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THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

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THE WEATHER: For Nebraska: Fair and cooler. Thermometer Readings: 5 a. m. 69 1 p. m. 76 8 a. m. 60 2 p. m. 77 9 a. m. 61 3 p. m. 78 10 a. m. 65 4 p. m. 80 11 a. m. 67 5 p. m. 82 12 m. 70 6 p. m. 83 1 p. m. 72 7 p. m. 81 2 m. 76

ALLIES AWAIT HEAVY BLOW

200 ARE KILLED BY T. N. T. EXPLOSION AT AETNA PLANT

Long Factory Buildings Hurled High Into Air With Ponderous Equipment and Scores of Workmen; Red Cross Workers Hurry to Scene; Heroic Nurse Severely Injured.

(By Associated Press.)

Pittsburgh, Pa., May 18.—Probably 200 men were killed today when an explosion of T. N. T. demolished the plant of the Aetna Chemical company, at Oakdale, on the Panhandle division of the Pennsylvania railroad, 16 miles from here.

Five hundred workmen were startled at noon by a report, not much louder than the crack of a pistol. It came from the soda house, but they knew its deadly import, and as one man they rushed for the nearest exit.

Before they could gain the open, the very air seemed to burst into flame, the earth heaved and rocked, and with a roar that was heard for miles, the factory buildings were hurled high into the air, carrying with them ponderous equipment and scores of men.

A great cloud of dust and smoke settled over the scene and through its deadly fumes torn and mangled forms dropped to the earth, many dead, but others to meet their end in the flaming debris. The number of dead had not been determined tonight and it is possible that it may not be known for days, if indeed it ever will be known. State and county authorities agreed that it would reach 200.

HAYWARD WRITES OF HIS REGIMENT ON FRONT LINE

Former Nebraskan, Now at Head of New York Troops in France, Says He's "Two-Gun Man."

Colonel William Hayward, former Nebraskan, but now at the head of a regiment of New York troops in France, has written a letter to one of his friends, describing the interesting life of army men at the front. His letter, which has been passed by the censor, was directed to a friend on this side and by him sent by carbon to others.

This New York regiment was the only body of troops to reach the other side bearing a state name. It is now, as he says, designated otherwise. Extracts from the letter follow: "The most wonderful thing in the world has happened to this regiment. A fairy tale has materialized and a beautiful dream has come true. We are now a combat unit-one of the regiments of a French division in the French army, assigned to a sector of trenches, and it is now a question of days when we will be holding it, the same as each of the other regiments of our wonderful division is holding its sector. Groups of my regiment, including 103 enlisted men from different companies per group, and five officers are being rotated at the front in our prospective sector now. We have with us, (Continued on Page Five, Column Three.)

Arrest Italian Alleged To Have Assaulted Schultz

D. Argentina, 1463 Binney street, was arrested Saturday and is being held for investigation. Police allege that he assaulted John Schultz, foreman of the Missouri Pacific shops, on May 5. About 7 o'clock on the morning of May 5 Schultz was struck down with a steel bar and his skull fractured. Witnesses allege Argentina committed the assault.

Harry Lauder in the War Zone

CHAPTER I—THE START. YON days! Yon palmy, peaceful days! I go back to them, and they are as a dream. I go back to them again and again, and live them over. Yon days of another age, the age of peace, when no man dared even to dream of such times as have come upon us. It was in November of 1913, and I was setting forth upon a great journey, that was to take me to the other side of the world before I came back again to my wee hoose among the heather at Dunoon. My wife was going with me, and my brother-in-law, Tom Vallance, for they go everywhere with me. But my son, John, was coming with us only to Glasgow, and then, when we set out for Liverpool and the steamer that was to bring us to America he was to go back to Cambridge. He was near done there, the bonnie laddie. He had taken his degree as Bachelor of Arts, and was to set out soon upon a trip around the world. Was that not a fine plan I had made for my son? That great voyage he was to have, to see the world and all its peoples! It was proud I was that I could give it to him. He was—but it may be I'll tell you more of John later in this book! My pen runs awa' with me, and my tongue, too, when I think of my boy John. We came to the pier at Dunoon, and there she lay, the little ferry steamer, the black smoke curling from her stack straight up to God. Ah, the bray day it was! There was a frosty sheen upon the heather, and the Clyde was calm as glass. The tops of the hills were coated with snow, and they stood out against the horizon like great, big sugar loaves. We were a happy that day! There was a crowd to see us off. They had come to bid me farewell and I went, all my friends and my relations, and I went among them, shaking them by the hand and thinking of the long whiles before I'd be seeing them again. And then all my goodbyes were said, and we went aboard, and my voyage had begun. I looked back at the hills and the heather, and I thought of all I was to do and see before

TO THE MEMORY OF MY BELOVED SON, CAPTAIN JOHN LAUDER, First 8th, Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders Killed in France, December 28, 1916. Oh, there's sometimes I am lonely, And I'm weary at the day, To see the face and clasp the hand Of him who is away. The only one God gave me, My one and only joy, My life and love were centered on My one and only boy. I saw him in his infant days Grow up from year to year, That he would some day be a man I never had a fear. His mother watched his every step, 'Twas our united joy To think that he might be one day My one and only boy.

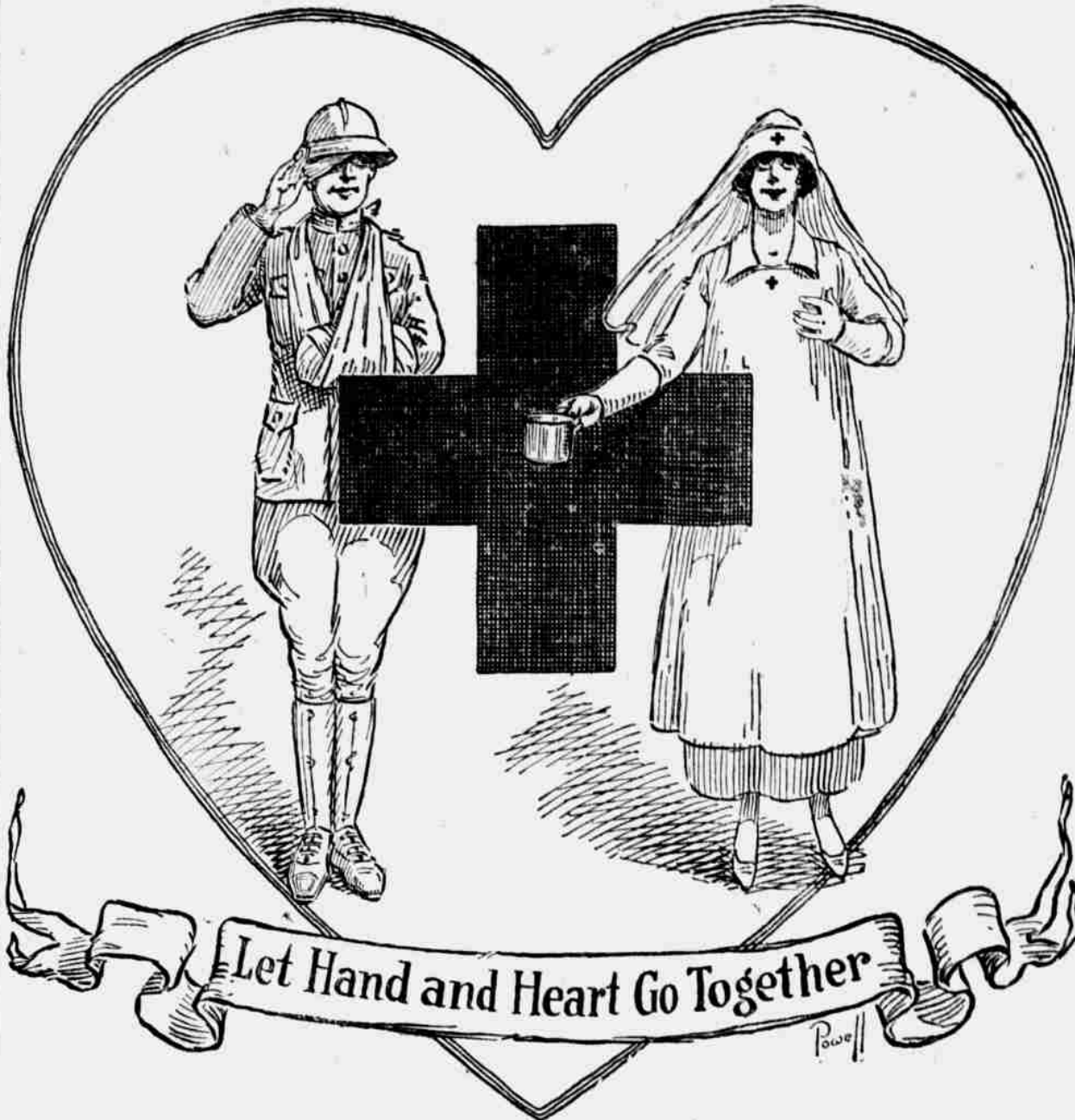
I saw those hills again. I was going half way round the world and back again. I was going to wonderful places to see wonderful things and curious faces. But oftentimes the thought came to me, as I looked at my son, that him I would see again before I saw the heather and the hills and all the friends and the relations I was leaving behind me. For on his trip around the world he was to meet us in Australia! It was easier to leave him, easier to set out, knowing that, thinking of that! Wonderful places I went to, surely. And wonderful things I saw and heard. But the most wonderful thing of all that I was to see or hear upon that voyage I did not dream of nor foresee. How was a mortal man to foresee? How was he to dream of it? Could I guess that the very next time I set out from Dunoon pier the peaceful Clyde would be dotted with patrol boats, dashing hither and thither! Could I guess that every-

When war broke out he buckled on His sword, and said, "Goodbye, For I must do my duty, Dad; Tell mother not to cry; Tell her that I'll come back again." But what happiness and joy! But no, he died for Liberty, My one and only boy. The days are long, the nights are drear, The anguish breaks my heart; But still I'm proud my one and only Laddie lived his part. For God knows best, His will be done, His grace does me employ. I do believe I'll meet again My one and only boy.

where there would be boys in khaki, and women weeping, and that my boy, John! Ah, but I'll not tell you of that now. Peaceful the Clyde had been, and peaceful was the Mersey when we sailed from Liverpool for New York. I look back on yon voyage—the last I took that way in days of peace. Next time! Destroyers to guard us from the Hun and his submarines, and to lay us a safe course through the mines. And sailor boys, about their guns, watching, sweeping the sea every minute for the flash of a sneaking pirate's periscope showing for a second above a wave! But then! It was a quiet trip, with none but the ups and downs of every Atlantic crossing—more ups than downs, I'm telling you! I was glad to be in America again, glad to see once more the friends I'd made. They turned out to meet me and to greet me in New York, and as I traveled across the continent



Now Come Hearty!



Let Hand and Heart Go Together

U. S. Sets No Limit to Efforts to Win War, Wilson Declares in Opening Red Cross Drive

RINGER TO NAME NEW CITY HEALTH COMMISSIONER

"No Conclusion Reached on Appointments," Is Statement After Conference With Mayor Smith.

Mayor Smith and City Commissioners Ure, Ringer, and Zimmman held an informal conference yesterday afternoon in the mayor's office to go over matters in connection with consolidation and rearrangement of city hall departments. They reported progress, but nothing definitely settled. Individuals indicated that it was fairly well agreed that the city clerk's office will be consolidated with the accounts of finance department and that the asphalt repair plant will be assigned to public improvements department. "We did not arrive at any conclusion on appointments," was a statement from the conference room. It was agreed that Commissioner Ringer shall appoint the new health commissioner. It also was agreed that the "new broom" will sweep out a lot of jobs which existed under the old regime.

Ready to Put More Than 5,000,000 Men in France; War Knitting World Together.

New York, May 18.—To win the war the United States is determined to set no restrictions on the number of men to be sent to France, President Wilson declared here tonight in a speech reaffirming the purpose of America to set no limit on its effort. As many men will go over seas as ships can be found to carry them, the president said, after referring to statements that have been made that 5,000,000 should go. The United States, he said, will not be diverted by insincere talk from the Teutonic powers. Their proposals, he declared, spring from a desire to have a free hand in the east. "I intend to stand by Russia as well as France," he said. PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. The president's speech in full follows: "Mr. chairman and fellow countrymen: I should be very sorry to think Mr. Davison in any degree curtailed his exceedingly interesting speech for fear that he was postponing mine, because I am sure you listened with the same intimate interest with which I listened to the extraordinarily vivid account he gave of the things which he had realized because he had come in contact with them on the other side of the waters. "We compass them with our imagi-

WIDOW'S DEATH LAST CHAPTER OF KOUNTZE WILL

Insistence on Dower Right Led to Trust Company Taking Over All Kountze Family Real Estate.

The death in New York three weeks ago of Catherine Ruth Kountze, widow of the late Augustus Kountze, and one of Omaha's pioneer residents, is the closing chapter of an interesting will on file in the county judge's office in the Douglas county court house. Mrs. Kountze came to Omaha as a bride after her marriage at Hanoverton, O., in 1859. Her husband being one of the founders, with his brothers, of the famous Kountze Brothers' banking firm and the family of prominent bankers still presiding over the Kountze institutions. Augustus Kountze built a beautiful and for that time palatial residence well remembered as "Forest Hill," in which he and his wife held forth socially during the early days of Omaha and where a niece, Miss Kitty Smith, who lived with them, reigned as Omaha's (Continued on Page Two, Column Six.)

GERMANS PREPARED TO RENEW ASSAULT ON WEST FRONT

Enemy Expected to Strike Whenever Movements Will Be Hidden By Fog; Americans Arriving Daily to Reinforce Defense; Russians Threatening to Resist Further Invasion of Far East.

(By Associated Press.)

Nearly three weeks have passed since the German offensive, begun March 21, died down at its final active point in futile assaults on the Flanders front. Every indication, however, points to the probability that the coming week will witness its renewal.

The entente allied staffs, so far as their opinion can be learned, appear convinced that the enemy has about completed his reorganization and readjustment of forces and that he is only awaiting weather suitable to his purpose to strike his new blow.

DOCTOR UNDER DEFENSE FIRE IN LUSK TRIAL

Roberts Tells of Meeting With Accused Girl; Says She Asked Whether He Loved Her.

Waukesha, Wis., May 18.—Dr. Davis Roberts was again the center of interest at the trial of Grace Lusk for slaying his wife when he resumed the witness stand today to face a crossfire of questions from counsel for the defense. Henry Lockney, in his cross-examination, reviewed in detail the story of the doctor, told yesterday on the stand of his relations with Miss Lusk and his meetings with her in Waukesha and Chicago. Meeting in Office. Dr. Roberts again told of a meeting in Miss Lusk's office in the Young Men's Christian association, at which he asked her to help him with a book on cow diseases which he was writing. "She asked me if I loved her," he said, "and I replied that we were practically strangers and that I respected her. She said that she did not want my respect, but wanted me to take her to Chicago for a good time." Ended With Kisses. The doctor said that the meeting ended with two kisses, but that he could not remember whether he kissed Miss Lusk or she kissed him. This was in March, 1915. From April, 1915, until July, 1916, he said he had met Miss Lusk at various hotels in Chicago on an average of once a month. "Who paid the hotel bills?" he was asked. "She paid hers and I paid mine," he answered. At 11 o'clock the court adjourned until Monday with Dr. Roberts still on the stand.

FAIR WEATHER MIST. Fair weather is reported from the battle front, but apparently this is not to the German's liking. It is recalled that he was materially aided in his drive from St. Quentin in March by the foggy, misty conditions prevailing during which enemy masses could be moved to the point selected for the heaviest stroke without coming under allied aerial observation. It may, therefore, be the enemy purpose to await similar conditions before essaying his second great push. ALLIES CONFIDENT. German public opinion is being prepared by Chancellor von Hertling and others for the imminence of renewed heavy fighting. On the allied side confidence is expressed in the outcome, particularly with the Germans crippled in reserve power through their losses in the earlier attack, while the allies have received notable reinforcements from the United States, which day by day is increased the number of its men on the Franco-Belgian front. The total mileage of the front held by American troops is revealed to be third greatest, the French standing first, the British second and the Americans exceeding the Belgian total. Artillery activity on both sides between Givenchy and Robecq and north and south of the Avre was reported in the official statements Saturday. Great reconnoitering activity along the western battle front led to violent hand-to-hand fighting, especially in the district of Lastunry, according to the Berlin statement. A third attempt by the Austrians to recapture Monte Corno failed, according to the official communication from Italian general headquarters. Russian Rising Threatened. While the rival forces are thus poised for the clash in the west, important developments appear to be impending in the far east. German aggression in Russia has reached a point where the entente press is clamoring for counter measures, and some action of this nature apparently is about to be taken, at least so far as the safety of the peace of the far east and probably of Siberian integrity are concerned. This action, it is understood, is to be confined for the present to China and Japan, who, with entente assent, are to co-operate in protecting Manchuria, with the possibility that the operations may be extended into Siberia as a more effective defensive measure. Sinn Fein Leaders Arrested. In Great Britain the Irish question looms large again with the announced discovery of "a tremendous conspiracy with the German army" on the part of certain Irishmen and the making of hundreds of arrests in Ireland. The persons taken in custody include the Sinn Fein organization's president, most of its other leaders and all the Sinn Fein members of parliament. The government's descent upon the Sinn Fein headquarters and leading personnel was sudden and bold and the rounding up process was not accompanied by disorders. The bringing of the conscription question to a head seems likely to result from the government's action and with it may come the solution of the problem as to how far Ireland may be counted upon to swell the British man power for the fight against Germany, either voluntarily or otherwise. On the water the only incident of note reported is the sinking of a British destroyer by a torpedo from a German submarine, two of the crew of the British vessel being killed. Interurban Freight Service By Motor Truck Develops Here. A number of cities within the radius of Omaha trade territory are urging the local Chamber of Commerce to encourage the interurban motor truck freight service. Since early this spring a number of motor truck lines have been started, operating between Omaha and towns and cities out 20 to 30 miles. The service is as yet irregular, and a move is on foot to bring about the adoption of regular running schedules in order that shippers may know when to have their consignments ready. It is said many of the men operating trucks are making money. This is especially true when they are able to load in both directions.

"A Minstrel in France" Tells His Personal Experiences on the Western Fighting Front.

to San Francisco it was the same. Everywhere I had friends; everywhere they came crowding to shake me by the hand with a "How are you the day, Harry?" It was a long trip, but it was a happy one. How long ago it seems now, as I write, in this new day of war! How far away are all the common, kindly things that then I did not notice, and that now I would give the world and a to have back again! Then, everywhere I went, they pressed their dainties upon me whenever I sat down for a sup and a bite. The board groaned with plenty. I was in a rich country, a country where there was enough for all, and to spare. And now, as I am writing, I am traveling again across America. And there is not enough. When I sit down at table there is a card of Herbert Hoover's, bidding me be careful how I eat and what I choose. Ay, but he has no need to warn me! Well I know the truth, and how America is helping to feed its allies over there, and so must be sparing herself. To think of it! In yon far day the world was all at peace. And now that great America, that gave so little thought to armies and to cannon, is fighting with us in British against the Hun! It was in March of 1914 that we sailed from San Francisco, on the 10th of the month. It was a glorious day as we stood on the deck of the old Pacific liner Sonoma. I was eager and glad to be off. To be sure, America had been kinder to me than ever, and I was loath, in a way, to be leaving her and all the friends of mine she held—old friends of years, and new ones made on that trip. But I was coming back. And then there was one great reason for my eagerness that few folk knew—that my son, John, was coming to meet me in Australia. I was missing him sore already. They came aboard the old tubby liner to see us off, friends by the score. They kept me busy shaking hands. "Goodby, Harry," they said. And "Good luck, Harry," they cried. And just before the (Continued on Page Twelve, Column Two.)