

WESTERN FRONT IS BRISTLING WITH ACTIVITY

All Reports Indicate Preparations on a Large Scale, but When and Where the Blow Will Fall Is Only a Matter for Speculation

GERMAN FORCES ARE BEING MOVED

This Movement May Indicate That They Will Try to Break Through the Yser Line in Another Drive for Calais—French Continue Their Advantage in Champagne

The Franco-Belgian front is bristling with military activity. All reports indicate preparations for operation on a large scale.

The Germans recently closed the Belgian-Dutch frontier and there are reports of important troop movements behind the secret barrier.

In Champagne the fighting between the Germans and French continues brisk. Paris last night reported the regaining of all the trenches the Germans had taken on the commanding hill No. 185 in the region of Maisons de Champagne.

RETAKING TRENCHES.

French Advanced on Considerable Front in Champagne.

Paris, March 13.—The official communication issued by the war office last night read: "Between the Oise and the Aisne effective artillery fires were directed against the enemy organizations north-west of Vingre."

"In Champagne we delivered in the course of the afternoon a new attack against the German position, west of Maisons de Champagne on a front of 1500 metres. Our troops captured all the trenches the enemy had taken on Ridge 185 and penetrated a fortified work on the slopes north of Mameion. In the course of this action we took about 100 prisoners."

POSITION IMPROVED.

British Gained Slight Success Northeast of Bouchevaines.

London, March 13.—The official report from British headquarters in France last night read: "We improved our position slightly during the night northeast of Bouchevaines. Enemy trenches in the same neighborhood were entered by our patrols and a few prisoners secured. This morning we raided German trenches south of Arnas in spite of strong resistance by the garrison, bombed dug-outs and inflicted many casualties."

"The artillery activity on both sides was most marked in the Ancre area, the neighborhood of Arnas, Neuville St. Vaast and the Ypres sector."

"There was considerable aerial activity yesterday. Much successful bombing and reconnaissance work was carried out by our airplanes. Air fighting is continuous. Nine enemy machines were brought down or driven down damaged, four of which are known to have been destroyed. Five of our machines are missing."

ARTILLERY MORE ACTIVE.

In Somme Region, According to German Report.

Berlin, March 13, by wireless to Sayville.—A supplementary official statement issued last night by the German army headquarters staff says: "In the Somme activity continues. Also east of the Somme the artillery in several sectors is livelier than on preceding days."

"On both sides of Presba lake (Macedonian front) and in the Cerna region artillery fire, likewise has increased."

BERLIN SURPRISED

At the Fall of Bagdad Which Was Supposed to Be Strongly Defended.

Geneva, via Paris, March 13.—The fall of Bagdad caused the greatest surprise in Berlin and Vienna, according to news received here from those capitals. Quite recently the Austrian and German papers announced that owing to the large Turkish reinforcements sent from Aleppo and Smyrna Bagdad could hold out indefinitely.

It is expected that one of the early results of the occupation of Bagdad by

ARE HOPEFUL OF ADJUSTMENT

Railroad Brotherhoods Go into Conference with the Magnates March 15

ALSO TELL WILSON OF CO-OPERATION

In Case War Is Declared Before Negotiations Are Completed

Washington, D. C., March 13.—The railroad brotherhoods on March 7 wrote President Wilson, it became known today, formally notifying him of a conference with railroad representatives scheduled for March 15. In this letter the leaders declared they were hopeful of making a satisfactory adjustment of pending questions, and they also informed the president that if the nation became involved in war while they were negotiating they would co-operate to the fullest extent with the government.

SERIES OF STRIKES PLANNED ON R. R.'S

If Conference on Eight-Hour Day Thursday Fails to Result in Satisfactory Agreement.

New York, March 13.—Information received by the national conference committee, composed of the managers of the great railway systems, and made public by that body today indicate that four employees' brotherhoods have completed arrangements for a progressive series of strikes to begin at 6 o'clock (eastern time) Saturday night if the conference on the eight-hour question here Thursday fails to reach a satisfactory agreement.

COAL PRODUCERS GET WARNING NOT TO KEEP UP PRICE

Failure to Grant Usual Reduction Will Not Be Justified, According to Federal Trade Commission.

Washington, D. C., March 13.—The federal trade commission today notified the country's leading anthracite coal producers that any failure to grant the usual spring price reductions cannot be justified by claims of increased cost of production. The commission had heard, the notice says, that the producers intend either to withdraw or reduce during the regular season all discounts on the ground of the increased cost of mining.

A PATRIOTIC OUTBURST.

As Major-General Wood Sternly Attacked Pacifist's Words.

New York, March 13.—Major-General Leonard Wood, stirred by a criticism of compulsory service in an address at a banquet of the Economic club here last night, turned on the speaker, Rev. Adolf A. Berle, widely known as a lecturer on educational topics, and declared that the doctrine he preached "means the murder of our sons and the dishonor of our women."

General Wood had addressed the diners earlier in the evening. He asked for a second hearing after Dr. Berle had arraigned the advocates of compulsory military service and asserted that with three months training he could "hold his own with any officer in the field." Dr. Berle had said that preparedness had been "harped upon by every secretary of war for thirty years," and added that he saw no reason to become hysterical and attempt to organize an army in fifteen minutes larger than the Prussian army before the war which required 100 years to perfect.

General Wood's reappearance brought the diners to their feet with cheers. "Of course we want volunteer service, just as we want volunteer morality, just as we want everything that is good," asserted General Wood, "but none but a fool expect to get it."

Then turning to Dr. Berle, General Wood declared: "We have boys who are willing to serve, we are willing to die and I hope we are better prepared to die than you are."

Major Mitchell and a number of others crowded around General Wood and shook hands with him when he finished and the diners cheered again.

TURKEY BACKS DOWN.

Will Accept Temporarily the Four U. S. Consuls Transferred from Germany.

Washington, D. C., March 13.—Turkey has abandoned her attempt to draw from the United States recognition of her abrogation of the capitulation under which American citizens in the Ottoman empire are subject to the laws of their own country. Ambassador Elkins at Constantinople, it became known last night, has cabled that the Turkish government will accept "temporarily" the four American consuls recently transferred to that country from Germany, under the old form of exequatur empowering the consuls to act as extrajudicial judges in cases involving citizens of the United States and their property.

With this question cleared up, the state department now has forwarded another request to Germany that the four consuls who have been delayed at Munich be permitted to depart for their new posts in Turkey immediately.

LABOR OFFERS ITS SERVICES TO NATION

Action Was Taken Unanimously By Representatives of Many Unions, Although Hope for Continued Peace Is Expressed.

Washington, D. C., March 13.—Organized labor in America, through its representatives in conference here last night, offered its services to the country in every field of activity if, despite all endeavors and hopes, the United States should be drawn into the war.

The action was taken by unanimous vote of more than 150 delegates from national and international trade unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and five unaffiliated organizations including the great railroad brotherhoods. In all about three million American workmen were represented in the conference, called to determine and announce the part to be claimed by labor in national preparedness plans.

A statement formally adopted and issued after the meeting set forth, in addition to the offer of services in case of war, various demands which were held to be fundamental in safeguarding rights of workers in peacetime as well as in preparing for war. It was stated that the industrial service should be deemed equally meritorious as military service; that service should conform to trade union standards, and that organized labor should have representation on all agencies determining and administering policies of national defense and controlling publicity. The concluding paragraphs of the statement, pledging labor's support to the nation, follows: "In this solemn hour of our nation's life, it is our earnest hope that our republic may be safeguarded in its unswerving desire for peace; that our people may be spared the horrors and the burdens of war; that they may have the opportunity to cultivate and develop the arts of peace, human brotherhood and a higher civilization."

"But, despite all our endeavors and hopes, should our country be drawn into the maelstrom of the European conflict we, with these ideals of liberty and justice herein declared, as the indispensable basis for national policies, offer our services to our country in every field of activity to defend, safeguard and preserve the republic of the United States of America against its enemies, whoever they may be, and we call upon our fellow workers and fellow citizens in the holy name of labor, justice, freedom and humanity to devotedly and patriotically give like service."

INSTITUTION WELL KEPT.

And Patients Not Abused, Testified Retreat Attaches.

Brattleboro, March 13.—The legislative committee appointed to investigate the Brattleboro Retreat for the insane came here yesterday afternoon to take the testimony of persons connected with the institution and others in this locality so as not to require their presence in Montpelier.

Witnesses were Henry C. Wyman of Bellows Falls, Dr. Ernest L. Tracy, second physician at the Retreat until he recently bought a private practice, Dr. Herbert W. Taylor, first assistant physician, and the three trustees, Judge James M. Tyler, Rev. E. Q. S. Osgood and George C. Averill.

Mr. Wyman was an attendant from 1913 to 1915, in the men's department. He never knew of patients being abused and said the halls were kept clean and that he considered the food to be ample and of good quality.

Dr. Tracy said he never knew of the night watchman, Charles Hills, being intoxicated. He said Hills would not be employed there now if he got intoxicated. On one occasion, he said, a male attendant obtained some liquor and invited two or three others into his room and all got intoxicated and all were promptly discharged. He denied that he ever locked out a patient because he would not work, saying that it was optional with patients whether they would work or not.

Dr. Taylor was the principal witness. He said there was no difference in the treatment accorded state and private patients and that some of the state patients had the privileges of the best wards. In regard to Mrs. Hattie Guilford of North Adams, Mass., whose allegations of abuse while a patient resident in the present investigation, Dr. Taylor stated that she had a mental disorder of the kind that causes persons to remember as facts after their apparent recovery certain hallucinations which he had before their recovery. He had complete charge of her case and said she picked up with her finger nails at her patients and became infected, especially on her face, where she said she had scars made by acid burns. He said the allegation that her jaw was broken by an iron bar at the institution was wholly false and that her jaw was not broken there by any means whatever, as she was able to masticate food daily throughout her stay.

Dr. Taylor also denied that she ever was abused at the retreat in any way. He did not consider Mrs. Guilford as present entirely cured of her mental affection.

HAD EARNED DISCUSSION.

Ministers Almost Forgot It Was Lunch Time.

Discussions of papers presented by Rev. L. C. Carson and Rev. Verne Smith diverted the regular monthly meeting of the Ministers' Monday club in the Universalist church vestry today and so earnest were the deliberations that adjournment was not taken until nearly 2 o'clock this afternoon. Fifteen clergymen, living in Barre and towns about, were present. Rev. Edgar Crossland, the president, acted as chairman and devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. J. W. Barrett. The first paper, "The subject," by Rev. Mr. Carson, was the subject of lengthy consideration, and book review of "Work and Labor" (Hobson), by Rev. Mr. Smith led to an interesting discussion. After the meeting the clergy dined at Cafe Shepard.

BISHOP HAMILTON TO PRESIDE.

Over Vermont Methodist Conference at Waterbury Next Month.

Boston, March 12.—Bishop Franklin Hamilton of Pittsburg, Pa., will preside at the Vermont Methodist Episcopal conference at Waterbury, beginning April 15, it was announced today.

MAIL TAKEN OFF AMERICAN SHIP

British Authorities Held Up Standard Oil Tanker John D. Archbold

AND SEIZED 39 SACKS OF MAIL CARRIED BY IT

This Is First Time in American History That This Has Been Done

New York, March 13.—Mail carried on an American ship, the Standard Oil tanker John D. Archbold, was removed by British authorities at Halifax, according to officers of vessels which arrived today from Bergen, Norway. This is said to be the first time that a ship flying the American flag on the Atlantic ocean has been denied the privilege of transporting mail from a foreign country, either neutral or belligerent. The steamer was detained at Halifax for three days and 39 sacks of mail were removed for examination. The tanker resumed its voyage without it.

FOR COAST PATROL.

U. S. Government to Contract for 100 or More Fast Boats.

Washington, D. C., March 13.—Preliminary steps were taken by the navy department yesterday toward contracting for the quick construction of 100 or more high-speed coast patrol boats of a new type for scouting against submarines. At a conference in which a score of builders were represented assurances were given that deliveries should be begun within four months.

There was no announcement, but it is understood that contracts will be awarded shortly.

Details of the boats' armament and equipment are now being worked out, but they probably will not be made public. The patrols will be more seaworthy and have a much larger cruising radius than the standard "submarine chaser," an 85-foot gasoline motor boat.

Some of the companies represented in yesterday's conference have turned out large number of "chasers" for the British government.

Representatives of the major shipbuilders also appeared at the department during the day, bringing data concerning their corporations and plants, for which Secretary Daniels recently asked. The information is for use in determining the allotment of new construction and also is desired for the guidance of the government in the event it becomes necessary to exercise the authority granted by Congress for commandeering private establishments.

Secretary Daniels announced that bids for six coast cruisers of the 35-knot type, designed last year, would be opened Wednesday.

THAW IS ADJUDGED LUNATIC AND MAY NOT LEAVE PENN.

Pending His Removal to Pennsylvania Asylum, He Will Be Held at St. Mary's Hospital, Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, Pa., March 13.—Harry K. Thaw today was adjudged a lunatic by the common pleas court of this city and under law cannot be taken to New York on requisition to stand trial on the charges of assaulting Frederick Gump, jr., a high school student of Kansas City. Thaw will be kept at St. Mary's hospital, pending his removal to the Pennsylvania asylum.

The court's action is based on a report presented today by the lunacy commission, which yesterday took the testimony of Thaw and his mother.

ENGAGE COUNTY AGENT.

New York State Man and Cornell Graduate for Franklin County.

St. Albans, March 13.—The advisory council of the Franklin county farm bureau has engaged Mr. Elliot of Auburn, N. Y., as county agent and he will move his family to St. Albans at once and take up his new duties. The position has been vacant since last December, when Guy U. Tiffany resigned. Mr. Elliot was graduated from Cornell university in 1913.

The advisory council will make an active campaign in all the towns of Franklin county to secure a larger membership than the bureau had last year.

GOVERNORS TALKED ON PREPAREDNESS

Conference Held in Boston in Response to Invitation by Gov. McCall of Massachusetts.

Boston, March 13.—Plans for co-operation in military and industrial preparedness were discussed at a conference of governors of all New England states today. The governors of all the states accepted Gov. McCall's invitation to meet with him to discuss plans of common interest in the present disturbed condition of affairs.

GOING TO FRANCE.

Former Burlington Pastor to Join Ambulance Corps.

Boston, March 12.—Rev. Ernest G. Guthrie, pastor of the Union Congregational church, announced today that he had resigned and would sail for France next month to join the American ambulance corps. Rev. Mr. Guthrie was pastor of a church at Burlington, Vt., for six years before coming here in 1914.

THIRTEEN CASES SET FOR HEARING

Rather Short Term of Washington County Court Is the Outlook—Court Opened Today.

The March term of Washington county court opened at Montpelier this morning at 10 o'clock with Supreme Court Judge Willard W. Miles presiding. The condition of the jury calendar indicates that the term is likely to be short. Of the 33 cases on the jury calendar only 13 are set for trial, others being in a doubtful state, some discontinued and one sent to the supreme court. No cases were ready for trial today or tomorrow.

The cases set for trial are as follows: Charles Bianchi & Sons vs. Montpelier & Wells River railroad; Haglin-Stahr Co. vs. Montpelier & Wells River railroad; George W. Mann vs. Diversi Fruit Co.; Arthur Baker vs. A. B. Harris; in re L. Bart Cross estate, Jennie L. Barron et al. execs.; Marcelino Del Campo vs. Manuel & Erbesco; H. C. Moody vs. Harris Yett; Bert and Dora Dodge vs. Vermont Real Estate Co.; Rosa Brusa vs. Manuel Villa; Dynes Gilpin vs. Town of Northfield; Joseph Perkins vs. G. R. and Harry Bianchi; Joseph Perkins vs. S. Massucco; Dodge brothers vs. Central Vermont Railway Co.; J. J. Goodwin vs. Barre Savings Bank & Trust Co.

YOUNG MAN SENTENCED.

Arthur York Admitted Stealing a \$25 Rifle.

When a \$25 rifle, the property of Howard Blossom, an automobile agent, disappeared from the office at the Johnston & Gamble livery a few days ago, suspicion was directed toward Arthur York, whose favorite indoor sport is said to be hanging around livery barns. The theft was reported to the police and before long it was learned that the weapon had figured in a transaction between York and another young man. On a complaint made to Grand Juror William Wischart, York was arrested on a larceny charge Monday afternoon and arraigned before Magistrate H. W. Scott in city court. A plea of guilty was entered and York was sentenced to serve a maximum period of six months in the house of correction at Rutland, with a minimum of five months and 25 days. The respondent was removed to the county jail last night and will be transferred to the Rutland institution at once.

York has rather a unique record at police headquarters, where the official blotter records no fewer than four larceny charges preferred against him in a comparatively short time. Once he was arraigned for grand larceny and on three other occasions he was charged with petit larceny.

FREIGHT CONGESTION NEARLY RELIEVED ON N. E. RAILROADS

They Report That They Are Now Able to Handle Expeditiously All Cars Accepted by Their Lines.

Boston, March 13.—Officers of the principal railroads in New England reported today that their lines had been relieved of virtually all freight congestion. Embargoes, increased demurrage rates and other restrictions, together with the co-operation of shippers and consignees made it possible, they said, to handle expeditiously all the cars accepted by their lines.

Mr. Gerard expressed much interest in the international situation resulting from the Zimmermann note and eagerly accepted copies of newspapers containing dispatches regarding it. Asked for a statement on the subject, he replied that he had been silent for 7,000 miles and he would continue so until reaching Washington.

As far as is known, the only statement he made yesterday regarding his plans was to the effect that he would not accept the candidacy for mayor of New York City if that should be offered him. That statement was elicited by correspondents on board the steamer Governor Cobb, which brought the former ambassador and his party from Havana.

FUNERAL OF MRS. BINDEN

Was Held at the Home of Her Sister, Mrs. W. T. Calder.

Funeral services for Mrs. Marion (McDonald) Binden, wife of the late George Binden of Boston, whose death occurred at the home of her sister, Mrs. William T. Calder, 471 North Main street, Saturday noon, were held at the home Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The occasion brought together a number of Mrs. Binden's friends and there were numerous floral tributes. Rev. Edgar Crossland, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, was the officiating clergyman and those who acted as bearers are: Donald Smith, Angus A. Smith, Samuel Sinclair and John G. McLeod. The body was placed in the receiving vault at Elmwood to await interment in the spring.

THREE YEARS IN PRISON

For Hiring Incendiaries to Set Fire to His House.

Boston, March 13.—A sentence of three to four years in the state prison was imposed upon Harry Kapelan, a tailor, in the superior court yesterday for hiring incendiaries to fire his house in the East Boston district. It was charged at the trial, which resulted in a verdict of guilty 10 days ago, that Kapelan sought to defraud insurance companies. His case was one of a score developed by the district attorney's office and the police in connection with the investigation of a fire residence on High street, after returning from church.

WOMEN HURT IN FALLS.

Mrs. Rose Bonyea and Mrs. C. A. Kennedy of St. Albans.

St. Albans, March 12.—Mrs. Rose Bonyea of Catherine street tripped and fell on the street Saturday evening and received a fracture of the left arm.

Mrs. C. A. Kennedy broke both bones in her right ankle yesterday when she slipped and fell on the icy steps of her residence on High street, after returning from church.

TWO HOUSES IN DEADLOCK

Senate Insists on \$2,500 Salary for Fish and Game Commissioner

WHILE OTHER BRANCH WANTS ONLY \$2,000

Senate Applies for Conference Committee on Bill

The monetary value of a state fish and game commissioner to the state of Vermont was the subject of discussion in the upper branch of the legislature this morning and finally ended in the Senate insisting in its proposal of amendment to H. 125 making the salary of the commissioner not to exceed \$2,500 and a committee of conference was appointed. The House passed the bill making the salary \$2,000, an increase of \$300 over the present salary, but the Senate proposed to make the amount larger and this the House refused to concur in.

Senator Villas made a motion to accede to the House refusal and was supported by Senators DeWitt of Windham and Bigelow of Orange. Senator Morse opposed and was joined by Senators Hawley and Ricker. The motion failed to prevail by a ye and nay vote of 14 to 11. It was then moved to insist on the amendment and a committee consisting of Senators Morse, Dimond and Villas was appointed.

The Senate passed in concurrence six measures, none of which brought forth any discussion.

A joint resolution endorsing the position of William Howard Taft in advocating that after the close of the war the United States take the initiative in forming a league of nations to guarantee the future peace of the world brought forth a protest from Mr. Moore of Ludlow, who believed the House should give the consideration to such a resolution before adopting it and on his motion it was referred to the judiciary committee. The resolution originated in the Senate, where it was adopted last week.

The House disposed briefly of several minor bills on the calendar and there are indications that this afternoon's session will be full of interest with three special orders awaiting disposition.

The bill up for consideration at 2:15 o'clock was H. 385, relating to taxation of registered stock and closely followed at 2:30 by H. 383, which would repeal the direct primary and provide a referendum. The bill was unfavorably reported last week.

The bill, however, which is expected to awaken the most discussion, it having already been debated for nearly all of one day and part of another, is H. 111, the customs brokerage bill. The bill was unfavorably reported but was ordered to a third reading after a hard fight led by its sponsor, Mr. Steele of Highgate, and another bitter battle will be waged this afternoon commencing at 2:45 o'clock.

Another Bill for Tuberculosis Hospitals.

Just after Representative Howland's bill providing for the establishment of county hospitals for tuberculosis was passed by the House, the Senate committee on public health introduced a bill in the Senate for the state to establish hospitals or wards for the treatment of tuberculosis. This new bill provides that the state may establish separate hospitals or wards in connection with any hospital in this state when, in the opinion of the governor

(Continued on fourth page.)

BRISK FIRE IN LITTLE SHOP.

One End of Old Whitcomb Bros. Machine Shop Damaged.

Quick work by the firemen early this afternoon probably averted a disastrous fire in the machine shop known as Whitcomb Bros' plant, when flames which spread from a small kerosene stove gutted the south end of the building. Thomas C. Carson, who conducted a sales office for stonched supplies, is the principal loser, while a minimum loss was sustained by the Barre Savings Bank & Trust Co., which controls the property. That part of the building occupied by K. Linn Clark as a garage was damaged slightly by smoke, but the fire was confined to the room where it broke out. Mr. Carson's loss and that of the bank may total \$100, the damage to the building being covered by insurance. The storekeeper's stock was not protected, as Mr. Carson said he had been unable to obtain insurance because of the proximity of the garage.

John Arigli, a North Main street merchant, while on his way home to dinner at 12:30 o'clock, noticed the office room fire, and he turned in a general alarm from box 13, at the east end of Blackwell street. Before the first contingent of firemen arrived in the auto truck, a small crowd of men, stonemasons and others passing by the plant, had rallied to fight the flames, but effective work was not to be had until the regulars began flooding the place with chemicals. Furnishings about the store were blazing, and sheeting which covered the walls was afire when the firemen entered, but the chemical was used with such telling effect that the danger of a big fire was soon overcome. The all-out signal was given within a few moments after the firemen arrived, and the apparatus was returned to the station just before 1 o'clock.