

## GERMAN DRIVE AGAINST FRENCH GAINING GROUND

Western Battle Front Sees Vicious Fighting for Advanced Trenches

## BREACHES MADE IN LINE OF THE ALLIES

Russians Report Turks Are Abandoning Trebizond as Victors Approach

Berlin, Feb. 23.—Announcement of another important gain in the offensive on the western front was made by the war office today. The statement says that in upper Alsace the Germans captured a position 700 yards wide and 400 yards deep.

The war office also announced that German forces had penetrated the opposing lines for a distance of three kilometers (two miles) in the northern sector of the Meuse. It is said the allies lost more than 3,000 prisoners and great quantities of material.

## ITALIANS NEAR TRENT

London, Feb. 23.—By the capture of two towns in the mountainous regions of Callo of the Sugana valley, the Italians have almost reached striking distance of one of their chief objectives of the war—the Austrian city of Trent—which is only fifteen miles from the captured region. Trent is protected by a line of forts.

Fighting between the French and Germans in the Artois region of France, in Champagne and along both banks of the Meuse has again become vicious. East of Souchez the Germans captured 800 meters of French trenches and took more than 300 prisoners. The French, by a counter attack, according to an official report from Paris, drove the Germans from all but a few of these positions, the Germans suffering many casualties.

## Turks Still Fleeting

The Russians are still pursuing the Turks in Armenia. Petrograd advices say that the Turks are evacuating Trebizond, the Russian advance along the Black sea, having reached within one day's march of the port of Rizeh.

An official communication from Petrograd says artillery engagements have been fought with the Teutonic allies along the eastern front from Riga to Galicia. The Russians claim to have taken a number of prisoners but no notable change in positions is reported. German aeroplanes have also been active on the eastern fronts.

## FRENCH ADMIT SEVERE

Paris, Feb. 23.—Fighting of great violence is in progress from the right bank of the Meuse to a point southeast of Herbe forest, the war office announced today. North of Verdun there were infantry actions on a front of fifteen kilometers (ten miles). East of Sepsels the French were enabled by a counter attack to retake a great portion of the forest of Causes, north of Beaumont.

The war office admits the evacuation of the village of Haumont by the French but declares they still hold the approaches to the village.

## MUCH TERRITORY TAKEN

London, Feb. 23.—Andrew Bonar Law, secretary for the colonies, announced in the house of commons today that 780,000 square miles of German territory in Africa had been captured.

## GERMANS RELEASE DANISH STEAMER

London, Feb. 23.—The Germans have released the steamship Bandon, as the seizure was apparently a mistake, says the Copenhagen correspondent of the Times.

## AMERICANS TO AID POOR IN GERMANY

Berlin, Feb. 23.—The American Association of Commerce and Trade of Berlin will open on March 1 a new auxiliary kitchen for persons impoverished by the war.

"The newspapers comment with satisfaction on this proof of American sympathy," says the Overseas News agency.

## ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS OF FRENCH REACH ZEPPELIN

EYE WITNESS DESCRIBES THRILLING BATTLE IN WHICH GERMAN SHIP FELL.

Paris, Feb. 23.—An eye witness of the destruction of Zeppelin LZ-77 by French gunners on Monday near Revingny, a town nine miles northwest of Bar-le-Duc, thus describes the exploit: "Two Zeppelins were signaled at 10:25 o'clock at night by an artillery officer in a listening post in the first line trenches of the Argonne. The night was clear and the wind moderate. The officer could not see the airships but he heard the noise of their engines and telephoned to the battery base, whence the news was forwarded to the army corps headquarters. All the batteries of the district were at once on the alert and within five minutes searchlights were sweeping the heavens in all directions.

"The Zeppelins were first sighted by an officer commanding a battery of 75 millimeter guns. The nearest was then about two miles off, flying at an altitude of about 5,000 feet and rising rapidly. The second Zeppelin was some three miles behind the first. The officer was unable to get the elevation necessary to hit the airship, but he gave the exact position to the searchlight operators. From that moment until it was destroyed the first dirigible was never lost to view and the searchlights never left it. As it was moving against the wind its progress was relatively slow.

"As soon as the warning reached Revingny, fire antiaircraft, with searchlights and with special anti-aircraft guns manned by naval gunners, started in pursuit. These guns throw a shell which is expressly designed to explode on contact with the aluminum painted covering of the Zeppelins and to burst into flames once it is inside. As the car rushes along the road officer standing in the back of the car gives the range and directs the fire of the gun by the members of the crew, who work the gun lying on the flat of their backs.

"The guns on the moving automobiles opened fire as soon as they came within range. A shell burst just behind the Zeppelin, throwing it into strong relief, and immediately the gunners seized their opportunity. Another shell passed over the target, but the next, of the inflammable type, hit the mark squarely, about seventy-five feet from the stern. There was a shout of triumph from the Frenchmen as the shell appeared to go through the body of the airship and to adhere to the right side of the framework, which it set afire. A few seconds later two other shells went through the rear of the car, badly damaging the steering and elevating mechanism.

"For an instant nothing seemed to have happened and then a thin red line crept along the side of the airship, which shone with a bright ruddy glow. Then the flames spread and moved upward. No explosion was heard as the Zeppelin began to fall. The great mass, now blazing more and more fiercely, descended slowly, while burning fragments of the cover fluttered away in the wind and all the onlookers expressed surprise that the airship took so long to come down.

"The cargo of bombs, which there is reason to believe were to have been dropped on the inhabitants of Paris, exploded with a terrific roar as the Zeppelin struck the ground. Fragments of its car were buried under 2,000 feet away and the remainder of the huge framework collapsed in a heap, the fire continuing to burn for several hours.

"The second Zeppelin, which had witnessed the disaster to its companion, turned tail and hurried back to the German lines.

"It is believed that the Zeppelins belonged to the crown prince's army. The commanders had hoped to steal across the French lines unperceived, all lights in the gondolas having been extinguished, but the head wind proved an obstacle to the success of an undertaking of the kind and gave the defense time to bring up its guns."

The gun crew which fired the shot that proved fatal to the Zeppelin will receive prizes amounting to 15,000 francs, 10,000 francs being awarded by a leading Paris newspaper and 5,000 by Marquis Ornano. Checks for these sums have already been sent to the minister of war for distribution.

## RIVERS AND HARBORS BILL RECOMMENDED

Washington, D. C., Feb. 23.—The annual rivers and harbors appropriation bill, aggregating \$39,000,000 in direct appropriations and authorizations for expenditures in various parts of the country, was favorably reported to the house today. The bill is a net out of about \$4,000,000 from the estimates. A lively fight over the New York harbor appropriations and other new projects is in prospect.

## PACKING MEN STRIKE

St. Louis, Feb. 23.—Twenty-three hundred men struck this morning at the Cudahy and Armour packing houses for higher pay. Only about 200 remained. No outbreaks were reported.

About 200 employees of the St. Louis City Stock Yards Co. struck at noon.

## FIGHT ON WILSON POLICY STARTS

Republicans Object to Naming of Ambassador to Post in Mexico

## PRESIDENT STANDS PAT WITH GERMANY

Intends to Insist on Right of Americans to Travel on Armed Vessels

Washington, D. C., Feb. 23.—Henry Prather Fletcher's nomination as ambassador to Mexico was ordered reported to the senate today by the foreign relations committee with the recommendation that it be confirmed as soon as possible. Senator Borah and Senator Smith of Michigan, republicans, voted against the recommendation.

Chairman Stone will submit the report in executive session late today and an effort will be made to get an immediate vote on confirmation. Senators Borah and Smith opposed the recommendation on the ground that the United States senate should not participate in recognition of Gen. Carranza by confirming an ambassador.

## TO INSIST ON RIGHTS

Washington, D. C., Feb. 23.—President Wilson is unchanged in his opposition to having congress pass any resolution warning Americans to keep off armed merchantmen of the European belligerents and congress leaders have been so advised. Congressmen who were at the white house today said there was considerable discussion of Senator Gore's resolution to warn Americans off belligerent merchantmen, but that there was very little prospect of passing it unless desired by the administration.

## TRAINED MEN NEEDED

Washington, D. C., Feb. 23.—"The military affairs committee is of the opinion that we do not need a large standing army in this country but that we do need at all times a large body of our young men well trained and educated," said Representative McKellar of Tennessee, submitting to the house today a favorable report on his bill to establish and maintain military training schools in the various states.

"Physical bravery and training should go hand in hand," said the report. "Train 4,800 boys a year as provided in this bill, graduating 100 a year in each state, and in a few years such would be the military spirit created in all parts of the country that a call for volunteers in times of trouble would easily bring forth 1,000,000 men."

## OREGON NOT IN JAIL

Washington, D. C., Feb. 23.—Official state department advices received today, Secretary Lansing said, clearly disproved reports that Gen. Carranza practically had imprisoned Gen. Oregon or that friendly relations between them had been broken. Gen. Oregon was reported to have left Manzanillo for Mazatlan en route to Hermosillo to be married. Gen. Carranza was said to be returning to the interior from his visit to the west coast.

## HUNGARIANS ARE LOYAL TO THE U. S.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 23.—President Wilson told a committee of Hungarians today he had never doubted the allegiance to the United States of the great proportion of foreign born American citizens and that he recognized that they were just as much Americans as anyone born in the United States.

Headed by Alexander Konta of New York, the committee presented resolutions passed at a mass meeting of Hungarians in New York last month urging allegiance to the United States and declaring they had been misrepresented and slandered by attacks on their loyalty.

Mr. Konta told the president he represented citizens of Hungarian birth in all parts of the country and that the Hungarians in the United States were absolutely loyal to the nation of their adoption.

The committee told the president the mass meeting in New York was a protest against the denial to them of the right of opinion and the right of freedom of speech. They said their ancestors in Hungary fought long for those rights.

"We claim them," said Mr. Konta to the president, "and we know that we shall have them. America is true to its fundamental principles."

## BURTON IS CANDIDATE

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 23.—Former U. S. Senator Burton of Cleveland today filed formal announcement that he would be a candidate for the republican nomination for president.

## CHICAGO'S PAY ROLL HELD UP FOR AN INVESTIGATION

CHARGE THAT MAYOR HAS BEEN PARTICIPATING IN GRAFT MAKES CITY HUM.

Chicago, Feb. 23.—The city civil service commission today ordered the payroll of the department of public welfare held up for investigation of the graft charges made by Mrs. Page Waller Eaton, against Mrs. Louise Osborne Rowe, department superintendent.

The order was issued by Percy Coffin, president of the commission, and was the first step in the official investigation of the assertions of Mrs. Eaton that she had been obliged to contribute part of her salary for the relief of the sister-in-law of Mayor Thompson, Mrs. Margaret Mivelas.

Allegations that Fred Lundin, former congressman and present political adviser of the mayor, dominated the city hall, and assertions of payroll padding in the department of public welfare, were features of the story which made Chicago political circles hum with excitement.

## FRANCIS TO GET POST

Former Missouri Governor to be Named Ambassador to Russia if Acceptable to the Czar.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 23.—President Wilson will nominate David R. Francis, former governor of Missouri, to be ambassador to Russia as soon as it can be ascertained if he is acceptable to the Russian government.

Mr. Francis' acceptance of his post became known following his conference with the president yesterday. He will succeed George T. Marye, resigned.

Henry Prather Fletcher's nomination as ambassador to Mexico was taken up for consideration today by the senate foreign relations committee.

Pending Mr. Fletcher's confirmation, James Lind Rodgers, consul general at Havana, will act as special agent of the state department representing the United States before the Carranza government.

## FORMAL PROTEST FILED

German Object to Legal Procedure Started by the Britons in the Steamer Appam Case.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 23.—Formal representations were made to the state department today by the German embassy against the proceedings brought in the federal courts at Norfolk to return the captured British liner Appam to her owners.

The German ambassador contended that many precedents, as well as the terms of the Prussian-American treaty provide that no legal action can lie against the Appam, held by a German crew as a prize of war, nor against Lieut. Berg, her commander.

## WRECK IS BEING PROBED

Government Enquiry in Disaster on New York, New Haven & Hartford Road May be Ordered.

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 23.—The death list as the result of the rear end collision of two passenger trains on the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad in Milford yesterday stood at ten this morning. Of more than three score of injured passengers who are or have been under medical observation at hospitals in Bridgeport and New Haven and at hotels and private homes in both cities and Milford, only Frank McNamara of Ansonia, who is in St. Raphael's hospital in this city, is reported to be in a dangerous condition. McNamara was badly crushed and it is feared he will not live the day out.

Word came from Washington that a federal probe into the disaster will be opened. The coroner's inquest and a probe by the state utilities commission, are already in progress.

## TODAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE—Resumed discussion of the Shields' waterpower bill. Foreign relations committee recommended confirmation of Henry Prather Fletcher as ambassador to Mexico. Brandeis investigating committee received new charges.

HOUSE—Admiral Winslow testified on national defense before naval committee. McKellar bill for military colleges favorably reported.

## DUTCH STEAMER SINKS

Rotterdam, Feb. 23.—The Dutch steamer La Flandre, belonging to the American Petroleum Co., sank on her voyage from New York to this port. Her second engineer and a seaman have reached here on board a British steamer.

## STATE AGENTS IN CITY AGAIN

Twenty-seven Warrants Are Sworn Out Charging Many Offenses

## CONTEMPT CASE IS FILED BY DAUGHETRY

Some of Those Caught Now Have Been in Court Several Times

Twenty-seven warrants, charging liquor nuisance, bootlegging, maintenance of houses of ill fame and gambling, were sworn out Tuesday evening before Justice H. C. Nosler by County Attorney E. K. Daugherty at the instigation of state agents from Attorney General Cosson's office, who have been in the city for the past few days. Fifteen persons have been arrested.

## Taken as He Signs

Jack Tuttle was taken into custody as he was signing for a case of whisky marked "glue," at the Burlington freight house. He used another name on the signature, an offense calling for a \$500 fine. Walter Crook was caught with four bottles of whisky on his person. He was tried the first of this week and convicted in district court on a bootlegging charge but has not yet been sentenced.

Amendments and information for contempt of court have been filed by the county attorney against Hayden Leonard and James Smith. Their bail has been fixed at \$500 each. Both of these persons were arrested on nuisance charges filed in Justice Nosler's court.

## Arrest Man and Woman

Law Fuller is accused of keeping a house of ill fame while Grace Porter and a man known as John Doe have been taken into custody for prostitution and bootlegging. Gandy Harlan, Robert Hughes, George Murphy, Frank Elliott and Jack Tuttle are charged with bootlegging and Albert Ferris is being held on a nuisance charge. Murphy and Tuttle are out on bonds.

A search warrant sworn out before George L. Gillies by one of the state agents resulted in the finding of five cases of whisky at the Burlington freight house consigned to local consumers.

## Grand Jury to Meet

The grand jury will meet Monday and these cases will be taken up at that time. While the rush of criminal business in the district court will probably keep the county attorney occupied he will arrange for an assistant to meet with the jurors in their investigations.

It was found that Tuttle was delivering the goods, which he signed for, to the home of H. Spiwak. The latter is now listed for trial in the criminal division of the district court on the charge of bootlegging. Kalman Spiwak pleaded guilty to a similar charge Tuesday afternoon and the indictment withdrawn against his wife, Bessie Spiwak.

## Del Stevens, George Chatman and Cal Jenkins were arrested this morning and placed in jail.

## ILLINOIS WHEAT CROP IS DAMAGED

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 23.—Fully one-third of the wheat crop of Illinois has been killed this winter by frosts and floods, according to a statement made public today by B. M. Davison, secretary of the state board of agriculture.

White county was the heaviest loser in the state, according to Secretary Davison's figures, 30 per cent of that county's crop being killed by frost and 60 per cent by floods.

In the northern division, comprising thirty-three counties, 18 per cent of the crop was killed by cold weather and five per cent by floods. In the central division, comprising thirty-five counties, floods ruined 10 per cent and frosts 25 per cent of the wheat. In the southern division with thirty-four counties, loss from floods was reported at 13 per cent and 26 per cent from weather.

The state board of agriculture has five reporters in each county and Secretary Davison's estimates were based on their reports.

## MARTIAL LAW RULES

Shanghai, Feb. 23.—Martial law has been proclaimed at Chang-Sha, capital of the province of Hu-Nan, where an unsuccessful attack was made by rebels on Monday on the governor's mansion. No further details of the uprising have been received here.

## NOTED POPULIST DIES

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 23.—John G. Otis, populist congressman from Kansas from 1890 to 1892, died at his home here last night. He was 78 years old.

## U. S. ATTITUDE IS PLEASING TO THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE

BELIEF EXPRESSED BY CABINET MEMBER THAT RELATIONS WILL BE IMPROVED.

## Petrograd, Feb. 23.—Addressing the

duma today, Foreign Minister Sazonoff reviewed the war situation optimistically although he declared it more difficult now than ever to foresee the end of the world struggle.

"The imperial government remains unshaken in its determination to continue the struggle to conquer the enemy," he said. "This war is the greatest crime of high treason against humanity. Those who provoked it bear a heavy responsibility and today stand entirely unmasked.

"We know who it was that let loose the misfortunes without number with which Europe is oppressed. Even German public opinion is beginning to realize that the German people have been dupes of those who thought the hour had come to realize the dreams of plunder and rapine they had cherished so long."

M. Sazonoff, discussing the Russian-American relations, said: "The interest which American industry has in our markets," he said, "permits us to hope that in addition to the friendly political relations now existing between the two countries, an economic rapprochement may be brought about which would be of the greatest benefit to both nations. In any case the Russian government will put forth all its efforts to this end."

The foreign minister also referred to the "malicious and impudent propaganda of German agents in America," which he said "not only failed in its object but provoked a certain irritation and appreciably chilled American sympathies for Germany."

In regard to Russia's relations with Sweden, the foreign minister said: "Our only sentiment toward the Swedes is one of sincere friendship. Any pretext of conflicting interests could only be artificial. Russia's history does not impel her towards the coast of Scandinavia. She must obtain an outlet in a free sea in quite another direction."

M. Sazonoff then turned to Rumania, saying: "Rumania will not betray her own interests and when the hour strikes she will know how to realize her national unity at the cost of her own blood. She may be certain that in defending herself against the attempts of a common enemy to interfere with the independence of her decisions she will find real support."

The speech of Emperor Nicholas before the duma was devoted principally to the victory of the Russians at Erzerum.

"I rejoice that I am able to join you in thanking for the brilliant victory of our army of the Caucasus," the emperor said. "If for God's blessing on your labors in this time of trial, I am convinced you will use all your experience and knowledge and be guided by love of your country in the work for which you are responsible to this country and to me."

## MASONS SELECT MEMORIAL SITE

Alexandria, Va., Feb. 23.—Members of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial association left for their homes today after selecting a site for the proposed memorial which is to take the form of a \$100,000 temple for housing relics and pictures of Washington. It will be erected on the crest of 'shooters' hill, where the capitol of the United States would have been built, historians relate, but for the modesty of Washington, who feared that it might possibly be suspected that an effort was being made to enhance the value of his real estate holdings south of the Potomac.

## ORPET WILL WAIVE PRELIMINARY TRIAL

Chicago, Feb. 23.—Persisting in his plea of innocence, William Orpet, accused of the murder of Marian Lambert, will waive examination when he is arraigned next Monday. Orpet was held by the coroner's jury of Lake county, who found that the girl was killed by poison.

The case will be taken up by the grand jury March 6, in Waukegan. State's Attorney Dady declares he has a clear case against Orpet.

## COBBLER SHOT BY BLACKMAIL AGENT

Joliet, Ill., Feb. 23.—Peter Armbrust, a cobbler reputed to have been wealthy, was shot and fatally wounded in his shop today. The police are seeking a leader of the local foreign colony who was seen in Armbrust's shop last night and who had disappeared today.

Threatening letters demanding money were found in the shop addressed to Armbrust.

## TO TRAIN NAVY RECRUITS

Chicago, Feb. 23.—Tentative plans have been completed for a naval training camp at the great lakes naval station at Lake Bluff, Ill., which will open early in the spring. Men will go into camp for thirty days and will be drilled in naval tactics.

## PROMISE MADE BY SIXTY MEN TO AID IN WORK

Membership Committee of Commercial Club Maps Plan of Campaign

## START WILL BE MADE FOLLOWING BANQUET

Workers to Put in Friday Afternoon Soliciting for New Members

If the unselfish interest of scores of men, coupled with the determination to promote the good of the community can accomplish anything, it is a foregone conclusion that by Friday morning the campaign for members for the Commercial association will have a flying start.

The impetus given the membership campaign at the supper Tuesday evening in the rooms on East Second street, has sent the work of recruiting men to the ranks of the association rapidly ahead.

It would be hard to conceive of a more zealous, interested bunch of men than was present at the supper. Some sixty persons representing the business and commercial life of the city, gathered about the board following a good spread, discussed ways and means for increasing the membership. They also listened to the report of the committee on name and received instructions to govern the work of canvassing for new members next Friday.

## All Ready to Begin

There was not a dead one present. All live wires and each one ready and waiting for the word to go out and get new members. Enthusiasm equal to that expressed Tuesday night may have been shown before, but never has greater zeal for the association's and city's welfare generally and the bigger, better Ottumwa idea particularly been demonstrated. The call for volunteers for the campaign to be waged Friday morning met with a unanimous response testified to by all rising to their feet.

A more willing body of missionaries never planned a movement than did the membership committee of the Commercial association. The band of boosters includes some of those who in times past have lent their time and efforts to projects promoted by the organization and also a number of those who seeing the possibilities for such an association to advance the city and its commercial activities, are willing students in the game of boosting. All are prepared to start out Friday morning following the big annual banquet of Thursday night, and to scour the town in a methodical and systematic way for new members.

So successful have been the efforts of the membership committee thus far and so pleasing the result of a canvass made Tuesday by some of its members seeking for plural memberships, that C. S. Harper reported at the supper in the evening that the original goal of 550 names will probably be exceeded by more than 100.

The gathering Tuesday night was one conducted on purely business lines. Immediately following supper the men got down to business. No long or tiring talks were made. Compactly few remarks other than in discussion of some questions, were made but there was a good deal of interest at all times.

Discuss a New Name. The first question of moment to come up was the selection of a name from the many suggestions received as per invitation of the committee. The chairman of the name committee, G. F. Spry, reported the first choice of that body was for the title, Chamber of Commerce and the second choice for the present name of the association. Owing to the fact that the committee is not empowered to adopt a name, the articles of incorporation covering that, following considerable discussion and the reading of all the names suggested, the whole matter on motion was referred to the directors for settlement.

To Get Busy Friday. With the name question disposed of the meeting confined itself to discussing membership campaign plans. A pamphlet containing printed instructions for the guidance of the membership committee, was passed about the room to all of the sixty men present and C. S. Harper explained in detail these instructions. Every man present aside from being made an ardent booster, was well informed on all of the plans of the membership committee and given his commission to get active in the campaign. Friday morning at 9 o'clock the first general canvass will be started. It is hoped to complete as nearly as possible, the work that day. There will be nothing done by the committee Saturday, but Monday at 9 a. m., the work unfinished Friday will be resumed and all promised to present and all seemed keen to get the thing done and quickly.

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