

# VERDUN SLAUGHTER WORST IN HISTORY

Germans Take French Positions North of Verdun.

## PARIS ADMITS REVERSE

Military Men Claim Crown Prince's Armies Have Made Average Gain Of Only About 300 Yards In Month.

Berlin (By Wireless to Sayville).—The repulse of three counter-attacks by the French on the village of Cumieres, to the west of the Meuse on the Verdun front, was announced by the War Office. The capture of additional French trenches southwest and south of Fort Douaumont, and the recapture of the Haudremont quarry by the Germans, are also reported.

All day attacks by the French on the German lines in the Callette wood, southeast of Fort Douaumont, in which the French met with severe losses, were beaten off by the Germans, who report the capture of more than 850 prisoners and 14 machine guns.

### Paris Admits Loss.

Paris.—German troops made an attack on French positions on the Verdun front east of the Meuse, near the Haudremont quarry and obtained a footing in one of the French trenches, the World office announced.

East of Cumieres to the west of the Meuse the French made some progress in hand-grenade fighting.

Activity on the part of the artillery was particularly severe in the vicinity of Hill 204 and from Dead Man's Hill to Cumieres.

### Dead Choke Ravines.

Paris.—Between Avocourt wood and Fort Douaumont, northwest and northeast of Verdun, across a front 20 miles wide, there are a dozen ravines so choked with dead that ghastly barriers are formed by the corpses.

Never before has there been fighting of such ferocity as has been seen during the last week upon the shell-torn Hill slopes where half a million German and French soldiers were in combat.

During the direct attacks and counter-assaults it is estimated that the Germans lost a full corps in dead and wounded. Particularly severe were the German losses around Fort Douaumont, which is again in German hands. With a callous disregard for human life, the German legions were sent forward in mass formation, wave upon wave, into the curtain of fire of the French artillery and the inferno of machine-gun fire.

### Month's Advance Small.

Inspection made by military authorities of maps of the Verdun region shows that within the last month German gains on the west bank of the Meuse from Cumieres to Avocourt average a depth of 300 metres (about one-sixth mile). The line eastward from the river is substantially the same as it was a month ago.

### Italians Hold Marco.

Rome, (Via Paris).—The official bulletin issued by the War Department indicates further the defense line taken up by the Italians who are still on Austrian territory in the Lagarina valley, where the attempts of the Austrians to recapture the Village of Marco, about 15 miles south of Rovereto, have failed.

In the Arsa valley, on the direct route to Vienza, the Austrians and Italians are fighting on the frontier line. Between this point and the Astero river the Italians have withdrawn from the upper basin of the Posina river, which comprises part of the Terragnola valley and have concentrated in the Arsiello basin which descends to Schio and Vienza.

### Little Fighting in Russia.

Petrograd (Via London).—The War Office communication issued says: "Southwest of Dalen Island the Germans attempted an attack on our trenches, but were repulsed with heavy losses."

"In the region of Dachliki, north of Olyka Station, our scouts were attacked by an Austrian outpost, but launched a counter-attack and forced the enemy to flee."

"On the remainder of the front the situation is unchanged."

"In the Caucasus region there is nothing to report."

### ON FIRE; JUMPS INTO BATHTUB.

Bedford Man's Clothes Caught When Blow Pot Exploded.

Bedford, Va.—J. Mott Lindsay was severely burned when a blow pot he was using in soldering exploded, throwing blazing gasoline over him. His clothes were set on fire and he probably saved his life by plunging into a bathtub. His face, arms and body were badly burned and his condition is critical.



(Copyright)

## PROTEST AGAINST SEIZURES OF MAIL

Note To Allies as Vigorous as That Sent to Berlin.

## OBJECTS TO THE METHODS

Britain's Practice Of Taking Ships To Port For Search Gives No Right To Open Neutral Parcels.

Washington.—Vigorous language, equalling almost that employed in the last communications to Germany on the submarine issue, is understood to characterize the notes delivered to the British and French Embassies here protesting against interference with neutral mails on the high seas.

Outlines of these communications have been cabled to London and Paris by the Embassies, and the full text will be forwarded by mail. This is taken to mean that replies will be framed only upon mature consideration.

Methods, Not Principles. It is understood there is no substantial difference as to principle between the State Department and the London and Paris Chancelleries regarding the broad question of inviolability of first-class mails on the high seas. The American objection is based rather on the methods employed by the allied governments in handling these mails.

The United States does not concede the right to even inspect first class mails in transit on the high seas, assuming that these do not include anything more than correspondence and are not made the vehicle for the supply of contraband to the belligerents.

Act Under Compulsion. The fact that a neutral vessel carrying mails between neutral countries is compelled to come into a belligerent port, to comply with belligerent naval rules, it is held, does not remove the mail matter on board from the privileged character of mail on the high seas.

Ambassador Page in London and Ambassador Sharp in Paris have been informed by cable of the delivery of the notes and acquainted briefly with their nature.

Urges Warship Mail Route. A resolution authorizing the transportation of mail to and from neutral ports on naval vessels and declaring that "any interference with our mails shall be resented by such ships with all power of the navy and of the ships" was introduced by Representative Tague of Massachusetts.

It declares that Great Britain has shown no disposition to discontinue the practice "which is a violation of our rights and our rights to do business with neutral countries."

The resolution was referred to committee.

### TO ORDER MEXICAN ELECTION.

Carranza To Decree General Poll For Presidency After July. El Paso, Texas.—As the first step in the restoration of a constitutional government, the Carranza administration has prepared a decree calling for municipal elections and the establishment of fee municipalities, according to a message from Mexico City received by Andres Garcia, Mexican Consul here.

After the municipal elections orders will be issued for State and Congressional elections and for the choosing of a President of the republic. The first election is ordered for July.

### RUBBER IN MAILS.

Incident Quoted As Justification For British Interference. London.—Fourteen hundred parcels of rubber which were taken from the first-class mails on the Dutch steamer Getria while en route from South America to Holland, were condemned in the prize court here. The parcels were said to be destined for Germany.

## \$241,000,000 FOR THE NAVY

Bill Carries \$91,787,000 Over Last Year.

## PROVIDES FOR 42 WARSHIPS

Five Battle Cruisers Needed "To Balance Fleet Properly," Naval Committee Says—Speed Needed To Meet Speed.

Washington.—The Naval Appropriations bill carrying \$241,000,000 to provide sea defenses for the nation, was formally recommended to the House for passage by the House Naval Affairs Committee. The bill calls for \$91,787,287.11 more than the naval bill last year.

The new ships to be provided by the bill were set forth in the report as follows: Five battleship cruisers, to cost \$20,433,521 each; 4 scout cruisers, costing \$5,571,900 each; 10 destroyers, costing \$1,225,314; 3 submarines of a surface displacement of about 800 tons, costing \$1,206,302 each; 17 smaller submarines, costing \$781,302 each; 1 fuel ship, costing \$1,363,272; 1 ammunition ship, costing \$2,704,650; 1 hospital ship, costing \$2,250,000.

The total cost of this program will amount to \$160,087,377, and the appropriation necessary to carry this program into effect for the first year will amount to \$59,244,326.

The committee explained that the recommendation for five battle cruisers and the failure to recommend a single dreadnaught did not indicate that "the battleship has been displaced by another type of war craft."

"The great majority of experts who appeared before the committee," said the report, "and the committee itself are of the opinion that the most pressing need of the fleet today is the addition of battle cruisers and scout cruisers. Our fleet of dreadnaughts and pre-dreadnaughts has reached such a proportion that the construction of battle cruisers must be now authorized and construction begun at once in order that our fleet be properly balanced for fighting efficiency."

"In operations against an enemy that possesses battle cruisers, the United States, without any such vessels, will be at a most serious disadvantage. At the outbreak of the present war there were of this type built and building in the British Navy, 10; in the German Navy, 8; in the Japanese Navy, 4, and in the Russian Navy, 4. Recent reports tend to indicate that these numbers are being added to as rapidly as building facilities under war pressure will permit. A lesson to be learned from this war seems to be that the only method of defense against the battle cruiser seems to be the battle cruiser.

"The committee recommends the adoption of the provision for the calling of a disarmament congress by the President at the close of the European war. The committee would appropriate \$200,000 for the expenses of the congress."

The bill provides for 13,500 increase in the enlisted personnel of the navy and an increase of 3,079 in the marine corps. It likewise would authorize: A naval aviation corps of 150 officers and student flyers, and 350 enlisted men, with a \$2,000,000 appropriation for aviation work.

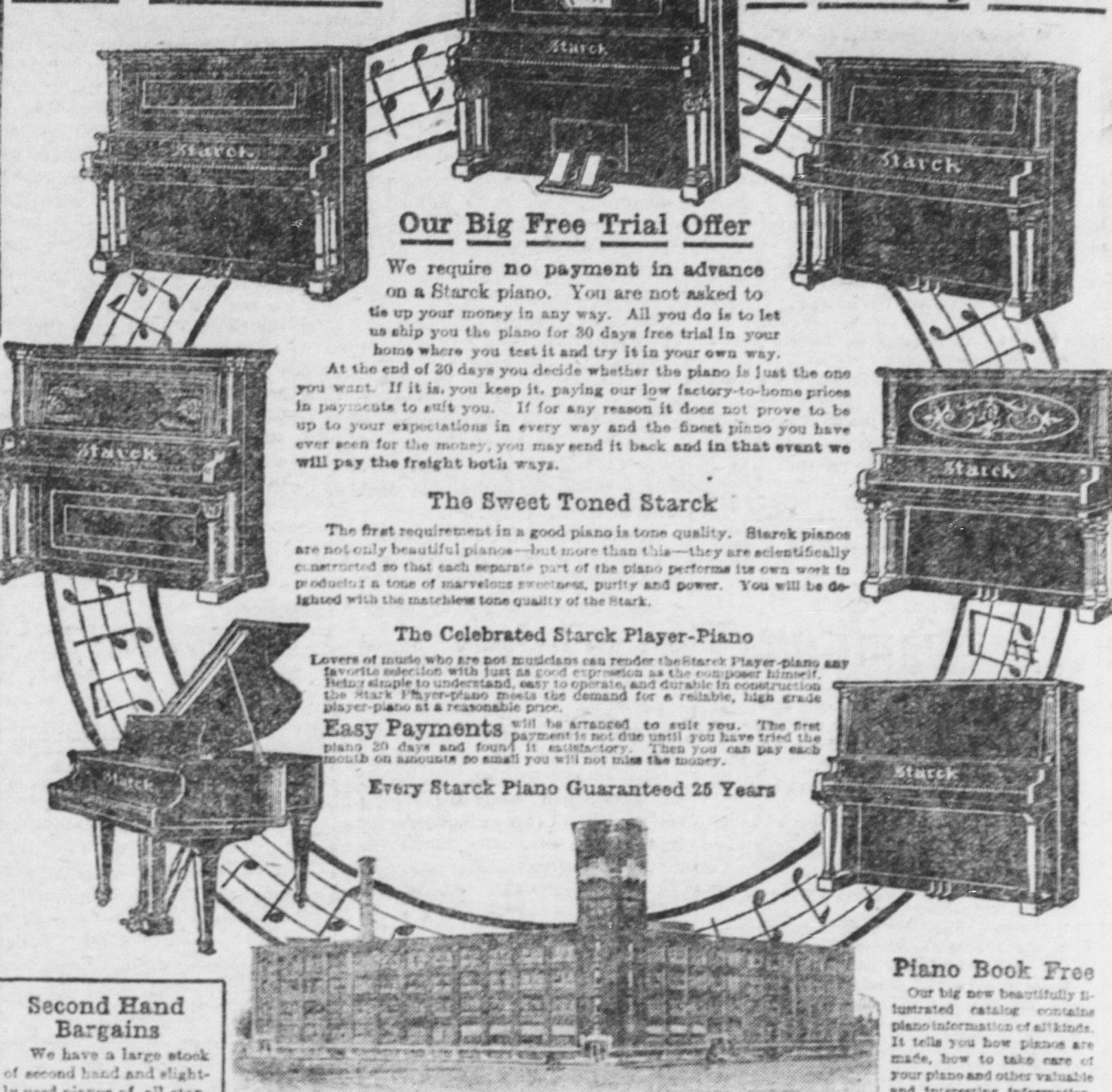
### RANGERS KILL TWO, IS REPORT.

Mexican Prisoners Alleged To Have Tried To Escape.

Brownsville, Texas.—Reports that Col. Louis Morin and Victoriano Ponce, alleged Mexican outlaws, had been killed by Texas Rangers 75 miles north of Brownsville, when the Mexicans attempted to escape from custody, are still without official confirmation. The sheriffs of Kleberg and Wilkey counties reported they had not seen Morin or Ponce since they were turned over to Rangers presumably to be brought to Brownsville, where murder charges have been placed against them.

# Famous Starck Pianos

Shipped Anywhere in the United States on 30 Days' Free Trial  
Easy Payments No Money Down



### Our Big Free Trial Offer

We require no payment in advance on a Starck piano. You are not asked to tie up your money in any way. All you do is to let us ship you the piano for 30 days free trial in your home where you test it and try it in your own way. At the end of 30 days you decide whether the piano is just the one you want. If it is, you keep it, paying our low factory-to-home price in payments to suit you. If for any reason it does not prove to be up to your expectations in every way and the finest piano you have ever seen for the money, you may send it back and in that event we will pay the freight both ways.

### The Sweet Toned Starck

The first requirement in a good piano is tone quality. Starck pianos are not only beautiful pianos—but more than this—they are scientifically constructed so that each separate part of the piano performs its own work to produce a tone of marvelous sweetness, purity and power. You will be delighted with the matchless tone quality of the Starck.

### The Celebrated Starck Player-Piano

Lovers of music who are not musicians can render the Starck Player-piano easy to play and just as good as the composer himself. Being simple to understand, easy to operate, and durable in construction, the Starck Player-piano meets the demand for a reliable, high grade player-piano at a reasonable price.

Easy Payments will be arranged to suit you. The first payment is not due until you have tried the piano 30 days and found it satisfactory. Then you can pay each month on amounts so small you will not miss the money.

Every Starck Piano Guaranteed 25 Years

### Second Hand Bargains

We have a large stock of second hand and slightly used pianos of all standard makes. Here are a few sample bargains:

- Steinway . . . \$175.00
- Knabe . . . . . 165.00
- Emerson . . . 100.00
- Kimball . . . . 70.00
- Starck . . . . . 195.00

Send today for our latest list of second hand bargains and our complete new illustrated catalog of Starck pianos.

### Direct From This Factory to You—Saves \$150.00

Selling as we do, direct from our factory to your home, we are able to offer you low prices that will save you upwards of \$150.00 in the purchase price of your piano. You should take advantage of these money-saving prices and send today full particulars concerning our factory-to-home offer.

### 50 Free Music Lessons

Every buyer of a Starck piano is entitled to receive 50 free music lessons through one of the best known schools in Chicago. These lessons are to be taken in your own home at your convenience.

### Piano Book Free

Our big new beautifully illustrated catalog contains piano information of all kinds. It tells you how pianos are made, how to take care of your piano and other valuable and interesting information. Send for it today.

### Free Catalogue Coupon

P. A. Starck Piano Co., 1967 Starck Bldg., Chicago. Please send without obligation on my part, your complete illustrated piano catalogue, also full information concerning your factory-to-home prices and your easy payment terms.

Name.....  
Street No. or R. F. D.....  
Town and State.....

## STATE NEWS BRIEFLY TOLD

### The Latest Gleanings From All Over the State.

### TOLD IN SHORT PARAGRAPHS

Barbara Bridgen, of Mahanoy City, was elected Great Pocohontas and Philadelphia was chosen as next year's meeting place at the closing session of the fifteenth annual convention of the Great Council of the Degree of Pocohontas, at Shamokin. Other officers include Anna Milligan, Philadelphia, Great Wyanaha; Margaret Lay, Wilkes-Barre; Great Minnehaha; Catharine Guthoff, Philadelphia, Great Prophets.

The plant of the "Oval Ledger," a weekly newspaper, published at Oval, was partially wrecked when H. Jones Moore, the owner, detecting escaping gas in the basement, where he is having an acetylene plant installed, investigated with a lighted match. In the explosion which followed, the building rocked on its foundations and Mr. Moore was badly burned. Windows in adjoining houses were blown out.

A petition will be presented to Court at the next term for the incorporation of a new Cumberland county borough, to include several small communities located along the Susquehanna River, near Harrisburg. The new borough will be known as Fort Washington, from the historic old fortress which marked the high point of Confederate invasion in 1863. The new town will have a population of about 1,200.

Grand Army veterans made a public appeal to the patriot citizenry of Harrisburg to assist in the work of instructing the school children in "love of the flag." "We are all hovering around three score and ten; it is not reasonable to think we will be able to continue this custom many years more," declared Patriot Instructor E. B. Hoffman.

The National Historical Society has purchased five acres of land twelve miles east of Meadville, which was formerly owned by John Brown, of Civil War fame, and upon which he built a tannery. The society will erect a suitable marker.

Captain George W. Hutchinson, of the staff of Colonel Richard Coulter, Tenth Infantry, Pennsylvania National Guard, suffered the amputation of his right leg at the Westmoreland County Hospital as the result of an automobile accident. The driver was blinded by the light of a passing street car and the auto upset over an embankment.

Thomas Haldeman, a farmer, of Chambersburg, worth over \$75,000, killed himself after losing \$2,000 on a real estate deal. He had traded a property in Greencastle for a farm. Wednesday he went to Greencastle and paid all his debts with cash. He then went to the home of a neighbor and paid him a small bill, borrowed a shotgun and killed himself nearby.

Hayes Schenck, justice of the peace at Howard for twenty-five years, who was convicted in February of bounty swindling, was sentenced by Judge Quigley to not less than two years nor more than three in the Western Penitentiary. In eighteen months Schenck's bounty transactions amounted to \$3,200.

Simon Maines, station agent of the Bald Eagle Valley Railroad at Beech Creek, was killed by a fast flyer while crossing the tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad at that place in his motor car. His company jumped from the car just as it reached the tracks, and was not injured.

The planting of twenty-seven thousand two-year-old white pine trees on State lands which are being reforested in the vicinity of Fields Station was completed by State Forester Arthur B. Wells. Mr. Wells has set out nearly one hundred thousand trees on State lands this spring.

Ambrose McGraw, thirty-five years, of 2604 Pittston avenue, conductor on the Wilkes-Barre & Eastern Railroad, was gored to death by a bull on the Lehigh Farm, near Moosic. His body, terribly mutilated, was found by mill girls on their way to work. It was caught in the limbs of a tree.

By the collapse of a metal ceiling at the Palace Theater, Reading, which is undergoing changes and improvements, David W. Zaring, fifty-eight years old, of Shamokin, a workman, was killed and three others, James Schwegart, Frank Yarnell and George Shoop, were injured.

Matthew Feigle, a painter of Steelton, was killed by electricity while at work near high power wires of the Central Iron & Steel Company plant at Harrisburg. His body came into contact with the wires.

## PROBING FRAUDS IN SIX DISTRICTS

Many Charges Of Irregularities In Primary Election Reach Attorney General Brown.

Harrisburg.—Charges of fraud in the primary election are being examined by Attorney General Brown, and it is said that investigations are under way in six Congressional districts whence have come reports of irregularities in the election. The Attorney General announced that the allegations of fraud in Northumberland county would be vigorously probed by the best lawyers in that section of the State and that he proposed to investigate all other charges called to his attention.

"It is time to end this thing," said the Attorney General, in speaking about the charges of fraud growing out of elections. "We will go into the matter and find out just what is the trouble." Mr. Brown intimated pretty broadly that his investigations would not end with this primary election by any means.

### Quiz Of Coal Dealers.

Ex-Judge Robert S. Gawthrop, chairman of the commission to probe the cost of anthracite coal, outlined the plans of the commission at a conference with Attorney General Brown. The commission will send letters to various retail coal dealers in Philadelphia asking if they advanced prices because of coal tax and if they made any refund. Mr. Gawthrop said that the commission intended to go after the information vigorously and that if retailers would not tell they would be put on the stand at formal hearings and asked questions. The object of the probe, he said, will be to see if the consumer is getting any of the money refunded by the coal operators.

### Suits Under Pure Food Laws.

Fifty suits were ordered by the Dairy and Food Bureau of the Department of Agriculture for violations of the pure food laws of the State.

Following the crusade against the sale of milk that is not up to the standard in fat and total solids forty prosecutions were brought in Allegheny county and four in Cumberland county where milk was also found with added water. In Chester county there was one milk case and in Philadelphia three milk cases and one candy case where a resinous glaze was used.

In Bucks county there was a prosecution for the sale of macaroni colored with coal tar dye in imitation of eggs.