French Armies Give Up Noyon; Hold Firm on Oise Left Bank

By the Associated Press.

PARIS, March 26.—The battle continues with the greatest violence and the Germans are making still greater efforts along the whole front between Noyon and Chaulnes, the war office announces.

Noyon was evacuated by the French during the night. The left bank of the Oise is being held firmly by the French. The statement follows:

"The battle continues with violence. During last evening and in the night the enemy multiplied his attacks on the whole front between Noyon and Chaulnes. The French artillery, well established in the region of Noyon, and supported effectively by our infantry, is retarding the German thrust. Frequent counter-attacks have been made and heavy losses inflicted on the enemy.

"Noyon was evacuated during the night in perfect order. The French are holding the left bank of the Oise firmly."

The French forces which are fighting to the south of St. Quentin, around Noyon, though retiring slowly, are carrying out strong counter-attacks and inflicting heavy losses on the Germans, says the war office statement of last night.

Last Night's Statement.

PARIS, March 25.—The text of tonight's statement reads:

"In the region of Noyon the battle continues with stubbornness, the Germans bringing in without cessation new forces. Our troops, in conformity with orders, are giving ground foot by foot, but are carrying out vigorous counter-attacks and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

"Desperate fighting has taken place around Nesle, which has been lost and regained several times. There is artillery fighting at various points along the front.

"Shells to the number of 1,375 were fired into Rheims last night and during the course of the day."

84 Foe Planes Brought Down by British Fliers

British airmen on the battle front continue to give strong help to the infantry and artillery and the latest statement reports that they accounted for sixty-seven enemy machines, forty-five of which were shot down. The British loss was ten. Entente aviators also have bombed Cologne and railway stations behind the battle line as well as airdromes and billets.

In addition British naval machines have destroyed ten enemy craft and seven were brought down out of control in the Dunkirk region, making a total of eighty-four German fliers leveled in the past few days.

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, March 25.—British aviators have bombed the railway stations at Cologne, as well as various other important cities in Germany, the official statement on aerial operations announces tonight.

Text of Statement.

The text of the statement reads:

"During the night one of the enemy's large bombing machines landed behind our lines. Following a successful daylight raid on Mannheim, other objectives in Germany were attacked during the night.

"Half a ton of bombs were dropped on the railway stations at Cologne, where a fire was started. Over a ton of bombs were distributed between the Luxembourg railway station, where a fire broke out, and the Courcelles railway station, east of Metz. Two tons of bombs were dropped on the Metz station.

"The fight was the most severe so far experienced. Our airplanes shot down forty-five enemy machines and drove down twenty-two out of control. Two other hostile machines were shot down by our anti-aircraft guns. Ten of our machines are missing.

"Over 1,700 bombs were dropped during the day on different targets, including the Bruges docks, the Aulnoye railway station and a large camp southeast of Cambrai.

Thionville Attacked.

"Direct hits were obtained on a bridge southeast of Metz and on a stationary train, which was set on fire. A large fire also was started on this occasion. Other machines dropped a ton of bombs on the Thionville railway station, where a moving train was derailed and a fire ensued.

"After dark our bombing machines again concentrated efforts on attacks with bombs and machine-gun fire on the enemy troops opposite the battle front. An airdrome midway between Tournai and Mons, used by hostile night flying machines, also was bombed, more than fourteen tons of projectiles being dropped. All our machines returned safely.

"During Sunday many thousands of rounds of machine-gun bullets were fired by our pilots from low altitudes upon the enemy troops. The progress of the battle was reported by our airplanes, and our artillery was kept informed of suitable targets. Masses of hostile troops concentrated in the battle area were caught by our low-flying machines, both with bombs and machine-gun fire."

The admiralty announces that during offensive patrols carried out by naval machines from Dunkirk from March 21 to 24 ten enemy machines were destroyed and seven were brought down out of control. A hostile balloon was brought down in flames.

"Three bombing raids were carried out on the Bruges dock," continues the statement, "and many direct hits were obtained. Bombs were seen to burst close to destroyers. Several torpedo boats, a destroyer and an armed trawler were attacked. One of our airplanes was forced to land in the sea. The pilot was picked up by a French destroyer. All the other machines returned safely."

German Attack Slackening, While Resistance Is Firmer

By the Associated Press.

FRENCH FRONT IN FRANCE, March 25.—As always, the attackers possessed the advantage of knowing exactly where they would launch their onslaught, while the defenders were compelled to await development of the battle before meeting the onrush with counter measures. There is every sign in today's situation that the terrific attack in which apparently somewhere in the neighborhood of one million Germans of all arms are engaged is being slackened. The resistance of the allies seems firmer and the arrival on the scene of French reserves, sent up to the southern flank, brought welcome support to the British, who sustained the first powerful rush.

The German divisions which began what evidently was intended to be an irresistible forward movement were so cut up that they were replaced by fresh formations. It is these divisions which have been checked at the positions on which it was foreseen by the allied general that a stand would be made.

The ground over which the fighting has taken place possesses small tactical value, but it permitted the allies to retire in perfect order. It had been devastated by the Germans before they retreated last year, and the inhabitants had not had time or means to build it up again. While retiring across what was almost desert land the British inflicted enormous losses on the enemy, who threw away thousands of lives in an effort to overcome the resistance he encountered.

When the retiring British reached the Somme and the canal they turned about and gave battle, meeting repeated and long-sustained endeavors of both infantry and cavalry.

The initial rush of the enemy seems to have been stopped. Military opinion generally is that this first phase of the great battle, in which even more troops were employed than in the battle of the Marne, gives no indication what the result will be. Nevertheless developments are awaited by the allies without anxiety.

Germans Laud Tanks' Work; Claim Over 45,000 Prisoners

By the Associated Press.

COPENHAGEN, March 26.—German correspondents report that six British tanks have been captured.

BERLIN, Monday, March 25, via London.—German tanks, reinforced by captured British tanks, says a semi-official statement issued on Sunday's fighting in the west, "took a leading part in breaking the brave enemy resistance."

Tanks attached to the German divisions fighting below St. Quentin stood the test brilliantly, the statement says, and their mobility was universally praised. All the tanks which took part in the fighting are said to have returned undamaged. It was mainly due to their intervention, the statement continues, that the tenacious resistance of the British, especially the machine gun nests, was broken quickly. Troops manning a concrete redoubt near Urvillers are reported to have been overpowered immediately by the tanks.

Get Tremendous Booty.

The official statement reads: "The booty which has fallen into our hands since March 21, the amount of which is tremendous, cannot yet be estimated. It has been ascertained that more than 45,000 prisoners have been taken. The number of guns captured is largely in excess of 600. We have taken thousands of machine guns, tremendous quantities of munitions and implements of war and great stores of supplies and other equipment.

"In the evening we bombarded the fortress of Paris with long-range guns.

"At Verdun and in Lorraine the artillery duels continued.

Success Near Bapaume.

"Crown Prince Rupprecht has, with the armies of Gen. von Beulow and Gen. von Der Marwitz, again defeated the enemy in a tremendous struggle near Bapaume, while the corps of Gen. von der Berne, Gen. Lindequist and Gen. Kuehne broke through the Somme positions of the enemy to the northeast of Bapaume.

"In bitter fighting the troops of Gen. Grusenart and Gen. Stabe, coming from the east and southeast, drove the enemy back, via Ypres and Sailly.

"The stubborn enemy resistance, which had been reinforced with fresh troops, was broken in a violent battle. Freshly brought up divisions and numerous tanks threw themselves against our advancing forces along the roads leading from Bapaume to Cambrai and Peronne. They could not bring about a decision in favor of the enemy. In the evening, defeated, they streamed back again in a westerly direction.

Hot Fighting at Combles.

"During the course of the night battle Bapaume fell into the hands of the Germans. Hot fighting developed for the possession of Combles and the [illegible] enemy was defeated, attacks by English cavalry breaking down. We now are standing to the north of the Somme and in the middle of the former Somme battlefield.

"The German crown prince, with the army of Gen. von Hutier, has forced a passage across the Somme below Ham. His victorious troops have in bitter fighting mounted the heights to the west of the Somme. Violent counter attacks by the British infantry and cavalry broke down with sanguinary losses. The town of Nesle was taken by storm in the evening.

"Between the Somme and the Oise the troops which penetrated across the Crozat canal late in the evening of March 23 have taken by storm strongly fortified and stubornly defended positions.

Americans Mentioned.

"On the west bank of the canal, in hot fighting, British, French and American troops were thrown back through the pathless, wooded country via La Neuville and Villequier-Aumont.

"The attack continued yesterday and French infantry and cavalry divisions which were brought forward for a counter thrust were thrown back with sanguinary losses. The relentless pursuit by Gen. von Conta and Gen. von Gayle pressed after the retreating enemy. Guiscard and Chauny were captured."

GERMAN ALARMISTS WORKING IN FRANCE

LONDON, March 26.—German agents are spreading alarmist reports among the civil population around the battle zone in northern France, according to a dispatch from the Reuter correspondent at British headquarters, dated Monday. These persons are being dealt with summarily when caught. Concerning the fighting the correspondent says:

"The spirit and determination of the British troops is excellent. The enemy losses have been enormous. The situation in many places remains very confused, which is natural in fighting that has assumed more of the character of a war movement than at any time since the days of the Marne."

The business section of Sulphur, La., was practically wiped out by fire yesterday. The damage was estimated in the neighborhood of $100,000.

SCENE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST BATTLE.

A SCENE ON THE BATTLEFIELD NEAR THE SOMME, WHERE IS BEING FOUGHT THE GREATEST AND PERHAPS MOST BITTER BATTLE OF ALL HISTORY.

MUSTARD GAS USED AGAINST AMERICANS

Shells at the Rate of Six a Minute Thrown, But Prove Ineffective.

BOMB FAILS TO EXPLODE

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Monday, March 25.—The American positions on a certain part of the Toul front were bombarded with mustard gas shells at the rate of six a minute last night, but ineffectively. The American artillery replied with a heavy fire and demolished segments of the German front lines and other points.

A German airplane flew over the American lines during the night and dropped a shell, which did not explode but dug a deep hole. At noon today a French airplane brought down a German machine opposite the German lines.

American observers find increased activity behind the enemy line. Many horses, vehicles and bicycles are moving along the roads. The patrols were active during the night, and an American party found a camouflage suit abandoned by a German sniper.

American gunners have bombarded the mouth of a tunnel inside the German lines and an observation post recently discovered.

Good Account by Engineers.

The fact that the enemy has mentioned officially the presence of Americans in the battlefield of the Somme, and has repeatedly reported that some were captured, indicates the good account American engineers gave of themselves when the Germans attacked.

Official details announcing the part American engineers have taken in the great battle are eagerly awaited here.

Only certain units of the American railway engineers are with the British army in France, and only a few companies are known to be in the area near the present fighting. It is believed, therefore, that whatever Americans were captured there, according to the German official statement, are American engineers, who, however, may have fought like infantry, as they always carried rifles and bayonets as well as tools since the Cambrai battle in November, 1917, when they helped repel German attacks.

Earn Crosses by Bravery.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Sunday, March 24.—Five of the men whose names have been announced as recipients of the distinguished service cross earned that distinction by their bravery in attacking a superior force on patrol.

These men—Sergts. Marner Hall and James G. West and Corpl. Edgar H. Freeman, Amos Teske and Homer Whited, all of the same infantry regiment—formed the patrol which encountered an enemy patrol of ten men in no man's land March 4. The Americans attacked the patrol and routed it and took two of the Germans prisoner.

U. S. PREPARATION FOR WAR SCORED ON SENATE FLOOR

(Continued from First Page.)

use for every plane they can bring up and our men are not defended."

Senator Lodge said the United States has spent $840,000,000 during the last year for airplanes, but has not a fighting plane abroad. Power and money have been granted without stint, he asserted, but this will do no good unless they are wisely expended.

"We have no guns in France," Senator Lodge continued, pounding his desk vigorously, "except a few old coast guns. That's the hard fact.

"Six months we wasted while we were trying to improve the French 75-millimeter gun, the best in the world. And now we have no guns and have gone back to the French plan—six golden months wasted.

"We have turned out only two American ships, although the country has been led to believe there were thirty-six ships. Some of these were ships obtained by foreign countries and completed by the shipping board, which has been in existence since September, 1916.

Declares He States Truth.

"It is to the last degree painful to say these things," Senator Lodge continued, "but it is the truth. Let the American people know the truth, whether good or bad. Then we will have grim determination, a setting of teeth. Tell them the truth as to where we are today.

"The world looked to us a year ago to come to the rescue of the situation. If the situation is to be saved it will only be by the resources and man power of the United States.

"I have held my peace a long time," Senator Lodge added. "But the day is gone by to hold my peace. The situation is well known to every senator and to the members of the military committee, who have done much great work during the past winter. But one can no longer stand by in silence.

"I, as an individual, as an American citizen," concluded Senator Lodge, "want the American people to know what the situation is—so that they may rise up to meet it."

"Speed Up," Senator's Plea.

An impassioned plea for speeding up of production, especially coal, was made by Senator Thomas of Colorado, who said the German forces are "thundering at the gates of Paris," and that the country should be "aroused to the peril that confronts us."

"The situation at this time," said Senator Thomas, "is graver perhaps than at any time in our history. We need every resource to tell them we are coming 5,000,000 strong, with our treasure, our coal, our ships and our food."

Senator Thomas vigorously attacked the fuel administration's orders reducing prices for coal, which, he said, will cut down production and "result in disaster."

"Theorists are speculating with prices," he declared, asserting that the fuel administration's statement yesterday that coal production is 500,000 tons short weekly was a "sinister acknowledgement."

Hitchcock Interjects.

Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska interrupted to say that reduction of production is "absolute insanity."

Senator Thomas said he believed the men in charge were doing what they believed was right, but declared they should learn from experience.

"Is there any other remedy at hand than to repeal this law?" asked Senator Watson of Indiana.

"I hope so," replied the Colorado senator, who added that he was prepared to support any remedy that would bring relief.

Before the Senate discussion began, Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood again conferred privately with several members of the Senate military committee and other senators. At the committee's session members had a sharp exchange, informally, regarding possible re-examination of Gen. Wood in open session.

Senator Kirby of Arkansas was reported to have vehemently opposed any hearing which, he said, would renew criticism of the War Department, while Chairman Chamberlain and Senator Hitchcock said the country should know the facts regarding conditions. No decision to recall Gen. Wood was reached, however.

EXTENT OF GERMAN GAINS.

MAP SHOWS ALLIED LINES JANUARY 1, 1917, AND EXTENT OF GAINS UP TO JANUARY 1, 1918. CHECKERED PORTION SHOWS TERRITORY REGAINED BY GERMANS IN PRESENT DRIVE.

FAVORABLE REPORT MADE ON DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Senate military committee today favorably reported the resolution introduced by Senator Thomas of Colorado asking the War Department for information regarding the number of commissioned officers within the draft age who have received commissions since the United States entered the war. The committee amended the resolution so as to apply only to officers assigned to duty within the District of Columbia.

To Address League Members.

Mrs. Medill McCormick and Miss Jessie R. Haver are to address the war service committee of the Anthony League at a meeting to be held at 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon at the home of the president, Mrs. Anna E. Hendley, 2007 Columbia road. Mrs. Stearn of New York and Miss Stahl of Minnesota are to give musical numbers.

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"Home Delivery About 1½ Cents a Day"

KAISER MUST GAIN DECISION SOON OR TIDE WILL SHIFT

(Continued from First Page.)

indignation wherein even the pacifists joined, and the meetings of the district branches of amalgamated engineers yesterday repudiated the Manchester decision, wherein the executive had no part.

Confidence in Army.

"Everywhere unshaken confidence is expressed that the undaunted front presented by the British troops will baffle the enemy."

The dispatch quotes the Morning Post as demanding the immediate convocation of parliament for the purpose of sanctioning the extension of national service, raising the military age and abolishing all exceptions, including conscientious objectors, departmental indispensables and the Irish. The Post is confident no trouble in labor circles is apprehensible.

The Daily News is quoted as demanding a detailed statement of the progress of battle from headquarters and saying that if the news is unfavorable the public prefers to learn it from their own official statement rather than from the German.

Calls for More Privations.

LONDON, March 26.—The morning newspapers call upon civilians to accept still more privations and make greater sacrifices in their fateful days. The Daily Telegraph says:

"We hope that the history of the last few days has had its due effect on that section of our population at home which has hitherto seemed unable to realize the perilous exigencies of the situation. This is no time to talk of individual rights or to make much of grievances which affect this or that department of the nation's industry. Our country, in the very crisis of its fate, calls upon every one of us to admit to any and every sacrifice to secure its present safety and its future welfare."

Doing Nothing to Help.

The Graphic says thousands of civilians, comfortably sheltered at home, are doing nothing to help win the war. It adds:

"Many of these are selfishly squandering unwonted earnings and at the same time actually hindering the output of war work. Clearly it is the duty of those who cannot fight to give all their available energy to any kind of work that helps to win the war and to save every penny they can and put it into war loans."

NEXT 48 HOURS' DRIVE VITAL, SAYS WAR EXPERT SIMONDS

(Continued from First Page.)

the German has its limits. We may then fairly conclude that we are about at the crest of the German flood tide, the worst must soon be over, and up to the present hour nothing like the worst that might have happened has occurred.

Further than this, the allied reserve army, the strategic reserve of the Versailles conference, has not intervened. It must have been ready when the blow fell, because there was no effort on the part of the Germans to hide their plans. Until it intervenes and fails it would be absurd to view the situation as desperate. And the longer that the German advance can be parried, the farther the Germans get away from their heavy guns and their munitions, the more exhausted become their men the better the chance of the success of the counter stroke.

Territory Loss of Slight Value.

On the other hand, the German advance is beginning to bite deeply into the allied front. If the retreat continues for many more miles the Germans will be able to enter French territory which is still undevastated and to threaten the communications between the British and the French. So far the territory evacuated has no value, thanks to German vandalism a year ago, and therefore its surrender means nothing, but the British have retired almost to the frontiers of this desert now.

At present a great deal of speculation is going forward as to the possibilities of a larger strategic character, such as an advance upon Paris or of the rolling of the British back upon the coast. But these must be preceded by the defeat and even the rout of the larger part of the British army. And it is to rout the British that the Germans are striving now. At the Marne the objective was the French armies, not Paris. Today Haig's army is the objective; it has not been routed, and until this occurs all subordinate aims can be ignored.

Joffre saved France by retreating. While he was retreating the whole world stood aghast and German victory seemed complete at the very moment when German defeat had been insured by the French retreat. During the retreat it was impossible to give even a hint of the real truth, and the British and the French publics had to bear their anxieties without help from their soldiers. Haig's tactics, now at least, resemble Joffre's, and his losses in guns and prisoners do not compare with those of the French in the month before the Marne.

If the time is not one for overconfidence, it is certainly far from the moment for extreme pessimism. The Germans cannot keep on at their present rate for many hours longer. They must break through or pause. If they pause the greatest peril will be over. And they have not broken through; there is nothing in the British, French or even the German official statement to suggest a collapse of the allied armies.

There is, then, no excuse for a panic behind the lines, which are bending but not breaking.

Wales Greets American Officers.

LONDON, Monday, March 25.—The Prince of Wales visited the American Officers' Club this morning. Chairman Harry Brittain, Col. Campbell Stuart of the American mission and a number of American officers received him. The prince expressed the intention of attending one of the weekly dinners of the club.

SEES HIGHER RENTS COMING IN OCTOBER

Bates Warren, Discussing D. C. Anti-Profiteering Measure, Asks Fair Treatment.

OFFERS SUBSTITUTE BILL

A frank admission that rents would have to be increased in the District of Columbia when the rental season opens in October, in order to meet the increases in wages; in the cost of all materials going into the upkeep and repair of property; in the cost of furniture, and everything that goes into a dwelling, was made today by Bates Warren to the Senate District subcommittee in charge of the Johnson bill to prevent profiteering in rents. Mr. Warren was representing the Real Estate Brokers' Association.

Chairman Pomerene of the subcommittee asked what increase in rent should be allowed.

Mr. Warren, replying that in this matter he could give only his own opinion, said that in property where service was given, as in apartment houses with elevators, 25 per cent increase would be fair. In property where no service is given, 15 per cent was a fair increase, he said.

List of Cost Increases.

Mr. Warren presented to the committee a long list of increases in the cost of maintaining properties here.

The price of coal has doubled, he said. Wages have almost doubled. From bricks, which have increased some 100 per cent in cost, to brooms, which have increased 300 per cent, Mr. Warren told the committee all supplies for repairs and upkeep have gone higher and higher, and no one now knows how high they will go.

"Yet if, as in this Johnson bill, rents are fixed in the beginning of the war, how can we ever hope that Congress will find time to change the law, no matter what the conditions may be later," said Mr. Warren.

He strongly urged upon the committee the substitution of a bill which he had prepared, with other real estate brokers, for prohibiting profiteering in rents. It would fix no hard and fast basis for rents, but provide for a "rent administrator," who would pass on all cases individually.

Mr. Warren urged that this was the only fair way of handling the situation. He told the committee that the real estate brokers were very anxious to aid in framing a law which would prevent profiteering and at the same time would do justice to the owners of property here.

Chairman Pomerene suggested that such a rent administrator might be inclined, through some bent of his own, to fix rents either too high or too low, doing an injustice generally to tenants or landlords.

Mr. Warren admitted this, but urged that it might be possible to fix a maximum and minimum rate in the law within which the administrator would have to keep.

"Reports Out of Proportion."

Mr. Warren insisted that the tales of profiteering in rents in Washington had spread until they were out of all proportion to the actual facts.

He read a list of real estate brokers, including most of those in Washington of standing, and said he had compiled statistics from them which showed that out of rentals to 26,000 people the increase in rents from September 30, 1916, down to January 1, 1918, had been on an average less than 1 per cent.

"I am convinced that not two thousand cases of excessive rents can be found in Washington today," he said.

Mr. Warren said that the owners of real estate and the real estate dealers had not been guilty of profiteering, but such profiteering as existed was due almost entirely to tenants who have sublet their apartments and houses. He said that the real estate dealers had done what they could to prevent profiteering through subleases. He said that he himself knew of cases where the profiteering ran from 100 per cent to 400 per cent.

Senator Sherman of Illinois said that he knew of an apartment which rented for $32.50 in 1916, and that it now rents for $125, furnished, and that the furniture is worth only $300.

"It is just such cases as that we are trying to help you stop," said Mr. Warren.

To show that profiteering in rents through subleases had existed to some extent before the war, Mr. Warren told the committee that in 1915 a member of Congress who rented an apartment for $100 subletted at $300 a month. He said that the name could be produced if it was desired to investigate the matter.

Senator Dillingham wanted to know how much rent should be charged for furniture. Mr. Warren said that furniture dealers were charging 50 per cent on the value of the furniture, but that he considered it high. He said that from 25 to 33 per cent should be the limit.

Mr. Warren said that the average return in the District of Columbia today on improved real estate was 4 per cent, and yet this is the first time in history that there are more tenants than buildings. Mr. Warren warned the committee that if the Johnson bill were enacted into law it would result in withdrawing from the market many rooms and houses now rented, simply because the people would not rent them at the ridiculously low and unfair figures provided in the bill. He said the government would be forced to spend millions of dollars to erect dwellings to take the place of these rooms and houses withdrawn from the market. He criticised many details of the Johnson bill, including the fixing of an arbitrary date in 1916 as a basis for rent. He suggested that April, 1917, when the war broke out, might have been selected.

Mr. Fairfax Makes Statement.

Charles W. Fairfax, president of the Real Estate Brokers' Association, made the opening statement to the committee and expressed the thanks of the association for the hearing granted.

"We wish to protest against the principle involved in the provisions as outlined in this Johnson bill," said Mr. Fairfax. "Legislation providing for a horizontal percentage of increase in rentals is price fixing that is unfair either to tenants or landlords. Private capital will not seek employment for building operations when the income is so limited as to make the investment unprofitable.

"This will retard the expansion of your National Capital and will force the government to build all the needed space required for its departments and employes."

Randall H. Hagner told the committee that it would be practically impossible to fix rents by law for furnished houses and apartments, owing to the wide difference in the furniture and fittings of the various dwellings. He insisted that such a matter should be left to a rent administrator.

Judge Charles B. Howry, retired, said that he considered the Johnson bill dangerous legislation, since it would undoubtedly affect the law of supply and demand.

Other witnesses were John B. Story, jr.; Myron M. Parker, Capt. Julius L. Peyser and George R. Linkins. They pointed out serious defects in the Johnson bill and asked the committee to revise the proposed legislation.

Capt. Peyser, representing the housing agency of the War Department, strongly urged that some steps be taken to provide the needed quarters for the employes of the government who are coming here by the thousand. He said that it had been estimated that 14,000 more government employes would come to Washington by June 30, and that 32,000 would come here by December 31.

Another hearing on the Johnson bill will be given by the committee at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

OFFICIALS HERE CONFIDENT ALLIES WILL BREAK DRIVE

Splendid Morale of Troops and Civilians Resisting Foe Encourages.

COUNTER MOVE AT RIGHT MOMENT IS PREDICTED

Increasing confidence in the ability of the British and French to resist Germany's gigantic drive was expressed in all quarters of official Washington today.

War Department officials, civilians and members of the allied embassies alike viewed the prospective outcome of the tremendous Prussian offensive with growing optimism.

Factors in the news which led to this confidence included the following:

Realization of the enormous losses sustained by the Germans, admitted in the Berlin official reports.

Reports of the splendid morale of the British and French troops, as well as of the civilian population, and the orderly withdrawal of the points sustaining the full impact of the German blows.

Intimation that the British and French plan a counter move, the nature of which is not disclosed, but which possibly might bring into play the allied reserve force with telling effect.

Appreciation of the fact that even further withdrawals may be made by the allied forces, with little advantage to the enemy and with the assurance of even more vigorous resistance when the rear defenses of the British and French are reached.

Officers differ somewhat on the further plans of the Germans. Some believe the main force of the blow has been dealt; others believe that the Germans will continue for days, perhaps for weeks, to follow up the slight advantage they have gained at such an enormous cost of life.

There is no attempt to minimize the losses sustained by the allies, nor the tremendous force of the German military machine exemplified in the present drive as never before.

Time Works With Allies.

But, having sustained the initial impact, it is held, time works with the allies, assuming they can maintain their resistance, for the farther the Germans go the more they expose themselves to a wider range of attack. The German wedge is narrowing and unless they are able to widen it they cannot expect to retain its appex against a three-sided attack.

Military experts are scanning news for indications of German preparations on other parts of the line, for it is obvious military strategy for the Germans to attempt to drive another wedge in order to segregate a portion of the allied front which they might press upon from both sides. Such a second vigorous assault is not to be viewed with alarm, they state. It will mean a second stage of the German attack with even more vigorous resistance.

An outstanding fact about the American interest in the great encounter is the stimulating influence it seems to be having on Washington in increasing determination to put forth every effort in war preparation.

The effect on the nation is believed to be the same. Reports here and inquiries from various localities indicate that isolated villages and towns are stirred by the menace of the German offensive against civilization.

The attitude that the war is to be won by exerting every ounce of military strength and mobilization of man and industrial power seems to be wholly prevalent.

Gen. March's Statement.

"The War Department sees no cause for alarm on the part of the people of the United States," Sir Douglas Haig has announced that the British withdrawal was in accordance with a definite plan. That announcement is to be accepted."

Similar confidence of the ultimate defeat of the German effort was expressed yesterday by Maj. Gen. Wood before the Senate military affairs committee, and Maj. Gen. MacLachlan, British military attache, today voiced the feeling of British officers here as to the work of their comrades in France in a statement, noting that nothing resembling a break in the British lines yet has been achieved by the German rush.

Mention of the allied strategic reserves, not as yet engaged, caused some debate as to the probable developments if the British, as is expected, bring the German drive to a halt within a few days. A temporary lull while the Germans bring up artillery is to be expected at any time. If the front of the British proves too firm to be broken, however—and officers here have no doubt that it will—the Germans eventually will reach a point of exhaustion both of men and supplies, which will bring them to a standstill.

Psychological Moment.

That would be the psychological moment for a counter drive, and the strategic reserves of the allies would be kept out of the fight as long as possible in order to have them ready for such a movement.

Continuation of the bombardment of Paris with medium caliber shells failed to convince ordnance experts that a gun with a range of seventy-five miles or more had been evolved by the Germans. Those who would discuss the reports still did not believe that shells are being hurled that distance, official statements from Berlin and Paris notwithstanding. They pointed out that the German official statement merely said that Paris had been bombarded with long-distance guns, without any claim that all previous records for gun range had been exceeded by from 200 to 300 per cent, and contended that eventually it would be discovered that the shells dropped into Paris had not traveled any such distance as seventy-six miles. This belief was based on mathematical calculations drawn from ordnance experience in all countries, however, and not on information from France.

U. S. PATROL BOAT SINKS; ALL OF CREW SAVED

PLYMOUTH, Mass., March 26.—While proceeding to this port during a heavy fog early today a government patrol boat struck a ledge off the Gurnet lighthouse and went to the bottom, after all hands had been taken off by coast guard crews from south shore stations. There were twenty-six men in the crew.

The boat began to leak immediately after striking and four shots were fired at 4:45 o'clock, with four others fifteen minutes later. The signals caused great alarm along the shore and crews from Brant Rock and Gurnet put out at once.

The landing of the men was reported by the commander of the latter station, who notified naval authorities at Boston that the vessel, which was 138 feet long, had sunk at 8:30 o'clock.

Vessel Was a Converted Yacht.

A naval patrol vessel, the Admiral, ran on the rocks off Scituate, Mass., last night and is a total loss, the Navy Department today was advised. All officers and crew were saved, and considerable small material was taken off. The Admiral was a converted yacht, and was known in the naval service as scout patrol vessel No. 967. It formerly belonged to Gordon Dexter of Boston, Mass.