

DEMOCRATS PLAN WAR TAX ON NEW LINES

Underwood Drafting Bill Which Will Require Stamps On Commercial Instruments.

Republicans in House and Senate to Oppose Measure and Make it Issue in Congressional Elections.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—Chairman Underwood, of the Ways and Means Committee, today began drafting the internal revenue "war tax" bill authorized by the Democratic caucus to comprise a stamp tax similar to that of Spanish-American war times and imports on beer, wines and tobacco to raise \$166,000,000 annual revenue needed.

Introduction of the bill Saturday was planned by Mr. Underwood. It probably will be favorably reported Monday and passed, under a special rule severely limiting debate and offering amendments, by the end of the week.

Bitter and prolonged Republican opposition in both the House and Senate, was certain today. The "war tax," Republican leaders declared, is to be made the "paramount issue" of the coming congressional elections.

FREIGHT TAX ABANDONED.—Abandonment of the plan to freight three per cent, and raise income taxes left the Democrats in practically unanimous accord today to pass the revenue measure.

The new taxes will go into effect immediately upon passage of the bill, which is hoped to enact before October 15.

Protests against the proposed tax scheme began to reach the Ways and Means Committee today. Wine producers, especially, claim to be hard hit. Bankers are also objecting to the proposed "occupation" tax upon their surplus and capital.

Collection of the war tax "at the source" of production from manufacturers, brokers, theatrical circuits, concert halls, commercial and legal instruments, telegrams, checks, and long distance telephone messages will yield immediate and certain revenue, according to the Democrats. The stamp tax on documents probably will be two cents.

SUBJECTS OF TAXATION.—The Democratic taxation plan is briefly as follows: Fifty cents a barrel on beer, to raise \$2,500,000; Twelve cents a gallon on sweet domestic wines and 20 cents on sweet wines, to raise \$20,000,000; Two cents a gallon on gasoline, to raise \$2,000,000; Special "occupation" taxes on bankers, brokers, theatrical circuits, concert hall promoters, billiard and pool tables, bowling alleys, tobacco manufacturers and dealers, etc., to raise \$5,000,000; Stamp taxes on commercial instruments, bonds, stock, checks, telegrams, etc., to raise about \$35,000,000.

POWERS OBJECT TO FOE'S SHIP COALING AT MANILA

Japan and Great Britain Make Protest to Washington. MANILA, Sept. 16.—Orders were received today from Washington for a full and immediate investigation that vessels were getting coal here to supply belligerent warships.

It is understood that the order came after military authorities of Japan and Great Britain had made representations on the subject. German warships are said to have been supplied with fuel from here.

GIANT GAS GUSHER Ohio Strike Produces 12,000,000 Cubic Feet a Day.

CLEVELAND, Sept. 16.—What gas men say is the largest gas-well in the State has been struck on the old O'Brien farm in West Park. It is flowing at the rate of 12,000,000 cubic feet a day, and the owners are the East Ohio Gas Company and John A. Weber, of Cleveland.

BELGIANS AT WASHINGTON Commission to Present Complaint to U. S. Officials.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—The Belgian commission arrived here last night and prepared today for its call on Secretary Bryan and the President, presenting complaint of alleged German atrocities.

MITCHELL SUCCEEDS PETERS Massachusetts Apin Represented on Ways and Means Committee.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—Representative John J. Mitchell, of Massachusetts, was today elected by the House to membership on the Ways and Means Committee. He fills the vacancy made by the resignation of Representative J. Rogers, of Massachusetts, who is now Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

KAISER REPORTED IN EAST LEADING FIGHT ON RUSSIANS

Emperor Said to Command Troops Against Invaders. PARIS, Sept. 16.—The Petit Parisien prints what purports to be a dispatch from Berlin saying that Emperor William has gone East to take supreme command against Russia.

STORM MOVING NORTHWARD Vessels South of Virginia Endangered by Disturbances.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—The Weather Bureau, in a storm warning issued this morning, announced that disturbances off east coast of Florida were increasing in intensity and moving northward. Conditions were declared to be dangerous for vessels south of Virginia.

GENERAL DE LA REY KILLED Boer War Strategist Accidentally Shot Near Johannesburg.

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Sept. 16.—General De la Rey, who won fame by his strategy against the British in the Boer war, was accidentally shot dead near Johannesburg on Tuesday. He was 68 years old.

UNION TRACTION MEN IGNORE CITY PLAN FOR BETTER TRANSIT

Stockholders' Meeting Refrains From Action On Proposals Looking to Improvement of Service.

The stockholders of the Union Traction Company, at their annual meeting this noon, took no action whatever on the proposed transit agreement between the city and the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, as the result of protests filed with President Jeremiah J. Sullivan by James C. Balfour and James M. Fogelsanger, representing a majority of the stockholders.

The meeting was held at the Eighth and DuPont streets offices of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company and preceded the annual meeting of the latter corporation.

After minor routine matters had been disposed of, and just before the election, it was unanimously decided to transact no other business after the report of the tellers had been made. What little opposition there was to this action was stifled, and the few stockholders who favored heading Director Taylor's threat to push the rapid transit program to a vote that would limit the Union Traction Company, did not vote.

J. E. Buckman acted as chairman of the meeting and William J. Shields secretary. The annual reports were read and approved, and then amendments were adopted changing the provisions for the transfer of stock and the time for making public the annual statements.

Only 23 stockholders attended, the largest number in years. A committee of Union Traction stockholders, headed by Balfour and Fogelsanger, has been seeking protests against the transit program since June 8. They presented the protests in person to Mr. Sullivan in his office.

UNION TRACTION PROTEST.—The protests were against the Union Traction directors becoming in any way a party to the city rapid transit program. A letter, presented to Mr. Sullivan with the protests, said: "The accompanying package contains protests of the Union Traction stockholders against any action by the directors or any committee thereof officially recognizing or otherwise acting upon the agreement or plan between the city and the Rapid Transit Company for the building of new subways, elevated or surface lines, or for the equipment of the same that may be construed as an endorsement by the Union Traction Company of such a plan or agreement, or to give financial support in any way in the development, construction or equipment of such elevated or surface lines, or that may require further financial support on the part of the Union Traction Company, or the equipment or extension of the lines now operated by the Rapid Transit Company."

The Union Traction Company, at its meeting, faced a virtual ultimatum, laid down by Director Taylor of the Department of City Transit before the United Business Men's Association in the Bingham Hotel last night. Director Taylor declared that the Union Traction Company must either ratify the plans for improved transit facilities or face the prospect of high-speed lines, city-built and independently operated, competing with existing surface lines.

The directors also accused Balfour and Fogelsanger of "misrepresenting" facts in a letter sent by them to fellow-stockholders concerning the proposed agreement between the city and the U. T. Company. He served notice on the Union Traction Company that unless the stockholders of that company were willing to finance the necessary extensions to the proposed surface system, and approve the proposed rapid transit program, the city would go ahead with the transit program, leaving them to pocket all losses from competition with the high speed lines.

BUSINESS MEN SUPPORT TAYLOR.—The business men of the city, at the meeting last night, unanimously pledged their support to Director Taylor in his fight for the immediate realization of rapid transit in Philadelphia. With the issue of the \$200,000 needed for preliminary work settled by Council's bosses at the conference yesterday, the Director at the meeting last night obtained the co-operation of the United Business Men's Association in a movement to force Council to approve the transit plans, which have been pigeonholed in Council Transit Committee since last spring.

MEXICO HAS DUAL FESTIVAL OF REJOICING

Observance of Independence Day Marked by Announcement of American Evacuation of Vera Cruz.

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 16.—The celebration of the 10th anniversary of Mexican independence was marked today by the greatest rejoicing throughout the capital, following the announcement of General Carranza that President Wilson had ordered the withdrawal of American troops from Vera Cruz.

In accordance with the traditions of the celebration of independence day, General Carranza, at the head of the government, appeared on the balcony of the National Palace at midnight to address the throngs gathered in the street. He then announced the receipt of a telegram from Juan Irujo, secretary of the Constitutional Junta in Washington, telling of the order issued by the President.

The crowd went wild with delight. There were fireworks throughout the city, the Cathedral and all public buildings were illuminated, while the entire city gave itself over to celebrating.

VERA CRUZ, Sept. 16.—Announcement that they were to evacuate Vera Cruz came as welcome news to the troops of General Funston. All are tired of service in the tropics and greeted the announcement with cheers.

The government will be speedily transferred from the American military authorities to the civil officials to be appointed by General Carranza.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—Withdrawal of all American troops from the Mexican boundary, except the usual small border patrol, is planned soon by the Administration, it was stated at the War Department today, in line with the evacuation of Vera Cruz ordered by President Wilson.

Usual garrisons at the Texas, Arizona and New Mexico posts will be maintained, but the great bulk of troops, which have been mobilized on Mexico's northern boundary for about two years, will be redistributed to more northern army posts.

At the Navy Department it was said that orders for all large warships to leave Mexican waters would be issued promptly to make complete the return of all American armed forces from Mexico.

Secretary Garrison was busy upon formalities attending the turning over of Vera Cruz to the Constitutional Government. Carranza will be asked to appoint some one formally to receive the port from General Funston.

MISSIONARIES IN TURKEY FEAR FRESH MASSACRES

Treaty Abolition Causes Grave Danger, John R. Mott Informs President. WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—Alarm similar to that felt previously by the Armenian massacres now grips the entire missionary force of Turkey, according to John R. Mott, head of the world-wide missionary and Y. M. C. A. work.

Calling on President Wilson this afternoon, Mr. Mott declared that the American colony is in grave fear of massacres, although no actual outrages have thus far been perpetrated. His advice from Turkey, show that country to be mobilizing a larger army than ever before in her history.

Mr. Mott expressed himself to newspapermen as favorable to the dispatch of several American warships to Turkish waters.

JAPANESE DROP BOMBS ON GERMANS AT TSING-TAO

Naval Patrol of Leasehold Forced Back Into Kiaochow Bay. TOKIO, Sept. 16.—Official announcement is made by the Japanese War Office that an aviator sailed over the German fortifications at Tsing-tao, in the German leasehold of Kiaochow, and dropped bombs upon the barracks of the soldiers. The machine returned safely to Japanese headquarters.

NAVAL BATTLE IN BALTIC ADMITTED; DETAILS LACKING

Believed Russians and Germans Met in Sharp Conflict. LONDON, Sept. 16.—Although it is accepted in official circles that a sharp naval battle has been fought in the Baltic, no information concerning the outcome is obtainable here.

Dispatches from Petrograd vaguely refer to the presence of the Germans in the Gulf of Finland, and to their bombardment of "unprotected positions" but they are restricted by the censor.

Naval experts here declare that they do not believe the main Russian fleet has been in action. They say whatever fighting has taken place probably has been between the smaller units of the fleet, because the main German fleet would hardly attempt to force the entrance of the Gulf of Finland, which not only has been mined but is well protected from the land with coastwise fortresses. But this would not prevent small German craft attempting a dash in the hope of luring out into the open the Russian fleet which is anchored under the protection of the land fortifications.

All of the reports received from Scandinavian sources tell of heavy firing in the Baltic near the Aland Islands, but up to the present no disabled war craft have been reported at any point. The fact, however, that Berlin officially admits part of its Baltic fleet has been engaged is considered significant here as a censored.

It is now definitely known that the German North Sea fleet is being held close to Wilhelmshaven. Only the light cruisers and the destroyer flotillas are in the neighborhood of Heligoland. This adds strength to the report that the Baltic fleet has been augmented by battleships from the North Sea sent through the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal.

LIEGE EVACUATED, BY KAISER'S FORCE, SAYS BERLIN REPORT

Abandonment Would Cut Off German Line of Retreat—Fortify Brussels to Hold With Small Garrison.

BERLIN (by way of Rome), Sept. 16.—An official statement issued here says that the Germans have abandoned Liege.

No reason is assigned for the reported statement from Berlin by way of Rome that the Germans have abandoned Liege and there is no confirmation from any other source. It has been reported that the Germans' lines of communications had been threatened, but in neither the London nor the Paris statements has there been any intimation of any operations of any kind in Belgium, excepting those which were being conducted by the Belgians.

It is possible that the troops at Liege have been sent south for sterner work in France, where, it is stated, the battle has been renewed with the Germans on the defensive.

It has been stated that the Germans' only line of retreat lay through the region of Liege.

ANTWERP, Sept. 16.—The Germans are rushing fresh troops into Belgium from Aix-la-Chapelle, but whether these are intended to strengthen the forces now here or are to be sent to the south to fill the gaps in the German right wing is not yet known.

The Belgian forces again have retired to the protection of the outer ring of the Antwerp fortifications, where they are waiting developments. King Albert and the General Staff held a long conference today, after which troops were massed along the fortifications that command the River Scheldt.

It is believed a new attempt by the Germans to isolate Antwerp from the sea may be planned, but as the dykes have been reopened and the country in that vicinity is covered with water, it is not believed they can hope to carry such a movement to a successful conclusion.

It was stated by the general staff today that during the last 24 hours the Germans have sent upward of 60,000 additional troops into Belgium, indicating a determination on the part of the Germans to hold their lines of communication through Belgium at any cost. Only skirmishing was in progress in Belgium today.

German troops are fortifying Brussels to permit the departure of noon reinforcements to France. Hand-fire guns have been mounted on the Boulevard du Jardin Botanique and at the north and south stations.

Reports received here today say that the Germans anticipate an attack on Brussels by a combined Belgian and British force.

THE EUROPEAN WAR COUNTRY BY COUNTRY

France—The Germans are reforming the territory extending between St. Quentin and the Moselle river, having thrown up entrenchments and controlling five armies in the district. The German Crown Prince has retired from Verdun and joined Von Buelow's army. Heavy fighting is in progress near St. Quentin. French War Office announces that an important battle is pending in which an attempt will be made by the allies to force the invaders from French soil. French and Indian reinforcements have appeared on the firing line.

Belgium—Belgian troops have retreated to the outer lines of the fortifications at Antwerp. Germans attempted to cut communications to the sea, but the flooding of the territory west of Antwerp by opening the dykes has halted the invaders. Reported that 60,000 additional German soldiers are being rushed into the country.

Germany—Officially announced that the army has retired before the allies, but War Office announces the Germans are in a strongly entrenched position and ready to withstand further attack. Detailed reports given by the Government regarding the early fighting in Eastern Prussia. Claims made that the Russians were routed with a loss of 100,000 killed, 70,000 prisoners and 500 field guns.

Austria—The Russians continue to be victorious. The line from Cracow to Przemyel has been covered and the investment of the latter fortress is in progress. Heavy fighting continues along the San River. Godek has been taken. The Austrians abandoned 40 light field guns and 20 howitzers. The Russians are pushing their campaign with vigor against Germany.

England—Reported that Indian cavalry has reached France via the Suez canal and is now reinforcing the British at the front. No news yet received of the outcome of the naval battle reported in the Baltic. The war cost to Great Britain is \$2,500,000 a day.

Italy—Strong pressure is being brought to bear on the Government to join the war against Austria and Germany, and as a result frequent Cabinet meetings are being held. Up to the present there has been no change in the original declaration of neutrality.

Serbia—Videgrad, in Bosnia, has been captured by the Serbians. Troops have joined the Montenegrin forces, and a march is being made against Sarajevo.

The War Summary

Another great battle is in progress north of the River Aisne. At 2 o'clock today the first dispatches were received, announcing the attack upon the Germans entrenched to the north of the Aisne River. Details are lacking. Earlier in the day, however, the French War Office issued a statement, giving the position of the German army and pointing out that the army of the German Crown Prince had retired from Verdun. Furious fighting is taking place near St. Quentin.

The battle is taking place over a 60-mile territory extending from St. Quentin to Longwy, the allies hurling their troops against the Germans. The allies are reinforced by fresh troops from Paris and Indian cavalry. The German War Office, while making no mention of the battle, admits the long retreat in France, but states that the armies are now in a strongly entrenched position and well able to withstand the attack of the British and French.

The German Crown Prince has withdrawn from the immediate vicinity of Verdun, and is placing his troops on a line between Lalgne and Craonne to support the armies of von Buelow and von Hausen. La Fere, Rheims, Laon—all 12 cities—have been evacuated by the Germans. The complete battle line extends from St. Quentin to the territory south of Longwy.

Russia continues its success in Galicia. Lines of communication between Cracow and Przemyel have been cut and the latter fortress invested on three sides. Every effort is being made to push the campaign into Germany. Przemyel is the last obstacle. Germany, however, makes claims that the Russians have met with severe reverses in Eastern Prussia, that Poland is being invaded and that it will be necessary for Russia to withdraw troops to withstand the German invasion of Russia.

The fact, however, that the Kaiser is reported to be hastening to the Russian frontier and that optimism prevails in Petrograd somewhat offsets the German claims of Russian reverses.

Serbia is vigorously pushing the campaign. Videgrad, 40 miles south of Sarajevo, has fallen; the troops have joined the Montenegrins and a march against the Bosnian capital is in progress.

In Belgium the campaign presents comparatively no new developments. The Belgians are reported to have withdrawn to the outer line of fortifications at Antwerp but no heavy fighting is reported.

The most important diplomatic development of the day is the virtual announcement that Italy will join the allies. Paris and London diplomatic circles make the announcement. Probable participation of the country in the war has been hastened by the announcement that 15,000 Austro-Italian soldiers were killed in Galicia.

Japan reports progress in the fight against Germany at Kiaochow. Aviators have destroyed the wireless station at Tsing-tao.

GREAT BATTLE NOW RAGES AS GERMANS DEFEND POSITIONS

Allies Hurl Fresh Troops Against Strongly Intrenched Line of Kaiser's Armies North of River Aisne, Where Germans Make Desperate Stand.

Line of Battle Extends Over One Hundred Miles in Nearly Straight Line From St. Quentin Through Rethel and North of Verdun.

PARIS, Sept. 16.—Another great battle is on north of the River Aisne. Fighting is hard all along the front.

The allies are on the offensive. The battle line is about 120 miles long, extending from a point east of St. Quentin to the Meuse River.

This official announcement was issued at 5 o'clock this afternoon.

A great battle, in which the Germans have been obliged to keep on the defensive, has been raging all along the front since September 14 (Monday).

The German rear guard, reinforced by the main body, has been fighting on the defensive throughout Monday and Tuesday along the entire line north of Noyon-Soissons and Laon to the north of Rheims and then through Ville Sur and Tourbe.

The Germans began slackening their precipitate retreat on Monday. Throughout that day the rear guard of the Germans and the advance guard of the allies were constantly engaged.

On Tuesday larger bodies of troops were rushed to the firing line, and today the great battle is in full swing, with the main armies of the Germans and the Anglo-French forces opposing each other.

It is probable that the allies and Germans have at least 500,000 reinforcements, making a total of 2,500,000 soldiers engaged in this terrific conflict.

The Germans picked the battle ground, falling back across the Marne and the Aisne until they reached a line of hills which gave them an advantage.

Trenches which had been utilized by the French and English on their retirement south were seized.

The position of the German army all along the line through Craonne and the forest of L'Aigle, eastward across the high ground north of Rheims, is more satisfactory to the invaders than the Germans.

Six German armies are believed to be engaged in this conflict, the main purpose of which is to check the advance of the French and British in order to give the Germans an opportunity to resume the offensive. The line of the allies has been extended in a great semicircle. On the other hand, the battle front of the Germans is nearly a straight line, according to the latest dispatches from the front. It lies from east to west:

The new battle line as revealed by the official statement issued is nearly 100 miles longer. Starting at Noyon, it runs 20 miles southeast to Soissons, then runs 20 miles northwest to Laon and then directly southeast to Ville-sur-Tourbe, a distance of approximately 85 miles. The center of this line is exactly north of Rheims, about half way between that city and Rethel, where the British were badly beaten in the original German invasion of France toward Paris.

Myron T. Herrick, the United States Ambassador, received a telephone call just before noon asking that automobiles be rushed to Meaux. It was said that a train bearing wounded French and English soldiers from the Aisne Valley had been reached there. According to information contained in official War Office statements issued here and at Bordeaux, the German line of retirement seems to have switched slightly toward the southeast. Upon their retreat the Germans have been compelled to give up a number of towns, the most important of which are La Fere, Crepy, Laon, Braisne, Vitry-les-Rheims, Attigny, Bazancourt, Sillery, Fismes, St. Quentin, Rheims and Ste. Menhould, the former headquarters of the German Crown Prince.

As no official word has been received here to support the rumors that General von Kluck, commander of the extreme western wing of the German army, has been captured along with a heavy section of his men, it is now assumed that the report was false.

Today the Germans hold strongly entrenched positions in the low hills to the north of the Aisne River. The armies of General von Kluck and General von Buelow are reported to be practically combined in entrenched positions well north of the Aisne. The army of the Grand Duke of Wurtemberg holds the line from the River Aisne at Craonne, north of Rheims to the new positions in the Argonne, where the armies of the Crown Prince Frederick Wilhelm and of the Crown Prince of Bavaria are in complete strength with headquarters still maintained at Montfaucon.

The Germans hold the lines of the Meuse and have straightened out their lines so they are now in touch with the strong fortress of Metz and the German reserve lines in Lorraine.

The British-French columns on the extreme left of the French lines are believed to plan a general enveloping movement. It is now evident that the Crown Prince, by abandoning his position between the Aisne and Aire at Ste. Menhould, checkmated an attempt to break his lines and isolate the major portion of his army.

It is admitted by the military experts that the new positions taken by the Germans are the strongest they have yet held in France. The conditions are ideal from the defensive point of view, it is stated, but confidence is expressed that the admitted numerical superiority of the French and British forces will enable them to force the Germans back when the new battle commences.

The German front has narrowed and this will operate to the benefit of the allies. News from the allies' left is anxiously awaited here. There the British and French, who have been heavily reinforced, are attempting operations that may result in still further crumpling up of the German right.

The relief of Fort Troyon is likely to have an important bearing on the fate of the German army. The Germans were investing Fort Troyon and the neighboring forts between Toul and Verdun, with the object of opening a way of retreat on their left.

The failure of this plan means that the French are masters of the valley from Toul to Verdun. Therefore, the armies of the Crown Prince Frederick Wilhelm and the Duke of Wurtemberg will be unable to cross the Meuse and will have to go farther north and attempt to pass by the Stenay Gap.

On the left wing of the allies the entire Anglo-French force is in contact with the retiring invaders on the front from the heights north of the River Aisne eastward to a point north of Rheims.

The forward movement of the allies between the forest of Argonne and the Meuse continues. The pressure of the allies has had the effect of straightening the battle front until it is now at