RUMANIA CALLS OUT MEN; TEUTONS SHELL DURAZZO

All Naturalized Rumanians Between 21 and 46 Summoned to Colors

ITALIANS IN RETREAT

Move to Isthmus Northwest of Albanian Port Under Foe's Fire

LONDON, Feb. 26.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent sends a report received there from Bucharest that the Rumanian War Office has announced that all naturalized Rumanian citizens between the ages of 21 and 46 must report themselves for military service.

BERLIN, Feb. 26.—An Austro-Hungarian communication received here last night says:

In consequence of our hard assault on the Italians east and southeast of Durazzo they have been driven to the Isthmus west of the Durs Lakes. The Durazzo docks are under the fire of the Austro-Hungarian batteries, and the embarkment of men and war materials have been efficiently hindered.

Up to the present in the combats 11 Italian officers and more than 700 soldiers have been taken prisoners, and five cannon and one machine gun captured.

ROME, Feb. 26.

A dispatch from Athens says that Baron von Schneck, formerly German Consul at Volo, who has been actively engaged in a pro-German publicity campaign, has gone to Monastir and will probably go to Rumania.

He is said to have confided to friends that pro-German propaganda is now "wasted" in Greece and might be more profitable elsewhere. He had counted King Constantine among his intimate friends but decided to abandon Greece when the Greek monarch granted an audience to General Sarrail, the French commander in chief in the Balkans.

The Greek legation here issued a denial today of the reports that the Greek Minister in Sofia had assured the Premier of Bulgaria that Greece will remain neutral even if the Bulgarians attack Salonica. The denial is taken as an indication that Greece will not tacitly agree to Bulgarian participation in a drive on Salonica.

WILSON READY TO TEST STRENGTH IN HOUSE

Continued from Page One

ment of its foreign relations with other countries.

A canvass of the Senate based upon public and private statements revealed an anomalous condition of affairs, in that it showed that there are more Republicans ready to stand by the Democratic President than there are members of his own party.

The same canvass developed the fact that any attempt by the President's critics to swerve him from his patriotic resolve to prevent the humiliation of American rights will meet with defeat.

It is not probable that any such attempt will be made. Even if it should, the President's supporters are certain of enough votes to prevent the passage of either the Gore resolution in the Senate or that offered by Mr. McLemore in the House. From present indications the two undertakings are dead.

BREACH STILL EXISTS.

At the same time it was apparent that the differences between the President and Congress have not been smoothed over. The President's letter to Senator Stone failed to placate the Senate and House. There was a temporary truce, but that was all.

Developments which gave rise to the feeling that a way out of the difficulty with Germany will be found were:

"The receipt of the apparently authoritative forecasts of the German reply indicating that Germany will suggest discussions of the disputed question of offensive armament.

"A direct statement by Secretary Lansing that the United States will discuss this question, and the opinion given by Speaker Clark, after visiting the President, that Germany will postpone operation of its new submarine warfare pending such discussion."

From Teutonic diplomatic quarters came the statement that once the United States and Germany embark on a diplomatic discussion of defensive armament, the danger of war is over.

"Nations can't go to war over a difference of an inch or two in the calibre of a gun," one official said.

The most influential men in both Houses expressed confidence that they had curbed the movement to pass a resolution warning American citizens not to travel upon the ships of belligerent nations carrying guns.

In this achievement Speaker Clark, of the House, was easily the commanding figure. Following an interview with the President yesterday, the Speaker assumed command of the Administration forces in the Lower House with such gratifying results that all danger of another outbreak seemed safely passed.

The titular leader of the House, Mr. Kitchin, not only failed to exercise the function of his office in support of the President, but was conspicuous in his encouragement of the opposition.

With Majority Leader Kern of the Senate, Chairman Stone of the Foreign Relations Committee and more than a dozen other Democratic Senators apparently arrayed against the President, the organization of the forces supporting him in that body fell to Senator Lodge. The Massachusetts Republican Senator was outspoken in his condemnation of the efforts of members of the President's own party to embarrass him by congressional interference with his conduct of diplomatic negotiations.

Postmaster General Burleson, during the afternoon, assured the White House that the Administration now controls the situation and that a warning resolution cannot be passed.

Similar assurances also came to the White House from congressional leaders.

They were given after the House weathered a new threat of hysteria that came after a telegram from William Jennings Bryan, urging Congress to immediate legislative action, was passed about the floor.

Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, is expected to deliver the German reply to the State Department Monday. The Ambassador has refrained from any communication with officials while the flurry between the President and Congress was in progress.

It was apparent today that there are two things that may delay the progress of diplomatic negotiations. The reply of the Allies to Lansing's proposals for disarmament have not been received.

The Department is also awaiting receipt of appendices to the German submarine decree, which are said to prove by the text of official orders that British merchantmen are armed deliberately to destroy German submarines.

What is considered the all-important question is just how far Germany will go in her forthcoming reply to pave the way for further negotiations. Coupled with the consideration of that question is speculation as to what attitude the United States will take if an offer is made to discuss the constituent elements of defensive arms.

MAY INFLUENCE BERLIN.

There were varying views expressed last night over the effect the last two days' flare-up in Congress will have on the German submarine negotiations.

There was some apprehension in official circles that the revolt against the President may lead to a stiffening of the German position.

Publication in Germany of the details of the revolt in Congress, it is believed in Teutonic quarters, will show that there is strong sentiment in favor of giving Germany a square deal. The effect of this will be to insuffle a more conciliatory spirit in Berlin, Teutonic diplomats believe.

The significant statement was made in an authoritative German source today that the United States and Germany were nearer war two weeks ago. Just before the settlement of the Lusitania case, than they have been at any time since the Lusitania was sunk nine months ago.

The War Today

The first of the Verdun works has fallen before the smashing offensive of the Crown Prince's armies. Fort Douaumont, three miles southeast of the French position on the ridge of Louvemont, has been captured by the Kaiser's Brandenburg Regiment. Capture of the fort opens the way to effective assault on the sister forts of Belleville, St. Michel and Souville. The French lines protecting the giant fortresses are being subjected to galling artillery fire.

French forces, resisting the German assaults, have taken up new positions, backed by the Meuse hills, the War Office conceded this afternoon. "Battle north of Verdun continues," the official statement said, adding, "according to the last information the French troops are resisting the Germans without counting the sacrifices. French artillery is replying shell for shell to the German fire."

To take advantage of the German preoccupation in the west, the Allies are preparing a concerted offensive linking the Balkan and the eastern war fronts. The Czar is in personal command of initial operations in Poland and Galicia.

The Russians in Persia have taken the important city of Kermanshah, a capture estimated by strategists as second only to that of Erzerum, in Armenia. The new victory brings Russian aid nearer to the English beleaguered in Mesopotamia, as Kermanshah is only 150 miles from Kut-el-Amara.

Durazzo is under bombardment by the Austrians. Rumania has called more men to the colors, but its political action as to entering the war for either side is still a puzzle.

GERMANY BELIEVES CONGRESS WILL FORCE WILSON'S HAND

Feel U. S. Will Warn Citizens to Keep Off Armed Liners

BERLIN, Feb. 26.—Germany counts upon the American Congress to force a backdown from President Wilson in the controversy over armed merchantmen, it was learned today.

Officials here refuse to comment for publication, but the general feeling is that if the matter is referred to Congress a resolution will be put through warning Americans not to take passage on belligerent armed ships.

The belief is expressed that President Wilson does not want Congress to take a hand, fearing that debate over the question may embitter American opinion. The Berlin press, too, gives expression to this view.

Though reports that a majority in Congress may force President Wilson to yield to Germany have aroused hope for a peaceful settlement, the German attitude toward America is daily growing more tense. Not only the public, but officials, are frankly bitter in their criticism of President Wilson for refusing to warn Americans off belligerent armed merchantmen.

Dispatches suggesting the possibility that President Wilson may request Ambassador Bernstorff's recall have caused the greatest surprise here. Officials are puzzled at these reports, but the general belief is that Americans misunderstand the negotiations.

It is the consensus of opinion here that Bernstorff's recall would have the worst effect on the pending negotiations. Officials, however, believe President Wilson intends to resume the conferences between Ambassador Gerard and Foreign Secretary von Jagow, giving the latter every opportunity to present Germany's viewpoint.

For the last 24 hours German officials, leading bankers and business men and Americans in Berlin, have been greatly concerned about reports that President Wilson has asked Bernstorff's recall. Neither Ambassador Gerard nor Foreign Secretary von Jagow have received any direct information to this effect from Washington, they declare.

THE WEATHER

Official Forecast

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.

For eastern Pennsylvania: Overcast in south, and probably snow flurries in north portion tonight; Sunday partly overcast; strong west winds.

The coast storm has moved from the Virginia capes to Boston during the last 24 hours, and has increased in intensity until the pressure has fallen to 28.9 inches at its centre. Rain and snow have been general throughout the northeastern portion of the country and the temperatures have fallen slightly in the western quadrants of the storm. Fair weather is reported generally from the remainder of the country, with lower temperatures in the northern plain States, caused by the eastward movement of the high from the north Pacific States.

U. S. Weather Bureau Bulletin

Observations taken at 8 a. m. Eastern time.

Station.	8 a.m.	Low n't.	8 last fall.	Rain-fall.	Wind.	Veloc-ity.	Weather.
Atlanta, Ga.	30	28			NW	18	Clear
Atlantic City	34	24		.30	W	14	Snow
Bismarck, N. D.	12	12			N	18	P. Cldy
Boston, Mass.	44	38		1.34	NW	..	Rain
Buffalo, N. Y.	22	20		.10	W	28	Snow
Charleston	44	34			W	18	Clear
Chicago	26	20		.01	NW	24	Cloudy
Cincinnati	28	26			SW	14	Cloudy
Cleveland	26	24		.12	NW	22	Cloudy
Denver	28	24			S	..	Clear
Detroit	24	24		.01	W	10	Snow
Galveston	56	56			NE	..	Cloudy
Harrisburg	30	28		.24	NW	20	Cloudy
Hatteras	40	38		.02	NW	28	Clear
Halifax, N. S.	32	24		.40	SE	28	Rain
Helena, Mont.	20	20			SW	..	P. Cldy
Huron, S. D.	16	16		.01	NW	18	Snow
Indianapolis	30	28			W	10	Snow
Jacksonville	58	56			W	18	Clear
Knoxville, Tenn	30	28			SW	..	Snow
Little Rock	40	40			W	..	Cloudy
Los Angeles	54	54		1.12	SE	10	Rain
Louisville	32	28			SW	10	Cloudy
Montgomery	56	56			W	..	Clear
Montreal, Can.	32	32		.82	NE	..	Snow
Nashville	34	34			W	12	Clear
New Orleans	66	66			W	..	Clear
New York	32	30		1.20	NW	44	Cloudy
Norfolk, Va.	34	34			W	20	Clear
Oklahoma	36	36			N	12	Clear
Omaha, Neb.	22	22			NW	24	Snow
Philadelphia	34	34		.42	NW	20	Snow
Phoenix, Ariz.	54	52			E	..	Clear
Pittsburgh	26	26		.02	W	22	Snow
Portland, Me.	40	38		.98	SE	..	Cloudy
Portland, Ore.	58	56			NW	..	Clear
Quebec, Can.	24	24		.20	NE	44	Cloudy
St. Louis	38	34			NW	22	Cloudy
St. Paul, Minn.	18	14		.06	NW	20	Snow
Salt Lake	32	28			NE	..	Cloudy
San Antonio	64	64			NE	12	Cloudy
San Francisco	54	54		1.12	SE	10	Rain
Santa Fe	32	18			E	..	Clear
St. Ste Marie	4	4		.02	NW	12	Cloudy
Scranton, Pa.	26	24		1.42	NW	..	Snow
Tampa, Fla.	66	64			NW	..	Clear
Washington	34	34		.14	NW	12	Cloudy
Winnipeg, Can.	6	4		.06	NW	16	Cloudy

GREAT VERDUN FORT OF DOUAUMONT CAPTURED

Continued from Page One

capture was given out by the War Office:

"The armored fortress of Douaumont, the northeastern pillar of the permanent main line fortifications of Verdun was captured by storm yesterday by the 24th Regiment of Brandenburgers. It is now firmly in German hands."

"To the east of the Maas (Meuse River) considerable advances were made on our battle front in the presence of the King and Emperor (Kaiser Wilhelm). We gained possession of hills southwest of the village of Louvemont (north of Verdun), as well as a group of fortified positions situated further east, in a fierce rush forward. The Brandenburger regiments pushed on as far as the village and armored fort of Douaumont, which was carried by storm.

"In the Woevre plain the resistance of the enemy was broken down along the entire front as far as the neighborhood of Marpheville.

"South of the high road from Paris to Metz our troops are closely pursuing the retreating enemy.

"The announcement of the capture of the village of Champaneuville yesterday was based on a report which has turned out to be erroneous.

"On the night of February 25 the English attempted to carry out an advance east of Armentieres, but were repulsed.

"In Champagne the French attacked in the south of Sainte a Py the positions we captured on February 12 and succeeded in penetrating the first-line trenches over a width of 250 yards."

This announcement was followed by demonstrations of joy. Flags were raised over public and private buildings and the praise of the gallant Brandenburgers were on all lips. There was a procession through Unter den Linden and the national anthem was sung before the palace.

The capture of Fort Douaumont means a gain of approximately two more miles of ground for the Germans. More important still, it removes the chief menace to an advance south of Ornes, for the sweeping plain south of that town was under the guns of the fort.

Under cover of darkness following the victory, the Germans worked feverishly bringing up fresh guns and ammunition and now the big mortars in the fort are smashing the city of Verdun itself. Fires have broken out and many of the French reserves, which were held there by General Humbert, have been forced to retire to escape annihilation by the German shells. The sixth day of the battle of Verdun finds the German lines only four miles from Verdun, meaning a six-mile advance since last Sunday when the drive against the French fortress was opened.

It is believed that the capture of Verdun is now only a matter of a few days.

PARIS, Feb. 26.

Further withdrawals by the French north of Verdun are admitted by the French War Office in an official communique given out today.

The French outposts at Ornes and Hennemont were withdrawn, although it was stated that they had not been attacked by the Germans.

An artillery duel of extreme violence is raging along the front with the French guns exchanging shell for shell with the guns of the Germans.

The Germans are making enormous sacrifices of life.

The communique states that the French are meeting these terrific attacks in most of the positions that they have held since their new line was established.

In the region of Beaumont the assaults of the Germans were particularly severe, being preceded by furious drum fire.

The text of the official communique follows:

"The battle is continuous in the region to the north of Verdun, where the enemy continues to direct his efforts against the front to the east of the Meuse. According to the latest reports, our troops are resisting in their same positions the repeated assaults of the enemy, who no longer counts his sacrifices.

"In the region of Beaumont the combat has assumed a character particularly sanguinary.

"On the Woevre front the advance forces which we had held as the line of observation from Ornes to Hennemont since the fighting of last year have been withdrawn from the base of the Meuse heights, on the order of their commander and without any attacks from the enemy.

"Our artillery on the right bank and left bank of the Meuse is responding without cessation to the enemy's bombardment."

Using fresh soldiers that were brought up to replace the German troops, who had been wearied by constant day and night fighting, the Crown Prince began a series of fresh assaults after a cannonade of the greatest fury.

FRENCH WITHDRAW.

The attack centered against Fort Beaumont, the way being opened by the voluntary abandonment of earthworks in front of the fort by the French to avoid useless bloodshed.

The Teutons fought with the greatest bravery and never faltered as the storm of French shells tore through their ranks. But flesh and blood, no matter how great the gallantry, could not stand before the death scythe of the French fire. Shells from hundreds of guns and bullets from countless machine guns and thousands of rifles decimated the German ranks.

Battalion after battalion was hurled forward by the German commander in utter disregard of the enormous loss of human life. Soon the field was piled high with the corpses, and the charging soldiers stumbled over the bodies and fell amid their own slain. It was carnage such as had not been seen before in the war. Even the German rushes at Ypres, when their charges were described as gigantic assaults in which the soldiers rolled forward like endless waves of the sea, were as nothing compared with the onslaughts of the massed phalanxes north of Verdun.

TWO CORPS WIPED OUT.

It appears probable that nearly two German army corps have been completely wiped out in massed attacks against some of the strongest field positions the world has ever known.

There is not longer any doubt that the Germans are hurling all their resources into the Verdun attack, hoping to blast a road to Paris and end the war. The enormous losses already suffered by the Teutons is considered proof that the Kaiser has embarked on a venture planned to bring France to her knees.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—The battle of Verdun was resumed today with all its original fury, the Germans continuing to throw dense masses of infantry against the new French lines.

Today's fighting went on in bitter cold and a driving storm of snow, which fell last night and today throughout Northern France. The German losses so far in the battle are estimated by a high French military authority at 150,000 men. Last night, according to the afternoon bulletin from Paris, the French withdrew their lines about a mile on the left, next to the Meuse.

The main German force is now only two miles from the outer defense works. Heavy German and Austrian guns, of 15 and 17-inch calibre, have been brought up, and a shattering bombardment of the French works has been begun.

Fort de Belleville and Fort de Marre are under the fire of the big German guns, which are pounding away from their positions on an eight-mile front between Consenvoys and Ornes.

More than 400 guns are massed behind the German front and the cannonade of the French redoubts and forts is described as the sublimest spectacle of destruction and thunder since the world began.

The Germans are in possession of all positions as far as the Ridge of Louvemont, five miles north of Verdun; but the statement issued last night by the French War Office reports German attacks of unprecedented violence on La Cote du Poivre, a half mile further south and only a mile and a half from the Fort de Douaumont.

CROWN PRINCE WON KAISER TO FAVOR VERDUN OFFENSIVE

PETROGRAD, Feb. 26.—The army newspaper Russki Invalid prints a story partly based on a Stockholm report of a council of war in Berlin at which, it is stated, the assault of Verdun was decided upon.

The council was convened, the story says, to discuss some move to offset the taking of Erzerum by the Russians. The Kaiser presided at the council, others present including the German Crown Prince, the Crown Prince of Bavaria and Field Marshals von Hindenburg and von Mackensen.

The Princes strongly advocated an attack on the French front and proposed Verdun as the objective. Field Marshals von Hindenburg and von Mackensen opposed this, urging that it would be better to develop the operations already planned on the Russian front, where von Hindenburg believed that the chances of success were greater. Field Marshal von Hindenburg expressed doubt whether in any case an attack on Verdun could succeed, and argued that if it failed, thus proving that the new long-range guns were less formidable than had been stated, the Germans would be discouraged and would be "deprived of the moral support, especially needed in the warfare against the Russian troops."

The Field Marshals, however, were overruled by the Kaiser, who supported his son, and orders were immediately given for the necessary concentration.

OFFENSIVA GENERALE SU TUTTE LE FRONTI DECISA E IMMINENTE?

Si Dice a Roma Che il Momento E' Opportuno per Assestare Un Buon Colpo alla Germania

UN ATTACCO FRUSTRATO

ROMA, 26 Febbraio.

Ieri sera il Ministero della Guerra pubblicava il seguente rapporto del generale Cadorna circa la situazione sulla fronte italo-austriaca:

"Lungo tutta la fronte di battaglia l'attivita' dell'artiglieria e' stata ostacolata dalle condizioni atmosferiche sfavorevoli.

"Sulla collina di Santa Maria, durante la notte dal 23 al 24 Febbraio, alcuni nostri reparti avanzati sorpresero il nemico mentre infuriava una tempesta di neve. Un reparto nemico, vestito di tuniche bianche per non essere scoperto, tentava appunto di avvicinarsi alle nostre posizioni. Questo reparto fu respinto e lascio' nelle nostre mani molti prigionieri e sul terreno molti morti."

OFFENSIVA GENERALE?

Telegrammi da Petrograd dicono che i russi hanno ripreso violentemente l'offensiva nella Galizia e nella Polonia e che lo czar lo si trova al quartiere generale. Dalla fronte balcanica si hanno pure notizie che fanno supporre imminente una offensiva degli alleati, ed i comunicati ufficiali italiani danno notizia di una certa ripresa di attivita' sulla fronte alpina, particolarmente in direzione di Levico, di Trento e di Rovereto.

D'ora innanzi gli alleati saranno completamente pronti per una grande offensiva generale su tutte le fronti, giacche' sembra opportuno il momento di assestare un colpo alla Germania mentre questa e' impegnata nella sua offensiva contro la fortezza di Verdun, cio' che da' un vantaggio agli alleati.

Ieri un personaggio diplomatico esprimeva l'opinione che non e' impossibile che il mese di marzo debba vedere la decisione della guerra, e che in ogni caso sara' uno dei mesi piu' memorabili di questo conflitto. Gli alleati hanno ora la superiorita' di uomini e di materiale su tutte le fronti, comprese quelle dei Balcani e dell'Asia.

La Germania, invece, avendo trasferito tutte le sue riserve alla fronte occidentale non potra' piu' mandare rinforzi dove questi saranno necessarii. L'Austria, impegnata nella Serbia, nel Montenegro ed in Albania, ed attaccata violentemente nella Galizia e nella Bucovina, si trovera' nella impossibilita' di mandare aiuti alla Germania. Davanti alla minaccia degli anglo-francesi da Salonicco, dei rumeni dal Danubio e della Russia dal Mar Nero, la Bulgaria sara pure nell'impossibilita' di essere di aiuto ai suoi alleati, e finalmente la Turchia non potra' fare il minimo sforzo, impegnata com' e' a parare il colpo tremendo che ha ricevuto e riceve dai russi nell'Asia Minore.

Appunto per tutte queste ragioni il tempo sembra propizio per iniziare l'offensiva generale contro la coalizione austro-tedesca.

LA GRECIA TENTENNA?

Intanto si ha qualche fatto significante. La Legazione greca a Roma smentiva che il ministro di Grecia a Sofia aveva assicurato il governo bulgaro che la Grecia rimarra neutrale anche se i bulgari attaccheranno Salonicco. Questa smentita e' considerata come significante che i greci non permetteranno che i bulgari pertecipino all'attacco contro Salonicco.

Un telegramma da Atene del resto dice che il barone von Schenck, inviato tedesco alla capitale greca, si e' recato a Monastir donde procedera' alla volta di Bucarest. Egli ha detto che la propaganda tedesca in Grecia e' sciupata e che puo' essere piu' profittevole altrove.

FUNERAL PANIC; FLOOR FALLS

Girder Breaks During Services at Chalfonte—None Injured

CHALFONTE, Pa., Feb. 26.—While funeral services for Mrs. Abram L. Garges, of Chalfonte, were being held at her late home, a girder which supported the floor of the room where the mourners were assembled, collapsed. One hundred persons and the casket were precipitated midway to the cellar. The girder balanced on a meat table in the cellar, and this kept the party from falling to the floor. A panic followed. Women and children cried. One woman was temporarily deranged.

The men, including the Rev. Joseph Ruth, of Line Lexington, and the Rev. Abram Heistland, of Doylestown, quieted the excited women and children. There were no injuries.

Marriage Licenses Granted at Elkton

ELKTON, Md., Feb. 26.—Marriage licenses were issued in Elkton this morning to the following couples: Elzy Ford and Ethel McCormick, Edward J. Conrad and Emma B. Bauman, Joseph J. Berg and Nathalie Herion, Alfred J. Doyle and Frances M. Barber, Alexander Kominof and Margaret Lenderth, all of Philadelphia; Grant Rothrock, Ritterswille, and Ida Stauffer, Allentown; Raymond L. Quay and Anna V. Bowen, Spring City, Pa.; James B. Frazer and Mary A. Stoops, Cowantown, Pa.; George S. Bryan, Northeast, Md., and Helen Bullock, Providence, R. I.; Frederick Santasiallo and Anna Branca, Norristown, Pa.; Alexander S. Albright and Lillie R. Frats, Hatfield, Pa.; George Arner and Minnie E. Spitcoe, North Catasauqua, Pa.

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IMPERILED VERDUN "GATEWAY TO PARIS"; STRONG LINK IN CHAIN

Menaced for Months by Long-Range Cannon of Crown Prince's Army, Intrenched to North

BIG RAILWAY CENTRE

PARIS, Feb. 26.

Verdun, the great fortress on the Meuse River, about which one of the greatest battles of the war is now raging, is known as the "gateway to Paris." It is one of a chain of fortresses lying across eastern France, the others being at Belfort and Epinal. The fort at Maubeuge, which was the northernmost link, was captured by the Germans early in the war.

Before the war Verdun had a population of 22,000. It is split by the Meuse and also by a canal which flows into the Meuse from the west. The city is girdled by 21 forts, all of modern construction and protected with the heaviest ordnance in the French army. The railway lines pass through Verdun, one from east to west, the other from north to south. In addition, eight important highways centre there. One-half these run south along the Meuse to St. Mihiel, where the Germans hold a salient on the west bank of the river; another leads eastward to St. Menehould and connects with the famous old Roman road; another leads through the Argonne to the northwest, while others pass into a network of highways which lie in the Woevre district.

MENACED FOR MONTHS.

Verdun has been within cannon shot of the battle lines since the German drive on Paris was halted and the Crown Prince's army intrenched itself north of the city. It has been shelled by long-range German mortars and also by German air craft, but had suffered little from this fire.

The military importance of Verdun lies chiefly in the fact that it is one of the few good crossing places on the Meuse. It lies on a range of hills, and the guns of its forts not only control the Meuse and its bridges, but also the railroads and important highways leading to the west. In order to advance through such country as that surrounding Verdun, highways are absolutely essential, and if Verdun could be taken the Germans would acquire the roads.

The city is a picturesque old place, with crooked, narrow streets and historic buildings. Verdun holds an important place in early European history, for, in the treaty of Verdun in 843, the possession of Charlemagne were divided among the three grandsons, Lothaire, Louis the German and Charles the Bald. The French and German members of the Empire were never again united.

CITY IS HISTORIC.

The city was early the seat of a bishop, and remained free and imperial until 1552, when it was taken by the French, although it was not formally ceded to France until the peace of Westphalia, in 1648, by which Austria gave up the three famous bishoprics of Toul, Verdun and Metz.

Verdun was bombarded by the Russians in 1792 and, having surrendered after a few hours, the inhabitants accorded an amicable reception to the conquerers. The Revolutionists recaptured the city after the battle of Valmy. The city was again bombarded by the Germans in 1870 and, after a gallant resistance of three weeks, was captured.

In the court of the Hotel de Ville, on the east side of the Meuse, are four cannon presented to the city by the French Government in recognition of its brave resistance to the Germans in the Franco-Prussian war.

The Cathedral of Notre Dame, on the west side of the Meuse, dates back to the eleventh century.

Three Lots Bought by Electric Co.

The Philadelphia Electric Company has purchased from William G. Hill three plots of ground each 25 feet by 16 feet; on the northwest side of Bartram avenue, east of 85th street; a lot, 25 feet by 162 feet, on the northwest side of Bartram avenue, east of 84th street; and a plot of ground at 83d street and the Chester Branch of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway, 107 feet by an irregular depth. The assessed valuation of the four first named lots is $175 each, and of the last named $450.

Deaf Mutes Dance to Vibrations

Three hundred members of the Philadelphia Division, No. 30, of the National Fraternal Society of Deaf Mutes last night held their third annual dance in the parish house of All Souls' Protestant Episcopal Home for Deaf Mutes, 16th street and Allegheny avenue. They danced to music played by an orchestra, and one of the guests made known that while they could not hear the time beats they felt the vibrations.

FARM AND GARDEN

HUDSON

Asphalt Shingles

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SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

March 1, special evening courses in Shorthand, Typewriting and Bookkeeping will be organized. Nine hours' instruction is given per week. Application for admission should be made at once. The school is in session throughout the entire year.

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URGES TAX ON WEALTH, INSTEAD OF POVERTY

New Yorker, in Address to City Club, Suggests New Income Levies

An address urging the adoption of a rapidly progressive Federal income tax to take 20 per cent. of the taxable income of those receiving more than $1,000,000 a year and the abolition of the present emergency war taxes was delivered today at a luncheon of the City Club of Philadelphia in the Real Estate Trust Building by Benjamin C. Marsh, of New York city, executive secretary of the Association for an Equitable Federal Income Tax.

Mr. Marsh asserted that the present system of taxation in this country was on the basis of "To him who hath shall be given, and from him that hath not shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have." He called attention to the fact that the farms, forests, mines, oil fields and all of the large natural resources of the country were owned and controlled by an extremely small proportion of the population, and on this basis challenged the honesty of the present system of taxation as practiced in the United States.

To bring the force of his arguments home to his audience Mr. Marsh spoke of the situation in this city as follows:

"A very small super-tax on the hundreds of millions of dollars of land values in Philadelphia would meet any increases in the city budget, and every man in this audience knows that municipal expenditures, including permanent improvements, have benefited financially only a small percentage of the population here—the owners of land. It is both unjust and unnecessary to keep rents high and increase the unearned profits of land speculators by taxing buildings."

SHARP MISSIVE TO AUSTRIA LIKELY ON PETROLITE CASE

State Department Replying to Request for More Data

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The State Department today was preparing additional data on the Austrian submarine attack on the Standard Oil tanker Petrolite in the Mediterranean last December.

The Austrian reply, now in Secretary Lansing's hands, pleads for additional information. This will be completed soon and it will be forwarded to Ambassador Penfield at Vienna probably next week. It is probable, it is said at the department today, that a sharper missive will accompany the data. In the answer now in the State Department's hands, Austria is understood to have set up the claim that the submarine commander fired on the Petrolite because he thought the vessel was trying to run him down.

FARMERS TO TALK ON "SPUDS"

Discussion Today on Best Brand for Eastern Pennsylvania

What are the best potatoes to grow in eastern Pennsylvania, and what has Pennsylvania done in adopting standard sizes of baskets for fruit and vegetables?

These questions will be answered at the final session of the Farmers' Institute Meeting for Philadelphia County in Horticultural Hall at 2 o'clock this afternoon, under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and the Florists' Club of Philadelphia. Addresses will be made by Prof. Franklin Menges, on "Insect Life in Agriculture"; M. H. McCallum, on "Alfalfa"; J. Otto Thilow, of Henry A. Dreer, Inc., on "Our Gardens," and John D. Herr, on "Injurious Insects and Diseases of Garden Truck and Field Crops."

Rome Express Wreck Kills Nine

FLORENCE, Italy, Feb. 26.—The Rome express was derailed near Cortona today and nine passengers were killed and many injured.

ALLIES PREPARE BIG OFFENSIVE ON ALL WAR FRONTS

Czar Opens General Movement by Heavy Operations in Galicia and Poland

ACTION IN BALKANS SOON

Simultaneous Campaigns Planned to Take Advantage of Situation in France

ROME, Feb. 26.

Telegrams from Russian sources report a violent resumption of offensive by the Russian army in Galicia and Poland under personal command of the Czar.

Preparations for an imminent advance are also reported from the Balkan front. Italian communiques report increased activity on the Alpine front, particularly in the direction of Levico, Trent and Rovereto.

From now onward the Allies will be entirely ready for a great general action, as it seems opportune to take advantage of the German offensive against France to strike simultaneously on all the other fronts.

A diplomatic personage expressed the opinion today that the month of March might decide the fate of the war. In any case it will be one of the most eventful months. The Allies are superior in men and material on all fronts, including the Balkans and Asia.

Having transferred all immediate reserves to the western front, Germany is no longer able to send heavy reinforcements to other fronts.

Austria, engaged in Serbia, Montenegro and Albania, and violently attacked in Galicia and Bukowina, will be unable to send assistance to the Germans.

Bulgaria will be unable to render assistance in face of the Anglo-French menace at Salonica, from Rumania, on the Danube, and Russia, on the Black Sea.

Turkey is writhing under the mortal blows of the Russian attack in Armenia.

PORTUGAL ON VERGE OF WAR WITH KAISER

Premier Declares Abrogation of Treaty With Germany to National Interest

LISBON, Feb. 26.

War between Portugal and Germany is imminent. Dr. Affonso Acosta, the Premier, in a speech in the Chamber of Deputies, today declared that he considered it in the best interests of Portugal to allow the existing treaty with Germany to lapse at once. He added that Portugal was prepared for any eventualities, indicating that Portugal is prepared for war.

Seventy German and Austrian ships have been seized by the Portugese military and naval authorities in this and other ports. In addition German and Austrian supplies are being confiscated.

The Premier has announced that efforts were made to destroy seven of the German ships seized in this port.

A large quantity of explosives was found on board the North German Lloyd liner Buelow, which has been requisitioned by the Portuguese Government.

School Reopens in Folcroft

The public school in Folcroft has been reopened after having been closed for about two weeks, following an epidemic of measles.

STEAMSHIPS STEAMSHIPS

Under the Tropic Moon

Down here the nights are balmy. The air is soft with the perfume of flowers and the spicy scents of the tropics. Visit this Island of Enchantment—Porto Rico, Gem of the Caribbean.

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Westminster Kr. av. nr. Beach. Elev. to st. Priv. baths, run. water. $1.50 up dly. to $12.50 up wkly. Chas. Stokes.

BROWN'S MILLS-IN-THE-PINES, N. J.

THE INN IN THE PINES—the ideal place for recuperation; pure water and food. Climate dry and warm. L. L. & M. S. HUDDERS.

Swedenborgian Borough a Model Community

THE New Jerusalem settlement at Bryn Athyn is engaged in building a cathedral on Gothic lines, by old time methods. All the work is done by hand, and the structure is being erected at an amazing expenditure of time and money. This religious colony has endured, expanded, prospered—and kept out of the newspapers for twenty-one years! Its story is intensely interesting, and in Sunday's Public Ledger May Bosman has written of it with sympathy and understanding.