



GERMAN LINE TREMBLES UNDER TREMENDOUS BLOW

FRENCH PUSH FORWARD IN GREAT BATTLE

Entente Rushes Heavy Artillery to Launch Smashing Attack Against Teuton Troops Before Hindenburg Can Consolidate Forces For His Drive; Both Armies Battle Against Stormy Weather to Win First Phases of Campaign With Tide Favoring Soldiers of France

London, March 23.—Private messages have reached The Hague that Emperor William is suffering from a severe nervous breakdown, an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from The Hague reports. The Emperor's physicians are said to have ordered him to take the cure at Homburg.

The initial phase of the tremendous battle which has opened in Northern France has apparently turned in favor of the French who are reported to have forced their way across the Ailette river and the Crozat canal at several points. Along these waterways the Germans elected to make their first stand in defense of La Fere, toward which General Nivelle is rushing his advance troops in desperate effort to break the Hindenburg line before the German defense is consolidated.

Further south the French are attempting to batter their way toward Laon but between them and their goal lie the great forests of Coucy and St. Gobain and the comparatively meager advances reported from Paris indicate that the issue is still very much in doubt. Some ground has been gained northeast of Soissons, but the fact that the French report having inflicted "very heavy" losses on the Germans is an intimation that the invaders are holding this section in force.

French refugees from the devastated wilderness over which the retreating Germans have passed add their evidence to the accumulating proof that Field Marshal Von Hindenburg's purpose is to give battle to his pursuers on a line running from Lille to Laon. This means that, in the event of the French failing to break through at La Fere, a further withdrawal of the Germans is due to take place on the British front.

The sharp salient running from Arras to Cambrai has been evacuated and, in support of this assumption, London reports explosions and incendiary fires in the district about Arras. This additional retirement would mean the evacuation of about 500 more square miles of French territory, including the great coal mines around Lens.

The whole question at present appears to be whether the allies can move their heavy artillery fast enough to strike a smashing blow at the Germans before the latter can effectively organize their positions. Military critics in Paris and London believe that a few days will decide this.

Robert Burns Lodge is Planing Big Celebration on 47th Anniversary

THE WEATHER

For Harrisburg and vicinity: Rain and warmer to-night, with lowest temperature about 48 degrees; Saturday fair and somewhat colder.

General Conditions: The southwest storm is now centered over the Lake Superior region, with its southern extremity reaching to the Texas coast. It has caused rain in the last twenty-four hours generally over a broad belt of country extending from the Gulf States northward through the central valleys and the lake region into Canada, together with a general rise of 20 to 18 degrees in the temperature over nearly all the eastern half of the country. A high pressure area from the Pacific ocean covers most of the country west of the Mississippi river; it has caused a general fall of 2 to 20 degrees in temperature generally over the Plains States, central and southern Rocky Mountains and the Southwest. At Modena, Utah, the temperature fell to zero this morning, the lowest ever registered in the month of March.

Temperatures: 8 a. m., 40 degrees above zero. Sun: Rises, 6:01 a. m. River Stage: 5.9 feet above low-water mark.

Yesterday's Weather: Highest temperature, 54. Lowest temperature, 25. Mean temperature, 44. Normal temperature, 46.

LOS ANGELES MEN INVENT FRENCH RIFLE FOR AMERICAN SOLDIERS



S. A. Guiberson and L. L. Richards, of Los Angeles, have invented and sent to the War Department in Washington a new trench rifle by which the soldier can shoot over the trench without being seen. This is done by means of reflecting lenses, and by raising the barrel.

FORMER CZAR IS HELD CAPTIVE IN IMPERIAL PALACE

Deposed Empress Also Interned by Order of Revolted Russian Duma

Tsarskoe Selo, Russia, Thursday, March 22, via London, March 23.—On his arrival here to-day, in the custody of four members of the Duma, Nicholas Romanoff, the deposed Emperor, was turned over immediately to the Tsarskoe Selo commander and taken to the Alexandrovsky Palace, where the former Empress Alexandra already was interned.

The special train carrying the former ruler arrived at 1:30 o'clock on the morning of March 23.

LOCAL MEN WILL BE AVIATORS IF WAR BREAKS OUT

Flying Corps to Be Recruited to 4,000 and Life Appeals to Many

The bells of hell go ting-a-ling-a-ling, For you—but not for me; For me the angels sing-a-ling-a-ling, They've got the goods for me. O, Death, where is thy sting-a-ling-a-ling.

In a crowd of young men talking "war" in the cigar store at the corner of Third and Market street this morning, a young fellow who hummed the English trench song, one section of which appears above. The martial melody of the song sung by the British soldiers in hundreds of miles of French trenches wasn't at all out of place.

Report That Government Has Placed Monster Order With Schwab is Denied

Rumors circulating in Steelton this morning that the Bethlehem Steel Company had landed a government contract that would keep the Steelton plant busy for two years were denied by both Steelton officials and H. E. Lewis, assistant to E. G. Grace, president of the Bethlehem Steel Company, over the long distance telephone.

Mr. Lewis said none of the department heads would have charge of this matter. He knew nothing of the contract and that as far as he knew there was no contract that would affect the local plant under consideration.

Rumors were to the effect that the manufacture of a certain kind of steel was possible in the Steelton plant and that the work would be steady on this material for two years. Rumor also had it that several government officials were in Steelton several days this week.

Cannot Get Along Without TELEGRAPH

To the Editor of the Telegraph: Please deliver me your paper again, starting to-day if possible. After taking your paper for over 34 years I cannot stop it even for a cheaper paper. Please start it to-day again if possible, and oblige me, M. O. DAVIDSON, 135 Sayford St.

FIVE HARRISBURG GIRLS ARE EAGER TO ENTER NAVY

Apply at U. S. N. Recruiting Office For Enlistment Under New Law

Five Harrisburg women have made application to enter the service of the United States Navy within the last week, according to Chief Quartermaster W. E. Quirk, in charge of the local naval recruiting station, 300 Bergner Building.

Quartermaster Quirk has not yet received any definite orders from headquarters as to what the requirements for the enlistment of women are, but expects full details within a day or so.

PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE TO MEET NEXT WEEK

Governor Receives Many Letters From Prominent Men Accepting Call to Duty

Governor Brumbaugh to-day announced that the Committee on Safety and Defense of Pennsylvania would hold its first meeting in the State Capitol next Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock. The Governor will address the committee at the opening of its session and probably participate in the discussions.

Numerous acceptances of appointment on the committee were received by the Governor to-day and he stated that he had heard from practically every man named. "I am more than gratified at the hearty response to invitations to serve on the committee from men of affairs who will give the time from their business to serve the Commonwealth," said the Governor.

Preparations to complete the inventory of the military stores in possession of the State in order to ascertain just what will be needed to have the manufacture of a certain kind of steel in the field at maximum strength are being rushed and the information will be sent to the War Department at the earliest practicable moment.

BILLY SUNDAY IS NO POOR MUTT OF A PACIFIST SO HE PLANS TO ENLIST TO FIGHT GERMANS

Buffalo, March 23.—"Jesus, you're sure taking a lot of back talk from the Kaiser," remarked William Asher Sunday as he unfolded his newspaper and sipped his breakfast coffee yesterday morning.

"I wish, Lord, you'd tell America to help wipe Germany off the map, as you commanded Israel to destroy the idolatrous and corrupt Canaanites. Count Billy Sunday in up to his neck when war comes." The evangelist, who has taken Buffalo and is poised for a spring drive against the New York division of Satan's army, is ready to turn the fight against "Teuton frightfulness" the minute Congress gives the word.

34 LIVES LOST IN U-BOAT'S ATTACK ON U. S. STEAMER

Teuton Captain Disappears, Leaving American Seamen Sink to Their Deaths

London, March 23.—A Rotterdam dispatch to the Daily Telegraph says that it is reported there that thirty-four members of the American steamer Healdton were either killed when the vessel was attacked or drowned subsequently. A torpedo which penetrated the engine room is said to have been responsible for the death of 13 of the men.

A Reuter's dispatch from The Hague says that the captain of the Healdton, a virtual state of war already exists, government officials believe, and they are doing everything possible to prepare the nation to meet that condition.

GIRLS IN SUICIDE PACT SHOOT EACH OTHER TO DEATH

Hold Revolvers at Temples and Pull Triggers Simultaneously

Portsmouth, N. H., March 23.—Two young women who were killed in a Portsmouth cafe last night were definitely identified to-day as Margaret ("Peggy") Spalding, daughter of George F. Spalding, of Newton, Mass., and Ethel Stanton, daughter of J. L. Stanton, city passenger agent of the Rock Island Railroad, with headquarters at Los Angeles. A note signed "Peggy and Ethel" found in a room in the Rockingham Hotel, which they

German Bread Ration is Again Cut Down

Amsterdam, March 23.—The bread ration in Germany will be diminished one-fourth, beginning April 15, owing to the scarcity of wheat, according to a dispatch from Berlin in the Weser Zeitung of Bremen. The potato ration will be continued at five pounds weekly and the meat ration will be increased by 250 grams weekly.

It is announced, adds the dispatch, that the curtailment in the use of wheat is necessary to insure the present stocks lasting until next harvest.

WILSON DRAFTS WAR MESSAGE WITH AID OF CABINET MEMBERS

Sinking of American Steamer Healdton Adds to Gravity of Situation But Cannot Cause Immediate Change in Government's Policy; Everything Is Dropped by Government to Get Nation's Armed Forces Into Shape For Waging War On Germany

Washington, March 23.— President Wilson's address to Congress was taken up in its tentative form at to-day's cabinet meeting. Practically all the secretaries had been asked to bring material for points upon which it will touch.

While the exact nature of the President's address necessarily will be determined by the developments of the next ten days, it is expected to be specific in character and probably will outline comprehensively just what steps he believes Congress should take to meet the warlike operations of German submarines.

Administration officials realize that during the period of waiting a sustained effort is being made in Germany to place the responsibility for war on the United States. The hint of an offer of mediation is regarded as an added evidence of this movement but the President and all his advisers are determined that if war actually comes it shall be clear to the world that it has not been America's choosing.

The President, to keep in touch with army and navy preparations, cancelled practically all engagements to-day except one with Governor McCall, of Massachusetts, who wanted to confer on ways in which that state might co-operate with the federal government.

Preparing Nation and Germany, it was said here to-day. A virtual state of war already exists, government officials believe, and they are doing everything possible to prepare the nation to meet that condition.

The destruction of the Healdton, however, will be included by President Wilson in his summary of German actions against American commerce, but cannot cause any immediate change in the situation between the United States and Germany.

DRIVER KILLED UNDER CART Harrisburg.—Sagi Itevan, a driver employed by the Central Iron and Steel Company was instantly killed this afternoon at 2:45 o'clock, when a horse which he was driving ran away in Second street, near Cherry, overturning a heavy two-wheel cart and pinning its driver beneath.

CAPITOL COMMISSION ACCOUNT CLOSED Harrisburg.—The account of the State Capitol Building Commission, which constructed the present State Capitol under the act of 1901, was to-day closed at the State Treasury. Edward Bailey, of this city, treasurer of the commission, paid to the State the balance of \$30,967.96 and the additional sum of \$42,676.08 as interest on the balances for several years.

AMERICAN AVIATOR MISSING Paris, March 23.—J. R. McConnell, an American aviator with the aviation corps in France, has been missing four days since last seen engaged with two German machines over the German lines.

KILLED SELVES FOR LOVE Portsmouth, N. H., March 23.—Light was thrown on the suicides later to-day when the police made public a paragraph from the joint note left by the young women. It read: "We have experienced perfect love for each other and cannot bear the thought of separation. So we will end it all."

CRANE MAY GET JAP POST Washington, March 23.—Charles R. Crane, of Chicago, was understood to-day to be under consideration by President Wilson for appointment as ambassador to Japan, to succeed the late Ambassador Guthrie. Mr. Crane was appointed minister to China in the Taft administration but recalled before he left San Francisco because of a published interview dealing with far eastern questions.

NORWAY AND GERMANY NEAR BREAK Amsterdam, March 23, via London.—Indications of renewed tension between Norway and Germany are appearing in the German newspapers.

FRENCH OFFENSIVE DIES DOWN Berlin, March 23.— By Wireless.— The war office reports to-day that the French offensive on the Macedonian front is dying down.

DESPERATE FIGHTING MARKS BATTLE Paris, March 23.—A violent attack was made by the Germans last night north of St. Simon, in the region east of Ham. To-day's war office announcement says the Germans gained some ground at the beginning but were counterattacked immediately and driven back as far as Sercaucourt-Le-Grand, three miles northeast of St. Simon.

HARVARD PREPARES FOR WAR Cambridge, Mass., March 23.—A semi-official announcement that in the event of war the college year at Harvard University probably would be terminated within a short time and the university plant turned into a military training camp, was made to-day. The announcement was in the form of an editorial in the Harvard Crimson.

MARRIAGE LICENSES Ira Lester Wagner and Carrie May Powell, Harrisburg. Harry Herbert Stupp, Lykens, and Ellen Lavenna Bateman, Wiconisco.