

# FURTHER ADVANCE IS MADE BY GERMANS AT VERDUN; FORGES TAKEN

Gains Also Made in the Champagne—Some Attacks Repelled by the French.

## FEW INFANTRY ATTACKS

Russian Artillery Smashes German Positions in Riga Sector in Russia.

## Hull Naval Depot in England Damaged by Bombs.

Further advances by the Germans in the Verdun region and in Champagne are told of in the latest French official communication which, however, also records successes in repelling a German attempt to debouch further from a captured position, the driving of the Teutons out of a trench they had taken, and the hammering with the French big guns of German organizations.

**Village of Forges Captured.**  
After having vigorously shelled the region between Bethincourt and the Meuse, the Germans in a strong infantry attack captured the village of Forges, about nine miles northwest of Verdun. Not satisfied with the gain, they several times essayed to debouch from the village against the Cote de Lois, but the French counter attacks forced them back into the village and held them there.

**In Champagne, the right and left flanks of the French were attacked by the Germans in the region between Juncy Tetu and the Argonne.** At the former point, the French fire kept the Germans out of their trenches but near Maisons de Champagne they succeeded in occupying a small section of a trench. In the Argonne the French blew up near Cortes Chaussees a German post with a mine, and captured a portion of the crater. Near Haute Chavaux the Germans sprang two mines and later entered the French trenches at several points. Counter attacks, however, drove them out and the French also occupied portions of the crater.

**Except for the infantry attacks at Forges guns on both sides of the Verdun region have been doing all the work.** To the southwest of Metz near Pont a Mousson the French artillery has heavily damaged German positions.

**Land on Black Sea Coast.**  
The Russians under cover of the fire of their fleet at last have been able to make a landing on the Black Sea coast to the east of Trebizond capturing the towns of Atina and Maprava, and driving off the Turks who opposed them. Two officers and 230 men were taken prisoner and two guns and a quantity of munitions were captured.

**Considerable fighting between the Russians and the Germans has taken place in Northwest Russia, the Russian army smashing German trenches in the Riga sector and dispersing scouting parties in the vicinity of Friedricstadt.** Owing to the heavy rains and avalanches, fighting has almost ceased on the Austro-Italian front.

## SIX PRISONERS BURN TO DEATH; 40 INJURED

Explosion Starts Fire in El Paso City Jail.

Many of the Prisoners, Locked in Cells, Were Thoroughly Saturated With Explosive Solution and Flames Enveloped Them.

El Paso, Texas, March 6.—Six prisoners were burned to death and probably 40 others seriously injured when fire, starting from a large tub containing a solution of gasoline and kerosene used to exterminate germ-carrying vermin, exploded in the city jail today. The bodies of the victims were thoroughly saturated with the solution when the flames enveloped them and their cries of agony were heard by a great crowd which had assembled on the outside of the jail.

In their first reports, jail officials attributed the origin of the fire to the deliberate act of a prisoner in throwing a lighted match in one of the containers holding the explosive fluid. Surrounding the bath quarters are rows of cells and it was in this that most of the fatalities occurred. Locked in, the prisoners were unable to escape the blinding sheet of flame. Those who were rescued were found unconscious and terribly burned.

About 50 prisoners were taken out unharmed and placed in quarters removed from the bath house under heavy guard. The fire department, quartered in the same building, quickly extinguished the fire and with the assistance of five physicians reserved aid to the burned victims.

Mayor Tom Lea has ordered an inquiry. (Continued on Page Eight.)

# WOULD MAKE NAVY EQUAL GERMANY'S

By Adding 3 Dreadnaughts and 4 Battle Cruisers.

## MAKE A GOOD DEFENSE

However, Admiral Fletcher Does Not Think We Would Have an Absolute Defense—Disapproves Promotion by Selection.

Washington, March 6.—Three dreadnaughts and four battle cruisers added to the American fleet, built and authorized, would make it the equal in fighting strength of the present German fleet, Admiral Fletcher, commander of the Atlantic fleet, declared today before the House Naval committee.

While Germany has seven battle cruisers and the United States one, the admiral said, the 35-knot craft proposed by the Navy Department would be so much superior to anything now afloat that four of them, possibly three, would more than offset the seven German boats.

With the present fleet of 42 battle ships of all types, three additional dreadnaughts and seven battle cruisers, Admiral Fletcher thought "we could reasonably expect to make a good defense, although not an absolute one," of both coasts against any combination of two enemy powers that did not include Great Britain.

The admiral said he and a majority of the higher officers of the navy disapproved of the personnel board's proposal to substitute promotion by selection for the seniority system. He said that if the President were authorized to transfer 4 per cent of the Captains—Commanders and Lieutenant commanders—to the reserve, employing them in consular work abroad, as instructors in military schools or on other work for the government, the way for promotion of efficient officers would be open without additional expense.

The present system of selection for high commands and bureau heads, he said, provided a way of putting the right man in the right place. Admiral Fletcher thought that the training and education of all navy officers was so nearly identical that to make selection among the officers in any grade of those qualified for promotion as proposed would be a difficult task. There was little to choose among 90 per cent of the men in any grade, he added, all being required to be experts in many subjects such as seamanship, gunnery and engineering.

In addition a knowledge of international law beyond that of the average lawyer.

## VILLA IS REPORTED TO BE ON HIS WAY TO WASHINGTON

Message Says He Will Seek Interview With President Wilson.

El Paso, Tex., March 6.—Francisco Villa is within six miles of the United States border and is en route to Washington where he will seek an interview with President Wilson, according to a message received tonight by General Gabriel Gaviira, commandant at Juarez, who transmitted the report through Andreas Garcia, Mexican consul here, to General Pershing, commanding United States troops along the border.

## STRIKE IN FLORIDA AND WASHINGTON UPHOLD.

Supreme Court Rules That States Have the Power to Impose Taxes on Trade Coupons Redeemable in Premiums.

Washington, March 6.—By holding that the states have the power to impose taxes, large or small, on trade coupons redeemable in premiums, the Supreme Court today put the legality of premium advertising, by which it is estimated \$125,000,000 worth of merchandise is sold annually, within the scope of state laws.

The widespread practice of giving coupons with cigars, cigarettes and tobacco on premium slips or trading stamps with other merchandise was thus held to be entirely under the control of the states.

The court upheld the constitutionality of laws in Florida and Washington imposing such taxes and dismissed the appeal of F. S. Pitney, of Seattle, Wash., convicted for violating the Washington trading stamp law, in that he as manager and agent of the United Cigar Stores Company in connection with a sale to a customer gave a trading stamp or coupon.

# PRESIDENT NAMES NEWTON D. BAKER SECRETARY OF WAR

Nomination of Former Mayor of Cleveland Will Be Sent to the Senate Today.

## IS LEADING DEMOCRAT

Understood to be in Thorough Accord With President's Defense Policy.

Washington, March 6.—Newton D. Baker, former mayor of Cleveland, has been selected by President Wilson for Secretary of War. His nomination will go to the Senate tomorrow and administration leaders expect quick confirmation so the new secretary may take active charge of the War Department's plans for army increases and reorganization.

Mr. Baker is a lawyer and as a leader among Ohio Democrats has been a warm supporter of the Wilson policies since the pre-convention campaign in 1912. He has been a close personal friend of Mr. Wilson since the latter was his instructor years ago at Johns Hopkins University, and was offered the post of Secretary of the Interior in the original Wilson cabinet, but declined because he then was mayor. He is understood to be in thorough accord with the President on the preparedness program and foreign questions.

Offer of the war secretaryship was made to Mr. Baker by telegram several days ago, after the President had spent more than three weeks carefully going over a long list of those suggested to succeed Secretary Garrison. Mr. Baker accepted and upon being notified today that he would be nominated at once telegraphed that he would be in Washington Thursday.

Mr. Baker, who is 56 years old, with the youngest member of President Wilson's cabinet by more than five years. The next youngest member is Secretary Houston, who celebrated his 56th birthday recently.

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Mr. Baker has been known for years as a leader of the Ohio bar and is highly regarded by the President as a lawyer. Mr. Wilson wanted the place filled by a lawyer because of the legal questions constantly arising in the administration of the War Department, the Philippines, the Panama Canal and Porto Rico.

Mr. Baker is a member of the Ohio State Democratic committee and chairman of the executive committee of his county. He has the record of having run for public office in Cleveland during fourteen consecutive years without defeat. Mr. Baker is understood to have specified when he joined his law firm that he would be free for six months prior to the next election to work for President Wilson's re-election.

Rules committee reported that the four-day period, for which Major-General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff, was designated as Secretary of War ad interim, will expire March 11.

Mr. Baker was born in Martinsburg, W. Va., and at the age of 25 was appointed private secretary to Postmaster General Wilson in President Cleveland's cabinet. In 1897 he began the practice of law in Martinsburg. He later moved to Cleveland, where he became city solicitor in 1902. He held this office for ten years until his election as mayor. In 1914 he was re-elected mayor for a two-year term.

## THE DAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE  
Met at noon.  
Debate on Shields waterpower bill was continued.

Indiana committee resumed consideration of appropriation bill.  
Confirmed nominations David R. Francis, of Missouri, as ambassador to Russia, and Joseph H. Shea, of Indiana, as ambassador to Chile.  
Recessed at 5:25 P. M. to noon Tuesday.

HOUSE  
Met at noon.  
Rules committee considered a rule on the McLemore resolution.  
Admiral Fletcher testified before the Naval Affairs committee.  
A navy re-organization bill reported by Military committee.

# Naval Battle In The North Sea Is Believed Impending

London, March 6.—Certain somewhat vague but persistent rumors which have been circulated here for several days by word of mouth regarding the North Sea war zone have created a state of expectancy among Londoners. This expectancy has been heightened by dispatches received from Scandinavia today, predicting that a battle between British and Russian and German warships is not far distant.

Russian torpedo boats are reported to have been seen near the Island of Oland, Sweden, in the Baltic Sea, and a half dozen German submarines have been observed off Oxelsund, on the Baltic, to the south of Stockholm.

The general opinion in Scandinavia is said to be that Great Britain and Russia will intercept German sailings to Sweden as soon as the ice has melted. The ice already has partly broken up, and thus rendered it easy for forcing. Naval experts have expressed the opinion privately for several days that the Germans are preparing to venture out, and that important events are pending. As to whether the British officials believe this, obviously, nothing is known.

# DISCUSS RELIEF IN FREIGHT SITUATION

Several Reasons Given for the Present Congestion.

## HEARINGS AGAIN TODAY

Representatives of Interested Carriers, Shippers and Receivers of Freight Appear Before the Commerce Commission.

Washington, March 6.—Reasons for the freight congestion which has tied up Eastern trunk line railroads despite their restrictions on export traffic, and some of the remedies which may be used to correct this congestion, were discussed today before the Interstate Commerce Commission by representatives of the interested carriers, shippers and receivers of freight.

Although the discussion dealt almost exclusively with conditions at New York, it was pointed out that Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and other seaports probably would be affected by any changes made in the rules and regulations of carriers. The hearings or conference will continue tomorrow.

The railroad representatives offered a resolution for the consideration of the commission proposing to cut down the free storage time allowed on freight in terminals, and increase the demurrage charges. Shippers and receivers of freight opposed this plan in a resolution declaring such measures would not relieve congestion, but would add burdens to the public.

Reasons assigned for the piling up of freight in the seaboard cities included the large export traffic, the desire of the carriers and others to obtain large supplies of coal in fear of a coal strike and the lack of sufficient track facilities around New York and of lighters in New York harbor.

The children's heads of the Pennsylvania railroad, declared that at Perth Amboy, N. J., the Pennsylvania system now had constantly on hand from 5,000 to 7,000 cars of coal, when the normal number of such cars was only 2,500. In his opinion the remedy lay in (Continued on Page Eight.)

# MINERS WIN FIGHT FOR HIGHER WAGES

Increases May Affect 200,000 Bituminous Workers.

## MEANS \$8,000,000 YEARLY

Agreement Reached Yesterday by Subcommittee of the Conference of the Coal Mine Operators and the Miners.

New York, March 6.—Wage increases that may affect 200,000 men and annually approximate \$8,000,000 or more in the soft coal fields of western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, were agreed upon late today by the subcommittee of bituminous operators and miners from those states, who are here negotiating a new contract to go into effect April 1. The action of the subcommittee will be reported for ratification probably tomorrow to the full joint conference of operators and miners.

Aside from the general increase of three cents a ton, granted by the coal companies, the miners in western Pennsylvania won the mine-run system of paying wages, something the officers of the union say they have been striving to obtain for 30 years. The mine-run system adds 2.39 cents a ton to the miners' wages, and gives them about \$1,250,000 a year, not counting the 3 cents a ton general increase also won by them. The mine-run was bitterly fought by Pittsburgh operators, but was agreed to through the persistence of the officers of the western Pennsylvania district, strongly supported by the international officers of the miners' union.

The wage increases allowed on the mine-run basis in western Pennsylvania are that the 39 cents a ton on the machine mining making the rate 90 cents a ton and 3 cents on pick mining, advancing this rate 67.64 cents a ton. In Ohio, machine mining is increased 3 cents a ton on Michigan coal to 50 (Continued on Page Two.)

# PARTISAN POLITICS IS MORE MANIFEST IN FIGHT IN HOUSE

Absent Democrats Asked to Hurry Back to Capital for the Vote Today

## HEATED DEBATE BEGUN

Bryan's Influence Considered a Big Factor in Armed Ship Controversy.

Washington, March 6.—On the eve of what friends of the administration have planned as the final fight to end agitation in the House over the question of armed merchant ships debate on the subject broke out on the House floor late today and continued hotly for more than an hour. When it was over there seemed to be more of a partisan alignment than at any time since the issue arose.

Representative Mann, of Illinois, the Republican leader, and Representative Lenroot, of Wisconsin, Republican member of the Rules committee, gave notice that they would oppose tomorrow the rule under which it is proposed to table the McLemore warning resolution after ninety minutes of debate on the rule and four hours discussion of the resolution. On that other hand, Chairman Flood, of the Foreign Affairs committee, who has been understood personally to favor a warning resolution, voiced an appeal to all patriotic congressmen to stand by the President.

Call to Absent Democrats.  
Realizing the weakness of the administration whips sent out calls to all absent Democrats within reach to hurry to Washington in time for the vote tomorrow. The President's supporters believe that a large majority of the Democrats, as well as many Republicans, will stand together to put through the rule and kill the McLemore resolution. There will be formidable opposition both in and out of the party.

Fourteen representatives and two senators met at lunch today with Mr. Bryan in the private dining room of a hotel near the capital and discussed affairs generally. What transpired there remained a secret except that Representative Bailey, of Pennsylvania, who was the host, said no discussion was reached on what action should be taken in the armed ship question.

Those present were Senators Kern and Vardaman, and Representative Sobock, of Nebraska, and the managers of Nebraska; Ayres and Helvering, of Kansas; Bailey and Steele, of Pennsylvania; Slayden and Calloway, of Texas; Hensley, Missouri; Gordon, Ohio; Tavenner, Illinois; Huddleston, Alabama; Hill, West Virginia; and Messrs. Tillingham, Arkansas, and Van Dyke, of Minnesota.

Mr. Bryan left tonight for Wilmington, Del., to deliver a lecture. Both sides applauded. Speakers on both sides of the warning today's debate until it was difficult to determine which sentiment was the stronger. When Mr. Mann, vigorously protesting that the question never should have been thrown into the House and criticizing Americans for taking passage of armed ships, expressed the opinion that such a resolution would never draw the country into war, he was cheered heartily by the whole house.

Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, precipitated the debate by working unsuccessfully all day to have the Rules committee pave the way for a direct vote on a warning resolution. The first step toward getting the McLemore resolution before the House was taken by Representative Foss, of Illinois, Republican, at the request of the Democratic members of the Rules committee. It is said. He asked that it be placed on the calendar and it was done without debate. A short time later the Rules committee reported its rule and the House, relieved of its long days of anxiety as to when debate would start, settled down contented to await the official opening at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning, the time set by the Rules committee.

Mr. Gardner did not wait. The House was in the committee of the whole considering a homestead bill when he heard of the report, and obtaining time for a speech, he launched into a vigorous attack on the Rules committee, declaring that its failure to report a straight warning resolution could be attributed only to partisanship and fear of the result of such a vote.

Gardner Starts Debate.  
"I hope to see the vote come directly on the question of adoption or rejection of the McLemore resolution," Mr. Gardner declared, "because it has been heralded to the world that our action on the resolution is to be the test showing what our attitude is on this question of supporting the President or denying the President our support. There is no parliamentary tangle. If we send out from this House a confused action it is because we have deliberately made it a confused action."

As Mr. Gardner finished speaking a score of representatives who have been (Continued on Page Two.)

# SEVEN IN ONE FAMILY ARE FOUND MURDERED

Farmer, Believed to be the Murderer, Kills Himself.

## Daniel O'Kane Found in Dying Condition in His Home Where the Other Members of His Family Had Been Killed.

Lawton, Okla., March 6.—Testimony tending to show that Daniel O'Kane, a farmer, killed seven members of his family and then took his own life, was introduced before a coroner's jury which late today held an inquest at the O'Kane home, near here, where a negro farm hand this morning found the bodies of six of the murdered persons with O'Kane fatally shot, lying beside them. O'Kane died this evening.

Witnesses testified that O'Kane frequently had quarreled with his aged father, James O'Kane and gave their opinion that the strained relations existing between son and father caused Daniel to become temporarily insane.

The dead are Mrs. Daniel O'Kane, the five O'Kane children, Lewis, 13, Daniel, 8, Margaret, 7, Lillian, 5, a baby, Robert; James O'Kane, 75, and Daniel O'Kane, about 48.

The children's heads had been crushed with a hammer and the throats of the four elder children had been cut with a razor. Mrs. O'Kane's head had been crushed with a hammer and she also had been shot. The elder O'Kane and Daniel O'Kane and the baby, Robert, also had bullet wounds through their heads.

A bloody hammer, a razor and a revolver were found in the house.

# FRENCH CONFIDENT OF STRENGTH AT VERDUN

They Have Faith in Petain's Preparedness.

## Have Conviction That Although Germans Persist to Continue Offensive Their Power of Attack Has Been Weakened.

Paris, March 6.—The French continue to be absorbed in the situation around Verdun. The anxieties and doubts of the first days of the fighting have been replaced by quite jovial confidence in the strength of Petain's preparedness either for defense or a quick offensive.

The conviction regarding Verdun is that although the Germans may persist in their offensive, their power of attack has been weakened, as it is considered that it will be difficult for them to get the same dash out of the troops, who have lost fights against the French, in future attacks. The Germans, therefore, have put a great number of infantry companies successively into the action and now appear to be replacing their divisions.

The weather continues quite unfavorable. Rain and snow keep the earth soft, where it has not already turned into marsh. Automobiles near the front look like moving blocks of mud. The roads back of the French line, considering the weather and the use to which they are being put, are good.

Dodge City, Kan., March 6.—Prairie fires have caused an estimated loss of \$500,000 and swept an area 50 miles long and 125 miles wide in the western part of the state. A boy is reported to have lost his life in Finney county.