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PROMISED FIGHT NIPPED IN BUD

PRESIDENT WILSON IS UNALTERABLY OPPOSED TO COURT MARTIAL BILL.

ON A LEVEL WITH GERMANY

Letter to Overman Leads to Abandonment of Fight for Chamberlain Measure.

Washington.—What promised to be a sensational fight in Congress over the proposal to turn disloyalty and espionage cases over to military courts-martial was nipped in the bud by President Wilson. Champions of the plan abandoned it for the present at least, when Senator Overman, of North Carolina, chairman of the judiciary committee, made public a letter from the President declaring unalterable opposition to the Chamberlain court-martial bill as both unnecessary and unconstitutional.

Senator Chamberlain, of Oregon, author of the measure, announced later that in view of the President's attitude he would not press the bill and that further hearings on it by the military committee would be postponed indefinitely.

Witnesses before the senate military committee, including representatives of the various branches of the government, have urged transfer of trials of spies and disloyalists from the civil to the military courts as the only effective means of dealing with the menace and averting a wave of mob violence.

President Wilson's letter was written in response to one from Senator Overman asking his opinion of the Chamberlain bill.

The President's letter follows:

"My Dear Senator:
"Thank you for your letter of yesterday. I am heartily obliged to you for consulting me about the court-martial bill, as perhaps I may call it for short. I am wholly and unalterably opposed to such legislation and very much value the opportunity you give me to say so. I think it is not only unconstitutional, but that in character, it would put us nearly upon the level of the very people we are fighting and affecting to despise. It would be altogether inconsistent with the spirit and practice of America and in view of the recent legislation, the espionage bill, the sabotage bill, and the woman spy bill, I think it is unnecessary and uncalled for.
"I take the liberty, my dear senator, of expressing myself in this emphatic way because my feelings are very deep about the matter, as I gather your own are.
"It is admirable the way you have been handling these important bills, and I thank you with all my heart for standing by the bill which bears your name without any compromise of any kind.
"It gives me the greatest satisfaction to tell how much I have appreciated what you have been doing.
"Cordially and sincerely yours,
"WOODROW WILSON."

"TELL THEM BACK HOME WE ARE JUST BEGINNING"

"Tell them back home that we are just beginning," said an American lad, who was in the thick of the fight and severely wounded with shrapnel. "It was fine to see our men go at the Huns. All of us who thought baseball was the great American game have changed our minds. There is only one game to keep the American flag flying—that is, kill the Huns. I got several before they got me."

The other men in the hospital were of the same spirit, while in a nearby ward was a wounded German prisoner, who, it develops, was spared after he had held up his hands, at the same time carrying concealed bombs. This fellow sneeringly and in a sulky manner waved off the American guard with one hand. A nurse said he had given more trouble than all the Americans combined.

CARRIERS AUTHORIZED TO FILL NEW SCHEDULES

Washington.—In compliance with a request of the railroad administration, the interstate commerce commission authorized carriers to file rate schedules increasing joint rail and water and all-water tariffs to a level not higher than existing all-rail rates.

Carriers are authorized, in a supplemental order, to establish the new rates without observing the long and short haul provisions of the commission's regulations.

SENATOR FREDERICK HALE



New photograph of Senator Frederick Hale of Maine, who succeeded the late Senator Johnston. He is a Republican and a very active member of the committee on naval affairs.

NAMES 26TH "LIBERTY DAY"

CALL UPON EVERY COMMUNITY TO HOLD LIBERTY LOAN AND PATRIOTIC RALLY.

Calls Upon Citizens to "Liberally Pledge Anew" Support to Nation's Cause—Loan Half Over.

Washington.—Friday, April 26, will be Liberty day throughout the United States, under a proclamation issued by President Wilson calling on citizens of every community to hold Liberty loan rallies and "liberally pledge anew their financial support to sustain the nation's cause."

President Wilson's Liberty day proclamation follows:

"By the President of the United States of America.
"A Proclamation:
"An enemy who has grossly abused the power of an organized government and who seeks to dominate the world by the might of the sword challenges the rights of America and the liberty and life of all the free nations of the earth. Our brave sons are facing the fire of battle in defense of the honor and rights of America and the liberty of nations. To sustain them and to assist our gallant associates in the war, a generous and patriotic people have been called upon to subscribe to the third Liberty loan.

"Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, do appoint Friday, the twenty-sixth day of April, one thousand nine hundred and eighteen, as Liberty day. On the afternoon of that day I request the people of the United States to assemble in their respective communities and liberally pledge anew their financial support to sustain the nation's cause. Patriotic demonstrations should be held in every city, town and hamlet throughout the land under the general direction of the secretary of the treasury and the immediate direction of the Liberty loan committees organized by the federal reserve banks. Let the nation's response to the third Liberty loan express in unmistakable terms the determination of America to fight for peace, the permanent peace of justice.

"For the purpose of participating in Liberty day celebrations, all employees of the federal government throughout the country whose services can be spared may be excused at 12 o'clock noon, Friday, the twenty-sixth of April.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

"Done in the District of Columbia, this eighteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighteen, and of the independence of the United States of America the one hundred and forty-second.

"WOODROW WILSON.
"By the President,
"ROBERT LANSING,
"Secretary of State."

IRISH TO RESIST "BY MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS"

London.—The leaders of the nationalists in Ireland, including the Redmondites, who are now led by John Dillon, the Sinn Feiners, O'Brianites, laborites, and clericals are united in their determination to resist conscription "by the most effective means at our disposal," which is the wording of a resolution passed at a meeting of bishops at Maynooth.

HARD BLOWS MADE AGAINST AMERICANS

GERMAN HIGH COMMAND ESSAYS STROKE AGAINST AMERICANS IN TOUL SECTOR.

HOLDING LINE EVERYWHERE

Berlin Official Statements Claim Capture of 183 Americans and 20 Machine Guns—But Report is Unconfirmed.

The German high command, having been unsuccessful in piercing the British front in Flanders and separating the British and French armies, has essayed a stroke against the Americans and the French northwest of Toul and here also Teuton strategy seemingly has failed utterly to bring its plans to fruition.

Although the Germans attacked in waves with greatly superior number of men, the Americans and Frenchmen have held all their positions and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. What gains were made in the initial onslaughts have been entirely retrieved and the American and French lines restored.

The latest Berlin official communication asserts that in the drive 183 American prisoners and 25 machine guns were captured by the Germans, who cut their way for about a mile and a quarter into the American lines at Seicheprey. There has been no confirmation of this statement, or of the added claim that the Americans sustained heavy casualties.

It seems evident, however, that the fight was a bitter one and that it was the ambition of the specially trained Germans to crush the Americans. Everything the enemy had in stock was brought into play in the fighting. Shells of all calibers, including gas missiles, were used prodigiously, but the Americans, notwithstanding this cannonading and the greatly superior infantry forces arrayed against them fought tenaciously and gave ground by inches, and then only when they had exacted a tremendous payment for it in German killed or wounded.

Although the enemy was able to reach the shell-torn village of Seicheprey, the Americans rallied and in bloody hand to hand fighting reversed the situation and regained the town. Likewise, all the terrain which the French in this region were forced to give up temporarily now has been retaken. The German official communication, in what seemingly is a half-hearted admission that the attack was repulsed and that the Germans lost what they had gained, says the Germans "after the destruction of enemy works, returned to their lines of departure."

Americans Drive Enemy Back.

After the heavy German attack the American main positions remained intact, and after a brief bombardment the American troops attacked and drove the enemy out of the old outposts which they had gained, thus breaking down an offensive which it is believed was intended as the beginning of a German plan to separate the Americans and French.

'QUAKE IN SOUTHERN PORT OF CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles, Cal.—All of southern California and part of western Arizona and Utah were shaken by an earthquake which wrecked virtually all buildings and residences in Hemet and San Jacinto, two inland towns, 45 miles southeast of Riverside, Cal., caused minor property damage in practically every town and city.

One man, Frank E. Darnell, of this city, was trampled to death in a panic at Santa Monica. A woman was injured by falling from a second-story window at San Jacinto and a number of persons were injured there and elsewhere, none seriously. Three men entombed in a magnesite mine tunnel near Hemet probably were saved by fellow workers who drove an air shaft to them and were expected to dig their way out before morning.

STILL SLAYING INNOCENT WITH LONG RANGE GUN

Paris.—The long-range bombardment of Paris shows that shells have fallen on 17 days since March 23, and that, with the figures for two days missing, 118 persons were killed and 230 injured.

Paris was shelled by nine German batteries from January 5 to January 27, 1871, during which period 105 Parisians were killed and 369 injured.

COMMANDANT RIXXO



Commandant Rixxo is in charge of Italy's aerial forces.

BATTLE IS MORE INTENSE

RECAPTURE METELEN AND PART OF WYSCHAETE IN POWERFUL COUNTER ATTACKS.

Lively Artillery Engagements Develop Between the Somme and Oise Rivers.

Out of the chaos of the tremendous battle along the Lys river, south and southwest of Ypres, the thunder of which may be heard 40 or 50 miles away, there have come during the past day reports which are more encouraging to the allied powers. The British not only have held all the ground which they were defending but have struck back so powerfully that Metelen and part of Wyschaete were retaken and held for a time. Only after heavy attacks did the British retire again from the villages.

The most disturbing news has been a report from Berlin that Poecapelle and Langemarck, north of Ypres, have been taken by the Germans and the admission from London that the British have retired from certain of their lines in the Ypres salient. The retirement here was expected, for the advance of the Germans at Neuve Eglise and Baillieu left the positions in front of Ypres open to flank attack. It is officially stated that the retirement was orderly and it is probable that it will have more of a sentimental than a strategic effect. Just how far the British lines have been withdrawn is not known. It may be, however, that the German claim of taking Poecapelle and Langemarck was the result of the British retirement.

The battle now in its ninth day, has deepened in intensity at many points along the curved front from Messines ridge to Metelen. There have been reports that the Germans have occupied the village of St. Eloi.

THE O. B. JENNINGS AND WAR KNIGHT COLLIDE

An Atlantic Port.—Thirty-seven lives were lost when the American steamship O. B. Jennings and the British steamer War Knight, both laden with naphtha and inflammable oils, collided off the British coast on March 24, according to members of the crew of the O. B. Jennings, who arrived here. All who perished with one exception were on the British vessel. They were burned to death by blazing gas and oil.

U. S. ARMY OFFICER IS TARRIED AND FEATHERED

Santa Fe, N. M.—Four hundred convicts in the state penitentiary tarried and feathered and led around with a rope about his neck, Major John M. Birkner of Camp Cody, N. M., held in the penitentiary as a federal prisoner. He is charged with violation of the espionage act.

Major Birkner, who was born in Nuremberg, Germany, has been in the American military forces for more than 30 years.

NOMINATION OF FOCH APPROVED BY WILSON

"The American military representative in the supreme war council has officially informed the government that he has received the following cablegrams under date of April 15:

"In the name of the republic of the United States of America, the President approves the nomination of General Foch as commander-in-chief of the allied armies in France."

WAVE OF OPTIMISM FELT BY THE ALLIES

OFFICIALS SEE PROSPECTS OF A VICTORIOUS COUNTER OFFENSIVE SOON.

NEWS DISTINCTLY CHEERING

Italian Troops Pouring Into France to Share in the Crucial Struggle. British Hold Firm.

Washington.—Events on the western battle front are shaping themselves officers here believe, not only for defeat of the German drive, but for a counter-offensive by General Foch's armies that may open the road to an allied military victory.

A wave of optimism swept over not only American officials, but also the military men of the allied missions in Washington. Some of them think it will be some days yet before General Foch can complete his troop dispositions for a great thrust at the enemy, but others look for word that he has struck at any time.

The news from the battle front was distinctly cheering. The British lines in the hard stricken Flanders front were holding firmly. French reinforcements had arrived there, making practically certain that the German drive toward the channel ports from that direction has been defeated.

Italian Troops to France.

At the same time, official announcement came from Rome that Italian troops were already pouring into France to share in the crucial struggle there. This added to the optimism, for it means that the fighting men of France, Italy, Great Britain, America, Belgium, Portugal and the Russian units are being massed under the one leader for a mighty blow when the time comes.

There were many indications of increased pressure toward getting American troops overseas in time to share fully in the battles this summer upon which may rest the final issue.

Secretary Baker conferred for several hours with President Wilson, the regular cabinet meeting being cancelled to clear the way for the conference, which had to do with both immediate and future steps for accelerating American participation in the struggle.

It was the first opportunity Mr. Baker had to present fully to the commander-in-chief his report on his trip along the fighting lines and give the president at first hand an account of the mighty work General Pershing and his officers have done in France and are doing.

COTON PRICE-FIXING TALK RAISES A STORM

Some Southern Cotton Holders Hint at Dampening of Loyalty of the

Washington.—The talk of fixing the price of cotton and cotton products has aroused cotton holders throughout the south to such a pitch that some of them hint that the loyalty of some cotton people might be dampened if any such action is taken. Some dealers claim that the manufacturers would fix the price on raw cotton at a lower price than the market price so that the prices of manufactured goods can be lowered without cutting their profits.

The North Carolina delegation is beginning to receive protests from the cotton men of various callings. J. Allan Taylor, of Wilmington, has asked Senator Simmons to take up the matter with the proper authorities. He said "the agitation for limiting the price of raw material as a necessary means for reducing prices of cotton goods is absolutely unwarranted."

Senator Simmons took the matter up with Vance McCormick, chairman of the war trade board.

There is no immediate danger of any fixing of the prices on raw cotton. The government may fix the price on the finished products.

SOCIALISM POISONOUS "GERMAN PROPAGANDA"

Cleveland, Ohio.—Socialism in America was branded as poisonous German propaganda by Samuel Compers, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a speech in behalf of the Liberty loan campaign at the City club. "There is no such thing as an American socialist party," Mr. Compers told an audience of 1,500 at the City club. "The American socialist organization is merely a branch of the one in Germany—it is part of German propaganda."

J. S. CARR WILL AID SHIPBUILDING WORK

RESIGNS HIS POSITION AS ASSISTANT TO HOOVER TO TAKE UP NEW WORK.

WILL MAKE TOUR OF SOUTH

Is to Stimulate Work on Ships in Southern Yards—Approved By Hurley.

Special from Washington.—General Julian S. Carr, of North Carolina, resigned as an assistant to Food Commissioner Hoover for food conservation in the South and will take up immediately the duties of chairman of a committee appointed by the Southern Commercial Congress to stimulate work in Southern ship yards. General Carr and Dr. Clarence J. Owens, secretary of the congress, will leave soon to hold public meetings in every Southern port where ships are being built, to arouse citizens, yard owners and workers to the urgency of the need for ships.

Later, the committee will undertake the recruiting of labor and the expediting of timber cutting if shortage threatens to delay the work in any yard.

General Carr and Dr. Owens called at the shipping board preliminary to undertaking the work, which has the enthusiastic approval of Chairman Hurley. Their trip through the South is the result of a previous conference between Mr. Hurley and a committee appointed at the Baltimore meeting of the congress. Chairman Hurley wrote the congress the following letter designating it as an agency to speed up ship construction:

"Realizing that we must have ships and without ships troops and food cannot be transported, a great country-wide drive is being inaugurated to bring home to the people outside of the shipyards the necessity of getting behind the workers in the yard—of giving him every possible support.

"There is no question but that in the main our shipbuilders and their employes are striving to do their utmost. I am only fearful that the communities in which the ship yards are located do not appreciate the work these men are performing in connection with our military program.

"Therefore no opportunity should be lost by the citizens of shipbuilding centers to make the shipworker feel that they are with him. Great occasions must be made of launchings. School children must be told of the part of the war which is being enacted before their very eyes and how the ships will save the nation. Just as a community is proud that it has furnished its quota of soldiers, so must it show its pride in the building of ships and cheer the workmen along in the effort to build them faster and better than anywhere else.

"We need assistance now as never before." Recognizing the possibilities of creating greater community interests, it gives me the greatest pleasure to designate the Southern Commercial Congress as an agency for accomplishing this result, as applied especially to the wood and steel yards in the Southern States. This offers an occasion for immediate service which I am sure that the people of the South will not overlook."

Another Flour Mill Closed.

Raleigh.—Albemarle Milling Company, a flour mill located in Albemarle, Stanly county, has been closed by the Food Administration because of violations of the Food Administration's rules and regulations governing mills. The Albemarle mill was using more than 264 pounds of wheat in the manufacture of 196 pounds of flour and was also disregarding the Food Administration's schedule of mill feed prices. The Food Administration is right behind the flour milling industry and every mill which is found to be violating the Food Administration's rules and regulations hereafter may look for nothing except drastic action. A number of other mills are under investigation.

Negroes Buy Bonds.

Monroe.—"Every negro in the Seaboard shops at Richmond, Raleigh, and Monroe have purchased Liberty bonds," was a sentence uttered here by B. L. Hammer, general development agent of the Seaboard, speaking in the courthouse to a good sized audience. He came to Monroe for the purpose of selling Liberty bonds to Seaboard employes and was upon to make an address worth of \$500 worth of bonds to Monroe.