



GERMANY IS LISTENING— MAKE YOUR MONEY TALK— BUY A LIBERTY BOND!

THE WEATHER Generally fair Saturday except showers in extreme west portion; Sunday showers.

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WILMINGTON, N. C., SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 6, 1918

WHOLE NUMBER 39,374

WILMINGTON GETS PERMANENT GOVERNMENT SHIPYARD

GERMANS ARE HURLING MASSES DIVISIONS INTO BATTLE IN AN EFFORT TO BREAK ALLIED LINES

Desperate Attempt to Drive Wedge Between British and French Armies AMIENS THEIR OBJECTIVE Allied Legions So Far Are Holding Their Lines Firm Except at Two Points THESE ONLY MINOR LOSSES Counter-Attacks in Three Salients Drive Enemy Back

(Associated Press War Summary.) In a battle which has lasted since Thursday and which probably is still continuing with utmost fury, the Germans have been hurling masses divisions against the British and French lines from far north of Albert to a short distance north of Montdidier.

Probably there has not been a more sanguinary battle fought since the beginning of the Teutonic offensive March 21 than this which has for its objective the driving of a wedge between the British and French armies, the cutting of the Paris-Amiens railroad south of Amiens and the capture of that city.

But in spite of the power of the attack and the desperateness of the fighting the Entente allied legions have stood firm over most of their front. At only two points have they been forced to give ground and these seem, on the map, to be only minor successes when compared with the sacrifice of lives which they have cost.

Just to the southwest of Albert the British have withdrawn a short distance and the French have given up the village of Costel west of Moreuil which has been the center of the German assaults for the last few days. At this point the Teutons are within three miles of the Paris-Amiens road.

The German official statement claims that successes both north and south of the Somme have been won and that the number of prisoners taken since the beginning of the drive has increased to 90,000 and the guns to 1,300. It seems probable that the Entente allies have abandoned their Fabian tactics and now are prepared to give battle to the Germans. They have fixed their lines about 12 miles east of the city of Amiens and it is evident that here they have turned at bay against the invaders. The contour of the counter-attacks of the allies lends itself to defensive tactics. It is quite high and of a character which compels attacking forces to expose themselves to concentrations of fire from artillery and infantry.

It is necessary for the Germans to break through the British and French lines in this region or to outflank the allies by a drive to the north and south. The fighting near Albert and north of Montdidier seems to have for its object the turning of the allied positions. That the Albert and Moreuil sectors are vital to the allied defense is shown by the stern resistance maintained there in the last two days.

Artillery Engagements. There have been artillery engagements in various sectors of the Belgian and French fronts outside of the battle area in Picardy. The city of Reims has again been subjected to bombardment by the Germans. In no sector, however, has there been infantry fighting.

Senate Discusses Steps To Put An End To Disloyalty

Five Men Killed When Small Boat Blows Up Just After Arriving at Elizabeth City Elizabeth City, April 5.—Five men were killed and wreckage and cargo hurled over adjacent buildings when the steamer Annie blew up at her dock here today just after arriving from Norfolk. The vessel was loaded with flour and sugar and the cause of the explosion remained a mystery tonight. The men killed were First Mate Manu Kinsey, of Norfolk; Assistant Engineer James Nowdy, of Edenton; and two negro deck hands. Two other negro deck hands were seriously injured, one of them lying shortly after the explosion. The Annie, a small coastwise steamer owned by the People's Navigation Company, was virtually wrecked.

ALIEN HANGED BY AN ILLINOIS MOB

Formal Investigation to be Undertaken by State Government at Inquest Monday Collinville, Ill., April 5.—Formal investigation of the death of Robert P. Prager, who was hanged last night by a mob which accused him of disloyalty will not be made until Monday when Roy A. Lowe, coroner of Madison county, will hold an inquest over the body.

ACCUSED OF DISLOYALTY

Mayor of Collinville Wires Senator Overman Urging Immediate Passage of Law to Repress Sedition. Collinville, Ill., April 5.—Formal investigation of the death of Robert P. Prager, who was hanged last night by a mob which accused him of disloyalty will not be made until Monday when Roy A. Lowe, coroner of Madison county, will hold an inquest over the body. No arrests have been made by county officials and none is anticipated until after the inquest Monday.

URGENT PASSAGE OF LAW

Mayor Siegel in a statement tonight asserted he had telegraphed today to Senator Overman, chairman of the Senate judiciary committee urging the immediate passage of the law imposing a severe penalty on disloyalty. It was his opinion, he said, that the violence of last night was the result of neglect by the federal government to furnish this penalty.

Prager Did Nothing But Talk. So far as could be learned tonight the action of the mob was precipitous and no person as yet has stated concrete instances of disloyalty by Prager. It is known he registered as an enemy alien in St. Louis, June 27, giving his occupation as a baker. He asked for a permit to enter all barred zones to seek employment. The permit was granted. It was also discovered that he registered for the army in April, 1917, he caused the arrest of a man on a disloyalty charge. His friends assert he was radical in his views on socialism, but that when the United States entered the war he declared he was "all for America."

AMERICAN AIRPLANE PILOT HAS WON FIVE VICTORIES

Washington, April 5.—An official dispatch from France today says that one of the American pilots recently sent to the American front, Sergeant Pitman, has already won his credit four victories and a fifth which has not yet been certified.

GERMANS CAPTURES TOTAL 90,000 MEN AND 1,300 GUNS

Between the Somme and Luce Rivers Gains Are Scored "After a Hard Struggle"

TOWN OF HAMEL IS TAKEN

Important Commercial and Industrial Center in Southern Russia Captured Berlin, via London, April 5.—Ninety thousand prisoners and more than 1,300 guns have been captured by the Germans in their offensive on the western front up to the present, says the German official communication today. The communication adds that the Germans gained successes south of the Somme and on both sides of Moreuil Thursday and that British and French reserves were repulsed in storming attacks.

JAPANESE NAVAL FORCE IS LANDED AT VLADIVOSTOK

Action Follows the Killing by Russians of One Japanese and Wounding of Two Washington, April 5.—Landing of Japanese naval forces at Vladivostok to protect life and property was reported to the state department today by the American consul there. The action followed an attack on a Japanese office by five armed Russians who, being refused money, killed one Japanese and wounded two others. The force landed was said to be small and only sufficient to prevent further disorders.

FORCE LANDED IS SMALL

Not Regarded as Being Connected in Any Way With Intervention in Siberia Since the return to Japan from Russia of Baron Uchida, the Japanese minister to Petrograd, the Japanese prime minister has indicated clearly that Japan does not intend at present at least to send a military force to Siberia without reference to the wishes of the Russian government unless some extreme emergency should arise. It has been assumed here that such an emergency would be organization of the German military prisoners in Siberia into an armed force designed to seize control of the country, or the taking possession by factions hostile to the entente allies of the great quantity of military stores accumulated at Vladivostok.

DANIELS ADDRESSES MARYLAND METHODISTS

Discusses War, Methodism and Temperance at Big Patriotic Meeting in Baltimore. Baltimore, Md., April 5.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels in an address at a great patriotic meeting of Methodist ministers and laymen tonight in celebration of the ratification of the Maryland legislature of the national prohibition amendment dispensed the war, Methodism and temperance. "I was born in the Methodist church and rocked in a Methodist cradle," said the secretary. God bless the Methodist church. I say here, not to the discredit of any other church, the Methodist church has sent more men into the army, more nurses to the front and more prayers ascend to heaven from its worshippers than any other.

ORIGIN OF BIG BLAZE AT KANSAS CITY UNDETERMINED

Officials Inclined Toward the Incendiary Theory. Kansas City, Mo., April 5.—Officials investigating the fire which last night devastated three blocks in a wholesale manufacturing district, causing a property loss estimated at \$2,500,000, were still unable tonight to fix the origin. Officials were more strongly inclined toward the incendiary theory than they were earlier in the day as a result, it was said, of statements obtained from persons who witnessed the fire in its early stages and who declared the Abernathy Furniture Company's building where the fire originated apparently was ablaze on all sides within a few minutes. It also was pointed out that other structures some distance away burst into flames almost simultaneously.

Guilford Lost to Trinity. Durham, April 5.—Baseball: Guilford College 0; Trinity College 3.

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TRAINING "NON-COM'S"

Marine School Established for Promising Young Men. Paris Island, S. C., April 5.—A school for the exclusive purpose of thoroughly training all enlisted men who appear to have the making of non-commissioned officers has been established at the United States marine training camp located here, thus doing away with the old style method of indiscriminately appointing men from the ranks as sergeants and corporals.

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Seven Concrete Ships Will Be Built At Total Cost Of About Six Million Dollars

Three of the Vessels Will be of 3,500 Tons and Four of 7,500 Tons Each and Will be Used as Oil Carriers—Plans for the Yard Are Now Being Prepared and as Soon as Completed Construction Will Commence.

PLANT WILL COST \$1,000,000

There Will be a Payroll During Construction of the Ships of Something Like \$3,000,000—Shipping Board Assured That No Exorbitant Prices Will be Charged for the Site. Godwin Announces Hurley's Decision.

Washington, April 5.—Growing need for oil carriers caused the shipping board to decide today to begin as soon as possible the construction of a fleet of steel barges, ocean-going tugs and concrete tank steamers to replace the large number of tankers taken from the Mexican coastwise service for trans-Atlantic trade. It is estimated that 75 additional tankers are required.

Seven of the concrete ships will be built at Wilmington, N. C., Chairman Hurley announced today, the board having selected Wilmington as the site of a new yard to the south. Three of these ships will be of 3,500 tons and four of 7,500 tons.

The Emergency Fleet Corporation will build the new yard, which has three ways. The Shipping Board is so well pleased with a concrete ship just built for it on the Pacific coast that it intends to enlarge considerably the concrete ship building program. Concrete ships can be built in less time than can wood or steel vessels.

Washington, D. C., April 5.—Representative Godwin held a conference this morning with the U. S. shipping board and immediately gave out the following statement: "The government will build a shipyard at Wilmington. Plans are now being prepared for that purpose and as soon as completed the construction of the yard will begin. The construction work will cost about \$1,000,000. The shipping board expressed the hope that Wilmington would be reasonable in the purchase of a site and they were assured no exorbitant prices would be charged."

The government will construct seven concrete ships, the first three of 3,500 tons each and the other four 7,500 tons each. The cost to construct all these will be about \$6,000,000. There will be a payroll during the construction of these seven ships of something like \$3,000,000. The shipyard will be permanent and owned by the government.

WILMINGTONIANS WILL BE HIGHLY PLEASED BY NEWS

The foregoing dispatches will prove to be about the most welcome news Wilmingtonians have ever received. The news will have the immediate effect of banishing doubt and pessimism and of putting new life into the business of the port. Citizens who said yesterday the "news was too good to be true" and will admit that a considerable shipyard is an assured fact and that the era of sacred hope and uncertainty is over.

The city for many months has put forth strenuous efforts to secure some recognition from the government. Citizens have worked hard and unceasingly to influence the government to recognize the port in some way. The efforts to obtain some share in the war preparations of the nation date back a long time. There have been days when prospects were bright and others when the outlook was gloomy. The few who labored on and refused to give up, declaring that Wilmington was bound to score some time, have seen their prophecies come true and their predictions verified.

The city has been a great sufferer because of war conditions, the outbreak of hostilities, followed by the submarine campaign, practically destroyed the port's chief commerce—that of exporting cotton. Shipping troubles have played havoc with other large industries here. Many people have left the city during the war and gone to those towns where war industries are located and where attractive wages are paid for labor. Meanwhile Wilmington has existed on her nerve and bravely insisted on business as usual. Every big call from the government for support has been met with heroic effort to respond. No citizenship has ever tried harder to keep the wheels moving. A Large Sixed Smile. With the prospect of millions being expended here by the government there will be a smite from one end of town to the other. From the humblest citizen to the richest there has been the greatest interest in the probabilities of the port's getting recognition, and now that this has come, and along with it a great undertaking, the prospects of large employment for laborers, and best of all, the possibility of a train of developments which the shipyard makes possible, the whole community will acquire more "pep" and a keener zest for getting up and going forward. The concrete ship industry is so new that there is little local data to be had on what the building of seven large ships means. One of the concrete ship-builders who was here recently said that about 500 men would be required to build one of the medium sized vessels. That being true, it would appear that hundreds of workmen would be needed.