

TERRIFIC OFFENSIVE OF THE GERMAN ARMIES ALONG HUNDRED MILES ENEMY LINES TODAY; TURKS EVACUATE CITY

Swiss Reports Positive That Teutons Intend Gigantic Assault on St. Quentin, Only 20 Leagues from Paris—Trebizond Will Fall Into Hands of Slavs Without Resistance, Persian Advances Say—Garrison Would Be Trapped Between Two Approaching Armies—Paris Is Confident That Allies Will Hold Own In West—Germans Shifting Artillery and Greatest Struggle Yet Expected to Begin at Verdun

(By the United Press)

LONDON, Feb. 29.—Suddenly shifting their attack, the Germans launched a heavy drive on Verdun from the east, aiming to squeeze the French out and threatening an enveloping movement. Frightful German losses are believed to have caused the Kaiser to cease massed assaults on Verdun.

LONDON, Feb. 29.—The decisive battle at Verdun is beginning. Checked on Pepper Heights, the Germans are bringing up their heaviest artillery to blast away the trenches. There has been indescribable slaughter at the ruins of Douaumont. The Teutons are today attacking along a hundred-mile front, after a lull due to the shifting of artillery. Paris is confident of the failure of the attacks, although expecting the Teutons to fight desperately at the renewal. Swiss dispatches insist that the Verdun attack was but a diversion, and say the Germans are ready for a great attack now on St. Quentin, only 60 miles from Paris.

Ottoman Forces Evacuating Trebizond.

Petrograd, Feb. 29.—The Turks are hastily evacuating the Black seaport of Trebizond and neighboring cities before the advance of the Russians, say Tiflis dispatches. The evacuation was necessitated by the approach of two Russian forces.

All Attacks Repulsed, Says Paris.

PARIS, Feb. 29.—All German attacks at Verdun during the past 24 hours have been repulsed, it is said officially. The French are entirely in control of the country surrounding Douaumont. It is admitted that the Germans have captured the village of Manheulles, eleven miles from Verdun, and are driving now to force the evacuation of Verdun by a squeezing process. The loss of several trenches in Lorraine was admitted, but these have been recaptured, it is said. The heavy bombardment continues. The Kaiser watched the Verdun battle today in a fierce storm, despite the warnings of physicians, prisoners said.

German Hospitals Crowded.

LONDON, Feb. 29.—Over forty-five thousand Germans have been killed at Verdun, the central news says a dispatch from Amsterdam. Eight thousand corpses still line two miles of the front. Endless trains of the wounded are arriving at Metz and the hospitals at Coblenz, Treves, Cologne and other German cities are overflowing.

German Report On Battle.

BERLIN, FEB. 29.—The Germans have captured a small armored work northwest of Douaumont, it is officially said. Nearly seventeen thousand prisoners have been taken in the Woevre region, east of Verdun. The Germans have passed Dieppe, Abacourt and Blancee, and captured Manheulle and Chamlon.

BANKER RUNS MACHINE OVER BOY; MAY DIE

Salisbury, Feb. 28.—With a crushed hip, a hole in his head and a badly bruised body, Joseph Owen, a 7-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Owen of Salisbury is in a critical condition at a local hospital tonight as a result of being run over this afternoon by a 5-passenger automobile owned and driven by Mr. W. T. Busby, assistant cashier of the People's National Bank here.

DIAZ GOES TO MEXICO TO START NEW REVOLT

Washington, Feb. 28.—Felix Diaz, who has been watched for several months by Department of Justice representatives because of suspected activities in violation of American neutrality, apparently has left the United States for Mexico with the intention of launching a revolution against the Carranza de facto government. Information reaching officials here indicates that he hopes to organize and lead the troops of his native State, Oaxaca, and such other forces in Southern Mexico as he can gather about him. General Diaz left New Orleans Friday for Havana.

OFFICER KILLED BY MAN HE SOUGHT TO ARREST

Rocky Mount, Feb. 28.—Defying arrest, George Collins, a young white man of Faucette township, Halifax county, yesterday fired upon and fatally wounded Deputy Sheriff C. M. Hawkins. The young man was sought on a warrant by the officer charging him with having jumped a board bill, and with a shotgun opened fire on the officer, inflicting a wound in the stomach that resulted in Deputy Hawkins' death within a few hours.

THEY SQUIRT \$1,000,000 WORTH OF PERFUME.

Rio de Janeiro, Feb. 28.—All Brazil is preparing for the annual three day Mardi Gras carnival, early in March. The annual carnival celebrated in Rio de Janeiro, as a gorgeous spectacle claims to far overshadow that of Venice or of New Orleans. It is estimated that \$1,000,000 was spent on siphons of perfume alone last year.

PECULIAR FACTS ABOUT WELL KNOWN

Washington, Feb. 29.—The Leader Kitchin wears a black drooping from a corner of his mouth when a briar pipe, black with ash, isn't in its place.

PLANT MAKING GASES FOR ALLIES BLOWN UP

Damage \$50,000—Only One Man Injured—Company at Woburn, Mass., Had Received Threatening Letters and Employed Large Force of Guards, But Could Not Prevent the Explosion.

(By the United Press)

Woburn, Mass., Feb. 29.—A thunderous explosion today blew up a building of the New England Manufacturing Company, making gases for the Allies' bombs. The company had received threatening letters, and the plant was heavily guarded. The building was blown high into the air. The men escaped except one injured. The loss will exceed \$50,000.

GIRL BRIDE'S CRIME BEING INVESTIGATED

(By the United Press)

Fort Worth, Texas, Feb. 29.—The defense of Mrs. Katherine Harrison, fifteen-year-old bride, charged with the murder of W. L. Warren, will be that she saved the State the trouble of executing him for assault. The defense contends that she is a child, and cannot be tried.

Fort Worth, Texas, Feb. 28.—The grand jury today began investigation of the confession alleged to have been made by Mrs. Katherine Harrison, that she shot and killed W. B. Warren, hotel proprietor who, she charged, had wronged her before her marriage. She became the bride, of Harrison, who is 20 years old, two days after Warren's body was found in a road near here December 22, 1915.

WHAT SOME OF THEM ARE DOING WITH THE EXTRA DAY IN YEAR

(By the United Press)

Minneapolis, Feb. 29.—Ten civic organizations chose today, an unusual date, for launching a campaign against mosquitoes, in this city surrounded by a State that has 10,000 lakes. It is planned to eliminate every puddle in the state where water stagnates.

Dallas, Tex., Feb. 29.—Three bishops, Luther E. Todd of St. Louis, W. R. Labbuth of Birmingham, Ala., and E. E. Hoss of Muskogee, Okla., were here today to aid in planning the Methodist membership campaign to be inaugurated in Texas and New Mexico, March 12.

Tulsa, Okla., Feb. 29.—Tulsa business men selected the extra day in the year to celebrate Prosperity Day. In addition to the usual carnival features, a battery of public speakers will tell Tulsa what a regular city it is.

ELECTION BATTLE OVER RACE PROBLEM

(By the United Press)

St. Louis, Feb. 29.—After a stiff legal fight against the holding of an election on the subject, St. Louis voters today are deciding by ballot whether negroes here shall be compelled to live within residential districts selected for them. The Segregation Bill, as the plan is called, would prevent whites and negroes from living in the same blocks and would compel white persons to move from their homes in blocks the majority of whose residents are negroes. Negroes would be prohibited from living in blocks in which the majority of the residents are white. Should segregation win, negroes and white interests opposed to the proposed law, will attack it as unconstitutional, they said today, on the ground that it is discriminatory.

DAVE COURTHOUSE AT MOCKSVILLE BURNED

Winston-Salem, Feb. 28.—The Dave county courthouse at Mocksville was destroyed by fire tonight. The origin is not known. The building was erected five years ago and cost over thirty thousand dollars. A one-week term of the Superior Court opened there this morning.

SAYS BRYAN CERT'N TO UPHOLD WILSON AT THE CONVENTION

Will Attempt Nothing to Embarrass President, Declares Democratic State Chairman of Nebraska After Talk With Bryan

(By United Press)

Washington, Feb. 29.—The upholding of Wilson by Bryan for renomination is expected to lead to a solid Nebraska delegation to the convention in favor of Wilson. He won't seek to inject into the platform preparedness nor the diplomatic policy for repudiating Wilson, it is authoritatively stated by Judge W. H. Thompson, the Nebraska State chairman, following a visit to Mr. Bryan at Miami. Judge Thompson is a personal political friend and adviser of Mr. Bryan. The people misunderstand Bryan, he said.

DAVID EVANS TAKEN IN PAMLICO COUNTY IS NEW BERN STORY

(Special to The Free Press)

New Bern, Feb. 29.—David Evans, negro slayer of Joe McLawhorn, superintendent of Pitt county roads, is understood to have been taken in Pamlico county.

PROGRESS OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

Hughes vs. Moseley, an action concerning a note, was concluded in Civil Superior Court today, the jury finding for the defendant, colored, in all the issues.

THE ODDEST STORY IN THE DAY'S NEWS

Dallas, Tex., Feb. 29.—Mayor H. D. Lindsay celebrated his tenth birthday today. He would be forty-four years old had he been born one day earlier. As it is, he has a birthday only once every four years, and 1900 being a centennial year he had none from 1896 to 1904. It was chiefly through Mayor Lindsay's influence that Dallas made the \$100,000 offer for the Democratic national convention.

BULLETINS

(By the United Press)

SHIP SUNK BY MINE.

Copenhagen, Feb. 29.—The Gothenburg steamer Knippla, of 500 tons, has been mined south of Falsterbo, outside Swedish territorial waters. Fifteen of the crew and two women passengers were saved.

THOUSAND PROBABLY LOST WITH SINKING SHIP.

Paris, Feb. 29.—The French auxiliary cruiser Provence, sunk in the Mediterranean Saturday, it is officially reported. A thousand persons are believed to have been lost. Eight hundred were saved.

Ten boats are at the scene of the disaster seeking survivors. The Provence was formerly a trans-Atlantic liner. Some survivors have been landed at Malta, some on the Greek island of Melos.

AT LEAST SIX DEAD IN MINE EXPLOSION

(By the United Press)

Cumberland, Md., Feb. 29.—Six persons are reported to be dead and twenty injured, buried under debris by an explosion in the Davis Coal and Coke Company's mine at Kempton, W. Va.

HUNDREDS OF HIGH SCHOOL ORATORS TO DEBATE BIG ISSUE

"Preparedness" to Be Discussed in Spring State-wide Contest — Aycock Cup to Winning School After April 14

(Special to The Free Press)

Chapel Hill, Feb. 29.—The question of preparedness will be threshed out in 325 North Carolina high schools this spring. Already 2,000 young debaters in the State high schools, from Murphy, Cherokee county, in the west, to Manteo, Dare county, in the east, are working on the question, "Resolved, That the United States should adopt the policy of greatly increasing its navy."

On March 31, 1,200 of these debaters, who will have been chosen as representatives in preliminaries held in their respective high schools, will meet in a State-wide debate on this question of preparedness, the occasion being the annual triangular contest of the High School Debating Union. Each debating team enters this contest with the view of winning the Aycock Memorial Cup, the trophy provided by the inter-collegiate debaters of the University of North Carolina.

Each school enrolled for this contest is grouped with two others for a triangular debate, every school having a team on the affirmative side of the question and one on the negative. The schools winning both debates send their representatives to Chapel Hill to compete for the Aycock Cup in the final contest to be held here April 14.

PROMISES TO REVEAL BIG GRAFT IN CHICAGO

Chicago, Feb. 28.—Asserting that the Eaton-Rove graft controversy was a minor event compared to revelations which he would make Seymour Stedman, attorney for Mrs. Waller Page Eaton, former head of the Social Welfare Department, who has charged she had been compelled to give up part of her salary for the benefit of a member of Mayor William Hale Thompson's family, today declared he would bring forth a witness who would reveal extensive salary splitting in the city hall.

Today's hearing on the Eaton-Rove case itself developed little of interest.

HENRY JAMES, NOVELIST, DIES BRITISH CITIZEN

London, Feb. 28.—Henry James, the novelist, died today. Henry James was born an American but died a British subject. In July, 1915, he took the oath of allegiance to the Crown, explaining that he had lived and worked in England for forty years and had developed such an attachment for the country and sympathy with its people that he desired to throw his moral weight and personal allegiance into the British cause in the European war.

BUFFALO BILL AT 71ST MILESTONE TODAY

Cody, Wyo., Feb. 28.—Colonel Wm. F. Cody, "Buffalo Bill," Indian scout, showman and character dear to the hearts of the youngsters of three generations, is hale and hearty at his home here today, his 71st birthday.

AURORA WANTS SEMI- PRO. BASEBALL ASS'N

First Town to Respond to Proposition for League is Smallest Considered—Believed Likely Combination Would Be Kinston, Greenville, Washington, Aurora, Williamston, Plymouth

Aurora, the smallest town of the eight proposed by Lawyer Lindsay Warren for the semi-pro. East Carolina League, is the first to respond to the proposal. "We will be there with balls on," was the message that Warren has had at his office in Washington from the Aurora fans. That town will employ four professional men, that using the maximum permitted in Warren's plan, and will guarantee a self-supporting club. Aurora has not a thousand population. It will send a dozen representatives to the meeting in Washington on March 15.

Copies of Mr. Warren's circular letter forwarded to Kinston fans outline his scheme in full. "I believe that if this plan is adopted, the expenses attached there will be very small and that the league will be practically self-supporting," he says. "A schedule of fifty games would be sufficient"—each team playing two at home and two abroad every week. He would like to see at least six teams in the association, although he has addressed interested parties in eight towns. The safest combination that could be devised, probably, would be Kinston, Greenville, Washington, Aurora, Plymouth and Williamston, the last named three being small places but "enthusiastic and willing to put up the money."

ENGLAND FEELS QUITE CHESTY OVER ITS BIG ARMY NOW IN HARNESS

By WILBUR S. FORREST,
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

London, Feb. 16.—(By Mail)—There is a brand new germ in the British air. Atmospheric atoms that had the general effect of something akin to gloom several months ago and which prompted British statesmen and public alike to speak less confidently about the final outcome of the war, have disappeared. These atoms have been replaced by brighter colored atoms; peppy, optimistic little tikes.

From the big government buildings in Whitehall to the smallest London shop there is a marked change in the conversation. Every man in the street knows that Britain is getting ready for the big show. The average Britisher still throws out his chest if the navy is mentioned, but today he will show a broader expanse of shirtfront when it comes to talk about the army. The predominant topic of interest has become the Tommies.

With about 4,000,000 men in khaki, England is preparing to do things in the spring, on land. That is common talk. No Britisher has lost any of his confidence in the Navy, but he has given up hope that the German fleet will come out and fight, so he is leaving the navy to control the seas and taking for granted that it will.

Cabinet members, peers and plebians alike look forward to the spring campaign. The government leaders who six months ago modified their earlier pronouncements that "Germany must be crushed" to the gentler assertion that "the war cannot cease until the enemy has evacuated France and Belgium and restored the rights of smaller nations" are today reasserting the former statement with vigor. The reason is said to be new confidence in the army.

O. P. HEATH, CHARLOTTE COTTON MAN, SUICIDES

Charlotte, Feb. 28.—O. P. Heath, senior member of the cotton firm of O. P. Heath & Co., shot and killed himself in his office here today. He was one of the oldest merchants in the cotton business in this section and one of the largest operators. Two years ago he met financial reverses, but was apparently doing a thriving business at this time. He was about 60 years old and leaves a family, also several brothers, who are prominent cotton manufacturers in this section.

ANOTHER CALL DOWN FOR V. BERNSTORFF FROM SEC'Y LANSING

Head of State Department Does Not Like "Improper Publicity"

REBUKE IN A STATEMENT

Remarks That Quotations From Latest Memorandum From Berlin Made Public In U. S. Did Not Come from Officials

(By the United Press)

New York, Feb. 29.—The going into effect of the merchantmen decree is now a matter of hours. Eight big liners are ready to sail from here with hundreds of passengers. Six Italian vessels have armed at New York and are now ready to sail. Several ships are now in the war zone.

Washington, Feb. 29.—Secretary Lansing today administered another direct rebuke to Ambassador Von Bernstorff for what he believes to be improper publicity. He issued a statement announcing that statements of the contents of the German memorandum outlined by Von Bernstorff yesterday were not made public by himself, nor the department, and that no statements have been made expressing the Department's views of the memorandum. The statement followed the printing this morning of purported paragraphs from the memorandum.

Mr. Lansing conferred with President Wilson today preceding the cabinet meeting.

The text of the German memorandum obtained by the United Press says Germany will keep its pledges made in the Lusitania matter, so far as peaceful merchantmen are concerned, but that the presence of guns implies intent to resist. Submarine can't warn liner if the liner plans to fire, the memorandum says, and cites a secret British admiralty order to attack submarines. The reason for submarines is that they fear attack.

AMERICAN MURDERED BY VILLISTAS, SAID

(By the United Press)

Washington, Feb. 29.—Grover C. Varn, an American, has been murdered at Pome, Durango, Mexico, by Villistas, says a State Department report. Labor conditions in the Mexican capital are unsettled.

HAITI IS NOW A REAL PROTECTORATE OF U. S.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The Senate late today unanimously ratified the treaty with Haiti under which the United States assumes a protectorate over the turbulent island republic, taking over control of its finances and police, guaranteeing its territorial integrity and undertaking to develop its resources. The treaty has already been approved by the Haitian Congress and its terms virtually are in operation under the eye of a strong American marine expedition.

FIRE IN LUMBER MILL EARLY THIS MORNING

The East Kinston Company extinguished a small fire at Hines Bros' Lumber Mill, East Kinston, at 5 a. m. today, before the downtown firemen arrived. The blaze was in a boiler-room at the plant, damaging the roof some. The damage was stated to be slight. The firemen responded in a rain.

The Pitt county Republicans Saturday in a short convention appointed delegates to the various conventions. No speeches nor resolutions were heard.