NIGHT EURINI EXTRA GEOGET NIGHT EXTRA

VOL. 11,-NO. 142

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PRICE ONE CENT

GREAT VERDUN FORT FALLS; GERMANS SMASH DOUAMONT; FRENCH DEFENSE CRUMBLES

Crown Prince Strikes Terrific Blow at Stronghold-Captures Strong Work Defending Northern Approach to Fortress-Entire Line Broken

Teutons Win Desperate Battle Following Greatest of Artillery Conflicts-Other Forts Now Under Fire of Giant Howitzers-Paris Admits Ground Lost

The great French fortress of Douamont, defending Verdun on the portheast and only four miles from the city, has fallen. The Germans first smashed the great steel and concrete wall with their monster guns and then occupied the position by storm.

The evacuation of the fortress by the French is believed to have been preceded by the collapse of the whole French front from the ridge of Cote du Poivre castward through Bezonvaux. This means a general advance of the German line of more than a mile.

It is considered certain in view of Douamont's position that the whole French force defending Verdun from the north and northeast has been driven back behind the outer forts under the most terrible stroke delivered by the Crown Prince since the Verdun fighting began.

The fall of Douamont marks the first breach in the forts of Verdun and indicates that the whole of the great French fortress is now seriously threatened by the Germans' mighty smash.

The latest Paris dispatches report terrific fighting in the snows along the ridge of Cote du Poivre, only four and a half miles north of the French fortress, and about a half mile northeast of the fortress of Douamont. Whole regiments of Germans were madly assailing the French armored trenches and redoubts on the hills, 1200 feet above the wooded plain.

The village of Douamont, directly in front of the fortress, and the villages of Louvemont and Bezonvaux, as well as the intervening woods of Vauche, were captured by the Teutons.

The French are retreating from their positions east of Verdun along the main road to Metz, the Germans assert.

The Kaiser witnessed the fall of Douamont, the Berlin War Office reports. From Douamont the Crown Prince can now bring his heavy guns to

bear upon the forts of De Vaux and De Tavannes, immediately to the south. and upon Fort de Belleville, just outside Verdun and southwest of Douamont. At the same time he can sweep the entire northern plain about the city with a fire which no infantry force can withstand.

Capture of the position, it is considered almost certain here, was accompanied by a frightful loss on both sides. No accurate estimates of the losses on what may prove to be the war's bloodiest battlefield are obtainable at this time, but it is accepted that casualties on both sides now total more than 100,000.

turing Fort Douaumont, four miles north-east of the city itself. Fort Douaumont is three miles south-tast of the ridge of Louvemont, to which

east of the ridge of Louvemont, to which pedition the French retired on Thursday hight, and four miles from Verdun. It was captured by storm. The capture was made by the 24th Regiment of Brandenburgers, who, de-spite the hurricane of shells and the gall-ing fire of scores of French machine guns, while forward in an irresistible wave.

BERLIN, Feb. 26. German troops have smashed a hole in Fing of forts defending Verdun, cap **OUT OF ST. JOHN'S BY COURT DECREE**

Service in Any Episcopal



WEDS NOBLE BY CONTRACT

WED POLISH NOBLE NOTED MASON, DIES; BY CONTRACT MODE

Miss Hilda Smith Was Not Past Grand Master of Grand "Given in Marriage," but Joined Business and Romance

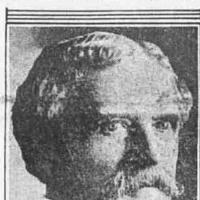
Lodge of Pennsylvania and Former Politician and Financier Succumbs

MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS END COMES SUDDENLY

The idea of marriage as primarily a The idea of marriage as primarily a civil contract, into which a man and woman enter on the equal terms that dis-tinguish any other mutual agreement au-thorized by the State, so fascinated Miss Hilda Spague Smith, Bryn Mawr grad-uate, while traveling abroad, that when she came to be married herself she in-sisted on such a contract being made. Sisted on such a contract being made. The Count Victor Starsenski did not ob-ject; in fact, he rather liked the idea, and so the unusual contract was drawn up and signed by the high contracting parties. There followed a wedding which lacked nothing of religious form, Lie full vested choir of the Rev. Percy Stickney Grant's church, the Church of the Ascension, New York after significant to meddling material

Order Forbids Him to Conduct Yesterday the secretary of Supreme Court. Scudder, of Brool

WAS ILL TWO DAYS





Would Warn Americans Off Armed Liners but Assert Legal Rights

PRESIDENT CONFIDENT

U. S. Will Discuss Question of **Offensive** Armament With Berlin

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26. Chairman Flood, of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, went to the State repartment today to discuss wih Secre-ary Lansing the possibilities of agreeing on a compromise resolution warning Americans to stay off armed ships.

Flood believes Americans might be warned in a resolution that still asserted their legal right to passage on armed merchanmen. He would, also, by reso-lution, enter into the question of offen-sive and defensive armament, seeking to name the calibre of guns that should be regarded as offensive armanent.

The climax of diplomacy in the strained The climax of diplomacy in the strained situation is imminent. Germany's reply to Secretary Lansing's representations that the new Admiralty order invalidates as-surances given in the Lusitania case was expected momentarily.

Unofficial information was that the Ger-man reply may be expected within 24, or, at most, 48 hours. It is believed Ambas-sador Bernstorff will be in position by Monday to give Germany's answer. This, Monday to give Germany's answer. This, however, the Administration is convinced, will be unsatisfactory.

There appeared little prospect today of postponement of the Teutonic campaign. With this Government refusing to ask for delay, because such a request might be construed as partial recognition of the German decree, the Administration's hopes for postponement lay only in Am-bassador Bernstorff's informal suggestion last week that a postponement might be

arranged. After two days of discord. Congress was preparing to relax from the agitation for resolutions to warn Americans off armed ships. Flareups were expected, but serious attempts to pass a warning resolution over the President's head were temporarily abandoned.

Official denial was made today of the report cabled to this country from Berlin inat this Government is planning to tane up the Lusitania negotiations direct with the Berlin Foreign Office, ignoring Count von Bernstorff, German Ambassador, Such a course it was emphatically stated by an official of the State Department, is not being considered.

Special orders have been issued by the State Department that all correspondence relating to armed merchant vessels in the files of Government departments must be guarded with the greatest caution, lest it be seen by some one who might make its contents public. Practically all of this correspondence outside the State Depart-ment itself is in the files of the Treasury. and treasury officials are keeping a careful watch on these files. The correspondence at the Treasury Department relates to the cases of the armed merchant vessels of belligerent nations brought into American

Reassured by the pledges he has received from a majority of the leaders of both Republican and Democratic members in both Houses and the expressions of

EXTRA **BAUSEWINE SUSPENDED** AS POLICE LIEUTENANT Lieutenant George Bausewine, of the 12th and Pine streets police

station, was suspended today by Superintendent Robinson on the accusation of "disobedience of orders." The order of supension does not contain the specific charges.

SCOTCH CITIES IN DARKNESS

LONDON, Feb. 26 .- The Scottish cities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Ferth, Edinburgh, Leith, Dunbar and Berwick were in absolute darkness last n gut as a result of the new lighting restrictions.

STATE COMMITTEE WILL MOVE TO VARE STRONGHOLD

The Republican State Committee today closed a deal whereby it will move from its present headquarters at 329 South Broad street to 506 South Broad street, the very heart of the Vare stronghold. The lease was signed today and the headquarters will be moved within a few weeks. The new property is a three and a half story brick dwelling, formerly occupied by John G. Johnson, The committee was obliged to move to make room for the Pennsylvania Taximeter Company, which is crecting a four-story building at 329-31-33-35 South Broad street.

ALLIES AGAIN SHELL GALLIPOLI TIP

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 26 .- Another bombardment of the Turkish position at the Dardanelles by allied warships was reported in the following official statement today: "On Wednesday an enemy armored cruiser and two other warships fired shells unsuccessfully against the coast of Kiliapala and Musmuk. A battleship and cruiser fired some shells against our positions at Sedd El Bahr and Tekke Burnu, at the southwestern extremity of the Gallipoli Peninsula, and then retired."

U. S. SENATOR SHIVELY SERIOUSLY ILL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 .- United States Senator Benjamin F. Shively, of Indiana, was today in a serious condition at Providence Hospital here. The Senator has been under treatment at the hospital for months, and his physicians express little hope that he will ever recover his full health. The nature of his malady, however, is such that no sudden change in his condition is expected, his physicians say.

TWO BRITISH SHIPS SUNK BY U-BOATS

LONDON, Feb. 26 .- The British steamships Denaby and Tummel have been ink by German submarines. The Denaby was a vessel of 2987 tons, which recently sailed from Huelva for La Pallice. The Tummel was much smaller, displacing only 531 tons.

D'ANNUNZIO WOUNDED IN BATTLE

LONDON, Feb.⁴ 26 .- A Central News dispatch from Rome states that Gabriele d'Annunzio, the famous poet, who is fighting with the Italian army, has been wounded, and it is feared he will lose the sight of one eye.

FRENCH LINER ELUDES RAIDING CRUISER

BORDEAUX, France, Feb. 26 .- That a German commerce raider is lurking in the steamship lanes of the northern coast of Spain was the information brought here today by the transatlantic liner Chicago, which had a narrow escape from capture on the night of February 17 off the Bay of Biscay. The liner Lafayette had sent out a wireless warning of the presence of the raider, and the Chicago had also been warned by wireless stations on the Atlantic coast. A ship which looked like a tramp signaled the liner, but the latter put on all speed, and, despite the fact that it was pursued, managed to escape.

In a hand-to-hand combat in the works the Germans drove their way to victory with the cold steel.

Fort Douaumont was regarded as one of the strongest of the 21 forts which ruard Verdun. It was built of steel, Mone and concrete, and was defended with the heaviest guns in the French

Army. The capture of the fort opens the way for an advance against the sister works. Fort Belleville, Fort St. Michel and Fort Souville

The charge which resulted in the fall of Fort Douaumont was made in a blinding movstorm following a bombardment of the works by great 15- and 17-inch guns. For hours the monster howitzers of the Germans had pounded the fort, the shells tearing gigantic ridges in the solid con-crete masonry and blasting the steel turrets into kindlings.

The French guns replied and the duel of drum fire rocked the ground and shook the air with its thunder for nearly 50 miles

The following officiat statement of the Continued on Page Four, Column Three.

THE WEATHER We have insisted, from time to time,

on the importance of the weather in its effect on the course of events, having demstrated that rain and mud have decided the issue of battles as well as of football sames. The great drive on Verdun is proceeding in a blizzard. Those soft, driv-ing snowflakes may be of more moment than shot and shell in deciding the out-come. Strange paradox; yet it would be still stranger if cannon really did decide the fate of particupa in the long vun.

the fate of nations, in the long run, What does the English poet say? "Can-non balls may aid the truth, but thought's weapon stronger; we'll win our battles with its help; wait a little longer." That samds like pacifism, or pacificism, or whatever it is. It also sounds like Con-verses. grees and others. But it's desperately true. It is not because men made wea-point long ago and kept on developing them that great things happen, but because somebody, long ago, sitting in some grassy nock, watching the birds, had a thought, which developed into ideas, which develbed into principles—it is for this reason at the embattled thousands march to that the wa will

We will not in a hurry abaadon our th in thinking to worship the erratic d. Action. "Thought is action." god. Action.

FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity— Generally fair tonight and Sunday, with lowest temperature tonight about 15 degrees; strong westerly winds.

For details see page 4.

LUST AND FOUND DOSTON TERRIER - Loss. Honton terrier, staal brindle, white pencil mark between tree, baby's pet, vicinity filst and Christian as Return to fill Christian at, or ghone Woodland Inis W. Reward. CARRIAGE COVER-Lost, plush carriage tower schur frem Lansdowne to Chernantawa in the evaluat of Feb. 25. Finder please re-two and receive reward. 147 S. Lansdowne at. Lansdowne. WALLET-Hisch wallet containing money and Masmic paners also envelope containing

Church in Diocese Without Bishop's Consent

CURBSTONE VESTRY WINS

The iron fist of the law today abruptly ended the squabble between the "curb-stone" vestry of Old St. John's Episcopal Church, 3d and Brown streets, and the Rev. George Chalmers Richmond, the suspended but militant rector, with an in-

nction aimed at the latter. The Rev. Mr. Richmond is barred from conducting church services in any Epinco-pal church or interfering with church property by the terms of the decree, which property by the terms of the decree, which was entered today by Judge Ferguson in Court of Common Pleas No. 3. The de-cision, in the form of a preliminary in-junction, clothes the "curbstane" vestry with power to summon the civil authorities to prevent forcible entry of the church or interference with services.

Coming in the wake of the Rev. Mr. Richmond's declared intention of withirawing altogether from St. John's Church,

no drastic action will be necessary to en-force the injunction, it is believed. The ult arose when the rector refused to comply with the ecclesiastical edict sus-pending him for one year and insisted on ontrolling the collections on two Sundays following his order of suspension. The suit for the control of the church property, which was decided against the "fighting rector," is now pending on appeal to the Supreme Court.

Under the order entered by Judge Fe guson in the injunction proceedings Mr Richmond is restrained from retaining or taking possession of any of the church property or from conducting services of any sort in St. John's Church, except with the written approval of Bishop Rhine lander, of the Diocese of Pennsylvania He is also restrained from in any way way interfering with the management of the

church affairs and from addressing any congregation that may gather in the church, without the consent of the Risho Finally, the Rev. Mr. Richmond is en-

joined from exercising any functions ap-pertaining to a minister of the Episcopal Church or from in any way attempting to officiate or take charge of the services of the church in any building or any church in unison with the Episcopal Church in any capacity whatever without the con-sent in writing from the bishop having jurisdiction. The court also enjoined him and his supporters, Robert L. Keene, William A. Kelly and James F. Bozarth,

church.

or any persons acting under their orders rom stopping any person entering the

War Song Causes Fight

James Hell, 5113 Race street, was held in \$600 ball by Magistrate Beaton today LOST AND FOUND INSTON TERRIER — Losi Restore terrier, maniform the white pencil misrk hetweet the meter of the second and t

to the county clerk's office to file the contract made by the Starzenskis. The Justice had performed the civil marriage and signed his name on the back of the contract to give it legal force. The sec retary was fold by an official that the con-tract could not be accepted. But Justice Scudder advised him to look up the law and precedent, and, after a search, it was found that a marriage contract was filed five years ago.

GRADUATE OF BRYN MAWR.

The Countess Starzenski is the daughter of the late Charles Sprague Smith, di-rector of the People's Institute, New York. She is a graduate of the Veitin School, and in 1909 was graduated from Bryn Mawr. At the Main Line college she was distinguished not only for good scholarship, but also for athletic activities. She was a good tennis, basketball and golf player, and was a daring cross-country horseback rider. Her course at the college was in history, poetry and economics. After her graduation she traveled in Europe with her mother. Her studies had led her to a consideration of the economic

and social aspects of marriage. She purued research concerning the marriage-contract phase of the days of the Roman Empire. It was this that had so appealed to Bernard Shaw that he wrote a whole

Continued on Page Three, Column Three | of feeling ill.

UN FORTE DI VERDUN PRESO DAI TEDESCHI

Immense Legioni Lanciate al l'Attacco della Grande For-

tezza Francese sulla Mosa Mentre si parla di una offensiva gene rale su tutte le fronti da parte degli al-leati, i tedeschi hanno espugnato uno del forti piu' esterni della piazza di Verdun.

ato il forte poco prima in seguito egamento di una intera linca di difesa lungo un costone a nord della fortegza. Il forte conquistato e' quello di Douamont L'attacco contro Verdun e' operato da in mense forze tedesche provviste di una immensa quantita' di artiglieria, e le per-dite che tanto i tedeschi quanto i francesi vi hanno subito e continuano a subirvi sono enormi. Gli altri forti continuano a

resistere. Relegrammi da Roma dicono che il go-vernò italiano ha requisito 35 piroscafi austriaci e tedeschi che si trovavano in acque italiane al momento della dichiarazione di guerra.

Un altro dispaccio da Roma dive che Gabriele d'Annunzio, che e' ufficiale di cavalleria nelle truppe combattenti contro l'Austria, e' zimasto forito piuttosto gra-vemente a che probabilmente dovra ac-conclarsi sila perdita di un occhio.



George W. Kendrick, Jr., one of the most widely known Masons in the country, died today in the arms of his son, Murdock Kendrick, at his home, 3507 Baring street. The end came suddenly while street. servants were telephoning for physicians. Mr. Kendrick was in fairly good health ntil last Thursday, when he complained

This morning he called for his son Murdock, whose room was nearby, and the latter hurried to his aid. "I am feeling very badly," said Mr. Kendrick. He died

a few minutes later. News of his death caused great sorrow

in Masonic circles. If had held the highest honors of the order in the State and was past grand master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Believing that it was for the best in-terest of the order to abolish intoxicating drinks from its social affairs. Mr. Ken-drick issued an order about eight years ago that no alcoholic or mait beverages should be served in the Masonic Temple at any Masonic function. The order has been steadfastly adhered to. It caused

Continued on Page Three, Column Two

MAY BE HAD FOR THE ASKING AND THANKS AWFULLY FOR IT

Darby Police Would Like to Dispose of Some Really Healthy Dynamite

Nobody loves a stick of dynamite. That is, not many people do, and the blice of Darby are among those who ponce of fairby are another those who don't. They have several sticks in a package passed on to them by others that didn't want 'em. There is enough of it to blow them all to Verdun. They walk past it on tiplos, and if they ever searched dili-gently for the owner of a missing article, they are searching now.

The dynamite was found wrapped in a role dynamice was found wrapped in a newspaper on a Wimington and Darby trolley car. It was found at the end of the day's run, and from the loose nature of the package it is thought that it was either dropped or kicked about uncon-cernedly by the passengers. The conduc-tor thought it was a package of maple upper thought it to the "how and found" sugar and tossed it to the "loss and found" ric in Darby.

approval from citizens throughout the country irrespective of politics, the President awaits without apprehension the efforts of his critics and opponents in Con-gress to take from his hands the manage

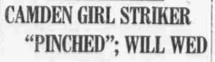
Continued on Page Four, Column One

GIRL'S ASSAILANTS HELD

One Accused of Impersonating Policeman and Another for Attempt to Kill

Flashing a badge in an attempt to force a girl to accompany him and firing a re-volver at a policeman resulted today in two men being held in \$800 ball for court by Magistrate Baker, at the 7th and Carenter streets station

They are William Brennan, 1709 Pierce street, accused of assault and battery and Impersonating a polloeman, and Angelo Maricuso, 522 Christian street, accused of attempting to kill Pollceman Condeco. Condeco said he went to the rescue of a girl who was being insulted by Brennan at 9th and Christian streets late last night, when Maricuso drew a revolver and fired at him. Brennan, he said, showed the girl a badge and attempted to force her to go with him by telling her she was under arrest.



Accused of Attacking Would-Be Worker-Freed on Bail. Fiance Gets License

A little thing like being arrested did not interfere today with the preliminary plans of 20-year-old Mary Kumyty, 1923 Filmore street. Camden, for her wedding on Tuesday. She rushed from the court-room today immediately after her hear-ring and, with her fiance, went to the mar-riage license bureau to obtain the docu-ment that will enable the marriage holment that will enable the marriage bells to ring merrily next week despite the fact that the bride-to-be will then, as now, be under \$200 bail to appear in court to answer a charge of assault and battery. The bridsgroom to be is Alexander Hi-lensky, 21 years old, of 1855 South 4th street, Camden, He waited anxiously out-side the courtroom today while Recorder Stackhouse frowned on his fiances and fixed ball on the pretty prisoner, "Is that all?" asked the brids-to-be, when the ball had been furnianed. "How the present" anawared the Max

"For the present," answered the Mag-lstrate. The girl laughed and ran to her sweetheart outside. They hurried off hand in hand. They had intended to get a license yesterday, but the arrest of the girl prevented this.

siri prevented this. She was arrested with Oilie Zientwicz. 19 years old, 410 Jasper street, accused of assault and battery on Pauline Doerska, 1806 South 4th street, Camden. The first two girls are strikers, former employes of Seidenberg & Co., cigarmakers, at 6th and Mechanic streets. They are said to have seized Miss Doerska and rolled h

ITALY REQUISITIONS TEUTON STEAMSHIPS

ROME, Feb. 26 .- The Italian Government has requisitioned 35 German and Austrian steamships that were in Italian ports when the war began.

PEACE CONGRESS RESOLUTION SIDETRACKED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 .- A canvass of the majority of the members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee today showed that the London peace resolution will never be reported. The pet measure of Representative Meyer London, of New York, the only Socialist in Congress, authorizes the President to convene a congress of neutral nations to offer mediation to the European belligerents. Members of the Foreign Affairs Committee oppose action because they think would be unwise to permit agitation of the sort at this time.

U. S. ACTS ON SEIZURE OF ALIENS FROM SHIPS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 .- The United States has instructed Ambassador Page at London to make inquiries at the British Foreign Office regarding the removal of 38 Germans, Austrians and Turks from the American steamship China in Asiatic waters, and to demand the release of the prisoners, if they were arrested on the high seas, as has been indicated.

BRITISH AIRMEN RAID LILLE AERODROME

LONDON, Feb. 26 .- The following report from British headquarters in France was issued last night by the official press bureau: "Yesterday our aeroplanes carried out'a successful bombing raid on the enemy aerodrome near Lille. All the machines returned safely. Today the enemy exploded a mine near Fricourt. The explosion caused no casualties. Our artillery was active against the enemy trenches about the Ypres-Comines Canal and cast of Boesinghe."

BRITISH CONSUL ILL FROM OVERWORK

Charles Alexander Spencer Perceval, British Consul at Philadelphia, is in the University Hospital ill from overwork. His wife is at his bedside. Mr. Perceval has been Consul since December, when Sir Wilfred Powell was called home by the death of a son in the war. Mr. Perceval came here from Galveston, Tex.; where he had been Consul for six years.

MEXICO GETS WIRELESS MESSAGE FROM YOKOHAMA

set say in the set of the

GUADALAJARA, Mex., Feb. 26 .- A Mexican wireless station located upon the west coast at San Jose reports catching a message from the Japanese land wireless station at Yokohama. From Yokohoma to San Jose is a distance of \$700 miles. From Yokohoma to Honolulu, between which regular wireless service was established last July, it is about \$380 miles.

GERMAN COUNT COMMANDS SEA RAIDER

LONDON, Feb. 26 .- A Reuter dispatch from Teneriffe says that the captain of one of the vessels sunk by the German raider which sent the British steamship Westburn to Santa Cruz with a prize crew described the raider as a ship of from 2000 to 2500 tons, carrying six seven-inch guns, having two torpedo tubes and with a number of mines aboard. The Germans informed him that she could steam 17 knots an hour, that she carries a crew of from 206 to 250 men and is under command of a German count.

SPAIN TO BORROW \$20,000,000

MADRID, Feb. 26 .- A royal decree issued here authorizes the issue on March of 3 per cent, bonds to the amount of 100,000,000 pessias (about \$20,000,006)

VON BISSING SUSPENDS TAX ON ABSENT BELGIANS

PARIS, Feb. 26 .- General von Bissing, Military Governor of Belgium, ins. clerk in Darby. "Stew it up for your hot cakes in the morning," he said. The clerk took one look and then ran with it at arm's length to the police station. It is thought to have been left on the car by a workman. decided to suspend the tenfold tax on absentee Belgians, according to a Have dispatch to the Matin. In February, 1915, it was announced that a special tax would be imposed by the German authorities on Belgian refugees. A statement issued by the Belgian Legation in Washington said the tax was to be equivalent

"At the Earth's Core," a New Serial by the Author of "Tarzan" on Page 7, and Montague Glass on Page 6, in This Issue

in Francia, contro cui combattono da cinque giorni. I francesi avevano evacu