

AMERICAN TROOPS HOLD FRONT LINE

HEAVIEST BOMBARDMENT OF MANY DAYS LAUNCHED AGAINST AMERICANS.

RETURN SHELL FOR SHELL

Two Men Killed and Nine Wounded.—American 75's Destroy Enemy Dug-outs.—Germans Concentrating.

The whole American sector is resounding with the booming of guns. Airmen became exceedingly active along the American front. Enemy snipers wounded two Americans slightly early in the morning.

A shift of the wind cleared away the mist which has hindered aerial operations and other activities for several days. A number of battles in the air were fought by patrolling planes. In one instance the French aviators defeated an attempt of German fliers to cross behind the American trenches.

The artillery and snipers also have become increasingly active. American 75s are harassing traffic behind the enemy trenches. The Germans are confining their fire largely to the American trenches.

Throughout Friday night machine guns rattled ceaselessly from German positions.

Announcement Permitted.

American troops now are occupying a sector of the Lorraine front in France. This announcement is permitted by the military censors.

The correspondents permanently accredited to the American army have been informed that they may proceed to virtually any point within the zone of fire except the trenches, without escort and without special permission. Arrangements were made whereby newspaper men may proceed to any brigade headquarters a few kilometers behind the trenches after first reporting their presence within the zone to the headquarters of the division of which the brigade is a part. Unless there is some occurrence which makes it inadvisable in the opinion of the brigade commander for correspondents to move nearer the front, they may walk from his headquarters to regimental headquarters behind the lines.

Since all roads immediately behind the front are within easy German gun range and under German observation, not more than two correspondents may move forward together. They must obtain special permission to visit the trenches and must be accompanied by an escorting officer.

A German barrage opened the heaviest bombardment of many days along the American sector, the American artillery replying shell for shell as the firing of the heavy guns spread along several kilometers of front.

Two Americans were killed and nine wounded during the bombardment and one suffered shell shock.

It was ascertained that the American gunners wrecked several of the enemy dugouts and so badly damaged the first line positions that at one point the Germans were unable to occupy them.

VON HERTLING'S SPEECH THROWN INTO DISCARD

The war is to be prosecuted vigorously by the entente allies and the United States until a peace, based on the principles of freedom, justice and respect for international law is obtained.

This is the decision of the supreme war council of the countries in arms against the Teutonic allies.

The high-sounding phrases in the recent speeches of the imperial German chancellor and the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister were entirely thrown into the discard by the council at its session at Versailles, and it was decided that the war would be vigorously prosecuted until that time comes when there is justification for the hope that a peace may be realized in accord with the policies laid down by President Wilson and David Lloyd George, the British premier.

STEADY PROGRESS MADE IN MOVEMENT OF COAL

New York.—A summary of reports on general operations of railroads in eastern territory made public from the office of A. H. Smith, regional director, indicated steady progress in the movement of coal and the return of empty cars.

Within 24 hours 1,066 carloads of anthracite and 769 of bituminous coal were reported in transit to New York and New Jersey tidewater points.

TROTSKY MAKES SPEECH TO FINNISH REVOLUTIONARIES

London.—Leon Trotsky, bolshevik foreign minister, is reported in an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen to have arrived at Helsinki, capital of Finland, which is in the hands of revolutionaries. He made a speech from the portico of a government building, the dispatch says, and advised the people to follow Russia's example, in which case they would be rewarded by full support from Russia.

SIR ROSSLYN WEMYSS



Sir Rosslyn Wemyss, who was appointed first sea lord of the British admiralty to succeed Admiral Jellicoe. He is a man of great executive ability.

ULTIMATUM IS DELIVERED

CONCLUSION OF GENERAL PEACE WITHOUT ANNEXATIONS OR INDEMNITIES DEMANDED.

Nearly Half Million in Berlin Are Reported Idle—Likewise at Kiel Workmen Leave Jobs to Join in Strike.

Transcending in interest even the great victory of the Italians over the Austrians on the northern Italian battle front is the political and economic situation in Germany.

Here, apparently, a large part of the country is in the throes of a great labor upheaval, due to dissatisfaction by the working classes over the progress of the peace negotiations and over internal political conditions generally. Throughout the country thousands upon thousands of the working classes—both men and women—have struck and many of the great manufacturing and industries are affected.

Led by Socialists.

Leaders of the socialists—both of the independent and the majority factions—evidently are in control of the movement and for their pains a number of the independents have been ordered imprisoned. Hugo Haase of the independents, and Philipp Scheidemann, majority socialist leader in the reichstag, are heading their respective followers.

Ultimatum Delivered.

The socialist paper Vorwaerts announces that the Berlin strikers have now become more numerous and threatening. They have addressed to the government an ultimatum of which the following are the principal demands:

- "First, accelerated conclusions of a general peace without indemnities or annexations.
- "Second, participation of workingmen's delegates of all the countries in the peace negotiations.
- "Third, amelioration of the food situation by better distribution.
- "Fourth, immediate abolition of the state of siege and restoration of the right of public meetings, suspended by the military authorities.
- "Fifth, abolition of militarization of war factories.
- "Sixth, immediate release of all political prisoners.
- "Seventh, fundamental democratization of state institutions.

HINDENBURG WARNS GERMAN STRIKERS

Amsterdam.—The Rheinische Westfälische Zeitung, of Essen, a copy of which has been received here, reports that Field Marshal von Hindenburg has warned the strikers in Berlin to cease their movement immediately. He said:

"Every hour you lose means the weakening of Germany's defense. You are committing a crime against our army and an act of cowardice against your brethren in the front trenches."

RAILROAD RATES ARE TO BE INCREASED.

Washington.—In deciding the interstate rate case the interstate commerce commission authorized transcontinental railroads to increase rates from eastern points to Pacific seaport cities to the level of the rates now prevailing to inter-mountain points. Then simultaneously the commission refused to allow railroads to cancel existing commodity rates and shipments of less than a carload and apply higher class rates.

MAY ABANDON "HEATLESS" DAYS

M'ADOO AND GARFIELD ISSUE STATEMENT SAYING THEY ARE CONSIDERING MATTER.

MAY ALSO LIFT EMBARGO

Two of Ten Heatless Mondays Have Been Observed—Will Hold Another Conference Soon.

Washington.—Abandonment of the heatless Monday program was predicted at the close of a prolonged conference between Fuel Administrator Garfield and Director General of Railroad McAdoo.

A final decision was not reached and a further conference will be held but there was every indication that both officials, as well as President Wilson, who has been consulted, feel that the purpose sought can be accomplished from now on by continuance of preferential coal transportation and distribution and by railroad embargoes now in force.

At the conclusion of the conference the following statement was issued jointly by Dr. Garfield and Mr. McAdoo.

McAdoo-Garfield Statement.

"We have had under consideration the question of suspending the Monday closing order. We have not reached a final conclusion about it. We shall have another conference when the results of the Monday closings and of the railroad embargoes up to that time can be fully considered, and shall be able to make an announcement as to whether or not a suspension of the Monday closing order may be made."

Ten heatless Mondays were decreed by the fuel administration January 17 as a measure to save coal and to relieve railroad transportation. The Monday holidays were preceded by a five-day industrial shut down at the close of which eastern railroads at the direction of Director McAdoo, put on embargoes against the movement of general freight.

The Monday closing has brought the most vigorous opposition from commercial interests, particularly the big department stores. The small stores, too, have opposed it as have the owners of office buildings. Theaters succeeded in having the day as applied to them changed to Tuesday.

WARNING GIVEN TO ALL FLOUR DEALERS

Must Not Take Advantage of Shortage in Other Cereals.

Washington.—Unwarranted price increases in wheat flour substitutes will not be permitted. The food administration gave warning to dealers that they must not take advantage of temporary shortages in other cereals brought on by the heavy demand the new baking regulations has caused.

Many complaints reached Food Administrator Hoover that dealers in the substitutes already have begun to lift their prices.

"Mills of the country," said Mr. Hoover, "are prepared to meet the greater demand of housewives and bakers for other cereals during the next few months. Lack of transportation is the only factor that will stand in the way of proper distribution throughout the country.

"At least one of the substitutes is produced in quantity in almost every part of the country. If any shortages occur they will be local. The supply of substitutes is ample to meet our needs and it is confidently expected that with the freer movement of grains to the mills and of the finished product to the consumer lower prices than those now prevailing will result.

"The normal tendency of local scarcities would be to advance prices out of line with the cost of production and distribution. Under the food control act this will not happen. All licensees dealing in food commodities who do not give their customers the benefit of fair and moderate prices, selling at no more than a reasonable profit above cost, will have their licenses revoked."

TURN OUT ONE BOAT EVERY DAY

Washington.—Production plans for the navy's new anti-submarine craft contemplate the delivery of a finished boat every day when the cycle of production is complete. The first vessel has already been started in the fabricating shops at the Ford Motor Company plant at Detroit.

Construction will go by stages. To turn out a boat a day after the elapse of several months requires that a boat a day be started.

REITERATES OBJECTIONS OF WAR CABINET

Washington.—In emphasizing his opposition to the senate military committee's bill for a war cabinet and a munitions director, President Wilson urged upon another group of Democratic senators called to the White House the necessity of avoiding as far as possible agitation in Congress that might encourage the enemy and give the impression of discord. The president reiterated his objections to the war cabinet.

CHARLES W. DYSON



Charles W. Dyson is one of the American navy officers recently promoted to the rank of rear admiral. He is head of the designing room of the bureau of steam engineering in the navy department.

MAY CALL MILLION MEN

SENATE COMMITTEE REFUSED TO EXEMPT MEN REACHING 31ST BIRTHDAY.

Those Reaching 21 Will Be Registered, Most of Whom Will Fall into Class One—Number Called Depends on Conditions Abroad.

Washington.—Expansion of America's fighting forces beyond their present strength depends upon such factors as events abroad and the shipping situation, Secretary Baker said tonight in disclosing that the war department has not fixed a date for another draft nor even determined how many new men shall be called.

When Mr. Baker told the senate military committee the United States would have half a million men in France early this year and that in all a million and a half could go across if ships could be found to carry them, he referred to the divisions now in training camps and those already in Europe. Future developments will decide what additional forces will be sent.

The secretary made clear today his opinion that if events made it necessary to call out more than another increment of half a million men the executive's authority to draft men for fighting units other than reserves would be exhausted and further legislation by Congress would be necessary. He said, however, that under the authority to call two increments of line soldiers of 500,000 each and such additional numbers for recruit battalions and special units "as the President may deem necessary," the second draft might bring out in all as many as a million men.

The senate committee tentatively approved legislation proposed by the war department to provide for the registration of youths attaining the age of 21 years since June 5, authorizing the fixing of quotas on the basis of Class 1 of the new classification and empowering the President to call men needed for special industrial or other work. Provost Marshal General Crowder, appearing to explain the bills, told the committee it was proposed to hold a new drawing to establish the order of liability of the new registrants. When the new men have been given their serial numbers their names will be inserted in the classes to which they may be assigned according to a plan now being worked out.

APPALACHIAN DIVISION OF SOUTHERN IS CUT

Bristol.—No trains will operate on the Appalachian division of the Southern railway for at least this week on account of the washing away of more than 15 bridges and trestles and numerous slides and washouts, following heavy rains and the thawing of snow on the mountains. This division operates into the coal fields and is the main fuel feeder for the Southern system.

More than 600 feet of trackage through the Natural tunnel is entirely washed away. Two trestles at this point also are gone. At Ironton one bridge is gone and a 50-foot slide destroyed the track. Another bridge is gone near the iron furnace at Big Stone Gap and between Big Stone Gap and Appalachia there is a 500-foot slide and five bridges washed away.

CABLE AND TELEGRAPHIC LINES TO RUSSIA CUT.

Washington.—Cable and telegraphic lines to Russia have been cut, American Minister Morris at Stockholm reported, and the only remaining routes of communication with Petrograd are now through Persia and Vladivostok. The land telegraph lines were severed, Mr. Morris reported at Haparanda and the cables at Viborg. He gave no indication of the significance.

THIS YEAR WILL DECIDE THE WAR

PRESIDENT WILSON SAYS THAT CULMINATING CRISIS HAS COME.

IN MESSAGE TO FARMERS

Says We Are Fighting For Liberty Now as Truly as in the American Revolution—Task Demands Supreme Sacrifice.

Washington.—In a message to the nation's farmers delivered to an agricultural conference at Urbana, Ill., President Wilson said he thought statesmen on both sides of the water realized that the culminating crisis of the war had come and this year's achievements would decide it.

The message, which the president intended to present personally until attacked by a cold several days ago, was delivered by President James, of the University of Illinois. Recounting the aggressions of Germany, the president said:

"We are fighting, therefore, as truly for the liberty and self-government of the United States as if the war of our own revolution had to be fought over again and every man in every business in the United States must know by this time that his whole future fortune lies in the balance.

"Our national life and our whole future development will pass under the sinister influences of foreign control if we do not win. We must win, therefore, and we shall win. I need not ask you to pledge your lives and fortunes with those of the rest of the nation to the accomplishment of this great end.

"You will realize, as I think statesmen on both sides of the water realize, that the culminating crisis of the struggle has come and that the achievements of this year on one side or the other must determine this issue."

The president recalled that farmers fired the first shots at Lexington that set aflame the American revolution for liberty, and expressed the hope and belief that American farmers now will willingly and conspicuously stand by to win this war. He said the farmers did not want themselves exempted from military service as a class, but that the attention of the war department was centered upon the task of interfering with farm labor as little as possible, and he believed that in the next draft the farmers would find their labor much less seriously drawn upon than in the first.

SUBMARINE FIGHTERS IN LARGE NUMBERS

Contracts for "Several Score" Awarded to Ford Plant.

Washington.—New submarine fighters of a powerful type are about to be turned out in the United States in large numbers. After testifying before the house naval committee on the naval appropriation bill, Secretary Daniels authorized the statement that contracts for "several scores" of the new craft have been placed with the Ford Motor company of Detroit. He described them as "half-way between a destroyer and submarine-chaser," 200 feet long and equipped with the latest discoveries the coming summer are assured.

All parts of the ships except the engines are to be fabricated in Detroit and the parts shipped to sea-board, where they will be assembled. Changes in the Ford plant to permit the handling of the work have progressed so swiftly, Mr. Daniels said, that deliveries on the contracts during the coming summer are assured.

The new vessels are expected to prove far superior to the chasers now in use, including those of the 110-foot class. They will have steam power with a greater radius of action, will be more seaworthy and will be able to carry heavier armament. It has developed that the latest German submarines are equipped with guns which outrange those of small chasers and even some merchant ships.

RAILROAD SITUATION IN MOUNTAINS CLEARING

Bristol, Tenn.—A clear, spring-like day completed the melting of snow and ice in the mountains, which has done much damage to roads and property, gave encouragement for early restoration of normal conditions. Large forces of workmen are hurrying repairs on wrecked bridges on the Appalachian division of the Southern railway and officials state they hope to resume operations soon.

TWO AMERICANS ARE KILLED IN FIGHTING

On the fighting fronts, the most important event has been another attack by the Germans on a small American post in which two Americans were killed and four wounded. Another soldier is believed to have been captured by the enemy. This position on the French front daily has been searched out by shells from the Germans for several days, but, aided by a heavy fog and covered by an artillery barrage, the Germans decided to attack.

A PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT

SAYS BURDEN OF FEEDING ALLIES IS OURS AND WE CAN CARRY IT.

ASKS TWO WHEATLESS DAYS

President Calls Upon Housewives to Observe Orders of Food Administration—Substitution of Potatoes and Other Vegetables.

Washington.—The following proclamation by President Wilson on food conservation was issued:

A Proclamation.

Many causes have contributed to create the necessity for a more intensive effort on the part of our people to save food in order that we may supply our associates in the war with the sustenance vitally necessary to them in these days of privation and stress. The reduced productivity of Europe, because of the large diversion of man power to the war, the partial failure of harvests and the elimination of the more distant markets for foodstuffs through the destruction of shipping places the burden of their subsistence very largely on our shoulders.

The Food Administration has formulated suggestions which, if followed, will enable us to meet this great responsibility without any real inconvenience on our part.

In order that we may reduce our consumption of wheat and wheat products by 30 per cent—a reduction imperatively necessary to provide the supply for overseas—wholesalers, jobbers and retailers should purchase and re-sell to their customers only 70 per cent of the amounts used in 1917. All manufacturers of alimentary pastes, biscuits, crackers, pastry and breakfast cereals should reduce their purchases and consumption of wheat flour to 70 per cent of their 1917 requirements and all bakers of bread and rolls to 80 per cent of their current requirements. Consumers should reduce their purchases of wheat products for home preparation to almost 70 per cent of those of last year, or when buying bread, should purchase mixed cereal breads from the bakers.

How to Control Wheat Bread.

To provide sufficient cereal food, homes, public eating places, dealers and manufacturers should substitute potatoes, vegetables, corn, barley, oats and rice products, and the mixed cereal bread and other products of the baker which contain an admixture of other cereals.

In order that consumption may be restricted to this extent, Mondays and Wednesdays should be observed as wheatless days each week, and one meal each day should be observed as a wheatless meal.

Meats and Sugar.

In both homes and public eating places, in order to reduce the consumption of beef, pork and sheep products, Tuesday should be observed as meatless day in each week, one meatless meal should be observed in each day, while in addition, Saturday in each week should be further observed as a day upon which there should be no consumption of pork products.

A continued economy in the use of sugar will be necessary until later in the year.

Eliminate All Waste.

It is imperative that all waste and unnecessary consumption of all sorts of foodstuffs should be rigidly eliminated.

The maintenance of the health and strength of our own people is vitally necessary at this time, and there should be no dangerous restriction of the food supply but the elimination of every sort of waste and the substitution of other commodities of which we have more abundant supplies for those which we need to save, will in no way impair the strength of our people and will enable us to meet one of the most pressing obligations of the war.

Appeals to People.

I therefore, in the national interest, take the liberty of calling upon every loyal American to take fully to heart the suggestions which are being circulated by the food administration and of begging that they be followed. I am confident that the great body of our women who have labored so loyally in co-operation with the food administration for the success of food conservation will strengthen their efforts and will take it as a part of their burden in this period of national service to see that the above suggestions are observed throughout the land.

WOODROW WILSON.

The White House.

BIG MUNITIONS SHIP IS FOUND ON FIRE

An Atlantic Port.—Loaded with war supplies for the Italian army, some of them highly inflammable, a ten thousand-ton American munition steamship, armed fore and aft and making ready to sail caught fire shortly before 2 o'clock while tied up at her pier. Among the cargo are several hundred barrels of glycerine and benzine, tons of tar paper, army blankets and other supplies.