



ALLIES TO TAKE OFFENSIVE; HENEY HUNTS HOG COMBINE

MURPHY, CHIEF WITNESS, ADMITS BIG FOUR SPLIT TOTAL OF HOG RECEIPTS

Packers Had An Agreement, According to Letters Read By Prosecutor, That Allowed Each Company to Buy a Certain Percentage of Live Stock and Divide Profits.

"Mike" Murphy, general superintendent of the Cudahy Packing company's plant, South Omaha, was the principal witness to appear at the packing house investigation held yesterday in the federal building by Francis J. Henev, counsel for the Federal Trade commission.

Murphy did not waste words in his replies and listened with a what-is-coming-next expression while Henev read copies of confidential letters written by E. A. Cudahy to Murphy from Chicago. These letters were obtained by the government in Chicago.

COMBINE ON HOGS.

Henev quizzed Murphy closely on hog buying, disclosing through correspondence an alleged arrangement whereby the packers agreed to buy hogs on a percentage basis, which was not "lively competition" within the purview of counsel for the Federal Trade commission.

TELLS OF PROFITS.

During the day Henev went into the operations of the Union Stock Yards company as related to the packers, the obvious purpose of this feature of the investigation being to show that domination of yards by packers has resulted in enormous profits which, Henev said, he believed were derived from the producers.

At the close of the first day's investigation here J. F. Coad of Packers' National bank, and L. M. Lord of Live Stock National bank, appeared to testify regarding the interests of the packers in these banking institutions.

During his examination of General Superintendent Murphy, Henev said: "Wasn't there some talk in 1912 that the Cudahy, Morris and S. & S. plants would be consolidated and moved to Council Bluffs?"

"They would not talk to me about that. I am not that close to the throne," Murphy replied.

"They might," Henev rejoined with a smile.

Henev Reads Letter.

Then Henev read a letter written from the Cudahy office in Chicago to Murphy, part of which was as follows: "I hesitated about going to the Stock Yards company for a bonus, because I think the policy of the yards controlled is by Armour & Co., and, of course they understand the situation, and you can't get anything out of them by force. I could never see our way clear so that we could force a bonus. To start a new stockyard and build an entire plant is almost too big a proposition to undertake alone; still, if we could get another like S. & S. and Morris to go in with us, I would be very glad to undertake the establishment of a market in Council Bluffs or somewhere on that side of the river. I wouldn't figure on taking any small amount from the Stock Yards company; if we can get anything, we can probably get a nice-sized bonus; if the government men want to know (Continued on Page Two, Column One.)"

Red Murphy Bought Hogs in a Sneaky Way

"Red" Murphy bought hogs in a surreptitious manner at South Omaha market for Wilson Brothers, who were not in the alleged ring.

No light was thrown on the mystery of "Who was hiding the hides?"

E. A. Cudahy was quoted in a letter read by Henev as saying: "You can't get anything out of the Stock Yards company by force."

In a letter, written at Lincoln last November, Nelson M. Barrett, special agent for the federal trade commission, wrote: "The complaint in Nebraska is that these earnings (of Union Stock Yards company) were wrung from shippers in both good and bad years by unjustifiably large charges for yardage and feed."

Attorney Henev read into the record documents to show that Armour, Cudahy, Swift and Morris bought hogs on an average percentage basis of 23, 30, 25 and 15 in the order named.

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HIGH POINTS HENEV BRINGS OUT IN PROBE

Features of the packing house probe being held by the Federal Trade commission:

"Mike" Murphy testified that he was "not close to the throne," also that he and R. C. Howe, general manager for Armour & Co., did not agree.

Henev read a letter from the Cudahy office in Chicago, indicating a willingness of the Cudahys to accept a bonus from the Stock Yards company in lieu of a proposed removal of the plant to Council Bluffs.

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SAMMIES SHELL TOWNS WITHIN GERMAN LINES

Essey and Montsec Hit by Projectiles From American Guns; Allied Planes Bomb Metz.

With the American Army in France, Monday, March 18.—American artillery on the Toul front today bombarded towns within the enemy lines.

On several occasions a considerable number of gas shells were used. The gunners also dropped projectiles on German trenches. Some shells hit in the town of Essey and others in Montsec.

An American patrol between Renieres wood and Jury wood (between Seicheprey and Flirey), encountered an enemy patrol early this morning. For an hour and a half the American patrol tried to make some of the enemy prisoners, but without result, although a number of fights with pistols and rifles occurred as the Germans retired, jumping from tree to tree. American snipers made a number of lucky shots and Germans were seen to fall.

Allies Bomb Metz. The American telephone wires within the American lines were tapped again during the night, not far from where the patrol encounter occurred. The enemy artillery fired a number of gas shells at our lines.

The weather last night and today was well suited for aerial work and much was accomplished. American anti-aircraft guns drove off at least six enemy airplanes, while others crossed the lines at such a height that they were out of range.

Last night airplanes from the rear of the American lines crossed over to the German zone. Soon after many explosions and flashes were heard and seen in the direction of Metz. American planes discovered during the night that the Germans are strengthening their second line. It is known that the first line in many places virtually has been abandoned. It is believed that the accurate American artillery fire has had something to do with this.

AVIATION HEAD HERE TO INSPECT BALLOON SCHOOL

General Dade, head of the aviation branch of service in the United States army, arrived in Omaha from Washington Tuesday morning on official business, and is passing the day inspecting the work at Fort Omaha.

General Dade and his staff breakfasted at the Hotel Fontenelle and then went to Fort Omaha, where he was shown about the big balloon school by Colonel Nance, commandant.

Make First Seizure of Alien Enemy Property

The first seizure of alien enemy property in Omaha under the alien enemy act, was made yesterday. It consisted of the property at 1419 Farnam street, occupied by the Drexel Shoe company.

The seizure came about when the occupants made a report to Washington.

The property is owned by the heirs of the late Frederick O. Dohle, who is supposed to be living in Germany. Dohle died in Omaha some years ago.

The shoe company has already put on deposit \$5,000 in rent in the Merchants' National bank since it became impossible to pay the rent to the owners. This also was seized and will be held together with future rentals until the close of the war.

Short and Speedy



DUTCH ACCEPT ALLIED TONNAGE ULTIMATUM ON DEFINITE CONDITIONS

Compelled to Agree to U. S. Demand to Obtain Wheat; Ask Supply of Coal for Ships Carrying Merchandise to Holland and in Transportation of War Materials.

New York, March 19.—With armed guards from the naval reserve on board the 40 Dutch ships in New York harbor, all was in readiness today for formal word from Washington authorizing the actual transfer of control of the ships.

Holland has accepted, with certain conditions, the Anglo-American demand regarding Dutch shipping.

This was announced in the second chamber today by Dr. Loudon, the foreign minister.

He added that Holland could not go further and was awaiting the Anglo-American reply to its latest communication. The minister's declaration, which will be discussed in the Chamber Tuesday, said:

"The German government, having declared its inability to furnish 100,000 tons of wheat in two months, the Dutch government finds itself compelled to accept the demand for sailing Dutch ships through the danger zone which the American and British governments have attached to the delivery on April 15 of 100,000 tons of wheat."

Dr. Loudon added, however, that the assent of the Dutch government was based on conditions. Included among these conditions were the claims that the allied governments should guarantee that no troops or war materials be transported on the ships and that vessels destroyed be replaced by others after the war. Another condition was that bunker coal necessary for transporting merchandise to Holland ought to be furnished Dutch ships.

The commander was told that the American flag would go up at noon and that the officers and crew of the ship would be given until midnight to leave. The commander of the Samarinda reported the circumstances of the Rotterdam Lloyd, its owners, and said he was preparing to obey, when shortly after noon he again reported, saying that the naval officers had left the ship.

He said the naval officers had informed him they had been instructed to return to the navy yard and that the contemplated seizure had been postponed.

WILL MASS GREAT ARMIES AND WORK OUT NEW TACTICS

Move, Backed By Reserves of All Countries Who Will Be Overwhelmingly Concentrated at Selected Points of Attack, to Carry Out Latest Weapon Forged During Winter.

Washington, March 19.—The key to the 1918 riddle of the western battle front is in the hands of the supreme war council at Versailles. Decision as to the time and place of major offensives by the allies rests with that body. It directly controls also, officials here believe, a new weapon forged during the winter with which to make effective its plan of grand strategy.

SCOTTISH RITE MASONS HOLDING SPRING REUNION

Degrees From 15th to 32d Will Be Conferred; 1,200 to Attend Banquet at Cathedral Thursday.



ELMER J. BURKETT.

Hundreds of Masons and candidates are in Omaha for the spring Scottish Rite reunion, which is being held this week in the Scottish Rite cathedral at 20th and Douglas streets.

At least 1,200 Masons will attend the big banquet at the cathedral Thursday night.

Degrees from the 15th to the 18th will be conferred tonight. The 20th and 21st degrees will be conferred Wednesday morning, the 24th to 29th Wednesday afternoon and the 30th Wednesday night in full form.

Thursday morning the 31st will be conferred. The 32nd will be conferred Thursday afternoon.

Elmer J. Burkett will preside at the banquet Thursday night. Reunions are also being held this week in Lincoln and Hastings.

Among the prominent Masons who are attending the reunion in Omaha are Judge N. D. Ford of Broken Bow, James Brooks of Stanton and John Finch of Anrold.

New Member Reichstag. Stockholm, Saturday, March 16.—In an election held in the Niederbarnim district in northern and eastern Berlin, for the purpose of filling the Reichstag seat made vacant by the death of Arthur Stadthagen, socialist, the majority socialist candidate, Herr Wissell, defeated the independent candidate, Tony Breitschidt, by a vote of 23,594 against 15,809.

TO POOL RESERVES. SCOTTISH RITE MASONS HOLDING SPRING REUNION

That weapon is believed to lie in a pooling of the army reserves of all the allies' armies, permitting overwhelming concentrations at selected points of attack.

American observers now are convinced that the German high command plans a defensive campaign, and that the long talked of drive on Paris or the channel ports has been abandoned. The initiative, according to this view, rests with the allied and American forces. Communiques are being closely scanned for the first indication of any offensive operations mapped out at Versailles.

Wilson Urged Action. The supreme council was created under the urgent insistence of President Wilson for aggressive action this year, based on co-ordinated plans and under the direction of single agency. The exact scope of the council's authority never has been disclosed. It was said both by Premier Lloyd George and by Lord Curzon, however, in explaining the status of the British imperial general staff, and the commander in the field, Sir Douglas Haig, that certain British forces had been assigned to the council's control.

Decision by the war council, officers here believe, as to the field where these and similar forces from other armies are to be concentrated will show where allied blows at the German defenses are designed to fall. If there is to be no German drive, as the War department predicted yesterday in its weekly war review the council will not be forced to hold its reserves for defensive purposes, and can devote this new agency to attempts to smash weak points in the German line.

Italian Front Hottest. Opinion as to the sectors offering the best opportunity for allied assaults varies widely here. There is substantial agreement, however, that the Italian front may in fact become the main theater of war this year. Austro-German concentrations, and possible offensives on that front, also noted by the weekly war summary, may represent the recognition of this view by the German high command.

In any event, even though the supreme council might have decided to make the effort to break through in Italy, it is believed the first moves in the spring would be played in France and Flanders. Driven with all the appearance of being the real (Continued on Page Two, Column Four.)

MERGER OF OMAHA TICKET OFFICES EXPECTED ANYDAY

Formal orders to consolidate all the city and passenger and ticket offices of the Omaha-Chicago railroad lines in Omaha are expected from Washington at any time.

William S. Basinger, general passenger agent of the Union Pacific system, has been in Washington three weeks in conference with Director of Traffic Chambers, who has charge of the matter. He was called to the capital to give expert advice on the subject, and his report is said to be in the hands of Mr. Chambers, awaiting the approval of Director General McAdoo.

German Prisoners in Siberia Armed and Beyond All Control

London, March 19.—A message to Reuter's limited, from Tokio, dated Saturday, states that the Japanese war minister, speaking in the house of representatives, stated that there were 94,000 German prisoners east of Lake Baikal and 60,000 west of that point. Those in the east are beyond control and are trying to get arms.

A thousand non-bolsheviki under General Semenov are opposing the maximalists east of Lake Baikal. The entente allies may support General Semenov, but his force is weak, while the maximalists are growing in power and are obtaining arms and ammunition.

The Weather

For Nebraska—Partly cloudy; warmer.

Table with 2 columns: Hour, Deg. (Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday)

Table with 2 columns: Hour, Deg. (Comparative Local Record)

Table with 4 columns: Station and State, Temp., High, Rain. (Reports from Stations at 7 P. M.)

L. A. WELSH, Meteorologist.

Every Day Soon Will Be Beefless, Declares Live Stock Feeders' Man

"If the United States is to provide the boys in the trenches and our allies with an ample supply of food, especially meat, the probability is that within a short time beef must be eliminated from the daily fare." The foregoing is an assertion made by Z. T. Leftwich, St. Paul, president of the Nebraska Live Stock Feeders' association, member of the State Live Stock company and Howard county delegate of the Corn Belt Feeders' association, as well as a member of the National Food association.

Mr. Leftwich is in Omaha, on his way home from Washington, where, for three days, he was in conference with Food Administrator Hoover. At this conference he was accompanied by Bert Cockerall, Papillion; Ed Hickey, Gretna; A. N. Mathers, Gering; W. A. Farley, Aurora and A. M. Dunlavy, Blomington, all members of the Corn Belt Feeders' association. "Mind you, I don't say that there is an absolute certainty of a beefless period," continued Leftwich, "but things point that way. At the conference there were present, in addition to those from Nebraska, delegates from Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri. They all represented the stock interests of these states and the opinion seemed to be, after we had gone over the entire meat situation, that a beefless period is necessary if we are to keep on feeding the boys in the trenches and our allies."