

BRITISH AND FRENCH TROOPS MAY SOON BE UNDER GEN. PERSHING

Divisions in Which Americans Predominate Probably Will Be Turned Over to Him.

ARE SEVERAL ADVANTAGES

One Is That Fresh Troops Arriving in France Can Get Early Training Under Fire.

FOCH COMMANDS ITALIANS

Has As Full Power in Italy As in France and Belgium.

Washington, May 15.—General Pershing probably soon will be commanding French and British troops as the process of brigading American units with their allies on the western front goes forward.

As if exemplifying the unity of command and action into which the United States and its co-belligerents have entered it became known here today that whenever American troops predominated in the brigaded divisions, the process goes on these divisions, under present plans, will be turned over to General Pershing's command. This plan would accomplish several things which the military authorities consulting upon regard as very desirable. It would rapidly increase the size of the American command on the western front; it would contribute tremendously to the support of a concerted effort and at the same time instead of holding large number of American troops behind the line while training, would surround them with seasoned veterans and under actual battle conditions school them to be re-brigaded later with fresh American troops coming to France. In this way the efficiency of the British and French forces is expected to be increased and the work of building up a great, fully trained and completely fighting force in France hastened.

In addition to this, as illustrative of the unity of command, General Pershing's direct control of the allied armies, it was stated officially here today that Foch commands the Italian troops in Italy as fully as he does the American, British and French troops in France and Belgium. There has been no question that Foch commanded the Italian troops in France and it had been supposed that, considering the Italian front as part of the western front, a decision reached at the Versailles conference, the generalissimo's authority extended there.

For the first time, however, it was stated unreservedly that General Foch's supreme command extended to Italy.

It was stated also that Italy, besides sending troops to France in numbers equal to those being sent from the United States, now has on the fighting line a larger army, more perfectly equipped than she had before the great Austrian drive. This may be explanatory of the apparent equality with which the allied leaders face recurrent reports of a new drive on the Italian front.

CAIN, OF ROWAN, MUST DIE SAYS HIGH COURT

Nightwatchman Who Murdered Fellow Workman and Robbed Car Company's Safe at Salisbury.

Raleigh, May 15.—The supreme court delivered opinions this afternoon in ten appeals, one of the most notable being in the case of State vs. Baxter Cain from the Rowan county, in which Cain is under sentence to die in the electric chair for the murder of Abel Harris. The supreme court affirms the lower court in conviction and sentence. Cain was night watchman and general caretaker for the company that operates the street railway and electric light plant at Salisbury. He got off duty at midnight and was placed on duty in his stead. Next morning Harris was found murdered, his body bedecked with a bar of iron carried by a street car for changing benches; also the company's safe was broken open and money and diamonds representing the previous day's wages gone. The money was found in Cain's barn and the tickets in a thick envelope by mule tracks that measured exactly to those of Cain's mule. The plant via the thicket from the Cain barn. The money was hidden in a lot of hay in the barn.

The other appeals in which opinions were delivered by the court follow: Lucas vs. Hardin, Randolph, no error.

Foster vs. Davis, Davis, affirmed.

Wheeler vs. Daniel, Davis, no error.

Yates vs. McKnight, Iredeil, affirmed.

Jordan vs. Simmons, Montgomery, affirmed.

Horton vs. Wilson, Yancey, reversed.

Woody vs. Spruce Co., Yancey, new writ.

Pusette vs. Mull, Transylvania, affirmed.

GROUND LOST BY FRENCH RE-TAKEN

Drive Germans From Vantage Points On Hill 44 By Persistent Counter-Attacks.

GAIN SOUTH OF HAILLES

British Infantry Left Alone Wednesday, But Enemy's Artillery Was Kept Intensely Active All Along as Tuesday Gained a footing on

Still another day has passed without the Germans renewing their offensive in Flanders or Picardy. Nowhere have infantry operations by either side on these battle fronts or, for that matter, in any of the numerous theatres of the war, risen in importance above patrol engagements.

North of Kemmel, where the Germans on Tuesday gained a footing on Hill 44, one of the bloodiest sectors on the western front, the lost vantage points have been retrieved through the persistent counter-attacks of the French who succeeded in driving the enemy from the shell holes along the slopes to which he had been tenaciously holding. Not alone were the Germans forced to recede but the French advanced their line and also took prisoners.

Likewise, south of Hailles, in the Amiens region, the French have taken another bite into the German line and successfully ward off a German counter-attack launched in an endeavor to capture the lost ground. The Germans in these maneuvers suffered heavy casualties and lost men made prisoners.

Throughout Wednesday the British were left severely alone by the German infantry. Although the enemy is keeping his infantry in the trenches he continues to use his artillery vigorously against salients held by British and French all along the front, especially against Haig's forces south of Albert and against the French north of Kemmel. The French north of Montdidier and along the river in the battle between Montdidier and Noyon also have been under an intensive fire from the German guns.

FRENCH CAPTURE SEVERAL HUNS IN LOCAL FIGHTING.

London, May 15.—Field Marshal Haig's report from British headquarters in France tonight says: "There was local fighting in which the French troops captured several prisoners and successfully advanced their line in the sector north of Kemmel village this morning. "Elsewhere there was nothing beyond artillery activity on both sides of the battle front."

BERLIN CLAIMS SUCCESSFUL ATTACKS NORTH OF KEMMEL

Berlin, via London, May 15.—The official communication from general headquarters today reads: "The attacks were completely successful and resulted in the bringing in of 120 prisoners. We made an attack where troops were being relieved and cost the French sanguinary losses. The artillery duel in the morning was particularly successful. "Early in the morning in connection with French thrusts, fresh infantry engagements developed there. "Between the Lys and LaBassee canal on the Scarpe and near Bucquoy the enemy artillery was lively especially during the night. "We made a short thrust between the Ancre and the Somme and penetrated the British lines on the Bray-Corbis road, and held the territory until the night. "Lively artillery activity continued for the support of the infantry. Near Villers-Bretonneux, on both sides of the Luce and the Avre, firing engagements have repeatedly revived. "On the western bank of the Avre, the enemy attacked our lines near Castel. He was repulsed with heavy losses. "Our airmen yesterday shot down five enemy balloons. We have dropped numerous bombs on Calais and Dunkirk, as well as the munition depots in the rear and railway establishments of the enemy."

BRIT-WEAVER CONTEST WILL COME UP NEXT WEEK.

Washington, May 15.—Oral arguments of counsel in the congressional contest of J. J. Britt against Zebulon Weaver, against the North Carolina district, will be heard before the house elections committee next week. Britt claims that on the original returns he had 13 majority but that the canvassing board allowed five presents in Buncombe county to amend these returns so that Weaver had a majority of nine.

REQUIRE SPECIAL LICENSE FOR EXPORT OF COTTON.

Washington, May 15.—Special export licenses issued through the customs service under which shipments of raw cotton, excepting sea island and Egyptian cotton, have been proceeding to the United Kingdom, France and Italy, and Japan, will expire June 30. The War trade board announced today that shipments which leave the United States after that date will require special individual licenses.

"SIGNS OF THE TIMES"



WILL ORDAIN NEW BISHOPS FRIDAY

Methodists Re-Elect Rev. T. N. Ivey Editor of the Nashville Christian Advocate.

DEBATE CHURCH RELATIONS

Majority and Minority Committee Reports Submitted Regarding the Question of Unification of American Methodists.

Atlanta, Ga., May 15.—Discussion of the majority and minority reports of the committee on church relations, and the election of three new bishops and connectional officers featured the sessions of the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, here today. Bishops elected today were: Rev. R. N. Parker, of the Louisiana conference; Rev. H. M. Dubose, of the North Georgia conference, and Rev. W. N. Alnsworth, of the South Georgia conference. Bishop Eugene R. Hendry, senior bishop, announced that that six new bishops, three of whom were elected yesterday, will be ordained Friday.

The following connectional officers were re-elected to the next four years at the afternoon session: Rev. T. N. Ivey, of the Western North Carolina conference, editor of the Nashville Christian Advocate; I. E. Chappell, of the Tennessee Conference, editor of Sunday school literature, and W. W. Pison, of Nashville, secretary of the board of missions. After announcement of the result of the ballot taken yesterday on which Rev. Frank N. Parker was elected bishop, the majority and minority reports of the committee on church relations were taken up for debate at the morning session. Bishop Atkins presiding.

The majority report of the committee recommended to reaffirm the action of the general conference of 1914 and declared the readiness of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, to continue negotiations on the basis approved by that action in case the commission or other duly constituted authorities of the Methodist Episcopal church signify their desire for the continuance of negotiations upon that basis. The commission was instructed to give careful consideration to the matter of closer co-operation in order not only to eliminate waste, but to secure the greatest possible results from the efficient adjustment of the workers of both churches.

The report of the minority also reaffirmed the action of the general conference of 1914 and declared the readiness of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, to renew negotiations in case the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church signified its desire for renewal of negotiations. Judge John S. Candler, of Atlanta, favored the adoption of the minority report and stated that the southern church had gone as far as it could and (Continued on Page Ten)

FRANCE CONDEMNS MAIL IS CARRIED BY ARMY PLANES

M. Duval, Director of Suppressed Newspaper, Bonnet Rouge, Gets Extreme Penalty.

SIX OTHERS SENTENCED

Among These Is Jean Leymarie, Former Minister of the Interior—The Defendants Were Charged With Treason.

Paris, May 15.—M. Duval, who was director of the suppressed Germanophile newspaper Bonnet Rouge, was condemned to death today by court martial for treason.

The six other defendants were sentenced to imprisonment for terms ranging from two to ten years.

Every decision of the court martial was voted unanimously.

M. Marion, assistant manager of Bonnet Rouge, received ten years imprisonment at hard labor.

Jacques Dandau, a reporter on the newspaper, was given eight years at hard labor.

Goldsky was sentenced to eight years at hard labor and military degradation.

M. Joulis, a reporter on the Bonnet Rouge, was given five years at hard labor.

M. Varcasson was sentenced to two years in prison and fined 5,000 francs with sentence suspended.

Jean Leymarie, former director of the ministry of interior, was given two years in prison and fined 1,000 francs.

Leymarie's condemnation roused greater public interest and discussion than did the death sentence of Duval as public minds naturally connected his sentence with the forthcoming trial of Louis Malvy, ex-minister of the interior, who was formerly Leymarie's chief.

AMEND SHIPPING ACT.

Prohibit Ships, Docks, Etc., From Passing to Foreigners. Washington, May 15.—Amendments to the shipping act designed to prohibit American vessels, docks, yards and other port facilities passing into the control of foreign interests and empowering the president to prescribe ocean charter and freight rates and to requisition vessels even as small as 20 tons were favorably reported to the house today by the merchant marine committee.

MAIL IS CARRIED BY ARMY PLANES

Trips Will Be Made Daily Except Sunday Between New York and Washington.

OFFICIALS SEE THE START

President Councils and Autographs Stamp Which Will Be Auctioned Off For Benefit of Red Cross in New York.

Washington, May 15.—Aerial mail service in the United States became an accomplished fact today.

Piloted by army aviators, airplanes carried consignments of mail from New York to Philadelphia and Washington and from Philadelphia to New York.

A plane which started from the national airport for Philadelphia in the presence of President Wilson and other high government officials was forced to land at Weldorf, Md., thirty miles away, because of a broken propeller.

With the exception of Sunday, daily trips from each end of the New York-Washington air route are planned by the postoffice department. Each machine will fly one-half the lap of the journey, the mail being transferred to different planes at Philadelphia.

Three hours and twenty minutes after a machine piloted by Lieut. Torrey H. Webb left the Belmont flying field near New York today the mail it carried was landed in Washington and within 33 minutes Boy Scouts had completed delivery of the 735 parcels consigned to Washington, including 13 pieces for the White House, one for Vice-president Marshall and a number to Postmaster General Burleson.

A letter from Gov. Whitman of New York, addressed to President Wilson and pledging that New York will do its part in the American Red Cross drive for a \$100,000,000 war fund which begins next Monday was included in the mail.

Besides the President and Mrs. Wilson, Postmaster General Burleson, Secretary Daniels, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt, Assistant Postmaster General Praeger and Dockery and Postmaster General Kamara of Japan, witnessed the departure of the mail plane from Washington. The president canceled and autographed the aerial mail stamp on a letter from Postmaster General Burleson to Postmaster General Patten of New York and the stamp will be auctioned off in New York for the benefit of the Red Cross.

Army aviators piloting the planes are assigned to the work for experience in cross-country flying. Postoffice officials said today that as the fliers become familiar with the air route that the service will be speeded up.

Airplane mail is accepted at New York and Philadelphia for points west and south, being transferred to trains here, and at Philadelphia, while at (Continued on Page Two.)

CHARLES E. HUGHES TO ASSIST GREGORY IN A VIATION INQUIRY

SUFFRAGE GRANTED TO BAPTIST WOMEN

They Are Given Equal Rights With Men By Overwhelming Vote of the Convention.

IS DEBATED THREE HOURS

Reports of the Home and Foreign Missions Boards and the Sunday School Board Submitted to the Convention.

Hot Springs, Ark., May 15.—Women of the Southern Baptist churches today were granted full and equal rights with men in the convention of the churches by an overwhelming vote at the 63rd annual session of the Southern Baptist convention. By this action, which consisted of an amendment to the convention constitution, women now are entitled not only to represent their churches in the conventions but also to hold any office in the convention, which is the highest administrative organization in the denomination.

The vote was taken after three hours of debate. After the vote was announced, a division of roll call was demanded by some of the opponents to the amendments, but was withdrawn and the constitution was declared officially to have been amended.

Because of the length of debate on that amendment other convention business was restricted and the day's session closed with the reports of the home and foreign missions boards and the Sunday school board.

E. D. Gray, corresponding secretary of the denomination, in making his report requested a contribution of \$1,000,000 to advance the work of the church next year among the army cantonments.

The report of the foreign missions board showed that the churches for the first time in their history had contributed more than a million dollars for foreign missions. The exact amount was given as \$1,006,189. It was reported that for the first time in the history of the work a state had contributed more than \$100,000, both Texas and Virginia having that honor. As a result of the year's work it was said there were 5,557 additions to the churches by baptism in foreign lands. Statistics showed that there now are 464 churches established abroad by the denomination.

The night session of the convention was given over to devotional exercises, the convention sermon being preached by W. H. Geiswert of St. Louis.

GERMANY AND AUSTRIA TO RENEW ALLIANCE

Berlin Newspapers Indicate Basis of New Treaty for 25 Years Duration is Agreed Upon.

Washington, May 15.—According to a dispatch from Switzerland the Berlin newspapers indicate that the basis of a new treaty of alliance agreed upon at the recent conference between the German and Austrian emperors contemplates fixing 25 years as the period for the duration of the alliance, the imposition of stricter military obligations upon each nation and the regulation of economic relations so as to realize the Mittel Europa plan.

The same message says advices from Vienna are to the effect that no formal agreement was signed because the moment was not deemed opportune, but that nevertheless the direction and basis of the new treaty were definitely fixed and that it only remains to frame the different clauses.

STEPHEN C. PACE PLACED ON TRIAL IN FEDERAL COURT.

Norfolk, Va., May 15.—Charged with unlawfully and feloniously using, pledging, hypothecating and converting in his own use \$13,783.74 in stamps and money, the property of the post-office in Portsmouth, Stephen C. Pace, former assistant postmaster, was placed on trial today in the federal court before Judge Edmund Waddill.

On the stand Pace positively denied his guilt. Other defense witnesses testified that Pace, owing to congestion, was forced to employ assistants and that they had free access to the vault and had registered complaints which were unheeded. The case is expected to go to the jury tomorrow.

Commerce Commission Rulings.

Washington, May 15.—The interstate commerce commission today established the rule that upon complaint of one railroad against another the commission may determine the division of competition to which each is entitled from their voluntarily established joint rates. This reverses a former decision.

Prohibit Rent Protesting.

Washington, May 15.—A senate bill prohibiting rent protesting in the District of Columbia during the war was passed today by the house and now goes to conference.

President Wilson Summons the Former Supreme Court Justice and He Accepts.

REPUBLICANS SURPRISED

President Causes Senate to Modify Resolution For Sweeping Investigation.

OPPOSED ITS PHRASING

Would Regard Passage As a Vote of Want of Confidence.

Washington, May 15.—President Wilson has summoned Charles E. Hughes to act with Attorney General Gregory in the investigation of criminal charges, made in connection with aircraft production. Mr. Hughes' acceptance of the task was announced today at the White House and he will come to Washington in a few days to go over plans with the attorney general.

This announcement overshadowed in interest another development which created a stir at the capitol. In a letter to Senator Martin, the democratic leader, the president earlier in the day had emphatically reiterated his opposition to the phrasing of a pending resolution authorizing further inquiry by the senate military committee into aviation and other phases of war preparations. He declared he would regard the passage of such a resolution as a vote of want of confidence in the administration and virtually as an attempt to take over the conduct of the war.

In designating Mr. Hughes, whose record in the New York insurance investigation is well remembered, the president said he felt the department of justice investigation was of the very greatest importance; that if any person were found guilty they might be prosecuted vigorously and promptly and that the reputations of those attacked might be protected if the charges were found to be groundless.

The letter to Senator Martin was the subject of heated discussion. Senator Chamberlain who introduced the resolution of inquiry, called before the senate expenditures committee considering it, declared there was no intention of investigating the "conduct of the war" as that the resolutions was worded as it was only to give the military committee, of which he is chairman, authority to resume its previous investigations.

The expenditures committee, by a vote of 3 to 2, amended the resolution by striking out reference to the conduct of the war and adding a proviso specifically limiting the scope of the committee's activities. If the senate refused to adopt the resolution as amended, Senator Chamberlain indicated he would drop the investigations planned.

Administration leaders were of the opinion, however, that the amendments would be acceptable at the White House and that the resolution would be passed. If so the military committee will proceed independently of the department of justice's inquiry.

Preparations for the department's investigation, ordered recently by the president as a result of sensational charges based largely on statements by Gutson Borglum, the sculptor, already are proceeding under the direction of Assistant Attorney General William E. Frazier.

The choice of Mr. Hughes to act with the attorney general was met with expressions of satisfaction on all sides at the capitol. Some republican senators voiced surprise, but there was not a suggestion of disapproval.

PRESIDENT REFUSES TO VETO DRAFT QUOTA BILL

Writes Senator Phelan That Basing of Quotas on Men in Class 1 Is the Best Solution.

Washington, May 15.—President Wilson today declined to veto the bill passed by congress changing the basis of army draft quotas from state population to the number of men in Class 1 because of objection to the elimination of the plan giving credits for volunteers.

In a letter to Senator Phelan of California, who had asked that the bill be returned to congress, the president said:

"I admit there are two sides to the question about allowing 'credits' for volunteers in conducting the draft, but I have been over the matter several times and with very great care with the war department and am convinced that the interest of the country in the matter of winning the war will best be served by the measure as it now stands. I am quite ready to concede that neither solution of this question is entirely satisfactory. We have to take the average best."

TRAIN REPLACEMENT TROOPS AT CAMPS LEE AND JACKSON

Washington, May 15.—The war department has selected Camp Lee, Va., as a permanent training replacement camp.

The center of training for all artillery replacement troops will be at Camp Jackson, S. C.