

COUNTRY'S CALL FOR WAR BEFORE CONGRESS APRIL 2

FRENCH MARCH TOWARD LAON; TAKE VILLAGES

Increase Gains in Advance Northeast of Soissons

ALLIED CHIEFS READY FOR 'OPEN' BATTLE

Germans Slacken Retreat as They Approach New Defense Line

MUD IMPEDES MOVES

PARIS, March 21.—Ten additional villages were occupied by the French forces in further progress north and northeast of Soissons and to the left of Laon road, today's official statement announced.

LONDON, March 21.—Advance of British forces against German retreating to the "Hindenburg line" still continued today despite cold weather and snowstorms, according to dispatches received late this afternoon from the British headquarters.

That the great German retreat between Arras and the Aisne River and the German attacks on the Verdun front are intended to mask plans for a gigantic Teuton enterprise on some other portion of the western front was the belief expressed by military experts today.

While the advance of the Anglo-French troops is slower now than it has been at any other time since the pursuit of the fleeing Germans began, it continues, nevertheless, without a halt. The factors contributing most powerfully to the slackening of the Allies' headlong advance were the stiffened resistance of the re-enforced German, bad weather, muddy and upturn roads and the desolated condition of the country through which the march extended.

The French advancing against St. Quentin have reached Repey, only four miles distant and dispatches from the front today reported a lively engagement in that sector. Further south on the road to the Teuton stronghold of Laferre, the French have occupied the town.

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LOCAL OPTION BILL REPORTED

Vickerman County Measure Favorably Recommended to House

FIGHT ON FLOOR ASSURED

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 21.—The Vickerman local option bill was reported to the House with a favorable recommendation late this afternoon and immediately after the public hearing on the bill, held before the Law and Order Committee of the House. The committee was unanimous in making its report.

The committee's action means that local option will be fought out on the floor of the House, just as it was last year, and not in committee as the liquor forces had hoped. The local optionists brought the strongest kind of pressure to bear upon the committee to force the measure out of that body. It is reported out without any changes in its provisions.

Representative Wagner explained that the bill had been held in committee because of the hearing held this afternoon. The crowd in the hall of the House was one-half as large as the one that attended the hearing on local option two years ago. Last session, however, a tremendous demonstration against the liquor bill preceded the hearing.

GOVERNOR STANDS BY PLEDGE Governor Brumbaugh was the principal speaker at the hearing. He said that the act is simply a provision giving to the people of any community, upon proper recommendation to the courts, the right to determine whether the courts should grant licenses.

He said that he was a candidate for office in 1916 and made every effort to secure the enactment of a local option law. Unfortunately for the party did not make such a declaration. And I will continue to work for the enactment of such a law.

There are people in Pennsylvania who are venal and unfair as to misrepresent on this question. I wish to state my candid opinion that I have not weak-

Philadelphia prepares for a war emergency. Whole page of preparedness pictures in tomorrow's

PRESIDENT HEEDS DEMANDS THAT GERMANY BE HALTED IN CAMPAIGN OF U-BOAT OUTRAGE

Actual Declaration of War Expected by Special "Hurry-Up" Session—Nation Rapidly Arming for Opening of Hostilities—Sea Forces Massing

Army and Navy Preparations Being Rushed for Open Hostilities, All Hope of Avoiding Conflict Having Been Abandoned—Executive Advices Demand Definite Action Now

PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION CONVENING CONGRESS APRIL 2

"By the President of the United States of America: A proclamation: WHEREAS, public interests require that the Congress of the United States should be convened in extra session at 12 o'clock noon on the second day of April, 1917, to receive a communication concerning grave matters of national policy which should be taken immediately under consideration. Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim and declare that an extraordinary occasion requires the Congress of the United States to convene in extra session at the Capitol in the city of Washington on the second day of April, 1917, at 12 o'clock noon, of which all persons who shall at that time be entitled to act as members thereof are hereby required to take notice.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels late today directed that the date for opening bids on the fifteen new destroyers be advanced eleven days, from April 4 to March 24. The Department announced also that it would at once order additional destroyers under the \$115,000,000 naval emergency fund which President Wilson has liberated for use. Shipyards were notified to send representatives at once to Washington to confer in the matter with naval experts.

The State Department made it clear this afternoon that in war operations that may come there must be co-operation between the Allies and the United States. The Department further made it plain that it believes war is inevitable.

Plans to commandeer shipping have been made by the Navy Department and the Federal Shipping Board. The program is not extensive and will cause no considerable disturbance on overseas commerce.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—President Wilson has decided to meet Germany's high seas affronts with sweeping action. War today seemed just ahead.

The President today summoned Congress into extraordinary session on April 2 at noon to consider aggressive steps toward the Imperial German Government.

At that time, the President today publicly proclaimed, he would communicate to Congress regarding "grave matters of national policy which should be taken immediately under consideration."

With a state of war admittedly existing as a result of U-boat attacks on American merchant ships, a declaration of war may result as the first action taken by Congress.

If the President does not ask a war declaration, Congress will demand it. Some believe this action will be taken. Others, however, feel that Congress will admit merely that a state of war exists and will grant President Wilson full powers to take such measures as he deems necessary to meet the aggressor against this nation. This was the action authorized by Congress just before the Spanish-American War.

In any event, active steps will be taken to put the American navy and army on a war footing. This footing will be of such proportions as these branches of the national defense have never before in the history of this country assumed.

Possibility of averting open hostilities with Germany appear to have been killed. The President's decision was based on a tremendous appeal from the country.

Continued on Page Four, Column Two

BUSH OR MYERS TO OPEN SERIES WITH THE BRAVES

Connie Mack Confident National League Club Will Be Beaten at Miami

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., March 21.—The Athletics went through their final workout this afternoon prior to the expedition to Miami, where the Braves will be met in a three-game series starting tomorrow. Mack, while not voicing his opinion, is confident of winning the series from a great deal on men. Connie will depend on George Stallings' candidates to remain at home while Johnson, Jack Nabors and Harry Seibold work out with Harry Davis and Pat Flaherty at Rose Field, where the members of the Jacksonville club are in training. Pat will spend the time with rookie twirlers, while Davis will put the young outfielders through some batting practice. A party from Fort Pierce visited the Athletics in camp today. Frank McNichol, Harry McNichol, Ray Walsh, Andrew Quinn, Philadelphiaans, came up to spend the day. Harry McNichol, of Senator James P. McNichol's family, and Ray Walsh, who have been down this way since February 17, will leave for home tomorrow, providing reser-

AMNESTY GIVEN RUSSIANS HELD IN STATE CASES

Victims of Old Regime Released by New Cabinet

FINNS' CONSTITUTION IS RE-ESTABLISHED

Attempt to Assassinate New Minister of Justice Frustrated

"LIBERTY LOAN" PLANNED

PEROGRAD, March 21.—The provisional Government has granted general amnesty to all political prisoners. Announcement to this effect was made today. Thousands of political prisoners are released. A manifesto has been issued by the new Russian Government re-establishing the Constitution of Finland. The Finnish Diet has been summoned to meet. This is regarded as the first steps to the Finnish autonomy. The clergy of the Orthodox Russian Church at Kiev have formally recognized the new Government. The Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, former German nobleman, who became a Russian subject before the war began, has been imprisoned. Rajeff, chief of the Holy Synod; Doctor Dubrovin, a leader of the "Black Hundreds"; Makagroff, a reactionary agitator, and Kokovtsov, a former Premier of Russia, have all been arrested by order of the Government. The secret police service of Finland has been formally dissolved. A number of former agents were arrested at the frontier as they endeavored to escape into Sweden. Other notables arrested by the police of the provisional government include General Baron Fredericks, former Minister of Court to ex-Czar Nicholas; Governor General Gondatti, of the Siberian province of Amur, and General Nestchenkov, commander of the troops in Amur province. During an address to a crowd clamoring for the lives of the members of the old ministry, Minister of Justice Kerensky said: Russian freedom is based on justice to all. Those ministers in prison are entitled to justice and not vengeance. No wrong shall be done to them if I can help it. This Government is not to be based on blood. Great headquarters of the Russian army is said to have received the news of the Czar's abdication with shouts of acclamation. An attempt has been made to assassinate Minister of Justice Kerensky. The would-be assassin committed suicide afterward. He is believed to have been the tool of reactionaries. An attempt was made by the man, afterward identified as a captain in the cavalry, to assassinate Kerensky.

METHODIST BISHOP ASSIGNS PASTORS

Several Surprising Changes Made in Important Posts

40 OF 110 IN THE CITY

Appointments of ministers in the Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church were announced by presiding Bishop Henderson in Cookman Church, Twelfth street and Lehigh avenue, this morning at 11:30 o'clock one day late. One hundred and ten pastors were shifted to new churches, forty of the changes being in the city. The delay was occasioned, the Bishop explained, chiefly by the many readjustments of churches to different districts as well as the large number of changes in the larger churches. The district changes were made to equalize the districts by placing a number of stronger churches in sections which had heretofore been weak. Among the most important changes are the following: Northwest District—Chestnut Hill Church, William H. Pickett succeeds C. W. Green; First Church of Germantown, E. S. Ninde succeeds C. W. Burns; Ebenezer Church, W. C. Sanderson succeeds A. S. Wells; Mount Carmel Church, J. C. Zook succeeds W. B. Stewart; Kismet Memorial Church, Cornelius Hudson succeeds H. E. Boughey. Central District—Cookman (conference) Church, Richard Radcliffe succeeds E. P. Hann; West York Street Church, T. W. Davis succeeds H. E. Hand; Park Avenue Church, M. H. Nichols succeeds Robert Bagnell. West District—Centenary Church, George J. W. Babcock succeeds S. C. Carter; Nineteenth Street Church, D. L. McCartney succeeds E. A. Hinkle; St. Andrew's Church, G. W. Babcock succeeds M. H. Nichols; St. Matthew's Church, H. E. Walley succeeds Richard Radcliffe; Sanctuary Church, R. B. Wells succeeds R. S. Harkinson. North District—Bethesda Church, G. W. Stillwagon succeeds R. B. Wells; Church of the Redeemer, R. M. Reeve succeeds C. D. Benjamin; Frankford Central Church, Wayne Channell succeeds John Watchorn; Frankford Avenue Church, E. Hand succeeds W. E. P. Haas; St. Philip's Church, A. F. Ruth succeeds G. W. Stillwagon; Tacony Church, J. T. Edwards succeeds Cornelius Hudson. South District—Abigail Vane Memorial Church, J. W. Perkinpine succeeds T. W. Davis; Bethany Church, R. A. Smith succeeds E. H. Dixon; Christian Street Church, David Lord succeeds W. E. Hand.

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JERSEY HOUSE CREATES POSITION FOR GOETHALS TRENTON, March 21.—The House today passed Senator McCran's bill creating the position of State engineer for General Goethals, builder of the Panama Canal. The salary is to be fixed by the State House Commissioner and the engineer is to take charge of all the engineering work of the State. THIRTEENTH PENNSYLVANIA LEAVES BORDER EL PASO, Tex., March 21.—Troops departing from the border today included the Thirteenth Pennsylvania Infantry, the Second North Carolina Infantry and Companies A and B, North Carolina Engineers. 53 PLEAD GUILTY IN INDIANA VOTE FRAUD CASES INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 21.—Fifty-three of the 123 defendants in election conspiracy cases pleaded guilty when arraigned in Federal Court today. The principals in each case, including Mayor R. O. Johnson, of Gary; Chief of Police Samuel Persoll, of Indianapolis; Dr. O. W. Edmond, Republican candidate for Mayor of Frankfort, and leading politicians of Evansville either pleaded not guilty or filed demurrers. U. S. BUYS FARM FOR CAVALRY MOBILIZATION CAMP PITTSFIELD, Mass., March 21.—The United States Government today purchased 1000 acres of the William Russell Allen stock farm in Pittsfield. It is understood that the property is to be used for a cavalry mobilization camp. The property includes several houses and a stable for 200 mounts with a covered track. The price was \$250,000. NEW YORK SUFFRAGISTS VOLUNTEER FOR WAR NEW YORK, March 21.—The Woman Suffrage party of New York has determined to give Uncle Sam a list of women eligibles in case he needs them for war purposes. The organization will start tomorrow to take a complete census of women who are willing to volunteer. PENN ENGINEERING STUDENTS TO TOUR WEST Mechanical engineers of the senior department of the University of Pennsylvania will leave tonight on a trip through the Middle West to inspect power plants and industrial establishments. The seniors will visit seven States and expect to return April 5. Their itinerary includes a stop at the plant of the Mississippi River Power Company, at Keokuk, Ia., which is said to be the largest in the world. REDFIELD REBUKES EMERGENCY PEACE FEDERATION WASHINGTON, March 21.—A stinging rebuke was given by Secretary of Commerce Redfield today to members of the Emergency Peace Federation, which the Cabinet member declared constitutes "an organization and doctrine directly promotive of attacks on American citizens and property." "LITTLE FELLOWS" FORMING PATRIOTIC LEAGUE WILMINGTON, Del., March 21.—Under the name of the "Little Fellows" Patriotic League, a nation-wide movement was launched here today to enlist all men who do not come up to the standard of height prescribed by the army and navy regulations in a body which can be of service in war. A company already is being formed here, and the support of Secretary of War Baker is expected. ANTI-TREATING BILL INTRODUCED IN LEGISLATURE HARRISBURG, Pa., March 21.—An anti-treating bill made its appearance in the House today, Representative John J. McKay, local optionist, of Luzerne, being its sponsor. It makes it a misdemeanor punishable by a severe fine or a jail imprisonment or both for the proprietor of a hotel or a restaurant or any employe to permit a patron to buy drinks for any one other than himself. There is one distinction. A man may purchase a drink for his wife. AMERICAN CONSUL DIES IN GUATEMALA WASHINGTON, March 21.—The State Department was advised today of the death of William E. Alger, American Consul at Guatemala. The cause of his death was not given in the brief dispatch. Consul Alger was sixty-one years old and was a native of Boston. He was in the consular service in Mexico during most of the revolutionary troubles there. JAPAN FORBIDS PUBLICATION OF SHIP MOVEMENTS TOKIO, March 21.—Prohibition against publication of news of the arrival and departure of all Japanese merchantmen sailing in the Pacific and Indian Oceans was announced by the Government today. Official announcement was made at Tokyo a week or more ago of the presence of a German raider.

THE WEATHER

FORECAST For Philadelphia and vicinity—Dashed tonight, with probably some light rain; Thursday partly cloudy; mild temperatures; gentle variable winds.

LENGTH OF DAY Sun rises 6:58 a.m.; sets 6:52 p.m.; twilight 4:50 a.m.; 8:15 p.m.

DEWEAR RECORDS High 62; low 42; mean 52.

WINDS Prevailing light variable.

MOON RISES 11:55 a.m.; sets 11:55 p.m.

MOON PHASES Waxing crescent.

MOON DISTANCE 238,855 miles.

MOON VELOCITY 4,920 miles per hour.

MOON AGE 11.5 days.

MOON ILLUMINATION 43%.

MOON PARALLAX 57".

MOON DIAMETER 2,160 miles.

MOON MASS 7.35 x 10^22 lbs.

MOON GRAVITY 1/6 of Earth's.

MOON DENSITY 5.44.

MOON ESCAPE VELOCITY 2.38 miles per second.

MOON SURFACE AREA 37,930,000 sq. miles.

MOON VOLUME 52,811,000,000 cu. miles.

MOON PERIOD OF REVOLUTION 29.53 days.

MOON PERIOD OF ROTATION 29.53 days.

MOON ORBITAL VELOCITY 4,826 miles per hour.