

OPENING GUN IN THE FIGHT TO RETAIN CAPITAL

Citizens' Committee of Bismarck Issues First Statement to the People.

OBJECTIONS TO REMOVAL ARE MANY AND OBVIOUS

Demand for Transfer Is Unfair and Artificial and Is a Backward Step.

Bismarck has begun its fight to retain the state capital and well defined plans to combat New Rockford's contention have been formulated. The following statement has just been issued by the Bismarck Citizens' committee:

"There are many obvious objections to capital removal. It is a backward step; it gives the state a bad name, waged as it is by New Rockford upon the theory that the west portion of the state is inferior to the eastern half of the state.

"There is no necessity or demand for the removal only such as has been artificially stimulated by the unfair publicity circulated from New Rockford.

"The state of North Dakota is a large real estate owner, from which the educational institutions, all of which but four are located in the eastern tier of counties, draw considerable of their income. Most of this land is situated in the Missouri river slope, in a district that would be vitally affected by capital removal. It is hard to estimate the damage to the state in land values were the capital removed, but land experts contend that it would reach the millions.

"The Slope country has been growing rapidly in wealth and population. This would naturally be retarded and state institutions would have their rich legacy impaired to an extent that no one now can estimate. It is sufficient, however, to call attention to possible depreciation in value of state lands if the voters of the state endorse New Rockford's position that the Slope country is an unfit place for the seat of state government.

"In view, then, of the vast interests which the state owns in the western portion of the state, it is certainly not good business judgment for North Dakota to adopt a policy calculated to injure its own interests. The New Rockford agitation has engendered bitterness and sectionalism in North Dakota. Family quarrels are neither wise nor profitable, even when waged among the family of units that go to make up this great and glorious state.

"Largely through the energy and money subscribed by Bismarck citizens, the capital was moved here in territorial days. Thousands of dollars were publicly subscribed and many acres of land donated to the state for capital purposes. The constitutional convention in 1889 recognized the moral obligation toward Bismarck because of its efforts in 1882 and 1883 and there was never a voice raised against fixing the capital here permanently by constitutional mandate.

"New Rockford has no moral right or any other kind of a right to take the capital from Bismarck or to force Bismarck to spend her resources and energies in another capital fight.

"Bismarck is nearer the geographical center of the state than New Rockford. It possesses better hotel and railroad facilities. It has been more than 30 years in perfecting its facilities to care for the business of a state capital. No valid argument can be advanced why the voters of North Dakota should transfer their seat of government from a city of more than 7,000 persons to the small county seat of Eddy county, where accommodations are inadequate and where it will take almost a generation, and probably several, to build up a city of the size and commercial importance of Bismarck.

"Central and western North Dakota do not begrudge eastern North Dakota the University, the College of Mines, the State Agricultural college, the State Scientific School, its two Normals, its Insane Asylum, its School for the Blind and its Institution for the Deaf and Feeble-minded and its Soldiers' Home. With all but four state institutions situated in the eastern portion of the state, the west believes that section has been treated generously by the voters of the state.

"This committee also sees a dangerous precedent being established by New Rockford. It means placing wheels under every state institution and creating a breach between the east and west that can never be bridged.

"New Rockford has attempted to enlist the prohibition forces on the ground that Bismarck is not a clean city morally and that the sale of liquor is carried on in defiance of law. This statement is unsupported by facts. The Citizens' committee challenges New Rockford to bring forward her proof. An actual canvass of the situation shows that Bismarck is as clean as any city in the state and there is practically little illegal

(Continued on Page Two)

Committee On Flood Legislation

Washington, Feb. 3.—Late today the house passed Speaker Clark's resolution for a new standing committee to handle legislation relating to flood control. Republican Leader Mann endorsed the resolution.

The new committee is expected to make a scientific investigation of the whole subject of flood control, vitalizing a movement that has been agitated in congress for several years for co-ordination of forces that have to do with internal waterways, flood and kindred subjects. Representative Macker of Missouri said during the debate, that creation of the committee would be the greatest improvement in internal matters ever taken by the house.

1ST. ANNUAL BANQUET OF MUSICAL CLUB

Members of Thursday Musical Club Hold Banquet and Entertainment at G. P.

MUSICAL PROGRAM IS FEATURE OF EVENING

The most brilliant society event of the week was the first banquet, last evening in the Grand Pacific hotel, given by the Thursday Musical club. The banquet was served at 7 o'clock, in the spacious dining room of the hotel. The long table held clusters of pink blooms and covers were laid for 66. Mrs. J. A. Haney was toastmistress and filled her role with splendid success. The response of welcome was given by Mrs. J. A. Graham, who is president of the club. She was followed by a toast by Mrs. E. H. L. Vesperman, who spoke on "Music." Mrs. W. W. Roan toasted to "The Vision of Music," and W. L. Miller, to "The Guests." When Dr. V. J. LaRose gave his toast to "The Ladies," the gentlemen guests arose to their feet and remained standing until he finished. Much merriment was afforded by the reading of the club's prophesy by Mrs. John Larson.

Splendid Program Features. The banquet was featured by one of the most interesting musical programs yet given by the club. The Bismarck male quartet, composed of W. L. Miller, Henry Halvorson, tenors; A. J. Arnot and George Humphreys, baritone, entertained by singing five numbers. This quartet is the finest in the capital city and their singing was featured by a splendid interpretation of their numbers. They were forced to respond to several encores. The other numbers included a piano solo by Miss Ethel McKenzie, who distinguished herself by her artistic playing. Miss McKenzie is one of the most talented young pianists in the city and is a most valued member of the club. Mrs. Arthur Bauer and Miss Essie Honan, two of Bismarck's best known musicians, contributed a piano duet, which was one of the interesting features of the program. Both Mrs. Bauer and Miss Honan are artists of exceptional talent. The vocal numbers were presented by W. L. Miller, Miss Clara Tatley and Mrs. John A. Graham. Each of these young artists gave charming interpretations of their numbers and were given an ovation. A pleasing feature of Mrs. Graham's solo was the violin obligato played by Donald McDonald. Dancing followed the program.

Entertainment Committee. The entertainment committee was composed of Mrs. Vesperman, Mrs. A. J. Arnot and Mrs. J. P. French. The club is arranging for a big musical, which it will hold some time in May. Work on the program will begin at once and it will be the big musical event of the spring.

Club Members. Members of the club are: Mrs. A. J. Arnot, Mrs. Baldwin, Mrs. Bauer, Mrs. French, Miss Doris Fisk, Miss Helen Fisk, Mrs. J. A. Graham, Mrs. Fred Graham, Miss Honan, Mrs. Haney, Mrs. W. V. Kiebert, Mrs. LaRose, Mrs. John Larson, Mrs. F. E. Luehe, Miss McKenzie, Mrs. F. H. O'Hare, Mrs. Roan, Miss Tatley and Mrs. Vesperman. Associate members are: Mrs. W. A. Stickle, Miss Flora Harmon, Miss Yegen, Mrs. Charles Starley, Miss Agnes Orr, B. B. Lenhart, Mr. Miller, Mr. Halvorson, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Humphreys, Mr. Arnot and Mr. Harmon.

RESCUERS DROWNED. Porum, Okla., Feb. 3.—Three men were drowned in a small lake here last night, while they were attempting to rescue Miss Stella Anderson, one of skating party who went through the ice.

LEPERS MAKE ESCAPE. Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 3.—Two lepers, Petro Carro and Me. Guieras, escaped early today from the Los Angeles County Isolation hospital, after being two trustees, also lepers, who were on guard duty. Sheriff John C. Kline, detailed a posse of deputies to search for the men.

PARLIAMENT BUILDING AT OTTAWA AFIRE

Belief Expressed That Fire Was of Incendiary Origin; Flames Spread Rapidly.

SIR ROBERT BORDEN HAS NARROW ESCAPE

Montreal Fire Department Rushes Aid to Ottawa by Special Train.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 3.—The Canadian parliament building was threatened at 11 o'clock tonight by a fire which broke out two hours earlier, between the commons chamber and the library.

The bodies of two women had been removed from the gallery of the lower house at 10 o'clock, and it was feared other lives might have been lost, as two members of parliament were missing. Several persons, who had been over come by smoke, were taken to hospitals. Several policemen and firemen were buried by the collapse of one end of the building and firemen dug frantically to release them.

Premier Escapes. Sir Robert Borden, the Canadian premier, who was in the building, escaped safely, but Martin Burrell, minister of agriculture, was burned severely about the head, and Dr. Michael was burned about the hands. Many of the legislators experienced difficulty in fighting their way through smoke-filled corridors. Several fled through windows and down ladders.

The entire fighting equipment was unable to cope with the flames, and Mayor Martin of Montreal, a member of parliament, at 10 o'clock ordered the Montreal fire brigade to this city. **Structure Doomed.** Half an hour after the fire was discovered the glass over the chamber of commons fell and it appeared the structure was doomed. The fire developed and spread with such rapidity that the belief was expressed by officials that it was of incendiary origin. When Speaker Vein took the chair and opened the session of the house, at 8 o'clock, only about 50 members were in their seats. A discussion relating to fisheries was proceeding when a messenger rushed into the room, shouting, "Fire! Run for your lives!"

The members were driven back by smoke and flames when they sought an exit through the two main doors. Spectators in the galleries, panic stricken, stampeded for the exit at the same time. **Legislators Overcome.** Minister of Agriculture Burrell was overcome as he made his way through the thickest of the smoke, and fell just in front of the postoffice. He

(Continued on Page Two)

TRAWLER SUNK BY ZEPPELIN IN NORTH SEA

Zeppelin L-19 Reported Disabled and Partly Submerged by English Crew.

HEAVY BOMBARDMENTS ON WESTERN FRONTS

Comparative Quiet Prevails on Russian Front; Artillery Duels Continue.

London, Feb. 3.—The collier Franz Fischer, which left Harlepool Monday afternoon, was sunk at sea by one of the raiding Zeppelins that visited England. Thirteen of the crew, including the captain, were drowned. Three were saved—Chief Engineer Burch, Steward Taylor and Charles Hillier. The Franz Fischer was a captured enemy vessel employed as a coasting collier. Hillier, who is a native of Newfoundland, described the disaster as follows: "About 10:30 Tuesday night we heard a noise overhead, presently a Zeppelin came right on top of us and dropped a bomb which fell near the engine room. A tremendous explosion followed, the vessel remaining afloat only two minutes. Survivors Rescued. There was no time to launch lifeboats. We all went down with the ship. When I came up, I caught hold of a life belt. After swimming for some time, I came across the chief engineer and the steward, who also had managed to get hold of life belts.

(Continued on page Three.)

TOWNS IN ARKANSAS INUNDATED BY FLOODS

Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 3.—Several lives have been lost and hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage done by the flood now devastating Arkansas. Hundreds of families are homeless and the next two days are expected to see the loss and suffering increase.

Laconia Circle, 55 miles below Helena, was flooded today, and the towns of Dumas, Newbold, Ferguson, Laconia, and Knowlton, are inundated. Nearly three hundred families have been driven from their homes in the Laconia levee district. Conditions improved. Flood conditions in the Mississippi river district of Missouri and Illinois were greatly improved today, the Mississippi, the Merimans, the Illinois rivers and most tributaries receding steadily. Fair weather is promised for tomorrow.

Attempting to Railroad Mrs. Mohr

Providence, R. I., Feb. 3.—Accusing certain witnesses for the state of combining to railroad an innocent woman to prison, William H. Lewis, counsel for the defense in the trial of Mrs. Elizabeth F. Mohr, and two negroes charged with the murder of her husband, made a dramatic appeal to the jury in his closing argument today.

Mr. Lewis, as counsel for Cecil Brown, one of the negro defendants, asserted that the state was relying on circumstantial evidence and that there was nothing so unreliable—that it had sent many innocent persons to jail. He condemned the police method of investigating the murder by getting "so-called confessions" from prisoners. The entire day tomorrow will be occupied with the arguments by John J. Fitzgerald, for Mrs. Mohr, and Attorney General Rice for the prosecution. Judge Stearns will not charge the jury until Saturday morning.

APPAM CASE MORE COMPLEX THAN EVER

Likely, However, That Boat Will Be Considered a Prize of War by Officials.

CAPTAIN AND CREW LEAVE THE VESSEL

Washington, Feb. 3.—The Appam case broadened out today, becoming a complex and possibly far-reaching situation, threatening to affect some of the fundamental questions of naval warfare at issue between the United States and Germany. For that reason it was not finally decided whether the ship should be returned to her British owners under the Hague convention, or held the fair prize of her German captors under the latter course ultimately would be followed.

Long Hard Trip. Nineteen days of ceaseless vigil for the shorthanded German prize crew aboard the liner Appam ended late tonight, when the last of more than 400 British prisoners climbed over the ship's side to liberty on American soil.

For the first time since Lieutenant Berge and his 22 men boarded the liner from the raider, which captured her on the night of January 15, most

(Continued on Page Two)

PRESIDENT IS SATISFIED COUNTRY IS WITH HIM ON ISSUE OF PREPAREDNESS

Speeding Back to Washington, President Gives Views on Preparedness as the Middle-West Sees It.

OFFICIAL FAMILY THINK A SECOND TRIP NECESSARY

On Board President Wilson's Special Train, Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 3.—President Wilson was speeding back to Washington tonight, convinced that the people of the middle west are with him on the issue of national defense and are prepared to insist that congress take speedy action. He finished his speaking tour in St. Louis today and expressed the conviction that his mission had succeeded beyond his greatest hopes. He will arrive at 1:00 p. m. tomorrow in Washington.

FIVE-MINUTE STOP. When the president's train reached Indianapolis at 5:45 p. m., for a five-minute stop, a large crowd greeted him at the station. When crisis were made for a speech he appeared on the platform of his car and said: "Indiana is all right."

President Wilson's advisers believe he has explained clearly why he considers immediate preparedness imperative and has won many converts to the movement and given an impetus to discussion of the cause. Another Trip Planned.

The president's official family want him to start soon on another tour. Enroute to Washington tonight they looked both south and west for the setting of his next appearance in the role of champion of national preparedness. The west and northwest are insistent that the president's next visit shall be to them. Minneapolis, St. Paul and Denver have claimed that they consider strong claims.

Reviewing his trip in its high light, the president told his audience in St. Louis today that he came away from Washington thinking the country was with him on the issue of preparedness, and is going back knowing that it is with him beyond his greatest hopes.

"America is at peace with all the world because she is the friend of all the world. The friendship is genuine. We are the friend of all the world, because we are made up of all the world, and understand all the world. It would tear the heartstrings of America to be at war with any other nation. My fellow-citizens, while we know our own purpose, it does not follow that other nations understand. Men press forward with a sort of blind recklessness. The peace of the world, including America, rests with the remainder of the world, and not with America. Either we shall sit still and wait for the necessity of immediate national defense to come, and then call for volunteers, who would be for the first few months impotent as against a trained and experienced enemy. Protect Government. Or shall we adopt the ancient American principle that the men of the country shall be ready to take care of their own government? The crowd roared its approval. The plans now before congress are merely plans to save the lives of American youths," he said, "and these plans will go through. I am not insisting upon the details but upon the principle."

The president ended his speech amidst applause. The band played "America." He stood and sang. **Important Dispatches.** President Wilson received from Secretary Lansing today what members of his party characterized as "very important dispatches" relating to the foreign situation. Their exact contents were not revealed, but it was understood they related to the Lusitania and Appam cases. A final settlement of the Lusitania case is expected soon after the president arrives in Washington. He is determined that Germany make full disavowal and reparation, and it is understood he will be satisfied with nothing less.

St. Louis Address. St. Louis, Feb. 3.—President Wilson in the concluding preparedness address of his western tour, told an audience of 15,000 here today that the United States should have the greatest navy in the world; that the navy should be un conquerable. His utterances were cheered to the echo by the enthusiastic audience. Submarine commanders abroad have received instructions, which for the most part, conform with international law, the president said, but the act of one commander might set the world afire, including America, he warned.

"On the oceans there are hundreds of cargoes of American goods," he said. "Cotton, grain and all the bountiful supplies America is sending out to the world—and any one of those cargoes, any one of those ships may be the point of contact that will bring America into the war."

For the first time during the tour, the president told of how one set of belligerents is cut off from the world. He said this keeps the United States from helping them as it would like. He made the statement in trying to show that the United States is really neutral.

General Peace Coming. The president declared that he believes that there can never be another war like the present one, and that

(Continued on Page Two)

MINNESOTA DEMOCRATS ENDORSE PRES. WILSON

Policies of Administration and Preparedness Program Meet Approval. St. Paul, Feb. 3.—Resolutions endorsing in general the policies of President Wilson and advocating "his renomination as the trusted leader of the National Democracy in 1916," were adopted by the Minnesota Democratic conference here today. Twenty-four delegates to the national convention at St. Louis, to be recommended to the voters in the March 14 primary election were selected.

The resolutions approving President Wilson's administration declare that the "issue of preparedness has been met with sanity, patriotism and good judgment," and further commend the chief executive on the preservation of the rights of neutrals without resorting to war. Banking and currency, tariff and trade regulation laws of the administration are also endorsed.

Victory For Lynch. The so-called Lynch faction, composed of followers of National Committeeman Fred H. Lynch of St. Paul, won an unqualified victory at the opening of the afternoon session of the conference, when the Ramsey county lawyer delegation of that faction's choice was seated and Lawler made a choice to the St. Louis convention.

The Ramsey county faction, so-called anti-Lynch, then marched from the convention hall, singing, "Good-bye Postmaster, we're going to leave you now."

While the Lynch factions won out in the convention there were numerous indications tonight that opposition would be met in the primary, as complete opposition cards will be filed in Ramsey and other counties, it was said.

Endorse Preparedness. Division of opinion over the extent to which the conference should endorse the preparedness policy of the president did not result in any material differences. The resolutions finally adopted declared the administration had met the issue of preparedness "with sanity, patriotism, and good judgment," and further commended the chief executive on the preservation of the rights of neutrals without resorting to war. Banking and currency, tariff and trade regulation laws of the administration also are endorsed.

Operators Reject Demands of Miners. New York, Feb. 3.—The anthracite coal operators rejected here today the demands of their miners for a 20 percent increase in wages, complete recognition of the United Mine Workers of America, a two-year working agreement, an eight-hour day and changes in the methods of fixing wages. The operators proposed that, if the differences cannot be settled by the interested parties themselves, they be submitted to the board of conciliation provided for in the award of the Anthracite Coal Strike commission of 1902. The miners demands were formulated last September at Wilkesbarre, Pa., and were ratified last week by the Mine Workers' convention at Indianapolis.

THE WEATHER. North Dakota: Partly cloudy Friday and Saturday; probably snow in south portion; not so cold Friday.

(Continued on Page Two)

SNOW AVALANCHE WRECKS GREAT NORTHERN TRAIN; EIGHT DIE



Great Northern passenger coach hurled from track by avalanche.

Graphic evidence of the tremendous power of the avalanche which swept down the mountain side at Corea, Wash., and cut its way through a Great Northern passenger train, hurling eight to death, is shown in this photograph of one of the wrecked coaches. The car, which is one of the Great Northern's steel day coaches, was lifted like a light packing box by the rush of the snow and thrown down the side of the mountain, a distance of about seventy feet.