THE WEATHER FORECAST
Fair to-day; to-morrow partly cloudy; moderate northwest to north winds.
Highest temperature yesterday, 82; lowest, 53.
Detailed weather reports on page 7.

The Sun.

IT SHINES FOR ALL

VOL. LXXXIV.—NO. 263. NEW YORK, MONDAY, MAY 21, 1917.—Copyright, 1917, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association. ONE CENT In Greater New York | Elsewhere TWO CENTS.

T. R. DISBANDS DIVISIONS; SAYS PRESIDENT ERRS

Points Out He Didn't Seek "Independent Command," as Represented.

NO POLITICS IN OFFER

Takes Issue Also With Wilson on Depriving Army of Needed Officers.

SELFISH AIMS DENIED

Colonel Will Not Accept Major-Generalship From Gov. Whitman.

Atop Sagamore Hill, out at Oyster Bay, where the Colonel, in his various capacities, has welcomed with unshaded hospitality so many of the earth's haughty and humble, the robins, happy robins, marshalled by a chief of noble girth, chirped happily at their spring hunting. From all the copses birds whistled gayly. A delightful sunshine lay over the Colonel's estate. Now and then one heard the laughter of children. There was no merrier, brighter spot anywhere upon the globe, surely, than these fragrant and newly green grounds.

Then one entered the Colonel's house, shut the door against all this cheerfulness, passed to the trophy room and became conscious the little gloomy spirits which plague all men in their season had come there, too, and were squatting under the priceless souvenirs of world venturing—great curving tusks from Zuguland, grinning idols from the South Sea Islands, a tribal gong from Borneo, skins of great beasts fallen to the Colonel's spear. And there they squatted and there they peered while a company of gentlemen all forlorn, gentlemen of the Colonel's own Old Guard, sat dismally in a circle, of which the Colonel himself was the centre.

They smiled not a smile, they laughed not a laugh. Their glance was fixed immutably upon the tawny or striped pelts at their feet. Through the open windows came the hunting chorus of the robins, the liquid calls of the little birds whose names the Colonel might have called offhand, the bright chatter of children. But these evidences of nature, awake and gay, fell blunted against the gloomy company. Only the Colonel spoke—rapid, emphatic sentences; sentences that beat hard upon every ear and still held silent every tongue.

Disbanding the Divisions.

It was an occasion which called for no comment. It was a sort of funeral service. It was a kind of requiem. Col. Roosevelt, the most cheerful of the whole gathering of twenty men, was disbanding with formal words the divisions which he had recruited with such high hopes and which the President will have none of.

The men who sat all about were the men that had followed Col. Roosevelt through many a hard fought political battle, in many a dangerous hunt afield, or, as Rough Riders, in the campaign against the Spaniards. They were the picked men who had searched their parts of the country for kindred spirits, who had pledged their word that more thousands had been obtained than could actually be used, and who had yearned for the chance to back up the Colonel upon the battlefields of France.

Jack Greenway, the old Yale pitcher, now a mining man of Bisbee, Ariz., was there, elbow to elbow with Henry L. Stimson, former Secretary of War, and James R. Garfield, former Secretary of the Interior. Also in the circle were Seth Bullock, the mighty hunter of South Dakota; Col. William J. Schieffelin of this city; Col. Ira L. Reeves of Vermont; Col. D. C. Collier, who made such a go of the San Diego Exposition; former Governor Robert D. Carey of Wyoming; Rock C. Channing of Salt Lake City, another Rough Rider; Major F. R. Burnham of Three Rivers, Cal.; Capt. J. P. Donnelly of Nevada; Capt. W. E. Dame and H. A. Ely of this city; Dr. H. Nelson Jackson of Vermont and a few others. They were there to hear read the last will and testament of the Roosevelt divisions and to hear their names mentioned as executors of the departed organization.

The Colonel—as has been said—was the most cheerful of the lot. In the mere reading of the mustering out order he found some exercise for his unquenchable energy. He told them that they were free to go their ways, absolved of promise or pledge, since the President would have it so.

Roosevelt's Advice.

He advised them to try for whatever military service offered upon their horizons, and to seek some civil life way of helping their country if they couldn't get into the army. He left no doubt in any man's mind that he is through. He has had enough. It is stating a fact to say that Col. Roosevelt cannot help feeling that the Administration was at some pains to eliminate him personally. He cannot escape the conclusion that he, Roosevelt, was not to be permitted to fight.

He cannot escape the conclusion that they don't intend to give him a chance to serve the nation as he would like to serve it. Therefore he is ready to step aside. He will not accept Gov. Whitman's offer of a Major-Generalship, because he sees that the Administration does not want him to lead troops.

He included in his directions for disbandment a summary of the results that could have been counted upon if the President had permitted him to mobilize his divisions, and finally he concluded his statement or address with a direct challenge of the comments made by President Wilson in refusing the offer.

There was more of indignation than anger in the Colonel's choice of words and in the manner of reading them, for, as his friends said yesterday, he believes that he has been misunderstood, deliberately or otherwise. As he puts it, there are "certain errors into which the President has been led."

One of these had to do with the statement that Roosevelt was to have an "independent" command. Col. Roosevelt points out that he asked to go as a junior Brigadier, ninth, tenth or eleventh in command. Another had to do with the President's use of the word

Continued on Fourth Page.

GERMANS GO ABROAD FOR A SQUARE MEAL

Cross Into Switzerland and Gorge Themselves.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, May 20.—Americans returning to-day from Switzerland report that all Germans who cross the border from Germany are required to sign an agreement not to discuss internal conditions of the empire. There are heavy penalties for violation of the pledge.

The Americans noticed in Berne and Zurich that the German visitors were paler and thinner than heretofore.

"I suspect," said one prominent American, "that the Germans get passes for diplomatic or business missions in order to obtain a square meal. Their first act on crossing the border is to find a restaurant and gorge themselves."

RINTELEN, MARTIN AND LAMAR GUILTY

Jury Disagrees in Case of the Four Others in German Plot Trial.

Capt. Franz von Rintelen, David Lamar and Henry B. Martin were found guilty by a jury in Federal Judge Cushman's court last night. They were tried with four others on a charge of conspiracy to tie up the nation's munitions plants by fomenting strikes and by promoting German propaganda throughout America by means of Labor's Peace Council. The cases of the four others, including two Representatives in the last Congress, caused the jury delay in reaching its verdict. It deliberated thirty hours and finally announced no agreement could be reached except on the charges against the three. It is understood the four on whom the jury disagreed will not again be tried on the charge.

Judge Cushman announced that he would pronounce sentence on the three men at 3 o'clock this afternoon. He continued the defendants on bail.

Rintelen accepted the verdict stolidly. "It is justice, it is fair; it is fairness, it is just," he said.

Lamar only smiled, while Martin wore a rather serious expression.

John L. O'Brian, the special Federal prosecutor, said the Government could hardly expect a better verdict.

"It vindicates the Government's prosecution of these cases," he added. "It vindicates what we have done to stamp out German plots and also shows to what extent German conspiracies and intrigues and plots have been carried on in this country."

PARIS MEAT PRICES JUMP.

Two Days Abstinence Plan Causes Diminished Shipments.

PARIS, May 20.—Prospects of the inauguration of two meatless days a week beginning to-morrow caused disorganization of the meat supply and a marked rise in prices at the central markets. Stock raisers, fearing a reduced demand at the outset would break prices and that the closing of slaughter houses for two days would involve risks or loss, diminished shipments 50 per cent. and prices went up accordingly.

Sales by wholesale dealers ceased yesterday at noon and the retail shops will be closed to-morrow and Tuesday. Much anxiety has been caused by the possibility of a decreased fish supply. Competent authorities say the market will adjust itself to the new order of things after the experience of the first week and that the meat shortage will not be repeated.

NAMED "THE WAR OF 1917."

Pension Bureau Officially Designates Present Conflict.

WASHINGTON, May 20.—In the annals of the Pension Bureau, which already has on file two applications for pensions on account of deaths since the declaration of war, the present struggle will go down to posterity as "the war of 1917."

The applications came from Ruth Thomas of Annapolis, widow of Lieut. Clarence C. Thomas, killed on the Vacuum, and Mrs. Hannah Hallberg of Jamestown, N. Y., whose son, Frank E. Hallberg, a member of the National Guard, was killed by a train while guarding a bridge.

SIX NEW DESTROYERS ORDERED

Newport News Co. Gets Emergency Contract for Largest Type.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., May 20.—The Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry-dock Company announced that it had received an emergency contract for the construction of six torpedo boat destroyers similar to the largest now in the United States navy.

The work will begin immediately.

SINN FEIN REJECTS HOME RULE SCHEME

Declares Government Plan Is "Pitfall" for Irish.

DUBLIN, May 20.—A meeting of members of the Sinn Fein party, presided over by Count Plunkett, was held to-day to consider the Government's proposal for a settlement of the home rule controversy. A statement was issued after the meeting saying in effect that the Government already was pledged to support a small section of the Irish in its refusal to abide by the decision of the majority, thereby precluding the possibility of reaching a settlement through the suggested convention.

The failure of the convention thus being preassured, the Government, says the statement, would be able to announce that the Irish themselves had been unable to settle the Irish question. The people of Ireland are warned against what is termed "this pitfall."

Any convention to have the right to formulate a system of government for Ireland, the statement adds, must be freely chosen on the basis of adult suffrage, free from English influence and free, if it so desires, to declare the complete independence of Ireland.

German Flotilla Flees.

PARIS, May 20.—French torpedo boats had an encounter early to-day with a German flotilla. The official statement follows:

"A patrol of four French torpedo boats about 1 o'clock this morning encountered a flotilla of German destroyers making toward port. After a brief engagement the enemy flotilla retired at full speed in the direction of its base. Our four torpedo boats returned. One of them suffered some damage."

NEW SINKINGS ANGER SWEDEN

Three Grain Laden Vessels Released by British Torpedoed by Germans.

TEN OF CREWS DROWN

French Transport Sent Down by U-Boat With Loss of 51 Lives.

STOCKHOLM, May 20.—The Swedish steamships Vesterland, Aspen and Viken, laden with grain from America, recently released by Great Britain, have been sunk by German submarines. The news, received here late last night, has caused much indignation.

The Swedish Government has telegraphed the Swedish Minister in Berlin directing that he make a protest to the German Government over the sinking.

The arrival of the steamships, which were released under the recent reciprocal agreement freeing the Entente Allies' tonnage in the Bothnian Gulf, had been eagerly awaited. M. Bostroem, formerly Minister of Marine, was the chief owner of the Vesterland, while the Transatlantic Company of Gothenburg owned the Aspen and Viken.

The message which told of the sinking said that eight members of the crew of the Viken and two of the men aboard the Vesterland had been lost.

Press Is Indignant.

Newspapers of all shades of opinion were united to-day in voicing indignation at the torpedoing of the steamships. The *Stockholms Tidningen* captions its article "The Germans' Dastardly Deed Against Sweden" and characterizes it as a "deliberate and bloody crime." It declares that a land which is capable of such a deed is capable of anything.

The *Dagens Nyheter* says: "Our German kindred land—as it is fond of calling itself—is drawing heavy drafts on the sympathies which it believes itself to possess here and for which our land has been forced to hear so many unkind words from Germany's opponents." The *Nyheter* declares no intelligent German need wonder that his country has so few friends in the world.

Departure Was Delayed.

The *Stockholms Dagblad* says a share of indignation must be vented on Great Britain, which delayed the departure of the steamships until after May 1, but that the first and foremost feeling must be bitterness against the methods of the German submarine campaign. It adds: "The sinking may give further proof of the danger of invading the blockade zone, but it was sympathy for Germany as well as provisions for Sweden that went down with the ships."

The *Svenska Dagbladet* also accuses Great Britain of deliberately delaying the departure of the ships, but continues: "It is just as plain that the Germans are proceeding without the slightest elementary regard for our rights as neutrals." No theoretical defences by Germany can prevent the greatest bitterness from prevailing in Sweden, says the *Dagbladet*. Germany's enemies, it adds, could not have desired better agitation material.

The *Nya Dagligt Allehanda*, whose editor has often been called "Sweden's Reventlow," devotes two columns to an explanation and apology for Germany. The other afternoon newspapers join the morning journals in bitter censure of Germany for the sinkings. The *Aftonblad Tidningen* demands the expulsion of all Germans from Sweden.

The strongly pro-German *Aftonbladet* bitterly criticises the Germans. It says the torpedoing of Swedish vessels deals a hard blow to German sympathizers in Sweden and demands that the Government refuse to satisfy itself with a mere protest but require the fullest indemnity.

Uneasiness is expressed over the possible fate of four other Swedish steamers leaving port at the same time as the three steamers which were lost.

The Viken was a new vessel, being built in 1916, and was on her first trip. She was 264 feet long and of 1,820 tons gross. The Vesterland was of 4,018 tons gross and built in 1907. She sailed from Savannah January 24 for Gothenburg, and was last reported to have arrived at Lerwick on February 12. The Aspen was of 3,103 tons gross and built at Sunderland twenty years ago. She sailed from Philadelphia January 23 for Stockholm and was last reported at Kirkwall February 9. All the vessels were owned in Gothenburg.

NORSE CREWS LOST.

They Went Down When Four Vessels Were Sunk.

LONDON, May 20.—The Norwegian Legation at Berlin, according to a despatch from Copenhagen to the Exchange Telegraph Company, reports that the Norwegian steamships Laly, Najaden, C. Sundt and Garant have been torpedoed by German submarines. Members of the crews of each vessel lost their lives.

SPAIN NEAR TO BREAK.

Last Note to Berlin Demands Fulfilment of Pledge.

MADRID, May 20.—The Spanish Government's note to Germany concerning the attack by a German submarine on the Spanish steamship Patricio recalls that a number of notes of protest previously addressed to the German Government still remain unanswered. It declares that the transactions of all diplomatic business with Germany will be suspended until replies are received to these, according to the newspapers.

It also demands the fulfilment of conditions agreed upon by the German Government to prevent unwarned attacks by submarines on Spanish ships in safety zones and asks for an indemnity for the Patricio.

Fishermen who arrived from Tabarca, on the Bay of Tunis, report that a submarine recently attacked a fleet of six boats, one of which was sunk. The crew was saved.

51 LOST WITH VESSEL.

French Troopship Colbert Sunk in Mediterranean.

PARIS, May 20.—The French steamship Colbert, carrying a number of French military passengers, was torpedoed and sunk in the Mediterranean April 20 by a Teuton submarine. Fifty-one persons, including the commander of the vessel, lost their lives. Announcement of the sinking of the Colbert was made this afternoon by the French Admiralty.

GERMAN PEACE IDEA HIDES AIM TO RULE SOUTH EUROPE

Germany's Plan for Her New Empire.—The shaded countries on the map show the Teuton ridge which, if her ideas are carried out, would divide her enemies on the east and west.

GERMAN PRESS OPPOSES PEACE

Government Controlled Organs Also Stir Up Prejudice Against U. S.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, May 20.—Advices from Amsterdam say the Government controlled German press has launched a concerted effort to consolidate public opinion in Germany against the United States and against the early peace campaign. The German newspapers are utilizing President Wilson's effort to discriminate between the German people and the German Government in order to arouse prejudice.

The Prussian newspapers are especially zealous in this progaganda. They say that President Wilson is Germany's enemy and that it he dislikes Germany's Government that is a good sign that the Government suits Germany.

The Rotterdam *Courant* reports that a convention of a thousand Conservatives held recently in Prussia applauded the Reichstag Conservative leader, Von Heydebrandt, and passed resolutions saying that they were determined to continue the struggle for a Von Hindenburg peace and to maintain undiminished the power of the Kaiser. The Prussians also said they were unalterably opposed to the democratization of Prussia and the establishment of a system of responsible Parliamentary government.

The Berlin *Kreuzzeitung* says: "Recently a hundred societies of Prussian agrarians united in a very significant demonstration, calling attention to the efforts of the enemy to divide the people from the Kaiser, and adding, 'The Prussian people will not consider a proposal of peace at any price, but on the contrary possess an iron will to carry the fight to a complete victory.'"

This same newspaper declares that telegrams by the hundred from all parts of the empire reach the Kaiser expressing devotion to him and the German governmental system.

POLAND IS THE TOPIC.

Kaiser and Conferees Discuss Kingdom's Future.

COPENHAGEN, via London, May 20.—The discussions in Vienna between Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, the Imperial German Chancellor, and Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, which were resumed last week at German headquarters, and in which Count Czernin, the King of Bavaria, Emperor William, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, Dr. Alfred Zimmermann, the German Foreign Minister, and Dr. Karl Helfferich, the German Vice-Chancellor, are taking part, have to do, among other things, with the future of the kingdom of Poland, according to information received from the German representatives in Warsaw by the Polish Council of State.

It will be remembered that the Austro-German rescript of November 5 calling the kingdom of Poland into life left the boundaries of the kingdom unsettled and did not name the future regent or king. The Polish Council of State some time ago made representations to the Austro-German representatives as to the necessity of immediate action on these two questions.

Gen. von Beseler, Governor-General of the occupied territory in Russia, has informed the council that the Austro-German authorities in consultation at great headquarters in Germany are concerning themselves with "the future carrying out of the rescript of November 5."

The Austrian Poles on their part have put forth a wide reaching programme for the future, which will not fail to arouse the strongest protests in Prussia. The Polish Club of the Austrian Parliament, which embraces the Polish members of the Reichsrat, not only has passed a resolution of lack of confidence in the present Austrian Government, which disregarded Polish wishes regarding the future of Galicia and Polish representation in Parliament, but also a demand, put forward as the united desire of the Polish nation, for the reestablishment of an independent and united Poland, with access to the sea. The club's resolution calls for a plenary congress of the Reichsrat and Diet at Cracow within ten days.

Plans for Domination of Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey Known to Washington.

BALKANS VITAL REGION

U. S. Diplomats Bring Home Details Shedding New Light on Teuton Schemes.

By the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, May 20.—Germany's next peace declaration, expected to suggest a programme of territorial renunciation on the east and the west, is regarded here as largely answered beforehand by information revealing for the first time the full scope of the Imperial Government's aspirations for conquest in the south.

This information discloses as one of the primary aims of the war a plan for the consolidation of an impregnable military and economical unit stretching from the North Sea to the Mediterranean, cutting Europe permanently in half, controlling the Dardanelles, the Ægean and the Baltic, and eventually forming the backbone of a Prussian world empire.

In the light of German history the plan shows how implicitly the Kaiser has followed out the "blood and iron" politico-economic methods of Bismarck for the development of Prussian power. Considered in view of the present war map it shows that the major portion of the Kaiser's war programme has been accomplished, regardless of what disposition is made of conquered territory in France, Belgium and Russia.

Peace Merely a Truce.

A full realization of this situation, which will form a sinister background for consideration of whatever renunciation proposals the Imperial Chancellor may make, adds a new force to the repeated declarations of allied statesmen that the German peace manœuvres are in reality war moves, and that a premature truce would only give Germany a resting period in which further to Prussianize and prepare for a greater world war the territory to the southeast which she has conquered under the guise of a friendly alliance.

Although officials have refrained from definite public expressions of what the United States might demand as a peace guarantee, these possibilities recall with recurring emphasis President Wilson's declaration that America must fight until the world is "made safe for democracy." They bring into relief Secretary Balfour's warning that hard fighting is necessary to win the war, the conviction of the American Army General Staff that the country must prepare for at least three years of war and the fact that predictions of an early peace have been discredited as visionary in virtually every allied capital.

Hidden Policy Revealed.

How minutely defined is the German plan and how accurately it is being carried out have become fully apparent only with the opening up during the last few weeks of several new avenues of information. The return of American diplomatic agents from the Central Empires, the visit of the British and French war missions, detailed confidential reports of the recent frank expressions in the Reichstag and in the German press and the deductions of American agents abroad watching the newest peace moves have supplied the explanation of more than one hitherto obscure feature of the German policy.

In her southeastern conquests it is apparent Germany has followed almost in toto the long established plan of the Pan-German League, whose propaganda had been regarded outside of Germany as the harmless activity of extremists, too radical to be taken seriously. Coupled with this plan, as an instrument of economic consolidation, the German officials have used with only slight modifications the system of customs union expansion which aided in former years to extend her domination over the other German States now making up the empire.

As early as 1911 the Pan-German League is said to have circulated a definite propaganda of conquest, with printed appeals containing maps of a greater Germany, whose sway from Hamburg to Constantinople and then southeastward through Asiatic Turkey, was marked out by boundaries virtually

Continued on Second Page.

NEW LIGHT SHED ON ALLIES' DRIVE

Proof Offered That Retiring Germans Were Taken by Surprise in the West.

(Special Cable to Chicago Tribune. Copyright 1917 by the Chicago Tribune.)

By JAMES O'DONNELL BENNETT.

STOCKHOLM, May 19.—Here is current history from the lips of men who are making it. The statements communicated are authentic. Their source is the supreme German military command. Every fact given dovetails with and explains another, the whole rendering clear the most complex series of events in European annals since the Napoleonic wars. The sole fact remaining obscure and on which the entire chapter hangs is how the Germans learned the decisions of the Allies at the Rome conference, which they did. It is probable that certain decisions became known through indiscreet utterances by the participants and the Germans made safe deductions regarding other decisions from shreds of sound information obtained through secret channels.

To-day it is known to many men and months ago was to certain Germans that at the Rome conference the Allies decided to try with all means at their command for military success over Germany. The important point to emphasize here is that in this conference emphasis was fully placed upon military success. All decisions and all measures ultimately centred on that point.

All Yielded to Lloyd George.

Certain participants, however, proposed other plans, among which was a proposition of intensive economic war against Germany by preventing all neutral border States from assisting Germany through exports. The unlimited building of freight ships by all the Entente countries was also urged. Indeed the cry, "Build ships! Build ships!" became the watchword of this minority, which, as now appears, looked further into the future than did the majority. The third proposition was for minor but incessant offensives at various points in various fronts in order to wear down Germany's military strength.

In other words, as the French put it, "guerre d'usure" and assigning to the time the task of wearing out Germany. But Lloyd George's gigantic will triumphed. The final agreement was for attempting a military decision on a scale more vast than even the colossal operations of this war have yet comprehended. The next question was "Where?" The decision was "the west front, especially the Somme region." The third question was "When?" The decision was "at the opening of spring," meaning the end of February or beginning of March, when the weather would favor military operations.

Germans Recognized Plan.

The Germans recognized that Lloyd George was right and the plan good because as the Allies would enter into no peace negotiations and war could not continue indefinitely, the decision must be enforced and could be reached only on the battlefield. The Germans further recognized the location chosen as wise because the operations of the summer of 1916 showed their lines on the Somme included various weak points where the English could have broken through.

Immediately after the Rome conferences the Allies began preparations on an unexampled scale for the greatest activity. Knowing the conference decisions in large outlines and to a certain extent in detail, the German supreme military command took measures accordingly. One was for abandoning projected offensives against either Odessa or Petrograd. The second, a more momentous measure, was for concentrating all possible strength on the west front, where the Allies had elected to try for the decision.

Unquestionably here spoke farseeing Hindenburg. Better than anybody else he knew Russia was so vast that in a military sense it would be impossible to strike a fatal blow at its heart. He believed, furthermore, that another Russian catastrophe would not weaken the Anglo-French strength on the one hand, while, on the other hand, it was inevita-

Continued on Second Page.

12 Weeks Grain Supply in United Kingdom

LONDON, May 20.—The grain supply on hand in the United Kingdom will last twelve weeks, according to estimates of Kennedy Jones, Director of Food Economy, who spoke last night at Edinburgh. Mr. Jones said that by the time this stock is exhausted the new harvest will be available.

It was evident, therefore, Mr. Jones asserted, rationing would not be necessary, but he warned that economy is essential because the supply on hand and that which will be produced will cover only twenty-four weeks of the coming year's consumption.

RAILROAD ARMY GOING TO FRANCE

Nine Regiments Called For to Build Up Lines of Traffic.

Need for expert railroad men to repair the lines in France is so pressing that an urgent call has been sent out by the Railroads War Board to the various roads of the country for assistance in organizing nine regiments of railroad men to go at once to France. They will be a part of the regular army, and at the head of each regiment as Colonel will be an engineer officer of the army.

The plans of the board call for five construction regiments, one shop or repair regiment and three operating regiments. Construction will be the main work of the men sent over, but the repair and operating needs are hardly less immediate. A notice sent out by the Railroads War Board says:

"The French railways are badly run down. They need more or less complete rehabilitation. France has no men who can be spared for this work. She wants all her men at the front. Before we can train men to go into the trenches we can supply France's railroad wants, and we can do it practically immediately. Any men we send over must be soldiers, so it will be necessary for the railroad forces to enter the army.

"We propose to make up five construction regiments of six companies each to do this rehabilitation. Each regiment will have an engineer officer of the United States army as Colonel and another officer from the army as an adjutant. The other officers will be made up of railroad men, except that the commissary will be provided by the United States army. Each Lieutenant-Colonel will be a chief engineer of a railroad or some one else of similar experience. The Captains will be taken from the engineers of maintenance of way, the Lieutenants from supervisors or roadmasters and the non-commissioned officers from track and bridge foremen. The privates will be track laborers.

"The pressing need just now is for officers for these regiments. They will require five chief engineers, thirty engineers of maintenance of way, ninety supervisors, or roadmasters; sixty track foremen and thirty bridge foremen. Each company will have 150 track laborers and fourteen bridge carpenters as privates.

"The next important requirement on the French railways is for shop forces. They are short of men to repair their locomotives. It is proposed to organize a shop regiment, to be made up the same way as the construction regiments, except that the Lieutenant-Colonel will be a superintendent of motive power, the Captains will be master mechanics, the Lieutenants will be shop foremen, and the non-commissioned officers gang foremen. The rest of the company will be made up of boilermakers, machinists, blacksmiths and their helpers."

Three operating regiments will be raised, with officers from superintendents, trainmasters, yardmasters and others having to do with the actual operation of trains. The privates in this case will be taken from the train crews.

The War Board has requested the following railroad executives to act as railway advisers to the officers of the United States army in charge of the organization of these regiments: W. W. Atterbury, vice-president Pennsylvania Railroad, will cooperate with Col. H. D. Deakyne at Philadelphia; J. H. Hustis, receiver Boston and Maine, with Major W. P. Wootan at Boston; B. F. Bush, receiver Missouri Pacific, with Col. C. M. Townsend at St. Louis; William Sproule, president Southern Pacific, with Col. J. P. Cavanaugh at San Francisco; H. W. Miller, resident executive officer Southern Railway, with Major J. S. Sewell at Atlanta, and L. F. Loree, president Delaware and Hudson, with Col. C. H. McKinstry at New York.

RAILROAD CHIEF JOINS RED CROSS

Judge Lovett Will Head Cooperation Committee.

Judge Robert S. Lovett, chairman of the board of the Union Pacific Railroad, has volunteered to give practically the whole of his time during the war to any work which the Red Cross may assign to him, according to an announcement made yesterday by Henry P. Davison, chairman of the War Council of the American Red Cross.

"I am too old to go to the front, but I am anxious to do my bit in whatever way I can be made useful," Judge Lovett told Mr. Davison.

His offer has been accepted and he will be asked to accept the chairmanship of a national committee on cooperation in charge of the important work of preventing duplication and waste and to bring about the utmost economy of effort in Red Cross work.

Mr. Davison, who with the War Council spent last week in rearranging activities of the Red Cross, especially from the point of view of an efficient business enterprise, authorized this statement:

"Judge Lovett's offer of service is the most inspiriting event of a very active week at Red Cross headquarters. He is the man whom Mr. Harriman picked as his successor to run the Union Pacific Railroad. Now he comes forward to place his broad experience and sound judgment at the disposal of the Red Cross in this war.

"It is singularly in keeping with the stupendous things which the Red Cross is already being called upon to do, and is planning to do, not only to relieve suffering but to help win this war, that big men of affairs like Judge Lovett should feel it to be worth their while to place themselves thus unreservedly at the nation's service."

BRITISH CUT MILE GAP IN GERMAN LINE

Haig's Men Attack Hindenburg Fortifications Northwest of Bullecourt.

BATTLE STILL RAGES

German Assaults to Win Back Lost Ground Are Repulsed.

FRENCH HAVE HARD TEST

Defeat Tremendous Effort of Crown Prince to Regain Series of Trenches.

LONDON, May 20.—British infantry have shown once more that the Hindenburg line is by no means impregnable. They attacked the famous trench system to the north of Bullecourt this morning and this evening were settled firmly in more than a mile of it, having beaten off every German attempt to throw them out.

The fighting has not finished. Everything is going well for the attacking troops, however, and they have disposed of large numbers of the enemy, inflicting heavy losses and taking a number of prisoners. All through the day the Germans tried to get back the lost trenches by counter attacking in great strength. "The fighting continues in our favor," is Field Marshal Haig's report to-night.

Queant Is Menaced.

Haig's troops are now holding Hindenburg's deep dug trenches practically all the way from Bullecourt to Fontaine-lez-Croisilles, two miles to the northwest, beginning what is confidently believed to be an enveloping movement against Queant, the junction point of the original Siegfried line from the south and the newer Wotan line from the north. The British line now comes close to turning Queant from the south and the new attack threatens it from the north. Protected by its ridge and a triangle of villages, however, Queant is well fortified on the north.

This fighting northwest of Queant is the only engagement reported by Field Marshal Haig. Berlin says the British attack was repulsed with heavy losses. German headquarters announced in this morning's statement that the British attacked north and south of Monchy last evening with strong forces and were completely repulsed.

French Put to Test.

While their British allies were attacking, the French troops on the Chemin des Dames were put to the test in defending themselves from another German counter attack on a grand scale. On a front of seven miles southeast of Laon the Crown Prince had prepared a great effort, which he hoped would hurl the French back from the high ground they have gained.

He began his artillery preparation early this morning, and it increased in violence and weight as the light became better. High explosive shells and shells charged with asphyxiating gas rained upon the French trenches. The infantrymen put on their gas masks and awaited the attack.

The French artillery shelled the German trenches so systematically that the infantry crowded into them were unable to go over the top at many places, and there was no attack on the greater part of the front.

Spirited Hand to Hand Fight.

At some places, however, the Germans managed to get out and across No Man's Land up to the French trenches. There it was a man to man affair, without aid from artillery. Bombs, machine guns, bayonets and rifles were the weapons in a series of spirited fights. At the end of it the Germans had been repulsed everywhere, save northeast of Cerny, where they held something over 200 yards of an advanced French trench. That was the net gain of their big counter attack. The official statements follow:

British Night Statement—As a result of our early morning attack our troops established themselves in a further section of the Hindenburg line on a front of over a mile between Fontaine-lez-Croisilles and Bullecourt.

The enemy made several unsuccessful attempts to shake our hold on his positions, and fierce fighting occurred in this neighborhood throughout the day. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy and a number of prisoners were taken. The fighting continues in our favor.

Raiders Are Driven Off.

Hostile raiding parties were driven off yesterday in the neighborhood of Oppy and southwest of Wytschaete. We made a successful raid south of Armentieres.

Three German airplanes were brought down yesterday in the air fighting. One landed in our lines. Five other hostile machines were driven down out of control. One German observation balloon was destroyed. Four of our airplanes are missing.

British Day Statement—An attack attempted by the enemy during the night against our advanced posts southeast of Epehy was broken up by our artillery fire. We captured a few prisoners early this morning as the result of patrol encounters in the neighborhood of Fauquissart.

Reach French Lines.

French Night Statement—On the Chemin des Dames the enemy artillery activity was very violent from the middle of last night and again increased this morning from east of Hurtebise to the region north of Cerny. The Germans directed against our positions a drum fire of heavy shells and asphyxiating projectiles, but under the power of our counter preparation the general assault which they were ready to launch was aborted. Over the greater part of the menaced front the German troops massed for the attack were not able to leave their trenches.

At various points where they were able to reach our lines very spirited