

DEFENSE FORWARD

HOUSE COMMITTEE FIXES A PRE-PARENESS BILL—CONTINENTAL PLAN SET ASIDE.

A PEACE FORCE OF 575,000

Measure Will Grant Nearly Entire Program Suggested for Regular Army by Ex-Secretary Garrison—First Year's Expense \$174,000,000.

Washington, D. C.—National preparedness legislation took a long step forward in congress Monday when the house military committee reached a practical agreement on the outline of the army bill it will unanimously present for passage.

Complete federalization of the National Guard will be submitted for the proposed continentals, and the White House was informed during the day that the committee was a unit in supporting the plan, only the language and minor details remaining to be worked out.

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TWO DIE IN ELECTRIC CHAIR.

Double Execution in the Pennsylvania Prison.

Bellefonte, Pa.—Roland S. Pennington and George H. March were electrocuted Monday in the death house of the new penitentiary here for murder in November, 1913, of S. Lewis Pinkerton, in Delaware county.

Budgets 420,000,000 Pounds.

London.—The house of commons has passed new votes of credit to the amount of £420,000,000. This is expected to carry the war to the end of May, bringing the total sum appropriated by means of votes of credit since the outbreak of the war to £2,682,000,000—a sum, according to Premier Asquith, "not only beyond precedent, but actually beyond the imagination of any financier of this or any other country."

Anonymous Letters of Warning.

New York.—American citizens who booked passage on the French liner Espagne, scheduled to sail from New York for Bordeaux, France, Thursday, February 24, received anonymous letters calling attention to the proposed new submarine policy announced by Germany and warning them not to embark, according to information received by officials of the British consulate here.

Czar's Men Push Forward.

London.—The Russians have occupied the entire Lake Van district, the Turks retiring southward and even evacuating Bilsin, according to a Petrograd dispatch received in Rome and given out here by the Wireless Press. On the other wing, according to the dispatch, the Russian advance guards have arrived within a short distance of Trebizond, on the Black sea coast.

Marooned and in Danger.

Natchez, Miss.—Reports of acute suffering and appeals for relief reached Natchez from Concordia and Tennessee parishes in northern Louisiana where a heavy downpour has been heard from for several days were said to be inundated, with their inhabitants marooned and in imminent danger.

Must Pay the Tax.

Washington, D. C.—The supreme court has upheld the corporation tax as imposed upon mining companies.

Sioux City, Ia.—Oral arguments on the appeal of George Felice, former police chief, to the supreme court from the verdict of the district court jury, which convicted him of conspiracy, will be heard by supreme court justices at the May term at Des Moines.

Russia to Buy Warships.

Tokio.—Russia is negotiating with Japan for the immediate purchase of several warships which were captured in the Russo-Japanese war.

Omaha, Neb.—James P. English, judge of the district court, died at his home early February 21 of the grip and related complications.

Deaths, Ont.—Among the wounded soldiers in the congress monthly list were: Arthur Edward Anderson.

South Dakota Happenings

NEWS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Western Newspaper Union News Service. Miller Odd Fellows have purchased a building which will be converted into a lodge home for the Odd Fellows and Rebekah lodges, instead of renting.

Armour automobile owners have organized an association, and during the coming spring and summer will materially aid in improving the public highways leading to and from Armour.

Written voted upon the proposition of incorporation and it carried by a vote of 7 to 1. Written expects a rapid growth, as the crops in that section of the past two years have been excellent.

The proposition to bond consolidated school district No. 1 in the sum of \$8,000, for the purpose of building a new school house, carried at Roslyn by a majority of 16. A total of 168 votes was polled.

Farmers in the territory adjacent to Mitchell have drafted articles of incorporation for a co-operative supply house, and will establish a warehouse in Mitchell. The organization is capitalized for \$100,000.

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Miss Emma J. Hemminger, of Sioux Falls, has entered the "Beauty and Brains" contest being conducted by Photoplay magazine, according to a communication received from that publication.

Sioux Falls is one of 1,727 communities throughout the country which are considering some preparation for a "Baby Week" campaign, according to a bulletin issued by the Children's bureau of the U. S. department of labor.

Sol Bloom, one of the oldest merchants in Deadwood and well known through the northwest, suffered a paralytic stroke at his home there and is in a serious condition.

At the family home in Sioux Falls occurred the death of Rev. Thomas Thompson, aged 64, one of the best known clergymen of that section of South Dakota and adjacent territory in northwestern Iowa and southwestern Minnesota. Death resulted from a stroke of paralysis.

At a meeting of farmers in the vicinity of Miller which was addressed by H. O. Bratsberg of Aberdeen, president of the Farmers' Equity Union of that place, steps were taken toward the organization of an Equity Union at Miller and the building of a farmers' elevator.

George Davis of near Laney, who started with three cows and two yearlings a little over five years ago, now has a herd of 43 head of cattle, and expects a crop of calves this spring of 22 head. During this time he has bought seven head of cattle, but has sold the same number, the herd being the natural increase.

A shortage of horses is being feared in the state owing to the activities of French army horse buyers, who claim that they have purchased and shipped upwards of 1,000 horses from near Moberly alone during the last year. They are still buying and paying fancy prices for horses to be used at the European battle front.

Frank J. Purdy of Mitchell has just been appointed by United States Senator E. S. Johnson as one of the sergeant-at-arms in the senate at Washington to fill a vacancy. Mr. Purdy will leave as soon as he can dispose of his bill posting, painting and paper-hanging business, either by sale or lease. He has been active in the Democratic faction in Mitchell for several years.

A course in embalming and sanitary science offered this year for the first time at the University of South Dakota and preliminary to the state examination of embalmers at Pierre on May 18, will start at Vermillion on March 8 and continue until April 19. The scientific subjects, which include work in anatomy, bacteriology, chemistry and sanitary science are under the direction of the college of medicine. Mr. Callaway, of Vermillion, will have charge of the practical work of embalming and funeral direction.

A controversy extending over a number of years between the farmers whose land adjoins the public highway between Brooklyn and Pleasant townships in Lincoln county, near Beresford, finally has been adjusted to the satisfaction of all concerned. The difficulty arose over a survey made in the pioneer days. It was determined by the farmers interested that the old homestead survey made in 1876 by Horace Austin should be the standard in future. The claim of the residents of Brooklyn township was that they were short about a rod of land, which cuts a great deal of figure now that farm land in that vicinity has become so valuable. In the pioneer days a few acres more or less made little difference.

A complete file of almanacs since the year 1773 has at last been secured by the department of history, after a number of years' search through second hand lists. The almanacs give a surprising lot of current event material of the times, and are found very useful in reference library work. Very frequently questions asked by citizens of the state concerning conditions of years, are answered through the use of these booklets. The writings of some of the old well known persons of the United States are contained in many of them.

SOLVES A PROBLEM

PERISHO TELLS BREEDERS WHY BOYS LEAVE FARM FOR CITY.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

From the Capital City, the Various State Institutions and from Many Different Parts of the Sunshine State.

Press Proves Success.

Proso, a hardy grain raised on the high, dry plateau in Siberia, has been transplanted to the uncultivated soil of South Dakota and proven such a success that it soon will rank with alfalfa as a profitable crop, declares E. E. Perisho, president of South Dakota State college.

Proso is a hardy grain capable of producing food both for humans and for stock. In a few years there will not be an acre in the state that will not produce twenty to thirty bushels of this grain.

Celebrate Growth of Normal.

The biggest event in the history of the Northern Normal and Industrial school of Aberdeen was celebrated when nearly 900 students, training school pupils and members of the faculty marched through the streets of Aberdeen in celebration of the enrollment of the school's 70th student, Edward Matthews of Annett, Hughes county.

President Perisho declared that one of the greatest problems to be dealt with by the farmer is the longing of the boys to get off the farm and the similar desire of the girls.

He outlined four arguments why the younger generation want to leave the farm. They want to get away from the isolation of the country; they want to get in more congenial company; they want to be where they can be in better homes; and they want to be connected with big things.

He urged the establishment of the consolidated public schools. They are helping keep the boy and girl on the Iowa farms, he said. Within the last decade the cities in South Dakota and Iowa have increased in population three times as fast as the rural districts, which has indicated that there is a sort of migration from the farm to the city.

Dogs Carry Hog Cholera.

"Fourteen per cent of South Dakota farms, where hog cholera exists, have it because cholera virus was carried there by roaming dogs," says Dr. C. C. Lipp, veterinarian at the South Dakota State college. He states, also, that the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease was spread to hundreds of farms by dogs; that rabies in animals is spread almost exclusively by dogs, and that other diseases, like tuberculosis, contagious abortion, blackleg, anthrax and chicken cholera, may be spread by roaming dogs.

Grazing Permits Will Be Granted.

Officers of the forest service will hold a meeting at Custer in March for the purpose of granting grazing permits on different sections of the Harney National forest in that vicinity. This will be pleasing news to the stock raisers and homesteaders of the vicinity, who will be glad to avail themselves of the opportunity to again lease land on the forest reserve for the grazing of their stock.

Short Course for Redskins.

A farmers' short course for Indians will be held at the Cheyenne Agency near Forest City on April 8 to 10, inclusive. At the short course the following subjects will be discussed: Seed testing, Lon E. Tolliver; corn growing, Henry LeBeau; potato growing, Henry Swimmer; alfalfa growing, Basil Claymore; miscellaneous garden crops, Edward White Face; cattle, Isaac Gilbert; horses, Harry Kingman; sheep, Albert LeBeau; hogs, Frank Kinney; poultry, Mrs. James Pearman; dairying, Mrs. J. A. Smith; root houses, T. J. Sheppard; preparation of soil, Peter Three Legs; fertilizing, Henry Hodgkins; cultivating, George Larrabee; harvesting, Harry F. C. Woods; shelter for stock, William Nichols.

Water-town Man Chosen.

Orin M. Lane of Watertown, S. D., has been nominated by President Wilson to be register of the land office at Rapid City, S. D.

Aviatrix at State Fair.

C. N. McIlvaine, secretary of the state fair, was in Chicago last week to sign contracts with Miss Ruth Law, the famous aviatrix who astonished thousands at the San Francisco world fair last summer with her daring airplane flights.

Seed Corn in Demand.

Farmers in this part of the state who have raised seed corn which will meet the required tests are hearing from seed dealers all the way from the north line of North Dakota, down into central Iowa in regard to the amount of seed they can furnish, and a good price is held out to them if their seed will come up to requirements.

After Antelope.

Deputy Edholm of the state game department has gone into camp north-east of Belle Fourche, to make an organized effort to capture a band of antelope to locate on the state game reserve in the Black Hills.

Illinoisian Mexican Captive.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 16.—George F. Huskey, former resident of this city, has been captured by Mexican bandits and held for \$250 ransom, according to a letter received here from Mr. Huskey's son.

Arms on Canadian Border.

Washington, Feb. 16.—Agents of the department of justice have located several secret stores of arms and ammunition along the Canadian border. They fear an invasion of Canada and agents are watching each supply base.

A resume of the week's events condensed for readers of the Dakota Farmers' Leader.

RENEWED ACTIVITY ON WESTERN FRONT



1—Heavy artillery action in Flanders is followed by Germans penetrating trenches southeast of Poperinghe. 2—British have been shelling Lille with heavy artillery. 3—British pour heavy artillery fire into Lens and Lieven. 4—Paris claims important gain at Frise, on south bank of Somme river. 5—German launch heavy artillery action against French line between Oise river and Reims. 6—Germans capture 700 yards of French trenches at Ste. Marie-a-Fy, in Champagne district. 7—South of Lussee, east of St. Die, Germans report destruction of French position by mine. 8—Near Abergsept Germans report capture of French first line trenches on a 400-yard front, and 200 yards at Seppois, in upper Alsace. Paris reports recapture of positions.

WILSON ENTERS RACE UNEARATH BOMB PLOT

GIVES CONSENT FOR USE OF HIS NAME IN OHIO.

Unwilling to Engage in Contest, but Desires Voters to Indicate Their Wishes.

Washington, Feb. 16.—President Wilson formally gave his consent on Monday that his name be used as a candidate for renomination. In a letter to the secretary of state of Ohio the president stated that he was unwilling to enter a contest for the renomination, but was ready to permit the use of his name in the coming primary in order that the Democrats of Ohio might make known their preference.

The president made known his position in order to comply with the Ohio primary law, which requires candidates for delegates to the party convention to make known their first and second choices before February 25 and also requires that the candidates for delegates have the consent of their choices to make use of their names.

"I am inclosing to you a letter the occasion of which I dare say will be quite obivious. Friends in Ohio have called my attention to section 4951 of the general code of Ohio as amended in 1914 with regard to primary elections and have requested that I indicate my willingness to have my name used. I accordingly take the liberty of sending you the inclosed letter as formal permission under the statute."

"While I am entirely unwilling to enter into any contest for the presidential nomination of the Democratic party, I am willing to permit the use of my name that the Democrats in Ohio may make known their preferences in regard to that nomination.

"In order, therefore, to satisfy the technical requirements of the statutes of the state of Ohio, I hereby consent to the use of my name as a candidate for the presidency by any candidate who seeks to be elected a delegate to the national Democratic convention."

IMPORTANT NEWS ITEMS

Copenhagen, Feb. 17.—The Swedish government has decided to ask parliament for \$6,200,000 to defray the cost of maintaining neutrality defenses, says a dispatch from Stockholm.

Amsterdam, Feb. 17.—According to the Echo Belge, three persons were killed and ten wounded at Assenede, Belgium, when German soldiers fired into a crowd assembled to protest against further German requisitions.

Battleship Oregon Retired. Vallejo, Cal., Feb. 17.—The battleship Oregon, "bulldog of the navy," went on the retired list when she was turned over without formality to the naval militia of California at the Mare Island navy yard.

Wilson's Petition Put on File. Springfield, Ill., Feb. 17.—Charles Boehmstein, Democratic national committee man for Illinois, filed Woodrow Wilson's primary petition as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for president.

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Refuse to Indorse Whitman. New York, Feb. 18.—By a vote of 36 to 8, the committee on resolutions of the Republican state convention on Wednesday refused to incorporate in the main platform an indorsement of Gov. Charles S. Whitman.

Army Aeroplanes to Manila. San Diego, Cal., Feb. 18.—Four of the United States army's new hydro-aeroplanes, which have been given tests here recently by Floyd Smith, a civilian aviator, are to be shipped to Manila.

British Destroyer Damaged by Fire. New York, Feb. 18.—The British destroyer Viking was towed into Dover harbor after on January 29, according to advices to a New York shipping firm, having been discovered in a sinking condition in the channel.

Accept Aked's Resignation. San Francisco, Feb. 17.—Trustees of the First Congregational church announced their acceptance of the resignation offered by Dr. Charles F. Aked, their pastor, now a member of the peace board at The Hague.

U. S. Plans a New Query. Washington, Feb. 17.—The United States, in the near future, may make some inquiries of Germany and Austria as to how they intend to determine whether merchantmen are armed before sinking them without warning.

RUSS TAKE ERZERUM

GRAND DUKE REPORTS GREAT VICTORY OVER TURKS TO THE CZAR.

BATTLE LASTED FIVE DAYS

More Than 40,000 Turkish Troops Were Made Prisoners by Russians—Losses on Both Sides Heavy—Two German Commanders May Be Lost.

London, Feb. 18.—Lod by Grand Duke Nicholas, the Russian army of the Caucasus has captured the great Turkish fortress of Erzerum, in eastern Asia Minor.

The following official statement was given out on Wednesday in Petrograd: "Grand Duke Nicholas has telegraphed to the emperor as follows: "God has granted to the brave troops of the army of the Caucasus such great help that Erzerum has been taken after five days of unprecedented assaults."

"I am inexpressibly happy to announce this victory to your imperial majesty."

The blow is the most serious yet struck at Turkey. Early relief of the British forces operating in Mesopotamia, including the beleaguered garrison of Kut-el-Amara, is predicted.

The fall of Erzerum is expected to open the way for a crushing advance by the Russians through eastern Armenia in the spring. Constantinople itself might be imperiled. By this contemplated drive the Russians, it is said, hope to bring Turkey to her knees.

More than 40,000 Turkish troops were captured in Erzerum with the investment of the fortress, according to Tiflis dispatches. Two noted German leaders, Field Marshals von der Goltz and Limon von Sanders have recently been reported at Erzerum. It is not yet known whether they escaped.

The Russian campaign was unparalleled in military history. The advance was pressed across a bleak and rugged country, over mountains and through narrow defiles in Arctic cold. Russian official reports state that at places the soldiers fought their advance through snow fifteen feet deep and in a temperature of 25 degrees below zero.

The grand duke's message was received shortly after a report from his headquarters that nine of the defending forts of Erzerum had been taken with the bayonet. The soldiers swept up the mountain sides and swarmed through gaps made by the heavy guns.

Erzerum is the chief town in Armenian Turkey, and as the center of important roads and strategic lines is of vast importance. Its capture opens a new road to Constantinople.

It has a population of about 45,000, and lies at an altitude of 6,250 feet in the Caucasus mountains. It was first held by the Turks in 1517.

LUSITANIA CASE HELD UP

Lansing Satisfied With Revised Agreement, But Wants Assurances on Liners' Safety.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The Lusitania case is held up and the entire question of submarine warfare reopened as a result of the German and Austrian declarations that armed merchantmen shall be sunk without warning, it was declared on Wednesday by a high official of the state department. After a conference with Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, Secretary of State Lansing announced that the Lusitania case depends "upon how submarine warfare is to be conducted in the future."

The revision of the Lusitania answer, submitted by the German ambassador, is satisfactory to the administration, and it was admitted that it would be formally accepted, provided the administration is told that passenger ships are not to be sunk without warning.

NINE DIE IN THEATER FIRE

School Children Lose Lives During Panic in Opera House at Mexico, Tex.

Mexia, Tex., Feb. 18.—Nine persons were burned to death and fifteen people injured when a fire here destroyed the opera house, where the public schools were holding an art exhibit. Several other stores and residences were destroyed by the flames which originated in a grocery store recently closed.

The dead: Ray Cox, Oscar Johansen, Claude Johansen, Paul Yeldell, Ray Hitt, Prof. C. Burton, A. Weisner, superintendent of schools; one negro, name unknown; little son of Professor Burton.

Most of those burned to death were children caught in the panic. Professor Burton and Superintendent Weisner died while trying to save the children.

Drop 158 Bombs on Bulgars. London, Feb. 18.—Thirteen French aeroplanes on Wednesday afternoon raided the town and camps of Strumnitza, Bulgaria, dropping 158 bombs. Several fires were caused. All the machines returned safely.

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