

# News From at Home and Abroad

(By Associated Press)

## AUSTRIAN SOCIALISTS WANT PEACE TERMS WITH WILSON

Like a great tidal wave the German invasion of Russia rolls forward. From Leal, Esthonia, the Russian province on the South shore of the Gulf of Finland on the north, to Rovono, the Germans are still advancing. The Teutonic forward movement has taken the form of a crescent with its convex space toward the heart of Russia. Minsk which was occupied Wednesday by German troops, according to an official report from Berlin, is at the extreme curve of the wave.

The formal message of surrender sent to the German high command in Russia after Berlin had refused to accept the capitulation by wireless has not as yet been received and it is probable that there would be no halting of the German invasion until Russia abject acceptance of peace terms in the hand of the German general staff—possibly not then. Official reports from Berlin Thursday were to the effect that the booty captured at Rovono is enormous. Among the items enumerated were 100,000 guns, 120 machine guns, 4000 to 5000 auto cars and trains with about 1000 carriages, many of which were laden with grain; aeroplanes and war planes of an amount said to be "incalculable." Should the German armies continue to advance after the formal message of surrender is delivered, it is probable that the Bolshevik leaders will order guerrilla warfare against the invaders. It was announced Wednesday at Petrograd that the advance of the Teutonic armies began a new army, and there will be stern resistance offered before the Russian capital is given up. The situation in Russia has stirred up opposition in Germany, especially among the independent Socialists, whose leader, George Ledebauer, spoke in the Reichstag Thursday and said that the treaty of peace with Ukraine was not acceptable to his party. Another Socialist leader is reported to have expressed the hope that military operations in the East would cease.

The attack made by the French in Lorraine Wednesday is reported to have swept the Germans out of the first line trenches over a wide front, but except for the statement that 525 prisoners were captured, there is nothing definite as to the magnitude of the blow delivered by the French.

Northwest of Jerusalem the British have continued the advance over a four-mile front, while east of the city they have approached a point within four miles of Jericho. These operations are reported to be continuing.

Premier von Seydieler of Austria has been urged by Socialists to accept President Wilson's statements regarding principles upon which general peace can be discussed. Opening of negotiations immediately with the United States is demanded.

## Government Ownership Champions Lose Out In Senate

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Champions of government ownership lost in the Senate today overwhelmingly their fight for indefinite federal control of railroads after the war. An amendment to the railroad administration bill, offered by Senator Johnson of South Dakota and providing that government control would continue until otherwise ordered, was defeated 61 to 10. The contest over disputed sections upset plans for passing the bill today in both houses, but the Senate disposed of all important amendments and will reach a final vote tomorrow. Discussions continued in the House, where under an agreement to close general debate at six o'clock tomorrow night, the leaders expect to pass the measure early next week. General debate is limited. The first test of strength upon the effort of the radicals to amend the compromise draft brought out by the Senate Interstate Commerce committee, came up on an amendment designed to reduce by about \$173,000,000 compensation to be paid the railroads. It was beaten, 52 to 23.

## EAST FACES FOOD SHORTAGE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—The eastern part of the United States faces a food shortage likely to continue 80 days. In making this disclosure tonight, Hoover declared the situation is the most critical in the country's history and that in many of the large consuming areas, reserved food stores are about exhausted. The whole blame is put by Hoover on railroad congestion, which, he says, also has thrown the food administration far behind in its program for feeding the allies. The only solution, he says, is a greatly increased rail movement of food stuffs, even to the exclusion of much other commerce.

It was very evident tonight that the railroad administration is inclined to recent Mr. Hoover's blame of the railroads, and Director General McAdoo said he was ready to provide every transportation facility to expedite food movements. The railroad administration, he said, suggested farmers release their grain holdings, that large numbers of available cars might be utilized in moving them. Cereal exports to the allies, Mr. Hoover's statement says, will be 45,000,000 bushels short by the end of February, and meat shipments also are far short of the amounts promised.

## RAILROAD MEN MUST HELP GOVERNMENT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—In a general order tonight designed to qualify the relation between the railroad administration and employees of the roads, Director General McAdoo emphasized that officials and workmen no longer are serving a private interest but the government and the public only, and that all must work together for the common object of defeating Germany. That the greatest efficiency may be at all times maintained, the director general ordered that all laws pertaining to the promotion of the safety of employees and passengers must be fully complied with; that where necessary men must work a reasonable amount of overtime; that the retention of men in their jobs would be determined by their fitness and character of services rendered and that no discrimination shall be made against any employe because of membership or non-membership in labor organizations.

## ADJUSTMENT OF CARPENTERS' STRIKE NEAR

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Concessions to William M. Hutchinson, president of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, in adjusting the claim of shipyard workers, appeared probable tonight after conferences with officials. The original signers of an agreement to leave all differences to the shipbuilding adjustment board for settlement will be called in to see if the agreement can be amended to meet the demands. The signers included navy and shipping board officials. The carpenters were the only ones employed that did not become a party to the memorandum. Hutchinson has declined to leave to the board decision respecting conditions of labor, but has agreed to a proposal for signing the memorandum if it is amended to permit a representative of the carpenters to have a say in the board's findings.

## AGREEMENT REACHED WITH SPAIN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—An economic agreement with Spain under which General Pershing will get mules, army blankets and other materials in that country in return for cotton, wool and other commodities from the United States, was signed today in Madrid. The state department was so advised tonight. Success of the negotiations was welcome news today to officials, as the ability to buy supplies in Spain will save ship tonnage and enable General Pershing to build up his reserve stores much more rapidly than probably otherwise possible.

## CHICAGO SETS PRICE ON OATS

CHICAGO, Feb. 21.—Maximum prices on oats and provisions were set by the Chicago board of trade today to an effort to stop speculation in those products. A resolution adopted by the board of directors provide "That on and after February 23, members of this association in making contracts for the purchase or for the sale by grade alone of oats to be delivered in store during the month of February, March, April and May, 1918, shall not in entering such contract exceed the price of 98 cents per bushel."

## "FIGHTING FOR OUR LIVES," SAYS MILNE

LONDON, Feb. 21.—Viscount Milner, member of the war cabinet, speaking at Plymouth today, deprecated too much talk about war aims. "Until peace negotiations are reached," he said, "we are fighting for our lives and the very existence of the free nations of western Europe. As a result of the collapse of Russia, the military party of Germany is firmly in the saddle."

## WAR FINANCE BILL TO PASS SOON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—Prompt passage by bipartisan support of the administration measure to establish a war finance corporation and provide federal supervision over private securities was planned today when the revised measure was reported to the Senate with unanimous endorsement of the finance committee. The House also is preparing to expedite action.

## MANY KILLED IN CHINA EARTHQUAKE

AMOY, China, Feb. 21.—Latest reports from Swatow gives the number of dead from the recent earthquake as 600 and the injured at more than 2000. Several villages in the Amoy hinterland were virtually wiped out.

## OTIS PALMER WRITES

SOMEWHERE ELSE IN FRANCE  
Jan. 20, 1918.—Dear Folks:—Whitely and I have just finished playing some pinochle and as I am not very sleepy will write some letters before I turn in. Spent 11 hours in bed last night, but am not repeating tonight.

Say, you were pretty lucky to get those first letters I sent as the censor now wonders how they were let go through.

We are quartered in a very good town now, the best we have been in yet. Three cafes, two stores, two bakeries, two butcher shops, a brewery and a cheese factory. Some town. Only a short distance from a larger one, though.

While on the road the other day we saw some infantry throwing hand grenades.

It is Spring time here I guess. At least it seems that way. The snow is gone, the roads dried up and the wind is warmer. We have a good billet now, the whole company together again. Before we were put in several billets.

Ever since we hit France I have been watching for those so-called beautiful French women. They must have them hid away, for there are not very many of them in sight. Maybe they are in Paris. All we see is the peasant class.

Send me some films for my camera and I will take some pictures

of this country. I have not taken many pictures, saving what films I have. But suppose I will never regret it if I take lots of them, so might as well commence.

Just received two packages and a roll of magazines and newspapers. Had just finished my Christmas gum and was wondering what I was going to do without it. Ardis, that is the most wonderful candy; believe that I could eat ten pounds of it.

The town we are now in is located on the Marne river, about 326 meters above sea level. The river is quite swift. I discovered some of Dad's favorite fish bait in it the other day. Will look for him over to catch the bunch a mess of fish.

I see that \$250 has been raised for us. We are beginning to use the mess fund more, as there are more opportunities to get what the entire bunch can use. I invested a franc in cookies the other day and got ten smaller than a ginger snap and not near as good.

The box containing the sweaters, socks, etc. that you started October 18 has arrived. Some traveling it must have seen, as it was three months and a week in reaching me. Other packages sent long since it was started have beaten it in.

We were issued new shoes and socks yesterday. I got five pair of socks and one pair of shoes, which makes three pair of shoes since we got uniforms. They are black with

solid steel plates, with calks on heel and toe, and I'll bet they cover a yard if I put one ahead of the other. They are the ugliest and most ungainly shoes that I have ever seen. The socks are very heavy woolen and I have two pairs on to fill my shoes.

Have a big inspection tomorrow with full equipment on.

Had cinnamon rolls for dinner today and pudding with apples in it for supper. We are living pretty good these days, preparing us for the trenches, I suppose. I would just as soon be up there working as sitting around here. I am feeling fine and chop wood for the kitchen to work off some energy.

The insurance papers are kept at Washington. They contain disability

clauses and are good for five years without renewing, but during that time can be changed to endowment, or life, or other kinds. Understand Congress will make better disability clauses later.

Nearly taps, so will say good night. From

Your son,  
OTIS W. PALMER.

Dry Creek District Patriotic.

SUMMERVILLE, Ore., Feb. 19.—The Dry Creek children are awake and rapidly responding to the War Saving Campaign as Lois Royer and Harold Oliver have each sold over \$50 worth of War Savings Stamps and are qualified members of "The Junior Rainbow Division. Also a

Junior Red Cross is being organized and nearly all of the children are enrolling and making a pledge of service.

A very entertaining program was rendered by the Dry Creek children to an appreciative audience Saturday evening, February 18. The proceeds of \$49.35 received from the sale of baskets will be used to improve the playgrounds. These children are to be highly commended for the interest shown in all of the school's activities.

Chamberlain's Tablets. These tablets are intended especially for disorders of the stomach, liver and bowels. If you are troubled with heartburn, indigestion or constipation they will do you good. —Adv.

# A Penny a Day Means a Kit-a-Month for a Boy at the Front



Every man, woman and child in this city can help keep one of our boys at the front supplied with cigarets and tobacco by setting aside one cent a day for each working day.

Just think what this little sum will do! For 25 cents we will enter your name on our Tobacco Fund list and will send 45 cents worth of smoking tobacco and cigarets to our boys in France. In the kit will be a postal card stamped and addressed to you, and on the kit will be a request to the soldier asking him to write a message to you on the postal and mail it.

The Red Cross takes charge of these kits of smoking material and distributes them; the French government sends back the postal bearing a one-cent United States stamp and admits the tobacco free of duty.

Surely if as busy an organization as the Red Cross Society and as pre-occupied officials as those of the French government will do these things to see that our soldiers get a chance to smoke, it isn't asking much to ask you to set aside one cent a day for the purpose.

Send in your contributions of any amount—25 cents, \$1.00, \$5.00, or more. For every 25 cents that you give, a separate postal bearing your name goes to the front.

Here's 45 cents worth of tobacco which is sent for your quarter:

A package of Tuxedo tobacco and four books of cigaret papers. Three pouches of Bull Durham Tobacco and three books of papers.

Two packages of Lucky Strike cigarets, twenty cigarets in each package.

A return postal card addressed to the contributor on which the soldier will pen his appreciation and gratitude for the gift.

## THE OBSERVER TOBACCO FUND