GERMAN POSITIONS RENT ON WHOLE AISNE LINE

FRENCH FORCES WITHER FOE'S LONG FRONT UNDER MIGHTY NEW OFFENSIVE

Nivelle Reports Successes Along Entire Range. Enemy's Counter-Attacks Broken Hindenburg Rushes Great Army to Stem Allied Drive

BERLIN, April 19.

FOR DUAL SYSTEM

Proposal to Combine

Two Bodies

Councils opened a fight for existence this

afternoon when a resolution protesting

against the bill to abolish the present bi-

cameral system now pen,ding in the Legis-

lature, was passed with a yell. In one of

the stormiest sessions of Common Coun-

cil in years, all efforts to prevent passage

The uproar started when Common Coun-

cilman Pringle Borthwick, of the Twenty-

second Ward, introduced his resolution. It

protested to the General Assembly against the bill to abolish the present Select and

Common Councils, and substitute a single

"This move is unfair, unpatriotic and un-

American," said Borthwick amid loud ap-

plause. "The people of Philadelphia are content with the present system and are

seeking no change. The city has grown

from the rank of the humblest town until it is one of the greatest cities in the coun

try under its present benign form of gov-ernment. Great and wealthy industries

have been gathered here under the present system, and they are satisfied. "Approval of this bill will cause a system

to be introduced that will be derogatory to the peace and happiness of the citizens. who will not be as numerously represented as at present, and the form of government

will be that of an oligarchy. It will be intolerable and unrepresentative."
Then a fight to table the motion began. Fred A. Meckert, of the Twenty-third Ward, suggested that this step be taken. It lost, being voted down with a yell.
Robert E. Lamberton, of the Twenty-second Ward, then asked that the matter be postponed until the next meeting. When the yote was faken on this suggestion an-

the vote was faken on this suggestion an-other shout of "No" filled the chamber.

Lamberton had insisted that the present system was not representative. "Philadelphia has two kings," he shouted,

"these are aside from Councils. Members of Councils come here and give time and at-

tention to things they know nothing about."

Meckert then started another rumpus by

suggesting that the members didn't know what they were voting about at that time.

This was hotly denied by John H. Baizley, of the Thirty-ninth Ward. "I've always done my duty, and have served forty years,"

The vote on the resolution was 57 to 6 in Common Council. Chairman Gaffney, of Councils' Finance Committee, said "Not vot-

WHAT MAY HAPPEN

Continued on Page Three, Column Two

IN BASEBALL TODAY

will be that of an oligarchy.

of the resolution were cried down.

small body.

IN LEGISLATURE

Fighting in the titanic battle raging in Champagne and on both sides of the Aisne River has increased in ferocity with the introduction of fresh forces, says the official report of the German War Office today. The engagement was in progress all night and continues

WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES IN THE FIELD, April 19. Fighting is increasing in intensity today over a front of more than forty miles.

French forces are pushing their mighty offensive against the Hindenburg line. While General Nivelle's artillery is battering the German trenches along the entire Aisne and Champagne front, preparatory to another general assault, French troops have won a number of new successes at strategic points. East of Rheims, northeast of Soissons, south of Laon and further southeast, on the Vauclere plateau, the French have wrested important defensive positions from the Teutons. In the region between St. Quentin and Rheims, violent German counter-attacks have been repulsed with heavy losses. The losses of the Crown Prince during the last three days are estimated at 150,000 in killed, wounded

The estimate of 150,000 German killed, wounded and captured in three days of fighting is doubtless exaggerated. It is almost impossible to ascertain quickly and with accuracy the casualties on either side in a battle as great as the one

In addition, the Germans have lost a great number of heavy guns. Von Hindenburg is rushing heavy re-enforcements in the hope of stemming Nivelle's drive between St. Quentin and Laon. Twelve new German divisions have been identified on that front. Heavy German re-enforcements are also being concentrated in Belgium. It is believed that these are intended for a great Teuton counter-offensive against Calais.

"EVERYWHERE SUCCESS," GEN. NIVELLE REPORTS; BIG GUN DUEL RAGING

By W. S. FORREST

PARIS, April 19. day's official statement detailing conued sweep forward of General Nivelle's

The German defensive positions dominating Naouroy and Moronvilliers were cap tured in this sweep east of Rheims. Smash-ing blows north of Vailly and Ostel gained more ground northeast of Soissons. Des-perate German attempts to create diversions. sewhere along the front failed. All Ger man counter-attacks on ground newly wrested from their hands in the region from

St Quentin to Rheims front signally failed. Today there is fighting along almost the ntire French front. Around St. Quentin eneral Nivelle reported great activity of artillery. It may possibly be the pre-cursor of another tremendous infantry asmult there which will sweep the town-long menaced—into French hands.

In the Coucy forest, farther south in the bend of the fighting front, the statement

reported patrol fighting.

Still farther along to the north of the Alsne the French commander-in-chief reported "further progress" north of Vailly and Ostel. In approximately the same sector, in the region of Courtecon, due

sector, in the region of Courtecon, due south of Laon, a German machine-gun at-tack was checked and stopped. Farther southeast, on the Vauclere pla-tau, Nivelle described a German attack of the most violent character, launched on ost violent character, launched on sday night at 6 o'clock. It was ecked in bitter fighting. The assaulting ecked in bitter fighting. The assaulting ares were forced to stop before they exhed the French lines.

In the Champagne, Nivelle reported his troops as "pursuing their success in the soronvilliers region." His report con-

Attacks everywhere were successful. Our troops carried Monthaut and several heights to the east, including hill 227. During the course of the night two German batteries were captured.

Between Soissons and Auberives

selve new German divisions have been In the region of St. Mihiel a German attack falled.

fication of the twelve new German Alberives means the Germans have a forced to mass 240,000 new forces not only to take the place of troops effort to dam the flood tide of the

assaulting waves. E. In the last three days, it is ally estimated, the Crown Prince out 150,000 men in killed, wounded plured. The field is covered with some of which have been imbedded

e mud for saventy-two hours.

May battle-front dispatch received here had been the bloody execution of the chartillery. Against the favorite Gerdefense method of massing men the of the French projectiles has been allingly bloody. Great gaps are torn in

Continued on Page Four, Column Two

THE WEATHER

FORECART

Philadelphia and vicinity-Gen cloudy and unsettled tonight and with probably showers; not much in temperature; gentle variable

PHILADELPHIA CONSCRIPTION DEMAND

Washington Correspondent of the Evening Ledger, Washington, D. C.

Please present personally to S. Hubert Dent, Jr., chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs, the following message:

Chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs. Chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs.

Sir—During the last forty-eight hours thousands of citizens of Philadelphia individually and through organizations have authorized the Evening Ledger in their name respectfully to urge that in the present crisis the House Committee on Military Affairs consider favorably a proposal for selective conscription, that it stand by the recommendation of the President and enable him to put into effect that system of raising an army which experience and experts agree is most likely to promote maximum efficiency. Thousands of citizens of Philadelphia view with alarm the program for a volunteer army, believing that experimentation will waste valuable time and definitely weaken the nation's martial arm in this time of peril.

April 19, 1917. THE PHILADELPHIA EVENING LEDGER.

April 19, 1917. THE PHILADELPHIA EVENING LEDGER.

PLAN FIGHT TO GO INTO HOUSE IDRAFT SYSTEM

President Determined Evening Ledger Wires to Force Action on Conscription

WILL NOT CONSIDER VOLUNTEER SYSTEM

Lower House Expected to Vote on Administration Army Plan Monday

HELD UP NOW IN SENATE

WASHINGTON, April 19. The President's plan to raise a great American army by selective conscription will be fought out on the House floor.
Unswerving in their determination to force all responsibility for any draft sys-tem onto the President, the House Military Committee, through Chairman Dent, today formally reported the greater army bill, putting it up to the President to choose

between conscription and volunteering. Men who are standing squarely behind the President in his conscription plan said today they would deliver a minority report "which will show the country how politics and fear of defeat at the polls caused the ommittee majority to east off responsibil-

The bill, which will be taken up Monday. Vote With Yells Against provides in the conscription feature that one and forty years are eligible.
Under an agreement reached later this afternoon by Representatives Kitchin,

Mann. Dent and Kahn, there will be eight-een hours of general debate and further debate under the five-minute rule. The issue is clear cut. There are no side-show details. The alignment is between those who believe in the old volunteer sys-

tem and those who maintain that in the present crisis a selective draft alone will produce the sort of army required in a period of world war.

The President, the Secretary of War and the general staff are squarely committed to the conscription plan. They want no halfway measure and unless Woodrow Wilson is to meet his first serious defeat in the House they will get no haifway meas-

However, the opposition to the Administration at this time is formidable. istration at this time is formidable. The conscription bill comes from the House Committee on Military Affairs with amendments which provide for a tryout of the volunteer system and which place the burden of responsibility on the President if the selective draft is employed instead.

By the terms of the measure the President would be authorized to call for 500,000

volunteers, and if that failed, to resort to selective draft; or, if the President desired, he could put the draft system into effect

WILSON DRAFT | PATRIOTS URGE **HOUSE TO BACK**

Demands of Thousands of Citizens

MESSAGE TO MILITARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Leaders of Thought Here See Conscription as Only Effective Plan

DEMOCRACY OF SCHEME

In response to the demand of citizens it all walks of life, the Evening Ledgen this afternoon sent a message to Representative S. Hubert Dent. Jr., chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs, urging the necessity for selective conscription to raise America's army.

The message, which appears on this page, voices the sentiment of hundreds of thousands of citizens of Philadelphia and the State. It reflects the views of prominent representatives of the educational, commercial and industrial world, as well as those of the thousands of workers whose labors have made the Keystone State a great manufacturing center.

The Evening Lenger started a test of public sentiment regarding the selective con-scription law late on Tuesday afternoon Those favoring this method of raising an army on a practical basis were asked to send their views to this newspaper.

THOUSANDS OF APPEALS

Thousands of affirmative replies received and the action of various patriotic, civic and business organizations indorsing the President's plan showed, without a doubt, where the people of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania stood on the question

Philadelphians who know the value of efficiency agreed today that selective conscription was the only method to raise an The haphazard plan of depending upon

volunteers is decried. Practical men of the city and State point to the experiences of the North during the Civil War and urge the earthort possible moment.

Men who are in touch with the recruiting situation realize that the results are far below the calculations made by the Cov-ernment. Military officials say that the average youth expects his country to stand by him in time of trouble, and it is his duty, therefore, to show reciprocity by standing by his country now.

. The absolute simplicity of President Wilson's plan which would place every man where he would do the most good for his country has appealed to men in all classes

DOUBLE PLAY STOPS "A'S" RALLY IN NINTH

Continued on Page Two. Column Two

Mackmen Tie Boston in Eighth Inning and Almost Win Out in Next Frame

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL

SHIBE PARK, April 19.
After trailing behind for eight innings,
the Athletics fell upon Carl Mays in the eighth and hammered him for two runs, which tied the score. In this inning Bill Johnson, who batted for Meyer, opened up with a single, and hits by Witt, Bodie and Strunk sent in enough scores to prolong the game, which went into extra innings.

In the ninth, with one down, Bill Johnson got a triple, but a good catch by Scott on Witt's liner caused a double play and ended Myers twirled for the Mackmen after the

eighth inning and Herb Pennock went in for Mays in the ninth.

Jack Barry's clout into the left field bleachers in the third inning gave the Red Sox their usual lead. Manager Jack reached out and busted one of Jim Parnham's choice out and busted one of Jim Parnham's choice offerings right on the nose, and it salled far, far away. Although this was the only score made in the four innings Boston had many other opportunities to count. In the second, after two were down. Parnham used nothing but wide balls, and three batters walked, filling the bases. Carl Mays then struck out, which retired the side.

Parnham started to twirl for the Macks, and his work was appreciated by the members of the Red Sox. They hit the ball hard, but most of the time into the fielders' hands. His teammates did not help in producing any scores, Bodie being the only one who hit safely. Ping got two hits, but both times he was put out before he reached second. Parnham started to twirl for the Macks.

PHILS DROP LAST GAME TO BOSTON BRAVES, 4-2

Oeschger Loses Contest to Jesse Barnes Through Teammates' Errors

> Fourth Straight PHILLIES

Activities and the second	AB.	R.	H.	0.	A.	B.
Paskert, cf	4	1	1	1	0	
Banchaft, ss	3	1	1	2	*	1
Whitted, If	3	0	1	0	0	.0
Luderus, 1b	4	0	1	9	0	0
Cravath, rf	4	0	1	3	1	0
Stock, 3b	4	0		0	3	1
Dugey, 2b	3	0	0	3	2	1
Killefer, c	3	0	0	6		. 0
Oeschger, p	2	0	0	0	4	. 0
*Cooper	0		0	. 0	.0	.0
+Nichoff	0	0	0	0		10
Same and the same	-	-	-	-	-	4
Totals	30	2	2	24	13	3
BOSTO	N	1.4	36	-8		
	AB.	R.	H.	0.	Α.	E
Maranville, ss	3	1		1	2	0
Massey, 2b	3	1	1	4	a	2
Balley, Pf		0		3		
Magee, If.				2	0	
Konetchy, Ib	3	0	1	10	1	
Smith, 3b	3	0	r	1		
Kelly, cf	. 3	0			0	1
Chamber 4		100		100	-	- 4

Gowdy, c. 2 1 0 4 2 6 Barnes, p. 2 0 1 0 3 *Batted for Killefer in ninth inning. +Batted for Oeschger in ninth inning.

Two-base hit-Whitted. Sacrifice hits-Whitted, Ossehger, Struck out - By Ocechger, 4; by Barnes, 1. Bases on balls -- Off Ocechger, 1; off Barnes, 1. Double

SPORTS

BASEBALL SCORES

BOSTON 0 0 1 0 0 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 9 1 ATHLETICS . 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 2 0 0 0 1- 4 5 3

Mays, Pennock and Henry; Parnham, Myers and Meyer, Schang.

PHILLIES 0 0 0 0 0 2 0 0 0-2 73 BOSTON 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 2 x- 4 5 3

Oeschger and Killefer; Barnes and Gowdy, O'Day and Brausfield. (Phillies lost a. m. game to Boston, 7-3. Details on page 15)

PENN 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0-HOLY CROSS. 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2-

Bernhardt and Gilmore; Donnellan and Spillane. Stafford, Conway.

ATHLETICS WIN OUT IN TWELFTH

ATHLETICS	r	h	0	a	e	BOSTON	r	h	0	a	c	þ
Witt, ss	1	1	6	4	1	Hooper, rf	0	0	1	0	0	
Grover, 2b	1	1	5	3	0	Barry, 2b	1	2	2	4	0	
Bodie, If	0	4	1	1	0	Hoblitzel, 1b	0	1	16	-1	0	
Strunk, cf	1	3	2	0	0	Lewis, If	1	2	1	.6	0	
Thrasher, rf	0	1	1	0	1	Walker, cf	0	2	2	0	0	
McInnis, 1b	0	2	13	0	0	Gardner, 3b	0	0	0	0	5	
Bates, 3b	0	0	2	5	0	Scott, ss.	1	1	3	-	1	
Meyr-, c	0	0	4	3	0	Thomas, c	0	1	0	4	0	
Peanham, p						Mays, p	0	0	1	4	0	
W. Johnson, rf					0	Pennock, p						
Schang, c					0							
Myers, p												
AND V	-						-	-	**			

AMERICAN LEAGUE

NEW YORK 0 0 0 0 0 1 Dumont and Henry; Caldwell and Walters. ST. LOUIS 0 0 6 0 CHICAGO 0 1 0 0 Plank and Severeid: Scott and Schalk

WASHINGTON 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0

DETROIT 0 1 3 0 3 0 0 0 0-7 3 1 CLEVELAND 1 0 0 0 3 0 0 2 2-8 12 1

Dauss and Stanage; Covaleskie and O'Neil.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

NEW YORK 1 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 3-9 12 1 BROOKLYN 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1 0-2 12 5 Benton and Rariden; Smith and Miller.

CHICAGO 0 0 3 2 2 0 0 0 3-10 11 2 PITTSBURGH 0 0 0 0 0 0 2 0 1-3 7 2 Hendrix and Elliott: Cooper and Fischer.

CINCINNATI 0 0 1 0 0 ST. LOUIS 0 0 0 0 2 Toney and Wingo; Ames and Snyder.

ADDITIONAL RACING RESULTS

Fifth Havre de Grace race, 3-year-olds, 5 1-2 furlongs-Fruit Cake, 113, Robinson, \$3.10, \$2.30, \$2.30, won; King Herod, 111, Parrington, \$2.40, \$2.80, second; Amalgamator, 111, Ambrose, \$4.70. Time, 1.07.

Sixth Havre de Grace race, handicap, 3-year-olds and up, 51-2 furlongs-Hauberk, 112, Butwell, \$7.30, \$4.10, \$4.50, won; Skiles Nob. 103, J. McTaggart, \$14.50, \$7.30, second; Tea Caddy, 98, A. Collins. 84.80, third. Time, 1.07. Collins, 84.80. Time, 1.07

HOUSE DEMOCRATS DECIDE TO CONSIDER WAR PROHIBITION

WASHINGTON, April 19 .- House Democrats at a caucus late this afternoon voted 87 to 60 to consider at this session a bill by Representative Howard, of Georgia, to prohibit the manufacture of liquor during the war in order to conserve the food supply of the nation

MAJORITY OF SPANIARDS INDIFFERENT IN WAR

By HENRI BAZIN

Staff Correspondent of the Evening Ledger in France.

Special Cable Disputch

PARIS, April 18.—I had an interview today with Will Irwin, the American writer, who has just arrived here from Spain, where he spent three weeks. He believes that 25 per cent of the nation, perhaps 30 per cent, are pro-German. The rest of the population is indifferent. The King, his Cablact, and the intellectuals generally, Irwin said, were pro-Ally. Madrid, he reports, is pro-German, but the rural districts are pro-Ally. The political parties are divided.

PRO-GERMANS TO BE OUSTED BY ARGENTINA

Brother of Obstructionist Attacks Legality of \$57,-100,000 Bond Issue

TAYLOR IN STATEMENT

Asks Defeat of "Philadelphia" Bills and Answers Criticism by Twining

Application for an injunction restraining the city from proceeding with the present program of high-speed transit development filed in Common Pleas Court No. 4 this morning, following refusal of the Supreme Court to take original jurisdiction in the proceedings, and a rapid-fire exchange of statements between Transit Director Twining and former Director A. Merritt Taylor further complicated the transit situation

The "taxpayer's" suit attacking the transit development was filed by Otto Wolff, Jr., a former City-Solicitor under Michael J. Ryan. The complainant, Frank W, Fluck, in setting forth his case invited any other taxpayer who may wish to join with him in the proceedings against Mayor Smith, City Solicitor Connelly, Transit Director Twining, City Controller Walton and City Treasurer Mct'oach.

LOAN VOTE ATTACKED Although the bill of complaint avers that the work thus far and that yet to be done will entail "a reckless expenditure of the people's money" and "will unlawfully in-crease the burden of taxation," the proceedings are actually barrel upon a single legal point. That is the question of the legality of the election of May 16, 1916, when the voters approved the \$67,100,000 loan for transit and port improvements.

The complainant asserts that this The complainant asserts that this clec-tion was illega', and that the transit loan is therefore null and void, because the State Legislature d'd not provide how the election should be held to obtain the con-sent of the electors to an increase in the debt of the city from 7 to 10 per cent upon the assessed valuation of taxable property. The amendment to the State Constitution, which improved the city have consequence. The amendment to the State Constitution, which hereared the city's borrowing capacity for trens't and part development, is not called into question, but it is averred that this amendment is not "self-executing." The amendment provides that the debt increase shall only be made with the assent of the electors at an election "to be held in such manner as shall be provided by law."

TECHNICAL OBJECTION The Legis ature d.d not provide how the election should be held and the complainant interprets the "as provided by inw" phruss to mean that some special act must be passed before such an election can be legally

held.

On the assumption that the election was held illegally the bill avers that the city's borrowing capacity is still limited to seven per cent and the \$57,100,000 loan floated for transit development therefore exceeds the city's legal borrowing capacity.

FOR GENERAL RESTRAINT The Court is asked to restrain the from issuing bonds for this loan, from con-structing the aubway and elevated lines proposed under the transit program for which \$57,100,000 of the \$67,100,000 loan has been appropriated, and from letting has been appropriated, and from letting any contracts on any part of the high-speed

system. What d'sposition is desired to be n what d'sposition is desired to be made of the bonds already floated, as part of the \$57,100,000 authorized, or what is to be done in reference to the contracts already partially executed, the bill does not set forth.

FLUCK EXPLAINS SUIT

FLUCK EXPLAINS SUIT

Mr. Fluck, in a statement following the
filing of his suit, says he does not wish
the city forced to abandon entirely rapid
transit development, but wishes the present
program pudified so that there will be no
tax increase necessary and so that a
straight five-cent fare will be sufficient to
meet all charges. He attacks former Director Taylor and commends Director Twining.
The court is asked further to declare illegal the increase in the city's indebtedness

The court is asked further to declare life gal the increase in the city's indebtedness in the sum of \$67,100,000, to declare illegal the election of May 16, 1916, and to declare illegal the three ordinances of Councils which provided for the special election, authorized the loan and appropriated the rious amounts to the various units of the REFUSED BY SUPREME COURT

Filing of the suit in Common Pleas Court No. 4 followed the refusal of the State Supreme Court to take original jurisdiction in the proceedings. Application for origi-nal jurisdiction was filed with the higher tribunal last Saturday and after a brief consideration the Court returned the appli-cation refused on the grounds that the case was not of sufficient urgency to warrant

was not of sufficient urgency to warrant such a procedure.

After a conference with his attorney Mr. Fluck decided to begin his case in the lower court regardless of the setback given by the decision of the Supreme Court. Mr. Fluck is a brother of Charles L. Fluck, president of the Northwest Business Men's Association, who has been known as a transit obstructionist for two years.

The exchange of statements between the present and the former transit directors.

The exchange of statements between the present and the former transit director followed the publication this morning of a appeal from Mr. Taylor to the people of Philadelphia urging the defeat of the pening transit bills in the State Legislature.

In reply Director Twining issued the following statement: It seems only fair to give Mr. A.
Taylor the credit that he deserves
having the through-routing bill in

Continued on Page Six, Colu

Pictures of Chester, Po