

WIN GROUND NEAR ST. MIHIEL AND BETWEEN MEUSE AND APREMENT

Another sweeping French victory was announced in today's official statement. The statement said: On Tuesday, south of St. Mihiel, the French captured Romainville Farm and penetrated at four different points up to the second line of the enemy between the Meuse and Aprement, imprisoning many.

VON HINDENBURG REPORTED DIRECTING TEUTON RETIREMENT ON WEST FRONT

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PARIS, March 14. The German retreat around Bapaume under British pressure may presage abandonment by the Teutons of the entire line from Bapaume to Beaumont, near Arras.

Viewing the fall of Bapaume as certain within the next few days, military experts today pointed out that with the British accepting the strategic point the loop in the front to the north between that city and the German lines opposite Arras was likely to be very untenable for the enemy. It would constitute a constant invitation for an encircling flanking movement from British forces southward from Arras and northward from Bapaume.

England was vastly interested today in the explanation of Sir John Strachey, printed in the Berliner Tageblatt, according to Holland dispatches. It elaborately explained the well-known strategic tactics of von Hindenburg as exhibited in previous campaigns on the eastern front "in order to gain ample space for strategic movements," and was construed here as designed to prepare the German public for a withdrawal on the western front on a strategic point.

An interesting intimation in Major Morah's statement is that von Hindenburg himself is conducting the retreat of the Germans.

BERLIN, March 14. In the Aeneas sector, declared today's official report, the British attacked in the afternoon with artillery preparations between Achiet-lez-Petit and Grevillers and at night both sides of Bucquoy. They were repulsed under heavy losses and left fifty prisoners. A French attack near St. Mihiel also failed.

Train Strike Threat Deferred for Time

Continued from Page One. Atlantic Coast Line and the Seaboard Air Line Railways. A tie-up of these three lines would mean the complete isolation of the South from the territory north of Washington and a paralysis of southern traffic.

Officials privately admit that they are extremely apprehensive over the outlook. The heads of the railway brotherhoods say that the controversy is back where it originally stood when Congress enacted the Adamson eight-hour law. The railroad companies can either grant the demands of the men, they say, or the strike will come. There will be no further compromise, they say.

Railroad officials who have been in touch with the White House and Department of Labor say that the roads will not meet the demands of the men pending a decision by the Supreme Court of the United States on the constitutionality of the Adamson law.

It is agreed here that the delay in reaching a decision on this law indicates that the court is divided on almost equal lines.

AWAIT COURT RULING. A five-to-four decision either way would be in no way surprising, although the majority of attorneys and officials here who have been watching the situation say that it likely will be in favor of the constitutionality of the law. The decision may be handed down next Monday.

Although the President will appeal to the brotherhood chiefs and to the railway executives to meet the situation in a "patriotic way," officials are none too optimistic that this can be done.

At the conference tomorrow the brotherhood chiefs will announce that ninety-nine per cent of their membership is aligned behind their demands and will also say that they have no authority whatever to modify single words in the demand which will place the responsibility of action squarely before the railway chiefs.

EMPLOYEES DETERMINED. The brotherhoods professed before leaving for New York last night to be grimly set upon carrying out their strike plans should the managers fail to grant their demands. The union men say that their aggressive strike is such as to give a little inconvenience and suffering to the public as possible compatible with winning their own cause, and that they have not yet have openly notified the President that the strike will not be carried to a finish if war comes.

Representatives of the southeastern territory where a different party system is in effect than throughout the East and elsewhere, have given their approval to the strike plans.

Judge William M. Chambers, member of the United States board of mediation and conciliation, who took a prominent part in the negotiations last summer and fall which resulted in the passage of the Adamson eight-hour law, today declared that he did not believe the railroad men would call a strike before the Supreme Court acts. Judge Chambers has been keeping in close touch with labor leaders, the railroad operators and the White House, and is familiar with the entire situation.

TEN MORE MEN TO COOK AT GROCERS' FOOD FAIR

Will Show "Womenfolk" a Few Things About Culinary Art. Ten more men, selected at random from the marital ranks, will demonstrate what they know about cooking this evening at the Food Fair of the Retail Grocers' Association in Horticultural Hall, Broad and Locust streets.

These men are not professional cooks; they are just amateur husbands and are fathers of families who are going to show the "womenfolk" that when it comes down to a case of necessity they know something more about cookery than the mere boiling of water and frying an egg. Two of the contestants have agreed to make flapjacks in jigtime, and good flapjacks, too; one has guaranteed to turn out an omelette that really can be eaten, and two others have promised to make corn bread that will make the women pink with envy. Another bold, heavy man has agreed to make bread, and in these days of bake-shop patronage, it must be admitted that this claim has not been undertaken lightly.

Babies from West Philadelphia, south of Market street, will have their luncheon today in the "Pretty Baby Contest." Infants from Barbours and Lansdowne are also eligible to the contest.

Tomorrow the "Pretty Baby Show" will be invaded by babies from the Kensington Hill district. Mothers from this section who have some youngsters this year are asked to make the judges sit up and take notice.

16-Atlantic City Express Trains—15 Every evening, Philadelphia, N. J., 12 trains every morning, of the same route.

METHODISTS RAP GRANT OF LICENSE

Score Court Action in Case of Michael J. Burke's Saloon

CALL DECISION OUTRAGE

Conference Picks Three Men to Attend Local Option Hearing

Action of the License Court in granting a license to Michael J. Burke, of Sixteenth street and Lansdowne avenue, was denounced this afternoon in a resolution unanimously adopted at the opening session of the 130th annual meeting of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Cookman Church, Twelfth street and Lehigh avenue.

The decision of the court was characterized as an outrage on the property and personal rights of the people in the neighborhood of the Burke saloon.

The resolution continued: "We protest against the presumption that the destruction of a saloon building in the central part of the city creates a demand for its removal to some other section. This decision serves to emphasize the inadequacy of the Brooks High License Law."

The resolution was presented by a committee headed by E. J. Johnson, who has taken a prominent part in the fight against the Burke saloon.

Prior to the adoption of the resolution Bishop Henderson, who presided, outlined the plans of the church and indicated that every possible step would be taken to have harmonious results. Every layman who had suggestions, he said, would be welcome. But the bishop also asserted that he would exercise a fair degree of courage when it came to making appointments.

The conference also decided to continue the war on rum by sending three men to the hearing on the local option bill to be held in Harrisburg, March 21.

Robert of the 322 ministers and officers in the Conference followed.

Business sessions will be held every morning at 8:30 o'clock in the auditorium of Cookman Church, Seventeenth street, and anniversaries of various auxiliary organizations will be held in the afternoons and evenings.

This afternoon the Women's Home Missionary Society will hold its anniversary. Addresses will be made by the Rev. Dr. W. Howell, corresponding secretary of the general conference, and by Mrs. May Leonard Woodruff, corresponding secretary of the National Women's Missionary Society. Postscriptal services will be held at 4 o'clock, in charge of the Rev. Dr. C. M. Boswell.

The anniversary of the Conference claimants' endowment fund in Cookman Church tonight will be addressed by the Rev. Dr. J. C. Hanna, corresponding secretary of the Board of conference claimants.

At the same time the anniversary of the Epworth League will be held in the West York Street Church, Seventeenth and York streets. The Rev. Dr. Dan B. Brummitt, editor of the Epworth Herald, will speak.

Tomorrow afternoon the Women's Foreign Missionary Society will hold its anniversary. Addresses will be made by the Rev. Dr. W. Howell, corresponding secretary of the board, and Dr. D. M. Forsyth, secretary of the board, will make an address at the anniversary of the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension at night. The twenty-fifth anniversary jubilee dinner of the Laymen's Association will also be held tomorrow night.

Other occasions of popular interest during the conference follow: Address by Prof. F. C. Bell, Allen of Baroda, India, will speak. The Rev. Dr. D. M. Forsyth, secretary of the board, will make an address at the anniversary of the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension at night. The twenty-fifth anniversary jubilee dinner of the Laymen's Association will also be held tomorrow night.

Addresses by Wesley L. Jones, United States Senator from the State of Washington, and the Rev. Dr. Clarence True Wilson, secretary of the Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals, at the anniversary conference Temperance Society on Saturday night.

Conference sermon by Bishop Henderson Sunday morning. Evangelistic services by the Rev. Dr. C. M. Boswell Sunday night. The Laymen's Association will meet Friday morning, afternoon and night in the Lehigh Avenue Baptist Church, Twelfth street and Lehigh avenue. The night address will be made by Dr. T. H. Lewis, president of the Western Theological College of the Methodist Protestant Church.

City News in Brief

HIGHWAY ROBBERY was the charge lodged today against Michael Barry, thirty years old, of 1005 Coral street, and Joseph Doyle, twenty-three years old, of 126 Fairmount avenue, who were arrested by the police of the East Girard avenue station. The men are alleged to have held up and robbed Edward Shaw, fifty-five years old, of 127 Richmond street, early today at Richmond and Shackamaxon streets. A pocketbook belonging to Shaw was found in the possession of one of the prisoners. Both men were held without bail for court by Magistrate Costello.

WITHIN A FEW FEET of the Second and Christiana police station, William Bies, of Hancock and Reed streets, shot Michael Gallagher today during a quarrel. Gallagher is in a serious condition in the Pennsylvania Hospital. Bies was arrested.

FAILURE OF AN automatic pistol in the hands of Morris Scott, a negro, to fire at the proper time, probably saved the life of a policeman who shot at the Second and Christiana streets police station. Scott, it is said, tried to shoot the policeman when arrested for fighting.

CITY APPOINTMENTS today include George B. Menick, 2109 South Fifth street, draftsman, Bureau of Surveys, salary \$1200; Otto Miller, 3249 Tulip street, fireman, Bureau of Water, \$500; William P. Spencer, 1818 Montgomery avenue, caretaker, Board of Recreation, \$300; Henry O'Neill, 1634 South Lawrence street, engineer, Bureau of Police, \$1200, and John Hey, 4634 Ditman street, caretaker, Board of Recreation, \$720.

FIFTY-THOUSAND-DOLLAR BAPTIST campaign will close tonight, when delegates from eighty Baptist churches will attend a jubilee service in Grace Temple, Broad and Berks streets, and celebrate the success of the campaign. Three thousand persons will attend the rally. More than \$40,000 has been pledged, and when the roll of the church is called tonight it will show more than the required \$50,000 has been provided. Dr. William Russell Owen, pastor of the Memorial Baptist Church, will be the principal speaker.

GEORGE D. PORTER, ex-Director of Public Safety, will be honored with a dinner in Scottish Rite Hall April 12 by a committee of 100 citizens, largely representative of the independent element in municipal politics. It is generally understood in informed political circles that the dinner will be the signal for the rallying of independents against the Vore faction.

THE BUSINESS WOMEN'S Christian League has received \$734 toward the \$10,000 campaign to defray the expenses of its work. The money was collected by seventy-five girls during their luncheon and spare time. The campaign will continue throughout the week, and the workers are hopeful that the full amount needed will be realized.

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AMBASSADOR GERARD AT WASHINGTON



The American Ambassador to Germany, accompanied by Mrs. Gerard, today arrived at the national capital following his return from Berlin after his recall.

U.S. NOT A PARTY IN PLEA TO BERLIN

Out of Any Move Reported to Modify U-Boat Policy

OFFICIALS STRESS POINT FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION

WASHINGTON, March 14. The United States is not a party to any negotiations with Germany to change her U-boat methods. This was emphasized again and again today in official quarters following reports from Scandinavian points that Germany was considering modifications of her blockade program to mollify this Government.

The last word so far as the United States is concerned was uttered when Count von Bernstorff was dismissed. Unless Germany of her own volition restores her methods of warfare to limits permitted by international law, there will be no change whatever in the "armed neutrality" policy ordered into effect by President Wilson.

The sinking of the Belgian relief vessels Storstad and Lars Pastenaes in a most wanton manner while their relief flags were flying is accepted here by officials as indicating what the fate of American liners will be if they encounter submarines and are unable to use their guns in their own defense. Dr. Belle J. Allen of Baroda, India, will speak. The Rev. Dr. D. M. Forsyth, secretary of the board, will make an address at the anniversary of the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension at night. The twenty-fifth anniversary jubilee dinner of the Laymen's Association will also be held tomorrow night.

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CRAMPS LOW BIDDERS FOR SCOUT CRUISERS

Philadelphia Concern Offers to Construct Two at \$5,950,000 Each

William Cramp & Sons Ship and Engine Building Company was the low bidder in bids ranging from \$5,350,000 to \$6,125,000 each for six newly authorized scout cruisers opened at the Navy Department in Washington today.

The bids submitted for each cruiser were: William Cramp & Sons, Philadelphia, \$5,950,000; The Seattle Construction and Drydock Company, \$5,975,000; Fore River Ship Corporation, Quincy, Mass., \$5,990,000; Union Iron Works, San Francisco, \$6,000,000; The Seattle Construction and Drydock Company offered to construct a scout cruiser of 30,000 horsepower in thirty months for \$5,975,000.

The Seattle company's offer of thirty months was predicated on ability to obtain necessary material in "reasonable time."

The Fore River Ship Corporation, of Quincy, Mass., offered to build two scout cruisers of 30,000 horsepower in thirty and thirty-one months for \$5,990,000 each and the co-operation of the department in providing materials.

The Union Iron Works, of San Francisco, bid \$6,000,000—the limit of cost—for two vessels for delivery in thirty and thirty-one months.

High wages and excessive freight charges to the Pacific coast were advanced as factors in the high bids. The bidders also demanded the co-operation of the department in the purchase of materials. In a national emergency to be declared by the President the company would undertake to furnish vessels in twenty-four and twenty-six months, at cost plus a ten per cent profit.

This was the third attempt of the Navy Department to place contracts for the new cruisers.

At the failure of their last two bids Congress raised the limit of cost.

Noted Camden Merchant Dies. Charles Woodland, who was proprietor of one of the largest general stores in Camden County, died at his home at Alton today from paralysis. He was sixty-seven years old. He was postmaster of Alton for two terms and held several other governmental positions and was well known in Democratic politics.

WILSON MESSAGE TO BE MILITANT

Universal Military Training to Be Subject Urged for Discussion

DEFENSE THE KEYNOTE

WASHINGTON, March 14. President Wilson's message to the Sixty-fifth Congress, called in extraordinary session April 16, will be sharply militant. Defense measures such as the country has not been called upon to furnish since the Spanish war will be urged by the President for immediate consideration and prompt action.

These are expected to include: Legislation covering all matters collateral with the defense of the American merchant marine.

Suggestion for action on some form of universal service or training to prepare the American youth for service on land and sea, if called upon.

Appropriations for the army and conservation measures which will release for the immediate use the mineral and oil resources now locked up in public lands.

Universal training promises to be the biggest question facing Congress. President Wilson and Secretary of War Baker have sent out an appeal for "thoughtful public opinion upon the needs and wishes of the country" on this "radical departure from the military traditions of the country."

In answer to the plea, newspapers are found thus far to favor—above five to one—the adoption of some universal training plan.

But, according to the military authorities here, the newspapers are "far ahead of the people" on the question. "Telegrams and letters from 'the folks back home' show strong aversion to any compulsory military service," they say.

This registration of public opinion is being carefully compiled and will be consulted by the President before he addresses Congress next month. It is probable he will not recommend the adoption of any specific plan, but will strongly urge "some training measure."

Senator Chamberlain said today he planned to reintroduce his own universal service bill and "try to get it through in some form."

The President will also urge immediate action on a measure to extend the powers of the Shipping Board to "meet the special needs of the new situation" into which our commerce has been forced.

Developments between now and April 15, of course, may entirely change and increase the scope of the President's preparedness program. It is entirely possible, for instance, that the situation between the United States and Germany will be such that the President will be forced to announce a "state of war" actually existing when Congress reassembles.

In addition to the outstanding preparedness measures the President will ask the new Congress to act on the following: Increase of the gold reserve of the national banking system to meet "the unusual circumstances of the existing financial situation"; Appropriations of funds for West Point and action upon the general deficiency bill; Increase of the membership of the Interstate Commerce Commission;

Action upon the water-power bill; and Enactment of legislation permitting such combinations of capital and of organization in the export and import trade of the country "as circumstances of internal competition have made imperative."

Little doubt is expressed here that Congress will remain in session throughout the summer, if it is to enact this program. It appears inevitable now that the whole railroad legislative program will have to be threshed out by the new Congress.

ORPHAN ASYLUM GAINS IN ROSANNA HAGEN'S WILL

Requests of \$500 to St. John's Orphan Asylum, \$1500 to three churches for masses and approximately \$7000 to the House of the Good Shepherd are included in the will of Rosanna Hagen, 80 Carpenter street, which, as probated today, disposes of property valued at \$9800.

Other will probated were those of Mary P. Smith, 4811 Chester avenue, who left property valued at \$21,500; Mary E. Taylor, 4847 Tacony street, \$3500, and Harry Berkowitz, who died in the Jewish Hospital, \$2200.

The personality of the estate of Cornelia Patterson has been appraised at \$68,547.80; Alexander W. Biddle, \$15,004.97, and Fannie Baernsopp, \$7620.18.

SCISSORS GRINDER TAKES HIS PAY IN POTATOES

Prices for sharpening scissors in sections of Germantown evidently are changing on account of the war. Potatoes also are being used in place of currency.

The following sign appeared today in the window of C. J. Widmeier, a cutlery grinder, at 2319 Germantown avenue:

Extra war prices. Scissors sharpened; price, 6 potatoes. Saws sharpened; price, 18 potatoes. Safety razor blades sharpened; price, 1 potato.

Widmeier said he had taken in quite a large supply of potatoes; so many, in fact, that he thought of retaining his cutlery-grinding business in the daytime and selling produce at night.

WEATHER DELAYS COTTON PLANTING

Heavy Freeze and High Cost of Labor May Send Prices Up

SMALL CROPS EXPECTED

WASHINGTON, March 14.—Abnormal weather conditions and a scarcity of labor will greatly affect the spring planting of cotton and all other crops, according to information obtained by the United Press today at the Department of Agriculture.

In previous years the first planting has begun in the extreme southern belt about March 10, but on account of a heavy freeze in that zone planters have been delayed in starting their work. This unusual condition prevails all through the South and the delay in planting is certain to be the same in all the cotton zones, according to department officials.

Information has reached the department that labor is scarcer than at any former planting season. The price of labor has advanced from ten to twenty-five per cent, and is hard to get at any price.

The shortage of labor, according to the department, is being felt not only in the cotton-growing States, but also in the great grain States in the West.

It was intimated by one department official that the Department of Labor may be asked to take a hand in the situation and help provide the necessary labor. This move is prompted by the action of the Canadian Government in sending agents into this country to hire men to work on the Canadian farms.

The department's report on the average sowing of the male farm laborer with hoes for the month of March, 1917, is \$23.25 per month, while it is \$32.83 without board.

"These conditions are certain to result in small crops with attendant high prices," said a department official today.

He predicted that without irrigation even higher than the peak price of 13.90 per pound reached last year.

One important factor in the forecast of a high price for cotton is the action of the Federal shipping board in its endeavor to construct a large American fleet of wooden sea jetties to take care of our commerce.

Last year vast stores of cotton were tied up for the lack of bottoms to transport them.

If the shipping board is able to carry out its present plan this fleet of 3000 to 4000 ton wood motorboats will be in service by the time the cotton crop is ready for the market and many of the boats can be used to handle the cotton exports.

The department reports that the cold weather in the South, especially in Florida, Texas and Lower California, has partially destroyed the early crop of vegetables.

This early vegetable crop, department officials say, will be from three to four weeks later than usual. The weather at the points mentioned reached a temperature of 24 degrees above zero, or 8 degrees below freezing point.

Telegrams received by the department show that the cotton crop in the West and ground are probably damaged fifty per cent by the freeze.

The lettuce crop was almost totally destroyed. Watermelons, cantaloupes and all other tender vegetables in Lower California were killed.

In many cases replanting of the crops has been made.

EXECUTOR OF ESTATE OUT \$1500

ATLANTIC CITY, March 14.—William L. Garrison, an attorney, in asking to be relieved as executor of the estate of Mrs. Mary A. Fleming, of Linwood, declined to make any further advances from his own funds. Mr. Garrison informed Judge Shinn that since assuming charge of the settlement of the estate he had paid from his own pocket for the relief of a widowed niece and three children \$1500 more than was received from the sale of the real estate owned by Mrs. Fleming.

BRITISH SHIP AFIRE AT BEACH STREET DOCK

Rumanian Prince Threatened for Time, but Blaze is Easily Extinguished

Fire today threatened to destroy the British steamer Rumanian Prince, which is undergoing repairs at the shipyard of William Cramp & Sons Ship and Engine Building Company.

It is thought the fire was of accidental origin; the theory that found origin in the woodwork while the repairs were proceeding.

Captain Kennedy of the tug Samuel J. Conacher, pulled alongside soon after the fire was discovered and with the fire-fighting apparatus on his boat put out the blaze. The fire was kept within the dock.

The British steamer was alongside the drydock at the foot of Beach street, and if the blaze had obtained any headway the drydock probably would have been destroyed.

The Rumanian Prince is of about 400 tons. She was injured in the middle of February by having a hole stove in her on account of the low jam in the Delaware River. Captain Camp was bringing her from Kilkenny with a cargo of crooked iron. Local agents for the Rumanian Prince are Furness, Withy & Co.

Wilson's Cold Continues to Improve

WASHINGTON, March 14.—President Wilson remained indoors yesterday, due to the cold from which he has suffered for the last week, but it was said at the White House that his condition was steadily improving.

THIS SHOE ENDS ALL FOOT TROUBLES

Those suffering from weak arches, bunions or callouses will find immediate relief and ultimate cure in the DR. REED CUSHION SHOE

BEWARE OF FRAUD. There is but one Dr. Reed store in Phila. 8 N. 13th St.

COLE 8 advertisement with car specifications and price advance information.

Attractive Values in Men's Spring Hats advertisement with Derby Hats at \$2.25 and Soft Hats at \$2.75.