

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

THE WEATHER

Rain

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LY HALTS HUN ADVANCE

BIRKNER TARRED AND FEATHERED BY FELLOW PRISONERS

Convicts in New Mexico Penitentiary Hoot and Maltreat Nebraska Army Officer Who Was Arrested at Camp Cody for Alleged Disloyalty and Held in Default of Bail.

(By Associated Press.)

Santa Fe, N. M., April 17-Four hundred convicts in the picturesque villages. state penitentary this afternoon tarred and feathered and led around with a rope about his neck Major John M. Birkner, of Camp Cody, Deming, N. M., held in the penitentary as a federal prisoner in default of \$5,000 bail. He is charged with violation charm. Then peaceful farm lands lay freshly turned ready for the spring of the espionage act.

Major Birkner, who was born in Nuremberg, Germany, but who had been in the American military forces for more than 30 years, was arrested last Friday at Camp Cody, where he was an officer in the 127th field artillery. His home is in Lincoln, Neb.

Chairman of Foreign Re-

lations Committee.

By C. W. GILBERT.

Washington, April 17 .- (Special

Telegram.)-The prospective succes-

sion of Senator Hitchcock to the

chairmanship of the senate commit-

loyalty question which the democrats

have promised to make the issue of

one of the tests proposed by Presi-

The senator introduced an embargo

resolution forbidding the exports of

goods of all kinds to belligerent na-

tions. Unless the administration

The administration has another rea

Seeks His Defeat.

would be chairman,

If he should be chosen, the chair-

Mr. Lodge passes all tests. He was

(Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

CITIES VOTE DRY;

Albany, N. Y., April 17.-Returns

received up to a late hour tonight

from 33 of the 39 cities holding local

option elections show that 17 cities

voted against the saloon and 16 in

The cities voting dry were: Auburn

Batavia, Binghamton, Canandaiagua,

Corning, Cortland, Elmira, Fulton,

Those voting to license the sale of

iquor were: Amsterdam, Beacon,

New Rochelle, Newburg, Little Falls,

The vote was the largest ever cast

Gloversville, Hornell, Ithaca, James

favor of licensing the sale of intexi-

16 REMAIN WET

SEVENTEEN N. Y.

the coming national campaign.

raise in the coming election?

LET OUT FOR EXERCISE. Major Birkner was allowed out in the prison yard for exercise with the convicts. The warden knew nothing of what was going on until he heard loud cheering and rushed out in the covered with tar and feathers. The prisoners with loud hoots were leading him about the yard by a rope around his neck.

Assistant Superintendent Dugan rescued him. The prisoners, evidently in accordance with a pre-arranged plot, had obtained the feathers from their pillows, but where the tar came from is a mystery.

Birkner is alleged to have made disloyal uttrances such as "You can't beat the Dutch," and "The Germans will sink American transports as fast claimed the charges were made spite by subordinate officers whom he had disciplined.

Birkner Loyal, Wife Asserts. Lincoln, Neb., April 17.-Major John M. Birkner, who was tarred and eathered by convicts at the New Mexico state prison today, was prominent in the Nebraska national guard for more than 30 years. At one time he acted as assistant adjant general

Major Birkner's wife, who resides in Lincoln, said today that she recently received a letter from the major in which were statements that he was loyal. She declined, however, to make the letter public.

Fairbury Man Is Mobbed; Applauds in Wrong Place

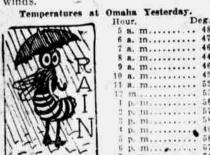
Prompt action on the part of a government secret service man and a city detective undoubtedly saved R. fight on the ranking democratic mem-H. Barnes, Fairbury, from the hands ber of the foreign relations commitof an infuriated crowd last night. tee, a much more potent reason than Barnes sitting in the balcony of the Mr. Hitchcock's course before this Sun theater applauded at the presentation of the kaiser's picture in one of the scenes of "An Alien Enemy." We'll dine in Paris, have wine in

London and spend a night with Uncle Sam," when shown in the course of the picture is alleged to have brought forth loud applause from Barnes. The patrons of the movie house as one started for the affender and he was thrown bodily down the stairway. He was immediately arrested and taken to the police station.

Barnes alleges that he is loyal and has been called in the next draft. He explains his action by saying that he misinterpreted the picture. He was charged with being drunk.

The Weather

Nebraska-Rain Thursday, colder in west and south portions; Friday fair and cool; fresh to strong shifting



1918. 1917. 1916. 1915.

Highest yesterday . 59 78 Lowest yesterday . 44 47 Mean temperature . 52 62 Precipitation 02 T 65 43 54

town, Johnstown, Middletown, Norwich, Salamana and Watertown. Glen Falls, Kingston, Mount Vernon Reports From Stations at 7 P. M. Station and State Temp. High- Rain of Weather. 7p. m. Cheyenne, part cloudy. 38 Davenport, cloudy. 48 Denver, part cloudy. 48 Des Moines, cloudy. 54 Lockport, Ogdensburg, Olean, Port 7 p. m. Jervis, Rome, Syracuse, Schenectady and Tonawanda. Dodge City, clear in any of the municipalities, due North Platte, cloudy 50 chiefly to the fact that it was the first election in which the enfranchisement

women of the state had been given an opportunity to exercise the suffrage and the first time any voters in the cities had had a chance to express their views on the liquor question. In cities voting "dry" the sale of L A. WELSH, Mcteorolo, ist. liquor must cease October 1 next

Old People and Little Folk of Flanders Flee from Homes in Despair as German Blight Spreads Across Their Fair Land

Guard of British Soldiers Until Week Ago Transformed Into Living Hell.

(By Associated Press.)
With the British Army in France, April 17.-It is difficult for one in the British war zone to adjust himself to the new conditions here. It all seems like a horrid dream-this spreading German blight across the cultivated plains of Flanders, with their ancient,

It is but little more than a week since one was free to motor quietly along highways leading through Merville, Bailleul and a score of other nearby places which never lost their

DEATH SEEMED REMOTE. The battle lines were not far to the eastward, but death and destruction seemed remote with walls of khaki clad men guarding the land. Little lads stood at attention-by the roadside and saluted as the motors passed come with the doors of their cottages

Within a few days all this has been demned to die.

changed. The plague of war has de
Many of the refugees know only in not get them.

from the tide of invasion which is remaining possessions. driving them from all they hold dear. HUNDREDS OF HOMES BURNED

By day grim, gray smoke from burning hamlets and from myraid belching guns marks the zone along which are struggling the splendid British soldiers in their efforts to block further inroads of the Hun. By night the skyline is sometimes a lurid blaze, as consuming flames leap up from a hundred homes and great cannon vomit volcanic fire. It is a living hell. It is a part of heretofore untouched Flanders going the way of the devastated regions of the Somme, Then peaceful farm lands lay and so the gentle peasant folk stand and look or wander on. As they go they cannot comprehend it. Its awfulness has numbed their brains.

The correspondent found a little family group crouching beneath huge British howitzers held in reserve. Their eyes were fastened on the mounting columns of smoke which rose from the village whence they and old men and women beamed wel- came. There were no tears and no words, but the expression on their faces was like that of one just con-

Countryside Peaceful Under scended on the countryside. Now one a general way whither they go-they meets his civilian friends—the little are following the lead of military folk of the age-from many hamlets storm. A few cherished belongings making their way sadly back along are all they carry with them and they the broad highway leading westward cling to these desperately as their last

> Hundreds of Flemish homes have been shorn of their protectors, who have been called to the French colors and for these this has been a time of double terror. Some of the peasants, indeed, cling to their cottages amidst the crashing of the shells until the British soldiers led them away. Some have died by their own hearths because they could not be removed. MANY LEFT IN HOMES.

> Many people must-have refused to be dragged from the homes which they had been keeping so patiently, awaiting the return of husbands brothers from the war, homes in which there were bedridden invalids, whom their friends had no means of removing without help from the sol-

> Sometimes there is no way of saving valuables of bulk in towns which come first under the fire of the German troops. Relics and treasures, representing the savings of years, have been abandoned to the flames and plunderers. Many things have been deliberately destroyed by their owners in order that the Germans might

SAY TREASURER **ENDRES TURNED** DOWN BANDMEN

Union Pacific Leader Declares Official Refused to Release Clerk for Liberty Loan Drive.

Union Pacific band, accompanied by Joseph Sesto, Fred Elias and Bert Polley, yesterday complained that County and City Treasurer Endres refused to release Frank Elias, clerk who was wanted as drummer for the

"We told Mr. Endres that the Union Pacific had arranged the drive the initiative, that they are fighting from Omaha to Cheyenne and that for a finish, that the battle is likely to we would start early Thursday continue desperately for some days morning and that we needed Elias as drummer. We also told him that Elias would be away only for the remainder of the week. Endres told us he could not spare Elias and he added that one of his clerks was ill. We took the position that inasmuch as this was a Liberty bond drive, we thought he might have stretched a point. We were hard up for a drum mer." Mr. St. Lucas said.

Corroborate Statements. Sesto, Fred Elias and Polley cor-

roborated the statements of St. These men sought the influence of Acting Mayor Butler and City Solici-

tor Fleharty, but stated that even 000,000. those efforts did not succeed. "I put the proposition up to Otto Bauman, deputy treasurer, and urged that Elias be released, but received little encouragement. Bauman said

he would take the case up with Endres, but I have not heard from them yet," stated the acting mayor. Bandmen Wrought Up.

treasure to let his clerk off for a few

day for a patriotic drive. Mr. Endres said: "I told the men when they called that I had only of the state committee, and scores o British defenders have not sacrificed two men in the special tax department themselves in vain, for they have and that one of them was sick. I served as a wall against which the would like to have helped them out, Germans slowly but surely are ex- but did not see how I could spare Elias at this time. We helped out with several men with the exemption board work and want to do what we capacity. The first detailed report of deal of energy in crossing the Yser, can, but sometimes it is impossible

ing in Austro-Hungarian circles in tank. consequence of the resignation of peace practiations which had been ister for foreign affairs.

RESULT OF GREAT LYS RIVER BATTLE · HANGS IN BALANCE

British in Powerful Counter Attack Retake Meteren and Part of Wytschaete, But Retire Again Under Heavy Fire; Germans Claim Capture of Two Positions North of Ypres.

(By Associated Press.)

Out of the chaos of the tremendous battle along the Lys river south and southwest of Ypres, the thunder of which may be heard 40 or 50 miles away, there have come during the past day reports which are encouraging to the allied powers.

The British not only have held all the ground which they were defending Tuesday, but have struck back so powerfully that Meteren and part of Wytsch ete were retaken and held for a time. Only after heavy attains did the British retire again from the villages.

OMAHA OVER THE TOP ON THIRD

Announcement of Total Subscriptions to Be Made Today, But the Work Is Not to Stop.

"The Liberty loan drive will not stop when the quota is reached," says T. C. Byrne, chairman of the state committee. "We will continue the work until every person in Omaha Joseph St. Lucas, leader of the who can afford to buy a bond has



been reached. We lost sight of our quota before we began. It is not the amount of money we are after, but a wide distribution of the bonds. Personally I expect to see the total subscription go to \$8,000,000 or \$9,-

In its Liberty loan drive today, Omaha is going over the top with its subscription and the fact will be announced at noon, when a meeting will be held at the Chamber of Commerce. Solicitors Are Invited.

The Chamber of Commerce meeting will be presided over by Mr. Byrne, flanked by W. E. Rhoades, chairman The members of the band were of the city committee, and Franklin wrought up over the refusal of the Mann, chairman of the city sales organization. In close attendance will be E. F. Folda and O. T. Eastman, secretary and treasurer, respectively. other prominent citizens who have been giving their time to the cause. More than 1,000 of the men

solicitors in the campaign have been invited to attend and the dining room of the chamber will be taxed to its the progress of the various teams will

Woodmen Subscription Comes. The guest of honor will be W. A. raser of the Woodmen of the Developing in Austria World, whose subscription will put London, April 17.-The Cologne the tank over the line. By special Gazette, according to a dispatch from dispensation the guest has been given Copenhagen to the Exchange Tele- permission to be tardy because he graph company, prints a report that will be busy on the street in engineera strong peace movement is develop- ing the Woodmen celebration at the

The size of the Woodmen subscrip-Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian tion will be kept secret until the cereforeign minister. Many influential monies at the tank, following which Austrian politicians, the dispatch Mr. Fraser will hurry to the Chamber adds, hold that the removal of Count of Commerce to announce t per-Czernin affords an opportunity for sonally to his fellow members there. It will be the largest subscription impossible while the count was min- so far made in the Omaha campaign. and perhaps in the Missouri valley.

GERMANS GAIN GROUND. The most disturbing news has been a report from Berlin that Poelcapelle and Langemarck, north of Ypres, have been taken by the Germans and

the the admission from London that the British have retired from certain of their lines in the Ypres salient. Theretirement here was expected for the advance of the Germans at Neuve. Eglise and Bailleul left the positions in front of Ypres open to a flank at-

It is officially stated that the re-tirement was orderly and it is prob-able that it will have more of a sentimental than a strategic effect. Just how far the British lines have been withdrawn is not known. It may be, however, that the German claim of taking Poelcapelle and Langemarck was the result of the British retirement.

GROWS IN INTENSITY. The battle now in its ninth day has

deepened in intensity at many point along the curved front from Messines ridge to Meteren. There have been reports that the Germans have occupied the village of St. Eloi, which lies less than three miles south of Ypres, but these have not been confirmed. It also was said that they have taken positions on the south slope of Mount Kemmel, about two and a half miles north of Wulverghem. This also has

On all the rest of the front from Messines ridge southwestward the Germans have flung themselves against the granite wall of the British defense. Official and semi-official dispatches have told of the frightful losses inflicted on the attacking masses of troops by the British rifle and machine gun fire.

On the southern side of the salient there have been engagements of some magnitude, especially east of Robecq. five miles northwest of Bethune, where the Germans were caught by the British artillery fire and scattered. Teutons Beaten in Front of Arras.

"The line in front of Arras has gain been the scene of fighting. Here the British took the offensive and drove the Germans out of British trenches which had been carried by the enemy. In Picardy there have been lively

artillery engagements between the Somme and Oise rivers, but only trol encounters are reported officially. Farther south only raiding operations have been going on. The Turks announce that they have

taken the city of Batum, on the eastern shore of the Black sea. They eport strenuous fighting before the Russian defenders of the city were driven out.

The Macedonian front has again become active. Greek and British troops have advanced and driven the Teutonic allies from seven towns along the Struma river, on the eastern end of the line. French forces also have been active in this theater of the

Mayo Held on \$200,000 Bond For Failure to Pay Alimony

New York, April 17 .- Virginius St. Iulian Mayo, a wealthy manufacturer. formerly of New Haven, Conn., was arrested here today in default of payment of a \$100,000 court judgment recently obtained against him for breach of promise by Wilhelmina

For many years she resided with Mayo as his wife at New Haven. In March, 1915, Miss Lillian Cook, his stenographer, committed suicide in that city. Publication of the pictures of Mayo and Miss Cook led to disclosures that Mayo maintained a family in Brooklyn-Lois Waterbury and their children-and that in 1896 he married Florence Weeks, who lived at Scranton, Pa., with their children, and who has obtained divorce.

Mayo today was released under \$200,000 bail and is prohibited from leaving King's county.

Aviation Instructor Injured

When Airplane Falls in Spin Houston, Tex., April 17.-Earl R. Southee of Binghamton, N. Y., civilian instructor at Ellington field, was seriously injured and an aviation cadet slightly hurt at the aviation camp here today, when their airplane fell about 100 feet in a spin. Instructor Southee is in the field hospital tar his injuries may not prove fatal, phase

GERMAN DRIVE FAILURE, ALLY LEADERS DECLARE No Objectives Attained, De- British Line Stronger Now

White House Opposes Promotion of Nebraska Senator to fending Armies Intact and Than It Has Been Since Attacking Legion Reduced

by Casualties. (By Associated Press.) With the French Army it. France, (Special Telegram to New York

April 17 .- While the cannon continue to roar along the battle line, there has for some days been a virtual cessation of infantry combats, especially on the tee on foreign relations raises the French part of the front.

Despite their terrific losses and the exhaustion of many of their divisions, it is considered probable that the German staff is merely pausing to gather force for another effort and will try Senator Hitchcock does not pass to go yet farther in the hope of evendent Wilson in his letter to Mr. tually breaking through.

Wait in Confidence. Any such effort is awaited confidently by the allies, whose commanders keel certain that it will meet a

similar lack of success. makes a fight on Mr. Hitchcock, how The correspondent has been able to glean the prevalent views of the can it raise the issue it proposes to allied side as to the situation. Almost without exception it is thought the son why it would incline to make a present battle will have a decisive influence on the result of the war, but it would be an error to regard it as the last battle. There has been a campaign on the German side to proclaim country entered the war. And that is that this immense effort would result Mr. Hitchcock's courage and indein the allies demanding peace, but pendence. He does not obey orders. they had not counted on the tenacity of either the allied armies or nations.

No Objectives Attained. As far as it has gone, the German manship of two of the most important offensive may be looked on as a failcommittees would be in the hands of the two most independent democrats ure, since none of its objectives have been attained and the allied armies in the body-military affairs, of which Mr. Chamberlain is chairman, and for- are still intact, while the Germans eign relations, of which Mr. Hitchcock owing to the diminution of their forces through casualties, are in an inferior position to that which they occupied The administration would unques-

tionably like to defeat Mr. Hitch- before the battle began. cock, but to defeat him in favor of The only result they can show is any other democrat is practically im- the recapture of a large tract of counpossible, so strong a hold has the try they themselves devastated, where rule of promotion by seniority upon they may be compelled to dig themthe senators. This situation has selves in. They are engaged in doing given rise to the report the admin- this in some part of their new front, istration would take a radical step but under continual harrying by the and urge the election of Senator allied cannon which are most active Lodge, the ranking republican, as day and night. The Germans may dechairman of the committee of foreign cide, or be allowed, to remain there until all is in favor of the allies, who are awaiting constant increase of their one of the original war men. If strength through the arrival of Ameri-

can contingents. Announcements of the accelerations of their departure from the other side of the Atlantic are received with enthusiasm by all the other allied armies in the field. They may, it is pointed out, be called upon to play an important part in the final phases of the struggle and no greater mistake could e made than to allow the belief to spread in America that the battle now in progress is a final one. On the contrary, every influential allied authority expresses the opinion that America should not only continue but augment her efforts both from a militarly and industrial viewpoint, because it is absolutely essential to face all possible eventualities and meet a further gigantic blow from the enemy

Lincoln's Telescope to

who is still strong.

Be Used by U. S. Navy Honolulu, T. H., April 17 .- From the far distant Marquesas islands, in the heart of the South seas, a telescope formerly owned by President Lincoln in the days of the civil war is being sent to Washington for the "eyes-of-the-

Colonel J. W. Jones, Honolulu, who is collecting "eyes" in Hawaii, has received word that an aged American resident of the South sea group is forwarding the telescope and a gold watch given to him by Mr. Lincoln. Both are engraved with the martyred presi-

Armies First Settled Down

to Trench Warfare. By ARTHUR S. DRAPER. Omaha Boe.) London, April 17 .- The situation on

the northern battle front causes exceeding anxiety, but there is confidence the future will become increasingly bright. Looking at the battle from a broad

viewpoint, the British line running northeast from north of Bailleul to Ypres is much stronger than it has been since the armies settled down to band in a Liberty bond drive over trench warfare more than three years the Union Pacific to Cheyenne.

To prevent misunderstanding, must add that the Germans still hold before the allies are out of the woods.

Stronger Line Taken. On the other hand, the British have

shown a readiness to adjust themselves to the military exigencies without regard to the moral effect. After holding the Ypres salient for

sentimental reasons since the spring of 1915, the British attacked July 31, last, and continued the campaign until November. Against tremendous obstacles and at a heavy cost Haig's men obtained a fairly strong hold on Passchendaele ridge. It was a campaign which many times was on the eve of a great victory, only to be balked the ne day.

Now the British have fallen back to a position easier to defend and easier to supply from the Poperinghe region.

Territory counts not at all now; po sition means everything. The British have a shorter front and can now defend the channel ports with increased hope of success. Retirement Orderly.

Their retirement was conducted in order and skillfully, and the German claims in this region must be real in

the light of the facts stated above. The tired, battered, lion-hearted hausting themselves. Ludendorff has abandoned the tac-

tics of 1914, which called for a good and has adopted the plan of 1915. The to do these things. blood-soaked country of Flanders is being drenched afresh and the British, Peace Movement Again with the French, are now making stand along a line stronger than that which they held in 1915. The famous General Bernhardi, whi prides himself on his resourceful ess

and adaptability to circumstant, has been slowed down the last days. SAFE, SAYS WIFE OF COMMANDER

Norfolk, Va., April 17.-Mrs. Worley, wife · of Lieutenant Commander George Wichman Worley, commander of the missing naval collier Cyclops, came to a local newspaper office tonight and declared that the mystery surrounding the disappearance of the ship and its passengers of crew will be cleared within the next 24 hours In one statement Mrs. Worley is quoted as saying the Cyclops was

vessel would be made shortly. Navy officials, it was announced to day, had become convinced that the missing collier was destroyed or cap tured by the enemy.

safe in a South Amreican port and an

official announcement regarding the

Fifteen British Ships U-Boat Toll Past Week

London, April 17 .- The losses to British shipping by mine or submarine in the past week totalled 15, according to the admiralty report tonight. Eleven of the merchantmen sunk were 1,500 tons or over and four under that tonnage. One fishing vessel also was sunk. Twelve vessels were unsucces fully attacked. The arrivals numbered 2,211; sailings 2,456.

In the previous week only six British merchantmen were sunk by mine or submarine, four of them of more than 1,600 tons.