

## GREAT COUNTER OFFENSIVE WILL GO TO THE KNOCKOUT

**Believed Decisive Engagement Both  
As to the Battle and the  
War Is Now On.**

**ALLIES MOBILIZE 800,000  
MEN; 100,000 AMERICANS**

**Aid Is Being Assembled From All  
Sources and Key to the Situation  
Now Lies With the Reserves.**

The British do not believe that the present comparative lull means that the battle will die out. They believe that the battle will go to a great decisive engagement, concluding the battle and probably the war. This is the most significant feature in today's news. It shows that the British are not content to merely stop at an offensive. They desire to make this the final round of the war by pressing it to a knock out, which Lloyd George has declared must terminate the struggle.

The capture of Montdidier, west of Roye, is it admitted by the French, was a surprise. The Germans otherwise are held practically at all points.

### ATTACK IS DEVELOPING.

LONDON, March 28.—We must guard against undue optimism regarding the checking of the Germans. The first crisis is past, but the battle is far from ended. Much depends on whether the Germans will be able to replace the wasted divisions before the allied reserves are prepared for a gigantic counter attack. Haig has announced that the attack is developing. He says: "Repeated enemy attacks in the Somme valley, also near Beaumont-Hamel, Penvillix and Moyonville have been repulsed. We have captured prisoners and machine guns. There is fierce fighting now on both banks of the Somme. There was a heavy bombardment east of Arras this morning. The attack is developing."

WASHINGTON, March 28.—The Allies have mobile reserves of eight hundred thousand men ready to strike the faltering Germans. The time for this stroke is near, states high American army officers. The reserve forces possibly includes 100,000 Americans.

### AMERICANS REPLACE FRENCH

ON THE AMERICAN FRONT IN FRANCE, March 28.—Americans are taking over more French positions and releasing the French to assist Haig. The Toul front continues unchanged, with artillery exchanges and discharges of gas shells nightly. Both sides are resorting to barrage and there is general high tension in this section.

### BRITISH TAKING PRISONERS.

(By William Philip Simms.)

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY, March 28.—There was a heavy bombardment this morning between Acheville and the Somme River. There is no infantry action there. West of Beaumont-Hamel the enemy is attacking in great strength. The Germans last night launched successive attacks against Rosignol wood, but were hurled back. The British are taking prisoners near Saily Lauretti.

### MUST STRIP FOR ACTION.

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Chief of Staff March, in an official warning, says: "We must strip for action," following pressing appeals for aid from Britain and France. In explaining the order cutting down parcel shipments to the soldiers, March said these shipments amount to two hundred and fifty tons weekly. Strong pressure will be brought by the government to hasten Americans.

### GERMANS WILL CALL CRIMINALS

AMSTERDAM, March 28.—Von Hindenburg and Hertling have decided to call criminals of military age into the service.

### FRENCH DRIVE ENEMY BACK

LONDON, March 28.—The British front was pierced at a new point it was announced this evening. Opposite Arras, the British front at Zeonne was penetrated at the extreme right flank of the German advance. "The enemy crossed the Somme near Chipilly, and we retreated toward Hamel. Seven divisions attacked us opposite Arras. Fighting was severe, and there were heavy enemy losses. North of Somme, the situation is unchanged. Counter attacking, the French drove the enemy back three kilometers on a wide front near Bainvillers," the report says.

### THE KAISER AND CROWN PRINCE



The latest photograph of Me and der "Hero of Verdun" taken on the west front. They're all ready and waiting—waiting for "that Paris train"—you can almost picture the young "hopeful" turning to the Kaiser and asking "When do we start for Paris, Papa?" Bet Papa wishes he knew! The Kaiser wears a wool helmet under his pointed one, but not the fastidious crown prince. What's that standard sticking in the ground between them? Your guess is as good as anybody's.

## DEATH OF JOHN T. WILLIAMSON IN A PORTLAND HOSPITAL

The death of John T. Williamson, in a hospital in Portland, at 7:30 yesterday evening is the unwelcome news that reaches La Grande. Mr. Williamson has been in Portland several weeks undergoing treatment for an affection of the throat and death ensued from hemorrhage. Mrs. Williamson and H. E. Coolidge were with him at the time. In response to a message yesterday as in her father's serious condition his daughter, Naomi planned to hurry to Portland, but a later message from Mr. Coolidge announced his death.

John T. Williamson was born in the city of Philadelphia, March 17, 1851. He removed when but a child with his parents to Missouri and a little later to Grande Ronde, where they arrived in 1882. The homestead which they occupied is now within the incorporated limits of La Grande.

When a young man he received a fair amount of education, considering the facilities offered in a new country and was a student two years at Mount St. Joseph. From 1875 to 1880 he was engaged principally in mining in the vicinity of Sparta. He was also interested in mining in Alaska and made a visit to that section shortly after the first early Klondike excitement.

From 1880 to 1884 he filled the office of principal deputy sheriff. In later years Mr. Williamson has been engaged in land matters in which occupation he achieved unusual success, both by reason of business ability and through a thorough knowledge of practically every square mile of the Eastern Oregon country.

He was more recently manager of the Mount Emily Timber company. In civil affairs Mr. Williamson served as councilman and was one of the original promoters of the Beaver Creek water supply for La Grande. He was an enthusiastic worker with the Y. M. C. A. organization from the beginning and was a director in the local Y. M. C. A. continuously up to the time of his death. In religious convictions his affiliation was with the Presbyterian church and a couple of years ago he was honored with the commission of delegate from the Grande Ronde synod to the Presbyterian General Assembly held at Atlantic City, N. J. He was a member of the La Grande Lodge of Masons.

The marriage of John T. Williamson and Miss Winnie Wilkinson took place in 1887 and six children from this union survive. The children are: Miss Naomi Williamson, special instructor in the La Grande public schools; Joseph, a second lieutenant in the United States army, now stationed at San Antonio, Texas; Lowell, a farmer and stockman of Baker county; Ellis, Oregon appointee to the

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## British Advance to New Battle Line

LONDON, March 28.—The war office this evening announces that the British have advanced the battle line at the following points: From Beaumont Hamel to Lamotte; Santerre through Caix and Vrely to Warvillers, thence to Arvillers, Dancourt, les Loges to Onvillers. The French were pressed back from Roye along the Roye-St. Medard road.

## DESERTER IS NEAR DEATH FROM WOUND

SECTION FOREMAN NEAR HUNTINGTON INTERCEPTS ATTEMPTED THEFT.

A Companion, Who Was Also Deserter from Camp Lewis, Is Pursued by Posse.

On March 24 two men dressed in soldier uniforms registered at the Foley as H. H. Cassell and J. A. Fox, both from Vancouver, Wash. It turns out that they were going under assumed names and were in reality deserters from Camp Lewis. Their right names are Earl Franklin and M. Benton.

Franklin was shot and probably fatally wounded at Lime, near Huntington, yesterday evening and was brought to the Baker hospital. Benton escaped and a posse is in pursuit. The shooting was done by the section foreman, A. J. Weisner, at Lime, who caught the two men in the act of stealing clothing with which to change their apparel. One of them said to Weisner that they might as well take a chance with him as it would be to face the firing squad if they were caught. Weisner was knocked down but he shot Franklin and the other fled. News of the capture of Benton is momentarily expected.

The wounded man says they beat their way as far as La Grande and here they got a team to take them as far as North Powder, and at the later point they got an auto to take them to Huntington. The wounded man said that he has a wife and child in Stockton, Cal., but that he registered as Benton and was drafted from the state of Washington.

Heavy Shipping Loss.  
LONDON, March 28.—Twenty-nine British vessels were sunk during the week ending March 27, the admiralty reports. Sixteen of the sunken vessels were over 1400 tons. This is the greatest number since the week ending September 16, 1917.

Partisanship Bitterness Apparent.  
WASHINGTON, March 28.—The bitter partisanship in the senate over the conduct of the war is spreading to the house. Republicans are making serious charges which are answered by the democrats and war chiefs. The bitterness has led to many inaccuracies.

### LOOKS FOR LONG-DRAWN CONFLICT

WASHINGTON, March 27.—The end of the war is "far in the distance" in the opinion of Secretary of the Interior Lane. The condition of the German drive is the basis of this view.

## ALL SURPLUS WHEAT TO BE SOLD SOON

WASHINGTON, March 28.—Following charges that German farmers here are holding wheat food, the administration sets May 1 and 15 as the dates when the residue wheat should be marketed. Northern states are to sell by the 15th. No general order requisitioning the wheat has been made. It is merely an appeal. Loyal farmers are investigating disloyalist stores. The German drive has accentuated need of continuous shipments. Difficulty is found in getting vast potato supplies to the consuming centers. Twelve million bushels of potatoes are being held.

## LATE NEWS

Berlin's Report.  
BERLIN, March 28.—A war official report says: "Northwest of Baupanne we have driven the enemy towards Doucuiploy, south of the Somme at many points we have driven the English and French into many regions untouched since 1914."

Austrians Claim Gains.  
VIENNA, March 28.—Our attacks have again won ground on the west front. In Venita on the Italian front there is lively local artillerying; a Vienna war office report says.

Reserves Hold the Balance.  
NEW YORK, March 28.—By restraining further movements of Germany's reserves the Americans are increasing the strength along the Alace-Lorraine and exerting what may prove a decisive influence. The key to the situation is now held by the reserves.

Monte Didier Abandoned.  
PARIS, March 28.—The abandonment of Monte Didier is admitted by French officials only after the bitterest fighting.

Dunkirk Is Bombarded.  
PARIS, March 28.—Dunkirk has been under long range enemy bombardment for several days. There has been few victims and small damage done.

WEATHER FORECAST.  
PORTLAND, March 28.—Fair.

## Benefit Dance In Good Hands

Indicative of the preparation going on for the Red Cross benefit dance to be given next Monday evening at Rex hall, is the great care with which committees have been appointed to handle every phase of the event. Mrs. Roscoe Neal, general chairman, has named the following committees:

Refreshments—Mrs. Harry Zurbach, Mrs. Norman Froese.  
Decorations—Mrs. Ray Murphy, Mrs. Lynn Rohneckamp, Miss Henrietta Foley.  
Finance—Mrs. Cora Harding, Scott, Harry Zurbach, Harry Brenholz, Tom Goodhue.  
Floor Managers—Norman Froese, A. W. Nelson, Lloyd Scriber, Chas. Bohnenkamp.  
Patronesses—Medames E. T. Monahan, H. C. Grady, T. Goodhue, J. E. Foley, E. Rosenbush, W. H. Stinchfield, Belle Grees, M. B. Dunahue, A. T. Hall, M. K. Hall, W. H. Rohneckamp, E. Polack, Geo. Stoddard, A. R. Hunter, A. Bidwell, B. W. Peckler, A. V. Andrews, A. O. Van Valkenberg, P. Biever, O. P. Coolidge and John Thieson.

## COMMISSION WILL ACCEPT BONDS AS CASH

PLAN FOR PAYMENT OF PAST DUE ASSESSMENTS IS APPROVED.

ADVERTISING OF LIST IS POSTPONED

President and Manager Authorized to Make Contract to Supply Water to Railroad.

At the meeting of the city commission held last night a resolution was adopted granting the city treasurer the right to accept Third Liberty Loan bonds as cash in payment of past due improvement assessments.

President Palmer's Views.  
In connection with this plan President Palmer says: "We have had this matter under consideration for some little time and the general sentiment of the public as far as I can understand is in favor of the acceptance of bonds for past due assessments. It will give many property owners the opportunity to both invest in bonds and at the same time discharge their obligation to the city."

The plan at this time, we think, will relieve many of a double hardship. The bonds will become a revenue bearing asset in the sinking fund; and the bonds may be again taken up by the property owners in the future if the future of the property owner may so desire.

"On account of this modification in the manner of meeting the past due assessment payments the publication of the list of these in arrears will be suspended for the present in order to give the property owner a chance to make his payments in bonds. It will probably be necessary for several property owners in many cases to make the bond purchases together so that the bonds can be received by the city treasurer in lumps of \$50 or in multiples of the same, as this is the denominations in which the bonds are issued and they cannot be split or accepted in excess or fifty-dollar fractional parts."

Water Contract Authorized.  
At the meeting last night an ordinance was adopted empowering President Palmer and City Manager Curry to enter into a contract whereby the city will furnish water to the railroad company for the ensuing year. The contract provides that the city may discontinue the service at any time when there is a shortage of supply.

City Manager's Report.  
Gentlemen:—I herewith submit my report for the week ending March 25, 1918:

The fire chief reports no fires for the week.

Chief of police reports four arrests for the week; one disorderly conduct; two traffic violation; one smoking cigarettes; number convicted, four. Amount of fines and forfeitures, \$25. Number of stock impounded, six. Amount of fees collected from pound, \$6.

Water superintendent reports total expenditure for labor in his department for the week, \$121.03, \$18.00 of which was charged to the water department for repair work, \$86.53 charged to the street department, \$16.50 charged to the septic tank fund. Sewer department has ten days prisoner work to its credit. The work of graveling G street is almost completed. Up to Saturday night of last week 270 yards of gravel had been hauled and spread. Work will be completed before the next commission meeting.

The city attorney has prepared an ordinance prohibiting the running at large of dogs from April 1 to September 1. He has also prepared a resolution empowering city recorder and treasurer to accept Liberty bonds in lieu of cash payment for past due assessments. Also an ordinance empowering the commission and manager to enter into contract with the O. W. R. & N. company in regard to the furnishing of water to this company by the city for the ensuing year.

Chief of police has been instructed to prosecute all persons allowing chickens to run at large. The ordinance restricting the running at large of dogs would seem of special importance in view of the fact that a great effort is being made to produce as much food as possible. Many of our citizens are already preparing war gardens. Fences

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