

AMERICAN AND FRENCH ARMY OFFICIALS ARE IN LONG CONFERENCE

Much Importance Attached to Meeting Between Joffre, Baker, Scott and Others

FRENCH HAVE BUSY DAY

Commissioners Pay Official Calls Upon the President and Cabinet Members

EXCHANGE VIEWS ON WAR

Mr. Wilson Handed a Letter from President Poincare

Washington, April 26.—Conferees between the members of the French war mission and the United States government officials for exchanges of views regarding the conduct of the war against Germany, began here today after the leading commissioners had paid official calls upon President Wilson, Vice President Marshall, and Secretaries Lansing, Baker and Daniels.

Of foremost importance was a long talk between Marshal Joffre and members of his staff and Secretary Baker, General Scott, chief of staff, and several other American army officers. It took place at the home of Henry White, former American ambassador to France, where the French visitors are being entertained as the guests of the nation.

Expeditionary Force Desired. France is known to desire the sending of an American expeditionary force to co-operate with her armies, and Marshal Joffre came to the United States prepared to give reasons for the opinion of French military experts that the sending of such a force is advisable. Information regarding the meeting between the military leaders was withheld.

Soon after the conclusion of the conference, Rene Viviani, vice premier of France, and head of the war mission, made a statement to the American press in which he declared that the cooperation of the United States in the war would mean not only a victory for France, which already was assured, but a victory of morality and right, which will "forever secure the existence of a world in which all our children shall draw free breath in full peace and undisturbed pursuit of their labor."

M. Viviani received the newspaper correspondents in the drawing room of the White House.

As the correspondents entered, Mr. Viviani shook hands with his visitors and spoke in French. When he concluded the correspondents applauded vigorously. M. Viviani bowed and then his assistant, Emile Hovelague, read to the correspondents an English translation of what the head of the mission had said.

President Receives Mission. The mission began a busy day with a call upon Secretary of State Lansing at the State Department. They were accompanied by the French plenipotentiaries and the accompaniment of applause went to the White House, where they were received by President Wilson. M. Viviani presented to the president a letter from President Poincare in which the great friendship existing between the two republics was emphasized. The President, through an interpreter, expressed his appreciation.

M. Viviani May Visit Senate. Mr. Marshall extended a tentative invitation to the head of the mission to appear on the floor of the Senate. He later indicated that M. Viviani would go to the Senate either Saturday or Monday and perhaps might make some informal remarks.

In the afternoon preliminary conferences between the American and French technical experts were inaugurated. Conferences will be continued tomorrow. Admiral Chocheprat, representing the French navy, will see Admiral Benson, chief of operations, and Marshal Joffre and his staff will go to the army war college.

Everywhere the Frenchmen appeared today they were enthusiastically greeted. Crowds in the streets, recognizing the uniforms, stopped as the members of the party were hurried and there in automobiles. The members of both the French and American commissions will be the guests of Secretary Daniels on a trip down the coast.

MORALITY TO WIN BY AMERICA'S AID

Minister Viviani Says Victory for Right is Assured by Our Co-Operation in War

GIVES INTERVIEW TO PRESS

French Statesman Expresses Deep Gratitude For the Enthusiastic Reception Given His Mission in Washington.

Washington, April 26.—In a statement to the American press today Rene Viviani, France's vice-premier and head of the war mission, said the cooperation of the United States would mean not only a military victory, which already was assured, but a victory of morality and right. Expressing deep gratitude for the enthusiastic reception given his mission here, M. Viviani said he realized it was "not to us, but to our beloved and heroic France."

M. Viviani's statement to the Washington correspondents follows:

"I promised to receive you after having reserved, as elementary courtesy required, my first communication solely for the President. I have just had the honor, which I shared with the other members of the mission, of being received by him. I am indeed happy to have been chosen to present the greetings of the French republic to the illustrious man whose name is in every French mouth today, whose incomparable message is at this very hour being read and commented upon in all our schools as the most perfect chapter on human rights and which so fully expresses the virtues of your race—long suffering patience before appealing to force; and force to avenge that long suffering patience when there can be no other means.

"Since you are here to listen to me, I ask you to repeat a thousand fold the expression of our deep gratitude for the enthusiastic reception the American people has granted us in Washington. It is not to us but to our beloved and heroic France that reception was accorded and which so fully helps you have given by your tireless propaganda in the cause of right; I know your action has been incalculable. Gentlemen, I thank you.

"We have come to this land to salute the American people and its government with the ardor and disinterestedness of the ordinary course of our lives, and which these tragic hours have raised to all the ardor of brotherly love—a brotherly love which in these last years of suffering has multiplied its most (Continued on Page Seven.)

GENERAL BRIDGES IS GUEST OF PUBLISHERS

Noted British Army Man is Given a Warm Reception

Says Stars and Stripes on the Front in France Would Be Greatly Welcomed—Former Ambassador Gerard Speaks.

New York, April 26.—With Major-General G. T. M. Bridges, of the British war commission, as their guest of honor, the members of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, at their annual dinner here tonight, proclaimed their confidence in the future of the United States and her allies and pledged anew their patriotic devotion to the nation.

The representative of the British army on the commission, headed by Foreign Minister Balfour, who told with pride of having fought under Marshal Joffre at the Marne, was given an enthusiastic welcome.

"He is the man of whom it may be said that he sowed the civilized world at the battle of the Marne," said the soldier of England, in his tribute to the great French commander.

General Bridges said that the soldiers of France and England would like to see the Stars and Stripes flying beside the tri-color and the Union Jack upon the field of battle.

ALLIES MAY CALL FOR HALF BILLION DOLLARS A MONTH

Virtually All of the Money Would be Spent in This Country for Supplies

TENTATIVE PLAN DRAFTED

Secretary McAdoo and Assistants Spend Day Studying Entente's Financial Needs

Washington, April 26.—Preliminary reports to the Treasury Department, upon which Secretary McAdoo will base his recommendations to the President as to the size of the first bond issue under the \$7,000,000,000 war finance law, indicate that the United States will be called upon to finance the Allies to the extent of at least \$400,000,000 and possibly \$500,000,000 a month.

The tentative program also calls for the expenditure of virtually every dollar of the borrowed money in this country for foodstuffs, munitions, coal and other supplies. The estimates indicate the following Entente needs: For Great Britain, \$200,000,000 to \$250,000,000 a month; for France, from \$100,000,000 to \$125,000,000; for Russia \$100,000,000 a month; and for Italy, about \$50,000,000 a month.

Under these requirements the \$3,000,000,000 available for lending the Allies would be exhausted in from six to seven and one-half months. It is likely, however, that the preliminary estimates can be pared down so that the huge loan could be made to cover possibly one year.

Secretary McAdoo and his assistants devoted today to a study of Entente financial needs. The callers at the Treasury included Lord Cunliffe, governor of the Bank of England, with Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, and other embassy officials; a delegation from the French commission which arrived here yesterday, and the Italian ambassador, Count di Celere.

There were indications that Mr. McAdoo would consider favorably the suggestion that he offer soon another block of Treasury certificates to the banks of the country through the Federal Reserve banks. The second offering, it was said, probably would be the same size as the first, \$250,000,000. Should the government decide to finance the Allies at \$500,000,000 a month, approximately one billion dollars would be needed to meet requirements prior to June 30, the date upon which the first proceeds of the bond issue probably will be available.

Secretary McAdoo is favorably inclined to the liberal use of the certificates of indebtedness as a means for easing the strain upon the country's finances in connection with the bond issue. Withdrawing money from the market at the rate of \$250,000,000 every two or three weeks by the issue of blocks of certificates, officials believe, would be preferable to a sudden call for proceeds of a two billion dollar bond issue.

Thus should \$1,000,000,000 in certificates be issued prior to June 30, half (Continued on Page Two.)

ROOT HEADS AMERICAN COMMISSION TO RUSSIA

Calls at the White House and Accepts President's Offer

Russia Will Be Given Aid in the War and in Setting Up Permanent Government and Rehabilitating the Country.

Washington, April 26.—America's commission to the new democratic government of Russia will be headed by Elihu Root, Secretary of War under McKinley, Secretary of State under Roosevelt, and for six years a senator from New York. Mr. Root called on President Wilson today to accept the task and hear of the President's plans for offering unstinted aid to the provisional authorities at Petrograd in their task of carrying on the war with Germany, setting up a permanent government and rehabilitating their country.

Only acceptances by other men selected for places on the commission are awaited before formal announcement of their names and details of their mission are made public. The President is anxious that they leave for Petrograd as promptly as possible, since the trip will require several weeks.

The route to be followed will be kept secret for safety's sake. Word of the commission's coming already has been conveyed to the Russian government, and it has been indicated in response that it will be warily welcomed. The commission will go to Russia in the spirit of helpfulness and will not offer unasked advice. Through Ambassador Francis and Charles R. Crane, of Chicago, personal friend of President Wilson, (Continued on Page Two.)

WAR ARMY BILL WILL BE PASSED BY END OF WEEK

Will Go Through With the Selective Draft Feature, if Predictions Are Correct

SENATOR STONE FAVORS IT

Kitchin is Understood to Oppose the Bill But Will Probably Make No Speech

Washington, April 26.—The war army bill will be passed by Congress before the present week ends, and unless leaders in Senate and House are far afield in their predictions it will go through with the selective draft feature, the object of bitter attack, virtually as it came from the War Department.

The Senate definitely committed itself today to a final vote on the bill before midnight Saturday. The House, sitting far into the night, was determined to vote tomorrow if possible.

The Senate is expected to put through the bill by a majority of large proportions and to defeat the proposed amendment authorizing the President to call for volunteers by a majority of at least 15.

In the House the administration forces are confident the volunteer advocates will be routed by a majority of between 50 and 55. The bill, however, substitute out of the way, the majority for the bill is expected to be overwhelming.

Sixteen Senators to Speak. There were 16 senators on the list to speak before the bill is taken up. The Senate recessed tonight and Majority Leader Martin made the meeting hour 10 o'clock to give all an opportunity to be heard.

The House sat late to clear up general debate except for the closing statements of Chairman Dent, of the military committee, leading the volunteer champions, and Representative Kahn, ranking Republican member, directing the fight for the administration plan.

If a general debate is closed in the House discussion under the five-minute rule will begin. Former Speaker Cannon will be among those talking five minutes for the volunteer system. Republican Leader Mann, who favors conscription, and Democrat Leader Kitchin, who is understood to oppose the draft.

In the House today and tonight, representatives speaking in favor of conscription included Representative South Carolina, Representative Osborne, California, those speaking for the volunteer system included Representatives Wise, Georgia; Mason, Illinois; and Sherwood, Ohio.

Failure Would Prolong War. Representative Lever declared that to defeat the conscription plan meant prolonging the war and the sending of thousands of American men into the trenches.

"If I should offer one prayer for my country," he said, "in these days so pregnant with fate, it would be, God deliver us from having its military and naval affairs conducted by laymen."

Lever read a telegram he received from Senator Tillman, at Trenton, S. C., in which the senator said he had been opposed to conscription but now favored it.

Cold Steel of the Bayonet Vies With Modern Weapons

Has Asserted Itself Anew in Recent Fighting on British Front in France—Strong German Position Along the Scarpe Captured by Battalion of Englishmen Without Firing a Shot.

From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press, via London, April 26.—Despite all the wondrous war weapons modern science has created, the cold steel of the bayonet has asserted itself anew in much of the recent bitter fighting as the arm of last appeal. As already related, the struggles about Moncy le Preux since Monday have attained an intensity unequalled by any of the fighting in the Somme campaign last year.

There was one German position north of the town and paralleling the Scarpe river, which resisted four desperate attacks. It was finally decided to take this position at the point of the bayonet without a shot of any kind being fired to rob the attack of its surprise nature. The attack was made along a three quarters of a mile front under cover of darkness.

The British battalions were formed in comparatively close order and at the whispered word of command, repeated along the line, trudged forward into the night. Grim and silent figures they were, some in kilts, some in plain khaki, each man wearing a steel helmet, each having a firm grip of his rifle with fixed bayonet, the polished surface of which, however, caught no reflecting glint in the enveloping darkness.

Overhead shells were droning and back of the lines guns could be heard. But it was only a desultory bombardment going on and there were fleeting intervals of strange quiet just where the determined line of British troops was approaching their unsuspecting gray-clad foes.

Four unsuccessful daylight assaults

had left a touch of chagrin which was to be wiped out in this "getting" of a man. There is little more to tell. The sound of the fighting in the trenches was lost in the British barrage which closed down some distance behind the German position immediately the British signalled they had entered the position. This barrage cut off any German who attempted to flee from the bayonet charge.

Thus, in ten minutes with the silent bayonet was secured a position which had held out for two days.

The bayonet also has come in effectively in dealing with the ever troublesome machine gun and gunners. A few brave men, stealing out in the night have been able to accomplish much.

Several British battalions have reported in the last few days that the Germans are again employing the old "Kamerad" ruse, suddenly standing up in the shallow trenches and holding up their hands and shouting across to their opponents that they would surrender. Two battalions, believing the sincerity of this proposal, started across to bring in the prisoners, but were immediately attacked.

Incidents like this have helped materially to give the element of bitterness to the fighting to a degree which has started even those men who have been in the battle since the first German rush through Belgium.

The British have given unceasing attention to the bayonet fighting drill in the past few days. Months of training in England has been supplemented by post graduate courses in the great training camps in France and continued as the units passed down through the corps into divisions, brigades and battalions. The night before the Arras attack some sergeants could be heard (Continued on Page Seven.)

COAL AND IRON ORE GIVEN PREFERENCE

General Railroad Board of the Defense Council Issues Order to the Roads

TO BE RIGIDLY ENFORCED

Evasion of Order Would Call For Strict Disciplinary Measures—Adequate Coal and Iron Supplies Imperative.

Washington, April 26.—Orders directing the country's railroads to give coal and iron ore preference over all other traffic were issued today by the general railroad board of the Council of National Defense, formed here two weeks ago by railroad heads to operate American railway lines as one continental system during the war.

In announcing its "first" important move since organization, the board declared the welfare and safety of the nation depended on adequate supplies of coal and iron, that evasion of the order would call for the strictest disciplinary measures.

New emergency car service rules, drawn by the American Railway Association's car service committee, and made public today, require that coal and ore cars when emptied must be sent either directly to or in the general direction of home roads. Foreign box cars also must be sent, loaded if practicable, in the direction of home roads.

The general railroad board, or executive committee, comprises five members with Fairfax Harrison, president of the Southern Railway, at its head. The announcement said: "For the past four days the executive committee (general railroad board) has considered some of the transportation problems before the United States at the present time, having first in mind the war with Germany, and the country's preparations for it. The committee had decided that, in view of the depletion of the reserve stock of coal in many sections of the United States, the paramount need is to insure the largest possible amount of coal to every part of the country during the coming warm months.

"The supreme purpose of the railroads to see that one day of every year the greatest possible amount of coal and iron ore is handled by their lines.

"The action of the executive committee today follows their pledge of April 1 to the government and the American people that during the war with Germany they would co-ordinate their operations in a continental railway system merging all their merely individual and competitive activities in an effort to produce a maximum of national transportation efficiency."

In its order to the railroads, the board says it has investigated the situation carefully and adds: "The facts ascertained by the executive committee that the national situation and the welfare of the country make it imperative that every energy of the railroads must now be continuously exerted to move daily the maximum amount of coal and iron ore." (Continued on Page Seven.)

GERMANS WEAR THEMSELVES OUT IN ATTEMPTS TO RE-CAPTURE GROUND IN BRITISH HANDS

Several Thousand Germans, Attacking in Mass Formation, Are Wiped Out by Curtain Fire From British Guns.

AERIAL ATTACKS HALTED

British Headquarters in France, from a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press, via London, April 26.—There has been a comparative lull in the fighting east of Arras in the last 24 hours; the German counter attacks in the effort to re-take the positions captured by the British in Monday's push having worn themselves out. After each of these attacking waves had been thrown back, the British managed to creep forward still further.

Heavily overcast skies are giving the German airmen a brief respite from British aerial attacks, enabling them to make efforts to reorganize their badly damaged squadrons; for in four days' fighting the British have accounted for nearly 100 enemy machines. The British airmen were praying for continuance of clear weather, as their worrying tactics had provoked the Germans into heavy fighting, but clouds gathered yesterday, and today also the skies were overcast. In consequence the air fighting has been halted.

Owing to the heavy inroads made by British airmen, the German kite balloons are extremely timid these days, although the Germans depend mostly on them for artillery observation. Yesterday attempt overhead observation with airplanes. The only aircraft seen on this side of the line are fast fighting scouts which attempt raids and scurry home again in the clouds. One German balloon, which was set adrift yesterday landed within the British lines.

Stories of the German counter attacks—there have been eight separate attempts to capture Gavrelle since Monday morning—tell of almost incredible tactics employed by the Germans in sending forward troops in mass formation, giving the British artillery the greatest opportunity for open target shooting it has had in the last two years. Several thousand gray-clad Germans were advancing in one of these attacks late Tuesday when the British curtain of fire shut down in front of them. Still other guns fired straight on them for artillery observation, the obscuring smoke lifted there was not a moving German in sight. Nothing was to be seen but plowed ground littered with sprawling dead.

One British regiment has a particular grievance against the Germans. The night before the attack a stray German shell landed direct on the regimental rum cart, destroying 68 gallons. Some of the men who had been sleeping and fishing in the open for three days were deprived of their tots, which usually are distributed just before dawn these bitter cold mornings. There were several ammunition dumps nearby which might have been hit by the shell, (Continued on Page Seven.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN IN U. S. WATERS AN IMPROBABILITY

British Admiral De Chair Says Undertaking Would be Unprofitable for Germans

RELATES HIS EXPERIENCES

Gives First-Hand Story Covering Two Years as Commander of the British Patrol

Washington, April 26.—Rear Admiral Sir Dudley R. S. de Chair, the veteran naval officer of Great Britain's war commission to the United States, gave Washington newspaper correspondents today a first-hand story of some of his experiences during the two years he commanded a patrol fleet chasing German submarines. Without minimizing the gravity of the submarine menace, he confidently predicted that it would be overcome.

Commenting on suggestions that Germany might undertake a submarine campaign on the American coast, the admiral said this would not be profitable from the German point of view without extensive supply bases on "his side of the Atlantic."

The admiral spoke of the memorable lessons the Allies had learned in the war, and said he and his colleagues had come to place them at the disposal of the American government.

"I only wish to make it plain to you the number of German submarines that we have sunk. That is a naval secret, as also are the means of detection of submarines and of combating them. Your navy has been furnished with full details, however, by the present mission."

"Of the prospect of submarines appearing in American waters, Admiral de Chair said: "It would not pay Germany to inaugurate a general submarine campaign off the American coast unless she also would establish bases here. Each submarine carries from eight to ten torpedoes, besides a limited fuel supply, and would largely be wasted on the long trip over and back, not to mention the warm reception she would probably receive.

"Mother submarines to supply fuel and torpedoes are known to be in operation, but largely by evidence that has been received that they are successful. As a result, the Germans prefer to stay out for two or three weeks and then return to port.

"No one knows exactly how many submarines the Germans are building, but we know they are working at feverish speed and have heard reports that they are turning out from two to three a week. Great uncertainty exists as to how long Germany can continue to supply both vessels and torpedoes.

"The best defense against submarines, we have found, is the armed ship. During the early days they entirely withdrew from such vessels and even now only attack in the darkness. A three-pound gun is effective if it strikes the vessel's shell, but where the submarine is submerged a four-inch gun is desirable to break down the armored conning tower. Submarines, we know, are carrying four-inch guns themselves, and their cruising capacity is also being largely increased.

"It is extremely difficult to know if you have actually sunk a submarine. Presence of oil on the surface is a good indication, though not absolutely conclusive. It may be used for deception. All the indications are good that the American steamer Mongolia bagged one, though it is possible it got away.

"The entrance of the American fleet into the war hardly makes it more probable that the Allies will send their big fleets in after the Germans. It is not good strategy to risk war vessels against land fortifications. Nevertheless, we continue to send nearly three years, to hope that the Germans will come out."

WILL SAVE GOING TO FORT OGLETHORPE FOR EXAMINATION. Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., April 26.—A board headed by Captain J. S. Young, Jr., was appointed here today to conduct examinations of applicants for admission to the reserve officers' training camp. Announcement was made that all army recruiting stations in North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee had been authorized to examine applicants to save them from coming to Fort Oglethorpe before the training camp opens May 1. About 100 applications for admission were filed here today.

LEST WE FORGET. The work on Red Cross hospital supplies still goes on. The regular Friday morning meeting will be held as usual in room 203 on the second floor of the Municipal-National Bank building. (Continued on Page Seven.)