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BERLIN CLAIMS CAPTURE OF TEN THOUSAND FRENCH PRISONERS

GERMAN WAR OFFICE SAYS GERMAN DRIVE HAS CAPTURED ALL FRENCH POSITIONS NORTH OF VERDUN TO LAUEMONT. OFFICIAL FRENCH STATEMENT ADMITS RETREAT BACK OF BEAUMONT.

But Claim German Strength Has Almost Been Spent and that Fighting is Diminishing in Violence—Turks Claim that British Forces Made Attack on Turks Below Kut-el-Amara But were Driven Back with Considerable Losses, Seven Officers Being Killed—Eight German Vessels in Harbor at St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands Also Seized by Portugal Today—Ambassador Page to Ask British About Taking Germans Off American Steamer in Pacific.

London, Feb. 25.—The German war office announces the capture of all French positions in the region north of Verdun as far as Laudemont, that ten thousand prisoners have been taken since the drive began and the capture of six additional villages is also claimed.

A French official statement admits that the French have fallen back to the rear of Beaumont, although claiming that the fighting is diminishing in its violence and says the Germans made no attacks last night.

A Turkish official statement today says, the British forces made an attack on the Turks below Kut-el-Amara but were driven back with considerable losses, including seven officers killed.

Last German Offensive Paris, Feb. 25.—The German troops in the Verdun offensive were given to understand that this is to be the last of the great offensive against France, according to the statements of prisoners.

Seize More German Ships. St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, Feb. 25.—Eight German steamships in the harbor here, have been taken in charge by the Portuguese government.

Wheat Advances Again. Chicago, Ill., Feb. 25.—The wheat market opened at four cents' advance today in reaction of the semi-panicky feeling of yesterday, which caused a seven cents' drop on the rumors of a breach of international relations.

Great Battle at Verdun. London, Feb. 25.—Inspired by the presence of their emperor and directed by Crown Prince Frederick William, the German troops are engaged in one of the greatest battles of the war on the western front, centering around the fortress of Verdun. Attack has followed attack against the French line, after bombardments, incessant and terrific, continuing for several days. Each side is supposed to have 750,000 men in reserve to take the places of those who fall as the battle proceeds.

While the Germans have not been able despite the rain of shells and furious onslaughts by the infantry, to break the French line, nevertheless the French on their right and left wings have been compelled to withdraw their lines south of Ornes and behind the town of Samogneux, six miles north of the fortress.

To take the fortress of Verdun is one of the chief ambitions with which

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WEATHER FORECAST

New Orleans, La., Feb. 25.—The weather forecast for Oklahoma for tonight and Saturday is fair.

Local Weather Report.

Highest temperature yesterday 74
Lowest temperature last night 36
Highest temperature same date last year 91
Lowest temperature same date last year 41

BASKET BALL TONIGHT

Wayne and Ardmore Teams to Play at High School Gymnasium.

The Wayne and Ardmore high school basketball teams will play at the high school gymnasium tonight at 7:30.

There will also be a game between the third and fourth ward girls, giving patrons another double-header for the price of one game.

OIL MAGNATE INTERESTED IN NEW HOTEL

WILL BE IN THE CITY TOMORROW TO CONFER WITH PRESIDENT MULLEN OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

J. R. Sharp, millionaire oil operator who has property interests in this city, will be here to confer with President J. S. Mullen of the Chamber of Commerce tomorrow relative to a big hotel in this city.

Mr. Sharp has extensive interests in the oil fields of Oklahoma, Texas, and other states, and he is a plunger, not afraid to take a chance. He owns property in this city and has faith in the future of Ardmore, and Mr. Mullen states that he expects something really worth while after Mr. Sharp arrives.

Quite a lot of interest is being manifested by outside parties over the hotel proposition here, and no doubt the committee will come to some definite understanding with some of them in the near future.

President Mullen will call the hotel committee together tomorrow to confer with Mr. Sharp, and stated this morning that he might have something definite to say to the public in Sunday morning's paper.

HOTEL SITE TO BE PURCHASED WHEN APPROVED

MAIN STREET PROPERTY OWNERS BEING ASKED FOR PRICES ON THEIR PROPERTY — FOR NEW HOTEL.

J. S. Mullen, chairman of the hotel committee, has written a number of letters today to ascertain the prices which will be asked for about four suitable sites for a new hotel in this city. In following out the advice of Joseph Huckins, the committee will obtain prices on a frontage of 75 feet. After the prices have been obtained there will be a meeting called of the promoters, and they will select what in their judgment is the best proposition to accept, and then the committee will go before the public with the site located, the price of the building to be constructed, and will have a concrete proposition to place before every man before he is asked to take any stock in the new hotel project. It seems now that the committee is working along a line which will eventually bring success.

FAIRBANKS ASSERTS PROSPERITY UNREAL

Cape Irtardeau, Mo., Feb. 24.—Chas. W. Fairbanks of Indianapolis, former vice president, was the principal speaker at a republican celebration of Washington's birthday here Tuesday night. He declared that all of the so-called democratic prosperity could be attributed to the European war and predicted this country would never become involved in war with any foreign nation.

LYNCH BLACK WHO ATTACKED WHITE WOMAN

JESSE McCracken TAKEN FROM JAIL AT CARTERSVILLE, GEORGIA, BY MOB OF FORTY MEN, AND HANGED.

Cartersville, Ga., Feb. 25.—Jesse McCracken, negro, was taken from the jail here by a mob of forty men and hanged in front of the city hall. His body was riddled with bullets. The negro was charged with entering the home and attacking Mrs. A. T. Heath, a white woman, who is in a serious condition.

Three Women Plead Guilty.

Gainesville, Tex., Feb. 24.—Mrs. Jessie Browning, Miss Connie Browning, and Mrs. Carlotta Murray, all of Ardmore, Okla., pleaded guilty in the county court here today to shoplifting and were fined \$112.50 which they paid. The three women were then arrested on complaints filed against them in district court.

RESCUE ALL ON LINER CRETAN IN COLLISION

LINER AND STEAMER DOROTHY COLLIDED EARLY TODAY IN A FOG OFF HATTERAS — NO LOSS OF LIFE.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 25.—All passengers aboard the liner Cretan, which collided with a schooner off Hatteras early today, were transferred several hours later. There was no loss of life and slight damage. Wireless messages picked up here caused aid to be sent.

Collided With Steamer.

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 25.—Reports to the general offices here today said that the liner Cretan was in collision with the steamer Dorothy, which rescued the Cretan's passengers, and that no schooner was involved in the accident.

TRAIN HIT THEIR AUTO

One Texan Killed and Companion Probably Fatally Injured.

Ballinger, Tex., Feb. 25.—J. E. Wild of Moran, Tex., was instantly killed and J. W. Chestnut of Abilene probably fatally injured when an automobile in which they were riding was struck by a train near here today.

HEALDTON OIL DEAL CLOSED IN KANSAS CITY

E. T. RICHARDS RECEIVES MORE THAN HALF A MILLION FOR ROYALTY ON 210 ACRES OF LAND.

(Special to The Ardmoreite).

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 25.—It became known here today that E. T. Richards, of McAlester, Okla., had closed a deal for the sale of 210 acres of land in the Healdton field for the sum of \$519,000. The purchaser was a New York company which was organized by C. N. Haskell of Tulsa, who was the first governor of Oklahoma. The deal was made through James R. Armstrong of Oklahoma City, who is a member of the criminal court of appeals of Oklahoma.

The Richards property of 210 acres which has been sold to former Governor Haskell and his New York associates, lies in section 6-4-3 and in 31-3-3. The lease is owned by the McMan Oil company and the Magnolia Petroleum company jointly. It is being operated by the McMan company. It has about forty wells, and the production is about 12,000 barrels a day. The royalty each month amounts to about \$30,000. The price per acre was \$2,472, and is the highest price ever paid for royalty stuff at Healdton.

Mr. Richards lives in McAlester, Okla. He allotted lands at Healdton before a field was ever dreamed of, and he has something over 700 acres, most of which is in the proven area. That is, he and his family together have that much land.

The piece of property sold is probably the best acreage in the Healdton field. Some of the sands found on that lease have a thickness of 350 feet, and there are prospects of a deeper sand and the operating contract calls for deep tests to be drilled. Sands of such thickness are said to be unknown except in the state of California.

FLETCHER CONFIRMED TODAY.

Senate Confirms Wilson's Selection of Mexican Ambassador.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The senate today confirmed the nomination of Henry Prather Fletcher to be ambassador to Mexico.

WILSON REMAINS FIRM IN STAND OPPOSING CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

PRESIDENT REITERATES HIS STAND AGAINST CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WARNING AMERICANS OFF ARMED SHIPS—PRESIDENT CONFERRED WITH CLARK, KITCHIN AND CHAIRMAN FLOOD.

They Advised Him That Such a Resolution if Brought up in the House Would Pass that Body Two to One—Kitchin Gives Wilson Assurance that Nothing Will Be Done in the Matter Today, But Could Not Speak for the Future—Clark Hears Rumors that Germany May Defer Submarine Campaign Until April First—Senator Lodge Gives Wilson Assurances that He is in Full Accord with his Policy Toward Germany.

BANKERS AT ADA CRITICIZE NEW USURY LAW

E. A. WALKER SAYS THE STATE NEEDS MORE BUSINESS MEN AND FEWER POLITICIANS IN ITS LEGISLATURE.

Ada, Okla., Feb. 24.—Group five of Oklahoma Bankers' association held its convention in this city today. About three hundred members were present from almost every city on the east side of the state and also from St. Louis, Kansas City and Oklahoma City.

The usury law just passed by the extra session of the state legislature was discussed. It seemed to be the keynote of all speeches delivered that the new law will work great hardship on the small banks and that the larger institutions will not be seriously affected, save by the general business depression likely to follow. John T. Bailey of Albion took the new measure to task, saying it will bring ruin to the small banks and bring on the crop lien system that the southeastern states are trying to recover from. The large credit merchants will thrive, he said, and only the unscrupulous and shiftless will prosper by the new law.

E. A. Walker of Oklahoma City, in his address on business conditions in the state, said Oklahoma has too many politicians and too few business men in the legislature, and until this is changed the people will be forever having their business systems and laws upset and changed before they can be thoroughly tested. His remarks were greeted by great applause.

The convention closed the day's work with tours over the city, followed by a dance at the Elks hall tonight.

BUY ANYWHERE MAKE PROFIT IN ARDMORE

PLACE YOUR MONEY WITH EYES CLOSED AND YOU CAN'T KEEP FROM BEING LUCKY IN ARDMORE REAL ESTATE.

You can shut your eyes and buy Ardmore property and make money. Not many days ago two gentlemen purchased a business site on Main street. Almost before the abstracts of title had been examined and the property paid for, they have been offered a profit on the property which would be a sufficient sum to buy a brick house on the main thoroughfare of the city two years ago.

There will be as many fortunes made in Ardmore real estate within the next three or five years as there have been made in the Healdton oil fields.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 25. President Wilson reiterated his opposition to congressional action warning Americans off armed ships, in a conference today with Speaker Clark, House Leader Kitchin and Chairman Flood of the House Foreign Affairs committee.

They told the president that if such a resolution was brought in the house, it would pass two to one. Kitchin said nothing would be done today, but he could not promise as to the future.

Speaker Clark said he had heard rumors that Germany was contemplating a postponement of her submarine campaign until April 1.

Senator Lodge, republican, declared in a statement today that he is in full accord with Wilson's view as expressed in his letter to Senator Stone, and that he would stand by the president.

Bryan's Influence in Fight.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 25.—A resolution expressing the sense of the senate that any issue affecting the national honor should be referred to congress before decision, and that no ultimatum be sent to a foreign power, nor severance of diplomatic relations be permitted, without reference to congress, was introduced today by Senator Jones, republican.

Bryan sends congressmen messages supporting the movement warning Americans off armed ships. This is the first time that his influence had appeared openly in congress.

Will Protest to England.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The United States has instructed Ambassador Page at London to make inquiries at the British foreign office regarding the removal of thirty-eight Germans from the American steamer China in the Pacific, and demand the release of the prisoners if they were arrested on the high seas as indicated.

War, if a Necessity.

Washington, Feb. 25.—President Wilson in his letter to Chairman Stone of the senate foreign relations committee, announces with regard to the movement in congress in favor of warning Americans from taking passage on board armed merchantmen, that he will not consent to any abridgment of the rights of American citizens in any respect. The president says he has striven for peace and has succeeded, and has no doubt he will continue to succeed. He expresses confidence that explanations by the central powers of the situation which has arisen over their armed merchantmen memorandum will soon be received and that the explanations will put a different aspect upon matters.

In announcing the stand of the United States in the situation, the president says:

"The honor and self respect of the nation is involved. We covet peace and shall preserve it at any cost but the loss of honor."

The letter was in answer to one by Senator Stone outlining the situation existing at the capitol, where since yesterday morning persistent demands have been made for some action which might lessen the possibility of war.

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