

BAKER ACCEPTS BLAME FOR SHORTAGE IN GUNS ADMITTED BY CROZIER

Secretary of War Meets General's Statement With Frank Avowal of Shortage—Ordnance Chief's Renomination Held Up.

Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War, last night replied to Maj. Gen. William Crozier, Chief of Ordnance, who yesterday placed upon the Secretary of war responsibility for the shortage in machine guns in the American army.

OFFERS NO EXCUSE. The Secretary made no attempt to excuse entirely the delays that have occurred; declared that the situation is now much improved, and added that the enemy would be pleased to know details of America's ordnance situation.

How It Happened. Pending the outcome of the probe into War Department affairs the Senate probably will refrain from confirming the renomination of Gen. Crozier as Chief of Ordnance.

Declaring that he could not go into details in public, Secretary Baker insisted later that the supply of small arms, machine guns, machine rifles and cannon will be adequate for the needs by the time they reach France.

He further intimated that the supplies are adequate at the training camps for training purposes.

"It is perfectly true that I am responsible for everything that goes on in the War Department," he said. "Every manufacturing facility in the United States capable of making machine guns is now turning them out at its full capacity."

Now Being Increased. Mr. Baker was asked whether this capacity was sufficient to meet requirements. He did not answer this question, but said: "The facilities are being rapidly increased."

The secretary characterized a report that the War Department had purchased 250 Lewis machine guns as way below the actual number. About this number of Lewis guns were purchased in the time of the Mexican mobilization and indicated that thousands more of these weapons had since been purchased or contracted for.

As to the Browning gun, he said it was the invention of the American who has made more inventions of fire arms than any other. Mr. Baker admitted that the piece had never been tested in actual field service and that it has only recently been available in quantities.

Mr. Baker made it clear that he would prefer to have unjust criticism as to adequacy of supplies, stand against the department, rather than to have information of value to the enemy made public.

What Was Learned. It was brought out at the hearing that \$12,000,000 was appropriated for machine guns in August, 1916, no gun was adopted until June, 1917.

That none of these guns has reached either the Pershing expedition or the American Expeditionary Force will be delivered until April, 1918.

Rifle production has decreased from 30,000 daily in March to 5,000 daily. That the Browning machine gun finally adopted has never been tried in action.

It was developed that 708 light guns are needed for a division and 234 heavy ones. For an army of 1,000,000 men 70,000 are necessary.

The French Chauchat gun will be manufactured here and American ammunition used, until the Brownings are ready, so the testimony ran. At

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO.

NEGRO KILLED IN QUARREL. W. Edward Shot Through Breast; R. Smith, Jr., Is Charged with Murder.

Armed with two revolvers, Robert Smith, Jr., negro, 715 F street northwest, after firing thirteen times, shot and killed Wesley Edward, Jr., negro, 123 Eleventh street northwest, in front of 125 Ninth street northwest, where both had quarreled early this morning, according to the police.

WOMEN DUPED BY 'SOB' STORY OF CAMP LIFE

Send Scores of Packages and Letters to Pseudo Soldier.

A soulful newspaper syndicate one day ran a story with a picture about a name deleted by censor at the national army cantonment at Chillicothe, Ohio. The story said he was lonely, that he hadn't had a piece of mail since he got to camp.

And that isn't all. Thelma Wolfe looked this man up. He found that he could neither read nor write, that he had been rejected for the army and was just hanging round the camp, and that nineteen soldiers helped him read his mail with all sorts of glee as to the sentimental women who had fallen for his reportorially displayed charms.

The Postmaster General made public this story yesterday as a warning against undue sympathy with the boys in camp at Christmas time. He reports that literally tons of food sent to the camps for Thanksgiving had to be destroyed by the men who received it because they had no need of it.

Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, spoke to the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association at Poli's Theater last night as President Wilson's representative.

Representative Jeannette Rankin and Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt also addressed the assemblage. Mrs. Newton D. Baker, wife of the Secretary of War, sang the "Recessional."

Secretary Lane was introduced by Dr. Anna Howard Shaw who referred to the pioneer days of the suffrage movement, "when I always felt so greatly honored to have a man behind me who had some man behind her to give respectability to the cause."

"Clearing and much colder" is the phrase used to let residents in the National Capital know that they are to expect a little raw winter, including more or less snow.

Tomorrow, according to the Weather Bureau, it will be "fair and colder, with fresh northwesterly winds."

Boylard had a big time last night with his sleds and improvised truck sleds and sliding banks, but grown-ups, as much as possible, kept off the streets.

All trains from the North and West were reported from forty-five minutes to two hours late, with lesser delays from other nearby points.

Trolley cars last night were few and far between, and it was only because of the speedy work of sweepers that they were kept running.

Christmas shoppers seemed to enjoy the keen tang which accompanied the snow.

Gale Drives Snow. New York, Dec. 13.—Ohio was the center of a blinding snowstorm which was moving east and northeast over Western Pennsylvania and Eastern New York tonight, with increasing intensity.

Exceptionally heavy snowfall was predicted tonight. It will fall to increasing cold in the morning, a strong southwest wind accompanied the storm, which will gradually become westerly with the falling mercury.

A 70-mile gale, acting along the whole eastern Atlantic, as the storm moves eastward and the increasing cold comes, this rain is expected to turn to snow.

GAS KILLS ONE; ANOTHER DYING. Mr. and Mrs. Sacks, Aged Couple, Accidentally Asphyxiated.

Madeline Sacks, 90 years old, of 1500 Marion street northwest, is dead at her home today and her husband, John Sacks, 70, is near death at the Emergency Hospital as the result of illuminating gas poisoning yesterday from a jet which sent forth a flow of gas when a frozen meter began to thaw some hours after the flame had flickered out.

The old couple had lived together in the above address for many years, their feebleness making it necessary for the notice of Mrs. Sacks, Mrs. John G. Meinberg, to visit them daily to make things comfortable for them.

When Mrs. Meinberg arrived yesterday afternoon she found her aunt dead and her uncle unconscious from the fumes of escaping gas. She immediately summoned the Emergency Hospital ambulance, which removed Mr. Sacks to the hospital.

Mrs. Meinberg found that gas was escaping from the jet in the just outside the old persons' living room. She declared last night that it had always been customary for the old couple to burn a light in the hall, and said that it was burning when she left Wednesday.

Summary of Crozier-Baker Dispute

Replying last night to the testimony of Gen. Crozier, Secretary of War Baker assumed full responsibility for delay on machine gun tests.

Disregarding disclosures of ordnance shortages, President Wilson renames Crozier as chief of ordnance. Senate will hold up appointment pending outcome of probe.

Yesterday's hearing disclosed that: Although \$12,000,000 was appropriated for machine guns in August, 1916, there was no gun adopted until June, 1917.

That the Browning machine gun, finally adopted, has never been tried in action.

That none of these guns has reached Pershing or training camps and none will be delivered until next spring.

That rifle production has decreased from 10,000 to 5,000 a day.

That Great Britain and France are now supplying the United States with machine guns.

Senator Chamberlain, following yesterday's disclosures before his committee, would not comment further than to say: "I think the investigation is a healthy one. It will be carried out to the end."

WILSON SENDS LANE TO TELL SUFFRAGE VIEW

Sec. of Interior Addresses 'Convention in Favor of Women's Vote.'

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REDS ARREST CADET PARTY IN PETROGRAD

Assert Constitutional Democrats Are Aiding Cossacks in Revolution.

Petrograd, Dec. 13.—The Bolshevik government today proclaimed as members of the Cadet (Constitutional Democrat) party "enemies of the people," asserting they were aiding the Cossacks in the counter-revolution.

Records of prominent Cadet leaders were arrested, including Habelkoff, Vinaver, Krutier, Rodicheff and Countess Panin.

Berlin, Dec. 12.—Negotiations for an armistice to replace the present truce on the Russo-Rumanian front began today, an official statement announced.

London, Dec. 12.—Gen. Korniloff's forces have been defeated and the general himself wounded in the fighting with Bolshevik troops between Bielorod and Sumy, according to Bolshevik claims received here today.

The dispatches insisted that capture of Korniloff and his entire force of Cossacks was imminent. The Maximist commander asserts he has the rebels surrounded.

Refused Transport. Other Petrograd dispatches reported that the railway union had refused to transport Kaledin's reinforcements to his rebel colleague, Korniloff.

Previous advices from Russia had asserted that in a battle at Mohilev the Cossacks had defeated the Bolshevik forces.

U. S. ENGINEERS SUFFER LOSS. Haig Lauds Their Gallantry But Regrets Deaths on Western Front.

With the American Army in France, Dec. 12.—Details of the participation of American engineers in Gen. Byng's recent drive at Cambrai are contained in a letter just received by Gen. Pershing from Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, the British commander in chief on the Western front.

"Dear Gen. Pershing: I have much pleasure in forwarding herewith for your information a copy of a report submitted to me by Gen. Byng, commanding the Third British army, on the gallant conduct of our American engineers."

"I desire to express to you my thanks for the British engineers engaged for the prompt and valuable assistance rendered, and trust you will convey to these gallant men how much we all appreciate the prompt and efficient readiness to assist in what was for a time a difficult situation."

"I much regret the losses suffered by these companies. Yours very truly, D. HAIG."

HUNS DICTATE PEACE TERMS

Not What Russia Thinks, But Central Powers, Says German Press.

Berne, Dec. 13.—The first authoritative outline of Germany's attitude toward peace with Russia is given in the Berliner Tageblatt, an organ deriving inspiration for its editorial articles from the Berlin foreign office.

The paper states it is "quite possible that Russia finds Germany unreasonable." It adds that the question is not what the entente press thinks of the German terms, but what the stronger powers' think of it, adding basically "and the stronger powers are Germany and Austria."

"If the Russians thought," continued the Tageblatt, "that the Germans would simply shake hands and pay the freight they are mistaken. But if they are practical and deal with facts they will see that in order to arrive at peace they must give their enemy certain guarantees which it is only just to demand."

Want Guarantees. "The question of the cessation of territorial claims already being answered by the German and Austrian statements. Direct territorial concessions will not be demanded, but necessary guarantees will be asked to avoid, as far as it is possible, future conflicts."

"In Poland, in Lithuania and in the Baltic provinces, there have been formed, with the approval of the German and Austrian governments, national committees which are free to make their voices heard."

Another Survivor Is Reported by Sims. Admiral Sims reported to the Navy Department last night the picking up of another survivor from the U. S. S. destroyer Jacob Jones by a German submarine. The survivor's name is given as Lester Wilson, of Green Bay, Mich.

BRITISH SHATTER TWO BIG GERMAN ATTACKS; ENEMY GAINS IN THIRD

Prussians Pay Frightful Price for Obliterated Trenches Near Bullecourt; Struggle Continues with Unabated Fury.

London, Dec. 13.—Three attacks were made by the Germans in yesterday's big battle, the war office reports. The first two were repulsed.

BRITISH TRENCHES OBLITERATED. At the third attempt the enemy penetrated the obliterated British trenches at the apex of the angle in the British lines near Bullecourt.

Local fighting continued until late in the evening without changing the situation.

Active artillery fighting is in progress along the whole French front, the Paris war office announced today.

U-BOAT COUP OF FOE BEATEN WITH U. S. AID. High Naval Authority Quoted as Saying Allies Sink More Than Are Built.

London, Dec. 12.—Asserting that a German submarine offensive of the greatest possible magnitude had signally failed, a high naval authority said today that if the United States and England spur on their shipbuilding efforts the allies, "within a measurable time," will be able to launch more tonnage than the German U-boats destroy.

It is also reasonable to expect, according to this naval authority, that the German submarines are being sunk faster than they can be built. Much, however, still depends on American shipbuilders, whether the new tonnage can keep abreast and ahead of that destroyed.

The naval authority said: "The enemy has had more submarines at work. He has actually been attempting a submarine offensive of the greatest possible magnitude in an effort to reinforce his offensive on land. He is trying to bring off a coup which will incline us to peace."

"He has failed signally on sea and land and he has had to pay a heavy price for his failure. He has had a meeting with increased success, and the enemy will experience constantly increasing difficulty in maintaining his campaign."

"If the shipbuilding efforts can be properly spurred on in England and America, the allies will be able to say within a measurable time that tonnage is being launched at a rate exceeding the sinkings, and also, if the naval measures continue to improve as it is reasonable to expect, that U-boats are being sunk faster than the Germans are able to build them, and that the German U-boat fleet is steadily dwindling away."

"Much still depends on American shipbuilding, but as encouragement to those who are putting their efforts into that work, it may be said with confidence that the allied navies are able to handle the U-boat."

FRESH TROOPS FACE ITALIANS

German Airmen Bomb American Engineers On Western Front.

The War Department last night got a report that American engineers behind the British lines had been bombed by German airmen and that some of them had been killed. At an early hour this morning, however, the department was still without details as to the number and character of the casualties.

Though the department has no official information, it is presumed that the men are of the same units whose fighting at Cambrai brought praise from Sir Douglas Haig, the British commander-in-chief.

RED CROSS AID REACHES ITALY

American Ambulances Will Start for Front Today. Celebration Planned.

The first two sections of the American Red Cross ambulance service in the Italian army will go to the front today. Announcement to this effect was made last night by the Red Cross, following the receipt of a cablegram from Rome.

In anticipation of the event, the city of Milan is the scene of great enthusiasm. Special ceremonies will be held in dedicating the ambulances to the service of the Italian army, says the dispatch, stress being laid on the fact that this gives another evidence of American aid for Italy.

Automobiles will parade through the streets of the city as an escort to the ambulances as they start for the firing line. The general in command of the army corps at Milan will attend the exercises, with other high military and civil dignitaries.

Regain Positions. A desperate struggle went on around Col Beretta, where the Austrians were aided by enfiladed fire from batteries on the west bank of the Brenna River in positions established when the lines were reformed last week. For some time the Beretta positions were in the hands of the enemy, but a brilliant counter attack has restored nearly all the Italian possessions.

9 more days to buy a Christmas Present for Baby

