GERMANS CONTINUE TO YIELD GROUND

Heavy and Useless Sacrifices Made in Attempts to Stop French Advance.

Paris.—Notwithstanding the bad weather and the difficult state of the ground, the French continued to advance south of the Oise. The war office announces that French patrols reached Folembray south of the forest of Coucy.

The Germans made heavy and useless sacrifices, the statement says, in several attacks on positions captured by the French between the Somme and the Oise. Wherever they approached a French position they were thrown back by counter attacks.

The pressure of the French from St. Quentin to the Aisne is so powerful that it begins to seem doubtful, in the opinion of the French military critics, as to whether the Germans will be able to hold on to the so-called Hindenburg line. The invaders have opened the sluices at La Fere, apparently feeling that their chances of holding the town are not good now that the French have got a footing on the high ground in the Jussy region, northeast of Tergnier. If General Nivelle is able to establish himself in this position his guns will command La Fere.

Further south the French are making solid progress against the five-mile salient covering St. Gobain and formed by the lower Coucy forest.

The columns here are working hand in hand with columns operating northeast of Soissons, in the direction of Laon. The latter made continuous progress and their advance exposes the left extremity of the German line at St. Gobain to the risk of being outflanked and driven back to Laon. It is evident that the German staff is alive to the growing danger and that they are making desperate efforts to check the French advance.

REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT CHOSEN

London.—The central committee and the parliamentary representatives of the constitutional democratic party at Petrograd voted in favor of a republican form of government for Russia, according to a Petrograd dispatch. Professor Paul N. Milukoff, the foreign minister in the new government, is leader of this party.

A Reuter dispatch from Petrograd quotes the foreign minister as saying:

"We shall remain faithful to all past alliances similar to that with our allies, which will be still further strengthened and become still more cordial and sincere. The change in regime will disperse the distrust our allies had a right to feel toward the late government. It is Russia's duty to continue the struggle brilliantly both for her own liberty and that of all Europe."

Warm appreciation of the cordial feeling shown by the people and government of the United States toward the new regime in Russia was expressed by Foreign Secretary Milukoff in a statement.

FRAME NEW PEACE OFFER

Belgium to be Restored in Part, but Not Permitted to Have Army.

Berne, via Paris.—Peace negotiations have begun, says the Journal de Geneve, which does not reveal the source of its information, but declares it is absolutely reliable. Germany would offer to restore the territory she occupies in France, except in the mining district of Briey, in exchange for a channel port, Calais or Dunkirk, and an indemnity of 15,000,000,000 francs.

"Germany would also offer," says the newspaper, "to restore the territorial integrity and the sovereignty of Belgium on condition that Belgium would not be allowed to maintain a national army and that Germany would be permitted to garrison Namur, Liege and Antwerp perpetually."

America Supports Cuban Government

Havana.—A note from the American government to the Cuban government, reiterating the purpose of the United States to support the Cuban government in its efforts to re-establish order and condemning the conduct of the rebels, was delivered by William E. Gonzales, the American minister.

Germany to Seize Grain.

Berlin, via London.—The German government announces that all grains and legumes still in the hands of consumers above limited quantities will be seized for the benefit of the public.

First Armed American Ship Arrives.

Washington.—The American liner St. Louis, first armed American ship to cross the Atlantic, has arrived safely at her destination, Secretary Daniels announced.

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Briefly Sketched for Information of Our Readers.

Steps are being taken to organize a troop of cavalry in Lebanon.

The girls of Corvallis have formed a branch of the Girls' Honor guard.

The western Lane county play festival will be held at Elmira May 12.

The Bend Automobile club was formed recently with a large membership of auto owners.

A chapter of the National Red Cross society was formed in the Rogue river valley with a membership of 85.

The O-W. R. & N. company has determined to institute a motorcar service between Elgin and La Grande.

The Klamath county lumber mills are preparing for a record run this season as soon as the weather permits.

The Eugene rifle club at its annual meeting decided upon a campaign to increase its membership to 100 members.

Florence M. Dunlop, of Airlie, was the first to make application for a loan under the rural credits amendment.

With 20 editors present from almost all sections of the valley, the Willamette Valley Editorial association met at Albany.

William Piper, wealthy farmer, aged 95, one of the oldest pioneers of Umatilla county, died at his home near Helix.

The price of common labor, it is concluded, will be forced higher in the Coos bay section, for there is a scarcity of men.

This week is "Patriotic week" in the state of Oregon by virtue of a proclamation issued by Governor Withycombe.

More than 1250 has been raised among the merchants of Roseburg for the strawberry festival to be held there in May.

Very little wheat will be planted this spring in Douglas county, owing to the inclement weather during the early planting season.

Silver gray squirrels have suffered more than any other game animal in southern Oregon, according to Game Warden Thompson of Roseburg.

A meeting of fruitgrowers at which co-operative marketing and plans for the establishment of a cannery were discussed, was held in Albany Wednesday.

Total deposits in the 26 banks and trust companies of Portland equaled $87,326,363.61 on March 5, 1917, according to Superintendent of Banks Sargent.

The Oregon Corn Show association has been organized in Eugene and steps have been taken to hold a corn exhibition in that city December 11, 12 and 13.

Curry county officials have refused to contribute $50 a month toward paying a man to patrol the state line so that liquor could not be brought over the border.

Owing to disturbed conditions owing to the German crisis, all bridges on the O-W. R. & N. between Huntington and Portland are under double night and day guard.

Where two measures on an election ballot have conflicting provisions, the measure receiving the greatest number of affirmative votes prevails, according to an opinion.

Mrs. S. A. Skaggs, pioneer of Oregon, died at Medford. Mrs. Skaggs crossed the plains with her parents in 1848, and was one of the first settlers of Lane County.

The Coos bay country as a summer resort and fishing ground is to be given publicity in bulletins to be issued by the Southern Pacific company during the coming summer.

Application for a permit to build a storage reservior on Bully creek has been received by the state engineer from the Willow-Alder Irrigation district of Vale, in Malheur county.

A class of those desiring to take examinations for the army officers' reserve corps has been organized at Salem with 33 members. It is expected the membership will increase to 40.

Plans for a greater Oregon City, through the consolidation of Oregon City, South Oregon City, Mount Pleasant, Canemah, Clackamas Heights, Gladstone and Jennings Lodge, have been announced.

Thirty-two thousand jackrabbits destroyed in a little more than a month is the record of which Malheur county boasts, according to the report recently issued by W. W. Howard, county agricultural agent.

As the result of a quarrel over poisoning of a dog belonging to Ralph Knight, Alex Worthington of Canyonville is in a serious condition as a result of two knife wounds inflicted in his side by Knight.

Not since Civil war times has flour been so high in the Portland market as it is now. An advance of 20 cents a barrel announced by local millers put the wholesale quotation of family patents at $8.60 a barrel.

The Northwest District convention of the Christian church will be held in Forest Grove March 29, 30 and 31.

The 11th annual meeting of the United Metal Trades association of the Pacific coast will be held in Seaside April 6 to 8, inclusive.

The ports of Siuslaw, Coos, Umpqua and Bandon will contribute financially to the campaign, the object of which is to put the Oregon and California grant lands on the tax rolls in the various counties of the state of Oregon.

Representatives of seven northwest colleges, the Multnomah amateur athletic club and a large number of high schools will participate in the first annual indoor relay carnival to be held at Eugene next Saturday evening.

The Hermiston postoffice safe was blown and about $50 in cash, $100 in stamps and a gold watch belonging to J. H. Williams, a former postmaster, taken. This is the third safe robbery in Umatilla County during the past month.

The state board of control has taken under advisement the selection of a committee of five to investigate the status of all dependent, delinquent and minor children in institutions, either public or private, of which the state has charge.

An argument against the $6,000,000 road bond bill, which will be submitted to the voters at the special election in June, was filed by C. E. Spence, master of the state grange. The argument will cover three pages in the voters' pamphlet.

Frank Powers, of Madras, was discharged from a hospital at Portland as completely cured after having undergone treatment for rabies in its most violent form. Physicians say few recoveries in similar circumstances are recorded.

The Clackamas County Anglers' association has appealed to Master Fish Warden Shoemaker, of Portland, for the protection of the fish that have been planted in the Molalla and Clackamas rivers and Milk creek and Clear creek by the association.

Another Hyde-Benson case has been decided in favor of the state, Attorney General Brown receiving word from Circuit Judge Calkins, of Jackson county, that he has so disposed of the cause in that county, involving about 2300 acres of school land.

Three big areas of government land are to be opened to the public within the next two months at Klamath Falls. Two of these tracts are of land in the Klamath Indian reservation. The other is the land prepared by the government in the Tule lake reclamation project.

The Oregon Electric railway is preparing to rebuild the big trestles that form the approaches to the bridge across the Willamette at Wilsonville. The work will require 10,000,000 feet of timber. It is said the estimate made by the company's engineer shows the cost to be around $65,000.

Four of the 282 accidents reported to the state industrial accident commission during the week ending March 22 were fatal. They were Harry Yost, Portland, killed in stove manufacturing operation; J. W. Strang, Powers, killed in logging operations; D. S. McElligott, residence unknown, and J. M. Davidson, Modesto, Cal., both killed while trespassing on railroad property.

Importance of the great railroad bridges leading to Portland in the military transportation system of the country led to the calling out of the Eighth company, coast artillery, Oregon national guard, to serve as a guard over the Spokane, Portland & Seattle bridge over the Columbia river at Vancouver, Wash., and the O-W. R. & N. bridge over the Willamette river in Portland.

Citizens in the vicinity of Agness have recently completed a wire suspension footbridge across Rogue river, which is one of the longest, if not the longest, bridge of the kind in the world. The main span of the bridge is 376 feet long, with an approach on the north side of the river of 225 feet. The whole bridge is built of fence wire, the bottom being three feet wide and the sides five feet, capable of sustaining a weight of 3000 pounds.

The state highway commission at a meeting in Portland laid down the following policy in connection with road work desired by the various counties: Whenever any county shall make application to the commission setting forth a desire to do construction work on post roads, forest roads or any other state highway within its limits, the commission will authorize a definite location survey establishing grades and alignments. The expense of such surveys will be paid for from state funds at the disposal of the commission.

Governor Withycombe has appointed the seven members who are to investigate the question of what state activities can, consistently in the interests of efficiency and economy, be consolidated or eliminated to avoid duplication of work. It will report to the legislative assembly which meets in 1919. The members of the commission are: A. J. Johnson, Corvallis; T. J. Scroggins, La Grande; John H. Carkin, Medford; Austin T. Buxton, Forest Grove; Frank Patten, Astoria; Herman Van Borstel, Portland; Charles Rudeen, Portland.

PRELIMINARY DEFENSE MEASURES COMPLETED

President and Advisers Prepare for Steps to Be Placed Before Congress.

Washington.—Having taken virtually every defense measure possible before the assembling of congress, President Wilson and his advisers in the executive branch of the government are concentrating their efforts to prepare for more sweeping steps for which congressional authority will be sought.

The details of the steps to be recommended are held in closest confidence, but officials let it be known that among the others a general military budget, co-ordinating many items of expense deemed imperative, will be laid before the house and senate when the extra session begins next Monday.

Aside from the business for which congress has been called, the question of organization is chiefly occupying the house leaders. Both democrats and republicans said that a speaker probably would be elected soon after the house assembled, but that the organization of the committees presented a problem the solution of which no one could forecast.

The attitude of the so-called "wet" members and some of the northern democrats is worrying the democrats, while the republicans are troubled over their progressive wing. Any of these elements might easily wreck the organization plans of the majority of either side and some observers are predicting that abolition of the seniority rule in filling committee chairmanships will be the first manifestation of their strength.

NATIONAL GUARD IS ORDERED INTO SERVICE

Washington. — Twenty additional complete infantry regiments and five additional separate battalions of national guard troops have been ordered into the federal service for the protection of property in the event of possible internal disorders. The troops have been called out in 18 western and middle western states.

The new order makes a total of 32 national guard infantry regiments called into the federal service for police purposes, supplemented by six separate battalions and several detached companies. They will be assigned to posts in connection with their police work by the commanders of the military departments acting under instructions from the war department.

The creation of the two new military departments was ordered as a means of dividing the immense responsibility now devolving upon the commander and staff of the eastern department.

National guard organizations will be assigned to guard industrial plants and other property, public or private, in their respective states, in case of war.

WAR IS FAVORED

Prominent Socialists Repudiate Party Executives.

New York.—Several prominent socialists met here and, after protesting against the action of the party's executive committee in issuing a manifesto "purporting to express the party's position about the threatened war between the United States and Germany," passed resolutions indorsing President Wilson's course and pledging their support to their country.

Among those who subscribed to the resolutions were Charlotte Perkins Gilman, William English Walling, William L. Stoddard, Upton Sinclair, Charles Edward Russell, J. G. Phelps Stokes, Lerny Scott, Robert W. Bruero, Walter E. and Charlotte Kimball Kruesi and William Ghent.

Assert Violations of German Treaties.

Washington.—Germany's "clear violations" of the treaties of 1799 and 1828 and her "disregard of the canons of international courtesy," were assigned by the United States as reasons for refusal to reaffirm or extend these agreements. The note of refusal to Germany transmitted through Dr Paul Ritter, the Swiss minister, was made public.

Western States Militia Called Out.

San Francisco.—Orders have been issued for the mobilization of national guard infantry regiments, one each in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana, and three in California, immediately and at full war strength, it was announced at the headquarters here of the western department of the army.

America First to Greet New Russia.

Petrograd, via London.—The United States is the first nation to recognize formally the new government of Russia.

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