

THE MORNING STAR

10 PAGES TODAY ONE SECTION

THE WEATHER
Cloudy Wednesday, probably local rains; Thursday fair, warmer.

VOL. CI-NO. 179.

WILMINGTON, N. C., WEDNESDAY MORNING, MARCH 20, 1918

WHOLE NUMBER 39,357

GERMANS ARE OUT-MATCHED BY THE ALLIES BOTH IN INFANTRY ATTACKS AND ARTILLERY DUELS

Enemy Still Has Given No Indication of Starting His Long Boasted Drive

MAY FACE CRISIS AT HOME

German People Apparently Growing Restless and Demanding More Than Mere Words

AMERICANS GIVE NO REST

Bombard German Trenches and Towns in the Rear of Them

(Associated Press War Summary)

Notwithstanding the fact that the Germans for some time past have admitted largely their intent to begin a general offensive on the allied fronts at no distant date, nothing beyond intensified bombardments and here and there infantry attacks on various sectors have been forthcoming.

In both these kinds of maneuvers the Teutons have met more than their match in the guns of the men of the allied armies—the Belgians, British, French, Americans, Italians and Portuguese.

German People Restless. Probably realizing that their efforts to hasten the people at home are beginning to require something more substantial than words, another track has been taken which either must result in an attempt to carry out seemingly vainglorious promises or result in the German populations believing in the allied leaders long have believed that, with their opponents strengthened in every department and prepared to conduct any assault, the German high command is strong on holding out chimeras and weak in endeavoring to make good their boasts.

German Boast About "Drive." Almost as factually as invitations are issued for attendance upon functions, the Germans now have hidden journalists of neutral countries to appear on the western battle front to witness the commencement of the German offensive operations. The correspondents, it is stated, are expected to begin their journey toward the scene of the proposed fighting Wednesday, where all along the line, figuratively speaking, the allied armies, their guns shotted and their men in serried ranks, are waiting with confidence of the tocsin.

Hertling Sensitive. Probably not unconnected with this latest announcement of the Germans is the apparent sensitiveness displayed by the German imperial chancellor, Count Von Hertling, over the declaration of the United States and the entente to accept at its face value Germany's latest offer of peace. Running the gamut from Germany's good intentions to the fate that will ultimately befall the allies for their refusal to take in Germany's sweetened words, the chancellor ended his words with the well-worn admonition that for all future bloodshed the allies must accept full responsibility.

Whole West Front Active. In the meanwhile all along the battlefronts in the west, from the North Sea to the Adriatic the hostilities continue to be carried out by means of the big guns of the opposing armies and by small units of infantry in raiding operations. In none of the raids has any material gain been achieved by either side, except possibly by the French troops of Gen. Petain, who in the Rhodan region have penetrated to a depth of about three and a half miles and put down effectively an attempt on another part of this front, made by the German crown prince, to pierce the French line.

Belgians Take Prisoners. The Germans are trying out with artillery attacks positions held by the Belgians. Although they succeeded at several points in their objectives they later were driven out from the greater portion of the positions gained, leaving prisoners and machine guns in the hands of the forces of King Albert.

Americans Allow No Rest. The American troops on the Foul sector continue daily to give the enemy a little rest, bombarding towns behind the lines and also trenches in the front of them. Along the Chemin des Dames, another portion of the front held by the Americans, there has been a rather heavy play of gas shells from German guns, but the men from overseas have answered four-fold all the German projectiles.

Opposing Airmen Active. Everywhere the airmen of both sides are keenly active. Particularly so are the British who, in addition to bombing points of strategic importance in the air with enemy aviators, since October have carried out 255 flights, or 38 raids into German territory. The important town of Mannheim has been their latest target, explosive bombs exceeding a ton in weight having been dropped there. Both sides are claiming a heavy toll in aviators shot down during combats in the air.

Siberian Situation Precarious. While scant news now is coming out from Great Russia, advices received from Siberia seem to indicate a precarious situation there. It seems definitely established that former German agents were assigned were given.

Supreme War Council Holds Key to West Front Riddle

With That Body Rests the Decision as to Time and Place of Allied Offensives During the Year—American Military Observers Convinced the Germans Will Not Take the Initiative

Washington, March 19.—The key to the 1918 riddle of the western battle front is in the hands of the supreme war council at Versailles.

Decision as to the time and place of major offensives by the allies rests with that body. It directly controls, also, officials here believe, a new weapon forged during the winter with which to make effective its plan of grand strategy. That weapon is believed to lie in a pooling of the army reserves of all the allied armies, permitting overwhelming concentrations at selected points of attack.

American observers now are convinced the German high command plans a defensive campaign and that the long talked of drive on Paris or the channel ports has been abandoned.

The initiative, according to this view, rests with the allied and American forces. Communications are being closely scanned for the first indication of offensive operations mapped out at Versailles.

The supreme council was created under the urgent insistence of President Wilson for aggressive action this year, based on the status of the British imperial general staff and the commander in the field, Sir Douglas Haig, that certain British forces had been assigned to the council's control.

Decision by the council, officials here believe, will be put into effect next week. (Continued On Page Three)

ONE MORE DAY OF GRACE TO HOLLAND PLANS TO STRETCH THE FLOUR SUPPLY

United States Wants to Avoid Any Seemingly Discourtesy Over Seizure of Ships TO BE NO BACKING DOWN

Unless the Dutch Reply to Ultimatum Gives Up the Ships Voluntarily, They Will Be Commandeered As Already Planned.

Washington, March 19.—Plans for taking over Dutch shipping in American waters at noon today were changed at the last moment. In the absence of a reply from Holland to the British-American demand for transfer of the ships according to the agreement, which Germany blocked, it was decided to wait at least another day to avoid seeming discourtesy to the little kingdom which has had one of the most difficult roles among the neutrals in the world war.

Tonight the United States still awaited final word from London late in the day asking for a report. It is believed that some trouble in coding or cabling is responsible for the delay in transmitting the Dutch reply.

Unequivocal acceptance of the original agreement for the transfer of ships is wanted by the United States which will accept no less and is prepared to go ahead with the requisitioning of the tonnage unless a favorable reply is received. Press dispatches indicating that Holland had asked that the ships be prohibited from carrying troops or munitions were taken to indicate that she was making a last effort to placate Germany in the face of submarine threats and economic pressure. Such conditions are regarded as being not those of Holland but of Germany and accordingly will be refused. It was said on high authority there was no possibility of the United States and Great Britain accepting any limitation on the exercise of their sovereign rights under international law.

There will be no delay in the transfer of the ships when word was received, as the government has made every preparation to act.

Dutch seamen who are to be replaced by Americans can demand to be repatriated to Holland, take employment on any merchant marine vessel of the United States or any other country; or they can be admitted to the United States if admissible under the immigration laws.

CONFERENCE ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN DRAFT LAW

Washington, March 19.—Members of the house military committee conferred with Acting Secretary Crowell at the war department today on proposed changes in the administration amendment to the draft law. Mr. Crowell promised to discuss their suggestion with Provost General Crowder tomorrow and the committee members would hope to have draft quotas based upon total registration instead of upon registrants in Class 1.

Two Deaths at Jackson. Columbia, S. C., March 19.—Two deaths were announced at Camp Jackson today. Sam Harkness, infantry, died from meningitis, complicated by lobar pneumonia, and Joe Steverson, infantry, and Joe Steverson, infantry, died from lobar pneumonia. No other addresses or units to which the men were assigned were given.

BALTIMORE STRIKE IS HAMPERING THE SHIPPING PROGRAM

Six Hundred Workers Who Were Granted Increase a Month Ago Demand Still More

WANT 100 PER CENT RAISE

Mine Sweepers Being Built for the Navy and Merchant Ships Left Unfinished

RETURN TO WORK TODAY

Baltimore, Md., March 19.—The 600 shipbuilders who laid down their tools at the Baltimore Drydock and Shipbuilding Co. plant here on Monday, will return to work tomorrow morning. Local No. 35 boiler-makers, iron shipbuilders and helpers, which included the strikers, issued a statement late tonight announcing that the layoff was due to a misunderstanding of the wage adjustment board scale but that it had been properly explained at a meeting tonight and the men had voted unanimously to return to work.

Leaders deny that they received any message from the shipping board indicating that it resumes work.

Washington, March 19.—A serious local interruption in the shipbuilding program due to demands for increased wages by workers who a month ago were given substantial advances in pay was reported to the shipping board today from Baltimore, where 600 riveters, chippers, caulkers, reamers and drillers left the hulls on which they were working in the yards of the Baltimore Drydock & Shipbuilding Co.

Naval Craft Affected. Mine sweepers under construction for the navy were left unfinished by the strikers as well as the merchant ships building in an effort to offset the losses from submarines. The company officials reported that the walkout took place without any explanation that they understood the men refused to work until a decision was rendered on their demand for \$10.56 a day for chippers and caulkers and \$24 a day for riveting gangs of two men and a boy, all of whom are employed on what is known as allowance work on intricate parts of the ship's hulls.

Already Receiving Big Pay. Officers of the shipping board think the strike is an effort to force a day wage scale on the basis of pay for special work. The present day scale for chippers and caulkers is \$5.60 for eight hours, with many making greater sums in getting time and a half for overtime and double time for holidays and Sunday. Riveters make even more working on piece rates.

Hope for Settlement. J. A. Franklin, president of the boiler makers' union to which most of the strikers belong, was notified of the trouble and confidence was extended by other trade union national officers of the union would settle the difficulty. All of the metal trades unions have promised complete cooperation in the shipbuilding program and are ready to hinder production by special demands such as were made recently by the carpenters. The Baltimore trouble is believed here to be entirely local with no likelihood of being extended to other workers approved the new wage scale recently instituted.

FIRST OF FERRIS TYPE OF WOODEN SHIP IS LAUNCHED

Newark, N. J., March 19.—The Coyote, first of the Ferris type of wooden cargo steamers, was launched today at the yard of the Foundation company, in the presence of hundreds of cheering spectators. Christened by Miss Phyllis Hughes, daughter of the late Senator Hughes, of New Jersey, the vessel slipped down the ways and into the water without incident. Chairman Hurley of the shipping board attended the launching.

Contracts for ships of this type were placed by the fleet corporation last summer with 23 shipbuilding firms on the Atlantic coast. The Coyote and other vessels of her type measure 281 feet in length, 46 feet beam, 23.6 feet deep and displace 8,500 tons.

The ships are of the single deck cargo type and are driven by 1,400 horsepower triple expansion engines, which will give a speed of ten knots an hour.

FRENCH SUBMARINE LOST. Not Heard From in a Long Time. Hope is Given Up.

Paris, Sunday, March 17.—The French submarine Diane, not having been heard from in a long time, is considered as lost. It was officially announced today.

The submarine Diane was of a seagoing type, built at Cherbourg in 1914. She displaced 820 tons. Her complement was 35 men.

TREASURY FIGURES SHOW THAT THE COST OF WAR IS MUCH BELOW ESTIMATE

Washington, March 19.—Imminence of Secretary McAdoo's announcement of the size and interest rate of the third Liberty loan to open April 8 gave special importance today to a treasury announcement of government receipts and expenditures from which might be calculated with fair accuracy the sum the government would need before the end of the fiscal year, June 30.

Outstanding features of these figures, as unofficially analyzed, were that war costs are not increasing from month to month, as had been expected and that ordinary expenses and loans to allies in the next 3-4 months probably will not be much over \$4,000,000,000. To this must be added the necessary outlay of about \$3,155,000,000 to redeem certificates of indebtedness now outstanding and maturing before June 30; \$500,000,000 for the government's capital in the war finance corporation, whose creation is expected soon; and \$500,000,000 to provide a current working balance at the end of the year. These would make a total of \$8,655,000,000 needed between now and June 30.

On the other side of the books might be placed the \$853,000,000 working balance receipts from income and excess profits taxes and other internal revenue sources; \$740,000,000 estimated miscellaneous receipts; \$43,000,000 estimated customs receipts; approximately \$200,000,000 revenue expected from sale of war savings and thrift stamps and \$500,000,000 to be received in the next three days from a current issue of certificates. These would make a total of nearly \$4,600,000,000 which might be expected to flow into the treasury between now and June 30 from other sources than the Liberty loan.

On this basis of calculation the difference to be provided for would be between \$4,000,000,000 and \$5,000,000,000. This sum is much less than had been calculated in the past as necessary on the basis of estimated expenditures of government departments and loans to allies.

These figures do not necessarily disclose the size of the third Liberty loan, for other elements of financial mechanism, judgment of the money market and appraisal of popular feeling enter into the actual distribution. The features are essentially the same, however, as those which Secretary McAdoo and his advisors have before them in deciding how many billions are to be raised in the big campaign.

It is believed the amount already has been determined by the secretary and that as soon as he decided whether the interest rate shall be four percent as on the second loan, or higher, to accord with the upward tendency of interest rates in the last few months, he will make known his recommendations. These will go to congress, probably late this week or early next week. (Continued On Page Three)

DANIELS PLEASED WITH NAVAL BILL

House Committee Proposes Greater Appropriation Than Secretary Requested

IT EXCEEDS \$1,300,000,000

This, With Appropriations for the Past Year, Amounts to Nearly as Much as Had Been Spent on Navy for 122 Years.

Washington, March 19.—The annual naval appropriation bill carrying more than \$1,300,000,000 and authorizing a war-time increase in the navy's enlisted strength from 87,000 to 180,000 men, was reported to the house today by Chairman Padgett of the naval committee.

Secretary Daniels tonight expressed complete satisfaction with the measure, saying the committee had improved on official recommendations as a result of a thorough study of the department and its needs.

"The bill is larger by over \$800,000,000 than any prior naval bill carrying, roughly, \$1,327,600,000," said Mr. Daniels. "This sum, together with last year's bill and the supplemental appropriations carried in the two deficiency bills of the preceding session, make almost \$2,000,000,000 provided for the navy in a little more than twelve months, while the total expenditures of the navy, from 1794 to 1916 inclusive, a period of 122 years, only exceeds this sum by three hundred and sixty-odd dollars. I make this comparison here to convey what it means to support and operate the navy on a scale demanded by the present conflict.

"Almost \$200,000,000 is provided for aviation purposes, and while I cannot make public the details to which this large credit is to be applied, it represents what our experts felt necessary and will be used to greatly increase the efficiency of the excellent services the naval aviators are performing.

"The bill provides the money necessary to carry forward the three year program of dreadnaughts, battle cruisers and other types of ships already authorized. It provides recommended another emergency fund of \$100,000,000 which may be used in the construction of destroyers and other small craft, which are at present most pressing need in the fight against the submarine menace. Small craft and merchant ships are the need of the hour in going to press the construction of the big craft as soon as possible."

REFORMS IN RAILROAD ACCOUNTING INAUGURATED

Washington, March 19.—Simplification of railroad freight accounting is involved in an order issued today by Director General McAdoo establishing universal interstate billing which will eliminate most of the billing work heretofore done by each carrier on a shipment passing through its hands. Now a single bill will accompany the shipment to its destination, regardless of distance or the number of roads traversed and the movement will be expedited to some extent.

Another railroad reform on which the director-general expects to tender a naval outlay for training naval reserves and this was disallowed by the federal auditor and Paymaster Baker called on General Young to refund, which he has declined to do on work on this subject.

COOPER AND GRANT WIN FOR ASSEMBLY IN COUNTY PRIMA

Jackson and Harris Roll Up Heavy Majorities and Blair and King to Run for Register

TRASK FOR COMMISSIONER

Second Primary Will be Necessary to Nominate Johnston of Mc-Glaughon for Board

The democratic primary in New Hanover yesterday resulted in the nomination of Mr. W. B. Cooper for the state senate and the renomination of Representative L. Clayton Grant for the house of representatives, while Sheriff George C. Jackson and Recorder George Harris were renominated as candidates to succeed themselves.

Mr. John Haar, register of deeds for many years in New Hanover, was apparently eliminated as a candidate in a second primary by the narrow margin of 10 votes, and the race will be between Messrs. Walter H. Blair and F. King, Sr. according to the returns last night. Mr. George W. Trask was nominated by a safe majority as a candidate for county commissioner but a second primary will be necessary to nominate another candidate. This race will be between Messrs. J. Herbert Johnston and W. P. McGlaughon.

Total Vote About 2,400. While with the exception of the race for the state senate, which was hotly contested, and that for register of deeds, in which there were six candidates, no great interest was manifested, the vote in yesterday's primary was in the neighborhood of 2,400 votes, which is 200 less than was the case four years ago. This can be accounted for by the absence of many men with the colors, who did not vote. However, nearly 200 of these cast their ballots by mail, this being the first primary in this county in which in which such votes could be cast.

Recorder Harris Led Ticket. The surprise of the primary perhaps was the large majority secured by Recorder George Harris for renomination. He led the ticket, among the candidates having opposition with 1,775 votes, while his opponent, former Recorder Brooke G. Emplie received 607. Both candidates have been in public life for many years and it was expected that the race between them would be close and that the successful candidate would win by a narrow margin.

Jackson 1,615; Cowan 820. Sheriff George C. Jackson, who was nominated two years ago by former Sheriff S. P. Cowan, was the next highest on the ticket with 1,615 votes. Former Sheriff Cowan, his only opponent, polled 820 votes. Sheriff Jackson carried over in their precincts with the exception of Seagate, which gave a majority of 28 to Mr. Cowan. Recorder Harris carried every precinct in the county by large majorities.

Mr. George W. Trask, a prominent trucker of Cape Fear township, was expected to pull a heavy vote, but even his most optimistic friends were surprised when it was considered that he had five good men against him. He got 1,444 votes while Mr. W. P. McGlaughon, of Wilmington, was next, with 977 and Mr. J. Herbert Johnston, also of Cape Fear township, was third, with 812 votes. Mr. S. A. Matthews of Wilmington ran fourth in the race with 581, and Mr. John R. Morris was fifth with 331, and Mr. G. T. Smith got 164.

Mr. Walter H. Blair, former city tax collector, led the race for register of deeds with 885 votes and the next closest was Mr. E. F. King, Sr., who got 462. Blair's opponent, Mr. F. King, Sr., that cast for Register of Deeds John Haar, who was credited with 392. Mr. Henry Horns, deputy clerk of superior court, was a close fourth with 368. Mr. J. D. Edwards got 273 votes and Masl C. E. White received 111.

Wins in City and County. Former Senator W. B. Cooper carried every precinct in the city with the exception of the Fourth ward which gave Mr. W. D. MacMillan a majority of six votes, and likewise carried every precinct in the county with the exception of Cape Fear township, which gave Mr. MacMillan a majority of 21. In the Second ward, which polled more than 400 votes, the race between them was neck and neck, resulting in a majority for Mr. Cooper of 26 votes, while his majority in the second precinct of the Fifth ward was but three votes.

With the exception of the Fourth ward, which gave Capt. Edgar D. Williams a majority of 20 votes, Representative L. Clayton Grant carried every precinct in the county. His majority of 485 was secured largely in the city but all of the county precincts went to him by good majorities, considering the slim of the vote.

Counting Vote Was Slow. By 9 o'clock all the county precincts had been heard from, but it was 11 o'clock before returns began to come in from the city and it was 12:30 before the counting was completed in the Second ward and even then the returns were not complete, as the vote for the unopposed candidates was not tabulated. From the returns that came in, indications were that practically the entire vote had been polled for County Solicitor E. F. Burton, Maj. W. N. (Continued On Page Two)