

LAVS RALLY FOR DEFENSE OF CAPITAL

Men, Women and Even Prisoners Offer to Fight

SOVIETS NOW URGE BATTLE TO FINISH

Lenine and Trotsky Form "High Defense Council" at Petrograd

MARTIAL LAW IN CITY

Army Headquarters Hastily Moved to Smolensk, Losing Touch With Troops

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Official confirmation of United Press dispatches from Petrograd that the Russians will fight the German invasion and that allied ambassadors are preparing to leave the city if the situation becomes dangerous, was received by the State Department today.

Under date of February 18 Ambassador Francis cabled that the Soviet had announced its intention of defending Petrograd. He added that if the Germans reach Petrograd the allied representatives there would leave. He did not indicate where they would go.

On Thursday of this week the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER printed a cablegram from Joseph Shaplen, the United Press correspondent at the Russian capital, dated "Petrograd, February 23" in which the correspondent asserted that the Allied diplomats, headed by Ambassador Francis, were preparing to leave Petrograd in the event that the Germans marched on the city.

By JOSEPH SHAPLEN PETROGRAD, Feb. 22 (evening).—Men, women and even prisoners of war are rallying to the defense of the Russian revolution. A thousand women have offered themselves for the army.

Fifty thousand workmen soon will be ready to take their places in the battle line, it is declared.

Even thousands of war prisoners in Petrograd and Moscow—mostly Austro-Hungarians and Slavs, but including some Germans—are willing to join the defense, the Bolsheviks assert.

Telegrams received from Soviets in all parts of Russia urge a fight to the finish.

A "high defense council" has been formed, composed of Premier Lenin, Foreign Minister Trotsky, Stalin, Prodan and Karelin. The city has been placed under martial law.

The Russian west front military quarters have been hastily moved to Kholmetskiy (fifty miles east of Vitebsk, 500 miles south of Petrograd and 250 miles west of Moscow). It has lost touch with the separate armies.

The Germans in Livonia have seized a hundred railway engines and thousands of cars.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 21 (night).—The people's commissaries are in favor of the Russian armies retreating until they make a stand before Petrograd. This is especially true of the women's representatives.

Members of the Constituent Assembly have decided to convocate that body as soon as possible, it is announced.

Hurried preparations for defense are marked by confusion and desperation.

LENINE BEGS BERLIN TO REOPEN PARLEY

LONDON, Feb. 23.—While the Russia, Bolshevik Government so far apparently has been able to meet the German steam roller pressure on toward Moscow and Petrograd only with proclamations and words, dispatches from Amsterdam and Copenhagen today indicated a frantic effort was being made by the Bolsheviks to win Germany's consent to new peace terms.

Alexis Lidzinski, who has been in the city since the recent peace negotiations recently terminated abruptly at Brest-Litovsk.

Meanwhile, Enukin Kryeniko, Bolshevik commander-in-chief, was endeavoring to start guerrilla warfare against the advancing Germans, who have reached Rishlita. It is doubtful

Continued on Page Five, Column Five

"In the Battalion of Death"

A gripping story of woman's heroism in the cause of freedom, begins in this issue of the Evening Public Ledger

On Page 5. It is the truthful narrative By EVA ZAINTZ A Soldier in the Ranks

of the famous woman's fighting unit of the Russian army. Her story will be continued next Saturday.

WILSON TO FIX WHEAT PRICE BY PROCLAMATION

President Expected to Issue Order Tonight—\$2.20 a Bushel is General Belief

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—President Wilson tonight will issue a proclamation fixing the price for the 1918 wheat crop. Statements to this effect were made today in well-informed circles.

Various prices have been suggested for the crop since the President's proclamation of last August fixing it at the price of the 1917 yield. Suggestions for the 1918 yield range from \$2.20 to \$2.75 per bushel. Several congressmen favor the larger figures. It is probable, however, that the President will fix a price nearer the \$2.20 mark.

SOLDIERS PLOT TO KILL OFFICERS ON BATTLE LINE

Four in Pacific Coast Camp May Be Shot as Result of Charges

CAMP LEWIS, Tacoma, Wash., Feb. 23.—Intervention until the end of the war and perhaps the firing squad, is faced today by the four soldiers of the Ninety-first Division, who are under arrest here charged with plotting to kill their officers and deliver their comrades to the Germans as soon as they went into action in France.

Definite charges of treason, based on presidential warrants, it is expected, will be lodged against the men. Charges of officers today are awaiting positive instructions from the War Department at Washington before proceeding further in the case.

Army officials still maintain secrecy concerning the names of the men, as it is declared that all are Austrians.

An investigation to determine if Miles Bellan, the Austrian who was arrested for making unpatriotic remarks, was connected with the four plotters, is under way today. Army officials also are continuing their vigorous drive to weed out disloyal aliens from the Ninety-first Division.

WIDENER BUTLER QUILTS FOOD SAVING COMMITTEE

Organization Ridiculed by Press, He Resigns to "Uphold Dignity of Family"

Resenting newspaper publications holding up to ridicule the movement in which he was interested, W. S. Turner, butler for Joseph E. Widener and chairman of the committee on food conservation of the organization of butlers, chefs, stewards and household domestics of Philadelphia, has resigned from the committee, declaring that his action was taken to "maintain the dignity of the Widener household."

In a statement given out to the newspapers Turner paid high tribute to the patriotism of his employer and declared that everything possible is being done in the Widener household to conserve food and expressed the opinion that "this is no time for the newspapers to joke about a serious effort such as this proposed by the butlers, chefs and stewards."

The food administrator Jay Cooke declared that the organization is a most worthy one and that attempts to ridicule it are unjust and uncalled for.

CENTRAL HIGH DOWNS GERMANTOWN FIVE, 36-30

Coach Lewis's Protoges Lose Third Straight Interscholastic League Contest

Germantown High school basketball team dropped its third straight game this morning, when it lost to Central High by the score of 36-30, in an interscholastic league game played in Germantown Y. M. C. A. The "Cliveden second quintet also was defeated by the score of 42-12. Referee—James Ramsey; time of halves—20 minutes.

Germantown Central High basketball team forward Springbrook forward Armstrong guard W. Beckman guard Voegelein point Armstrong, 1; Hackman, 1; Voegelein, 2; Pugh—Dieterle, 1; Hein, 1; O. 6 out of 12; Referee—James Ramsey; time of halves—20 minutes.

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SHIRTS, COLLARS, CUFFS SMUGGED WITH SLUSH

Trolley Car—A Fast One—Hits Laundry Wagon With Dismal Results

Saturday shirts will have to be stretched over Sunday in many West Philadelphia homes, and strange as it may seem, the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company is to blame. Instead of being too slow, one of its Woodland avenue cars was too fast this afternoon, and it bumped headlong into a wagon of the Locust Laundry Company, near Forty-ninth street, overturning the vehicle and scattering several hundred shirts, collars, cuffs over the street. The driver, Bernard Stockman, was obliged to follow without being consulted in the matter.

The accident happened just as the noon and midday trains were turning under the sign of an unrelenting sun. Many cuffs were spattered beyond recognition. Stockman was treated from the University Hospital for repairs.

SENATOR DAVID BAIRD

EDGE, NAMING BAIRD, DEFINES OWN AIMS

Camden Republican Leader Accepts Seat in Senate as Hughes's Successor

Acceptance by David Baird, of Camden, of his appointment as United States Senator from New Jersey, was made public today by Governor Edge, who at the same time issued a statement dealing with the possibility of his own candidacy to succeed Mr. Baird.

Determination to uphold the President and regret that he could not "join the boys who have gone with the colors" were expressed by Mr. Baird in his message of acceptance. Mr. Baird, who is a Republican and former Sheriff of Camden County, was appointed by the Governor to fill temporarily the vacancy caused by the death of William Hughes, Democrat, of Paterson.

The seventy-eight-year-old South Jersey Republican leader will serve until November, when a successor will be elected to serve until March 3, 1919, the expiration of the Hughes term. At the same time a Senator will be elected to serve the full six-year term beginning March 4, 1919.

Governor Edge, told that there was much speculation about his entering the senatorial race for the remainder of the Hughes term and the full term, said that he was prepared to present his position after the Assembly adjourns and his legislative program is completed.

PLEDGED TO SUPPORT WILSON

In announcing the appointment, Governor Edge made public two interesting telegrams, one of which he had sent on Thursday, February 21, to Mr. Baird, in Florida, where the latter has been spending a vacation, and the other, a reply received yesterday. The Governor's telegram to Baird was as follows:

"Will you accept appointment as United States Senator to fill term of the Senator Hughes until vacancy filled by statute? In answering please carefully and frankly consider, above all other considerations whatsoever, that the people of New Jersey, while recognizing necessity of individual thought and action under ordinary conditions, insist that their representatives in Congress, in all matters pertaining to war, absolutely support the President as commander-in-chief of our forces on land and sea."

Mr. Baird's reply to the Governor was as follows: "On the anniversary of the father of our common country, and replying to your very offering me the appointment of United States Senator, to fill the existing vacancy, I beg leave to gratefully accept your kind proffer, fully appreciating the splendid honor conferred upon me, the opportunity to represent the great State of New Jersey in the highest legislative body in the world. I am likewise deeply grateful for the unsolicited of those friends who have urged my selection, which, as you know, comes without my solicitation."

"I accept with a full realization of the great responsibility. I am a man of few words; in thanking you for the confidence thus reposed in me, I assure you that I shall do my best to discharge the duties of the office of Senator with scrupulously and loyalty to the patriotic duty of supporting the President and strengthening his arm. I am an apostle of the creed that a united American people will win the war, that I believe in no political division. I am grateful for the opportunity to assist in

Continued on Page Four, Column Six

LINER SURVIVES FOUR ATTACKS BY U-BOATS

Italian Ship Arrives in United States Safely After Thrilling Trip From Europe

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Feb. 23.—A thrilling tale of attacks by four German submarines, which resulted in passengers arriving on an Italian liner from Italian, Spanish and French ports, was recounted today at the Bellevue-Stratford and will conclude tonight.

Three-minute reports made by the officers, district leaders of the association were marked by a unanimity of conviction that the prosecution of the campaign to insure the ratification of the suffrage amendment in this State should be carried on jointly with the work of women in the way and, in fact, should actually be regarded as part of war work itself.

An appeal to lose no time in starting the campaign was made by Mrs. George H. Wobensmith, who implored her hearers to do their utmost to bring the Pennsylvania Legislature to the support of suffrage. She denounced Representative Ganz, who she called the anti-suffrage "whip" of the House, as "a menace to the State." Of vital importance, she said, was the immediate opening of a campaign to see to it that men of suffrage leanings were nominated for the Legislature at the approaching primaries.

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CITY FACES BREAD CARDS IN 60 DAYS, COOKE'S WARNING

Must Commandeer Home Supplies Unless Other Measures Meet Crisis

MILLERS' OUTPUT TAKEN

Order Now in Effect Forces Flour Makers to Sell to U. S. Exclusively

The sale of wheat flour by millers to anyone but the Government has been forbidden for the last six days by an order from the food administration in Washington, and unless the saving thus accomplished meets the Allies' requirements, it will be necessary to commandeer the supply in Philadelphia homes within sixty days, Jay Cooke, Federal food administrator for Philadelphia, said today. Bread or wheat cards will be necessary soon after such action, he added.

"The situation in Europe is critical. I believe every American should know it. Unless we can ship them the required foodstuffs in time they will have to give up the fight. It is up to America to save the day, and I have implicit confidence in the American public," Mr. Cooke said. "I am firmly convinced they are willing and ready to face any emergency in the fight for freedom and democracy if they only know the situation."

MAY ISSUE CARDS

Six days ago an ultimatum was issued from Washington forbidding any miller in the United States to sell flour to any person without a Government

Continued on Page Four, Column Two

MRS. CATT AND VICTORY SMILE ARRIVE

Arrived in Philadelphia today.

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WAGON HITS LOCOMOTIVE

Loses Wheels When Frightened Horses Back Into Train

SWALLA AND SONS, DEALERS OF GEORGIA PARMS, AT FOXBOROUGH, WERE WARRIED NOT TO LEAVE THEIR WAGONS STANDING BY THE READING TRACKS AT "CRENSON STREET" BELOW FOXBOROUGH. IT WAS DISREGARDED TODAY.

The horses became frightened at the approach of a southbound express and backed the wagon into the locomotive, the impact tore off the rear wheels. No one was hurt.

THE BUSINESS CAREER OF PETER BERRY, a brilliant record of success in the commercial world, is continued on page 25.

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BASKETBALL SCORES

SWARTH. HIGH, 24 32-36 CENTRAL 22 14-38 LOWER MERION 11 15-26 GERMANTOWN . . 16 14-30

PRINCETON 15 6-21 GERMANTN AC. 21 - - CORNELL 10 4-14 ALUMNI 7 - -

W. CHES. NOR. . . 12 22-34 COATESVILLE 13 17-30 MILLERSVILLE . 11 18-20 W. CHES. RES. . . 8 13-23

HOBLOITZELL GETS ARMY COMMISSION

BOSTON, Mass., Feb. 23.—Dick Hoblotzell, the Red Sox first baseman, has been commissioned a first lieutenant in the army, according to word received here today. Hoblotzell, who is a dentist, is in Cincinnati.

FIRE IN PASSYUNK AVENUE SHOE STORE

Fire in the basement of the Joseph Greenbaum shoe store, 1108 Passyunk avenue, late this afternoon damaged property and cash, causing loss estimated at \$1000. Though the fire was confined to the basement, the firemen were compelled to flood the first floor.

OLD MAN ARRESTED FOR SHOPLIFTING

John Nolan, a seventy-five-year-old man, who said he lived at 522 North Tenth street, was arrested and accused of shoplifting in the five and ten cent store at 2611 Germantown avenue today. He will have a hearing in the Germantown police station tomorrow. He had a bag containing forty articles, supposed to have been stolen in the store.

Continued on Page Four, Column Two

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