

GERMANS TAKE A VERDUN FORT

Important Gain Made By Teutons in Efforts to Hammer Way to French Capital.

GREAT SACRIFICE OF MEN AT FORT DOUAUMONT

One of Group of Seven Defensive Works Captured in Assault by Infantry—Battle Now Raging For Possession of Adjacent Forts of Momentous Importance—Paris Reports Declare Succeeding Attacks Have Been Repulsed—London Believes German Effort Will Fail and That Army Will Be Crippled For All Time Because of Sacrifices—May Be Turning Point of Long Struggle.

Berlin, via London, Feb. 25.—It is officially announced that Fort Douaumont, one of the fortifications of Verdun, was taken by storm yesterday afternoon and is now firmly held by the Germans.

The official announcement is as follows: "The armored fort Douaumont, the northeastern corner pillar of the permanent main line fortifications of the stronghold of Verdun, was stormed yesterday afternoon by the Twenty-fourth regiment of Brandenburg infantry and is now firmly in German hands."

It was announced by the German war office today that the capture of the village of Champ Neuville, in the Verdun sector, reported yesterday, was based on erroneous information.

One of Cluster of Seven. Fort Douaumont lies four miles northeast of Verdun. It is one of nearly a score of forts circling Verdun and is situated just to the north of the railroad running east from the city of Metz.

Douaumont is one of a cluster of seven forts protecting Verdun from the east. The conquest of this fort was made by the right wing of the huge attacking army, which has scored the greatest advance in the assault on the French positions. It is somewhat to the east of what hitherto has been the main line of progress. The main force of the German attack was being exerted southward along the Meuse.

Important Achievement. The capture of Douaumont is the most important achievement since the inauguration of the German drive at Verdun. The war office has expressed confidence that notwithstanding the admitted great strength of the German drive, Verdun and its protecting fortifications will be able to hold out. These positions form what has been regarded as one of the greatest strongholds of Europe. It is the strongest fortress of France and is of great importance, as it offers direct communication to Paris, 150 miles to the west.

Verdun marks the northern points of the great French offensive against direct attack from German territory, the most southerly being Belfort, as between these two points lies the stretch of frontier on which Germany touches France. France has other fortified points farther north.

Battle of Momentous Importance. A dispatch from London of yesterday's date said that Maj. Gen. Sir Francis Lloyd, general officer commanding the London district, in a speech at the opening of the military building, declared that the battle before Verdun was of momentous importance to Great Britain as well as to France.

"Do you realize," he said, "that a fight is now going on for a passage to Paris? The result will hang in the balance until the Teuton is driven back, as I have great confidence he will be. But if our allies' line is pierced the way will be open to the French capital and if that capital is reached a new complexion would be put on the whole face of the war. A German success on the French front would not merely mean the loss of Paris but would endanger London."

Empire. An official statement issued today says that considerable advances have been made east of the Meuse in the region north of Verdun, in the presence of Emperor William.

The war office also announced the capture of hills north of Louvemont and the fortified positions to the east thereof.

Resistance of the French broke down on the Woevre plain along the entire front to Marphyville, south of the high road from Paris to Metz.

"We are pursuing the retreating enemy," the statement says.

French Gain at One Point. The French forces in the Champagne have made an attack on the German positions south of St. Marie-a-Py. The war office statement today says the French penetrated the first German trenches over a distance of about 250 yards.

GERMANS SACRIFICING MEN. Paris Reports Repeated Attacks So Far Have Failed. Paris, Feb. 25.—The Germans are continuing their violent attacks north of Verdun without regard to their sacrifices, the war office announced this afternoon.

The German attacks in the region of Douaumont, east of the Meuse, has failed, the war office said, notwithstanding repeated attacks and tremendous slaughter.

The Petit Parisien says that the battle now raging before Verdun was preceded on Feb. 12 by a feint in Champagne intended to divert attention from the coming attack on Verdun.

The attack in the Champagne on Feb. 12, which was conducted in three successive waves, failed chiefly because of the change of wind; the Petit Parisien says, rendering ineffective a large quantity of asphyxiating gas and flame throwers which were relied upon for the success of the attack.

THINKS ALLIES WILL BENEFIT. British Press Believes Germany Is Crippling Herself at Verdun. London, Feb. 25.—The only word concerning the German claim to taking the armored fortress of Douaumont, outside of Verdun, came thru German sources. Further information is awaited anxiously owing to the strategic importance of this fort, which is the base of solid field works on a line of hills 1,000 feet high, about six miles northeast of Verdun.

The latest detailed information showed the French holding two and a half miles beyond Douaumont, with this powerful fortress and its field works giving steady support.

DELAY ACTION ON SEA WARNING

Congress to Await Further Developments in Sub-sea Controversy.

NEXT MOVE TO COME FROM GERMANY

Overwhelming Majorities in Senate and House Determined That No Action Shall Be Taken That Might Embarrass Administration at This Time—State Department Quietly Awaits Reply From Berlin to Latest Request.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The question of congressional action warning Americans off armed ships continued in abeyance today, pending further developments in the submarine controversy.

With President Wilson, backed by his entire cabinet, still unshaken in his position that there should be no abridgment of the rights of Americans on the high seas, overwhelming majorities in the house and senate apparently were determined that no action should be taken that might embarrass the government.

The state department today still is awaiting a response from Germany to its request for assurances that the announcement of the intention to sink armed ships would not affect previous pledges.

It had been rumored that the central powers would postpone inauguration of their new policy from Feb. 29 until April or May.

Negotiations Continue at Washington. With the apparent quieting down of the situation in congress the submarine crisis shifts back to the negotiations between Secretary Lansing and Count von Bernstorff.

Mr. Lansing said today there was no intention of transferring the negotiations to Berlin, to be conducted by Ambassador Gerard and the Berlin foreign office, as was intimated in dispatches published abroad.

The situation in congress is apparently being held in check by administration leaders, while President Wilson remains firm in his determination to insist on the right of Americans to sail on ships armed for defense solely.

American Suggestion Not Rejected. From German sources comes word that the Teutonic governments were inspired to issue their new notice by the American circular note to the allied powers, for the disarmament of ships.

From the British sources come the positive statement that the British government, at least, has not rejected the American suggestion, but is consulting her allies.

The issue is complicated by the attitude of the Italian government and the presence at New York of three armed Italian merchantmen.

May Discuss Armament Question. The United States, Secretary Lansing indicated today, may discuss the question of what constitutes proper armament on a merchant ship for defense.

Germany contends that armament permitted under international law as defensive had become offensive with the advance of the submarine.

Until the question is raised Mr. Lansing regards it as premature to state the position of the state department.

One of the entente allies replied today to the request for the disarmament of the merchant vessels.

The impression prevailed that it was not Great Britain but probably France or Italy.

Secretary Lansing declined to tell the name of the replying power, it later was learned that it was Italy and that the reply was argumentative rather than conclusive. It was pointed out that Italian liners give pledges not to use their armament except for defense when clearing from American ports.

Iowans Favor Warning. Members of the Indiana and Iowa delegations were polled on this question.

"Do you favor a warning by congress to Americans to keep off belligerent merchantmen carrying guns?" In the Iowa delegation seven replied in favor of giving the warning and four declined to commit themselves.

Following is the poll: For the resolution—Republicans, Hull, Haugen, Good, Ramseyer, Dowling, Green; Democrats, Stettin, Noncommittal, Republicans, Kennedy, Sweet, Towner, Woods.

ON SEA WARNING

Congress to Await Further Developments in Sub-sea Controversy.

NEXT MOVE TO COME FROM GERMANY

Overwhelming Majorities in Senate and House Determined That No Action Shall Be Taken That Might Embarrass Administration at This Time—State Department Quietly Awaits Reply From Berlin to Latest Request.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The question of congressional action warning Americans off armed ships continued in abeyance today, pending further developments in the submarine controversy.

With President Wilson, backed by his entire cabinet, still unshaken in his position that there should be no abridgment of the rights of Americans on the high seas, overwhelming majorities in the house and senate apparently were determined that no action should be taken that might embarrass the government.

The state department today still is awaiting a response from Germany to its request for assurances that the announcement of the intention to sink armed ships would not affect previous pledges.

It had been rumored that the central powers would postpone inauguration of their new policy from Feb. 29 until April or May.

Negotiations Continue at Washington. With the apparent quieting down of the situation in congress the submarine crisis shifts back to the negotiations between Secretary Lansing and Count von Bernstorff.

Mr. Lansing said today there was no intention of transferring the negotiations to Berlin, to be conducted by Ambassador Gerard and the Berlin foreign office, as was intimated in dispatches published abroad.

The situation in congress is apparently being held in check by administration leaders, while President Wilson remains firm in his determination to insist on the right of Americans to sail on ships armed for defense solely.

American Suggestion Not Rejected. From German sources comes word that the Teutonic governments were inspired to issue their new notice by the American circular note to the allied powers, for the disarmament of ships.

From the British sources come the positive statement that the British government, at least, has not rejected the American suggestion, but is consulting her allies.

The issue is complicated by the attitude of the Italian government and the presence at New York of three armed Italian merchantmen.

May Discuss Armament Question. The United States, Secretary Lansing indicated today, may discuss the question of what constitutes proper armament on a merchant ship for defense.

Germany contends that armament permitted under international law as defensive had become offensive with the advance of the submarine.

Until the question is raised Mr. Lansing regards it as premature to state the position of the state department.

One of the entente allies replied today to the request for the disarmament of the merchant vessels.

The impression prevailed that it was not Great Britain but probably France or Italy.

Secretary Lansing declined to tell the name of the replying power, it later was learned that it was Italy and that the reply was argumentative rather than conclusive. It was pointed out that Italian liners give pledges not to use their armament except for defense when clearing from American ports.

Iowans Favor Warning. Members of the Indiana and Iowa delegations were polled on this question.

"Do you favor a warning by congress to Americans to keep off belligerent merchantmen carrying guns?" In the Iowa delegation seven replied in favor of giving the warning and four declined to commit themselves.

Following is the poll: For the resolution—Republicans, Hull, Haugen, Good, Ramseyer, Dowling, Green; Democrats, Stettin, Noncommittal, Republicans, Kennedy, Sweet, Towner, Woods.

PETROLITE TAKEN FOR ENEMY.

Austria Explains Submarine Commander's Reason For Attacking Tanker. Washington, Feb. 25.—Austria, supplementing her reply to the American request for more information concerning the attack on the American tank steamer Petrolite, has informed the United States that her version of the affair is that the submarine commander thought the Petrolite was an enemy ship disguised under the American flag, that he fired on her as she changed her course and that he believed she was about to ram him.

Secretary Lansing said today that Austria's communication was not a reply to the American protest.

All the facts available to the state department have been sent to Vienna.

ITALIAN POET INJURED.

Gabriele d'Annunzio, Hurt in Aeroplane Mishap, May Lose Eye. Paris, Feb. 25.—Gabriele d'Annunzio has been injured in the right eye in an aeroplane accident and taken to a hospital in Venice, says the Rome correspondent of the Petit Parisien. There is a possibility that the sight of the injured eye may be preserved.

[The Italian poet Gabriele d'Annunzio took a prominent part in the popular agitation which preceded the declaration of war by Italy against Austria, in May, 1915. He volunteered for service and was appointed lieutenant in the army.]

OPERATION KILLS BRIDE.

Young Husband Admits Illegally Use of Knife Three Times. Chicago, Feb. 25.—The bride and groom of a young physician, performed three illegal operations on his wife, the last of which resulted in her death last night.

This was the statement made to the police today by Dr. Long, who is being held pending the verdict of a coroner's jury.

In three days, Dr. Long said, he performed three such operations with the consent of his bride. Blood poisoning resulted.

PORTUGAL EXPLAINS SEIZURE OF SHIPS.

Government's Action Prompted by Necessity of Nation's Economic Needs—Requisitioned Vessels to Prevent Wilful Damage and Possible Destruction.

Lisbon, via Paris, Feb. 25.—The Portuguese premier stated in the chamber of deputies today that an attempt had been made to damage seven of the requisitioned ships and that explosives had been found on the steamship Buelow.

The premier added that the best interests of Portugal would be served by a treaty with Germany to liquidate the situation.

Dr. Alfonso Costa, the premier, in answer to a question by Deputy Camacho, regarding the employment to which the requisitioned German and Austrian vessels would be put, said that the government's action in requisitioning them had been prompted by necessity of the nation's economic situation.

This had been carried out simultaneously, he said, in order to forestall, as far as possible, attempts at wilful damage to ships, which had, in fact, been made in several cases. An explosive apparatus had been found in the boilers of the steamship Buelow, which would have caused an explosion when the vessel moved. An explosion was prevented but the machinery was damaged.

Dr. Costa further said that he considered it in the best interests of the country that the existing treaty with Germany be denounced and allowed to lapse on June 5, 1917.

In conclusion he said: "We are prepared for all eventualities that may arise from our exercising our rights."

Eight German steamers in the harbor at St. Vincent were seized by order of the Portuguese government.

The Official Gazette publishes two decrees regarding the thirty-six German and Austrian merchant vessels seized in the Tagus river and placed under the Portuguese flag.

The first indicates the work of refitting to be performed in order to adapt these vessels for the transport and other purposes for which they have been requisitioned.

It is distinctly given to be understood that the vessels have been requisitioned. The second decree appoints a committee to supervise the execution of the work indicated.

Portuguese newspapers say that in other parts of the republic there are eighty German and Austrian vessels which, if it is understood, will also be requisitioned by the government. The total tonnage of the Teutonic ships exceeds 150,000 tons.

PREDICTS BASEBALL INQUIRY.

Federal Trade Commission Said to Be Preparing For Investigation. Chicago, Feb. 25.—The federal trade commission is planning an investigation of organized baseball and its relations to the Sherman anti-trust law, according to a statement today by James F. Gilmore, who arrived from New York to attend the final meeting of the Federal League managers.

Officers of the commission at Washington, Mr. Gilmore said, has asked the Federal League for its papers filed in the federal court here last winter, and dismissed by Judge Landis following the peace pact.

Only the reorganization of the league, the conduct of the game will insure avoidance of an investigation, Mr. Gilmore declared.

URGENT APPEAL FOR HELP.

Flood Victims in Mississippi Said to Be in Serious Plight. Natchez, Miss., Feb. 25.—An urgent appeal for help for flood victims in Concordia parish, declaring that men, women and children were almost starving and were clinging to the sides of the levees and house-tops, was received today by the Natchez relief commission.

The government steamers are working along the Black and Texas rivers, removing farmers and live stock.

T-R BULLETIN.

NEWS OF THE DAY

The Weather. Sun rises Feb. 27 at 6:37. at 5:50. Iowa—Partly cloudy ton Sunday; slightly colder ton Sunday.

PAGE ONE.

Telegraphic News: Germans Take One of Jun Forts. Momentous Battle Before Verdun. May Determine Result of War. Action Delayed on Warning Issue. Democrats of Iowa Split. Two State Tickets in Field. PAGES TWO, THREE AND FOUR.

Iowa News: Many Immune to Diphtheria. Investigating Kelley. State Buys Quarry For Convicts. Fraud Claimed in Realty Deal. To Organize Iowa For Good Roads. Baby Pork Contest. Gathered in the Byways.

General News and Story: Chaplains in Congress. It Pays to Advertise. PAGES SIX.

Editorial: Who Is the U. S. A.? Just Farm Gumption. School Officials Named. Topics of the Times. Iowa Opinion and Notes. PAGES EIGHT, NINE, TEN, ELEVEN.

City News: Still More Cases For March Terms. Election to Entertain Presbyterians. School Consolidation Falls. Report on Red Cross Seals. Local Comment. General and Brief City News. PAGES TWELVE.

Markets and General: Bearish Cables Weaken Wheat. Corn Develops Strength. Cattle Trade Steady. Hogs at New High Levels. PAGES THIRTEEN.

OSCAR COOK EXECUTED.

Hanged at Canyon City, Colo., For Double Murder. Canyon City, Colo., Feb. 25.—Oscar Cook was executed here this morning for the murder of Andrew J. Lloyd and William McPherson, in 1912, in Denver.

Cook made no confession or reference to the crime, according to the witnesses. He remained calm to the end, going to the scaffold praying.

Cook apparently had been reconciled to his fate for several days, despite efforts of his sister, who repeated pleas to Governor Carlson for executive clemency.

STRIKE SITUATION REMAINS UNCHANGED.

Differences Between Sioux City Packers and Employes No Nearer Settlement—Strike of Men in Cooling Plants Imperil Stores of Meats.

Sioux City, Feb. 25.—The strike in the Sioux City packing houses seemed no nearer settlement today. The strikers and managers of the plants show no sign of changing front. The strike of the men in the cooling plants has imperiled the great stores of meats.

Extension of the strike to other packing centers of the Missouri river valley is hoped for by leaders of the Sioux City strikers and it is predicted that emissaries will be sent today to Omaha and Kansas City in an effort to stir up sympathetic action in those cities. More thorough picketing of the entire stock yards district is to be undertaken.

The peace conference between the strikers and managers of the plants was in progress at noon today. It was reported that there were indications for a settlement.

M. R. Murphy, of Omaha, general manager of the Cudahy Packing Company plants, made the statement today that the Cudahy and Armour packing companies will immediately advance the wages of all employes eight per cent. This is much less than the increase asked for by the strikers.

It was announced some time ago that the companies intended such an advance about May 1. The strikers asked 2 cents an hour for laborers and a much larger increase for others.

WHEAT SUFFERS ANOTHER BREAK.

Depression in New York Stock Market Causes Wild Descent in Price of Grain—Values Break 5 Cents, May Dropping to \$1.13 3/4. Chicago, Feb. 25.—Wheat values broke 5 cents a bushel today on account of depression in the New York stock market. Apparently many traders here jumped to the conclusion that Wall street declines were caused over the plans of Germany to attack armed merchant vessels.

May wheat dropped to \$1.13 3/4, as against \$1.18 3/4 at yesterday's finish.

Breaks More Than 6 Cents. Minneapolis, Minn., Feb. 25.—Wheat prices broke more than 6 cents a bushel here today following receipts of a report that Verdun had fallen.

Spanish Minister Resigns. Madrid, via Paris, Feb. 25.—Finance Minister Urzals has resigned on account of differences of opinion with the other members of the cabinet regarding the financial policy of the government.

Foreign Minister Villanueva has assumed the finance portfolio and Count Alvaro de Romanones, the premier, has taken charge of the foreign office.

Italian Steamer Arrived. New York, Feb. 25.—The Napoli, the third Italian steamer to arrive here within the last few days with guns mounted, arrived today. The Napoli carried two three-inch guns. She is a freighter and carries no passengers.

Do you think you're going to have a white Christmas? "It looks pretty dark for me. I can't possibly raise the money to buy my wife the furs she's set her heart on."

DEMOCRATS OF IOWA FACING PARTY SPLIT

Two Full Tickets May Be Placed Before Voters at June Primary.

PROGRESSIVE WING PICKS CLARKSON

Leader of Dry Forces Chosen to Lead Opposition to Regular State and E. G. Dunn Selected to Oppose Wilbur W. Marsh as National Committeeman—Delegates at Large to St. Louis Convention Named.

Des Moines, Feb. 25.—Two full democratic state tickets may be placed before Iowa voters at the June 6 primary this year, as the result of a decision early today by leaders of so-called progressive democrats to enter a slate of their own.

After an all night meeting, lasting until nearly daylight the conference unanimously selected Senator John T. Clarkson, of Albia, leader of the dry forces in the Thirty-sixth general assembly, to head the new ticket as candidate for governor in opposition to the regular democratic ticket.

Edward G. Dunn, of Mason City, a candidate for governor in 1913, was selected as a candidate for national committeeman against Wilbur W. Marsh, of Waterloo. Senator Clarkson refused this morning to say whether he would be a candidate.

Whether or not a full state ticket will be placed before the primary by the so-called progressive democrats was not decided at the all-night meeting.

Picks Delegates at Large. The conference selected candidates for delegates at large to the national convention at St. Louis, but had not decided when it adjourned whether it would select district delegates.

Should Senator Clarkson be a candidate for governor he will represent the conference as a delegate at large. Homer W. Johnston, of Sioux City, was the conference's second choice for delegates at large. He is a brother of United States Senator Johnston, of South Dakota.

It was announced this morning that the decision as to placing a full ticket in the field would be decided upon later. Every district in the state was represented at the conference.

To Wage Open Fight. So-called progressive democrats today announced they would open headquarters in Des Moines and wage an open fight on the regular democrats.

Members of the conference said they will make strenuous efforts to unseat members of the opposing faction from membership on the state central committee and that practically a full state ticket will be placed before the primaries in opposition to the regular democratic slate.

Four candidates for delegates at large to the St. Louis convention will be entered by the progressives and candidates will be placed in the field in each district of the state. Just how they would go about winning opposition members the conference did not state.

All who attended the conference felt sure today that Senator John T. Clarkson, of Albia, endorsed by the conference for governor, would be a candidate.

NORMAN HAPGOOD TESTIFIES.

Explains Employment of Louis D. Brandeis by Colliers' Weekly. Washington, Feb. 25.—Norman Hapgood, former editor of Colliers' Weekly, today told the senate judiciary subcommittee investigating the nomination of Louis D. Brandeis to the supreme court, that the reason Colliers' had employed Mr. Brandeis in the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy was because Colliers wanted to support Mr. Glavis, whose charges against Mr. Ballinger it had published, and for whom Brandeis ostensibly appeared.

"We had published the charges and thought Mr. Glavis should be supported," said Mr. Hapgood.

No attempt was made to deceive any one about the employment of Mr. Brandeis, Mr. Hapgood said.

William Youngman testified at length about the Warren case in which Mr. Brandeis was an attorney.

ROSSI IS FOUND GUILTY.

Convicted on Charge of Murderous Assault on American Woman. Rome, via Paris, Feb. 25.—Pietro Rossi was found guilty at Arezzo, on the charge of murderous assault against Mrs. Mary Flavelle, of Chicago, in a railroad train between Florence and Arezzo, on May 21, 1914, for the purpose of robbery. He was sentenced to eight years and four months imprisonment and to two years special surveillance by the police and to perpetual interdiction from public service.

The jury found that Rossi was only partially responsible for his action, being not wholly sound of mind. [Mrs. Flavelle returned to the United States following the attack and died in Chicago, on Dec. 11, 1914.]

A Forecast.

"Do you think you're going to have a white Christmas?" "It looks pretty dark for me. I can't possibly raise the money to buy my wife the furs she's set her heart on."