

## ACTIVITY AT VERDUN IS GROWING WEAKER

French Are Using Their Artillery to Break the German Preparations for Further Offensive Against City.

### VOSGES MOUNTAINS SCENE OF FIGHTING

Drive of the Teutons Said to Have Extended Over a Distance of Twelve Miles. Offensive Not Completed.

LONDON, Feb. 29.—With lessening activity by the contending forces, north of Verdun, the French, in the Woivre region, east of Verdun, are using artillery to break the German preparations for a further advance on the fortress. At the various points, the French fire has prevented the Germans from launching offensives.

In the Vosges Mountains there is also great artillery activity by the French near Semones and Ban de Sapt. Near Seppois the Germans were driven out of the trenches, previously taken. In Champagne, the German fortified works in the region of Hill 193 were battered by French guns and a crater mine exploded by the Germans in a trench occupied by the French. The Germans added several points to their terrain fighting about Verdun and were enabled to construct trenches on the slopes north of Cote du Poivre and the capture of an armoured work northwest of Doncourt. They have taken the towns of Manhuelles and Chambon, thirteen miles southeast of Verdun.

In the drive east of Verdun the German advances extended along a front of virtually twelve miles, from Dieppe to Chambon. Berlin reports the prisoners at 228 officers, over 16,000 men, a large number of machine guns and much war material.

There is considerable artillery and air activity by the British and Germans along the front in France and Belgium. In the Dvinsk region, in Russia, the Russians have driven the Germans back to advanced lines and put down a counter attack.

### CORRESPONDENTS TELL DETAILS

BERLIN, Feb. 29.—Correspondents to Berlin newspapers were permitted to visit the ground gained by the Germans at Verdun. They described the effect of Haumont as a unique picture of fantastic destruction. The same is true of Brabant. The correspondents asserted the French field artillery was so overwhelmed by the German guns they were frequently unable to make themselves dangerous. The City of Verdun suffered little. The Germans declare the weakness of the artillery of Verdun forts is astonishing.

### TO RETIRE BONDS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—The first step was taken toward carrying out the plans of the farmers of the Federal Reserve act for the substitution of currency, based on the demands of commerce, for currency based on government bonds in a letter to the Federal Reserve Board. Secretary McAdoo, announced his readiness to provide for the retirement in the present year of \$30,000,000 two per cent bonds used by National Banks to secure note circulation. It is regarded by the board as the most important action the reserve system has taken in many months.

### ADVANCING ON VILLA.

EL PASO, Colonel Cano, one of the ablest aides of General Herrera, is advancing 81,000 men upon Villa's stronghold in the Santa Ana region in western Chihuahua, according to the commandant of the Juarez garrison, General Gavira.

### TO FACE TRIAL.

EL PASO, Feb. 29.—General Arguendo, the captured rebel leader of Durango, has reached Torreon, en route to Queretaro for trial, according to Mexican consulate advices, which stated that Zapata soldiers surrendered at Cuerna Vaca. Carranza troops are moving into the state of Morelos.

## BLIND MAN WINS CONGRESS SEAT



Thomas D. Schall, of Minneapolis, Minn., is blind but in spite of this handicap he is the new representative of the tenth district of his state in congress. Mr. Schall, a Progressive, was born in Michigan in 1877.

## SHIP BUILDING ON GREAT LAKES

Prosperity Returns to Industry Long Dormant; Panama Canal, Submarining and Export Factor.

CHICAGO, Feb. 29.—The shipbuilding industry on the Great Lakes, after lying dormant more or less for half a decade, is enjoying a revival of prosperity, according to reports from shipyards at and near Cleveland, O., Detroit, Mich., Toledo, O., Duluth, Mich., Buffalo, N. Y., Chicago and smaller Great Lake ports.

The opening of the Panama Canal, the activities of submarines and the healthy increase in exports are considered the immediate causes of the shipbuilding boom. The claim is made, without denial from the builders, that old ships and vessels now under construction are bringing better prices than in many years.

This boom will bring millions of dollars of business to the dozen or so of shipbuilding companies, has created new work for hundreds of men and already has caused the rebuilding of old yards and the planning of several new ones.

The demand is strong for both lake and ocean vessels and only the inability of the builders to give assurance of delivery of the ships by 1917 stands in the way of even heavier orders. Foreign interests are prominent among the buyers.

With the first clash of arms in Europe, shippers saw the necessity for obtaining boats quickly to carry merchandise to foreign and domestic ports. One New York capitalist obtained at least four huge Great Lake package freighters. At the Welland Canal these ships had to be cut into sections before they could continue the trip to the coast.

The tremendous amount of shipping that has gone to the bottom in the war zone together with the fact that many of the shipyards in England have been turned over almost exclusively to ships of war, has forced foreign buyers to look to American shipbuilders for new vessels and some foreign buyers are ready to put up any ship for sale on the seaboard.

Cleveland alone reports the closing of contracts for 46 vessels at an aggregate cost of more than \$5,000,000 and that negotiations are in progress for 30 more ships. These orders are being filled at Cleveland, Toledo, Lorain and Ashabula, O., Manitowoc, Mich., and Buffalo, N. Y. The yards at these cities are said to have all the business now that they can handle during the year.

The Toledo Shipbuilding Company is working on an eastern order for five schooners with auxiliary power plants to be used in coastwise trade. A lake freighter 600 feet long also is being set up at Toledo. The total tonnage of the Toledo contracts is said to be 20,000.

Detroit reports the receipt of orders (Continued on Page Two.)

## BILLS ABOUT READY FOR PASSAGE

Preparedness Campaign is Expected to Enter New Phase Next Week When Two Bills will be Introduced.

### GREATEST PEACE TIME ARMY CONTEMPLATED

Admiral Knight Continues His Testimony Before the House Naval Committee. Urges Haste in Building.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—The preparedness campaign will enter a new phase next week. In all probability bills providing for increasing the army an extent never before contemplated in time of peace will be introduced in both branches of Congress. The House Military Committee, tomorrow, will begin a final review of the measures tentatively agreed upon, which, it is stated, will be altered only in minor details before being favorably reported. The final vote, probably, will be taken Thursday.

The Senate committee has agreed only to insert the general provision for the federalization of the National Guard in the regular reorganization measure, leaving the task of putting the legislation in final shape for a joint conference committee to which the two bills will go. By its action, the Senate made it possible to bring out its bill next week.

Rear Admiral Knight continued his recommendations before the House Naval Committee that every facility in the country should be employed to hasten the construction of a fleet equal to those of any two nations except England.

American policies, such as the Monroe Doctrine, Asiatic exclusion, the control of the Panama Canal and the open door in China, he declared, constitute a great and growing threat of war unless adequate preparations are made to uphold them.

Knight said it would require thirty months to make the navy efficient enough to meet the present German fleet with any hope of success. The time limit he set was the minimum required to build nine battle cruisers and eight fast scouts. He said it would take eighteen months to put the ships of the Atlantic fleet in full active commission in readiness for war.

Major General Barnett, commanding the Marine Corps, urged an addition of 150 officers, fifty two warrant officers and 2379 men to the corps to bring it up to the strength advocated by the general board and approved by Daniels, which is on a basis of one-fifth of the strength of the navy personnel.

### FEDERAL RAILROAD CONTROL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—Frank Trumbull, chairman of the Railway Executive Advisory Committee, representing eighty-four percent of the railroads of the country, asked the House Interstate Commerce Committee to bring all activities of railroads under purely federal control.

"We are quite willing to help you draft a law," he said, "providing you emancipate us from the states." He said millions are going to waste annually because of "duplications, discrimination and legislation arising out of division of authority over the railroads."

### NEW PLOT POSSIBLE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—Reports are that a revolutionary plot against the Nicaraguan government has been fomented in New Orleans and would be launched soon with the particular design of preventing the ratification of the treaty with the United States by the New Nicaraguan Congress. They were brought to the attention of the United States by General Chamorro the Nicaraguan minister. Agents of the Department of Justice were probably instructed to watch Nicaraguans in New Orleans and other ports from which shipments of arms might be made in violation of our neutrality.

### SUBMARINES ACTIVE.

TOKIO, Feb. 29.—Japanese naval authorities received an official dispatch that three British, one French and one Swedish steamer were sunk by the German submarines in the Mediterranean last Thursday, and Friday. There have been numerous announcements of the sinking of merchantmen and vessels, presumably by submarines.

## TEN KILLED WHEN NEW HAVEN ENGINEER TRIES TO MAKE UP TIME



Coach and freight car in New Haven wreck at Milford, Conn.

In the effort of an engineer to make up lost time ten persons were killed and forty-three other persons were injured when two New York bound trains in rear collision were sidetracked by a freight on the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad. It is estimated that the wreck will cost \$500,000 at least in the settlement of damage claims.

## ARMED SHIPPING TO ITALIAN SEAPORTS

Fleet of Merchant Vessels, with Naval Guns on Board, Pliers Between Mediterranean and New York.

NEW YORK, Feb. 29.—A fleet of armed Italian merchantmen appears to be the only shipping plying between the American and European ports is menaced by the Teutonic submarine policy, effective at midnight. British and French ships which arrived here and at other Atlantic ports did not carry guns. Seven Italian ships had naval guns mounted on their decks, manned by a trained crew from the Italian navy. They have been plying between New York and Mediterranean ports since the first of the year.

Five others, in the New York trade, it is understood, have been measured for armament to be placed on their next arrival at Italian ports. Local agents for Italian lines declined to discuss the new submarine orders. They said, in so far as they knew, there would be no interruption in sailing dates. They stated they had received no specific instructions from the home offices of the lines or from representatives of the Italian government.

### THE BRITISH VIEW.

LONDON, Feb. 29.—Answering queries as to whether merchantmen had been instructed to take the offensive against submarines, Lord Cecil, Minister of War Trade, stated: "The British view has always been that defensively armed merchantmen must not fire on a submarine or other warship, except in self defense. The Germans twisted the passage in the document, taken from a transport which they sank, into meaning that merchantmen have instructions to take the offensive."

### ENGLAND'S WAR COST

LONDON, Feb. 29.—England's personal national expenditures for the current year will reach more than a billion and a half pounds, according to a statement by Reinal McKenna, Chancellor of the Exchequer, addressing the Association of the Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom.

He said England had maintained an unimpaired credit throughout the war. The government is prepared to give assistance in developing foreign trade.

### STEAMER WRECKED

MARSHFIELD, Ore., Feb. 29.—The steamer Pifield, owned in San Francisco, was grounded in a heavy sea against the south jetty of Bandon Bar at the mouth of the Coquille river. The crew of twenty-one and three passengers were rescued by the life saving crew. The vessel is almost a total loss. It was valued at \$150,000. The captain said the first smash tore a hole in the bow and the water rolled in so fast that the engines were disabled almost instantly.

### PENSIONS GO HIGHER.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—Pensions of not less than \$20 a month to all Union Civil War veterans of seventy years or more were proposed in a bill favorably reported in the House. The measure will also increase from \$12 to \$20 the pensions for widows, an increase of several millions.

## EXPLANATION OF CHARGES IS STARTED

Member of Brandeis' Law Firm Takes the Stand to Explain Certain Transactions of Wilson Appointee.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—An explanation of the various charges against Louise Brandeis, now being investigated by the Senate Committee considering his nomination for the supreme court, was begun by Edward McLennen, of Boston, a member of Brandeis' firm.

Counsel for the opposition put in as evidence a photographic copy of a check for \$10 to support the charge that Brandeis was paid by the policy holders of the Equitable Life for representing them. McLennen stated Brandeis acted as counsel for the policy holders' association without pay, which had their organization headquarters in his office, and that the check was from a policy holder for legal service regarding the taking of a cash surrender value for a policy.

As to the charge that Brandeis was employed by the New Haven or others to wreck the New England Railroad McLennen said the city directory showed Brandeis ceased to have any connection with the litigation against the New Haven in June, 1893.

### DIAZ IN MEXICO.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 29.—Diaz adherents said they had advised that General Felix Diaz landed in the state of Vera Cruz last week. He was joined by several thousand troops. He intended marching to Oaxaca to join ten thousand and begin a campaign against Villa and Carranza. It is said the Zapata troops will join Diaz. It is declared several millions were provided to finance the movement.

### CALERO IN U. S.

SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 29.—The arrival here of Manuel Calero, formerly identified with the Madero-Huerta parties, trailing incognito, placed the federal authorities on the alert. They are working apparently on reliable information that San Antonio is one of the chief centers from which the new revolution in Mexico will be directed.

## DRASTIC LAWS ADVOCATED BY DRYS

Temperance Federation Meets in Phoenix. Will Initiate Legislation to Make Arizona Absolutely Dry.

PHOENIX, Feb. 29.—(Special)—A large attendance greeted the opening session of the State Temperance Federation of Arizona today, in its meeting which will either make or break the temperance cause in the state of Arizona.

John Wix Thomas, president of the Federation, in opening the conference said: "It is the duty of this convention to outline a policy which will make it impossible to violate the dry amendment with impunity." Thomas urged, in addition, absolute harmony and the rule of the majority.

G. F. Rinehart, head of the campaign two years ago, sent a letter of congratulation to the convention in which he suggested laws providing for no manufacture or importation of liquor, for the destruction of all that is in the state and the election of men who stand for the dry state.

The consensus of opinion of the convention appeared to be in favor of conservative action a majority feeling, apparently, that radical action would do more harm than good. In spite of this feeling the convention went wild when the chairman announced the railroad attorneys had decided against bringing any liquor into the state. The committee on law ignored "possession and use" without a return from the delegates. Sheriff Wheeler of Cochise county sent in a letter asking for more laws.

Thomas K. Marshall, of Tucson, was elected president.

An executive committee, consisting of twenty members, and representing every religious body in the state was appointed. On this committee is Mrs. John Kinsella, of Lowell, G. M. Roark, of Douglas, was named for a place on the resolutions committee and A. R. Bucknam of Bisbee, on the nominations committee.

The convention will conclude its work tonight.

### SAN DIEGAN SUICIDES

SAN DIEGO, Feb. 29.—J. O. Mollison, a prominent real estate broker, committed suicide by shooting. His body was found in bushes in the city park. Heavy financial losses last year are believed the cause.

### MAY ARM THE CRETIC

BOSTON, Feb. 29.—The possibility that the White Star liner Cretic, on the way to Mediterranean ports, with three hundred passengers, seven of whom are Americans, will come within the terms of the Teutonic proclamation is now suggested. Although the Cretic left here without visible armament members of the crew said they expected to take aboard a four-inch gun astern at Gibraltar.

## SUBMARINING CRISIS AT CRUCIAL POINT

Arrival of Date Named by the Germans for Increased Undersea Warfare Causes the Gravest Anxiety.

### DEVELOPMENTS MAY FORCE U. S. ACTION

Dissension in Congress Hampers Wilson, Who Would Put House On Record; Berlin Gives Assurances.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—Results of the new Austro-German submarine campaign are awaited by the United States with grave concern. Although under the new instructions the Teutonic commanders are authorized to sink without warning all armed enemy merchantmen, it is understood they have been told to make sure, if possible, that no American citizens are aboard any ship attacked. Furthermore, in her latest communication, Germany has assured the United States that new orders have been formulated to prevent destruction of enemy liners "on account of their armament, unless such armament be proved."

The attitude of the government toward this new policy is not determined. Wilson discussed it with Lansing and then laid the German communication before the cabinet. Delay of important appendices prevented the cabinet from reaching a decision.

Meanwhile, if any American is injured by a submarine on a merchant ship which does not or has no intention of using armament, otherwise than defensively, a grave situation will arise.

The United States stands this time, as she always has, for rights of American citizens to travel in safety on defensively armed ships. If German intentions are sustained and it is proved conclusively that a ship on which an American may be injured used defensive armament for offense, it is considered unlikely that this government will take action. The United States has never contended that ships committing attacks or under order to do so, are immune from submarine destruction.

Adoption of pending resolutions would amount practically to Congressional repudiation of the policies contended for by President Wilson throughout the submarine negotiations. Their defeat would strengthen the hands of the President and show the Germans that the nation is behind the President.

Dispatches from Berlin and Vienna pictured Congressional agitation reports received there as indicating that the President did not have even the support of his own party. The immediate stiffening of the German determination not to recede was announced in purposes of a new submarine campaign.

Some inspired statements from Berlin by highest officials even approached intimations of bad faith on the President's part because the United States did not accept the view that the Lusitania guarantees applied only to ships carrying no armament. The President's decision came as a surprise at the capitol. There were some expressions of dissatisfaction, particularly in the House. It is considered probable that action by both houses will be taken Thursday.

### SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 29.—

"Old Nassau," the famous hymn of Princeton, will be sung from New York to Frisco by telephone on Friday night.