

DANIELS DENIES THAT U. S. NAVY IS UNPREPARED FOR EMERGENCY

Cabinet Officer Writes Letter to President of Williams College Refuting Charge of Inefficiency.

GOES INTO DETAIL AS TO STATUS OF VESSELS

Declares That Both in Number of Ships and Condition of Equipment the Service Is Better Than Ever Before.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEADER WIRE)

Washington, April 25.—Secretary Daniels tonight made public a letter he has written to President Garfield of Williams college...

"I am in receipt of your recent favor asking for an authoritative statement concerning the present status of the navy equipment of the United States," and take pleasure in complying with your request as far as compatible.

"There are now in active service, fully commissioned, 225 vessels of all characters, which is more than were fully commissioned when I became secretary. There are also 161 vessels of various types, in reserve and in ordinary and uncommissioned, capable of rendering service in war.

"All the vessels enumerated, those in active service and those in reserve, are supplied with munitions of war. No navy makes public the quantity of ammunition, the torpedoes, mines and other implements of naval warfare which it keeps ready. It may be said, however, that within the last two years the quantity of all has been steadily and greatly increased.

"The personnel of the navy is at present composed of 4,300 line, staff and warrant officers, and 53,771 enlisted men. Increases in the number of officers are dependent almost entirely on the output of the naval academy commission which is restricted by statute.

"My professional training as a journalist has always inclined me to the conviction that any officer, within the prescribed limits recognized in the navy, should feel free to express his opinion in regard to matters in the service, and there is not an officer who commands a ship, without or within, was not as good as it was two years ago, or that the officers who command it and the crews who man it, are not as thoroughly drilled, as they were two years ago, or as they ever had been.

"The Atlantic fleet has returned from Guantanamo where it has for many years held its annual winter practices. This year more battleships and destroyers have participated in the maneuvers, and for a longer period than ever before.

"Under the direction of Admiral Fletcher, upon plans evolved at the naval war college and approved by the department, the fleet has been busy in tactics, to try out its efficiency and readiness. All reports testify to the enthusiasm of officers and men in this practice and the splendid record made by the ships.

"These spring practices followed close upon the heels of October, November and December last. This was indeed strenuous practice, but it is the way the navy is kept fit and ready, and the new admiral is to command the fleet in the Pacific and the Atlantic.

"The department planned such extensive evolutions because the only way that the navy can always be prepared is by practice and then more practice. The simple statement of the operations of the fleet will be of little value, the best answers I can give to your question is to have a preparedness. The necessity of keeping ships in Mexico last year denied Admiral Danahy the opportunity for as long practice as had been planned, but the sudden call for the expedition to Vera Cruz demanded and exacted unusual service to which the fleet responded with an alacrity and faith which amply justify the confidence of the country that there exists today no more efficient institution than the United States navy.

"Experience in Mexico. "It must be conceded by all that the best school in preparation for war is war itself, and it was almost under this condition that our fleet acted in proceeding almost in a day to Mexican waters. The stay at Vera Cruz however, did not prevent practice, for that ship, individually or in divisions, during a great part of the time held tactical maneuvers, torpedoing practice and sub-caliber drills in preparation for target practice.

"For many years, officers have written and talked about the formation of advance base material and the practice of exercising landing parties of seamen and marines in the use of this important adjunct to naval warfare. Congress appropriated money for this important plan of campaign, but never until January of last year, was the navy thus equipped. There had been plenty of talk but not action, until last year it was undertaken. Then, under instructions from the department, Admiral Badger carried out a comprehensive exercise in which the professional advantages gained by officers and men are incalculable. Three months after this extensive practice had been given for the first time in our navy the same fleet and the same men were called upon to land at Vera Cruz and in the taking of that city. It is a fact that the fleet, what had been learned at Culebra.

WASHINGTON HAS DETAILED RUMOR OF EARLY PEACE POSSIBILITIES

Reports in Rome Become Live Topics of Speculation in Capital of United States Says Correspondent.

GREY AND VON BUELOW SAID TO HAVE MET

Break in Deadlock of Defense Declared to Involve Unthinkable Slaughter for Either Side.

(SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO MORNING JOURNAL)

Washington, April 25.—The rumor emanating from Rome of approaching peace negotiations has reached this capital. It is being repeated cautiously in diplomatic circles and appears to come from German sources usually highly reliable. With it, as it is circulated in Washington, is the extraordinary assertion that a part of the recent "vacation" of Sir Edward Grey was spent in Rome where he met Prince von Buelow, the German plenipotentiary.

According to the terms of the rumor, as it travels here, an armistice may be declared at any moment and arrangements consummated for the formal peace negotiations. The rumor also states that from Rome, Grey went to Sweden and Norway before returning to England and that this portion of his trip had something to do with the coming effort to restore peace.

Further War a Futile Slaughter. It is claimed that the negotiations are being considered because it is realized on both sides that the continuance of the war will have to be pursued under conditions that will involve such a slaughter of men that the rest of the civilized world will be constrained to refuse all relations with either side, and that a world peace, across the entire battle front, between the North sea and Switzerland, it is said, each side has a strong desire to avoid. It is stated that the German army has been unable to take, that the allies have similar lines of trenches is said to be true.

As to Equipment. "But you say, how about equipment and preparation for military emergencies? What has been done since Wilson's inauguration to make the navy stronger in ships, in ammunition, in mines, in torpedoes? These are the questions of the most importance. Let me answer them briefly.

"First, as to ships: During the last two years of the Taft administration, congress authorized the construction of two dreadnaughts to complete the fleet authorized by the Wilson administration, upon my recommendation, congress authorized the construction of five dreadnaughts to cost about \$144,000,000, and authorized \$10,000,000 to be spent on the chief fighting force of the navy, as against \$26,000,000 authorized during the last two years of Taft's administration. It authorized five dreadnaughts instead of two, and stated in effectiveness, the five dreadnaughts authorized under Wilson will mount thirty-six more 14-inch guns than the two authorized under Mr. Taft.

"Second, as to submarines: These wonderful agencies of war have astonished the world in the present European conflict. The six third congress authorized by Mr. Wilson, however, my recommendation to give us all the money it could for submarines. It ordered the construction of three sea-going submarines, the largest ever authorized by any congress, and twenty-three submarines of the same size and type which have done such fearful execution in the present war. These submarines will cost \$14,246,000. Now, what has been done during the last two years under Taft? Twelve submarines to cost \$7,258,926, were authorized. Some of our submarines are not as perfect as they should be, nor are the submarines of any other nation. Under this administration, however, the board of inspections has adopted stricter tests before accepting submarines from contractors. Nobody has, as yet, perfected a satisfactory engine or satisfactory battery for submarines. Upon my invitation, Mr. Edison, last year, at the New York navy yard, went down into a submarine and closely studied every feature. He thinks he has a battery that the Brooklyn navy yard cause us to believe Mr. Edison has the right principle. Without waiting for the completion of his battery, he has been given an order for a submarine, accepted before March 4, 1913, whose battery does not give satisfaction, and one for a new submarine which I have ordered built in the Portsmouth (N. H.) navy yard. Private firms building submarines have not given entire satisfaction. We have equipped the Portsmouth navy yard to build submarines, and by competition between private and government construction, it is hoped that every obstacle will be overcome.

Plenty of Torpedoes. "Third, as to torpedoes: A statement has been put in circulation that the navy is not making adequate provision to supply itself with torpedoes. The only answer I can make is to state the fact that we carry on hand or have placed orders for more torpedoes than the general board prescribes. Is this administration going backward in this respect?"

TOMMY KEPT IN SHAPE BY ARMY CHIROPODIST

(Associated Press Correspondence)

London, April 25.—Chiropractic in uniform as necessary and honored part of the British army is proposed by a London paper, inspired by the marching record of a Lancashire regiment which boasts a well known chiroprapist among its ranks. This regiment has made the hardest practice marches without a man dropping out. The reason is the fine shape the regimental feet are in.

Detached from the humdrum routine of duty, the soldier-chiroprapist spends his day peeling and paring. If every regiment had the same advantage, such things as retreats from Homs might be made without discomfort. Besides, the thing which saved the British on that occasion was the bad state of the German feet, due to the boots they wore. The National Society of Chiropractic, which has a clinic in London for the free treatment of soldiers and sailors, is enthusiastic over the idea of a chiroprapist corps, wearing hats and bearing the corn and razor or some other appropriate insignia on their caps.

WILD SCENES OF BLOOD AND DEATH FOLLOW ATTACK ON HILL NO. 60

Mines Are Exploded Under German Trenches and a Fierce Attack With Bayonet Follows.

TERRIBLE ARTILLERY ENGAGEMENT ENSUES

Whole Position Becomes Obscured by Smoke From Bursting Shells Concentrated on British Forces.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEADER WIRE)

London, April 25 (U. S. P. M.).—Trenches, parapets and sandbags disappeared, says the British official correspondent in describing the effect of the explosions of the British mines which preceded the recent attack and capture by the British of hill No. 60, to the southeast of Ypres.

"The whole surface of the ground," the narrative continues, "assumed strange shapes. Here it was torn into high craters; there large mounds of fallen debris were to be seen. Forces Rush to Attack. "As the reports of the explosions died away and while dense columns of smoke and dust hung in the air our men, led by their officers, sprang from the trenches and rushed across the intervening space of some forty to sixty yards lying between our line and the enemy's trenches. They were met by the front covered by the attack being only some 200 yards in length.

"Where the mines had actually exploded nothing was left of the occupiers of the position, but in the neighboring trenches our assaulting infantry witnessed an extraordinary scene. Many German soldiers, possibly owing to the fact that they were working, were surprised while in their shirt sleeves and without equipment. Stunned by the violence of the explosions, bewildered and suddenly subjected to a rain of hand grenades thrown by our bombarding parties, they lay on their faces or backs.

Defenders Panicked. "Cursing and shouting, they were falling over one another in their hurry to gain the exits leading into the communication trenches. Some of those in the rear, however, by their bayonet driving their bayonets into the bodies of their comrades in front of them.

"Of all this our infantry only had a momentary glimpse before they fell upon the enemy with their bayonets burst through the maze of trenches, poured into the craters and pressed down on the communication trenches until at last they were stopped by barrages defended by bomb-throwers.

"The first line of trenches was captured in a few minutes with little difficulty, and fifteen prisoners fell into our hands, but it was then that the real struggle began, for the Germans quickly recovered from their surprise.

German Gunners Rake Hill. "From our line the hill is a soft target which is exposed to fire from three sides, and it was only a few minutes before the German gunners took advantage of this fact and opened fire. Soon the whole position became enveloped in the smoke of bursting shells. Meanwhile our batteries had begun to support the assault with terrific artillery fire which was maintained for an hour into the night.

"From many points along our line to the north and south of hill No. 60, could be seen the flashes from the shells which the Germans were hurling so nearly continuous that they resembled the effect of musketry fire. Under this fire our men had to work throwing up parapets toward the enemy, blocking their communications and eventually rendering the position defensible.

Use Hand Grenades. "Nor was the enemy's infantry idle. Advancing up the communication trenches they threw hand grenades over the barbed wire and into the mine craters, or the crumbling sides of which our men were clinging in an endeavor to obtain a foothold.

"Throughout the night the fighting continued, our men making steady gains on the 15th in two massed attacks by the enemy. These were beaten off, principally by the fire of our machine guns, some of which had been rushed up.

GERMAN RUSHES INTO GATE ANOTHER DESPERATE EFFORT TO BREAK THROUGH LINES OF ALLIES TO CHANNEL

HEAVY REINFORCEMENTS ARE BEING MOVED RAPIDLY INTO FIGHTING ZONE OF FLANDERS

CANADIANS ARE SUBJECTED TO TERRIFIC ATTACKS AND RESULTS OF CONFLICT ARE REPORTED DIFFERENTLY FROM PARIS AND BERLIN

Where Each Headquarters Claims Success; Teuton Newspapers Justify Asphyxiating Gases in Bombs Because, They Allege, Similar Missiles Are in Use by Enemy; Kaiser's Forces Claim to Have Beaten Section of Joffre's Army Southwest of Combrès; Eastern Operations Are Comparatively Quiet Except in Carpathian Passes.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEADER WIRE)

London, April 25 (U. S. P. M.).—The German rushes in Flanders and the Woëvre, where they claim to have had considerable success, are believed to be the forerunners of another big effort to break through the allied lines in the west.

For many days Belgium has been sealed from the observation of neutrals while reinforcements from Germany were being moved to the south to take in the new offensive, which they hope to carry them to Calais and possibly break the resistance of the allies.

Desperate Struggle Goes On. The attack in Flanders, originally levelled at the French, has been transferred to the British lines held by the Canadians, on the immediate right of the French, and here for two days, the men from the dominion have been engaged in a deadly contest with the Germans. The latter state in their official report that they have made further progress toward Ypres, and that the British counter-attack has been repulsed.

The French account, on the other hand, declares that the allies' counter-attack continues with success and that the British hold all their positions, and repeats the charge that the Germans are using bombs containing asphyxiating gases.

Justifies Gas Bombs. The Frankfurter Zeitung justifies the use of these missiles on the ground that the allies have not done so. The German attack in the Woëvre, or in the Meuse hills, was directed against the French positions to the southwest of Combrès, and according to the Berlin statement, the French suffered a heavy defeat. Paris, however, says that in a counter-attack the Germans were completely driven out of the French first line which they had pushed back.

Ground Favors Offensive. These offensive movements by the Germans have been made possible by the state of the ground on the eastern front, where operations are virtually impossible until the spring floods have subsided. Taking advantage of these conditions, the German general staff has ordered a large number of troops to the west to make another big effort, which shows that they are not content to rely on a passive policy.

It is believed that a half million new German troops have reached Flanders and that more guns and material are to be used than were provided in the original attempt to destroy the allied armies in the west. The French staff failure both in August and in October.

Both Sides Report Successes. In the meantime the eastern front is enjoying a period of comparative calm except in the mid-Carpathians, where the Russians continue to attack the Austrians in Czech pass and to the eastward, where the Austrians and Germans are trying to crush the Russian flank. Both sides report successes.

The operations in the Dardanelles apparently are still confined to the bombardment of the Turkish entrenchments while preparations are being made for landing the allied force, part of which is already on Turkish territory at Enos and other points.

Italy and Greece Undecided. Italy and Greece continue to debate what steps, if any, they will take, and Rumania, it is believed, waits on the decision of Italy, as it is declared the two have perfected a treaty of alliance. It is stated that Austrian and German diplomats at Rome are prepared to recommend acceptance of Italy's terms, but are waiting for instructions from Vienna, which must have the last word in the matter.

VILLA FORCES BADLY BEATEN NEAR GUAYMAS

Governor Maytorena Sends Family to Nogales and Is Expected to Follow Soon With Fleeing Army.

MEXICANS WHO ARE AT WAR ARE BARRED FROM U. S.

War Department Orders Patrols to Eject All Soldiers or Officers Belonging to Any Armed Faction.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEADER WIRE)

On Board U. S. S. Colorado, Guaymas, Mexico, April 24 (By Radio to San Diego, Calif., April 25).—The Villa forces have been badly defeated in southern Sonora, evacuating the town of Navajoa after losing and retaking it before their final defeat, and losing many pieces of artillery, machine guns and ammunition. They have retreated north forty kilometers to Fundacion station, 150 kilometers south of Guaymas. Orders were received by the Southern Pacific railroad at the town of Empalme on the outskirts of Guaymas, early today, to divert every available car to Fundacion. The latter car arriving at Guaymas tonight.

The Carranza forces are pushing northward along General Huerta's line in Flores, while General Calles is working northeast toward Hermosillo and is reported now at Ures.

General Maytorena has sent his entire family to Nogales. The Villa forces unexpectedly Thursday and it is reported that the governor is prepared to make a similar move.

No preparations for the defense of Guaymas has been made. Appeals are being made for recruits, arms, food, equipment and clothing. Little success is obtained. The exchange at Guaymas is one dollar for fifteen pesos.

The Villa movement is said to be rapidly collapsing in Sonora. Maytorena's defeat is attributed to non-fulfillment of pledges to return lands to the Indians.

El Paso, Tex., April 25.—(U. S. P. M.).—The American military authorities along the entire border had received orders to prevent the entry into the United States of any persons known to be soldiers of any Mexican faction. It is believed that this order grew out of conditions caused by recent border fighting opposite Naco, Ariz., and Brownsville, Tex.

Heretofore officers of the Carranza and Villa armies have been permitted to cross the border to visit American border towns, where their appearance on the street in full uniform became common. The border patrol, under direction of General J. Pershing at Fort Bliss, Tex., now has orders not only to prevent these officers from entering the United States, but to deport immediately those already found here who are proven to be soldiers of any faction.

By this means it is expected to prevent the condition which has occurred several Mexican officers in American army posts. In many cases these men were held until such time as it became impossible to deport them without placing them in the hands of enemies who might cause their immediate execution.

Several of those still held at American government expense are at our posts with both of the Mexican factions controlling border and coast ports. Their deportation, it is believed, by officials would be equivalent to their death sentence.

Aged Prospector Found Dead. Santa Fe, April 25.—Charles Clark, aged 76 years, a well-known prospector of Tucson, was found dead on the high trail on which the Rocky Mountain railway crosses the Santa Fe main line at Clifton House, Colfax county. He had fallen from the trestle and broken his neck.

Buys Mora County Land. Santa Fe, April 25.—Edward Higgs of Pueblo, Colo., has purchased 1,280 acres of land near Wagon Mound, Mora county, and expects to purchase another tract near Roy for a stock ranch.

KNITTER'S NEURITIS EPIDEMIC IN ENGLAND

(Associated Press Correspondence)

London, April 16.—Too much wartime knitting and sewing is responsible for the appearance in England of a malady which may be compared with writer's cramp or tennis elbow. The physicians call it "knitter's neuritis." It affects the upper arm and shoulder rather than the fingers and soon only to affect those who knit with difficulty, not having practiced the art in their youth.

The only treatment is to give up knitting indefinitely.

"When any untrained set of muscles is suddenly called upon to repeat indefinitely a complex and unaccustomed sequence of movements," says a London physician, "a spasmodic paralysis is very likely to develop. Knitter's neuritis begins with the weaker feeling that the usual writ and finger movements cannot be followed with the customary ease. Then the muscles get stiff, and in the later stage develop a spasmodic cramp as the knitting needles are taken into the fingers. Although the fingers are thus affected, whenever an attempt is made to knit, there is no interference with other varieties of finger movement.

YAQUIS DRIVEN OFF BY AMERICAN RANCHERS

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEADER WIRE)

On Board U. S. S. Colorado, Guaymas, Mexico, April 25 (By Radio to San Diego, Calif.).—Yaqui Indians recently attacked a ranch owned by two Americans named Jones and Stevenson in the Yaqui valley. After a pitched battle in which several of the ranch people were killed the Indians were driven off. The governor has sent the Americans fresh supplies of ammunition.

GERMANS REPORT CONTINUED SUCCESSES

Berlin, April 25 (U. S. P. M.).—Wireless to London.—Army headquarters gave out today the following report: "Western Theater of War.—We obtained further results at Ypres. The ground captured on April 23, north of Ypres, was still retained yesterday in spite of the attacks of the enemy. Further east we continued our attack and took by storm the Zolater farm, southwest of St. Julien, as well as the villages of St. Julien and Kerensauere, and advanced to the westward toward Gravenstafel. During these engagements about 1,000 Englishmen were

WEATHER FORECAST. Washington, April 25.—New Mexico: Fair Monday and Tuesday.

(Continued on Page Six.)