



# FORT DOUAUMONT TAKEN

## GERMANS CAPTURE ONE OF THE FORTS ABOUT VERDUN

### One of the Strong Defenses Four Miles From the German Objective Falls Before the Teutonic Onslaught

Berlin, Feb. 26.—(Official)—Fort Douaumont, one of the fortifications of Verdun, was taken by storm yesterday and is now firmly held by the Germans. Fort Douaumont is the northeastern pillar of the permanent main line of fortifications. The Twenty-fourth regiment of Brandenburg infantry stormed the fort.

Fort Douaumont lies four miles northeast of Verdun. It is one of nearly a score of forts circling Verdun and is situated just to the north of the railroad running east from Verdun to Metz. The fort is one of seven protecting Verdun from the east. The conquest of the fort was made by the right wing of the huge attacking army. Verdun is 150 miles from Paris. Passage through Verdun marks a direct route to the French capital.

### KAISER PRESENT WHILE GERMANS ASSAULT LINES

Further Progress Reported in the Berlin Official Statement—French Attack in Champagne.

Berlin, Feb. 26.—(Official)—The Germans have made considerable advances east of the Meuse in the region north of Verdun in the presence of Emperor William. A hill southwest of the village of Louvemont, and fortified positions to the east have been captured. French resistance broke on the Woivre plain along the entire front to Marpho-ville, south of the high road from Paris to Metz. "We are pursuing the retreating enemy," it is officially stated. The French in the Champagne attacked German positions south of St. Marie-a-Py and penetrated the first German trenches over a distance of 250 yards.

Erroneous Report Corrected.

Berlin, Feb. 26.—(Official)—The capture of the village of Champneuville, in the Verdun sector, announced yesterday, was an error.

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN IOWA IS BADLY SPLIT

Des Moines, Feb. 26.—Two full Democratic state tickets may be placed before the Iowa voters at the June 5 primary as a result of the decision of the leaders of the so-called progressive Democrats to enter their own slate. Senator John T. Clarkson, of Albia, leader of the dry forces in the general assembly, was decided on as a candidate for governor in opposition to the regular Democratic ticket.

### ANOTHER TOWN IN ARMENIA TAKEN BY THE RUSSIANS

London, Feb. 26.—(Reuter Petrograd dispatch)—The Russians have taken by storm Ker-manshah, an important position and city in the neighborhood in which there was serious fighting recently.

### FRENCH VIEW OF PROGRESS MADE BY THE GERMANS

Positions Are Offering Good Defensive—Situation Considered Serious but the French Are Confident.

Paris, Feb. 26.—"Serious but not disquieting" is a common phrase used in official parliamentary circles regarding the Germans' progress against Verdun. Unaffected by the snowstorm the Germans hammered all day Friday at the French line, which now extends over but three miles. The French positions offered good defensive. Military observers expect a counter offensive to be launched at the decisive moment that will drive the enemy across the fields now covered by dead. "The work is very hot indeed," said an officer who returned from the Verdun battlefield. "The enemy's losses are really fabulous. Ours are slight, a feeble percentage of theirs."

### FRENCH REPORT ON VERDUN FIGHTING

Paris, Feb. 26.—(Official)—The Germans continue their violent attacks north of Verdun without regard to sacrifices. German attacks in the Douaumont region, east of the Meuse, failed notwithstanding repeated attacks and tremendous slaughter.

### OPERATION CAUSES THE DEATH OF BRIDE; HUSBAND ARRESTED

Chicago, Feb. 26.—To save his bride and himself from gossip, Dr. Lester Long, a young physician, performed three illegal operations on his wife, the last of which resulted in her death last night. He is being held pending the verdict of the coroner's jury. According to the police Long said that in three days he had performed three such operations, with his bride's consent. Blood poisoning resulted.

### SENATE CONFIRMS THE FLETCHER NOMINATION

Washington, Feb. 26.—The senate, by a vote of 49 to 16, confirmed the nomination of Henry Prather Fletcher as ambassador to Mexico.

### ENGLAND WITHOUT FIRST HAND NEWS FROM THE FRONT

Further News Concerning the Fate of Douaumont Is Anxiously Awaited by British Public.

London, Feb. 26.—The only word concerning the German claim of the taking of the armored fortress of Douaumont, outside of Verdun, comes through German sources. Further information is awaited anxiously, owing to the recognized strategic importance of the fort, which is of solid field works on a line of hills 1000 feet high. The last detailed information showed that the French were holding their lines two and a half miles beyond Douaumont, with the fortress and field works giving support. The Pall Mall Gazette says the French are sustaining an assault equaling in intensity the hottest engagements of the entire war.

### PAYETTE MAN IS THE BEST BUTTER MAKER

Spokane, Wash., Feb. 26.—J. R. Brown of Payette, Idaho, won first prize as the best butter maker at the Northwest Dairy Products show here. G. B. Bales, of Ellensburg, Wash., was second; George Van Kieffens, of Port Williams, Wash., third; H. H. Highfield, of Stites, Idaho, fourth, and J. G. Howe of Stevensville, Mont., fifth.

### COLLEGE OF IDAHO GETS EVEN BREAK IN TRIANGULAR DEBATE

(Capital News Special Service) Caldwell, Feb. 26.—The debating team of the Idaho Technical Institute of Pocatello last night won from the College of Idaho in the Southern Idaho Conference debate, on the subject, "Resolved, that the United States in addition to a mail subsidy, should subsidize our merchant marine." The Technical Institute team had the affirmative side of the question and was represented by Harold Dodge, William Leek and C. A. Myers. The team from the college was William Welsh, Ray King and Walter Kerrick. At Albion the affirmative team from the College of Idaho won over the Albion Normal team by a score of two to one. An excellent musical program was rendered in connection with the debate here, adding interest to the evening.

### Durazzo Is Evacuated by Italian Troops

Rome, Feb. 26.—Confirmation has been obtained that the Italians have evacuated Durazzo, the Albanian port on the Adriatic.

### PORTUGAL WILL LET TREATY WITH GERMANY LAPSE

Premier States That the Country Is Prepared to Meet the Eventualities That May Arise.

Lisbon, Feb. 26.—The Portuguese premier today in the chamber of deputies stated that attempts had been made to damage seven of the Teutonic ships requisitioned by Portugal and explosives had been found on the steamship Buelow, of the North German-Lloyd company. The premier considered it to the best interests of Portugal that the existing treaty with Germany be allowed to lapse. He said Portugal was prepared for the eventualities that might arise from Portugal exercising her rights.

### WAGE INCREASE FOR EMPLOYEES OF PACKING PLANTS

Sioux City, Feb. 26.—E. R. Murphy, of Omaha, general manager of the Cudahy packing plants, stated today that the Cudahy and Armour packing companies will advance the wages of the employees in all of their packing plants 8 per cent. Over 2000 men struck at the Cudahy plant recently for more pay.

### NAMPA BANKER SHOT ACCIDENTALLY; HAS VERY NARROW ESCAPE

(Capital News Special Service) Nampa, Feb. 26.—E. F. Larson, vice president of the Citizen's National bank, is suffering from a bullet wound which he accidentally received Thursday evening at his home west of Nampa. While reaching on a shelf for some oil for his automobile, he accidentally discharged a 22-caliber rifle which was on the shelf, the bullet entering his left breast and missing his heart by but a half inch. The bullet lodged just beside a rib close to the back bone, and while it can be detected from the outside, his physicians state it will not be removed at present. After being wounded, Mr. Larson walked from the garage to the house and told his wife and son what had happened. He is reported to be improving nicely and unless complications set in, which is not thought likely, a speedy recovery is anticipated.

### The Skating Craze

Ice skating—the good old wholesome sport of our forefathers, has now become a fad. Everybody is doing it. Sales of skates and accessories have been larger this season than in many years. Factories have been hard pressed to keep up with the demands. Have you all the equipment you need for the full enjoyment of the popular and invigorating sport? If not, the advertising columns of The Evening Capital News may help you in making a choice.

### COMMITTEE FOR BIG INCREASE IN STANDING ARMY

Votes to Have Strength of the Regular Army 140,000 Men—Revision of the National Guard.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The house military committee today voted for a regular standing army of 137,000 officers and men, with a 2 per cent allowance for recruiting, bringing the number up to 140,000, which is slightly more than the war department asked. All the Republicans and three Democrats carried the vote. The section of the army bill reorganizing the National Guard is framed to provide a maximum strength of 424,000 men, of which 50 per cent will be recruited within two years.

### BIG JUDGMENT IS GIVEN A FARMHAND

Des Moines, Feb. 26.—Louis O. Bates, a farm hand who worked 20 years on farms owned by the late Edward Howell and his daughter Jennie without salary, expecting as a reward that Miss Howell would be his wife, will receive \$15,300 as a result of the jury's verdict. Bates contended that he worked with the understanding that when Howell died he would marry Miss Howell. Howell died and his daughter died soon after. Bates then sued the estate for \$40,000 back pay.

### NEGROES ARE FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER

Danville, Ill., Feb. 26.—"Big John" Murphy and Milton Armstrong, negroes, were today found guilty of the murder of two Greek track laborers and sentenced to 99 years in prison. Both set up alibis, claiming they were robbing a Champaign store at the time of the murder.

### AMERICAN NURSES ARE OFF FOR THE FRONT

London, Feb. 26.—Thirty-three American nurses, most of them from Mercy hospital, Chicago, left London today for the British front. They were detailed to service six months in field hospitals. The nurses have been in London two weeks gathering equipment.

### OPPOSED TO MILITARY TRAINING IN SCHOOLS

Detroit, Feb. 26.—The department of superintendents of the National Educational association has adopted a resolution protesting against compulsory military education in the high schools. Physical training without military features was recommended. Jubilee of Chi Psi Fraternity. Schenectady, N. Y., Feb. 26.—College men from east, west, north and south to a total of several hundred, have gathered here for a big jubilee celebration in honor of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Chi Psi fraternity. The celebration is to be held under the auspices of the parent chapter, Alpha Pi, at Union college, where the fraternity was given birth in 1841.

## ITALY SENDS REPLY TO SUGGESTION FOR DISARMING OF SHIPS

### Canvass of Senate Shows That the Gore Resolution Will Be Defeated—Administration Supporters Are Ready for Issue to Come to a Vote

Washington, Feb. 26.—Secretary Lansing announced today that one of the entente allies had replied to Secretary Lansing's suggestion for the disarmament of ships. He declined to give the nature of the reply or to tell which government it was from, saying he probably would make all replies public when they were received.

Although Secretary Lansing declined to tell the name of the replying power, it was learned it was Italy and the reply was argumentative rather than conclusive.

It pointed out that Italian liners had given pledges not to use their armament except for defense when clearing American ports.

Chairman Flood of the house foreign affairs committee, exchanged views with Secretary Lansing. Senator Lewis, Democratic whip, notified Senator Stone that the president's supporters were ready for the Gore resolution to warn Americans against sailing on armed merchantmen to come to a vote at any time. A canvass of the senate showed there would be a safe majority against the resolution. Senator Lewis prepared a resolution which would commit the senate to an indorsement of the president's international policy in the present diplomatic crisis but could not introduce it, under the rules.

### Another Armed Liner Arrives.

New York, Feb. 26.—Napoli, the third Italian steamer to arrive here within the last few days with guns mounted, arrived today. She carried two three-inch guns mounted. She is a freighter.

### WILD RUMORS ON BOARD OF TRADE CAUSE DECLINE

Price of Wheat Falls Off Five Cents Because of Report That Germans Had Taken Verdun.

### AMERICAN NURSES ARE OFF FOR THE FRONT

Chicago, Feb. 26.—Wheat broke 54 cents today on account of depression in the New York stock market. Apparently many traders jumped at the conclusion that the Wall street declines pointed to increased tension over Germany's plans for attacks on armed merchant vessels. Rumors that Verdun had fallen accompanied the fall in prices. Denials of the rumors failed to check the downward plunge. May wheat went down to 1.13 1/4. July closed yesterday at \$1.16 1/4 and today at \$1.10.

### Break in Minneapolis Prices.

Minneapolis, Feb. 26.—Wheat broke over six cents a bushel today, following a report that Verdun had been captured. May wheat, which closed at \$1.18 yesterday, closed today at a range of \$1.10 1/4 to 1.11 1/4; July closed yesterday at \$1.16 1/4 and today at \$1.10.

### Big Drop at Portland.

Portland, Feb. 26.—The price of April Bluestem wheat went down 11 cents today on receipt of rumors that Verdun had fallen, in sympathy with mid-western markets. There were no sales but all bid prices were affected. April Bluestem was bid at 92.

### Parke Godwin Centenary.

New York, Feb. 26.—In local literary and journalistic circles today was recalled as the centennial anniversary of the birth of Parke Godwin, one of the most widely known editors and journalists of his day.

### NORMAN HAPGOOD SAYS COLLIER'S PAID BRANDEIS

Former Editor of Paper Tells Why Connection of Publication With Inquiry Was Kept Secret.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Norman Hapgood, former editor of Collier's Weekly, today told the senate judiciary subcommittee investigating Louis D. Brandeis' nomination to the supreme court that Collier's employed Brandeis in the Ballinger-Finchot investigation because Collier's wanted to support L. R. Glavis, whose charges against Ballinger it published and for whom Brandeis ostensibly appeared.

"We felt that if the newspaper appeared in the litigation it would detract from the main issue and we wanted to avoid the appearance of desiring to get into limelight," said Hapgood. No attempt was made to deceive anyone about Brandeis' employment, Hapgood said. During the hearing at least three witnesses referred to Collier's in such a way as to show they knew Brandeis was representing it.

### TWO MORE BRITISH STEAMERS ARE SUNK

London, Feb. 26.—The British steamer Denaby and the steamer Tummel have been sunk. Seven members of the crew are missing. Of five survivors picked up, two died.