

Probably rain Sunday; colder Sunday afternoon. Monday fair and much colder.

GERMAN TRENCHES IN THE CHAMPAGNE ARE CAPTURED BY FRENCH

Somewhat Increased Activity is Reported From Several of the Battle Fronts.

RUSSIANS BREAK LINES

Petrograd Declares Teutons on Defensive Along Three Rivers, in Galicia.

Vienna Claims Success Against the Italians.

Somewhat increased activity is reported from several of the European war fronts, notably in France, and where Russians and Teutons are facing each other in Galicia.

The most important infantry operation on the western front occurred in the Champagne, where a French attack was carried through after prolonged artillery preparation, and, according to Paris, some three hundred yards of German trenches were taken. Berlin concedes a French gain in this territory, northeast of Massiges, placing the extent of the captured position at two hundred yards.

Teutons on Defensive. Petrograd unofficially reports the Teutonic forces on the defensive on the three important streams along which much of the recent fighting in Galicia and nearby fronts has been conducted—the Sereth, the Pruth and the Dubester. Several breaches are declared to have been made in the lines of the Teutonic Allies. While admitting that the immediate strategic results so far have not been important the Petrograd advisers record a belief that the Russian offensive has at least relieved pressure on the Entente forces along other fronts.

The current Austrian report on the operations against the Russians admits to permanent gain for the troops of Emperor Nicholas, mentioning specifically an operation northwest of Tarnopol, Galicia, where Russian detachments that occupied several advanced Austrian trenches are declared to have been ejected in a counter attack.

Capture Italian Position. Vienna claims the capture of a position near Plitsch, on the Italian front, while in the Albanian operations the repulse of Italian attacks near Tirana, Northeast of Durazzo, is reported.

A Rome dispatch brings statements attributed to both French and Italian political sources that complete accord has been reached between Premier Briand of France, who is now in Rome, and the Italian cabinet members, with whom he has been consulting on steps to unify allied action in the sea. Sinking of the Norwegian steamer Alabama, of 891 tons, is reported from London. The crew was saved.

TWO SHIPS WERE SUNK.

Germany's Claim to Have Torpedoed a British Vessel. Berlin, Feb. 12. (Via Wireless to Say-Webb.)—In addition to the British ship Arabia another vessel was sunk by a German torpedo boat in the North Sea, according to an official British report given out here tonight. The report, forwarded by the Overseas News Agency, follows: The admiralty reports, relative to the sinking of the British cruiser Arabia, was a second English ship which was hit by a torpedo. A German torpedo boat rescued the commander of the Arabia, and also the surgeon, and 27 men. During the return, however, the surgeon and three men died because of long exposure in the sea.

RUSSIANS RE-TAKE HEIGHTS.

Sanguinary Fighting in Teatsoff Region of Galicia Indicated. Petrograd, via London, Feb. 12.—Sanguinary fighting in the Teatsoff region in Galicia was indicated in an official communication from general headquarters tonight which told of the recapture of a height by the Russian forces which still hold it. "The enemy made desperate efforts to dislodge us from a height," said the report. "He succeeded at the cost of serious losses, but one of our glorious regiments effected the enemy for a second time by a terrific attack against the height. Prisoners taken here stated that our artillery inflicted enormous losses on the enemy. "Last evening and during the night, the enemy, seeing to win back the height in the Teatsoff region, made three desperate counter attacks, all of which were repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy."

BRITISH WAR STATEMENT.

Only One Out of 11 German Aircraft Crossing British Lines in West. London, Feb. 12.—Only one of a fleet of 11 German aeroplanes succeeded in crossing the British lines on the western front during the air attack last Tuesday, according to a British official statement issued tonight. The statement says: "The facts of the German aeroplane (Continued on Page Two)"

PRESIDENT VISITS FORTRESS MONROE

Inspects Buildings, Grounds and Mammoth Guns.

TRIP INFORMAL AFFAIR

Soldiers and Civilians Cheer Heartily—Presidential Party Reaches Newport News Too Late for Ship Launching.

Newport News, Va., Feb. 12.—President Wilson this afternoon personally inspected one unit of the country's defenses, when he made a tour of Fortress Monroe, whose mammoth guns guard the entrance to Chesapeake bay, ten miles away. Cutting short his inspection of the fort when he received an invitation to attend the launching of the largest oil steamer ever built in America, the President hurriedly returned to his launch and headed for the plant of the Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Company, but before his speedy little craft could cover the 12 miles the giant hull of the "Charles Pratt," building for the Standard Oil Company, had taken its maiden plunge in the waters of the James.

The presidential party had to satisfy themselves with a view of the shipbuilding plant and other interesting spots along the shores of the James and Hampton Roads between Old Point and Newport News.

Arrive in Early Afternoon. The naval yacht Mayflower with the President and Mrs. Wilson and Dr. Cary T. Grayson, the President's physician, arrived in Hampton Roads about 1:30 p. m. after a delightful trip down the Potomac river and Chesapeake Bay. The Mayflower did not fly the President's flag and there were no salutes from the fort or other formal ceremonies to mark the chief executive's arrival in Virginia waters.

It was stated at Old Point this afternoon that the presidential party would remain in Hampton Roads about 5:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon, when the return trip to Washington will be begun.

Accompanied by Mrs. Wilson, Dr. Grayson and two secret service men, the President came ashore a few minutes after 3 o'clock. A number of soldiers from the fort and civilians who were gathered on the dock greeted the President with rousing cheers, to which he responded by lifting his hat and bowing, a broad smile indicating his pleasure at the impromptu reception. The presidential party then headed for the main entrance to the fort. En route, the President was stopped by several men who knew him, and was forced to acknowledge demonstrative greetings every few steps. Each time he lifted his hat and bowed with a smile.

Requests No Formalities. Reaching the fort, the President stopped at the guard post and requested the guard on duty to request the officials (Continued on Page Two.)

WATERWAYS BILL IS VIRTUALLY COMPLETE

Appropriations Amounting to \$40,000,000 Carried.

Includes \$1,000,000 for Improvement of Waterway From Beaufort to Norfolk—\$6,720,000 for Mississippi River Project.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The annual Rivers and Harbors Appropriation bill, completed in committee today except for final decision on the appropriation sought for the East River channel in New York harbor, carries a total of \$40,000,000, of which the largest item is \$6,720,000 for the Mississippi river. The bill includes one item of \$1,000,000 for the improvement of an inland waterway from Beaufort, N. C., to Norfolk and is confined to completion of existing projects in line with the administration policy. It will be reported to the House probably Wednesday. The principal provisions follow: Mississippi river, from its mouth to the Ohio \$5,000,000; from the Ohio to the Missouri \$350,000; from the Missouri to Minneapolis \$1,200,000; between Minneapolis and St. Paul \$170,000. Mouth of Columbia river \$1,200,000; waterway connecting Puget Sound with Lakes Union and Washington \$245,000; Inland waterway from Beaufort at Los Angeles \$75,000; at San Francisco \$15,000. Delaware river from Philadelphia to the sea \$2,500,000; at Philadelphia \$65,000. Inland waterway from Beaufort, N. C., to Norfolk \$1,000,000; Galveston harbor \$325,000; Galveston channel \$300,000. When the committee meets Tuesday it is expected to vote in the bill, as the only new project, an initial appropriation of \$200,000, and an authorization of \$500,000 more for deepening to 35 feet that part of the East river project from the Upper bay to the East river. Removal of Coenties Reef will be included. President Wilson in a letter to the committee today urged this improvement to insure at all times an adequate approach to the Brooklyn navy yard.

The committee probably will defer action on other parts of the big East river project, which contemplates the expenditure upward to \$13,000,000 ultimately.

FORMAL NOTE FROM GERMANY RECEIVED

Regarding Treatment of Armed Vessels as Warships.

IS EFFECTIVE MARCH 1

United States May Define Position Sometime This Week—Attitude of Central Powers Well Founded, Some Believe.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Germany's formal note to the United States, announcing its intention to treat armed merchantmen of the Entente Allies as warships, after February 29 reached the State Department today. The policy of the United States in regard to the declaration of the Central Powers probably will be defined sometime next week after a note similar to that issued by Germany is received from the Vienna foreign office.

It was pointed out today in high official quarters that the United States would have to react to Germany's declaration only 17 days remaining before the effective date of this declaration, after which commanders of German and Austrian submarines are expected to receive orders permitting the torpedoing without warning of any ship which is armed.

There are strong indications that various high officials believe the position of the Central Powers to be well founded in view of the changed conditions of sea warfare. In many quarters it also is considered that the Teutonic declaration was a development of the American memorandum to the Entente Allies, suggesting the despatching of merchant ships and indicating that the United States might be regarded as warships, subject to internment.

Might Cause Entente Protest. Representatives of various of the Entente Allies have made oral representations to Secretary Lansing regarding the American memorandum. Although the State Department declined to make known the nature of the representations, it was believed the secretary was informed that at least some of the Entente governments were unwilling to adopt the suggestions and that strong protest might follow.

The State Department has been informed that others of the Entente governments, made in certain Entente diplomatic circles, that for the United States to change during the war its policy regarding the right of merchant ships to arm for defensive purposes would be an unequal act, was answered by a high official today. He denied that he thought such a change would be incompatible with the neutrality of the United States and added that the United States would maintain the position that Germany and Austria are right in their contentions, it might be claimed that instead of operating against the Entente Allies such a declaration would be an unequal act, save the lives of their nationals and possibly their ships.

The plan of the United States has been to secure from Germany and Austria such a pledge, made in certain Entente diplomatic circles, that for the United States to change during the war its policy regarding the right of merchant ships to arm for defensive purposes would be an unequal act, was answered by a high official today. He denied that he thought such a change would be incompatible with the neutrality of the United States and added that the United States would maintain the position that Germany and Austria are right in their contentions, it might be claimed that instead of operating against the Entente Allies such a declaration would be an unequal act, save the lives of their nationals and possibly their ships.

Prospects of a warning to American citizens to remain off vessels that are armed, loomed large today. One high official expressed the belief that the warning would be called upon to take some action leading to that end.

Officials of the State Department also are considering what effect its determinations as to policy will have upon American naval policy and operations in the event this government was engaged in war. The question probably will have an important bearing upon the final decision.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The new flood control committee of the House left late today for a week's tour of inspection in the Mississippi flood district. They will go first to Cairo and then to Memphis by rail, and from there will proceed through the flooded area by boat.

THE DAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE. Lands committee continued oil lands hearing in the Mississippi flood district. Adjourned at 12:58 p. m. till noon Monday. HOUSE. Met at noon. Debate on Postoffice bill continued. Speeches on Lincoln's life were made and Lincoln's Gettysburg address was read. Rear Admiral Benson told Harbors committee improvement of New York harbor channels leading to navy yard was imperative. Hearings on administration's ship bill was continued before Marine committee. Majority Leader Kitchin deferred until next week's introduction of the resolution to repeal the free sugar section of the tariff law. Adjourned at 5:03 p. m. until noon Monday.

ZEPPELINS FAILED TO ATTACK LONDON

Raid of Jan. 31 Confined to Midland Districts.

179 KILLED, IS REPORT

Passengers on Liner Adriatic Who Were in London on Night of Raid Say None of Craft Reached the British Capital.

New York, Feb. 12.—Zeppelins did not reach London in their raid on the night of January 31, according to passengers from England who arrived here tonight on the White Star liner Adriatic. There were reports in the British capital, however, that 179 persons were killed and nearly 300 wounded in the midland districts not far from London by bombs dropped from the German airships.

George Knowles, chairman of the American University Club of Liverpool, who was on the Adriatic, was in London the night of the raid and declared the Zeppelins bombarded neither that city nor Manchester. Considerable damage was done, however, at Euston-on-Trent, he said. He visited that place and saw the ruins of a large brewery which had been burned. Bombs were dropped also in Nottingham. The missiles evidently were aimed, Mr. Knowles asserted, at large buildings in the hope that arsenals might be struck. George H. Dora, a New York publisher, confirmed the statement that the raiders did not visit London on the night of the 31st.

Aboard the Adriatic were 40 of the passengers who were aboard the Philadelphia of the American Line when she collided with the big sailing ship Ben Lee six hours out from Liverpool on the night of January 22. The prow of the Ben Lee struck and raked the starboard side of the steamer. All the boats on that side of the Philadelphia which had been lowered in preparation for emergencies while passing through the danger zone, were destroyed. The main mast was broken off and the pilot house badly damaged. The wireless apparatus also was put out of commission.

The night was clear, the Philadelphia's passengers stated, and they could see no excuse for a collision. There was considerable excitement aboard the steamer after the crash, as it was feared at first the vessel had been torpedoed. High tribute was paid to the stewardess on the vessels who went about among the women passengers supplying them with life belts. The ship's orchestra was playing immediately after the collision and the music continued until the excitement was over. There were 324 passengers aboard the Philadelphia when the Ben Lee was sent out from the steamer to the rescue of the crew of the Ben Lee which went down not long after the crash. So far as known only one sailor perished and his death was due to exposure.

The Adriatic brought \$30,000,000 in gold and securities consigned to New York bankers. She was escorted by nine torpedo boat destroyers for 24 hours after leaving Liverpool.

POISON DISCOVERED IN SOUP USED AT BANQUET

Assistant Chef of University Club Disappears.

Believed Attempt Was Made to Poison Guests at Banquet in Honor of Archbishop Mundelein—Many Were Taken Sick.

Chicago, Feb. 12.—Virulent poison was found today by city chemists in samples of the soup served at the banquet in honor of Archbishop Mundelein at the University Club Thursday night. The discovery, coupled with the disappearance of a kitchen employe of the club and the finding of similar poison in a private laboratory in his room, together with literature classed as anarchistic, led the police to believe that the illness which overcame more than a hundred of the diners was the result of a deliberate attempt to poison the guests.

The nature of the poison discovered and fear that perhaps a slow acting poison had also been mingled with the banquet viands prompted the city health commissioner, Dr. John D. Roberts, to issue a warning to all who attended the banquet to place themselves immediately under the care of a physician. Several of the distinguished guests were so affected that they have not yet recovered. Two are still confined to their beds and a number of others today said that they still felt the effects of the poisonous soup. Archdeacon Mundelein was not effected. He ate very sparingly of the soup and said today that he had not felt any ill effects. The absence of Jean Crones, assistant chef at the club, was noted by the manager, H. J. Doherty, and his suspicious were aroused. With a policeman he went to Crones room and there discovered the laboratory and found poison flasks. Crones, according to the club officials, was employed last September and was fond of discussing economic questions and was said to have often inveighed against the present order of society with its strata of rich and poor. In the room which he had occupied, the police say they found many volumes by anarchistic authors, explosives and weapons in addition to the poison vials.

Was Sentenced to Death



Mrs. St. Clair Stobart. Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, who was a British nurse in Brussels, was sentenced to be shot like Edith Cavell. She managed to escape, and later went to Serbia, where she was sick with the typhus. When she recovered she was in the retreat to the Adriatic. Having been shot three times she went home to England.

PLAN OF NATIONAL GUARD PRESENTED

Would Place State Troops Under Federal Control.

FEDERAL PAY FEATURE

Proposals Would Increase Strength of Militia in Peace Times to 200,000. Junior Guard for Boys is Also Proposed.

Washington, Feb. 13.—The proposals of the National Guard Association for federalization of state troops were before the military committees of Congress today in the form of a bill drafted by representatives of the association at the request of the Senate committee. The regulations contemplated are given force by a provision limiting participation in the Federal pay feature to officers, men or organizations complying with certain specified requirements. The scale of annual pay proposed is as follows: Major generals, \$800; brigadiers, \$700; colonels, \$600; lieutenant colonels, \$550; majors, \$525; captains \$500; first lieutenants, \$300; second lieutenants, \$250. Enlistment would be paid on the basis of 25 per cent of the pay rates of the regular army, a private receiving approximately \$45 a year. The maximum number of troops provided for by the bill is 500 for each congressional district or a total peace strength of approximately 200,000, an increase of 70,000 over the present strength of the National Guard. They would form a separate branch of the regular army in time of war when called into the Federal service. The act would take effect July 1, 1916.

Provides for Junior Guard. The bill provides also for organization of a junior guard composed of boys between 12 and 18, available for active service only after every other class of militia had been called out. The juniors would be divided into two classes, cadets, or those of 15 and above, and cadets of the second class, those less than 15. An enlistment contract would be required under which the soldier would bind himself to serve the Federal government "within or without the continental limits of the United States" for a period of two years or until discharged should the guard be called out at any time during his three year enlistment period. The enlistment period of any soldier whose time was close to expiration when his regiment was called would be extended automatically. It is proposed to do away with choice of officers by election, and commissions would be limited to specified classes and granted only after examinations by the War Department. Promotions during active service would be made by the President from the commissioned force or ranks of the organization, dependent upon the grade to be (Continued on Page Two.)

MAXWELL ANSWERS BUTLER'S CHARGES

Democratic Party's Public School Record Invulnerable.

STRIKING COMPARISONS

Shows That Former Republican Senator's Basic Figures are Inaccurate and His Deductions More So—Records Quoted.

(Special Star Correspondence.) Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 12.—Declaring that the North Carolina Democratic administration deserves to stand or fall on its management of the public schools and presenting facts and figures that make a splendid showing for the Democratic management of the schools, Secretary A. J. Maxwell, of the Corporation Commission, gave out a statement today that completes the annihilation of the Marion Butler "Excessive Taxes and Debt" pamphlet and the J. E. Little "political thunder" letter that was based on the Butler pamphlet. Maxwell says: In a recent analysis of the general taxation features of the Butler-Little "Republican dope," Mr. Maxwell set the figures right as to North Carolina and ten other states cited by Messrs. Butler and Little in comparison and showed that the people of North Carolina have fared better in the per capita taxes than either of the other states mentioned, in addition to this State having substantially less per capita tax than any other State in the Union as the State Tax Commission originally asserted.

Turning his attention to the Butler-Little charge of Democratic extravagance in the management of the public school system of the State, Mr. Maxwell declares that if the party has been either unfaithful or inefficient or extravagant in a matter so close to all the people, it would be undeserving of continuance in authority. Continuing, Mr. Maxwell says: Butler's Basis Wrong. "The Butler charge of extravagance is based on just two statements: "1. That the school funds were increased from \$84,000 in 1898 to \$2,708,990 in 1913. "2. That the length of the school term was only increased from 14.06 weeks in 1898 to 18 weeks in 1913. "Of course Mr. Butler could not state even the basic facts accurately. The report of C. H. Mebane, superintendent of public instruction (fusion) for the year 1913 shows length of school term for that year \$93,082.86, instead of \$84,000 as given by Mr. Butler, and the report of Dr. J. Y. Joyner for 1913 shows instead of 13 weeks as given by Mr. Butler.

"But the increase in length of school term is not the largest item in the inventory of public school improvement. "Mr. Mebane's report for 1898 shows value of public school property \$980,214. Dr. Joyner's report for 1913 shows value of public school property \$8,710,022, an increase of \$41 per cent. "The average monthly salary paid white teachers in 1898 was \$24.66 for males and \$22.96 for females for average term of 71 days. "The average monthly salary paid white teachers in 1913 was \$41.37 for average term of \$102.4 days. "The Facts in a Nutshell. "With log school houses and \$42 teachers in 1898 there was only 32.3 per cent of the white children of school age attending the schools, or a total for the State of 140,162. In 1913 54.8 per cent of the total population having an attendance of or more than 25,504, the average attendance being nearly double. "The average attendance of white children in 1898 was only \$11,340 school days, counting each day's actual attendance by each child. "The average attendance of white children in 1913 was \$81,134 school days, counting each day's actual attendance by each child. "Which is extravagant, the old log school house and the State know, the \$25 teacher of the modern school house and the \$42 teacher? "Rural High Schools. "In 1898 State-aided rural high schools were unknown in the State. In 1913 there were 212 rural high schools, preparing the boys and girls of the rural districts for a college course, not counting of course the city graded schools. "There was almost no supervision of the public schools in 1898. Mr. Mebane making the statement in his annual report for 1898 that the superintendent of schools for Wake county, having in charge the expenditure of an annual school fund of \$56,000, was paid a salary of only \$128. The average salary of county superintendents in 1913 was \$48.93. "These plain facts need no argument to enforce them. They furnish ample answer to any charge of extravagance, if indeed any answer is needed. "The people of North Carolina know these things in a general way. But no amount of statistics can adequately present a fair comparison of the efficiency of the public schools in 1913 with conditions that prevailed under the Butler regime in 1898, when not only poverty was written over every school house, but when the shadow of the negro school committee, surviving on school boards having the management of both white and colored schools, furnished a large part of the indignation that grew into overwhelming revolution. "The Democratic State administration will take more pride in its (Continued on Page Two.)