

HUNS TAKE SOISSONS

LONDON, May 29.—After desperate resistance and fighting in the streets, lasting several hours, the French have evacuated Soissons, which the Germans occupied, according to the official announcement from the French war office.

PARIS, May 30.—The battle along the fighting front continued all night, with the French maintaining the western outlets of Soissons, the war office announced to-day.

Northwest of Rheims the Franco-British forces broke all the German assaults and maintained the defensive positions.

French reserves are continuing to arrive on the front and the German advance is being resisted with great tenacity.

AMERICANS HOLD GAINS

With American Forces on French Front, May 29.—Further enemy counter attacks against the American troops, who yesterday stormed their way into Cantigny, have been repulsed, and the overseas men are holding their positions in the shell-torn village strongly.

WEEKLY REVIEW OF WAR

Germany's great offensive on the western front has been resumed. With only brief artillery preparation, two blows have been struck by the Teuton armies.

One attack was on the line from Voormezele to Leers, southwest of Ypres; the other on a 35-mile front from Pinon, north of Soissons, to Rheims. This is known as the Alsne sector.

In Flanders, the Germans have gained virtually nothing, but further south the Berlin official statement claims that the German crown prince's troops have carried the whole ridge of the Chemin des Dames and now are fighting on the Alsne river.

On the Alsne front the present battle recalls the fearful fighting of last summer along the Chemin des Dames, where for weeks the German crown prince hurled his men against French positions, only to see them crushed and beaten. Last year 75 divisions were engaged in the German attacks along this line alone. The attack here is really in the nature of a line-stratagemy operation. It is being launched from Laon as a center and is aimed at the elbow in the line formed during the fighting in Picardy in March and April. Here, however, the Germans must face permanent works which have been occupied by the French for long periods and which can be defended quite easily.

The German crown prince is in command in this sector, and this may indicate a serious effort to break the allied line. Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria is the nominal commander in Artois and Picardy and the German crown prince, for dynastic reasons, will strive to outdo whatever success was attained by his colleagues further south.

It is probable that American troops are engaged in the fighting in both the battles on the French front. It is known that American troops are close behind the allied lines in Flanders, while some time ago it was reported that they were near Rheims.

Almost coincident with the new German assault the Italians launched a blow at the Austrian lines in the mountain region to the northwest of Lake Garda. According to reports, they have carried Montecelo pass, the village of Preseena, Monte Zigelon and the mountain spur to the east.

May 29—British and French, greatly outnumbered, are giving ground before the onrush of the Germans along the 20-mile front in the Alsne river sector, between Berry-au-Bac and Vailly. According to the German official communication, numerous towns and villages in the fighting zone have been taken by the enemy and 15,000 allied troops already have been made prisoner. The Germans have crossed the Alsne and are pressing back the allies upon the Vesle river. The enemy has advanced about seven miles.

General Pershing reports that American troops in Picardy attacked on a front of one and a quarter miles, captured the village of Cantigny, took 200 prisoners and inflicted severe losses in killed and wounded on the enemy.

RED CROSS DRIVE

Subscriptions Likely to Reach the \$150,000,000 Mark. Washington, May 28.—The American people answered Germany's renewal of the offensive on the western front yesterday with an outpouring of more than \$32,000,000, swelling the American Red Cross second war fund to \$144,000,000. Reports still are coming in from districts, and the final total of the drive may not be known until tomorrow. The over-subscription was much larger than to the first \$100,000,000 fund last year and is believed by officials to have reflected the determination of the people of the nation to see that the Red Cross work, not alone among the American troops, but among the civilians of France, should be extended.

ARIZONA FALLS IN LINE

Last week Arizona ratified the Federal prohibition amendment. The vote in the Senate was unanimous for ratification, and in the House it was 29 to 3. The state is dry under state-wide prohibition, and the almost unanimous vote in the legislature is in harmony with the will of the people.

One-third of the States necessary to write prohibition in the National constitution have now ratified, and this has been done within six months from the time Congress submitted the amendment to the states. A year from this time it will all be over but the shouting.

MONEY PROBLEM NEATLY SOLVED

[Coldwater Chronicle.] The Mercer County Farm Bureau had two car loads of seed corn—some 1,500 bushels—shipped to Celina, which was sold to the farmers at \$5 per bushel, a saving of \$1.75 to \$2 per bushel to them. At the time of the delivery of the corn the price could not be definitely fixed, but it was sold to the farmers at \$5 per bushel by those who had charge of the delivery, and which was guaranteed not to be more than that price.

After all bills were in and paid for the corn, transportation, &c., it was found that the sum of \$475 was on hand. It would have been a somewhat difficult task to refund this to the individual buyers and a happy thought came to those in charge of the purchase and sale of the corn. They donated this amount to the American Red Cross. It was a generous act and we believe it will meet with a hearty amen by every one who purchased corn from these shipments.

Here was not only a saving of \$1.75 to \$2 to the farmers on each bushel of seed they bought, but a surplus of \$475 that was generously contributed to one of the noblest causes ever born of man. It was a happy thought, well applied, and surely commended by every patriotic person in the country.

Cincinnati Daily Post and The Democrat, both one year, \$1.50.

COLDWATER BOY IS DROWNED AT DAYTON

Word was received here about midnight Sunday that Leo Ollger had been drowned in the Stillwater river, near Dayton, Sunday afternoon. In company with a number of companions he had gone to the river for an outing, and in the afternoon they went in bathing, when he was accidentally drowned. The body was recovered shortly afterwards, and Undertaker J. R. Desch went to Dayton and returned with the body on Monday morning, and it was taken to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Ollger.

Leo was 21 years old last August and had been employed at Dayton for the past two years. He was a sterling young man, and the news of his unfortunate death was a great shock to his parents, brothers, sisters and young friends of this place.

Funeral services will be held at Holy Trinity church this (Friday) morning, and burial will be in Holy Trinity cemetery, east of town.—Chronicle.

A Servant Always on the Job

E. E. Dibble, of Center township, is having a DeLoe light plant installed by the Crown Auto Co., local agents. Mr. Dibble believes in efficiency, as the installation of an electric light and power plant on the farm means the saving of several hours of drudgery each day for himself and his wife.

STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN!

On and after July 1, 1918, the price of The Democrat will be \$1.50 per year in advance. There is no need to tell our readers why the price is advanced, though many of them do not remember the conditions prevailing in the newspaper business at the time the price of \$1 per year was made. Previous to and at the time of the establishment of The Democrat the price of country newspapers was \$1.50 per year, and the size 6 columns to the page.

We have been referring to our files at that time and find the top price for hogs to be \$3.00, cattle \$3.25, wheat 70c, oats 13c, corn 20, butter 6c to 12c, lard 4c to 5c, potatoes 20c. Print paper, ink and everything in the art of printing was at the same low level.

Remember, this rate goes into effect July 1. Most of our readers are paid up until January 1, 1919; some until 1920. The new rate does not effect those paid ahead. It only begins at the expiration of the time paid for. Back subscription up to July 1 is payable at the old rate. Renewals and new subscriptions will be taken up to and including Saturday night, June 28, at the old rate of \$1 per year. Dollar-a-year papers have had their day.

THE FORT VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE

That Ft. Recovery is never a slacker when fully woke up was in evidence last Saturday, when her officials and citizens done the honors in bidding Mercer county's big bunch of selects Good speed on their departure for Camp Taylor, Kentucky. It looked like every man, woman and child was here to say good-bye to the boys. The program outlined for the occasion was carried out in the most impressive and dignified manner, and was a fitting tribute to the lads and the great cause in which they go forth. People from all parts of the county were out in numbers, and the assemblage was the largest that has yet witnessed the departure of selects for camp.

MERCER COUNTY AGAIN ON RECORD

Mercer county has again gone on record, clearly indicating that the hearts of most of the people are in the right place. The great drive closed at 12 o'clock midnight Monday. Mercer county went over the top. Complete returns are not yet available, but we have gone beyond the \$34,000 mark.

In behalf of the boys, the American Red Cross and Celina chapter, I want to express my appreciation to the local chairman, the solicitors for their hearty co-operation, and to the people for their generous contributions.

The services which you rendered has been unselfishly performed, which is a beautiful display of patriotism, loyalty and love. Again thanking one and all, I am

Respectfully,  
W. T. PALMER, County Organizer.

On behalf of the people of Mercer county, without regard to race, creed, color, or other conditions of servitude, and the workers and contributors so generously mentioned, The Democrat rises to thank Mr. Palmer for all the good qualities and generous impulses he has detected in others in his capacity of organizer, believing he has been thoroughly inoculated with the same microbe.

GIFT FROM CATHOLIC CHILDREN

The patriotism of the little people of the Celina parochial school was shown in a gift from them to the American Red Cross fund, when their pastor, Rev. George Hindelang handed County Organizer Palmer a check for \$55.75. The children's pennies surely count.

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE, THE "FRUITS OF C. E."

What's up? An illustrated lecture, "Fruits of C. E.," a county officer's panorama, a Christian Endeavor play and a county C. E. banner, to be given to the C. E. society having the best turnout to hear and see the above at the Mercer County C. E. rally at the Presbyterian church, Celina, Friday evening, June 14, at 8 o'clock.

Do You Know!

How many county commissioners and township trustees know how to get main market road money for their part of the state? Is this not worth knowing? Somebody gets the money. If others do, why not you? The state road levy is three-tenths of one mill. This levy nets the state treasury \$2,500,000. One-fourth of this goes somewhere in Ohio on main market roads. The wide awake road officials are getting it. Are you asleep? It is much yours as anybody else's. Ask for it. Do it now.

Red Cross Social at Montezuma To-Morrow Evening

There will be a Red Cross social at the band stand to-morrow (Saturday) evening, the Montezuma band, assisted by the Neptune band, furnishing the music. Ice-cream, ice-cream and strawberries and other attractions. You, and even your mother-in-law is invited.

WINKLEJOHN SUCCEEDS SCHUNCK IN COUNCIL

At the regular session of Council last Tuesday night Mayor Scranton announced the appointment of J. H. Winklejohn as a member of Council to succeed P. H. Schunck, who recently resigned.

A resolution transferring \$330 from the general fund to the service fund was adopted, and ordinance No. 357, accepting a plot of lots, was passed and goes into effect from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

MERCER COUNTY'S PREMIER ATHLETE

Among various revelations of the Mercer county field and track meet of high schools, which was held at the fairgrounds on May 10, none was clearer than the fact that Lewis Shaffer, of the Rockford high school, was easily the peer of all the assembled athletes. This was shown not alone by the twenty



LEWIS SHAFFER

points which he collected as his individual total, but by the consistency and ease with which he performed as well. Shaffer was entered in only four events,—shot-put, quarter-mile, half mile and relay, in all of which he pulled down a blue ribbon.

These events alone, however, do not

give a complete line on Shaffer's versatile ability, as nothing but the excellence of his team-mates—Foor, Pifer and Keopple, all of whom are splendid athletes—kept him from being entered in the short dashes and the broad-jump. His ability in the dash was well shown in the quarter-mile and the half-mile runs. These two races also served to show his wonderful qualities of endurance.

Shaffer has a wonderful physique. He is about five feet eight inches tall and tips the scales when straddled at 175 pounds. The casual observer would guess him as a weight man, but hardly as a sprinter because of his stock build. He gives a good account of himself on the foot-ball field, and has captained Rockford High's base ball team for two seasons.

This all-round athletic performer will be a senior in Rockford high school next year, and we confidently predict that whoever takes from him the title of "Mercer County's Premier Athlete" will have just reason to be proud of the distinction.

Jefferson B. of E. Selects Teachers

Edith Fisher, Elmer Smith, Hazel Betz, Ella Fogt and Louise Andrews were employed to teach the district schools at a meeting of the Jefferson township board of education at their regular session last Friday. The board also made their annual levy for school purposes. A. B. McMurray was given the job of conveying school children to District 2 and 5.

DECORATION DAY WELL OBSERVED

Decoration day was generally observed in this city yesterday. Business places were closed. The exercises for the day, as outlined in the program of the G. A. R. and Women's Relief Corps was faithfully carried out by the handful of city war veterans that remain to do honor to their comrades who rest under the sod at the local cemeteries. The Women's Relief corps, the boys' and girls' band, and a small springing of little tots was about all of their escort.

Local lodges and benevolent societies and citizens were only notable for their absence. The cemeteries, however, and their silent hosts were in no way neglected nor forgotten, for crowds of people visited them and placed tokens of love and remembrance upon their resting places.

SERVICE FLAG TO BE DEDICATED

The Fairview Sunday-school of the Church of God circuit, of which Earl Poor and Dee Young are the superintendents, will dedicate a service flag next Sunday, at 2 p. m., with a special program, in honor of the boys that have gone to the colors from that community. Rev. Horn, pastor of the Celina Presbyterian church, has been engaged as the principal speaker for the occasion. A flag exercise, music, recitations and other things will feature the event.

The community should do honor to the boys by turning out for this service. Let everybody give flowers to the living and not the dead.

Political Gossip

It looks like there will be little change in Congress this fall. There is a tendency to keep the present members on the job. A few days ago in the Pennsylvania primaries two democratic members of Congress received nominations from both parties and two republican members were likewise endorsed by the democrats.

Two weeks from to-day will see the close of the time for filing petitions to get on the ballot at the August primary. There is little scramble for office. It was thought there would be several candidates in the field for Sheriff and Clerk of Courts, but it has narrowed down to two candidates for each office. It was expected that Wolf, for Recorder, might have opposition, but none is visible. All candidates seeking second terms have now made their announcements but Haber, for Representative.

Clerk Petrie of the Board of Public Affairs of this city, who has been mentioned for Clerk of Courts, told The Democrat a few days since that he was not a candidate for the place. He would have made a strong candidate, and the man who would have headed him off would have had the nomination in his vest pocket.

County Surveyor Morrison and Commissioners Hill and Now made this office a pleasant call Monday afternoon. They are candidates for re-nomination to their respective offices. We will say this much for them: we have not heard any complaint about their work—and that is saying a good deal—therefore it must be satisfactory.—Mendon Herald.

ANOTHER INDIANA MAN VICTIM OF AUTOMOBILE

Indiana people, drunk or sober, seem to play in bad luck as soon as they get over this way. Last Saturday Lafayette Girard, of Monroeville, was here fishing, and while crossing the bank road with a party of friends was struck by an automobile driven by G. W. Jackson, the well known local well driller. Girard had several ribs fractured and received a severe cut on the forehead. His injuries were dressed by Dr. Hattery. He was later taken to his home in an ambulance. Jackson is one of the craziest drivers about town. Whether he was at fault in this case, we don't know. But he will kill some one one of these days, and then may be the officers will take notice.

School Enumeration Falls Off

Mrs. Minnie Stemen, who has been taking the enumeration of pupils of school age, reports a total of 1079—542 boys and 537 girls. The total last year was 1114. The loss is attributed to the exodus of young married people to the industrial centers.

Cincinnati Daily Post and The Democrat, both one year, \$1.50.

FOURTEEN MORE SELECTS ARE OFF

The first contingent of Mercer county selects to be sent to the Columbus barracks left here Wednesday morning at 7 o'clock over the Cincinnati Northern. They were presented with comfort kits and souvenirs. There was no public demonstration on their departure, only relatives and intimate friends seeing them off. However they can rest assured the people of the county have as big a place in their hearts for them as any that has left its borders. The Columbus contingent was made up of the following lads:

- Seymour Ashbaugh, St. Marys.
- Adolph Berger, Celina.
- Ernest Kelley, Celina.
- George Severns, Mendon.
- Leo Schafer, Coldwater.
- Martin Jackson, Celina.
- Russell Morrow, Celina.
- George Emard, Burkettsville.
- Clyde McGilvray, Mendon.
- Engene Bettingler, Coldwater.
- Albert Newcomb, Celina.
- Francis Carl Hoyt, West Virginia.
- Henry V. Weyer
- Abel Pearson

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS LADS MUST ANSWER

A sheet containing ten important questions that must be answered on registration day, June 5, by lads who have become 21 since last June, has been issued and should be in the hands of your local postmaster. They must be answered in ink writing, in ink. They are as follows:

1. Name in full. Age in years.
2. Home address.
3. Date of birth.
4. Where were you born?
5. Are you (1) a native of the United States; (2) a naturalized citizen; (3) an alien; (4) have you declared your intention to become a citizen; (5) or are you a citizen or non-citizen Indian? (Specify which.)
6. If not a citizen, of what nation are you a citizen or subject?
7. Father's birthplace.
8. Name of employer. Place of employment.
9. Name and address of nearest relative.
10. Race—White, Negro, Indian, or Oriental.

THE GRIM REAPER

Fred Brune, aged 68, a well known resident of this city, died at his home at Pine Bluff, Ark., last Saturday. The deceased was born in Germany, but came to this country when a lad, and had been a resident of Celina for almost 40 years. Mr. Brune had been in ill-health for some time, but his death came rather unexpectedly. He was a stone and brick mason by trade and a very conscientious workman. His death was the third in the family in a few months—his wife passing away five months since, and a daughter about three weeks ago. Surviving are four children—William Brune, of Chicago Heights; Frederick Brune, of Oak Park, Ill.; Mrs. J. D. VanDusen, of Kipton, and Mrs. Joe Heckler of this city.

John Colgan, a former resident of this city, aged 57, died at his home at Pine Bluff, Ark., last Saturday. The cause of his death was the cause of his death. He is survived by his wife and seven children. One son is in the national army, and another will soon enter the service. The deceased was a brother of Mrs. Andy Zender of this city, and was here to attend the funeral of his brother, Wm. Colgan, only a couple months ago.

The remains of three-months-old baby of John Roberts, of Piqua, was brought here Saturday for interment beside those of its mother. The mother, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Gonsler of this city, passed away about a month ago.

Daniel S. Bricker, aged 71, one of the best known teachers of this and Angliex counties, died at his home at St. Marys last Sunday. His funeral taking place Wednesday. The deceased was a brother of the late Mrs. Isaac Hainline of Center township, and was born at Lebanon, Pa. A brother, Wm. Bricker, resides east of this city. Mr. Bricker had a record of 50 years of successful teaching. He also served in other educational capacities during his half century of school work.

Local Briefs

The recent meeting of Willard W. C. T. U. at the home of Mrs. D. K. Jeffries was an unusually patriotic one, and they are always patriotic. They decided to make a knit blanket in National colors. The next meeting will be held with Miss Mae Nuding, Willard's president, at her home near Mercer, June 19.

The Mercer County Brotherhood of Threshermen at their meeting in this city on the 23d, listened to sage advice on their business from State Organizer Durban and J. B. Parker, representing the American Thresherman Magazine. The officers of the county organization are J. H. Now, president; Frank Rosenbeck, vice president, and Chas. Malick, secretary.

W. E. Eynart, Allen Eynart, Wm. Rush, Roy Coats and J. M. Rush left Tuesday for points in old Virginia, and are making the trip by automobile. They will look over the farm land situation there, which seems to be attracting the attention of quite a number of our people and has caught some.

Congressman Welby has been notified by the pension department that Peter Stevens, of Celina, has been granted an increase of his pension to \$30, and that Mrs. Magdalena Reuter, of Ft. Recovery, has been granted a pension of \$25 per month. A bill was recently passed granting Harman Mott, also of the latter place, an increase.

Jailed for Non-Support

At a hearing in Justice Scranton's court last Friday, Ota Buck, arrested at Dayton the day before on a charge of non-support, was bound over to court after a plea of guilty. He has a wife and child at Ft. Recovery.

Over the Top

By an American Soldier Who Went ARTHUR GUY EMPEY

When the Lusitania was sunk Arthur Guy Empey decided that he could not wait for his country to declare war—so he sailed without orders for England, and enlisted as a Canadian.

He recounts this incident in "OVER THE TOP" in less than five hundred words. In a few thousand more words he completes his experiences in England—and after that he is in France—for the greater part of the eighteen months before he was invalidated home, in the "Front Line Trenches."

"OVER THE TOP" is the first story by one of the American soldiers who went to France, has been a real combatant and has seen long service in the trenches.

Sergeant Empey tells what it actually means and feels like; to be wounded seven times; to live for a year and a half with mud and rats and shells; to be covered with "cooties" and never to get rid of them; to go "over the top" in a charge; to grasp for your gas helmet when a second's delay mean's death; to capture a Prussian; to get tangled up in barb-wire with that machine gun working a few yards away; to lie for thirty-six hours wounded and unconscious in "No Man's Land."

For a year and a half, until he fell wounded in "No Man's Land" this American soldier saw more actual fighting and real warfare than any war correspondent who has written about the war. His experiences are grim, but they are thrilling, and lightened by a touch of humor as original as the Soldiers Three. And they are True.

We take pleasure in announcing that we have secured serial rights to this remarkable story, and that it will appear in installments IN THIS NEWSPAPER It Is the Real Stuff!