

GREAT GERMAN ATTACKS NEAR VERDUN CONTINUE

Move Indicates Determined
Effort by German Crown
Prince to Break Through
to French Fortress.

BOTH SIDES SUFFER
VERY HEAVY LOSSES

Latest Reports Tell That Op-
posing Forces Are Still
Pushing Great Masses of
Men Into Fray.

The great battle on the western front where more than 250,000 Germans are assaulting the French lines on a 25-mile front to the north of the fortress of Verdun, is the outstanding feature of the war news today. To take the fortress of Verdun has been one of the chief ambitions with which the German crown prince is credited. The present which indicates that the most determined efforts are being made to break down the barriers with which the French have protected the stronghold, and to get within striking distance of the fortress itself. At last accounts the battle was still raging with great fury, both sides continuing their heavy firing and pushing forward great masses of men to the fray. The losses on both sides have been extremely heavy.

Troops belonging to seven German army corps, under Crown Prince Frederick William, are engaged along a 25-mile front north of Verdun in a desperate effort to drive back the French detaching forces, probably with the capture of the great fortress of Verdun in view.

There has been very heavy fighting for a considerable period in this district of the French war zone, but within the last few days the attacks of the Germans have taken on added strength. The battle line has been extended and now reaches from Malancourt, on the west, to Etain, on the east, with Verdun in the center, only a few miles southward.

The Germans claim to have made important advances, and to some extent these are admitted by the French war office, which describes the battle as one of increasing intensity.

The German preparations were extensive and the bombardment of the French positions with thousands of shells was uninterrupted. As the French had foreseen this battle all their available guns were called into action and responded in kind to the heavy shelling of the Germans.

While at some points the French were unable to resist the onslaught of the attacking forces, along much of the front, according to the Paris communication, the attacks were well sustained and very heavy losses were inflicted on the Germans.

Montenegro Threatened.

Amsterdam, Feb. 23.—(Via London).—A dispatch from Budapest quotes the Pester Lloyd as stating that the Austrian government has decided to treat Montenegro as a conquered country instead of one which surrendered if, after the lapse of a few days, King Nicholas persists in ignoring all requests addressed to him by the Austrian government.

Paris, Feb. 24.—Fighting of great violence is in progress from the right bank of the Meuse to a point south-east of the Perbe forest, the war offices announced yesterday.

South of Verdun there have been heavy engagements along a front of ten miles.

East of Seppelts the French were enabled by counter attacks to retake a great portion of the Forest of Causes, south of Beaumont.

The French statement admits the French troops have evacuated the village of Paumont, but declares the French still hold the approaches to the village.

BANK PRESIDENT IS MYSTERIOUSLY KILLED

Shanghai, Feb. 24.—Chang Sze-shen, manager of the Shanghai branch of the Bank of Communications, was mysteriously assassinated on January 8.

The bank with which he was connected, is largely under the direction of Liang Shi-yi, President. Yuan Shi-kai's right hand man, and it has been suggested that the crime was committed by revolutionists as a protest against the monarchial movement. This theory has not been supported, however, so far. The murdered manager was not actively engaged in politics, and had never held any office. It has been charged by some of the revolutionists, however, that he constantly supplied information to Liang Shi-yi concerning the movements of the enemies of the Yuan Shi-kai government, and was the financial agent who directed efforts against the protesting progressives in Shanghai. Chang Sze-shen's family denies these allegations emphatically and are at a loss to find a motive for the crime.

Germans Sink Westburn Which Raider Captured

British Cruiser Believed to Have Been Taken by Mowe Destroyed Off Tenerife Island, After Landing of 206 Prisoners Taken From Various Other Captured Vessels.

London, Feb. 24.—The British steamer Westburn, which reports received last night from Santa Cruz, Tenerife (Canary) Island, said had reached that port in charge of a German prize crew and carrying 206 prisoners taken from various vessels captured by a German sea raider believed to be the Mowe, has been sunk outside of Santa Cruz harbor by her captors. This news was received in a message from Santa Cruz.

After landing the prisoners in Santa Cruz, the German prize crew put out to sea in the Westburn and sunk their prize.

Advices received last night from Santa Cruz stated that the British steamer Westburn, which left Liverpool January 21 for Buenos Ayres, had put in there for repairs, flying the German colors and in charge of a German crew of one officer and seven men, besides 206 prisoners from various captured vessels. The crew was believed to be from the Mowe, which captured the British steamer Appam and sent her with a German crew and flying the German flag into Hampton Roads.

The Westburn is a vessel of 3,300 tons and was built in 1903. She is owned by J. J. Westall of Sunderland.

Question Of U. S. Aid For Flood Victims Unsettled

Local Authorities Declare Federal Assistance Is Necessary
Both For Rescued and Those Still Marooned, While U. S. Official Says Present Relief System Is Satisfactory.

New Orleans, Feb. 24.—Further consideration was expected to materialize in the dispensing of relief to the people isolated in the inundated districts of northern Louisiana. Martin Jacoby, mayor of New Orleans, and W. M. Davidson, Mayor of St. Joseph, declared today that federal aid was necessary to care for the people already removed from the inundated sections to places of safety and also for those who are still marooned in out-of-the-way sections of the country flooded by the waters from the Buck Ridge crevasse.

Captain Hunt of the quartermaster's department of the United States army is reported to have announced that investigation has led him to believe that the relief work is progressing satisfactorily under the present system and that federal assistance is not needed.

The Buck Ridge crevasse is reported by engineers to be more than 1850 feet wide. The waters from the crevasse are said to be steadily spreading in the district in which Vidalia, Ferriday and Waterproof are located.

Storm Warnings Hoisted Along The Atlantic Coast

Washington, Feb. 24.—Storm warnings were ordered hoisted by the weather bureau from Cape Hatteras to Boston today. The storm which was central yesterday over the lower Mississippi valley has advanced eastward and this morning was central over the Carolinas. Indications were that it would advance eastward along the coast with increased intensity and causing gales along the coast north of Hatteras.

Colder weather is promised for the southeastern states.

Storm Over British Isles.

London, Feb. 24.—The British

ales are in the grip of the most severe snow storm of years. Reports from the continent show that severe weather prevails throughout Europe. The snow fall in England began yesterday and this morning varied in depth from one to several inches.

Scotland suffered more than England or Wales. Telegraph communication has been broken generally. Along the coast shipping is in difficulties, owing to the blinding sleet, which is accompanied by a strong gale. Several vessels have sent out distress signals but life boats were unable to find them in the thick weather.

Protest Against Court Action In Appam Case

Washington, Feb. 24.—Formal representations have been made with the state department by the German embassy against the proceedings brought in the federal court at Norfolk to effect the return of the captured British liner Appam to her British owners. In a note presented by Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, it is contended that many precedents, as

well as the terms of the Prussian-American, provide that no legal action can be against the Appam held by a German crew as a prize of war, nor against Lieutenant Berge has extraterritorial rights, there can be no legal action against him.

The note suggests that when the case comes up for trial on March 2, the state department should inform the court of the terms of the treaty.

MRS. MARY HEMBREE DIED YESTERDAY

Mrs. Mary Hembree, a daughter of the late Joseph Patton of Swannanoa, died yesterday afternoon at her home, 408 West Haywood street. She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Lovell of 11 Madison avenue. The funeral arrangements have not been announced.

FARMERS TO MEET HERE ON SATURDAY

An important meeting of the Buncombe County Farmer's union is called to meet Saturday at 1 o'clock at the office of Farm Demonstrator E. D. Weaver in the country court house. Full attendance is desired.

Demarest Still Alive.

Chicago, Feb. 23.—Calvin H. Demarest, former amateur billiard champion, whose death at the hospital for the insane at Elgin was reported last night, is alive and improving in condition, according to officials of the asylum.

NEW CHARGES AGAINST L. D. BRANDEIS FILED

Washington, Feb. 24.—New charges alleging the employment of Louis D. Brandeis by E. H. Harriman to obtain proxies in the celebrated fight for the control of the Illinois Central railroad and allegations involving Mr. Brandeis' relations with the Equitable Life Assurance society, have been filed with the committee considering the nomination of Mr. Brandeis for a place on the bench of the United States supreme court.

GOV. CRAIG OFFERS REWARD FOR NEGRO

Raleigh, Feb. 24.—Governor Craig has issued a notice of a reward of \$100 for the capture of David Evans, a negro convict charged with the killing near Greenville recently of Joseph McLawhorn, a convict guard. Evans and several other convicts who were working on a road escaped when McLawhorn was fatally wounded with a pickaxe.

N. C. BOOKS O.K., AUDITORS HINT

Republicans Will Derive Little
Comfort From Report of Men
They Employed to Audit
State Books.

DEPARTMENTS FOUND TO BE ECONOMICAL

Republican Auditors Even De-
clare There Is Too Much
Economy—Bradley's Fig-
ures on New Lawyers.

Raleigh, Feb. 24.—Fragmentary utterances of the audit board now checking up the state, give the state officials daily cheer in the light of the expensive political audit authorized by the republican executive committee weeks ago.

These visiting Yankees, who are in all probability as cold-blooded a pair of republicans as one would find in a scouring of the continent, have not said anything to indicate any pleasure with the system kept in the state, but they have dropped the hint that the books are all right and the funds intact. Worse still for the republicans, these auditors declare that the state departments are run too economically and that the state treasurer in particular works his force too hard because he doesn't employ enough help.

Democrats in official circles bought lavishly of the Greensboro Daily News today to get the editorial which contends that the dominant party cannot be attacked for extravagance. Perhaps their joy was nearer complete because it prodded the Hon. Marion Butler for "pulling" two tricks that worked so badly. One of the officials declared that in his campaigning he would not wish a better document than the editorial which pictured Mr. Butler as pulverized on his extravagance proposition.

Marshal Bradley of the State Supreme court has compiled statistics showing the number of men licensed to practice law since he became a member of the force of assistants about the courtroom. Two thousand eight hundred and sixty have been granted licenses.

The average size of the class has been a fraction over 35 and the rate of increase has been high. The last class numbered 69 candidates and 11 failed. Mr. Bradley's figures reckon only with those who passed the examination and have entered the law.

New Professor at A. & M.
Prof. T. C. Reed of the Agricultural college of the University of Missouri has been chosen as associate professor of dairying to begin June 1 of the current year.

Mr. Reed has been given high praise by the Missouri college authorities. He begins active work at the close of his school year.

The state has chartered the Rhine Drug company, a Gastonia, a wholesale business which is allowed to begin work with \$2,500 of its capital paid in by D. P. Rhodes and Paul Rhodes of Lincoln and C. L. Rhine of Gastonia.

The Southern Structure Steel company of Burlington with \$50,000 authorized capital and \$5,000 paid in, begins business with R. W. Curtis and M. G. Curtis of Burlington and J. W. Long of Durham subscribers to the stock.

The Fayetteville Grocery company of Fayetteville is a general merchant business with E. L. Hall, Nettie Hall, F. M. Harris of Fayetteville paying the \$1,000 with which to start. The authorized capital is \$2,000.

DEATH LIST AT TEN IN NEW HAVEN WRECK

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 23.—The death list as the result of a rear and collision of two passenger trains on the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad in Milford, yesterday, stood at ten this morning. Of the more than three-score of injured passengers who have been or are at present under medical observation only one was reported to be in a dangerous condition.

Inquiry into the cause of the wreck was begun by Coroner Mix this morning.

DR. DUNN LEASES FORMER CLUB ROOMS

About April 1, Dr. W. L. Dunn will move his offices to the old quarters of the Asheville club, having leased the entire second floor of the building. This change will provide ample room for laboratory work and x-ray machines.

2,500 Packing Men Strike.

Sioux City, Iowa, Feb. 24.—A strike of 2,500 employees at the Cudahy and Armour packing houses has been declared. The men demand an increase in wages.

ARDEN CASES IN SUPERIOR COURT

Blackmailing and Arson Cases
Taken Up This Morning
—No Jury at Non.

GREAT INTEREST.

Shortly after 11 o'clock this morning, the Arden blackmailing cases were taken up and when court recessed for noon the attorneys were still trying to select a jury.

Myrtle Pressly, Martin and Edgar Frady, young sons of the Arden section are charged with burning the barn of P. J. Lance last year when he refused to leave money in answer to a blackmailing it; later the state claims another letter was sent to Mr. Lance and on this letter the blackmailing charges are based. According to reports that have been circulated here within the past few days testimony of a very startling nature is expected to develop in the trial, although it is not thought that any of this testimony will be reached before tomorrow morning, as all of the morning was consumed and perhaps part of the afternoon will be taken up with the selection of a jury.

Each defendant has separate counsel, although a joint defense is being made. Owing to the number of defendants, each having a certain number of challenges, the selection of a jury is necessarily very slow. Solicitor J. E. Swain is being assisted by Jones, Williams and Pritchard while the defendants are represented by Mark W. Brown, J. Scroop Styles, R. M. Wells, A. Hall Johnson, S. G. Bernard, Fortune and Roberts, and Judge J. Frazier Glenn.

The letter on which the blackmailing charges are based, which is dated June 21, 1915, is as follows:

"I must have \$300 by next Friday night, June 24, and I want to borrow the amount from you. I know you have got it or can get it and I must have it or else, 'Mr. Listen' on next Thursday June 24 at exactly 12 o'clock you leave Arden with the money. Come down the macadam road towards Fletcher and between Arden and Calvary Hill church somewhere you will hear some one whistle five times and when you hear that you drop the money, turn and go back to Arden as fast as you can. Now this is a queer way to do business but I mean business and if you will do as I have said you will never regret it. Within 60 or 70 days I will return the \$300. If you don't do what I have said it will cost you ten times \$300 before I am through with you. Now I would advise you not to mention this to anyone, to do so may cost you your life. Now remember if you don't do just what I have said I will burn down every dam thing you have while you are sleeping. So don't forget the date, if there is anyone with you when you come down the road your people will be sorry for you when they see you."

"Your friend if you befriended us."

"TROUBLE."

C. C. KOON'S CASE NOW WITH JURY

No Verdict Returned at 1
O'clock When Superior
Court Recessed.

This morning Solicitor J. Ed. Swain concluded a forcible argument in the C. C. Koon case and Judge W. E. Harding delivered his charge to the jury, this body taking the case under consideration for a verdict about 10:30 o'clock. At 1 o'clock when court recessed the jury had not reported nor had it asked the court for additional instructions.

The evidence in the case, in which Koon is charged by the state with violating the age consent law, was finished yesterday morning and Robert R. Williams for the defense made the first speech after the noon recess. He was followed by J. Scroop Styles, also for the defendant, and Judge Thomas A. Jones summed up for Koons. The solicitor began his argument at 4:20 o'clock.

T. & P. RECEIVERSHIP SUIT IS DISMISSED

Dallas, Tex., Feb. 24.—The receivership suit against the Texas & Pacific railroad company brought by the Bankers Trust company of New York has been dismissed by the United States District court on the ground of lack of jurisdiction. Attorneys for the plaintiff stated that an appeal would be filed.

BURTON'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Columbus, O., Feb. 24.—Former Senator Theodore E. Burton of Cleveland has filed with the Secretary of State a declaration of his formal announcement of his candidacy for the republican nomination for president.

Mr. Burton visited only the day before yesterday with the German part of the camp, according to Mr. Keane.

RESOLUTION OF WARNING STILL EXCITING ISSUE

MADE AT LARGE IN BURKE CO. MTS.

Charged With Murder of
His Wife is Proclaimed an
Outlaw by Governor.

POSSES IN SEARCH.

A long distance telephone message received here at noon today from Morganton, was to the effect that posses are still scouring the mountains of Burke county in search for Charlie A. Mace, charged with the murder of his wife near Morganton last Tuesday night.

Mace has been sighted by members of a posse on two or three occasions but so far they have been unable to capture him, although hundreds of men are in the searching parties and others are joining almost every hour. By a proclamation issued by Governor Locke Craig Mace is an outlaw and a reward of \$100 for his capture, dead or alive, has been made by the chief executive. The murder for which Mace is wanted is said to have been one of the most coldblooded ever committed in Burke county. He is said to have driven his children from his home, while he and his wife quarrelled. Later when neighbors went to the house Mrs. Mace was found dead with an arm broken and bullet hole in her head, which had been plugged with biscuit dough.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN GERMANY OBJECT TO GERARD'S REPORT OF CAMP

Say That He Has No Real
Knowledge of the Working
of Ruhleben Camp.

London, Feb. 24.—Released prisoners from the Ruhleben camp who have returned to England, are indignant over the last report of the American Ambassador at Berlin, in which he made the statement: "The British taxpayer is paying a large sum in wages because the Ruhleben prisoners are unwilling to do the fatigue work of the camp."

This charge is called unjust and ungenerous by the released prisoners, who say that Ambassador Gerard has no real knowledge of the working of the camp.

It is true that the British government pays five marks a week to each civilian prisoner in the camp. But each receipt states explicitly that the money must be repaid if asked for by the British Chancellor of the Exchequer. At one time, the released prisoners say further, this sum did help the inmate of the camp to live, but with butter at four marks a pound and other foods in keeping, five marks does not go very far. In fact, the prisoners rely almost entirely on parcels from England.

Regarding the policing of the camp, prisoners offer this explanation. Many of the prisoners have no relative or friends from whom to obtain parcels by mail. To support these dependents, a fund is raised by the contribution of a penny a week by all who are able to pay. This fund is turned over to the captains of the various barracks. Out of it is paid the wage of the men who have volunteered to do fatigue duty.

A returned prisoner by the name of Keane, who spent fourteen months at Ruhleben after a month of solitary confinement, says that games and entertainments are absolutely necessary in the camp for keeping up the spirits of men. Early last year a wave of depression swept the camp and one man, on receiving news of the death of his wife, cut his throat in the presence of four hundred other prisoners. It took at this time the utmost exertion on the part of a few to keep up any games or sports at all. So far as the condition of the camp is concerned, he says, the prisoners have done everything, even to erecting lavatories.

One thing about the camp Mr. Keane condemns is the separation of the prisoners into two separate groups—the true British, who are lodged in the stables, and the pro-Germans, sons of British people born in Germany or Germans born in England, who have for the most part chosen to be called British in order to escape military service. The pro-Germans occupy huts on the recreation ground and receive many favors, and a certain number of them have enlisted in the German army. Even those enlisted draw their five marks from the British government up to their enlistment.

Ambassador Gerard visited only the day before yesterday with the German part of the camp, according to Mr. Keane.

Agitation For Warning Ameri-
cans Off Belligerent Vessels
Overshadows All Ques-
tions In Congress.

PROPOSAL IS STILL
OPPOSED BY PRESIDENT

Administration Forces Work-
ing to Prevent Any Action
By Congress—Situation
Favors the President.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Congress assembled today with the agitation for the warning of American citizens to keep off armed belligerent vessels overshadowing all other questions. The president's supporters apprehended that the smouldering sentiment for issuing such warning might suddenly break out and embarrass the diplomatic negotiations with Germany, and were working to hold the administration forces in line and keep the question from the floors of both the house and the senate. The legislative situation in both houses favored the administration forces. The senate was in the legislative day of yesterday which prevented the subject from coming up without unanimous consent. The situation in the house was similar but not so secure. If an outburst came the administration leaders expected it to be there.

Word went to the capital again early today that the president's opposition to any action by congress was unshaken. Administration officials outside of congress professed to be undisturbed by the agitation at the capital and expressed confidence that the president's wishes would be supported.

Apparently such of the chaffing as is in congress is due to lack of information concerning the president's attitude.

The house foreign affairs committee, in accordance with its action of last night, began today a canvass of the sentiment in the house to develop the extent to which the resolution of warning would be supported, and at the same time disclose opposition to such a proposal.

The republicans generally are opposed to such action and aside from the score of democrats who yesterday showed signs of breaking over the administration restraint, the majority forces today were being held by the appeal: "Stand by the president."

The statement that the agitation had attained the proportions of a revolt against the president's policy today was denied on all hands, and there was no outstanding evidence to support it. Likewise the statement that the democrats had given the president a certain time—48 hours it was stated—to change his policy, was also denied by a everyone to whom that attitude had been attributed.

Agitation in congress for action warning Americans off armed ships of the European belligerents suddenly grew to such proportions that the democrats of the foreign relations committee voted to carry the sentiment of the house on several pending resolutions of that nature.

Sentiment in the senate, in favor of some such action, also was openly expressed, but at the end of a day of surprises, tension and agitation such as had not been seen in congress in some time, the word came that President Wilson still was unalterably opposed to any such action by congress and believed that he would only be embarrassed thereby in the negotiations with Germany.

Two widely circulated suggestions that the situation had reached a point where the president would lay it before congress, that Secretary Lansing might in some way define the attitude of the government in a communication to Senator Stone and that a time had been fixed within which the United States would expect Germany to signify her intention to abandon the announced intention to sink armed merchant ships without warning, the uniform statement was made officially that nothing had been determined upon, and that the situation though grave, still was a waiting one, that no final position would be announced until Berlin was heard from.

The sudden developments at the capital brought surprise and apprehension to the administration leaders. While confronted with the possibility of congressional interference with all its grave aspects ranging from a defection from the administration policy to downright embarrassment of the president and the secretary of state, the leaders were confident they would control the situation and leave the executive branch of the government free to carry on diplomatic negotiations with Ger-