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## FLOTILLA OF U. S. DESTROYERS IN ACTIVE SERVICE IN EUROPEAN WATERS; U-BOAT IS ATTACKED

American Squadron Touches at Queenstown and Puts to Sea Shortly Afterwards

### "WE CAN START AT ONCE"

This is Reply American Commander Made When Asked When He Would be Ready

### MEN IN PINK IN CONDITION

One Destroyer Escorts Big Liner Through Danger Zone

Queenstown, May 16.—A squadron of American torpedo boat destroyers has safely crossed the Atlantic and is patrolling the seas in war service. The American navy's actual entry into the war zone has already been productive of a brush between a destroyer and a German underwater boat, according to an announcement by the British admiralty, but the result of it has not been made public.

The destroyer squadron arrived in Queenstown after an uneventful voyage across the Atlantic, but almost immediately after a formal exchange of greetings with the British naval officials put to sea again for the hard work that is before it.

### Crowd Cheers Americans.

A crowd of several hundred persons, some of them carrying tiny American flags, lined the water front and cheered the destroyers from the moment they first sighted the flotilla until it reached the dock. The crowd cheered again a few moments later when the American senior officer came ashore to greet the British senior officer and Wesley Frost, the American consul, who had come down to the dock to welcome the flotilla. Everything was done in a simple, business like manner. There was an entire absence of formality.

The commander of the British flotilla was waiting on board his ship and sent wireless greetings to the American ships as soon as they were in sight, steaming a long line into the harbor.

After the exchange of shore greetings and the British commander had congratulated the American officers on their safe voyage, he asked: "When will you be ready for business?"

"We can start at once," the American commander replied promptly.

This response, so characteristically American, surprised the British commander, who said he had not expected the Americans would be ready to begin work on this side so soon after their voyage. When he had recovered from his surprise, however, he made a short tour of the destroyers and admitted that the American tars looked prepared.

"Yes," replied the American commander, "we made preparations on the way over. That is why we are ready."

The equipment on board the destroyers was found to be in excellent condition and remarkably well suited to the requirements on this side of the ocean. In fact, it was said by the British officer, that the only thing lacking in the equipment of the American destroyers was heavier clothing. It appears that the American tars were wearing the clothing too light for the varying weather conditions they will encounter in these waters. This lack, however, was quickly provided for.

### Men in Fine Spirits.

After the formalities had ended and the needs of the men were attended to, the American ships at once put out to sea. The men from captains to ordinary seamen, looking in the pink of condition and apparently enthusiastic for their task.

"They are certainly a fine body of men, and what's more their craft look as fit," said the British commander, who watched the destroyers file seaward.

One of the American destroyers became warily even before reaching this side of the Atlantic. This was when it was seen up and escorted through the English Channel. This action so pleased the passengers on board that they sent messages of greeting and appreciation to the commander of the destroyer.

A message read: "Passengers on board a liner bound for a British port under the protection of an American torpedo boat destroyer send their hearty greetings to the commander and her officers and desire to express their keen appreciation of this practical co-operation between the government and people of the United States and the British empire, who are now fighting together for the freedom of the seas."

Many enthusiastic persons managed to get snapshots of the American vessels in Queenstown harbor, but the best (Continued on Page Two).

## HOUSE ADOPTS THE ARMY BILL REPORT

Senate Conference Agree to the Provision for Increasing Pay of Enlisted Men

### TO SOON GO TO PRESIDENT

Final Action on Conference Report May be Taken in Senate Today—Registration Plans Already Completed.

Washington, May 16.—The conference report on the war army bill was adopted by the House without a record vote late today, after Representative Dent had announced that the Senate conference had agreed to the House provision increasing the pay of enlisted men. Final action must be taken by the Senate.

The section regarding pay as agreed to by the conference provides that all officers and enlisted men of the forces to be raised by conscription shall have the same pay, allowances and pensions as the regular army and makes these increases in the pay of enlisted regulars.

Those receiving \$15 to \$21 per month, an increase of \$15 per month; those receiving \$24, an increase of \$12; those receiving \$30, \$36 or \$40 an increase of \$3; and those receiving \$45 or more, an increase of \$6.

The Senate is expected to accept the conference report tomorrow or Friday and then it will go to the President. Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the Senate conferees, said he had yielded on the army pay increase only in a desire to hasten final enactment. The insistence of the House being so stubborn that continuation of the fight would greatly postpone raising the new army. The Senate had voted a small increase.

Senator Chamberlain said an effort might be expected when the report is brought up in the Senate to reduce the maximum conscription age of 30 years, insisted upon by the House and agreed to by the conferees. Both the pay increase and the "conscription" volunteer amendment may also encounter renewed objection and several hours of debate are expected.

Plans for beginning registration of those subject to draft have been completed by the War Department and it was announced tonight that immediately upon the signing of the bill by the President the department will also outline the procedure to be followed in bringing the National Guard into the Federal service. Many details regarding the guard's mobilization and its status remain to be completed and Secretary Baker said the state regiments would not be ordered to divisional or army corps concentration camps, except where a state division exists, until all preparations are made at the camp sites for their reception.

Guard regiments now in the Federal service may be retained temporarily at (Continued on Page Three).

## RUSSIA RECEIVES \$100,000,000 LOAN

Money to be Spent in America Under Supervision of a Treasury Representative

### WILL BE USED AS NEEDED

Russia to Have at Her Disposal Expert American Buyers to Insure Getting the Maximum Amount of Merchandise.

Washington, May 16.—The United States today loaned Russia \$100,000,000, bringing the total amount loaned to the entente governments up to \$670,000,000. The money was loaned to be spent as needed without stipulation or understanding of any sort further than Russia stands back of the obligation, will make it good and will spend the money in this country under the supervision of a representative of the Treasury Department or a commission to be named by the American government.

The latter stipulation was made in a spirit of co-operation, without intending to embarrass the Russian government or to curtail its purchasing powers, but with the end in view that Russia will secure the maximum result for the money she is to spend. To aid in this, the Treasury Department will place at her disposal the services of expert buyers in this country familiar with American markets and with American values. In this respect, Russia stands on an equal footing with other entente governments to which the United States is making loans, the only distinction being that in the application of the program Russia heads the list. Great Britain, France, Italy and other beneficiaries of American loans soon will follow.

Today's loan to Russia, her first participation in the huge sum which the United States will lend the allies, was made, it was said, first to help the Russian government obtain supplies which she needs here and secondarily as an earnest manifestation to the Russian people that the United States places no credence in rumors that Russia is contemplating a separate peace with Germany. No assurances of American confidence, it was thought, could give to the Russian government the conviction that America is ready to help her with a substantial loan would give it was largely in this mind that the negotiations, begun a month ago between the Russian embassy and the Treasury Department, Treasury officials today.

Officials want Russia to realize, it was authoritatively said, that the United States is a sympathetic friend, its standing ready to help. To this end, the firmations have been conveyed to the Russian government that today's loan is not the full extent to which the United States is willing to aid, but that other assistance, of a substantial nature, (Continued on Page Seven).

## ONLY 26 BRITISH SHIPS WERE SUNK DURING THE WEEK

This Includes Those Over and Under 1,600 Tons and Also Three Fishing Craft

### 62 LOST PREVIOUS WEEK

Destruction of Large Ships Decreased From 24 to 18 and Small from 38 to 8

London, May 16.—Eighteen British merchant vessels of more than 1,600 tons were sunk during the past week, says the official summary of shipping losses issued today. Five merchant vessels of less than 1,600 tons were sunk, together with three fishing vessels. The summary:

All nationalities—Arrivals 2,563; sailings 2,552.

British vessels, mined, submerged and sunk, over 1,600 tons, including one previously, 18; under 1,600 tons, five.

British merchantmen unsuccessfully attacked, including five previously, 19. British fishing vessels sunk, three.

The foregoing statement shows the losses for the week cut considerably more than half as regards the number of vessels sunk. Last week's report showing 62 vessels as compared with 26 in the present statement.

In large vessels the decrease was from 24 to 18. The most marked drop, however, was in the number of smaller vessels destroyed. Last Wednesday 22 merchant vessels of less than 1,600 tons were reported sunk, in contrast with the five in this week's report, while the number of fishing craft dropped from 16 to only three.

The high water mark in the destruction of large vessels was reached with the report of April 26, when 40 such vessels were announced as destroyed.

### TWO ITALIAN STEAMERS UNDER 1,000 TONS SUNK

Paris, May 16.—A dispatch to the Havas News Agency from Rome says the losses to Italian shipping during the past week as a result of Germany's submarine campaign were two steamers under 1,000 tons and several smaller sailing craft. Some fishing boats also were sunk.

### REV. AND MRS. SILER HONORED BY MAXTON PRESBYTERIANS.

Maxton, N. C., May 16.—A reception was given by the congregation of the Presbyterian church last night at the home of Mrs. M. E. McKinnon in honor of Rev. E. L. Siler and Mrs. Siler, he having been recently elected co-pastor with Dr. Hill at this place. All the congregations of the town were guests and this included all ages up to 88. Many in their seventies were present and enjoyed the occasion immensely.

### Gen. Townley Transferred.

Washington, May 16.—Army orders given out today announced the transfer of Brigadier General C. P. Townley, no longer commanding the Charleston, S. C., coast defense district, to take command of the fortifications of Manila and Subig bays, Philippines.

## SENATE DEVOTES FULL SESSION TO BITTER CRITICISM

Attacks on Government Begun Behind Closed Doors and Renewed in the Open

### WAR BUDGET STARTED IT

Council of National Defense and the Shipping Board Made Special Targets

Washington, May 16.—In beginning consideration today of the \$3,390,000,000 war budget, the Senate devoted the entire session to sweeping criticism of the executive branch of the government. Seldom has the Senate chamber been the scene of such vehement attacks continued for five hours behind closed doors and renewed after the doors were opened.

No progress was made on the bill, but with the outburst of indignation out of the way Senate leaders thought passage of the huge war appropriation measure would not be long delayed.

The Council of National Defense, composed of cabinet officers, its civilian advisory commission and the government Shipping Board were special targets of senatorial wrath and President Wilson himself was sharply criticized. The council was charged with usurpation of authority and with unlawfully delegating power to the advisory board. The Shipping Board was assailed for alleged interference with private shipbuilders and for insisting upon its wooden ship program. The President was attacked for alleged lack of co-operation and consultation with Congress.

The upshot of the entire discussion was over adoption of Senator Sterling's amendment setting forth that the powers of the Council of National Defense shall not be enlarged because of war conditions. A section of the bill appropriating \$500,000 for the defense council was the basis for the debate.

Democratic Leader Martin consented to an executive session, suggested by Senator Weeks, because the whole bill involved discussion of confidential military questions. Five hours afterward the doors were opened, because Republican senators, including Lodge, Norris and Brandegee, suggested it was not proper that such statements, as had been heard, should be made without cognizance of the public and without opportunity for those attacked to offer defense.

Democratic senators, it was said afterward, began the discussion by criticizing certain acts of the advisory board. Senator Rees was said to have been particularly vehement. Senator Lewis, of Illinois, vigorously condemned certain activities of the board, especially regarding the letting of government contracts, and offered an amendment to the bill creating the defense council to provide that hereafter men shall be appointed to the advisory board subject to the Senate's confirmation.

Some senators said President Wilson was not being kept properly informed regarding supply purchasing. Others declared that the President and the cabinet had, without warrant of law, (Continued on Page Three).

High Point, N. C., May 16.—Wilmington was unanimously chosen as the place of meeting in 1918 of the Grand Lodge Independent Order of Odd Fellows and State Assembly of Rebekahs, and William L. Smith, of Wilmington, was elected Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge to succeed Richard J. Jones, deceased, during today's sessions of the two bodies in this city.

The selection of the next place of meeting was made this morning and there were but two contesting cities, Rocky Mount and Wilmington. As the issue was about to be submitted to a vote, the Rocky Mount workers withdrew and Wilmington was unanimously chosen as the place to gather next May. The election of officers occurred late this afternoon and the following men were elected, some of the contests being rather spirited, others resulting by acclamation.

Grand master, Calvin Woodard, of (Continued on Page Three).

Between Gavrelle and the Scarpe river in France the German forces again made counter attacks against positions taken from them recently by Field Marshal Haig's men, but again the British inflicted heavy casualties on them and held their ground. At one point, by numerically superior forces, the Germans made the British fall back, but, returning to the fray, the British immediately repulsed the Germans and re-captured their lost terrain.

Active on the Aisne sector held by the French, the Germans made large effective in an endeavor to push back the line. At several places the French line bent under the impetus of the forceful offensive, but, like the British, the Frenchmen launched brilliant counter attacks which enabled them to retake their lost ground and inflict heavy losses on the Germans.

The Italians are keeping up their strong offensive against the Austrians along the Isonzo front and have succeeded in capturing several strategic points, including the village of Zagarza and Zagomila and carrying with great dash two mountain crests. The Austrians, apparently taken by surprise in the commencement of the offensive, now are striving with their artillery and infantry to hold the Italians in check, but thus far, according to the Rome war office, they have met with no success. Prisoners to the number of 3,575, among them 98 officers, and guns, machine guns and war material have been captured by the Italians.

Both in Mesopotamia and in Macedonia successes for the Entente Allies are recorded. In the latter theatre the British in the Lake Doiran region have captured 5,000 yards of enemy trenches to a depth of 500 yards and in the Struma river sector another front of trenches of 3,000 yards.

Again the weekly statement of British shipping losses as result of attacks by submarines and the striking of mines shows a godly falling off from previous weeks, only 23 vessels having been lost last week as against 62, including fishing vessels, announced the previous week.

### Quits Congress for Army



Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, is the first member of Congress to join the army. He has resigned his seat in the House and will report next week at Major General Wood's headquarters at Charleston for active service as a reserve officer, having been taken in from the old officers' reserve corps.

## WILMINGTON MAN GRAND TREASURER

Wm. L. Smith Elected by I. O. O. F. to Succeed Richard J. Jones—Tribute Paid

### COMING HERE NEXT YEAR

Calvin Woodard, of Wilson, Elected Grand Master and Grand Headquarters Removed to Goldsboro—Mr. Woodell Retires.

(Special Star Telegram.)

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Grand master, Calvin Woodard, of (Continued on Page Three).

Mr. Brownlow interrupts. A motion to adopt this report was made and seconded when Mr. Brownlow took the floor. He stated he had consulted eminent lawyers regarding the status of the convention and its boards and had been advised that operating illegally. The Southern Baptist Convention, he mentioned, was incorporated under an act of the Georgia, to project itself into other states the boards were incorporated separately under the laws of different states, the Foreign Mission board in Virginia, the Home board in Georgia and the Sunday School in Tennessee.

Mr. Brownlow declared lawyers had held that the laws would not permit the convention, incorporated in Georgia to project itself into other states through separate units or incorporations as had been done in the case of the boards.

He urged that the convention adhere closely to its charter, get legislation from Georgia permitting the convention to take over the property and interests of the boards incorporated in other states, elect a board of directors with a president and an executive committee for the entire corporation and select each year a chairman to preside over the deliberations of the convention sessions, but who would not be head of the business corporation.

Officers Substitute Motion.

Mr. Brownlow moved as a substitute for the previous motion to adopt the consolidation committee's report, that the entire subject and the questions raised in the report's discussion including the legality of the "incorporated units" of the convention be referred for more complete consideration to seven lawyers and ministers and business men, empowered to employ counsel if necessary and report to next year's convention full recommendations as to what action was needed.

The convention took a recess after deciding to give further consideration to the consolidation committee's report and Mr. Brownlow's substitute motion, late tonight, following the convention sermon which was delivered by Rev. Dr. C. W. Duke, of Tampa, Fla.

Officers Elected.

At the initial session today officers of the convention were elected, including Dr. J. B. Gambrell, of Dallas, president, who succeeded Dr. Lansing Burrows, of Americus, Ga., who retired after 36 consecutive years of active service as an officer of the convention.

Candidates opposing Dr. Gambrell were Dr. John D. Meil, Athens, Ga.; Dr. S. P. Brooks, Austin, Tex.; Dr. W. W. Landrum, Louisville, Ky.; Dr. J. T. Henderson, Knoxville, Tenn., and Dr. John E. White, Anderson, S. C. (Continued on Page Two).

## SAYS CONVENTION AND BOARDS LACK LEGAL AUTHORITY

Tennessee Layman and Banker Springs Sensation in Southern Baptist Convention

### OFFICERS ARE ELECTED

Dr. J. B. Gambrell, of Texas, President—Action on Consolidation Plan is Delayed

New Orleans, May 16.—A decided sensation was created in the Southern Baptist Convention here late today when J. F. Brownlow, a banker and lay delegate from Columbia, Tenn., declared on the floor that high legal authority which he had consulted had held that the convention, together with its various boards, which handle several million dollars annually, were operating illegally and that, under the law the convention had no legal jurisdiction over its affiliated boards.

Mr. Brownlow's assertions were made during discussion of a motion to adopt the report of the committee on consolidation of the Home and Foreign Mission boards and the Sunday School board of the denomination, a proposition which has been the subject of controversy in the convention for several years.

Consolidation Plan Compromised.

The committee on consolidation of the three boards revised the suggestions contained in the majority and minority reports previously published in the denominational journals. The majority prior to the convention had recommended appointment of an executive committee to direct and co-ordinate all the work of the three boards and supervise appeals and campaigns for funds, with headquarters in Nashville. The minority favored tabling the whole question. In the revised report submitted to the convention today, which was a compromise between the two elements in the committee, it was recommended that the three boards remain separate as at present and that an executive committee of seven be elected annually to have oversight of the arrangements for the convention and act for the convention in the interim of its meetings on necessary matters. It further recommended that the committee "also be empowered to act in an advisory way on all questions submitted to it on matters arising between the three boards and the state boards, but only on request of one or more of the boards concerned."

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## USE ARMED FORCES TO KEEP COMMERCE GOING

Bill Would Give President Power to Prevent Obstruction

Revised Measure Introduced in Both Houses of Congress as Substitute to the Preferential Shipment Bill.

Washington, May 16.—A provision empowering the President to use the nation's armed forces to prevent any obstruction "of the orderly conduct or movement of interstate or foreign commerce" during the war was written into the administration's preferential shipment bill today at a conference between President Wilson and Chairman Newlands and Adamson of congressional interstate commerce committees.

Immediately afterward the revised measure was introduced in the Senate by Senator Newlands and in the House by Representative Adamson, replacing the original measure presented yesterday by Representative Webb. The provisions of the Webb resolution, giving presidential authority to stipulate what commodities shall have preference in movement of freight, are included bodily with amendments in the original measure presented yesterday by Representative Webb.

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The measure would give the Interstate Commerce Commission authority to fix a just compensation for any extraordinary service rendered by a carrier in complying with such an order. (Continued on Page Seven).

## GERMANS ARE CHECKED NORTH OF THE SCARPE

Suffer Heavy Losses in Attack Made in Massed Formation

They Push Forward Beyond British Outposts and Even into the Chemical Works But Are Quickly Forced Out Again.

From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press, British Headquarters in France, May 16 (via London).—The Germans received a heavy check north of the Scarpe river today, where in massed formation they stormed this position which was recently won by the British. After a terrific bombardment lasting a considerable time, the German infantry came down the slopes of Greenland hill from the direction of Ploevain.

The British artillery made the hillside look like a mushroom farm, bulbs of shell smoke sprouting up thickly over the entire field. Machine gun streams nicked missiles into the enemy ranks on the front and in the flanks.

Sheer weight and momentum carried the Germans beyond the British outposts and even into the chemical works themselves, but, like a rubber ball, the rebound was instantaneous and swiftly the defenders struck. Afters a long and hard fight the enemy was thrown out with heavy losses, leaving the British established more securely than ever.

The fighting continued about Bullecourt and a German partial success recently won there was wiped out. In the meantime the British strengthened their positions eastward toward (Continued on Page Three).

### War News Summary

Between Gavrelle and the Scarpe river in France the German forces again made counter attacks against positions taken from them recently by Field Marshal Haig's men, but again the British inflicted heavy casualties on them and held their ground. At one point, by numerically superior forces, the Germans made the British fall back, but, returning to the fray, the British immediately repulsed the Germans and re-captured their lost terrain.

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## WOULD MAKE SUR-TAX 25 PER CENT HIGHER

Vigorous Attempt Started by Lenroot and Sherley

House Committee of the Whole Votes to Place 10 Per Cent Tax on Incomes Ranging Between \$40,000 and \$60,000.

Washington, May 16.—A vigorous movement to increase the proposed war revenue bill income sur-taxes 25 per cent on all amounts above \$40,000 started in the House today under the leadership of Representative Lenroot, of Wisconsin, and Representative Sherley, Democrat, of Kentucky.

Over the determined opposition of Democratic Leader Kitchin and Representatives Fordney, of Michigan, and Hill, of Connecticut, Republicans, the insurgents succeeded in obtaining in the committee of the whole of their proposed increase from eight to ten per cent on incomes between \$40,000 and \$60,000, and tomorrow they resume their fight determined to elevate every division until incomes above \$50,000 would pay almost sixty per cent.

Should the proposed increase prevail there will be an attempt to strike from the bill the proposed freight, light and heat taxes and, possibly, the increased second-class mail matter rate. Unofficial estimates are that the proposed 25 per cent increase would net approximately \$100,000,000.

Representative Kitchin assailed all suggested income tax rate increases over the committee's recommendation. He insisted that support of such pro-

## THOS. J. MURPHY HEADS NORTH CAROLINA ELKS

Greensboro Selected as Convention City for Next Year

New Bern Wins Two Prizes in Parade—State Building Commission Meets and Makes Some Appointments.

(Special Star Telegram.)

Raleigh, N. C., May 16.—The North Carolina Convention of Elks elected T. J. Murphy, Greensboro, as president; D. D. Daughtridge, Rocky Mount, and B. P. Leard, Salisbury, as vice-presidents, and re-elected T. B. Kehoe, of New Bern, as secretary-treasurer. Greensboro was selected unanimously for the next convention.

In the big parade this evening New Bern won the silver trophy by Raleigh for the best appearance in the line of march. New Bern also won a cup for the best musical organization in line. It was a drum corps. The cup offered by New Bern for the lodge having the largest number of men in line went to Durham. Greensboro also won a cup on appearance.

The officers will be installed tomorrow morning and to-morrow afternoon the festivities will close with a big barbecue at the State Fair grounds.

Day of Festivity.

This was a festive day for the North Carolina Elks, gathered here for the seventh annual convention. In the Elks temple all forenoon there was in progress a business meeting dealing with the inner life of Elkdom in this State and in the afternoon there was a session in the Senate chamber of the (Continued on Page Two).

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