

BIG COMBINE AT SIOUX CITY

FOE FORCES ARE BEFORE PETROGRAD

Occupation of Russ Capital by Germans Only Matter of Hours; Fear Capitulation of Moscow.

London, March 20.—Occupation of Petrograd by the Germans is only a matter of hours, according to dispatches from Petrograd to several of the morning newspapers.

The Russian capital is said to be assuming a waiting attitude and is not displaying the slightest sign of organized resistance.

The Germans are reported in a Reuter dispatch from Petrograd to have reached the vicinity of Dno Station, about 150 miles south of Petrograd.

The Austro-German advance in southern Russia continues. The enemy has occupied Soumy, five hours march from Kharkov, the dispatch says.

Moscow in Danger.

German possession of Petrograd would give the enemy complete control of the Gulf of Finland and all the important ports on its coast except those in Finland yet in the hands of the Finnish rebels, who are being attacked by the Germans and Finnish government forces.

This would cut Moscow off from the Baltic sea.

The various reports from Russia also indicate the greatest anxiety over what appears to be an enveloping movement the Austro-German forces are carrying out against Moscow. There is talk of moving the government, according to these advices, to Sarjoff, (probably Saratoff, 450 miles southeast of Moscow), or to Nizhni Novgorod (265 miles northeast of Moscow).

Church Boycotts Peace.

A Reuter's dispatch from Petrograd dated March 19 reports the patriarch of the Russian church to have sent a message to the orthodox population declaring that the church cannot regard as binding a peace which dismembers the country and places it under the domination of a conquering foreign power.

In this connection the Communist is quoted as declaring that the Russian proletariat cannot make further concessions, but must be ready to rise at any moment irrespective of its state of preparedness.

Other reports from Petrograd state that the council of people's commissioners has ordered the arrest of M. Bibenko, the commissioner of marine, for opposition to the ratification of the peace treaty. Petrograd dispatches filed March 13 reported that M. Bibenko has been missing several days.

Russ Friend of Entente.

Moscow, Tuesday, March 19.—Russia's relations with the entente are unchanged, M. Tchitcherin the bolshevik foreign minister, declared in an interview with the Associated Press correspondent today.

More friendly relations were established with the United States, he added, and he commented upon President Wilson's message to Russia as showing that America would not take aggressive action against it.

Leon Trotsky and other bolshevik leaders are quoted here as denying rumors that large numbers of Austro-German prisoners have been armed by the bolsheviks at Irkutsk, Chita and other Siberian cities as well as in European Russia.

Welcome United States Probe.

The announcement that the United States is sending a mission to investigate the reports of the arming of prisoners is hailed with enthusiasm by the government organs.

The Weather

For Nebraska—Unsettled; somewhat cooler. Temperature at Omaha Yesterday.

Hour	Temp.	Wind	Cloud
6 a. m.	46	W	64
7 a. m.	47	W	64
8 a. m.	48	W	64
9 a. m.	49	W	64
10 a. m.	50	W	64
11 a. m.	51	W	64
12 m.	52	W	64
1 p. m.	53	W	64
2 p. m.	54	W	64
3 p. m.	55	W	64
4 p. m.	56	W	64
5 p. m.	57	W	64
6 p. m.	58	W	64
7 p. m.	59	W	64
8 p. m.	60	W	64
9 p. m.	61	W	64
10 p. m.	62	W	64
11 p. m.	63	W	64
12 m.	64	W	64

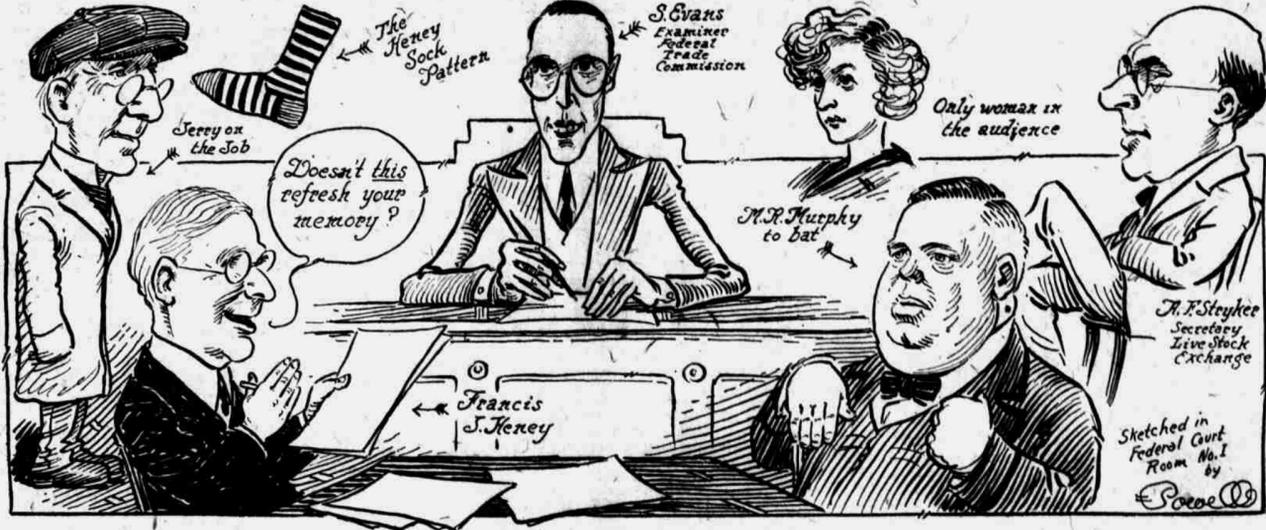
Comparative Local Record.

Year	High	Low
1918	77	25
1917	75	25
1916	75	25
1915	75	25
1914	75	25
1913	75	25
1912	75	25
1911	75	25
1910	75	25
1909	75	25
1908	75	25
1907	75	25
1906	75	25
1905	75	25
1904	75	25
1903	75	25
1902	75	25
1901	75	25
1900	75	25

Reports from Stations at 7 P. M.

Station	Temp.	Wind	Cloud
Omaha	58	W	64
Lincoln	58	W	64
Sioux Falls	58	W	64
Yankton	58	W	64
Wichita	58	W	64
St. Louis	58	W	64
Chicago	58	W	64
St. Paul	58	W	64
Denver	58	W	64
Portland	58	W	64
Seattle	58	W	64
San Francisco	58	W	64
Los Angeles	58	W	64
Houston	58	W	64
New Orleans	58	W	64
Miami	58	W	64
Key West	58	W	64

Scene at Federal Trade Commission Investigation of Omaha and Sioux City Packing Industry Which is Now in Full Swing



BAKER LOOKS OVER 'NOMAN'S' LAND; HAS CLOSE DEATH CALL

War Secretary Visits Listening Post Far Out From American Sector; Talks to Sammys Who Greatly Surprised; Great German Shell Drops 50 Yards From Machine.

(By Associated Press.)

With the American Army in France, March 20.—Secretary Baker had his baptism of fire this morning in the front line trenches, and while he was returning a German shell burst within less than 50 yards of his motor car. He was not injured.

The secretary went into the trenches in a sector the location of which must not be revealed, where American troops face the enemy nearby. For half an hour he plodded over the duck boards.

SEES NO MAN'S LAND.

The Germans maintained an active fire with heavy pieces and machine guns. Nevertheless Mr. Baker made his way to an advanced sap, entered a listening post and talked for several minutes with the soldier on duty there.

But the narrowest shave was on his return to headquarters. The German shell, of 105 millimetres, roared down, and burst cleanly less than 50 yards from the automobile containing the secretary of war and the escorting officers.

The shell hit a roadside dug-out, digging a big crater. Mr. Baker wished to stop and ascertain whether there were men in the dugout, but the chauffeur, realizing the danger, opened the throttle, and made his best speed until the danger zone was passed.

BAKER'S GREATEST DAY. This was the secretary's hardest and most exciting day in France. On Monday evening, accompanied only by a general commanding a division and one other officer, he motored to a point accessible to the sector selected for his inspection. He dined and slept in the chateau of French friends of the officers. Retiring early, the secretary arose at 4 o'clock in the dark of an overcast, chill March day. Taking breakfast quickly, he drove through the misty dawn to his destination.

As the lines were approached the steady reverberation of guns signaled great activity of the artillery. This was confirmed when, on arrival, it

(Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

(Continued on Page Two, Column Two.)

(Continued on Page Two, Column Three.)

(Continued on Page Two, Column Four.)

(Continued on Page Two, Column Five.)

(Continued on Page Two, Column Six.)

(Continued on Page Two, Column Seven.)

(Continued on Page Two, Column Eight.)

(Continued on Page Two, Column Nine.)

(Continued on Page Two, Column Ten.)

(Continued on Page Two, Column Eleven.)

(Continued on Page Two, Column Twelve.)

(Continued on Page Two, Column Thirteen.)

(Continued on Page Two, Column Fourteen.)

(Continued on Page Two, Column Fifteen.)

(Continued on Page Two, Column Sixteen.)

ALLIES TAKE ALL DUTCH SHIPS TO WAR ON GERMANS

Seventy-Seven Vessels, With Total Tonnage of 400,000 Tons, Seized in American Waters by Government.

Washington, March 20.—Upon Holland's refusal in the face of German threats to put into effect her voluntary agreement for restoring her merchant marine to normal activity, the United States government tonight requisitioned all Dutch ships in American waters. At the same time, Great Britain was asking over Dutch vessels in British ports.

A total of 77 ships of probably 600,000 tons was added to the American merchant marine by the requisitioning. Another 400,000 tons are put into the allied service by Great Britain's action. Most of them will be used in the food carrying trade between the United States and Europe.

Holland Rejects Plan. President Wilson's proclamation taking over the ships was issued only after word finally came from London that Holland's delayed reply was a rejection of the British-American demand. The government had waited more than 48 hours beyond the time when Holland had been requested to make a decision as to whether she would carry out the original pact or submit to requisitioning. Every effort was made to avoid drastic action, as transfer by agreement was sought, rather than by seizure, although the latter is an exercise of sovereign rights justified in international law and practiced by all nations.

As late as 6 o'clock tonight it was disclosed that President Wilson, during the day had been informed of the delay in the Dutch reply, with the request that he indicate whether or not the requisitioning should proceed. He decided to await the formal reply, which proved unacceptable, although under other conditions it might have served as a basis for further negotiations.

Manned by Americans. The president's proclamation was issued immediately authorizing the navy to take over the vessels, which will be equipped and operated by the Navy department and the shipping board, the Dutch crews being supplemented by American civilian sailors and naval reservists. Compensation will be made to the owners as required by law.

Although the ships have been taken over without any informal agreement, the United States proposes to carry out scrupulously the terms of the original pact, so that Holland shall receive ample foodstuffs, and will be protected in its colonial trade by having sufficient tonnage to maintain its commerce.

President Issues Statement. In a statement outlining the negotiations which preceded the requisition, President Wilson pointed out that the permanent agreement with the Dutch government had been blocked by Germany, despite the little kingdom's acute need of foodstuffs, for which the agreement provided. A temporary agreement then was negotiated to tide over the emergency and that, too, was held up by Prussian diplomacy.

"Although the reason never was formally expressed," the president said, "it was generally known that the Dutch ship owners feared lest their ships should be destroyed by German submarines. That this fear was not wholly unjustified, has unhappily been shown by the recent act of the German government in sinking the Spanish ship Sardinero, outside the danger zone, when carrying a cargo of grain for Switzerland, and after the submarine commander had ascertained this fact by an inspection of the ship's papers."

For two months the proposed agreements lay in diplomatic pigeonholes without action and meanwhile, the president says: "German threats have grown more violent."

SWIFT'S CONTROL EXTENDS EVEN TO POLITICS OF CITY

Attorney Tells How Big Packer Corporation Forced Unruly Independent to Sell Out to Save Investment; Strange Workings of City Council Before and After Sale.

Francis J. Heney, general counsel for the Federal Trade commission, is endeavoring to show that an alleged packers' combine exists at Sioux City and that the ramifications of this combination has extended, and still extends, through many branches of the municipal life of that city, even to the city council.

GERMANS PLOT TO HOLD RUSS AS PEACE PAWN

Kaiser Said to Be Willing to Give Up Alsace-Lorraine and Evacuate Belgium in Return.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, March 20.—The continued advance of the German army into Russia despite the peace treaties signed at Brest-Litovsk is no surprise to American officials.

They fully expected the German high command to prosecute its designs in Russia to the fullest extent regardless of any considerations of good faith with the peace agreement.

No formal explanation of the motives that impel the Germans to press their advantage to Petrograd and Moscow is available here, but it is known that officials regard the situation as filled with sinister possibilities.

There have been many recent hints at another peace effort by the Germans in the near future, and if these predictions are fulfilled, it is pointed out, a vast section of Russia actually in German hands, and furnishing enormous though undeveloped mineral and other resources for employment in the German war program, might well serve as a foundation upon which to erect a compromise peace proposal.

Evacuate France and Belgium. It has been suggested that with those resources in its possession Germany might offer even to restore Alsace-Lorraine to France, hoping thereby to be left in undisturbed possession of the eastern field.

With such a proposal could go an agreement to evacuate France and Belgium, the whole constituting an alluring prospect to the war-worn peoples of France and Great Britain, if they did not look deeper and see the threat to their statesmen point out in the sacrifice of Russia.

Given time to develop Russian resources, many officials here believe, the Germans could well afford to surrender all they hold in the west with perfect assurance of both their economic and military future.

Russians in Germany Army. Some officials here even expect recruitment of the Russian peasantry into the German armies. Others, however, believe the Russian people are so thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the revolution that no great movement of that sort is to be expected.

Americans Reported in Canadian Casualty List. Ottawa, Ontario, March 20.—A Canadian overseas casualty list issued here today mentions the following Americans:

Wounded—V. L. Pearce, G. and Rapids, Mich.

HITCHCOCK FEARS VOTE OF CENSURE

Nebraska Senator Leaves Urgent War Work at Washington to Look After Special Session of Legislature.

"Hush! Don't tell anyone! Our Senator G. M. Hitchcock has sent word that he will be back in Omaha by the end of this week.

No, of course, he is not coming because there is nothing for him to do in Washington. Congress is still in session and up to its ears in urgent war business and the committee to which the senator is assigned are overloaded with work. Then, too, he recently returned from a two weeks' outing in Florida, but that is not preventing him from sliding here.

Needed attention to his personal affairs or directions to the sub-editor of his paper as to the city campaign may be offered as the excuse.

It is to be noted, however, that Senator Hitchcock is hurrying home just on the eve of the special session of the legislature convened by the governor to meet next week.

Extra Session Ahead. Rumor has it that the senator is coming to Nebraska to renew acquaintance with a few of the lawmakers. For, though Governor Neville specified only 10 bills to be considered at the extra session, there are low rumblings that, once the legislators get together, they have a right to express their opinion on public issues and that a resolution may be offered and adopted censuring the democratic senator for his pro-German activities in congress and calling on him to show his loyalty to America rather than to the kaiser.

The senator's lieutenants agree among themselves that his political fences in Nebraska have been pretty badly broken down recently in consequence of his peculiar attitudes on war questions at Washington, particularly on account of his persistent sword-crossing with the administration while pretending friendship and fealty.

That Worried Look. And some of the democrats say he will have a lot of repairing to do here to hold his old supporters in the Hitchcock corral. Even members of the legislature who used to be pronounced pro-Germans are manifesting their disgust with the senator's inconsistent and turncoat performances.

The present legislature is made up of a large democratic majority, it is true, but plenty of these democrats are not concealing their dissatisfaction with Hitchcock's hypochondriacal record before and since the war, and have placed him strictly in the class of the Reed and Stone democrats and other undesirables.

So he is likely to be a worried-looking senator when he begins sending out messengers summoning his federal appointees to report for instructions and prepare defensive operations.

American Aviator in French Service Lands Fifth Plane

Paris, Tuesday, March 19.—David E. Putnam of Brookline, Mass., a descendant of Israel Putnam and a member of the Lafayette flying squadron, has just brought down two more German airplanes. Putnam also has been promoted to the rank of sergeant in the French army. He already has the war cross with palms.

On the afternoon of March 14 Aviator Putnam attacked three Albatross monoplanes, bringing down one and putting the others to flight. The next day he attacked two two-seated machines, one of which crashed to the ground in flames. In each case Putnam was alone on patrol duty.

This makes four machines with which Putnam is officially credited, although he brought down a fifth machine on a German airplane. This was not seen by French observers and, therefore, was not officially credited.

OLD FIGHTER WOULD SERVE

Thomas F. O'Brien, 82 Years Old, a Veteran of the Civil War and a Grandfather, Wants to Get into Active Service in the United States Army.

O'Brien, who served more than 40 years in the United States army, enlisted in the famous 68th regiment of New York volunteers in 1864. He took part in several of the big battles of the civil war and later saw service in the Indian wars. He also served in the Philippines and served in the British army throughout the Crimean war.

O'Brien is an old man now, well past the allotted three score and ten, and his hair and long flowing beard is snowy white.

The veteran soldier has a son, Thomas, jr., who enlisted in the "Dandy Sixth" Nebraska last summer and is now a sergeant in the service in Washington, and a daughter, Miss Catharine O'Brien, who is connected with the Omaha Welfare board.

"Why not?" asked Heney. "It seems they have swallowed up nearly every independent packer and you are the only one left in a large territory. Does not your business sagacity tell you what is happening? Has the territory from which you naturally get your hogs been reduced by rea-

(Continued on Page Four, Column One.)