

HUNS SEIZE 2 RUSS TOWNS; ADVANCING TO TAKE 4 MORE

GERMAN AIRMEN RAID AMERICAN LINES AT WILL

LACK OF YANKEE MACHINES AT FRONT MAKES PERSHING'S MEN UNPROTECTED TARGETS OF HUNS—TROOPS HELPLESS AS AERO TURNS MACHINE GUN ON THEM.

With the American Army in France, Feb. 20.—(By the Associated Press)—Control of the air in the American sector belongs to the enemy. Any officer at the front will make this declaration—all have made it. The control is obvious. German aeroplanes come and go over the American lines almost at will.

Every time the Germans come over their path through the sky is followed by fleecy shrapnel puffs, but the chances of hitting an aeroplane with anti-aircraft shells is so remote that the enemy aviators calmly fly along as if on a pleasure trip.

Every now and then aeroplanes on this side attack the enemy. They always do this when they get a chance. But the boche is clever while flying and manages to come over and take pictures, make observations and do virtually whatever else he desires and then calmly sail home without interruption.

It is not permitted to have any officers of the American expeditionary force. It is not permitted to quote them. If both were allowed it would be possible to carry quotations from virtually every officer at the front.

Right now, if the Germans knew American aeroplanes were waiting for them every time they came over the line their trips would be less frequent. Neither would they dare attempt such a bold piece of work as when they recently flew over the line in an aeroplane disguised with the Allies' red, white and blue bullseye marking and cut loose with a machine gun on American soldiers in the trenches.

Had there been American planes nearby the chances of the Germans getting back home after such a trick would be small. And it is extremely doubtful, officers say, whether they ever would have tried it.

Any officer also will say the safety of individual soldiers depends on keeping the enemy from doing as he pleases overhead. For days the Germans have been flying over certain towns where American troops have been resting after periods in the trenches. Once or twice these days light observation tours have been flown the same night by visits by enemy bombing planes.

So far and unrestricted are the German airmen that in some towns the commands are under strict orders to disappear under cover the moment a German aeroplane is sighted on the horizon. Moreover, officers say, more and more German planes are appearing in the sky, and in various quarters there is a growing belief that these are the first of the machines that the Germans have been building feverishly to offset the large number of expected American aeroplanes in accordance with plans announced in the United States.

Whether this belief is true or not, the fact remains that American troops are holding the sector and are endangering daily because there are no American aeroplanes with them. The question most asked from one end of the American front to the other is: "When are some American planes coming here?"

Washington, Feb. 21.—To hasten repair work on locomotives and railroad rolling stock, an agreement involving lengthening of working hours, promotion of apprentices and helpers and maintenance of open shop conditions has been reached between Director General McAdoo and A. C. Wharton, president of the railway employees department of the American Federation of Labor. The agreement affects more than 300,000 workmen.

New York, Feb. 21.—Two students, Winfield Matthews and Elmer Anderson, each 22 years old, lost their lives today in a fire that swept the training college of the Salvation Army, in West 14th street. The property loss was estimated at \$75,000.

TAKING OF UTILITIES IS SEEN

Senator Lewis Predicts Public Ownership Policy for U. S.

RAILROAD HEADS ADMIT FAILURES

Government Control of Telephone, Telegraph, Etc., Inevitable.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Senator Lewis of Illinois, speaking in the Senate today, declared the administration railroad bill is a forerunner of government control over various public utilities and predicted that the question would be the great domestic issue in the next presidential campaign.

"Let us not deceive ourselves as to the meaning of this measure," Senator Lewis declared. "This is the beginning of the government taking the railroads as a government agency. The roads will never be permitted to return to the former state of personal control for private benefit."

The railroads, Senator Lewis declared, confessed their inability to meet the situation and by surrendering to the government admitted that the one power capable of carrying on the work under the existing conditions was the government itself.

"The government now conducts the roads and directs them as the proof of its power and ability to do so," he asserted. "Private ownership of railroads failed us for the purpose of sending supplies to ships or for transport of soldiers for foreign service. What would be the calamity under private ownership if enemies were at our gates and in possession of our country."

"Let us announce that the United States is a government and shall assume governmental responsibility in protecting all public agencies of human welfare from being a monopoly of private pillage."

If this is done, Senator Lewis said, any Bolsheviki uprising in the United States will be avoided.

CONDEMN RESALES OF FOODSTUFFS

Washington, Feb. 20.—Double middleman's profits on foodstuffs with a resultant price advance to the consumer caused by the practice of wholesalers selling to one another to make up depreciated stocks were condemned in a statement issued today by the food administration.

Resales should be permitted only with the consent of the state food administrator and with the provision that dealers share the usual wholesale profit on the entire transaction. Commissions or brokerage charges on resales, it was said, should be allowed only when the legality of the resale is clearly established.

Jacob Dasher, of Wrightsville, Pa., was hit by a ton of iron. His recovery is expected.

Cleveland bakers have defied the Food Board and raised the price of bread to retailers.

Paris, Feb. 21.—One hundred ten persons perished when the steamer La Dives was torpedoed in the Mediterranean on Feb. 1, says an official announcement. The attacking submarine was not seen.

SIBERIANS MAY JOIN INVADER

German Goods Already in Manchuria, Where Ex-Prisoners Work Mines.

Harbin, Manchuria, Saturday, Feb. 16.—German goods already have reappeared far east of Irkutsk, according to information received here. German merchants are active in Harbin and the Bolsheviki are arming released German prisoners to guard the Siberian railroad and facilitate the movement of traffic.

A British mining engineer named Piper, who has arrived here from Krasnoyarsk says the Bolsheviki have seized the gold mines there and that Austro-German prisoners are working them. The Austro-Germans have plenty of money and are purchasing permits allowing them to circulate freely in Siberia. The Germans are taking charge of electric power stations, railroads and depots. Quantities of raw materials are shipped to Germany from the district. Most of the Germans are said to speak Russian.

Piper declares that unless the Allies take immediate steps to send supplies and raw materials into Siberia the intellectual and present classes will throw themselves into the hands of the Germans.

BUNKER RULES NOT FOR SWEDES

Stockholm, Feb. 21.—Ira Nelson Morris, the American minister, received yesterday from Washington announcement that the new bunker regulations are not applicable to the hundred thousand tons of Swedish shipping included in the proposed agreement between the two countries. It was communicated immediately to the Swedish government, as Minister Morris had learned that an attempt to apply the regulations to the ships in the agreement would imperil the negotiations.

The announcement from Washington saves for American use the 100,000 tons of shipping. The bunker regulations aroused the indignation of Swedish shipping companies who contended that they would enable the United States to control even Sweden's coasting trade and compel the cessation of long established traffic with Lubeck and Stettin, Germany. The Swedish government also was somewhat disquieted.

FLOOD DANGER IN N. E. IS PAST

Boston, Feb. 21.—Danger of serious floods in New England, at the end of a winter seldom equaled for its severity, is believed to have been reduced by the melting of alternate thaws and freezes of this month.

A great deal of the snow and ice, particularly in the southern section of New England, has melted gradually this month.

COL. REPINGTON AND BOSS FINED

London, Feb. 21.—Fines of £100 each and costs were imposed today on Col. C. A. Repington, military correspondent of the Morning Post, and Howell A. Gwynne, editor of that paper, for the publication of an article in the Post last week in violation of the military censorship.

DID BUSINESS AT LOSS

Amsterdam, Feb. 21.—The Berlin Motor Omnibus Co., which was obliged to conduct its business last year almost entirely with horses and steered vehicles owing to the prohibition of the use of gasoline or rubber tires, ended the year with a deficit of \$375,000.

LATE WAR DISPATCH.

London, Feb. 21.—Twelve German aeroplanes have been accounted for by British airmen and one by infantry, says a statement on aerial operations last night, which also reports successful attacks on Thionville and Pirmasens, Germany.

London, Feb. 21.—"New Zealand troops carried out a successful raid early today east of Polygon wood (Flanders front) and captured a few prisoners," says today's war office statement.

The enemy's artillery was active yesterday evening against our positions at Flesquieres."

MOLL CASE ONCE MORE IN COURT

After Two Months Peace Sisters Would Take Farm From Gustav.

ALSO SEEK MONEY FOR LAND'S USAGE

Will of Mother Left An Estate of \$60,000 to Three Daughters.

The Molls are at it again. After two months of peace, litigation in the famous Moll probate case has again broken out, starting on its 25th year in the Probate Court. The principal in the case was Theresa Moll, who died, a nonagenarian, last year. Gustav Moll, her son, had been conservator, and filed his final account Jan. 25.

The report was accepted by Judge Daniel B. Bradley, acting for Judge Paul L. Miller.

Today, Mrs. Lillie Moll Thorp filed notice appealing from the acceptance of the report, representing that she is aggrieved by the action. The other two sisters, Mrs. August Stadler and Theresa Oberly, are in sympathy with her.

In addition to the appeal from the acceptance of their brother's report, the sisters will file a writ of ejectment in the Superior court today and will also file suit to recover a total of \$6,000, which they allege their brother owes them for rental.

Gustave Moll has been living on his mother's farm on Madison avenue for 20 years or more. The sisters claim rental on the theory that the place was deeded to them by their mother during her lifetime.

The aged woman left a will giving her estate, estimated to be worth more than \$60,000, to her two daughters, Lillie Thorp and Theresa Oberly, cutting off Gustave, Mrs. Stadler and another son, who lives in Chicago. The will was accepted in the Probate court, but an appeal is pending in the Superior court.

ELEVEN HELD FOR \$5,000,000 THEFT OF WAR SUPPLIES

New York, Feb. 21.—Eight clothing manufacturers, two employees and a clerk in the quartermaster department of the army were indicted by the federal grand jury here today, charged with being concerned in extensive uniform cloth frauds.

Cloth and other army supplies worth approximately \$5,000,000 were stolen, according to Lieut. George D. Barnit of the New York police, who in conjunction with the federal authorities investigated the alleged frauds which he said included thefts in other parts of the country. He asserted that a plot of nationwide proportions had been uncovered and that investigations in other cities probably would be undertaken.

The indictments are based on evidence gathered by the federal district attorney's office in connection with the arrest about two months ago of Louis Davidson, head of the Universal Cloth Shrinkage & Refinishing works here.

BOLSHEVIKISTS IN CHINA PROMPTING ANOTHER REVOLT

Peking, Saturday, Feb. 16.—Bolsheviki from Russian Turkestan as well as Germans and Turks are inflaming the Chinese Mohammedan population of province of Sinciang, Chinese Turkestan, against the government, says a report from Gen. Yang Tseng Sin, governor of the province.

The general warns the government that arms and ammunition are supplied by the enemy. He says there are prospects of a Mohammedan rebellion similar to the one that began in 1861. Even the loss of Chinese Turkestan is possible, he added.

IGNORE PLEAS FOR PEACE MADE BY SLAVS' LEADERS

HAPSAL AND MOLODECSNO TAKEN, GERMANS PUSH ON TOWARD VITEBSK, MINSK, PSKOFF AND REVAL—AIRMEN BOMB REGITSA—DVINSK ENTERED TWO HOURS AFTER ARMISTICE ENDED.

Petrograd, Wednesday, Feb. 20.—(By the Associated Press) Dispatches received here indicate continued German movements along all fronts toward Vitebsk, Minsk, Pskoff and Reval. German airmen are reported to have raided Regitsa, on Monday. Many bombs were dropped and several persons were killed.

Troops that occupied Dvinsk are advancing toward Pskoff, 180 miles south southwest of Petrograd, according to a Reuter dispatch. They also have occupied Hapsal, Estonia, and their cavalry is pushing toward Mohilev, the former Russian general headquarters.

BRITISH TROOPS TRUMPETING AT JERICHO WALLS

London, Feb. 21.—A further advance of three and a half miles on a front of seven and three-quarters miles has been made by the British forces in Palestine, the war office announces. The British are now within four miles of Jericho. The operations are continued.

The British losses on Tuesday when an advance was made on a 15 mile front east of Jerusalem were very small. Yesterday's losses have not been reported.

The British also advanced northwest of Jerusalem to a maximum depth of one mile on a front of four miles.

VAST AMOUNT OF BOOTY TAKEN BY HUNS IN RUSSIA

Berlin, Feb. 21, via London.—The war office announced that 1,531 guns and between 4,000 and 5,000 motor cars have been captured from the Russians.

The Russian town of Rovno has been cleared of the Russians, the war office reports. Trains with about 1,000 cars, many laden with food, have been captured, as well as aeroplanes and an incalculable amount of war material.

U. S. AERO CLUB SEEKING REMEDY FOR AIR MENACE

New York, Feb. 21.—A special meeting of the executive board of the Aero Club of America was called here today to consider and take action on the aeroplane situation on the American front in France as told in dispatches from the American front.

"The reports would indicate that the situation is indeed serious," an official of the club said. "Our executive board will meet today and we shall take immediate steps to ascertain whether we can do anything that will assist the government in removing the menace. It has been truly said that 'the war will be won in the air,' and if the Germans, as the dispatches say, are in control, we must speed up our preparations to wrest it from them."

The dispatches said "control of the air in the American sector belongs to the enemy." German machines coming and going "almost at will" over the American lines.

Twenty German sailors were killed by their own mines in the Baltic.

Burglars robbed the safe of \$700 in nickels at the Automat dining room at No. 904 Sixth avenue.

The Novaya Viedomsty, the dispatch adds, says the Germans have occupied Molodecno, an important railroad junction northwest of Minsk. According to the Pravda the Austrians have begun an advance on the Ukrainian front. Just two hours after the armistice ended German troops entered Dvinsk. It was 2 o'clock on the afternoon of Feb. 18 that German patrols unexpectedly appeared around the city and seized the railroad stations and other central points. Only small skirmishes with fleeing soldiers took place. The Red guard offered no resistance, while the artillery and infantry were demobilizing and unprepared to fight. Attempts to evacuate the city were unsuccessful. Much heavy artillery and large quantities of ammunition fell into the hands of the Germans. The civilian population had no opportunity to escape. The commissaries of the local workmen's and soldiers' council tried to escape disguised as soldiers, but they were seized by the Germans. The decision of the Soldiers' and Workmen's delegates to accept the German peace terms was reached by a majority of only one vote after a heated debate lasting throughout Monday night. Great secrecy was observed in regard to the meeting, which was adjourned several times to permit the Bolsheviki and the Social Revolutionists to hold party caucuses. There were divisions in both parties on the subject. Premier Lenin, Foreign Minister Trotsky, Ensign Krylenko, commander-in-chief, and many other leaders addressed the council. Military men explained the impossibility of offering effective resistance, but no decision was reached until messages had been received showing that the Germans had captured Dvinsk with ease and were advancing all along the front. This news reached the council early Tuesday morning, and influenced the delegates to decide for peace. Before the capture of Dvinsk Premier Lenin said he was opposed to peace, but finally urged that peace must be obtained at any price in order to insure the reconstruction of Russia. He said the Germans were advancing on a solid front from the north to the south. The announcement of Russia's decision to accept the German terms was sent by wireless at 5 o'clock Tuesday morning. At first the German wireless station showed a disposition to refuse to take the message, but finally, four hours later, acknowledged it. Bolsheviki leaders held repeated conferences throughout Tuesday, and late in the afternoon received the German reply, refusing to accept the wireless message as official and requesting that a delegation be sent to Dvinsk to confer with regard to peace. The Russian press is divided as to the wisdom of the council's action. The Pravda says the soldiers' and workmen's delegates have again shown willingness to make peace and carry out their pledges, and that whether Germany accepts the offer or does not, the Bolsheviki have won a moral victory. The Nova Jizn says the Bolsheviki have brought the affair to an ignominious end and have proved themselves to be adventurers who are willing to keep themselves in power at any price. Bolsheviki leaders declare that if the German advance continues they will defend Petrograd with the Red Guard and harass the German advance by guerrilla warfare. No plans have been made for evacuation of this city. The Bolsheviki say this is a new war, not the old war, and that they will present a united front against the Germans. They believe the proletariat of Russia will be able to continue the struggle. The War Department approved the scheme for the publication of a weekly newspaper in France for the American troops.