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AMERICANS RAID GERMAN TRENCHES

DESTROY THEIR DEFENSES AND PICK UP MUCH WAR MATERIAL.

ONLY FEW AMERICANS LOST

American Batteries Leveled German Trenches Before Infantry Made Attack.—Use Gas Shells Effectively.

American initiative has asserted itself on the Lorraine front in France. Three savage raids on the German lines have been made by the Americans, who succeeded in reaching the second line of enemy trenches before ordered to return. During their stay in German-held territory they destroyed carefully built defenses and picked up much war material.

The American artillery ably assisted the infantry in the operation. A heavy barrage fire was laid down in front of the advancing Americans and the Germans had fled before the wave of infantry reached the hostile positions. After the Americans had been in the German trenches for a few minutes, the German barrage fire was loosed on them, but the American guns answered shot for shot, and silenced a number of batteries. The American artillerymen used gas shells with good effect. Near Toul the American heavy guns have been in action.

Three raids on the British lines have been attempted by the Germans in the Armentieres sector, but the British, in spite of a heavy fire from the enemy's heavy guns, repulsed the Teutons. The fighting has spread along the Flanders front, the Ypres and Passchendaele sectors figuring in the official reports. The activities of the contending armies have spread farther south, encounters near St. Quentin being mentioned for the first time in recent weeks.

WILSON EXTENDS SYMPATHY TO THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE

Pledges Any Aid Possible in Driving Out Autocracy.

Washington.—On the eve of the gathering at Moscow of the Russian congress of soviets, which is to pass judgment on the German peace accepted by the bolsheviks at Brest-Litovsk, President Wilson has sent a message of sympathy to the Russian people through the congress, with a pledge that the United States will avail itself of every opportunity to aid them in driving out autocracy and restoring Russia to her place in the world with complete sovereignty and independence.

The President's message, telegraphed to the American consul general at Moscow for delivery, follows:

"May I not take advantage of the meeting of the congress of the soviets to express the sincere sympathy which the people of the United States feel for the Russian people at this moment when the German power has been thrust in to interrupt and turn back the whole struggle for freedom and substitute the wishes of Germany for the purpose of the people of Russia. Although the government of the United States, unhappily, is not now in a position to render the direct and effective aid it would wish to render, I beg to assure the people of Russia through the congress that it will avail itself of every opportunity to secure for Russia once more complete sovereignty and independence in her own affairs and full restoration to her great role in the life of Europe and the modern world. The whole heart of the people of the United States is with the people of Russia in the attempt to free themselves forever from autocratic government and become the masters of their own life.

(Signed) "WOODROW WILSON."

RAILWAY LOSE MAIL SUITS FOR \$40,000,000.

Washington.—The attempt of the railroads to recover from the government \$40,000,000 under the old system of weights compensation for transporting mails was defeated in the court of claims. The court reaffirmed a former decision in favor of the government. The court also held for the government in the suits of New England railroads who claimed extra pay for transporting parcel post.

SPENCER S. WOOD



Spencer S. Wood is one of the fortunate officers of the American navy who have just been advanced from the rank of captain to that of rear admiral.

TALK OF OFFENSIVE DWINDLES

TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE ARMY RUNNING ON SCHEDULE.

Great Battles May Not Materialize in West This Month—Generally in April.

Washington.—Troops and supplies for General Pershing's forces now are moving to France on schedule time, it was learned on high authority. While figures may not be published it was stated positively that transportation requirements of the army are being met by the shipping board, and the immediate situation as to ships was described as satisfactory.

In view of this assurance that the United States will be able to maintain its place as a fighting unit on the battle front, reports from the western front are being scanned more eagerly than ever by officers here for the first signs of the 1918 campaigns. It is felt strongly that the opening of major operations in what President Wilson has predicted will prove the decisive year of the great war will not be much longer delayed.

Mud has been the determining factor of many previous western front operations. So long as the ground is soft with the winter's rains, it is impossible to move forward great guns and necessary transport trains to support an advancing line. Even in Flanders, however, indications this year are that the ground will harden early in spring, permitting either side to undertake the enterprises planned. In April Heretofore.

In previous years, April has seen offensive operations set in motion by the allies. For that reason many officers here seem to anticipate raiding and minor assaults before the middle of next month will show in themselves that the ground is being mapped, information obtained and local strategic advantages established by one side or the other in preparation for a great effort.

MORE U-BOATS DESTROYED THAN GERMANY BUILT

In December, Is Statement Given Out at Washington.

Washington.—More submarines were destroyed by the allied and American naval forces in December than Germany was able to build during that month, according to information that reached Washington. This fact developed in discussions of the statement made to parliament by Sir Eric C. Geddes, first lord of the British admiralty, that the submarines were being checked.

SECRETARY BAKER IS NOW IN FRANCE

HIS VISIT TO FRENCH SOIL IS PURELY MILITARY AND NOT DIPLOMATIC.

EAGER TO GO FOR SOME TIME

Thinks Trip Will Better Fit Him for Meeting the Many Needs of General Pershing.

Paris.—The American secretary of war, Newton D. Baker, has arrived at a French port.

Washington.—Upon hearing of Secretary Baker's safe arrival in France through the Associated Press dispatch from Paris, the war department announced that the secretary's visit is purely military and not diplomatic, and is for purposes of inspection and personal conferences with military officials. Mr. Baker is accompanied by Major General William M. Black, chief of engineers; Lieutenant Col. M. L. Brett and Ralph Hayes, his private secretary.

No official report on the secretary's arrival had been received. The department issued this statement: Sailed February 27.

"A cable dispatch from Paris to the Associated Press announces the arrival at a French port of the secretary of war.

"For some time Secretary Baker has desired to visit the headquarters of the American expeditionary forces. He sailed from an American port about February 27.

"Secretary Baker has not determined the length of time he will remain in France but his stay will be long enough to enable him to make a thorough inspection of the American forces abroad and to hold important conferences with American military officials.

"It is expected that not only will Secretary Baker visit the American headquarters, but his inspection tour will cover construction projects, including docks, railroads and ordnance bases, now under way back of the American lines.

"The secretary's visit is military and not diplomatic. It is essentially for the purpose of inspection and personal conference with military officials.

Secretary Baker plans to spend a brief time in France, inspecting in person the concrete results already achieved in the efforts of his department to place in the field this year an army that will be a factor in the campaign. On the eve of his departure, Mr. Baker told members of the press who had been in the habit of seeing him every day that he did not expect to be away for any considerable length of time.

The secretary and his party left Washington without any other attempt to conceal their movements than a request that the press refrain from reporting his departure. The newspapers again worked in hearty co-operation to make the journey as safe as possible from German submarines for the party. No hint of the trip has been printed.

TORNADO TAKES TOLL OF LIVES—WRECKS HOMES

Lima, Ohio.—Five persons are known to be dead, several other are reported killed, scores are injured, scores of homes were completely or partly demolished and hundreds of barns and outbuildings were razed by the tornado which traveled across northwest Ohio. Estimates of property damage was one to five million dollars.

No serious damage was done in any of the larger cities, most of the destruction having been reported from country districts. The tornado began in Vanwert county, on the Ohio-Indiana state line, and traveled in a northeasterly direction, lessening in intensity until it died out east of Tiffin. Towns suffering the most were Vanwert, Middlepoint, Convoy, Lima, Deshier, Hamler, Continental, Ottawa, Findlay Napoleon, Holgate, Miller City and Tiffin.

SAYS WE TALK TOO MUCH INSTEAD OF GETTING TO WORK.

Daytona, Fla.—America's reasons for entering the war were outlined by Vice President Thomas R. Marshall, in an address here before the community forum in which he criticized Americans for "talking too much instead of getting to work and winning the war. Don't talk about what you are going to do after the war," he said, "but talk about winning it. I believe I am about the only man who has kept silent."

MADAME DE MENOCAL



This photograph of the beautiful wife of the president of Cuba was taken a few days after she had completed the task of raising a cash fund of \$1,000,000 for the equipment and maintenance in France of a hospital to be manned exclusively by Cuban physcians and nurses.

NEXT DRAFT IS DELAYED

THOUGH MANY MEN WILL BE CALLED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

Announcement Expected to Outline Manner of Filling Present Organization to Full Strength.

Washington.—While a large number of men will be called out during the present year to fill up the army and complete its organization, it was learned that war department plans do not call for the creation of any additional divisions in 1918. The announcement concerning the second draft expected soon from Provost Marshal General Crowder may outline the manner in which less than 1,000,000 men—probably not much in excess of 800,000—are to be summoned gradually during the year to complete the existing organizations.

Delay in the announcement as to the next draft is understood to be due to uncertainty as to which method of allotting quotas to the states is to be followed. The senate already has passed and the house military committee has favorably reported an amendment to the law to base the quota on the number of men in class 1, instead of upon the total registration of a state. This change is regarded as certain to be made, but to avoid further delay schedules of allotments under both systems have been prepared at Provost Marshal General's office ready to go out as soon as final action is taken.

As to the date of the second draft, members of Congress from agricultural sections have been practically assured that no withdrawal of men from civil life was contemplated which would embarrass harvesting. It has been indicated, however, that a relatively small number of men must be called to the colors prior to June 1 and the process may start in April, when equipment, clothing and quarters will be available. The men are needed to fill up to full strength divisions slated for early departure to Europe and also for field army and corps troops at attached to divisions. The replacement detachments also must go forward at an accelerating rate since American troops are now actually holding a sector of the French front and men are being killed or wounded in action every day.

The completion of the full program of the war department without creating any additional divisions probably will absorb in the neighborhood of 600,000 men. The extent to which it has been necessary to increase artillery quotas throughout the army and to add special units of all sorts has surprised every officer and accounts for the existing shortages to a large extent.

FIVE MILE DRY ZONES ORDERED BY DANIELS

Washington.—Five-mile dry zones around the seven permanent naval training stations and camps, irrespective of whether there is an incorporated city or town within those limits, was ordered by Secretary Daniels. Other orders may be issued later.

LIST OF CASUALTIES NO LONGER ISSUED

INFORMATION COMMITTEE DISCONTINUES PRACTICE ON WAR DEPARTMENT ORDERS

REQUESTED BY GEN. PERSHING

Enemy Able Through This Source to Gain Valuable Information as to Units in France.

Washington.—Issuance of daily lists of casualties among the American expeditionary forces was discontinued by the public information committee as the result of an order of the war department under which the names of next of kin and the emergency addresses of soldiers whose names appear on the lists hereafter will be withheld. The official explanation is that the purpose of the order is to keep information of value from the enemy.

On being informed of the order the committee took the position that long lists of men killed or wounded would be worthless to the newspaper correspondents without the addresses and a notice was issued advising the press that in future all information regarding casualties must be obtained from the war department. At the adjutant general's office it was stated that the lists would continue to be sent to the committee and would be available there.

While the disagreement between the committee and the department probably will be straightened out soon so that the "expurgated" lists may be made available to all who desire them, the purpose of the department to withhold the addresses apparently is unalterable. Acting Secretary Crowell said the order was issued at the urgent recommendation of General Pershing and that it would be permanent. Both Mr. Crowell and Maj. General Barch, acting chief of staff, declared that the purpose was to close up a channel through which the enemy might obtain valuable information, and both disclaimed any intention of seeking to conceal heavy casualty reports.

"You may say for me," said General March, "that the war department has not and will not hold up a single name for an instant longer than it takes to get it out.

PLENTY OF "BRAINLESS" DAYS SAYS SENATOR REED

Says We Will Soon Come to Bread Cards if We Leave it to Hoover.

Washington.—Strictures on government price-fixing and the activities of the food administration monopolized one day's session of the senate.

Led by Senator Reed, of Missouri, Democrat, a group of senators of both parties made the attack. Charges that a general policy of fixing prices for farm products, not authorized by the food control law, is being instituted, were made by Senators Reed and Borah, who said the licensing power of the law was being so used that its actual result is an unauthorized price-fixing program.

In a four-hour speech teeming with bitter criticism, Senator Reed also denounced the fuel administration, asserting that Administrator Garfield had not told the truth regarding results of the coalless days' order, which he described as a "lockout" of certain eastern industries.

Senator Wolcott, Democrat, of Delaware, said Mr. Hoover had denied adoption of a farm produce price-fixing plan, disclaiming authority, but he and other senators insisted that acts of the food administration, particularly under its wholesale and retail dealers' licensing power, was having that effect in actual practice.

"We would not have had so many meatless days if there had not been so many, many brainless days," Senator Reed declared. "A few more acts of the food administration, and we will have bread tickets. I believe the efficiency of the United States has been reduced 20 per cent . . . by ignorant interference with business methods."

RETAIL PRICE OF COAL 30 CENTS TON LOWER

Washington.—An average reduction of 30 cents a ton in the retail price of all anthracite coal sold for domestic use between April 1 and September 1, was announced by the fuel administration, together with regulations governing the retail distribution of all coal for the year beginning the first of next month. The rules are designed particularly to prevent hoarding and insure the filling of all domestic needs for next winter during the summer.

GOVERNOR BROWN IN STRONG AD

DECLARES DOUBLE STANDARD OF MORALITY DAMNABLE

HOLD SIXTH ANNUAL

His Address Before Co-Social Service Win Commendation

"The double standard of damnability. The colossal ages is the belief that a man can be good against his body, and the and wife it all out with tear. He can't do it. He books, and with a heavy every debt contracted by in the economy of nature pardoning power; we mercy beyond the grave; none."

So declared Governor Brown before the North Carolina Conference for Social Service, being "State and National Expressing the belief that of the Conference is to rather than to confine it realm of purely academic Governor Bickett spoke the shoulder in language not be misunderstood, being the outstanding feature day of the Conference.

For one of the few times the Governor reared from carefully prepared delivering the words slow impressive forcefulness, audience sat tense in silence until the round of applause his conclusion. He said "The Athenians were people in their fondness. The Israelites revealed a actor common to mankind shifted their religious cause as a war measure. ministrater ordered the tute manna for onions. the presence of discom appointments it is hard nations to hold to the sources of power and and the same yesterday, ever. To power add joy wholesome efficiency. source of this combined force is the home build of God and on the unbounded love of a good good woman. The at hope, the sword and the ilization are found in "The wee cott and the The love and the smile. "Destroy or in any w power and the joy of the devil will find a w his touch.

"The most powerful man to be clean and st do his level best is the and perfect faith of the walks by his side, and in the life of the woman such perfect love and Such faith, like mercy. It blesses the woman and the man who Whatever tends to justify this boundless less trust, this relation helpfulness and mutu between the man and the head of the home p notes personal and pu Any fact or fancy, rion, that tends to dis relation and send the woman along separate of happiness or of the east expression of the mines the foundations love of law, and is cost

Double Standard "Every child has a to be the final expres love, and not a mere heartless convention. the purity, physical namic of those who vows fix the measur ultimately of a n The double standd damnable.

State Conventions The Democratic St will be held in Raleigh April 10, according to the Democratic State mittee in session here session itself was a m and except for the ad changes in the plan made necessary by the the meeting was devo time of selecting date county and State conv 30* was determined up for the precinct meet