

BALFOUR GUEST OF HONOR AT THE MOST NOTABLE DINNER GIVEN AT THE WHITE HOUSE IN GENERATION

British Foreign Secretary Says Interview With President Worth Whole Trip

MANY FORMAL CALLS MADE

War Commissioners Receive Every Mark of Honor and Courtesy in Gift of Government

NEGOTIATIONS NOT OPENED

These to Begin Upon Early Arrival of French Statesmen

Washington, April 23.—Great Britain's war commissioners spent today in the American capital receiving every mark of honor and courtesy within the gift of the government.

Foreign Secretary Arthur Jas. Balfour, formally presented by Secretary Lansing to President Wilson in the morning, was the guest of honor tonight at the most notable dinner given at the White House in a generation.

Call On Department Heads.

Meanwhile Lieutenant-General Bridgers and other British army officers called on Secretary Baker, Major-General Scott, chief of staff and War Department officials; Admiral DeChair and his naval aides called on Secretary Daniels, Admiral Benson and other Navy Department officials; and Lord Cunliffe, governor of the Bank of England, called on Secretary McAdoo at the Treasury Department.

The conferences so far, with the enthusiasm that the people of the capital have shown and the courtesies and cordialities extended by the officials, have taken the British commission completely by surprise.

No Formal Negotiations Yet.

While no formal negotiations were entered into today, the preliminary conferences were stated not to have been wholly perfunctory, but rather to have laid an excellent basis of acquaintance and understanding for the detailed conferences to follow.

Getting Ready For Work.

The British visitors held an organization meeting at the embassy today, and Mr. Balfour plans to spend tomorrow morning on the detail of work and arranging for the proper British and American officials to meet with the task before them.

Several public statements during the stay here will appear before the coming of the English point of view. Vice-President Marshall invited him to address the Senate, but it is improbable he will appear before Congress unless perhaps with French minister of Justice Viviani.

GREAT BRITAIN TO HAVE FIRST LOAN

Amount and Details Probably Will be Announced by McAdoo Within a Few Days

OUT OF BIG BOND ISSUE

Day Crowded With Conferences Between McAdoo, Reserve Board Officials, Bankers and Anglo-French Representatives

Washington, April 23.—The first American loan to the allied nations will go to Great Britain. The amount and other details probably will be made public by Secretary McAdoo within a few days.

Whatever the sum, the amount will be available out of the proceeds of the \$5,000,000,000 bonds soon to be offered to the public, of which \$3,000,000,000 will be loaned to the Allies.

Announcement to this effect was made tonight at the Treasury Department after a day crowded with conferences between Secretary McAdoo and Federal Reserve board officials and American bankers and bond holders and official representatives of Great Britain and France.

Another development was the announcement that the size of the first issue of bonds authorized under the \$5,000,000,000 war finance measure will depend largely upon the immediate needs of the Allies.

The entire \$5,000,000,000 of authorized bonds will not be offered in one lump sum, according to present tentative plans, but probably will be called for in several installments or issues.

Details as to the amount of the first issue, its distribution among the Allies, the character and terms of the bonds, methods of disposing of them and other questions will engage the attention of the Treasury Department and Federal Reserve Board officials during the next few days.

Lord Cunliffe Pays Visit.

The first of the conferences began today with the visit of Lord Cunliffe, governor of the Bank of England, upon Secretary McAdoo and Governor Harding of the Reserve board.

On behalf of Great Britain, it is expected, Lord Cunliffe will place before Secretary McAdoo details as to her most pressing financial problems.

AMERICAN SHIP CHASED BY GERMAN SEA RAIDER

The Seadler Thrown Off After Five Miles Desperate Run

Captain of American Steamer Arrives at New York and Tells of Exciting Experience Off Brazilian Coast.

New York, April 23.—An American steamship was chased for five miles by the German sea raider Seadler, off the coast of Brazil, April 12, according to the captain of the vessel, which reached this port today.

The captain of the steamship, which is engaged in the South American trade, said the raider was sighted at 6 o'clock in the morning, bearing down on him at a point 29 miles north of the Equator, and between 200 and 300 miles off the coast.

GERMAN POSITIONS TAKEN BY BRITISH

More than 1,200 Prisoners Captured in First Day's Fighting of New Offensive

SUMMARY OF WAR NEWS

Berlin Claims Assault "Broke Down"—French Further Advance Their Line—Activity on Macedonian Front

Again the British have begun a period of extensive fighting from the region of Lens southward to the Havincourt wood, and, according to the London war office, have been successful at various points in capturing important German positions.

Both north and south of the Scarpe river the British have materially advanced at several points toward Douai. North of the river the village of Gavrelle and positions two and a half miles long south of the village were captured, while south of the stream they took the line of Germans on a wide front south and east of Monchy-le-Preaux and captured the villages of Gavrelle and Guemappe.

Farther to the south the entire village of Trescault and the greater part of Havincourt wood now are in the hands of General Haig's forces.

The latest Berlin official communication dealing with the fighting Monday says the new British offensive on the Arras front broke down with heavy casualties. Berlin admits the penetration of German trenches on a front of 500 yards northwest of Lens, but says the British later were expelled from them in a counter attack.

Northeast of Soissons, between the Aisne and the Chemin-des-Dames, the French have further advanced their line, but elsewhere on the front held by the French artillery duels have predominated. Sunday night the Germans tried, but without success to penetrate French positions, notably east of Craonne, in the Champagne, near St. Mihiel and in the Vosges mountains.

A return of good weather to the west coast has brought about a renewed aerial activity and numerous battles in the air. A British airship is believed to have been destroyed over the Straits of Dover by a hostile aeroplane, with the loss of its entire crew.

Sunday French airmen in aerial engagements shot down six enemy airplanes. A similar number fell prey to British aviators, while fifteen others were driven down out of control.

IMMEDIATE DIVERSION OF VESSELS FORECAST

Coastwise Ships to be Used in Trans-Atlantic Traffic

Transportation Representatives Hold Conference With Shipping Board and Defense Council—Interned Vessels.

Washington, April 23.—Immediate diversion of a number of steamships from the coastwise trade to trans-Atlantic service was forecast by officials today after a conference here of transportation company representatives with the Shipping Board and the Council of National Defense.

At a meeting here next Wednesday a newly created shipping committee of the council will meet to consider putting the vessels to transporting supplies to the Allies. The committee was named today by William Denman, chairman of the Shipping Board, at its head. It will work out plans, in co-ordination with a general railroad committee named recently to co-ordinate operations of rail systems during the war.

CONGRESS TAKES UP THE NATION'S PROBLEM OF FOOD

Houston Presents to Senate Committee the Administration's Program for Control

STATE CO-OPERATION PLAN

Plans Laid Before Heads of Five Big Farmers' Organizations, Who Promise Approval

Washington, April 23.—Congress took up the food problem today in public hearings by the Senate Agriculture committee at which Secretary Houston set forth the administration's food control program. At the same time the Federal Trade Commission, directed by President Wilson to investigate the causes of high food prices, asked all state governors to send representatives to Washington April 30, for a conference on state co-operation in the inquiry.

Before appearing at the committee hearings, Secretary Houston put his plans before the heads of five of the country's big farmers' organizations and received assurances of support for any measures the government contemplates for getting a firmer grasp on food production and distribution.

To Mobilize Boys on Farms.

As its part in the government's plans, the Department of Labor announced that it had undertaken the mobilization of a million boys throughout the country as active farm workers for the summer. An organization will be formed to be known as the United States Boys' Working Reserve.

Two announcements of the day bearing on the food situation were a definition of the duties to be performed by Herbert C. Hoover as chairman of the food commission of the Council of National Defense, and the statement that Wm. J. Bryan would tour the west to help spread the Agricultural Department's appeal for increased food production.

Wheat and Potatoes Short.

Aside from the wheat and potato crops, there had been no indicated shortage of staple foodstuffs, the Secretary said. The Nation needs for its normal domestic requirements about 640,000,000 bushels of wheat a year.

A Growing Organization.

The American Red Cross has 460 local chapters. Our President is its head and the society is the right hand of the nation in time of war and calamity.

Every woman can help with the equipment by coming to some of the weekly meetings held in Room 209 on the second floor of the Murchison National Bank building in Wilmington.

Battle of Arras Bursts Into Flaming Fury Again; Some of Fiercest Fighting Yet Seen

Sky Last Night Alight for Miles With Flashes of Guns—Yesterday's Fighting Covered an Eight-Mile Front—Long Sections of German Positions in Front of Hindenburg Line Taken With Many Prisoners and Battery of Guns.

From a Staff Correspondent of The Associated Press, with British Armies in France, via London, April 23.—The battle of Arras, which had been smoldering for a week past, burst into flaming fury again today and is still raging tonight with some of the heaviest fighting of the war in progress.

The sky is alight for miles with the flashes of guns, with star shells that spread a moonlight paleness over the battlefield and with vari-colored rockets, which flash signals to the opposing artillery.

The fighting today covered approximately an eight-mile front, from south of Vimy Ridge to a point well below Croiselles. At the north end of the attack the British swept over German fixed positions running almost due south from Lens and captured long sections of German positions in front of the Hindenburg line and a great number of prisoners.

More than 1,200 prisoners were counted in this sector late today, and others were still coming in. The largest number of prisoners was from the 141st Pomeranian, who surrendered in hundreds after very brief resistance.

The Germans always managed to cling to the slopes on either side of the hill on which Monchy-le-Preaux is perched, thus being the highest point east of Arras and Vimy, overlooking the great broad eastern plains of northern France.

The fighting about Guemappe due south of Monchy, was extremely bitter. The attacking British waves "went over" in the half-gray light of dawn.

Reporting from the front, the British advance and had thrown in scores of new batteries of artillery.

Fighting Extremely Bitter.

The attacking British waves "went over" in the half-gray light of dawn. It was still dark enough to make a fiery spectacle of the barrage which crept ahead of them—a veritable wall of exploding shells.

REPORTS FROM RUSSIA ARE STILL MORE ENCOURAGING

Under New Democratic Provisional Government, Country is No More Likely to Abandon War Without Achieving Her Object Than is the United States—Wilson's Address Effective.

Washington, April 23.—Further encouraging reports from Russia came today in a dispatch to the State Department telling of the effect of President Wilson's war address and declaring that Russia under the new democratic provisional government is no more likely to abandon the war without achieving her object than is the United States.

Recalling that one of the impelling causes for the overthrow of the imperial regime was the belief that it gave encouragement to a separate peace, the dispatch said the revolution would expedite the defeat of Germany and the establishment of a general peace.

their casualties were high and the prisoners fewer in those sections of the line.

Advanced From Half Trenches.

The British advanced in nearly every instance from mere half trenches, where they had been lying for the past week awaiting the bringing up of artillery and the order to advance.

The communication says: "On the battlefield of Arras today the new English assault broke down, without success, under very heavy losses."

The communication says: "On the Aisne and in Champagne there have been strong artillery duels at intervals."

The communication came from G. Cornell Tarley, secretary of the American legation at Constantinople, acting for Ambassador Elkus who is ill.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 23.—Official notification of the Turkish government breaking off diplomatic relations with the United States was received today by the State Department in a dispatch from American Minister Stovall at Berne, Switzerland.

The communication came from G. Cornell Tarley, secretary of the American legation at Constantinople, acting for Ambassador Elkus who is ill.

Boston, April 23.—Dr. James L. Barton, foreign secretary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, announced today that 94 men and women representing the board were in Turkey at the present time.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 23.—Despite the German submarine campaign, American exports in March reached a value of \$551,276,000, which has been exceeded only once, last January, of the best month in the country's history.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 23.—Although men enlisted for the regular army are now being assured that they will be held only for the duration of the war with Germany, recruiting figures continue to show a steady decline.

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BITTER CONTEST IN HOUSE OVER ARMY BILL IS PROMISED

Passage by Senate of Selective Draft Bill, Virtually Unchanged, is Regarded Certain

BOTH HOUSES DEBATING

Discussion in Senate May Continue to Saturday—House May Agree to Vote Thursday

Washington, April 23.—With both houses of Congress debating the war army bill today, it became more than ever apparent that there is no fight over whether a great army shall be raised, the only question being what strength can be mustered by opponents of the administration's selective draft plan.

In the Senate passage of the general staff bill virtually without change is regarded as certain; on the House side the President's supporters also are confident of success, though the contest there will be bitter.

Most of the speeches in the House were in favor of the administration plans, after Representative Dent, chairman of the Military committee, had made an opening statement earnestly supporting the bill as amended by his committee to authorize calls for volunteers, with provision for applying the draft only if the volunteer system fails.

Representatives McKenzie, Illinois; Crago, Pennsylvania; Onley, Massachusetts; Lunn, New York; Green, Vermont; Adamson, Georgia, and others spoke for the draft as the only effective method of raising the army needed.

Senators Wadsworth and Weeks, vigorously advocating the draft, and Senator Thomas, as strongly opposing it, made the principal addresses in the Senate.

Chairman Chamberlain, of the Senate committee, said tonight that he might seek unanimous consent Wednesday for a vote that day or Thursday. He said he did not now expect to endeavor to use the new cloture rule because he was not certain he could get the two-thirds necessary to invoke it and because it might result in more talk than would follow in the normal course.

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF TURKEY'S BREAK RECEIVED

In a Dispatch From American Minister Stovall at Berne.

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