

Rain to-day; fair and slightly colder to-morrow; moderate north winds. Highest temperature yesterday, 66; lowest, 44. Detailed weather reports on last page.

WHISKEY BAN DEC. 31 IS NEW ALBANY MOVE

Dry's Spring Surprise in Favorable Report on Compromise Bill.

PERMITS WINE AND BEER

Saloon Licenses to Be Lower, but Hard Liquor Is to Be Tabooed Forever.

Special Despatch to The Sun. ALBANY, March 21.—New York State with nothing to drink but wine and beer after December 31 is now the prospect.

After what happened in the Legislature today it would not be a bad bet that on next New Year's eve whiskey and all that sort of hard stuff would run out for the last time.

They spring a surprise on the wets by getting this measure reported from the Committee on Taxation and Retrenchment. The measure is the amended prohibition bill.

The measure is the amended prohibition bill which was introduced in the original form in the session. In its original form it excepted wine and beer but was to take effect September 1.

It was amended to take effect December 31. The measure is the amended prohibition bill which was introduced in the original form in the session.

Senator William H. Hill, leader of the dry forces and introducer of the Federal prohibition ratification resolution, said that besides the twenty-four Senators who have fought for prohibition...

Senator Emerson, who always had been considered one of the wets, said today that he had always wanted to prohibit the use of whiskey as a beverage.

Senator Emerson declared that the committee's record would show that it was this morning and the vote of the members voted to report the measure.

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DUTCH ATTITUDE CAUSE FOR WAR, IS BERLIN VIEW

Germany's Relations With Holland "Altered" by Ship Loan Terms.

SEIZED SHIPS ALL "FIT"

Vessels Ready for Service as Soon as Crews Can Be Obtained for Them.

LONDON, March 22.—Despatches from The Hague report that a local news agency says that Germany considers her relations with Holland altered by the attitude of the Dutch Government toward the Entente against the United States and publishes a report that the abandonment by the Dutch Government of the remaining restrictive clauses in its shipping loan terms would be regarded by Germany as a cause for war.

Washington, March 21.—Every one of the Dutch ships seized by the United States Government is fit and ready for service, it was learned on high official authority today.

A friendly contest has developed in Washington as to the disposal of these vessels for operation. It seems likely that some will be retained by the navy, but there is little doubt that a majority will go to the Shipping Board for operation in the transatlantic service.

The question of crews for these vessels is giving some concern. Officials here are hopeful that some members of the Dutch crews will be willing to continue on the vessels, otherwise much difficulty will be encountered in manning them immediately.

Under the law only one-third of the crew of vessels under the American flag can be composed of foreigners, but with the ships under control of either the navy or the Shipping Board, it is intimated that the Government would not proceed against itself for technical violation of the law in emergency.

Twelve of the ships were described by a shipping official today as among the best on the seas and the best fitted. They will be used in carrying munitions and supplies to Europe.

It is probable that three tank steamships in the number of vessels seized will be taken by the navy to be used as supply ships, and the remainder by the American fleet.

Official statement giving the identity, tonnage and description of the various vessels may be issued after a conference of officials on the subject.

A Pacific Post, March 21.—Armed naval guards were in charge of three Dutch flags flying over the harbor of New York yesterday.

A battalion of Naval Reserves under Commander W. H. McCrean of the navy yard boarded forty-three Dutch merchantmen in the harbor of New York and contiguous waters yesterday.

The Dutch flag is formally lowered and the vessels are to be taken possession of by the United States.

Naval and Coast Guard steam craft conveyed the Naval Reserves to the various merchantmen, to dock at anchor, and to the holding, while without formalities, was attended with extreme courtesy on the part of the Dutch officers and the Americans in charge of the naval guards.

Such Dutch officers as may desire to return to Holland will do so at the expense of the United States.

GERMANS OPEN GREAT TEST OFFENSIVE OF WAR; BATTLE STILL RAGING ON FIFTY MILE FRONT; HAIG'S LINE IS PIERCED AT SEVERAL PLACES

BAKER CABLED ATTACK LACKS TIP ON DRIVE ANY PARALLEL

Warned Wilson French Knew Unprecedented Blow at British Was Near.

CHANNEL PORTS GOAL NO CAUSE FOR ALARM

Nearest American Troops 68 Miles From Attack on Britons' Line.

Special Despatch to The Sun. WASHINGTON, March 21.—General staff officers here are convinced that the most advertised German drive at last has begun.

There are hints that Secretary of War Baker has cabled the President that definite information of a pending attack on an unprecedented scale against the British had been obtained by French headquarters in the last two days.

Latest reports are that the Germans have succeeded in making enough man power between Cambrai and La Fere to penetrate the British lines. This is admitted by the British and already announced from the British side.

It already has been forecast that a concentrated German attack might necessitate yielding of ground by the British. Warning to this effect already has been given to British military leaders.

Military experts of the General Staff here say judgment cannot be passed on the fighting until the result of the British counter offensive has been evidenced.

It is explained that the British counter offensive has been evidenced. The objects which the Germans seek to attain are naturally not altogether clear.

The attack on the British line is estimated here to be sixty-eight miles from the most western point of the American troops. A sustained offensive by the Germans is regarded as certain to involve the American troops in the thick of the fighting.

Encouragement is felt here over the fact that the military operations of the Entente and the United States are now at this moment of crisis in the hands of the British.

Reports received here to-night state that the German offensive appears to have included blows aimed at the French in Lorraine and in the Verdun region. Unusually heavy bombardment preceded the infantry attacks in all instances.

The Germans are reported driven back after violent hand to hand fighting between Cauleux Wood and Bessieux. Reports state that the Germans fared badly in the Lorraine attack.

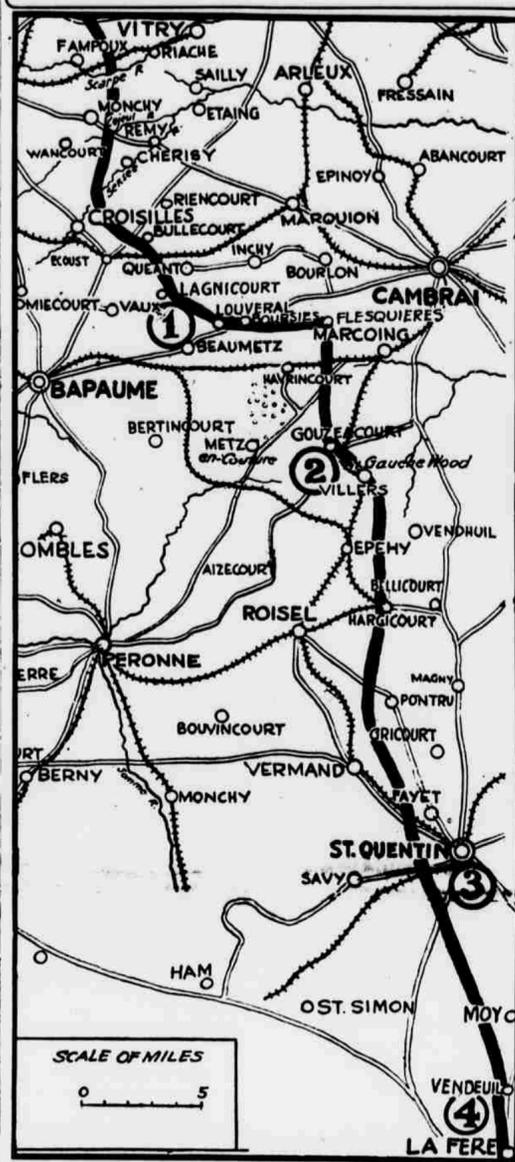
According to latest advices there is unshaken confidence in London that the German forces which have penetrated the British positions will be effectively checked. So far there is no hint that the reserve forces, including combined British and American troops, will be called on to offer resistance to the German thrusts.

Art Dance Matinee for "Sun" Fund To-day

THIS is the afternoon of the charming recital by Louise Morgan and fifty young society girls, pupils in their classes of arithmetic, algebra, classical and Grecian dancing.

WARNING! THE SUN TO-BACCO FUND has no connection with any other fund, organization or publication. It employs no agents or solicitors.

Where Germans Attacked the British Lines



The greatest battle of the war was opened by terrific artillery fire from the German big guns over a front extending from the River Scarpe on the north to La Fere on the south. This was followed by infantry attacks of unprecedented magnitude, which reached their greatest concentration near Lagnicourt and Louverval on the north (1), where the attempt was made to drive in the Fleisquieres salient, just west of Cambrai, from the north, and at Gauche Wood (2), where the same salient was attacked from the east.

At the same time, there was heavy fighting in the St. Quentin district (3), far to the south, extending down to Venduill (4), just above La Fere.

TEN 15,000 TON SHIPS PLANNED VIA AMSTERDAM

Shipping Board's Freighters Are in Addition to Emergency Programme.

Special Despatch to The Sun. WASHINGTON, March 21.—The Shipping Board is preparing for the construction of ten 15,000-ton freighters for transatlantic service.

Each of these vessels is to be of the double hull type recommended by Rear Admiral Taylor for defence against submarine attack. They will be twice the average size of vessels contracted for by the Emergency Fleet Corporation and will be fitted for expeditious handling of cargo.

Contracts for the vessels will be placed just as soon as specifications are ready, and will add a total of 150,000 tons to the building programme contemplated by the fleet corporation.

Diplomats Reach Manchuria. PEKIN, March 19 (delayed).—The Japanese Ambassador and Chinese Minister to Russia, accompanied by a number of American, Japanese and Chinese, have arrived in Manchuria from Petrograd. They were conducted to the Chinese frontier by Red Guards.

Five Hour Bombardment by Guns of All Calibres Precedes Assault by Many Thousands of Infantrymen

ROAR OF CANNONADING HEARD AT MANY POINTS ON ENGLISH COAST

British Unable to Make Counter Attack, but Report Germans Have Failed to Obtain a Single Objective—Losses Are Enormous

LONDON, March 21.—On the exact date set in advance by the Germans, the long heralded and much advertised grand offensive was launched soon after dawn this morning by enormous masses of the Kaiser's legions against the British front in France from the River Scarpe, north of Cambrai, to La Fere, below St. Quentin, a distance of more than fifty miles.

At nightfall the battle, undoubtedly the greatest of the war in its scope and the number of men in action, was raging with unabated fury, particularly in the British salient at Fleisquieres, just west of Cambrai, where German troops were being hurled in attack after attack against both sides of the projecting British line.

At the time when the latest reports were received, the British counter attacks had not yet begun, although their lines had been pierced in a number of places. British statements said their outposts had been driven in and the troops had been withdrawn from lightly held portions of the line; Berlin asserted that the British lines had been actually pierced.

At 3 o'clock this morning, long before daylight, the most terrific bombardment that has been seen on the front in France began. A deluge of shells, large and small, fell on the British lines and continued for fully five hours. Many gas shells were used.

The artillery could be distinctly heard at Dover and other towns on the east coast of England. The doors and windows of the houses at Dover, for instance, were continuously shaken by the heavy concussion. At Ramgate, besides the sound of the cannonading, bright flashes were seen at sea, while the vibration of the explosions shook the windows and dislodged tiles from the roofs.

For many miles the defences were swept bare by the tornado of steel. Then, as the big guns suddenly became quiet, the attacking waves, thousands upon thousands of gray clad men, swarmed over the top and made a dash for the British lines.

Covered by a dense pall of smoke and favored by the wind, they were not seen at first, although the British knew, from the character of the bombardment and its sudden cessation, that they were coming.

Haig Says Enemy Failed to Attain a Single Objective

Field Marshal Haig's report to-night admits that the British lines were penetrated in places, but he asserts that the Germans' losses were exceptionally heavy and that no part of the long front of fifty miles did they attain their objective.

The most severe fighting, so far as reports have been received, was near the northern end of the line, west and a little north of Cambrai, in the vicinity of Lagnicourt and Louverval, extending south to Gauche Wood, near Gouzeauxcourt, a front of about sixteen miles. There were other infantry attacks, however, at various points along the line, extending to Venduill, below St. Quentin, and also along the front held by the French, particularly in the sector just east of Verdun and on the front near Rheims.

Without these were diversions designed to keep the enemy busy while the great attack was being delivered against the British.

The fighting to-day was of an extremely sanguinary character, and there is no doubt that the losses on both sides will be enormous. One report stated that the Germans were employing, for the first time on a large scale, a large number of tanks. It is known that the Austrians took an important part in the battle, probably providing many of the heavy guns used and the crews to work them.

Ambulance Line Formed. Long lines of ambulances began formation late to-night to receive wounded men from the front. The ambulances were not unlike those during the battle of the Somme, where they were employed in a large number of instances to carry the wounded to the rear.

Official Reports. Enemy Objectives Not Attained. Says British Statement. LONDON, March 21.—The British official report to-night says: At about 8 o'clock this morning, after an hour of preliminary bombardment, the German offensive was launched. High explosive and gas shells on our forward positions and back areas, a powerful infantry attack was launched by the enemy on a front of more than fifty miles, extending from the River Scarpe in the neighborhood of La Fere to the Senese River, about Croisilles.