



FRENCH TAKE 12 MILES OF GERMAN FRONT

All of First and Part of Second Line Between Rheims and the Champagne Taken by Storm; Teuton Loss Estimated at 30,000; More Than 14,000 Prisoners Taken Along With Twelve Cannon; Greatest Battle Since the Marne

By Associated Press

Continuing their great offensive along the Aisne and in the Champagne the French have made further important gains. More than 14,000 prisoners have been taken in the two days of the attack.

The battle, described as the greatest since the battle of the Marne, and considered a logical continuance of that struggle after an interval of more than two years, developed during last night's heavy fighting in the region northeast of Soissons where General Nivelle's troops made their most notable progress.

Pushing far north of the Aisne, the French completed their occupation of Chivy, east of the Oise-Aisne canal, and pressed on to Braye-en-Laonnois, which was entered by French patrols. On the Aisne further west they occupied the village of Chavonne.

To the east of this region several fortified positions were wrested from the Germans in the neighborhood of Ville-au-Bois three miles southeast of Craone and on the main highway leading northwest from Rheims.

Momentarily halting in the Champagne district to organize their positions the French were attacked in the process by the Germans. Three counterattacks were delivered at Mont Carnillet, ten miles southeast of Rheims. All these German reactions were beaten off with heavy losses to the attacking forces.

While the French are delivering their heavy blows in the Aisne-Champagne battle the British are organizing their forces for a renewal of the struggle in the Arras region. The process of envelopment is being continued about Lens and the similar operation at St. Quentin is registering progress.

In their operations northwest of St. Quentin, General Haig's forces last night straightened out their line by an advance of more than a mile, capturing the village of Villers-Guislain and made further progress east of Epehy toward the St. Quentin-Cambrai railway opposite Le Catelet. They also improved their position in the vicinity of Lagnicourt, north of the Bapaume-Cambrai road, which the Germans made a desperate but vain attempt to hold after entering it in their attack on a six-mile front last Saturday.

Russian Front in Fine Mettle For Spring Fighting

London, April 18. — A Petrograd dispatch says Premier Lvoff and some of the other ministers who have been visiting army headquarters reported on their return that conditions at the front had considerably improved, especially in regard to the supply of the principal food products. They say that food and transport conditions are satisfactory.

Premier Lvoff declared in an interview that the unrest which the army had shown during the first stage of the revolution had completely disappeared. He said the fighting spirit was increasing daily, that the troops were ready to encounter the enemy and were confident of the outcome.

THREE DIE IN FIRE

Troy, N. Y., April 18. — Battalion Chief Bailey and two other firemen were killed and eight others including Chief Patrick Byron were seriously injured early to-day by the explosion of an ammonia tank during a fire in the Mohican Grocery Company's building. The fire caused a loss estimated at \$50,000.

TO CONSERVE FOOD

Boston, April 18. — Representatives of forty hotels and restaurants have appointed a committee to consider methods of preventing waste of food. The committee has been asked to devise means of reducing the variety of dishes served without depriving patrons of essentials.

FREE TRIPS FOR SOLDIERS

The Public Service Commission to-day authorized the Baltimore and Ohio railroad to transport soldiers engaged in guarding railroad property free of charge. The commission held that such transportation facilitated emergency war measures.

THE WEATHER

For Harrisburg and vicinity: Probably showers to-night and Thursday; not much change in temperature. For Eastern Pennsylvania: Overcast weather, with probably showers to-night and Thursday; gentle to moderate variable winds.

River

The Susquehanna river and all its branches will probably continue to fall slowly or remain nearly stationary. A stage of about 5.05 feet is indicated for Harrisburg Thursday morning.

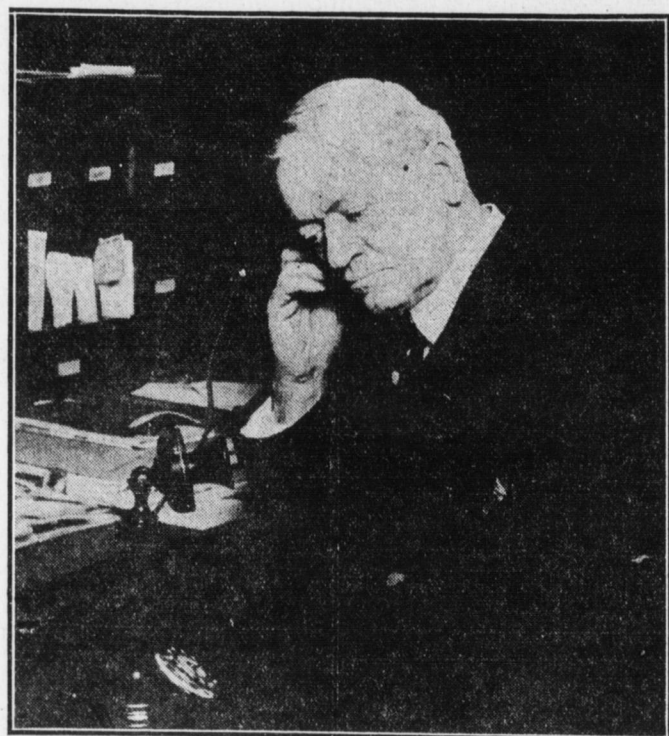
General Conditions

Pressure continues high over the South Atlantic and East Gulf States, but has diminished over the remainder of the country east of the Mississippi river.

Temperature: 8 a. m., 52 degrees. Sun: Rises, 5:17 a. m. Moon: Rises, 5:17 a. m. River: Stage, 5.2 feet.

Yesterday's Weather: Highest temperature, 67. Lowest temperature, 38. Mean temperature, 52. Normal temperature, 52.

LAST PORTRAIT OF MAYOR MEALS



MAYOR EZRA S. MEALS

This photograph, the last taken of Mayor Meals, shows him at work at his desk just before the illness developed which culminated in his death. He was one of the hardest working mayors the city ever had and labored all hours of the night in conferences on traffic improvement and other police betterments.

SERVICES FOR MAYOR MEALS TO BE HELD FRIDAY

Dies at Harrisburg Hospital After Lingered Illness; Whole City Mourns

COUNCIL TO ATTEND

Will Be at Funeral in Body; Friend of Poor and Police Reformer

The funeral of Mayor Ezra S. Meals, who died early this morning at the Harrisburg Hospital, will be held on Friday.

Services will be held at 2 o'clock in the afternoon at the home, Third and North streets, and will be private. The body may be viewed to-morrow afternoon at 4 o'clock, to-morrow evening and Friday until noon.

A special meeting of council will be called for this evening or to-morrow morning, to pass resolutions of regret because of the death of the Mayor. It is probable that all city offices will be ordered closed at noon on Friday in honor of the Mayor.

Council to Attend in Body

The Rev. Harry Nelson Bassler, pastor of the Second Reformed Church, will have charge of the ceremonies and

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Largest Single War Credit in World's History to Go to Wilson Without Delay

Washington, April 18. — The largest single war credit in history will be at the disposal of the administration as soon as the House approves Senate amendments to the \$7,000,000,000 war measure bill. This bill, to be to-day, the measure passed the Senate last night by unanimous vote.

The House was expected to accept the few Senate changes without sending the measure to conference. The Senate, however, named conferees to act should the House not approve the changes. The bill will be rushed to President Wilson for his signature as soon as the House approves the measure.

Treasury officials, anticipating the action of the House on the bill, began to-day to work out the policy to be employed in issuing the bonds. Secretary McAdoo will seek the advice of leading financiers of the country regarding the best means of floating the issue and that end has invited suggestions from members of the advisory council of the Federal Reserve Board.

U-Boat Sinks Spanish Steamer, Killing Eighteen

Madrid, April 18. — The Spanish steamship Tom has been torpedoed and sunk without warning. Eighteen lives were lost. It is expected that news of this occurrence will further inflame public feeling in Spain. The Tom, 2,409 tons gross, was owned in Bilbao.

Opium Seized by the U. S. to Be Used by Red Cross

Washington, D. C., April 18. — Large quantities of opium seized by agents of the Treasury Department in enforcing the anti-traffic laws, will be used in making valuable hospital drugs which the war has made scarce, according to plans reported to-day by the National Academy of Sciences by the National Research Council, a body created to study scientific war problems.

Count Tizza Said to Have Quit as Hungarian Premier

Amsterdam, April 18. — The Vienna newspapers announce that Dr. Urban, Minister of Commerce, will be replaced by Count Tizza, who has resigned. Dispatches from Germany report that the resignation of the convocation of the Austrian Parliament next month, which they say, is considered in German circles as important, in view of political events abroad.

MARKET CLOSING IRREGULAR

New York, April 18. — With few exceptions all forenoon gains were effaced in the last hour, the list drooping on increased weakness of motors and other specialties. The closing was irregular. Persistent selling of speculative issues at extreme recessions of 2 to 5 points proved an offset to the firmer tendencies shown by rails and seasoned industrials in to-day's professional operations. Sales were estimated at \$25,000 shares.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

John William Rice, Jr., Enola, and Margaret Elva Kulp, Duncannon. Cornelius Wisterman, Columbia, and Ruth Aliretta Klapp, Harrisburg.

William Henry Rhoads, Jr., and Sarah Catharine Smith, Harrisburg. Frank Raish and Florence Elizabeth Woods, Philadelphia. George Ramsey, Jr., and Lillie Finnen, West Hanover township.

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HEAVY FIRING HEARD AT SEA OFF CAPE COD

Four Naval Stations Report Sound of Guns; Battle Gains Some Credence; No Comment Is Made on Official Statement Sent to Washington; Exchange of Salutes Suggested as Possible Cause of Shots

By Associated Press

Washington, April 18. — A report from a Cape Cod coast guard station forwarded to the Navy Department by the Boston naval district commandant says there was heavy firing this morning at sea north of the station. Heavy guns were heard in rapid succession. No explanation of the firing was obtainable when the report was transmitted.

Three coast guard stations in the Cape Cod region joined in the report says that the firing was heard at 9:41 o'clock this morning. All agreed that the sound indicated the use of heavy guns fired in rapid succession.

The regularity of the shots led to the suggestion that it might have been an exchange of salutes by naval vessels, although it was stated that vessels on active war duty are not permitted to thus reveal their positions.

Naval officials at Boston explained that the firing probably indicated that a naval engagement was in progress.

Boston, April 18. — Reports of heavy gunfire at the entrance of Massachusetts bay sent a thrill along the coast to-day. Three coast guard stations on Cape Cod successively reported to the navy yard here that they had counted distinct and repeated guns from the north and northeast of the tip of the cape.

It was believed at the navy yard that American vessels were engaged with the enemy. Inside the cape a heavy fog hung over the waters, but outside the weather was calm and a gentle breeze was blowing. No warship was sighted by the three stations, and after thirty minutes the firing ceased.

Suggest Salute It was suggested that ships of the

allies which are constantly on patrol duty might have come up with friendly warships and salutes exchanged. However, naval men could not understand warships on active duty betraying their location through naval etiquette. They believed that there was no saluting unless prearranged and of which there was no knowledge at the navy yard.

Subsequent attempts to learn something more definite failed and an explanation of the firing awaited reports from war vessels in the vicinity. Meantime steps were taken to meet any emergency. The first report reached Lieutenant E. G. Blaklee, in charge of the radio naval district, which includes all the New England coast from

COUNCIL TO HOLD SPECIAL SESSION

Harrisburg — Council will meet in special session to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock to take action on the death of Mayor Meals.

MOTOR LAW CHANGES APPROVED

Harrisburg — The House passed the Mearkle motor vehicle bill, which makes numerous changes in automobile regulations, by 122 to 17. It goes to the Senate for concurrence. The bill forbidding intoxicated persons from driving horses on public highways was also passed.

HOUSE ADJOURNS UNTIL TOMORROW

Harrisburg — The House adjourned this afternoon at 3 o'clock to convene tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock. Speaker Baldwin announced that probably night sessions will be held next week.

PARDON FOR URDER ASKED

Harrisburg — The State Board of Pardons was to-day asked to free James W. Ezell, convicted of murder in Fayette County in 1905. The Board had over 20 cases to hear.

APPLICATIONS FOR GARDEN PLOTS

Harrisburg — The Chamber of Commerce announced to-day that all applications for garden plots which have been received have been turned over to Shriely B. Watts, superintendent of the garden plots, and as soon as he can finish the preliminary work of dividing the different pieces of land, he will notify the applicants the number of their plot and the location.

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CONGRESS DIVIDES ON CONSCRIPTION FOR NEW U. S. ARMY

President Hurries to Capitol to Aid Administration's Measure For Defense

Washington, April 18. — Opponents of the selective conscription plan got the upper hand in the House Military Committee to-day, voted 12 to 8 to have the new army bill carry a provision to first try to raise the new force by volunteers. Meanwhile the bill including the conscription provision was approved by the Senate Military Committee, ten to seven.

While the two committees were acting, President Wilson was at the Capitol conferring with Senate lead-

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NAVY PLANS BIG CANOE RUN FROM MIFFLIN MAY 12

One Hundred Canoeists Will Participate in Annual Excursion

Tentative plans for the annual excursion of the Greater Harrisburg Navy down the Juniata and Susquehanna rivers from Mifflin to this city, to be held Saturday and Sunday, May 12 and 13, were made at a meeting of the committee in charge in the Park Department offices, Calder Building, last evening.

Members of the Navy present were enthusiastic in predicting that at least one hundred canoeists from Harrisburg and Steelton will make the two-day trip.

It was decided to ship all canoes to Mifflin by freight several days in advance of Saturday, May 12. The Ho-

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WHAT HAS BECOME OF JOHN W. SMITH, REMEDY CO. HEAD?

Former Platform Lecturer and Medicine Distributor Leaves Girl Behind

Just what has become of John Wesley Smith, sole proprietor of the Standard Remedy Company and former platform lecturer who left town more than a month ago is the question that is bothering his friends in Harrisburg and the girl who patiently waits for his return in New Germantown. June 8 is the date set for their marriage.

Smith left his boarding house at 1630 North Sixth street March 21, say-

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ARCHITECT OF NEW PENN-HARRIS GOES OVER PLANS

W. L. Stoddart Here; Specifications in Hands of Contractors

W. L. Stoddart, architect of the new Penn-Harris Hotel, spent a few hours in Harrisburg yesterday afternoon going over with the officers of the hotel company certain details of the plans. Drawings and specifications are now in the hands of the contractors and sub-contractors and it is expected that estimates will be in the hands of the collaborating architects not later than May 1.

The work on the plans has involved

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SCOUTS COVER CITY WITH RED CROSS POSTERS

"Join Now" Placards Admonish; Canvassers Work in Industrial Plants

Membership canvassers working in the intensive membership campaign of the Harrisburg chapter, American Red Cross, to-day devoted their efforts to the various industrial plants and commercial establishments of the city.

Harrisburg awoke this morning to find that the Boy Scouts of the city has done their work well. The city

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PRESENT PLANS TO BE FOLLOWED IN BIG PARADE

Death of Mayor Will Not Postpone Patriotic Event; Follow His Wishes

The big patriotic parade and demonstration arranged for Saturday will not be postponed on account of the death of Mayor Meals.

Believing it would be the wish of the late Mayor, whose last official act was the issuing a proclamation calling on the citizens of Harrisburg to set apart the day for attesting their loyalty to the Flag and Country, that the program be carried out, the committee on arrangements will make no change in the plans as announced. Action will be taken by the committee to-night in recognition of the death of the Mayor an formally declaring its belief that its action is not post-

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German Monarchy to Fall if Entente Wins War

Amsterdam, April 18. — Count Von Reventlow writing in the Tages-Zeitung, asserts that victory is necessary if the German monarchy is to endure. He says: "We have long expressed the view that German victory and the German monarchy are mutually dependent. Without a German victory the German monarchy will soon cease to exist."

FRENCH ATTACK TEUTONIC LINE'S STRONGEST POINT

Commanders Leave Nothing to Chance in Great Forward Movement

Paris, April 18. — The latest French victory, while on a smaller scale than that of Monday is an equally important success. Both of the sections attacked had been left alone hitherto on account of the exceptional strength of the German positions. The French command held that an assault could only be successfully undertaken when overwhelming resources had been accumulated and the general situation was favorable.

The general who commands the

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Governor Will March at Head of Capitol Division in Great Patriotic Parade

At a meeting of the Capitol Hill employees committee late this afternoon Governor Martin G. Brumbaugh declared he intended to march at the head of the Capitol Hill division which will number at least 1,000 in the Patriotic parade. Members of the Harrisburg extension of the University of Pennsylvania School of Accounts and Finance will follow the Capitol Division in the line.

28 Vessels Sent to the Bottom During Week by German Submarines

London, April 18. — The weekly report of British shipping losses issued to-day shows 19 vessels of more than 1,500 tons sunk and nine vessels of less than 1,500 tons. Twelve fishing vessels also were sunk.

During the past seven weeks, the period on which statements of the losses of British merchant vessels have been made in their present form, the figures show that 168 vessels have been lost, the total for vessels of more than 1,500 tons being 116 and for vessels of less than that tonnage, 52. This week's losses of 28 merchant ships are slightly in excess of the average, which is 24 for the seven weeks' period.

Von Bissing Replaced As Governor of Belgium

Amsterdam, April 18. — According to a Brussels telegram Governor General Von Bissing is again ill and the emperor has appointed General Von Zwell his successor for the time being. General Von Zwell is at present governor of Antwerp.

General Von Bissing has been repeatedly reported ill during the last year and was said to be suffering from pneumonia and in a dangerous condition last December. Reports of his resignation have been equally frequent but have never been confirmed.

PREPAREDNESS BILL PASSES

The Beyer bill providing for payment of substitute for persons in State, county or city service who may enter the armed forces of the nation, was passed in the House to-day without opposition. It now goes to the Senate. The bill permitting use of certain processes in bleaching flour provided they are not deleterious to health also, passed