

Fair Sunday, warmer west and south portions; Monday fair, gentle to moderate shifting winds.

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FRENCH FACE HEAVY GERMAN ATTACK ON 25-MILE FRONT

BATTLE NOW RAGING ON FRENCH FRONT MAY DEVELOP INTO MOST IMPORTANT SINCE DRIVE BEGAN

Germans, Foiled at Arras and Amiens, Turn Their Attention to Montdidier Region

HEAVY MASSES HURLED IN Enemy Captures Several Villages, Driving Forward Along a Five-Mile Front

FIGHTING IN HEAVY RAIN British Score Further Notable Gains in Palestine

AMERICANS ARE BRINGING UP SUPPLIES FOR FRENCH

(By the Associated Press) Many American transport sections are working bringing up supplies to the French who are engaged in a great battle in the southern section around Moreuil and Lassigny.

(Associated Press War Summary.)

The French troops now are meeting the shock of a German attack on a 35-mile front in what may develop into the most important battle fought since the start of the offensive 10 days ago.

It is here from Moreuil, 10 miles northwest of Montdidier, in a curving line around the latter place and eastward to beyond Lessigny, nearly 15 miles away, that the battle is raging at last accounts.

The initial force of the impact, however, was sufficient to drive the French back short distances at and near the point of the salient.

The German aim here is apparently to drive westward from Montdidier in an attempt at cutting in on Amiens from the south.

Foundry Damaged by Fire. Baltimore, March 30.—The plant of the Kennedy Foundry Company in South Baltimore was badly damaged by fire last night.

The New Interest Quarter at the American Bank & Trust Co. begins on April 1st.

Germans Occupy 6 Villages In the Montdidier Region

They Have Also Gained Ground Southeast of Amiens—Situation North of the Somme is Unchanged and British Have Maintained Their Positions on the South—Heavy Rains.

London, March 30.—The Germans have captured the villages of Aubvillers (5 1-2 miles northwest of Montdidier), Grievessnes, Cantigny, Mesnil-St. Georges, Le Monchel and Ayencourt, the war office announced this evening.

GERMANS SUFFER ENORMOUS LOSSES

Prisoners Tell of One Whole Division Being Almost Completely Annihilated

MACHINE GUNS MOW THEM

Washington, March 30.—Regarding the losses sustained by the Germans in the battle in Picardy an official dispatch from France today said:

"Although as yet our information is very incomplete it is certain that the German losses in the battle of the Somme have been enormous. Prisoners who were questioned on the 25th of March reported for example that the 88th division of infantry was almost completely annihilated and that the 26th division suffered heavily.

WHEAT FARMERS TURN DEAF EARS TO HOOVER

Drastic Action May Be Taken Unless They Release Supplies of Grain Held For Higher Prices.

Washington, March 30.—The food administration's appeal to loyal American farmers to market their wheat now while the greatest difficulty is being made in feeding the allies, had only slight effect last week.

Decision to requisition all wheat held by German sympathizers seeking to hamper the government has not been changed, administration officials said.

REPORTS CONFLICT AND WASHINGTON IS LEFT CONFUSED

French Dispatch Says Advance is Checked; British Tells of the Loss of Six Villages

OFFICIALS HOPE FOR BEST They Believe Haig is Holding in Reserve a Large Force of Fresh Troops

Washington, March 30.—Officials here tonight awaited with intense interest more detailed reports of the German drive against the French in the region of Montdidier.

An official dispatch to the French embassy saying that French reserves had stopped the advance on a 25-mile front from Lessigny to Moreuil were received with elation.

WAR PROGRAM FOR LABOR IS DRAFTED

One of Principal Provisions is That There Should be No Strikes or Lockouts

CREATE NATIONAL BOARD

Washington, March 30.—An agreement that there shall be no strikes or lockouts during the war and a recommendation that all industrial disputes be settled by a government mediation body, are the principal provisions of a national war labor program projected by representatives of capital and labor and made public tonight by Secretary of Labor Wilson.

AMERICAN DEPTH BOMB TERROR OF SUBMARINES

Two Encounters in Which American Destroyers Sank U-Boats Are Described.

London, March 30.—Encounters in which American destroyers sank German submarines are thus described in accounts of successful submarine battles published today.

The first American destroyer sighted the enemy submarine on the port bow and proceeded at full speed in the direction of the enemy who submerged.

PARIS BOMBARDED AGAIN.

Big Gun Takes Toll of Eight, Four of Them Women—37 Wounded.

Paris, March 31.—Paris was again bombarded by the long distance German cannon this morning.

Eight dead, among whom are four women, and 37 wounded, including nine women and seven children, were the casualties resulting from the bombardment today.

TWO GREEK OFFICERS TRIED AND SENTENCED TO DEATH

Athens, March 30.—The two Greek officers who were arrested recently after being landed on the west coast of the Peloponnese by a German submarine have been tried and sentenced to death by a court martial whose decision was announced yesterday.

TROOPS AT FRONT BELIEVE BATTLE WILL GROW INTO ANOTHER LONG STRUGGLE

May be Similar to Those at Verdun and the First Battle of the Somme—Germans Making Strenuous Efforts to Bring Up Heavy Guns—Front Now About 55 Miles Long.

With the French Army in France, Friday, March 29.—(By the Associated Press.) The impression tonight among the troops fighting along the front is that the battle will develop into a long struggle similar to those at Verdun and the first battle of the Somme.

The Germans who were advancing in two directions, toward Amiens and beyond Montdidier, appear to have thrown the greater part of their force around Montdidier.

Today, all along the line the enemy has been trying to find a feeble spot, without success.

The morale of both the French and British troops is notably cheerful and they are confident under trying conditions.

BUILD SHIPS FOR PRIVATE OWNERS

150 Motor-Driven Vessels of 3,000 Tons Each Will be Constructed in Oregon

ARE TO BE BUILT OF WOOD

Washington, March 30.—A new shipbuilding program for private interests was approved today by the shipping board, as a further offset to the drive against allied tonnage which is being made by German submarines.

Chairman Hurley announced that the request of the Atlantic and Pacific Steamship Company for permission to place contracts with ship yards in Oregon for 150 motor driven wooden ships of 3,000 tons each had been granted, under certain restrictions.

"We want to encourage American shipowners to put their money into building more ships," Mr. Hurley declared.

The government building program for March surpassed the goal set in launchings by 12,000 tons, the shipping board announced today, but fell short in deliveries, because of shortage of steel plates.

Growth of the submarine toll has spurred officials to greater efforts to hasten the building of ships.

The motor ship was said to possess many advantages in construction at this time. It can be built of smaller timbers than required for the standard Ferris type and being driven by a Diesel engine, will not require apparatus used in steam vessels.

Shortage of steel is causing the shipping board much anxiety and may lead to a change in the policy of allocating the output of mills, so that there will be no danger of stopping work in any yard through lack of material.

Work in the yards, officials said today, is speeding up. The five plants of the Bethlehem Steel Company last week drove 1,500,000 rivets, equivalent to two complete hulls and 17 per cent more than in the week previous.

BAKER DELIGHTED OVER PERSHING'S OFFER TO FOCH

Americans Enthusiastic Over Prospect of Getting Into the Thick of Big Battle

MEN BREAK INTO CHEERS Just What Part the Expeditionary Forces Will Play is Not Known at Present

Washington, March 30.—(By the Associated Press.) "I am delighted at General Pershing's prompt and effective action in placing all the American troops and facilities at the disposal of the allies in the present situation," said Secretary of War Baker, in a statement given out at headquarters today.

"It will meet with hearty approval in the United States, where the people desire their expeditionary forces to be of the utmost service in the common cause," the secretary continued.

"I have visited all the American troops in France, some of them recently, and had an opportunity to observe the enthusiasm with which officers and men received the announcement that they would be used in the present conflict."

The officers and men had about come to the conclusion that they were to be sent to the front.

Secretary Baker, having conferred with the allied commanding officers and statesmen, desires to return to the United States as soon as possible and make available the information he has secured from his observations and conferences. He has completed the inspection of men and material.

HEART OF FRANCE TOUCHED

BY THE OFFER OF PERSHING'S SINCERE AND MANY WORDS IN PLACING AT THE DISPOSAL OF GENERAL FOCH THE ENTIRE RESOURCES OF THE AMERICAN ARMY HAVE GONE STRAIGHT TO THE HEART OF THE FRENCH PEOPLE WHO DAILY TELL WHAT THE FRENCH CALL "FINE GESTURE."

The newspapers of all shades of opinion reflect this grateful appreciation, both by the prominence they give the incident and the terms used.

Paris, March 30.—General Pershing's sincere and many words in placing at the disposal of General Foch the entire resources of the American army have gone straight to the heart of the French people who daily tell what the French call "fine gesture."

The newspapers of all shades of opinion reflect this grateful appreciation, both by the prominence they give the incident and the terms used.

Paris says that France as a whole does grateful homage to the United States, adding "to use the language of surgeons, we may say there has been a transfusion of blood between the two countries."

"General Pershing's act asking so nobly to share in the honors and sacrifices of that battle of nations now in preparation, is a solemn warning to the central empires of the grim resolve of free nations to conquer."

General Foch has in their simplicity a deep warning," says the Figaro. "They bring out the magnitude of the stake at issue. On the events on the Somme hangs not only the fate of England and France, but of civilization and progress for which Germany, victorious, would substitute her coarse methods of human exploitation."

20 MEN, FOUR WOMEN INDICTED FOR RIOTING

Strike Situation at Kansas City Shows No Decided Change—Striker Who Was Shot Dies.

Kansas City, Mo., March 30.—The Jackson county grand jury late today returned indictments charging 20 men and four women with "unlawful assembly" in connection with riots growing out of the general strike in progress here.

The general strike situation showed no decided change tonight. Conference looking toward a settlement were begun late this afternoon.

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