

BERLIN HOPES BREAK WITH ENTENTE OVER DANZIG CAN BE AVOIDED; FOCH SAID TO HAVE INVITED HUNS TO TALK

Allied Generalissimo Has Asked That Plenipotentiary Be Sent to Spa, Reported—Strike at Essen Increasing—40,000 Spartacans Demanding Walkout Throughout Central Europe—Report to London Says Germans May Agree to Give Up Danzig if Poles Are Kept Out Pending Peace Settlement—Newspapers Approve Proposal for Further Negotiations

(By the United Press)

Berlin, Mar. 30 (Delayed).—Hope grew in official circles here today that the Danzig question might be settled without a break with the Allies. Newspapers approve the proposal for further negotiations with the Allies regarding their demand that Polish troops be permitted to land at Danzig.

Marshal Foch is said to have extended an invitation for a plenipotentiary to meet him at Spa to discuss the matter.

The strike at Essen is increasing. Over 40,000 workers under Spartacan leadership are demanding a general strike throughout Central Europe.

London, Mar. 30.—The Berlin correspondent of the Mail says there is good reason to believe Germany will give way regarding the Danzig question if the Allies agree that Polish troops shall not actually remain in Danzig pending the establishment of peace.

Will Go to Spa.

Berlin, Mar. 31.—The German government has decided to send Matthias Erzberger to Spa to confer with Marshal Foch regarding the Danzig situation, according to a Berlin dispatch.

Salvation Army to Open Drive Office Here in a Few Days

Atlanta, Mar. 31.—The opening gun in the national drive for the Salvation Army home service fund will be fired in Kinston this week with the arrival of Lemuel B. Green, who will be in charge of the campaign here. The canvass for funds will commence May 19 and will close May 26.

Upon Mr. Green's arrival here he will open an office from where he will direct the campaign and a prominent citizen will be made chairman of the local general committee in charge of raising funds for the cause.

The territory will be mapped out and every section canvassed. Captains and lieutenants and corps of workers will soon be on the job to add impetus to the campaign.

Work on Soldiers' Homes to Go Ahead

(By the United Press) Washington, Mar. 31.—Notwithstanding the defeat through a Republican filibuster in the Senate of an appropriation of \$100,000,000 with which to provide homes for men of the army and the navy, the Department of the Interior has begun preliminary work on the construction of settlements for thousands of soldiers, sailors and marines.

Thirty-two states have already taken action either by appropriate legislation or by the appointment of committees to cooperate with the Federal Government in realizing Secretary Lane's plans for soldier-settlements. These include North Carolina.

The defeat of the bill by the Republicans will greatly delay the work of the states as well as that of the Federal Government, for their individual schemes depend on the success of the Interior Department's plans.

SOVIET ELECTIONS IN HUNGARY SOON

(By the United Press) Budapest, Mar. 31.—Foreign Minister Bela Kun in a public speech declared soviet elections would be held within a fortnight, one for the dictatorship. This, he said, does not mean terror. "The latter will pre-

OLD HICKORY MEN FETED AT COLUMBIA

(By the United Press) Columbia, Mar. 31.—The heroes of the 30th (Old Hickory) Division were feted today as guests of the Palmetto State. A five-mile parade was reviewed by Governor Cooper, Brigadier-General Tyson and other officials as a feature of the festivities. South Carolina boys were in the 105th Ammunition Train and 118th Infantry.

Charlie Comiskey Has a Great Giant

(By the United Press)

Chicago, Mar. 31.—There were giants in those days" was not written of baseball. But here's a giant that works for Charles A. Comiskey, owner of the Chicago White Sox:

Age, 761 years. Height, 159 feet ten inches. Weight, 4,779 pounds.

He's a composite of the 28 men now signed to earn dividends next summer for the "old Roman."

This monster baseball player of Comiskey's is ambidextrous. He bats right handed 16 times, then hops to the right side of the old dish for 12 tries.

Twenty-three times of 28 he throws with his right hand, then comes up with five left handed efforts.

For the most part he's married. This bird bats .266 and fields .967, pretty fair averages for an all-round man.

Further juggling of the figures shows the average member of the White Sox squad is 27 1-2 years old, has been on the team 4.8 years, is 5 feet nine and one-half inches tall and weighs 170.6 pounds.

That's what "Commy" and Gleason have to work with this season.

Rotary Helps Fight Venereal Diseases

(Special to The Free Press)

Washington, Mar. 31.—Realizing the seriousness of the prevalence of venereal disease in civic communities in the United States, the Rotary Club has been very quick to recognize the importance of the fight the Government is waging upon this menace, and is cooperating with the Public Health Service with an aggressiveness that is producing good results.

The appeal of one club in a small town in Mississippi was so earnest and convincing that instead of \$500 as requested for the establishment of a clinic there, \$1,000 was made available.

The clubs in Ohio have been especially active in this campaign.

Four Women Bound Over for Vagrancy; Go to Superior Court

Mabel Holmes, Flonnie Gulley, Lilly Gulley and Annie Belle Clark, residents of the late segregated district in South Kinston, were tried in Municipal Court Monday morning on vagrancy charges. They were held in bonds for Superior Court. All furnished bail.

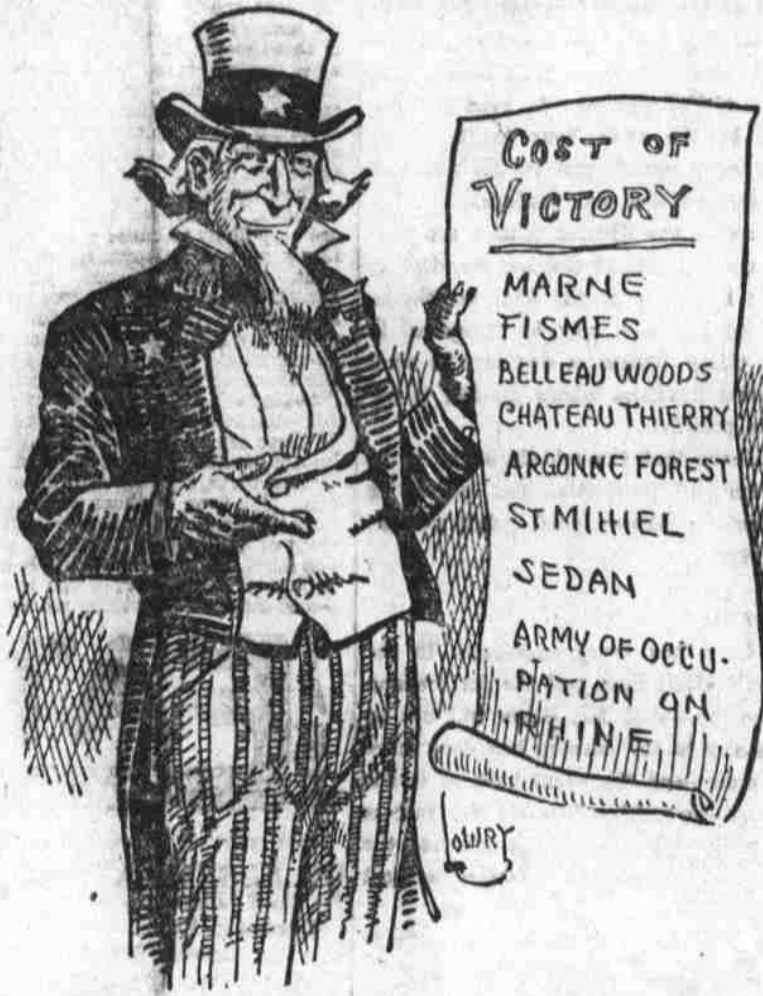
These women were supposed to be all who didn't comply with the order to evacuate the recently closed red light district.

AMERICA'S IMMORTALS

JAMES I. MESTROVITCH, Sergeant, Company C, 11th Infantry.

Sergt. Mestrovitch (deceased), decorated for exceptional bravery in saving the life of his company commander at Fismette, France, August 10, 1918. Seeing his captain lying wounded thirty yards in front of the line, after his company had withdrawn to a sheltered position behind a stone wall, Sergt. Mestrovitch voluntarily left cover and crawled through heavy machine gun and shell fire to where the officer lay. Sergt. Mestrovitch took the officer upon his back and crawled back to a place of safety, where he administered first aid treatment. His exceptional heroism saving the officer's life. Sergt. Mestrovitch's home was in Fresno, Cal.

NOT ASHAMED OF THE BILL



HUNGARIANS TO GET DEBS CANNOT GET ALLIES OUT OF WAY REHEARING OF CASE

(By The United Press) Budapest, Mar. 30 (Delayed).—A Hungarian steamer is being prepared to convey down the Danube to Belgrade any Allied or neutral citizens who wish to leave the city. The trip will be made under the British flag. The red army is increasing daily. Eighty women at Szekesfehva volunteered but were refused.

Electric Railways in the Carolinas

(By the United Press) Washington, Mar. 31.—Preliminary figures of the forthcoming quinquennial report on the electric railways of the states of North Carolina and South Carolina have been given out by the Bureau of the Census.

The statistics relate to the years ending December 31, 1917, 1912, and 1907.

The figures show substantial gains in the electric railway industry for both the 5-year periods 1912-1917 and 1907-1912. The number of operating companies was 19 in 1917 (North Carolina 12, South Carolina 7), 19 in 1912 (North Carolina 13, South Carolina 6), and 18 in 1907 (North Carolina 11, South Carolina 7). The mileage of single track in North Carolina in 1917 amounted to 228, representing an increase of 19.6 per cent. as compared with 1912 and 113.8 per cent. as compared with 1907. The corresponding mileage for South Carolina was 314, an increase of 37.5 per cent. as compared with 1912 and 139 per cent. as compared with 1907. The electric-railway employees in 1917, in the two states combined, numbered 2,891.

Conditions Building Circles Improving

(By The United Press) Washington, Mar. 31.—A decidedly optimistic tone is found in reports and statements issued by the Department of Labor during the last 10 days in so far as they deal with building and construction work. Data gathered from all parts of the country speak convincingly of an increase in building and construction work, especially in the Middle West, where private interests are decidedly active.

Bank clearings are comparatively large. Retail business is unusually active. There is a noticeable acceleration of advertising activities.

For the first time since 1907 real estate in the metropolitan district of New York City is active.

One encounters everywhere a feeling that gradual resumption of business is under way.

There is a significant tone of finality in expressions on the wage level question. There seems to be a general belief that wages should re-

Bernstorff Essays Part of a Democrat

(By Frank J. Taylor) (United Press Staff Correspondent) Berlin, Mar. 6 (By Mail).—Count Bernstorff has joined the ranks of the democrats. He admits he has joined the party and the party admits he has been taken into the fold, though no statement came out officially.

Bernstorff's fluctuation into the democratic party came out in an unobscured and amusing way. In the early days of the revolution, in December, he spoke of "the democrats" and "the socialists."

By the end of January Bernstorff spoke, unconsciously or otherwise, of "we democrats."

Joining the democrats has re-established Bernstorff solidly with the government, since the democrats are in coalition with the majority socialists.

War-Savings Stamps for Old Rags, Etc.

(By The United Press) Richmond, Mar. 31.—The old rag-picker, the buyer of leather, the collector of old paper and rubber are all to be asked to take a big part in the 1919 war-savings campaign in the Fifth Federal Reserve District. There are 556 buyers of waste material in the Fifth District. Every one of these will be asked to join in the thrift campaign by giving thrift stamps in exchange for junk.

The War Loan Organization of the district is planning an extensive educational campaign among housewives as to the value of the old papers, rags, rubber, leather and other articles that usually find their way into the trash pile.

COTTON

Futures quotations Monday were: Open. Close. May 24.70 25.06 July 22.30 22.68 October 20.40 20.58 Local receipts were light.

New York Report. New York, Mar. 31.—First call cotton prices were heavy, new contracts being off 7 to 21 and old off 30 to 45 points. There was selling of old-style contracts but it was not

AMERICANS REFUSE TO COOPERATE WITH JAPS IN SIBERIA WASHINGTON SEEKS INFORMATION ABOUT MEXICAN-JAP DEAL

War Minister at Tokio Says They Declined to Unite in Campaign Against Bolsheviki—Difference in Principles

(By the United Press)

London, Mar. 31.—American troops have refused to cooperate with the Japanese in fighting bolsheviki near Blagovestchensk, War Minister Tanaka declared in answering questions Wednesday in the Japanese house of representatives.

Asked if the Americans' refusal to cooperate with the Japanese amounted to insubordination, Tanaka replied that he understood the order making General Otani Allied commander in that region was effective only when consistent with the principles of America's national policies.

The American attitude was probably due to a difference between Americans and Japanese as to what constitutes bolshevism.

If You Have Had the Influenza Read This; It's Highly Important

Dr. T. F. Wickliffe, health officer, issues the following:

"It is being found that a large percentage of those who had influenza during the epidemic have been left with damaged hearts, lungs or kidneys. These defects will in time, if untreated, become handicaps which will make it impossible for such citizens to do their usual work, and may finally lead to ill health or invalidism. In view of these facts the American Public Health Association and the North Carolina State Board of Health are urging every person who had influenza to have a thorough physical examination made in order to find out if they have been left with these defects. If such defects exist, it is highly important that they be treated before they become pronounced or permanent.

"The Lenoir County Health Department has secured the cooperation of the State Sanatorium and will provide a free physical examination of any adult citizen who applies for it. It is important that every adult be examined, especially the ones who had influenza, and you are urged either to apply to your family physician or to the Board of Health and arrange for an examination at once."

Not Everyone Coming Back Is a Hero, Says the Stars and Stripes

Wagoner Edgar J. Pate, with the army of occupation, writes The Free Press that he will be more than glad to hit the home soil of Sand Hill when he is released from service overseas. France, Luxemburg, Belgium, Germany, all fail to measure up to Sand Hill. For three or four months Pate saw a lot of hard service, but the "doughboys" got the hardest work, of course. "I will gladly take off my hat to a doughboy, any time."

Pate encloses a clipping from the Stars and Stripes condemning "bogus stories of bogus heroes" now making the rounds in the States, and citing the cases of "the 149 fighting civilians" and a certain artillery regiment. The gunners in question, from the West, got to the front November 13, and still, when they returned home, the press lauded the outfit as a "tattered, battle-scarred outfit." The civilians, who were described as having "braved shell fire," fought at Cambrai, faced gas and machineguns, didn't do anything of the sort, Stars and Stripes asserts emphatically. They built barges and the like at Bordeaux, 550 kilometers from the front.

Assisting Widows is Work of Australia Now

Sydney, Australia, Mar. 1. (By Mail).—Nearly \$80,000 has been spent by the government of New South Wales during the past year of rental assistance to widows of soldiers and widowed mothers of soldiers who have made the supreme

State Department Wires to Ambassador to Forward Report

CAN'T CONFIRM THE SALE

Of Land to Orientals in Violation of Monroe Doctrine—Bonilly Not Pleased—Ishii Has Nothing to Say

(By the United Press)

Washington, Mar. 31.—The State Department has asked the American embassy at Mexico City for full report on the alleged Mexican concession of land in Lower California to Japanese interests. In making the announcement the department added that it had no official word from Mexico on the reported concession, and was unable to determine yet whether the land was the same that was to be sold two weeks ago by the California-Mexican Land Company to Japanese interests or whether the concession had actually been made or the report had merely been sent out as a feeler.

Mexican Ambassador Bonilly has no advice regarding the reported negotiations, but has asked Mexico City for information.

It is known here that the Mexican view is that the transfer of property to Japanese citizens or companies is not in violation of the Monroe Doctrine. Japanese Ambassador Ishii declined to discuss the reported deal.

Don't Get Notion He Opposes Good Roads

Nearly every member of the Tobacco Board of Trade is in favor of the road bond issue, as shown in a communication printed in The Free Press Saturday, bearing the names of the members favoring road improvements and the reasons for their stand.

Mr. W. L. Holderby's signature was omitted. He explained Monday that he was ill and did not attend the meeting.

"Please don't get the idea that I am opposed to good roads," he said. Mr. Holderby called at the Free Press office to state that he is very much in favor of roads.

Miners' Wives Are Threatening Strike

London, Mar. 15 (By Mail).—A strike of wives and daughters who keep house for England's 1,000,000 coal miners is proposed to impress the Lloyd-George government with the necessity of keeping its pre-election promises of better housing conditions. Agitators now are boosting the movement at neighborhood gatherings of miners' wives.

MOVEMENT TO HOLD COTTON PROGRESSING FAVORABLY.

Raleigh, Mar. 29.—"Everything looks fine for a reduced acreage in cotton over the South. North Carolina must keep faith with the other states," is the message sent by T. E. Parker from Memphis to O. J. McConnell, secretary of the North Carolina Cotton Association. Mr. Parker has been at Memphis attending a meeting on cotton acreage reduction and the holding of the 1918 crop. He states that fine reports were received from all the Southern States. According to Mr. McConnell, this movement for a reduction in cotton acreage is a general one over North Carolina also, and he expects that the farmers will fully keep faith with farmers of other states.

NOT A BAD-LOOKING SEXTETTE, EITHER.

The Free Press inaugurated a picture gallery in Saturday's paper. On page 4 half a dozen likenesses of that many prominent men as they looked 14 years ago were printed. The men were omitted, purposely, but readers guessed the identity of the men. They were Messrs. E. B. Tamm, J. T. Skinner, Dr. H. Tull, and W. Howard, H. E. Messley