

NEW DRIVE ON PARIS IS LAUNCHED

Attack on Verdun Defenses Marks Beginning of Huge German Offensive Directed at French Capital, Designed to End War

PORTUGAL STIRS UP CENTRAL POWERS

Seizure of Austrian and German Steamers May Bring Another Belligerent into Game; Captured British Vessel is Scuttled

By United Press. BERLIN, Feb. 24.—Five French villages within a radius of seven miles of the Verdun forts were captured by the army of the crown prince, according to an official announcement issued today.

Kaiser at Front.
Copenhagen, Feb. 24.—Kaiser Wilhelm has arrived at the Verdun front to encourage his troops, according to advices from Berlin. He is said to be addressing his men every day, urging them to conquer the city at any cost.

By United Press. LONDON, Feb. 24.—The great German offensive which is being directed by the crown prince against the outer defenses of Verdun marks the beginning of a new drive on Paris, according to Amsterdam dispatches which quote Berlin advices.

The dispatches received today say the Germans plan with the fire of thousands of guns to wreck the defense of Verdun and then begin a march on the French capital, which is 132 miles from that place.

In Berlin, reports say, the opinion prevails that the fall of Paris will signalize the beginning of the end of the war.

Portugal Must Fight.
By United Press. LISBON, Feb. 24.—Germany and Austria are expected to declare war immediately on Portugal as a result of the action of Portuguese naval authorities. Captain Rego commander of a naval division, acting under an official decree, seized thirty-six German and Austrian steamers in the Tagus river.

Foreign Minister Costa announced that the vessels would be confiscated because Portugal needs transports and because it is feared that they will escape to raid the commerce of the allied nations.

In support of this statement, it is said that Tuesday night the German steamer Ockenfelse escaped from port without clearance papers.

The action of the government in seizing the steamers is applauded by the people. Portugal now has 120,000 troops mobilized and that many more can be put in the field.

Scuttle British Ship.
By United Press. LONDON, Feb. 24.—The German commerce raiders who took the captured British steamer Westburn into port at Santa Cruz, Canary Islands, yesterday, dashed out to sea this morning after scuttling the vessel and escaped in small boats.

Dispatches said this action was taken because the Spanish authorities hinted that the Westburn was believed to have been taken by the famous raider Moewe and would probably be turned back to its British owners if the Germans decided to intern her.

MOTHER PERISHES IN BLAZING BUILDING WITH BABE IN ARMS

By United Press. HACKETT, Ark., Feb. 24.—Mrs. Richard Smith dashed into a blazing dwelling here and dragged out Mrs. John Peterson, who was burned to death.

DAY'S TRUCE IN FIGHT IN CONGRESS

Administration Forces Block All Efforts to Bring Submarine Issue to Front But May Let Down Bars Tomorrow

By United Press. WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 24.—A one-day truce with both sides preparing for a renewal of the conflict was apparent early in the afternoon as the outcome of today's battle between the administration forces and those who are fighting to modify Wilson's stand against Germany's intention to sink armed merchantmen.

The administration leaders, having blocked every attempt to obtain consideration in the house or senate for any of the resolutions warning Americans to keep off of such vessels are now threatened by the German decree, agreed to let down the bars to some extent tomorrow.

PACIFICIST PLEAS ARE PRESENTED

By United Press. WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 24.—The capital was stormed today by peace advocates. A special hearing on various peace-plans was held by the house foreign affairs committee, prominent speakers being on the program.

Among the congressmen addressing the meeting were Representative Meyer of London, Socialist; Representative Schallenberg of Nebraska; Representative Bennet of New York; and Representative Curry of California.

Adoption by congress of a resolution urging the president to call a peace conference of neutral nations was urged by Representative London.

BIG BREAK IN WHEAT

By United Press. CHICAGO, Feb. 24.—Due, it is believed, to the tense international situation, grain prices on the exchange here took a big slump today.

May wheat opened at \$1.23 5/8 to \$1.23 3/8 and closed at \$1.17 1/2, while July after opening at \$1.19 3/4 to \$1.19 1/2, closed at \$1.14 5/8.

The corn market took a similar course, May opening at 78 5/8 to 78 1/2 and closing at 76 5/8 to 76 3/4, and July opening at 78 1/8 to 78 and closing at 76 1/2 to 76 5/8.

By a wire announcing the serious illness of a sister, states that his sister died this morning at 2 o'clock. Sheriff Bailey will possibly return to Chickasha this afternoon.

TEACHERS' PROGRAM ARRANGED

First 1916 Meeting of County Association to Be Held in Chickasha March 24; Timely School Topics to Be Discussed

SPELLING CONTEST ON FOLLOWING DAY

Superintendent Expects Fifty Schools to Compete, Including Chickasha; Medals for Winners; Trip to Capital for Champ.

Meeting in the office of the county superintendent yesterday evening, the program for the committee of the Grady County Teachers' association made plans for the first 1916 convention in Chickasha on Friday, March 24.

The committee was composed of the following members: M. H. Shepard, chairman; E. H. Black of the Chickasha North school; E. H. Russell, Ninnekah; John A. Tillman, Lucile; C. L. Whiteley, Tuttle; J. W. Morgan, Minco; A. C. Bray, Verden; C. A. Dearman, Naples; C. R. Darnell, Gilbert; John M. Wood, Friend.

The program arranged follows: Call to Order—President L. Invocation—Rev. J. A. Old. Welcome Address—Jonas Cook. Response on behalf of teachers—C. A. Dearman. President Address—A. E. Wickizer. Teacher's Home—G. F. Newell. Address—Superintendent Shepard. School Legislation—Henry J. Miller. Is the Moonlight School Worth While?—E. H. Russell.

Noon. Model Rural School—Guy M. Wood. Address—President J. B. Eskridge. Reading—Claudia Hostwick. Use of Vacation—Wm. F. Ramsey. Athletics—J. C. Stewart. Plays and Games—Primary department, Ninnekah.

Business session. Adjournment. The semi-annual spelling contest between pupils in the Grady county schools, including the schools of Chickasha, will immediately follow the association meeting and will be conducted on Saturday, March 25.

"Topnotchers" in the spelling line will be present from all sections of the county. Superintendent Shepard stated this morning that he expected from information already received at his office, that not less than fifty schools would be represented in this contest.

Three prizes will be awarded, as follows: First prize, an elaborate gold medal, engraved with winner's name and date of contest; second prize silver medal, similarly engraved; third prize, bronze medal, similarly engraved.

In addition to the above prizes, all expenses will be paid the winner of the first prize to the state spelling contest, which will be held in Oklahoma City at the time of the state meeting of the county superintendents during the latter part of next May.

BOMB IN NEBR. STATE CAPITOL

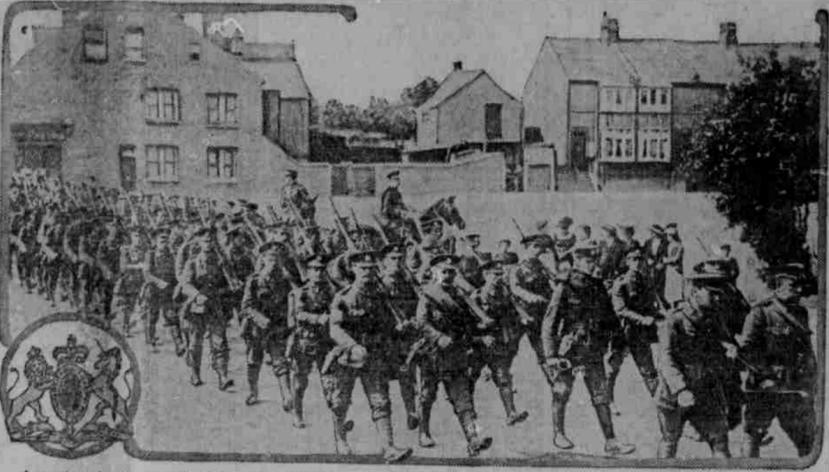
By United Press. LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 24.—A five-foot bomb partly exploded in trash in a furnace in the west wing of the capitol last night.

Only a portion of the powder ignited. The resulting fire was extinguished by the janitor. No cause for the plot is known.

AGED NEGRO DEAD.

William Lemon, an aged negro, died and was buried in Chickasha the early part of the week. Lemon was nearly if not quite one hundred years old at the time of his demise. He was born in one of the southern states during the early part of the past century; was reared in slavery and it is said, was fond of relating, during the closing years of his life, anti-bellum, or "slave day" stories of his life.

LOST TROOPS FROM KING GEORGE'S ESTATE



A mystery hangs over the fate of the gallant members of the Fifth Norfolk regiment who made a wild charge into a Gallipoli forest and have since been lost to sight and sound. All the eligible men of King George's Sandringham estate enlisted as a body in the regiment. The king personally knew practically every member of the company. The photograph shows the "march out" of the company before its departure for the Dardanelles.

STYLE SHOW PLANNED BY LOCAL MERCHANTS

At a meeting of the Retail Merchants' association, held yesterday evening in the office of the secretary, the initial steps were taken for a "style show," to be held in Chickasha during the early part of April.

A committee composed of Messrs. Garner, Kayser and Evans, was appointed to arrange and perfect plans leading up to the success of "style week."

All retailers present were enthusiastic in the matter and each member present stated that he would do his part toward making the show a success. The committee appointed will co-operate with the business men in the matter and will do all that may be necessary to advertise and give the matter the proper publicity.

All lines of business will have an in-coming in the show and a most attractive line of every class and kind of goods will be shown in the different stores of the city, while great care and attention will be given to the display windows in making them attractive.

The business institutions of the city which handle ladies' ready-to-wear lines, and the store handling gentlemen's goods and furnishings will arrange to have elaborate displays and every other kind of business will fall in line.

The windows will possibly tell tales

LECTURE IS DELIVERED BY JURIST

Mass. Man Speaks at College on "Needs of Hour," Dealing With Commercial, Political, Domestic and Religious Problems

The lecture by Judge Alden at the Oklahoma College for Women, last night was an instructive and an entertaining one. The speaker was thoroughly conversant with his subject, "The Needs of the Hour," and, in addition to being an eloquent and a convincing speaker, he had a fine flow of humor.

Judge Alden stated in the beginning that it would take him over an hour to explain the "needs of the hour." And it did. He spoke for one hour and a half, but he spoke in such an interesting and entertaining manner that none who heard seemed to realize the flight of time.

Following his introductory remarks, Judge Alden outlined his discourse, dividing his subjects into four heads—the commercial, the political, the domestic and the religious relations.

The speaker referred to the commercial dishonesty and to the political rottenness of the day. He stated that both these emanated directly from that spark of "graft" which will be found slumbering in every human breast; he said that this grafting spirit had no particular place of abode; that it was to be found in the palace of the

FEEDS FOR MERE MEN PROPOSED

Dinner Club Launched and Initial Meeting is Scheduled for Saturday; First Class Appetite Prime Requisite for Membership

TO PROMOTE GOOD FELLOWSHIP FEELING

Movement is Started by D. H. Roche and at Once Proves Popular; Large Number of Citizens are Already Enrolled

(By GEO. H. WYATT.)

At last it has come. Chickasha, like Al Jennings and Bill Dalton and Frank and Jesse James and Joan of Arc and Duncan and Berlin and Ardmore and Rag Town, has at last gained "notoriety."

But Chickasha, unlike any of the above, has not gained her "notoriety" through deeds of blood nor through reaching heights of sensationalism.

In a quiet and peaceful manner, through catering to the stomachs of the gentleman folks of her citizenry Chickasha is now in the spot light.

Without further circumlocution, Chickasha now has a full-grown, fully developed, highly approved "Men's Dinner Club."

And this club has sprung into life with a membership of good fellows, all armed with giant appetites and all loaded to the muzzle with after and before dinner speeches.

The club has a set of rules and regulations which will appeal to every gastronomic artist in Chickasha—in the entire state of Oklahoma, for that matter. With the publication of these rules and regulations, the secretary of the club will be flooded with applications for membership from every section of this greatest of all great states.

From the whooping borders of Texas; from the sand swept boundary line of Kansas; from the mountains in the east; from the home of the rustler in the west; from the habit of the gay and festive bootlegger; in the southeast; from the effete sections surrounding Oklahoma City—in fact from everywhere will the applications pour in.

The secretary even hopes to have upon his roll of "honorary" members such antipodes as Edgar Bronson of El Reno, the best tailored man in Oklahoma, to "Cocklebur Bill," of Johnson county.

But of those rules and by-laws and regulations and et cetera.

One of the first requirements of a man before he will be accepted into full fellowship will be his ability to eat as often and as long and as much as he can. The nearer his appetite approaches that of the Berkshire, the Cluster White, the Poland-China or the Durac Jersey, the better and more satisfactory his qualifications for membership in the favored clan.

"Gentlemanly conduct at all meetings" is another, but a secondary consideration. Ability to smoke as many big, black cigars as the other fellow can be persuaded to pay for, will be chalked up as another requirement. Strength of lungs sufficient to choke off all interruptions while posing as an after dinner speaker, or as a vocal artist in event one thinks he can sing, scores ten points in favor of a proposed member.

The club will meet about once a month, at some place to be selected by the secretary, and the committee of the whole, at about 6 o'clock in the p. m. Covers will be laid in accordance with the number of stomachs to be filled. All guests will be welcomed who care to come, provided some member vouches for the price of the eats which the guests may consume.

The first meeting of the club will be staged at the Geronimo at high noon Saturday. Following a feast of sauer kraut, dill pickles, pickled pigs knuckles, roast beef and pork and a lot of aesthetic dishes with unpronounceable names, the organization will be perfected and arrangements for future meetings to be held thereafter at 6 o'clock, will be made.

D. H. Roche as the promoter of the new organization, which has already

(Continued on Page Three.)

GERARD TO GET INTO CAMPAIGN

Hinted that Ambassador to Germany May Make Speaking Tour in Support of Wilson if Submarine Issue is Raised

By CARL W. ACKERMAN.

(United Press Staff Correspondent.) BERLIN, Feb. 24.—Ambassador Gerard, it is strongly hinted, may make a speaking tour of America in support of Wilson's candidacy for the presidency if the Republicans make the administration's submarine policies the chief target of attack. He plans to visit the United States before the national Democratic convention is held.

The ambassador is convalescing from the injuries which he received while sking near Munich. Persons close to him say he will urge the necessity for a strong tariff plank in the Democratic platform, being convinced that Europe is preparing to flood America with cheap products after the war, to the detriment of American industries.

He also favors a tariff commission if circumstances permit it.

It is believed that Gerard can give the public some interesting sidelights on the submarine controversies. While he was trying to impress German officials with the seriousness of the situation, Ambassador Dumba was informing Austria that Secretary Bryan had assured him that the United States never meant to take strong action and Austria was passing this information on to Berlin.

To add to the complications, it is reported, an Illinois politician, carrying credentials from Bryan, arrived in Berlin and assured high officials that Wilson was writing notes merely for "home consumption." It is believed that what Gerard thought about these moves was communicated to Colonel House.

GRAIN RATE DECISION

By United Press. WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 24.—According to a decision and order issued by the interstate commerce commission today the freight rates on export wheat from Oklahoma stations on the Santa Fe to New Orleans and near-by gulf ports must not exceed the rates from the same points to Galveston by more than 5 cents per hundred weight.

TEXAS BANK IS CLOSED

By United Press. SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Feb. 24.—The Federal Bank and Trust company here was closed today by the attorney general, pending an investigation of its affairs.

The institution was operating under a special charter and was alleged to be amenable to neither federal nor state banking laws. A statement concerning its status will be issued after a meeting of its directors late today.

MINCO BEST EVER.

W. E. Showen, editor of the Minco Minstrel, was a Chickasha business visitor this week. Mr. Showen reports conditions in the neighborhood of Minco as being in first class condition, while the city itself is "booming as ever."

Mr. and Mrs. L. Erlich have returned from New York, where they have been buying goods for the People's store.

WEATHER FORECAST. For Oklahoma. Tonight, fair colder; freezing in west portion; Friday, fair. Local Temperature. During twenty-four hours ending 8 a. m. today: Maximum, 58 degrees. Minimum, 24 degrees.