

## TEUTON ATTACK IS MINIMIZED

Paris Advises Claim That German Operations in West Are in Reality Only Local Actions.

## DECLARED GAINS ARE WITHOUT SIGNIFICANCE

French Could Easily Undertake Actions But Results Would Not Be Worth Price.

Interest in the active operations in the European war continued today to center in the fighting on the western front, where the Germans recently have driven heavily at the French lines in several sectors, notably the Artois and Champagne districts with success at various points.

It is announced semi-officially from Paris that despite the seemingly great activity, the German attacks are in reality only local actions without gains of significance. It is declared that the French could easily undertake similar movements but refrain because the results would not be worth the price.

German news dispatches report great damage to the French fortifications at Belfort in the recent shelling by the long range German guns.

Following the visit yesterday to Milan the Austrian army are said to have attacked Monza, 10 miles to the northeast, one person being killed and five injured by the bombs dropped. The air craft that appeared over Brescia were driven off by anti-aircraft guns.

Heavy fighting in German East Africa between the German troops and the Belgian forces who are invading the colony is reported. Both sides suffered heavy losses and the results so far seem inconclusive.

The sittings of the British parliament were resumed today with the reading of the king's speech by the lord high chancellor, the king not attending because his medical advisers believed he should not do so.

Premier Asquith's review of the war situation is awaited, with much interest. The discussion that will follow is expected to cover a wide range.

Letters of Cardinal Mercier, the Archbishop of Malines and other members of the Belgian Catholic episcopate addressed to the cardinals and bishops of the central empire and appealing in the name of their common religion for truth and justice to the clergy and faithful of Belgium, are to be answered in a collective statement by the cardinals and bishops of Germany and Austria, according to Rome advices received in Paris.

The whole western fighting front is the scene of heavy engagements. At some points the big guns have been roaring incessantly for days; the infantry have been engaged in hand-to-hand struggles; grenade fighting and mining operations have played a prominent part in the battles, while air men have fought each other above the lines and have been cannonaded from below by anti-aircraft guns.

The Germans followed up their recent success in Champagne by the capture of an additional half mile of French trenches around Tahure in that district and their artillery bombardments in the neighborhood of Maasiens and Navarin have been answered in kind by the French.

To the north of Soissons, around Torny and along the River Aisne, the Germans started an infantry attack, but the French put it down with their guns and rifles.

To the south of the Somme, the Germans endeavored to surround out-post trenches but desisted, under heavy fire of the French.

In Upper Alsace the Germans turned loose their guns on trenches the French had re-occupied from them, but the French during the night had evacuated them and the shelling did no other damage than to shatter the emplacements.

Seventeen flights in the air is the record of Sunday reported officially by the British along their lines in Flanders. In addition there has been great activity south of LaBassee canal, where the Germans exploded seven mines. Heavy bombardments and an infantry attack in that section also is reported, the Germans succeeding in entering a British trench. They were driven out almost immediately.

In Albania, Arzen river which runs westward across central Albania and empties into the bay of Durazzo, has been reached by the Austro-Hungarian vanguard, according to Vienna. The Bulgarians have occupied El Bassan, an important town in central Albania.

There have been no important events on the eastern front, but the Russians in the Caucasus have occupied one of the Bezrum towns and have taken large numbers of prisoners.

## KITCHIN WILL NOT AID NAVY PROGRAM

House Leader Declares There Is No Truth in Reports That He Will Support Naval Program or Five-Year Plan; or That He Is to Be Deposed as Floor Leader.

Gazette-News Bureau  
The Riggs Building  
Washington, Feb. 15.—When asked about reports that he was to be deposed as majority leader and that his position in not favoring several of the administration's measures now before the house, might be changed, Majority Leader Claude Kitchin stated that there was not a word of truth in either statement. He declared that he would neither support the naval program of four battleships nor the five year building program.

Mr. Kitchin pointed to the fact that he was one of the first members of the house to announce that he would oppose the continental army plan. The people of the entire country refused to support this plan after they had learned what it meant to the country. The president then decided to drop it. He believes there will be many who will be against the four battleships and the five year building program when they become as well informed on this phase of the "preparedness program" as they now are on the continental army plan recently thrown into the discard.

New York papers yesterday and Sunday played the rumor that Kitchin was to be deposed as leader to the extreme limit. The New York World carried a vicious cartoon in its issue yesterday ridiculing the North Carolinian as a leader and its editorial was directed at Mr. Kitchin. The World editorial in part says: "It is within the power of the congressional majority to end this imposition peremptorily. It is within the power of Mr. Kitchin to end it honorably and agreeably by surrendering his claims to leadership. Which shall it be?"

"The Democratic party killed primogeniture and entail early in its career. No member of that organization will profit by reasserting the principle, and the party will bring disaster upon the country and upon itself, if the duty being forced upon it does not remove the obstruction from its path and proceed to execute the people's will."

Mr. Kitchin yesterday afternoon gave the Gazette-News correspondent an interview in which he stated his position now and for the future. He said:

## Investigating Charges Against L. D. Brandeis

Nominee For Supreme Court Bench Is Accused of Unethical Conduct by Representatives of United Shoe Machinery Company With Which He Was Formerly Associated as Counsel and Director.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The investigation of President Wilson's nomination of Louis D. Brandeis for the Supreme court bench was resumed today by the senate judiciary subcommittee. Representatives of the United Shoe Machinery company with which Mr. Brandeis was formerly associated, appeared as witnesses. The commission sought testimony

## Two More Breaks Occur In Mississippi Levees

Natchez, Miss., Feb. 15.—Two breaks occurred early today in a Mississippi river levee at Limerick plantation, about 25 miles above St. Joseph, La., and six miles from New-Elton on the Louisiana side, according to reports received here. It was stated that large volumes of water are rushing through the breaks and that it would flood Texas, Concordia, Franklin and Catahoula, and possibly Madelon parishes in Louisiana.

## GOVERNMENT ON THE TRAIL OF JAPANESE

Jap Spy Is Believed Guilty of Theft of Secret Naval Battle Code.

Gazette-News Bureau,  
The Riggs Building,  
Washington, Feb. 15.—Every agency of the department of justice on the west coast is at work on the trail of a Japanese spy believed to have been guilty of the theft of the secret naval battle code of the United States navy, which disappeared from the destroyer Hull at San Diego.

Two naval officers have already been court-martialed for the loss of the code but the court has suspended action on the case pending the out-

There is not a word of truth in the statement that there is a movement on foot to depose me as majority leader. I have been on the floor of the house all day today and not a single member has intimated such a thing. I am, not the least bit embarrassed about reports that such a movement has been started. I was one of the first to oppose the continental army plan. I am not going to vote for the naval program as now proposed, nor would I have voted for the continental army program. I am opposed to four battleships and the five year program. I will never vote for either one.

The statement issued by Speaker Champ Clark Sunday night denouncing the report that Kitchin would be forced out as leader and carried in this correspondence yesterday morning, was read into the record of the house yesterday upon the request of Speaker Clark himself and was greeted with loud applause by members on both sides of the chamber.

Careful inquiry yesterday failed to find a single member who had heard even an intimation that there was a movement on foot to depose Mr. Kitchin as leader of the house. Mr. Kitchin is elected by the majority caucus in the same way that Speaker Clark is elected. Both could be deposed from their present high places of honor if the house desired, but it would be a very hard matter to accomplish this end. And at present no one desires Mr. Kitchin dethroned except a few New York newspapers, who dislike his attitude on preparedness.

The whole controversy seems to have started over the effort of a few friends of Mr. Kitchin to have a conference arranged over the national defense program. All of these gentlemen, are friends of Kitchin and men who believe as Mr. Kitchin does that the administration's program is entirely too top-heavy for the needs of the country.

Claude Kitchin is popular and his personal following far exceeds that of any other man who has occupied the position of majority leader. Some of his friends believe that he should be willing to compromise on the president's program but they have not thought of the idea of even suggesting a movement to depose him as leader of the house.

in regard to the charge of unethical conduct on the part of Mr. Brandeis in his relations with the United Shoe Machinery company, to the effect that after he had served as attorney and director of the company he withdrew and later acted as counsel for a group of manufacturers in a suit against the company as an unlawful trust.

At the time the book disappeared a Japanese and a Filipino were employed as stewards on the destroyer. After the loss became known the two disappeared. The naval authorities have called in the aid of the department of justice.

Possession of the code would give any nation possession of the innermost secrets of the cipher used by the American navy in time of battle. The navy department is already preparing a new code, it is understood.

This is the second big theft of an American navy secret during the administration of Secretary Daniels. On the day that President Wilson was inaugurated, the secret plans for the fire control system was used on other war vessels, disappeared from the navy department drafting room and has never been recovered. The loss was a serious one, in view of the fact that the fire control system of a battleship is its most vital feature. Knowledge of its details would enable an enemy ship to so direct its fire as to put the battleship out of business at the outset of an engagement.

Shakespeare Tercentenary.  
The state superintendent of public instruction has designated March 24 as the general celebration of the Shakespeare tercentenary, calling upon

## AUDIT OF STATE BOOKS GOES ON

Republicans Smile Satisfaction at Progress of Investigation of Accounts of State Treasurer Lacy.

## EXPECTED TO EMPLOY REPORT IN CAMPAIGN

Party Furnished \$1,000 For Auditing of Books; Another \$1,000 in Sight For Purpose, It Is Said.

(By W. T. Bost.)  
Raleigh, Feb. 15.—Republicans who expected their executive committee's order for a state audit of the books in order to furnish convention resolutions and pre-primary conversation are unable to tell when their experts will get statements ready for the printer but smile satisfiedly at the progress of another audit now going on.

These republicans remembering the sharp controversy over the 1915 audit which brought Alex Webb and George Montcastle into sharp issue with State Treasurer Lacy, took no chances on a similar dispute and made ready to have a checking up of their own. They quickly raised \$1,000 for that purpose and it is said had another \$1,000 in a short while. Since that time auditors have again started through the state's books and are in the midst of that inquiry. Wherever they came from, the republicans seem to be satisfied with them and it is quite probable that the \$2,000 or more to have been used may be employed in different channels. It may not be needed.

The convention is soon to be here, just a trifle more than two weeks off, and it will doubtless resolve as to what is best for it in the way of getting the state's health, as reflected in its accounts, before the people. The multitudinous audits have caused quite a lot of friction. Members of the departments have been quoted as confident that the people will not stand for these expenditures which they think are useless.

"Don't use my name," said one of the prominent democrats to your correspondent, discussing the audit now in progress, "but the people are getting mighty tired of this auditing business. It is costing thousands of dollars and is designed especially to weaken certain candidates. The people are not going to put up money long for that sort of business."

A prominent republican took just the opposite view, each promising to give his name when this correspondence was changed into a hole and asked for a show down.

"The suggestion last week that Dave Wright, heroic engineer, was interested in covering up anything that might need investigating and was writing to Pou or Simmons to stop it, is in my judgment thoroughly discreditable to the party and I don't believe a word of it," this republican said.

"I know something of the trainee's brotherhoods. They believe in the investigations and engage in them. If an engineer gets drunk and the company is willing to retain him, as a rule they are not. And I don't think it fair to Dave Wright to send out the statement that he was using the influence of the labor organizations to oppose an investigation into the affairs of any department. He was too fine a fellow to do any partisan trick."

Whether or not the leaders have been warned to stop this investigating, it goes on merrily on and when the audit committee reports come it is expected to furnish just as much excitement as it did last year.

Dr. T. M. Jordan, who is medical inspector in the Alamance county schools, reporting to the state board of health the results of his recent inspections, finds that 36 per cent of the children are hindered in their school progress by one or more defects.

Dr. Jordan visited 55 schools. He found 4,124 children at school and of that number 2,520 had defects of some character. These may or may not later become serious but they represent 21 per cent of the enrollment. Of the 2,950 defectives 1,493 are so seriously affected as to hinder their work in school.

Dr. Jordan gave lectures with lantern slides to 21 schools. He had 6,750 present. In his report he declares that he found a woeful lack of sanitary conditions in the various schools except the Graham graded schools. Alamance county is giving prizes for health improvement and Altamahaw took the first award, Burlington graded school getting second prize, Union Ridge, Saxapahaw, Fairground and the Graham graded schools get honorable mention in this contest.

Shakespeare Tercentenary.  
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## Methodists Considering Church Union Problems

Leaders of Northern and Southern Churches Hold Conference at Evanston, Ill., Seeking Basis for Union of Two Organizations—Represent Churches With Membership of About 8,000,000.

Chicago, Feb. 15.—The problems of six branches of the Methodist Episcopal churches, which are seeking a basis for union, are to be discussed at the three days' conference which opened at Evanston today. Bishops, superintendents and leading laymen were in attendance and they were said to represent churches with a membership of approximately 8,000,000 people.

Most of the discussion was to be of an informal nature but it is the intention of the sponsors of the conference to collect the proceedings in book form for reference.

## Convention May Oppose Whitman's Leadership

New York, Feb. 15.—The important question in the minds of the delegates of the republican state convention who are assembling for the opening of the convention here tonight is whether Governor Charles S. Whitman would lead the delegation from this state to the republican national convention.

That Governor Whitman will be designated as one of the four delegates at large was conceded. The governor has announced his expectation of leading the New York state delegation, but in advance of the opinion of the convention there is said to be a difference of opinion among the leaders as to whether he should be accorded this honor.

The convention was called to meet in Carnegie hall at 8 o'clock tonight. Elihu Root is to call the convention to order as temporary chairman and to deliver a speech outlining the issues of the coming campaign. After the choosing of the committees it is expected the convention will adjourn until tomorrow, when Senator Wadsworth will be elected permanent chairman.

## Ten Lost When British Cruiser Strikes Mine

GEORGETOWN RECORDS VERY SEVERE QUAKES

Lasted Over an Hour—Approximately 4,500 or 4,600 Miles Away.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Very severe earthquakes were reported this morning on the seismographs of Georgetown university here. They lasted for more than an hour. The heaviest shock recorded was between 7:01 and 7:03 o'clock, an approximately was between 4500 and 4600 miles from Washington. The record of the disturbance showed that it began at 6:50 a. m. and continued until after 8 o'clock. The direction of the movement was east and west.

Director Tontorf of the observatory said that the records indicated a very heavy quake, which if it occurred on land would be heard from. Frequently such earthquakes are of subterranean origin and are confined to the ocean's bottom.

## NICARAGUAN TREATY DID NOT COME TO VOTE TODAY

Chairman Stone Said He Did Not Want to Risk Vote With Many Absent.

Washington, Feb. 14.—The senate did not consider the Nicaraguan treaty today. Chairman Stone of the senate foreign relations committee explained that he did not want to risk a vote on the ratification of the treaty while so many senators were absent.

"I do not want to call up the Nicaraguan treaty again until Wednesday," Senator Stone stated. "By that time the absent senators will have returned and we will be ready for a vote."

## S. A. L. LIMITED TRAIN WRECKED; ONE KILLED

Crashes into Rear of Freight Train; Negro Fireman Dead; Two Hurt.

Raleigh, Feb. 15.—One man was killed and two others were painfully but not seriously injured early today when the Seaboard Air Line's Florida limited, northbound train crashed into the rear of a freight train at Franklinton, 20 miles north of here. None of the passengers was injured.

Jim Holloway, the negro fireman, lost his life; and H. J. Wells, engineer of the limited, and Frank Stockwell, road foreman of engines, both of Raleigh are reported to have been scalded and bruised.

The engine and three cars of the limited train were derailed and several cars of the freight train were demolished.

Railway officials have begun an investigation to determine the cause of the wreck.

## INQUIRY COMPLETED IN CASE OF THE E-2

Washington, Feb. 15.—Captain Bullard, president of the court of inquiry which investigated the explosion aboard the submarine E-2 in the New York Navy yard in which five men were killed and nine were injured, has reported to Secretary Daniels that the court has completed its work and will soon report.

Officials believe the conclusions of the court will conform substantially with those of the special board of inquiry which held that the accident was caused by battery trouble.

## HUNDREDS HEAR SEN. T. E. BURTON

Ohioan Made Strong Address at Auditorium Last Night, Under Auspices of Board of Trade.

## HE WAS INTRODUCED BY THOMAS SETTLE

Speaker Declared in Favor of Preparedness and Paid Glowing Tribute to America—Leaves This Afternoon.

Brought here by the Asheville board of trade, ex-Senator Theodore E. Burton of Ohio last night delivered his address on "The Present War and Its Probable Effects" to an audience that filled the Auditorium, and but for the cold weather it is believed that people would have been turned away, several automobile parties from nearby towns were cancelled when the drop in the thermometer was registered.

The audience that heard Mr. Burton was representative of all interests and parties in the city and county, and many ladies were in the audience who listened with the closest attention to the address by Mr. Burton. Introduced in a most pleasing manner by Thomas Settle, Mr. Burton went directly into his prepared address, after briefly referring to Asheville and the remarkable growth the city had experienced since his trip here in 1890.

Senator Burton's address was one of the most masterful and interesting that has been heard in Asheville in many years and the attention given throughout the speech and the prolonged applause at the conclusion attested to the keen interest with which it was received by the audience.

Following a rest at Grove Park Inn yesterday, having arrived in the morning on the Carolina Special, Senator Burton and his friend R. G. Floyd of Cleveland, attended a public reception given at the Asheville club from 4 to 5 o'clock, yesterday afternoon, during which the Ohioans met hundreds of Asheville's leading citizens of both political parties. Mr. Burton and Mr. Floyd were luncheon guests yesterday of Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Cotton of this city, Mr. Floyd being Mrs. Cotton's brother.

After several trips made over the city today in automobiles, Mr. Burton and Mr. Floyd will leave this afternoon for Greensboro, where Mr. Burton delivers an address tomorrow night before the chamber of commerce.

The Address.  
Senator Burton spoke in part as follows: "Conjecture and not confident prediction is appropriate in forecasting results after the present frightful struggle. It is, however, fitting that we should be occupied not merely with accounts of victories and defeats or the latest movement on the diplomatic checkerboard, but should also take into account all probable and possible conditions which may arise and prepare ourselves as well as we may for future years. A war of titanic proportions is holding in its deathlike grasp nearly one-half of the inhabitants of the globe; the theater of action includes nearly all of Europe and very considerable portions of Asia and Africa. We aural, have only a faint comprehension of the importance of this unprecedented contest of the world-wide changes which will probably follow it, yet its magnitude staggers our comprehension. A careful estimate has given the number of soldiers engaged under the flags of the different nations at more than thirty millions; in comparison, our own civil war, which was certainly long and bloody, sinks if not into insignificance, at least into a very minor position, for at no time were there three million men under arms. The loss of wealth for the first year of the war to July 31, 1915, has been computed at \$46,000,000,000, and the number of those killed or maimed at five to twelve millions.

Rapid Progress.  
"In the beginning of this contest in the fatal days of August 1914 the world's civilization was making the most rapid progress that modern history has ever known, and now it is being thrown back to a greater degree of comfort and luxury, and possessed a broader outlook; man as man, irrespective of birth, station, or surroundings, was receiving more moderate recognition. As an evidence of this, popular government was obtaining additional recognition everywhere. Almost every nation in Europe felt the quickening touch of the movement for more general participation of the people in the affairs of government. Notable examples were Portugal, which became a republic; Turkey where a reactionary sovereign was overthrown, and although disappointing results were achieved, the basis of the movement was the demand for a responsible ministry and increased popular rights; Russia, the seat of absolute anarchy, had established a legislative

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