

EUROPE HIGHLY EXPECTANT BATTLE DEVELOPS IN WEST PROSPECTIVE NAVAL FIGHT

Ypres Again the Scene of Desperate Conflict Between Allies and Germans.

CONFIRMED BY REPORTS

Germans Claim Allies Have Been Driven Back and Prisoners Taken.

Both Sides Claim Victory in Woevre District.

London, April 23.—With a big battle developing near Ypres, in Flanders, and reports of a prospective naval engagement in the North Sea and of preparations for a combined naval and military attack on the Dardanelles, or other vital spots in Turkey, Europe tonight was highly expectant.

That a severe engagement has taken place near Ypres is confirmed by official reports, but these are so contradictory that the actual result of the preliminary fighting is not known. It would appear, however, that following their loss of Hill No. 60 and their failure to re-capture, the Germans have begun an offensive from the northeast against the Anglo-French line in front of Ypres, some of such bloody battles last August, and also against the Belgian line farther west.

Allies Driven Back. The Germans claim they drove the Allies back to the Ypres Canal taking 1,500 British and French prisoners and a number of guns. The French admit that the Allies had to fall back, but declare this was due to the use by the Germans of asphyxiating gas bombs.

Paris asserts that in counter attacks the Allies took many German prisoners and that the Belgians repulsed German attacks. It is believed here that these operations are only the beginning of another battle of Ypres.

Although a dispatch from Holland tonight gives a rumor that the Germans are about to fall back to the Liege line, the reports ready for possible use against Italy, should Italy join the Allies, it is considered more likely in military circles here that the Germans will give battle where they are, preferring to be the first to attack having learned from recent experience that it is difficult to hold the strongest positions when an extremely heavy cannonade is directed against them.

Fighting continues in the Woevre and here also both the French and German claim successes. The French in this region seemingly still are on the offensive and apparently determined to attempt further to squeeze the German wedge, which has its apex at St. Mihiel. The prediction of a naval battle in the North Sea, based on reports from Scandinavian sources of the warships, has not materialized.

The only news from the Aegean sea comes from Mathens and the Greek islands. It is that firing is heard at times in the vicinity of the Dardanelles and Smyrna and also in the Gulf of Saros where it is declared the Allies have landed troops in the vicinity of the Turkish port of Enos.

There again have been reports of Zep, Zeppelin airships making their appearance in the northeast coast of England. These reports lack of credence. No bombs have been dropped on the coast towns.

ALLIES ARE DRIVEN BACK. According to Official Berlin Statement, Sharp Action Near Ypres.

Berlin, via London, April 23.—The Berlin official report today says: "In the western arena, during last evening, we advanced from our front in Stenstraete east of Langemarck, north and northeast of Ypres. With a dash our troops moved forward a line of trenches extending as far as the hills south of Pilken and east of Douon. At the same time they forced their way, against a stubborn fight, across the Ypres canal to Stenstraete and Het Sas, where they established themselves on the western bank of the canal. No bombs have been dropped on the coast towns.

Between the Meuse and the Moselle the fighting yesterday again became very lively. The artillery battle was especially fierce at Combres, a point to the northeast of Phirey. In sharp attacks on the part of the enemy followed only in the wooded country French penetrated this region into certain sections of our trenches. There they were partly driven out again. The fighting at close quarters continued in the village of Embreument to the west of Azeourt, which had been taken by us and which was set on fire by the enemy.

THAW GETS TRIAL BY JURY OF PEERS

Wins Point in His Long Fight for Freedom.

DECISION YESTERDAY

Justice of New York Supreme Court Decides That Jury Shall Aid Him in Deciding Sanity of Thaw

New York, April 23.—Harry K. Thaw after many attempts has finally succeeded in bringing the question of his sanity before a jury. Application for a writ of habeas corpus was granted today by Supreme Court Justice Hendrick, who set the trial for May 17.

Justice Hendrick made it clear that the "jury was called in to aid the court by their advice" and that the finding of the jury would not be binding if the court was satisfied that it was not in accord with the evidence and with justice. The court, he said, could disregard the jury's verdict and render his own decision. Thaw was radiant when he heard the verdict. His mother, Mrs. Mary Copley Thaw was not in court but Thaw's first thought in speaking to his friends was of her. "This will be very good news for my mother," he said. "My only regret is that the hearing will not take place earlier than May 17."

Thaw was remanded to the toms pending the trial. Justice Hendrick's opinion accompanying the decision, was lengthy and showed he had made a careful study of Thaw's case and of authorities on which to base his decision. The moot question he had to decide was whether in lawyers or doctors, but who has been acquitted of the crime with which he was charged, and there can be no punishment for one who has been acquitted. He is confined in a state hospital for the insane as a precaution for the public. The commitment was made only so long as he is insane and he has the right at any time, under the law, to have his sanity determined upon habeas corpus.

In view of the different conclusions reached by the various judicial proceedings heretofore I think the time has come when the question of Thaw's sanity should be determined by the court by the aid of a jury of 12 men who are lawyers or doctors, but who are called to aid the court by their advice in the determination of a question of fact.

In discussing the date for the trial it developed that the consensus of opinion of judge and counsel was that it would last only about a week. It was said there would be no great array of expert witnesses, such as marked Thaw's trial for murder. Thaw, it was said, would have about ten witnesses and it was expected the state would call Drs. MacDonald and Flint, experts who have testified previously in the Thaw case and perhaps one or two others.

Thaw's trial on May 17 will be in connection with the writ of habeas corpus secured from Supreme Court Justice Bijur some time ago. Application for this writ was based upon the contention that Thaw is not insane and that he should be freed accordingly, whatever his condition might have been at the time he killed Stanford White.

PRIZES PRESENTED TO BARACAS-PHILATHEAS

For Best Work in Organization of New Classes.

Mrs. J. D. Holtman Awarded Brooch by Philatheas; Mr. B. E. Roach Medal by Baracas—Wilmington Ministers Participate.

Raleigh, N. C., April 23.—A special feature of the evening session of the Baracas-Philatheas State Convention was the presentation of the special medal and other prizes for best work in the organization of classes for the past year. The medal for the greatest number of Baracas classes went to B. E. Roach, of Cliffs, who organized 17 classes of Baraca and formed one city union. The first prize, a handsome brooch, for the best work among the Philatheas, went to Mrs. J. D. Holtman, of Rich Square, who organized eight classes. There was also a lovely prize for Miss Gertrude M. Harris, of Henderson, who organized seven classes of Philatheas. There were also quite a number of diplomas awarded to both Baracas and Philatheas workers. The convention continues through tomorrow and Sunday. Concert at Meredith. The Baracas-Philatheas State Convention (Continued on Page Two)

TELLING WHAT HE THOUGHT OF WILLIAM BARNES' POLITICS.



Theodore Roosevelt on Witness Stand. Theodore Roosevelt was thoroughly at ease when he testified for himself in the suit for \$50,000 damages or libel brought against him by William Barnes, Jr. This photograph shows one of his attitudes while on the witness stand before Justice Andrews in the court room at Syracuse. Most of the time he sat in his chair with his right leg crossed over the left. At other times he leaned forward and spoke eagerly. He talked to the jury directly, often, and in a most convincing manner.

ROOSEVELT TELLS OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS DURING SECOND DAY UNDER CROSS-EXAMINATION

Personal Relations Between Former President and "Boss" Barnes Recited—Campaign Funds of Republican Party When Roosevelt Elected President Brought Into Trial of \$50,000 Libel Suit.

Syracuse April 23.—Theodore Roosevelt told on this the second day of his cross examination in William Barnes suit for \$50,000 alleged libel about his dealings with the "bosses", his personal relations with Barnes and his ideas about campaign funds of millions of dollars. He mentioned the famous half-million dollars which Thomas Fortune Ryan contributed to the presidential cause of Alton B. Parker and swore he never had seen a list of the names of the persons who helped swell the \$3,000,000 fund used in his own campaign for the Presidency.

The list contained initials of men whom the Colonel readily identified as being allied with the country's most powerful business and financial interests. In speaking of the Ryan contribution the witness gave it as his opinion that a leader of big business, who contributes \$500,000 to help elect a candidate for President of the United States is not a "boss" in the sense in which would cause him to donate a similar sum to a church, and that such a contributor has no more hope of reward in one case than he has in the other. Personally, he said, he would not have been very much surprised in many masters of big business had they not contributed to the Republican campaign of 1904.

Mentioned Standard Oil. The Colonel mentioned the Standard Oil Company. He said that if the report of the Congressional committee which investigated his campaign contributions showed that "H. H. R." and "J. D. A."—which the witness thought stood for H. H. Rogers and John D. Archbold—had contributed to the Republican fund in 1904—he was astonished. He said he had given explicit instructions against receiving Standard Oil contributions. Personally he emphatically declared, he would regard just as highly a contribution of \$5 from the station agent at Oyster Bay as he would a contribution of \$25,000 from George W. Perkins, who in 1904 was a partner in the firm of J. P. Morgan and Company and he expressed the belief that there was a limit of the amount the campaign fund should total. Over a certain sum, he did not say how much, he thought there might be some danger.

The witness swore that the late E. H. Harriman himself had told him that there never was any such thing as a "\$240,000 Harriman fund". He did identify as being his a letter he wrote to Mr. Harriman in which it was said "We are practical men" and that if Mr. Harriman thought there was any "danger" in coming to the White House at that time he might come later and discuss a certain matter. Colonel Roosevelt said he regarded William Barnes as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde who like other politicians had his

"good and his bad sides". He said he had been persistent in his efforts to make politicians do what he considered right and that instead of endeavoring to sever the ligaments between these Siamese Twins of politics, his aim had always been to have the Dr. Jekyll in them absorb the "Mr. Hyde". Letters Introduced. Many letters that passed between Mr. Barnes and the Colonel were identified and read to the jury. In these letters the pair discussed political and legislative matters and appointees to State office. In one of the letters Mr. Barnes expresses stern disapproval of a measure which proposed that state senators should be elected for four years and assemblymen for two years because such a condition would give the voters "little opportunity to register approval or disapproval". There will be no session of court tomorrow. On Monday, however, Colonel Roosevelt will resume his testimony and submit to further examination by William M. Ivins, chief counsel for Mr. Barnes.

The Colonel was just as active on the witness stand today as on the three previous days. He moved around in his chair, addressed his own and the plaintiff's counsel and Justice Andrews. More than once he had the entire court in an uproar. Sometimes the presiding justice himself placed his hand over his mouth to hide a smile. Mr. Barnes seemed to enjoy himself also. Once when the Colonel was talking about bosses in states other than New York, he remarked that there was considerable difference between the meaning of the word "boss" in them and in New York. He amused Mr. Barnes immensely as it did the spectators.

Roosevelt Again on Stand. The cross-examination of Mr. Roosevelt again today revolved about political activities at Albany while he was Governor. The witness was questioned closely about his relation to certain legislators. Calling attention to Mr. Roosevelt's annual message in which establishment of a printing house was mentioned, Mr. Ivins says: "Did you ever do anything further officially in regard to that?" "Officially, no," replied Mr. Roosevelt. "I didn't use those words. But I referred to the thing in a message I sent to Congress in 1903." "Did Perry Belmont start the movement to require publication of campaign contributions?" "Yes." "Did you include Mr. Barnes in the list of lieutenants in 1913?" "No." "Did you include him in that class in 1890 or 1900?" "No." "If you did not so regard him why did you consult and associate with him?" "Above Average Politician. "Because I thought he was above the average of the run of politicians (Continued on Page Two)

EAST PRUSSIA IS A MASS OF RUINS

Thousands Homeless, Towns Burned, Millions of Damage

RESULT RUSSIAN RAID

Associated Press Correspondent on the Ground Soon After Russian Army Took Possession—Succession of Devastated Towns

Koenigsburg, East Prussia, April 23.—(Correspondence of Associated Press)—Thousands of persons homeless, thousands of buildings burned to the ground and hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars worth of damage done—such is the toll of the Russian invasions of East Prussia which culminated recently in a raid on the little city of Memel, in the northern most corner of the province.

Hard on the heels of the most recent invaders an Associated Press correspondent recently toured East Prussia or that part of it which at one time or other had been held by the Russians. From the German-Russian border, which is 15 miles to the northward of Memel, to Bialia, far to the south and for miles inward from the curving boundary line, there now lies, in space of a one-time prosperous agricultural section, an almost desolate waste, punctuated here and there with half ruined communities.

Less than 72 hours after the Russians had wrecked the town of Memel and only to leave it—and 171 of their number dead—when German reinforcements arrived, the Associated Press correspondent reached the isolated community to find it a veritable city of fear.

Refugees By Thousands. Along every road within miles of Memel hundreds of wagons filled with fugitives were hurrying with what they had been able to save from their homes. Their number were up in the thousands which earlier had fled in similar fashion and now are quartered all over Germany.

Along a line of 150 miles as the crow flies and for a distance varying from five to 50 miles inward from the Russian border there now remains only a succession of ruins. The East Prussian authorities estimate the number of fugitives driven out at about 300,000, the number of homes taken at 100,000, the number of cattle at 150,000. The extent of the property damage, however, is impossible even to guess. That it will run into the millions is altogether likely.

These same authorities appeared to have proceeded with conservatism. Wild tales of atrocities have been discounted from first to last and in many cases have proved to be the products of excited imagination. Careful investigation, nevertheless, has established beyond much doubt, according to German statements, that thousands of women and children have been carried off to Russia and that civilians have been killed and outraged.

Black eastern East Prussia today presents, not the appearance of Belgium with its shell-riddled towns, but a succession of devastated towns, all but devoid of inhabitants. The extent of the damage varies only in degree from Schirwindt, the City of the Dead, to Memel, the City of Fear.

Richmond, Va., April 23.—The Virginia Supreme court of appeals today sustained the lower court in refusing the petition of the Virginia Railway and Power Company for an injunction forbidding two jitney bus companies to operate here without first procured franchises from the city.

KRONPRINZ WILHELM IS ANCHORED AMIDSTREAM

Repair Work Proceeds Beneath Veil of Mystery

German Converted Cruiser Handed Where She Could Slip Out of Harbor on Dark Night Without Being Detected. Newport News, Va., April 23.—The German auxiliary cruiser Kronprinz Wilhelm, which yesterday was removed from dry dock out into the stream, donned a veil of mystery today. Until Commander Thierfelder attempts a dash past the Allies' cruisers off the Capes or notifies the United States government that he desires to intern his vessel, developments will be guarded with the utmost secrecy. Collector of Customs Hamilton today declined to discuss the status of the Wilhelm. Those unofficially in touch with the situation believe Captain Thierfelder really intends to depart. Anchored in the stream, instead of tied up at a pier as the Prinz Etzel Friedrich, the Wilhelm on a dark night could leave this port before the fact became known to those ashore. Repair work is being rushed and it is believed the cruiser will be in a seaworthy condition before the expiration of any time limit set by the government.