

BRITISH RETREAT AT ARMENTIERES; RETAIN HOLD ON MESSINES RIDGE; SAMMIES BREAK UP HUN ASSAULT

SAYS IRISH READY TO RESIST

Will, It Is Understood,
Resent With Arms
Conscription.

REDMOND WARNS THE PARLIAMENT

London, April 11—Absolute calm seems to prevail among the Sinn Fein party, says a Central News dispatch from Dublin, but it is understood that orders have been given to all sections of the Irish volunteers regarding action to be taken in the event Irish conscription is agreed upon.

At a meeting of many public bodies fiery speeches have been made and strong resolutions have been passed against the application of the man-power bill to Ireland.

Irishmen maintain the right to say whether they shall be conscripted, Capt. William A. Redmond, son of the late John E. Redmond, declared yesterday in his first speech in the house of commons since he was elected to the constituency formerly held by his father. His speech was during discussion of the government man-power bill. The captain was in military uniform and occupied his father's old seat in the house.

In 1914, he said, Ireland was nearly ablaze with enthusiasm on the side of the Allies, but the sentiment of the Irish people had since changed toward the war, owing to distrust of the British government and in the words of British ministers.

By the government's present action the Ireland of tomorrow, he added, would be in open hostility to the war. It would require armies in Ireland to recruit battalions. Capt. Redmond warned the house that if the government pursued its present policy there would soon be no Irish party in the house of commons, but there would be a much harder nut to crack—Ireland.

MINNETONKA WAS SUNK BY U-BOAT TWO MONTHS AGO

New York, April 11.—The big British steamer Minnetonka, 13,528 tons gross, and formerly in the New York-London passenger trade for the Atlantic Transport line, was sunk by a German submarine in the Mediterranean during February, the maritime register reports today.

The Minnetonka was one of four passenger ships of the line aggregating 55,099 gross tons, all of which have been sunk since the war began. The others were the Minneapolis, sunk March 22, 1916; the Minnehaha, sunk Sept. 7, 1917; and the Minnewaska, sunk Nov. 29, 1917.

JUDGE REFERS COUPLE TO THE DIVORCE COURT

The application of Ethel Stout for the removal of her husband, J. W. Stout as legal guardian of their three-year-old daughter was dismissed by Judge Paul L. Miller of the Probate Court yesterday. In his decision Judge Miller referred both persons to the divorce court to settle their differences.

The court found that there was no evidence indicating that the child was being given improper treatment, and further that the tot is of such an age that she is not susceptible to her alleged immoral surroundings.

Attack On American Trenches At Toul Is Repulsed By Yanks

GERMANS AFTER 72 HOURS BOMBARDMENT SENT FORCE OF 800 AGAINST U. S. POSITIONS — ARTILLERY RAISES HAVOC IN RANKS OF ENEMY.

With the American Army in France, Wednesday, April 10—(By the Associated Press)—The Germans attempted an attack against the American positions northwest of Toul just before sunrise this morning and were completely repulsed. Two German prisoners said the enemy planned the attack with a force of 800 men, but that it was stopped in its full strength by the effectiveness of fire of the American artillery.

The Americans lost no prisoners. One of the German prisoners died later of wounds. Brilliant work by American gunners dispersed the German infantry before they reached the wire entanglements and those of the enemy who got into the wire were accounted for with machine gun and rifle fire.

ATTACK LASTED TWO HOURS

The German attack came after a violent artillery bombardment of three days. A large number of the enemy are believed to have been killed or wounded during the attack which continued for nearly two hours.

For 72 hours before their efforts the Germans had been firing an increasing number of shells at the American positions and making extensive use of gas shells. At noon yesterday the enemy began a harassing fire against one of our strong points and kept it up throughout the night, dropping hundreds of shells of all calibres on both front and rear positions. The American artillery replied vigorously, the men in some batteries working with their gas masks on for two or three hours at a stretch.

About 5 o'clock this morning German infantrymen in the front line signalled their batteries for a barrage and started for the American front line. The American gunners laid a counter barrage almost immediately.

PRECEDED BY SHOCK PLATOONS

The attackers who were especially trained for this operation were selected from among the best men in three regiments. They were preceded by shock platoons, but the American barrage caught them before they were able to reach our wire entanglements.

A terrific fire against the advancing enemy was kept up by the American batteries. The Germans probably suffered severe casualties, as several bodies were seen hanging across the barbed wire after the enemy retired. The attack was made in a heavy morning mist but the American gunners did wonderful work considering the poor visibility.

As soon as the American barrage lifted American infantrymen climbed from their shelters and attacked the enemy with heavy machine gun and rifle fire, driving back those who had not been dispersed by the artillery fire.

The attack was followed by a violent artillery contest which was still going on at a late hour tonight.

COLLINSVILLE MINER ADMITS BEING LEADER

Collinsville, Ill., April 11.—The inquiry into the hanging of Robert P. Prager by a mob here last Friday morning probably will be concluded tonight according to Coroner Lowe.

Developments at the inquest so far, which has been secret, are said to indicate that at least one participant in the hanging has confessed.

Joseph Riegel, 28 years old, a Collinsville miner and honorably discharged United States soldier, is said to have told the coroner's jury yesterday that he was the leader of the mob, that he and another man dragged Prager from the basement of the city hall and that although he did not pull the rope that hanged Prager, he looked on. He asserted that the dying wish of Prager was that he be buried in the American flag.

While the inquest was in session funeral services for Prager were held in St. Louis in respect to his request a flag was buried with him.

N. E. SPRUCE PRICES.

Washington, April 11.—Prices the government will pay for New England spruce were discussed at a conference today between the war industry board and representatives of the spruce industry. Prices will be based on cost of production figures supplied by the sellers and by the trade commission.

EMPRESS MARIA OF RUSSIA SAID TO BE STARVING

Stockholm, April 11.—American Minister Morris has been requested to try to send financial and other relief to the dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna of Russia, said to be living in actual destitution at the Crimean bathing resort of Yalta. Minister Morris will attempt to get money to the empress through Americans now in Russia.

AIRPLANE JOINS CHASE AFTER FOX

London, April 11.—An airplane recently joined in a fox hunt, according to Country Life. Its correspondent says: "While running we saw an airplane following us overhead about 100 feet up. The airman waved us the direction in which our fox had gone and when we checked we heard several shouts from aloft and were put right by our friend, the hounds verifying his information."

"A little later he landed in a field, old the master where he had seen the fox, then rose and circled above us. But the fox beat us."

NAVY BASE FOR U. S. CRAFT

Portugal Gives Right to
America to Use of
Territory.

MOST IMPORTANT TO TRADE ROUTES

Washington, April 11.—For the protection of the Atlantic trade routes to southern Europe the United States, with the consent of Portugal, has established a naval base at Funchal, on the Azores Islands. Guns have been landed to begin fortification of the station, which in addition to being used as a naval base for American submarines, destroyers and other small craft, also will serve as an important homing station for American aeroplanes, several of which already have been assembled there.

Negotiations now are in progress between the state department and the Portuguese government to insure full co-operation between American naval forces and the local authorities of Portugal on the islands for the adequate defense of the station. This action will simplify the task of protecting the great trade routes not only to southern Europe and the Mediterranean, but also returning traffic to South America and southern gulf ports in the United States.

Portugal not only was willing to enter the arrangement, but was eager to see it perfected, that her own lines of communication to her colonial possessions would be covered. The value of the new station as a base for the replenishment of supplies for American submarines, submarine chasers and destroyers on the voyage to Europe already has been demonstrated.

It is permissible to disclose these facts now because it is known to the government that they are known in Germany.

SENATE REJECTS REPORT ON THE ESPIONAGE BILL

Washington, April 11.—The conference report on the bill providing severe penalties for destruction or interference with production of essential war materials, containing the clause giving workmen the right to strike for better wages or working conditions, was rejected today by the senate, 34 to 25.

The vote will cause the house to reconsider the bill. The senate opposition was directed solely against the clause providing that the bill should not restrict workmen from striking.

Many senators who objected to the provisions regarded today's vote as a rebuke to workmen who have struck at ship yards and factories engaged on war work.

While the senate was rejecting the much discussed provision President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, speaking before the National Conference of American Legislators here, was denouncing the proposal to prohibit strikes and walk-outs.

"As a patriotic American citizen," declared Mr. Gompers, "I serve warning on congress not to permit the deviltry and folly of such a law. It will serve only to make strikers law breakers as well. Nothing will do more to create resentment than to make it unlawful for men to stop work."

Nobody, he declared, has served more effectively in offsetting the influence of pernicious German propaganda than organized labor.

Conscription of labor was assailed by Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, who declared conscription in a democratic nation should be used only for military purposes. Senator Brandegee of Connecticut voted against the measure. McLean of the same state did not vote.

Kaiser Attempts To Annihilate English Army By Offensive

PORTUGUESE TROOPS YESTERDAY FAILED TO HOLD FOE — MESSINES RIDGE HAS CHANGED HANDS SEVERAL TIMES IN FIERCE FIGHTING.

Armentieres has been evacuated by the British, while the Germans, driving in from the southwest of the town, are struggling to push forward in the area southwest of Messines ridge, the key point of the British line in Flanders.

Messines ridge itself has been the objective of desperate attacks, and the Germans are reported to have pushed onto the ridge several times during fierce hand to hand fighting. Each time, however, the British effectively counter attacked and today were still holding the ridge.

West of Armentieres the enemy struggling in his deep salient has pushed the fighting to the limit and at one time succeeded in driving about three miles beyond the river Lys to La Creche. By vigorous counter attacks the British ousted the Germans of La Creche and neighboring terrain.

HAIG STILL HOLDS TOWN

Wytshaete, south of Messines, was under heavy German attacks and possession of it changed hands several times, but this morning found Field Marshal Haig's troops holding the town.

There was a similar hard fight for Lestrem, at the western tip of the German salient, on the river Lawe. The Germans worked their way into this place yesterday but were unable to move on farther and ultimately were driven out of it and back across the Lawe.

The evacuation of Armentieres had been forecast and discounted as the place is without strategical value. What is left of the town is full of gas, hanging there from the copious gas shell bombardments.

North of Armentieres the British position hinges on Ploegstert and Ploegstert wood which the line bisected this morning.

FIGHT ALONG 25 MILE FRONT

There was no let up in the engagement today, the battle continuing on the entire 25 mile front from La Basse north to the Ypres-Gomines canal, just below Ypres.

Prisoners declare the offensive above Armentieres will be extended 40 kilometres northward. Everything the Germans can put against the British will be kept on this front and desperate fighting must be expected.

Yesterday's gains south of Armentieres were made mainly through the Portuguese front, on which the German delivered their main attack. The assault had been anticipated and the present line to which the Allies fell back was prepared as a counter move to check the rush.

DOCUMENT REVEALS PLANS

A captured German document shows that the German plan was very ambitious. They expected to push through as far as Bethune in a circular movement southward along the canal. This document stated that the ratio of forces would be three German regiments to six British companies, and certainly the enemy outnumbered the Allies greatly.

The British division which made such a gallant stand at Givenchy twice throwing the Germans out, then holding the place, was recorded as being very weak.

The Germans began the attack with an intense bombardment and then put down one of their heaviest barrages so far seen. Under protection of this they advanced.

VANGUARD OF U. S. FORCE

On the northern front American soldiers, the vanguard of a large force, have joined the British army. The first force was only a battalion in strength, but other American contingents are moving forward rapidly. Gen. Pershing's men were greeted enthusiastically by the British.

Desperate fighting continues uninterruptedly on a 25 mile front between Givenchy and Wytshaete, with the Germans suffering severe losses for small gains against the strong British defense. In two days of heavy engagements the enemy has not yet gained any point of strategical importance and the British still dominate the battlefield from the heights of Messines ridge on the north and Givenchy on the south.

Below Armentieres, where the attack was launched Tuesday, the Germans have made little additional progress, although they have crossed to the left bank of the Lys between Estaires and Bac St. Maur. Repeated attacks against the British line between Estaires and Givenchy toward Bethune have been checked sanguinarily. Berlin claims the capture of 6,000 men and 100 guns on this sector on Tuesday.

Emperor William and the German military leaders in the present offensive plan the wiping out of the British army. It is believed that the Germans now are seriously attempting by swinging their attacks to the north to annihilate British resistance. In consequence further assaults along the British front and much desperate fighting are expected.

PEDDLER OF DOPE HAS \$7,500

Chinaman Arrested This
Morning Had Fortune
in Possession.

GRIP CONTAINED \$2,500 HOP LOAD

Gee Sing, said to be one of the craftiest, wealthiest and most desperate of Chinese opium smugglers in the country, was arrested this noon when about to take the train for New Haven, at the railroad station, by Detective George Washburn.

He was carrying an innocent looking grip, which, when opened by Captain Detective E. O. Cronan, at police headquarters, was found to contain \$2,500 worth of pure opium and \$7,500 in money.

Three pipes, two of them new, and a lot of implements for the rolling and cooking of the deadly drug, with a lot of Chinese literature were also in the grip.

From information which the police possess Gee Sing made the establishment at 9 Waller court headquarters for his activities in the New England states. When the bland Oriental was locked up Lieutenant Dooley and Detective Washburn went to the place with the intention of raiding it. Upon arriving it was discovered the occupants had moved out early today and that Gee Sing was the last to leave.

Detective Washburn's capture is considered one of the most important in this branch of crime accomplished in a number of years. It is the result of months of trailing and quiet investigation on the part of the officer. When it is considered that Gee Sing has been arrested by the federal authorities on a couple of occasions in New York, without getting anything on him, the work of Washburn can be appreciated.

Examined by Captain Cronan, Gee Sing admitted he originally came from San Francisco, and has successfully evaded capture by the federal, state, county and city authorities from the Pacific to the Atlantic coast and from the northern parts of Canada to the Mexican border. He also admitting, after much "sweating" that he had large sums of money deposited in banks all over the country, and that he made about \$5,000 a week out of the sale of opium.

Police officials tried to get information as to how the opium was smuggled into the United States, but at this point of the cross-examination he refused to talk.

The opium seized today is done up in tins, labelled profusely with Chinese wrappers. Alexander McPherson, pharmacist, and Dr. J. F. Keegan, pronounced it opium after they had examined the contents of a can which had been opened. It is said to be worth more than \$150 a can and when sold in small lots runs up to about \$250 a can.

Gee Sing's associates in the opium peddling trade are known to the police, and it will be only a matter of a day or so before they are rounded up. It is not known at present what action will be taken by the federal authorities but it is thought they will take a strong hand in dealing with the gang.

There have been many rumors about opium peddling going on in the vicinity of the military cantonments, and it is more than likely that Gee Sing and his confederates will be implicated in many known cases of supplying opium to the keepers of dives near military and naval bases.

When searched for weapons Gee Sing was found to have a pint bottle of a mysterious brown mixture, which he seemed to be more than careful with. The police officials handled the pint bottle in a gingerly fashion until reassured by Alexander McPherson, that it contained nothing more injurious than a mixture of coffee and whiskey.

FIRST GOVERNOR OF N. M. IS DEAD

El Paso, Tex., April 11.—William C. McDonald, first governor of the state of New Mexico, died here today of Bright's disease. He was 60 years old.