

GERMAN POSITIONS RENT ON WHOLE AISNE LINE

FRENCH FORCES WITH 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. 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.

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 successes at strategic points.

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 now raging.

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.

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

By W. S. FORREST PARIS, April 19. "Everywhere success," was the epitome of today's official statement detailing continued sweep forward of General Nivelle's armies.

The German defensive positions dominating Noyon and Moronvillers were captured in this sweep east of Rheims. Smashing blows north of Vailly and Ostel gained more ground northeast of Soissons.

Today there is fighting along almost the entire French front. Around St. Quentin General Nivelle reported great activity of artillery.

Bill farther along to the north of the Aisne the French commander-in-chief reported "further progress" north of Vailly and Ostel.

Further southeast, on the Vauclerc plateau, the French have wrested important defensive positions from the Teutons.

Attacks everywhere were successful. Our troops carried Monthaut and several heights to the east, including Hill 227.

Between Soissons and Aubervilliers twelve new German divisions have been identified.

Identification of the twelve new German divisions in the one sector between Soissons and Aubervilliers means the Germans have been forced to mass 240,000 new forces there, not only to take the place of troops sent to pieces by the French advance, but in an effort to dam the flood tide of the French assaulting waves.

The losses inflicted upon the Germans are appalling. In the last three days, it is officially estimated, the Crown Prince lost about 150,000 men in killed, wounded and captured.

Every battle-front dispatch received here emphasizes the bloody execution of the French artillery. Against the favorite German defense method of massing men the all of the French projectiles has torn in shatteringly bloody. Great gaps are torn in

THE WEATHER

FORECAST Philadelphia and vicinity—Generally cloudy and unsettled tonight and tomorrow, with probably showers; not much change in temperature; gentle variable winds.

LENGTH OF DAY April 19—Sun rises, 5:47 a.m.; sets, 7:42 p.m.; Moon rises, 10:15 a.m.; sets, 11:38 p.m.

LOW WATER RIVER TIDE CHANGES CHESTNUT STREET 8:50 a.m. High water, 11:38 a.m. Low water, 1:38 p.m. High water, 3:38 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA CONSCRIPTION DEMAND

Charles R. Michael, 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:

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...

WILSON DRAFT PLAN FIGHT TO GO INTO HOUSE

President Determined to Force Action on Conscription 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.

Under an agreement reached later this afternoon by Representatives Kitchin, Mann, Dent and Kahn, there will be eight hours of general debate and further debate under the five-minute rule.

The issue is clear out. There are no side-show details. The alignment is between those who believe in the volunteer system 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.

However, the opposition to the Administration 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

COUNCILS PROTEST FOR DUAL SYSTEM

Vote With Yells Against Proposal to Combine Two Bodies BILL IN LEGISLATURE

Councils opened a fight for existence this afternoon when a resolution protesting against the bill to abolish the present bicameral system now pending in the Legislature, was passed with a yell.

"This move is unfair, unpatriotic and un-American," said Borthwick amid loud applause. "The people of Philadelphia are content with the present system and are seeking no change."

"Approval of this bill will cause a system to be introduced that will be derogatory to the peace and happiness of the citizens."

Robert E. Lamberton, of the Twenty-second Ward, then asked that the matter be postponed until the next meeting.

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 attention to things they know nothing about."

Meckert then started another rumble by suggesting that the members didn't know what they were voting about at that time.

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

DOUBLE PLAY STOPS "A'S" RALLY IN NINTH

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 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 the rally.

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 batted one of Jim Farnham's choice offerings right on the nose, and it sailed far away.

LATEST SPORTS

BASEBALL SCORES BOSTON 001002000000-3 91 ATHLETICS 000000120001-4 53

PHILLIES 000002000-2 73 BOSTON 10010002x-4 53

PENN 1001000000- HOLY CROSS 000000002-

ATHLETICS WIN OUT IN TWELFTH ATHLETICS r h o a e BOSTON r h o a e

WASHINGTON 000000010 NEW YORK 000000100

ST. LOUIS 0060 CHICAGO 0100

DETROIT 013030000731 CLEVELAND 100030022-8121

NEW YORK 1010000103-9121 BROOKLYN 010000010-2125

CHICAGO 0032200003-10112 PITTSBURGH 0000000201-372

CINCINNATI 00100 CINCINNATI 00002

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, Farrington, \$2.40, \$2.80, second; Amalgamator, 111, Ambrose, \$4.70, 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

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.

PRO-GERMANS TO BE OUSTED BY ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES, April 18.—The Argentine Government today announced that the postal service would be suspended to Germany.

SUES TO FORCE CITY TO MODIFY TRANSIT PLANS

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 today.

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. Pluck, in setting forth his case invited any other taxpayer who may wish to join with him in the proceedings against Mayor Smith, City Solicitor Charles L. Twining, Director Twining, City Controller Walton and City Treasurer McCouch.

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 increase the burden of taxation," the proceedings are actually based upon a single legal point. That is the question of the legality of the election of May 16, 1916, when the voters approved the \$57,100,000 loan for transit and port improvements.

The complainant asserts that this election was illegal, and that the transit loan is therefore null and void, because the State Legislature did not provide for the election should be held to obtain the consent 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 increased the city's borrowing capacity for transit and port development, is not called into question, but it is asserted 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 Legislature did not provide how the election should be held and the complainant interprets the "as provided by law" phrase 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 city from borrowing any part of the \$57,100,000 from issuing bonds for this loan, from constructing the subway and elevated lines proposed under the transit program for which \$57,100,000 of the \$57,100,000 loan has been appropriated.

What disposition 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 Mr. Pluck, 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 modified so that there will be no tax increase necessary and so that a straight five-cent fare will be sufficient to meet all charges.

Mr. Pluck attacks Director Twining, Taylor and commends Board of Finance. The court is asked further to declare illegal the increase in the city's indebtedness in the sum of \$57,100,000, 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 various amounts to the various units of the high-speed system.

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 original jurisdiction was filed with the higher tribunal last Saturday and after a brief consideration the Court returned the application refused on the grounds that the case was not of sufficient urgency to warrant such a procedure.

After a conference with his attorney Mr. Pluck decided to begin his case in the lower court regardless of the setback given by the decision of the Supreme Court. Mr. Pluck is a brother of Charles L. Pluck, president of the Southwest 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 followed the publication this morning of an appeal from Mr. Taylor to the people of Philadelphia urging the defeat of the pending 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 in having the through-rout bill introduced.

Pictures of Chester, Pa.

TOMORROW'S Evening Ledger contains a full page of pictures of Chester, Pa., of important landmarks, business houses and prominent citizens.

PHILS DROP LAST GAME TO BOSTON BRAVES, 4-2

Oeschger Loses Contest to Jesse Barnes Through Team-mates' Errors

PHILLIES AB. R. H. O. A. E. Paskert, cf., 4 1 1 0 0 0

BOSTON AB. R. H. O. A. E. Maranville, ss., 3 1 0 1 2 0 Massey, 2b., 3 1 1 4 3 2

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

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.

PRO-GERMANS TO BE OUSTED BY ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES, April 18.—The Argentine Government today announced that the postal service would be suspended to Germany.