

# ELKS BUILDING BURNS; FOUR FIREMEN ARE HURT

## HOSPITAL SHIP IS MADE VICTIM OF RUTHLESS BLOW

Eleven Thousand Ton Vessel Carrying 258 Passengers from Canada to England Sunk In Most Ruthless Way; Commander Threatens to Kill Medical Officer Saying He Is American Aviator.

By Associated Press.

London, July 1.—The British hospital ship Llandovery Castle, bound from a Canadian port for England, has been sunk 70 miles from land without warning by a submarine. So far only 24 of the 258 persons on board have been reported safe. The fate of those missing is not known.

The admiralty statement on the sinking of the hospital ship follows:

"Germany's awful debt to the world continues to grow. Another hospital ship has been torpedoed, this time 70 miles from the nearest land, and her people turned adrift in their boats to sink or swim as best they might.

"And although, as it happened, she was a Canadian hospital ship, returning from Halifax with no wounded aboard, the tale of crime reveals wanton, deliberate action on the part of the submarine commander and almost suggests the hope on his part that he would find her full of injured and helpless men.

Chartered to Carry Wounded.

"The Llandovery Castle, R. A. Sylvester, master, was chartered by the Canadian government to convey their sick and wounded from England to Halifax. It had on board a total of 258 persons, including 80 Canadian army medical corps men and 14 female nurses. One boat, containing 24 survivors, has reached port so far.

"It was during the night of June 27, toward 10:30, that the crime occurred. The Llandovery Castle, steaming on her course at some 14 knots, showed the usual navigation and regulation hospital ship lights. In the overcast sky she was plain to see—a ship immune by every law of war and peace from attack or molestation.

"No one aboard saw the wake of the torpedo. The first intimation of the presence of a submarine was a jar and the roar of an explosion from aft. Then the lights went out.

"All that followed, save when a dim light was obtained from an emergency dynamo, just before the ship foundered, took place in the darkness. But from the engine room came no answer.

Crew Stands for Orders.

"The rehearsed routine of the ship, however, held good. With the German enemy, one must be prepared for every emergency like this, and along the darkened decks the crew groped to the boat stations and stood by for orders to leave her.

"From the bridge, the captain's megaphone, loud in the night, bade them hold until way was off the ship. The carpenter was at making an examination of the damages. In the wireless cabin the Marconi operator was trying in vain to transmit the ship's position. His key gave no response; the spark was gone.

"The carpenter's report was that No. 4 hold at was blown up and that the ship could not remain afloat. The order was given to lower away the boats on both sides and abandon ship.

"The officer commanding the Canadian army medical corps on board reported that his people were out. This is important in view of the fact that no boat but the captain's has been picked up.

"Save for any of the ship's company (Continued on Page Two, Column Five).

## U.S. MOVES TO TAKE ON ALL WIRES

Resolution Introduced in House Authorizing President to Commandeer Wire Lines During the War.

By Associated Press.

Washington, July 1.—Legislation to authorize government control and operation of telegraph and telephone systems during the war was approved today by President Wilson. Leaders at the capitol prepared for its immediate consideration, with a view to action, if possible, before congressional recess this week.

Secretaries Baker and Daniels and Postmaster General Burleson, all of whom have endorsed the resolution by Representative Aswell of Louisiana proposing this authority, were invited to appear tomorrow before the house Interstate Commerce committee.

Authority Given President.

The resolution, introduced by Representative Aswell of Louisiana, reads:

"That the president, if, in his discretion it is deemed desirable in order to insure their continuous operation or to guard the secrecy of military and governmental communications, or to guard the secrecy of military and governmental communications, or to prevent communication by spies and other public enemies thereon, or for other military or public reasons, shall have power to take possession and control of any telegraph, telephone, marine cable or radio systems, and operate the same subject to those conditions of law, so far as applicable, which are in force as to (Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

## Effort to Fix Blame For Ruff Building Disaster at Sioux City

Sioux City, Ia., July 1.—Work of identifying the dead in the Ruff building disaster was practically finished tonight, 37 of the 38 bodies being identified. The new names added to the death roll are: Emma Crumrine, Mrs. Marion Caylor, Charles Roessler, Mrs. Johnathan Ostle, James McLain.

Search of the ruins was abandoned today and the task of burying the dead and endeavoring to fix the blame for the disaster taken up. An investigation to determine the cause of the Ruff disaster has been started by County Attorney Naglestad.

## Berlin Makes Claims on Results of Recent Offensive on Allies

By Associated Press.

Berlin, via London, July 1.—Since the beginning of the German offensive, March 21, 1914,44 allied prisoners have been captured by the Germans, according to an official statement from the war office. Of these, the statement says 94,939 were British, 89,099 were French and the remainder were divided among the Portuguese, Belgian and American forces along the front.

"After the conclusion of investigations it has been found that the number of prisoners passed to the rear through our collecting stations since the beginning of our attacking battles March 21, up to the present, not including the wounded passed back to hospital establishments amounts to 191,454. Of these the English lost 94,939, including four generals and about 3,100 officers," says the report.

"The French lost 89,099, including two generals and about 3,100 officers. The rest were divided among the Portuguese, Belgian and American forces.

"Cannon to the number of 2,476 were taken and 15,024 machine guns were brought back from the battlefield to the booty collecting stations."

Concerning events along the front the statement says: "Partial attacks by the British north of Albert were repulsed. Between the Aisne and the Marne lively activity on the part of the enemy prevailed, his infantry often advancing on strong reconnoitering expeditions. Near St. Pierre Aigle and south of that place the French attacked after violent artillery preparation. They were repulsed."

## FIGHTERS SAVED IN HEROIC FIGHT AGAINST FLAMES; BLOCK IN DANGER

Fraternal Order Home Ablaze on Upper Story, Sends Shower of Brands Into Heart of Business District With Great Danger to Valuable Property; Loss Will Be \$250,000.

Four firemen were severely injured and several others cut and bruised in a fire which almost completely destroyed the Witnell block, the home of the Omaha Elks, at Fifteenth and Harney street early this morning.

The four firemen severely injured are: Samuel P. Carney, captain engine company No. 1, 1909 South Eighteenth street, burned hand and injured knee.

Leo Kaufhold, pipeman engine company No. 2, 4419 South Twenty-fourth street, sprained back.

Walter A. Anderson, pipeman engine company No. 1, 1045 South Twenty-second street, body bruised and lacerations of hand.

Tom Heafey, pipeman engine company No. 3, sprained back.

MEN CAUGHT ON THE FOURTH FLOOR.

All four of the injured fire fighters were caught on the fourth floor of the burning structure when the roof fell. Chief Salter, Assistant Chief Simpson and a dozen other firemen in addition to those badly hurt, were all on the fourth floor at the time, also were caught under the falling roof, but miraculously escaped with nothing more than minor scratches and bruises. The property loss will probably total \$250,000.

CAVANAUGH'S NARROW ESCAPE.

John Cavanaugh of engine company No. 2, experienced a narrow escape when his hair became ignited by flying embers. He started down a ladder with his head enveloped in flames. He missed his footing and fell from a position near the second story to the ground. He was uninjured, however, and when the flames in his hair were extinguished he attempted to return to the fire, but was restrained by bystanders.

Leo Kaufhold was uninjured by the falling roof, but in making his escape from the building down an outside ladder fell from the third floor to the pavement below.

Kaufhold and Cavanaugh are members of the same company. Each, after making his own escape, believed his comrade was still in the burning structure and attempted to return to the fire to rescue each other.

STILL ALARM SENT IN FIRST.

The injured firemen were caught unawares under the falling roof. The first alarm turned in was a still alarm shortly before 1 o'clock this morning. Two companies, No. 1 and No. 2, responded.

Believing the fire had gained no great headway, firemen entered the building equipped only with chemicals. They were still attempting to extinguish the blaze on the fourth floor with chemicals and hose companies answering a second alarm had just started to run their hose into the building, when the roof fell upon the trapped fire fighters.

ELEVEN COMPANIES RESPOND

The fall of the roof made known the extent of the blaze and 11 companies were summoned to the scene. Eight streams of water, including two water towers, soon played upon the flames on the fourth floor.

The fire was discovered by members of the Elks club who were in the building. Twelve members of the club made their escape after sounding the alarm.

Two causes for the fire were advanced. Members of the Elks declared defective wiring started the blaze. Assistant Fire Chief Simpson, one of the firemen into the building after the fire started, declared it apparently had started from an ash box near the club cafe.

FEAR FOR ENTIRE BLOCK.

Once started the fire burned brightly and for a 30-minute period it was feared the flames might jump to the Nebraska Power company and Paxton hotel buildings. Guests in the hotel were aroused from their slumbers and warned of the possible danger. But the absence of any wind made it possible for the firemen to soon get the blaze under control.

Elks Loss Estimated at \$200,000

Herman Metz, an officer of the lodge and one of the members of the Elks' Building company, estimates the loss near \$200,000. The building, according to Mr. Metz, is valued at \$175,000 and is fully covered by insurance.

The furniture and fixtures of the lodge are valued at \$30,000 and are fully insured. No estimate could be made on the loss to the McCarthy-Wilson Tailoring company and the Schultz Brothers, Edison Electric company on the ground floor. Their loss will be entirely from smoke and water.

Stock in the Elks Building company, owners of the building, is controlled by T. B. McPherson, T. J. Stroud, Herman Metz, Gould Dietz, (Continued on Page Two, Column Two.)

## STATE STEPS IN TO BREAK ALLEGED FOOD CORNER

Attorney General Starts Action Against Independent Speculators Handling Vegetable Products.

Attorney General Reed late Monday night launched a suit in behalf of the state to break up an organization of independent speculators who are alleged to have secured a "corner" on all vegetable products received at the city market in Howard street and to have reaped a rich harvest through their manipulation as the exclusive holders of the products.

The attorney general filed a petition in district court against G. Rosso, L. Greenberg, William Wisner, Baglio, Pete Rotollo, Anderson, Swanson and Ed Partoner, asking a restraining order to prevent these men from buying in the market or elsewhere in the state any food products in excess of their actual requirements for their own home consumption. The men are characterized in the petition as "profiteers, who reap where they have not sown."

The action by the state, as recited in the petition, is to obtain relief from the high prices prevalent at the School for the Deaf and the State Medical college, both state institutions.

Alleged Manipulations.

In the petition it is alleged that the defendants, in violation of the law forbidding restraint of trade, have entered the public marketing place and procured the products received there largely to the exclusion of others who require it for home consumption, by bidding up the price. It is alleged that this bidding is for the purpose of obtaining a monopoly of the products, and then raising the price to make an unwarranted profit ranging from 20 per cent on each dollar invested.

This action by the attorney general follows a complaint by J. J. Cameron, secretary of the Retail Grocers' association, and reports from other food bodies, that speculators on the city market, in one specific instance, bought up most of the beans on the market at \$1 per basket and sold them for \$1.50, and also made three baskets out of every two they bought.

The retail grocers have complained that the operations of the speculators hurts legitimate business. The speculators do not rent any stalls from the city, are connected with no business firm, but merely enter the market place in the early morning, buy all offerings from the farmers and gardeners, sell their purchases and call it "a day's work," they say.

The petition filed by the attorney general alleges that the acts of the defendants in effect is an indirect lending of aid and comfort to the enemy. The petition also asks that the producers be enjoined from selling to the profiteers any products required by the general public, in excess of the actual requirements for home consumption and individual use. It asks that after the final hearing of the case the injunction be made permanent.

## UNITED STATES LAYS PLANS FOR IMMENSE NAVY

Billion and More Dollars Appropriated for Construction of War Vessels and Increasing Man Power.

By Associated Press.

Washington, July 1.—Steps to expedite construction of the remaining 48 vessels, including battle cruisers and super-dreadnaughts, of the 150 authorized in the three-year naval building program, approved by congress two years ago, already have been taken by the Navy department.

This was disclosed tonight by Secretary Daniels in a statement reviewing the provisions of the \$1,600,000,000 naval appropriation bill recently passed by congress and to which President Wilson today attached his signature.

"The bill" said the secretary "makes it obligatory to begin construction of the 48 vessels of the 150 vessels comprising the three-year program, authorized in the act of August 29, 1916, the construction of which has not previously specifically been directed to be begun.

"Money is not only provided for completing the big three-year program, but an additional \$100,000,000 is made available for additional torpedo boat destroyers, submarine chasers, and other naval craft as the exigencies of the war may make necessary."

Liberty Motor Acts Fine On Seaplanes, Admiral Reports

Washington, July 1.—A report from Vice Admiral Sims, Secretary of the Navy, today says a recent test in European waters of a seaplane propelled by the Liberty motor, demonstrated that the engine has better climbing and load carrying qualities than any of the best European types.

## STEPS TAKEN TO DEAL WITH GERMAN PATENTS AFTER WAR

Licenses Issue for Use of Enemy Formulas and Manufactures at Home

Washington, July 1.—Recommendation that congress modify the enemy trading law by revoking the power now given the courts to terminate licenses granted Americans to use German patents, was made today to the National Trade Commission by C. H. McDonald, chief of the Enemy Trade division of the commission. He urged also that the commission be empowered to fix royalty charges more definitely than the law now permits.

Two suggestions have been made to congress by the commission. In substance they are that the commission, in its license, may prescribe a reasonable royalty and that at the suit of the enemy owner after the war, the court, although it may also establish a reasonable royalty shall accept that prescribed in the license as prima facie reasonable while the power of the courts to terminate the licenses is entirely cut off.

Mr. McDonald's report shows that American manufacturers have responded with characteristic energy to the opportunity offered for developing in this country industries hitherto monopolized chiefly by Germans. Applications have been made to use 147 enemy-owned plants, of which 80 have been granted and seven denied. Three exclusive licenses have been issued and 20 non-exclusive li-

censes, the discrepancy between applications and licenses being explained by the fact that each application covers a single patent, while a license may include several. Three licenses to use enemy trade marks have been issued out of seven applications made. When the commission received its authority to grant licenses under enemy patents, in the fall of 1917, it found an acute condition as to certain synthetic drugs, formerly imported from Germany. Many persons suffering with disease were unable to obtain treatment because of the shortage of supply. Those fortunate enough to be able to buy medicines were forced to pay exorbitant prices. The first drug licensed for manufacture was "salvarsan" commonly known as "606" which was in large demand by the medical profession at large. It now is known officially as "arsphenamine" Other drugs of American manufacture are the local anesthetic "procaine" introduced as "novocain"; "barital," a hypnotic, formerly "veronal," and "phenyl chloroformic acid," also known as "atophan," used in the treatment of rheumatism and gout.

Following the licensing of needed drugs, the commission turned its attention to dyestuffs.

## The Weather

For Nebraska—Generally fair Tuesday and Wednesday; warmer in east portion Tuesday.

Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

5 a. m.	59
7 a. m.	61
9 a. m.	62
11 a. m.	64
1 p. m.	65
3 p. m.	67
5 p. m.	68
7 p. m.	69
9 p. m.	68
11 p. m.	67

Comparative Local Record.

1918, 1917, 1916, 1915.	
Highest yesterday	69
Lowest yesterday	59
Total rainfall since March 1	8.74
Mean temperature	65.00
Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal:	
Normal temperature	75
Deficiency for the day	10
Total deficiency	100
Normal precipitation	0.50
Deficiency for the day	0.15
Total rainfall since Mar. 1	7.59
Deficiency since Mar. 1	0.91
Excess for cor. period, 1917	1.25
Deficiency for cor. period, 1916	4.53

Reports from Stations at 7 P. M.

Station	State of Temp.	High	Rain
Chicago, clear	64	64	.00
Davenport, part. cloudy	74	76	.00
Des Moines, clear	69	69	.00
Des Moines, clear	82	84	.00
Dodge City, clear	84	86	.00
Lincoln, clear	88	90	.00
North Platte, clear	94	94	.00
Omaha, clear	89	90	.00
Sioux Falls, clear	90	92	.00
Rapid City, clear	88	90	.00
Santa Fe, cloudy	89	92	.00
St. Louis, clear	94	95	.00
Valentine, clear	91	92	.00

L. A. WELSH, Meteorologist.