

FIRST STROKE BY U.S. AGAINST GERMANY

CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO BREAK DOWN BLOCKADE NOW DETERMINED UPON

Orders Of Ships For Carrying Of Food And Other Supplies To Allies Are To Be Built At Once In Scores Of Shipyards, Under The Direction Of General Goethals Believed The Blockade-Running Campaign Will Prove Decisive Blow In War.

(By Associated Press)

Washington, April 12.—A plan of colossal proportions to break down the submarine blockade and keep the enemy plentifully supplied with food and munitions has been determined upon by President Wilson. It is America's first stroke against her enemy. Unable now to enter the trenches, the President believes the United States can do greater service in the common cause against Germany by a great armada of merchantmen to invalidate the undersea campaign which have rallied the fading hopes of Prussian conquest.

Officials have been at work on such a plan, but not until it revealed upon how great a scale the task had been projected or its importance was attached to it is the administration's general plan. Virtually every detail now has been completed and by fall campaign itself will be in full swing. Many officials believe it may at once over the submarine which will prove the decisive victory at war.

Light wooden ships of 2,000 tons and upward are to make the first fleet of merchantmen and to insure maximum construction the board has enlisted the country's entire shipbuilding facilities, the greatest in the world. Upwards of a hundred private plants will be ordered to give precedence over any other class of work to the most urgent naval construction. For the first year production is to average three ships a day.

Question of labor, however, is giving officials some concern and a campaign appealing for patriotic co-operation by laborers to insure the campaign against the submarine shall begin at the earliest moment. The shipping board estimates that 150,000 men will be required to work all the plants to capacity and to complete the building program in the time demanded. This is nearly ten times the number of labor employed in building merchant craft.

It is pointed out, need not be experienced in shipbuilding, but a relatively little expert labor will be required. Within a few days will establish a labor bureau to enlist such volunteers. The Americanization of labor is already co-operating and motion picture plants are to display pictures of shipbuilding operations as part of the campaign.

GOETHALS TO SUPERVISE THE PROGRAM

General George W. Goethals, in charge of the Panama canal, has been appointed to supervise the construction of the new fleet of ships which is expected to involve the next year a total tonnage of 1,000,000 tons, or more than now in all the ship yards of the United States.

The most part of pine and spruce will range from 2,000 to 3,000 tons.

Most of them probably will be equipped with oil burning engines and will carry wireless and other modern equipment.

The engines will be standard as far as possible so that damage may be replaced if necessary. The average cost of about \$300,000 is estimated. Each ship will carry about thirty men. The vessels are to be ready in six months and during the year the number afloat is expected to reach 1,000. Such a number, officials constantly will be arguing, is the months that follow to absolutely impossible for to maintain her blockade degree of effectiveness. Calculations the President based on page nine.

DECLARATION OF WAR JUST NOW

Brazil Will Confine Itself For Present To Action Already Taken

(By Associated Press)

Washington, April 12.—It is believed that the government will itself for the present to the of diplomatic relations with Germany and that a declaration of war will not be issued, at least in the near future. The German minister has given his passports to Petrograd.

Dr. Mueller, Brazilian foreign minister, has issued a denial of the report that he advocated demanding reparations from Germany for the loss of the Panama canal and the punishment of the submarine commander in a breach of relations. Dr. Mueller, immediately after the war was torpedoed, he recognized it was not a question of but for action.

RALEIGH TO HAVE PATRIOTIC RALLY

Thousands Expected To Participate In A Demonstration There Tonight

(By Associated Press)

Raleigh, N. C., April 12.—Thousands of persons are expected to participate tonight in the first organized patriotic demonstration here. Patriotic societies, military organizations, Confederate and Spanish War veterans, citizens and nearly 2,000 college students, including several hundred negroes from Shaw University and other local schools, are to take part in a parade. Arrangements have been made for the participation of negro citizens and organizations and negro leaders declared their section of the line would be one of the features.

Governor Thomas C. Rye, of Tennessee, is to be the principal speaker at the patriotic exercises after the parade.

RECRUITING FOR NATIONAL GUARD IS TO CONTINUE

Companies To Be Raised To Peace Strength of Regular Army, 100 Men

STATEMENT IS MADE BY WAR DEPARTMENT

Corrects an Impression That National Guard Recruiting Was Discontinued

(By Associated Press)

Washington, April 12.—The war department prepared today to issue instructions to recruiting officers which will be in effect a call for 500,000 volunteers to fill up the regular army and the existing units of the national guard.

All recruits enlisted since the declaration of war and those to be enlisted hereafter will be notified that they will be discharged at the close of the war, putting them in the status of war-time volunteers.

A total of 4,355 men already have been enrolled in the regular army who will come under such a status. This number of recruits was accepted during the first ten days after the passage of the war resolution.

Analysis of the pending administration bill as it affects the regular army and national guard shows that provision is made for the absorption of 517,368 volunteers. Of these 181,519 will be needed to fill up the regular army and 296,349 for the national guard. As 150,000 men must be withdrawn from these services within six months to train the first 500,000 increment of the selective conscript army, their places must be taken by that number of additional volunteers.

By this plan, while absorbing the volunteer spirit of the country, the feasibility of depending entirely upon volunteers will be demonstrated. Army officers are certain that it will show congress, where there are some doubts of the selective conscription plan that conscription is necessary to maintain an army adequate to meet the present situation.

Washington, April 12.—Army departmental commanders have been ordered to resume recruiting national guard organizations to the peace strength of the regular army, 100 men to the company. Many companies now have as low as 50 men.

A war department statement was issued today to make plain that national guard recruiting had not been discontinued.

"Such an impression is not correct," the statement adds, "and department commanders have been informed that national guard organizations may be recruited to the maximum peace strength of the regular army."

Recruiting of the guard to war strength will not be undertaken until congress has authorized the emergency enlistment contract to hold during the war. Otherwise men would be obliged to obligate themselves to six years service in the guard, irrespective of the present emergency. It is felt that this would be unfair to men who wish to volunteer for the war only.

No decision has yet been announced as to the possibility that the states may increase their number of units to the full quota authorized by the national defense act. If every state took that step twelve full divisions of the national guard would be available with a peace strength of 440,000 approximately 650,000. Many additional officers were required, however, to organize new units and that may result in delaying this element of mobilization.

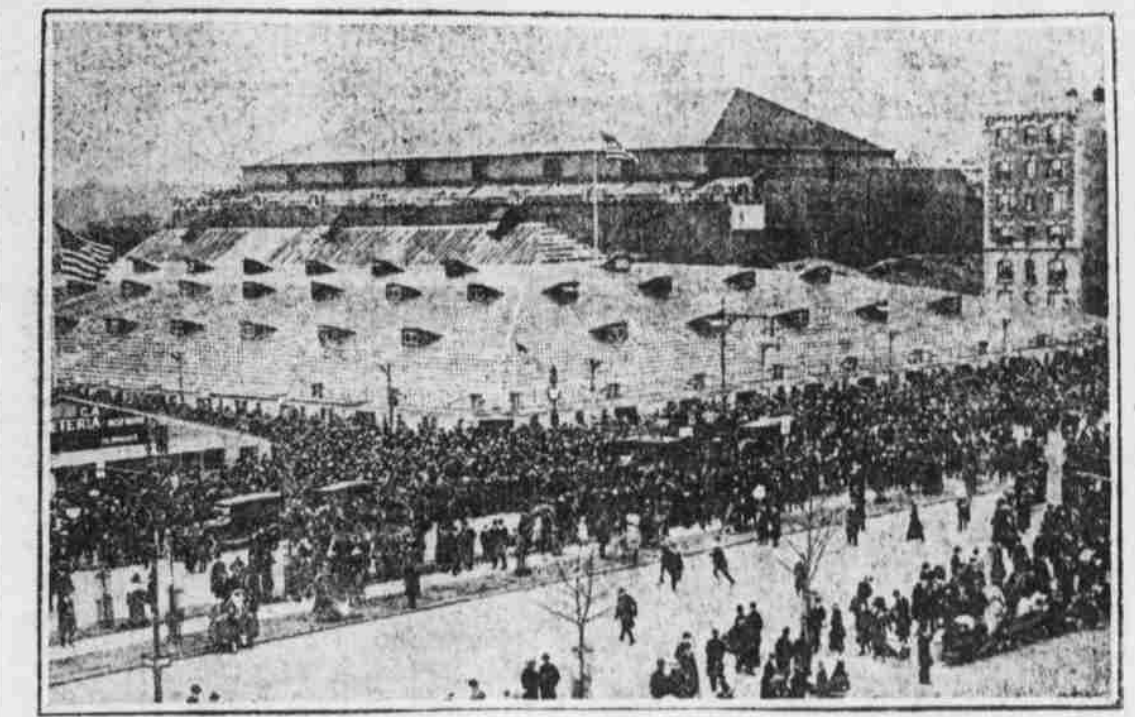
POWDER EXPLOSION CAUSES ONE DEATH

(By Associated Press)

Philadelphia, April 12.—An accidental explosion of powder in the detonating department of the government arsenal at Frankford, a suburb, where ammunition is being manufactured in great quantities, today killed Philip McNally and fatally injured Joseph Miller. The two men were the only occupants of the small structure. McNally was instantly killed. Miller was blown thru a window and terribly injured.

In buildings nearby 1,500 women and girls were at work making ammunition and soldiers' clothing. Colonel Montgomery, commandant, said the explosion was purely accidental.

Thousands At The Tabernacle To Hear Billy Sunday Open New York Campaign



Billy Sunday renounced a fortune of \$75,000 to back his belief that he will be on top when his three months fight with Demon Rum in New York is over. Even if the Demon doesn't accept the challenge, doesn't put up a dollar, Billy will give up that amount or more to prove his sincerity in complaining against the liquor traffic. Opening his evangelistic campaign, where 40,000 persons gathered at the meetings, Billy pledged himself to divide between the American Red Cross and the Y. M. C. A. whatever free will offering he may receive on the day of his campaign—renounced a fortune as a challenge to the liquor traffic and to convince doubters that he is out to beat the devil, not to get rich.

There were two big moments in his campaign opening day in New York, one when he exploded his wrath against liquor-makers and sellers, the other when he interpolated into his sermon a red-hot patriotic speech which ended with Billy's most piercing yell: "Go to bed and sleep, Woodrow, we're coming." (Copyright Underwood & Underwood)

DESERTERS WANT TO ENLIST AGAIN

A Large Number Have Applied, Say Reports of Recruiting Officers

(By Associated Press)

New York, April 12.—Recruiting officers report that a large number of men who deserted from the army or navy or failed to get honorable discharge have presented themselves for re-enlistment. Under existing regulations these men cannot rejoin the service, but many of them hope that, on account of present conditions, the President will remove this prohibition and grant them an opportunity to clear their records by terms of honorable service. Such an opportunity was presented at the outbreak of the Spanish-American war.

Nine hundred New York clergymen were asked today by the New York Federation of Churches to make special reference in their sermons next Sunday to the campaign for recruits. The chairman of the Republican county committee called upon his district leaders today to arrange patriotic demonstrations at their district clubs for the same purpose.

The women and children maintenance war fund to provide for the dependents of soldiers and sailors was organized last night at a dinner given in honor of Governor Edge, of New Jersey. Each of those present pledged \$5 a week. Efforts will be made to extend the organization throughout the country. Another new organization to promote national defense is the Aero-National Aid Society, to train aviators for cost defenses.

DISCUSS USE OF CUT-OVER LANDS

Their Adaptability For Agriculture And Stock-Raising Are Considered

(By Associated Press)

New Orleans, April 12.—The adaptability of the millions of acres of unused cut-over timber lands of the South for agriculture and stock-raising and practical aspects of the utilization of this vast acreage for increasing the nation's food supply were discussed at the second session of the cut-over land conference of the South here today.

Among the speakers were Governors Brough, of Arkansas, and Bilbo, of Mississippi; Clement Tucker, of Baltimore, vice president of the Southern Settlement and Development organization; S. M. Tracey, soil expert of the United States Department of Agriculture, and others.

The conference appointed a committee with J. L. Thompson, of Houston, as chairman, and comprising members from the various Southern states to recommend a committee to formulate a plan for permanent organization which will undertake everything connected with utilizing the cut-over lands, excepting the actual selling of the lands.

Mr. Tucker declared the present national crisis has accentuated the need of the South's utilizing for food production her idle cut-over lands.

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Telling Strokes By British Against The Enemy Continued

MAKE BIG DRIVE AGAINST TWO OF MAIN POSITIONS

LLOYD GEORGE ON U. S. AND THE WAR

Says Advent of This Nation Means Final Seal to Character of Conflict

(By Associated Press)

London, April 12.—Addressing the American Luncheon Club today, Premier Lloyd George said the advent of the United States into the war had given the final stamp and seal to the character of the conflict, which was a struggle about military autocracy. The premier said he was not surprised that America had taken time to make up her mind as to the character of the struggle, having regard to the fact that most of the great wars in Europe in the past had been waged for dynastic aggrandizement and conquest.

Early in the war, Mr. Lloyd George continued, the United States did not comprehend what had been endured in Europe for years from the military caste in Prussia. Saying that Prussia was not a democracy, but that Emperor William had promised it would be after the war, he added: "I think the Kaiser is right."

The premier said he was happy to salute the American nation as comrades in arms. "In three years we tried every kind of blunder," said Mr. Lloyd George.

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FEEL WAR WILL NOT LAST LONG

Such a Belief in Some Quarters Is Indicated In Underwriting Circles

(By Associated Press)

London, April 12.—A feeling in some quarters that the war will not last until the end of the year is indicated in underwriting circles by the business done, and a statement made yesterday by many of these concerns. Some time ago business was done at the rate of fifteen per cent against the declaration of peace within eight months. A report in Wall street that ten to one was being offered at Lloyds that peace would be concluded within ninety days was described as more in the nature of a jocular bet than an attempted trade. The wide betting odds frequently mentioned are not seriously considered as indicative of market opinion.

Cargo insurance rates between England and America hold firm at around eight to ten guineas, according to the steamers, and insurance for securities vary between twenty and thirty shillings per cent.

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GAINS ARE RECORDED BY FRENCH

Drive Back Germans On The New Front Below St. Quentin

ADVANCES BY BRITISH

They Capture Two Important Positions North of Vimy Ridge

(By Associated Press)

Paris, April 12.—In an attack last night on the new front below St. Quentin, below Coucy and La Bassee, the French drove back the Germans to the southeastern edge of the upper Coucy front, capturing several important positions. In the Champagne, the Germans were ejected from trenches east of Spagnul.

The statement follows: "Between the Somme and Oise artillery fighting continued with violence during the night, particularly in the region of Villers. "South of Oise our troops after artillery preparation attacked the German positions east of the line from Coucy La Ville to Quincy La Bassee. After a spirited engagement we forced back the enemy as far as the southwestern edge of the Upper Coucy forest. Several important points of support fell into our hands, notwithstanding the resistance of the enemy, who left a number of dead on the ground and prisoners in our hands.

"In the region northeast of Soissons there were patrol encounters and active artillery fighting, especially in the sector of Laffaux. North of the Aisne our reconnoitering parties penetrated the German lines at several points and brought back forty prisoners one of who is an officer. "East of Spagnul a sharp attack enabled us to expel the enemy from certain portions of trenches which he had held since April 4 and our line was re-established intact. Two surprise attacks by the Germans in the Champagne in the sectors of Ville-Sur-Tourbe and Butte de Mesnil were broken up by our fire which inflicted losses upon the enemy.

"In an incursion into the German lines into the Woevre, northeast of Remanville, we inflicted appreciable losses on the enemy. Patrol encounters occurred southwest of Leintrey."

Positions Captured.

London, April 12.—The British captured early this morning two important positions in the enemy's line north of Vimy ridge and are now astride of the river Souchez, according to an official statement issued by the war office. A number of prisoners were taken. The statement says weather conditions continue wet and stormy.

OFFICIAL REPORT ON ACTION OF BRAZIL

(By Associated Press)

Washington, April 12.—First information thru official channels of Brazil's severance of diplomatic relations with Germany came to the state department today in a dispatch from the American charge at Rio, who transmitted the government's announcement to the press. The charge had not been notified officially of Brazil's action up to the time of his dispatch.

GERMAN VIEW OF BATTLE OF ARRAS

Regard Supposed Attempt To Develop Shattering Blow A Failure

(By Associated Press)

Copenhagen, April 12 (via London).—The battle of Arras, in the opinion of the German press, is an event of only local importance, lamentable, it is true, but already brought to a standstill and not affecting in any degree present conditions. It is thought to be a part of the plan of the Anglo-Saxon idea of developing a shattering blow on the Somme front, to roll up the new Hindenburg line by assaults on both flanks at Soissons and Arras.

Both attempts are already described as failures, despite regrettable losses in men and probably guns. The British official reports are given scanty notice and are printed in inconspicuous type without headlines. The public generally accept the German version and confidence in von Hindenburg is unimpaired.