

The Telegraph Service of The Daily Gate City and Constitution-Democrat is received over our own leased wire.

# The Daily Gate City

and Constitution-Democrat.

THE WEATHER  
Fair and warmer. Local temp  
-7 p. m. 82; 7 a. m. 64.

VOL. 125. NO. 41.

KEOKUK, IOWA, SATURDAY, AUG. 18, 1917

EIGHT PAGES

# EXPLOSION OF AMMUNITION PLANT

## AMERICAN PLANT IS WRECKED

Series of Terrific Blasts Wreck Works at Dragon, Quebec, Killing Several People.

### REPORTS ARE MEAGRE

Several Houses in Town Are Reported Blown Up When the Plant Was Wrecked.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] MONTREAL, Aug. 18.—A series of terrific explosions wrecked the Curtis and Harvey ammunition works at Dragon, Quebec, today. Reports received here are that many persons were killed.

Several hundred men were in the plant at the time of the explosion, but communication with the town is interrupted. Only fragmentary reports have been received up to 11 o'clock.

Upwards of two score houses in the town are reported to have been blown up when the explosion let go. A heavy fall of smoke is hanging over the country about Dragon.

At the local offices of Curtis and Harvey, Canada, Limited, no official report of the explosion had been received up to noon. Six hundred men employed at the plant in four shifts.

One report placed the number of dead and injured at two hundred and fifty, but this is probably an over-estimate, as it could hardly reach that figure unless the explosion happened when the shifts were changing, or when there would probably be about three hundred men around the plant.

A hospital train with doctors and nurses has left Montreal, for the scene of the accident which is thirty-two miles from this city.

At Least Twenty Killed. MONTREAL, Aug. 18.—At least twenty persons were killed in a series of terrific explosions which destroyed the Curtis and Harvey ammunition plant at Dragon, Quebec, today, according to latest estimates from the scene of the disaster.

Scores of the employees of the plant are missing, but the belief was expressed that many of them will be found to be safe, despite the fear that the known death toll may yet be largely increased.

The explosion wiped out forty homes of workers employed in the plant and shook the country for miles around. The monetary damage will run close to a million dollars.

A passenger arriving at Montreal from the scene said the plant was completely wrecked. Telegraph and telephone communication with the town is cut off.

That the loss of life was not greater is believed to be due to the fact that the plant is composed of about 50 small shops. Only a small number of men are employed in each shop. When the blast went off in one shop, it is believed employees in the others fled and possibly escaped before the fire spread and set off the remaining explosions.

Elephant Swallowed Card. [United Press Leased Wire Service.] CHICAGO, Aug. 18.—A trained elephant here may be arrested for interfering with the draft. "Sure, I registered," George Colella of Seattle, his trainer, told the police. "But the elephant swallowed my registration card."

The elephant's trainer corroborated the story and Colella was released.

## PRICE OF COAL MUST BE LOWER

If Such is Not Assured, States or Government Will Seize All Mines.

### AT REASONABLE FIGURE

High Cost of Last Winter Not to be Permitted Again as Burden to the People.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] CHICAGO, Aug. 18.—The middle west was uniting today in the fight against excessive coal prices.

Steps were taken in three states and were about to be taken in two others, toward state control of mines. In Illinois, Governor Lowden called on Attorney General Brundage for the procedure to seize Illinois' 800 mines which employ 800,000 men. A special session of the legislature may be called. Lowden took this step following rejection by coal operators for an offer of co-operation between state and mine owners to fix coal prices.

In Indiana Governor Goodrich laid plans to call a special session of the legislature for August 27 to establish a fair coal price. Governor Capper of Kansas called a conference of coal producers for next Monday to fix prices. Capper said he would seize the mines if the conference failed.

In Missouri Attorney General McAllester announced he would recommend seizure of the mines to Governor Gardner. Governor Harding of Iowa announced that unless relief comes at once, he would seize all mines.

In Colorado, Denver has contracted for the entire output of two coal mines to see that the poor get coal this winter.

Opportunity will be given Uncle Sam to step in first, however. Actual seizure of the mines is not expected by the states before ten days. All want federal control, but they want it quick.

Federal injunction against seizure of mines will be sought by the miners, according to the owners. Justice Carter, coal dictator, continued his investigations today. Carter was expected to fix a mine month price by Wednesday in time to announce it to the conference of mid-west state executives here Thursday. Within a few hours, after determining the mine month price, Carter will set about fixing a retail price.

All midwest states kept their eyes on Illinois today. They were "watchfully" waiting to see how far Illinois can go successfully. If Illinois proves its power to operate the mines, other states will follow.

Government Control Near. WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—Government control of coal is near today. Mine owners who appealed to President Wilson for a last chance to increase production and lower prices are understood to have been told that in event they fail to act immediately, the government will take over the coal supply as it has planned to do with wheat.

The union miners, headed by John P. White, lined up with the defense committee's coal committee against government regulation.

The federal trade commission at the same time is trying to satisfy the growing demand from the middle west for relief from high prices. That President Wilson will order the commission to carry out the Pomerene coal amendment to the food control law is considered probable in event other measures fail.

Chairman Peabody of the council's coal committee addressed a final appeal to the men in the coal industry to "exercise a proper degree of voluntary restraint" and safeguard the public as well as obtain maximum production.

"In the judgment of the committee,"

(Continued on page 2.)

## WILSON'S ANSWER TO POPE

Will be Such as to Afford Basis For Peace if Germany is At All Sincere.

### BE DECIDED NEXT WEEK

Teuton Nations Jump at the Chance to Talk Peace With the Pontiff and Promise Him Support.

[By Carl D. Groat, United Press Staff Correspondent.] WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—President Wilson's reply to the pope's peace offer may afford an actual working basis for hastening the end of the war. Germany and Austria already have moved in this direction, dispatches from Rome say today.

Belief grows that the president, in courteously declining the pope's suggestion now, will offer a constructive policy, in which the liberals of the world may find real encouragement.

Opinion is strong here that decision on the scope of the allied answer has been left up to the president, allied diplomats believed it so thoroughly that delayed vacations were undertaken. The British, Italian and Chinese envoys left the city—apparently assured that there is no further need of consultation between them and the state department over the peace situation.

Four of the president's cabinet likewise left on brief vacations. No official announcement has been made as to the answer, but Wilson's advisers say he will make the United States' position clear before the world.

The president will be deliberate about his course—both because of the independence of the document before him and likewise to avoid a haste which would tend to affront the Vatican and its followers. Concrete suggestions have been offered. They don't meet with American government approval, but with a start thus made it is possible the president may include in his answer the general terms of America and her allies.

Between the pope's offer and such a presidential answer, the Teutons would know exactly where they stand as to concluding peace, if they are sincere in wishing to bring it about.

Next week will probably see some statement as to this government's course, or an actual reply forwarded.

Supporting Pontiff. AMSTERDAM, Aug. 18.—Although it appears there has been some delay in publishing the full text of the pope's peace appeal in Germany, Berlin advices here today indicate an increasing disposition to support the pontiff.

The editorials received here show a distinct change from the first expressions which declared the pope's conditions did not contain the most important German specifications.

The Tageblatt declares that the conditions as outlined by the pope and the recent reichstag declarations are in accord. There is little disposition to accept the pontiff's suggestions as to Belgium, without stipulations as to the future relations of this country with France and England and the general tenor of expressions is that Alsace cannot be surrendered.

The German papers declare the allies may as well realize that the central powers' position precludes a military victory and that thousands of lives would be saved if these powers would accept a peace of exchange and conciliation.

Germany Eagerly Accepts. ROME, Aug. 18.—Germany has assured Pope Benedict of her moral adhesion to the peace proposals put forward by the pontiff, according to dispatches published here today. Austria has gone further and declared her readiness to initiate new negotiations, information from the same source asserts.

The dispatches reporting this support given the pope's proposals were from Rome and published by the Idea Nazionale. The reports were no more than were expected in government circles. Having taken the view that the pontiff's action was inspired by Austria, the general belief has

(Continued on page 2.)

## LITTLE BROTHER FOR SOLDIER

Each Boy Scout in America to Act for One Soldier While on Duty in France.

### WILL WRITE LETTERS

Adopt Lad in Khaki as Big Brother and Call on His Family Twice Every Week.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] NEW YORK, Aug. 18.—Each of the thousands of boy scouts in America is going to be a little brother to an American soldier in France. The scouts began laying their plans today to adopt their big brothers from among the men who have been selected for service in the new national army.

Each scout will call at the home of his "big brother" at least twice a week to learn whether there is anything he can do for the family. In addition he will write the soldier from home, keeping him informed of his visits to the family and giving him news, progress of baseball and races and other topics the young soldiers might be interested in but which the home folk might overlook.

Shooting Tournament. [United Press Leased Wire Service.] CHICAGO, Aug. 18.—Shooting for the herculean amateur trophy, held by A. H. Winkler, of Chicago, was the opening match in today's preliminaries of the grand American handicap shoot, which begins Monday.

Homier Clark, Alton, Ill., defended his title as all around champion against Harrison Kennicott, St. Louis, Mo., yesterday and won 185 to 173.

Races at Cheyenne. [United Press Leased Wire Service.] CHEYENNE, Wyo., Aug. 18.—An interesting program of eight races will mark the revival today of the turf game in Wyoming's capital, inaugurating an eighteen day program of track entertainment. A special train of Denver enthusiasts will arrive this afternoon. Races will begin at 2 p. m. daily.

Longest Inning in Baseball. [United Press Leased Wire Service.] LOS ANGELES, Calif., Aug. 18.—Forty-seven minutes was the time required by Kerner and Los Angeles to play the first inning of yesterday's game. Fans here and ball players are of the opinion that it was the longest inning in the history of organized baseball. Five pitchers were used to retire six men.

To Those Who Can Not Go

It is estimated that a million American troops will be in France by winter. They represent us. Many of them haven't as much to defend as far as worldly possessions go, as we have, who are at home. We can not give them much that is proof against the enemy's shot and steel. But we can give them warm clothing that is protection against pneumonia, trench foot and other illnesses common to troops engaged during the winter months in trench warfare. If you expect to be comfortable and warm this winter, give to someone who is exposed to the rigors of outdoor life in a severe climate because they have answered the call of their country in need. Our soldiers are fighting; but the war is not alone their war but our war. We can help equip them. Do so by sending check for wool to Mrs. Blood or Miss Laura Alton. KEOKUK CHAPTER, American Red Cross.

(Continued on page 2.)

## THIRD DAY OF VICTORY FOR ALLIES

British and French Have Been Throwing Back German Counter Attacks in Flanders.

### IN FULL FORCE NOW

Teuton Official Statement Not True, Showing Effort to Conceal the Real Situation.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] LONDON, Aug. 18.—For the third day, German troops continued throwing masses of men against the newly won British positions near Lens today.

All counter attacks were again completely repulsed after sharp fighting. Field Marshal Haig reported. A few prisoners were taken, the British commander reported.

"To the northwest of Lens early this morning the enemy again counter attacked our new positions," Haig's statement said. "They were completely repulsed after sharp fighting. A few prisoners were taken here and northwest of Ypres.

"There was considerable artillery firing during the night." "The full force of the British and French drive in Flanders may be determined within the next twenty-four hours."

Aside from German counter attacks which have been repulsed, there has been a let up in fighting on this sector.

Positions beyond Langemark have been consolidated by the British while the French have made secure their new ground beyond Steenbeck.

Continuation of the general assault will mark the offensive as an effort second in power only to that of the Somme.

England found great satisfaction in the fact that Berlin found it necessary to put out false statements in its official wireless statement yesterday. At the time the Germans were claiming the recapture of Langemark, British staff officers were in the town inspecting the newly won English positions. Berlin also sought to create the belief that the British attack was over a much wider front than was the case. Official denial was made of all statements from Berlin concerning the developments in Flanders.

The French are keeping step with the British in the Flanders thrust. The French line is beyond Bixchoote running from the flooded area north of Lizerne, across the Steenbeck, to a point about mid-distance between Bixchoote and Langemark. The police are playing a more prominent part in the present Flanders battle than in any other engagement in this region for some time, though they have had this section of the Flanders line since it was established. The presence of the French in this region is largely for sentimental and political purposes. Looking to the day when the German line might be broken and swung back, as the first step toward liberation of Belgium, it is desired that French troops have a part in the operations.

Another Air Raid. LONDON, Aug. 18.—Many tons of bombs were dropped on German military establishments in Belgium during another raid by British naval aeroplanes, the admiralty announced today.

Thorough railway station was raided Thursday night. The statement said. Fires were observed in the ammunition camp and the railway was hit and damaged. The British machines returned safely.

A Clash at Sea. LONDON, Aug. 18.—An engagement between British and German scouting ships, in which one German destroyer and several mine sweepers were damaged, was reported by the admiralty today.

The biggest type of British vessels engaged in scout work took part in the fight, when they came upon the enemy. The British opened fire on the German destroyer, damaging her, but she escaped as did the mine sweepers the destroyer was convoying. Several of the latter were damaged. German submarines were also en-

(Continued on page 2.)

## DOLLAR A DOZEN FOR EGGS SOON

Prospects for Winter are That Poultry Might be a Little Lower in Price.

### OVER SUPPLY OF CORN

Wheat May be Scarce This Fall, But There Promises to be Plenty of Corn.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] BOSTON, Mass., Aug. 18.—Eggs at a dollar a dozen with the price of dressed fowls somewhat lower was predicted for this winter by Secretary Wheeler, of the state board of agriculture. He declared poultry men are killing off their flocks because of the high cost of grain. It is also predicted butter will jump to a dollar a pound.

Will Be Plenty of Corn. CHICAGO, Aug. 18.—The nation should put every bushel of corn possible into cattle, hogs and sheep. Everett C. Brown, president of the Chicago Live Stock exchange, back today from Washington, after a conference with Herbert Hoover, brought this message to Chicago.

It is certain that there will be a vast over supply of corn, while the meat supply will be short this winter, Brown said.

Few cattle, withdrawal of the distillers from the corn market and limited exports will all tend to increase the corn supply, Brown pointed out.

Prices Too High to Can. CHICAGO, Aug. 18.—The canning season is on, but Mrs. Consumer can't can as in former years. In normal times the market would be flooded with every variety of canned fruit. Chicago retail grocers said today, but this year is an exception. Scarcity and an abnormal demand also gets the brand of blame.

Apples which sold this time last year for fifty cents to \$1.50 a bushel, are \$1 to \$2 today. Last year peaches were high at \$1.75 and \$2.00. Today they are \$3.50 a bushel. Pears are \$3, compared with \$2 last year.

Much fruit faces the danger of rotting on the trees in western orchards. It was also asserted, owing to a shortage of farm labor. Packing cases are high also.

Cherries and berries are from 15 cents to \$1 higher a crate this year.

Public Won't Stand for It. CHICAGO, Aug. 18.—Eggs won't go to a dollar a dozen, nor butter to a dollar a pound—as predicted by eastern agricultural experts—because the public won't stand for it.

Chicago dealers admitted this today. Further, owners of over six million cases of eggs in storage here fear before the season is over they may have to take a loss on the greater portion of the supply. And listy Chicago dealers would not be surprised to see Herbert Hoover step in and put a maximum on eggs.

This last statement was from President Davis, of the Chicago Butter and Egg board who declared reports of one dollar eggs as "perfect rot." The government investigates all such reports, he said.

Davis admitted that eggs were higher today than a year ago at this time, but he said the government report for Aug. 1 showed there were 42,123 more cases in storage now than last year. Other dealers said that while eggs were higher they could not increase much more because high prices always diminish consumption and there was a limit to the consumer's pocket-book.

Davis said there was a difference of 8 to 10 cents between the wholesale and retail price of eggs. This represents the profit of the middle man, distributor and grocer. The latter, he said, gets approximately five cents of this.

Eggs went into storage early in the season at 82 cents wholesale. Later,

(Continued on page 2.)

## PUSHING PLANS FOR BATTLE

General War Activity Increases During Lull in the Peace Talk at Washington.

### SUPPLIES IS PROBLEM

Each Day Sees America's War Machine Being Oiled Up and Prepared for the Fray.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—A lull in peace talk, pending President Wilson's decision on a reply to the pope, was marked by general war activity today. Military men, completed reorganization of the New England guard, preparing it for service soon in France. The question of supplies is a most serious one—a shortage in all equipment from canteens up threatening to delay somewhat transportation of both the first and second "rainbow divisions."

To expedite this work more centralization of authority is being developed in the navy was heard. R. S. Lovett, in charge of priority shipments of war materials will virtually have the conduct of the war in his hands. He will determine what supplies shall go to the army, what to the navy, what to the shipping board and the order of their sending. This is absolutely necessary, it is said, to prevent competition between various departments with an ensuing chaos of prices in the country.

With the buying season now on for the coal consumer, President Wilson will act soon to end the increasing discontent in the coal situation. Assured that he will take drastic steps if necessary, the council of national defense sent warnings to miners and operators today to exercise a proper degree of voluntary restraint to increase production and safeguard interests of the public.

The war atmosphere was charged with more spirited parley between the navy league and Secretary Daniels. In a public statement replying to Daniels' order to keep all navy league members away from navy yards, the league charges Daniels with responsibility for attack on the first American transports.

22,000 Selected Men. CHICAGO, Aug. 18.—Approximately 22,000 selected men today were certified for service in Chicago's quota of the new national army. Chicago's quota is 25,000. It is expected to be completed Monday or Tuesday.

Salt Lake Aviation School. SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Aug. 18.—Salt Lake is assured of a United States aviation school providing a suitable site and acreage can be secured to carry out government specifications, according to advices received here from Captain C. G. Edgar, chief signal officer of the United States army.

Will Call for Volunteers. SANTA FE, N. M., Aug. 18.—Because the quota of men which the state of New Mexico was called upon to furnish for the national army numbers a little less than enough to form two regiments, Governor Lindsay has asked Secretary Baker for permission to furnish two complete regiments. If permission is granted, the additional men will be recruited by calling for volunteers.

Soon on Way to France. WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—That American troops will soon be in the fray abroad was indicated today when

(Continued on page 2.)

## TOWN IS BURNED DOWN THIRD TIME IN HISTORY

Ruthon is Again Smoking Ruin as Result of Sparks From Train.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] HOOD RIVER, Ore., Aug. 18.—The saw mill town of Ruthon near here is a field of smoking ruins today. For the third time in its existence, the town has been laid waste by flames. Sparks from a passing train are believed to have started the blaze. The forest fire situation in this district is serious. Fire fighters brought here from Portland went on a strike today claiming they were unable to stand the mosquitos in the mountains.

## JAILS FULL OF SLACKERS AND MORE ARE ARRIVING

Five Hundred Men to Face Federal Grand Jury at Next Session.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] CHICAGO, Aug. 18.—Increasing arrests of alleged slackers today brought jail authorities face to face with the problem of where to put the prisoners. Bastilles in Chicago and vicinity are full. Refusal of releasees on bonds was making them "fuller." Five hundred alleged slackers will face the federal grand jury here September four. More than 800 persons have been arrested on charges of violating the draft law, but several hundred were registered and liberated.