

HARD FIGHTING IN THE ARTOIS

Military Activity in Major Fronts Confined to Northern France, Where Germans Claim Recent Gains.

MIXED SITUATION IN REGARD TO ALBANIA

Athens Reports Turkish Intention Strongly to Reinforce Their Armies Opposing the British.

Activity on the major war fronts is confined mainly to northern France, the intensity of the fighting being most pronounced in the Artois district, where the Germans claim to have made notable gains recently.

In the Balkans the entente forces are reported to be extending their positions around Salonki, concentrating troops as far as the Bulgarian frontier. In Albania the situation continues to be mixed. The Bulgarians are said to be advancing in the south as far as Fieri, 16 miles from Avlona, while the Austrian Columns were recently reported at Tirana, about 20 miles west of Durazzo.

The Italians have been in force at Avlona and seem also to have considerable bodies of troops opposed to the Austrians in the Durazzo sector.

A report from Athens credits the Turkish government with the intention to reinforce its armies in Mesopotamia, where the British troops on the Tigris river are struggling to push their way to Kut-el-Amara and relieve the beleaguered little army there. Turkish forces in formidable numbers, it is said, are being sent into the Mesopotamian theater—some from the Dardanelles and some from Thrace. A recent Turkish official account indicates that no important changes have taken place on the situation at Kut-el-Amara, but the latest report contained the advice that insurgents, probably irregular Arabian troops, were active along the British line of communication.

The Germans are freely attacking the French positions in the Artois region, as well as in Champagne. In the latter district Berlin reports the capture of a front of about seven hundred yards, while the French admit that the Germans have gained a foothold in some of their advanced trenches near the Tahure-Somme-Py road.

In Artois near Hill 140, which lies to the southwest of Vimy the German attacks followed one another in quick succession there being four during the course of the afternoon. Pushing forward in the face of a hail of shells and bullets, the Germans on their fourth attempt, succeeded in entering one of the French first line trenches, which, however, they failed to hold, being almost immediately driven out with considerable losses in dead wounded, according to Paris.

Northwest of Soissons, a German attack, preceded by a bombardment, resulted in the capture of a French trench near the Crouy road, but here also they were thrown out leaving their dead on the field.

On the British end of the line there have been sapling operations and bombardments by both sides.

All around Soissons the German artillery was busy, preparatory to infantry attacks but the attacks did not eventuate owing to the French use of their guns in curtain of fire volleys.

Considerable damage has been done to German positions in the Argonne forest by the French. Artillery duels are in progress in Lorraine and in the Vosges.

The heavy guns are being actively employed on both sides in the northern section of the Russian front but no important changes in positions have occurred. In the Isonzo region the Austrians have taken entrenchments from the Italians in the Rombon zone, while the Italian artillery has bombarded Austrian positions at various points especially in the Gorizia sector.

Austrian seaplanes have attacked the town of Ravenna in northeast Italy and several other places in the vicinity. Fifteen persons are said to have been killed and a number injured.

On the Black sea, Russian torpedo boat destroyers have sunk additional Turkish sailing vessels, and have destroyed bridges and depots ashore.

The French cruiser Amiral Charner, it is feared by the French ministry of marine, has been lost while patrolling the Syrian coast. The cruiser has not been heard from since February 2, when a dispatch reported that a submarine had sunk a French warship.

The German gunboat Hedwig von Wissmann has been sunk on Lake Tanaparika, Africa, by the Belgians.

DENOUNCES EFFORT TO OUST KITCHIN

Speaker Clark Aepudiates Plan of Certain Element in House to Dethrone House Leader—Regards Mr. Kitchin as "One of Most Brilliant Men in Public Life."

Gazette-News Bureau
The Riggs Building
Washington, Feb. 14.

Speaker Clark has repudiated in characteristic language the efforts of a certain element in the house to dethrone Representative Claude Kitchin of North Carolina, as majority leader if he does not get into line for the administration's preparedness program.

"Those responsible for the report that Kitchin was to be 'rolled' if he persisted in his present attitude of opposition or indifference threw out the intimation that Speaker Clark or Representative Rainer, of Illinois, ranking member of the ways and means committee, might be drafted to supplant Kitchin as actual democratic leader on the floor.

It had been suggested by many of Mr. Kitchin's friends that a "get-together" meeting be held and that a compromise, if possible, be had on the preparedness program. Those who have talked of this plan had no idea that it would be construed to mean a move against Mr. Kitchin as leader of the house.

None of the gentlemen with whom the Washington correspondent of the Gazette-News talked with suggested any such idea. As a matter of fact, all talk about the proposed meeting was among the closest friends of Representative Kitchin and men who have been lined up on the same side of the preparedness program as Mr. Kitchin himself.

This suggestion aroused the speaker's ire and he lost little time in expressing his opinion of the men—without mentioning names—who are trying to stir up strife. He proposed that the get out of the marplot class and join other patriots in aiding to eliminate differences.

"All this talk about demoting Claude Kitchin from his high position as democratic floor leader is arrant nonsense," said the speaker in a dispassionate statement. "Also the chatter about sidetracking him is utter tomfoolery. He was not appointed chairman of the ways and means committee—he was elected by the same vote by which I was elected speaker."

"By immemorial use the chairman

NEGROES SUE CHIEF AND LIEUT. JONES

Seek Possession of 2 Ladies, Brooches Taken From Them By Officers Recently.

Civil action against Chief of Police L. E. Perry and Fred Jones of the detective squad of the police department has been instituted by James Wood and Rueben Bulky, colored, through their attorney, W. P. Brown. The defendants have been served with summons in the action, although the complaint giving details of the action has not been filed.

It is understood, however, that the negroes are suing for the possession of two ladies' brooches which they claim were taken from them by the police several days ago.

The brooches are now in possession of the police department, although actions are being brought against the officers personally. It is stated that one of the negroes was arrested as he was about to pawn the brooch here, but was later released when no evidence could be brought against him. The other negro was not arrested, it is stated.

M'DOWELL TRACT TO BE CONDEMNED

Condemnation proceedings have been started by the United States government against L. M. Turner and wife and approximately 100 other defendants to clear titles to three tracts of land in McDowell county containing practically 225 acres. Notice of summonses to be served was received today at the office of United States Marshal Charles A. Webb.

To Call Single Men

London, Feb. 14.—The Central News is authority for a report that all single men are to be called up to enlist next week. A royal proclamation shortly to be issued notifying all single men to attend, the Central News states, attributes the unexpected speedy summons to the many recent consultations between the minister of munitions and the war office.

Aviator Graham-White Hurt.

Hazenbrouck, France, Feb. 14.—Claude Graham-White, the British aviator, has been wounded gravely. No details have been obtained. He was commissioned a lieutenant last month.

of the ways and means committee becomes ex-officio majority floor leader. Of course the house could remove him just as it could remove the speaker, but nobody with sense enough to go in out of the rain proposes to remove him.

"It's a pity that all democrats do not agree about all things; but Mr. Kitchin has as much right to his opinion as the president has to his or I have to mine. I have faith that by the exercise of forbearance, moderation and wisdom we will evolve plans for preparedness and other great questions, such as raising revenue on which we can all stand. That's my hope and expectation.

"No man can pull an appropriation through the house by main strength. The entire philosophy of success in that able and tumultuous assembly is to take things by the smooth handle, to rub the hair the right way of the hide and to confer freely with the members, persuading rather than attempting to drive, yielding in non-essentials, firm as a rock on fundamentals.

"There are 435 members and every one of them has a perfect right to his opinion and to express it whenever it seems to him meet and proper. If the busy bodies who are trying to stir up strife by magnifying small differences of opinion among democrats would help eliminate their differences they would constitute themselves patriots instead of marplots.

"I was instrumental years ago in securing for Claude Kitchin his first valuable promotion. I believed in him then and believe in him now. He is one of the most brilliant men in public life and I believe he will discharge the duties of his important position faithfully and well."

Regarding the report that he might assume the leadership for preparedness, Speaker Clark added:

"So far as I am concerned, when I feel that I ought to leave the speaker's stand to support or oppose on the floor any measure whatsoever, I shall do so—as I have a right to do—without any intent of supplanting Mr. Kitchin, Mr. Hay, Mr. Padgett, Mr. Fitzgerald or any other chairman or leader."

PRESIDENT CONSENTS TO USE OF HIS NAME

Washington, Feb. 14.—President Wilson today gave his formal consent for the use of his name as a candidate for renomination. In a letter to the secretary of state of Ohio, he stated that he is unwilling to enter a contest for renomination, but is ready to permit the use of his name in the Ohio primary in order that the democrats of Ohio might make known their preferences.

GERMANY IS MAKING OVERTURES TO POLES

London, Feb. 14.—A dispatch to The Post from its Berne correspondent states that Germany is making strenuous efforts to induce the Poles to agree to accept autonomy under the aegis of Germany, in which event, Germany will form an additional army of nine hundred thousand Poles. The dispatch adds that Polish leaders in Switzerland believe it is imperative for the entente allies to guarantee Polish autonomy which was promised by the Russian emperor in order to prevent the Poles from accepting the German proposal.

AMERICANS LIVING IN CANADA TO ENLIST

Toronto, Feb. 14.—A full brigade of approximately 4,000 Americans now living in Canada will be recruited for service with the dominion forces on the firing line in Flanders, it was announced here today. General Sir Sam Hughes, minister of militia, has authorized Major C. Seymour Bullock, who came here from New York and joined the Ninety-seventh battalion, American legion, to undertake a dominion-wide campaign. To facilitate the speedy enlistment of the men, General Hughes has directed that special recruiting offices be opened in nine cities.

VENIZELOS AGAIN TO ENTER GREEK POLITICS

Paris, Feb. 14.—The Journal's Athens correspondent says that former Premier Venizelos, of Greece, has decided to return to active political life, becoming a candidate for a vacancy in the chamber of deputies from Mytilene.

M. Venizelos resigned the premiership twice during the war owing to the opposition of King Constantine to his policy in favor of the entrance of Greece into the war on the side of the entente allies. He has not been active politically since the recent general elections.

RESIGNATION IS SIGNIFICANT IN GERMANS EYES

Berlin Paper Says Garrison's Withdrawal Shows Congress is Opposed to Military Plans.

"CONGRESS IS PLAINLY PEACEFUL," IT IS SAID

United States Expected to Endorse Teuton View as to Armed Merchantmen and to Warn Americans.

Berlin, Feb. 14.—Although the press dispatches give no details in regard to the circumstances of Secretary Garrison's resignation, the Lokal Anzeiger sees indications that the majority in congress is opposed to the "new form of militarization by proclaiming which President Wilson was expected to take the wind out of the sails of his republican opponents," and above all the "aberrant Roosevelt."

The paper expresses the opinion that congress undoubtedly represents the majority of sentiment in America in opposition to the abandonment of old principles.

The Morgen Post says:

"The feeling in congress is plainly thoroughly peaceful. The propaganda for gigantic armament staged by Secretary Garrison and Secretary Daniels have recorded thus far no sympathy from the representatives of the people. Secretary Garrison and his assistant have already resigned and the secretary of the navy may soon follow."

The Post publishes a Reuter's dispatch saying that the United States is expected to express its support of the German memorandum in regard to the treatment of hostile armed merchantmen as warships and to advise American citizens to avoid beligerent ships. The papers say that such action on the part of the United States would be calculated to do away with the existing difficulties between the United States and Germany.

VESSELS ASSIGNED TO NAVAL MILITIA

Reserves Will Have Summer Practice on Ships of Reserve Fleet.

Washington, Feb. 14.—As the first move in the navy department's plan to have reserve battalions manned principally by navy reserve men with the Atlantic and Pacific fleets during the summer maneuvers, Secretary Daniels has assigned vessels to the naval militia organizations of several states. The torpedo boat destroyer Lamson was assigned to South Carolina; the Preston to Florida; the Florida to Louisiana; and the Reid to Texas.

The vessels are part of the first division of the reserve torpedo boat fleet and have been stationed at Key West.

The battleship Kentucky, now in Mexican waters, has been assigned to New York; the battleship Kearsarge to Massachusetts; and the historic battleship Oregon to California.

The cruiser Chicago, now in Massachusetts, has been assigned to Pennsylvania; and the cruiser Marblehead, now a California ship, is given to Oregon.

Secretary Daniels has asked congress for an appropriation of \$77,000 to transport naval militia men from the interior to the two coasts for the maneuvers.

MUNITION PLANT WRECKED

Schenectady, N. Y., Feb. 14.—The munitions plant of the General Electric company was wrecked by fire today. The blaze was extinguished by the company's private fire department and no report was made to the city police or fire authorities. Officials of the company withheld all information concerning the fire.

CONTINENTAL ARM PLAN ELIMINATED

House Military Affairs Committee Re-Drafting National Defense Bill to Incorporate Feature for Federalization of National Guard—Naval Committee Studying Submarine Question.

Washington, Feb. 14.—The preparedness problem today again held the center of the stage in congressional activity. Having concluded the hearing on the military defense question, Chairman Chamberlain and his associates on the senate military affairs committee today began to frame a bill. They were to incorporate in the measure a plan for the federalization of the national guard to create a reserve defense force. As the work progresses the senate committee proposes to confer frequently with the chairman Henry and the members of the house committee have resumed their work of re-drafting the house

defense bill to eliminate the continental army feature and substitute in its stead a plan for the federalization of the state troops.

The house naval committee has begun an exhaustive inquiry into submarine warfare and into the alleged shortcomings of the American submarines.

At the present rate of progress Chairman Padgett of the committee does not believe that the naval appropriations bill will be ready to place before the house until the latter part of May. The senate naval committee will not consider the bill until the house committee hearings are nearly ended.

GIRL'S PLAN TO BUILD WARSHIP NOT APPROVED

Secretary Daniels Returns a Dime Contributed by Girl Who Started Fund.

New York, Feb. 14.—Marjorie Sterrett, the Brooklyn girl who started a contribution of the building of a warship for Uncle Sam, by sending ten cents in postage stamps to a newspaper and calling on other children to contribute a dime each, received a letter from Secretary of the Navy Daniels returning the ten cents she had contributed which had been forwarded by the newspaper.

Secretary Daniels wrote that the revenue for naval construction would be obtained by taxation in the usual manner and that he believed individual contributions would be unnecessary.

More than \$100, mostly in dimes, was contributed to the fund yesterday.

HAS NOT DECIDED ON GARRISON'S SUCCESSOR

May Be Several Days Before President Names New Secretary of War.

Washington, Feb. 14.—President and Mrs. Wilson arrived at the navy yard on the Mayflower at 6 o'clock this morning. They did not leave the yacht for the white house until shortly before 8 o'clock. The yacht had a rough voyage from Hampton Roads, during which no one left the cabins and it is said that some of the members of the party were seasick.

President Wilson reached no decision on whom to appoint for secretary of war while on his week end trip down the Potomac and the successor to former Secretary Garrison may not be announced for several days.

MISSISSIPPI LEVEES IN ARKANSAS STILL HOLD

Little Rock, Ar., Feb. 12.—The Mississippi river levees along the eastern Arkansas border continue to hold against the crest of the flood which is now at its maximum stage between Arkansas City and Greenville, Miss. The river at Arkansas City came to a stand Thursday, due to a break in the Arkansas river embankment near Red Fork and since has remained stationary.

The water is now rapidly receding on the west and north edge of the inland lake which was formed by the overflowing of the White and Arkansas rivers.

General conditions are being restored at Newport, one of the first towns to be inundated, and at Clarendon, the water has dropped 16 inches in the last 24 hours, clearing the higher resident districts of water.

PROGRESS ON POSTOFFICE APPROPRIATIONS SLOW

Fight Is Centered on Rural Delivery Feature and Compensation of Railways.

Washington, Feb. 14.—The house today was occupied with consideration of the annual postoffice appropriations bill. Slow progress is being made because of the flood of political oratory on the measure and indications are that it will not be disposed of before the end of the week.

The fight is centered on the rural free delivery provision and on new legislation proposing a change in the system of railway mail compensation to a space basis and to provide for the government bonding of department officials and naval contractors. On soon as the postoffice bill is out of the way the immigration bill with its literacy test will be taken up, it is expected.

RESPIRE FOR PORTER CRISP, OF SWAIN CO

Raleigh, Feb. 14.—Porter Crisp, who is under sentence of two years for killing Buchanan of Swain county, has been given a respite by Governor Craig and the sentence will not take effect for thirty days.

Governor Craig is giving some time to points in the case and has requested that in the largely signed application for pardon the petitioners get a letter from Judge Webb who tried the case. They have not done so to date.

Young Crisp is the son of W. D. Crisp, prominent citizen of Swain, and both are in Raleigh. The elder Crisp is ill here and will not be able to return home for several days perhaps. His advanced age makes the trouble really dangerous. Thaddeus Bryson and Jack Coburn of Bryson City, accompanied the Crisps here in their quest for a pardon.

Porter Crisp was convicted of killing Buchanan after they had engaged in a general fight. Crisp denies the actual shooting. He lost his fight before the Supreme court.

BIG STEAMER LAUNCHED BY STANDARD OIL CO.

Newport News, Feb. 12.—The official launching party of the Standard Oil company arrived here on a special train today to witness the launching of the big oil steamer Charles Pratt at the plant of the Newport News Ship Building and Dry Dock company. In the party was Navigation Commissioner Chamberlain of Washington.

The Charles Pratt is by far the largest ship of its kind ever built in America and is only exceeded by a few ships built in any part of the world.

The dimensions of the vessel follow: Length, 517 feet; beam 68 feet; depth 28 feet. The weight carrying capacity at 17 feet draft is 17,000 tons. The Charles Pratt is the first of five duplicate vessels now under construction.

CHAPPELL TO BE SENT TO CLEVELAND TEAM

Chicago, Feb. 14.—Outfielder Larry Chappell will be sent to the Cleveland Americans within the week, it was announced here today. The sending of the player to Cleveland by President Conahey of the White Sox is said to be the final payment for Joe Jackson.

WOULD AMEND RESERVE LAW

Federal Reserve Board Urges Six Amendments to Banking Act in Report to Congress.

FINDS PRINCIPLES OF ACT FULLY VINDICATED

Report Says Law Is One of Most Beneficial Pieces of Legislation Ever Enacted by Congress.

Washington, Feb. 14.—Six amendments to the federal reserve act were recommended to congress today in the report of the federal reserve board for the first full year of operation of the new banking system.

"A year's experience in the operation of the federal reserve act," says the report, "has confirmed the board in its profound conviction that the act has been one of the most beneficial pieces of legislation ever adopted by congress. Not only have its fundamental principles been fully vindicated but in most details the working of the measure has been successful."

The Recommendations.

The amendments recommended would:

Permit national banks to subscribe and hold stock in banks organized for the special purpose of doing a banking business in foreign countries.

Permit, with the approval of the board, the issue of federal reserve notes to federal reserve banks either against the deposit of commercial paper or gold, provided that the gold so deposited shall count as part of the required reserve of the bank.

Extend the acceptance system to the domestic trade so far as it relates to documentary acceptances secured by shipping documents or warehouse receipts, covering readily marketable commodities or against the pledge of goods actually sold.

Permit national banks to establish branch offices within the city or county in which they are located.

Permit advances to member banks against the member banks' secured promissory notes or against the deposit or pledge of United States government bonds.

Authorize a wide discretion in the making of advances by national banks so that federal reserve bank might make proper loans of this kind within a radius of 100 miles of its place of business whether in its district or another district.

"It is believed," says the report, "that the enactment of these amendments will, besides enlarging the usefulness of the national banks, result in greatly strengthening the operation of the federal reserve act, and more completely realize the purposes of its framers."

Foreign.

In speaking of foreign borrowing in the United States the board points out that it has received many inquiries on this subject and has given them careful attention. It has reached the conclusion, it says, supported by competent legal advice, that the purpose for which goods are sold or exported, or the use to which such goods are ultimately put, does not fall within its province or jurisdiction.

The board expresses regret that in some states suits have been instituted to test the validity of the provisions of the reserve act by which it may grant certain fiduciary powers to national banks, amounting to the intention to have its counsel intervene in these cases and says that every effort will be made to have the question settled by the Supreme court at an early date. It is pointed out that only 22 state banks have been admitted to the system and 84 others have come in by conversion into national banks.

On the other hand it is stated, state banks have reduced their reserve requirements without the support of the reserve system. "This," says the report, "is an element of danger in our banking system, because the weakening of the reserves of the state banks and trust companies make them more vulnerable in times of emergency and it is conceivable that a situation might arise in the affairs of such state banks and trust companies where they might have to call upon the credit structure of the national banks and the federal reserve system for support when they would not be entitled to it because they had not contributed to the strength of the federal reserve system by taking membership in it. The board is giving serious thought to this question and to the action that may be taken to guard against the consequences of this situation."

This part of the report is concluded with an expression of opinion that

(Continued on page two.)

SAFE BLOWN OPEN NEAR STATESVILLE, N. C.

Statesville, Feb. 12.—A large safe in the store of D. P. Sartain of Cool Springs, 10 miles from here, was blown open last night and cash to the amount of \$40 or \$50 and commercial papers representing thousands of dollars are missing.