

FRENCH IN VICINITY OF DEAD MAN'S HILL MAKE HEAVY ATTACK

Berlin Statement Claims Line After Line of the French Troops Were Mowed Down.

ENTER TEUTONS' POSITIONS

There, the Report Says, They were Slain in Bayonet Fighting—Paris is Silent.

HEAVY FIGHTING IN EAST

Austrians Claim Inflicting Severe Losses on Italians.

That the French troops defending the fortress of Verdun have launched a vigorous counter attack in the region of Dead Man's Hill, on the west bank of the river Meuse, was disclosed by the official report issued Saturday afternoon from the German army headquarters.

Though line after line of French troops were mowed down, the German statement said, by the concentrated artillery and machine gun fire of the Germans, some French battalions succeeded in penetrating the Teuton positions on Dead Man's Hill.

Paris Officially Silent. Paris officially is silent regarding this battle, the afternoon statement announcing great activity of French batteries on the west bank of the Meuse, particularly to the west of Corbeaux wood and along Forgesbrook, but that no infantry engagements had taken place.

On the eastern front sharp fighting is going on between Austrian and Russian forces for positions on the lower Stripa and the Danister river in Galicia and for others northeast of Czernowitz in Bukovina.

In the Italian theatre, the Italian and Austrian armies have respectively taken the offensive at various points along that front.

The British steamship Shenandoah, of 2,800 tons gross register, and the German steamship Hispania, of 2,500 tons, were sunk by a German submarine at a point south of Stockholm and the Danish steamship Kasan has been captured in the Kattegat by a large German submarine.

DANISH STEAMER SEIZED BY A GERMAN SUBMARINE. Copenhagen, via London, April 15.—The Danish steamer Kasan, Liverpool for Copenhagen, was captured today in the Kattegat by a large German submarine, according to the newspaper Politiken. The submarine placed a prize crew on board the vessel.

DANISH SCHOONER IS THE VICTIM OF GERMAN U-BOAT. Ymuiden, Netherlands, April 15.—The Danish schooner Proven, Stubbai, Portugal for Gothenburg, Sweden, was sunk by a German submarine. The vessel was landed here today. Before being picked up, the sailors were adrift in an open boat for 56 hours.

PRESIDENT WRITES LETTER EXPRESSING HIS REGRETS. Unable to Attend Young Men's Democratic Club Dinner at New York.

New York, April 15.—President Wilson characterized the Democratic party as the party for "all the forward looking forces of the country" in a letter read at the annual dinner of the Young Men's Democratic Club.

Dr. C. M. Bishop, president of the Southern Sociological Association, said that the party has for all the forward-looking forces of the country, for those who will not turn back to privileges control and who mean to go forward to the realization of every genuine human right, and speaking of the party tonight, however imperfectly, the message of hope and care which should spring to the lips of every patriot who sees in their true light the duty of the great party to which we

FORTY MEXICANS KILLED AT PARRAL

General Pershing Reports That Attack on Unarmed American Troops Was Unprovoked.

TWO OF THEM WERE KILLED

Had Gone to the Town to Purchase Supplies and Left Their Arms Outside—No Mention is Made of the Wounded.

San Antonio, Texas, April 15.—It was an "unprovoked attack" on unarmed soldiers who had entered Parral, merely for the purchase of supplies, that precipitated an action between Mexicans and Americans there Wednesday, according to an official report received tonight from General Pershing. He said that a party of the soldiers leaving their arms outside the town entered to buy food. They were fired upon and retreated in the direction of the camp. The troops there moved forward to meet the Mexicans who were pursuing the retreating troops and began a sharp fire, killing 40 Mexicans. Two Americans were reported dead.

This was the first news received of the incident which drew from Carranza the urgent recommendation that American troops be withdrawn. It confirmed Consul Letcher's report from Chihuahua Thursday. General Pershing sent his report in duplicate from El Paso, 90 miles northwest of Parral. It appeared that he did not receive a report from the troops in the vicinity of Parral until today and that upon its receipt he communicated with General Funston immediately.

General Pershing said he had dispatched additional troops in the direction of Parral, but General Funston withheld for military reasons that part of the information relating to what units were being moved and the exact disposition.

General Funston sent General Pershing a message tonight asking him to amplify as quickly as possible his report. Whether the attack on the men who went into Parral was made by residents or by soldiers or by both was not stated and no mention was made of any assistance given by Mexican troops in the suppression of rioters, or in the restoration of order.

Whether Colonel Brown's command was quickly withdrawn to the vicinity of Parral or has continued on to the south over some trail that passes around the town was not known here.

General Funston also is without information regarding the troops at Parral on the day after the trouble between the Mexicans and American soldiers.

The routine of the pursuit of Villa again is occupying the attention of officers at headquarters, where no (Continued on Page Two)

RACIAL PROBLEMS ARE DISCUSSED AT MEETING

Mob Violence is Described as Anarchy and Savagery.

Dr. C. M. Bishop Declares His Presence Has Dulled Public Conscience as to Sacredness of Life and Sanctity of Law.

New Orleans, April 15.—With the election of officers today, including Dr. C. H. Brough, of Arkansas, as president, and a mass meeting tonight dealing with racial problems, the Southern Sociological Association about completed its work here and was preparing for adjournment after a joint meeting tomorrow night with the Southern Conference for Education and Industry.

TWO MORE ILLEGAL BOATS BY GERMANY?

Two Other Ships With Americans Aboard Sent Down Apparently Without Warning.

INVESTIGATION UNDER WAY

President Wilson and Secretary Lansing Spend a Large Part of the Day Considering the Submarine Situation.

Washington, April 15.—While President Wilson and Secretary Lansing today were marshaling an accumulation of evidence that Germany in her submarine warfare has violated solemn pledges given to the United States, official word of two more shipping disasters, that apparently to illegal acts by German submarine commanders, was received at the State Department.

Consular dispatches indicated that the steamship Margan Abbey was attacked without warning on April 8th, and that the bark Inverlyon was sunk by shell fire after the crew had been forced to the small boats more than 100 miles from shore. Americans were aboard both ships and were endangered. These two cases are being investigated and may be included in the American indictment of German methods of conducting submarine warfare, which, it was understood tonight, probably would be ready for transmission to Berlin early next week.

The President and Secretary Lansing devoted a large part of the day to consideration of the submarine situation. They had before them a number of affidavits secured from American survivors of the Sussex and other vessels recently attacked and a number of documents containing information forwarded by Great Britain.

Value of Affidavits Lessened. It was said the actual value of the affidavits had been materially lessened by the contents of the German note replying to American inquiries. The affidavits probably would have played an important part in the indictments if the administration did not regard the German statements about the Sussex as constituting a virtual admission of guilt.

It became known here tonight that the contemplated action of the United States, which is expected to bring the submarine controversy to a clear-cut issue, is being watched closely by the diplomatic representatives of other neutral nations. The United States is taking into consideration the cases of many neutral vessels which, while not carrying American citizens, have been sunk by German submarines. An investigation of these cases had been proceeding on the ground that it was only by chance that American citizens were not aboard the ships.

Other Neutrals Concerned. Furthermore the interests of the United States and other neutrals are understood to be identical in some of the cases. So far, however, the United States had declined to act jointly with other neutrals, not only in regard to the submarine question, but on other subjects as well. It was said tonight by a high administration official that a neutral administration would need for joint action in the present situation.

It was reiterated tonight that before taking the action contemplated the President would consult with congressional leaders. It was indicated (Continued on Page Two)

SURVEY OF INDUSTRIES IN STATES TO BE MADE

Prominent Engineers Named to Organize State Boards.

This Step Taken as One of the First Towards Industrial Preparedness—The Organization to Be Singular One.

New York, April 15.—The names of 250 prominent engineers who are to organize state boards throughout the country to make a complete survey of American manufacturing and producing resources, as a first step toward industrial preparedness, were announced tonight by the committee on industrial preparedness of the naval consulting board.

The engineers have been appointed state directors by Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, after being chosen by five engineering societies who have pledged their total membership of 30,000 to aid the movement. These organizations are the American Society of Civil Engineers; American Institute of Mining Engineers; American Society of Mechanical Engineers; American Institute of Electrical Engineers and the American Chemical Society.

The state directors, who will serve without pay, also become associate members of the naval consulting board, of which Thomas A. Edison is chairman. They are instructed to organize as speedily as possible and begin, with the assistance of field aids, chosen from the membership of these societies, an inventory of the manufacturing and other industries that could be utilized in case of war. This work will be done under the direction of W. S. Gifford. (Continued on Page Two)

DANIEL B. CARTER BURNED TO DEATH

Cumberland Man Overtaken by Forest Fire That Does Thousands of Dollars Damage.

VALUABLE FORESTS ABLAZE

Roper Lumber Plant Reported Burned—Several Counties in East Carolina Swept—Historic Church at Pantego Destroyed.

Raleigh, N. C., April 15.—One man is dead, one of the largest lumber plants of the South destroyed, and millions of feet of timber in ashes as the result of forest fires raging in widely separated points of eastern North Carolina, according to reports reaching this city tonight.

In Beaver Dam and Cedar Creek townships, Cumberland county, where stood some of the most valuable forests of the country, the conflagration is at its worst. This afternoon Daniel B. Carter, a farmer, was overtaken by the fire while walking along the public road and was burned to death. Carter's death is the only fatality. One home is known to have been destroyed, that of Purdie Hall, and fear is expressed for many more in the region being devastated by the flames. The fire in Cumberland was still raging at 6 o'clock this afternoon and had burned an area ten miles long. Hundreds of fire fighters from all parts of the county have been summoned to assist in checking the flames.

Damage in Several Counties. A report from Rocky Mount says that high winds have reached almost the velocity of a cyclone, coupled with the extreme dryness of the East Carolina country, is held responsible for the most serious forest fire known to that region. Fires used to clear up new ground have spread in many sections, resulting in tremendous losses to the lumber industry of several counties. The fire has not been confined to forests entirely, or to Pantego, a lighted brand swept by the winds from the surrounding forest, lodged on the roof of St. James church, a historic landmark of Beaufort, set fire to the edifice and burned it to the ground. The church was valued at \$10,000. In Terra, the wind fanned flames from the forests upon the residence of Ralph Howell destroying it, together with all outbuildings and servants' quarters, tallying a loss of thousands of dollars.

Roper Plant Reported Burned. At Roper, the large Roper Lumber Company plant is reported to have been burned this morning. The town of Bayboro was menaced for several hours last night. Fires are said to have been raging all around the town, threatening to consume many buildings. A call for assistance was made and the flames were later reported to have been swept by without doing damage to the town property.

FOREST FIRES ALSO SWEEP SEVERAL VIRGINIA COUNTIES. Norfolk, Va., April 15.—Forest fires in several counties in Virginia and North Carolina did damage estimated at many thousands of dollars last night and the flames are now spreading in some places.

At Wallington, Va., the fires destroyed valuable timber along the Dismal Swamp and did damage estimated at \$100,000. The Norva Lumber Company lost considerable standing timber and ten cars of juniper lumber ready for shipment. Forty men fought the fire all night. The fire is still burning in some places.

Benjamin Smith, engineer on a logging train, stuck by his post until the heat from the fires broke the windows of his cab. His clothing caught fire and he was saved by companions. The men fighting the fires found escape difficult from three sides and were obliged to run several miles to save themselves from the flames. The fire at last reports was still burning near the sawmill.

St. James Episcopal church at Pantego, N. C., was destroyed. It was an ancient structure and was valued at \$10,000. The building caught fire from flying embers from a burning forest nearby.

In Nansemond county, four men and women fought the flames last night and saved many homes. In Dinwiddie county, heavy damage was caused by forest fires and thousands of fowl were killed. Five thousand pigeons were burned on one farm.

The fire in Nansemond county has practically been extinguished except in an uninhabited section near Dismal Swamp. The fire is still burning in several places in North Carolina, according to reports received here.

THE DAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE. Met at 11 a. m. Resumed debate on army reorganization bill.

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MAJOR TOMPKINS' TROOPS FIRED ON IN MEXICO.



Major Frank Tompkins. The advance column of the American troops on the hunt for Villa under Major Tompkins was fired on when it passed through the town of Parral in the extreme southern part of Chihuahua, 400 miles from El Paso. Following that General Carranza asked the administration to recall the troops. If the "cooler" insists these troops may not use a railroad for their supplies, they may have to maintain a line 400 miles long.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH MEXICO WOULD NOT HINDER PURSUIT OF AMERICANS AFTER VILLA

Status of Expedition Remains Unchanged—Carranza to be Informed That the United States is Willing to Agree to Limit Distance The Troops Shall Go, and to Give Assurance That They Will be Withdrawn in Reasonable Time.

Washington, April 15.—President Wilson has decided to inform General Carranza, in response to his request for withdrawal of American troops from Mexico, that the United States will negotiate for an agreement along these lines.

This government is willing to agree to fix a limit on the distance the American troops, now in pursuit of Villa, shall proceed into Mexico and to make that limit not much farther south than the troops already have proceeded.

The United States is willing to give assurance that the American troops will be withdrawn within a "reasonable time" or as soon as it is definitely established that Villa has reached a point where he can be dealt with better by the Carranza forces.

These points, it became known tonight, were discussed fully at yesterday's cabinet meeting. The President's advisers are said to have agreed on such a course in the belief that it would make stronger the chances of catching Villa. A reply to General Carranza is said to be virtually completed and is expected to go forward in a very short time.

Pursuit Continues in Meantime. Meantime the pursuit of Villa by American troops will continue. Secretary Baker sharply outlined this today in a formal statement.

"The status of the expedition into Mexico is as it was at the beginning, in cordial co-operation with the de facto government of Mexico," he said. "That co-operation continues and the expedition continues. There has been no change in the orders and none is in contemplation."

Secretary Baker and other officials laid stress on the fact that co-operation of Carranza troops was regarded as an important element and negotiations for an agreement with the de facto government will be conducted with the idea that it would strengthen Carranza at home, and make the task of catching Villa easier.

The lines of communication of the American troops already have been lengthened to the point where sending supplies has become difficult. It is realized here that it would be extremely hazardous for them to go much further.

A dispatch from General Funston today said he had not heard from General Pershing for three days. General Funston added he was trying to obtain from the front an authentic report of what had occurred at Parral on Wednesday.

Much importance is attached to this report in view of the negotiations with Carranza. The long delay and an unconfirmed report today of a second attack on the Americans near Parral caused uneasiness in some quarters. "I still hope," Secretary Baker said, "however, that reports of the Parral incident are exaggerated; that it will prove to have been local and accidental, and that there will be no further consequences of any kind."

Mexicans Little Impressed. The only word the State Department had regarding the Parral case came from consuls at Mexico City and elsewhere. They reported that Mexican papers had minimized the incident, and that popular feeling had been little impressed by it. As a matter of fact, the only reports

THROUGHS EXPECTED AT NIGHT SERVICE AT BIG TABERNACLE

Busy Day Planned for Second Sunday of Chapman-Alexander Revival in Wilmington.

SERVICES IN AFTERNOON. Special Separate Meetings for Men, Women and Children Announced for Today.

Prospects indicate that the second Sunday evening service of the Chapman-Alexander revival campaign in Wilmington will attract to the big Tabernacle on Castle street tonight such a throng as will more than tax its seating capacity, which is 4,500.

With the exception or a small section of the choir gallery, the spacious building was filled at the first evening service of the campaign last Sunday, notwithstanding the fact that the weather was unseasonably and uncomfortably cool. Since then a gradually rising tide of interest has characterized the meetings and, with the promise of pleasant weather today, there is every reason to believe a tremendous throng, including both Wilmington people and many from the surrounding country will attend the service tonight.

Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman will preach the afternoon service at the Tabernacle to women and girls only at 2 o'clock. The second service will be held at the Tabernacle this evening at 7:30, and everybody is invited to attend this service and sing. Dr. Chapman's sermon, announced both services a special programme of music will be rendered by the chorus under the leadership of Mr. Chas. M. Alexander. Mr. Albert Brown, the soloist of the party, and Mr. Henry Barrough, the pianist, will also take part in this part of the programme.

The programme of evangelistic meetings for tomorrow and Tuesday includes a conference for young men tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock at Grace Methodist church; tomorrow evening in the Tabernacle, sermon by Dr. Chapman, "The Unfinished Story of Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock, conference for ministers, church officials, Sabbath school teachers and all Christian workers at Grace Methodist church; Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, conference for men, church officials, Sabbath school teachers and all Christian workers at Grace Methodist church; Tuesday evening, sermon by Dr. Chapman on the subject of "Wages, Good and Bad."

At the special meeting for men to be held this afternoon at 3 o'clock at the Y. M. C. A., which will be attended by the members of the Young Men's Committee, which has now been reduced to practically its full strength of 160, Rev. W. Marshall Craig will speak on the subject of "Personal Work." Mr. C. H. Brough, chairman of the committee, will conduct the service at the meeting and the song service at the meeting and "Alexander's Songs" will be used.

Rev. M. T. Plyler, chairman of the committee on the subject of "Suburban Night," members of churches from all the outlying districts and Boy Scouts to attend; Thursday evening, business meeting of the Young People's Society of the city's public schools.

Those desiring to arrange for space for delegations either from organizations or from outlying towns, are requested to get in touch with Mr. Plyler. Clarkton is considering sending a large delegation and doubtless other towns will follow its example.

Meeting for Children. Rev. C. T. Schaeffer, member of the Chapman-Alexander party in charge of Young People's work, has arrived in the city from Springfield, Mass. He has been actively in charge of this branch of the revival work with the party for the past 13 years.

The work with the members of the Young People's Society and other young people who are not members, will be one of the features of the Chapman-Alexander religious campaign in this city. Mr. Schaeffer will conduct these meetings every afternoon except Saturday at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon; Mondays and Fridays at the Tabernacle and the other days at the First Baptist church. Yesterday was a day of rest and recreation for the members of the Chapman-Alexander party. Dr. and Mrs. Chapman and Mr. and Mrs. Alexander spent the greater part of the day enjoying a motor ride to different points outside the city, while Messrs. Brown, Barraclough and Rock spent a part of the day at the Cape Fear Country Club at tennis, and Mr. Potts also took his recreation at the club, but played golf instead of tennis.