

NEARLY TWO MILLION RAILROAD EMPLOYEES GET INCREASE IN PAY

NEW OFFENSIVE BY GERMANS IS NOT YET BEGUN

Blow May Be Launched at Any Moment, However.

ALLIES ARE NOT IDLE

Every Hour Being Utilized by Them to Strengthen Strategic Positions—Confidence Reigns.

By the Associated Press
Still another week has passed, and the Germans have not begun their expected new offensive against the allied forces in Flanders and Picardy. And, as yet, there is nowhere any indication that it is the early intention of the enemy again to try to break the battle front and reach the channel ports.

It is not improbable, however, that the blow will be launched at any moment. Aviators winging their way in reconnaissance behind the German lines still report a continuation by the Germans of their work of bringing up fresh troops, guns and stores for what is believed everywhere will be their greatest attempt to win a decisive victory.

Every hour is being utilized by them to strengthen strategic positions and every hour finds them the better prepared to withstand an enemy onslaught. Even the Germans at the front are of the highest and confidence reigns among the men of the unified command of General Foch that the enemy will not be able to carry out his program to the full, and that whatever ground he may gain will be dearly paid for.

Americans Not Secondary.
In the work of strengthening the battle front the Americans are playing no secondary role. The steady stream of reinforcements from overseas to the fighting line has served greatly to reassure the British and French contingents that have heretofore so valiantly held their own against tremendous odds. The Americans already in the trenches have given and are still giving a good account of themselves, harassing the Germans with their artillery and out-gunning them in the open.

Even the Germans at home previously adopting the tactics of sneering at the Americans now are becoming aware of their strength and virility. No less an authority than the semi-official North German Gazette is remarking on the "maturing" American reinforcements behind the allied line and wondering "how the lightning trained Yankee will hold his own against the German lads who have had military training from their youth."

Nowhere along the battle front has there been fighting of any great moment. Several new raids have been carried out successfully against German positions by the Americans, British and French forces and some similar attempts by the Germans promptly put down. Heavy artillery duels have been in progress on various sectors between the Germans and the Americans. The shelling by the Germans of Field Marshal Haig's positions east and northeast of Amiens has been particularly heavy, gas projectiles being used in great numbers.

The Americans in the Montdidier sector have carried out another of their "silent" raids, leaving their trenches without artillery support and overwhelming an enemy trench. Sixteen Germans were killed and every man was taken prisoner. In the Allette river region the French also brought in captives.

There still is considerable aerial activity over and behind the battle front and numerous fights in the air occur daily.

HEAVY LOSSES SUFFERED BY AMERICANS—BERLIN

Amsterdam, May 26.—"Heavy losses were inflicted on the Americans on the Picardy front in the repulse of strong American patrols yesterday west of Montdidier, it is claimed in a semi-official German report received today in a Berlin telegram."

U. S. AVIATORS VERY EFFECTIVE

Have Done Much Toward Accomplishing Results Sought.

Killing Off Enemy Airmen and Preventing Them Getting American Information.

With the American Army in France, Saturday, May 25.—(By the Associated Press)—The activities of the American air squadron operating in the sector northwest of Toul seem to have had results even more effective than was anticipated. When it first began its work there were between 30 and 50 summons to activity coming in to our aviators daily. Gradually the number of calls has dwindled until for several days the average has been only two a day.

From a strictly technical military standpoint, the operations of the American aviators have two objects. The first is to kill off the opposing airman, while the second is to keep the enemy from flying his machines on the American side of the line and thus preventing him from taking photographs, regulating artillery fire, or in any way securing information. The American aviators have done much toward accomplishing both objects.

The records show that the new squadron has already taken a creditable toll of enemy pilots and observers, while for a German airplane to come over the American lines now is a rare occurrence. This situation contrasts sharply with that which prevailed when these aviators first started operating. It was a rare occasion then when one or more enemy airplanes were brought down within the last few days, the fear of the American aviators has been instilled into the German flying corps. This prisoner furnished the information that the line from St. Mihiel to Pont-a-Mausson, within which the American aviators are operating had come to be regarded as a dangerous place for German pilots. Our fighting aviators could not possibly have heard a more welcome tribute.

FOUR AMERICAN AIRMEN MISSING ON BRITISH FRONT

American Headquarters on the British Front, Saturday, May 25. (By the Associated Press.)—Four American aviators have been reported missing on the British front, two of whom were brought down behind the German lines since April (May 7) 12. The names of the missing men are not yet available.

AMERICANS MAKE RAID IN MONTDIDIER REGION

With the American Army in France, Saturday, May 25. (By the Associated Press.)—American forces in the Montdidier region carried out a silent raid upon enemy positions yesterday, killing six men and capturing one. Without the assistance of the artillery the Americans slipped into the enemy trenches and quickly accomplished their work.

DR. JOHNSON TO KNOW HIS FATE WITHIN THREE DAYS

Middlesex, N. C., Dentist Clearly Indicates He Is Not Worrying About the Outcome.

Special to The Observer.
Richmond, Va., May 26.—Within three days Dr. Lemuel Johnson, Middlesex, N. C., dentist, charged here with the murder of his wife on December 20, 1917, by giving her poison, will know his fate. The case is to be resumed at 10 a. m. Monday with the defendant on the stand for a grilling cross-examination.

COMMUNIQUE FROM GEN. PERSHING TO BE ISSUED AT THE WAR DEPARTMENT

Only Those for England, France and Italy Will Be Given Out at Headquarters in France Hereafter.

U. S. NAVAL OFFICERS AND MEN RESCUED 34 MEMBERS OF CREW OF FLORENCE H.

Stories of Heroic Daring Told in Report of Rear Admiral Wilson to the Navy Department.

Washington, May 26.—Stories of the heroic daring of American naval officers and men in rescuing 34 of the 75 members of the crew of the American munitions ship Florence H. which caught fire and broke in two in French waters last April 17, are told in the report of Rear Admiral Wilson, commanding American naval forces in France, made public tonight by the navy department.

Lieut. H. D. Haislip, of San Mateo, Cal., who at the risk of detonating his depth charges and destroying his vessel, promptly charged his destroyer through the mine field and exploded wreckage covering the water in which survivors were struggling, is recommended for commendation.

Gunner's Mate F. M. Upton, of Denver, Col., and Ship's Cook J. W. Covington, of Durant, Okla., are recommended for congressional medals of honor and gold life-saving medals. They leaped into the sea and rescued a man who was exhausted, was in the midst of exploding powder boxes.

ROOSEVELT AND TAFT HAVE AMICABLE CHAT

Two Former Presidents Talk for Half Hour in Chicago Hotel.

Chicago, May 26.—Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft, former Presidents of the United States, met tonight in a Chicago hotel and held their first extended amicable conversation since the national republican convention in 1912. It was at that convention that Roosevelt made his name and the republicans had nominated Mr. Taft.

MISS STINSON UNABLE TO RESUME HER FLIGHT

Binghamton, N. Y., May 26.—Miss Catherine Stinson, aviatrix, who attempted a flight from Chicago to New York last Thursday and alighted here when the airplane's supply of gasoline became depleted, was to resume her journey today. She tried several new propellers on the machine this afternoon, but none of them had the requisite pulling force.

PERUVIAN VESSELS TO SAIL TO FOREIGN PORTS

Lima, Peru, May 26.—The government has authorized the sailing of Peruvian vessels to foreign ports.

CONGRESS READY TO START WORK ON REVENUE BILL

Members Are Not Satisfied but Are Resigned.

WILSON TO TALK TO THEM

Body Now Prepared to Revise Program and Abandon Plans for July Adjournment.

Washington, May 26.—Disappointed but resigned, Congress is prepared to revise its legislative program this week and abandon plans for adjournment in July.

Final conferences on the question to be held tomorrow, Senator Simmons, chairman of the senate finance committee, plans to see Secretary McAdoo and a compromise movement to afford Congress a summer vacation later on may follow.

With an all summer session regarded as a disappointing certainty, a slowing down of recent speed in legislation is expected. Week-end sessions are planned during the summer while, committees work on the tax bill. This week, however, much important legislation is on the program.

CHARGED WITH SELLING SPOILED MEAT TO ARMY

Complaint Against Swift & Co. and Morris & Co. Made by Trade Commission.

Washington, May 26.—Sale of spoiled meat and other food products to the army with the knowledge that the food was "unfit for human consumption" is charged in complaints issued today by the federal trade commission against Morris & Co. and Swift & Co., two of the five great packing companies.

IO-IO SAYS

SHOWERS

Washington, May 26.—The army casualty list issued today contained 23 names, divided as follows: Killed in action, five. Died of wounds, two. Died of disease, five. Died of accident, two. Wounded severely, seven. Wounded slightly, five. Missing in action, two.

AMERICA AND THE ALLIES ARE RAPIDLY OVERCOMING MENACE OF THE SUBMARINE

Great Britain and America in April Built 40,000 More Tons of Shipping Than the Enemy Sunk.

Paris, May 26.—As proof that the allies are rapidly overcoming the submarine menace, Georges Leygues, minister of marine, informed the army and navy war committees of the senate yesterday that Great Britain and the United States alone had constructed in April 40,000 tons more shipping than was sunk by the enemy.

The ministers declared also that the means employed to rid the seas of submarines had become increasingly effective since January and had given decisive results.

GERMAN PATROL ARMED WITH LIGHT MACHINE GUNS IS DRIVEN BACK

Work of American Patrol of One Officer and 20 Men in Lorraine Sector Cited in Pershing's Communique.

Washington, May 26.—General Pershing's communique for Sunday issued tonight by the war department tells how an American patrol of an officer and 20 men in the Lorraine sector last night drove back and inflicted losses upon an enemy patrol armed with light machine guns and assisted by machine gunfire from the enemy lines.

ARMY CASUALTY LIST CONTAINS 28 NAMES

Five Officers Named in Sunday's Roll—Five Soldiers Killed in Action.

Washington, May 26.—The army casualty list issued today contained 23 names, divided as follows: Killed in action, five. Died of wounds, two. Died of disease, five. Died of accident, two. Wounded severely, seven. Wounded slightly, five. Missing in action, two.

HOLDS THE AMERICAN "HORDES" IN CONTEMPT

Amsterdam, May 26.—Regarding the American "hordes" training in the French camps, the semi-official North German Gazette of Berlin remarks: "Fresh reinforcements are meanwhile maturing in our recruiting depots behind the front and we will wait and see whether the lightning trained Yankee will hold his own against the German lads who have had military training from their youth."

STEAMER 'CLAN MATHESON' SUNK IN COLLISION

London, Saturday, May 25.—The British steamer Clan Matheson has been sunk in a collision, Lloyd's shipping agency announced today.

GENERAL INCREASES IN PAY FOR EMPLOYEES OF FEDERAL OPERATED RAILROADS ANNOUNCED BY McADOO

The Red Cross is human kindness organized.

TWELVE MILLIONS BEYOND THE GOAL

Red Cross Officials Set No Limit to Mercy Fund.

Washington, May 26.—General Pershing's communique for Sunday issued tonight by the war department tells how an American patrol of an officer and 20 men in the Lorraine sector last night drove back and inflicted losses upon an enemy patrol armed with light machine guns and assisted by machine gunfire from the enemy lines.

GRACE LUSK TRIAL TO BE CONCLUDED THIS WEEK

Defense Resting Its Entire Hope of Favorable Verdict on Plea of Insanity.

Washington, May 26.—The fate of Grace Lusk will be placed in the hands of the jury before the end of the third week of her trial for slaying the wife of Dr. David Roberts, attorneys in the case announced today.

ENTENTE ALLIED AIR RAID CARRIED OUT OVER LIEGE

Longdoz Railway Station Is Destroyed and Twenty-six Persons Are Killed.

Amsterdam, May 26.—The Rotterdam Maasbode reports that an entente allied air raid has been carried out over Liege. The Longdoz railway station was destroyed and twenty-six persons were killed.

LOOKS FOR BIG TRADE AFTER THE WAR ENDS

Washington, May 26.—In announcing today the result of a survey of the foreign markets for cotton linters, baling and waste, made by American consuls, the department of commerce said it believed the after-war trade in these commodities will greatly exceed the total of \$11,000,000 before hostilities began.

Effective Next Saturday; Retroactive to Last January 1.

PROBABLY \$300,000,000 ADDED TO ANNUAL PAYROLL

Departs From Commission's Recommendations Slightly.

NEW WAGE BOARD CREATED

All Increases to Be Determined Upon Percentage Based Upon Pay in December, 1915.

Washington, May 26.—General pay increases for nearly two million railroad employees were announced today by Director General McAdoo, effective next Saturday and retroactive to last January 1, carrying out substantially recommendations of the railroad wage commission.

The director general departed from the wage commission's recommendations in the following particulars: The principle of the basic eight-hour day is recognized, but owing to exigencies of the war situation, hours of employment are not actually reduced and overtime is to be paid pro rata; future adjustments of pay are to be made on the basis of eight hours.

In addition to the ordinary scale made on the basis of the 1915 scale, which have been raised to at least 3 1/2 cents an hour more than they received last December 31.

A minimum of 55 cents an hour is established for the shop trades, including machinists, boiler-makers and blacksmiths.

Women are to receive the same pay as men for the same work and negroes are to get the same as white men for similar employment.

To work out a multitude of inequalities and other injustices caused by varying rules of employment and condition of organization, the director general created a new board of railroad wage and working conditions consisting of three labor representatives and three railway executives which will conduct extensive investigation and recommend wage and other employment changes.

All increases now ordered will be determined according to a percentage scale based on pay received in December, 1915, and any increases which have been raised in that time will be deducted. In many cases raises in pay in the last two and a half years are about equal to the increases now approved and consequently these employees will get little or no more.

Pittsburgh has attained only 56 per cent of its \$4,000,000, while Chicago has turned in only 47 per cent of its \$7,000,000. Boston is another of the larger cities behind in the campaign.

Who Get Increases.
Men working on the monthly, daily, hourly, piece work and train mile basis will benefit by the new wage scale. The percentages of the four leading railway brotherhoods whose pay was raised through operation of the Adamson act are to receive from 10 to 40 per cent additional, in many instances they have asked of railroads shortly before the government took control.

The wage order applies to all employees of the 164 roads now under federal management and will not be retroactive to any other class of employees at one time the railroad administration has discussed raising freight and passenger rates. The percentages of wage increases range from 43 for men who received \$46 a month in December, 1915, down to a small rate for those receiving just under \$250 or more in 1915.

Table of Increases.
The table of increases announced, itemized for each dollar of wages received in December, 1915, may be summarized as follows:
Monthly rate: Increase above 1915: \$46 to \$56... \$20.21 to \$21.50 \$56 to \$65... \$21.60 to \$23.95 \$65 to \$75... \$21.60 to \$23.95
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