

THE WEATHER.

Rain or snow in east and probably snow in west portion Tuesday; Wednesday probably fair.

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WILMINGTON, N. C., TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 29, 1916

10 Pages Today ONE SECTION

THE MORNING STAR

FORT DOUAUMONT IS NOW REPORTED TO BE IN A MASS OF RUINS

Crushing Counter Attacks of French Drive Some of the Germans Back.

FIGHT STILL FURIOUS

Further Advances Claimed by Germans Emphatically Denied by French.

Germans Inaugurate Offensive in Champagne.

Fort Douaumont has fallen to the Germans, and is reported to be in ruins. Around this position the most desperate fighting of the battle has been going on since Friday. Here French counter attacks were delivered with such crushing force that some of the German detachments were driven back, and one regiment is almost encircled. To the west of this fort in a hand-to-hand encounter, the French have ejected the Germans from a small redoubt which they had captured.

The tide of battle around Verdun apparently has not turned in favor of either side. While the Germans claim further advances, the French are equally emphatic in their assertion that they checked the attacks of the masses of the German infantry sent against them.

Movement in Champagne. Throughout the entire sector of Verdun, except on the western bank of the Meuse river, where the German bombardment has slackened somewhat, the artillery duels are still of vast proportions. To the southeast, the French at Fresnes, in the Woivre region, have put down two German attacks against that town but the Germans have inaugurated an important movement in the Champagne district, where by a surprise attack they succeeded in entering French advanced positions of a supporting trench over a front of nearly a mile, charging more than a thousand men.

Notwithstanding the fresh reserves the French have thrown into the fray at Fort Douaumont, the German war office declares that their efforts have been fruitless and that the Germans have advanced their lines toward Bras and Vacheraville. It also is claimed that the Germans have destroyed expelled the French from the Meuse peninsula, southward from Samogneux, and west of Vacheraville.

The Austrians, according to Vienna, have put down with sanguinary losses both sides of the Albanian front, the Italian attack against positions on both sides of Monte San Michele and east of Azco, and also destroyed an Italian trench on the Gorizia head.

Continue to Drive Turks. The Russians are still operating successfully against the Turks, who fled from Erzerum, and the Ottoman forces in the Persian battle zone. Farther south, in Mesopotamia, a bombardment by the British of a Turkish camp on the left bank of the Tigris river resulted in heavy casualties to the Turks. Further details of the fighting between the British and tribesmen of Mesopotamia, show that the leader of the tribesmen, Nuri Bey, a brother of the Turkish war minister, was killed and his principal subordinate wounded, and that the tribesmen left large numbers of dead and wounded on the field as their main force fled.

The Italian hospital ship Mareohirac has been sunk in the Adriatic Sea, off the coast of Albania. It is believed the vessel struck an Austrian mine. While the extent of the casualties has not become known, it is reported that there were numerous.

MUCH ARTILLERY SEIZED

Italians Flee From Durazzo in Disorder in Austrian Report.

Berlin, Feb. 28. (By wireless to Say-Hill).—The official Austrian statement issued yesterday says that by the capture of the Albanian port of Durazzo, the Austrians took 23 cannons, including six coast defense guns, 10,000 rifles and a large amount of artillery ammunition and provisions.

The flight of the Italians from Durazzo, according to the report, was carried out hastily in great disorder. Describing the capture, the statement says: "During the forenoon one column, under the fire of the Italians, advanced six kilometers across the southern slopes of the Albanian mountains. Our troops were hindered at the beginning by the Italian artillery, but toward eight o'clock, after a long and bloody fight, numerous detachments by wading, swimming and floating, reached the shore." (Continued on Page Ten.)

FACILITIES SHOULD BE ONLY A HINDRANCE

Should be No Other Limit in Enlarging the Navy.

ADMIRAL KNIGHT SAYS

Tells House Committee That Even Now We Should Have a Navy Equal to Any Afloat—Talks of Danger of Invasion.

Washington, Feb. 28.—New construction for the navy should be limited this year only by the country's facilities to build, Rear Admiral Austin M. Knight, president of the Navy War College, told the House Naval committee today. If an adequate fleet is to be made ready by 1925, he declared, an immediate inquiry should be made to determine the extent of these facilities and to plan for even greater building programs each year until the United States navy is the strongest force afloat.

"It is a big programme, of course," said Admiral Knight, "but we have a big country to defend." Only the limits of construction facilities, the admiral explained, had caused the general board to fix 1925 as the date the American fleet should equal any afloat.

"If we could get it," he added, "I would say we need it now, today, tomorrow."

Spectre of Double Assault. In reaching its decision the witness said the board had before it the spectre of a double assault against the United States, with enemies, with the Atlantic and Pacific to meet at the same time. He said the fleet proposed would meet any such combination that did not, including England, and he thought it unlikely that a combination against the United States, including that country, ever would be formed. Asked if he had any reason to believe that there was danger of another combination, the admiral said, "Yes," but he was not pressed to amplify his statement.

Representative Butler asked whether the sudden entrance of the United States into the war would have any effect on the programme. The admiral thought not for several years at least, or until the American fleet began to approach the British, for instance, in size. Asked by Representative Kelly what the present fleet could do in case of an attack, Admiral Knight said: "If we were attacked by the English fleet, I think the navy ought to shut itself up in some harbor, but against any other navy, we ought to go out and do the best we can." He was not without hopes, he said, that victory might lodge with the smaller force.

War With England a Question. It was suggested that war with England was extremely unlikely. Admiral Knight said this was an open question, although the general board's plans had not contemplated any possible enemy combination including England. The strange diplomatic developments of the present war, he thought, made almost anything possible, and added:

"Certain features, which we have heretofore regarded as features of safety, have now become points of danger." (Continued on Page Two.)

FORTRESS OF VERDUN ONLY AN EMPTY SHELL

Six Months Ago it Was "Unclassified" by the French.

Declared to Hold Neither Cannon Nor Garrison—Fight Goes on, Making the Number of Dead and Wounded Incalculable.

Paris, Feb. 27 (Delayed).—The fight for possession of Verdun goes on with increasing violence multiplying the dead and wounded to a point where the losses have gone beyond the calculators. It is impossible to verify how many reinforcements the Germans have brought up, but the military critics believe that of the 300,000 men that began the attack, few will be left at the end of the first fighting.

Verdun, the object of all this sacrifice, is nothing but "an ancient fortress," according to authoritative information, and if the Germans take it they will find it only an empty shell. Fort Douaumont, before which such a sacrifice in lives has been made by its assailants, hold neither cannon nor garrison. It is six months since the French, putting into practice the lessons of the war showing that fortresses are more vulnerable than field works, "unclassified" Verdun, and all its provisions remains and ammunition as well as those in the surrounding forts were sent to the rear.

Eighty thousand men and several hundred cannons would have been trophies of a conquest of the place in September, 1914. Today Verdun also is not a fortress. It has neither cannon nor garrison, and has no provisions, except for the current needs of the population. The value of the town itself is, scarcely more than that of any one of the villages to the north taken by the Germans in the last six days, since it was never more than a military stronghold.

FIVE STORES BURNED. Fire Yesterday at Crews, Va., Did Considerable Damage. Crews, Va., Feb. 28.—Fire starting in the rear of the A. Oliver grocery and hardware store completely destroyed that property and four other stores today, and damaged a hotel, theatre, bank and several other buildings.

FELIX DIAZ PLANS A NEW REVOLUTION

Intends to Organize Troops in Oaxaca, is Report.

WILL FIGHT CARRANZA

Estimated He Might Marshal Force of 25,000 Men in Southern Mexico—Movement Not Regarded a Serious Menace.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Felix Diaz, who has been watched for several months by Department of Justice agents, because of suspected activities in violation of American neutrality, apparently has left the United States for Mexico with the intention of launching a new revolution against the Carranza de facto government. Information reaching officials here indicates that he hopes to organize and lead the troops of his native State, Oaxaca, and such other forces in southern Mexico as he can gather about him.

General Diaz left New Orleans Friday for Havana, where several Mexicans whose names have been associated with his reports of a revolutionary movement were understood to be awaiting him. Teodoro Dehesa, a former governor general of Vera Cruz, and General Aureliano Blanquet, war minister under Huerta, were reported to be among them.

Although Diaz eluded the Federal agents detailed to watch him, Department of Justice officials said tonight that since no evidence warranting his arrest had been found, and as he left the country, according to reports, as a private citizen of Mexico and not as leader of any organized revolutionary movement, nothing probably could have been done to detain him.

Has Long Been Absent. General Diaz, nephew of the former Mexican President of that name, has been absent from Mexico since Huerta, whom he helped establish in power, sent him abroad on a diplomatic mission against the Carranza government in the United States, and although he was suspected of being connected with the revolutionary plot for which Huerta and several others were indicted, no direct evidence against him ever developed.

Oaxaca, where Diaz is expected to launch his movement, is the only state that has held aloof during the fighting of the past two years. Led by state officials, the people declared their independence, and Carranza and other leaders were told that the state would be glad to resume its place in the union whenever any one demonstrated that he had restored a stable central government.

After Carranza's recognition by the foreign governments, he chose not to parley with the people of Oaxaca, however, demanding that they accept his government unconditionally. To enforce this demand military expeditions now are being directed against the state, and the state's army is said to be preparing to resist. It is toward this nucleus that Diaz has returned, and Diaz is said to be moving, accompanied by Lee Christmas, an American widely known through Central America because of his participation in revolutionary enterprises.

Might Marshal 25,000 Men. With the Oaxaca forces as a base it is estimated that Diaz might marshal nearly 25,000 men, but they would be poorly equipped and almost without artillery. The new movement is not regarded by officials here as seriously menacing Carranza's government because they doubt Diaz's ability to establish himself as a popular leader or to secure sufficient funds. They admit, however, that an organized revolution among the hills of southern Mexico, where a small band might hold out against vastly superior forces, would further complicate the already complex situation confronting the de facto President.

Although Carranza adherents profess to see in the presence at New York of Francisco de la Barra, once Mexican ambassador here, the working out of the financial ends of Diaz's plans, there has been no evidence that De la Barra has secured any financial backing in the usual money sources of this country.

CAUSES MUCH COMMENT

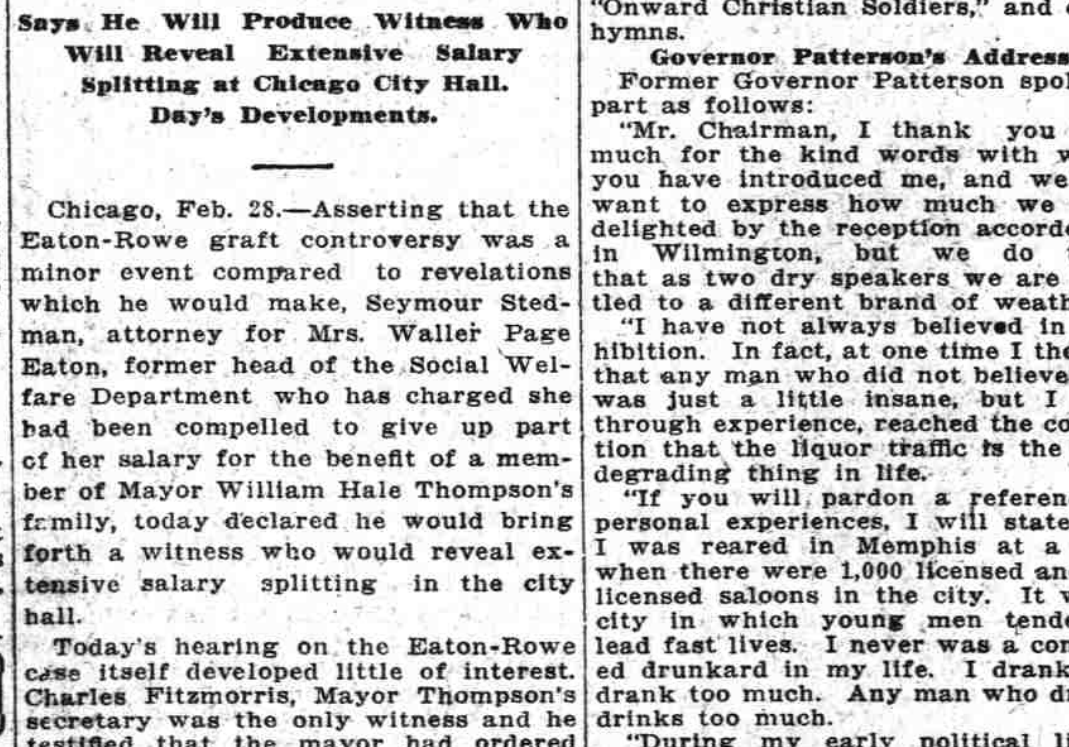
Diaz's Reported Intention Widely Discussed in New Orleans. New Orleans, Feb. 28.—News that Felix Diaz had left the United States for Mexico to start a new revolution, (Continued on Page Ten.)

THE DAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE. Met at noon. Resumed debate on Shields water power bill, Senator Rustling introducing a substitute by conservationists. Indian committee continued work on details of army reorganization plan. Unanimously ratified Haitian protectorate treaty. Reopened at 5:20 P. M. to noon Tuesday.

HOUSE. Met at noon. Ways and means committee favorably reported bill to repeal free sugar provision of the tariff law. Naval and military committees continued work on National Defense programme. Passed Post Office Appropriation bill, carrying approximately \$821,000,000. Adjourned at 7:10 P. M. to noon of Tuesday.

STATESMEN IN CONGRESSIONAL NEWS NOW.



Speaker Clark, of the House of Representatives, Claude Kitchin, officially leader of the majority, and Henry D. Flood, chairman of the Foreign Affairs committee of the House, had an important conference with President Wilson Friday morning, February 25 about the German threat to fire on armed merchant vessels after March 1. William J. Stone is chairman of the Senate committee on Foreign Relations. His letter to the President Thursday brought forth the reply that the administration would oppose this policy of Germany. Senator Thomas P. Gore, senator from Oklahoma, had a resolution against Americans travelling on foreign liners which carry armament. This is said to have had the backing of William J. Bryan.

ASSURANCES GIVEN IN LUSITANIA CASE REMAIN UNCHANGED

Germany Declares They Have Not Been Modified by New Submarine Order.

TO SINK ARMED SHIPS

"Evidence" That British Commanders Are Ordered to Fire on Submarines.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Germany, in a formal note presented by Count von Bernstorff to Secretary Lansing today, reiterates assurances regarding the future conduct of submarine warfare in the Lusitania case; declares those assurances have not been modified by the memorandum, setting forth its intention to treat armed merchantmen of the Entente Allies as auxiliary cruisers after midnight tomorrow, and attempts to justify the issuance of the memorandum by presenting evidence and assertions designed to prove that the British government has instructed merchantmen to use their armament for purposes of attack in violation of assurances given to the United States.

Later it was said at the State Department that while the United States stood unalterably for the right of a merchant ship to carry guns for defense, it was not now, and never had been, contending that Americans could travel with immunity on ships having orders to attack offensively.

It was indicated that if the claims were sustained, the fact would have an important bearing upon the future attitude of this government.

Instructions, which were handed to Mr. Gore in Berlin, and which are considered by Secretary Lansing to be the all-important statement in the case as it stands at present, have not yet arrived. Pending their receipt, and a subsequent decision regarding the attitude of the United States, the State Department is preparing to consider any overt act committed by the commanders of German and Austrian submarines in the light of the facts. It was authorized to state that the department probably would not act upon the case of an American who sustained injuries aboard a vessel which it could be definitely established was to be offensively used.

Authoritative information obtained here tonight indicated that the British government formally had accepted an allegation of Germany that British ships armed ostensibly for defense are in reality armed for offensive purposes. It was said that British masters had not been instructed to order their submarines, that on the contrary had been told to do everything possible to avoid the craft, and that only in the event of a hostile submarine attacking without warning, were they to use bombs or torpedoes were the skippers authorized to use their guns.

Possible Difficulties Remote. All things considered the State Department is understood to feel that the possibility is more or less remote for difficulties arising in the near future as a result of the new German and Austrian policy. The belief of officials that commanders of German and Austrian submarines will not attack without warning armed merchant vessels upon which there may be American citizens, was strengthened by the declaration in the German note received today, acquiesced in by Austria through Baron Zwiadnek, charge of the embassy here, that orders issued to the naval commanders were so formulated as to prevent the destruction of enemy liners "on account of their armament unless such armament is proved."

In the note presented by Count von Bernstorff several references are made to declarations of the United States in previous correspondence in the Lusitania case. There were strong intimations today that administration officials are inclined to resent the presentation of certain expressions and references without the text in which they appeared, holding that in doing so the German government has given a false impression of the attitude of this government. It was even suggested that should the United States reply to the communication presented today it may take occasion to point out the erroneous construction placed upon several of these expressions.

The communication from Germany probably will be considered by President Wilson and his cabinet tomorrow and official indication regarding it is expected soon thereafter.

Reiterates Previous Pledges. The note at the outset reiterates the previous pledges, which were given on September 11 and October 5, for the safety of unresisting liners, and then goes on to say the German government does not believe those assurances have been modified by the new memorandum.

During the negotiations over the Lusitania, it says, no mention was made of armed merchantmen and that the United States in one of its notes on the Lusitania mentioned unarmed merchantmen. Attention then is called to the assurances previously given in which it is stated that liners will not be sunk without warning, provided they do not offer resistance. Attention also is called to the statement of the American government in its notice to port authorities that the presence of armament on board a merchant vessel creates the assumption that the vessel is armed for offense.

It is stated that a submarine commander cannot be expected to warn (Continued on Page Two.)

WOULD HAVE NATION DRY IN FIVE YEARS

Ex-Governor Patterson, of Tennessee, Speaks in City.

BIG RALLY LAST NIGHT

Speakers Championing Prohibition Cause Point Out Evils of Liquor Traffic to Large Audience at First Baptist.

Prophesying that National prohibition will be a fact within five years if not sooner, speakers at a rally held last night at the First Baptist church in Wilmington before an audience which entirely filled the large auditorium ably championed the cause and pleaded for local support in carrying out the programme which has been mapped out by the organizations which are conducting the fight in Washington and in the individual states to bring this about.

The chief addresses were made by former Governor Malcolm R. Patterson, of Tennessee, and Dr. Madison Swadener, of Indiana, while Rev. Dr. A. D. McClure, of Wilmington, who presided at the meeting, also spoke briefly expressing the opinion that National prohibition might be secured in as short a time as four years.

The regular programme of the evening was preceded by a short devotional service, during which the congregation sang, "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus," "Onward Christian Soldiers," and other hymns.

Governor Patterson's Address. Former Governor Patterson spoke in part as follows: "Mr. Chairman, I thank you very much for the kind words which you have introduced me, and we also want to express how much we are delighted by the reception accorded us in Wilmington, but we do think that as two dry speakers we are entitled to a different brand of weather."

"I have not always believed in prohibition. In fact, at one time I thought that any man who did not believe in it was just a little insane, but I have, through experience, reached the conviction that the liquor traffic is the most degrading thing in life.

"If you will pardon a reference to personal experiences, I will state that I was reared in Memphis at a time when there were 1,000 licensed and unlicensed saloons in the city. It was a city in which young men tended to lead fast lives. I never was a confirmed drunkard in my life. I drank, and drank too much. Any man who drinks, drinks too much.

"During my early political life it never occurred to me that prohibition was a remedy for the evils of the liquor traffic. I was obsessed with the idea that a man's personal liberty should not be interfered with.

SAYS THE EATON-ROWE GRAFT A MINOR EVENT

Attorney Stedman to Make "Important Revelations."

Says He Will Produce Witness Who Will Reveal Extensive Salary Splitting at Chicago City Hall. Day's Developments.

Chicago, Feb. 28.—Asserting that the Eaton-Rowe graft controversy was a minor event compared to revelations which he would make, Seymour Stedman, attorney for Mrs. Walter Page Eaton, former head of the Social Welfare Department who has charged she had been compelled to give up part of her salary for the benefit of a member of Mayor William Hale Thompson's family, today declared he would bring forth a witness who would reveal extensive salary splitting in the city hall.

Today's hearing on the Eaton-Rowe case itself developed little of interest. Charles Fitzmorris, Mayor Thompson's secretary was the only witness and he testified that the mayor had ordered that no campaign contributions be assessed by department heads.

The hearing was adjourned till next Friday.

The salary scandal situation will have an important bearing on the aldermanic primary election tomorrow which marks the close of one of the bitterest campaigns that ever characterized such an event in the city's history. The voters will elect one alderman from each of the city's 35 wards and one municipal court judge to fill a vacancy.

Interest centers in the fight between Mayor Thompson, Republican, elected last April by a plurality of 150,000 and nine Republican aldermen who have opposed the mayor's policies and who now seek renomination. During the campaign there has been two men slugs, numerous fist fights, three suits for slander and an exchange of epithets by principals which included: