

BELIEVE FIREBUG AT WORK IN CITY

Deputy Fire Commissioner Investigating Fires of Suspicious Character---Chief Secures Incriminating Evidence

H. F. Requarette of Lincoln, deputy fire commissioner, arrived in the city this afternoon for the purpose of investigating a number of fires of a suspicious character which have occurred here during the past few months.

An investigation conducted by Mayor Mayer and Fire Chief R. Woelke during the past few weeks has led these officials to the belief that a number of the fires were the work of fire bugs, and evidence secured within the past week indicates that some of the fires were started by a small boy. Letters of an incriminating character secured by the chief also indicate that still another fire bug has been busy at work and had planned other fires.

It is the belief of the mayor and chief, that the fires at the Butler hotel, the small building back of Scott's furniture store, the building at the corner of Fourth and Ella

streets, and the fire Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. Maud Postel, South Seventh street, were the work of the alleged gang of fire bugs.

All of these fires, upon investigation, bore every indication of being the work of incendiaries. With the exception of the fire at the Postel home, most of the fires have occurred at about the same hour in the evening.

From evidence secured by the local officials, it would appear that it was the plan of the fire bug to set fire to a number of business houses, the letters in the possession of the chief indicating plans of this character.

The matter is to be thoroughly investigated by Deputy Fire Commissioner Requarette, and should he deem the evidence secured as sufficient to secure a conviction, complaints will be filed against the parties under suspicion.

Dr. Cosford Opens Campaign Against Hog Cholera

Dr. S. E. Cosford, the government expert who has charge of the northern half of Gage county and all of Johnson county in the elimination of hog cholera and its prevention and control, is at Pickrell this afternoon conducting the first of the series of meetings that will be held in the territory assigned to him for the coming season.

These meetings are to be conducted regularly over the county as soon as the roads will permit of travel. A great deal of work was done along this line last year, and the results have shown the value of the experiments conducted under the supervision of Dr. Cosford. While no new cases have been reported, it is planned to start the work thus early in order to follow up the treatment for preventing a held from becoming inoculated with the disease.

School Students To Be Seen in Princess Bonnie

Prof. E. C. Tillotson, instructor of music in the public schools has commenced the rehearsal for the comic opera, "Princess Bonnie," which will be given by the students of the high school in the near future.

The opera is one of the lighter musical productions, but is replete with beautiful solos and chorus work, and the professor is working diligently to make it one of the best productions ever given by the students of the high school. All of the characters are taken by students, and it gives promise of being an event in the annals of the high school. No date has been announced yet for its appearance.

French Steamer Emma Is Sunk In English Channel

Dover, England, April 1.—The French steamer Emma, Dunkirk, Ireland, to Bordeaux, was torpedoed in the English channel on Wednesday it was learned here today. A British destroyer brought two survivors and two members of the crew here today.

The survivors had been in the water for two hours, when found. They declare that the Emma was torpedoed without warning by a German submarine. She sank almost immediately and the submarine made off leaving the crew to their fate.

Pushing the Work Of Improving the Athletic Park

The work on the Athletic park is progressing favorably and the park will be in first class condition by the time the baseball season opens in Beatrice. The west side of the park next to the retaining wall built last fall has been filled in and workmen are engaged in building the brick part of the wall across the west and south sides of the park. There is considerable more filling and grading to do yet before the park will present an appearance equal to what it was at the close of the season last year, but when this work is completed there will be an extra twenty-five feet added to the left field of the diamond.

In addition to this a drive way has been constructed across the west end of the park for automobiles and other vehicles. The driveway is on a level with the surface of the ball field so it will not interfere with the fielding of the ball players.

Program For Woman's Club For Friday

The commercial club rooms have been redecorated and the Woman's club will meet again at that place Friday afternoon. The meeting will begin promptly at 3 o'clock as there are delegates to District convention to elect and other business.

The program is in charge of the Literature department, Miss Julia Fuller leader, and is as follows:

Nature Books in our Library by Miss Morton.

Piano solo, Mrs. B. D. Hotchkiss.

"Little Scotch Martyrs," Marie Stevens.

Belgian Airmen Attack Germans Near Dixmude

Paris, April 1.—Belgian aviators made a concerted attack on German positions near Dixmude, according to dispatches received here today. It is believed that great damage was done to the German aviation camp.

* WEATHER FORECAST *
* Fair tonight and Friday; *
* not much change in temper- *
* ature. *
* Temperature at 8 o'clock 31. *
* Temperature at 3 o'clock 54 *
* Precipitation, none. *

A Big Revival

Now in Progress at Baptist Church : 20 Conversions

MEETINGS EVERY NIGHT

ADOPT PLANS FOR NEW CHURCH EDIFICE

Members of Congregational Church to Erect \$16,000 Building at the Corner of Sixth and Grant Streets

Plans for the erection of a new edifice to cost \$16,000 were adopted at a meeting of the membership of the Congregational church held Wednesday evening.

The meeting of the members of the church was called Wednesday evening for the purpose of hearing the report of the building committee, which has had the matter of plans and other details incident to the construction of the new building under consideration for some time.

The committee submitted its report, the plans suggested calling for the erection of a brick and stone structure to cost not to exceed \$16,000. The report of the committee was adopted and the committee was urged to make haste with its work.

The building is to be thoroughly modern and will be a credit to the city and to the congregation. It is to be erected on the church property at the corner of Sixth and Grant streets. The plans having been adopted, the committee intends to advertise for bids at once and it is hoped to begin work on the new edifice within the next few weeks, it being the intention to push the work to completion as rapidly as possible.

The church disposed of its property at the corner of Eighth and High streets some months ago to the congregation of St. Paul's German-Evangelical Lutheran church, synod of Missouri, and since that time has been holding its services in the commercial club rooms.

BUSY MONTH AT POSTOFFICE

Office Force and Rural Carriers Required to Keep Record of Parcel Post Matter.

The month of April promises to be a busy one for Beatrice post-office employees, including the rural mail carriers.

During this month the office force is required to make a record of all parcel post matter received at or sent from the local office. The weight of the various packages must also be tabulated and the zones from which matter is sent. This record must be sent to the postoffice department at Washington.

The rural carriers will also have their hands full, being required not only to keep a record of parcel post matter handled, but also to tabulate all classes of mail carried by them on their routes during the month.

Postmaster J. R. McCann informs the Express that the rural carriers report the roads as improving on their routes. All patrons have been served during the past week, and within the next few days all of the carriers expect to be able to drive their full routes which some of the number have been unable to do owing to the condition of the roads.

The Beatrice office remains in the first class the coming year, according to the amount of business for the year which ended March 31, the postmaster states, thus saving the office employees from a decrease in their salaries.

Await Equipment From Department At Washington

Honolulu, April 1.—All attempts to recover F-4 have been abandoned awaiting the equipment from the naval department at Washington where \$21,000 appropriations have been raised.

All hopes for saving the crew were abandoned several days ago. Expert divers will arrive from Washington and work will be resumed to raise the submarine.

* TODAY'S ODDDEST STORY. *
* "April Fool" on the Allies. *
* Pendleton, Ore., April 1.— *
* Dark days are looming up for *
* France. "Cyrus Noble," un- *
* busted broncho of the eastern *
* Oregon plains, has just been *
* sold to the French government *
* as a cavalry charger. For *
* three years, visitors to the *
* Pendleton "Roundup" have *
* watched the world's most skill- *
* ful riders try to conquer Cy- *
* rus. Everyone was hurled sky- *
* ward, recovering consciousness *
* with a "never again" vow on *
* his lips. *

Beatrice Man Dies at Hospital In Hastings

A telegram was received in this city yesterday announcing the death of W. H. Ragan, of Beatrice, who died at a hospital at Hastings Tuesday night following an operation.

Mr. Ragan was about thirty-five years of age. He leaves no family except his wife. Mr. and Mrs. Ragan have been living at the Burwood hotel for about two years. He was a representative for the Rumely Threshing company.

Donald Oden Given Surprise On His Birthday

A number of young men surprised Donald Oden last evening at his home on South Eleventh street in honor of his nineteenth birthday anniversary.

A six o'clock dinner was served and a pleasant social time enjoyed.

Senate Kills Bill Doing Away With Two Inspectors

Lincoln, April 1.—Fire Inspector Ridgell and Hotel Inspector Ackerman were relieved by the senate today. The bill was passed a few days ago decapitating them politically, but the senate today killed the bill.

KING OF ENGLAND FOR PROHIBITION

Great Britain, Russia and Germany are All for Prohibition During Remainder of War ---Effect Felt Here

London, April 1.—England is nearing prohibition today. The letter of King George, to David Lloyd-George, in which he says that he is prepared to set the example by giving up all alcoholic liquors himself and by issuing orders against its consumption in the royal households, gave the movement a big boost today.

At the same time dispatches from Amsterdam show that Germany too is putting the throttle on the liquor business. The German federal council passed an ordinance allowing each state to prohibit or limit the sale of liquor.

In England the government is not considering the moral effect but is taking its action merely on economic basis.

Paving Way for America.

Washington, April 1.—National prohibition in the United States

within five years, if not sooner, is the prophecy of Senator Morris Sheppard of Texas.

"This action on the part of England means that we will have a good chance to put our prohibition bill through next winter. England following the action taken by Russia will give the necessary impetus here and will show that it is not the idea of a few cranks, but is being considered over the entire world."

Lord Kitchener Responds

London, April 1.—Lord Kitchener was the first to respond to the suggestion of prohibition. He announced today that as long as the war lasts no liquor will be served in his household. Similar announcements are being made by members of the cabinet and other people of rank.

The king's appeal is said to have had great effect at Glasgow.

America Demands Payment For William P. Frye

Washington, April 1.—The American demand for payment for the William P. Frye, which was sunk by the German submarine, Eitel Friedrich was sent to Ambassador Girard at Berlin today.

The protest claims that it was a flagrant violation of international law and will ask no payment for the English-owned wheat cargo.

As it is known that she will not defend the action of the Eitel Friedrich, prompt payment by Germany is expected.

Germans Building Large Number Of Zeppelins

By Carl W. Ackerman.
Berlin, via The Hague, April 1.—The Germans are building Zeppelins much faster than the British are building war ships. It is believed they are planning an attack en masse on forty-five cities of the enemy and that it will not be long before it is made.

Zeppelins and German taubes are flying over Berlin at all hours of the day. They leave the German capital for unknown destinations and their work is more successful than Americans ever thought it would be.

Will Observe Good Friday In Churches

Good Friday will be observed tomorrow at Christ church (Episcopal) by the following services:

9 a. m. Ante-communion service.

12 m.—3 p. m. The Three Hours service.

7:30 p. m. Litany and address.

At St. Joseph's Catholic church Good Friday services will be held at 8 a. m. and Stations of the Cross at 8 p. m.

At Trinity Lutheran church a preparatory service for Easter Communion will be held Friday evening at 8 o'clock.

Germans Take Large Number Russian Captives

Berlin, April 1.—During their march in Poland the Germans took 55,800 Russian prisoners it was announced today.

Cholera Epidemic May Spread When Summer Comes

Washington, April 1.—"When the European war closes it will be necessary to increase the number of health guardians at our foreign stations," Surgeon General Rupert Brue, of the American Health Service, said today.

"The cholera epidemic is apt to spread with the return of summer," said Brue. "Lightness of travel will help to prevent its spread for a time. After the war, if the expected immigration commences, our health examiners in foreign places will have to be increased. In Naples where we have three health commissioners, no increased precautions will be necessary but in other places where we leave it to foreign consuls something must be done.

"I do not believe that with exercised ability we need fear a war with disease."

Hydroplane Drops Several Bombs On Czar's Palace

Cettinje, Montenegro, April 1.—For the third time airmen have attempted to take the life of the czar and his family. A hydroplane dropped several bombs on the czar's palace, but little damage was done.

At another point in Cettinje five bombs were dropped, injuring four civilians.

Believe Time Is Ripe to Suggest Peace In Europe

By Alice Rohe.

Rome, April 1.—Ambassador Page has been urged by a number of people who are interested in international politics to suggest to the United States government that the time is now ripe for suggestions of peace.

I learned this today from a person, the reliability of whose opinion is not questioned, but the name cannot at this time be revealed."

Governor Signs Bill To License Chiropractors

Lincoln, April 1.—Governor Morehead today signed the chiropractor's bill, providing for the licensing of chiropractors to practice in Nebraska.