

HOLDS HOOVER AT FAULT FOR SUGAR FAMINE

Claus Spreckels Says Hands of Refiners Were Tied

DECLARES SHORTAGE PURELY FICTITIOUS

Crop Larger Than in 1916, But Was Diverted to Other Nations

FACTORIES REMAIN IDLE

Trust Controls Nine-tenths of the Output, He Tells Committee

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.

Herbert Hoover's food administration was blamed by Claus A. Spreckels today for the sugar famine in the United States.

Testifying before the Senate sugar-coal investigating committee today, he blamed Herbert Hoover's food administration for the sugar famine in the United States.

Chairman Reed early in today's hearing brought out the following facts:

There is no world sugar shortage. This year's crop is larger than last year's.

The food administration made American refiners agree not to import any sugar.

Other countries have decreased their sugar consumption—England 40 percent, France 50 percent.

Sugar has been diverted to other countries right through the United States.

The American Sugar Refining Company, known as the Sugar Trust, controls nine-tenths of the output this country.

"Could you get sugar today to run our factory?" asked Senator Kenyon.

"No, the sugar has been diverted," said Spreckels. "If we were to buy the price, but the food administration wouldn't let us. My refinery is not running now; it has no sugar to refine."

We had an opportunity to buy sugar in October and September, but the agreement with the food administration forbade our buying it. Then some of the sugar went to Canada—went right through New York.

Hoover was represented by Curtis H. Lindley, chief counsel for the food administration. Chairman Reed explained to the committee the members would decide later whether Hoover would be permitted to cross-examine witnesses.

Seeking to learn why the food administration restricted importation of sugar, Reed read a statement made last May by Hoover that a serious sugar shortage was imminent unless the supply was increased. This statement, made last May, estimated the sugar crop for 1917-18 would be 1,250,000 tons below that of the preceding year.

"As a matter of fact, the crop was in excess of the year before," said Spreckels.

Spreckels said refiners at first refused to sign the non-competition agreement, which included fixing of the price to the public.

"We had fifteen meetings with the food administration before the refiners finally signed the agreement," said Spreckels.

Spreckels said George M. Rolph, the San Francisco sugar refiner, who is one of the three American members of the international sugar committee named by Hoover, had contracted for the entire output of Hawaii plantations.

"The price of sugar here is less than 100 pounds than the New York price for imported sugar gave Rolph an advantage of \$1,500,000 a year over us, his rivals," said Spreckels.

Other members of the international committee, Englishmen, had no part in fixing a price for Porto Rican sugar, according to Spreckels. Sugar growers in Cuba and Peru forced the committee to pay \$6.90 a hundred pounds, the producer's own figure.

Spreckels was willing to pay more in order to obtain the sugar, but he believed it will be compensated for by conservation in this country."

Reed read into the record the non-competition agreement made October 1, 1917, at Hoover's behest. It bound sugar refiners not to import sugar, leaving all importation in the hands of the international committee.

"I objected to Hoover that the committee was refusing to pay a high enough price to get sugar to keep our refineries running," said Spreckels.

Receipt of Hawaiian sugar enabled the Rolph and two other refiners to operate, Spreckels said. These refiners had contracts not affected by the agreement with Hoover.

Nearly 100,000 tons of sugar available for the United States was either diverted or withheld, Spreckels declared.

"LONG LIVE THE KING"

The Newest Novel by Mary Roberts Rinehart

Begin in TOMORROW'S Evening Public Ledger



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HUNS MASS FIRE ON ITALIAN LINE

Big Guns Prepare for New Assault from Brenta to the Piave

CHECK MOVE ON VENICE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.

Artillery preparation for a stupendous attack by Austro-German troops assembled under General Von Below is being carried out against the Italian positions from the Brenta to the Piave according to official dispatches from the Italian war ministry this afternoon.

Operations of the Teutons against the Cape Sile bridgehead, which had for their object penetration of the Venetian lagoon, were halted after they had met with some success. Counter-attacks by the Italians, in which the young soldiers of the 1929 class took a leading part, drove the Austro-Germans from the positions they had gained. New attacks against the bridgehead are expected.

The Teutons have the advantage of very favorable weather conditions, according to official dispatches. Land that is usually inundated now is virtually dried out, allowing the invaders to pass without difficulty.

With the ITALIAN ARMIES, Dec. 14. The Austro-German drive in Italy has cost the combined Teuton forces a loss of 150,000 men, it was estimated today at Italian headquarters.

General Hottelendorf, the Austrian commander, and General von Below, the German leader, are making a desperate effort to pass over the Alps in their drive from the Brenta and Piave rivers. There is a gun placed on an average of every seven yards and a terrific artillery salvo constantly in progress in the entire sector.

"The combined firing of the Teuton field pieces drowns out all other sound and noise," said a military expert.

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BRITISH GAIN SLIGHTLY AT BULLECOURT

Positions Improved as Result of Night Bomb Fighting

ENEMY RAIDS POST

Few Tommies Missing After German Foray South of Pronville

BERLIN (via London), Dec. 14. A British attempt to recapture lost trenches east of Bullecourt was beaten back with heavy loss, today's official statement declared.

LONDON, Dec. 14. Improvement of British local positions east of Bullecourt as a result of bomb fighting last night was reported in Field Marshal Haig's statement today.

South of Pronville, he said, the enemy raided a post and a few British were missing.

"Violent artillerying in the neighborhood of Maison de Champagne, east of Suippes and in Alsace was reported in today's official statement issued by the French War Office. Southwest of Cerny the statement detailed a French raid.

A battle-raid party was repulsed Wednesday night southwest of La Bassee. We inflicted casualties on the enemy and secured a few prisoners as a result of patrol encounters east of Zonnebeker.

The official report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters in France last night says:

A hostile post south of Villers-Guislain was successfully attacked by us this morning. Its garrison were killed or taken prisoners.

East of Bullecourt bomb fighting has taken place this afternoon in a portion of the trench into which the enemy penetrated yesterday. A few additional prisoners were taken by us.

The enemy artillery has shown some activity at different points south of the Scarpe and also northeast of Ypres.

FOE'S SUPREME EFFORT NEAR, BRITISH WARNED

LONDON, Dec. 14. "We must expect that a million French and German fighters on the west front and many more guns and aircraft," declared Colonel Remington, the British military expert, in an article today emphatically warning the nation that Germany is preparing her supreme military effort there.

"Owing to the Russian disintegration and the Italian defeats," he declared, "the enemy is able to put larger forces than ever on the French front."

"There has been much evidence already of intensive transport of troops from the east. There are now 150 German divisions (about 2,250,000 men) on the west front and about seven-nine divisions (about 1,125,000 men) on the east."

"From the latter number all classes between 1912 and 1915 are being withdrawn for service on the Franco-British front."

"I don't know of a firm in Philadelphia that will be mean enough to refuse its aid," he declared.

Reaching the 500,000 mark will be "the easiest thing in Philadelphia," predicted the Rev. Dr. Joseph Kruskopf, of the United States ship "Berwind," died December 11 of pneumonia. Emergency address not given.

Private Maurice L. Capron, coast artillerist, died December 10 of pneumonia. Emergency address not given.

Private Harold Varney, marine corps, died of pneumonia. The date of his death and next of kin were not given.

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GOVERNOR AT MEMORIAL

Attends Dedication of Soldiers' Plot and Makes Address

YORK, Pa., Dec. 14.—Governor Brumbaugh and State Banking Commissioner Lafoon delivered patriotic addresses at the dedication of a plot of ground in memory of the Civil and Spanish-American War veterans at Wrightsville, near here, this afternoon.

The exercises were to have been held at Fourth and Hellam streets, where four cannon and a tabit have been placed, but the snowstorm resulted in the program being carried out in the United Evangelical Church, adjoining the park.

A. J. Warfield, chairman of the committee in charge of the celebration, presided.

The Governor and his party reviewed the public school children of the borough and were entertained at the home of Burgess W. Y. Wilton, who in the afternoon the Governor addressed the Woman's Club here.

OVER 100,000 JOIN RED CROSS

Pledges Announced Before Campaign Opens Gratify Committee

MORAL SUPPORT VITAL

More than 100,000 new members already are pledged for the southern Pennsylvania chapter of the American Red Cross.

This announcement was made this afternoon at a meeting before the opening of the great Christmas campaign for 500,000 new members—by Dr. Charles H. Hart, chairman of the campaign committee, following a luncheon at the Hotel Carlton Hotel. It is the first tangible estimate of the results achieved preliminary to the beginning of the drive next Monday.

Philadelphia's wealth and brains, the forces that drive the city's most varied activities, furnished the estimate. Influential leaders in finance, industry, business, the churches and the societies, reporting as members of the committee, gave figures to show how men, women and children have pledged their \$1 bills to become members of the Red Cross and thus to give their moral support to the nation at war.

It was a grim, businesslike meeting. "Gentlemen, we are at war," earnestly said E. T. Stoenberg, the financier, who presided as chairman of the southern Pennsylvania chapter. "Don't forget that. There is no playing about it. It is business. When I hear of the horror on the other side my heart aches. But we must win."

"This war will not be won by military strength alone," said Cyrus H. Kirtley, speaking for the publishers. "Moral support is vital. A dollar will give it. And it is the duty of every man to give it."

The first announcement of membership pledges came from Rear Admiral Tappan, commander of the Mayfield Navy Yard, who reported by telephone that 5000 League Island workmen had pledged their membership dollars. Officers and enlisted men not destined for service at sea would be lined up also, he said.

TO REACH ALL INDUSTRIES Joseph Lucas, chairman of the industrial group, outlined the plans to carry the Red Cross appeal to every industrial trade by letter, telephone and personal call.

"I don't know of a firm in Philadelphia that will be mean enough to refuse its aid," he declared.

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SAMMEES ARE SLAIN IN HUN AERIAL RAID

Details Lacking of Casualties Among Engineers Behind British Lines

BOMB FALLS IN STREET

Pershing Reports Names of Two Others Wounded in Action December 10

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Dec. 14.

Several American railway engineers were killed when German airmen raided a town behind the British front. Details are not yet known.

Officials at American field headquarters today were trying hard to get a list of the dead. The only information reaching here so far stated that "several" Americans were killed. They were all members of an engineering unit which was being employed behind the British lines.

It now is permitted to announce that a German bomb fell in a street in a town through which American troops were passing. Pieces of the bomb shattered the windows of a house in which there were officers, showering them with glass, but hurting no one.

Two American soldiers have died in hospitals from gunshot wounds.

General Pershing reports the names of two engineers wounded in action on December 10. They are: Private Einar C. Bryn, severely wounded. Father, Harold Bryn, 313 Union street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Private Isidore Kanner, slightly wounded. Father, Morris Kanner, 246 East Fourth street, New York city.

DEATHS OF ELEVEN U. S. FIGHTERS ANNOUNCED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14. Eleven deaths in the American fighting forces were announced by the War Department today.

First Lieutenant George M. Anderson, engineers, died aboard a United States transport December 9 of tubercular meningitis. His wife, Judith, lives at Alexandria, Va.

Sergeant Paul Jordan, of the quartermaster's corps, died December 10 of injuries received in a motorcycle accident. His next kin is Gladys Hater, an uncle, of Lubonia, Ga.

Private Harold Varney, marine corps, died of pneumonia. The date of his death and next of kin were not given.

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QUICK NEWS

BELIEVE BRITISH LINER SANK DURING STORM

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Dec. 14.—Members of the crew of a French liner which arrived here today believe that a British schooner sank during last night's storm. The schooner was inbound from a British port. The French liner supplied the distressed vessel with food and clothing, but could render no further assistance in the storm. Six of the ten members of the crew had been swept overboard.

BOILING WATER SCALDS CHILD

Helen Brodatti, three years old, 840 Mountain street, was seriously scalded about the face and head this afternoon when a pot of boiling water fell from the stove. She was playing on the floor of the kitchen of her home. She was removed to Mount Sinai Hospital.

RUSSIAN ARMY OFFICER COMMITTS SUICIDE

PETERSBURG, Dec. 14.—General Skalon of the Russian army, committed suicide under sensational circumstances today. Just prior to assembling of the Russian army conference, according to a dispatch from Brest Litovsk. Details are withheld. It was stated, however, that the Russian army commander shot himself. The suicide apparently occurred at German army headquarters.

BERLIN REPORTS SLAV ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS

BERLIN (via London), Dec. 14.—Negotiations are in progress for the eastern front armistice, today's official statement said.

KERENSKY ACCEPTS SIBERIAN POST

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 14.—Former Premier Kerensky has accepted the post of Minister of Justice in the first Siberian Cabinet, the newspaper Politiken stated today.

HOUSE VOTE ON SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT DELAYED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Objection by Representative Walsh, of Massachusetts, anti-suffragist, prevented in the House this afternoon an agreement to vote on the woman suffrage