in the west. But a large number of these units are wholly untrained in the method of western front warfare, which differs radically from that conducted along other fronts."

"Furthermore, the German higher command realizes fully that their forces will meet with far more difficult tactical obstacles than any hitherto encountered by an attacking army."

"A break through was possible in Russia only after the morale of the Russians had been undermined; the same was true in Italy, and we witnessed how speedily the Italian line was mended."

"During the week there has been much activity of a minor character along the western front."

Many Patrol Encounters.

"In Lorraine a segment of the line is already under the control of our forces. Along our front patrol encounters were numerous."

"The Germans undertook a raid against our positions and succeeded in inflicting a few casualties. A small American patrol, while scouting in No Man's land, was ambushed by the enemy."

"The weather was rainy during the first part of the week and our troops were busy manning the pumps in an effort to keep their trenches dry. Later clear weather prevailed and hostile aircraft made frequent flights to reconnoiter our positions."

"A marked improvement in our anti-aircraft barrage is reported. Artillery duels took place and the Germans showered our lines with gas shells, which, however, caused no casualties owing to efficient gas mask protection."

Important Move in Champagne.

"In Champagne units of American artillery participated in an engagement undertaken by French forces."

"This operation was the most important of the week in the west."

"After careful artillery preparation, during which our batteries co-operated usefully, French infantry advanced to the assault southwest of the Butte Du Mesnil, along a front of about 1,400 yards."

"The French, succeeding in penetrating the German positions, broke through the second and reached the third German line. During this brisk attack the French destroyed many enemy shelters, inflicted much damage to enemy positions, besides bringing back 150 prisoners."

French on Raids.

"Other successful raids were undertaken by French detachments in the vicinity of the Chemin Des Dames, east of Rheims, in upper Alsace and elsewhere."

"In all the French drove forward 12 very fortunate reconnaissance undertakings along different parts of the line."

"German units also were active. Their attempts to reach the French lines were temporarily successful in the vicinity of Bezonvaux and in Alsace. Seven German raids at various other points broke down. French artillery kept the enemy constantly harassed along a wide scattered area."

"The British front also was the scene of numerous minor engagements. No important actions took place and the enemy, who was evidently busy with the grouping of units and disposing of fresh forces recently arrived from other theaters, in the front line undertook only such reconnoitering engagements as to familiarize the new units with the nature of the terrain in front of them."

Germans Are Aggressive.

"In the Italian theater the enemy again has assumed an aggressive attitude."

"The concentration of an important body of German cavalry in the vicinity of Riga is noted and it is believed that the Germans may find it expedient to advance on Petrograd."

"It is difficult to determine the exact status of affairs in southwestern Russia. The Russian contingents are evacuating the Armenian centers south of the Black sea, which are being re-occupied by Turkish detachments. Trebizond probably will soon fall into Turkish hands."

"It is important to record that large contingents of Arabs are joining the forces of the sheik of Mecca, who is co-operating with the British."

"The Arabs have defeated the Turks in two encounters, occupied El Mazreh, southeast of the Dead sea, and are advancing along the Hedjaz railway towards Mecca."

More Shipping Available.

Washington, Feb. 20.—The low point of available allied shipping has been passed two or three weeks earlier than officials expected and confidence was expressed today that the amount of shipping available for the future would increase steadily.

Plot to Kidnap Premier Nikolai Lenine of Russia

(By Associated Press.)
Petrograd, Feb. 8.—(Delayed.)—One hundred and fifty arrests have been made in connection with the plot to kidnap Nikolai Lenine.

An attempt also was made today to assassinate Michael Vladimirovich Rodzianko, the former chairman of the state Duma. Several shots were fired by the would-be assassins and Rodzianko and his coachmen were slightly wounded.

Passengers on the ill-fated train alleged that the train was running faster than 25 miles an hour at the time of the accident. The wrecked cars ran on the ties for about 300 feet before they rolled over the embankment. Burlington officials are investigating the cause of the wreck.

The injured are being cared for in Curtis, where the populace opened their homes to receive them as soon as the nature of the accident became known. Physicians in attendance report that all are recovering and they are of the opinion that no more will die.

Two children of Mrs. Howe are said to be in a parochial school at Waterloo, Ia. Little is known of them and Mrs. Howe is quoted as saying that the daughter would enter a nunnery. Their names are Dorris and Richard Davis or Howe.

It is said that Mrs. Howe has not heard from the children for some time. Gracie, the 10-year-old girl, who was with her mother in the wreck, will be taken care of by her uncle, John Rupp, a well-to-do farmer who lives south of Eustis.

PACKERS AGREE TO ACCEPT VERDICT OF ARBITRATOR

Chicago, Feb. 20.—Twelve of the smaller packing firms at the stock yards today joined in the agreement made by the "big five" to abide by the arbitrator's decision on wages and hours.

Judge Alschuler, the arbitrator, today visited homes of stock yards' employees to obtain first hand information.

The question of a living wage raised at the arbitration hearing developed much difference of opinion. Counsel for the packers took exception to the government estimate of \$1,288 a year being necessary for a family of five.

They asserted that the figures on which the estimate was made were based on Washington, D. C., conditions, which did not apply to Chicago.

High Lights on Big Characters in Ouster Suit

(Continued From Page One.)
snatch a word or two with her. Her worried eyes rested on her son all through the trial, only wandering for a moment to the new witnesses as each was called in turn.

Sheriff Michael Clark, who brought the charges, sat at the corner of the table near Lynch. Either could have touched the other, but neither did. They studiously avoided looking in each other's direction, except once, when Clark reached for a cuspidor and almost spat tobacco juice in Johnny's direction. "I'm glad he didn't," for Johnny was spic and span, his fresh pink face and well-brushed hair giving evidence of much careful grooming.

Spots Tom Dennison. Clark is a silver-haired man, whose contrasting black mustache commands attention. He has small, keen eyes that glint with humor, mostly at the testimony.

"I wonder where Tom Dennison is? Surely he's present at this trial?" I thought, as I scanned each face in the courtroom to see if I could locate the "political boss" of Omaha. I looked for a burly built, red faced, pugilistic cast of countenance, perhaps a loud checked suit and maybe a red tie, but could find none to fit my mental picture.

I plucked Eddie Black by the sleeve. "Which is Tom Dennison?" "That's he," pointing to an elderly man sitting quietly in the second row.

"Impossible!" quoth I, my mind's picture fading, never to be restored.

"Sure it is," insisted Black, and since Black knows everybody, I had to be convinced.

The man he pointed out was the most intelligent appearing person in the courtroom. (I'll bar the legal lights and newspaper men if you say so), but at that a type of substantial citizen, whose keen, appraising gray eyes and firm mouth made a hit with me right away. You wouldn't think he had a spark of personal interest in the trial—that he was there against his will, so immobile was his face. He listened through part of the testimony with his eyes seemingly closed, but there's a strong sense of humor in his makeup I judged from the way his face lighted up once in a while when Judge Baker grew particularly testy with his witnesses.

Without his hat, Dennison reminds me of the sketches of W. J. Bryan's bald head with a little curly fringe of gray hair—you know those cartoons. He wore his overcoat over a checked suit and a soft black shirt. In his tie glinted a handsome diamond sapphire and a beautiful ring on his left hand.

Johnny Ford nearly blinded me with the sparkle of the large, few days' wear. It scintillated like a cake of ice in the summer sun. There's one thing in the testimony

that wouldn't pass any woman jury. I think it would have stamped them on the spot. That was when Johnny Ford declined to answer questions to whether he served liquor after 8 o'clock, put by Judge Baker.

"I decline to answer and incriminate myself like others who have given testimony," he declared. "Not me."

Where, oh where, was the morals squad then?

There was a whole lot of testimony about serving drinks and meals, the whys and hows of all this being mixed up in the court house embroglio it was hard for a mere woman to see. There was a lot of talk, too, about "Riverside" and "Lakeside," pretty, dreamily romantic names for country homes, I thought; so you can imagine my disappointment when I learned they were just eating, drinking and dancing places, way out where you had to get a machine to reach them. Some went out for lunch at the noon, Johnny Ford said, but I'll wager they didn't have to punch the time clock at 12 m. and 1 p. m.

Judge Comes to Life.

There was a lot of "what did he say?" and "what did you say?" and "what did he say to you then, if anything?" and such hopelessly confusing conversational tangles. Once Judge Baker had to wrestle with Pete Loch's English. The judge didn't know what "fell out" means in the vernacular. When Pete Loch said he "fell out" with Gus Tyle, they almost had to call for an interpreter, but the judge got even with Loch by calling him a "stupid witness."

Judge Sears came to life about that time and gently reprimanded Baker for referring to the witness in such fashion.

Pete Rooney was there, too, an overgrown, sandy-haired boy, who played with his cap most of the time. J. A. C. Kennedy and Halleck Rose are Lynch's attorneys. Somebody mistook Mr. Rose for Arthur Mullen! Think of that!

BIG DRUG FIRMS WIN AGENCY FOR FAMOUS TANLAC

Sherman & McConnell Drug Co. and Richardson Drug Co. to Have Exclusive Control.

INITIAL ORDER FOR CARLOAD IS GIVEN

Remarkable Sale in Other Cities Establishes New Record in Drug Trade.

"The Tanlac agency for Omaha has been awarded to Sherman & McConnell Drug Co. and Richardson Drug Co.," was the brief statement made by Mr. F. X. Trimbach, the Tanlac representative, when seen yesterday at the Hotel Fontenelle.

"In awarding the exclusive control to these well known firms," said Mr. Trimbach, "I am only carrying out our established custom of confining the sale to but one or two thoroughly responsible and centrally located firms in each city where Tanlac is placed on sale. In this connection, I will say that no matter where you go, in the north, east, south or southwest you will find the Tanlac stores to be the leading and most reputable druggists in the town."

"Just such firms as these," he continued, "are always anxious and willing to co-operate in promoting the sale of Tanlac, not only because of its superior merit, but because of the prominence and valuable publicity they receive from its sale as well."

"The firms have given their initial order for an entire carload of Tanlac (12,720 bottles) and this order will be delivered and ready to be placed on sale today."

"This is without doubt the largest order ever given in Omaha for a single medicine, but having heard through absolutely reliable sources of the remarkable and rapidly growing demand for Tanlac in other cities, the managements of these firms did not hesitate a moment in placing their orders for this amount. I confidently believe that every bottle of it will be sold and the order duplicated before the close of the present month."

"As a matter of fact, the sale of Tanlac throughout the country has not only been phenomenal, but unprecedented."

"In the comparatively small city of Knoxville, Tennessee, the Kullman-Chambliss Drug company has sold and distributed 125,100 bottles of Tanlac; Memphis dealers and jobbers have sold and distributed over 279,900 bottles in Detroit, Michigan, over 32,000 bottles have been sold in four months; Denver dealers have sold 75,648 bottles in eight months; Dallas dealers over 121,908 bottles in a year; Houston, Texas, 110,000 bottles, and Fort Worth dealers have sold 122,204 bottles in less than a year."

"A little over four months ago Tanlac was placed on sale in Canada, and in the city of Toronto, Ontario, over 70,000 bottles have already been sold."

"While these figures may appear exaggerated and beyond all reason, the fact remains that they are absolutely true and correct and open to investigation. We challenge anyone, whether individual, dealer or competitor, to show where we have made the slightest discrepancy. And anyone doubting these statements is at liberty to write to any or all of our agents in these cities and they will gladly substantiate the above figures."—Advertisement.

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OMAHA

Ferocious Lions Marooned in Ports, Due to Traffic Tieup

Chicago, Feb. 20.—The passing of elephants, tigers and imported freaks as a result of the war was mourned today by circus men, sideshow owners, carnival promoters and fair managers attending the meeting of the Showmen's League of America.

Ponderous pachyderms and ferocious lions are being held captive in African ports, unable to get to this country because of the shortage of shipping. Meanwhile the mortality among animals imported before the war has been so great as to threaten the very existence of zoos, circuses and sideshows, it was said.

The gloom among the delegates caused by this condition was particularly dispelled, however, by word from Washington that the government would co-operate with the showmen in providing railroad transportation for their amusements so that the children of America will not have to suffer from a "circusless summer."

Frank Howell is with Judge Baker, but the judge did all his own talking.

There are two negro men on the jury. One juror lolled in his chair all morning, feet stretched out in front of him, having a nice comfortable time in the warm courtroom. The young negro chap also snatched a few minutes of slumber. A pitiful con- fused look, as if they were satiated with bar-keepers, chefs, rubbers and taxi-drivers' testimony overspread their countenances.

I pricked up my ears when hints of a roast pig party where Johnny

White-garbed women with Red Cross nurse veils flitted back and forth in the old saloon building, working earnestly at surgical dressing for the soldier boys at the front. I rubbed my eyes. Was this, too, possible? Then with Omaha Red Cross chapter installed in the "gymnasium," perhaps the court house muddle will be ironed out, the atmosphere cleared and some good may come out of all these sensational exposures.



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Probe Wreck Horror on High Line That Killed Two

(Continued From Page One.)

track and covered with clothing that the uninjured took off their persons.

There is a farm house near the scene of the wreck and from there telephone calls were sent to Curtis. Inside of 20 minutes 50 or more persons from that town were at the scene, going in automobiles. At the time of the wreck a large number of the women of Curtis were holding a Red Cross meeting, sewing and making supplies for the soldiers. They were notified and, leaving their work, with the doctors of the town, in automobiles, were rushed to the wreck. There they rendered first aid and did everything possible to alleviate the suffering of the injured.

Take...to Homes.

After first aid treatment had been given the injured were loaded into the 20 or so automobiles that had been driven out from Curtis and were taken back to town, where they were distributed around among the homes of the people.

Tuesday night the Burlington people sent a special train from Holdrege to Curtis and those of the injured who were able to travel were taken to that town and placed in the hotels, where they were given such treatment as their cases demanded.

Wednesday morning General Manager Holdrege ordered two sleepers sent west, one to Holdrege and the other to Curtis. The men in charge were instructed to put the injured in these cars. These cars will be attached to Burlington trains and in them the injured will be taken to the points nearest their respective homes; that is, if they desire to travel. Otherwise they will remain at Holdrege and Curtis until they feel that they have recovered sufficiently to make the journey.

Engine Not Wrecked.

The engine passed safely over the point where the wreck occurred and Engineer Snyder is unable at this time to throw any light on the cause of the derailment. The same is true with reference to the report of Conductor Griffith, who was in the rear coach, the one that remained on the track.

The point where the wreck occurred is in the center of the only mountainous area within the state of Nebraska, aside from a small section in the northwestern corner of the state. For several miles on either side of Eustis the country is rough and hilly, some of the hills being small mountains. Over this stretch the Burlington "High Line" has been constructed. There are deep cuts through the hills and high fills on either side. It was one of these fills that the wreck occurred. At this particular place the road goes through a hill 50 feet high and runs out into a sort of canyon, and it was over the side of this canyon that the train fell when it left the track.

Hoodoo to Company.

The "High Line" of the Burlington, as it is known, has always been a sort of hoodoo to the company, for on this stretch of 230 miles there have been more bad accidents than on the balance of the system. One of the worst of the wrecks and one in which the loss of life was much greater than in the wreck near Curtis occurred several years ago when the caboose of a freight train was telescoped, killing half a dozen stockmen who were therein and who were bringing live stock to the Omaha market.

Lead in Rescue Work.

Eustis, Neb., Feb. 20.—(Special Telegram)—Acting County Attorney L. H. Cheney of Stockville refused to make any statement regarding the train wreck near Curtis yesterday. Max and Fred Huettele and Frank Reyher, all of Eustis, uninjured passengers on the ill-fated train, led in the rescue work following the wreck. According to their version fire started in the cars immediately after the wreck and considerably hampered the rescuers.

Gordon Howe, 7-year-old son of Mrs. Maud Howe, was crushed beyond recognition and it was necessary to amputate one of his arms to extract him from the wreckage. Mrs. Howe was pinioned under the car and it was impossible to extract her before the flames reached her body. Rescuers covered the body with dirt in an endeavor to save the body from the flames, but their efforts proved unsuccessful.

Identified by Daughter.

She was identified by her daughter, Grace, 10 years old, who was sitting in the same seat, but miraculously escaped injury. Identification was made by a piece of the dress that escaped the flames.

Injured passengers were taken out of the coaches through the windows before the rescuers were driven away by the fire. The cold northwest wind hampered rescuers and many of the injured were nearly frozen before they could be taken to emergency hos-

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Ford was the host, began to loom in the testimony. What women were present at this party?" asked Judge Baker, and I poised my pencil, ready to write this exclusive bit of news.

"My wife, Mrs. Ford; her mother, Mrs. Clark and a Mrs. Brindle," came Ford's answer—so, you see, I can't write any scandal.

I got up to leave. I glanced out of the courtroom window, looking out upon the former Pete Loch saloon in Eighteenth street, which figured so much in the testimony of drinks being carried across to the court house at all hours of the night.

White-garbed women with Red Cross nurse veils flitted back and forth in the old saloon building, working earnestly at surgical dressing for the soldier boys at the front. I rubbed my eyes. Was this, too, possible? Then with Omaha Red Cross chapter installed in the "gymnasium," perhaps the court house muddle will be ironed out, the atmosphere cleared and some good may come out of all these sensational exposures.

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