

GERMANS TAKE POSITIONS IN MIGHTY DRIVE

Succeed in Recapturing Most of the Ground Lost to the French in Bois Des Caures.

TEUTON LOSSES ARE ESTIMATED AT 50,000

French Army of 200,000 Defending Verdun is Well Equipped With Arms and Ammunition.

International News Service: PARIS, Feb. 24.—French troops have evacuated Brabant-Sur-Meuse, north of Verdun, the French war office announced today.

The Germans have also succeeded in recapturing most of the positions lost to the French in Bois des Caures, east of Brabant-Sur-Meuse. The terrific offensive of the Germans on the north of Verdun continues with unabated violence.

Furious assaults are being made by the Germans against the French positions near Haumont, but the war office said that all have been repulsed up to date.

Attacks Fail. At Samogneux, despite the launching of enormous numbers of men in mass formation attacks, the Germans were frustrated in their efforts to carry the French positions by storm.

(Brabant, which the German drive compelled the French to give up, lies six miles north of the Verdun fortress, upon the eastern bank of the Meuse river. It was a strongly fortified position in the sector known as the heights of the Meuse. It is directly southeast of Consenvoye, where the Germans made their first attacks in the big offensive campaign.)

Fifty thousand men have been lost by the Germans in the assaults which are rolling like mighty waves of the sea against the French defenses of Verdun, according to an estimate of military experts here today.

Despite the ferocity of the German infantry attacks which have been launched in mass formation time after time, and the tremendous violence of the German cannonade, it is confidently believed that the French lines will hold and that the great offensive of the invaders will have spent itself without any important results.

Facing the 250,000 men in the army of the German crown prince are more than 200,000 French soldiers under Gen. Humbert. The defenders have the advantage of fortifications which have been strengthened for a year and the French artillery is held to be equal to that of the Germans.

Abandon Trenches. Furious counter attacks have been launched by the French north of Verdun to win back positions lost to the enemy on Tuesday and Wednesday. At some points, however, the trenches were so badly battered by artillery fire that no effort was made by the French to retake them.

Instead of counter attacks the French artillery developed a heavy fire against these positions and some were voluntarily abandoned by the Germans.

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SMALL COUNTRIES TO BE CARED FOR

International News Service: LONDON, Feb. 24.—Territorial gains for Belgium and Serbia will result if the allies win the war. This was the construction placed today upon the speech of Premier Asquith in the house of commons Wednesday afternoon when he said: "We shall never sheath the sword which we have not lightly drawn, until Belgium, and I will add, Serbia, recover in full measure all and more than they have sacrificed."

Man Accused of Attacking Girl is Held Under Bond

Floyd H. Plum of Goshee, alias "Bill" Roberts of Chicago, the man who admitted attacking girls in and about St. Joseph's Catholic church, Lasalle av. and Hill st., was bound over to the circuit court grand jury by Judge Warner Thursday morning. Plum's bond was placed at \$500. The young man admitted that he attacked the girls. He was arrested after a chase Tuesday afternoon, when he entered the church and struck a young woman who was praying there. Plum already has a criminal record, he having spent one term at the Jeffersonville reformatory.

GRAND JURORS COMPLETE TASK

Bring in 131 Indictments. About 40 People Thought to be Concerned.

One hundred and thirty-one secret indictments were returned by the grand jury in circuit court Thursday afternoon. This number included, it is supposed, not only the bound over cases which were sent to the grand jury from the city court, but are the results of the city wide anti-vice crusade conducted under the supervision of Mayor Keller's sleuths.

For three weeks the grand jurors have been sitting with Pros. Chester R. Montgomery. Speculation as to the number of people involved in the investigations has been rife, but it actually believed that only about 40 people are actually concerned. No word has officially been given out as to the character of the indictments nor any of the parties who were implicated.

That the majority of the indictments are directed against law violators, such as keepers of gambling houses, so-called red light resorts, and the like, is the prevailing belief. Special investigator Charles Dohler, who together with Bert Omstedt, the administration's appointees, has been seen entering the grand jury room nearly every day, after it became known that a cleanup crusade had been started. It is supposed that in many instances several indictments of one kind or another have been returned against one person, and that each indictment may have several counts.

The grand jury report marked a finale in the investigations that have been conducted during the past three weeks. The jurors had finished their work and were excused for the term. Most of the indictments that were expected would take in men arrested in the numerous recent police raids, along with some of the higher-ups, including Councilman Arthur Miller, elected on the Citizens' ticket.

A divorce suit that may result in having these indictments thrown out was filed yesterday by Mrs. Gertrude Fack, against Edward Fack, one of the jurors.

The wife in her suit says she has no knowledge of her husband owning property, which is one qualification a juror must meet before he is entitled to sit on the jury. She asks for a restraining order in case her husband shows he is a property owner.

She asks for \$5,000 alimony. She alleges that he is a life tenant on a farm near New Carlisle.

MEMORIAL SERVICES TO BE HELD FRIDAY

Members of Bar Association to Pay Respects to Memory of H. A. Steis.

Memorial services in respect to the memory of the late Henry A. Steis will be held by the St. Joseph County Bar association, of which Mr. Steis was a member, Friday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock in the circuit court room. The speakers who will pay tribute to the former member will be: Charles H. Peters of Knox, Ind.; Judge Francis J. Virpillet of Notre Dame; Judge Timothy E. Howard, Judges Walter A. Funk and George Ford, and Stuart MacKibben. Judge Virpillet formerly practiced law in the same county that Mr. Steis did. The committee on resolutions will read its report at that time.

HUBBARD IS WILLING TO RESIGN POST

President of School Board Says He Will Quit if Clem and Rupel Agree to Proposal.

COMMITTEE CALLS ON MAYOR KELLER

Meeting of Business Men and Teachers Held at Chamber of Commerce Asks Resignations.

A. L. Hubbard, minority member of the school board, which last week refused to renew the contract of Supt. L. J. Montgomery, will resign from the board if E. B. Rupel and William Clem, the men who did the ousting, will. Mr. Hubbard made his decision public Thursday morning, but said that he had considered it all during the controversy. That the resignation of all of the members of the board was the only sure way of clearing up the school trouble was the opinion of Mr. Hubbard. He said that the plan adopted by the citizens at a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce Wednesday night to have Judge Timothy E. Howard and Judge Vernon W. Van Fleet act as a tribunal to pass on the school situation was a good one, but that the school board could save a lot of trouble, if they resigned. "Everybody ought to have confidence in that plan, if any confidence is to be placed in human nature," said Mr. Hubbard. "I have thought all the time that the school board should resign to make things better."

Meet Mayor Keller. W. W. Ridenour, a member of the park board, who acted as chairman of Wednesday night's meeting, with Frank E. Hering, who advanced the tribunal plan, went into session with Mayor Keller at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon to talk over the school situation with the executive. They were to take up the plan decided upon at the citizens' meeting with the mayor and get some kind of action from him on the matter.

Neither Mr. Rupel nor Mr. Clem could be located Thursday to give their views of the tribunal plan or their resignation. The resignation of all three members of the board has been suggested several times and at the eighth district conference of the Rotary clubs here Tuesday resolutions were passed asking that they quit the board. Although Mr. Hubbard has been in favor of Mr. Montgomery all the time his resignation has been suggested in order that an entirely new board may be named. It has been said that if he were allowed to remain with two new members, the work of the board might be hindered.

Montgomery Commended. Mr. Ridenour, as chairman of the gathering, spoke briefly in commendation of Mr. Montgomery as a man and as an educator. Rev. C. A. Lippincott also addressed the meeting, following the outline of the plan of procedure by Mr. Hering, representing a conference of business men. Mr. Lippincott spoke chiefly of the character of the superintendent. He declared this a necessity to insure his future usefulness to the community and to the world.

Mr. Hering eulogized the former jurist and suggested them as members of the tribunal. His remarks were met with applause by those present. The meeting was decidedly "Montgomery," but over all there seemed an impelling spirit for justice first.

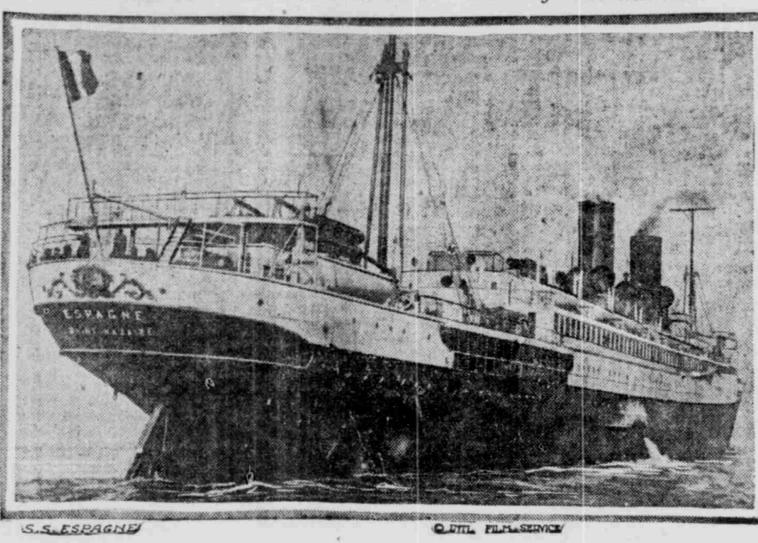
Not an inharmonious note was sounded. Horace Green moved the adoption of Mr. Hering's suggestion, which was put in the form of a motion. There were a number of seconds. A committee was appointed to draft resolutions. Rome C. Stephenson, Mr. Hering, Mr. Ridenour and E. H. Miller acted in this capacity.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE.)

INTERNED STEAMERS SEIZED BY PORTUGAL

International News Service: LISBON, Feb. 24.—Thirty-six German and Austrian merchant steamers interned in Portuguese ports since the beginning of the war have been seized by the naval authorities as a result of information reaching the government that some of them were being prepared for a dash to sea to prey upon the allies' commerce. The seizure was made yesterday afternoon and it was reported today that large guns were found in the hold of five vessels that had been lying in the river Tagus.

Hint French Liner Will be a Victim of Submarine



NEW YORK.—The French liner Espagne due to sail Thursday failed to get away for Bordeaux, where she is due March 4. Anonymous letters warning Americans listed to sail on the ship to abandon the trip have been received. The Espagne is not armed. The new German submarine policy is to go into effect on March 1.

PURDUE ARMORY BURNS TO GROUND

Blaze Supposed to Have Been of Incendiary Origin. Loss is \$30,000.

LAFAYETTE, Ind., Feb. 24.—The Purdue university armory was destroyed by fire, supposed to be of incendiary origin, early today. The loss is about \$30,000. The fire was discovered at 4 a. m. by Prof. Arthur Cole. The West Lafayette and Lafayette fire departments fought the flames and succeeded in saving other buildings on the campus. The heaviest loss was in government property, there being 1,200 and many sabres and a field piece in the building. Many students who turned out to fight the blaze had narrow escapes during the fire. Some of the ammunition in the building exploded and the explosion could be heard for miles.

The armory was one of the first four buildings built at Purdue in 1874. The building was about 60 by 120 feet in size. For many years the building was used as an armory and gymnasium and many of the most brilliant social functions in the history of old Purdue were held in the building. The loss is covered by insurance.

FLETCHER TO BE NAMED

Opposition to Appointment as Ambassador is Dwindling.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Opposition to the appointment of Ambassador to Mexico has dwindled to such a comparatively few republicans that administration leaders in the senate were confident today of his confirmation within a few days. Sen. Borah of Idaho, however, will lead a forlorn hope against Mr. Fletcher's confirmation, more for the sake of placing himself on record against the sending of an ambassador to the "Mexican first chief" than in the expectation of seriously delaying the confirmation.

Latest in the News World

GERMANS WIN. International News Service: BERLIN, Feb. 24.—(By wireless)—Rapid strides are being made by the German forces in their great drive upon Verdun, according to today's official report. The Germans have made further advances on the east bank of the Meuse, and have captured the villages of Brabant, Haumont and Samogneux. They have also taken all the forest district to the northwest, north and northeast of this region.

By their advances, the Germans have taken possession of Beaumont as well as Herbebois, the report adds.

CZAR AT FRONT. International News Service: PETROGRAD, Feb. 24.—Czar Nicholas, who opened the duma on Tuesday, has again left for the front. The czar, who is commander-in-chief of the Russian armies, is taking an important part in directing operations against the Austro-German forces on the east front.

SCHOOL BUILDING Burns; Children Escape Flames

International News Service: WEYMOUTH, Mass., Feb. 24.—A boiler in the basement of the Humphrey grammar school, East Weymouth, exploded this afternoon while 300 children were in the building. The children had but a few minutes to escape as the building burst into flames immediately after the explosion and burned quickly. So far as known all escaped. Help was summoned from Braintree and nearby towns.

The building was of frame structure, three and a half stories in height. It was built three years ago.

RIOT DOESN'T DEVELOP

Extra Force of Deputies Guard Mine at Boonville.

BOONVILLE, Ind., Feb. 24.—All was quiet around the Big Four mine this morning, last night's threatened riot having failed to develop. Although several hundred miners from Ayershire had threatened to use force if their demands were not complied with, the extra force of deputy sheriffs on the job had nothing to do last night. The Ayershire miners objected to the fact that the new Big Four mine employed a less number of men than formerly. They contended that the whole force should be given employment even if the time had to be shortened.

PEACE PARTY IS HOME

Nine Members of Ford's Delegation Reach New York.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—Nine members of the Ford peace party arrived here from Europe today on board the Nieuw Amsterdam of the Holland-American line. They were Judge Ben Lindsey and Mrs. Lindsey of Denver, Colo.; L. B. Hanna, lieutenant governor of North Dakota; the Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones and Mrs. Jones of Chicago; Frederick H. Holt of Detroit; Gaston Plattner, business manager of the enterprise; R. S. Neely and R. B. English.

STEAMER ASHORE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The coastwise liner Juniata of Baltimore, today went ashore on the Virginia capes and the United States coast guard cutter Achusnet has gone to her assistance.

SINKS TRANSPORT

VIENNA, Feb. 24.—(Via Berlin and Amsterdam)—It was officially announced that an Austria-Hungarian aeroplane had sunk in the harbor of Durazzo an Italian transport on which Italian troops were to be taken from Albania.

LOSSES 500,000

International News Service: TURIN, Feb. 24.—On what it declares reliable information, the S. C. C. estimates the losses of Turkey in the war, exclusive of those at Erzerum, at 500,000 killed, wounded and missing.

STEAMER ESCAPES

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The German steamer Hochfeld, which was interned at Madeira early in the war, has escaped, according to a dispatch from Funchal. The Hochfeld is a steamer of 3,589 tons and was built in 1895. It fled from Madeira under cover of night.

RAILROAD CARS HELD UP IN EAST

Western Men Appear Before Commerce Commission and Demand Action.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Frank H. Funk, member of the state public utilities commission of Illinois, and E. M. Wayne of Delevan, Ill., counsel for several of the largest mills and grain elevators in the state, today appealed to the interstate commerce commission to compel eastern railroads to return the cars they have taken from western lines.

The Illinois men declared that thousands of cars have been detained in the east so that they could be used for shipping war munitions from near-coast points, such as Pittsburgh, to the seaboard, while the people of the middle west are severely handicapped by the lack of transportation facilities. Illinois alone is short 50,000 cars, said Commissioner Funk.

Wayne said that grain waiting shipment to the mills will spoil within 60 days if it is not consumed because last year's crop was especially soft.

The commission took the matter under advisement.

ATTACKS ARE REPULSED

Vienna Report Tells of Artillery Duels on Italian Front.

VIENNA, Feb. 24.—(Via Berlin by wireless)—Russian attacks northwest of Tarnopol have been repulsed, the Austrian war office announced today. Artillery duels are in progress on the Austro-Italian front.

The official report follows: "Russian attacks against our advanced positions northwest of Tarnopol have been repulsed. "On the Isonzo front artillery combats are in progress. Large fires have been observed behind the Italian front."

CIGAR MAN DIES

JOLIET, Ill., Feb. 24.—J. Fred Wilcox, owner of the immense Jose Vallens cigar factories in Tampa and Cuba, and one of Joliet's richest men, died here early today.

PRIZE SHIP TAKEN BY GERMANS IS SUNK

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The British steamer Westburn, which was taken into Santa Cruz, Tenerife, by a prize crew from the German commerce raider that captured the British liner Appam and sank many other British ships, has been captured outside that port by her Teuton captors, according to a dispatch received by Lloyd's today. The German officer in command of the Spanish authorities in the Canary Islands that the ship would have to leave or be interned. He immediately ordered steam up, took the vessel outside of the Spanish waters and had his prize sunk. The German returned to port in small boats and will be interned until the war ends.

PRESIDENT FIRM IN STAND WILL NOT MEET REP. FLOOD TO DISCUSS WAR PROBLEMS

Says He Sees No Reasons to Change Attitude or to Take Up Dispute With Congress at Present.

WILL INSIST ON RIGHT OF AMERICANS TO SEAS

Takes Personal Charge of Negotiations and Calls Off All But Engagement to Meet Cabinet.

International News Service: WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—President Wilson today defied congress to interfere in the international relations of the United States. He declined to receive Rep. Flood, chairman of the house foreign affairs committee, who was commissioned by a number of his colleagues to tell the president that if he persisted in his demands that Germany refrain from attacking armed merchant vessels without warning, congress would pass a resolution demanding that passports be refused Americans who would not agree to remain off such vessels.

The president told Rep. Flood over the telephone that he saw no reason to change his announced attitude and that he must decline to further discuss the submarine question at this time. Simultaneously with this announcement the president's secretary cancelled all of the president's engagements for today and tomorrow with the exception of tomorrow's cabinet meeting. The president then left the white house and walked leisurely down town and looked over the exhibits of the "safety first" exhibit in progress at the new National museum under the auspices of the government's departments.

President in Charge. The president has taken personal charge of the negotiations with Germany. Until a definite settlement is reached, or a break comes, officials said, he will remain in closest touch with Secy of State Lansing. It is understood to be the intention of the president to bring the negotiations to a head without any unnecessary delay. The German reply to Secy Lansing's informal communication of a week ago, in which Germany was asked whether the new declaration that commencing March 1 all armed merchantmen will be subject to the "safety first" rule, was not to be made to Secy Lansing late today or tomorrow.

It may be made the medium of the president demanding a speedy reply to the main points at issue, inasmuch as it is stated to be a question in turn as to just what this government considers defensive armament for merchant ships. In replying to this query, the president may, officials say, ask that Germany make prominent reply to the original question. This easily could be done as the administration has refused to accept the promises made in the Lusitania case which were offered to completely dispose of the submarine question.

The president is stated in white house official circles, has become convinced that the German foreign office is seeking to take undue advantage of the efforts made by the United States to bring about a modus vivendi in the armed merchant question and resents it. Criticism that he has changed front on the issue the president is now faced has been fostered by German diplomatic sources in this country.

And in consequence officials say he is determined to get unmistakable assurances that international law will be observed by the central powers even at the risk of war. For officials no longer hold to the pleasant fiction that diplomatic relations can be broken off and the matter permitted to rest there.

Break to Mean War. Germany will not accept a diplomatic break, officials here have learned without forcing a declaration of war, and it is this knowledge that has brought about the open criticism of the president's policy in congress. The southern and middle west senators and representatives flatly insist that their constituents are utterly opposed to any policy that will cause a break with Germany over the submarine issue.

Only the coming of night prevented action on the submarine question in the house yesterday. If the session had lasted 15 minutes longer there is little doubt that efforts would have been made to force action on a resolution warning Americans to keep off armed ships. Leader Kitchin and Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee Flood were convinced that the votes were available then to have forced through such a measure. Today they were hopeful that they had the situation in hand. They were working

Wants Americans Kept Off Vessels

International News Service: WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Soon after the senate met today, Sen. Gore of Oklahoma, sought to introduce resolutions warning Americans to keep off belligerent ships. Sen. Brandegee of Connecticut, objected to the resolution and under the rules of the senate, Sen. Gore was unable to lay the matter before that body. He said he would make another attempt to press the resolution, later.

Strong intimations that Germany's latest plans for submarine operations will not be put into practice on March 1, as was planned, but instead will be delayed, were obtained in German diplomatic circles here this afternoon. Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, refused either to deny or confirm the report.

"Congress should not take any action that would embarrass the president and the state department, while diplomatic negotiations are in progress," declared Sen. Stone, chairman of the senate foreign relations committee, after numerous conferences with senators and representatives today. "If congress is to take any action, it should be delayed until diplomats efforts have been exhausted."

Sen. Stone said he believed no action would be taken in either branch of congress at this time. Secy of State Lansing today arranged a conference with Pres't Wilson at the white house for late this afternoon. It is understood that they will canvass anew the international situation.

Both the white house and the state department refused to make any statement regarding the conference.

to secure one of two possible solutions: Seeks Concession. First, to have the president make some concession such as defining armed merchantmen that would be met with a satisfactory reply from Germany on the entire proposition.

Second, that the president delay the final issue so that the leaders, with his assistance can regain control of congress. Both of these propositions have been submitted to the white house. Sen. Stone has told the president that while he will do everything he can to aid the administration, he is convinced that the question at issue is a many-sided one on which the chief executive should secure all the advice possible. In order to retain a strategic control of affairs in the upper house Stone saw that when adjournment came last night the senate would in recess instead of adjourning. This made the Shields water power dam bill the direct order of business when the senate reconvened today.

WHERE'D HE GET COIN

Indianapolis Police Puzzled Over Man Said to be Vagrant.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 24.—Police today are puzzled over the strange case of William A. Denny, 32 years old, of Highland, Ill., who is held on a charge of vagrancy pending an investigation. Two or three days ago Denny apparently was out of funds for he pawned a watch yesterday when arrested. He had reclaimed the watch and had in his pockets several hundred dollars in good money, a roll of boxes bills and a 45-caliber revolver.

BRANDEIS HELPED SWING BIG DEAL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The individual efforts of Louis D. Brandeais gave the Harriman interests overwhelming control of the Illinois Central railroad. Wadhil Catchings, president of the Central Foundry Co., today told the senate sub-committee investigating Brandeais' fitness for appointment to the supreme court.

Catchings told how he had been employed by the Harriman interests to obtain stockholders proxies which would give them (the Harrimans) control of the stockholders' meeting over the Strussman Fish interests. It was the hardest job he ever had, Catchings said and he was forced to call in the aid of Brandeais. Brandeais, however, refused to touch the matter, he declared until he had been "convinced of the justice of our case."