

ARMED AMERICAN SHIP TORPEDOED

Tanker Vacuum Sunk—Lieutenant and Nine of His Gun Crew Are Missing.

SHIP'S CAPTAIN DROWNED.

Expected Battle in the Champagne Region, France, Is Now On French Hit the German Line Hard.

An American armed steamer—the oil tanker Vacuum—has been sunk by the bottom by a German submarine and the captain and nine of his gun crew are missing.

Returning to the United States from a trip to Europe, the Vacuum encountered a submarine of the coast of Ireland and received her death wound. Scant details of the sinking are available as yet, and it is not known whether the captain and crew were able to bring their guns into play or if the vessel was torpedoed and sunk unwarmed.

This is the second armed American vessel that has been sunk in the war zone, the steamer Aztec having gone to the bottom April 28. It was the result of an explosion. Whether she was the victim of a torpedo or a mine has not been definitely established. One member of the American naval crew on board the Aztec was lost.

The expected battle in the Champagne region of France, following days of acute gun preparation by the French forces which was answered shot for shot by the Germans, at last has broken.

Believed at midday, the offensive was swift and sharp, and at its conclusion the French territory previously occupied by the enemy to depths ranging relatively from 500 to 1,000 yards.

That the fighting in this region has not yet been brought to a conclusion is indicated by the official statement of the Paris war office, which announces that artillery duels of violence are still going on.

Little news concerning the situation along the front from Lens to St. Quentin, where the British for several weeks have made notable gains, has been vouchsafed in the latest official communications.

The British held a position of tactical advantage on Saturday at Oppy, which it is asserted, still remain in German hands, and north of the Douai Arras area.

The airman of all the belligerents continue to carry out spectacular battles and bomb dropping exploits behind the fighting lines.

ATTEMPT TO DAMAGE ARSENAL

Guards Fire Many Times at Prowler near State Building—Man Shot When Ordered to Halt.

Montpelier, April 27.—An unknown person or persons prowling around the State Arsenal on Wednesday night, were fired upon by guards.

The guard was fired upon by the prowler, who was shot at several times.

At the adjutant-general's office at the State House the following information was given out in regard to the attack:

Private Garrow and Private Bissett of Company M, two of the six guardmen on duty at the Arsenal on Wednesday night, were walking their respective posts at about 11:30 o'clock when the former guard's attention was attracted to a board fence about 15 yards away in the direction of the Arsenal.

He was barely able to discern the figure of a man and he issued a command to halt. In reply a man's arm appeared through an opening in the fence and a revolver was fired in the direction of the guard.

At the adjutant-general's office it was stated that the man was shot in the shoulder and that he was taken to the hospital.

ORANGE COUNTY HOTEL.

Chelsea Corporation Has \$25,000 Capital—Swanton Amusement Co.

Montpelier, April 27.—Articles of association have been filed with the secretary of state by the Orange County Hotel Corporation of Chelsea, capital stock of \$25,000, and the Swanton Amusement Co. of Swanton, capital stock of \$50,000.

FRANCE DANGER OF HUMANITARIAN WASHINGTON'S BOMB

Spokesmen of Great Britain, France and U. S. Honor American Leader.

CEREMONY IMPRESSIVE.

Representatives of Three Democracies Pledge Themselves to Fight against Autocracy.

Washington, April 27.—The flag of the United States, France and the United Kingdom floated proudly together today for the tomb of George Washington.

Under the leadership of the three great democracies paid homage to America's soldier and statesman, and pledged themselves, each to the other in the name of the dead, to prosecute the present struggle against autocracy on the lines he himself had followed in bringing America into being.

Nature was in her most bounteous garb. The evergreen sentinels before the tomb stood out boldly in the new life just blossoming. The only sign of human change since Washington was laid to rest so long ago was the flag of the three allies over the arched entrance to the tomb itself.

Without formality, Secretary Daniels and former premier of France, who advanced slowly into the center. Before the tomb M. Viviani delivered an address, in which the whole force of his emotional power deepened by the significance and solemnity of the occasion, fought for expression. Concluding his remarks by saying: "At this solemn hour in the history of the world, while saluting from this sacred mound the final victory of justice, I send to the republic of the United States the greetings of the French republic."

Then, came forward James Balfour, foreign secretary of Great Britain, who stood for a moment in silence.

"M. Viviani," said Mr. Balfour, "has expressed in most eloquent words the feelings which grip us all here today. He has not only said fitting tribute to a great statesman, but he has brought our thoughts most vividly down to the present. The thousands who have given their lives, French, Russian, Italian, Belgian, Montenegrin, Roumanian, Japanese and British were fighting for what they believed to be the cause of liberty."

"Dedicated by the British mission to the immortal memory of George Washington, soldier, statesman, patriot, who would have rejoiced to see the country of which he was by birth a citizen and the country which his genius called into existence, fighting side by side to save mankind from subjection to a military despotism."

General Joffre, the hero of the Marne, next came forward in field marshal's uniform. Simply, earnestly, he spoke in French two brief sentences.

"In the French army all venerate the name and memory of Washington. I respectfully salute here the great soldier and lay upon his tomb the palm we offer our soldiers who have died for their country."

Three French officers came forward with the bronze wreath from the French mission, the humblest and the highest mark of honor which the French nation can accord the dead. Bending over, the wreath passed through the narrow entrance and was placed on the forehead of the soldier coffin. He then stood silently at salute.

As Marshal Joffre passed back among the spectators Mr. Balfour came forward with the British wreath and placed it solemnly on the forehead of the French, while Lieutenant-General Bridges stood outside at salute.

WILL SAVE DAYLIGHT

Several St. Johnsbury Institutions Start Business an Hour Earlier Than Usual.

St. Johnsbury, April 27.—Monday morning will see the daylight saving scheme in full operation in St. Johnsbury and before the end of the week it is expected that the whole village will have adopted the plan of saving an hour in the morning.

E. & T. Fairbanks & Co. started the plan and the other factories in town followed. The public schools and academy will also begin an hour earlier and many of the stores plan to adopt the new schedule. The factories and some of the stores will begin work at six o'clock and the former closing at four and the latter at five.

The schools and academy will begin at eight and close at three in the afternoon. The question of changing the clocks and the other activities has not yet been decided. The movement was inaugurated to enable the workmen and school children to give more time in the afternoon and early evening to gardening and agriculture.

GIVEN 30-DAY SENTENCE.

One of Two Twice Ordered Away from Railroad Bridge at Middlebury.

Middlebury, April 27.—Michael Moran, arrested Friday by Chief of Police George H. Chaffee, and thought at the time to be a tramp, was in Justice A. W. Dickens' court today and pleaded not guilty.

It was proven that he had been tramping and was given 30 days in jail. It was also made known by the respondent that he was one of the two who on two occasions were ordered away by the soldiers at the Brookville bridge which spans the New Haven river on the main line of the Rutland railroad and who escaped from the soldiers after a run. His partner, who was in town Saturday, and who evidently got news of his partner's being arrested, has not as yet been seen. It is not known whether the United States government will take him or at the time of the sentence, but the indications are that it will.

HAS FLAG-RAISING.

500 Attend Exercises at Brandon—Business Men Furnish Pole.

Brandon, April 27.—Assisted by the entire student body of the graded and high schools, numbering nearly 500, Brandon celebrated an enthusiastic flag-raising last afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. The 75-foot pole, furnished by the Business Men's association, was in readiness to receive the flag at noon. The school children headed by Miss Gray carrying a large flag marched to the town hall, where the flag was raised by Superintendent of Schools Bennett C. Douglas, while the school children sang "The Star Spangled Banner." The Rev. E. F. Gray delivered a patriotic address to the children, telling what the Stars and Stripes stand for, after which the children and audience sang "America." The flag is eight by 12 feet.

BILLS APPEAR IN CONGRESS TO SUPERVISE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Enormous Amount of Allied Shipping Destroyed by U-Boat, Says Berlin.

HELFFERICH OPTIMISTIC.

German Secretary of Interior Tells Reichstag Committee Submarine Campaign Is Great Success.

Washington, April 27.—The administration's food control legislation was introduced today in both houses of Congress. In the House Chairman Lever of the agriculture committee offered a bill to give the agricultural department direct supervision of food production and distribution. The program was put before the Senate in a resolution by Senator Gore, chairman of the Senate committee.

The measure proposed do not cover price fixing or control of grain entering into the manufacture of liquors. Both these subjects will be dealt with in measures to be drawn later.

Twenty-five million dollars is asked for the agricultural department to use in administering the program. The legislation calls for an immediate survey of the country's food resources and confers power on the department to prevent speculation and price manipulation. It would provide for equitable distribution and would suspend the law prohibiting the mixing of flour. It would establish and enforce standards for agricultural products and for fertilizers.

Under the measures asked the secretary of agriculture could, if he ever desired, thought necessary, license to operate any business of manufacture, storage or distribution of food, food materials or seeds. He could compel concerns to license to loose hoarded stocks of food, to refrain from unfair discriminating practices or charges and could force them to exact fair prices only.

The federal trade commission, directed by President Wilson to investigate with the agriculture department, the causes of high food prices, completed its inquiry today with a hearing at which representatives of State food commissions told of food conditions throughout the country. Forty States were represented at the conference.

MRS. C. E. PARKER DIES.

Was Sister of General Ripley and Mrs. Julia C. R. Dorr, Vermont Postees.

Vergennes, April 27.—Mrs. Agnes (Ripley) Parker, wife of Capt. Charles E. Ripley, and a long-time prominent resident of this city, died very suddenly at an early hour this morning from a stroke of apoplexy. She was 73 years old.

Her husband, a prominent member of the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, a member of the Women's Auxillary and of the board of missions. She was also an active member of the Village Improvement society.

Besides her husband, Mrs. Parker is survived by an adopted daughter, Mrs. Grace Agnes Webb of Worcester, Mass., two nieces, Mrs. H. R. Dorr of Williamstown, Mass., and Mrs. J. C. Paine of New Haven, and a nephew, Thomas Ripley of Chicago.

F. L. GRAY PETITIONED INTO BANKRUPTCY

Member of Firm That Once Planned to Move to Burlington.

Rutland, April 27.—An involuntary petition in bankruptcy has been filed in the office in this city of Clerk F. S. Platt of the United States court by the Clement National bank and the Rutland County National bank of Rutland, and the Vermont National bank of Fair Haven against Francis L. Gray of Middletown Springs, one of the firm of A. W. Gray & Sons, whose plan has been in the hands of a receiver for some time.

Mr. Gray committed an act of bankruptcy December 29, 1916, by transferring to A. Y. Gray his house and lot in Middletown Springs, and also his interest in certain tenement houses in New England. He declared that he made an assignment to Brainerd Avery of certain property said to be in the interest of certain creditors without the knowledge of some of the other creditors.

Plans were under way some months ago to move the Gray plant to Burlington. They manufacture horsepower and other machinery.

GOV. GRAHAM APPOINTS 10 MUNICIPAL JUDGES

Six More to Be Appointed Will Be Announced Later.

Montpelier, April 30.—Governor Graham has appointed ten municipal judges as follows: Six judges to be appointed later: Albert W. Dickens of Middlebury, judge of the municipal court for Addison county; Henry Conlin of Winoochi, judge of the municipal court for the village of Winoochi; Herbert H. Blanchard of Springfield, judge of the municipal court for Windsor port district; Kyle T. Brown of Lunenburg, judge of the municipal court for Essex county; Nathan N. Post of St. Albans, judge of the municipal court for Franklin county and for the city of St. Albans; Erwin M. Harvey of Montpelier, judge of the municipal court for the city of Montpelier.

H. William Scott of Barre, judge of the municipal court for the city of Barre; Thomas E. O'Brien of Bellows Falls, judge of municipal court for the village of Bellows Falls; Addison Cadworth of South Londonderry, judge of the municipal court for the village of Brattleboro; Arthur G. Whitman of South Royalton, judge of the Hartford municipal court.

650,000 TONS FOOD SUPPLY KEPT TRANSFERRED SEIZED VESSELS U. S.

Senators Resolution Also Directs That German Ships Carry Our Commerce.

ONE LINER READY NOW.

Senator Knox Says It Would Be Cried if Teutons' Craft Were Not Used as U-Boat Targets.

Washington, April 30.—By unanimous vote the Senate passed a resolution to night providing for transfer to the American government of title and possession of enemy ships in American ports, and their use in commerce under direction of the shipping board. There are about 100 German and many Austrian ships in American ports and all are under repair, though the Austrians' ships are not included in the resolution as the United States and Austria are not at war.

One of the German ships, the Clara Menning, is ready for sea and will begin loading a cargo tomorrow for Italy. The Pisa, another, will be repaired by Wednesday and will take supplies to France. Five more will be ready by the end of the week.

The resolution was debated in the Senate today for more than four hours behind closed doors. The discussion centered on questions of damages for the seized vessels after the war, but all efforts to provide a method by which owners of the property would be given the right to sue in court of the United States were defeated. Legislation of this kind will be left to a later date.

The passage of the resolution was forced by Senator Knox of Pennsylvania, who said it would be a crime if the ships were not taken over as they are used as targets for the German submarines.

OFFERS BICYCLE CORPS.

St. Albans Organization Consists of 17 Boys—Mayor Accepts Service.

St. Albans, April 27.—St. Albans may be ranked as one of the most patriotic towns in Vermont, with two companies now in service, and now another organization has offered its services to Mayor John E. Mann. It is the St. Albans Bicycle corps and the offer has been accepted. This corps consists of 16 boys ready any time to do any service that may be asked of them.

This organization was started in February with Arnon Valley as captain. Robert Burns as first lieutenant, Albert Bostwick second lieutenant and Bradley Soule as secretary and treasurer.

St. Albans has done her share since war with Germany was declared. Bennington is a town much larger than St. Albans, and many other smaller towns did not have a company when war was declared and although many young men have volunteered from these towns no record has been made that will equal the one St. Albans has the honor of claiming.

WILL RECRUIT FOR RUTLAND

Business Men to Give Advertising Space in Newspapers.

Rutland, April 27.—Rutland merchants answered the appeal of the State committee on public safety to arouse more enthusiasm in young men of Vermont for enlistment in the army and navy, particularly the First Vermont Regiment.

Charles E. Landon, a captain in the Spanish-American War, who is the local member of the committee, has induced every business man of the city who advertises in the Rutland daily newspapers to give their space for one day to the cause of patriotism.

The committee will prepare a big advertisement for each paper occupying a space equal to the sum of the spaces of all local advertisers with the hope of securing recruits to make up the shortage in Company A or elsewhere in the regiment.

MORE THAN 1,000 AT RALLY

Brandon Town Hall Not Big Enough to Hold Audiences—Graham, Hillegas and Benton Applauded.

Brandon, April 27.—A crowd that more than filled the town hall attended the patriotic rally to-night arranged by the Brandon Business Men's association. Despite the bad weather the hall was not big enough to hold all who wished to attend and many were turned away.

W. D. Nutting, president of the Brandon Business Men's association, introduced Governor E. J. Ormsbee, who presided. Speeches were made by State Commissioner of Education M. B. Hillegas, President Guy Potter Benton of the University of Vermont, and Governor Horace Gray. There was prolonged applause after each speech.

The Brandon Concert band played, giving a concert in the park before heading for the parade. The meeting and parade were according to the program published in this morning's Free Press.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING BRINGS 8 RECRUITS

Rutland Scheme Successful—Patriotic Women Objects to German Meals.

Rutland, April 30.—Eight young men applied to the Rutland Business Men's association for enlistment in the First Vermont Regiment during the first three hours after the joint advertisements of Rutland merchants and banking houses appeared in the Rutland daily paper. The business men pooled their spaces and ran a two-page advertisement in each local paper.

Patriotism is manifesting itself in some queer ways. The house of a Rutland woman was placarded by the health authorities to-day for German meals. She took offense at the wording of the card and draped it with an American flag.

Middlebury to Have Chautauque

Middlebury, April 29.—Carl H. Turner, representative of the community Chautauque, was in town yesterday organizing the movement for a Chautauque in Middlebury the second week in July. At meeting held at the Addison House representatives of the town were elected. President, Prof. Raymond M. Farland; vice-presidents, LeRoy C. Russell and E. L. Rand; secretary, Harry L. Cushman; treasurer, Robert F. Pinner; committeemen, Mrs. May E. Taylor, Carl O. Frost, E. J. Wiley; grounds committee, Rev. Roy E. Whitmore, chairman; advertising, S. B. Aines, chairman. Forty representative business men of Middlebury will stand behind the movement, which, with the hearty cooperation of the Century club, will assure the Chautauque a success in Middlebury.

Amsterdam, April 29, via London.—In the first two months of unrestricted submarine warfare shipping to the amount of more than 1,000,000 tons was sunk by the Germans, Dr. Karl Helfferich, German secretary of interior, told the Reichstag main committee yesterday.

The submarine campaign was proving to be a great success, he continued. "The first month's results exceeded the best previous results by twenty-five per cent. Exact figures cannot be given, but in the first two months the freight tonnage sunk exceeded 1,000,000, of which more than 1,000,000 was British."

"Perception of economic conditions in England is made difficult by the fact that the British government since the beginning of unrestricted submarine warfare has decided on far-reaching statistical concealment. England could no longer afford the publicity of the earlier period of the war."

"From our figures one may estimate the total tonnage still available for British trade at 7,000,000 to 10,000,000. It is clear the British merchant fleet cannot long bear such a heavy burden. Adequate substitutes by new constructions are impossible, as the British increase in ships in 1916 notwithstanding every effort, was not sufficient even to replace the normal diminution of peace time."

STUDENTS TO FARM.

Middlebury College Will Give Credit to Men Volunteering for Such Work.

Middlebury, April 27.—A meeting of all the men of the college was held to-night for the purpose of informing them of the faculty's decision in the matter of releasing men for farm work at this time. Dean Hills of the University of Vermont Agriculture school addressed the meeting and, in part, said that he believed that all juniors and seniors of the college physically fit should train at one of the government training camps. The others should offer their services for farm work.

It was decided that as patriotic students should offer to shoulder the gun, County Agent Carrigan spoke of the situation in Addison county and said that there was plenty of room here for the men to find farm work to do. President Thomas also made a few remarks to make of the situation as he saw it. A special committee, of which Professor Bonney is chairman, has been appointed to investigate the cases and to be of as much help as possible to the students who wish to be released from college work. These petitions must be signed by students and parents and each one acted upon separately by the faculty.

TWO MORE VERMONTERS KILLED IN FRANCE

Ottawa, Ont., April 27.—Today's casualty list from France includes the following: Killed in action—John L. Hildebrand, Jr. and A. E. Daniels, East Hardwick, Vt.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CENTENNIAL

100th Anniversary of First Convention Ever Held in New England Observed at St. Johnsbury June 23-24.

Greensboro, April 27.—Plans are rapidly maturing for the celebration here of the 100th anniversary of the first Sunday school convention ever held in New England, and prominent Bible workers from all parts of the country are being engaged as speakers. The celebration will be held June 23-24 under the auspices of the Vermont State Sunday school convention.

Dr. W. C. Pearce of Chicago, the superintendent of the adult department in the International Sunday School association, has a program of this convention, and so far as possible this program will be repeated. Among the prominent Sunday school workers who have already accepted invitations to be present are: W. L. Carver of Boston, New England manager of the American Sunday School union; Dr. W. H. Rice of Philadelphia, representing the same organization; E. K. Warren of Three Oaks, Mich., and Mr. Pearce of the International association; all the secretaries of the New England associations; the Rev. Arthur H. Bell of Boston, representing the Congregational Sunday School and Publishing society. Governor Graham will speak at one of the meetings and the closing address on Sunday evening will be given by the Rev. William Shaw of St. Johnsbury, president of the State association.

STATE BAPTIST CHURCH FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

Rutland, April 27.—The State apportionment committee of the Baptist State convention met here Saturday to distribute different funds among the 115 churches of the denomination in Vermont. Those present were the Rev. Dr. W. A. Davison and Mrs. Etta P. Fuller of Burlington, Miss Ada A. Brigham of Newton Center, Mass., Mrs. John A. Greenwood of Chastell and Wallace W. Nichols of Rutland. The funds were divided as follows: Foreign missions, \$7,288; home missions, \$5,500; publication society, \$1,001; State convention, \$3,977; ministers' education, \$1,633; ministers' and missionaries' pension fund, \$467.

Autos Collide.

Middlebury, April 27.—Two automobiles came together at Battell corner about nine o'clock last evening. Merchants' Row and Main street, neither one, it is said, having sounded a horn. A car driven by Kenneth Gorham was coming down Merchants' Row and one driven by Leo Costello of Cornwall was coming along Main street, the latter car striking the Gorham machine in this side. Neither car was badly damaged and the occupants escaped injury.

Despite the unfavorable weather, there was a large attendance at the annual exercises in connection with the observance of Founder's day, at the university, which were held in the gymnasium Tuesday morning.

The university battalion was to have held a review and dress parade on the campus preceding the exercises proper, but the men after falling in under arms at the appointed time, were dismissed when it appeared certain that weather conditions would prevent the carrying out of that part of the program.

The usual boulder exercises were, however, held around the boulder, the old and new members of the society being present. President Benton in a brief speech congratulated the old members on what they had done for the university and thanked them for their unflinching and loyal support of his efforts. He congratulated the newly elected men for the honor or which had been conferred upon them and urged them to strive in every way to deserve it.

The seniors in cap and gown, followed by the other classes in order and the public, then marched into the gymnasium, which had been profusely and tastefully decorated with flags and Vermont banners. Back of the platform on which sat President Benton, stood the various colleges, the Rev. I. C. Smart, and the orator of the day, George Herbert Randall, of Philadelphia, a graduate of the university in the class of 1861, a large picture of George Washington hung above the American flag.

After music by the orchestra and an anthem by the choir, the chaplain of the day, the Rev. Dr. I. C. Smart, pastor of the College Street Church, read the scripture lesson and offered prayer. The choir and assembly sang the national anthem, after which the first undergraduate speaker, John H. Berry, '15, of Montpelier, delivered an address on "The Economic Evolution in Society." Mr. Berry said in part:

"THE ECONOMIC EVOLUTION IN SOCIETY." This may seem a far-fetched topic for such an occasion, which should be concentrated to the memory of some distinguished alumnus. But, in fact, the topic is suggested by the notable career of John Heman Converse and might be called, more inappropriately—the vision of John Converse.

The economic process has been in operation ever since the harmony between man and nature was disturbed by the eating of the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. From that time forth, man has eaten his bread in the sweat of his brow. He has persistently sought to secure that vanished harmony which existed in his former paradise. But the economic evolution with which we are concerned is only of recent origin. It is in its infancy. It has hardly celebrated its centennial birthday. It began in that violent conflict of economic interests called the industrial revolution and its impelling motive has ever been to overcome this conflict and put harmony in its place.

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