

GERMANS PREPARING TO ABANDON LA FERRE

FIVE BILLION LOAN TO THE ENTENTE IS PROPOSED

NO HALF MEASURES IN WAR

America Will Take the Initiative If War Comes

NOT AGAINST NATION

Our Quarrel is With the German Government, Says Washington.

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, March 24.—The United States government is getting ready to put into effect measure of the most far-reaching and aggressive character in the event of war with Germany.

It will not be satisfied with mere attempts to protect American merchant vessels. Its preparation will be designed to meet any eventuality along war if necessary. There will be no half way measures.

This program was agreed upon at long cabinet meeting yesterday and it guided the council of national defense when it met today with its advisory commission.

The program decided upon includes military, naval, industrial and financial measures.

The question of sending an army abroad will be left for future consideration.

Whether political alliances with Entente allies will be formed is not known although military as well as naval co-operation is possible, and the government will furnish both money and supplies to the allies without stint.

Suggestions before President Wilson today included the possibility of floating a loan of five million dollars for Entente.

When President Wilson goes before Congress soon after it meets in executive session on April 2 he is expected to make it clear that the government of the United States will not be prompted by hostilities toward the German people but only by the acts of the German government.

So far the President has given only preliminary consideration to his address to Congress.

The object of today's meeting of council of national defense with its commission was to take an inventory of what has been done in the way of industrial preparedness and to decide what future measures are necessary. The council is expected to take an important part in the conduct of actual warfare.

City Hall Notes

Signs of spring are beginning to stir things about the Municipal building. Doors have been flung open, fires remain unlighted each day and talk (when there is a moment or two in which to talk) is always concerning garden planting and the price of potatoes and how easy it would be to make a million out of a few chickens. The war has taken a second place in the conversation activities.

The checker and chess tournament being held at the Fire department is on the home stretch this afternoon with Assistant Chief Doolittle leading with chess reports in his favor and Chief Harr being dethroned from checker champion in favor of Tom Powell.

NEW BOWLING RECORD.

GRAND RAPIDS, March 24.—A new world record in doubles was made at the American Bowling Congress tournament here today by Gus Santorinus and Wm. Hoksuh of Peoria, Ill. The score was 1346.

Honors For Moewe's Commander

LONDON, March 24.—A Central News dispatch from Amsterdam says it is reported from Berlin that Count von Dohna-Schlotden, commander of the Moewe, has been appointed aide le camp to Emperor William.

WILLIAM MUESSER WILL ERECT CITY'S TWO NEW BRIDGES

His Company Was Selected by City Commissioners Today.

COAL RUN BRIDGE FIRST

It Will Cross Ravine Where Present Structure Does.

The first vote taken at the meeting of the Board of Affairs this morning gave the contract for the erection of the Monongahela river bridge and the Coal run bridges to William Muesser, of the Concrete Steel engineering company. The vote carried unanimously.

A report submitted by Street Commissioner Albert Lehman and City Engineer Shrewsbury Miller was presented and written in the minutes of the meeting. The report was made last night following a deadlock vote yesterday at which two of the commissioners stood for The Concrete Engineering company and two for Sanderson and Porter, industrial engineers of New York.

The report in part stated that a vote of the bridge committee which consisted of the four commissioners and three citizens stood five to two for the same engineer to build the two bridges and five to two for The Concrete Steel engineering company. The bridges are to be built out of the bond issue of December 5, 1916, at which election the city voted for an expenditure of \$760,000 for the erection of two bridges and street, sewer and general improvements.

The Coal run bridge will be erected first at a cost of \$100,000. Upon the completion of this river bridge will be started and will cost \$360,000. The river bridge will not be the longest span in the world as the first tentative plans submitted showed. This, according to many engineers will be impracticable and will also cost much more than the amount appropriated for the work. The Coal run bridge will be built in the same location the present bridge occupies.

INDUSTRIAL FAIRMONT

Some additional equipment has been purchased by the Harry B. Coal and Coke company for their mine at Pitts Run, near Clarksburg. One hundred additional mine cars have been purchased and a new electric haulage motor installed. These additions will be about double the output of the mine. A huge bin for storing coal has been constructed at the mine at Everson and this will materially increase the output of this mine since it will enable them to work it on the days when cars cannot be secured. The Maderia Hill Coal company has opened a new mine, which is electrically equipped, at Wilsonburg and have installed electrical equipment in mine No. 1 at that place.

Lloyd Layman, who with his brother owns and has been operating a number of coal mines, is contemplating the purchase of a motor truck for transporting the coal to the railroad. The mines that are being operated are not located on the railroad and the boys have been hauling the coal in wagon awaiting the action of the Pennsylvania road in regard to the small track operator. But now that this has been settled the improved method of transportation will be adopted as soon as the business warrants it.

At a meeting which was held at Jane Low last night the final touches were placed upon the organization of the Graham-Scharfnecker coal company. This concern which has had a charter for some time has a paid up capital of \$25,000 and the mines are in such shape that will be able to ship coal within two weeks. The officers of the new company are T. H. Graham, president; Alex Watson, treasurer and J. J. Scharfnecker, general manager. The concern, however, is a promotion of Alex Watson and the success of the enterprise is most gratifying to his many friends throughout the district who know him for an enterprising businessman as well as a good fellow.

MILITARY DICTATOR OF NEW RUSSIA



Gen. Alexeff is carrying through plans of the new Russian government to push the war harder against the central powers.

31 KNOWN DEAD IN WAKE OF WIND STORM IN IND.

Ten More of the 100 Injured at New Albany Will Die.

(By Associated Press)
NEW ALBANY, Ind., March 24.—Revised official lists of the victims of the storm which swept over New Albany late yesterday showed the number of dead to be 31 and placed the injured at approximately 100.

Of the injured 10 or more are expected to die, while it is thought that a number of bodies still lie buried under the debris of wrecked buildings.

The search of the ruined structures in devastated sections is going forward under military supervision and all persons except those actually engaged in the work of rescue are being sent out of the stricken district.

Early this morning a cordon of state troops was thrown about the storm-swept part of the city and these sections were cleared. Thereafter only those persons bearing military passes were admitted within the lines established by the soldiers.

Approximately 300 residences, industrial plants, and other buildings were badly damaged or destroyed. In some instances houses had been so torn to pieces and the wreckage intermingled with that from other structures that those who had lived in them were unable definitely to locate the sites upon which they had stood. Houses had been picked up bodily apparently and then thrown to the earth with terrific force smashing them to kindling wood.

Other houses appeared to have been flattened as if some tremendous weight had been laid on them. Small outbuildings and sections of roofs were carried for blocks and trees were torn outright from the earth by the roots.

Special Services at First M. E. Church

Plans have been made for splendid services to be held at the First Methodist church on Sunday in connection with the evangelistic services which began at this church last Sunday. Rev. C. E. Goodwin, pastor of the church will preach at both services, his theme for the evening being "The Bridgeless Gulf." Special music has been planned for this service and splendid results are expected.

Dr. J. T. Keenan, of Grafton, who is assisting with the services went home this morning but will return here next week. Dr. Keenan preached a splendid sermon on the subject "The Three Groups" last night which was heard by a large and appreciative congregation. No service will be held tonight.

MUSTERING OUT THE SECOND

HUNTINGTON, March 24.—Work of mustering out the West Virginia troops from Federal service was completed here this afternoon. Mustering them out as a state body will not be accomplished until the men have reached home stations. The members of machine company will entertain with a banquet tonight.

CHRISTNER'S FATE WILL BE KNOWN THIS EVENING

Judge Haymond Read Instructions to Jury Right After Lunch.

DEFENDANT ON STAND

Prosecutor Called Christner Dirty Coward in Address to Jury.

The fate of Hoy Christner charged with the murder of Fred Shaver will be in the hands of the jury this afternoon and it is possible that a verdict will be returned before the court adjourns this evening. At the start of the afternoon session Judge Haymond read his instructions to the jury, a half hour being required, and under his instructions and on the evidence submitted in the case it is being expected that a verdict of acquittal will be returned.

Yesterday afternoon the defendant was placed on the stand and told the story of the shooting, his being the last testimony to be heard in the case. While the prosecutor got him tangled up on a few minor points the bulk of his story was a straightforward recital of the events leading up to the fatal shooting and the shooting itself.

With every available inch in both the court room and gallery, packed to its capacity this afternoon, the biggest crowd that has been present in the court house for any trial in recent years was present. Word going to the street that the prosecutor was making his final plea to the jury caused hundreds of Saturday visitors in town to try to get in but only a few were able to squeeze inside the room.

In his final plea, the prosecutor is shouting his case to the jury and as he dramatically points his finger at little Mrs. Christner and belittles "that woman's" heroic efforts on the many occasions she was called upon to protect and minister to her husband, she is sitting huddled up in her high chair with her head bowed and her thin fingers picking jerkily at her skirt.

Christner is pale but calm, turning whiter every few moments as Haggerty calls him a "dirty coward."

Attorneys in the court room are looking for an acquittal within the hour.

FAIRMONT MINERS GET SQUARE DEAL

Agreement Signed at Charleston Yesterday Makes This Point Clear.

News from the Charleston district that the coal operators and miners there had signed contracts for a year which gave to the miners an increase of six and a half cents a ton, and to the day laborers an increase in wages of from 15 to 25 per cent, brings to light the fact that miners in the Fairmont district have been much more favored with raises than those of any other district.

The raises granted by the Charleston operators yesterday were the first that had been given in three years, and by contract the miners there are bound to work at the same rates for one year. Opposed to this the Fairmont miners have been granted four increases in the past thirteen months and had their working time reduced from ten to nine hours. The increases to day labor have totaled 30 per cent.

The local miners were given increases on February 1, 1916, May 1, 1916, November 1, 1916 and the last on March 1, 1917. It will be seen that they have been getting the benefits of the first of these raises for more than a year.

GERMANS' NEXT STAND BELGIAN BORDER?



If the Germans are driven from the "Hindenburg line," according to all reports their next stand is to be on a line closely paralleling the Franco-Belgian border, in the foothills of the Ardennes mountains. This would mean giving up about half the territory in France that remains in German hands. The new, shorter line from Lille to Verdun is shown on this map, together with the supposed "Hindenburg line," which the Germans are now defending.

BUILDERS SUPPLY MEN MEET HERE

C. H. Toothman Was Elected Chairman of this District Organization.

A district meeting of the West Virginia Lumber and Builders Supply Dealers' Association, attended by about thirty men from this district, including Mason, Monongalia, Preston and Taylor counties, and representing Morgantown, Grafton, Fairmont and Mannington, was held in the office of the Fairmont Wall Plaster Company last night.

The meeting was presided over by George D. Hawkins, state secretary, with headquarters in Huntington, in the absence of C. A. Short, president, of Shinnston. Several new members were received into the association and it was arranged to have regular monthly meetings in Fairmont on the second Tuesday of each month. Fairmont was selected for the meetings because members from Grafton and Morgantown can come to this city easiest.

C. H. Toothman, of the Fairmont Wall Plaster company, was elected chairman of the local association and Murray Dickerson, secretary.

The West Virginia Lumber and Builders Supply Dealers' Association is a state association designed to promote co-operation among the builders of the state. The state is divided into thirteen districts and Fairmont is the headquarters for one of these. A meeting was held in Clarksburg, the headquarters district, last week and more than sixty were present. It is the intention to make a number of members into the local division and it is expected to make it one of the strongest in the state.

Lee Guthrie Was Buried This Morning

The body of Lee Guthrie, aged 23 years, whose death occurred on Thursday at his home at Akron, Ohio, accompanied by a number of relatives arrived here last night on the 9:35 train and were taken to the home of his niece, Mrs. Luther Hawkins on Haymond street. This morning funeral services were conducted at eight o'clock by Rev. W. D. Reed, pastor of the Diamond Street M. E. church and following the services the funeral party drove to Mt. Nebo where further services were held in the church there and interment made by Undertaker R. C. Jones.

Many at the Funeral of Late Luther Lowe

Many Fairmonters and Marion county residents left yesterday for Lowville to attend the funeral of Luther Lowe, who was buried at the Mt. Hood cemetery from the Mt. Hood church. The pall bearers were members of the Odd Fellows lodge which took charge of the funeral services. Mr. Lowe is survived by a brother Phillip Lowe, and two sisters, Mrs. Rebecca Wisman and Mrs. Tillie Starrett. He was aged 46 years and four months when he died. He was for years a resident of Fairmont, at the time of his death being agent here for the Cadillac automobile.

RIGA NEXT OBJECTIVE OF TEUTONS

Men and Munitions Massed on North End East Front

OLD HINDENBURG IDEA

French Making Decided Gains in Vicinity of La Fere.

Increased peril to the so-called Hindenburg line of the Germans in northern France, running through Cambrai, St. Quentin, La Fere and Loos is indicated by today's Paris official statement.

The French are continuing their strong pressure from St. Quentin to the Aisne an have driven through to the Oise river directly north of La Fere at some points. Apparently they have gained control of high ground in this region and are able to command the city with their guns.

That the Germans were despairing of holding La Fere a point to the new line was indicated by last night's announcement that they had opened the sluice gates and flooded the city. The new French advance to the Oise can hardly fail to make the place still more difficult to hold.

Further progress has also been made by the French further to the southeast on the east bank of the Ailette river west of Laon where the Germans, while still falling back toward their new lines are apparently offering a stiff resistance. Paris military critics also point to a German peril here where the left end of the German line at St. Gobain is threatened with outflanking.

Last reports from the British end of the line also indicated strong German resistance but recorded also further advances for General Haig's forces, notably in the region southeast of Arras.

In part at least, the German retirement in France may be explained by an official statement of the new Russian war ministry in which it is announced that the Germans are concentrating great quantities of munition, supplies and men on the northern end of the Russian front. A Teutonic offensive in the near future in this important but long neglected war area is thus indicated.

Field Marshal von Hindenburg who is credited with establishing the new line in the west, is classed as a believer in the idea that a decision in the war can thus be gained in a campaign on the eastern front against Russia.

Meanwhile the Russian provisional government continues its effort to strengthen the defensive measures of the nation.

Want New Bids on Hauling the Mails

Postmaster Manley has been authorized to again ask for bids for screen wagon service between the depot and the postoffice. Owing to a misunderstanding on the part of some of the bidders about the night service required, it was necessary to reject all bids and new bids have been asked for.

Intending bidders can get the necessary information regarding this service by inquiring at the office of the postmaster. Bids must be in the hands of the postmaster to forward to Washington, D. C., not later than 12 o'clock noon April second. For information regarding notices have been posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the postoffice and at the court house. Intending bidders should show whether they intend to use horse-drawn or motor vehicles. Intending bidders should enclose proposals in sealed envelopes, marked "Proposal for Screen Wagon Service on Route No. 416907," giving the names, and then should hand same to the postmaster to forward to Washington.

RUSSIANS TAKE A TOWN

PETROGRAD, March 24.—Capture by Russian troops of the Persian town of Kerind in the sectors west of Kermanshah about 40 miles from the Mesopotamian border is announced by the War office. Pursuit of the Turks continues.