

BRITISH FORCES RENEW DRIVE ON WESTERN FRONT

Another Period of Intensive Fighting From Lens to Southward.

VILLAGES TAKEN IN THE LATEST DRIVE

French Have Also Materially Advanced Their Lines in West.

Again the British have begun a period of intensive fighting from the region of Lens southward to the Havrincourt wood and, according to the London war office, have been successful at various points in capturing important German positions.

Both north and south of the Scarpe river the British have materially advanced at several points toward Douai. North of the river the village of Gavrelle and positions two and a half miles long south of the village were captured.

Villages Taken. Further to the south the entire village of Trecovert and the greater part of the Havrincourt wood now are in the hands of General Haig's forces.

The latest Berlin official communication dealing with the fighting Monday, says the new British offensive on the Arras front broke down with heavy casualties.

North-east of Soissons, between the Aisne and the Chemin-Des-Dames, the French have further advanced their line, but nowhere on the front held by the French artillery duels have predominated.

Renewed Aerial Activity. A return of good weather to the western front has brought about a renewed aerial activity and numerous battles in the air.

Another German airplane was forced down eleven entente machines and destroyed four captive balloons.

The British war office admits that seven British airplanes were reported to have been destroyed over the Straits of Dover by a hostile airplane, with the loss of its entire crew.

Heavy artillery duels are taking place in the region of Lake Doiran and in the Cerna river bend sector of the Macedonian front.

The German evidently are preparing for the drive on Petrograd that has been expected in the Russian capital.

Warships conveying transports are reported unofficially to have left Libau on the Baltic sea for an unknown destination, and meanwhile the Germans have renewed their activity on the northern part of the

Reports as to this have yet to be received in detail.

The entire \$5,000,000,000 of the authorized bonds will not be offered in one lump sum, according to present tentative plans, but probably will be called for in several installments or issues.

By this course it is believed that financial disturbances which might result were the country called upon to absorb the whole issue at once, will be averted.

DRAFT QUESTION IN NEW ARMY BILL BITTERLY FOUGHT

Administration Bill Will Pass Senate But Faces Fight in House.

REPUBLICAN LEADS FIGHT IN THE HOUSE

Leads Administration Forces For Selective Draft Plan to Raise Army.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—With both houses of congress debating the war army bill today it became more than ever apparent that there is no fight over whether a great army shall be raised, the only question being what strength can be mustered by opponents of the administration's selective draft plan.

Senate Will Pass Bill. In the senate passage of the general staff bill virtually without change is regarded as certain; on the house side the president's supporters also are confident of success, though the contest there will be bitter.

Many of the speeches in the house were in favor of the administration plan, after Representative Dent, chairman of the military committee, had made an opening statement earnestly supporting the bill as amended by his committee to authorize calls for volunteers, with provision for applying the draft only if the volunteer system fails.

Representatives McKenzie, Illinois; Carzo, Pennsylvania; Olney, Massachusetts; Lunn, New York; Greene, Vermont; Adamson, Georgia, and others spoke for the draft as the only effective method of raising the army needed.

Senators Wadsworth and Weeks vigorously advocating the draft, and Senator Thomas, as strongly opposing it, made the principal addresses in the senate.

Chairman Chamberlain, of the senate committee, said tonight that he might seek unanimous consent Wednesday for a vote that day or Thursday. He said he did not now expect to endeavor to use the new cloture rule, both because he was not certain he could get the two-thirds necessary to invoke it, and because it might result in more talk than would follow in the normal course.

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DEADLY BARRAGE FIRE COVERS BOLD BRITISH ATTACKS

After Slumbering For Week, Battle of Arras Again Breaks Forth.

GERMAN FORCES ARE PRESSED BACKWARD

Surrender by Hundreds and British Take Large Numbers of Guns.

FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN FRANCE (Via London, April 23).—The battle of Arras, which had been smouldering for a week past, burst into flaming fury again today and is still raging tonight, with some of the heaviest fighting of the war in progress.

The sky is alight for miles with the flashes of guns, with star shells that spread a moonlight paleness over the battlefield and with vari-colored rockets, which flash signals to the opposing artillery.

The fighting today covered approximately an eight-mile front, from south of Vimy ridge to a point well below Croisilles. At the north end of the attack the British swept over German fixed positions running almost due south from Lens and captured long sections of German positions in front of the Hindenburg line and a great number of prisoners.

More than 1,200 prisoners were counted in this sector late today, and others were still coming in. The largest number of prisoners was from the One Hundred and Forty-first Somersetshire regiment.

Between Gavrelle and Croisilles the heaviest fighting occurred along both banks of the Scarpe and around Monchy-Le-Preux, where the British Easter advance had projected a sharp salient into the German lines.

Clung to Slopes. The Germans always managed to cling to the slopes on either side of the hill on which Monchy-Le-Preux is perched, this being the highest point east of Arras and Vimy, overlooking the great broad eastern plains of northern France.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant-General Bridges and other British army officers called on Secretary Baker, Major-General Scott, chief of staff, and war department officials; Admiral Dechaux and his naval aides called upon Secretary Daniels, Admiral Benson and other navy department officials; and Lord Cunliffe, governor of the Bank of England, called upon Secretary McAdoo at the treasury department.

The conferences so far, with the enthusiasm that the people of the capital have shown and the courtesies and cordialities extended by the officials, have taken the British commission completely by surprise.

While no formal negotiations were entered into today, the preliminary conferences were stated not to have been wholly perfunctory, but rather to have laid an excellent basis of acquaintance and understanding for the detailed conferences to follow.

Broad Phases of Situation. President Wilson and Mr. Balfour are known to have touched on the broad phases of the situation in such a way as to give each an insight to the other's personality and viewpoint, and to have established an atmosphere of confidence and concord between them.

Recognition of New Government by United States is Encouraging.

NO SEPARATE PEACE.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—Further encouraging reports from Russia came today in a dispatch to the state department telling of the effect of President Wilson's war address and declaring that Russia under the new democratic provisional government is more likely to abandon the war without achieving her object than is the United States.

Recalling that one of the impelling causes for the overthrow of the imperial regime was the belief that it was planning a separate peace, the dispatch said the revolution would expedite the defeat of Germany and the establishment of a general peace.

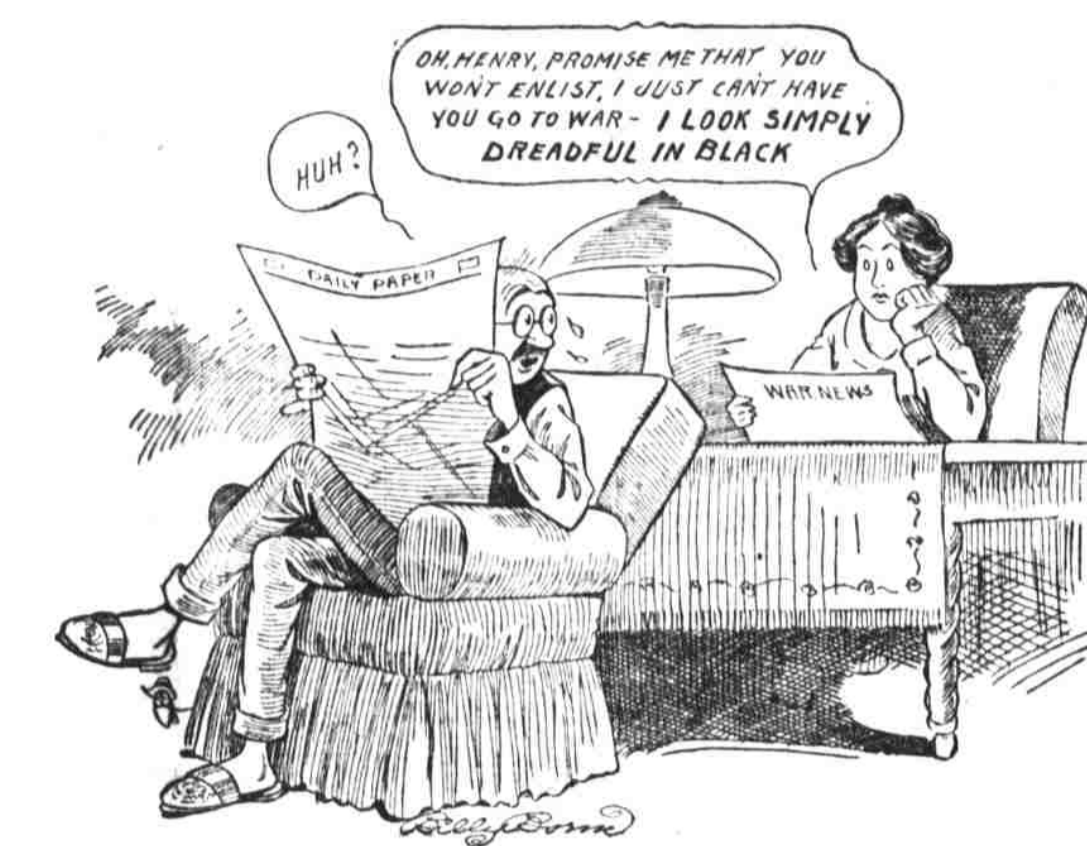
Prompt recognition accorded the new government by the United States gave encouragement and help to the council of ministers and their supporters, the department was informed, while President Wilson's allusion to the Russian revolution in his address to congress made a deep and lasting impression on the people.

The address has been translated, and is being given wide circulation in pamphlet form.

No people, says the report, ever have made greater sacrifices for freedom than the Russians and they fully realize that a separate peace would jeopardize all they have gained.

The American form of government has been taken as the model of the Russian people and the participation of the United States has infused in them a confident spirit.

Why Father Hasn't Enlisted



BRITISH COMMISSIONERS ARE GIVEN EVERY MARK OF HONOR AND COURTESY WITHIN THE GIFT OF THE GOVERNMENT

Foreign Secretary Balfour Meets President Wilson and Says That the Meeting Alone Was Worth the Trip, Were Nothing Else Accomplished—Various Groups of Officials Seek Similar Groups Of U. S. Officials For Conferences.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—Great Britain's war commissioners spent today in the American capital receiving every mark of honor and courtesy within the gift of the government.

Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour, formally presented by Secretary Lansing to President Wilson in the morning, was the guest of honor tonight at the most notable dinner given at the white house in a generation.

During the day he was presented to Vice-President Marshall at the capitol, lunched with Ambassador Jusserand at the French embassy and received cards of calls from many prominent persons, including former Secretary Bryan.

Soldiers Get Together. Meanwhile, Lieutenant-General Bridges and other British army officers called on Secretary Baker, Major-General Scott, chief of staff, and war department officials; Admiral Dechaux and his naval aides called upon Secretary Daniels, Admiral Benson and other navy department officials; and Lord Cunliffe, governor of the Bank of England, called upon Secretary McAdoo at the treasury department.

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Public Statements Promised. Mr. Balfour, it was also stated, will make several public statements during his stay as to the English point of view.

Tonight's dinner at the white house was the climax of an eventful day. Mr. Balfour, British Ambassador Spring-Rice, and all the ranking members of the British commission were invited to meet the President and Mrs. Wilson, the members of the cabinet, Chief Justice White, the advisory committee of the council of national defense, Secretary Tully and Miss Helen Woodrow Bones, cousin of the president.

At the same time other members of the commission were being entertained at dinner at the Sixteenth street mansion occupied by Mr. Balfour's immediate party.

The British cabinet officer began the day with a trip to the state department, which, because of his long association with foreign affairs and with American statesmen, he has always been eager to see.

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When the visitor came out later with Mr. Lansing for his trip to the white house, he was greeted in the corridor with applause by a large gathering of state department employees.

Introduced to President. Mr. Balfour was ushered into the white house by Secretary Lansing and introduced to President Wilson, in the presence of the military and naval aides, for what was expected to be but a few minutes' conversation.

The steatmen withdrew into the blue room, however, and were engaged for over three-quarters of an hour. Mr. Balfour afterwards expressed himself as more than delighted with his call and as feeling that his trip was justified if nothing else were to take place.

A large crowd surrounded the white house later with Mr. Balfour as visitor. In the meantime, a wild west show passed with a huge calliope playing "God Save the King" and "The Marseillaise."

As Mr. Balfour came out of the gates a great cheer broke out and he bowed appreciatively.

The quick trip by automobile took him to the capitol, where another enthusiastic group greeted him on his way to Vice-President Marshall's office. There he spent about ten minutes.

After luncheon at the French embassy, Mr. Balfour returned again to headquarters, where he met former Secretary Bryan, who came to pay a courtesy call because of their former acquaintance in England and to tell the British statesman of the month's speaking tour on which he was leaving tonight through the southwest in aid of increased food production.

After that, Mr. Balfour went out for a long walk in Rock Creek park.

RESTING COMFORTABLY. NEW YORK, April 23.—Madame Sarah Bernhardt, the noted French actress, who is dangerously ill here, was "resting comfortably" tonight, according to a bulletin issued by her physicians. It was said that unless there was an unexpected change in her condition, no further announcement would be made until tomorrow morning.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., April 23.—Charlotte adopted the commission form of municipal government today by a majority of 423 votes. Three forms were voted on: The system under which the city has been managed, the aldermanic plan with mayor and twenty-one aldermen; plan B, another form of the aldermanic system having a mayor and eight aldermen, and the commission form under which a mayor and two commissioners will be elected at the next municipal election. The old system received a grand total of twenty-six votes, out of 3,000 votes cast.

CLEMSON TO CO-OPERATE. CLEMSON, S. C., April 23.—Clemson college is preparing to co-operate with the council of national defense by furnishing that organization with names, training and experience of all former students of the institution. A circular letter has been issued to graduates by President Riggs, requesting that they furnish to the college authorities information showing their fitness for work in line. This day will be placed in the hands of the council of national defense.

CONGRESS TAKES UP FOOD PROBLEM; HEARINGS BEGIN

Sec. Houston Sets Forth Administration's Food Control Program.

GOVERNORS ASKED TO ATTEND MEETING

Farmers Promise Support to Price-Fixing Legislative Program.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—Congress took up the food problem today in public hearings by the senate agriculture committee, at which Secretary Houston set forth the administration's food control program.

At the same time the federal trade commission, directed by President Wilson to investigate with the agriculture department the causes of high food prices, asked all state governors to send representatives to Washington April 30, for a conference on state co-operation in the inquiry.

Explains Plans. Before appearing at the committee hearing, Secretary Houston put his plans before the heads of five of the country's big farmers' organizations and received assurances of support for any measure the government contemplates for getting a firmer grasp on food production and distribution.

The farmers' representatives promised even to give their endorsement to legislation giving the government power to fix maximum and minimum prices in emergency.

As its part in the government's plans the department of labor announced that it had undertaken the mobilization of a million boys throughout the country as active farm workers for the summer. An organization will be formed to be known as the United States Boys' Working reserve. Its operations will be directed from Washington.

Two announcements of the day bearing on the food situation were a definition of the duties to be performed by Herbert C. Hoover, as chairman of the food committee of the council of national defense, and the statement that William E. Bryan would tour the west to help spread the agriculture department's appeal for increased food production.

Mr. Hoover, it was stated, will advise as to the best means of assisting the (Continued on Page Four.)

DIVERSION OF STEAMERS TO TRANSPORT SERVICE IS OFFICIAL FORECAST

May Take Vessels From Coastwise Trade to Carry Supplies.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—Immediate diversion of a number of steamships from the coastwise trade to Trans-Atlantic service, was forecast by officials today after a conference here of transportation company representatives with the shipping board and the Council of National Defense.

Many vessels, it was said, can be removed without disarranging railway service.

At a meeting here next Wednesday a newly-created shipping committee of the defense council will take up measures to put the vessels to transporting supplies to the allies.

The committee was named today with William Denman, chairman of the shipping board, at its head. It will work out plans in co-operation with the general railway board, measures to co-ordinate operation of rail systems during the war.

Vessels will be taken off their runs with as little dislocation to domestic commerce as possible.

Legislation introduced in both the senate and house today by the administration would authorize the president to confer title and possession of the German and Austrian ships held in American ports. Its terms would extend to vessels owned by any subject or citizens of any country with which the United States is at war.

Repairs to the damaged German and Austrian ships is being pushed as rapidly as possible. Some of them will be ready for service within a few weeks.

The shipping board is planning further standardization of steel merchant ships and will call a conference of shipbuilders within a few days to discuss increased shipbuilding activity.

FIRST AMERICAN LOAN TO THE ENTENTE ALLIES GOES TO GREAT BRITAIN

Amount and Other Details Will Be Made Public Later.

INSTALLMENT BONDS.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—The first American loan to the allied nations will go to Great Britain.

The amount and other details probably will be made public by Secretary McAdoo within a few days.

Whatever the sum, the amount will be available out of the proceeds of the \$5,000,000,000 bond issue soon to be offered to the public, of which \$2,000,000,000 will be loaned to the allies.

Announcement to this effect was made tonight at the treasury department after a day crowded with conferences between Secretary McAdoo and federal reserve board officials and American bankers and bondholders and official representatives of Great Britain and France.

Another development was the announcement that the size of the first issue of bonds authorized under the \$7,000,000,000 war finance measure will depend largely upon the immediate needs of the allies.

STATE EXAMINERS AND INSTITUTE CONDUCTORS ANNOUNCED BY BIGGETT

Three Men and Three Women Named on Board by the Governor.

GOOD POSITIONS.

RALEIGH, N. C., April 23.—Governor Bickett announced today the personnel of the state board of examiners and teachers institute conductors, as authorized by an act of the recent general assembly. Three of them are men and three women, the salaries of the men being fixed by the executive committee of the teachers' assembly at \$2,500, with \$500 additional for expenses, and the salaries of the women at \$2,000 and \$500 for expenses.

The members of the board are J. H. Highsmith, Wake Forest; Mrs. T. Edgar Johnson, Salisbury; and Miss Hattie Parrott, Kinston, each for four-year terms; A. T. Allen, Salisbury; D. F. Giles, Raleigh, and Miss Susie Fulghum, Goldsboro, each for two-year terms. They take-up their duties June 1.

Mr. Allen is president of the state teachers' assembly and was secretary of the last state sub-text book commission. He is superintendent of the Salisbury schools.

Mr. Highsmith was a member of the faculty of Meredith and now of Wake Forest college faculty.

Mr. Giles was county superintendent of McDowell county, served as senator in the 1915 legislature, and has since been superintendent of the Wake county schools.

Mrs. Johnson has served fifteen years as primary teacher and supervisor in the Salisbury schools. She is president of the State Primary Teachers' association.

RUSSIA WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT ACCORDING TO REPORTS AT WASHINGTON

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ALLEGED PLOTS HERE FOR A CUBAN REVOLUTION

Complaint Against Certain Persons Will Be Made to State Department.

NEW YORK, April 23.—Complaint will be made formally to the state department in Washington against the activities of persons in this country, who, it is alleged, have been plotting to create another revolution in Cuba, according to an announcement here tonight by the republic of Cuba news bureau.

A statement issued by the news bureau said that the Cuban authorities had come into possession of a proclamation purporting to have been written by Dr. Orestes Ferrara, former speaker of the house of representatives of Cuba, who now is in this city, setting May 20 as the date for the proposed uprising.

Dr. Ferrara when shown a copy of the proclamation, denied that he had written it and characterized it as "a base libel and a forgery."

VOTE FOR SUFFRAGE. TALLAHASSEE, Fla., April 23.—The Florida senate by a vote of twenty-three to seven late today passed joint resolution to submit the equal suffrage amendment to the voters in 1918. The resolution goes to the house for consideration.

GERMAN RAIDER CHASES AN AMERICAN STEAMSHIP

Seedler Again Reported in Action Off the Coast of Brazil.

NEW YORK, April 23.—An American steamship was chased for five miles by the German sea-raider Seedler, off the coast of Brazil, April 22, according to the captain of the vessel which reached this port today.

The Seedler, previously reported by the victims of her raids on their arrival at Rio Janeiro, was formerly the American bark Pass of Baltimore, into which the Germans had fitted gasoline motors.

The captain of the steamship, which is engaged in the South American trade, said the raider was sighted at 6 o'clock in the morning, bearing down on him at a point thirty-nine miles north of the equator and between 200 and 300 miles off the coast. The pursuer, he said, put on all speed, making about thirteen knots an hour. As this was slightly less than his own vessel's speed, he was able to throw her off after a desperate chase.

Although within range, the raider did not attempt to fire on him. She had Norwegian flags painted on her sides, he said, and mounted two guns, apparently of eight-inch calibre.

This is the first report of the actions of the Seedler since crews from