

MUST USE PURE SEEDS

WILL INCREASE PRODUCTION

Commission Anxious to Aid Farmers in Getting Good Seed.

Western Newspaper Union News Service. Members of the Nebraska legislature are being invited to send in to the state food commission samples of wheat, oats, alfalfa and other seed to be tested in the state's seed laboratory, without charge, under the new law. The object in view is to aid farmers in increasing the production of foodstuffs necessary for the conduct of the war.

The circular which Food Commissioner Murschel is sending out reads as follows:

"We are attempting to help the farmers by testing their seed for them and at present are trying to get data regarding different seed crop conditions.

"We wish to find what the germination of winter wheat averages this year, and how much variation there is in the germination of this grain. Oats, we expect to vary more widely and therefore should be given more attention in order to insure good yields, and would like to have you collect and send such samples to us if you can find it convenient. An ordinary cupful will be sufficient. We will return reports on tests either to you or direct to the farmer as you direct.

"The new seed law, making free seed testing possible, makes it convenient for the food, drug, dairy and oil commission to aid the farmer directly and we believe that working with the state representatives of the various districts will be very effective in producing good crop stands and the elimination of noxious weeds, and we feel that with the present economic conditions, this is one of prime importance."

"Of the hundreds of samples of alfalfa tested in the laboratory during the past few months, the germination of at least 75 per cent of the alfalfa seed has been found to be far below standard, many unviable seeds being present. About 30 per cent of the samples germinated below 60 per cent, making a situation which it seems to us should not be disregarded, considering the price of the seed, the difficulty in seeding and the length of time the farmer expects this crop to occupy the ground.

"Sixty per cent of the cane samples germinated here were below standard, which is only 55 per cent.

"We will greatly appreciate any cooperation which you may give us, and ask you to address bundles of seed to the seed laboratory, state house, Lincoln."

Expert Advice on Defective Children.

The state fair managers will again this year have a department where expert advice may be obtained for frail, deformed and defective children. An appeal has been sent out to arouse more interest in this department. But few parents called at the headquarters last year. It was stated, on account of a lack of advertising for the department. The list of ailments or deformities which it is suggested that the specialists can give advice upon are: hare-lip, cleft palate, club foot, dislocated hip, curved spine, paralysis, rickets, tuberculosis, poor nutrition, and mental backwardness. It is suggested that a conference with the specialist at the fair may lead to a cure of the child, or he may direct the parents to one of the state institutions where the child can be supported, educated, and treated in the best way by the state. Application blanks may be secured from Mr. Danielson, secretary of the state board of agriculture, at the state capitol. Examinations for these applicants will be held Friday afternoon, September 7, and will be private. Entries for children needing help will close September 1. Entries for the "Better Babies Contest" will close August 20.

State Superintendent Clemmons left Sunday for Washington, D. C., to attend a conference of national and state officials on a systematic plan for developing vocational education in the public schools. The national government has appropriated money for this purpose conditional on each state providing an equal amount to the sum allotted from federal funds. The Nebraska legislature appropriated \$18,000 to match the federal allowance for the first year.

The federal farm help agency, which operates at Lincoln in conjunction with the state bureau of labor, has more applications for jobs at the present time than there are places to fill. The demand for farm laborers seems to have ceased almost entirely. It is expected that when corn husking comes along there will be another big rush of men. Meanwhile, there are a number of young people who want jobs, among them being several married couples, who would like to live in tenant houses and do farm work.

When the legislature last winter appropriated \$1,500 to reimburse Dawson county for an overpayment of taxes made to the state some years ago, it set a precedent which is likely to cause more or less trouble in future. Lincoln county has now presented a claim to the state auditor for \$1,300 which is alleged to have been remitted to the state by its county treasurer for the year 1911, over and above the sum that was actually due. Other counties are expected to follow suit, as it can probably be shown in many cases that there have been overpayments.

TO AID TENANT FARMERS

Defense Council Will Help Them to Secure Seed for Planting.

In connection with its campaign to secure the planting of a large winter wheat acreage in Nebraska, the state council of defense is taking steps to ascertain whether individual farmers in the section recently devastated by hail are in shape financially to pay for high priced seed and, if not, to obtain for them the necessary credit that will permit them to buy it and put in the crop this fall.

Letters have been sent to the chairmen of county defense councils in Merrick, Polk, Fillmore, York, Hamilton, Clay and one or two other counties through which the "hail-out" strip runs, asking them to have local surveys made for the purpose of finding out if there are any farmers whose crops have been destroyed who have not the money to purchase seed wheat and are unable to borrow it.

The purpose in view is chiefly to help tenant farmers who have seen the fruits of their summer's work swept away in a single hour, and who do not own property which they could mortgage in order to buy seed wheat on top of their other necessities. The devastated corn acreage would naturally be turned into wheat fields if seed were obtainable at normal prices, but at \$2.50 to \$2.85 a bushel a good many will be unable to buy it unless they are financially assisted.

Is First Unit to be Called.

The First Nebraska Field Hospital company is the first unit of the Nebraska National guard to be called into actual active service. It is one of four out of over a hundred field hospital units, that were in service on the Mexican border, to be selected to accompany the first composite militia army to France. Under the Stars and Stripes and the banner of the great Red Cross it will carry the blessings of modern medical science to the boys of the new Forty-second division on the bloody battlefields of Europe. While the requirements of secrecy and the regulations of voluntary censorship prevent announcement of the day of the unit's departure, one thing is certain that that day will mark a red letter in the pages of Nebraska history and an event in the lives of the eighty-two enlisted men and two officers who comprise the company's personnel.

Urges Practice at Fire Drill.

State Fire Commissioner W. S. Ridgell has notified school boards that the 1917 legislature placed the fire escape law under the jurisdiction of the fire commission. This law requires fire escapes to be placed on all school houses of two stories or over, also requires them to be stairway fire escapes and to be approved by the fire commission. His notice says: "In case you have no fire escape on your school building or buildings, you will please make arrangements at once to comply with this law, as we shall insist that fire escapes be put on all school buildings in the state of Nebraska. Please let us know when you have complied with this law. The legislature of 1911 passed a law requiring all schools to teach fire prevention, at least, thirty minutes a month. Your county superintendent has been supplied with fire prevention text books and you will please see to it that all teachers comply with this important law. A fire drill should be practiced at least once a month."

For Military Purposes Only.

Chief of Police H. W. Bunn of Omaha has a box car of booze which he may offer to the war department for medical purposes. Attorney General Reed, in answer to the chief's inquiry, says he believes the liquor can be shipped to the war department if that department desires the stuff. The attorney general says the shipment would be an interstate shipment and would come under the federal law and not the state law which prohibits shipments of intoxicating liquors within the state.

Board Authorizes State Aid Bridges.

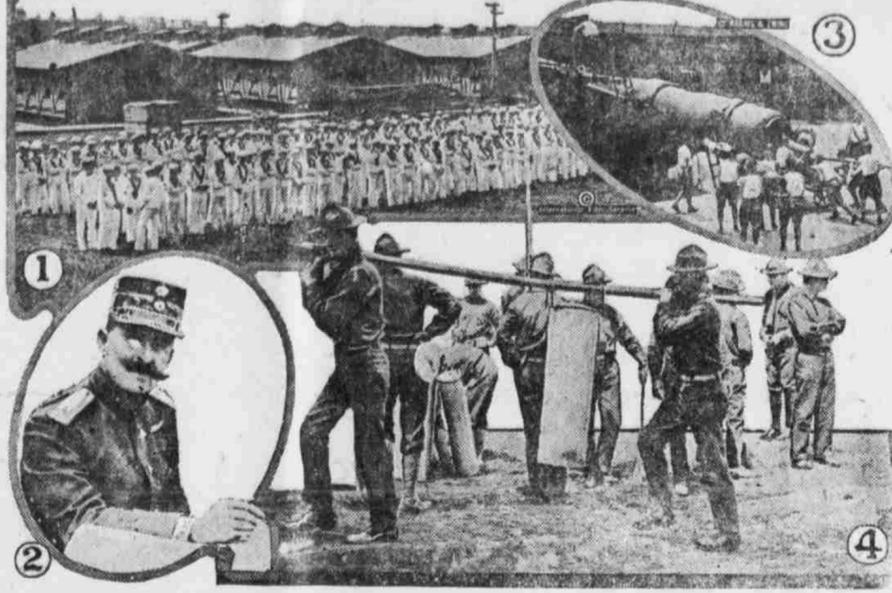
The state board of irrigation has authorized the construction of five state-aid bridges, as follows: North Platte, over the South Platte river, cost \$20,000. Scottsbluff, over the North Platte river, cost \$20,000. Hartley, over the Republican river, \$10,000. Knox county, over Verdigre river, \$7,000. West Point, over the Elkhorn river, \$6,000.

Another meeting will be held by the board soon, at which the question of purchasing the Ashland toll bridge and the Pollack bridge north of Plattsmouth will be considered.

A new state-aid bridge across the Platte at Yutan, in which Saunders and Douglas counties are interested, will also be considered.

Mrs. W. E. Barkley, president of the State Women's Suffrage association, has made arrangements with the secretary of state to secure the list of 13,000 names attached to the petition for a referendum on the partial suffrage law passed by the last legislature.

Cottage cheese is one of the best meat substitutes known, according to home economics specialists at the University of Nebraska. It contains a larger percentage of protein, or body-building material, than most meats, and it supplies this at a much lower cost. A pound of cottage cheese contains about one-fifth of a pound of protein, nearly all of which is digestible. Meats usually contain less protein, and have considerable waste. A pound of cottage cheese daily supplies all the protein required by an ordinary adult.



1—Sailors lined up on the grounds of Camp Hingham, the recently opened naval training camp near Boston. 2—General Christodoulos, commander of the Greek armies that are acting in conjunction with the allies. 3—Loading a 12-inch disappearing gun in one of America's coast forts. 4—American soldiers in camp in France carrying water in huge cans.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

British, French and Italians Crush Teuton Legions at the Same Time.

FIERCEST FIGHTING OF WAR

Russia's Military, Economic and Political Troubles Are Disturbing—Pope's Peace Proposals Discussed—President Wilson Regulates the Prices of Coal in America.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Civilians far from the seat of war wondered why the allies did not deliver their smashing blows at the Kaiser at the same time, giving him no opportunity to shift his troops from one front to another. Instead of taking turns in hitting him, that is just what they did last week, for British, French and Italians all began offensives that developed into the most furious battles of the war so far. The Anglo-French forces near the Belgian coast vigorously renewed the attacks begun the previous week and pushed forward. The British hurled themselves against the defenses of Lens and forced their way further into the outskirts of that coal center, repulsing all counterattacks. General Petain's men attacked along the Chemin des Dames, and then delivered a series of smashes at the Germans in the Verdun sector, taking the twin summits of Dead Man's hill and other strong positions that the crown prince had held for a year and more. In Alsace there was lively fighting. At the same time the Italians were carrying on a monster offensive against the Austrians along the entire Julian, Isonzo and Carso fronts, from Piava to the sea. The Austrian defenses were leveled by a terrific artillery fire, new crossings of the Isonzo were forced, and Cadrona's troops advanced considerably on their way to Trieste despite the difficulties of the terrain.

Wednesday the British again attacked fiercely in the Ypres region and after a bloody combat succeeded in taking important positions along the Ypres-Menin road. A little further north, in the blood-soaked Langemarck-Frezenberg sector, they hit the enemy hard in an effort to take the ridge, known as Hill 35, where the Irish made a gallant but losing fight the week before.

Germans Resist Stoutly.

The Germans have massed immense numbers of troops at the points of attack and are resisting desperately and making almost continuous counterattacks, but up to the time of writing they had been unable to regain any of the lost ground.

All the allied armies took great numbers of prisoners and guns and inflicted terrible losses on their hard-fighting opponents, and they themselves lost many men, for the attacks were delivered with rather less than the usual regard for life. In Flanders and France the tanks played a large part, and on all fronts the aviators were extraordinarily active and bold. The Italians introduced one novelty. When their assaulting troops moved forward they were preceded by a squadron of airplanes forming the first line and using their machine guns on the Austrians at short range.

General Pershing and other American officers were present at the new battle of Verdun.

Disturbing News From Russia.

The week's news from Russia was rather disquieting. Petrograd presented to America and the entente allies a statement indicating that Russia would be unable to continue in the war unless immediate, adequate and continuing assistance were given. She has no intention of making separate peace, but says she cannot keep up the fight unless her associates furnish her at once with materials and provisions. The Russians fear they will be driven

out of Moldavia within three weeks, and last Monday the Germans began an offensive in the Riga region that forced the Slavs back toward that city. At the south end of the line the Roumanians still are making valiant efforts to hold back the invaders. There is no longer any doubt of the bravery of the Russians or of their desire to keep on fighting the common enemy of the world, but it seems that they cannot by themselves surmount the great economic obstacles that confront them.

The governmental troubles of Russia also are approaching a crisis. The "extraordinary national council" being about to meet in Moscow, the constitutional Democrats, discontented business men and dismissed generals, gathered there ready to demand radical changes. On the other side stand the cabinet and the Socialist left. In preliminary discussions Prince Troubetzkoi, Generals Alexieff and Brusiloff and others attacked the cabinet, excepting only Kerensky, and declared the government had fallen into the hands of corrupt men of Petrograd, who think only of their own interests. The Socialist orders that destroyed discipline in the army were bitterly criticized.

As had been foreseen, the pope's peace proposals were received decently by all the belligerent nations, but with more than an undercurrent of skepticism by the allies. No definite reply to them has been made at this writing by any government, but representative speakers of the different parties in Germany all indorsed in general the Vatican plan, and it is believed Berlin may go so far as to offer autonomy to Alsace-Lorraine, which of course would not in any degree satisfy France. Austria, too, as was expected, approves the proposals, but insists any settlement must include the abandonment of Great Britain's naval bases at Gibraltar, Malta and the Suez canal. Can one imagine Great Britain willingly dismantling these grand posts of the route to her immense domains in the Orient? The vociferous assertions of the German press that the pope's proposals were not inspired by Germany, and the intimations that they really were due to British suggestions can only be considered as more "bunk" and serve to confirm the suspicion that the plan had its inspiration in Teutonic sources.

German Poison Gas in America.

The poison gases emitted by the German press and all the other traitorous agencies in America are not growing noticeably less in amount of virulence, but Uncle Sam is beginning to apply the antidote with considerable vigor. In many cities "soap box" orators are being gathered in by federal agents and several more rabid papers have been denied the use of the mails. The German-American press of the large cities is still too clever to subject itself to that penalty, but if it keeps on its present course doubtless some means will be found to suppress it. Regrettably it must be said that a disgracefully large proportion of the Germans in America—naturalized or not—is proving disloyal to the land of their adoption. This is shown by such instances as the annual picnic of the Schwabenverein in Chicago, where for several days the assembled Germans occupied themselves in denouncing America's entry into the war, abusing the president, sneering at our armed forces and making fun of the draft and the National Army. The same thing is going on all over the land, where Teutons get together, but they are preparing to reap a harvest of woe for themselves, for the men of the department of justice are cognizant of their words and acts. It is comforting to believe that the great mass of German-Americans are truly loyal, but thousands of the more ignorant are led into disloyalty by the falsehoods of German secret agents and by the utterances of the La Follettes, the Reeds, the Masons and the William Hale Thompsons for whom all native-born Americans blush.

Former Ambassador Gerard, Secretary of Commerce Redfield, and other prominent men found opportunity last week to denounce bitterly the cowardly, treacherous pro-Germans and pusillanimous pacifists, who are doing all they can to make the world unsafe for democracy.

The threat of the I. W. W. to tie up the industries of the West, including the harvest, if their leaders were not released was met promptly by the arrest of a lot more of the gang, and the great strike fizzled out miserably. No sooner was this trouble passed than the machinists and boiler-makers, employed in the Atlantic coast shipyards, were called on to quit. This of course would put a stop to vast amounts of government naval work, and the United States mediators got busy at once. Several thousand men stopped work, but most of them either pledged Secretary Daniels that they would not quit, or delayed action until a vote could be taken.

President Cuts Coal Prices.

Having started Mr. Hoover well on the food conservation campaign, President Wilson last week turned to the almost equally pressing coal problem, which for several weeks had been exercising the wits of various state administrations. Having studied the production cost figures supplied him by the trade commission, the president issued an executive order fixing a tentative scale of prices for bituminous coal at the mines in nearly all coal producing districts of the country. These prices in some instances are more than \$1 a ton below the voluntary prices fixed at the conference last June. The scale is subject to change when a method of administering the fuel supplies of the country has been determined and put into operation.

Later in the week the president named Dr. Harry Garfield fuel administrator, fixed anthracite prices for producers and jobbers and set a limit on profits to be made by bituminous wholesalers.

The senate spent most of the week in consideration of the revenue bill. Among other things it increased the finance committee's income tax provisions by a total return to the treasury of \$73,000,000, adopting unanimously the Gerry amendment, which adds \$40,000,000 to the returns from incomes of half a million and over.

Japan's Mission in Washington.

The Imperial Japanese mission was formally received in Washington by Secretary Lansing and other government officials on Wednesday. Its head, Viscount Ishii, made it clear that the mission has come not on a commercial or political errand, but to decide on how the two nations can best cooperate, in both a military and an economic sense, in carrying on the war.

The neutral countries of Europe—so-called, though no country there is any longer really neutral—are still trying to get around the American embargo that is so painful to their pocketbooks and their stomachs; but the indications are that unless they quit supplying Germany with foodstuffs, their suffering will only increase. Switzerland and Holland, which depend on Germany for coal, have contracted to lend the Kaiser large sums in return for the privilege of continuing to buy their fuel from his country.

Hungary took a real step toward democratization and freedom from German and Austrian influence in the appointment of Dr. Alexander Wekerle as Hungarian premier, to succeed Esterhazy. The new premier is popular, Democratic, a financial genius and is known to be no friend of Germany. The new nationalist movement in Hungary has attained great strength, and it is said King Charles is in complete harmony with the desires of the nation.

German aviators distinguished themselves last week by another raid on English coast towns in which 11 persons were killed, and by deliberately bombing two French hospitals behind the Verdun lines and then shooting down the doctors and nurses, who were trying to rescue the wounded soldiers from the resulting conflagration. It would seem that the chivalry of aviators is one-sided.

Negro soldiers of the Twenty-fourth United States infantry, stationed at Houston, Tex., as guards during the construction of Camp Logan, started a serious race riot, in which a dozen white civilians, police officers and National Guardsmen, and a number of negroes were killed, and more than a score wounded. Among the dead was Capt. J. W. Mattes, Battery A, Second Illinois field artillery, who was trying to restore order.

RULING MADE CLEAR

WILSON TAKES HAND IN EXEMPTION PROCEDURE.

MOBILIZATION PLAN CHANGED

Congestion of Rail Traffic Necessitates Changing Arrangements of Forming New Army.

Washington.—President Wilson ruled that wives of men selected in the draft should not, because they had employment before marriage, be thrown upon their own resources or upon the charity of their own or their husband's parents for support.

He ordered that all men upon whose labors their wives or children depend entirely for support should be exempted.

His action was taken in response to nation-wide protests against the interpretation placed on the draft law by provost marshal general's office that a woman whose parents or whose husband's parents were able and willing to support her and her children or who was qualified to gain her own support, should be thrown upon those resources and her husband sent to war.

The president's orders were contained in a letter to Secretary Baker. Immediately upon their receipt the secretary got into touch with Provost Marshal General Crowder and two conferences followed. After the second, General Crowder issued a bulletin to local boards embodying the president's instruction. No change in regulations is made; and the purpose of the new statement is to clear up misunderstandings which have arisen in what General Crowder describes as "a few instances."

Orders have also been issued changing entirely the mobilization arrangements previously made. Congestion of rail traffic and the necessity of making better provision for the reception of the men at the cantonments dictated the changes.

Under the new orders 5 per cent of the first quota, preferably men with military experience from each local area, will be started forward to the camps September 5, instead of 30 per cent. They will go in five daily detachments of equal size and form skeleton company organizations and set up a going concern in which the remainder of the total quota can be absorbed without confusion as they reach the cantonments.

The next 40 percent of the quota will go forward September 19, which the second 30 per cent originally was scheduled to go; a second 40 per cent will go forward October 3, instead of the third 30 per cent, and the remaining 15 per cent will be called up as soon as practicable.

Cost of Sugar to Drop.

Washington.—An agreement by the country's beet sugar producers representing eighty per cent of the industry, to limit the price of their product so as to effect a reduction of about 1 1/2¢ a pound in the present price of sugar was announced by the food administration with announcement to the public that this should mean a saving of \$30,000,000 between now and the first of next year. It was also announced that the wholesale grocers had agreed to limit distribution charges to prevent exorbitant charges.

In the near future the administration will state the price at which wholesale sugar should be delivered at large consuming centers. The beet sugar price fixed is the equivalent of \$7.25, cane, sugar, basis f. o. b. seaport refining ports.

Austrians Decisively Defeated.

Rome.—The Italian troops on the Isonzo front are marching to complete victory.

At Udine, Salvatore Barzilai, civil governor of the Austrian territory occupied by the Italian army when informed of the complete victory of the Italians exclaimed:

"At last our soldiers have achieved this magnificent thing; they have freed our soil from the ancient enemy."

The total losses of the Austrians from all causes are reckoned at nearly 100,000, the most important of which in the Carso region, have not yet been officially announced. The number of prisoners taken by the Italians is mounting, the latest report showing that 600 officers and 23,000 men have been captured.

Wheat Pit Closed.

Chicago, Ill.—The wheat pit of the Chicago board of trade has been closed. The action of the directors in closing the pit was due to a request of Herbert C. Hoover.

Demands Return of Negroes.

Houston, Texas.—After a mass meeting of citizens here a demand, signed by 2,500 people, for the return to Houston of negro members of the Twenty-fourth United States infantry who participated in the recent rioting here, which resulted in the killing of seventeen persons and the wounding of twenty-two others, was telegraphed to the war department. The Twenty-fourth, including thirty-four who were charged with murder, were sent to Columbus, N. M., where the accused men will be court-martialed.