

VIRTUAL INACTION PREVAILS ON ALL EUROPEAN FRONTS

Only Fighting of Note is Counter-Attack by the French Forces.

ITALIANS AGAIN ACTIVE IN ALBANIA

Emperor, Charles Refers to "Our Faithful German Ally" in Speech.

A state of virtual inaction prevails on all the war fronts. In only one theatre has there been any fighting worthy of note.

Artillery Duels. To the west in the region lying between Soissons and Rheims, there has been a continuation of the spirited artillery duels on various sectors.

The intensive fighting along the southern portion of the Austro-German front has apparently entirely ceased for the moment.

British Casualties. An indication of the heavy fighting during the month of April is given in an official British statement of casualties during this period.

At the opening of the Austrian parliament, Emperor Charles in his address from the throne, said it was his unalterable will to exercise his right as ruler in a truly constitutional spirit.

FOURTEEN ARE KILLED AND SCORES ARE INJURED BY TORNADO IN MISSOURI

Various Towns Struck by Cyclone Which Leaves Trail of Wreckage.

REPORTS MEAGRE.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., May 31.—Fourteen persons were killed and scores injured in a tornado that devastated Wayne county Wednesday afternoon.

Two women were killed in Granite Bend, five were killed in Chaonia and the village of McGee reports six deaths.

Rumors that more than a score of persons were killed in Bollinger county, Mo., could not be confirmed.

The tornado evidently began near Salem, Mo., early Wednesday afternoon. Some property damage was done, but there was no loss of life until the storm reached Mineral Point, in Washington county.

Relief has been sent to stricken points from St. Louis. A woman was reported dead at Dongola, and a boy was killed at Advance. Diehlstadt also reported two deaths.

A telegram from Cairo, Ill., stated that four negroes were killed in a storm in the southern part of Illinois last night.

WAR REVENUE BILL FURTHER DRAFTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Several New Sources of Revenue Introduced Into the Measure.

POST AND EXPRESS PACKAGES TAXED

Shipper Pays Tax—Conference to Consider Taxes on Publications.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—With further trimming of the \$1,800,000,000 war tax bill, the senate finance committee revision work today reached the stage of detailed drafting.

A new tax on parcel post packages of one cent on each twenty-five cents or fraction paid by shippers and adoption of the same rate for express packages as a substitute for the horse levy of six per cent upon express transportation.

Reduction by one-half, or to five per cent, of the amount paid for land or water transportation, including charges for berths or parlor car chairs, entailing a loss of revenue of \$35,000,000.

Adoption of excise, or consumption taxes, payable eventually by the consumer, of one-half a cent a pound on sugar, two cents on coffee, five cents on tea and three cents on cocoa.

Repeat of the existing law levying 1 1/2 per cent tax on war munitions, now bringing in \$2,000,000 revenue, because of the substitute plan for increasing manufacturer's excess profits taxes.

With these and general minor changes, Chairman Simmons said the bill now virtually ready for technical re-drafting, to put in proper form the revisions agreed to and already announced.

CHARGES OF TREASON ARE FILED AGAINST THREE MEN AT COLUMBUS, O.

Held in Connection With Anti-Registration Plotting in Columbus.

OTHERS ARRESTED.

COLUMBUS, O., May 31.—Charges of treason were filed by United States District Attorney Bolin tonight against three men, who, with several others, were arrested during the day, in connection with anti-registration plotting in Columbus.

Each pleaded not guilty before United States Commissioner Johnson and were held under \$25,000 bond to await preliminary hearing Saturday morning.

Those charged with treason are: Ammon A. Hennacy, a junior last year at Ohio State university; Harry E. Townsley, a printer; Cecil W. Bailey, mechanic.

Others under arrest for investigation are: Oib Wulnestro, East Columbus, a tinner, and John Lewis Hammond, a miner, arrested at Marietta for distributing anti-registration literature.

Townsley conducts a print shop. Hennacy has been a socialist worker in Madison and Milwaukee.

RAILROADS OPEN FIGHT AT RALEIGH FOR HIGHER RATES

Declare War Conditions Necessitate Increase in Freight Rates.

COST OF EQUIPMENT IS MUCH INCREASED

Action Deferred Pending Decision of Interstate Commerce Commission.

Citizen's Bureau, Raleigh, N. C., May 31. (By W. J. Martin.) The case for railroad companies was presented to the corporation commission today in the petition the North Carolina carriers have filed for permission to make radical increases in the basic schedule of rates for intrastate traffic in this state and use a new basic schedule of rates.

The hearing opened at 10:30 o'clock with the audience rooms of the commission well filled with railroad men and shippers and representatives of commercial organizations including G. L. Forester of Western Carolina Lumber and Timber association.

Oppens For Railroads. Vice-President C. R. Capps, of the Seaboard Air Line, opened for the railroads with a comprehensive paper elaborating the position the railroad companies took in the petition and presenting the case from the viewpoint of the operation of his own railroad, both as to the proposed basic rate scale and the fifteen per cent increase over this on account of war time conditions.

Randall Clifton spoke for the Southern Railway, submitting a lengthy statement of President Harrison to the interstate commerce commission in the petition for intrastate increases.

In concluding the hearing, it was agreed by the railroad officials and the shippers present that some increase is necessary and that the increase in the intrastate rates be on the same percentage basis that the interstate commerce commission adopts for the interstate petition now pending.

To this end, it was agreed that there be a further hearing June 5, on this percentage of increase, it being expected that the interstate commission will have acted by that time.

There was a further agreement that the matter of adopting a new basic rate schedule such as the proposed Georgia schedule submitted by the railroad companies be deferred and that the question be further thrashed out in a hearing July 5, before the corporation commission.

GOES TO JURY.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., May 31.—At 5 o'clock this evening, the case of Riah Strong, charged with the murder of S. B. Luttrell, Jr., in July, 1916, because of Luttrell's alleged intimacies with the defendant's wife, was given to the jury.

PRESIDENT TO SPEAK.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—President Wilson has accepted an invitation to address the United Confederate Veterans during their reunion, which begins here Monday.

ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN FOR WAR CENSORSHIP IS DEFEATED BY CONGRESS

House Refuses to Accept Even Modified Section of Conferees.

SENATE ON RECORD.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—The administration's fight for a war censorship bill for newspapers was lost in congress today, at least for the present, when the house refused by a vote of 184 to 144, to accept even the modified censorship section written into the espionage bill in conference.

The senate already is on record as opposed to a censorship, and the leaders in congress do not expect any further administration effort to enact one in the immediate future.

The test in the house came on a motion to recommit the espionage bill with instructions that the censorship bill be eliminated. Despite a determined attempt by the speaker to line up the party's caucus managers to line up the party's caucus decision, voted in the negative.

Conferees for the house will report their instructions back to the senate conferees tomorrow, and the bill, shorn of the censorship provision, probably will be reported to both senate and house within a few days and finally accepted. It carries important modifications of the spy laws and authorization for the president to lay embargoes in war time, but most of the controversy regarding it has centered about the censorship proposal.

The Field Marshal!



FEDERAL AGENTS ARE ACTIVE AGAINST ALLEGED CONSPIRACIES FOR DEFEAT OF SELECTIVE CONSCRIPTION REGISTRATION

Three Students, Members of Collegiate Anti-Militarism League, Which, It Is Claimed, Has Members in Many Leading Colleges, Are Arrested in New York—Other Arrests Made in Various Sections of the United States.

NEW YORK, May 31.—Federal agents today took action here against an alleged conspiracy to defeat selective draft registration in New York.

Three students—two youths from Columbia university and a young woman who is a senior at Barnard college, were arrested and held by a United States commissioner for examination tomorrow.

The defendants are Owen Cattell, son of James McKeen Cattell, of Garrison, N. Y., noted psychologist and a professor at Columbia; Chas. E. Phillips, of Columbia; and Miss Eleanor Wilson Parker, who will be graduated in June from Barnard. The three are members of the Collegiate Anti-Militarism league, in the rooms of which a meeting of college students was held here on May 8 when plans are alleged to have been made "against the peace of the United States and their dignity."

A pamphlet of this organization on file at the federal district attorneys office shows that it has members at Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Cornell, Columbia, Oberlin, Amherst, Syracuse, Hobart, Pennsylvania, Radcliffe, Bryn Mawr, Iowa, Nevada, Leland Stanford, Rutgers and other colleges, universities and theological institutions throughout the country. Miss Parker is executive secretary.

According to the complaint, filed by Assistant United States Attorney Content Cattell, Phillips and Miss Parker conspired to induce "diverse persons whose names are unknown" to fail to register as required by the selective draft act and the proclamation of President Wilson.

The pamphlet concludes with a statement that "it is today a disgrace to the full strength of our numbers, we must refuse to register for conscription—even if it puts us in jail. We urge all conscientious objectors to resist registration—even to the extent of going to prison if necessary."

A copy of the text of the alleged anti-conscription document made public by the federal authorities contains the assertion: "We will approve the action of any one who refuses to register for conscription." The pamphlet says a resolution was adopted at the May 8 meeting "of members of Collegiate Anti-Militarism league and other persons," setting forth "our reasons for condemning the draft measure itself." It declares that "the question of conscription with its implications for the future, is more important than the question of defeat or victory in the war" and that "the conscription as outlined in the new law is abhorrent to any true conception of democracy."

The present administration and congress were "elected presumably because they were expected to keep us out of war," the document asserts, and when war was decided upon there was no referendum, nor was there a referendum as to conscription, the government, "remembering perhaps that the referendum in Australia had resulted in a two to one vote against conscription."

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Ball for the three in the sum of \$1,500 cash, was furnished by Dr. H. W. L. Dana, of Columbia university, and they were released.

ARRESTS IN THE WEST. KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 31.—Federal authorities of western Missouri and Kansas began late today arresting persons suspected of being participants in alleged anti-conscription plots. Four men and one woman were taken into custody here and three other men and a woman were arrested in Topeka.

Two of those arrested here—Raymond I. Moore and Thomas Sullivan—earlier in the day had sought unsuccessfully to obtain an injunction to prevent registration.

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AMERICANS ABROAD BEING CONSIDERED FOR REGISTRATION

Whether Law Applies to Them is Question Not Yet Settled.

GENERAL CROWDER'S OPINION AWAITED

Evasion of Law by Leaving the Country Will Be Only Temporary.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—While the legal machinery of the government was operating today to stamp out agitation against the army draft, the war department took up another phase of the matter, dealing with the status of Americans now in foreign countries.

Secretary Baker called upon Brigadier General Crowder, judge advocate general, and provost marshal of the army, for an opinion as to the effect of the new law upon Americans of military age residing abroad. Department officials generally have presumed that the privileges of citizenship would carry with them a duty for military service not affected by foreign residence, but no formal ruling will be made until the opinion of General Crowder has been received.

The question involves to some degree the specific terms of the extradition treaties between the United States and other countries.

Eager to Enroll. Many Americans of military age now abroad have been eager to enroll. Registration cards have been furnished to every American embassy, legation or consulate, and diplomatic and consular officials have been authorized to act as registration agents.

Meantime the department of justice is proceeding on the theory that the departure from American soil of any citizen subject to the draft is an evasion of the law. It was revealed today that steps had already been taken to prevent such departures and that

(Continued on Page Four)

BULGARIAN MINISTER AT BERLIN SEEKS SEPARATE PEACE WITH RUSSIANS

Maxim Gorky Publishes Sensational Account of Efforts.

TEUTON PROPOSALS.

PETROGRAD, May 31.—(Via London, June 1.)—Maxim Gorky, the noted Russian author, publishes a sensational account of an attempt by D. Risov, the Bulgarian minister at Berlin, to investigate him into clandestine negotiations for a separate peace. The peace proposal, Gorky declares, was delivered to him at Petrograd in duplicate by two German agents, acting individually.

In the Novaisa Zhan, of which Gorky is the editor, he prints Risov's secret dispatch, occupying three columns, with concrete proposals and, although he himself is an almost fanatical advocate of peace, denounces Risov.

Risov begins by proclaiming that already in January he had approached the Russian ministers at Stockholm and Christiansia with a proposal to conclude "an honorable peace" between Russia and her foes. He received a rebuff. Immediately after the revolution Risov renewed his attempt with the Russian minister at Christiansia, with a separate peace, and obtained, through the minister, a reply from Professor Paul Miliukoff, then the foreign minister in the temporary government that there could be no question of a separate peace.

Notwithstanding his two repulses, Risov, representing himself as Russia's real friend, now approaches his acquaintance Maxim Gorky. He attempts to refute successfully the arguments customarily used by the Russians and the allies against a separate peace. He offers to guarantee that Germany and Austria will not again undertake an offensive against free Russia and adds that both powers are willing to evacuate the occupied territory without the expenditure of another drop of Russian blood.

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PRESIDENT WILSON BUYS \$10,000 LIBERTY BOND

Leading Canadians Subscribe to Bonds—Daniels Appeals to Men of Navy.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—President Wilson today joined the ranks of participants in the Liberty loan by subscribing for a \$10,000 bond.

Writing to Secretary McAdoo, the president said: "May I not send you personally my subscription to the Liberty loan which I make with great satisfaction and with the wish that it might be a great deal larger?"

Secretary McAdoo today announced the itinerary for his second speaking tour in support of the loan. He will start in New York Monday, and before returning to Washington a week later will visit Boston, Detroit, St. Louis, New Orleans, Birmingham, Chattanooga, Louisville, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh.

Leading Canadian railroad men and bankers were among those who notified the treasury formally today of Liberty loan subscriptions. An appeal to the 175,564 enlisted men, officers and civil employees of the navy to buy Liberty bonds was issued today by Secretary Daniels.

"As the navy must be first in defense," he said, "let it be first also in making investment in bonds which will aid in making the world safe for democracy."

GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED AT PACIFIST MEETING

Speakers Say Government Has Been Transformed Regardless of People.

NEW YORK, May 31.—A report of its "committee on American liberties," which pledged support to all "conscientious objectors" to the conscription law, and a telegram from former United States Senator John D. Works, of California, in which he said "we dishonored ourselves by declaring war without adequate or reasonable cause," were features of the afternoon session here today of the so-called First American Conference on Democracy and Terms of Peace.

Several speakers severely criticized the government, one declaring that "within the last sixty days we have completely transformed our government and the people have had nothing to say about it, so far have they been removed from control of their government." The same speaker, Gilbert E. Roe, president of the Free Speech League of America, added that "somewhere along the line the voters of this country must have a chance to express themselves."

Norman L. Thomas, addressing the meeting on "conscription and the conscientious objector," charged that "attempts to force a man to fight worse than the imposition of chattel slavery."

ALLEGED SPEAKER IS IN PAY OF GREEK GOVERNMENT

Writer Who Speaks Against Venizelos and Followers is Denounced.

NEW YORK, May 31.—Allegation that one speaker, Faxton Hibbens, a newspaper writer, was in the pay of the Greek government as a propagandist, and the introduction of a resolution calling for a fresh statement of the war aims of the United States, resulted in spirited discussions among delegates attending today's sessions of the national conference on the foreign relations of the United States at Long Beach.

Hibbens, who recently returned from Greece, told the conference he knew personally King Constantine's sympathies were not with the Germans, and assailed the adherents of Venizelos as "handful of astute politicians." Ninety per cent of the Greeks, he said, support the constitutional government.

"These politicians who have set up a self-styled republican form of government in rebellion against the constitutional government of Greece," he said, "represent no consent of the Greek people, but they represent the interests of several great powers. Therefore, they are protected, financed, and it is possible may be officially recognized by the great powers whose interests they serve."

LAW VIOLATED?

WASHINGTON, May 31.—A resolution adopted today by the house immigration committee asks Secretary Wilson by what authority he has authorized the entrance of Mexican farm laborers into the United States. The committee holds the secretary's recent action in directing the admission, under prescribed regulations, of Mexicans for temporary labor on farms of the southwestern states in violation of the immigration law.

THE WEATHER.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—Forecast for North Carolina: Fair Friday; predicted by showers in east portion Saturday fair.

Table with circulation statistics for The Asheville Citizen: City 4,629, Suburban 4,631, Country 1,723. Total 11,314.