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ITALY TOTTERING ON VERGE OF CAULDRON

Great Activity On Austro-Italian Frontier and Declaration Is Expected Any Moment—Long Expected "Spring Drive" of English Is At Last Begun—British Hurling Fresh Troops At German Line In Hope of Pressing Them Back To Own Line of Defense

Rome, April 20.—Italy's last word to Austria—expected to take the form of ultimatum—may come at any time. The action is ready for war. Even the pro-Austrian party has lost hope. It is expected today that the government is merely making time until the selected hour shall arrive. So certain is of belief that the conflict cannot long be postponed that the Austrian ambassador has wired his brother to prepare his Innsbruck villa for occupancy. Upon the frontier the greatest activity is in evidence.

By Ed L. Keen, United Press Staff Correspondent.

London, April 20.—After months of waiting and trench-fighting, the British "spring drive" in France and Belgium has a reality. From a point near the Belgian coast, southeastward to the vicinity of the Kitherner's army is forcing the Germans back. The center of the attack is east of Ypres where heavy fighting is reported. Already the capture of an important height known as Hill 60 has been reported by Field Marshal Haig. With fresh British troops having arrived at the front, the main British offensive is believed to be attacking on the main line of attack beyond Pilken. A major line of attack, however, extends over a front of nearly 40 miles.

To Retain Belgium.

It is expected today that the movement, which is referred to officially as "important," is the beginning of the attempt to retake Belgium. Should the present drive of the British succeed in driving back the Germans from their present positions in Belgium, they would be in grave danger of being hurled back upon their line of communications. This would be of the greatest assistance to the offensive being directed by General Joffre, and, it is believed here, might result in the expulsion of the Germans from northwestern France as well as King Albert's territory.

French Active in Alsace.

Extremely active is being shown by the French in Alsace where they are directing their drive toward the Rhine with the greatest determination. The number has improved in that section.

Steel Company Asks For Railroad Receiver

Chicago, April 20.—The American Steel and Foundry company, of New Jersey, today filed a petition in the federal court here asking that a receiver be appointed for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad.

The new development in the trouble of the financial difficulties of the Rock Island was met by an answer filed by attorneys for the road, denying the allegations of the petition asking for a receivership. The petition declares the Rock Island is not able to meet current expenses on its assets.

Chicago Carpenter appointed Jacob M. Johnson, former secretary of war, and M. Madge, president of the Rock Island, as receivers for the road in response to the petition filed. The receivers were placed under bond of \$100,000 each.

Mason Says Germans in West Are on Defensive

By J. W. T. Mason, Former European Manager of the United Press.

New York, April 20.—It is probable that the French reports describing the Germans in the west as permanently on the defensive are true.

Reports of what might happen in France and Belgium before the war had included the possibility that the Germans might develop a new offensive against Paris or upon the coast of Calais. But as winter passed and spring is now fast approaching, the conclusion must be reached that the German offensive is dead.

This, however, is not precise meaning that the Germans could not develop an offensive in either France or Belgium. The withholding of a statement is an element of the fact that the Germans have learned their lesson.

It is now years the Germans have been on the offensive, at Soissons in the middle of January.

and the condition of the roads now permits the movement of artillery.

It is not believed this fighting toward the eastern extremity of the battle line is as costly in human lives as that developing in Belgium, however. The British losses are extremely heavy, it is admitted, as the attack is being directed against very strong entrenchments. Much of the fighting is being done at close quarters with mining operations playing an important part.

Advance Is General.

Paris, April 20.—The fighting developing at several important points is believed today to be preliminary to a general advance which is to be attempted. The greatest activity is being shown about Soissons, Rheims and in the Argonne, it was stated in the last communication from the war office.

That the fighting is being pushed with utmost vigor was indicated by the enforcement of a strict censorship today.

The capture of Roland Garros, the great French aviator, has been explained by the war office as being due to his motor stopping while he was on a reconnoitering expedition. Garros endeavored to parachute into the French lines, but landed in one of the chief German trenches where he was made prisoner.

French Are Repulsed.

Berlin, via wireless to Savville, L. I., April 20.—Renewal of the German sapping attacks in the Champagne region and repulse of the French in attacks upon positions at other points along the battle front were reported by the war office today.

A French attack north of Four de Paris failed," the statement declared. "Between the Meuse and Moselle there is only one isolated artillery fire. A French attack near Fliery broke down before our artillery fire.

"Near Croix our troops entered the enemy's main position. The Germans also stormed and re-occupied the villages of Ember and Menil in the Vosges. A French attack against the Sillacker Heights failed. Our advance about Hartmannswillerkopf gained 100 meters.

"The situation on the eastern front is unchanged."

When a company comes, a woman puts a lot of things on the table that she knows will not be tasted. She puts them there just to be in the way and make a showing.

Long Beach, Cal., April 20.—John B. Hope, Jr., aged 22 who said he was the son of a wealthy attorney of Beverly, Massachusetts, and a Princeton law college graduate, shot himself in the temple last night at the door of Mrs. Sara Farrar's home here, where he had been staying since August, and died early today in the Long Beach sanitarium.

Hope left a letter to Mrs. Farrar, written in endearing terms. Debts which he had incurred and failure to receive money from his people, together with an alleged complicated love affair, are believed to have brought about despondency, which prompted his act.

Although the German military leaders have shown wonderful foresight and remarkable powers of organization they were prodigally wasteful of reserve ammunition early in the war. So were the allies. Both scattered their fire instead of concentrating it, and only lately has the preponderating power of unlimited artillery fire centered upon a small area been recognized. The Germans and allies both now lack ammunition for this purpose.

With the lack of ammunition and the necessity of sparing life, with a large part of the enemy's territory in their possession and the extreme hazard of trench warfare the all-exerting influence upon the German general staff, it is difficult to believe that a new German offensive in the west will be attempted. So far as the German offensive is concerned, the war is probably ended in France and Belgium, unless and give the Teutons an unexpected opportunity.

HIRED MAN IS NOT "EMPLOYED" UNTIL HE ASSUMES HIS TASK

Supreme Court Hands Down Decisions In Important Cases This Morning

Upon the ground that the trial court erred in refusing to instruct the jury upon the law of contributory negligence and in striking out defendant's plea of same, the supreme court this morning reversed the decree of Judge Cleaton, of the circuit court for Multnomah county, in the case of Joe Susnjak vs. the Alger Logging company, and remanded the case for a new trial. This is a case in which Susnjak was awarded a verdict for \$15,000 damages for personal injuries against the defendant company. The opinion was written by Justice Benson.

The defendant is a Portland corporation, with headquarters in Portland, but its logging camp is located in the state of Washington, near Shamokawa, where the plaintiff had been engaged to work as a "wood buck" and was on his way to the camp to go to work for the defendant when he was injured by being struck with a locomotive operating a logging train for the defendant company.

Two important points of law laid down by the supreme court in this case are that, although the plaintiff had signed up to work for the defendant he was not actually in their employ until he had gone to work and, therefore, the action for personal injuries did not come under the jurisdiction of the Washington compensation act, but under the law governing transitory actions; and that, even though the plaintiff paid no fare to ride upon the defendant's logging train on his way to work, the company was responsible for any accident which might befall the plaintiff while a passenger upon its train by consent.

Merchants' Regulatory Act Void. Holding that the act of the legislature of 1913, licensing and regulating commission merchants, is unconstitutional in that it clothes the railroad commission with extraordinary powers of regulation and control in the body of the act, no hint of which provisions is given in the title, the supreme court this morning, in an opinion written by Justice Benson, affirmed the decree of Judge Davis, of the circuit court for Multnomah county, in which the prosecution of B. H. Levy and J. J. Cole, under the provisions of the act, is dismissed. Defendants were found guilty in the district court for Multnomah county and fined of \$25 each were assessed when appeal was taken to the circuit court.

Canton Sentence Affirmed. Ruling that the admission of evidence and the court's instructions to the jury upon the question of corroboration of testimony of an accomplice, were in all respects regular, and that, although it is admitted that the minor accomplice is a degenerate he is of sufficiently sound mind within the eyes of the law to admit his testimony as evidence, the supreme court this morning affirmed the judgment of Judge Calkins, of the circuit court for Jackson county, in the case of the state vs. W. J. Canton. Canton, the defendant, has been practicing law in Oregon for the past 24 years, was a prominent and respected attorney, was convicted of a statutory crime upon the person of Richard Coffman, and was given an indeterminate sentence of one to 15 years in the penitentiary.

Other decisions today were as follows: J. M. Toomey vs. J. D. Casoy, appellant, appealed from Multnomah county; involving rental of a lease of real estate. Opinion by Chief Justice Moore. Judgment of Circuit Judge Davis in favor of plaintiff affirmed.

Frank A. Pierce vs. Bertha F. Parks et al, appellants; appealed from Coos county; suit to reform deed. Opinion by Justice Eakin; judgment of Circuit Judge Cole in favor of the plaintiff modified and affirmed.

F. E. Smith vs. W. S. Mott, appellant; appealed from Marion county; action for the recovery of money. Opinion by Justice Benson; judgment of Circuit Judge Kelly for plaintiff affirmed.

Frozen T. Love vs. Edwin Linstedt, appellant; appealed from Multnomah county; suit to compel specific performance of a contract to purchase land. Opinion by McBride; Circuit Judge Davis' judgment for the plaintiff affirmed.

State of Oregon, appellant, vs. Port of Bandon, involv'g legality of creating port, former opinion of court adhered to. Opinion by Justice McBride; Circuit Judge Cole's judgment for defendant affirmed.

Petitions for rehearing were denied in Josie Pullen, appellant, vs. City of Eugene; Nye vs. Lincoln County Bank; Sonniksen vs. Hood River Gas & Electric company; Robinson vs. Hicks; Taylor vs. Peterson.

GROCER SUICIDED. Watsonville, Cal., April 20.—John W. Stow, 31, manager of a grocery store here, committed suicide early today by blowing his head off after he is said to have confessed to embezzling funds of the firm. He was a native of Watsonville and prominent socially.

CLIMAX IS COMING AND TEST FOR U. S. WILL COME WITH IT

President Wilson Makes Stirring Speech To Members of United Press

AMERICA WILL HELP IN RECONSTRUCTION

Basis of Neutrality Is Not Indifference But Sympathy For Mankind

DECLARES MEN ARE SLANDERING NATION

Has Complete, Abiding Faith In Great Body of Silent Americans

BY JOHN EDWIN NEVIN

New York, April 20.—An admirable libel of ignorance was the characterization made by President Wilson this afternoon of suggestions that America would be divided should it have to enter the war at the present time.

In a stirring address before members of the United Press, the president appealed for real neutrality. This is the



PRESIDENT WILSON

duty of America, he said, to think of America before Europe. The real test of neutrality, the president declared, was not to be sympathetic with one side or the other, but to get ready to aid both sides when the time arrived.

The president also denounced the publication of false reports such as the recent Turtle Bay stories regarding Japanese activities on the Mexican coast, which he said could not be defended. The president spoke in part as follows:

"I am deeply gratified by the generosity you have accorded me. It makes me look back with a touch of regret to former occasions when I have stood in this place and enjoyed a greater liberty than is granted me today. There have been times when I stood on this spot and said what I really thought and I pray God that those days of indulgence may be accorded again; but I have come here

(Continued on Page Six.)

The Weather

Oregon: Fair to night and Wednesday; cooler east portion to night; westerly winds.

CAN'T PAY ARREARS AT ELEVENTH HOUR DECLARES COURT

Insurance Policy Cannot Be Revived Upon Death Bed of the Insured

"The assured cannot take chances and make default during good health and afterwards, when death threatens, come forward with the arrears and claim the insurance. None the less, under such circumstances, can the beneficiary at the eleventh hour take up a project which the assured has abandoned and expect to profit thereby."

Thus saying, the supreme court reversed the decree of Judge W. N. Gates, of the circuit court for Multnomah county, in the case of May E. A. Hartman and others, vs. the National Council of the Knights and Ladies of Security, in which the plaintiffs were given judgment for \$1000 upon a policy held by their mother in their favor in said fraternity.

In this case it was shown that the mother had failed to pay her dues for two months, and that when the mother took sick with typhoid and uremia and was confined to the hospital, the daughter paid up the arrears on the policy, and, after death of the mother, attempted to collect the insurance. The opinion was written by Justice Burnet.

State Jurisdiction Over Saloons. That the issuance of all saloon licenses by municipal corporations and powers given municipalities by the home rule amendment to the constitution are still subject to the constitution and criminal laws of the state, even though it reads: "the voters of every city and town are hereby granted exclusive power to license, etc.," the supreme court, in an opinion by Justice Eakin, this morning affirmed the conviction of Fritz Baesen of the crime of selling liquor to a minor in the circuit court for Clatsop county, before Judge Campbell, and held that his liquor license was automatically annulled upon such conviction under section 2142 of Local's Oregon laws. In this case the court also held that the foreman or member of a grand jury may be properly called as a witness for the purpose of identifying the defendant.

HEROISM OF CREWS RECORDED BY BRITISH ADMIRALTY TODAY

London, April 20.—The heroism of volunteer crews of two British patrol boats which steamed into the Dardanelles and destroyed the submarine E-15 that the English vessel might not fall into the hands of the Turks, was recorded by the admiralty today. Contrary to the claims of the Turks that the E-15 was sunk by their guns, the admiralty declared it was demolished by the two patrol boats when it was seen in the position of the submarine was hopeless.

The E-15 ran ashore inside the straits after making a dive. Under the fire from the Turkish forts the submarine was soon disabled but might have been salvaged and placed in serviceable condition. The patrol boats then put out, and, though subjected to 200 shots from the Turkish forts, ran within range of the E-15 and discharged a torpedo which demolished the straggling vessel. One of the patrol boats was sunk but the crew of the other rescued the volunteers from the boat which was struck. One seaman was lost in the performance of the feat.

Some wives spend a lot of time regretting the fact that they are so much better than their husbands.

A world-wide crusade on behalf of the good reputation of the French women is to be begun at once. The world at large is to be taught that she is all that a woman should be, and especially the neutral nations in the present war are to be taught to love and respect her. For the crusade is a direct outcome of the war.

With their husbands, brothers, fathers and sons dying in the trenches for "la patrie" the women of France declare they have been stung to the quick by the impression spread abroad that they are unworthy of the men who are thus nobly dying for France. This impression they declare is nothing less than a part of the campaign which Germany has carried on the world over to the detriment of France. Especially they insist have the Germans sought everywhere to instill the ideas that the French women of today is a mere "being of lightness and decadence."

In support of these charges against the Germans, the women of the committee diffused they insist by Germany is all parts of the world. New agencies, subsidized newspapers, correspondents, pamphlet writers, and even private correspondence are a few of the means which they insist Germany has employed to this end.

A counter-organization, not to black-

en the character of the Germans, but to make the world know and love the real character of the French woman, is what the committee plans. As yet it has not made public what will be its method of campaigning, but it has established permanent headquarters and invited not only the women of France, but French women in every country in the world to join in the crusade.

The French authorities are having a great deal of difficulty in locating German spies that they are in finishing small boys who persist in running away from home and joining the troops at the front. Recently the number who have gone to save "la patrie" has become so great, that special guards have been placed at all the depots to prevent their departure.

One of the latest to clude these and presumably to reach the front where he has not yet been located is 12-year-old Edmond Lioret, who lived in the rue de Reubaines at Meaux. He went to Reubaines himself on the "boches" for having wounded his brother. The note he left to his mother reads: "Mamma; it is not worth the while to try and find me, as I have gone to the front. Remember that a Frenchman must always die for France, I have gone to revenge Leon. Adieu!"

M. Valery Radot, son-in-law of Pasteur, has just opened a hospital at Reilly for soldiers rendered blind during the present war. The number of these is declared to be far greater than any one up to the present moment has supposed.

Aside from hundreds of cases of blindness brought about through direct injury to the eyes, it has been found that even more cases develop in an indirect way. These come from fragments of bursting shells which strike the soldier at the base of the spinal column. The injury to the nerves there brings about blindness. It is especially this class of cases that M. Valery Radot will undertake to provide for at his hospital. He already has 250 cases. Those for whom a cure cannot be effected will be taught an occupation and positions found for them where they will be self supporting.

"PROVE YOUR CHARGES" IS GAGE THROWN OUT

Barnes Submits Evidence Before Noon Luncheon And Roosevelt's Attorney Admits Alleged Libelous Statements—Surprise Is Sprung When Colonel Is Called To Stand—Calls Him "Arbiter of Nation's Morals"—Witnesses Tell of Highway Frauds, Padding of Payrolls, Demoralization of Penal Service, Etc.

(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

Sprague, N. Y., April 20.—"Prove your charges!" This was the gage of battle thrown down today by the forces of William Barnes, Jr., who is suing Colonel Theodore Roosevelt for \$50,000 libel damages.

Barnes evidence was virtually all submitted before the luncheon recess. Attorneys for Roosevelt admitted all the facts in connection with the alleged libelous statements, in which the colonel accused Barnes of being a political pal of "Boss" Murphy of Tammany Hall.

After it was announced by the defense that Colonel Roosevelt probably would be the first defense witness in the afternoon the Barnes lawyers sprung a surprise by calling the colonel to the stand.

Those watching the case believe that the colonel will attempt to meet the challenge of attorneys for Barnes, who told the jury that it was up to Roosevelt to prove that Barnes was "in alliance with crooked business and crooked politics."

"We will now call upon this man, this power, this arbiter of the nation's morals, to prove that statement," yelled William M. Ivins, attorney for Barnes.

Roosevelt's legal battery immediately met the issue. "This is a fight for decent government," roared the colonel's lawyer. "The attack of Roosevelt was not made against individuals but against the system."

It was anticipated that, in support of this assertion, sensational political disclosures would be made. Agents of big political figures were said to be in the courtroom.

Roosevelt listened intently to Ivins' criticisms of himself. When the alleged libelous statement was read, the colonel bobbed his head continuously in emphatic approval.

The defense complained to Justice Andrews about Travis' refusal to produce the documents. Andrews did order their production, but said that another effort should be made to obtain them. He expressed a willingness to issue an order for the production of any state records that might be desired, if all other means of securing them proved futile. Counsel for Barnes did not object to the production of the evidence.

Continuing his opening statement to the jury, Attorney Ivins traced Roosevelt's career to show the great force behind the alleged libelous charge against Barnes.

"Roosevelt," asserted Ivins, "became the greatest arbiter of opinion that has ever been known in the United States."

Ivins recited Barnes' opposition to Colonel Roosevelt in the republican national convention in Chicago in 1912 and declared the colonel's defeat there had caused "trouble." Because of Roosevelt, Ivins said, State Senator Harvey Hinman had proclaimed his independence of Barnes.

"A statement of the truth is not libelous," said Ivins, in accepting the issue of justification and the truth raised by Colonel Roosevelt's reply to Barnes' suit. "But that does not give the privilege to defame."

Colonel Roosevelt, after looking over a number of legal papers, gave close attention to the statement of Barnes' counsel, nodding and smiling interestedly during the recital. Barnes did not change expression.

Justice Andrews indicated during the morning that he might rule out some of the testimony to be offered by the defense in support of its plea of justification. He said that while some of the colonel's evidence might be admissible, other parts of it might not be. Opening the battle for the defense, Attorney William H. Van Benschoten said that Barnes denied Roosevelt's right to fight for decent government.

Example of Work. As an example of the work of the system which Van Benschoten said (Continued on page six.)