

GREAT VERDUN BATTLE HAS REACHED TURNING POINT, PARIS ASSERTS

BATTLE ENTERS SECOND STAGE

French Claim That German Advance Has Been Checked and Counter Movements Have Begun.

GERMAN STATEMENT CONTRARY, HOWEVER

Berlin Declares Army of the Crown Prince Continues to Advance—Joffre's Forces Are Heavily Reinforced.

The great battle of Verdun, now entering its second week, continues with unabated fury, with the Germany army driving hard at the French defenses along the lengthening line which now runs far beyond the salient in which lies the French fortress.

Paris asserts that with the pouring in of heavy reinforcements for General Joffre's army, the German advance has been checked, but Berlin reports that the Germans are continuing their forward advance on the stronghold.

Along the Meuse to the north of Verdun the Germans have been unable to make as rapid progress as they did at first, although the battle continues with intensity. On the Wivre front, where French forces first fell back, they now appear to be offering effective resistance. The pressure here is particularly menacing to the fortress as the crushing in of this line of the Verdun salient for any great distance would spell disaster for the fortress.

The French defensive operations at places have taken on the nature of counter attacks, as in the attack on Douaumont, four miles to the east of Verdun. This development was forecast in dispatches which told of the expectation in Paris that the French when they had fallen back to positions which they believed they could hold indefinitely, they would drive back over the ground they had yielded in the face of the terrific German artillery and infantry attacks.

According to a statement by Aristide Briand, the French premier, this happened on the fourth day of the battle, when the French brought up strong reinforcements at an unexpected moment, and the French infantry swept down on the Germans, who already suffering heavily from the effects of the French artillery fire were stopped short, and even driven back.

The premier declared the French have now regained the advantage, the counter attack marking the turning point on the battle which is in its second stage.

The German account fails to agree with the French version of the fighting. Berlin announces the further advance of the crown prince's forces, including the taking of Haudumont, east of Fort Douaumont, and the village of Champeville, on the German right flank, where a French attack on Fort Douaumont was repulsed.

The French themselves do not claim the capture of the outlying defense of the main fortress, but declare the Germans, who had gained a foothold on the east and west of the position were being hard pressed, and were maintaining their position with difficulty.

Accounts from various sources agree that the fighting is of a degree of intensity virtually unparalleled in the war. Especially is this true of the artillery fighting. The Germans having brought up great masses of 12-inch and 17-inch guns from the Serbian and Russian campaigns and blasting out the French positions with a pitiless bombardment of high explosive shells.

Portugal Allows Treaty With Germany To Lapse

Lisbon Feb. 25, via Paris, Feb. 25.—The Portuguese premier stated in the chamber of deputies today that attempts had been made to damage seven of the Tanton ships which were requisitioned by the government and that explosives were found on the steamer Buelow of the North German Lloyd line.

Time Limit For Hearing In Behalf Of Mrs Warren

Raleigh, Feb. 28.—Governor Craig in a letter to Judge E. B. Jones indicates that he will limit the time for hearing petitions for commutation of the death sentences of Mrs. Ida Ball Warren and Samuel Christy, convicted of murder of the woman's husband, to March 20. The governor informed Judge Jones that matters must be arranged for the hearing to be held on or before March 20 and stated that the defendants will have time for proper preparation in the event that his decision is adverse to them.

COL. HODGES NAMED FOR COMMITTEE

Local Man Attended Meeting of N. C. Underwriter Association at Raleigh.

LIST OF OFFICERS.

Col. D. M. Hodges, of Hodges and Mitchell, state managers of the Prudential Insurance company, of this city, has returned to the city from Raleigh where he was a representative at the meeting of the North Carolina Underwriters association held there last Saturday. Col. Hodges was elected a member of the executive committee. Plans were made at the meeting for active work during the present year. The association broadened its scope by adopting a new constitution and by-laws, under which the privilege of membership is extended to any agent in god standing who represents a legal reserve life insurance company. The membership was formerly limited to general agents and managers.

The following new officers were elected for the term of one year: President, R. E. Peters, of Charlotte; first vice-president, S. W. Sparger, of Durham; second vice-president, A. W. Fetter, of Greensboro; secretary, E. W. Marshall, of Raleigh; treasurer, E. G. McGinnis, of Raleigh; and an executive committee composed of the following: J. P. Quarles, of Charlotte; W. F. Uphaw, of Raleigh; D. R. Henry, of Raleigh; D. M. Hodges, of Asheville; H. M. Humphries, of Goldsboro.

COL. VANDERFORD IS VISITOR HERE

Commander of Forces Operating Against Blockaders Now Stationed at Greensboro.

Colonel T. H. Vanderford of Greensboro, revenue agent for the western district of North Carolina and for part of South Carolina, is a visitor in Asheville today. Colonel Vanderford was transferred from Virginia the first of this month to Greensboro, relieving Colonel W. H. Chapman, who has taken charge of a district in California. J. J. Drakeford was transferred from Cincinnati to Richmond in place of Col. Vanderford at that city.

Several years ago Col. Vanderford was stationed at Asheville in the revenue service; under Cleveland's administration he was a deputy collector in active raiding work and has, therefore, had much experience in problems connected with conducting campaigns against those who engage in the manufacture of illicit alcoholic drinks contrary to Uncle Sam's statutes.

ITALIANS LEAVING DURAZZO
Rome, Feb. 25.—The report that Durazzo, the Albanian port on the Adriatic sea, is being evacuated by the Italian troops stationed there is confirmed.

RASHNESS BAD AS COWARDICE, WILSON SAYS

President Tells Gridiron Club America Should Enter War Only on Demand of Principle.

VALOR STRIKES ONLY WHEN IT IS RIGHT

President Declares That the Point in National Affairs Does Not Lie Along Lines of Expediency.

Washington, Feb. 28.—President Wilson told members and guests at a Gridiron club dinner that America ought to keep out of the European war "at the sacrifice of everything except this single thing upon which her character and her history are founded, her sense of humanity and justice."

The address was confidential, since the speaker at the dinner of the Gridiron club, composed of newspaper correspondents, are not reported. It was made public last night, however, with the consent of the president and the club because many of those who heard it urged that it should go to the press.

The president spoke of the nation's affairs with unusual gravity. His hearers, including several hundred members of congress, government officials, business men, and correspondents were brought to their feet cheerfully when he concluded with these words:

"I would be just as much ashamed to be rash as I would to be a coward. Valor is self-respecting. Valor is circumspect. Valor strikes only when it is right to strike. Valor withholds itself from all small implications and entanglements, and waits for the great opportunity when the sword will flash as if it carried the light of Heaven upon its blade."

The address followed: "I have very little to say tonight except to express my warm appreciation of the invariable courtesy of this club and of the reception you have so generously accorded me. I find that I am seldom tempted to say anything nowadays unless somebody starts something, and tonight nobody has started anything."

"Your talk, Mr. Toastmaster, has been a great deal about candidity for the presidency. It is not a new theme on my part, but one which I entertain with a more intense than formerly, that a man who seeks the presidency of the United States for anything that it will bring to him is an audacious fool. The responsibilities of the office ought to sober a man even before he approaches it. One of the difficulties of the office seldom appreciated, I dare say, is that it is very difficult to think while so many people are talking, and particularly while so many people are talking in a way that obscures counsel and is entirely off the point."

"The point in national affairs, gentlemen, never lies along the lines of expediency. It always rests in the field of principle. The United States was not founded upon any principle of expediency; it was founded upon a profound principle of human liberty and of humanity, and whenever it bases its policy upon any other foundations than those it builds on the sand and not upon solid rock, it seems to me that the most enlightening thing a man can do is suggested by something which the vice president said last night. He complained that he found men who, when their attention was called to the signs of spring, did not see the blue Heaven, did not see the movement of the free clouds, did not think of the great spaces of the quiet continent, but thought only of some immediate and pressing piece of business. It seems to me that if you do not think of the things that lie beyond and away from the disconnected to this scene in which we attempt to think and conclude, you will inevitably be led astray, and you will deal rather than know what they are talking about around quiet firesides all over this country than what they are talking about in the cloakrooms of congress. I would a great deal rather know what the men on the trains and by the wayside and in the shops and on the farms are thinking about and yearning for than hear any of the vociferous proclamations of policy which it is so easy to hear and so easy to read by picking up any scraps of printed paper. There is only one way to learn these things, and that is constantly to go back to the fountains of American action. Those fountains are not to be found in any recently discovered sources."

"Senator Harding was saying just now that we ought to try when we are a hundred million strong to act in the same simplicity of principle that our forefathers acted in when we were three million thought, the hundred million will be saved from an illustrious future."

"They were ready to stake every (Continued on page two).

REPUBLICANS LOOK FOR A BIG CROWD

Growing Sentiment That State Convention Will Not Nominate Business Governor.

(Special to The Times.) Raleigh, Feb. 28.—Hotel arrangements for more than 1,000 delegates and visitors to the state republican convention here Wednesday, March 1, promise a bigger attendance than a few months ago any republican hoped for.

Many democrats are coming, it was learned today. They are greatly interested in the platform to be adopted, the method of attack to meet and the personnel that the nominees of the dominant party will have to match. It is the decidedly growing view here that the republicans are not going to nominate a "business man" because the business man has so little authority to bring things to pass as governor. The republican view leans to a talking governor.

Nevertheless a very considerable republican sentiment would give to some business man like Elwood Cox, John Motley Morehead, E. Carl Duncan or Charles J. Harris the management of the state for another four years. They point out the vote of 1908 as evidence that the republicans voted most enthusiastically when business was a candidate in the Elwood Cox incarnation. Then Taft carried Wake county outside heavily democratic Raleigh township and repeated in Durham and many other strongly democratic counties. But Taft was the beneficiary of a large desire to swat Nebraska yet another time.

There is small doubt that either Judge Bynum or Herbert Seawell could have the convention nomination to the primary if he sought it. Both can speak and both voted for Roosevelt. Neither is an affront to the Taft men because the most hide-bound man could not blame Seawell for voting for Roosevelt, the fine friends of Seawell. And then Judge Hyams always had a way of doing pretty much as he pleased.

It is announced by prominent republicans that the convention nomination to the primary will not debar any candidates from running in the regular primary. It will slightly handicap him, that's all. The convention is taking this method, prospective, to guarantee the greatest degree of harmony.

COLONEL J. P. KERR CONTINUES TO IMPROVE

Miss Sarah Davis Critically Ill—Mrs. Ellen Mordecai's Funeral Today.

Special to The Times.

Raleigh, Feb. 28.—Col. J. P. Kerr, private secretary to Governor Craig, continues to improve since his serious attack of a few days ago and he is expected to return to his office this week. Colonel Kerr's illness is much less dangerous than first diagnosis indicated.

National Committeeman E. Carl Duncan and Capt. J. A. Duncan are daily apprised of the critical condition of their cousin Miss Sarah Davis of Beaufort, whose illness the last several days has given to all her kinspeople the greatest anxiety.

Miss Davis is 86 years old and has been for the last fifty years one of the most prominent women in eastern North Carolina. Everywhere in the state she will be recalled as teacher and largely of one of the first at the resort and everybody who has enjoyed her hospitality has carried away a personal affection for her. She taught the Raleigh Duncans when they were children and by caring for E. C. Duncan when he was barely more than a baby following his mother's death became a member of his family and all of them hold her in the highest affection. The letters and telegrams indicate the smallest hope for a return to health.

From Christ Episcopal church announcement was made yesterday that Mrs. Ellen Mordecai, mother of Dr. S. P. Mordecai, dean of Trinity Law school, will be buried in Raleigh today.

Mrs. Mordecai died in Durham Saturday at the age of 196. She had not been able to see in many years but a more alert mind is rarely found in a woman of fifty years. She kept immediately up with all modern movements and commented upon them with a brightness which has always explained the wit and philosophy of the dean.

ASSURANCE FOR UNARMED SHIPS ONLY, U. S. TOLD

RICKMAN DENIES SEEING LETTERS

Defendant in Arden Case on Stand Nearly All of the Morning.

FRADY WON'T TESTIFY. Court to Limit Attorneys in Their Arguments to Jury—May Go Over Wednesday.

The morning session of Superior court today has been taken up mostly with the cross-examination of the defendant Rickman in the Arden blackmailing cases. He was put on the stand Saturday afternoon, and after the direct examination during which he denied the statements made by Mrs. Pond, the detective, who testified that Rickman told her he had seen the letters which Mr. Lance received before they were sent, the defendant went into a long story of his actions at Arden around the time of the burning.

He left the stand this morning about 11 o'clock. It was announced by Attorney R. M. Wells that he would not place his client Edward Frady on the stand, although it has not been stated by counsel as to whether or not Miss Pressly will be put on the stand. The case will consume all of today and probably all of tomorrow.

Judge Harding stated this morning that he would limit the time for speaking by each side when the evidence was concluded. That this time will be sufficient for each side to sum up its case, is a statement by the court.

Rickman on Stand. Cross-examination of the defendant Rickman was resumed when court convened this morning, Judge Jones, of the prosecution conducting the cross-examination. The witness admitted that he had asked Lance for a loan and Pressly for another; that he wanted \$50 from Pressly and that he had solicited a loan of \$100 from Mr. Seals. He said that he heard of the first letter the morning that Lance's warehouse burned, but did not know what was in it. He stated that this happened about noon the day following the fire. He went to Christ church on a machine with Miss Pressly, he testified, telling of the trip and the route they took, in which he stated that they did not leave the Henderson road before they saw Frady and Revis. The couple planned to go to a picnic, according to statement of witness.

In answer to a question asking him to write he wrote several times on a piece of paper, writing down the words of two notes as they were read by Judge Jones. The sample of the witness's handwriting was filed as an exhibit. The note dated 8-4-15 was also dictated by Judge Jones and written down by the witness, which was also filed as exhibit in the case.

He was turned over to counsel for re-direct examination during which he stated that he did not object to any evidence as to his handwriting. This examination was very short.

Herman Souther was the next witness called. He stated that he knew Rickman and told of seeing him the day Frady was arrested, as Rickman and Miss Pressly were going in the direction of Hendersonville, from Arden.

Loaned Money. Mitchell Rickman, a former postmaster at Arden, said that after July 2, he loaned Martin Rickman \$59. The witness told of a conversation he had with Martin, during which the defendant stated that a woman had told his fortune and that he believed her to be a detective, and that she could get nothing out of him.

The next witness Joe Reagan, also told of a conversation he had with Martin, during which the defendant told him of the fortune teller and said that Martin declared the woman was a detective, and he also said that Martin had made arrangements with Frazier Patton to stay with him, "so that the woman could not frame up nothing against him."

In endeavoring to show the interest of the witness in the case, the state brought out on cross-examination that the witness was a bondsman of the defendant.

Frazier Patton told of the request he said Martin made of him, to stay with the defendant, so as to guard against the woman detective. John Reagan said that Rickman wanted him to be present once during a conversation he had with the woman.

Promises Given in Lusitania and Arabic Cases Still Binding for Peaceful Ships, Germany Replies.

Germany Replies.

EMBASSY ORDERED TO INFORM LANSING

Germany Contends New Submarine Policy Squares With U. S. Interpretations of Laws.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Germany's response to the request of the United States government for assurances in regard to the conduct of submarine warfare for the future, is in the hands of Count Von Eckardt, the German ambassador, who is prepared to present it to Secretary Lansing today. The reply is in the form of instructions to the ambassador, and is not to be put in the form of a note unless the secretary of state desires it.

The ambassador's instructions were to inform the United States that assurances for the future conduct of the Tanton submarine activity, as given in the Lusitania and Arabic cases are still binding; but that they apply only to merchant vessels of peaceful character.

Germany contends that British merchantmen, armed ostensibly for defense, carry guns for the specific purpose of attacking German submarines and that they thus show themselves not to be peaceful ships and are subject to destruction. To support this contention the Berlin foreign office sends a list of several incidents where British submarines have attacked submarines.

The instructions call attention to the claim of Germany that despite the assurances of Great Britain that her merchantmen are armed for defense, and will never fire unless fired upon and will never attack any vessel, such British ships are prepared and instructed, not only to resist capture but to attack.

ONLY 260 SAVED FROM WRECK OF THE MALOJA

Patrol Picks Up Baby Floating on Its Back in the Sea.

London, Feb. 28.—Of the total complement of 411 passengers and crew of the Peninsular and Oriental liner Maloja, which struck a mine and sank in half an hour two miles off Dover yesterday, only 260 are known to have been saved. Of the total of 119, sixty-four names of passengers have been received at the office of the company to which the steamer belonged. It was stated that it was hoped that more names of persons saved would soon be received.

The bodies of three more Lascars of the crew of the Maloja have been washed ashore, making the total number of bodies recovered 47.

Relative of passengers are arriving at Dover for the purpose of identifying the bodies. Among those rescued was a baby, warmly clad and floating on its back. It was picked up by a patrol boat and was taken into the engine room. After it was warmed, the baby smiled at its rescuers and seemed none the worse for its immersion.

BOY SCOUTS MEET TOMORROW NIGHT

The regular weekly meeting of the Asheville troop No. 1, Boy Scouts of America, will be held in the council chamber at the City hall tomorrow night. It is urged by the scout master that all members attend this meeting.

It is expected that reports on the sale of tickets by the scouts for the Asheville Baseball club will be made at this meeting and the committee appointed to consult with Dr. S. Westray regarding relief work for the Belgian Relief day, will also be taken up.

Collector A. D. Waits is sending out from his Statesville office notices to those who have so far failed to make return of their personal income tax. The tax must be paid on or before Wednesday evening, March 1, in order to avoid the penalties of the law.

SPECIAL MEETING FOR MT. HERMON MASONS

A special communication of Mt. Hermon Lodge No. 118, of Masons will be held this evening at 7:30 o'clock in the Masonic temple on Broadway.