GUARANTEE
Your Money Back
If You Want It.
See Editorial Page, Column 1

New York Tribune

First to Last—the Truth: News-Editorials-Advertisements

WEATHER.
Probable snow to-day and to-morrow. Moderate variable winds.
Full Report on Page 6.

VOL. LXXV....No. 25,307. [Copyright 1916—The Tribune Ass'n.] TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1916. ONE CENT In New York City, Newark, Jersey City and Hoboken. Elsewhere Two Cents.

Germans, Held at Verdun, Strike Nearer Paris

LANSING PUTS U-BOAT ISSUE UP TO ALLIES

Will Ask Pledge Not to Attack with Defence Guns.

GERMANY CITES SECRET ORDERS

Austria Backs Stand Not to Postpone Submarine Order.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Feb. 28.—Germany has at last succeeded, Administration officials admit, in making Great Britain a party to her submarine controversy with the United States. Ambassador von Bernstorff's memorandum, presented to Secretary Lansing to-day, states that the "secret orders" of the Entente Powers have given their armed merchant ships an offensive character and makes it necessary, in the opinion of officials, to seek assurances from the Allies or admit Germany's right to sink them.

The State Department, it is understood, has come to the belief that a vessel may take on an offensive character and thus forfeit immunity if her commander is instructed to attack submarines without first being fired on. On this understanding, it is held to be impossible to settle the present controversy with Germany without bringing in the Entente as a third party.

The German note reiterates assurances regarding the future conduct of submarine warfare given in the Lusitania case. It is declared those assurances have not been modified by the memorandum setting forth Germany's intention to treat armed merchantmen of the Entente Allies as auxiliary cruisers after midnight to-morrow. An attempt to justify the issuance of the memorandum is made by presenting evidence and assertions designed to prove that the British government has instructed merchantmen to use their armament for purposes of attack in violation of assurances given to the Unted States.

Contention of United States.

Later it was said at the State Department that while the United States stood unalterably for the right of a merchant ship to carry guns for defence, "it was not now and never had been contending that Americans could travel with immunity on ships having orders to act offensively."

It was indicated that although Secretary Lansing was not prepared at this time to accept as conclusive the allegations of Germany in regard to the confidential instructions alleged to have been given to British sea captains, that if the allegations were sustained the fact would have an important bearing upon the future attitude of this government. It is felt in high official quarters here that the question of motive is the cardinal consideration in determining the difference between defensive and offensive armament.

Copies of the so-called British instructions, which were handed to Ambassador Gerard in Berlin and which are considered by Secretary Lansing to be the all important element in the situation as it stands at present, have not yet arrived. Pending their receipt and a subsequent decision regarding the attitude of the United States, the State Department is prepared to consider any over act committed by the commanders of German and Austrian submarines in the light of the facts. It was authoritatively stated that the department probably would not act upon the case of an American who sustained injuries aboard a vessel which it could definitely be established was to be offensively used.

Distinction Is Made.

The State Department makes a broad distinction between resistance and offence. It holds that a merchant ship has a right to resist capture, but not to act offensively. Of course, it is admitted, a vessel loses all immunity while in the act of resisting.

Authoritative information obtained here to-night indicated that the British government probably would combat the allegations of Germany that British ships ostensibly armed for defence are in reality armed for offensive purposes. It was said that British masters had not been instructed to hunt for submarines; that, on the contrary, they had been told to do everything possible to avoid the craft, and that only in the event of a hostile submarine approaching without warning near enough to use

Continued on page 3, column 1

KAISER'S ORDER RECOGNIZING ARMED MERCHANTMEN.

[From Schedule to Prize Code. Chief of the Admiralty Staff of the Navy. Berlin, June 22, 1914.]

1. The exercise of the right of stoppage, search and capture, as well as any attack made by an armed merchant vessel against a German or a neutral merchant vessel is piracy. The crew is to be dealt with under the ordinance relating to extraordinary martial law.

2. If an armed enemy merchant vessel offers armed resistance against measures taken under the law of prize, such resistance is to be overcome with all means available. The enemy government bears all responsibility for any damages to the vessel, cargo and passengers. The crew are to be taken as prisoners of war. The passengers are to be left to go free, unless it appears that they participated in the resistance. In the latter case they may be proceeded against under extraordinary martial law.

[Signed] VON POHL, Chief of Staff.

BERLIN CODE SAYS SHIPS MAY ARM

Kaiser's Rules Treat Armed Merchantman as Prize.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Feb. 28.—Count von Bernstorff's contention that Germany has always refused to recognize the existence of "armed merchantman" in modern warfare is flatly refuted by evidence obtained by The Tribune to-day.

In June, 1914, the German Admiralty issued instructions to commanding officers "in respect of their conduct when encountering armed merchant vessels during war," and these instructions were apparently in force as late as July, 1915, or after the Lusitania was sunk.

Ambassador von Bernstorff is understood to have reiterated in his memorandum to Secretary Lansing to-day the assertion that merchantmen had no right to arm, even for defence. It is stated also that the Secretary contended that this was the "historical attitude" of the German government.

The instructions referred to in the German prize code follow:

"1. The exercise of the right of stoppage, as well as any attack made by an armed merchant vessel against a German or a neutral merchant vessel, is piracy. The crew is to be dealt with under the circumstances relating to extraordinary martial law.

"2. If an armed enemy merchant vessel offers armed resistance against measures taken under the law of prize, such resistance is to be overcome with all means available. The enemy government bears all responsibility for any damages to the vessel, cargo and passengers. The crew are to be taken as prisoners of war. The passengers are to be left to go free, unless it appears they participated in the resistance. In the latter case they may be proceeded against under extraordinary martial law."

These extracts are taken from the "Schedule to Prize Code," issued by the chief of the Admiralty Staff of the Navy at Berlin, June 22, 1914, and published in the "Reichgesetzblatt" of 1914, at page 300.

These orders, it is believed, demonstrate clearly that Germany's position on the arming of merchant vessels is substantially similar to our own, recognizing the right of such vessels to arm for defence and requiring warships to treat them as prizes, even when they use their arms to resist capture.

The first paragraph of the instructions makes the point equally clear. It is recognized by all civilazed governments that a warship belonging to a sovereign nation cannot be treated as a pirate. Germany, by declaring that armer merchant vessels which attack merchantmen of another power are "guilty of piracy," specifically admits that an armed merchantman is not a warship.

Germany has contended recently that she had always, since the abolishment of privateering, maintained that arms of any kind gave a merchantman a combatant character. The argument has been used in support of the new German submarine policy, which contemplates the destruction of armed enemy merchantmen on sight.

If the Allies deny the German charges that their merchant ships are instructed to operate offensively, the question of the right of such vessels to arm at all will be brought to the fore. State Department officials believe that, confronted by her own prize code, Germany will be unable longer to adhere to her original contention.

SUFFRAGE TO PASS ASSEMBLY, SAYS SWEET

Speaker's Statement Indicates Half of Women's Battle Won.

[From a Staff Correspondent of The Tribune.]

Albany, Feb. 28.—"The suffrage amendment to the Constitution will pass the Assembly with little opposition." This statement was made by Speaker Thaddeus Sweet to-day, and it indicates to the corps of women who have been vallantly fighting for "the cause" since the Legislature opened that half the battle has been won.

The amendment, it is expected, will pass the Assembly this week. After that the suffragists will centre their attention on the Senate Judiciary Committee, but with a majority of its members pledged to the amendment the suffragists do not expect much of a fight.

HENRY JAMES, 72, DIES IN LONDON

Novelist Passes Away After Illness of Several Months.

London, Feb. 28.—Henry James, the novelist, died to-night at his Chelsea residence, 21 Carlyle Mansions. He had been ill for several months, but late in January his physicians reported that he was improving. The affection from which he suffered was chronic and had been complicated by two strokes of apoplexy.

About two weeks ago Mr. James's condition became grave again, and his recovery was not looked for.

He became unconscious Friday and remained so until the end. It was his own wish that his body should be cremated, and this will be done at Golder's Green on Friday.

Henry James presented in his own personality and career a paradox such as, in others, he delighted to study and to portray. He was a New Englander, born in New York, of New York parentage. He was an American who lived most of his life abroad and finished it as a British subject. He was one of America's keenest critics and best friends. And he will probably be remembered most for things which he valued least, while the achievements which were most prized by him will be more than half forgotten. Perhaps these circumstances give the best key to an understanding of his life work; together with those of his family relationship. For he was the son of a theologian who was a disciple of Swedenborg and a Socialist, who was a student of Fourier, and he was the brother of one of the foremost psychologists of the time.

He was born in New York City on April 15, 1843, but in his early youth became an exile. His father, who was, perhaps, more at home in England, or at least better known there, than in America, took him abroad and had him educated in the best private schools of Geneva, of Paris and of Boulogne. Extended travels on the Continent were followed with a course at the University of Bonn. Then he came back to America, but not to New York. Instead, he entered the Harvard Law School, was graduated, and was admitted to the Massachusetts bar. Independent means made it unnecessary for him to devote himself to his profession for a livelihood, however, and in the course of a few years of progressive neglect the bar came to know him no more.

Began Writing in 1866.

Instead of practising law he began in 1866 to write for publication. But his means enabled him to do so in a desultory fashion, suiting his own tastes and convenience rather than pecuniary needs. His first writings were miscellaneous literary studies and criticisms, contributed to newspapers and magazines. The first of all was "The Story of a Year" in "The Atlantic Monthly," in 1865. These attracted attention for their merits and their promise, though they gave little indication of the direction in which his industrious talents would chiefly be developed. No sustained work came from his pen while he remained in America. But in 1869 he went to England to make his permanent home, and a couple of years later his first volume appeared, "Watch and Ward." This was followed four years later—he could always afford to be deliberate—in 1875 by "A Passionate Pilgrim," one of the most intense and characteristic of his early works. In the same year appeared "Roderick Hudson" and "Transatlantic Sketches," in 1877 "The American," in 1878 "French Poets and Novelists" and "The Europeans," and also the work by which he is still doubtless best known by many people, the much discussed "Daisy Miller."

"To-morrow," said Disraeli, "the critics will begin." They did. Before the ink was fairly dry on the pages of "Daisy Miller" they were after him, in full cry; both the professional and the popular. He was an expatriate and therefore anathema; particularly in the view of those who periodically and temporarily expatriated themselves in order to flaunt their wealth and too often their vulgarity in wondering foreign eyes. He had satirized—with more truth than satire—some of the frailties, foibles and follies of his own countrymen, wherefore he was anathema maranatha; particularly in the view of those whose weaknesses he had exposed. Besides, he had a certain style which provoked the envy and resentment of those who had it

Continued on page 3, column 3

MAIL THIEVES GET $1,000,000 IN 8 MINUTES

Loot Pouches on Jersey Ferryboat and Make Escape.

BAGS RELOCKED AFTER RIFLING

Armed Guards Sat Within Ten Feet—Loss Discovered at Postoffice.

Secret service men from Washington, with local postal inspectors and police, are searching the city and suburbs for a clew to the most daring postal robbery New York has had in years.

Four registered mail pouches were rifled shortly after 3 o'clock Saturday morning on a Jersey Central ferryboat and close to $1,000,000 in cash stolen. The pouches were removed from an auto mail truck on the ferryboat and then replaced. A driver and two postal messengers seated on the front of the truck knew nothing of the robbery until the pouches were opened in the registered mail division of the new Postoffice, at Eighth Avenue and Thirty-third Street.

A pouch containing several hundred thousands of dollars from New York banks was overlooked. It was shipped from the Treasury Department in Washington. This, inspectors declare, was the motive for the robbery.

The robbery was engineered by a person or persons familiar with the schedule of mail shipments having in his, or their possession keys to both the motor truck cage and the pouches. The whole job was completed in less than eight minutes.

Dawn was breaking Saturday morning when the 8 o'clock train from Washington pulled in at Jersey City. A motor truck backed up to the mail car and two clerks hurriedly loaded it with pouches and sacks containing registered, first and second class mail. The door of the cage was then locked, and the clerks, known as messengers when they accompany registered mail and money shipments, donned their street clothes and hopped on the front of the truck with the driver.

The truck was driven aboard a Jersey Central ferryboat and brought to a stop about the centre of the runway. At 3:10 the ferryboat left Jersey City and eight minutes later was tied up at the Liberty Street slip. From Liberty Street the truck was driven directly to the new Postoffice and the registered sacks and money pouches carried to the registry department. The pouches were securely locked, and it was not until the registry clerks opened them that it was found they had been rifled.

There were several pieces of mail in each of the pouches which had not been tampered with, but everything else of value had been removed. Even the official slips containing a record of each piece of registered mail was stolen, which will make the matter of tracing the letters a difficult one. It will take weeks, officials say, to determine the exact amount stolen.

Chief Postal Inspector Cochran was notified of the robbery, and with Inspectors Schaeffer and Pollard examined the driver and clerks, then took them to Jersey City and retraced the trip. The Postoffice Department at Washington was notified, and Sunday morning a dozen Secret Service men were busy on the case. Detectives from Police Headquarters also were called in.

Keys to pouches containing registered mail are kept in the registry departments of the postoffices and never carried outside, with the exception of the keys carried by railway mail clerks making long runs, where the mail is sorted during the trip.

No driver of a motor truck is trusted with a key to the truck cage.

Despite these precautions, Saturday's valuable haul was made so quickly and with such ease that it has completely baffled the investigators.

FRENCH GUNS SHATTER WAVES OF MEN HURLED AT DOUAUMONT

Officer Describes Teuton Attempts to Take Heights.

SHELLS GROAN IN HELLISH DIN

Aerial Torpedoes Fail to Wreck Nerves of Solid Poilus.

By FRED B. PITNEY.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Paris, Feb. 28.—An officer stationed in an artillery observation post near Douaumont gives the following account of the German assault on that position:

"Our post dominated a deep ravine, which the Germans had already tried unsuccessfully to cross. Lost in the depths of the gully, their infantry could neither debouch from its ends nor mount to assault the crests.

"Toward the end of the night the German artillery received orders to drench our positions with shells so they could be taken. The whole region was the object of a frightful bombardment, while the summit, which barred their route, was the particular target for their gunners. Unceasingly their shells of all calibres fell in front of our position and burst with a terrifying roar.

"The air was filled with hundreds of projectiles, crossing each other in all directions, and their whistling and singing and groaning and explosions, all mixed together, produced a noise truly infernal. From time to time an aerial torpedo passed with the noise of an enormous automobile at full speed.

Soldiers Nonchalant, Despite Hell.

"All these engines of destruction concentrated on a space of less than ten kilometres. Their explosions came from all sides, in the midst of a cloud of smoke, earth and pulverized snow, that ended by covering the earth as with a thick fog.

"Nevertheless, in the midst of this hell, we saw below us a French soldier standing sentry in a hastily erected shelter and as calm as though in a theatre. Sometimes he was half covered with the earth thrown over him by an exploding shell; sometimes he disappeared completely in a cloud of smoke when a shell exploded very close. When he reappeared he was as tranquil as though nothing had happened, holding his glasses to his eyes and telephone in hand. These poilus have solid nerves.

"Suddenly an enormous explosion made the earth fly around our position. A huge shell dug a fantastic crater in front of us. Our telephone wire was broken, cutting our communication with all our batteries. A soldier crawled out on his belly to repair the break. He advanced slowly in the midst of the explosion of torpedoes and shells. It seemed impossible that he could escape death.

Scorns Death to Mend Wire.

"All the world believed the German artillery was making a grand effort before the final assault. The

Continued on page 7, column 5

ADVANCE, REGARDLESS OF LOSS, KAISER'S VERDUN ORDER.

Paris, Feb. 26 (Delayed).—"A frightful massacre" is how German soldiers taken prisoner in the battle of Verdun described the effect of the French artillery.

"Advance, no matter what the losses may be," was the order given to the German troops before the attack. This is verified by documents found on one of the captured officers.

The most critical moment in the six days' action was when the Germans gained a footing in the intrenched camp by the capture of Fort Douaumont. The least hesitation on the part of the defenders would have been disastrous. The Germans redoubled their efforts to take advantage of any confusion, but the French immediately began a counter offensive.

French infantry advanced at double quick to the trumpet charge and leaped at the first ranks of the Germans with irresistible fury. The clash was murderous. The thinned French ranks were not to be denied, but went on to the second German line, while reinforcements were hurried to their support. The German lines wavered first west of Douaumont, and finally were driven out of the ruins of the fort.

12-INCH SKODAS POUND VERDUN

Army Expert Believes the Guns That Conquered Liege Are Being Used.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, Feb. 28.—An army officer who has followed the war closely said to-day he believed that the guns that were hammering successfully at the Verdun salient were the same type of Austrian mortar that were used in reducing Liège. He doubted that they were of larger than 12-inch calibre, and added that a larger gun was not necessary for such an offensive.

"It is not surprising," he said, "that the Germans were able to reduce the French positions by these powerful guns. France has been surveyed with exceeding precision. The entire country has been so carefully measured that places can be picked out with amazing accuracy, even to the position of trees. The Germans are in possession of all this information and the French know that they have it. Knowing this, and profiting by the experience of the German offensive before Liège, it is only logical to assume that the French were prepared for just such a drive as was made against Verdun.

"The French artillery is mobile and powerful, and it is understood that at least six months ago this artillery was taken back of the lines and hidden in safe positions from which it could be easily moved when needed. I cannot see anything serious for the French in the drive on Verdun or anything particularly advantageous in it for the Germans."

Without belittling what Germany has accomplished in the offensive of the last two weeks, experts point out that the ground gained has been won at tremendous cost and with small hope of accomplishing the only result that could repay the loss of so many men—that is, breaking through the French line and rolling it back on itself. If this could be accomplished and a large French army captured, it would be worth the sacrifice.

The mere capture of Verdun, however, is not thought to be the German object. The forts about the stronghold, it is said, are probably not occupied. When captured they will be found to contain nothing. The Verdun salient is a weak point in the French line, and if it is taken by the Germans it will mean merely that the French will retire to far stronger positions.

The German success up to the present moment is explained solely by the enormous sacrifice of life. Experts here declare that the French could make equally important gains at almost any point with equal sacrifice.

"Germany's Last Chance."

"It is Germany's last chance," a staff officer at the War Department told The Tribune to-day. "Thus far, while she has conquered a vast amount of territory, she has won no victory in a military sense. Her conquests have weakened her by extending her lines. Her reserves are running low, and she realizes that the Allies have not yet even begun to try to win the war.

"Germany must get a decisive victory or admit defeat. She knows that the opportunities will never be better than they are now, and is, therefore, attacking the French line at the weakest point on a desperate chance of breaking through and capturing a large French army. If this offensive fails, you may be pretty sure that Germany is beaten, and apparently it has small chance of success."

Effect of Skoda Gun Fire Terrible

The powerful Skoda 12-inch mortar that has reduced the forts of six cities

Continued on page 7, column 4

SEES AT VERDUN CRISIS OF WAR

London Thinks Onslaught Final Culmination of Germany's Plans.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

London, Feb. 28.—"The momentous events at Verdun leave little doubt that the crisis of the great war has been reached." This statement by "The Pall Mall Gazette" fairly represents the general feeling in well informed quarters here in regard to the German onslaught. It is believed the world now is witnessing the final culmination of the plan which the German high command determined on long before the war began, and for which preparations have been in steady progress for more than a year.

It is admitted that the Germans have dealt the Allies a heavy blow by gaining four or five miles on a front of nine or ten miles and capturing some extremely strong positions, and it would not be true to say that no uneasiness is felt in regard to the outcome, despite the glorious defence of the French soldiers, who are resisting the German advance with the utmost gallantry, self-sacrifice and heroism.

The capture of Verdun, which only a week ago would have been deemed absolutely impossible by military authorities here, is now discussed as a possibility which the Allies may have to face. It is not denied that the fall of the great French fortress would be a serious matter for the Allies, but, on the other hand, to quote Lord Sydenham, who brings to bear on the great issues of the war one of the most acute and well informed minds in this country, "if, when the issue becomes clear, it proves that the Germans have only achieved some quite moderate territorial gains with an extravagant expenditure of life and munitions, the effect upon the enemy must necessarily be profound. Failure, even partial failure, of a great offensive following upon the splendid successes of the Russian army in Asia, would bring about a complete change in the whole military situation, and probably would be the herald of the coming victory of the Allies."

"The Daily Telegraph's" military expert is scarcely as confident as the other writers regarding Verdun. He declares that the temporary lull probably means that the Germans are bringing heavy artillery closer to the permanent works of the fortress, and he emphasizes the importance of the German success in crossing the main road and railway which connects Verdun and Metz through Conflans.

The editorials generally emphasize the probable enormous losses of the Germans. "The Daily Mail" compares the Verdun battle with the German attack on the Russians at the Dunajec River, in Poland, last April, where, on the fifth day, the Germans broke the Russian lines and the defence collapsed. In the Dunajec battle the Germans fired 700,000 shells in four hours, and the correspondent declares that the Verdun bombardment is equally violent, having already completely changed the very appearance of the countryside.

WAR PLANT BLAST FELT 12 MILES AWAY

Boston Gets Shock from Explosion in Woburn Works.

Woburn, Mass., Feb. 29.—The T. N. T. Building of the New England Chemical Company blew up with a terrific explosion early to-day. The tri-nitro toluol stored in that section of the great chemical plant is said to be one of the most powerful explosives used in the manufacture of war munitions.

Nineteen buildings where heavy war orders were being filled were located near by.

Boston, Feb. 29.—A heavy explosion, believed to have been in one of the big chemical works in Woburn, was felt over a wide territory early to-day. Windows in Melrose, more than seven miles from the chemical works, were shattered, and buildings in Boston, twelve miles from Woburn were shaken.

Teutons Take 1600 Yards of Trenches in Champagne.

DANGER PAST, SAYS BRIAND

Hand-to-Hand Conflict at Captured Fort—Woevre Battle Grows.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

London, Feb. 28.—Checked by the desperate resistance of the French at Verdun, where the armies still sway in deadlock, the German offensive has now spread along the entire battle line. The real drive at Paris may yet come through Champagne, where the Germans to-day captured the Navarin farm, together with the French positions on both sides for a distance of 1,600 yards, and a thousand prisoners.

Around Fort Douaumont hand-to-hand conflicts are still in progress, with Paris claiming the ejection of the Germans from the village of Douaumont and from a small redoubt to the west of the fortress. The French report says:

"The Germans during the course of the day attempted several partial attacks, which were driven back by our fire and our counter-attack. To the west of Fort Douaumont particularly our troops have engaged in hand-to-hand encounters with the adversary, who was ejected from a small redoubt where he had succeeded in installing himself.

"Yesterday evening German forces made several attempts to occupy the village of Douaumont. Their efforts were broken by the resistance of our troops, who withstood the most furious assaults.

French Attacks Repulsed.

"There is no change in the situation at the Fort of Douaumont, which still remains closely encircled."

Berlin, on the other hand, asserts the repulse of all attempts to retake the German positions:

"In the Verdun district, new masses concentrated by the enemy were exhausted in unsuccessful attempts to attack the German positions in and near the fortress of Douaumont and Hardaumont."

That the tide at Verdun has changed was the general opinion in Paris to-night. Premier Briand expressed that belief in an interview, in which he said:

"Caught between two barring fires, covered with shrapnel from all sides, attacked by our fresh divisions surging upon the field of battle at an unexpected moment, the Germans saw their efforts stopped short. The struggle was a titanic one. Our heroic troops went into the melee frantically. Our light and heavy artillery dug sanguinary furrows in the compact ranks of the Germans.

"Finally exhausted, their ranks decimated, the German armies recoiled under our furious counter attacks. We have regained the advantage. Installed upon formidable positions our heroic soldiers remained masters of the field of battle."

France Breathes Easier.

While all France is breathing more freely, now that the safety of Verdun seems assured, there is no little concern over the attack launched in Champagne. If successful, this would be even a greater menace to Paris than the fall of the great frontier fortress. It is only 100 miles to the capital from Champagne, compared with 150 miles from Verdun.

"In the Champagne the Germans, after efficient artillery preparations, began an attack on both sides of the road from Somme-Py to Souain. They captured the Navarin farm and French positions on both sides about 1,600 metres long and took prisoners 26 officers and 1,000 men.

The Leap Year Tower

Leap Year brings to most of us an additional day of work. Not to F. P. A. He sidesteps it by turning over The Conning Tower, as is eminently fitting and proper, to Mrs. F. P. A.

Perhaps you want to know if the lady of this family is as clever as the male. It's a high standard to be judged by—but turn to Page 9 this morning.

The Tribune

First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements.

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.