

ARABIAN TROOPS JOINING ENGLISH IN HOLY LAND

TURKS IN PALESTINE FACING NEW FOE, DECLARES SECRETARY BAKER IN WEEKLY REVIEW—ALLIED FORCES GETTING READY FOR EXPECTED OFFENSIVE BY HUNS.

Washington, Feb. 20—After extensive preparations silently and systematically carried on, it is apparent that both the Germans and the Allies are ready for the long expected offensive in the west, Secretary Baker says today in his review of military operations for the week ending Feb. 16.

"While there have been outwardly no new developments in the military situation in the west during the period under review," says the communique, "yet it is apparent that both the enemy and the Allies, after extensive preparations, which have been silently and systematically carried on, are ready for battle. The Germans have recently withdrawn a number of their veteran west front units from the first line trenches and are busily training them in mobile warfare.

"According to advices received, the German general staff hopes that by massing a large number of these picked shock battalions, which have been intensively trained, they may deliver a crushing blow.

"The bulk of the German forces are now assembled in the west. But a large number of these units are wholly untrained in the method of western front warfare which differs radically from that conducted along other fronts.

Furthermore, the German higher command realize fully that their forces will meet with far more difficult tactical obstacles than any hitherto encountered by an attacking army. A break through was possible in Russia only after the morale of the Russians had been undermined; the same was true in Italy and we witnessed how speedily the Italian line was mended.

"During the week there has been much activity of a minor character along the entire western front. As has already been announced, in Lorraine a segment of the line is entirely under the control of our forces. Along our front patrol encounters were numerous. The Germans undertook a raid against our positions and succeeded in inflicting a few casualties. A small American patrol, while scouting in No Man's Land, was ambushed by the enemy.

"The weather was very rainy during the first part of the week and our troops were busy manning the pumps in an effort to keep their trenches dry. Later clear weather prevailed and hostile air craft made frequent flights to reconnoiter our positions. A marked improvement in our anti-aircraft barrage is reported. Artillery duels took place and the Germans showered our lines with gas shells, which, however, caused no casualties owing to efficient gas mask protection.

"In Champagne, units of American artillery participated in an engagement undertaken by French forces. This operation was the most important of the week in the west. After very careful artillery preparation, during which our batteries co-operated usefully, French infantry advanced to the assault southwest of the Butte du Meunil, along a front of about 1,400 yards. The French, succeeding in penetrating the German positions, broke through the second and reached the third German line. During this brisk attack the French destroyed many enemy shelters, inflicting much damage to enemy positions besides bringing back 150 prisoners.

"Other successful raids were undertaken by French detachments in the vicinity of the Chemin des Dames, east of Rheims, in upper Alsace and elsewhere. In all the French drove forward 12 very fortunate reconnaissance undertakings along different parts of the line.

"German units were also active. Their attempts to reach the French lines were temporarily successful in the vicinity of Besonvaux and in Alsace. However, seven German raids in various points broke down. French artillery kept the enemy constantly engaged along the widely scattered areas.

"The British front also was the scene of numerous minor engagements. No important action took place and the enemy, who was evidently busy with the grouping of units and disposing fresh forces recently arrived from other theaters, in the front line, undertook only such reconnoitering engagements as to familiarize the new units with the nature of the terrain in front of them.

"In the Italian theater the enemy has again assumed an aggressive attitude.

"The concentration of an important body of German cavalry in the vicinity of Riga is noted and it is believed the Germans may find it expedient to advance on Petrograd. It is difficult to determine the exact status of affairs in southwestern Russia. The Russian contingents are evacuating the Armenian centers south of the Black sea, which are being recaptured by Turkish detachments. Trebizond will probably soon fall into Turkish hands.

"It is important to record that large contingents of Arabs are joining the forces of the Sheik of Mecca, who is co-operating with the British.

"The Arabs have defeated the Turks in two encounters, occupied El Masrah, southeast of the Dead sea, and are advancing along the Hedjaz railroad toward Mann."

SEIZE PROPERTY OF ALIENS IN MANILA

Manila, Philippines, Feb. 20—Acting on behalf of the custodian of alien enemy property, Gov. Harrison seized today nine German and Austrian firms in Manila, naming one British and eight American receivers. The provincial branches of the houses were closed and placed in the hands of the constabulary, pending action by the receivers.

WHAT HAPPENS AS ITALY'S FRONTIER IS SHUT BY WAR

Many Humorous Incidents Are Recorded By Guards Watching Lines

RED TAPE OFFICIALS MADE EXPERIENCED

Bedrooms of House Which Are In Italy and Kitchen In Switzerland

Chiasco, Italy, Feb. 20—The Italian frontier is closed. Here at the international railway station of Chiasco, Italy's northern gateway, though it implies stranding of travellers, stagnation of commerce, accumulation of foodstuffs, and a score of equally disagreeable consequences, Italians and Swiss draw comfort from the knowledge that the longer the frontier is closed the more imposing is the number of troops pouring into Italy to help drive back the invader.

Closing the Frontiers. The methods adopted to close the various frontiers which shut the Swiss territory offer a contrast in national characteristics. Beyond Basle, when the object to close the German-Swiss frontier comes from Berlin, a barrier across the road is formed by fierce-looking German soldiers, who point bayonets menacingly even at the nurse maids who unwisely push their perambulators too close to the line of demarcation; outside Geneva, when the French-Swiss frontier is closed, the police nonchalantly drag a lorry across the road and pile up wheelbarrows on the pavement; the Austrian-Swiss frontier is closed, when the occasion arises, by a frayed rope which schoolboys in their fun creep under the leap over. At Chiasco the Italians, having no need for either wheelbarrows or bayonets, employ a lever-crossing type of gate to mark the end of Italy and the beginning of Switzerland.

Only One Person. The Italian Minister at Bern has crossed the frontier during the past 10 days. The Minister himself had to display a large collection of sealed, signed and cocketed documents, had to plead, argue, coax and threaten before the half-quilted Guardian di Finanze allowed him to pass into Italy.

"Well, we will let you in, Marquis," said the chief officer, finally; "but I am not so sure that we will let you out."

"I will bring back with me a passport signed by the Prime Minister and Cadorna themselves," replied the Minister, as the gate was raised and he entered Italy.

Frontier absurdities, of course, abound. The pedestrian may stand in Switzerland, but may not protrude his head over the gate, because, according to the opinion of the best authorities on the subject, the air over a country constitutes the territory of that country—and the head of the pedestrian would be in Italy.

Expensive Shave. An Italian one afternoon bitterly complained that the sudden closing of the frontier had incidentally produced the most expensive shave on record. He had crossed to pay his customary visit to the barber's shop on a Swiss territory, when the sudden closing of the frontier was announced. With soap still on his cheeks he hurried to the gate, but he arrived 20 seconds too late, and the guards proved inexorable. He estimated that in loss of wages, and cost of board and lodging on Swiss territory the shave had cost him 125 francs (over \$25) and was automatically augmenting.

Bedrooms in Italy. The plight of the occupants of a house situated partly in Italian and partly in Swiss territory, is equally ludicrous. The bedrooms are in Italy, and so, for over a week, the family have slept in the kitchen and living room, which are in Switzerland. Two Swiss chickens—to mention a third of these incongruities—were killed by the noise of a motor car, started across the frontier on another afternoon, have been detained by the Italian authorities, who base their action upon regulation 27 of the code governing frontier traffic, namely: "When the frontier is closed no live stock, dogs, or other animals, may be permitted to cross."

The inspiring character of the news which, in spite of all precautions, leaks out from the strong room of Italy, helps the 5,000 Italians who live here to endure patiently these minor crosses. All Italy, particularly all northern Italy, is aflame with patriotism. The knowledge that the enemy is on sacred Italian soil has galvanized this nation to giant efforts. (By the International News Bureau, Inc., Boston, Mass.)

Copenhagen, Feb. 20—An 13-year old German workman has been sentenced to six weeks imprisonment in Berlin for calling out to a passing detachment of soldiers, "Throw away your rifles and make an end of it."

HOLDING UP DRAFT FOR NEW LAW

Second Conscription Awaits Passage of Pending Legislation.

Washington, Feb. 20—Secretary Baker authorized the statement today that no date had been selected for the beginning of the second draft.

The government's disposition not to disturb the labor situation, particularly on farms at the planting season, is one of the factors entering the situation. The provost marshal general's office, it is understood, is disinclined to so early start the second draft until congress has perfected the law by passing amendments to change the basis of apportionment and to authorize the president to call the military service men skilled in industry and agriculture regardless of previous classification.

The remaining increments of the first draft will begin to move forward to the camps beginning this week. It is probable that next month local boards may be asked to forward small increments necessary to succeed men going overseas, but the expected summons of half a million men will be later.

Plans for the second draft include calling 100,000 a month, until the second quota is completed. In that way officials expect to avoid much of the confusion that accompanied the first call. The men will report in a steady stream and be assimilated into the military machine before the next lot is received.

It has been definitely settled that the first contingents will be used to fill vacancies in National Guard divisions caused by the withdrawal of men for the organization of special technical units. Similar vacancies in the National Army divisions will have been filled by that time from the final increment of the first draft.

ALLIED SHIPPING SITUATION GROWS BETTER STEADILY

Washington, Feb. 20—The low point of available Allied shipping has been passed, two or three weeks earlier than officials expected, and confidence was expressed today that the amount of shipping available for the future would increase steadily.

Several factors were said to have contributed to advancing the amount of available tonnage. Included among them were the increased efficiency of the offensive against the submarines and the beginning of deliveries from American shipyards.

The transfer of neutral shipping to trade outside of the war zone, thereby releasing Allied tonnage for transatlantic service, also contributed to the increase of available bottoms. Improvement in harbor defenses and facilities in France, so as to facilitate the unloading of transports, likewise tended to speed up the release of ships.

Food Administrator Hoover in a statement today called on all patriotic ship workers to enroll in the public service reserve. No amount of increased food production, decreased food use or increased shipping efficiency will help unless ships for sending food across the Atlantic are available, he said.

A. & B. FIRM WINS A JUDGMENT FOR MILLION DOLLARS

New York, Feb. 20—A judgment aggregating \$1,000,000 against Joseph H. Hooley, promoter, and associates was rendered yesterday by Supreme Court Justice Cobden in favor of the American & British Manufacturing Co. of Bridgeport.

The co-defendants with Hooley the Cramp-Roadley Co., Alfred H. Hooley, his brother; George E. Boushie, his secretary; William E. White and Alfred W. Blaisdell, directors of the plaintiff company. The exact amount of the judgment is \$999,389.62. Of this \$500,000 is for damages, the remainder for the following properties of the plaintiff company transferred to Hooley: \$30,000 in funds, \$121,000 in negotiable notes, \$178,000 in accounts receivable and \$170,000 in bonds.

"MADE IN GERMANY" WAR NEWS DISPATCH

New York, Feb. 19.—The German reading public is fed on such reports about the American troops in France as the following, circulated as a Geneva dispatch by a leading German news agency.

"In consequence of the increasing number of excesses by American soldiers in France and particularly in Paris, the American government has stationed in France a large number of policemen in plain clothes, who beat up, with rubber clubs loaded with lead, all disorderly American soldiers. Paris papers report that this measure has caused many incidents of the public taking the side of soldiers handled with such bestial brutality."

TROLLEY BRAKES FAIL TO WORK; OFFICER CRIPPLED

TRAFFIC POLICEMAN JOHN RYAN, KNOCKED DOWN BY CAR AT STATE AND MAIN STREETS—THROWN 12 FEET, BREAKING RIGHT KNEE AND INJURING HEAD.

Traffic Policeman John Ryan, was hurled twelve feet, had his right knee broken, his left leg badly lacerated and his right arm and head injured, when brakes on a Connecticut Company's trolley car, "1747", in charge of Motorman Daraly McClosch, failed to operate this morning at State and Main streets.

The accident happened a few minutes before nine o'clock when the policeman was directing traffic at the intersection of State and Main streets. He had just closed the traffic along Main street and was giving his attention to the vehicles on State when the trolley in charge of McClosch, coming north on Main street struck him.

According to the story told by the motorman, he tried to stop his car at the dead line, but his brakes refused to work, and although he shouted a warning to the injured policeman, the latter failed to hear him owing to the fact that the trolley vestibule was closed and there was no time to open the front window shield.

An ambulance belonging to the U. M. C. Company happened to be near at the time of the accident, and Sergeant Conroy, who had come to the assistance of the injured policeman, carried him to this machine and to the Emergency Hospital. Dr. J. F. Keegan attended the minor injuries and then had Ryan removed to St. Vincent's hospital where he now lies awaiting an X-ray examination of his injured knee cap.

From what doctors say there is little chance of the policeman ever resuming his duties on the force again, as the chances are he will be permanently crippled.

LLOYD-GEORGE'S GOVERNMENT IS AGAIN SUPREME

Describes to Capt. E. O. Cronan Method of Accomplishing the Crime.

NAMES "JOE THE WOP" AS HIS ACCOMPLICE

Prisoner Believed to Be Member of a Chicago Gang of Bandits.

London, Feb. 19, Tuesday—Premier Lloyd-George and his government have surmounted another crisis and the parliamentary waters appear to run smoothly once more after a week's turmoil, stirred up by the retirement of Gen. Robertson, chief of the imperial general staff.

In the House of Commons today the premier explained and defended the recent reorganization of the Versailles council with the added powers given to it and his dealings with the famous British chief of staff. There was no proposal for a vote of want of confidence, but H. H. Asquith, the former premier, expressed regret that the explanations had not been given a week ago, when the premier declared he could not get into the subject without giving information to the enemy. Mr. Asquith supported the right of parliamentary criticism in such matters.

The occasion was not as stirring as have been several other appearances of the Welsh premier before the house, when his administration has been under attack. His speech was a detailed but guarded recital of the proposals by which the four powers in Versailles had arrived at the principles of their latest form of co-operation. There were no oratorical passages except a few sentences at the close, when Premier Lloyd-George appealed to the country to get together in the face of a common danger.

The plan finally agreed on by the council, he said, was due largely to the strong logical representations which the American delegates had submitted in the form of a memorandum, and the premier several times referred to the influence that American policy had exercised on the conference.

He paid warm tribute to Gen. Robertson and expressed the regret of the government that it had been unable to induce him to take a position in which his abilities would be most useful. He declared that their personal relations always had been cordial.

Mr. Asquith asserted the country regarded with deep concern the recent enforced retirement of the government's chief naval and military advisers, Admiral Jellicoe and Gen. Robertson. The public and their own professions had the utmost confidence in these men, he said, and he thought the country had not that both retirements were preceded by a hostile press campaign. The public questioned whether these losses were compensated by the retention of the Earl of Derby in the war ministry and the appointment as director of foreign press propaganda—referring to Viscount Northcliffe, although he did not mention his name—whose newspapers had conducted the press campaign.

There was a little altercation between the two premiers over the question of Gen. Robertson's failure to approve the Versailles plan. Finally Mr. Asquith said he did not quarrel in the least with the decision of the Versailles council in respect to its functions. He took the view that the question at issue was a domestic matter and supported the view that the military representative in Versailles should be a representative of the chief of the general staff.

A majority of the morning papers accept the statement in the house of commons yesterday by Premier Lloyd-George as a satisfactory explanation and entirely approve the Versailles agreement and consider the whole incident straightened out. Hostile newspapers continue to accept the situation. They express the opinion that no government crisis is likely to arise at present, although they believe the government has been weakened by recent events.

Some of the papers that accept readily enough the premier's statement and commend it, nevertheless endorse the report expressed by former Premier Asquith that the premier had not spoken with equal clearness a week earlier. Several support the appeal of Austen Chamberlain that the government sever its connection with the press.

MEXICO PASSES PRO-ENTENTE BILL

Laredo, Texas, Feb. 20—Americans arriving from Mexico City say the Mexican Congress rejected a bill providing for benevolent neutrality by Mexico in the war solely because of constitutional provisions that give the president, not congress, authority to act on such a question.

The debate on the bill which was secret, is said to have been mainly pro-Entente, especially in the Chamber of Deputies.

SLAVIC MESSENGER RUSHES TO FRONT WITH OLIVE TWIG

HUNS TAKE 2,500 PRISONERS AND SEIZE RAILROAD ROLLING STOCK—UNREST GROWS AMONG WORKERS OF CENTRAL POWERS OVER DRIVE—AUSTRIAN PUBLIC DEMANDS THAT HOSTILITIES STOP.

LATE WAR BULLETINS

Amsterdam, Feb. 20—In an address to the lower house of the reichrath in Vienna Dr. Von Seydler, the Austrian premier, declared that under the peace treaty with the Ukraine there had been placed at the disposal of the Central powers the Ukraine's surplus of agricultural products. This surplus, the premier asserted, was greater than the Central Powers could transport.

London, Feb. 20—German workmen may rebel against the resumption of war against Russia.

Opinion expressed in newspapers of Germany is strongly against the new invasion of Slavic country. Murmurs in Austria are growing more distinct daily and the public is demanding a statement from Count Czernin assuring them that Austria-Hungary regards her war against Russia ended.

In the meantime the invading German forces have advanced to the northeast and east of Dvinsk, the German War Office announced today.

The text of the statement adds that 2,500 prisoners, several hundred guns and a great amount of rolling stock were taken.

3 AMERICANS ENLISTED AS BRITISH YOUTHS

Washington, Feb. 19—Senator Knox (Pa.) informed the Senate today that he had received the following telegram from fathers of three Pittsburgh youths who the parents charge were kidnaped by British recruiting officers, and spirited through Canada to the battle front.

"Joe Barbour, aged 16, Reed Miller, age 14, both under the name of Clayton, and Francis McKnight, aged 16, under the name of Semple, recruited by a local British officer and spirited to Canada Saturday night. Will reach Windsor, N. S., Tuesday. Mr. Helme, local recruiting officer, refused to take action. Have them stopped and returned at once at Montreal probably this evening. All are sons of American citizens. Copy of this message was sent to the Secretary of State."

The telegram was signed by the three fathers, and Senator Knox told the Senate that he had not intruded the matter in the Senate through fear that the United States executive authorities would fail to take all needed action in the premises. He had seen Secretary of State Lansing on the subject and was satisfied that he would co-operate with the British Embassy to obtain the return of the boys to their homes.

"My whole purpose," said Senator Knox, "is thus publicly to bring to the attention of the foreign recruiting officers within the United States to whom last summer was extended the privilege of opening recruiting offices to enlist their own nationals that we did not at the same time license them to kidnap American children—boys of 14 and 16 years of age and the sons of reputable citizens of an American town."

"I do not know to what extent these children were participants in this matter. All I know is the fact that they were of those tender years was presented to the local recruiting officer and that he declined to facilitate their return or make any effort to have them returned. If the facts are as they are alleged to be in this telegram I intend to bring this matter to the attention of the Attorney General and insist on prosecution, because it is worth while to give notice that the privilege we have extended to foreign countries shall not be abused in this flagrant manner."

A large section of opinion in Austria-Hungary also is alarmed over the prospect of a renewal of war with Russia. Dispatches from Amsterdam and Zurich quote Austro-Hungarian newspapers to this effect and a Vienna dispatch to the Vossische Zeitung reports a rising of feeling against Germany on account of her action against Russia.

The Neue Freie Presse and the Reichspost argue that as Austria-Hungary no longer has any enemy on her eastern frontier, she is not called to interfere in Russian internal affairs. The Arbeiter Zeitung, Vienna's leading Socialist newspaper, insists emphatically that Austria-Hungary must not take part in a new offensive. It thinks that the invasion of a totally defenseless country will gain the German government little support among the German workers, who, although they entered the war against cordium with enthusiasm, will not endorse its continuance for the purpose of overthrowing the labor government in Petrograd.

MONTANA WILL DIG OWN COAL

Washington, Feb. 20—Two states, Texas and Montana, notified the fuel administration today that they would take care of their own coal needs for the remainder of the war, although the production of neither heretofore has been sufficient to meet all requirements. Their intention is to increase their output to the point where they can do without shipments from the outside.

The Montana state fuel administrator will issue instructions that the people must put aside their hard coal burners and use the soft coal produced at home. Heretofore the state, which burns annually about 5,500,000 tons of coal, has bought from producers in other states slightly more than 1,000,000 tons.

SEVENTY-FOUR ON TUSCANIA STILL MISSING

Washington, Feb. 20—Seventy-four American soldiers aboard the torpedoed liner Tuscania remain unidentified or unaccounted for today, according to the latest checks of lists of survivors and missing available to the war department and the Associated Press. Included in this number are 33 unidentified dead buried in Scotland and 41 still reported as missing.

The names of 44 additional American soldiers who were rescued from the liner and one other listed as missing but who was not on the ship, were announced by the war department last night. Eight of these survivors had been reported previously by the Associated Press. Besides the 37 new names, 37 others, previously listed as missing, were found to be survivors today when the Associated Press lists of missing were checked against all available official records, leaving a total of 74 unaccounted for or unidentified.

London, Feb. 20—A German raiding attack on British positions near Arleux on Gohelle, south of Lens, was repulsed last night by the British, it is announced officially.

REPEL GERMAN RAID

Deos Vassos, a restaurant keeper, died from leprosy at Syracuse, N. Y.