

prepared for its renewal, and are being stimulated to extreme resistance by their officers. One of the correspondents asserts that it is on the most difficult battles of the whole war.

Is Battle to Death.

"The battle is extremely hard for our men. It is a battle to the death. So far all is vague. Fighting is in progress at all the points attained by our troops and there is an ebb and flow in the line. Our men are beaten back for a while by the intensity of the fire, but they are attacking again and again and getting forward."

French Check Attacks and Improve Positions; Fighting in Belgium

PARIS, April 24, 2:09 p.m.—The official statement of today follows: "In the region of St. Quentin and the Oise our artillery directed an effective counter-fire at German batteries. Our patrols were very active, bringing back prisoners. Two German reconnoitering parties, which attempted to approach our lines near Valenciennes, were repulsed with heavy losses."

Germans Fall in Belgium.

The official communication issued by the war office last night reads: "In Belgium the enemy launched this morning several attacks at various points along our front, but these were completely repulsed by our fire. Some enemy groups which succeeded in penetrating our advanced elements were driven out immediately after a hand-to-hand engagement. The Germans left prisoners in our hands."

Organization Work Goes On.

Correspondence of the Associated Press. FRANCE, April 24, via London, 2:35 p.m.—The resistance of the German armies appears to increase in accordance with the nearness of the British approach to the Hindenburg positions. This is particularly true along the present front, where the threat is against the Droocourt-Queant switch line, which is depended upon by the Germans as the connecting link between their lines north of St. Quentin and south of Lille. This is the switch back slowly but surely as a result of the turning of the top of the original Hindenburg line, running from just southeast of Arras toward Queant.

Germans Mowed Down; Prodded by Officers in Attacks on British

Correspondence of the Associated Press. BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, April 24, via London, 2:35 p.m.—The resistance of the German armies appears to increase in accordance with the nearness of the British approach to the Hindenburg positions. This is particularly true along the present front, where the threat is against the Droocourt-Queant switch line, which is depended upon by the Germans as the connecting link between their lines north of St. Quentin and south of Lille. This is the switch back slowly but surely as a result of the turning of the top of the original Hindenburg line, running from just southeast of Arras toward Queant.

Officers Drive Men On.

The fighting which began at dawn yesterday beyond Arras increased in intensity in the afternoon and last night. The ground gained by the British was won in the face of some of the most desperate fighting on the part of the Germans since the war began. French warfare for the time being is forgotten. The Germans, even from their deep dugouts where so often in the past they were inclined to seek refuge during a period of assault, were urged by their officers to make every sacrifice. During attack and counter attack the cries of the officers and men could be heard above the grinding tumult of battle.

German Officer Pessimistic.

"This is the last and deciding push, for we soon shall be able to hold out no longer," reads the diary of a German officer who was captured yesterday. It is evidently in this spirit that the present fighting is going on. The struggle of the opposing troops about Monchy may be seen plainly from the neighboring hills. The patches of woods beyond Monchy have served as shelter for the Germans in the last ten days, and it was behind these late yesterday that the German commanders rallied their forces. With reserves brought up quickly they met the new attacks against the newly advanced British. The khaki-clad men were fighting from shallow holes of trenches which were struck last night by the Germans. From these woods the Germans issued in great solid ranks.

Germans Fall by Scores.

As they emerged the British artillery was quick to spot them, and shells began to break in their midst. This interrupted their steady forward tramp. The line wavered, and some men were retreating when the impulse from behind pushed them forward. They then broke into a run toward the British lines. The machine gun barrage closed on them and they were hit by scores. British rifles spoke for a time, and then the German waves rolled on, hand-to-hand fighting ensued. The counter-attack lasted an hour before it was driven off. Within an hour a new one was formed, and so the day wore on.

Tremendous Losses Suffered by British, Says German Report

BERLIN, April 24, via London, 2:35 p.m.—Only one of the correspondents of the British press has reported that the British suffered tremendous losses.

says the official statement issued today by the German army headquarters staff. The ruins of Guenappe remained in the hands of the British.

An attempt made by the British to break through the German line near Arras, the statement adds, failed with tremendous losses.

Germans Endeavoring to Maintain Strength and Destroy the Enemy

By the Associated Press. AMSTERDAM, April 24, via London. —Maj. Morant, writing in the Tageszeitung, says that the results of the French offensive are hitherto completely unimportant. Maj. Morant writes:

"The possession of single portions of terrain, such as trenches, villages and borders of woods, no longer plays a decisive role in deeply echeloned and fortified zones. The aim of the German defense is, even at the cost of abandoning the dead, together with war materials and portions of position, to maintain the attack. While destroying that of the enemy and preventing him from attaining his strategic aim, which is to break through. For this purpose it is necessary to keep the fight line mobile. The writer considers that by yielding at some points the Germans may force their opponents to fight without the support of their heavy artillery and consequently expose them to destruction by the German infantry and artillery fire. These tactics, he claims, give repeated opportunities for the counter attacks with German reserves who are outside the range of the enemy fire. He continues:

"The progress in modern battles is not judged by the gain of single portions of terrain or the amount of booty, but depends on the physical and moral disorganization of the enemy owing to their loss of strength through the destructive effect of artillery fire. This aim has hitherto been fully attained by the Germans in the gigantic struggle on the western front."

People of Evacuated Sections Moved Back by the German Forces

AMSTERDAM, April 24.—A semi-official statement issued in Berlin says the deportation of the inhabitants in the evacuated districts between Arras and Soissons has been accomplished without hardships to the civilians. The statement adds: "The transport of their belongings even delayed the transport of important war material. For this reason it was impossible in many cases to remove felled trees, the wood of which represents important material for our war industry. The trees were cut down in order that their leaves in spring and summer might not afford cover to marching columns against our men."

CLARK IS AGAINST ARMY CONSCRIPTION

bill during the debate yesterday. It was attacked by Senator Thomas of Colorado on the ground that it was repulsive to democracy. When Senator Wadsworth praised the War Department's policy of stimulating recruiting of present National Guard organizations and directing formation of new units, Senator Johnson of California asked if an effective American force could not be placed in Europe sooner by using both the voluntary and draft systems. The California senator estimated that under the draft bill it might be a year before American forces would be in Europe. "We're in war," said Mr. Johnson, "we want to fight—not with dollars alone, but with every force at our command. A very large number might volunteer immediately if called."

Representative Fields Says He Would Never Vote for Conscription

Representative Fields of Kentucky, a member of the military affairs committee, opened debate today in the House with the declaration that he never would vote for conscription, regardless of the views of all the military experts on earth. Representative Harrison of Virginia, arguing for conscription, denounced the volunteer system as endemocratic and ineffective and the selective draft as the only democratic method of raising a great army. Saying he represented Jefferson county, where Thomas Jefferson once lived, he quoted from a letter of Jefferson in 1813 to James Monroe, in which Jefferson said the country must train and classify the whole of its citizens, and that "we cannot be defended but by making every citizen a soldier."

Representative Gordon Speaks.

Representative Gordon, Ohio, speaking for the volunteer system, said that he had heard the quotations from Thomas Jefferson, but had not learned that Jefferson favored conscription. "We have been assailed by the newspapers in the United States," he said, "as traitors because we have used our own judgment in framing legislation. We will not delay the raising of any army a single minute. "Understand my obligation to support the President. We have given \$2,000,000, all the men he asked for, and we are trying to give him a good deal better men than he asked for."

Increased Issue Absorbed.

Announcement was made today that the issue of Treasury certificates would be increased to \$500,000,000 and that all of this already had been absorbed.

British Repulsed, Says Sofia.

SOFIA, April 24, via London, 12:50 p.m.—A period of drumfire on the Macedonian front between the Vardar and Lake Doiran yesterday was followed by a British attack, which was repulsed, says a war office statement today.

MILITARY AND NAVY MEN OF THE BALFOUR PARTY ACCOMPANIED BY AMERICAN OFFICERS DURING STAY IN WASHINGTON.



Left to right—Capt. J. G. Quackemyer, 7th Cavalry, U. S. A. (leaving machine); Capt. E. H. Spender-Clay, member of the British parliament from Trumbler Wells; Lieut. Osburn, U. S. A., and Fleet Paymaster General Vincent A. Lawford of the British navy.

FRENCH DELEGATES ON U. S. TERRITORY; AWAITED BY BRITISH

(Continued from First Page.) at their forty-five-minute conference in such a way as to give each an insight into the British viewpoint and personal ally, and to have established an atmosphere and concord between them. Mr. Balfour, it was stated, made several public statements during his stay as to the English point of view, and will attempt to remove any misconceptions he may find existing. Vice President Marshall invited him to address the Senate, but it is thought he will appear before Congress unless, perhaps, with French Minister of Justice Viviani. Arrangements are being made for his visit to the White House tomorrow, and for Lord Cunliffe to talk with them Thursday.

No Toasts or Speeches.

The White House dinner was a very simple affair, and there were no toasts or speeches. It was served in the state dining room, and the only table decorations were spring flowers. There was no music. The only women present were Mrs. Wilson and Miss Helen Woodrow Bones, the President's cousin. After dinner members of the British mission who had not been present arrived for an informal reception, and for more than an hour the American and British officials remained talking and smoking.

Guests at the Dinner.

The guests were: Vice President Marshall, Chief Justice White, Speaker Clark, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the Right Honorable A. J. Balfour, Sir George Foster, acting prime minister of Canada, Gen. G. T. Bridges, Rear Admiral Sir Dudley R. S. de Chair, Lord Cunliffe, Sir E. H. Lever, Sir Joseph Pope, Sir Eric Drummond, Ian Malcolm, Fleet Paymaster General V. A. Lawford, Maj. H. Spender-Clay, Geoffrey F. Butler, F. J. Dorner, Secretary Lansing, Secretary McAdoo, Secretary Baker, Attorney General Gregory, Postmaster General Burleson, Secretary Daniels, Secretary Lane, Secretary Houston, Secretary Redfield, Secretary Wilson, Secretary Tumulty, Admiral Benson, Maj. Gen. Scott, Maj. Gen. Barnett, Brig. Gen. Joseph E. Kubie, Frank L. Polk, counselor of the State Department; William Phillips, assistant secretary of state; Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy; Carl Vrooman, assistant secretary of agriculture; Breckinridge Long, third assistant secretary of state; William P. G. Harding, governor of the federal reserve board; John Skelton Williams, controller of the currency; William Denman, chairman of the shipping board; Daniel Willard, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board; Howard E. Coffin, Hollis Godfrey, Samuel Gompers, Dr. Franklin H. Martin and Julius Rosenwald of the advisory commission of the council of national defense; Col. W. W. Harts and Lieut. Commander Robert L. Berry, respectively, naval and military aides. While Secretaries of the State, War and Navy are entertaining diplomatic, military and naval members of the commission, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo will entertain Lord Cunliffe.

BITTER IN THEIR COMMENT ON SINKING OF STEAMER

Russian Socialists Discuss Destruction by German Submarine of Vessel Carrying Refugees.

LONDON, April 24, 1:30 p.m.—Dispatches from Petrograd today state that the Russian socialists are greatly exercised over the sinking by a German submarine of the steamer Zara, which was taking home a number of Russian refugees. The Zara sailed on April 11 and was torpedoed in northern waters two days later.

Duke of the Abruzzi May Visit U. S.

ROME, April 24, via Paris.—It is expected that the Duke of the Abruzzi, cousin of King Victor Emmanuel, will head an Italian mission to the United States.

MRS. WILSON SEES RED CROSS WORK

President's Wife Watches District Units Drill in Their Uniform.

PAYS A SURPRISE VISIT

Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, who is honorary chairman of the Woman's Volunteer Red Cross, this afternoon inspected the various units at their work and wearing the uniforms prepared for the mobilization at the dedication of the American National Red Cross building May 12. Miss Mabel T. Boardman, active chairman of the Woman's Volunteer Aid, accompanied Mrs. Wilson from the White House to the District headquarters in the Wadsworth house, 1801 Massachusetts avenue. The President's wife was escorted about the workrooms by Miss Boardman and Mrs. Hugh I. Scott, wife of the chief of staff of the army, who is commandant of the mobilization of the Woman's Volunteer Aid. She expressed much gratification at the system employed and the scope of the varied activities conducted by the District Chapter and complimented the wives of army officers and of admirals whom she found in active charge of working groups.

Visit Unannounced.

Mrs. Wilson's visit was entirely informal and unannounced. She wished to see the various groups in their every-day work. However, she happened in upon the first occasion when the new uniforms distinguishing the different units were being worn for Mrs. Scott's official inspection.

Mrs. Wilson saw two groups drilling in the large ballroom. Mrs. N. E. Mason, wife of Admiral Mason, who is president of the District Chapter, was in charge of a company of the supply corps, who wore white dresses and a blue arm band with the horn-of-plenty insignia. Mrs. Randall Hagner was conducting the drill of a company from the comfort corps, similarly uniformed. Mrs. Larz Anderson was in command of a delegation from the refreshment division, whose arm bands

are blue and white stripes with a cup as the insignia.

Natty Motor Uniforms.

Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, organizer of the woman's motor corps, had a squad out for inspection. They wore long gray motor coats, natty little motor hats and a green arm band displaying a wheel.

The surgical dressings committee was at work in costume, wearing white dresses and blue veils. This group was in charge of Mrs. Albert Gleaves, wife of the admiral who is in command of the destroyers now doing pioneer duty for the United States in the war. The clerical workers wore gray chambray dresses with white collars, and were in charge of Miss Stella Osborne. Their insignia is crossed pens.

The chairman of the garment workers Mrs. Frank Fletcher, wife of the admiral head of the naval board, demonstrated to Mrs. Wilson how the work of cutting the material and distributing it is done in a systematic way.

The Junior Service Girls, with Miss Susanna Chase as chairman, wore white dresses and blue veils. All of the arm bands were in various colors to distinguish the different corps, and all bore the letters A. R. C.—W. V. A., with the distinctive insignia between them.

Amount Exported Last Year.

"From July 1 last until March 1 last the amount exported was about 130,000,000 bushels. With all these facts before the Secretary said it was hard to determine the cause for \$2.32 wheat."

WOULD BESTOW POWER TO FIX PRICES OF FOOD

Secretary Houston suggests Defense Council Be Given Authority at Discretion of President.

Secretary Houston of the Department of Agriculture suggested to the Senate committee on agriculture at a hearing yesterday that Congress should confer upon the council of national defense the power, at the direction of the President, of fixing maximum and minimum prices of foodstuffs.

The hearing before the Senate committee yesterday afternoon was the first for the investigation of the food problem that confronts the country in the present war.

Secretary Houston added, however, that he did not believe the power to fix prices would have to be exercised and that he did not think the government should go into the wholesale business. Before appearing at the committee

hearing Secretary Houston put his plans before the heads of five of the country's big farmers' organizations and received assurances of support for any measure the government might enact to give it a firmer grasp on food production and distribution. The farmers' representatives promised even to give their endorsement to legislation giving the government power to fix maximum and minimum prices in an emergency.

Appearing with Secretary Houston before the Senate committee were the representatives of the farmers' organizations. Aside from the wheat and potato crops there had been no indicated shortage of staple foodstuffs, the Secretary said. The nation needs for its normal domestic requirements about 140,000,000 bushels of wheat a year, he explained, including 80,000,000 bushels for seedling purposes. That amount, he said, was about this year's crop. Last year the nation had a "carry over" of about 170,000,000 bushels of wheat.

CAPTURE OF A U-BOAT DENIED BY MR. DANIEL

Denial of reports that a German submarine had been captured by an American warship after being caught in a net near Newport News and was being taken to New York was made today by Secretary Daniels.

"The statement is entirely without any basis of truth," the Secretary said. "It has been current here for several days, and has been denied officially by the naval commander of the Norfolk district."

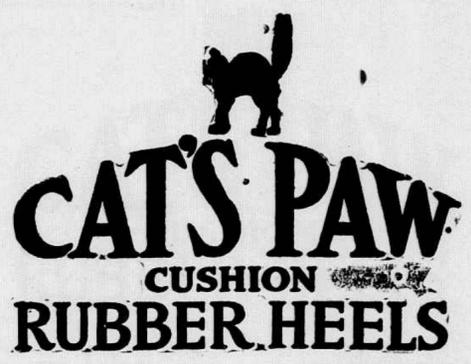
President Sets Aside Old Rule.

To permit experienced federal employees to assist state and municipal organizations engaged in mobilizing and conserving the country's resources, President Wilson by executive order has suspended the rule of more than forty years by which federal employees are prohibited from accepting other employment.



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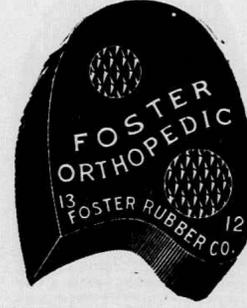
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