THE WEATHER
Washington, May 4.—Partly cloudy; probably showers tonight and Sunday.
TEMPERATURE AT EACH HOUR

8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5
61	64	68	70						

Evening Public Ledger

POSTSCRIPT

VOL. IV.—NO. 199 PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1918 PRICE TWO CENTS

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CITY IN SPURT AS LOAN DRIVE CLOSES TODAY

Quota Is Short by $14,000,000—District "Over Top"

HONOR FLAG RAISING TO BE HELD TONIGHT

Flood of Pledges Will Assure Liberty Statue Exercises

OFFICIAL TOTAL COMING

Goal by Noon Is Expected. Campaign Ends at Midnight

If you haven't bought a Liberty Bond of the Third Loan, DO IT NOW! This is the last day of the big drive. Philadelphia needs YOUR subscription to put it "over the top" before the official wind-up of the campaign tonight.

It MUST raise the Honor Flag tonight and it's up to YOU to help unfurl it.

Every $50 bond bought today pulls the flag a foot nearer the top of the pole.

Keep pulling!

The nation, as a whole, has oversubscribed the $3,000,000,000 Third Liberty Loan. Latest official figures put the totals, exclusive of yesterday's subscriptions at $2,940,640,400.

Subscriptions yesterday were $189,283,700, the largest single day's total since the drive started.

It's now up to Philadelphia!

This is the final day of the Liberty Loan drive, and before the campaign ends tonight Philadelphia must "come across" with $14,000,000.

This sum is necessary to put the city "over the top" and on the list of cities that have done their duty to the nation and the men on the firing line in France.

The Third Philadelphia Federal Reserve District has already gone "over the top" unofficially and will take a high place among contenders for honors in the drive. The quota of $129,500,000 for the district outside of Philadelphia was completed with subscriptions yesterday.

Today's Pledges Help

Liberty Loan workers arriving at their offices and booths early this morning for the final effort of the drive were heartened by the announcement of an additional subscription of $5,000,000 by the Philadelphia National Bank for itself and its clients. This brings the bank's total to $15,000,000.

The other large subscriptions that helped to quiet the jaded nerves of the workers are as follows:

Postoffice to date	$1,500,000
Powers-Weightman-Rosengarten Company (firm and employes)	274,350
General Chemical Company (firm and employes)	145,000
Elkins, Morris & Co.	100,000
Navy Auxiliary, American Red Cross (additional)	90,850
Colonial Dames, Independence Hall booth (additional)	69,100
Gibson Distilling Company (additional)	50,000

Quota Expected by Noon

The more sanguine expect the city to complete its $136,000,000 quota by noon today, but here will be no slackening of effort to heavily oversubscribe the loan. Members of the loan committees and workers in the loan will stick to their jobs all day.

While no official announcement was made of the fact that the third district had "come across" yesterday, heavy subscriptions from outlying cities in the district unofficially placed the total of subscriptions at a figure greater than the quota. The most sensational subscription was from the du Pont Company of $5,500,000, making a total of $10,000,000 for that company.

Official figures issued by the Federal Reserve Bank give Philadelphia a total subscription of $122,273,500, an increase of $17,583,250 over the preceding day. The delay of banks in making official announcements is responsible for the inability of the loan committee to keep closer tab on subscriptions.

Officially, Southern New Jersey has subscribed only $16,397,100. It has a $8,000,000 quota. Unofficial estimates of the subscriptions place this section of the district well "over the top." Delaware officially is placed a little below the quota, with subscriptions amounting to $8,211,250 and a loan quota of $8,500,000. Eastern Pennsylvania has subscribed $93,034,400 against a quota of $102,000,000. But all quotas have actually been passed. The drive today in those sections will be an effort to far oversubscribe the loan.

All who have signed subscription blanks designating a bank through which they wish to purchase a bond must go to the bank and make their initial payment before the close of business today.

Honor Flag Raising Tonight

The flag raising tonight will be the applest jubilation the city has witnessed for a long time. The Liberty statue will be a blazing beacon of democracy and liberty between 10 o'clock and midnight, during which hours the celebration will be held.

The Liberty Loan committee will march to South Penn square as soon as the quota is subscribed and open the gate. It expects to raise the flag promptly at 11:30 o'clock.

After it had voluntarily raised its quota of Liberty Loan subscriptions from $625,000 to $750,000 and later to $850,000, the Philadelphia Real Estate Board announced today that it had passed the $1,000,000 mark. The announcement was made by Theodore E. Jenkins, chairman of the board's committee, at an entertainment given by the board for more than 500 soldiers and sailors at the Union League Annex, Broad and Spruce streets. Several hundred real estate men from all sections of this city were present.

Main Line subscriptions were boosted today by a subscription of $200,000 by the Autocar Company of Ardmore. This is the largest single subscription that has been thus far credited to the Main Line. The Autocar Company subscribed $67,100 for itself and $100,000 for its clients.

Continued on Page Five, Column Eight

AMERICANS TAKE FIRST PRISONERS IN GREAT BATTLE

Patrol on Picardy Front Pounces on Germans in Machine-Gun Positions

With the American Army on the French Battle Front, May 3.

The Americans have captured their first prisoners on the big battle front. The Boches in machine-gun positions were surprised and overpowered by a patrol and another was captured in a shell hole.

Examination by intelligence officers revealed there had been no important change in the German order of battle. The prisoners belonged to a reinforcement regiment.

Minor patrol encounters have occurred during the past couple of nights. The American front lines have been under heavy intermittent bombardment by shrapnel, while the rear areas have been heavily sprayed with gas shells.

The weather has cleared and it is warm and sunshiny. Anti-aircraft guns are busy firing at German planes.

MAY SEIZE PENN DORMITORIES

Will Likely Be Taken for Fleet Corporation Employes

Dormitories at the University of Pennsylvania may be commandeered by the United States Government to provide housing facilities for the 1500 employes of the Emergency Fleet corporation who will come to this city when the offices are established by Charles M. Schwab in the Gomery-Schwarz Building, Broad and Cherry streets, about June 1.

Frank W. Kidd, of the corporation, is urging all real estate agents to begin a survey of vacant rooms and buildings which can be rented, said the dormitories will eventually be taken if the city is unable to afford adequate housing facilities.

Many of the Emergency Fleet Corporation employes are married and have families. This will mean an influx of about 3000 persons.

INTER-ALLIED BODY HARMONIO

Supreme War Council Satisfied With Situation and General Foch Optimistic

Paris, May 4.—The Inter-Allied Supreme War Council, which has been in session at Versailles for two days, was in full agreement on all military questions and the results to date were considered entirely satisfactory, it was officially announced today.

"General Foch is optimistic; that is all we can say," one of the members, acting as spokesman, declared.

Premier Clemenceau presided. Premier Lloyd George, Premier Orlando, General Foch, Sackville-West, Robbelaut, Bliss, Bellu, Wilson, Haig, Pershing and Petain, Admirals Wemyss and De Bon and War Secretary Milner were present. All military questions were thoroughly considered.

SOLDIER'S SIGHT RESTORED

Anzac Orator Made to See Again by Simple Operation

Washington, May 4.—Blinded by a shell explosion at the battle of Gallipoli, Thomas Sjeyhill, the blind Anzac orator, who has been lecturing in the interest of the third Liberty Loan, recovered his sight after a simple operation on the vertebrae of his neck.

After a lecture before the Red Cross here he complained of pain in the back of his neck. Dr. Riley D. Moore examined him, but the slightest touch caused pain. The vertebrae at the head of the spinal column was slightly out of position. Later a correction easily was made, with the result that blindness was dispelled. Physicians explained that the displaced vertebrae had impaired functions of nerves indispensable to sight.

Mr. Sjeyhill went to Europe with the first Australian contingent. He was wounded five times in one engagement.

HONOR FLAG TO MRS. BOYCE

Soldier's Wife Will Get Service Banner for Eight Children

Mrs. James Boyce, of Lehigh avenue near Twenty-sixth street, whose husband is an enlisted man at Camp Hancock, as the mother of eight children, is entitled to the children's service flag, according to E. J. Berlet, director of the Liberty Loan parade bureau, unless a larger family should be found before Monday morning at 10 o'clock. The ceremony of presentation will be staged at the Statue of Liberty at Broad street and South Penn square at 10:30 o'clock.

Sergeant Boyce went to Camp Hancock last August with the 108th Field Artillery. He was an active member of the National Guard of Pennsylvania for nearly twenty years, and served in the Spanish-American War.

CUBA OVERSUBSCRIBES QUOTA

Loan Purchases Will Be $5,500,000, It Is Announced

Havana, May 4.—Cuba has oversubscribed her quota of $2,000,000 of the Third Liberty Loan in the most enthusiastic manner. It appears that the oversubscription may be as much as $2,500,000.

Osgood Smith, secretary of the Cuban Loan committee, announced that subscriptions on the way from the interior will swell the total to $5,500,000. Local banks were fairly swamped with eleventh-hour subscriptions and enthusiasm was at the highest pitch.

TEUTONS SEND PEACE AGENT

Dutch Financier Arrives in London as Emissary

London, May 4.—A representative of Germany's new peace offensive has arrived in England. He is a Dutch financier, according to the Central News.

Another agent is on the way here, the report says.

CAN'T STOP AIR ATTACKS

Declares Germany's Effort to Solve Problem Fails

Amsterdam, May 4.—Germany's efforts to solve the problem of successful air defense have failed. This was revealed when a staff officer, upon being interpellated by three deputies in the Reichstag, replied:

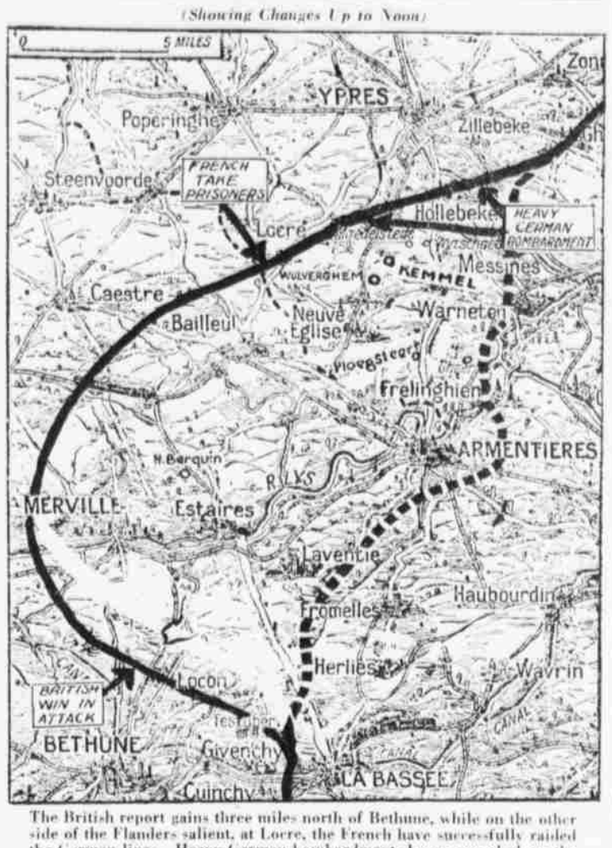
"There is no sure means of preventing air attacks. Anti-aircraft barrage is the best, and reprisal threats against London and Paris come next."

No Proceedings Against Bishop

Rome, May 4.—The Osservatore Romano officially denies that the papal nuncio at Vienna has initiated ecclesiastical proceedings against Monsignor Stefan Bochanyi of Lubiana, because he is alleged to be favorable toward Italy.

Scene of Fighting in Flanders

(Showing Changes Up to Noon)



The British report gains three miles north of Bethune, while on the other side of the Flanders salient, at Locre, the French have successfully raided the German lines. Heavy German bombardments have opened along the entire line from Locre to south of Ypres.

LIBERTY BONDS GO OVER THE TOP

$3,000,000,000 Minimum Exceeded by $7,000,000, and Sales Going Strong

NOW FOR $5,000,000,000

Washington, May 4.

America again has gone over the top.

Subscriptions to the third Liberty Loan today totaled $3,006,888,900, according to the official statement of the Treasury Department, passing the minimum quota and getting a start for the maximum quota of $5,000,000,000 Treasury officials still hoped would be reached by the time the campaign closes tonight.

As the total announced today includes only partial returns from yesterday, believed to have been one of the biggest days of the drive, and as in the two former campaigns the closing day has resulted in a landslide of subscriptions, it was not thought impossible that Secretary McAdoo's coveted maximum quota will be reached.

Subscriptions that began pouring in today in a tremendous nation-wide wave are expected to roll up at the close of the campaign tonight the largest day's sale yet recorded in war financing.

Five Federal Reserve districts have reported oversubscriptions. Two more districts—Dallas and San Francisco—have been unofficially declared oversubscribed, and before night every district is expected to pass its quota and continue far into the oversubscription.

Banks and trust companies will remain open late tonight to take care of the business, and in all districts where the quotas have been reached the drive will continue with the same enthusiasm and "punch" that has brought to the nation's honor roll more than 18,000,000 individual subscribers.

There are no slackers among the Liberty Loan workers today. The Treasury Department has urged that every one keep up their efforts to the last minute. Thousands began matching the President again and both the installment plan bonds and the four-payment bonds are being popularized in the last minute appeal to "buy another bond."

Last-minute rumors that the time of the campaign might be extended, were said by loan officials to savor of enemy propaganda, seeking to destroy the psychological effect of a hard finish race. Selling will close promptly at midnight, it was officially announced.

U. S. OFFICER COMMENDS POILUS FOR BRAVERY

Under Shell Fire in Serchepcy Fight They Carry Wounded Americans to Safe Places

By HENRI BAZIN

Staff Correspondent Evening Public Ledger with the American Army in France

American Field Headquarters in France, May 4.—A field officer commanding an American unit on the Toul sector, in officially commending Colonel Bertrand and fourteen poilus of a French infantry division during the Seichepcy fight, said these poilus, under heavy shell fire, carried American wounded to places of security. Also took over American listening posts at strong points during the fight, giving and taking with their overseas allies.

Colonel Bertrand personally took part in the latter end of the fight, coming up in an automobile and proceeding on foot after his car had been wrecked by a shell, then aiding in commanding and encouraging the fighters.

TRAILING TRAIN WRECKER

Bloodhounds Seek Person Who Caused Death of Drafted Negroes

Ackerman, Miss., May 4.—Bloodhounds were put on the trail today in an attempt to run down the person who laid a spike on the rail of the G., M. and N. Railway near here, in the path of a train load of drafted negroes, sending the train off the rails and killing the fireman and injuring the engineer and twenty-five of the drafted negroes.

When the engine struck the spike it jumped off the track and dragged the train with it into a deep cut at the side, turning over the cars.

German Duke for Finns' King

Stockholm, May 4.—Negotiations are in progress for the appointment of Duke Adolf Friedrich of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, a German nobleman, as King of Finland, said a press dispatch from Helsingfors today. The Duke is said to be willing to accept.

2,298,000 IN U. S. ARMY BY JULY 1

Big Increase in Military Forces Disclosed by Baker

CAMPS ARE DEPLETED

By CLINTON W. GILBERT

Staff Correspondent Evening Public Ledger

Washington, May 4.

Secretary Baker expects to have an army of 2,168,000 men and 130,000 officers in arms by July 1. This became known after the Secretary's appearance before the House Committee on Military Affairs yesterday, when he discussed chiefly the appropriations that would be required by the Quartermaster's Department of the army—about half the $13,000,000,000 or more which will be asked for the coming year. The exact amount of this total was not disclosed to the committee. It will only appear as the various items are explained.

General March, Acting Chief of Staff, formerly an artillery officer with General Pershing, will discuss the ordnance appropriations with the committee on Monday. This is the other big item beside subsistence appropriations explained by Secretary Baker and General March. On Tuesday appropriations for the air program will be discussed. How much will be provided for air fighting is not known. A pending bill appropriating $400,000,000 additional for aircraft has been withdrawn. Entire provision for aircraft will be made in the measure now being explained to the Military Affairs Committee.

Has Power to Call 800,000 Men

Secretary Baker does not require additional authority to increase the existing army to 2,168,000 by July 1. Under the original draft act, as interpreted by General Crowder, the War Department still has power to call 500,000, plus certain noncombatant forces who go with them, making a total of about 800,000 men. As many as are required to bring the army up to the number mentioned will be called this month and next.

There is special reason to call them. The number of troops in this country has been rapidly diminished since the German offensive began and will be still more rapidly diminished now that the British are increasing the shipping for their transportation. Military authorities hold that there should always be at least as many men training in this country as there are abroad. The reservoir here is required to make up for wastage at the front and to increase the armies there. The supply here would soon fall below the required level if additional men were not called out to take the places of those being shipped.

Army Here Must Be Increased

As the army abroad increases the army here will have to increase, so that if there were 2,500,000 men abroad provision would have to be made for 2,500,000 men here. For this purpose it is not planned to build additional cantonments, but some of those already in existence may be enlarged.

An additional army may be raised under the present laws, but additional provision of guns and airplanes cannot be made until the appropriation bills now being explained to the House Committee become a law. These bills probably will be reported by the House Committee by the end of next week or early in the following week. But less than two months remain before July 1, when the fiscal year begins, for which plans are being discussed.

The War Department has been ex-

Continued on Page Two, Column Two

FRENCH COURAGE PROVES SUPREME AT KEMMEL HILL

Heroes From Alsace, Helping British, Checked Foe a Week

HELD LINE TILL DEATH

New Troops Fought Bravely in Assaults Worse Than Verdun

By PHILIP GIBBS

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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War Correspondent Headquarters, May 4.

I went among some of the French troops who on April 29 inflicted a severe defeat on General Sixt von Arnim's storm troops between Dranoutre and Locre—where the British divisions to north and south shared the honor of the day with them—and before that for six days in front of the Kemmel Hill held their lines with most noble courage, under a frightful fire that hardly ever slackened, when Kemmel had been turned and captured and these men whom I met were almost surrounded, so that they had to fight with long-enduring devotion and with great sacrifices to maintain their positions.

It was a moving narrative as I heard it from these French officers who lived through that fearful week of glory of the simple soldiers of France there in those Flemish fields where, when they were ordered to hold on at all costs, they obeyed to the death.

"We were asked to hold our lines," said a colonel of one of these French regiments. "We held it."

"We Held Our Lines"

His hand trembled for a moment as he touched a packet of papers—his orders during the battle—and he told me how each message there had been carried through a frightful fire by his runners, so that many of them were killed, and of his other losses in officers and men. But then this square-built man, with grizzled eyebrows and mustache, and blue-gray eyes that had a steady light in them said again:

"We held our lines."

His regiment came up from Alsace to Flanders. They were hardened fellows who had been through many battles. They were the heroes of Fleury, near Verdun, when the Crown Prince's army was broken against their defense after desperate assaults and when I saw them marching through the Flemish villages I was stirred by the sight of them, because of their grim, keen look.

They were young men, but veterans. The war had set its seal on them, as on all men who have passed through its fire, but had not weakened them.

When they came into the line between Locre and Dranoutre other French division troops were holding Kemmel Hill. It was during the day when the British had urgent need of this French help because of the exhaustion of many of the men after the long fighting.

"Then," said the commander of a regiment I met, "the country above us was a sweet, smiling landscape, with fields harrowed for sowing and little Flemish villages with red roofs and farmsteads nestling between green hedges. A week later all this had been swept into ruin. Shell fire had turned this countryside into a barren and blasted place."

On the morning of the 24th the German bombardment was intensified and spread over a deep area, destroying villages, tearing up roads and making a black vomit of the harrowed fields.

Worse Than Verdun

Dranoutre, Locre, Westoutre and other small towns were violently bombarded. That night the French discovered that the Germans were preparing an attack for the next morning, to be preceded by a gas bombardment. The officers warned all their men, and they stood on the alert with gas masks, when at 2:30 in the morning thousands of gas shells fell over them, mixed with high explosives of all calibers up to the monster twelve inches, which burst like volcanic eruptions.

In the intensity of bombardment several officers who fought at Fleury said "This is the most frightful thing we have ever seen. Verdun was nothing to it."

All the French troops jammed on gas masks, and on one day put them on fifty times, only removing them when the wind, which was fairly strong, blew away the poison fumes until other storms of shells came. For nearly a week they wore them constantly, sleeping in them, officers giving orders in them and the men fighting and dying in them and charging with the bayonet in them. It was worth the trouble and suffering, for this French regiment between Locre and Dranoutre had only twelve gas casualties.

That morning the German attack fell first on Kemmel Hill, which they turned from the north, and two hours later the bombardment continuing along the line, they developed a strong attack against Dranoutre in the south in order to take Locre and turn the French right. Until evening the troops on Kemmel Hill, with a small body of British, I am told, still held out with great devotion in isolated positions, but by 8 o'clock that morning Kemmel Hill was entirely cut off.

This was a severe menace to their

Continued on Page Five, Column Three

Features in Today's Evening Public Ledger

Philip Gibbs writes from the front in France and tells of the great fight for Kemmel. Page 1.

Clinton W. Gilbert's dispatches from Washington discuss the American army and predict that 2,298,000 men will be under arms by July 1. Page 1.

Lord Robert Cecil expects big German peace offensive. Page 4.

"Stealthy Terror," a story of German spies and plots against England. Page 11.

Third installment of "The Eagle's Eye," revealing German intrigue in America. Page 10.

Full page of comics. Page 23.

The Prussian censor and how he continues to rule the German newspapers. Page 1.

GERMANS HURL HEAVY BOMBARDMENT ON HALF ALLIES' FLANDERS LINE

GERMAN CENSOR HIDES TRUTH ABOUT THE WAR

Editors, Muzzled by Military Autocrats, Have Hapless Times—Newspapers Represent Only the "Blue Pencil"

By B. F. KOSPOTH

Special Correspondent of Evening Public Ledger

Berne, Switzerland, April 18.

"Has that messenger got back at last from the Oberkommando censor?" demands the Berlin editor, nervously eyeing the clock that tells him there is a short hour left before going to press.

"Not yet," replied his assistant resignedly.

"Then call them up on the telephone and ask whether he is on the way."

"I phoned twenty minutes ago, and the Feldwebel said that if I disturbed them again he would refuse to answer at all in the future."

A deep scowl of impotent rage settles on the editor's face, but it clears again as the office door opens and a messenger appears bearing a voluminous portfolio.

"Well, here's the stuff from the Foreign Office at last!"

Blue Pencil's Sweep

But his joy is soon transformed into consternation as his practiced eye glances over the bundle of proofs covered with blue scrawls, where the diplomatic censor's pencil has struck out, altered and added words, sentences and entire paragraphs, and stamped with the lifeless double eagle of the Wilhelm Strasse.

"Where's the editorial?" he cries in alarm.

"They kept that back because the Herr Legationsrat was out to lunch and hadn't returned yet," says the messenger dispassionately.

"Then we'll have to appear without it and tomorrow it will be out of date! And the stuff from the Oberkommando isn't back yet either! We'll be half an hour late and sell 20,000 copies less, and the provincial edition will miss the train. And at the conference tomorrow there'll be another row about our circulation falling off!"

On the verge of nervous collapse, the editor plunges desperately into work on the heap of censored proofs before him, sending them up one by one to the proofreaders with the adjuration to see to it that all the censor's directions are minutely carried out, for if anything is overlooked, if a single word crossed out by the censor is left standing in the type the paper risks being confiscated or suppressed.

Miseries of Wartime Editor

This is the kind of scene that is being enacted daily in every Berlin newspaper office since the war came, bringing with it the absolute domination of the Prussian censor over the press. It is rather a mild sketch than otherwise of the miserable German editor's wartime tribulations. For his responsibility is truly nerve-racking. All the stories and news printed in the paper, without exception, must first pass through his hands, and he must remember in each particular case

Continued on Page Ten, Column One

PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL BANK SUBSCRIBES $15,000,000

The Philadelphia National Bank reaches its full quota of $15,000,000 subscriptions to the third Liberty Loan in reporting $5,000,000 additional for itself and clients to the Liberty Loan committee today.

BOY, RELEASED BY COURT, REARRESTED FOR THEFT

A few hours after he was released by the court on a charge of robbery, sixteen-year-old John Logan, South and Warnock streets, was arested with two other boys, charged with robbing Market street stores. They were held in $2000 each today by Magistrate Pennock.

FIRE DESTROYS TIRE AND RUBBER PLANT

FINDLAY, O., May 4.—The Giant Tire and Rubber Company plant was destroyed by fire today. The origin is a mystery. The loss is estimated at $140,000. Several workmen had narrow escapes.

GERMANY FACES POLITICAL CRISIS

May Dissolve Prussian Lower House Over Vote Reform

HERTLING IN DANGER

By GEORGE RENWICK

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
Copyright, 1918, by The New York Times Co.

Amsterdam, May 4.

All the political portents observable in Germany would appear to give good grounds for the belief that affairs in the Fatherland are driving toward exceedingly stormy times.

When the vote against the equal franchise and in favor of plural voting was announced yesterday in the Prussian lower house, a Socialist deputy cried:

"Let the soldiers and munition workers hear."

And today's Rhineland papers, in long discussions on the event, do not veil the seriousness of the position.

The size of the reactionary majority in that chamber makes it extremely improbable that the Junkers and their friends will rightly read the signs of the times before the third reading of the bill, and the general opinion appears to be that the Government will dissolve the chamber.

Throughout Germany the happenings in the Prussian Parliament have a very considerable effect, and even now political circles will have it that Hertling's days are numbered. After Hertling, will there be a deluge of triumphant reaction? Strong conservative forces, so I learn from the most reliable quarter, are at work to bring in Helfferich as Chancellor, which would denote the complete triumph of the military party, for he is an advocate of grab, both as regards annexations and indemnities.

Buelow May Return

There is some talk of the return of Prince von Buelow to Wilhelmstrasse. He, it is reported, would stand between the two extremes, and probably accept the portfolio of Foreign Affairs should Hertling remain. Kuehlmann's position is regarded as greatly weakened, though the recent vulgar personal attack on him brought him some added support.

The situation in the Reichstag is almost as serious as that in the Prussian Parliament, and I hear that a storm is brewing on account of military matters. The distribution of anti-democratic pamphlets in the army with the approval

Continued on Page Five, Column Six

AIRPLANE WOOD ITALIAN NEED

Wants U. S. Steel and Copper Also for Her Machines, Says Chiesa

SEND COMMISSION HERE

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
Copyright, 1918, by The New York Times Co.

Rome, May 4.

"Instead of each nation working separately and trying to get ahead of others, all the Allied efforts ought to be coordinated and united to one great end—a fusion of all the forces brought to the greatest degree of efficiency in the shortest time possible. This aeronautic science a few years ago was almost a dream. It has now become a reality."

Thus spoke Signor Chiesa, member of the Italian Cabinet and Commissioner of Aeronautics, in the course of an interview with your correspondent.

"Congressman La Guardia," he continued, "is a symbol of these efforts, combining in his own person American strength and Latin geniality. In fact, forming a link between the two races."

Turning in his chair, Signor Chiesa said, with a kindly smile:

"La Guardia is more popular here than if he were an Italian deputy. I love him like a brother. It is unfair to use him for other work. I don't want him to fly. I told him, 'Go and fetch me raw materials from America. You are the one man who can do it.'

Need Raw Materials

"What we need are raw materials, at once, at once," said Signor Chiesa, with emphasis, banging his hand on his desk. "No time must be lost. Every second wasted is a crime. Only America can furnish us with the materials we need, especially steel, copper and wood, from her magnificent western spruce forests."

Signor Chiesa arose from his desk, and, after rummaging a few seconds among his papers, handed me a photograph of three gigantic trees.

"You see this is what we need," he said, "but immediately. So much precious time has been lost in endeavoring to perfect new inventions instead of having a standard motor.

"Another source of delay is in having continually to wear myself out in persuading America that Italy really needs

Continued on Page Five, Column Two

Shelling Violent From Locre to South of Ypres

MAY MEAN LAUNCHING OF NEW OFFENSIVE

Enemy Artillery Also Active From Nieppe Forest to Meteren

ALLIED GAIN AT AMIENS

Lines Defending Base Bettered by Several Operations

London, May 4.

The Germans opened an intense bombardment on virtually the entire northern half of the Flanders battle front early this morning, Field Marshal Haig reported today.

Te bombardment is must terrific on the front between Ypres and Locre and on that between Nieppe Wood and Meteren.

The Germans' heavy bombardment on two distinct sectors in Flanders is apparently preparatory to simultaneous drives against Hazebrouck and Ypres. The area of the cannonading indicates that should the attack develop, it will be a frontal sweep westward against Hazebrouck and a flanking thrust north ward to encircle Ypres from the west.

The British improved their positions northeast of Hinges during the night. Two German machine guns were captured.

The French carried out a successful local enterprise in the sector of Locre, captured prisoners.

Haig's Report

The official statement follows:

By a successful local enterprise northeast of Hinges we improved our positions slightly last night. Two German machine guns were captured.

The French carried out a successful local enterprise in the neighborhood of Locre, capturing prisoners.

German artillery opened a violent bombardment of Anglo-French positions in the region of Locre and on the front from that zone to the south of Ypres.

The enemy has shown much activity in Nieppe Forest and in the sector of Meteren.

(The sector between Locre and the Ypres-Comines Canal, south of Ypres, was the scene of the violent battle last Monday when the Germans were severely defeated after repeated attempts to break the Anglo-French grip on the line of hills west of Kemmel. It is in that zone that the Germans have been attempting to drive northward in order to extend a circle around Ypres and compel its evacuation. The bombardment today indicates the Germans will renew their efforts in that district. Locre lies just inside the Belgian frontier.)

Areas Under Bombardment

The area under bombardment before Hazebrouck is a seven-mile front from the Nippe forest northward to Meteren. Hazebrouck is slightly more than four miles west of the line, where it passes west of Vieux-Berguin. The latter town is about midway between the forest and Meteren. Most of the territain between the present line and Hazebrouck is extremely low especially along the Plate-Becq River. The only heights of any importance are DeCate Hill and Mont de Merris, both just south of Meteren.

The other bombardment area extends from Locre eastward to a point south of Ypres, a front of about six miles. Here the Germans, in previous assaults, have swept northward beyond the crest of hills, with the exception of Scherpenberg, which lies just north of Locre. This point, strongly defended by the French, has barred enemy progress in this direction several times. The British hold the strong strategic points of Voormezeele and Dickebush. Ypres is more than two miles north of the farthest German advance in this section.

Between the two bombarded sectors is a stretch of four miles, back of which are the strongly defended heights of Monts Rouge, Noir and De Cats. Hindenburg has thus apparently selected the comparatively easier offensive areas—in case his infantry follows up the artillery preparation. In several instances of late, however, the Germans have bombarded two or more areas merely to screen an attack on only one of them.

Allies Gain at Amiens

In two spirited local actions the Allies have improved their positions appreciably on the vital front east and south east of Amiens, the sector where some observers expect another big German blow to fall.

Just south of the Avre River, south of the French recently captured Senecat wood, Petain's men advanced again and achieved what Paris officially calls "perfect success." They took Hill 82 and a wood bordering the Avre between Hailles and Castel. These positions were the closest to Amiens held by the enemy and of strategic importance. Hill 82 is three miles from the Paris-Amiens railway. The French apparently blunted the point of the German salient a second time.

North of the Luce the British and French fought a spirited engagement with the foe near the monument commemorating the valiant stand made by the French and British in the battle of Villers-Bretonneux and captured some of the valuable high ground on the ridge between the Luce and the Ancre. In

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