

THE WEATHER

Rain and warmer Friday; Saturday fair, except rain in northeast portion.

THE MORNING STAR

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# TERRIFIC STRUGGLE IS BEING WAGED ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Germans Are Hammering the Allies in Two Sectors With Result Yet Unknown.

BRITISH RE-TAKE VILLERS

Enemy Swept Back at This Point Almost to Where Present Fighting Started.

FRENCH GIVE UP HANGARD

German Gains Toward Amiens Thus Far Are Small

(Associated Press War Summary.) . . . The great double German drive, in the Somme and Armentieres sectors, which began Wednesday morning, has developed into a terrific struggle. The tide of battle has surged to and fro during the last two days with the decision still in the balance. The British, having been forced back out of Villers-Bretoneux, launched a counter-attack and swept the Germans back almost to the lines which were held before the present fighting began. The French have been driven back out of Hangard-En-Santerre, but are holding their positions close by while on the line southwest of Ypres, the British have been compelled to withdraw slightly before furious attacks along the Meteren-Bailleur-Wytschaete line.

Wounded Americans are arriving at a hospital behind the French lines in the Somme sector, showing that General Pershing's men are bearing their share of the burden of the great battle. . . . Notwithstanding the frantic preparations made by the Germans for a continuance of their drive toward Amiens and the extreme violence of the fighting they gain thus far in that region have been very small. Along the line from Albert south to Castel, except at Hangard, the German assaults have been hurled back by the allied forces which are strongly posted on the higher ground to which the British and French lines near Ypres. The retirement of the British in this sector must have been small for there are no great gains reported by Berlin so far. It was rumored Thursday that Mount Kemmel, a dominating height north of Wulverghem had been taken by the enemy, but this has not been confirmed.

That only slight gains have been made anywhere along the two fronts which have been subjected to attack is proof that the allies are prepared to defend their positions. In the last three weeks the Germans have hurled up heavy cannon to the old Somme line. This is one of the most encouraging features of the fighting that now is going on and which may be looked upon as the third phase of the great offensive.

Raiding operations are reported along the French lines east of Montdidier. . . . It is officially announced at The Hague that negotiations between Germany and Holland are progressing satisfactorily. The Dutch foreign minister has declined to give the details of the situation between the two countries which is admittedly quite delicate.

FOUR TO SIX HUN DIVISIONS ATTACK ON SEVEN-MILE FRONT

London, April 25.—A dispatch to Reuters Limited from British headquarters in France says that it is reported that the British have re-established their line east of Villers-Bretoneux. The rumor that the Germans have reached the crest of Mount Kemmel is not confirmed. Four and possibly six German divisions delivered an attack this morning over a seven-mile front on the Meteren-Bailleur-Wytschaete line.

AUSTRALIANS AND ENGLISH CAPTURE MORE THAN 800 MEN

London, April 25.—Australian and English troops have recaptured Villers-Bretoneux and taken more than 800 prisoners in that region. Field Marshal Haig reports from headquarters tonight. . . . Further to the north on a line from Bailleur to Wytschaete there has been very heavy fighting and the allied troops were obliged to withdraw from their positions.

To Observe Total Eclipse.

Richmond, Va., April 25.—Dr. Samuel A. Mitchell, professor of astronomy at the University of Virginia, left today for Baker City, Ore., where he will observe a total eclipse of the sun June 8, for the government. Dr. L. H. Hoxton, Dr. P. W. Merrill and the Messrs. Bigelow and Hopkins of Smith College, accompanied him. The party is equipped with special astronomical apparatus furnished by Johns Hopkins University.

## Americans Wounded in the Great Battle are Arriving At Hospitals in the Near

Paris, April 25.—American soldiers wounded in the great battle which now is being waged already are arriving at the rear. American wounded and sick to the number of 128 have reached hospital No. 25. They are from units engaged in fighting on the side with French and British in stemming the German advance.

Hospital No. 25 is one of the new institutions established behind the line as it stood after the allies stopped the recent German drive in Picardy. . . . Few of the Americans remained at the hospital very long, being taken farther to the rear. . . . Sixteen girl students of Smith college are working in day and night shifts at this point and are operating a well-arranged canteen at the railroad station for the soldiers coming through on the hospital train. . . . Mrs. Clark, the Misses Justice, Brogan and Scott and M. L. Ralston and E. W. Lowrey, of the American Red Cross, have rendered notable service at the hospital.

## ZEEBRUGGE RAID DARING EXPLOIT

Commander of Cruiser Vindicative Gives Associated Press Story of the Attack.

### SHIP COVERED WITH SCARS

Cruiser Led Attack Against German Battery While Other Crews Were Busy in Effort to Block Channels—Much Loss of Life.

Aboard H. M. S. Vindicative in Dover Harbor, April 25.—A correspondent of The Associated Press visited the cruiser Vindicative as the guest of Captain Alfred F. B. Carpenter, who commanded her in the expedition last Tuesday against the German submarine base at Zeebrugge on the Belgian coast. . . . Captain Carpenter received the correspondent with his arm in a sling from a shell splinter wound. The ship showed innumerable signs of conflict, her decks and superstructure being covered with the scars of shells and machine gun hits. . . . The commander during the attack was at the end of the bridge in a small steel box, or cabin, which had been specially constructed to house a flame thrower.

In the course of a long account of the part taken by the Vindicative in the raid, Captain Carpenter said to The Associated Press: "Our chief purpose in the expedition was to distract the attention of the battery while the block ships ran in, especially the battery of 11-inch guns which occupied a commanding position at the tip of the mole. Our ship was elaborately prepared for the business of landing soldiers on the mole, which is of stone, 40 feet high and 15 feet above the Vindicative's top deck at the state of the tide when the attack took place. . . . We had a special superstructure over the upper deck and three long gangways or 'brows' which were designed to take the men up to the level of the mole as soon as we got alongside. . . . Exactly according to plan we ran alongside the mole, approaching it on the port side where we were equipped with specially built buffers of wood two feet wide. . . . As there was nothing for us to tie up to we merely dropped anchor there while the Daffodil kept us against the mole with her nose against the opposite side of our ship. In the fairly heavy sea two of our three gangways were smashed, but the third held and 500 men swarmed up on this on to the mole. This gangway was two feet wide and thirty feet long. . . . The men who went up it included 300 marines and 150 steaming seamen from the Vindicative and 50 or so from the Daffodil. They swarmed up the steel gangway carrying hand grenades and Lewis guns. No Germans succeeded in approaching the gangway but a hard hand-to-hand fight took place about 200 yards up the mole toward the shore. . . . As the tide came in the water toward the shore so the bridge got the full effect of enemy fire from the shore batteries. One shell exploded against the pilot house, killing nearly all of its ten occupants. Another burst in the fighting top, killing a lieutenant and eight men who were doing excellent work with two pom-poms and four machine guns. . . . The battery of eleven-inch guns at the end of the mole was only 300 yards away and it kept trying to reach us. The shore batteries also were diligent. Only a few German shells hit our hull because it was well protected by the wall of the mole, but the upper structure, stacks and ventilators showed above the wall and were brought out to explain the battle." (Continued on Page Seven.)

## WILL CELEBRATE TODAY IN BEHALF OF LIBERTY LOAN

Demonstrations To Be Held Throughout Nation to Speed Up the Sale of Bonds.

EXPECT TO PASS 2 BILLION

Subscription Reports Lagged Yesterday, Only \$108,000,000 Being Reported.

Washington, April 25.—Liberty day will be celebrated tomorrow by the nation with patriotic demonstrations in practically every city and town to speed the sale of Liberty bonds. . . . In big cities special efforts will be made to get banks and corporations to turn in their pledges, held back heretofore for a multitude of business reasons, and local campaign committees sent word tonight that the sales undoubtedly will break records for the campaign.

In many states a legal holiday has been declared and in others arrangements have been made for business houses and factories to close for part of the day to allow citizens to participate in Liberty parades or to make house-to-house canvasses for subscriptions. . . . In Washington, government clerks will be released from work to march in a great procession down Pennsylvania avenue. . . . Many high officials had enrolled tonight to march.

Subscription reports lagged today, adding only \$108,000,000 to previous reports and making the total \$1,898,765,050. Officials had looked for a much larger figure for today than even the \$120,000,000 daily average which must be maintained to reach the three-billion dollar mark by the end of next week, the close of the campaign. . . . Having won the honor of being the first district to attain its quota, the St. Louis district now engaged in a final effort to put Tennessee over the top. . . . All of the states is over except the city of Memphis and 49 teams of ten men each started a house-to-house canvass there for subscriptions. . . . One hundred thousand dollars an hour was collected during the first half day. . . . Both the Atlanta and Richmond districts report that it is impossible for them to obtain detailed information regarding the subscriptions in their districts. . . . Atlanta's latest report shows a subscription of \$28,000,000 or 23 per cent, while Richmond has subscribed \$65,694,350, which is 50 per cent.

### MAY BE NEW GERMAN THRUST AT AMIENS

From Dawn Until Night Enemy Threw Strong Assaulting Columns Repeatedly at Hangard.

With the French Army in France, Wednesday, April 24. (By the Associated Press)—Attacks by the Germans in Picardy today if large forces engage may be taken as an indication were evidently intended as the forerunner of a new thrust toward Amiens. From dawn until night the enemy threw strong assaulting columns repeatedly at Hangard, where the fighting was of the most desperate character. . . . Toward evening some of the enemy detachments managed to obtain a foothold in Hangard wood, lying about a mile northward of the village, and also in the eastern outskirts of the town itself. Their hold, however, was most precarious for the French obstinately declined to give way. They fought back with terrific dash making the position of the Germans almost untenable. . . . A little further to the north the Germans attacked the British unit holding Villers-Bretoneux. This apparently was part of the same forward movement. Here also the struggle was of the fiercest kind. . . . The French fought side by side with the British and sundown found the combatants still at close grips. There were slight changes of position, but there were no serious retreats.

### KAISER VISITS ZEEBRUGGE. Witnesses Damage Done by the British.

London, April 25.—Reuters' Amsterdam correspondent sends the following telegram received from Berlin: "The kaiser on Tuesday visited Zeebrugge, the scene of the frustrated British raid. He posed the mole where he was convinced himself that the damage caused by the blowing up of the railway bridge had already been temporarily repaired and that a final bridging of the gap can be done in a few days. . . . He satisfied himself that the perfectly good condition of all the structures and installations on the outer part of the mole, which was the objective of the attack. . . . He then proceeded to the canal lock where two cement laden cruisers lie and at the scene of the nocturnal battle obtained an exact account from several participant officers. . . . The kaiser got a captured English captain of marines who had happened to be brought out to explain the battle." (Continued on Page Seven.)

## LAST OF 39 HOTEL BELL BOYS JOINS U. S. ARMY



### BLITMORE BELLBOYS DRILLING A YEAR AGO ATOP THE HOTEL, ALL NOW IN THE SERVICE

These are bellboys, 39 in number, and all were formerly employed by the Hotel Blitmore, in New York. One week before America declared war on Germany this photograph was taken while they were drilling atop the big hostelry. Now all have joined the colors. Half of them have already seen action in France, six of them being members of Canadian organizations in the front line. The last of the 39 was James Reilly, captain of the service at the Blitmore, who left this week. He was the recipient of many gifts and farewell wishes for success.

### LINER OVERTURNS AT PIER AND SINKS

Steamer St. Paul of the American Line Completely Submerged Fore and Aft.

### LOSS OF THREE MEN FEARED

Vessel Was Being Brought From Drydock and Several Hundred Were Aboard—Exact Cause of Accident Indeterminate.

An Atlantic City, April 25.—The American line steamship St. Paul, a famous passenger liner, overturned and sank at her pier here today while being warped into a pier preparatory to being loaded for a trip to Europe. Three men probably lost their lives in the accident. . . . At the time the St. Paul was not under steam, but was being brought by tugs from a drydock, where for the last week she had been undergoing repairs. On her at the time were several hundred men, the majority of them employees of the drydock—who had been sent with the vessel to complete their work while she was being loaded. The steamer now is lying on her port side with about 100 feet of her hull beneath water and is completely submerged both fore and aft.

### THIRD WARD ENDOWED

U. D. C. Make Another Contribution to Hospital at Neully.

Birmingham, Ala., April 25.—Announcement is made today by Mrs. J. A. Rountree, of Birmingham, general chairman, and Miss Mary B. Poppenhelm, of Charleston, S. C., president-general, that the United Daughters of the Confederacy have completed the endowment fund of a third ward in the American military hospital No. 1, Neully, France, the endowment being made by funds received from the members of the Daughters of the Confederacy of Jackson, Tenn., chapter, Texas, Missouri, Tacoma, Wash., Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Denver, Colo., Georgia and an individual gift from Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Dreyfus, of Shreveport, La. Beds in this ward will be named in memory of Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, Hood's Texas brigade, officers and men behind the guns, General Sterling Price, to the men of Camp Lewis, Tacoma, Wash.; Maryland boys of 1861-65; North Carolina heroes of 1861-65; Robert E. Lee (two beds), Alexander H. Stephens and Our Boys of Today.

### CRITICS OF THE OVERMAN BILL PREVENT EXPECTED VOTE

Washington, April 25.—Critics of the Overman bill renewed today their vigorous opposition to its proposed authorization for the president to reorganize government agencies and many speeches for and against the measure prevented the expected vote on pending restrictive amendments. A surprise of the day was the introduction of a new amendment authorizing the president to appoint a single executive officer to control the aircraft program which Senator Overman stated he probably would accept.

### TO ADVERTISERS!

Advertisers and others who have copy which they desire to appear in Sunday's paper should furnish the same today if possible. Owing to difficulties of securing extra help and the general rush of Sunday advertising we regret we will be unable to supply space unless copy is furnished at the earliest possible moment. This applies to small as well as to larger requirements.

## KITCHIN LOOMS UP AS NEXT SPEAKER IF CLARK RESIGNS

And Indications That Clark Will Accept Appointment to Senate are Strong.

SUCCEED SENATOR STONE

North Carolinian Could be Elected Easily Without a Fight by the Republicans.

By PARKER R. ANDERSON.

Washington, April 25.—Majority Leader Claude Kitchin loomed up tonight as the next speaker of the national house of representatives, following strong indications that Speaker Champ Clark will accept the appointment to the senate offered by Governor Gardner of Missouri. . . . There was a strong probability of Mr. Clark being offered the senatorial toga and of Mr. Kitchin being elected speaker of the house as his successor was forecasted exclusively in this correspondence immediately following the death of Senator Stone.

Speaker Clark promised his personal friends tonight that he would make a definite announcement tomorrow concerning his acceptance or rejection of a seat in the United States senate. Should he resign, there is not the least doubt that Claude Kitchin would immediately be elected as his successor as presiding officer of the house. . . . Republicans Make No Fight. . . . This was made certain late this afternoon when republican leaders of the house went to the speaker's house and informed him that they would not stage a partisan contest at this time for the control of the house.

One reason for the speaker's hesitation about the senate offer was the fear of a bitter house row over the speakership. The republicans evidently are willing to let the speakership slide until after the next election, hoping to gain control of that body at the polls in the November election. The democratic majority in the house is so small that winning over other considerations, Speaker Clark might have hesitated to resign the speakership and precipitate another contest for the organization of the lower chamber. . . . Mr. Clark was in conference most of the day with Senator Reed, of Missouri, who was one of the first to call upon the speaker and urge him to accept the appointment proffered by Governor Gardner. It is understood that the speaker's work is so heavy that he would leave the house, where he has served 22 years and made hundreds of warm personal friends.

The fact that Speaker Clark debated all day the acceptance of the appointment to the senate strengthened belief here tonight that he will eventually take the seat vacated upon the death of Senator Stone. In the past the speaker, both in public utterances and private conversations, has expressed decided preference to work in the house. On more than one occasion he has insisted that the position he occupied in the government, the vice-presidency notwithstanding. . . . Two years ago the speaker probably would have turned down instantaneously the appointment to the senate, but conditions now are somewhat changed. The democrats are not too certain of control in the next house. In fact, it is the firm belief of many leading statesmen, both republicans and democrats, that the speaker's work is so heavy that he would leave the house, where he has served 22 years and made hundreds of warm personal friends.

Mr. Kitchin's friends contend that he is entitled to the honor and the democratic floor leader has indicated a willingness to accept the position if he is elected. . . . It is known tonight the only man mentioned as a possible appointee of Mr. Kitchin is Representative Charles C. Crain, of Georgia, formerly national secretary of the house and a member of the late Speaker's cabinet. . . . Mr. Kitchin's personal relations with Mr. Crain are such that it is known he would not permit the use of his name as long as Mr. Kitchin is a candidate for the honor.

A desire not to inject partisan politics in the midst of war legislation or to conduct a contest for the speakership term of less than a year, motivated the republican minority in informing Mr. Clark that if he really desired to accept the senate appointment he need not hold back in fear of a speakership row in the house.

Senator For Three Years. . . . If the speaker accepts the government's appointment, he will be a candidate for the senate in the elections next November for the remainder of Senator Stone's term—three years. The various Missouri factions, it is believed, would unite on Mr. Clark and (Continued on Page Two)

### YOUNG MEN NOW 21 SUBJECT TO DRAFT

Those Reaching Their Majority Since June 5 Last Year Will Be Registered.

### HOUSE ADOPTS MEASURE

Had Previously Senate and Now Goes to Conference—New Registrants Will Be Placed on Bottom of List.

Washington, April 25.—The house late today adopted the senate resolution for the registration for military service of young men who have reached the age of 21 years since June 5 last. The measure now goes to conference. . . . An amendment offered by Representative Hull of Iowa and adopted, 119 to 81, provides that men registered under the bill shall be placed at the bottom of the classes to which they may be assigned. . . . The house sustained the military committee in striking out a provision of the bill as it passed the senate which would exempt from registration those eligibles who have entered medical or divinity schools since June 5 last.

Representative Kahn of California, ranking republican on the military committee, told the house that the proposed new registration would place from 500,000 to 700,000 new registrants available for military service. . . . He said he understood it is the plan of the war department to place the newly registered at the bottom of the respective classes unless something unforeseen occurs to prevent. . . . He did not believe it proper to tie the hands of the department by an amendment which would require that action.

Mr. Kahn also opposed the amendment and declared there are thousands of young men now under 21 who volunteered at the beginning of the war and who now are serving in France. . . . A general alarm was sounded through the ship when it was seen that she was in danger, and as fully ten feet of the mainmast were turned over, it is thought most, if not all, the men reached the deck. A large number of men escaped by simply climbing over the rail and onto the exposed side of the vessel as it came uppermost, while others leaped into the water and were picked up by the tugs.

No Statement on the Cause. . . . Several possible causes for the accident were advanced, but owing to the uncertainty surrounding it no definite statement was given out and will not be, officials of the line said, until officials of the navy and federal officials and representatives of the company can complete an investigation, which was begun immediately. . . . One of the causes advanced, which was supported by experienced marine men, was that the ship which was being warped into the pier by lines from the shore and assisted by tugs pushing, listed so far that water entered open coal ports, this resulting in an overflowing of the center of gravity. . . . Another explanation offered was that the ship's sea cocks might have been open, either by accident or design. . . . Salvaging Is Begun. . . . Steps to salvage the vessel were promptly begun and a number of large wrecking barges, tugs and floating derricks are tonight engaged in the work. . . . Officials of the company said they expected to complete the work of raising the steamer early next week.

Immediately after the accident a heavy guard of soldiers, police and marine forces were thrown about the pier and government tugs took up positions outside the slip. All war zone passes (Continued on Page Six.)

### MARINE CASUALTY LIST TOTALS 278

Killed in Action 22, Died From Wounds, 10, Died From Accident 2, Wounded 244.

### EIGHT OFFICERS WOUNDED

List Includes Losses Suffered by the Marine Brigade Since It Took Its Position at Front Several Weeks Ago.

Washington, April 25.—The total losses of the brigade of marines with the American expeditionary force in France so far reported was announced today by Maj. Gen. Barnett, commander of the corps, as 278, divided as follows: . . . Killed in action, 22; died from wounds, 10; died from accident, 2; wounded in action, 244. . . . All the dead are enlisted men but eight officers, two captains and six lieutenants were among the wounded. . . . Five of the enlisted men were slightly wounded, but General Barnett stated that did not show whether the officers and other men were severely or slightly hurt. . . . Most of the casualties were in one company, which General Barnett said lost a total of 21 men killed and 140 wounded out of a personnel of 250. The dates on which the marines were killed and wounded were not made public nor was it indicated on what part of the line "the soldiers of the sea" are holding or in what actions they have participated. . . . Such information is regarded as military information. . . . It is known, however, that the marines have been holding a front line trench sector for several weeks, having been moved up to the battle line after doing police duty along the American lines of communication since they first went to Europe with the vanguard of Pershing's forces last summer.

Today's list was the first marine corps casualty list made public and included all names reported to April 23. Since the marines are considered an integral part of the army in France, officials of the corps had expected their casualties to be included in those of the army announced by the war department. Inquiry, however developed that such was not the case and the compiling of a complete list was ordered by General Barnett. . . . It was regarded as probable that some of the named announced today previously had been issued by the war department in the regular army lists made public daily.

Considering the length of time the marines have been on the fighting line the casualties were regarded as comparatively small.

### All Officers Re-Elected

Memphis, Tenn., April 25.—Charles S. Keith, of Kansas City, president, and all other officers of the Southern Pine Association, were re-elected at a meeting of the directors of the association here today. . . . Committee reports submitted at the meeting indicated that southern pine mills are two months ahead of schedule on government contracts.

### Potato Crop Short

Richmond, Va., April 25.—Reports received from various sections of the state by Edward A. Evans, director of the weather bureau, indicate that the potato crop in the Tidewater section will be from 25 to 50 per cent short. Heavy rains and lowlands being inundated for days at a time has drowned the seed and caused rot.