

For Nebraska: Partly cloudy Wednesday and Thursday; cooler in southeast portion Wednesday.	
Hourly Temperatures.	
5 a. m.	58
6 a. m.	55
7 a. m.	54
8 a. m.	54
9 a. m.	54
10 a. m.	55
11 a. m.	56
12 m.	57
1 p. m.	58
2 p. m.	61
3 p. m.	61
4 p. m.	61
5 p. m.	60
6 p. m.	59
7 p. m.	58
8 p. m.	58

Taste of Winter Coming.

Washington, Oct. 22.—An early taste of winter is about to be given the country from coast to coast. A special bulletin from the weather bureau today says there will be a decided change to cooler within 36 hours in the plains states and the eastern Rocky Mountain region, extending by Thursday to the Mississippi valley and beyond.

Yukon River Closed.

Dawson, Y. T., Oct. 22.—Navigation on the Yukon river closed for the winter today. A mail launch arriving from Whitehorse, Y. T., ran the last 50 miles through floating ice.

Wilson Awards Medals.

Washington, Oct. 22.—President Wilson, as commander-in-chief of the United States, today awarded the distinguished service medal to Marshals Foch, Joffre and Haig and Generals Petain, Diaz, Gillian and Pershing.

Winter Comes in Russia.

Archangle, Oct. 22.—An unusually late winter in northern Russia was ushered in Sunday by a heavy fall of snow. The Dvina and Vaga rivers, which usually are closed at this date are still ice-free. The American and other soldiers are being equipped with semi-arctic uniforms, including sheepskin great-coats and Arctic felt boots.

Debs Files Appeal.

Washington, Oct. 22.—Eugene V. Debs, socialist party leader, who recently was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for making disloyal utterances in a speech at Canton, O., has appealed his case to the supreme court.

Profiteers Refund.

New York, Oct. 22.—Fifty more of the 234 New York butchers, charged with profiteering in the sale of lamb, appeared today for trial before the federal food board. All but one offered to refund overcharges and contribute \$100 each to the Red Cross, rather than have their stores closed for two weeks.

FOOD HEAD HERE  
RAPS DEALERS  
FOR SPUD BOOST

Wattles Declares Organized Effort to Beat Down Prices to Growers; Consumers Not Benefited.

Food Administrator Wattles Tuesday morning wired the Department of Agriculture at Washington to send to Nebraska one of the experts of the plant industries section to investigate and report on the assertions of the Omaha commission men in regard to the potato situation in this state. Omaha commission men say that Nebraska grown potatoes are not up to the standard grown by other states and are therefore not worth more than they have been paying. The question of quality of the Nebraska potatoes will be put up to the expert from Washington on his arrival here.

Dealers Knock State Spuds. The action was decided upon Tuesday morning when 25 Omaha commission men were called before Mr. Wattles to explain why there is such a wide difference between the prices paid Nebraska potato growers and the prices charged local consumers. The meeting developed the fact that the commission men are unanimous in their belief that Nebraska grown potatoes are practically worthless.

Mr. Wattles was not satisfied with the diagnosis of the Nebraska potato situation by the commission men and he sent to the Agricultural department for an expert. In discussing the grain market, Mr. Wattles asserted that for years local grain men fought a market here, believing that a market would cut into their close corporation business, but finally the market was started and has since grown into one of the most important in the country.

Must Come to Taw.

"Now," added Mr. Wattles, "we are going to build up a potato market in Omaha and I am going to see it through. It is going to be built up on honest and clear lines and I want you gentlemen to help me." "All I want is plain business methods. You men are up against something you cannot get away from, and you know it is not fair that the poor man who works for wages should pay three and one-half times as much for his potatoes as they cost you in the country." The potato investigation was started by numerous letters that have come to Mr. Wattles from (Continued on Page Two, Column Three.)

Commission to Investigate

Charges, Germans Announce. Paris, Oct. 22.—The German propaganda service announces that a commission of neutral residents of Brussels has gone to the front to investigate charges of devastation and destruction without military objects during the German retreat in Belgium. Baron Von Der Lancken, the civil governor of Brussels, went with the commission.

Ammonia Tank Explosion

Kills Three, Injures 20. Fort Smith, Ark., Oct. 22.—At least three lives are believed to have been lost, a score of persons were hurt and property damage aggregating \$500,000 was caused today by the explosion of a tank of ammonia in the basement of the four-story building of the Fort Smith Coffee company.

# FOCH HOLDS KEY TO TRUCE; BRITISH IN VALENCIENNES

## FOE MUST YIELD TO MILITARY MANDATE

Wilson Now Expected to Be Guided in Action on German Note by Supreme War Council.

BULLETIN.

Copenhagen, Oct. 22.—"President Wilson's reply to the latest German note may, perhaps, bring definite certainty as to the result of the negotiations," Prince Maximilian, the imperial German chancellor, said today, according to a dispatch received here from Berlin. "Till then we must prepare to resist a peace of violence," Prince Maximilian continued. "A government which acted otherwise would be left to the mercy of the fighting and working people. It would be swept away by public opinion."

Washington, Oct. 22.—The prevailing belief here tonight is that any action President Wilson may take as a result of the new German note will await and largely be guided by a decision of the supreme war council in France.

Shrewd diplomatic observers and some officials take this view, though no intimation of his own attitude because admittedly the one question immediately at issue is a military problem—that of the evacuation of invaded territory by the German armies as the only condition upon which the plea for an armistice even will be given consideration.

The Germans now are evacuating Belgium and northern France as rapidly as they can move before the sweep of the allied and American soldiers and still maintain their organization. Since the government at Berlin says they want to get out without further fighting, apparently the issue is one for the allied war council to determine—whether it shall be suggested through President Wilson that General Foch be applied to for terms or whether without further diplomatic parley the approach of a white flag from the German lines shall be awaited.

Official Text Received.

The official text of the German note reached the Swiss legation here by cable today, but it was not delivered at the State department because the entire day was spent at the legation on the tedious task of deciding the document and preparing an English translation of the German text. The translation was made with the greatest care by Frederick Oederlin, the Swiss charge, because there are obscure phrases in the unofficial version received yesterday by wireless which may be cleared up by a (Continued on Page Two, Column Two.)

## Deputies of Lille Describe Crimes of the Hun Invaders

Paris, Oct. 22.—The chamber of deputies today enthusiastically welcomed Deputies Delory and Ragheboom of Lille, returning to their seats after years in the hands of the Germans. Amid an impressive silence, M. Delory said: "It is impossible to denounce all the German crimes, but the most abominable was the carrying off of women and girls of 19 and 16 by enemy soldiers, their enforced submission to medical examination and their being obliged to work under French machine gun fire for the German army." The chamber shouted its indignation. One member cried: "We'll teach our children that. We'll never forget." Then M. Delory resumed: "The Lens plains are nothing but an immense area of ruins, with not one house intact. There cannot be a Frenchman who does not wish those culpable chastised." M. Ragheboom told how German soldiers had insulted and violated Lille women, and how they forced 15-year-old children to work for them.

### North Platte Man Forced to Kiss Flag

North Platte, Neb., Oct. 22.—(Special Telegram.)—Colonel Watkins was taken in charge by the Home Guard yesterday for alleged seditious remarks and refusing to buy bonds. After a day in jail he was escorted to the court house square, made to salute and kiss the flag, and buy bonds. Judge Grimes administered the oath of allegiance and Judge Woodhurst acknowledged it.

## TEUTONS OFFER TO SACRIFICE "ME UND GOTT"

Peace Must Not Be Delayed Single Day on Account of the Hohenzollerns, Says Karlsruhe Paper.

Geneva, Oct. 22.—Peace must not be delayed a single day on account of the Hohenzollerns if they are an obstacle to it, declares the Volksfreund of Karlsruhe, which also is permitted to speak of the disappearance of the superstitious belief that the emperor was chosen to rule by divine right.

The Schwabische Tagblatt says that everybody now is convinced the allies will not accord Germany a cheap peace, "but if the glory and power of imperial Germany is the price, the German people are ready to pay."

In permitting such items to leave Germany the German censorship apparently is preparing public opinion for coming events. Huns Would Negotiate. London, Oct. 22.—The German press generally considers the reply to President Wilson satisfactory and a good basis for further negotiations, despite the fact that most of the papers are not quite sure what the first part of the note means, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen.

Theodor Wolff, in the Tageblatt of Berlin, says that great difficulties will be caused if President Wilson or the allies refuse to negotiate for an armistice as proposed by Germany.

### Alleged "Coffin Ghoul"

Indicted on Fraud Charges. New York, Oct. 22.—In an investigation here of the activity of alleged "coffin ghoul" the arrest of two undertakers on charges of attempting to defraud the government.

The undertakers it is alleged, by representing to relatives of dead soldiers that the government coffins in which the bodies were sent home were "cheap pine boxes" secured orders for expensive caskets and then appropriated the government coffins, in some cases reselling them to the government. The "cheap pine boxes" cost the government \$36 each.

The "coffin ghoul" are said to have reaped a rich harvest since the Spanish influenza began taking its toll in the training camps. Cardinal Gibbons Ignores Church Closing Mandate. Baltimore, Md., Oct. 22.—With less than 200 new cases of influenza and 170 deaths reported during the last 24 hours the health authorities of the city are more encouraged. Throughout the state the epidemic continues strong with 1,089 new cases.

Cardinal Gibbons and those in charge of the prelate's golden jubilee have been criticized by the health commissioner for holding ceremonies Sunday at St. Mary's seminary at which foreign prelates were present as in violation of the non-assembly rule in force during the epidemic.

The cardinal previously had sharply criticized the closing of churches.

## New and Crushing Attack Against German Armies Foreseen by Washington Officials; Marshal Foch's Plans Not Yet Revealed

By Associated Press. Washington, Oct. 22.—Now that the Germans have been cleared out of Belgium, Flanders, and much of northern France, army officials here are watching the battle front intently, many of them with a distinct feeling that a new storm of attack may be about to break against the enemy. There was nothing tonight to indicate that this expectancy was founded upon definite information and it probably grows out of a number of happenings of a minor character in themselves, but possibly important links in a chain of events soon to be disclosed.

Beyond doubt the German retirement in Belgium has slowed down. However, it is not yet clear whether this is due to the fact that the retreating forces are nearing on the whole northern front the line which frequently has been selected by military

critics as the first pausing place on the way to the Meuse or the border, or to the necessities of extending allied communication lines as the troops advance. It is probable officers said, that there is necessity for a breathing spell on both sides. HEADED FOR MEUSE LINE. There is little doubt here that the German army is headed for nothing short of the Meuse line and that any pause will be but temporary to permit readjustment of the columns and supply lines in order that the same orderly sequence of movements shall characterize subsequent retirements. Several halts of this character may be expected, it was said, as the withdrawal project is carried out. The fact that the allied armies are hampered by extending communication lines gives opportunity for such halts before Marshal Foch's forces can come

up in sufficient force to compel a resumption of the rearward movement. The line surrendered by the enemy from Lillie northward to the coast, it was pointed out, was far stronger and no longer than that he now stands upon in Belgium. In addition, by the evacuation of the Flanders coast, he has furnished the allies with means of setting up new and more direct communication lines from England and Ostend, Zeebrugge, or other Flanders ports. Without question, it is said, these avenues of supplying the advancing armies already are being opened to free the longer lines back into France of that burden and consequently officers cannot see any tactical advantage gained by the enemy unless he intends to fall back at least to the line of the Meuse. The first stage of the great retreat (Continued on Page Two, Column Four.)

## GERMAN NOTE EQUIVOCAL, IS VIEW OF FRENCH

Press Sees Evidence of Moral Abdication of Kaiser, but Demands Guarantees Before Armistice.

By Associated Press. Paris, Oct. 22.—The German reply to President Wilson excited much comment in the lobby of the Chamber of Deputies this evening. It was considered on every side as denoting that a spirit of depression and demoralization pervades Germany. Concerning the reference to the conditions of evacuation and armistice, the note is regarded to be willfully equivocal, crafty and obscure.

Parliamentarians are unanimous in the belief that the so-called constitutional reforms in Germany afford no guarantee that the reforms will be lasting or efficacious. The newspapers express the opinion that the note is a moral abdication of the German emperor.

They say that Germany feels the need of peace and is giving way, but that the government would like to attain peace without accepting just and necessary sacrifices and declare that an armistice cannot be considered unless it gives the allies at once exactly the same guarantees as a complete victory.

In discussing the German reply to President Wilson the Temps says: "Now more than ever the decision must be with the military and naval chiefs of our alliance. To make the French public believe that Germany yields and to insinuate that peace is coming along the pathway of least effort is an outrage to truth and an ill service to the country. There is only one way to spare French blood and that is to refuse the enemy until he capitulates. A respite in the fighting would give Ludendorff time in which to recover."

### Second Three-Year Navy Building Plan Proposed

Washington, Oct. 22.—Congress has been asked by the Navy department to authorize a second three-year naval building program to provide 10 additional super-dreadnoughts, six battle cruisers and 140 smaller vessels at a cost of \$600,000,000. This was disclosed tonight by Secretary Daniels after his appearance before the house naval committee to explain the appropriation.

### Honor Paid Departing Brazilian Ambassador

New York, Oct. 22.—Domicio Da Gama, Brazilian ambassador to the United States, was characterized as the "master of South American diplomacy and good will" at a farewell luncheon given in his honor here today by the Pan-American society, on the occasion of his return to Brazil to assume the post of minister of foreign affairs. More than 200 prominent persons were guests at the luncheon.

### Legion of Roumanians Fighting With Italians

Washington, Oct. 22.—Information was received today by the Roumanian legation that Transylvania Roumanians captured by the Italians while in the Austrian army have organized a Roumanian legion and now are fighting with the Italian army against their ancient enemy. The legion numbers 18,000 and was organized under the supervision of the Roumanian national committee of Paris.

## TEUTONS BURN TOWNS ON BANK OF MEUSE RIVER

Americans Bombarded With Mustard Gas on Verdun, but Hold Firmly to New Positions.

With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 22.—The towns of Briouilles and Clercy-Le-Petit, along the western bank of the Meuse and north of the American line, were reported to be burning today.

There was little fighting activity during the forenoon. The Germans bombarded the American left with mustard and other gas shells which resulted in nausea and headaches. The enemy, however, made no efforts to bombard the new positions gained by the Americans Monday, indicating the possibility that he has withdrawn his big guns in that area.

Two explosions occurred in dugouts in Chatelet Cheney today from mines left behind by the Germans when they were driven out of the town two weeks ago.

## Five Dollars For Ten Words!

You can have it as well as the next one by writing

### The Best Slogan

To call attention of our out-of-town readers to Omaha's superior attractions as a city.

### To Ten Next Best

Each a Good Book.

The winning answer will be used as the banner line just above the heading of The Bee on this first page. It must contain not less than ten words and not less than 54 nor more than 60 letters.

Responses must be in by Oct. 30, and winners will be announced in The Sunday Bee of Nov. 3. Address:

### Slogan Contest

The Omaha Bee.

## 'FLU' SITUATION IMPROVING IN EAST AND SOUTH

Crest of Epidemic Not Yet Reached in Some Places; Outbreak Abating in Army Camps.

Washington, Oct. 22.—A slight improvement in the influenza situation over the country was indicated by reports received today by the public health service, but in many places the epidemic apparently has yet to reach its crest. In the far west and on the Pacific coast the situation has not proved nearly as serious as it did in the east and south. Continued abatement of the epidemic in army camps was reported today to the office of the surgeon-general of the army. New cases during the 24 hours ending at noon today totaled 2,773, against 3,007 the day before, while deaths decreased from 404 to 392. There was a slight increase in the number of pneumonia cases.

Army medical officers said influenza may now be said to be epidemic in only five camps, the others reporting less than 50 new cases each daily. The total cases since the disease because epidemic number 292,770, with 15,497 deaths.

In the east and south generally conditions among the civilian population are rapidly improving, according to reports to the public health service. In the middle west and in the states bordering the Mississippi and Missouri rivers abatement of the disease also has been noted, although many new cases still are being reported daily. In California 32,000 cases had been reported up to yesterday. Oregon and Washington also report new cases and some deaths.

Doctors Accused of Extortion. New York, Oct. 22.—The New York Telephone company today suspended service in half of the public booths because of a shortage of operators caused by the Spanish influenza epidemic. It was said that 2,000 or about 25 per cent of the operators are ill.

Additional complaints were received today that doctors and druggists are overcharging influenza patients, and that landlords are withholding heat from tenants. An ordinance which would compel landlords to keep thermometers in their houses at 68 degrees was introduced at a meeting of the board of aldermen today. If adopted, the measure will supplement a similar clause in the sanitary code under which several landlords have been arrested.

Health Commissioner Copeland, while asserting that New York has passed the worst stage of the epidemic, issued a warning against undue optimism and the dropping of precautionary measures.

### Vaccine Prevents Pneumonia.

Camp Dix, Oct. 22.—Successful inoculation of 10,000 soldiers against pneumonia following influenza today caused camp authorities to offer the treatment to 10,000 more next week. Although not a man inoculated contracted pneumonia the treatment was said still to be in its experimental stage and not advocated as a cure but as a preventive.

### 637 Invalided Home.

Washington, Oct. 22.—Sick and wounded landed in the United States from the American expeditionary forces during the week ended October 18, numbered 637, the War department today announced.

### Fifteen to 20 Shipyards Found to Be Inefficient

Washington, Oct. 22.—Because of their inefficiency from 15 to 20 shipyards now building wooden ships for the Emergency Fleet corporation will not receive additional contracts. As fast as the yards complete the ships now under construction, the workmen will be sent to other plants, which constantly are in need of additional labor.

## GERMAN AIRMEN BOMB AMERICAN ARMY HOSPITAL

Nurse Blown From Bed, but Not Hurt; Patients Taken to Dugouts Uninjured.

By Associated Press.

With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 22.—In retaliation for destruction wrought by American bombing planes within the enemy's lines recently, German aviators last night raided the American front and back areas in the largest force since the American offensive began on the Meuse and in the Argonne. In addition to attacking the infantry, the Germans bombed the region of Clermont, Montfaucon and Rarécourt.

Four bombs were dropped near the American hospital in the neighborhood of Rarécourt, one of the bombs tearing down an outbuilding. The glass ends of four former French barracks, now used by the Americans as hospital wards, were shattered. A Red Cross nurse, Margery Sawyer of Buffalo, N. Y., was blown from her bed, but was not injured. All the patients were taken to dugouts, none of them being injured.

Another Red Cross nurse, Mabel Butler of New Haven, Conn., was in the same building with Miss Sawyer, but was not hurt. Both of them immediately went to the aid of the patients. When the first bomb fell the hospital attendants gave their first attention to their charges, leading or carrying them to shelter. Rocks thrown up where this bomb struck broke the windows in the southern end of the building. Ten other bombs were planted in succession in a great semi-circle. Throughout most of the night German planes were heard many times, passing over.

### Hoboes Buy \$700 Worth Of War Savings Stamps

New York, Oct. 22.—Members of the "Hoboes" union, who assembled on the Bowery today for a flag raising in honor of 30,000 of their fellows now in the service, dug deep into their pockets and at the exhortation of Jeff Davis, their "king," bought \$700 worth of war savings stamps to back America's fighting forces. One "itinerant worker" purchased \$20 worth.

### American Dead Will Be Brought Home From France After the War

With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 22.—All the American dead in France will be taken home after the war, according to orders received by the army chaplains. The grave registration bureau has been working with this in view, but nothing definite regarding the future disposition of the dead was known here until instructions came to the chaplains from Washington.

## Oppressed Europeans to Draw Up Freedom Charter In Old Independence Hall

Washington, Oct. 22.—Meeting in Independence hall, Philadelphia, Friday and Saturday, representatives of 65,000,000 people of the oppressed nationalities of Central Europe will draw up a joint declaration of the independence of their peoples from the domination of the Teutonic nations. Delegates to the conference, called upon invitation of the mayor of Philadelphia and the patriotic societies of America, left Washington today. Prof. T. G. Masaryk, prime minister of the newly recognized Czechoslovak republic, will preside at the conference. Other nationalities to be represented include the Jugo-Slavs, Poles, Italian Irredentists, Ukrainians, Lithuanians, Roumanians and Reruthenians. On leaving Washington today with the delegates, Prime Minister Masaryk referred to the document to be signed by the delegates as one "which I trust will go down in the history of the oppressed nations of Europe."

"We consider it an honor," he added, "and a singular privilege that our conference, based as they will be on the principles of self-determination and co-operation among all groups against Teutonic aggression, may be carried on under the roof where the American declaration of independence was drafted and published. We shall do our work under the shadow of a great tradition."