

VERDUN OFFENSIVE COSTING ATTACKERS HUNDREDS THOUSANDS

Germans Have Lost Nearly Third of Million Men So Far

DEFENDERS MAKE GAINS

Counter Attacks Cannot Oust Them from Ground Recovered—Estimates of Swiss Military Expert on Big Campaign

(By the United Press)

Paris, May 27.—The French have recaptured a large part of the vitally important Comierres village, nine miles northwest of Verdun, in ferocious fighting. Despite most desperate counter attacks the Germans have been unable to drive out the French.

Futile and Costly Campaign.

Paris, May 27.—The Germans have lost 300,000 men at Verdun, while the French losses have not been over a hundred and twenty thousand, Col. Feyler, a Swiss military expert, estimates. Feyler today said the "Germans are losing 100,000 men a month without results. Included in the French losses are twenty thousand African troops. The Germans now are employing 800,000."

GOOD ARGUMENT FOR ROAD MARKERS HERE; AUTOIST WASTED GAS

(Special to The Free Press)

Snow Hill, May 27.—Claude Carrow, a Washington, N. C., man, passing through Snow Hill en route, as he thought, home, drove several hours over Greene county roads, and not being familiar with the route, stopped at a farm house, woke up the farmer and inquired if he was anywhere near Washington.

"You are two miles and a half from Snow Hill," he was informed. Carrow had driven forty-two miles since leaving Snow Hill, aimlessly cruising over the best system of highways in Eastern Carolina and thinking all the time he was getting nearer home.

GOING ON IN OTHER EASTERN CAROLINA COUNTIES AND TOWNS

Men razing a house in New Bern found a brass button over a hundred years old.

Will Whichard, white, of Pactolus township, Pitt county, shot several days ago by Epps Stokes and a son of Stokes, it is alleged, is dead in a Washington hospital. A dying declaration was to the effect that the Stokeses attacked him, that a fight with bricks, etc., followed, and that he was shot as he was trying to enter a house. The Stokeses are in jail at Greenville now.

BULLETINS

(By the United Press)

HOUSE NOT GOING TO EUROPE.

Washington, May 27.—Colonel E. M. House, President Wilson's confidential adviser, has no present intention of visiting Europe in the near future on a peace mission. Officials expressed interest in Berlin rumors to this effect today, but declared the reports are untrue.

MORE GERMAN TROOPS TO VERDUN.

London, May 27.—The Kaiser is stripping Von Hindenburg's lines at Riga and throwing every available man into the Verdun struggle, the Rotterdam correspondent of the Daily News today reported.

SHARP WARNING TO LONDON AND PARIS FROM THIS GOV'NT

Interference With Neutral Mails Denounced—"Lawless Practice"—U. S. Is Expecting Prompt Action In Matter

Washington, May 26.—The United States, denouncing interference with neutral mails, has notified Great Britain and France that it can no longer tolerate the wrongs which American citizens have suffered and continue to suffer through the "lawless practice" those governments have indulged in, and that only a radical change in policy, restoring the United States to its full rights as a neutral power will be satisfactory. This notification is given in the latest American communication to the two governments, the text of which was made public by the State Department tonight. The time in which the change must be effected is not specified but the United States expects prompt action.

The United States reiterates that the foreign governments do not obtain rightful jurisdiction over neutral ships by forcing them to visit their ports for the purpose of seizing mails and holds that such a practice amounts to an unwarranted limitation of the use of the seas by neutrals.

FUNSTON WILL NOT PERMIT WITHDRAWAL TO BE TALKED OVER

Instructs Pershing to Eliminate It At Conference With Gavrira—Only Matters Will Be Those About "Co-operation"

(By the United Press)

Washington, May 27.—General Funston has instructed General Pershing not to discuss the withdrawal question at the coming conference with the Carranza general, Gavrira, at Namiquipa, it was learned today. Pershing has been instructed to confine the matters discussed to questions of co-operation between the Mexican and American forces.

Conference Requested by Mexicans.

Washington, May 26.—Another conference of American and Mexican military commanders was arranged today. Secretary Baker announced that General Pershing, heading the American expedition in Mexico, would meet General Gavrira, Carranza's commander, in Chihuahua at the latter's request to work out plans for closer co-operation in their military operations. General Funston has approved the proposal.

FICKLEN & WEBB TO BUILD IN WASHINGTON

(Special to The Free Press)

Washington, N. C., May 27.—Ficklen & Webb of Kinston and Greenville are to put up a tobacco re-drying plant here. The plant will be located adjacent to the A. C. L. yards and the building will be 60 by 80 feet in size.

VOTE ON CONFIRMATION BRANDEIS NEXT WEEK

(Special to The Free Press)

Washington, May 27.—The Senate late yesterday agreed to vote on the confirmation of Brandeis next Thursday. A plan for a vote Friday afternoon fell through.

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WAITE NOT INSANE, SAID ALIENIST AT TRIAL THIS MORNING

Case Goes to July This Afternoon; Testimony of State Expert

ISN'T EXACTLY NORMAL

Says Dr. Jelliffe, "But It Is a Departure Into Realm of Criminal"—Sentimental and Snobbish for Effect, Maybe

(By the United Press)

New York, May 27.—Both sides today rested in the trial of Dr. Arthur Warren Waite, charged with murdering his millionaire father-in-law, John E. Peck. The case goes to the jury early this afternoon.

The conclusion came after Dr. Smith Ely Jelliffe, State alienist, declared that Waite is sane now and was at the time he poisoned Peck. He said he reached that conclusion after talks with the prisoner.

"Waite does show a departure from the normal," said Jelliffe, "but it is a departure into the realm of the criminal. He has seemed to be sentimental and snobbish, but this may have been for effect."

SEVENTY-FIVE HOGS ARE SUFFERING FROM CHOLERA IN COUNTY

Perhaps 75 animals are affected in three outbreaks of hog cholera in the county, according to a statement by O. F. McCrary, farm demonstration agent, today. The localities are Holy Innocents', Woodington and Parrott's Fork.

In one place, McCrary states, 45 hogs are suffering. The planters invariably are co-operating to check the outbreaks.

Agent McCrary says that a number of pedigreed pigs recently arrived in the county for pig club boys are exposed. He is making every effort to protect the valuable animals.

CLUBWOMEN OF NATION PLAN GREAT ARMY FOR WAR AND PEACE TODAY

New York, May 27.—Thirty thousand leading American clubwomen representing two million other women in the United States got together at today's session of the National Federation Convention to consider plans for the formation of a gigantic standing army that will do industrial work in time of peace and be instantly available in time of war. This is Conservation Day at the convention.

The speakers have expert knowledge of their subjects. The Department of the Interior is represented.

John M. Ballard of Newton, N. C., is seeking a man named John W. Bowen in this part of the State. Bowen, formerly of Arkansas, is due \$1,000 from an insurance policy in Arkansas.

JURY FOUND GLOVER INNOCENT PERJURY CHARGE SHORT TIME

(By the United Press)

Washington, May 27.—After nine minutes' deliberation the jury today returned a verdict of not guilty of perjury in the case against Charles C. Glover, president of the Biggs National Bank, and Henry Flather and William Flather, officials of the same institution.

MINCHER SENTENCED TO TWELVE MONTHS FOR WHIPPING MAN

E. W. Mincher, "walking boss" of convicts on the Lenoir county roads was this afternoon sentenced by Judge W. M. Bond in Superior Court to serve 12 months in the county jail, not to be worked on the roads.

Mincher was Thursday convicted of beating Junius Potter, a white convict. The defendant appealed.

He was admitted to bail in the sum of \$1,500, signed by Dr. J. M. Parrott and Bryant Taylor.

WOULD SEND WILL'M H. TAFT TO EUROPE TO LINE UP ALLIES

For League to Enforce Peace—Delegates at the Convention in Washington Applaud Idea of Former Minister Marburg

(By the United Press)

Washington, May 27.—A suggestion from ex-Minister to Belgium Marburg that William H. Taft be sent abroad "at a proper time" to line up the Allies in favor of the League to Enforce Peace at the morning session brought the delegates cheering to their feet.

The demonstration was stopped only when Mr. Taft arose. He feared the efforts would be a burden, he said. Marburg suggested that Mr. Taft be sent to Europe with a congressional resolution authorizing him to do this work.

NO CHANCE TO MAKE TREATY WITH SLAVS NOW, IT IS BELIEVED

Russia Busy Making Agreements With Allies—Jewish Question In Way—U. S. Began Negotiations Too Late

(By the United Press)

Petrograd, May 27.—The United States faces the greatest difficulties in the attempt to negotiate a new commercial treaty with Russia to replace that abrogated during Taft's administration because of the Jewish question. The United Press has learned this on unimpeachable authority.

It is stated that the United States began negotiations six months too late. The Allies are now negotiating commercial treaties among themselves. Until this is concluded Russia manifestly will make no outside arrangements.

GALLIENI, HERO OF PARIS, PASSES AWAY FOLLOWING OPERATION; WAS ONE FRENCH STAFF'S BRIGHTEST MINDS; SAVED PARIS

Paris, May 27.—General Gallieni, until recently French War Minister, popularly termed the "Savior of Paris," died today following an operation for kidney trouble.

Gallieni was a veteran of the Franco-Prussian war and one of the most brilliant members of the French military staff.

It was Gallieni who, as military Governor of Paris, rushed aid to the armies of Joffre when the Germans were pounding at the capital's gates, and by his quickness, paved the way for the great German defeat on the Marne.

MYSTERIOUS FIRES AT HOME OF CHASE HAVE CEASED TODAY

Daughter of Tenant Likely to Be Held for Treatment for Mania

WINDING UP INVESTIGATION

Younger of Two Sisters Is Held at Jail Here Suspected of Being Responsible for Long String of Blazes On Plantation

No fires have occurred in the "mystery house" on the H. P. Loftin plantation since the Misses Lavinia and Novella Chase were taken into custody Friday. The result of the investigation being concluded this afternoon, it is forecasted on excellent authority, will be that Miss Novella Chase will be held for treatment for pyromania. No theory of malicious incendiarism is entertained. Miss Lavinia Chase is expected to be released this afternoon.

Lavinia Chase, 17, and Novella Chase, 13, sisters, taken into custody Friday in connection with the thirty or more "mystery fires" at the home of their father, T. W. Chase, a tenant on a plantation of H. P. Loftin, south of here, remained at the county jail here this morning. The girls were sharing the living quarters of the jailer's family, by whom they were being shown every consideration.

An expert from the State Insurance Department and others were investigating the fires this morning. An examination of the girls by a physician late Friday developed nothing except a more direct suspicion that the younger, Novella, was responsible for the mysterious fires. She gave conflicting answers. Still, her embarrassment might have had something to do with that.

Novella Chase is said to have been in a house which was destroyed by fire Friday a short distance from the Chase home, just a few minutes before the blaze was discovered. She acts like any normal girl, it is said at the jail, except that upon two occasions since she has been there she has inspected mantelpieces with evident curiosity, looking behind a clock, etc., in one instance. There is not a match left lying around carelessly.

THE DAY ON LOCAL COTTON EXCHANGE

One bale of cotton had been sold here today by 3 o'clock. It brought 12 cents.

New York futures quotations were:

	Open	Close
January	13.01	13.12
March	13.16	13.25
July	12.71	12.79
October	12.74	12.90
December	12.92	13.06

THE CASWELL STREET BRIDGE OPENED TO THE PUBLIC FRIDAY

Modern Steel Structure Cost About \$11,000—Replaces Dilapidated Wooden Bridge, Which Public Persisted In Using

The new steel bridge over Neuse river to replace the old "Parrott's bridge" has been opened to the public. Vehicles passed over it for the first time Friday. The structure and a new road leading from it to the Sandy Bottom country are already proving popular with the public.

Parrott's bridge was condemned for years. It was a wooden structure. It withstood the ravages of time and swift-flowing freshets and floods of the Neuse and many daring spirits continued to use it. The commissioners felt it incumbent upon them, they said, to replace it.

The bridge cost in the neighborhood of \$11,000. It was built by a Roanoke, Va., concern, except the substructure, which was put down by a Washington, N. C., firm to whom the work was sub-contracted. It has not been formally received by the commissioners. The bridge has not been named. It is expected to be officially called the "Caswell Street

JUDGE BOND ORDERS CLERK TO ASCERTAIN IF ORDER IS OBEYED

Report to Be Made At August Term Superior Court for Such Action as Court May Deem Fit

Judge Bond, presiding in Superior Court, took no official cognizance of the attitude assumed by Recorder Wooten in a signed communication published in The Free Press Friday afternoon, nor did he reply to a letter which it is understood Recorder Wooten addressed to him before he left town. It is understood that the letter purported to express humiliation and chagrin at the action taken by Judge Bond in the court Thursday morning. Judge Bond made some reference to the matters, and let it be known that he did not propose to enter into any controversy with the Recorder, but that the dignity of the court presided over by him should be upheld and to that end he caused to be entered upon the records an additional order, supplementing the one entered on Thursday, whereby the cases, which had withdrawn appeals to the Superior Court because of modifications in the penalties inflicted by the Recorder, should be re-entered for hearing at the August term of the Superior Court. This order instructs the clerk to call upon the recorder's court before the August term of the superior court and ascertain what disposition has been made of the cases involved. This was done, according to the order, that it be known whether or not the order of the Superior court had been obeyed and if not for the presiding judge to take such action as he may deem fit.

The order follows: "The clerk of this court is hereby directed to call on the clerk of the recorder's court for the city of Kinston, and the Recorder of said court a few days before the meeting of the next criminal term in this county, and ascertain what disposition was made of the cases reinstated on the docket of this court after it had appeared to the court that those appeals had been withdrawn by reason of misunderstandings between the Recorder and the prisoners after the appeals had been docketed in this court; and

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MARG'RET PARTELLO NOT GUILTY MURDER OF STEIN, VERDICT

Jury So Decided On First Ballot This Afternoon at 2 o'Clock

DEFENSE'S GOOD CASE

Woman Made Good Witness—Argument of Counsel Today—Story of Illicit Relationship and Jealousy Told in Court

"Not guilty," was the verdict of the jury in the case of State vs. Margaret Partello, accused of the murder of Harry Stein, this afternoon. The jury got the case about 2 o'clock and agreed on the first ballot. Within seven minutes the verdict was announced.

The case against Margaret Partello, charged with the murder of Harry Stein, had reached the point where only counsel's speeches and the charge from the bench remained to be heard when recess was taken in Superior Court Friday evening. The woman—who lives in South Kinston, is according to the opinion of many good-looking, and is said to be a high school graduate—was the witness the longest time on the stand during the taking of testimony. Her self-defense statement was outlined in Friday's Free Press, in effect that Stein, her alleged paramour, had abused her and threatened her life and that she shot him, as she believed, to protect herself. Evidence was introduced by the State to show that Stein, attempting to break away from the woman, he being engaged, it was said, to a young woman in New York, was shot by the woman out of jealousy.

Margaret Partello a Nearly Remarkable Woman.

Margaret Partello's story occupied hours in the telling. In cross-examination she could not be confused. She answered nearly every question without a second's delay. She is an intelligent woman, to say the least. Margaret Partello was just as much interested in the jury as the jurymen were in her. She is the first white woman to be a defendant in a murder trial here in quite a while. Her steadiness under the fire of Solicitor Shaw won the admiration of lawyers, court officers and spectators. The fact that she was almost the only woman in a big room full of men seemed to have no effect on her. Perhaps she anticipated the more sympathy on that account.

The Jury. The following comprise the jury: Ben. F. Hill, B. R. Sutton, W. H. Jackson, C. G. White, Thos. Hill, Jesse Wallace, John F. Daughety, R. E. Johnson, J. C. Denson, J. T. Quarles, A. P. Guinn, and J. D. Poplin. More than half are farmers. All are well known in the county. The defense is known to be well pleased with the jury. Argument was expected to take up about three hours this morning, and the belief in court circles was that the jury would get the case either before or shortly after dinner.

YOUNG TELEGRAPHER KILLED BY A TRAIN

Burlington, May 26.—News reached here of the death of Ralph F. Younger which occurred at Mt. Zion, S. C. He was run over and instantly killed by a passenger train as he was going to work. He was telegraph operator for the Southern Railway. He was 19 years old.

Mrs. E. T. Forbes a prominent Greenville woman, is dead, probably as the result of heart failure. Her husband was out of town when she died, having left her in apparently the best of health.