

PRESENT BIG BATTLE DECISIVE AGAINST THE GERMAN FORCES

French Officials Are Optimistic as to Ability to Reach Military Superiority.

Heavy Fighting Along the British Fronts Inflicts Great Losses to the Enemy.

By HENRY WOOD,
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES IN THE FIELD, April 18.—Every inch of the German lines south of the Somme to the Oise, on a 55 mile front, is being pounded by the vastest artillery concentration the allies have yet attained. Even the country for miles behind the enemy positions is under bombardment. German prisoners admit that the cannonading, in addition to preventing the digging of trenches, is inflicting the heaviest of losses.

Allied military officials declare that the offensive has reached a stage where the present battle is absolute and decisive over Germany. With the allies' present certainty of checking the German offensive, coupled with the known enemy losses, the Germans at the end of the battle will be exhausted and unable to attempt another offensive, while the constant arrival of Americans is swelling the superiority of the allies.

French military authorities say they can wait 18 months to attain a crushing superiority, but with the Americans maintaining or increasing the present rate of arrivals, a final military victory is possible much sooner.

FRENCH RESIST SURPRISE ATTACKS.

PARIS, April 18.—(By United Press.)—A strong enemy attack in the region of Corbony, on the Chemin Des Dames sector, following a heavy artillery preparation, caught the French fire and was dispersed. In East Courieres wood the enemy in a surprised attack was repulsed and prisoners were taken. A successful French raid northwest of Rheims resulted in a number of prisoners being taken, the war office has announced.

BRITISH COUNTER ATTACKS EFFECTIVE.

LONDON, April 18.—(By United Press.)—Field Marshal Haig's report today says: "Germans southeast of Kemmel Hill pressed us back slightly. Hostile artillery on the Lys front, between Givenchy and Robecq and Meris Stfoes, were repulsed with severe losses to the enemy."

Detailed reports of the fighting yesterday at Wytschaete and Meteren established the severity of the enemy losses, though Haig admits the loss of these two towns.

A Belgian communique says that following the British abandonment of Passchendaele, Poelcapelle and Langemark between Leblankert and the Ypres-Thout railway on a front of five miles, massed Germans gained a temporary advantage, but a counter attack restored some of the positions and captured 600 Boches.

BRITISH KEEP UP INTENSE FIGHT.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES, April 18.—(By United Press.)—Von Quast's freshly arrived guns are pounding the villages in the rear of the British lines. British communications are constantly under a direct fire. Ypres is being shelled intermittently. The British are keeping up a harrassing and intense fight.

AMERICANS RENDERED GREAT ASSISTANCE.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, April 18.—(By United Press.)—Secretary Baker, in a letter to General Pershing, promises to speed up the transport of men. He expressed confidence in the forces. Pershing has issued a statement to the troops adding the assurances of his complete confidence in the American soldiers at the front.

General Pershing has received a letter from General Rawlinson, commander-in-chief of the Fifth British army, saying that it was largely due to the assistance of the American engineers that the British were able to check the Germans in Picardy.

FOR COMMITTEEMEN

Large List of Candidates Have Entered the Field.

Following is a list of the Republican candidates for the office of precinct committeemen:

Allice—E. A. Willis.
Elgin No. 1—E. G. Kirby.
Elgin No. 2—H. Huffman.
Elgin No. 3—Arthur Hallgarth.
Elgin No. 4—A. H. Parsons.
Cove No. 1—Hugh McCall.
Cove No. 2—L. Brazille.
Hilgard—J. W. Scott.
Hot Lake—E. T. Peebler.
Imbler—Clay Fox.

Island City—C. H. Bidwell.
Kamela—John T. Curran, Frank Hanlen.

La Grande No. 1—C. D. Goodenough.
La Grande No. 2—S. R. Haworth.
La Grande No. 3—A. B. Rogers.
W. D. Grandy.

La Grande No. 4—Harry W. Swart.
O. A. Garner.

La Grande No. 5—Hattie Stilwell.
La Grande No. 6—S. B. Williamson.
La Grande No. 8—N. A. Desilet.
R. J. Green.

La Grande No. 9—O. F. Coolidge.
C. M. Humphreys.
La Grande No. 10—Geo. H. Currey.
La Grande No. 11—J. H. Pearce, C. T. Bacon.

La Grande No. 12—C. W. Van Fleet.
H. W. Riley.

La Grande No. 13—L. H. Bramwell.
Palmer—J. P. Hogenson, Ben F. Horrell.

Perry—G. Earl Stoddard.
Powder No. 1—L. B. Russell.
Powder No. 2—John N. Gilkison.

Summerville—John McRae.
Union No. 1—H. H. Dickson.
Union No. 2—F. A. Bidwell.
Union No. 3—L. A. Wright.

Union No. 4—J. F. Hutchinson.

Camouflage Candles.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—(By United Press.)—"Camouflage candles" used extensively in Scandinavian countries, are being investigated by American manufacturers in the interests of war economies. The "camouflage candle" is a hollow cylinder of porcelain, which when filled with kerosene looks and burns like a wax candle.

Irish Conscription Passed.

LONDON, April 18.—(By United Press.)—The House of Lords passed the man-power bill, including conscription in Ireland.

U-BOAT TOLL HEAVY

Losses Greater Than Any Week Since March 25.

LONDON, April 18.—The British merchantmen sunk during the week ending April 15, included eleven vessels of more than sixteen hundred tons each, four of lesser tonnage, and one fishing vessel the admiralty reports. This is the heaviest submarine toll since the week ending March 25th.

BIG CHANGE IN BRITISH WAR CABINET

LONDON, April 18.—(By United Press.)—The appointment of Lord Derby as Minister Extraordinary to France, succeeding Lord Balfour, is announced. Also Viscount Milner succeeds Lord Derby as secretary of state for war. Austen Chamberlain, son of Joseph Chamberlain, is appointed member of the war cabinet. It is understood.

Milner is an efficient expert and has a great reputation as a man of action, who is ruthless in overcoming obstacles to success. He will cut out the red tape in the British war office. He was educated in Germany and knows the German mind.

HEARING NOW ON

Preliminary Examination of Chinamen Before Justice of the Peace.

The preliminary hearing in the matter of the two Chinamen, Hung Den and Eng Den, charged on complaint of Toy Young with attempted violence to the latter, is now in progress before Justice of the Peace A. C. Williams.

Irish Conscription Expected.

LONDON, April 18.—(By United Press.)—Bonar Law, while declining to go into details, stated today that he expects Irish conscription to be enforced after August 1.

THE WEATHER.

Fair and warmer, showers Friday.

NEW BUREAU OF WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

DEPARTMENT FOR BENEFIT OF FEMALE EMPLOYEES OF THE RAILROAD.

Miss Lobdell, Of Portland, In La Grande Today Looking After The Welfare Measures.

A new department has been formed in the O.-W. railroad service. It is the Bureau of Women's Activities. The lady representing that part of the work is Miss Avis Lobdell and she is spending today in La Grande. It is a department for the purpose of looking after the welfare of female employees of the railroad company and is to carry out Mr. Farrell's idea of having everyone connected with the service properly cared for.

Miss Lobdell is here to survey the local situation and to learn of women in other lines of work who would later possible enter railroad employment.

Introducing Miss Lobdell

The Observer feels that the above formal news item is all right as far as it goes, but it also feels that a girl such as Miss Avis Lobdell is entitled to a more detailed introduction to the people of Eastern Oregon. The writer knew the Lobdell family when they lived in the "short grass" section of Kansas. The father of Miss Avis is one of God's noblemen. For years "Charlie" Lobdell was one of the leading characters of the Sunflower state and much of the permanent and lasting reform of worth was brought about with his help. In Republican politics he was a power. The night was never too dark, the weather was never too stormy for Charlie Lobdell to make a long ride to speak for the party of his faith. He was for many years judge of a western Kansas district and quit the office with a magnificent record. To be brief, Charlie Lobdell was a man you could bet on in all kinds of weather and under any condition.

And Miss Avis is the daughter of her daddy in every sense. She will make the O.-W. people a valuable person in the work she has undertaken, and she will always be welcome in La Grande, regardless of the mission that brings her here.

KAISER WILHELM PROFESSES GRIEF

Indirectly Absolves Himself From The World's Great Horror.

AMSTERDAM, April 18.—(By United Press.)—"What haven't I done to preserve the world from these horrors," the Kaiser is quoted as saying, during his visit to the Armentieres front, according to the Lokal Anzeiger.

Burial of Senator Stone.

NEVADA, Mo., April 18.—(By United Press.)—Senator Stone was buried this morning, Knights Templars and other fraternal organizations attending.

TWO BANNER EVENTS ARE ON THE BILL

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT WILL APPEAR IN CONJUNCTION WITH MELODY LAND.

Specially Good Performances Guaranteed For Benefit Entertainment.

Two of the banner entertainment events of the year are to be combined in one big attraction tomorrow evening at the high school auditorium when the Auxiliary of the Red Cross chapter presents a return engagement of the now famous production "Melodyland," and the Neighborhood club, under the direction of Mrs. Murphy reproduces the pageant given last Tuesday at the club rooms. The 500 or more who saw "Melodyland" at its maiden performance will agree that it had wonderful merit and was in many respects the cleverest, home talent attraction put on in many years. The call for a return engagement has been incessant. The girls have consented to do it all over again, with a few choice addenda to give new color, and the Neighborhood club has been prevailed upon to join therein by reproduction of the wonderfully clever pageant given by some 40 or 50 children last Tuesday. Those who saw Tuesday's event declare that the little tots, assisted by Mrs. Murphy, gave a show that likewise is the banner juvenile attraction in a long time. The little folks are wonderfully costumed and give a performance that strikes the chord of popular favor with marked degree.

EXPERTS PLAN POST-WAR FOREIGN TRADE

CINCINNATI, O., April 18.—(By United Press.)—"Dollar-a-year" experts of the United States government dropped their official duties today to meet foreign consuls of the U. S., representatives of the department of foreign and domestic commerce, and the biggest business men of America in the Fifth National Foreign Trade Convention here.

The convention was postponed in February because Uncle Sam needed the services of his expert volunteers in Washington. Now, however, they come to Cincinnati with his approval to map out a system for extension of America's foreign trade after the war.

The National Foreign Trade Council plans to act along three lines at the convention:

To systematically increase and extend the foreign commerce of the country and thus build up a gold supply to aid in successful prosecution of the war.

To work for a merchant marine which will assure America trade leadership of the world.

To frame a program for holding foreign trade gains made during the war.

Consuls will be withdrawn from many parts of the world to attend the sessions.

Wheat Price Not Raised.

WASHINGTON, April 18.—(By United Press.)—The House today overwhelmingly refused to raise the fixed price of wheat to \$2.65 per bushel.

DRAFTED MEN TO LEAVE AT EARLIER DATE

TWENTY-THREE MEN CALLED TO TAKE TRAIN ON EVENING APRIL 26.

Movement To Be Launched To Give Soldiers A Suitable Reception and Send-Off.

Call Number 149, which refers to the movement of the National Army to cantonment camps was received today at the local exemption board at the Y. M. C. A. It comes in the form of a key index showing the movements of all the men to Camp Lewis. It also completely upsets the call issued by the local board to the men drafted under this call. Instead of leaving on the 29th as a recent telegram stated, the men are requested to leave on No. 5 on the evening of April 26. All registrants have been notified to appear at the Y. M. C. A. building at 5 o'clock the evening of the 25th for roll call. This order affects only the 23 men that were recently notified to appear on the 28th.

Reception Is Proposed.

In accordance with a custom that has been in vogue heretofore, it is suggested that a suitable reception by the citizens of La Grande is in order in honor of the departing soldiers. It is a certainty that they will be the recipients of supplies by the ladies' organizations, and they should also be given proper recognition and encouragement by the citizens in general. Plans for this sort of function will probably be completed within the next few days.

BOTH SEVERELY INJURED.

Man And Wife Are Hurt In Motorcycle Smash.

Mr. and Mrs. James Kellum, of Summerville, were severely injured in a motorcycle accident as they were returning home from a trip to La Grande. Their machine swerved from the road and both were put under the care of Dr. Gilkison. They were found in this state by George Hardy, and they were taken to Imbler, where they were put under the care of Dr. Gilmore. Mrs. Kellum did not recover consciousness until morning. Her injuries included severe bruises about the head and face and the loss of some teeth. Reports from Imbler this afternoon are to the effect that she is now improving.

AUSTRIANS DECLINE TO TAKE LEAVE

WASHINGTON, April 18.—(By United Press.)—The State department has reliable information that the Austrians in the Ukraine are refusing to be moved to other fronts. Austrians are Germans are replacing Ukraine officials, and German-Austrian money is being circulated. It is reported the Germans intend to dissolve the Ukrainian legislative body.

HAS RETURNED FROM CONFERENCE

Mrs. C. F. Merrill Of Delegate To World's Meeting Of Adventists.

Mrs. C. F. Merrill of La Grande has returned home from San Francisco, where she was a delegate to a world's conference of Seventh Day Adventists. The discussion of plans for the future as well as a general review of the present conditions of the Adventist church were some of the principal matters presented at the conference. There were several hundred delegates present and the daily attendance was from 5000 to 8000, in addition to the accredited delegates.

