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## GERMAN TROOPS AT MEUSE ARE CUT OFF FROM MAIN ARMY

### Connection Afforded By Pontoon Bridges Ends With Their Destruction

## GERMAN AVIATOR IS CAPTURED BY RIFLEMEN

### Germans Victory Over British Flatly Denied By Paris War Office

By William Philip Sims  
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)  
Paris, Jan. 27.—German troops entrenched on the west bank of the River Meuse at Saint Mihiel have again been cut off from communication with the main body of the kaiser's forces. The pontoon bridges which afforded them a safe means of retreat, should they be forced to abandon their positions, have been destroyed by French artillery.

This is the salient announcement of the official communiques issued this afternoon by the French war office. Recently the French succeeded in destroying these bridges, but they were replaced and the bombardment was resumed. French infantry attacks against the German positions on the east bank of the river continued throughout yesterday. The statement reports that several reckless German infantry charges east of Rheims and on the heights of Craonne were repelled with severe losses. The French met with the bayonet and deflected an attack delivered against their positions in the Argonne.

In Belgium, at Neupont and Ypres, and in France, from Lens southward to Soissons, the statement says, severe cannonading is in progress. Belgian riflemen brought down and captured a German aviator who was attempting to signal to his own artillerymen the Belgian positions at Neupont.

German claims of a victory over the British west of LaBassee are flatly denied by the French war office, which asserts that yesterday's reports that the British had achieved a sweeping success have been confirmed. More than 400 German dead are declared to have been picked up along the Bethune road. Official estimates place the German losses during their battle with the British west of LaBassee at at least two battalions.

From stories told by prisoners, the French believe that the enemy lost a battalion and a half in killed and wounded in an attack near Ypres Sunday.

### The German Version.

Berlin, by wireless to Sayville, L. I., Jan. 27.—Brilliant German successes in a series of infantry charges on the heights of Craonne were claimed in an official war office statement issued this afternoon.

Saxon troops, it is declared, took several important positions along a front of 1500 yards and forced the French to retreat.

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## Senate Adjourns While Committees Do Work

The senate held another short session this morning meeting only long enough to go through the opening ceremonies and adjourn. The recess was taken so that the committees might have time to work on the long list of bills now before them.

## Kaiser Celebrates 56th Birthday By Freeing Many Military Prisoners



KAISER WILHELM

Berlin, by wireless to London, Jan. 27.—In celebration of his 56th birthday, the German emperor granted a general amnesty, freeing hundreds of persons under punishment for breaking the military and disciplinary regulations. He also issued a decree annulling all legal proceedings and investigations growing out of the cases of persons charged with evading the call to arms issued last August.

These orders were issued at the kaiser's field headquarters and telegraphed here. Emperor William II has the distinction today, as he celebrates his 56th birthday, of being more able to wield power for good or evil than any ruler since the first Napoleon. No man in history has aroused so much discussion. He is conceded everywhere to be the central figure in the war.

This man of whom everyone is talking was born on Jan. 27, 1839. His father was Frederick III, his mother, the Princess Victoria of Great Britain. When his father died on June 15, 1888, after a short reign, the present emperor succeeded to the throne. He married Princess Victoria of Schleswig Holstein, who is three months older than he, on Feb. 27, 1891. They have seven children, six princes and one princess.

William II is a many-sided man. With a capacity for hard work and long hours combined with a mind quick to grasp essentials he would have succeeded in almost any business or profession. As an emperor it is for the future historian to say whether he is a success or a failure. Until the war broke out, at least, he was thoroughly in love with his work and arose at five o'clock in the morning in order to do as much as possible. "We Hohenzollerns know nothing about dressing

## HEAPS OF DEAD IS ARMY'S BIRTHDAY PRESENT TO KAISER

### Determined Night Attack Is Inspired By Presence of Emperor

## FRENCH DRIVEN OUT OF TRENCHES NEAR CRAONNE

### Germans Hold Celebration and Song Service In Captured Trenches

Paris, Jan. 27.—Heaps of dead, the victims of reckless, bloody charges against the trenches of the allies, were the German army's birthday present to the kaiser today.

Inspired by the presence of the emperor the German troops hurled themselves against the French and English positions in a series of night attacks along a line from the North sea to Rheims. Excepting near Craonne, where the French were driven out of their trenches, these assaults were thrown back with loss, according to statements by officials at headquarters today.

As soon as the German forces had won the trenches at Craonne, they joined in a celebration and song service in the captured positions. The assault there was conducted under the glare of French searchlights. The Germans had advanced to within 300 yards of the French entanglements when their presence was revealed by the searchlights and French machine guns were turned upon them. Although their losses were heavy, the Germans charged in mass formation with such determination that their enemies were finally driven out.

The kaiser is reported to be near Ypres.

Great thoughts seldom come in very big packages.

## War Expert Reviews Naval Fight and Loss of Cruiser

By J. W. T. Mason.  
Former European Manager of the United Press.

New York, Jan. 27.—The damage done by German shells to the British battle cruiser Lion in Sunday's North sea battle, probably was inflicted by the German cruiser Derfflinger. This dreadnaught-cruiser was completed for service about a fortnight before war was declared. She is the last word in German naval construction. There is little doubt but that she covered the retreat of the weaker units of the German squadron.

The Derfflinger differs in important respects from the Lion and Tiger, which represented the British dreadnaught class. Primarily in the British ships, armor protection has been sacrificed to gun caliber.

The Lion and Tiger are armed with 13.5 inch guns, firing a projectile weighing 1250 pounds, while the Derfflinger has a 12-inch battery, firing projectiles weighing only 800 pounds. The British shells have about 20 per cent greater penetrating power than the German. This preponderance is not counterbalanced by the fact that 13.5 inch guns can fire only one and one-half rounds per minute, while 12-inchers can fire two rounds.

But the Derfflinger has 13-inch armor protection about her vitals, while the Lion and Tiger have only nine-inch armor. Thus, the German ship would be able to take large risks, by keeping well within range of the larger British guns and permitting her own shells to be fired at penetrating distances.

The speed of the Derfflinger is not publicly known. It has been estimated by the German government, but it is probable that she is several knots faster than the 23-knot Lion and at least equal to the 30-knot Tiger.

The speed factor, while accounting for the destruction of the comparatively slow Bluecher, must have been controlled, in the case of the dreadnaught cruisers, by the willingness of the Derfflinger to keep within range of the enemy's guns and thus to cover the retreat of the other German vessels. It is difficult to explain the escape of the Moltke and the Seydlitz on any other ground.

The problem of armor protection versus big guns thus has had its first test in war. The data, however, for drawing conclusions is not available. The German government has not divulged any information concerning the condition of the Derfflinger after the fight. Until this is known, comparisons will have to be withheld.

Nevertheless, it would seem, from the plight of the Lion, that the British designers may have gone too far in concentrating on 13.5 inchers to the detriment of armor protection.

Jerome Dismissed From Thaw Case

Former District Attorney No Longer Deputy Attorney General—Thaw Pleased

New York, Jan. 27.—William T. Jerome declined today to comment on the dispatches from Albany announcing that he had been dismissed by Attorney General Woodbury as a deputy attorney general. The former New York district attorney is said to have desired for some time to sever his connection with the prosecution of Harry K. Thaw. He has been so intimately connected with the case and has fought Thaw so relentlessly that he has become commonly known as "Thaw's nemesis."

Thaw Is Pleased.

New York, Jan. 27.—Harry K. Thaw, slayer of Stanford White, charged with conspiracy in connection with his sensational escape from Matteawan asylum, pleaded not guilty when arraigned here today before State Supreme Justice Davis. He will go to trial February 23. Thaw was remanded to the Tombs, no attempt being made to secure his release on bail.

Thaw and his friends were jubilant today over the announcement that William T. Jerome, former district attorney of New York City, had ceased to be a deputy state attorney general. Jerome was recently appointed to that position by Attorney General Woodbury in order that he might aid in returning Thaw to New York. In notifying Jerome of his dismissal, the attorney general said he did not feel justified in continuing the expense of special counsel.

Deputy Attorney Kennedy, who was assigned to handle the Thaw case, expressed the belief that Jerome would cooperate with him in every way.

"I know," Kennedy said, "that Mr. Jerome was thoroughly tired of the case and I believe he will be glad to be free."

Thaw refused to comment on Jerome's dismissal, although he was apparently much pleased. In the past Thaw has frequently referred to Jerome as his Nemesis.

## RULING OF SPEAKER SELLING REVERSED BY HOUSE TODAY

### Clash Over Sunday and Saturday Count Is Settled This Morning

## SEVERAL HOUSE BILLS INDEFINITELY POSTPONED

### Continuing Appropriations Finally Repealed This Morning

By adopting the motion of Representative Eaton, to the effect that the days on which the legislature is not in session shall not be considered legislative days and be computed in the run of time as contemplated in house rule 22, which provides that the reconsideration of a vote cannot be had after the expiration of three days from the time on which the previous vote was taken, the house this morning not only reversed the ruling of Speaker Selling upon the point yesterday, but put its foot down hard upon any attempt, during this session at least, of putting in to effect steam-roller methods in the house.

The first clash in the house organization, which led up to the revolutionary action of this morning, developed yesterday afternoon when Speaker Selling ruled out of order the motion of Representative Vanster for a reconsideration of the vote by which the school general fund bill (house bill 35) was passed by the house on last Friday. Speaker Selling took the position that, inasmuch as the members of the assembly were allowed pay for Saturday and Sunday, over which the house had adjourned, that they constituted legislative days within the meaning of rule 22 and should be computed in the run of time under that rule. An appeal from the speaker's decision was taken upon motion of Representative Smith, of Crook county, and the speaker was sustained in his ruling by a vote of 30 to 23.

### Schubel Bill Passes.

With only two dissenting votes, those of Hutton, of Multnomah, and Forbes, of Crook, the house this morning passed the Schubel bill for the repeal of continuing appropriations, with the exception of those for the support of the agricultural experiment stations and farm extension work which were eliminated from the bill by house amendments. Before the vote was taken upon the bill, however, Representative Allen, of Marion, made a plea for the elimination of the National Guard standing appropriations, aggregating \$70,000 per year on the ground that it would cripple the efficiency of the state militia and moved that the bill be referred to the committee with instructions to amend by striking the guard appropriations out, but this motion

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## Two Small Factories Are Ruined By Fire

Eugene, Ore., Jan. 27.—The O'Brien mattress factory and the Pluff Rug factory, located in the same building, were practically ruined in an early Sunday morning fire. The flames were discovered about 1:30 o'clock, and they had eaten through the roof of the frame building before the alarm was turned in. While the building is not greatly damaged, the contents are a practical loss. The damage is estimated at between \$1500 and \$2000.

## Severe Earthquake Is Recorded at London Today

London, Jan. 27.—The West Bromwich observatory recorded today a severe earthquake, which is believed to have shaken Turkey or Greece. It occurred about 3:10 a. m. London time, and was less severe than that which devastated Italy recently.

## Cartoonist Wade Presents a Number of Oregon Statesmen Who Enliven the Present Session



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