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THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

THE WEATHER
Cloudy

VOL. XLIV—NO. 219. OMAHA, MONDAY MORNING, MARCH 1, 1915. On Trains and at Hotels News Stands, 5c. SINGLE COPY TWO CENTS.

CHINESE HERE JOIN NIPPON BOYCOTT; BURN JAP GOODS

Local Celestials Act with Others of Race from Vancouver to Mexico in Trade War.

MEASURE IS RETALIATORY ONE Big Six Company in San Francisco Starts Move as Reprisal for Tokyo Aggressions.

ACTIVITY IN THE DOMINION CITY BULLETIN.

Qong Ye, Omaha Chinese merchant, was found badly beaten up late last night by the police. He would give no explanation of how he came to be in the mangled condition he presented when picked up by the officers. The police believe he was attacked by fellow Chinese for refusing to join in the boycott against Japanese goods and industries. An investigation is being made.

Omaha Chinese have joined all the celestials in the United States and Canada in a gigantic boycott of Japanese industries and business houses because of Japan's aggressive policy toward the Chinese republic.

Kept in Dark. The local boycott, like the general one had been kept absolutely secret outside of Chinese circles though it has been in effect for three days and Omaha Chinese merchants have destroyed nearly all their Japanese stocks of fancy goods.

The action of the Omaha Chinese was learned when inquiries were made following the receipt of dispatches from San Francisco telling of the general retaliatory measures of the Chinese of the Pacific coast against the Japanese.

Sam Joe, proprietor of the Elite restaurant, Fourteenth and Douglas streets, said the boycott has been in effect for three days. In that time nearly all the stocks of Japanese fancy goods of local Chinese men have been given to flames and destroyed.

Given to Flames. Thousands of dollars' worth of such merchandise, it is said, have been burned. Sam Joe, himself, it is further reported, gave all he had on hand of Nipponese knockknacks to the flames, causing him a loss of \$150.

There are perhaps 125 or more Celestials in Omaha. Several hundred Japanese live here and in South Omaha.

Chinese Boycott Begun.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 28.—A Chinese boycott on all Japanese industries and business houses as a retaliation, it is said, against the demands made on the Chinese government by Japan has been started in this city and word of this action has been sent broadcast throughout the region under the jurisdiction of the Chinese Six companies, which includes all the states west of the Rocky mountains and as far south as the Mexican border, according to a statement made tonight by John L. McNab, counsel for the Six companies.

Investigate First. McNab said the leading Chinese merchants here had made a thorough investigation of the legal aspects of a boycott before deciding to institute one.

The boycott, he said, included everything Japanese and Chinese merchants asserted that Japanese goods, so far as Chinese trade here was concerned, already were a glut on the market.

Circulars, advertisements in Chinese newspapers and other methods of publicity will be used by the Six companies, it is said, to give impetus to the movement.

Fresno, Cal., reported tonight that the boycott would be begun there on Monday. Already, it was said, Chinese were moving out of Japanese hotels and lodging houses.

OVER QUARTER MILLION DOLLAR FIRE IN PEORIA

PEORIA, Ill., Feb. 28.—Fire starting late today, destroyed the old Young Men's Christian association building here and the small Hamilton building adjacent. The Orpheum theater was damaged as were a dozen two and three-story buildings along Main street. The total loss is placed at \$200,000.

Northwestern Bank Closes Hands.

BELLE FOURCHE, S. D., Feb. 28.—(Special)—C. L. Millet of the Stock Growers' bank of Fort Pierre and S. H. Wood of the American Exchange bank of Pierre have purchased a controlling interest in the Northwestern State bank and will operate it from now on.

The Weather

For Nebraska—Cloudy. For Iowa—Fair.

Temperature at Omaha Yesterday	High	Low	Day
10 a. m.	30	15	20
4 p. m.	28	12	20
8 p. m.	25	10	20
10 a. m.	25	10	21
4 p. m.	23	8	21
8 p. m.	20	5	21
10 a. m.	18	3	22
4 p. m.	15	0	22
8 p. m.	12	-2	22
10 a. m.	10	-4	23
4 p. m.	8	-6	23
8 p. m.	5	-9	23
10 a. m.	3	-11	24
4 p. m.	1	-13	24
8 p. m.	-1	-15	24

Comparative Local Record.

High	Low	Day
30	15	20
28	12	20
25	10	20
25	10	21
23	8	21
20	5	21
18	3	22
15	0	22
12	-2	22
10	-4	23
8	-6	23
5	-9	23
3	-11	24
1	-13	24
-1	-15	24

CAPTAIN MERCER IS LAID TO REST

Masonic Funeral for Aged Past Grand Master of the Order and Veteran of Civil War.

SPLENDID TRIBUTES GIVEN

Captain John J. Mercer, Nebraska pioneer, civil war veteran and Masonic past grand master, was carried to his final resting place in Forest Lawn cemetery yesterday by fellow Masons, whose affection he had long cherished during his lifetime.

So many persons gathered at the Masonic temple, Sixteenth and Capitol avenue, to do honor to the dead man, that before 2 o'clock, the hour at which the services were scheduled to begin, it was necessary to close the doors of the building. A large crowd waited till after the services for the privilege of entering to pay their final tribute of honor to the "old comrade."

Mr. Mercer, before his death, left directions as to the arrangements for his funeral and his wishes were scrupulously observed. He chose the following pallbearers, who performed their duty yesterday:

Masters of various Masonic lodges:
Active—Edward L. Hoag, William P. Wherry, Charles S. McGill, Alfred N. Longwell, Samuel Reese, Jr., William B. Tetz.
Honorary—F. J. Tetz, William T. Bourke, E. J. Jumper, Frank Bryant, E. A. Parmelee, Charles A. Dunham, Frank W. Boyer, John H. Harmon, William M. Robertson.

Masonic Ritual.

The services were in charge of the Masonic grand lodge and Capitol lodge, and consisted of the impressive Masonic ritual. The body was escorted to the temple by the commandery at 10 o'clock in the morning and lay in state there until the hour of the funeral. The funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Edwin H. Jenks. At the grave the Masonic burial service was brought to a close.

Mr. Mercer's son, David Mercer of Washington, D. C., and daughter, Mrs. C. H. Fowler of Omaha, attended the services. War veterans, some of whom were associated directly with Mr. Mercer in the civil war, were present.

Although the Masons sorrowfully consigned to the grave the body of their old companion who was also a past grand master of the Nebraska lodge, and there were many scenes of emotion, perhaps Rev. Mr. Jenks struck the keynote which was best attuned to the sentiment of the gathering when he rejoiced that a well lived and long life had closed, only to bring the spirit to a "better day."

"It has been a long and toilsome day, but he's come at last to the perfect day," said the minister.

Radiates Cheer.

Rev. Mr. Jenks spoke of the unvarying uprightness of Mr. Mercer, of his long life of labor which continued almost to the end of the eighty-two years which he lived and of the cheer which he radiated in his daily relations with men.

"His face was filled with fellowship," he said. "You members of this lodge know better than I can tell you, what was the value of his companionship. He was very fond of children. He has been told that he used to stop to greet the little ones who lived along his way to work and that they loved the gray haired man whose heart went out to them. It affords a significant insight into his fine character."

Lead Kindly Light. In accordance with Mr. Mercer's request, "Lead Kindly Light" was sung by George Johnson.

Robert French, whose friendship with Mr. Mercer was of thirty-one years' standing, was given the opportunity of speaking of his associate by Samuel P. Davidson of Tecumseh, past grand master of the lodge, who presided. Mr. French spoke a few words of sorrow and praise for the dead man.

"The green grass may cover your grave, old friend," he said, "the birds may sing above you and nature's wonders may surround you, but nothing, I think, can be sweeter to you than the knowledge of our loving memory for you."

Girl Badly Burned By Gasoline Put In Coal Oil Stove

Gasoline sold for coal oil resulted Sunday morning in the painful, if not fatal, burning of Miss Rena Peterson, domestic employed in the home of Lars P. Jensen, dairyman, 2208 South Forty-second street.

The girl arose early Sunday morning to prepare breakfast and used the fluid in a coal oil cooking stove, thinking the stuff to be coal oil. In the ensuing explosion she was terribly burned, but managed to reach the back yard and extinguish the flames which encircled her body by rolling in the snow. The house was all but completely destroyed by the fire.

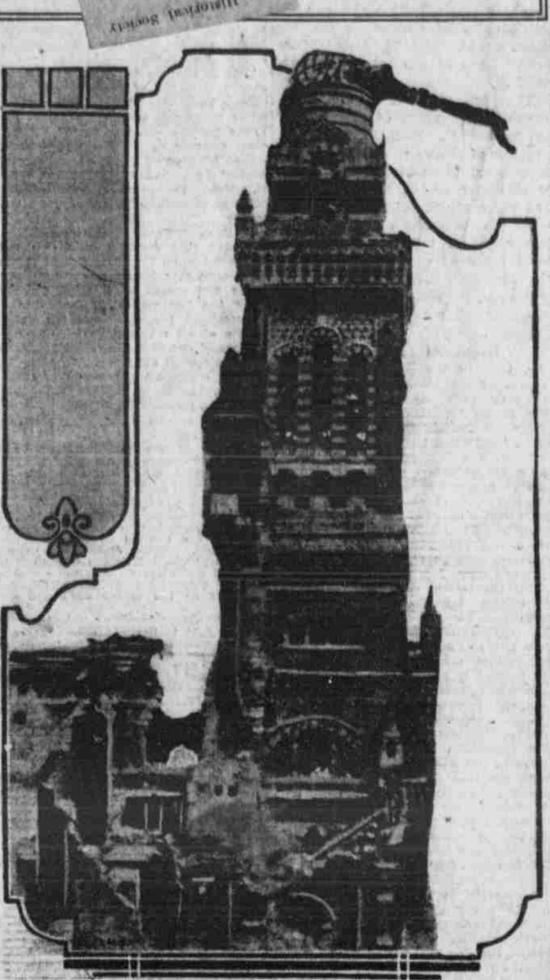
Mr. Jensen, who has been very ill, managed to reach the front yard in safety before overcome by the weakness of his condition. His wife and four children also reached the outdoors in safety.

Police Surgeon J. A. Tamisla attended Miss Peterson and ordered her removal to St. Joseph's hospital, where she is in a critical condition. The Jensen family is staying with neighbors.

LOS ANGELES TO VOTE ON JITNEY BUS QUESTION

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 28.—An ordinance to regulate 5-cent fare motor buses was adopted by the Los Angeles city council, after months of discussion. It requires each bus owner to file a \$5,000 indemnity bond, to provide lights in his machine and not to deviate more than three blocks from his advertised route. Interests opposed to the buses object to the low indemnity bond and the failure of the council to limit fares to 5 cents. The busmen object to the bond requirement and the route limit, and both sides prepared to submit the question to the voters at a referendum election.

WONDER OF NOTRE DAME BREBBIERES AT STRICKEN ALBERT—Holding out her divine babe in mute appeal over the town—A statue of Notre Dame on the church tower at Albert replaced by a German shell and held aloft.



AMERICAN LEGION TO BE ORGANIZED

Major General Leonard Wood Gives Unofficial Sanction to Formation of New Body.

ROOSEVELT STRONG FOR ACTION

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—Formal announcement was made here tonight of the formation of an organization of first reserves, to be known as the American Legion, to be composed of former army, navy and militiamen, which will better insure the nation's preparedness in case of war.

Captain Gordon Johnston, aide de camp to Major General Leonard Wood, commanding the department of the east, made the announcement on behalf of a group of army and navy men, who in an unofficial capacity are acting with civilians in promoting the movement. Captain Johnston said that it is planned to establish within a short time a first reserve of between 20,000 and 30,000 former and navy militiamen for instant call in case of emergency.

Wood Favors Plan.

Major General Wood, has already given the plan his unofficial endorsement and former President Roosevelt has written a letter approving the proposal. Numerous other public men have endorsed the project and a statement by the promoters says that former secretaries of war and of the navy have indicated their willingness to act in an advisory capacity.

Asserting that he and his four sons will become members of the legion, Colonel Roosevelt, in a letter to the organizers, says that in the event of war he intends to ask congress for permission to raise a division of cavalry.

Roosevelt to Join.

Mr. Roosevelt's letter in part follows: "I and my four sons will gladly become members. I very earnestly hope and pray that there will be no war; but the surest way to avoid war is to be prepared for it; and the only way to avert disaster and disgrace in war is by preparation, both military and naval in advance.

"In the event of war, I should ask permission of congress to raise a division of cavalry, that is, nine regiments, such as the regiment I commanded in Cuba, and unquestionably the ranks of these regiments would largely be filled from the men of the legion and would in their entirety be filled by men such as those in the legion; for in the event of war there will be no time to train the men first called upon in such duties as shooting, riding and taking care of themselves in the open.

Danger Lurks Everywhere.

"We should as a nation have begun to prepare ourselves the minute the war broke out seven months ago. It is absolutely impossible to be sure, when there is such a tremendous war, that we shall not be drawn into it against our will. The people of this country are only beginning to realize the extent of our military and naval unpreparedness.

CHINESE OPPOSED TO GRANTING DEMANDS

Representatives Decline to Agree to Japan's Desires in Regard to Special Privileges.

SOUTH AND NORTH INVOLVED

PEKING, March 1.—Another conference held today to discuss the demands made by Japan upon China resulted, it is said, in no important concessions being granted by the Chinese representatives.

Although Japanese troops still occupy the portion of Shantung entered during the operations against Tsing-Tau, in the German concession (China it is declared, has conceded little concerning the demands relating to Shantung, which form the first group under discussion.

"The discussion today is reported to have had to do with the second group of questions, which have to do with southern Manchuria and Inner Mongolia, where Japan claims a special position and special privileges. The Chinese representatives are said to be unwilling to acknowledge these claims as they stand.

Austrians Capture Russians in Galicia

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—An official statement telling of Austrian successes in the Carpathians was received here from Vienna today by the Austro-Hungarian embassy. It says:

"In the Carpathians the enemy's attacks in the Onds valley and on our positions north of the Volovez ridge failed. Twelve hundred and fifty Russians were made prisoners in the taking by assault of one of the heights in the battle in southeastern Galicia.

NORWEGIAN SHIP SUNK IN ENGLISH MINE FIELDS

BERLIN, Feb. 28.—(By Wireless to Saville)—Among the items given out today by the Overseas news agency were the following:

"The Norwegian consulate general has learned that the Norwegian steamer 'Regin,' which went down on February 25, was sunk in a British mine field in the English channel.

"The Dutch Shipowners' association has endorsed the protest of the Holland press against the misuse by British ships of neutral flags. The association expressed the hope that the British government would withdraw the recent flag order.

BLOCKADE OF ALL TEUTONS' PORTS TO BE DECLARED

Entente Advises Neutrals Prepared to Bar All Traffic to and from Germany and Its Allies.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT SOON

Assert Lives of Passengers and Crews Will Be Respected in Any Steps Taken.

NO ARTICLES ARE SPECIFIED

LONDON, Feb. 28.—Great Britain, France and their allies have advised neutral countries that they hold themselves at liberty to stop all shipping to and from Germany and the countries of its allies.

Public announcement will be made early next week, probably Monday. The text of the declaration will set forth that this decision is necessary because of German submarine warfare, but that Great Britain and France will respect the lives of crews and passengers in any steps that may be taken.

Cargoes Affected. The declaration will not affect cargoes shipped before the date of this advice to neutrals. The exact date carried by the declaration has not been announced, but it is probably February 26 or 27.

No special articles of commerce will be mentioned in the British and French declaration. Cotton and foodstuffs, for example, will not be specified, but the terms will be general. The situation created will be entirely justified, according to the English view, because of Germany's unprecedented action in attempting a submarine blockade regardless of doing injury to the crews and passengers of ships.

Shipping in Baltic. Shipping in the Baltic will not be affected, except as Great Britain and its allies prevent supplies from entering Norway, Sweden and Denmark for re-exportation to Germany. Holland, by making its prohibited export list conform with the British contraband list and by the creation of the Netherlands interests trust, to which virtually all cargoes entering Holland are now consigned, with the government guarantee that they will not be exported to Germany—has put its shipping in a position which will be affected little by the declaration.

It is believed here that the Scandinavian countries' doubts will take similar action to insure continuation of supplies from America and elsewhere for Europe. While Denmark, Sweden and Norway have repeatedly notified the lists of prohibited exports, their refusals for the prevention of re-exportation apparently have been unsatisfactory to Great Britain or the administration of the regulations has been unsatisfactory, as cargoes have not moved to the Scandinavian countries with the same freedom as to Holland.

Confirmation Lacking.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Confirmation was lacking here tonight of a report from London that neutral governments had been notified by Great Britain and its allies that a general blockade of German ports would be declared next week. Press dispatches to that effect aroused wide interest in official and diplomatic circles, however, as to the probable course the United States government would pursue.

Authorities on international law agree that a belligerent has the right to blockade an enemy's ports with a competent force, and that neutrals are bound to respect that right. They divide a blockade into two classes, simple or de facto, and public. The latter class is defined as one, "where the investment is not actually established, but where also a public notification of the fact is made to neutral powers of the government or officers of state, declaring the blockade."

Considered Binding.

Such a notification, it is added by the same authorities, is considered binding upon its citizens. The result is to throw the burden of proof upon the captured vessels seized, while attempting to enter a blockaded port. The blockade is held to be in force until formal notification of its withdrawal has been received.

The exact date of the issuance of the blockade notification, it is held will be of the utmost importance, since a vessel sailing for a blockaded port in ignorance of the fact that it has been blockaded has been held not liable to condemnation. A treaty of 1794 between Great Britain and the United States made this specific provision and proclamations issued in Washington, declaring blockades during the civil war follow this theory. It has been the general international rule, it is said, for neutral vessels in ports to be blockaded to be allowed at least fifteen days after the blockade is announced in which to leave those ports without cargo. After that time they are subject to seizure.

BRITISH SOCIALISTS COMPLAIN OF HIGH PRICES

LONDON, Feb. 28.—A big socialist labor demonstration was held in Trafalgar square today to protest against the prevailing prices of food and coal. A resolution was adopted expressing indignation and disappointment at the government's refusal to take "effective measures to deal with the alarming increase in the cost of food and fuel."

The resolution demands government control of carrying ships, the commencing of home grown supplies for sale at the lowest possible prices and the fixing of maximum prices for the necessities of life.

The meeting called upon the government to purchase all available wheat for the use of the people of the country at prices ruling for thirty days prior to the beginning of the war, the loss incurred to be paid out of the national revenues.

GERMANS REPORT SOME ADVANCES

Official Statement Describes a Sixteen-Mile Advance Along a Four-Mile Front.

ENEMY WINS AT PRZASNYSZ

BERLIN, Feb. 28.—(By Wireless to Saville, L. I.)—The war office issued the following statement today:

"In Champagne yesterday the enemy continued attacks which were completely repulsed.

"South of Malmech and north of Verdun the Germans stormed several positions of the enemy, and a weak French counter attack failed. We made prisoners of six officers and 250 men, besides capturing four machine guns and one machine thrower.

"On the western side of the Vosges, after violent fighting, the Germans led the French from their positions near Blamont and Bienville.

"The Germans attacked the entrenched line of Verdun-Bremer, east of Barinville, pushing back the enemy twenty kilometers (about sixteen miles) along a front of six kilometers (about four miles). The enemy's attempt to win back the conquered ground failed.

"Attempts of the enemy to advance in the southern Vosges also were repulsed with heavy losses.

"Northwest of Grodno new Russian forces advanced yesterday. They were thrown back by German counter attacks, and we took 1,500 prisoners.

"Northwest of Ostrolenko an attack of the German troops retreated before superior forces of the enemy advancing on Przasnysz from the south and east into a region north and west of this town.

French Take Prisoners. PARIS (Via London), Feb. 28.—The French war office this afternoon issued the following statement on the progress of the war:

"Near Dixmude Belgian artillery demolished two of the enemy's works; the Belgian infantry occupied a farm on the right bank of the Yser, and one of the Belgian aviators dropped bombs on the enemy's harbor station at Ostend.

"The Germans again bombarded Rheims. Some sixty shells were fired, half of them at the cathedral.

"In the Champagne district important progress was made late Saturday. We carried two German works, one north of Perthes, the other north of Beausseur. In addition, we gained ground between those two points and to the northwest of Perthes. We made 300 prisoners.

"The total number of German soldiers who have surrendered during the last ten days amounts to more than 1,500.

"There have been fairly lively artillery engagements on the heights of the Meuse. In the Vosges, in the neighborhood of Hartmannsweilerkopf, we made some progress.

Russ Claims Success.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 28.—Russian successes are reported in an official communication from the general staff of the army in the Caucasus. The statement says:

"On February 28, on a line from Trans-Choruk, our troops progressed with success, dislodging the Turkish forces from their positions.

"In the passes south of Alachekerts our troops in an engagement seized two Turkish artillery pieces."

Art Treasures Are Very Little Harmed Throughout Belgium

BERLIN, Feb. 28.—(By Wireless to Saville, L. I.)—The Overseas News agency tonight gave out the following items:

"At a meeting of the budget committee of the Prussian Diet today the minister of public instruction stated that upon the request of the governor general of Belgium a committee was sent to that country for an investigation of the present condition of the art treasures. The committee reported that the destruction was insignificant. All the damage can be repaired and the Belgian museums opened to the public as in times of peace. A similar investigation for the occupied parts of northern France is planned.

"An exhibition of art works provided by Belgians who remained at home has been held in the Salon Des Beaux Arts in Brussels. Pictures bearing the names of the best Belgian artists were displayed. The first picture sold was bought by a German."

FLEET OF ALLIES ENTERS STRAITS; SULTAN PACKING

Panic Reigns in Constantinople as Hostile Navies Approach and Turks Prepare to Move Capital.

NEW SEAT WILL BE IN ASIA

Twenty-Eight Warships of Britain and France Ride Dardanelles, Shelling Inner Forts.

FORWARD ORDERS TO INVADERS

The Day's War News

GREAT ALLIED FLEET OF British and French warships has destroyed the forts at the entrance of the Dardanelles. The first lines of mines guarding the strait have been swept away, battleships have proceeded up the narrow stretch of water and are now engaged in bombarding the inner fortifications. Turks prepare to move capital into Asia.

FORMER GERMAN STEAMER DACHAU, now under the American flag, laden with cotton for Germany, has been taken by a French cruiser in the English channel and diverted to a French port.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES advised by Great Britain and its allies that they hold themselves at liberty to stop all shipping to and from Germany and to and from the countries allied with Germany. This action will be publicly announced next week and it is explained that it is due to the German submarine attacks.

RUSSIA, ACCORDING TO Petrograd, has recaptured the important town of Przasnysz, to the north of Warsaw, which a few days ago it was thought Germany would use as a base for operations against the Polish capital.

FRENCH PROGRESS in the neighborhood of Mezi-les-Bains, in the Champagne district, where about a third of a mile of German trenches have fallen into their hands.

BULLETIN. LONDON, Feb. 28.—"There is a panic in Constantinople, and many inhabitants are leaving," says the Athens correspondent of the Weekly Dispatch. "Internal trouble is imminent. The cabinet has decided to transfer the seat of government to Broussa, Asia Minor."

BULLETIN. LONDON, Feb. 28.—Twenty-eight warships of the allied fleet entered the Dardanelles at noon Saturday and bombarded the inner forts, according to a dispatch from the Athens correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph company. The message adds that a battleship bombarded a Turkish camp on the Gulf of Saros.

Attacks Inner Forts. LONDON, Feb. 28.—After having completed the destruction of the forts at the entrance of the Dardanelles, the allied fleet of British and French warships, the greatest which has ever been in action, is now attacking the inner forts, which heretofore have stood between Turkey and invasion by the sea.

Apparently the outer forts could not withstand a great bombardment, and when they had been leveled and deserted by their defenders, men were landed from the ships to complete the work of demolition, while mine sweepers cleared a passage for ships in the straits.

More Serious Work Ahead. More serious work is now ahead, for the all-important fortifications are at Kild Bahr and Chanak, which guard the narrowest part of the straits, which the fleet is now approaching. "There is no doubt, however, that the allied commanders have instructions to make their way to Constantinople in spite of obstacles, and have been supplied with the best means for carrying out these orders.

A complete list of the ships engaged is (Continued on Page Two, Column Two.)

Britons and French Trying to Beat Czar To Capital of Turkey

BERLIN, Feb. 28.—(By Wireless to Saville)—"An army order has emanated from the headquarters of the French general staff stating that French soldiers surrender too easily," says the Overseas News agency. "It threatens that every soldier who is made a prisoner of war will be court-martialed on his return."

This news agency credits the Tages Zeitung with saying that England and France are attempting to steal a march on Russia by reaching Constantinople in advance of the Russians. Their hope, the statement says, is to prevent Russia from obtaining exclusive control of Constantinople.

Admiral von Pohl, chief of the German admiralty staff, has been selected as successor to Admiral von Ingenohl.

OCCUPY CELLS ONCE HOLDING M'NAMARAS

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 28.—Cells in the county jail which held Orrie E. McManis and the two McNamara brothers four years ago were occupied tonight by M. A. Schmidt and David Caplan, alleged to be the last of the five men who actively participated in the conspiracy to dynamite the Los Angeles Times building in 1910.

Schmidt arrived today from New York and Caplan from Port Orchard, Wash., where they were captured.

Free Coupon Good for 25 cts. or 50 cts.

By special arrangement with the management for the benefit of Bee readers. Observe strictly the conditions and limitations stipulated in the coupon.

This Bee Coupon Entitles Bearer to one 25c or 50c Seat For the performance of The Man From Home At the Boyd Theater, Monday Evening, March 1. Present at Box Office any time prior to performance and get a free admission ticket in addition to the ticket you buy at the regular price. You must have a Bee coupon for each extra ticket you ask for.