

GERMAN OFFENSIVE NOW MENACES FRENCH FLANK

With French Center Apparently Holding Firm, Attackers Change Tactics in Drive on Verdun.

SHELL FIRE INTENSE IN WOEVRE DISTRICT

Artillery Action Concentrated in Region of Haudemont and Fresnes—French Expected Such Movement.

With the French center in the Douaumont sector apparently still holding firm against the desperate assaults of the crown prince's armies, the Germans again have turned their attention to the flank of the French positions around the stronghold. Intense artillery activity in the Woivre region was reported in the Paris night bulletin, the fire being centered on the region of Haudemont and Fresnes, about ten miles northeast of Verdun.

Military commentators recently held stress on the operations in this sector, holding that the most important drives by the Germans might be pushed forth with the object of flanking the French flank.

Other indications, however, have pointed to the possibility that the eyes of the German headquarters staff might be fixed on the extended French front across the Meuse river, where the towering heights of Le Mord Homme command the lesser eminences nearby and surrounding the plain.

The heavy artillery of the Teutons is already pounding the defenses in that sector. The French are ready for an infantry attack there, but it is doubted in Paris if the Germans attempt the storming of the commanding position, to reach which they would have to deploy over a mile-wide plain under a destructive cross-fire.

The Germans in the region of Verdun are being held to the positions they occupy by the French. The fighting throughout the region is still vigorous, but it consists mainly of artillery duels.

Douaumont is the storm center, and here and in the wood to the east of Vacherauville, on the east bank of the Meuse, have occurred the only infantry attacks. On both these sectors the Germans were repulsed by the French. The German attack at Douaumont extended from the Haudemont wood to Fort Douaumont, but according to Paris it was stopped by the curtain of fire and the rifles of the French infantry and ended with the French holding all their positions.

Paris reports that in the Woivre region about Fresnes, the bombardment is a powerful one but adds that the French guns are answering those of the Germans here and along the whole of the Verdun front.

In Lorraine near the forest of Thisville, the French fire, concentrated on the positions the Germans had previously taken from the French, forced the Germans to evacuate them in order, according to Berlin, "to avoid unnecessary losses."

The Russians and Germans in northwest Russia have been fighting furiously near Illouk for possession of the craters of fourteen mines exploded by the Russians.

Petrograd reports that six of the craters were captured by the Russians and that the Germans are surrounded in a partly demolished block-house, having suffered severe losses. Unofficial dispatches from Bucharest report extensive Russian troop movements in Bessarabia.

There has been another clash between Bulgarian soldiers and Greek frontier guards in the neighborhood of Maelkova, on the Greco-Serb frontier.

Twelve Killed; 33 Hurt In Late Zeppelin Raid

Three Zeppelins Took Part in Attack on Northeast Coast of England—Number of Casualties Reported Much Smaller Than That of Previous Raid January 31.

London, March 6.—Twelve people were killed and 33 were injured last night in the Zeppelin raid. Three Zeppelins took part in the raid. This information was given out officially.

An official statement issued in London last night said that two hostile airships had crossed to the northeast coast of England. At the time their movements had not been defined clearly. Some bombs were dropped which fell into the sea near the shore. The number of casualties reported is much smaller than that of the previous Zeppelin raid in which 57 persons were killed and 117 injured.

The raid took place January 31 over the mid-eastern counties.

In spite of the fact that they have been driven out of the village of Douaumont, as the German positions in the town are dominated by the French artillery. The probability is indicated that the village will frequently change hands in the fighting as the two forces appear so evenly matched.

The Russian occupation of Bitlis in Turkish Armenia, is declared by Petrograd correspondents to have given the Russians the command of all the Lake Van region, and serves to separate the Turkish forces operating in the vicinity of Mush, to the west, from that in the Lake Urmiah district of Persia, east from Bitlis.

Italian Ship Sunk.
Leghorn, Italy, March 6.—The steamer Grava, which left here February 29, has been sunk by an Austrian submarine. There were no Americans aboard.

LOCAL SURGEONS VISITING HOSPITALS

Are Members of N. C. Party Headed by Dr. Long of Greensboro.

TO RETURN FRIDAY.

Drs. E. Reid Russel and Eugene B. Glenn of Asheville, who are members of the North Carolina Surgical club, will return to the city about Friday of this week, after spending two weeks on a tour of many of the leading hospitals of the country. The Asheville surgeons are members of the club organized two years ago by Dr. J. W. Long of Greensboro, and each year the members make these trips to the larger hospitals where clinics are held for them.

Meeting at Greensboro, the members of the party first went to Washington, where they visited the hospitals in the national capital, and then they went to Baltimore. A visit was paid to the Johns Hopkins hospital and the sanatorium of Dr. Howard A. Kelly. While in Baltimore the party was entertained at dinner by Dr. J. C. Bloodgood and they also visited St. Agnes' hospital and the University hospital there.

They left Baltimore for Pittsburgh, then to Cleveland and Chicago and here will also visit the hospital of the famous Mayo brothers at Rochester, Minn., and will stop off at Cincinnati on their way home.

The members of the party are Drs. J. M. Parrott, Kingston (leader); H. H. Ogburn, Greensboro, (business manager); R. E. Dees, Greensboro; J. W. Tankersley, Greensboro; Foy Robertson, Durham; C. A. Woodward, Durham; E. B. Glenn, Asheville; E. R. Russel, Asheville, and M. H. Biggs, Rutherfordton.

BOARD APPROVES BOND ELECTION
In monthly session today the Buncombe county board of education approved the petition of citizens of West Asheville for an election on the proposed \$25,000 school bond issue and the question will be referred to the county commissions this afternoon for ratification. It is expected that the election will be ordered by the latter body. There were 232 signers to the document.

W. F. Snyder was appointed registrar for the election; A. L. Bright and C. N. Lineberry will serve as judges. It is stated that sentiment in favor of the new school building has crystallized rapidly and there is little doubt that the votes will be cast largely in favor of the issuance of bonds.

JUNIOR ORDER HEAD UNABLE TO ATTEND

C. B. Webb of Statesville Wires That He Is Called to Knoxville Tonight.

TO COME LATER.

A telegram was received here this morning by officials of Asheville council No. 6, Jr. O. U. A. M. from National Councilor C. B. Webb of Statesville, to the effect that he could not be in Asheville tonight, as previously arranged, owing to an urgent business call to Knoxville. The local councils were planning to hold a meeting tonight in celebration of the visit here of the national head and invitations have been issued to councils throughout western North Carolina to attend the meeting here tonight.

Although Mr. Webb will be unable to attend tonight's meetings, he states in the message received here this morning that he will be in Asheville at an early date and hopes to have the pleasure of addressing the local members of the order then.

The 1916 national meeting of the Junior Order of the United American Mechanics will be held in Asheville this summer and already preparations are being made to entertain the large number of delegates expected to arrive here for the meeting. The Langren hotel has been selected as headquarters for the meeting and it is expected that when Mr. Webb does come here that he will arrange many details of the national meeting with the officials of the local councils.

MINISTERS HOLD REGULAR MEETING

Appreciation Expressed For Adjutant Bouterse's Work—Samaritan Mission.

In regular monthly session today at the Y. M. C. A. the Asheville Ministers' association expressed appreciation of the work done in this city by Adjutant John Bouterse and gave him good wishes for success in his new field of labor at Augusta, Ga.

It was decided to ask Asheville congregations to place the Good Samaritan mission on a monthly budget basis by means of regular contributions to the treasury of that organization.

General satisfaction and enthusiasm was expressed among the ministers present at the success of "Pulpit Exchange Day." Interesting experiences were related in connection with this visiting event recently observed by the local clergy.

L. C. CHAPMAN DIES IN SHERMAN, TEX.

News has been received of the death of L. C. Chapman of Sherman, Texas, which occurred March 5. The deceased was a brother of S. F. Chapman, Miss Rose Chapman and Mrs. D. Atkins, all of Asheville. He leaves a wife, a son and two daughters.

PHYSICIAN SUES FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Dr. M. H. Fletcher has filed suit in superior court against Ralph Arbogast in which he seeks to recover \$215 for professional services, alleged to have been rendered the defendant's family during the past few years.

DEFENSE BILL BEFORE HOUSE

Second of President's National Defense Measures Introduced in Congress in House Army Bill.

BROADER THAN SENATE BILL IN SOME LINES

Feature Is Scope Which It Gives to Proposition for Mobilization of Commercial Industries for War.

Washington, March 6.—With the introduction today of the house army bill, the second of the national defense measures recommended by President Wilson, was before congress. The first measure was the senate army bill, which was introduced Saturday. The house bill as completed provides for an increase in the strength of the regular army of 149,000 fighting troops, which means the addition of 46,000 men and 7,349 officers. The bill also provides for 786 additional officers for detached service with the national guard, military schools and elsewhere, the maximum strength being fixed at 170,000 men. The measure provides for the federalization of the national guard under the military pay bill.

The house plan differs from that of the senate in that the president is authorized to draft the national guard into the federal service on the outbreak of war. The ultimate strength of the house plan is greater under the house plan, since a maximum force of 425,000 men is stipulated to be organized in five years.

The senate plan provides for approximately 250,000 guardsmen. In the house bill, as in the senate measure, an officers' reserve corps is provided, but the house plan would double the enrollment at the military academy.

Chairman Hay's report estimated that there would be a force of 1,324,790 men in training for military service to be at once available on the passage of the bill. To reach this total he relies on a regular army of 140,000 and 60,000 reserves; on 123,000 national guardsmen, the national guards' present strength and on 955,790 former regulars and national guardsmen.

The feature of the house bill is the broad scope which it gives the proposition for the mobilization of the commercial industries and lines of communication for war uses. Regularly enlisted reserves in all civil occupations necessary for the maintenance of the army in war time are authorized, and the government orders for war material are given right of way at all plants by the law.

Washington, March 6.—The senate army bill was introduced Saturday by Senator Chamberlain of the senate military affairs committee. The proposed bill is the most thorough measure for military preparation ever presented in congress in time of peace and it is the first of the national defense measures which are being urged by President Wilson to be completed and introduced in congress.

The bill proposes to increase the peace strength of the regular army to 175,000 men of all arms; the federalization of the national guard with a peace strength of 217,000 men; to create a federal volunteer army comparable to the continental army plan; to provide an adequate reserve system of regulars and guardsmen under short term enlistment; to create a reserve system of doctors, engineers, mechanics, etc.; and to provide for an officers' reserve corps.

The federalization of the national guard will be proposed under the military pay bill, and authority of the national government over the militia widely extended to secure adequate training and discipline.

MAY HOLD GUARD CUTTER UNTIL THIS SUMMER

Wilmington, March 4.—Josephus Daniels, secretary of the navy, was requested to take action which, if taken, will result in the coast guard cutter Seminole remaining in Wilmington until the late summer instead of being required to do police duty in Porto Rico. The cutter has been ordered to proceed to Porto Rico after April 1, while the Itasca here at present goes to Baltimore for overhauling. The removal of the Seminole from this port has caused a wave of protest, and it is not unlikely that action will be taken which will cause the Seminole to remain here to protect Carolina shipping until the summer, when she will be overhauled preparatory to her usual winter cruises.

AUSTRIA ENEMY OF SAN MARINO

State of War Now Exists Between Austria and the Smallest State in the World.

BREACH OF NEUTRALITY IS THE ALLEGED CAUSE

Little Republic Has 22 Square Miles of Territory and a Population of Only 9,500 Inhabitants.

Rome, March 5.—Austria considers herself at war with the republic of San Marino, is the message conveyed by Frederick C. Penfield, American ambassador to Austria-Hungary, to the regents of the smallest state in the world, who had appealed to the ambassador to have its citizens interned in Austria release. Austria justified the refusal with the statement that the San Marina had committed serious breaches of neutrality.

The republic of San Marino is in northern Italy, 14 miles southwest of Rimini. The country is 22 square miles in area and has a population of 9,500.

The supreme power in the republic is in the general assembly and it is governed by two regents selected twice a year from the 60 life members of the great council. The available armed force of the republic total 1200 men, all citizens able to bear arms between the ages of 16 and 60 years, being technically liable for military service.

The little state has been in existence for about 1000 years.

The nature of the serious breach of neutrality which Austria alleges has not been recorded. Soon after the declaration of war by Italy on Austria there were rumors that San Marino had made a similar declaration, but these rumors were never confirmed.

DR. WALLER PLEASED WITH MEETINGS

In Asheville Today on Business, He Says Waynesville Revival is Success.

Rev. Dr. Calvin B. Waller, pastor of the First Baptist church, was in Asheville today from Waynesville where he is conducting a revival, looking after matters in connection with plans for the Southern Baptist convention.

Dr. Waller said that the meeting at Waynesville had assumed wondrous spiritual power. The entire community and surrounding country had been gripped; notwithstanding the very inclement weather. The church house was filled four times yesterday; Dr. Waller preaching to four different congregations. At the children's and young peoples' meeting on Saturday afternoon, there were 105 conversions; 42 joined the Baptist church alone yesterday.

Rev. J. F. Perkins of this city and member of the First Baptist church is with Dr. Waller, conducting the music for the revival. Mr. Perkins has proven himself very efficient in this regard and has won a host of friends in Waynesville.

Dr. Waller returned to Waynesville this afternoon and will continue the meeting throughout this week.

NO SIGN OF REPORTED TEUTON RAIDER OFF CAPE

Excitement Caused by Report of Raider off Virginia Capes—Sharp Lookout.
Old Point Comfort, Va., March 4.—The German raider or prize which the captain of a steamer returning from Porto Rico thought was lurking off the Virginia Capes has not been sighted from Cape Henry today. Some excitement was caused last night by reports of an unidentified steamer with two funnels which passed into the cape during a heavy snow storm. Shipping men here expressed the belief that the vessel was the British steamer Principella, due at Newport News yesterday from Alexandria, Egypt and the belief was confirmed when daylight revealed the Principella in Hampton Roads. A sharp lookout has been kept from Cape Henry for the raider, but marine men thought such a vessel would not dare capture by British or French warships by attempting a dash into Hampton Roads on such a bright day.

BRYAN INFLUENCE IN CONGRESS FIGHT

Former Secretary of State to Be Considered in Armed Ships Issue.

Former Mayor of Cleveland Chosen by President Wilson to Succeed Mr. Garrison, Recently Resigned.

Washington, March 5.—The influence of William Jennings Bryan will be felt in the fight over the armed ship issue, which administration leaders plan to bring to a vote in the house Tuesday.

Mr. Bryan, who outlined his views in favor of warning Americans off armed merchantmen Saturday in a resolution he tabled, and setting forth that the president should be permitted to exercise his constitutional right of handling diplomatic negotiations without interference from congress.

Mr. Bryan has declared that he would not participate actively in the controversy, and his closest friends here say he has no intention of changing his mind. His views are well known, however, and they are being repeated industriously to members of the house. He leaves Washington again today for Wilmington, Del., to deliver a lecture.

Although Mr. Bailey insisted yesterday that no significance should be attached to the luncheon engagement, it was discussed everywhere with great interest.

Among the members who live at the hotel are Speaker Clark and Representative Shackleford, the unofficial leader of the warning resolution advocates in the house.

DAMAGE CASE IN SUPERIOR COURT

Term of Three Weeks for Civil Cases Convened Here This Morning.

Superior court for the trial of civil cases convened here this morning at 10 o'clock for a term of three weeks. The docket is very heavy, the congestion being more than usual, it is stated, although it is expected that many of the lives cases will be disposed of at the present term.

The first case called today, Clara J. Brown against the Asheville Power and Light company was being heard when court recessed for noon. The plaintiff is suing for \$5,000 damages, alleging that she was injured by a street car belonging to the company at Riverside park last July.

Martin Rollins and Wright represent the defendants and Mark W. Brown is counsel for the plaintiff. Many witnesses have been summoned to testify in the case and it will probably occupy all of today in being tried.

School Managers Meet.
The board of managers of the Lindley Training school will meet at 10:30 o'clock tomorrow morning at the residence of Mrs. Hilliard, 101 Baltimore avenue.

NEWTON BAKER IS SELECTED AS WAR SECRETARY

Former Mayor of Cleveland Chosen by President Wilson to Succeed Mr. Garrison, Recently Resigned.

Washington, March 6.—Newton D. Baker, former mayor of Cleveland, O., has been selected by President Wilson for secretary of war, to succeed Mr. Garrison, who resigned some time ago.

NEAL MAKES HIT AT PITTSBURGH

County Engineer Tell American Road Congress Some North Carolina History.

According to the Pittsburgh Dispatch, Charles L. Neal, road engineer for Buncombe county, made a hit at the annual session of the American Road congress which met in that city last week.

Describing the county engineer as an orator, a wit and an entertaining talker generally, the paper says that "Buncombe, Charlie Neal broke the monotony of the convention when he made his address." The Buncombe county officer stated that he would have little to say about roads, but before he sat down he had delivered some instructive remarks on road construction in the south and in western Carolina, especially.

Mr. Neal told the assembled engineers that he wished to talk a little while "for Buncombe" and he proceeded to relate how he had learned some interesting history since coming from Kentucky to live in the Carolina mountains. He had been taught, he said, to believe that the declaration of independence was signed in Philadelphia; but he was now informed, and believed, that that document was written and signed at Charlotte. As to the final battle of the revolutionary war, said Mr. Neal, his previous information was to the effect that it occurred at Yorktown; he was taught in North Carolina to know that this decisive engagement took place at King's Mountain. And as a Kentuckian, Mr. Neal said that he had always thought that Abraham Lincoln was born in that state; but in Buncombe county he had been informed that the great clarionator first saw the light of this world in Jackson county, North Carolina.

The Bulletin of the congress, issued from day to day, carried caricatures of those who deserved special mention in the convention proceedings. Mr. Neal was in this list.

The delegate from this county reports to the local board of trade that he gave the congress a special invitation to hold the next meeting in Asheville and states that the executive committee promised to give the matter careful consideration.

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