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HARRISBURG, PA., MONDAY EVENING, MAY 7, 1917.

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FRENCH GUNS BATTER DOWN GERMAN LINE

Nivelle's Army Within Six Miles of Great Stronghold at Laon After Fighting Way Through Desperate Teuton Resistance; Heavy Price Must Be Paid For Capture of Important Center, But Recent Victories Bring City Within Grasp of the Poilus

BRITISH PIERCE HEART OF HINDENBURG LINE IN HARD HAND-TO-HAND BATTLING

Berlin Throws Fresh Troops Into Fray in Vain Attempt to Stem Advancing Tide; Mass Attacks Prove Futile; Everywhere the French Hold Fast to Brilliantly Won Points, Mowing Down Kaiser's Hosts With Their Fire

French guns have battered down the back door to Laon and the Poilus of General Nivelle are now only six miles from the German stronghold. One formidable barrier lies between them and their goal—the Ailette river—but from the captured heights along the Chemin des Dames (the road of the ladies) the French guns overlook the stream.

Like the Chemin des Dames, the Ailette runs east and west, paralleling the French lines. It is hardly worthy of the name of river, but its bed is in a deep gorge which makes it a grave obstacle. Laon will not be captured except at heavy price, but the French victories of the last week have brought its capture apparently within grasp.

British Pierce Line Bullecourt, directly on the Hindenburg line, has been entered by British troops, who this morning were fighting the Germans within the town for its possession. Giving the Germans no time to bring up reserves from the hard-pressed Alsne front, where the French are driving through the Siegfried line or Laon by the back way to that stronghold, General Haig's troops began to-day to widen the breach they have made in the Hindenburg line in the Bullecourt region. Counter-attacks of extreme violence rapidly repeated had failed to shake the British grip on the line here and have not prevented them from striking again when they were ready. Bullecourt had been hemmed in on all sides by the British, and the British having worked well to the east of the village. Driving back toward it they have fought their way into the place, pressing back desperately-revolving Germans.

French Take Prisoners On the French front northeast of Soissons and along the Chemin-des-Dames the Germans have been forced to employ fresh troops in an effort to stem the French advance. Last night they drove masses of men against the lines all along this front but were unable to shake the French Nivelle's hold upon the valuable and hard-won ground on the plateau overlooking the Ailette river, the outlying defense of Laon. Everywhere the French held fast, mowing down the Germans with their fire.

In the new battles which developed late last week the French have taken more than 6,200 prisoners, bringing their total since April 15 up to approximately 29,000.

Talk of Reform The developments on the battlefield are chiefly important for the possibilities they open up and the same may be said to be true of events behind the firing lines. In Germany there is much talk of political reform and several proposals have been put forward in the Reichstag to curtail the power of the Emperor and make the ministry responsible to parliament.

Apparently the putting forward of the mooted reform has served to check the rising tide of popular discontent but the extraordinary measures adopted by the government to prevent the outside world from learning the true situation make adequate judgment impossible.

St. Louis Gives Marshal Joffre a Warm Welcome

THE WEATHER

For Harrisburg and vicinity: Fair to-night and Tuesday; continued cool.

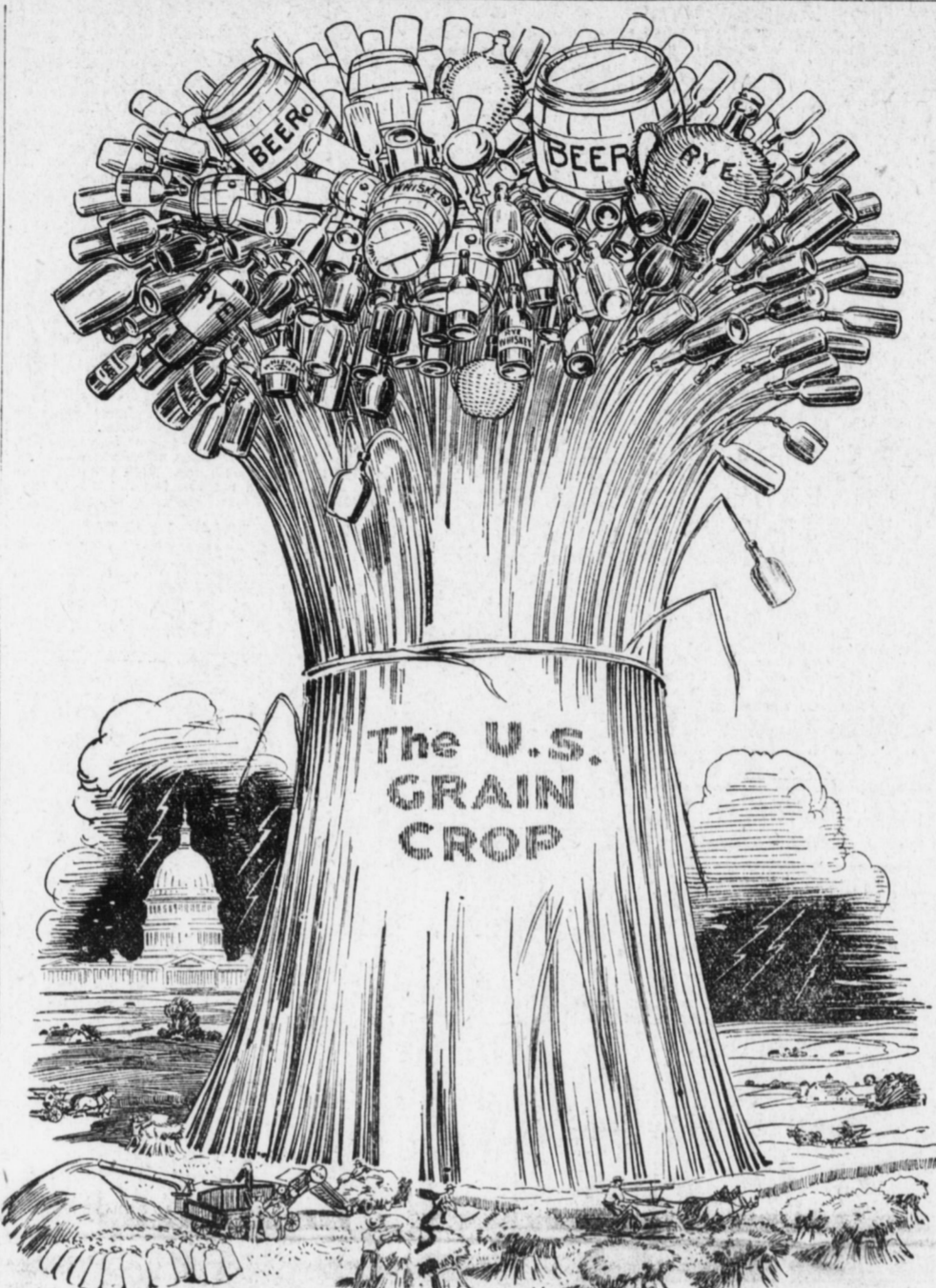
For Eastern Pennsylvania: Partly cloudy to-night and Tuesday, continued cool, gentle to moderate easterly winds.

River The main river and its principal tributaries will rise except the Susquehanna and extreme Southern Florida, which will fall to-night and Tuesday. A stage of about 5.0 feet is indicated for Harrisburg Tuesday morning.

General Conditions A disturbance now central over the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico has caused light to moderate rains in the Gulf States, Oklahoma, New Mexico and extreme Southern Florida.

Temperature: 8 a. m., 46 degrees. Sun: Rises 5:55 a. m. Moon: Rises 8:40 p. m. River Stage: 4.5 feet.

Yesterday's Weather Highest temperature, 50. Lowest temperature, 40. Mean temperature, 45. Normal temperature, 50.



"Shall it be grown for THIS!"

—Science Service.

TWO ALLIED WAR COMMISSIONS TO GUIDE AMERICA

Bodies to Sit Continuously in Washington and London During War

Washington, May 7.—Two allied war commissions sitting continuously, one in London and the other here, appeared to-day as one of the first actual steps to co-ordinate the powerful resources the United States brings into the war with those of the allies across the sea.

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St. Louis, Mo., May 7.—The welcome accorded former Premier Viviani, Marshal Joffre and other members of the French war mission at the Coliseum last night was outstanding when the distinguished visitors took part in a parade that aroused the city.

Two U. S. Aviators Fall to Death From Airplane

Hempstead, N. Y., May 7.—Peter Merritt, of Roosevelt, N. Y., and John Stendorf, of Tonawanda, N. Y., both privates in the recently-organized aviation training corps, at Hempstead Plains, were killed today when their machine fell from a height of over 2,000 feet.

LLOYD DECLARES AFFIDAVIT IS NOT A MISSTATEMENT

Stamm Reiterates Denials at Meeting; Dr. Keene Reserves Decision

Maintaining their stand in connection with the school architect question, C. Howard Lloyd and Harry Stamm, president of the board, at their meeting this morning with Dr. C. E. L. Keene, declared they could not change their opinion of the affidavit made by Mr. Lloyd.

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German Airplane Drops Bombs on London Suburb

London, May 7.—A hostile airplane dropped four bombs northeast of London this morning it is officially announced. The statement announcing the airplane raid reads: "In the early hours this morning a hostile airplane appeared over the outskirts of northeast London and dropped four bombs. One man was killed and a man and a woman injured. Slight damage was done to buildings."

BOY SCOUT TEAMS ORGANIZING FOR START OF DRIVE

Captains Who Are Planning to Raise \$12,000 Marshaling Their Forces

Captains of the teams who are going to raise the \$12,000 for the Boy Scout campaign have turned in the names of the members who will compose their teams. Headed by their captains the twenty-one teams will cover every part of the city to solicit the funds that will put the Boy Scouts on a permanent basis for three years.

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Blue Label League Meets; Delegates Are Arriving For Labor Convention

Members of forty locals of the Blue Label League met this morning in the rooms of the State Federation of Labor in the Commonwealth Building. They represent the manufacturers who employ only union labor and whose boxes carry the blue label significant of union labor and union working conditions.

GERMANS SUFFER TERRIBLE LOSSES ON FRENCH FRONT

French Withstand Fierce Attack and Then Drive Forward

GAIN NEW POSITIONS

Teuton Battalion Is Annihilated Under Machine Fire

By Associated Press

Paris, May 7.—The Germans concentrated their efforts yesterday morning in attacks on the west of the French front in the region of Laffaux and in the afternoon on the eastern section from Braye to Craonne. But the French held the whip hand and beat off wave upon wave of the enemy's dwindling reserve with terrible losses. More than that, the Frenchmen, after hours of stiff fighting, still had the energy to dash forward and gained fresh positions in the regions naturally fortified.

The desperate resistance of the Germans and the frequent counter-attacks in force are comprehensible when it is realized that if the French capture Ailette and Pinon, they will outflank the whole line running north to St. Quentin. General Nivelle, however, has no secure as he is confronted by the famous Siegfried line, a system of fortifications on which the Germans have lavished weeks of work and which is of the most formidable type.

On the right wing German battalion streamed out of Filain wood to attack Froimont farm which stands midway between Chevresny and Hill 185. They were practically annihilated. It would seem difficult for the Germans to prevent the French from reaching the Oise canal and the Ailette river on this part of the front. The famous Chemin-des-Dames, the key of the whole section, is now in great part in possession of the French and in several places they have gone far beyond it. It was the possession of this road which enabled the Germans to hold up the French advance for so long. Its capture alone shows the importance of the success gained by General Nivelle in the battles of Saturday and Sunday.

Impress Teachers With Urgency of Co-operation in Food Gardening

Letters have been sent out to-day to each teacher in the city grade schools calling to their attention the urgency of co-operation of schools to increase the food supply. Teachers are requested to gather data, answer questions submitted in the letters, and to send letters to the homes of all children above the second grade.

As soon as all the information is gathered, supervisors will be employed to increase the school diet. To take charge of the gardening work.

Data to be gathered from each individual will include a list of those already working in gardens, those who are willing to do garden work, those with yards suitable for gardening, and whether supervision is desired during the season. This is the first step in carrying out the school program mapped out by the School Board in co-operation with the county committee of public safety.

Kaiser Hopes For Victory in Congratulating Son

Amsterdam, May 7.—via London.—The German emperor has sent the following telegram to the crown prince: "Your birthday falls this year in a serious and decisive time. In grateful and full confidence the fatherland and I look upon you and the other battlefronts, which imperatively resist all attacks and which will stand invincible in the new battles. God grant the fatherland, in your new year of life a full victory and a peace filled with blessings." The crown prince of Germany was born on May 6, 1882 and is therefore 35 years old. He is at present in command of the German armies facing the French offensive.

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PROBE MUNITIONS BLAST

Kingsport, Tenn., May 7.—An explosion early to-day at the Federal Dyestuff and Chemical Company's plant, which makes munitions, wrecked a portion of the buildings, killed one man fatally burned some others and left one missing. An investigation is being made.

T. R. HAS GREAT HOST OF MEN FOR U.S. SERVICE

180,000 Men Ready to Go to France Within Six Weeks

DOESN'T WANT COMMAND

Trained Regular Army Officers Would Lead Flag Into Battle

By Associated Press

Colonel Roosevelt's organization, according to its own figures, has beaten the total recruiting efforts of the trained army, navy and National Guard recruiting officers. Since war was declared with Germany the government forces recruited as follows: Government . . . 48,326 Army . . . 30,500 Navy . . . 7,250 Marines (estimated) 21,000 Total 107,076

New York, May 7.—The first authoritative statement of what Colonel Roosevelt and his aids have done toward the immediate sending of an army into France under American colors was made available to-day for the first time. To date, Col. Roosevelt has enrolled 180,000 men, exclusive of officers, all of them exempt from conscription; he is prepared to send the

ROOSEVELT'S DIVISION First in Recruiting

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Two SHIPS SUNK

London, May 7.—According to a Central News dispatch from Copenhagen, the Norwegian foreign office has announced the sinking by German submarines of the steamships Capto and Natuna. The crews were rescued.

RAILWAYS ASK FOR INCREASE

Washington, May 7.—Samuel Rea, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, in speaking for the proposed increase of fifteen per cent. of increase in freight rates to-day declared before the Interstate Commerce Commission that the situation is serious. Railroad men from all parts of the country declared the proposed increase will not meet the higher cost of operation.

O'NEIL APPOINTED RECEIVER

Pittsburgh, May 7.—J. Denny O'Neil, State Insurance Commissioner, to-day was appointed receiver for the Pittsburgh Life and Trust Company.

MUHLENBERG BOYS ENLIST

Harrisburg.—One hundred Muhlenberg College students arrived in this city late this afternoon. They are now being examined and enlisted in the United States army as fast as the local recruiting force can rush them through. Students stated that there are less than thirty students at the college and that the college will no doubt be closed.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP NOT SUCCESSFUL

Washington, May 7.—Political control in a democracy is the only way that makes government ownership always of dubious value, W. M. Acworth, of the British Commission, which recently investigated Canadian roads to-day told a congressional committee. He said government ownership was unsuccessful in most countries.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

James Francis McGovern, Steelton, and Catherine Theresa Crowley, Steelton. Charles Legori Souillard, Steelton, and Leah Elizabeth Murphy, Steelton. Frank Sheaffer Gaylor, Harrisburg, and Maude Strouser, Harrisburg. James M. Hedman, Harrisburg, and Susan E. Buchart, Camp Hill. Henry Hrabaker, Enola, and Virgil C. Etcheberry, South Enola. William Lewis Bowers, Harrisburg, and Elsie Mae Demmy, Harrisburg. George Thuman Tyson, Philadelphia, and Eva Ruth Kremer, Harrisburg. arbara B. Kiesel, Steelton. arbara B. Kiesel, Steelton.

CITY PLANNING GREAT OVATION FOR WAR PARTY

Marshal Joffre and Members of Mission Will Be Given Splendid Greeting

RAPID-FIRE RECEPTION

Frenchmen to Be Taken Over Downtown Streets; Everyone Can See Them

By Associated Press

From triumphant visits in Western cities, where they have been accorded ovations, record-setting in enthusiasm, Marshal Joffre, former Premier Viviani and other members of the French war mission will arrive in this city to-morrow afternoon at 1 o'clock, for a brief stay. While here they will pay a visit to the State Capitol and will march over a short parade route, in order that every citizen in Harrisburg may have the privilege to see the party. The special committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce announced this morning that two bands have been secured to serenade the distinguished French party. The Commonwealth band will be stationed at the Pennsylvania station and on the arrival of the Frenchmen will play patriotic hymns. The Municipal band will be stationed on the State street plaza of the Capitol grounds, at the Hartranft statue. They will play one stanza of the "Marseillaise" and "The Star Spangled Banner," while the "Hero of the Marne" and his party will stand at attention on the Capitol steps.

The committee also requests the public to co-operate with them and the police in keeping the route of parade clear, so that the French party can make fast time. The committee further announced that the best place to

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