

ARMY BILL UP FOR ACTION BY SOLONS

Now to Determine How American Army Will Be Formed

RESULT HINGES MORE IN HOUSE

Eighteen Hours of General Debate in the House—Volunteer Bill to Be Pushed in Preference to Administration's Selective Draft Measure.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 23.—The administration bill to create a big war army by selective draft was under debate in both Houses of Congress today. It was taken up in the House for the first time, and in the Senate debate was resumed.

The House bill, as reported by a majority of the committee, provided for volunteer enlistment with conscription only as a last resort, and the fight for this measure was led by Chairman Dent of the Military Committee. A strong element in the House backed the selective conscription plan advocated by the army general staff and recommended by the Military Committee minority, led by Representative Kahn, of California, a Republican.

In the Senate the bill under consideration was the general staff's measure.

In the House the bill was taken up under an agreement providing for 18 hours of general debate to be followed by five minute talks.

In opening the Senate debate, Senator Weeks said the people demand conscription or would demand it if they were correctly informed.

"When the war was declared with Germany," said he, "the President was directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States to bring it to a successful conclusion, and we pledge all the resources of our country for that purpose. The question we must now consider is how we are going to give the President what we have directed him to employ."

"Whenever we have engaged in a great war it has been necessary to resort to draft in order to bring it to a successful conclusion."

When the House began debate, no hour limit was fixed, but it was agreed that it should run on today until 6 o'clock. Chairman Dent, of the Military Committee, who favors a call for volunteers, while the conscription registration machinery is being made ready, opened the debate. He said that his difference with the administration over adding of the volunteer amendment to the straight selective conscription bill, was most embarrassing to him.

"I have been to the President and to the Secretary of War," he said, "with every proposition of compromise on the theory that unity of action was more important than the method of raising an army. It ought to be made known to the country that we will do what is necessary."

MISTRIAL HAD IN MURDER CASE

Jury Unable to Agree in Tarboro Blind Tiger Case—New Trial Ordered.

(By Associated Press.) Raleigh, N. C., April 23.—W. C. Nelson, 69 years, indicted for the murder of two policemen who attempted last March to search his home for "blind tiger" liquor, will be tried again for his life. The jury which had been out since Friday night announced Saturday morning that there was not likelihood of reaching a verdict and was discharged. The reports are that the majority of the jury was at all times in favor of a verdict of murder in the first degree, one juror holding out for a second degree verdict.

SHIPPING GOES ON DESPITE SUB. WARFARE

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 23.—Despite Germany's submarine campaign, American exports in March reached a value of \$571,278,000, which has been exceeded only once, last January, the best month in the country's history. Imports of \$270,484,000 set a new American record.

ONCE MORE BRITISH PLUNGE FIERCELY INTO THE ENEMY

SEVEN BILLION BILL READY FOR PRESIDENT.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 23.—The seven billion dollar war loan bill, finally passed in both Houses of Congress today, by agreement on all amendments and sent to the White House for President Wilson's signature.

FULL ATTENDANCE OF CONFEDERATES

At Annual Reunion in Washington Urged By the Committee in Charge

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 23.—The Confederate reunion committee here gave out last night a general order from General George P. Harrison, commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans, urging full attendance at the annual reunion in Washington, June 8.

"On to Washington was the cry of Confederate soldiers after the victory of the first Manassas," the order says, "but the judgment of the leaders was adverse to this movement. Furthermore the trenches near the city were defended by a line of men in blue ready to dispute any attempt on the part of the Confederates to enter their territory."

"On to Washington again is shouted throughout the Southland, and now the leaders cheerfully urge their comrades forward, while the opposing blues welcome with cordial handshaking their late foes."

"To march down Pennsylvania avenue in full uniform, to be reviewed by the President of the United States, surrounded by all the foreign dignitaries in Washington—this should arouse the enthusiasm of the most callous. The general in command urges every one to attend the assembly, which promises to be one of the notable events in American history."

BATTLESHIP N. MEXICO WAS LAUNCHED TODAY

(By Associated Press.) New York, April 23.—The United States battleship, New Mexico, was successfully launched at the Brooklyn navy yard today. Miss Margaret C. DeBacq, daughter of a former governor of New Mexico, christened the new superdreadnaught with the traditional bottle of champagne, and Miss Virginia M. Carr, as maid of honor, broke against the ship's bow a jug made by New Mexican Indians containing a mixture of water from the Rio Grande and Pecos rivers.

The New Mexico, said to be the first battleship to be equipped with electric drive, will have a displacement of 32,000 tons and carry twelve 14-inch guns. She is a sister ship of the Mississippi, building at Newport News.

ASK RATE RAISE INQUIRY BE SUSPENDED

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 23.—Senator Smith, of Georgia, today introduced a resolution requesting the Interstate Commerce Commission to suspend and investigate the 15 per cent general freight rate increase asked by the railroads. The resolution is to displace his pending resolution to have the Senate Interstate Commerce committee and not the commission investigate the increase. The Senate took no action today.

The uninterrupted successes of the British forces in the valley of the Tigris, who are now some 80 miles north of Bagdad, have given rise to the hope that Lord Curzon's words are a prediction of some overwhelming blow against the shattered forces of the Sultan. The main Turkish forces are at present practically surrounded by the British and Russian armies and their road of retreat lies across an almost impassable desert.

British Again on Offensive. London, April 23.—The British have opened an attack on a wide front in the region of the Scarpe river. The official report issued today says that the battle is proceeding and that satisfactory progress is being made. The British completed the conquest of the village of Trescault and gained the greater part of Havrincourt wood.

The announcement follows: "We attacked at dawn this morning on a wide front on both banks of the river Scarpe. Fighting is proceeding and our troops are making satisfactory progress." "South of the Bapaume-Cambrai road, we captured the remainder of the village of Trescault during the night, and gained possession of the greater part of Havrincourt wood."

Great Guns Open With Fury Upon German Lines in Northern France

GERMAN TRANSPORT ON UNKNOWN TRIP

Reported to Have Mysteriously Left Libau—French Continue to Go Forward and Break Up Teutons' Intended Attacks.

Ushered in by a prolonged artillery bombardment, a renewed attack in force has been begun by the British on the German lines in Northern France.

The new stroke, marking a resumption after a week's interval of the British offensive begun April 9, was given its initial impetus today, "on both sides of the river Scarpe," as the official statement puts it. The statement issued at about noon embodies a report of "satisfactory progress" sent by General Haig.

The extent of the attack has not yet been clearly developed, but as it is announced to have been launched "on a wide front" it probably reaches well toward the Vimy positions on the north and beyond the Arras-Cambrai road to the south. Besides trending still further to encompass the city of Lens, the movement is directed toward both Douai, the important German distributing point to the northeast, and the Hindenburg line key-point of Cambrai to the southeast.

Early details of the offensive report the shattering of the last remaining defenses of the Hindenburg line north of the Scarpe. This was accomplished by the taking of the town of Gavrelle, on the Arras-Douai road, on the front between Fampoux and Bailleul. This capture marked a new advance of about a mile for the British.

South of the Arras-Cambrai road the line has been straightened out by the capture of the village of Guemappe. Already more than 1,000 additional Germans have been taken prisoners. Meanwhile the French infantry is being held in check along the Aisne front and in the Champagne by General Nivelle, while the work of consolidating the notable gains of the past week is in progress. The artillery is busy, however, and Paris reports the breaking up of German attacks at several points, notably east of Craonne on the French salient northeast of Mont Haut in the Champagne, and on the Moron (Continued on Page Eight).

JEWISH COLONY QUESTION UP

Principal Topic Today at Big Convention in Chattanooga, Tennessee

(By Associated Press.) Chattanooga, Tenn., April 23.—The principal question of consideration before the 44th session of the Seventh District Grand Lodge B'nai B'rith today was the discussion of the plan to establish a Jewish colony. The agricultural committee submitted a report providing for the purchase of not less than 10,000 acres of land in Texas for a town-site for 200 families and around this the land site and small farms. The report provides a plan for the raising of money necessary, about one million dollars, by stock subscription. The convention is attended by 175 delegates and as many more visitors representing the seven Southern States in the jurisdiction.

GERMANS MAY PLAN BIG ATTACK

(By Associated Press.) London, April 23.—German transports have left Libau on the Baltic, south of the Gulf of Riga, for an unknown destination, according to a Central News dispatch from Petrograd today. A dispatch from Petrograd Thursday said there were well-founded reports that the Germans were preparing to attack the northern front, concentrating transports and warships in the Baltic seaports. The Petrograd dispatch said it was regarded as probable that the plan was to make a descent in the rear of the Russian flank, somewhere on the Gulf of Finland, and to cut off Petrograd.

OFFERS HER BLOOD TO SAVE BERNHARDT

Young Woman Makes Offer On Report Transfusion Would Be Resorted to

New York, April 23.—Reports that the physicians attending Madame Sarah Bernhardt were considering a blood transfusion operation brought to the hospital today a young woman, who announced she was ready to give her blood to save the life of the great French actress. The young woman, whose name was not revealed, was told that a decision to perform the operation had not been reached. Physicians this afternoon issued this bulletin:

"Madame Bernhardt has improved since this morning. There has been a distinct improvement since last night. We have had no consultation over blood transfusion. If we hold one, we will issue a bulletin regarding it."

WANT GOVERNMENT TO FORTIFY FORT MACON

(By George H. Manning.) Washington, D. C., April 23.—Senator Simmons and Congressman George Hood are exerting every effort to induce the War Department to properly fortify Fort Macon, located at the inlet to Beaufort and Morehead, which has for some years been obsolete. City organizations of Morehead City and Beaufort have forwarded resolutions to Washington urging that this be done for the protection of the North Carolina coast.

INCREASED RATES ON COTTON GOODS DENIED

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 23.—Increases in the freight rates on cotton and knit goods from mills in the South to Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit and many other points in the Middle West were disapproved today by the Interstate Commerce Commission. The commission found, after a lengthy review of the cotton industry in the South, including the mill products, that increased rates would result in discrimination against Southern mills in competition with similar enterprises in New England, New York and New Jersey.

HUNGARIANS AND ITALIANS IN RIOT

(By Associated Press.) Staunton, Va., April 23.—A serious riot between Hungarian and Italian laborers at the lumber mills and railroad construction camps at Deerfield, a boom town, near here, was reported today, and a company of State guardsmen, deputized as State officers, with Judge Holt, of the county circuit court, and the county sheriff have been rushed to the scene. Reports to the authorities here said the rioters were destroying much property. No mention was made of any casualties.

BIG STATESMEN OF GREAT BRITAIN NOW IN WASHINGTON

THE SOUTH DOING HER PART AS TO PREPAREDNESS

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Vrooman Enthusiastic Over Conditions

ALL CLASSES ALIVE TO THE DEMANDS

That Will Be Made Upon the Whole Country for Production of Foodstuffs—An Example

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 23.—Fresh from an extended tour of the South, in the interest of agricultural preparedness, Carl Vrooman, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, returned here today enthusiastic over the outlook. He issued a statement in which he declared that all classes are patriotically responding to the government's appeal for increased food crops and predicted that the South would contribute its "bit."

Mr. Vrooman's statement follows: "The South is fully alive to the tremendous importance of the duty of supplying itself with its own food and feed. Moreover, the South has begun work of organizing and mobilizing an army of food producers and food conservers which bids fair to contribute vitally to the part which the United States must play in furnishing food to its Allies. Wherever I went I found the most patriotic, prompt and practical response, and if the South continues as she has begun, she will 'do her bit' in the furrows as energetically as in the trenches."

"I wish the rest of the country could know as I now know the splendid spirit which is animating all classes in the South, not only the farmers, but the bankers, the business men, the transportation men, the women and the school children. I take off my hat to the South.

"For the next six or eight months this war is going to be a food war and every citizen who contributes to the production of food or who prevents the wasting of food is doing something which counts. The sacrifices of labor which every class in the South will make in this great campaign to grow and to save food will be more effective in bringing this war to a victorious end than any other single thing that can be done. Luckily, in this work financial sacrifices are not demanded as food crops probably will sell at higher relative prices than any other crops. Our Allies want food. We can supply food to them. But first, we must make every section of this country as nearly as possible self-sustaining so far as foodstuffs are concerned."

"By now the South has planted most of her gardens. She should cultivate them well. The food that is not needed immediately should be put away in cans or jars, or else dried for future use. Then the ground should be dug and planted again. The Federal government's few demands on the South are for food. Her patriotism will be measured by her response to this demand."

HOUSE HAD NO RIGHT TO PUSH ATTORNEY

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 23.—The House of Representatives, which went out of office March 4 last, the Supreme Court decided today, did not have authority to punish United States Attorney H. Snowden Marshall, of New York, for alleged contempt. Mr. Marshall is exempt from further proceedings.

HOOD RECOMMENDS THEM FOR THE PLUMS

(By Geo. H. Manning.) Washington, D. C., April 23.—Congressman George Hood has recommended the appointment of the following, who have successfully passed Civil Service examination for postmaster: J. H. McGowan, Waltham, Pender county; Mrs. Bertha D. Avery, Topsail, Pender county; and M. C. Adams, North Harlow, Craven county.

How First Day of the Distinguished Visitors in the Capital Is Spent

MR. BALFOUR CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT

Official Visits Paid at the Departments—Conferences Begun—The Long Journey From Halifax Uneventful—Arrival in Washington.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, April 23.—British Foreign Minister Balfour and members of the high commission here to discuss conduct of the war, began their first official day in Washington with a round of calls, the first of which was at the State Department.

Soon after 10:30 o'clock, Mr. Balfour, accompanied by the British Ambassador, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, drove from the mansion which has been given over to him, to the State Department Building and paid a formal call on Secretary Lansing.

The British Ambassador and Hugh L. Gibson, of the State Department, who has been detailed as Mr. Balfour's aide, remained with Secretary Lansing and the British Foreign Minister only a short time and then withdrew, leaving the two high officials together. They at once plunged into a conference.

The conference between Mr. Balfour and Mr. Lansing was not prolonged, and at its conclusion the two men left the building to cross over to the White House where the British Minister was received by President Wilson.

As Mr. Balfour left the State Department Building several hundred employes, crowding the stairways and corridors, applauded and cheered loudly. Mr. Balfour acknowledged the greetings by bowing and smiling as he passed by with Mr. Lansing.

Surrounded by a small escort, the British Foreign Minister and the Secretary of State crossed the avenue which separates the State Department Building from the White House, and just before 11 o'clock passed into the main entrance of the executive mansion, where President Wilson, surrounded by a party of army and navy aides, was waiting.

While Mr. Balfour and Mr. Lansing were at the White House, the naval officers of the British party headed by Admiral Sir Chair began arriving to call on Secretary Daniels. They were accompanied by Rear Admiral Fletcher and other officers.

As Mr. Balfour passed into the White House grounds, the "silent sentinels" of the Woman Suffragists doing "peaceful picketing" waved their banners and the British Foreign Minister smiled broadly.

The army officers of the British mission, at the same time, were arriving at the War Department, to be received by Secretary Baker. Major General G. T. M. Bridges, accompanied by his aides, were escorted first to the office of Major General Scott, chief of staff, where they were received by a (Continued on Page Eight).

MANY AMERICANS KILLED IN BATTLE

Major DeLancey, of Richmond, of the Number—Lieutenant Bynum Returns

(By Associated Press.) Portsmouth, Va., April 23.—A cablegram from the British army headquarters in France, received today by Mrs. S. T. Hanger, announced the death of her brother, Major J. A. DeLancey, who was killed in action between the dates of April 9 and 11. Major DeLancey was one of the forty officers who joined the British colors early in the war, enlisting in Nova Scotia, and was the last surviving officer of the squad, all of them having been killed in action on the British lines.

Returns After Reported Missing. Ottawa, April 23.—Lieutenant W. F. Bynum, of Richmond, Va., previously reported in the casualty list of the Canadian overseas forces as missing, has returned to duty. Late casualty lists from the Canadian forces in France, made public tonight, contain the names of a score of Americans.

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