WEATHER FORECAST.
Fair and colder to-day, with strong north winds; fair to-morrow.
Highest temperature yesterday, 67; lowest, 49.
Detailed weather reports on last page.

The Sun.

IT SHINES FOR ALL

VOL. LXXXV.—NO. 204. ++++ NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1918.—Copyright, 1918, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association. PRICE TWO CENTS.

WORLD'S GREATEST BATTLE HOURLY GROWS IN INTENSITY; ENTIRE BRITISH LINE HOLDS FIRM, THOUGH NEWLY PIERCED; GERMAN LOSSES APPALLING; 500,000 EMPLOYED IN ATTACK

FLOODS RISING UNDER MADISON SQUARE PARK

Catskill Aqueduct, Mains, Springs and Seepage Are Blamed.

PUMPS HARD AT WORK

Danger Is Feared to Foundations of Surrounding Buildings.

Water has been welling up into a cellar excavation in Madison Square Park, sometimes at the rate of ninety gallons a minute, swamping the underpinning passage of the new Broadway subway station at Twenty-third street and adding to the worries of superintendents of buildings fronting on the park. The flood has inspired Public Service Commission engineers and others with a belief that the Catskill aqueduct is leaking.

Commissioner Chadwick of the Board of Water Supply denies that the aqueduct is to blame. He admits it did leak in that vicinity for a while when the water was first let through it, but says sheathing in copper of 1,100 feet of its interior stopped the leak effectually a year and a half ago. Any trouble since then, he thinks, must be due to the return of the ground water under Madison Square to the height where it stood naturally before the aqueduct tunnel during construction began to act as an underdrain and carry the seepage off.

The Department of Parks is not satisfied with this view. The cellar hole in question is for a new comfort station. It is to be sixteen feet deep. Digging was begun last fall. When the diggers got most of the way down a gentle spring delayed their operations. On October 27 an electric pump, having a capacity of 110 gallons a minute, began its endurance contest with the spring and kept it up all winter, working twenty-four hours a day most of the time until a few days ago when the pump gained.

Debate on Pumping Cost.

Those in charge say the ground water under Madison Square is always exceptionally high, but not as high as that, and the Park Department and the Board of Water Supply have conflicting ideas as to which should pay for the extra time and work on the comfort station.

City engineers said yesterday that they understood emergency pumping had been done recently in the cellars of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Building and others fronting on the park. The superintendent of the Metropolitan building said it hadn't been. A pump is always kept going, he said, to take care of the water of springs, but nothing more has been needed.

The comfort station cellar is on the south side of the park. Over on the west side of the park an undertrack passage, like the one in the Times Square station of the old subway, connects the uptown and downtown platforms of the Broadway subway. At the office of the Public Service Commission it was said that high water in the ground had never affected the subway itself, but had percolated into this passage so copiously as to rise sometimes almost to the platforms.

An extra pump had taken care of the water. The pump is still there and is worked by the operating company. The passage is not yet in commission.

The aqueduct at Twenty-third street is 200 feet down. A shaft drops to it close to the Worth monument. Before the shaft and the tunnel were lined they carried off a good deal of ground water that seeped into them. Accordingly the water lowered for the time being.

From this cause, said a Public Service Commission engineer, the water happened to be abnormally low when the Broadway subway was planned. He thought the engineers on the subway might have failed to take account of the flow that would follow the lining and sealing of the aqueduct.

Old Creek Recalled.

The superintendent of the Metropolitan building said that springs were numerous in the region of the square, and that a creek which used to cross it might still account naturally for considerable extra water.

When Commissioner Chadwick's office first discussed the matter it was said that the water hindering the cellar diggers probably came from a leak in a water main. But the main would have had to be leaking nearly five months, and all mains near by have recently been tested and discovered sound. Engineers said a leaking main would unquestionably have made trouble in the subway itself.

Later the copper sheathing of part of the aqueduct was verified by the Commissioner, who admitted the aqueduct had leaked two years ago.

"The head of water near Twenty-third street," he said, "is about 280 feet. That is the gravity pressure would send it that high in the piping of a building. The resistance of the aqueduct to such enormous pressure depends, not upon the concrete lining, but upon the rock by which it is enclosed. If the rock is sound and gives the concrete necessarily gives also, and enough of a slip results to allow some seepage."

Repair Not Difficult.

Engineers said that if the aqueduct were really leaking anywhere enough to make serious trouble the only thing to do would be to stop the water at the nearest gate above and hunt the leak through the tunnel and patch it up. This patching, they said, would not be a great undertaking, but while it was being attended to Croton water would have to be used.

A considerable leakage continuing indefinitely might become dangerous to surrounding buildings by undermining the foundations.

The comfort station will have a dry cellar come what may. There will be a ballast or hydrostatic floor of reenforced concrete, with floor and walls all in one piece and impervious to water.

U. S. CRUISER IN PACIFIC SEIZES GERMAN RAIDER

Captures Forty Ton Motor Boat Outfitted for Mischief in West Mexico.

IS BEING TAKEN TO PORT

All Teuton Crew, Flags and Rifles Aboard Agassiz, Troublesome Craft.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—A sixty foot motorboat, the Agassiz, which sailed from a Mexican port with Germans, German flags, rifles and pistols on board has been seized at sea by an American warship and taken to a Pacific port for investigation to determine whether she was starting on a commerce raiding cruise. The Navy Department to-night issued this statement:

The Navy Department announced to-night that a small American vessel, the Agassiz, which sailed from a west Mexican port, where she had been fitted out under circumstances which led the naval authorities to believe that she might be used as an enemy raider, has been seized at sea and taken to a Pacific port for investigation. There were found aboard several Germans, German flags, rifles and pistols. When seized she had no ship's papers and a number of articles were seen to be thrown overboard.

The Agassiz is a gas propelled boat about sixty feet long, and so far as present information indicates carried no mounted guns.

Flew German Navy Flag.

According to advices received here the Agassiz was captured fifteen miles off Mazatlan, Mexico, at 11 o'clock last Tuesday. These late reports said the Agassiz, flying the flag of the Imperial German Navy, was heavily armed and carried a crew of five. It did not attempt to engage its captor when overhauled.

The Agassiz was not large enough to be used extensively as a raider. Federal officials say, however, that it was the evident intention of the German crew to capture a Pacific Mail boat running to Panama, outfit it with heavier guns than could be mounted on the Agassiz, recruit a full crew from pro-Germans now living at west coast Mexican ports and then start out on a reign of terror.

The Agassiz, while lying at a berth near the Mexican customs wharf at Mazatlan, was suddenly changed from American to Mexican registry.

Federal secret service men have been watching the movements of the alleged conspirators for many months. They obtained an inkling of the ringleader's intention regarding the Agassiz and permitted him to proceed with his plans until they thought it was time for an American warship to check further activities of the raider, it was said.

SEIZED OFF MAZATLAN.

Agassiz Formerly Was Owned by University of California.

A PACIFIC PORT, March 22.—With what is declared to be a captured German raider in tow, a United States cruiser is expected to reach this port next Sunday or Monday, according to information given out to-day by naval officers here.

Wireless messages from the commander of the cruiser said the captured vessel is the Alexander Agassiz, for several years in the service of a biological institute at La Jolla, Cal. The capture was made last Tuesday off Mazatlan, Mexico.

The Agassiz, according to the warship's messages, carries an all German crew and had been outfitted for service as a raider on Pacific commerce. No details regarding the number of men aboard or the names of the commanding officers have been received.

The Agassiz, according to Federal officials, has been a source of much trouble for some time, and has been under suspicion since last clearing from San Diego, January 27, 1917.

The vessel was sold to the Pacific Trading Company, three of the principals of which are said to be M. Lochren, William Taylor and H. Wheeler of San Francisco, none of whom is implicated in any way with the raiding plot. The sale was conducted through the comptroller of the University of California, the former owner of the craft.

According to shipping records, the Agassiz registers 41 tons, is 61 feet in length, has twin screw engines, ketch rig and was built in San Diego in 1907.

POPE ASKS PEACE IN EASTER PRAYER

Message to America Wishes for End of Hatred.

ROME, March 22.—A plea for lasting peace is made by Pope Benedict in his Easter message to the United States, which he sends through the Associated Press. The Holy Father's message says:

"The first message of the risen Saviour to his disciples after suffering the torture of Passion Week was 'Peace be unto you.' Never has the world for which He sacrificed himself needed so poignantly that message of peace as to-day.

"On this solemn occasion no better wish can be made to the country so dear to our hearts than that the Divine Redeemer may grant a realization of the desire of all; that is, a healing of the existing hatred and the concluding of a lasting peace based on the foundations of justice, fear of God and love of humanity, giving to the world a new organization of peoples and nations united under the egis of true religion in aspiring to a nobler, purer and kinder civilization.

"It is thus we desire to fulfil our Master's last injunction to His apostles: 'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.'"

British Flier Downs Four Enemy Machines

By PERRY ROBINSON.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN from the London Times.
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BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 20.—One of the British flying machines recently was in an extraordinary gallant performance. It was not a fighting machine, as they are reckoned now, although of the type used in fighting eighteen months ago. Now it is employed chiefly for observation, photography and like purposes.

This machine, with two occupants, was attacked by a patrol of enemy scouts of apparently eight machines, which swooped down at it one after another in succession. The pilot and observer of the British airplane then shot down four of the enemy machines and the British plane was still afloat, although it was riddled with bullets and both its occupants had been hit. Tattered and limping, somehow it got home. When the pilot landed he found the observer dead in his seat.

$2.50 WHEAT TO FORCE RATIONS

Gore Measure Also Likely to Cause Great Hardships to Allies.

THESE CAN'T PAY MORE

Bill May Start Bitter Fight Between President and Congress.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Another break between the President and Congress and one which may start a bitter fight betwen the legislative and executive branches of the Government is in prospect as a result of the Senate's action in voting overwhelmingly for $2.50 wheat.

The President fixed the price at $2.20 after study of the whole situation by the Food Administration and the Department of Agriculture. In a sense the Food Administration represented the consumers of the country and the Department of Agriculture the farmers or producers.

Food Administration officials are convinced that $2.50 wheat would upset the entire economic fabric so far as the food situation is concerned not only in this country but in France and England, and the neutrals we must feed as well. It is feared the price of bread would be increased to an extent that might bring grave unrest in the cities and industrial centres.

Food Administrator Hoover had a lengthy conference with the President in the White House this afternoon. While he was non-committal after this conference it is known he discussed the wheat situation and the effect of a $2.50 price.

It is believed in some official quarters here that an immediate rationing system will have to be started if the amendment for $2.50 wheat is finally passed.

Just what the President's attitude would be if the bill came up to him for signature is problematical. It is significant that the Senate vote was sufficiently large to pass it over a veto. Pressure brought by the Executive would have to meet the influence of the farmer vote.

$2.06 Is 131 P. C. Increase.

Officials of the Food Administration declined to discuss the Senate's action on the Gore amendment or to indicate to what extent its passage will affect the plans of the Food Administration for controlling the breadstuffs of the country this year. The farmers are receiving an average price of $2.06 a bushel for wheat now, which, compared with the average price of 86 cents received during the three years prior to the war, is an increase of 131 per cent.

Last summer when food control was under discussion and agents of the Allies were purchasing in this country vast quantities of grain fell into the hands of speculative interests. The grain corporation was organized under the auspices of the Food Administration to prevent all of the wheat crop either being taken out of the country or put beyond the pocketbook of American consumers.

Allies Can't Pay More.

The wheat sent abroad since has been so divided as to prevent suffering on either side of the ocean. Bread is a war monopoly in England and the Government in the last year has spent $200,000,000 more for wheat than it has sold it for to the consumers.

This subsidy, however, cannot be increased with ease and the statement is made here that wheat at $2.20 represents approximately the maximum buying ability of the people of the allied countries abroad. To raise the price may precipitate serious economic conditions in these countries.

Several conferences are scheduled tomorrow, but it is not known whether a formal statement will be issued by Food Administration officials.

CITY LOAFERS TO FARM OR JAIL

South Dakota Law Provides Conscription for Rural Labor.

PIERRE, S. D., March 22.—The lower house of South Dakota's Legislature passed to-day a bill authorizing county councils of defense to register and conscript men for labor on farms.

The measure provides a penalty of three months imprisonment and $1,000 fine for attempts at evasion. It is particularly aimed at unemployed in cities who refuse to accept farm work.

EXPECT DRIVE TO LAST WEEKS

U. S. Military Experts Regard Outcome as Hanging in Balance.

TWO OBJECTIVES SEEN

Germans May Be Striking for Channel Ports or for Paris.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—With official Washington, from the President down, in suspense over the outcome of the first onslaught of the great German drive, now clearly revealed as the major offensive of the war, military experts here to-night regarded the outcome as still hanging in the balance. General Staff officers, including Major-Gen. Peyton C. March, acting chief of staff, look upon the offensive as still in its inceptive stage. No official reports have yet come from Gen. Pershing, but every scrap of information from the battle zone is being eagerly scanned.

With America now actively in the war and American troops holding part of the line it is almost as if the battle were being waged on our own soil. Interest here in the combat has excluded all other matters from consideration. The fact is not lost sight of that the whole fate of the war depends upon preventing the Kaiser's legions from breaking through.

The Cabinet meeting was called off by the President. The House Military Committee spent part of the day with Gen. March and the War Council and eagerly sought the opinions of the military experts on the progress of the battle.

Salient Facts of Situation.

American Army officers explained that they could as yet form no definite conclusions as to the indicated outcome of the first German attack, but these facts they explained stood out in the light of latest reports:

Germany, it has become increasingly apparent, has begun her much advertised offensive, on which it would seem she has staked her boasted ability to force peace by the sword. The German high command is using its best shock troops and all its resources to sustain the drive.

The British counter attacks appear able to hold the Teutons in check and are inflicting terrible losses on the enemy.

The Germans appear to be conducting a general offensive on the western front and even on the Italian. The principal onslaught is undoubtedly directed in the St Quentin region, where the ground is adapted to open fighting and is in a drier condition than elsewhere.

Military men also explain that the advantage of a thrust at this point of the line lies in the fact that two major objectives are possible with this as a starting point. The Germans might strike to the north for the Channel ports or they might strike southwesterly for Paris. The main objective can thus be kept obscure for the present.

Believe British Will Hold.

Army men, however, are confident that the Germans, despite their unprecedented preparations, will not succeed in breaking through the British line to an extent where either of these major objectives can be pressed.

The new British line is being kept secret by Sir Douglas Haig, but the announcement that the British by a brilliant counter attack have driven the Germans out of Doignies give an encouraging indication that the British line has not been bent back to any great extent. Doignies, which is on the Cambrai-Bapaume road, is only three miles from the battle line of last winter.

There is a distinct impression in military circles here that the Germans will attempt to sustain their offensive perhaps for weeks and consequently the drain on the man power of the attacking forces will be an all important factor. So far no reports have come from Gen. Pershing indicating whether or not the American sectors are feeling the weight of the renewed German offensive.

When asked to-day as to the effect the drive might have on the plans of Gen. Pershing's forces, Major-Gen. March said he fully realized that the country was keenly interested and concerned in this particular phase of the fighting, but in the absence of official information from Gen. Pershing, he felt it unwise to speculate or attempt to make predictions. He promised to make public any information received from Gen. Pershing which could properly be given out.

Prisoners Do Their "Bit" for the Fund

DEEPLY impressive was a contribution of $170.16 which came to THE SUN Tobacco Fund yesterday from inmates of the Clinton prison at Dannemora, N. Y. The gift was purely voluntary and the amount was made up of savings from each prisoner's meagre pittance of a cent and a half a day.

"This is our 'bit,'" wrote the spokesman. "Modest as it is, it is given with unselfish sincerity."

If the unfortunates behind prison walls are so keenly alive to the situation, what about us who are in the full enjoyment of our liberty?

ARE WE DOING OUR FULL PART?

WARNING! THE SUN TOBACCO FUND has no connection with any other fund, organization or publication. It employs no agents or solicitors. See page 5.

AIRMEN AID IN CHECKING DRIVE

Flying Low They Fire Thousands of Rounds Into Attacking Germans.

DOWN 22 ENEMY CRAFT

Only Three British Machines Lost in a Day of Desperate Fighting.

LONDON, March 22.—British aircraft during the fighting along the front in France Thursday aided materially the infantry forces below, killing or wounding many Germans with their machine guns while flying at low altitudes, according to a British official communication issued to-night dealing with aviation.

In addition British aircraft bombed important military positions behind the line and aviators accounted for numerous German airmen in battles in the air. The text of the communication follows:

The mist over the whole front Thursday morning cleared locally later, but at most places the weather was unsuitable for low flying. The enemy's attacking troops and reenforcements on the battle front offered excellent targets to the pilots of our low flying machines, which poured many thousands of rounds into them, causing innumerable casualties.

Our bombing machines also attacked these targets, in addition to bombing important railway stations on the battle front, more than 100 bombs being dropped.

A great deal of fighting occurred at low altitudes, in which sixteen hostile machines were downed and six driven down out of control. A hostile balloon was destroyed by one of our pilots. One of the enemy's low-flying airplanes was shot down in our lines by infantry. Three of our machines are missing.

During the night night flying squadrons in the southern area of the front were unable to leave the ground owing to the mist. In the northern area, where the weather was clear, our airplanes dropped 3½ tons of bombs on the dockyards at Bruges and 2½ tons of bombs on rest billets northwest of Tournai. All of our machines returned.

FIRST OF WOUNDED HERE FROM TRENCHES

Total of 65 in Batch of 101 Reaching Base Hospital.

AN ATLANTIC PORT, March 22.—A contingent of 101 sick and wounded soldiers, sixty-five of them direct from France, arrived at a base hospital tonight. These sixty-five are members of units known to have been in contact with the Germans on the French front.

Four of them are suffering from gunshot wounds and were probably under fire in one of the engagements between American patrols and German raiding parties. None of their wounds, however, is serious.

George B. Bishop, Infantry; Loyd M. Clark, Infantry, and Manuel Sanders, Field Artillery, are suffering from gunshot wounds, and Andrew J. Hershey, Infantry, has a shell wound in his left foot.

S. N. Williams, a member of a negro stevedore regiment, is the most seriously injured of the arrivals. He lost both feet, supposedly in an accident. Thomas Arthur, regiment of Engineers, has both legs broken, also supposedly accidental, although his regiment clashed with the enemy.

Ten other members of the contingent have been in service abroad, but have been in America for some time. Others in the group are suffering from chronic diseases developed in the National Army training camps and through rigorous service in France. Tuberculosis and heart trouble constitute the larger number of cases, as has been true of other groups arriving at this base hospital.

R. G. COLT NOW AVIATOR.

Husband of Actress Qualifies With Philip Armour 3d.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, March 22.—Among the ninety-eight men who received diplomas from the army aviation school at Ohio State University here to-day were Russell G. Colt, husband of Ethel Barrymore, the actress, and Philip D. Armour 3d.

The latter is a nephew of J. Ogden Armour.

SUMMER EXCURSIONS TO RUN DESPITE WAR

Seaside Trains Will Not Be Curtailed, McAdoo Says.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Passenger excursion facilities to resorts on the Atlantic coast will not be curtailed by Director-General McAdoo this summer unless in the interests of actual war needs or in relieving freight congestion. A statement to this effect was made by Mr. McAdoo to-day. It indicated his policy in all parts of the country.

"War is gloomy business at best," he said, "and there is no reason why it should be felt more keenly by restricting summer amusements unless there is unquestionable need that it be done."

Commercial organizations and business interests in several of the summer resort cities on the New Jersey coast had filed anxious inquiries with Mr. McAdoo.

Germans Fine Brussels $500,000.

LONDON, March 23.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Amsterdam says the city of Brussels, Belgium, has been fined 2,000,000 marks ($500,000) for a recent demonstration by anti-Flemish agitators.

NEW GUNS READY TO SMASH TANKS NOW USED BY FOES

W. Beach Thomas Pictures Vividly Preparations and Terrain in Present Drive—British Munitions Sent to Russia Now Being Used Against Allies.

By W. BEACH THOMAS,

Correspondent at the British Headquarters in France, 1914-1917, and author of "With the British on the Somme."

The German attack, whether it is the Great Drive or not, thrusts at the most interesting point on the western front and is accompanied by every known form of frightfulness, including the tank. Before I left France at the end of 1917 I saw the new British anti-tank guns already in position on the road to Cambrai. Venomous and handy things they are, like the German guns of which I picked up fragments on the stricken field of Messines. They resemble a field gun, but the wheels are lower and the gun can swivel round completely, so as to fire in any direction.

Their presence there may be taken as evidence of allied preparedness for whatever might come. But in spite of this if the Germans seek a local success for the consumption of their populace they have probably picked the best place, though it is the very worst for a real or strategic victory. I know the whole of the battlefield from the great tunnels under the Hindenburg line to the flattened orchards and uprooted villages behind it, and, further back, that quagmire qualified by tombstones where the battle of the Somme was fought.

If you look at the panorama from an airplane or sausage balloon you see on the allied side a wide and singularly open stretch of country. It was deliberately shorn of every bit of shelter by the Germans during their retreat last spring. They justified the brutal work by saying that they needed a "glacis" or smooth slope in front of their "impregnable" Hindenburg line. Well, we took one section of that line at the battle of Arras on April 9 and Gen. Byng another large section—some of it afterward recovered by the German counter attack—at the end of November.

Bodies Blocked German Tunnel.

And a very quaint and cunning line it is. Just behind the front trench is a deep tunnel—I walked up a long stretch of it—approached by many abrupt staircases. The tunnel was actually blocked during one of our attacks by German bodies thrown or fallen down these oubliettes.

We know that the enemy (using French civilian slave labor and Russian soldier prisoners) has vastly increased the tunnel space all along the line still in his possession, and could probably hide at least 20,000 men underground. The British army recently concealed more than this on the eve of one big attack and it is the habit of the German to keep his soldiers, as well as his slave labor battalions, continually digging day and night. This means that he may have unlimited reserves, perhaps 40,000, snug underground, ready at a moment's notice to act either as supports or as storm troops.

All the country from St. Quentin to Cambrai is admirably designed for concealing either guns or troops, and the concentration of both is intense. Before I left the front he was using against the British British shells from British howitzers, which had been sent to the Russians only a few months earlier. Some Italian guns and ammunition and some new Austrian heavy guns have been added to the full complement of Krupp's 77s and 5.9s. We know, too, that each infantry division is now equipped with man handled flame throwers, prepared according to the advice of Gen. von Armin, who commanded in the Somme battle, and whose list of recommendations I saw soon after it was captured.

Every arm of the army is provided with "smoke emitters." The infantry carry smoke bombs, the trench mortars as well as the field artillery fire smoke shells and the gunners, for concealment purposes, surround themselves when they fire with "smudges" or smoke making stoves.

Chance to Win Local Success.

Considering the openness of the allied position and the difficulty of building trench fortifications under observation from a long prepared position, the German will have failed badly if he does not win a local success. But a very short advance would rob him of all his advantages; and it seems to me highly unlikely that he meditates a deep drive in the St Quentin neighborhood and north of it, where the British salient sticks out toward Cambrai, if only because he would be brought up sharp by the old Somme battlefield.

The very sight or neighborhood of that would depress the heart of the average German soldier half way to his boots. The attack may have three other motives: to nip off the little British salient, to anticipate an allied offensive—and Cambrai is a "ganglionic nerve centre" of the German organization—or just to provide an expectant public at home with a paper victory.

It may be a blind to cover an onslaught elsewhere; but wherever he attacks the enemy's losses will be huge. Even in the last counter attack against Gen. Byng, though it was generally successful, one battalion—about 600 men—of Yorkshire troops counted over 200 dead Germans in front of their trench. The truth is that the German is returning to his earlier tactics and beginning once again to attack in mass, as he has not done since the days of the first battle of Ypres. One of the last comments I heard before crossing the Atlantic was from a machine gunner who fought with Byng. "Never did man have such beautiful targets," he said. "We were tired of killing." Such targets seem to have been repeated in Wednesday's attack.

TORPEDO FRAUD PLOT CHARGED

2 Enemy Aliens and a Naturalized American Arrested—Gauges Defective.

PHILADELPHIA, March 22.—Two enemy aliens and one naturalized American were arrested to-day on the charge of conspiracy to defraud the Government by furnishing defective gauges for torpedoes used on American warships.

The men under arrest are Fritz Bieret, assistant to the general manager of the United States Gauge Company of Sellersville, Pa.; William Heindricks, general foreman, and George Schubert, foreman. A fourth man will be placed under arrest to-morrow.

United States Commissioner Howard M. Long in holding the men in $5,000 bail each said he made the bond high because he assumed there might be something even more serious in the case.

An affidavit, sworn to by a Government agent, says the company is engaged in manufacturing gauges for the United States Government. It was set forth that the gauges are subjected to an endurance test for the purpose of determining whether they complied with the requirements of the Government contract. These tests consisted in submitting the gauges to high pressure for a period of approximately six hours.

It is charged that the accused men installed secret taps and pumps to the gauges, with the result that the test was defeated. This was done, according to Government agents, at such times when Federal inspectors were not watching the tests.

The defeat of the tests left some gauges, which are used to measure the air pressure of torpedoes, defective, according to Government agents. Whether any of the defective gauges are now on torpedoes on board warships, Government officers could not say.

The arrests were made at Sellersville, which is about thirty miles north of Philadelphia, by Agent R. M. Sackett, acting under the instruction of William J. McCarron, in charge of the Military Intelligence Bureau, Plant Protection Division of the War Department. Sackett was assisted by deputy marshals.

The accused men will have a further hearing next Tuesday. Bieret got bail, but Heindricks and Schubert, up to a late hour to-night were unable to furnish bond. Heindricks and another man named Schwindt furnished the bail for Bieret.

According to Government agents there are at least twenty enemy aliens still employed at the United States Gauge Company, which has about 400 workers.

WOOD TO TELL OF FRENCH TRIP

Senate Committee Arranges for Testimony of Major-General Next Week.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, March 22.—Major-Gen. Wood, fresh from the battlefields of France, will appear before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs at a public hearing Monday. The arrival of Gen. Wood was the signal for an immediate contest privately staged between the Senate Committee on Military Affairs and the War Department. The Senate committee won, hence the public hearing.

It has been the intention of War Department officials to have Gen. Wood appear at one of the special conferences or councils now a weekly event in the Congressional calendar and thereby prevent more than second hand publicity being given to him. The Senate committee scented this intention and also it learned this was the practice which the War Department intended adopting in regard to all other prominent military men returning from the front.

In this the Senate committee saw the fine hand of some unidentified suppressor of interesting data, and it acted quickly and firmly in Gen. Wood's instance to set a precedent to be followed in the future where circumstances of the situation justify an open review of what the soldier may have to tell.

ASQUITH PLEADS FOR HARMONY IN IRELAND

Says Interests of Allied Cause Call for It.

LONDON, March 22.—"These are critical moments in the fortunes of Ireland," said former Premier Asquith in an address to-day. "We hear disquieting reports, but one thing is most urgent not only in the interests of Britain, Ireland and the British Empire, but in the interests of the allied cause and the future of the world—reconciliation in Ireland.

"I refuse to believe that at this supreme moment British and Irish statesmanship is so bankrupt that it cannot find an honorable solution."

If the war should last another year, said Mr. Asquith, the national debt would be $40,000,000,000. This could be met only by industrial expansion.

The former Premier declared strongly for the continuation of free trade. Regarding state control of industries, he said: "Our experience has not been altogether happy under a cohort of controllers." He believed Great Britain could not maintain competition against the world under that system.

Haig Regains Positions Lost Thursday, but Yields at Some Other Points.

KAISER AT THE FRONT

Total of 1,250,000 Men Engaged—Losses Thursday Put at 120,000.

ENEMY CAPTURES 16,000

Fifty Mile Front Strewn With German Dead—Battle Greatest Near Cambrai.

By PERRY ROBINSON.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN from the London Times.
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WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, March 22.—The attack on the Flesquieres salient west of Cambrai is a total failure. In the south, below St. Quentin, one British division beat off six German divisions. From Cherisy to Noreuil, north and south of Croisilles on the north side of the Flesquieres salient, the Germans, who had nine divisions (about 100,000 men) on a front of seven miles, advanced 3,000 yards, suffering terribly. Before Cherisy the Germans had eight divisions on a front of six miles against two of ours.

The great battle has hardly yet begun. Over the whole front our line, if withdrawn in places, holds absolutely firm; there is not the smallest sign of a break through. In some sectors where the first line was held against the enemy the defenders later were withdrawn to conform to the rest of the line.

BRITISH LINE HOLDS AFTER NEW ATTACKS

LONDON, March 22.—The great German drive against the British continued to-day along nearly the whole fifty mile battlefront from above Cambrai, extending down below St. Quentin. Over this long stretch the Germans made attack after attack in great force, but the British, as a whole, held firm; the Germans made gains here and there, but the British counter attacks are now prompt and effective. Practically all the ground captured by the Kaiser's troops yesterday was regained to-day and part of that lost to-day was recovered.

The night report from Berlin asserts that 16,000 British prisoners were taken yesterday, together with 200 machine guns. Gen. Haig reports to-night that the British losses have been considerable, but not out of proportion to the magnitude of the battle, while the German losses must of necessity have been much heavier, as every little advance scored by them was made at the cost of great sacrifices.

The military critic of the *Daily Sketch* asserts that the German losses on Thursday were 80,000, those of the British less than half of that number. These figures are the best available at this time and are generally regarded as conservative.

Germans Use Forty Divisions.

Correspondents at the front report that forty German divisions, a minimum of about 500,000 men, are engaged in the attack. The British have a larger force, so that the men engaged in this battle number more than 1,000,000, probably nearer 1,250,000. In its extent and in the ferocity of the fighting, this battle has never been equalled on this or any other front, and it was preceded by the greatest concentration of artillery in the world's history.

According to the correspondents the British withdrawals, where they were necessary, were carried out in good order from advanced positions, which, in the nature of the fighting of these days, it had been expected would be given up. These generally believed to have been lightly held.

It had been intimated that the Germans would report the capture of several villages, but the British despatches gave no hint of their names, saying only that it was inadvisable to indicate the present British line, because this would be giving information to the enemy.

Where Fighting Is Fiercest.

The hottest fighting is still on both sides of the Flesquieres salient, just west of Cambrai. To crush in the sides of this salient is apparently the main purpose of the German drive. Success there would mean the restoration in large part of the old Hindenburg line, which was badly broken by Gen. Byng on November 22, 1917, but so far the Germans have made no material progress toward this end.

The casualties among the Germans, who as usual are attacking in huge masses against the highly efficient British machine guns, are said to be appalling; the entire ground about the points of attack is littered with German dead.

The maximum gain made by the Germans in this sector was about two and a half miles yesterday, but most of that was recovered. This was on the north side of the salient, in the vicinity of Langlicourt; on the eastern side, at Gauche Wood, the attackers did not fare so well.

Berlin asserts that the British first line was carried by storm all the way from Arras to La Fere, more than fifty miles. What happened, apparently, was that the outposts only were driven in and that only in a few places were the British first line trenches actually pierced. The actual advance of the Germans, as compared with what has been achieved in previous drives, was practically nothing.

Kaiser Is on the Scene.

The Kaiser, with Field Marshal von Hindenburg and Gen. von Ludendorff personally are directing the drive, according to reliable reports. These are the three men who are the guiding minds