

**METAL PRICES**  
NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—Metal quotations for today:  
Silver 85 3/4; lead 7 7/8; spelter 7 7/8; copper 23 1/2.

Forty-eighth Year—No. 40. Price Five Cents.

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# AMERICANS BOMBARD BOCHES

## Allies On West Front Facing 2,100,000 Germans Primed For Battle

# RECORD WAR BILL BEFORE HOUSE

## BILLION DOLLARS WANTED AT ONCE FOR WAR USES

### Largest Urgent Deficiency Appropriation Bill Ever Reported in History of Congress—Enormous Contracts for Equipment for Two Million Men—Pershing Cables for Great Plant to Be Sent to France.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—A billion dollar urgent deficiency appropriation bill, the largest of its kind in the history of congress, although cut a half billion from original estimates, was favorably reported to the house today by Chairman Sherley of the appropriations committee. The bill provides for the immediate needs of the war, navy and other departments.

Chairman Sherley depicted the testimony given to the committee by department chiefs during the past month of investigation.

Among the amounts asked for various military activities, was a total of \$1,000,000,000 for munition, field and siege artillery in addition to more than \$1,000,000,000 already spent and contract authorizations of \$770,000,000 additional. The testimony of Colonel Ames of the ordnance department said that the total amount available for the purpose since the beginning of the war under direct appropriations and contract authorizations was \$1,116,000,000 of which amount orders have been placed requiring ultimate expenditure of \$1,252,000,000, leaving still available for contracts \$59,000,000. He said the \$1,252,000,000 was intended to supply ammunition upon revised estimates of the quantities needed for two million men, including the ammunition needed for the light trench mortars. He said the \$81,000,000 additional is asked as the result of a change in the military program, including new requirements for a larger number of shells, for ammunition for gas mounted on tanks and for the filling of projectiles with gases and \$2,000,000 for a plant for the same purpose to be erected in France.

**Pershing Sends Cable.**  
General Pershing cabled strongly urging a plant in France to enable him to handle these toxic materials properly. He planned, ordnance officers explained, to dispatch a complete organization and equipment to France to enable the American expeditionary forces to meet the sudden shift in gas warfare.

"There is probably no phase of trench warfare," said Colonel Ragsdale, "that is open to such sudden shifts as gas warfare. The mustard gas or blister gas has used by the Germans simply changed the whole program. The plant is in handling these gases in looting shells and bombs and to enable the change of the character of gases to keep abreast of the developing phases of warfare. It is our intention to ship in large quantities these toxic materials that will be taken out of these containers and put into shells or cylinders for bombs, or whatever they want. These cylinders are about the same size as the soda carbon dioxide tanks. Then we have the construction and operation of a chemical plant for manufacture of raw material. One of the raw materials can be shipped as harmless stuff, no more dangerous than lime, which by a relatively simple operation can be converted into one of the most poisonous materials known. This is a patented process. The French were purchasing this material for 100 cents a month after July 1.

At his examination before the committee, Chairman Sherley's report said, General Wheeler of the ordnance bureau brought out that the government had an arrangement with

## WILSON ORDERS INVESTIGATION

### Attorney General to Probe the Much Discussed Hog Island Contracts.

## GRAFT IS ALLEGED

### President to Learn If There Has Been Criminal Misuse of Government Funds.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—At the request of the shipping board, which charges gross mismanagement and reckless spending of government money, President Wilson today directed Attorney General Gregory to investigate the American International corporation's construction of the government fabricating steel shipyard at Hog Island, Pa., and determine if there has been any criminal misuse of government funds.

A special assistant to the attorney general will be sent immediately to Hog Island to work with F. A. Bowles, assistant general manager of the Emergency Fleet corporation, whom Chairman Hurley of the shipping board placed in charge of the project three weeks ago with full powers to reorganize.

Although the shipping board has no facts to indicate there has been criminal dereliction, it wants to ascertain the true situation and learn just how money put up by the government has been spent.

Testimony before the senate committee investigating shipping has shown that construction of the yard will cost the government from \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000, although original estimates placed its cost at \$21,000,000. The work is being done by a subsidiary of the American International corporation.

Mr. Bowles has been directed to recommend any changes in management he thinks necessary but has been ordered to await the senate committee's report before taking any drastic steps. Already he has reduced the staff of the management to some extent and has outlined other changes which he thinks should be made.

Members of the senate committee have indicated that they may recommend that the government take over construction of the yard and do the work itself.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—President Wilson today directed Attorney General Gregory to investigate the much discussed Hog Island shipyard contracts which have been adversely criticized before the senate commerce committee and determine if there has been any criminal misuse of government funds.

The president also directed the attorney general to work in conjunction with Chairman Hurley of the shipping board in his investigation. About \$42,000,000 of government money has been involved in the Hog Island project in which the American International corporation, headed by Frank A. Vanderlip, president of the National City bank, has figured.

The Hog Island shipyard on the Delaware river near Philadelphia, is planned to be the greatest in the country with more than fifty ways on which to lay down ships.

## SUDDEN DEATH SHOCKS CAPITAL

### Former British Ambassador to U. S., Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, Dies in Ottawa.

## RECENTLY RESIGNED

### Tremendous Strain of War Heavy Burden on Diplomat, Who Made No Complaint.

OTTAWA, Ont., Feb. 14.—Death came peacefully at 1 o'clock this morning to Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, until recently the British ambassador to the United States. The diplomat passed away while virtually in his sleep at Government house, in the presence of Lady Spring-Rice and their children, Betty, aged 11, and Anthony, 9 years.

Sir Cecil had complained of not feeling well and Dr. Thomas Gibson was summoned shortly after midnight, but the patient passed away before he arrived. The diplomat had been falling for some time.

Funeral services will be held for Sir Cecil in St. Bartholomew's church Saturday afternoon and his body will be buried in Ottawa at the Beachwood cemetery. His lordship, Bishop Roper, will conduct the services, assisted by the Rev. H. F. Brewin, rector of the church.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Diplomatic Washington was shocked today by the sudden death in Ottawa of Sir Cecil Arthur Spring-Rice who retired after nearly five years service as British ambassador to the United States early last month in favor of Lord Reading.

Although it had been known that Sir Cecil had desired for a long time before his retirement was announced, to be relieved of his heavy duties in charge of the embassy, no intimation was given when he left Washington that he was in ill health. However, officials here pointed out that he had been under tremendous strain from the responsibilities devolving upon him especially during the negotiations on the operation of the Allied blockade before the United States entered the war.

Resigned U. S. Post.  
It was known that Sir Cecil tendered his resignation during the visit here of Arthur Balfour to take effect at the convenience of the foreign office. His retirement was announced from London January 2 in connection with a reorganization of personnel of the British diplomatic service which also retired Lord Bortle as British ambassador to Paris.

The embassy here was in charge of Colville Barclay, its counsellor, until Lord Reading arrived this week.

Became Ambassador in 1913.  
Sir Cecil who became ambassador here September 6, 1913, succeeding Ambassador James Bryce, now Viscount Bryce, was born in 1859 and spent many years in the diplomatic service. He came to Washington as third assistant secretary of the embassy in 1886 and was appointed acting second secretary to act as secretary to the British delegation to the International Marine conference Aug. 27, 1889. After serving for a time at Brussels and Tokio he was again transferred to Washington in 1893. He was successively charge d'affaires and minister to Persia from 1900 to 1908. He then became minister to Sweden and left Stockholm to accept the ambassadorship here. His earlier services here were remembered during the days of Lord Pauncefoot. He was created K. C. M. G. in 1906.

Sir Cecil's difficult task here during the early years of the war in inducing the American government to accept with equanimity the oppressive regulations of the Entente blockade was looked upon as an unusual achievement. Diplomats regarded as the most ingenious and remarkable of international diplomatic intercourse papers which had their origin here in support of the policies adapted to meet Germany's disregard of the established rules of warfare.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—Secretary Wilson today issued a statement calling on ship workers to enroll in the United States public service reserve during the campaign to secure 270,000 workers to build the country's merchant fleet.

"Membership in the reserve brings official recognition of the performance of, or the readiness to perform, a most necessary and patriotic service," the secretary said.

## TROTZKY PUZZLES GERMAN LEADERS

### Important Political and Military Men Conferring Busily to Solve Problem.

## NO TREATY IS SIGNED

### Big Army of Austro-Hungarian Prisoners in Petrograd a Serious Factor.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 14.—Judging from the latest indications in the German press, most dissatisfaction and suspicion has been aroused by the latest move of Foreign Minister Trozky. Important political and military leaders are said to be conferring busily to find the best solution to the puzzle.

The Kreuz Zeitung of Berlin on Tuesday declared "on reliable information" that Trozky's proposal is in no circumstances to be regarded as a peace offer, while it is pointed out by other papers that the Russian war theater was mentioned especially in the official army report of Tuesday.

A Berlin telegram to the Koelnische Volks Zeitung of Wednesday says: "The government is not willing to continue relations with Russia on any basis whatsoever unless the present Russian government signs a regular peace treaty. As, however, it must be reckoned, for the present at any rate, that Trozky does not think of signing any formulated peace declaration a situation is carried which makes necessary a thorough discussion between the government and the supreme army command."

**Austro-Hungarian Prisoners a Menace.**  
The correspondent in an apparently inspired passage adds: "The chancellor is resolved under no circumstances to conduct further negotiations in any neutral center and it will be the affair of the central powers to determine where such negotiations may best be held. The recall of the economic commission from Petrograd is under consideration."

"On the other hand it is evidently realized that the question of the big army of Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war in Russian territory still controlled by Petrograd cannot be overlooked."

A telegram from Vienna to the Tagliche Rundschau says: "It is pointed out in well-informed quarters that the confusion and uncertainty of internal conditions in Russia demand that the central powers adopt a cautious and waiting attitude, and that in spite of the absence of a formal conclusion of peace, there be no hindrance to the exchange of prisoners."

All German newspapers note the fact that three hours after a message was sent out announcing the issuance of a demobilization order to the Russian army, another Russian message was issued ordering that circulation of this communication be stopped. It is suggested that this indicates that the Bolshevik government no longer thinks of adhering to the declaration of Foreign Minister Trozky.

**Demobilization a Sham Maneuver.**  
The Zeitung Am Mittag goes so far as to say that there are proofs that Trozky's promise of a Russian demobilization is a sham maneuver. It declares that reliable reports represent the Bolsheviks as energetically forming a red guard army out of the remnants of the Russian army, in the hope of raising a million men to establish Bolshevik power in the border states.

**No Formal Treaty Signed.**  
A dispatch from Brest-Litovsk received in Amsterdam Monday said that Russia had declared the state of war to be at an end and that the demobilization of the Russian armies on all fronts had been ordered. Russia, it was added, did not sign a formal peace treaty with the central powers.

It is indicated in the above dispatch that Foreign Minister Trozky may have made further proposals to the central powers. If such is the case no report concerning it has been received in this country.

There have been no direct dispatches from Petrograd for several days. A Russian official message received in London Tuesday confirmed the Brest-Litovsk statement that demobilization had been ordered. Since then there have been no advices from Petrograd.

## IF DRIVE STARTS HE'LL BE DRIVER



Field Marshal von Worysch.

This is the first photo to reach the U. S. of Field Marshal von Worysch. It is generally understood that he is to lead the long-heralded German drive in the west if it ever gets under way. Von Worysch led the Hun invasion of Poland in 1915.

future attitude of Foreign Minister Trozky and the Bolshevik government and one Berlin newspaper says the announcement that the Russian army had been ordered demobilized was a "sham maneuver."

German leaders are said to be holding conferences to solve the problem. One report is to the effect that military operations against the Bolsheviks might be resumed but both Berlin and Vienna appear to be anxious over the probable fate of the many thousands of Austro-German prisoners in Russian hands.

**Demobilization is Halted.**  
Circulation of the Russian order, ordering the demobilization of the Russian army, the German papers say, was halted three hours after the order was sent out. Concerning the situation in Petrograd there have been no press reports since early last Tuesday. Dispatches last Thursday reported rioting in Petrograd in which 120 persons were killed.

## BRITISH LINE IS LENGTHENED

### Forces in Italy Holding Good Portion of the Piave Frontier.

OTTAWA, Feb. 14.—The British line in Italy has been considerably lengthened to the east of Montello on the Piave river, according to a London dispatch to the Ottawa agency of Reuters' limited. The line now extends to some miles east of Nervesa.

**Fighting Activity Increasing.**  
In France there has been a slight increase in the fighting activity. On the British front Canadian troops have carried out two successful raids and in the Ypres sector the Germans failed in an attempt to hold two British posts they had taken. In Champagne, French troops penetrated to the third German line south of Butte Mesnil on a front of about 1200 yards. Shelters and defenses were destroyed and 100 prisoners captured. On the American front in France there has been activity of consequence.

**Germans Building Defenses.**  
The Germans are reported to be working assiduously building new defenses and bringing fresh troops to the western front. The Associated Press correspondent at French army headquarters says the Germans now have 190 divisions, probably 2,300,000 men, on the front between the North sea and the Swiss border.

**Twenty-five Ships Sunk.**  
Nineteen British, four Italian and two French merchantmen are reported sunk by submarines, or mines in the current statement of shipping losses.

Disclosure of British production in 1917 shows that the tonnage sunk last year by submarines was three times as great as that built in the United States and Great Britain. The combined total of production is slightly more than two million tons, while sinkings by submarines have been estimated at six million tons. Greatly increased production is expected in 1918.

## GUNNERS AIDING FRENCH

### American Batteries Do Effective Work in Raid in Champagne.

## GREAT ARMIES READY

### Germans and Entente Allies Waiting to Spring at Each Other.

PARIS, Feb. 14.—American batteries took part in the artillery bombardment in connection with the large French raid in the Champagne yesterday. It is announced officially. Effective assistance was gained by the American gunners.

(This is the first mention of American batteries on the Champagne front.)

**TRAINED BY FRENCH.**  
American gunners are trained by the French before going into active service on their own front. The American batteries referred to in the French official report evidently are some of those undergoing this instruction.

The official French statement of last night reported a large raid on a front of about 1200 meters in the Champagne near Butte du Mesnil, in which the French penetrated as far as the German third line. The American sector is in Lorraine, some distance to the east of this point.

Interesting developments have grown out of the big French raid in the Champagne region yesterday. Primarily it has been revealed in this connection that American artillerymen are in action on the Champagne front. The French official statement of today, in report further on this raid, first mentioned in last night's communication, noted the presence of American batteries and announced that they had given "very effective support" to the raiders.

**GREAT ARMIES READY.**  
FRENCH FRONT, Friday, Feb. 1.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press).—Like two boxers seated in opposite corners, taking deep breaths and being sponged down while awaiting the next round, the German and Franco-British armies on the frontiers of France and Belgium at the present moment in their opposing positions are preparing for the re-opening of the gigantic struggle which went on throughout 1917 and ceased only temporarily while "time" was called by winter.

**Each Side Accurately Informed.**  
Each army has probably a fairly accurate idea of the other's strength. The French and British know they have facing them one hundred and fifty-five German divisions, eighty-five of which are in front of the French and seventy in front of the British lines. (Since this dispatch was written there has been a considerable increase in the German strength on the western front. A cable last night from this same correspondent said the Germans now had on the western front 175 divisions or about 2,100,000 men. To give the total forces on the Allies' side might possibly afford some indication to the enemy.)

When the initiative may come when weather conditions permit a resumption of fighting on a large scale cannot for the time being be predicted; but it appears probable that these millions of soldiers must again come to close grips early in the year.

**Small Battles Continuous.**  
Comparison with a boxing contest is not exactly correct for in the intervals between the rounds the armies

(Continued on Page Seven.)

## Barbers Ball TONIGHT

# At Berthana Hall

## Benefit Battery "B" Dance Until 1 O'clock