



7 GERMAN CORPS IN VERDUN DRIVE

Army of 280,000 Engaged in Violent Attack.

FIGHTING IN WEST INTENSE

Berlin Says 5000 Prisoners Have Been Taken in Neighborhood of Woever.

LINE IN ALSACE BROKEN

French Say They Have Retaken Part of Forest They Previously Lost.

PARIS, Feb. 23.—The battle of Verdun continues with growing intensity. It extends over a front of 400 kilometers (25 miles), and seven German army corps (280,000 men) are engaged. This announcement was made officially by the War Office tonight.

The official statement issued earlier in the day made reference to the energetic bombardment being conducted in that region, but referred to the infantry activity as extending over a front of only 15 kilometers (10 miles). There was violent fighting at other points on the French front as well.

French Retake Part of Forest.

"The struggle," says the War Office communication, "is continued with violence against the right bank of the Meuse toward the southeast. East of this point a counter attack enabled us to retake the greater part of the forest of Causes, situated in the salient occupied yesterday by the enemy north of Beaumont.

"A strong German attack on Herbe forest was stopped by our curtain of fire. According to statements of prisoners, whole units were completely destroyed in the course of these actions. "A desultory artillery duel continues in the region of Haute Charriere and of Fromery in Torraine. In the region of Nomeny, our artillery has been active. An enemy reconnaissance north of Letricourt failed to reach our lines.

Village Evacuated, Environs Held.

"In the Herbe forest we have evacuated the village of Haumont. We still hold the environs after a bitter fight, in which our troops inflicted heavy losses on the enemy."

BERLIN, via London, Feb. 23.—Announcement of another important gain in the offensive on the western front was made by the War Office today.

The statement says that in Upper Alsace the Germans captured a position 700 yards wide and 400 yards deep. The War Office also announced that German forces had penetrated the opposing lines for a distance of three kilometers (two miles) in the northern sector of the Woever. It is said the allies lost more than 3000 prisoners and great quantities of material. The official statement says:

"In the neighborhood of the trenches captured by our troops February 21 to the east of Souchez the positions of the enemy were considerably damaged by mining operations. The number of prisoners taken here was increased to 11 officers and 348 men. The booty consisted of three machine guns.

Germans Report 3000 Prisoners.

"In the Maas hills artillery duels continued with undiminished violence. "East of the Meuse River we attacked a position which the enemy has been fortifying for one and a half years with all means of fortress construction, in the neighborhood of the village of Consenvoye, in order to maintain an embarrassing effect on our defense in the northern sector of the Woever.

"The attack was delivered in a front extending well over ten kilometers (six miles) and we penetrated as far as three kilometers into the enemy's lines.

Apart from considerable sanguinary losses, the enemy lost more than 3000 men in prisoners and great quantities of material, the extent of which cannot yet be estimated.

"In Upper Alsace our attack east of Heidwiller resulted in capturing an enemy position extending over a width of 700 meters and for a depth of 400 meters. About 80 prisoners were taken."

GERMANS BRING IN NEW BRITISH PRIZE

STEAMER WESTBURN ENTERS CANARY ISLAND HARBOR.

Passengers From Several Other Vessels Are Aboard on Reaching Spanish Port.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—A dispatch received from Santa Cruz, Tenerife (Canary Islands), says the British steamer Westburn has put in there for repairs flying the German flag and with a prize crew of seven men and one officer. The officer is believed to belong to the German raider Moeve.

In addition to her own crew there are 206 passengers, taken from various British vessels, on the Westburn. The Westburn left Liverpool January 21 for Buenos Aires.

The prisoners on board came from the British steamers Flamenco, Horace, Cian McTavish and Cambridge, the British bark Edinburgh and the Belgian steamer Luxembourg, all presumably sunk.

The Westburn, after her departure from Liverpool, was last reported as passing St. Vincent, Cape Verde, February 4. The Flamenco left Newport, England, for Valparaiso, January 21, and the Horace left Buenos Ayres, January 26, for Liverpool. The Luxembourg left Newport for Buenos Ayres January 18. The Edinburgh sailed from Rangoon, India, September 22, for Liverpool. The Cambridge cannot be identified, but may be the Corbridge.

The Canary Islands belong to Spain and the port of Santa Cruz de Tenerife is one of the few fairly good harbors of the group.

Several German merchantmen at Santa Cruz were reported to be arming themselves, it was presumed for commerce raiding.

GILLIES' FATE WITH JURY

Defense Insists State Failed to Show Defendant 'Got the Money.'

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 23.—Arguments in the trial of John F. Gillies, deposed claim agent of the Industrial Insurance Commission, accused of grand larceny in connection with the industrial insurance frauds, were completed and the case given to the jury at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon. The jury is composed of six men and six women.

Attorneys for the defense in their closing argument laid most stress on the assertion that the state failed to show that Gillies "got the money."

PRINCESS WINS DECREE

New York Court Takes Jurisdiction in Case of Russians.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—An interlocutory decree of divorce was granted here today to Princess Evelyn Partridge Engaltcheff, daughter of Charles M. Partridge, of Chicago, in her suit against Prince Nicholas Vladavovich Engaltcheff, of Russia.

The case was the only one on record in this country where there was a dispute as to whether the suit could be tried here or in the courts of Russia. The defendant contended his Russian citizenship entitled him to a trial of the issues in his own country.

CYCLONE DESTROYS TOWN

Storm Appears to Have Been General Over Central Alabama.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Feb. 23.—Meager reports tonight from Brewton, Ala., said a cyclone late today practically demolished the village of Appleton, 10 miles away.

Medical aid was called for from Brewton, but the extent of injuries or fatalities had not been reported. The storm appeared to be general in Central Alabama, extending from east of Brewton, south of this city, to Clanton, 50 miles north.

TWO MEN BLOWN TO ATOMS

No Trace of Bodies Found After Nitro-Glycerine Explosion.

EMPORIUM, Pa., Feb. 23.—Jack Yacum and Victor Sudderland, of Emporium, were killed today when nitro-glycerine in the gelatin house at the Emporium Powder Mill of the Aetna Explosives Company exploded. There were no other men in the building.

No trace of the bodies of the two men were found. The explosion was heard at Driftwood, nine miles away.

WEDDING PARTY DROWNS

Four Lost When Launch Goes Down in Alaska.

SEWARD, Alaska, Feb. 23.—The launch Mattie, carrying a wedding party from Afognak to Kodiak foundered a few days ago and four persons were drowned.

The dead were John Fayjomen, Jesse Robins, Sarah Larson and Mrs. Oroloff. The body of Fayjomen was washed ashore on Wood Island, near Kodiak.

FULTON CAR TURNS OVER

Ten Passengers Cut and Bruised, but None Seriously Hurt.

Fulton car 346, in charge of Conductor R. H. Creuty and Motorman W. A. Miller, southbound, turned turtle at the corner of Virginia and Nebraska streets about 11 o'clock last night. Of the 15 passengers on the car, 10 were cut and bruised, but none was seriously hurt.

30-DAY TRUCE MADE BY WARRING TONGS

Peace Leaders Mediate Factions' Differences.

MURDER HONORS EVEN NOW

Armistice Bulletin Brings Joy to Chinese Fearing Death.

GRAND JURY INVESTIGATES

Indictment for Murder of Hop Sing Member Wednesday Morning Is Expected Today—Assassin Is Sullen and Silent.

A truce between the warring Portland branches of the Hop Sing and Bing Kong-Bow Leong tong was declared yesterday at 4 o'clock.

At the headquarters of the Chinese Benevolent Association, Fourth and Davis streets, on the third floor, representatives and dignitaries of the battling societies solemnly pledged themselves and their clansmen to refrain from war during the following month. The meeting was held at the instigation and under the direction of the Chinese Peace Society.

For two hours various phases of the situation that has cost two lives and disabled two other tongmen within the past week were discussed by prominent members of the parties at strife. In the end the advocates of harmony gained their point.

Documents were prepared setting forth the situation and naming the Hop Sing and Bing Kong-Bow Leong tong as parties to the strife and pledging both societies to the rigid maintenance of a 30-days' armistice.

To the paper so prepared Lee Way, chief of the Portland Hop Sing, and Jung Bong, chief of the rival Bing Kong, with which the Bow Leong tong is affiliated, affixed their signatures and the seals of their orders.

Peace Embassies Happy.

Happy with the success of his efforts toward settlement, Mo Lee Tong, vice-president of the Chinese Peace Society of Portland, hurried with a proclamation of the truce to the bulletin wall at Second and Oak streets.

Scores of Chinese gathered about the proclamation and read it with lively display of interest and enthusiasm. Many who have walked with fear for seven days or more the bulletin street corner was a happy haven.

Two murders have been committed since the plans for peace were begun. One Bow Leong died in St. Vincent's Hospital of his wounds, received Monday. With swift vengeance came the day, when a reputed Hop Sing early yesterday morning.

The Peace Society, with true Oriental blandness, held to its original course and produced results that the white (concluded on Page 4, Column 2.)

VIRTUE GOLD MINE IN BAKER TO OPEN

FOUR-YEAR LEASE AT \$500,000 OPTION IS RATIFIED.

Initial Expenditure of \$50,000 to Be Made in Preparing to Operate Baker Property.

BAKER, Or., Feb. 23.—(Special)—The Virtue mine, known as one of the best producers in this vicinity, will resume next Wednesday as a steady gold producer. It was announced at the close of a special meeting of the stockholders of the Virtue Mines Development Company today.

At the meeting ratification was made of a four-year lease and option on the property to George W. Fields & Company, of Boston. The purchase price named is \$500,000 and the lease is on a royalty basis of 17 1/2 per cent of the gross receipts for the first two years and 20 per cent for the last half of the period covered. The contract will go into effect March 1 and failure to operate for any 60 consecutive days will automatically abrogate the contract.

J. K. Romig, president of the Virtue Mines Company, has been appointed by the Fields' interests as manager of the mine and will have personal supervision of the development work. The initial expenditure to put the mine in running order will amount to \$50,000.

During the past 15 years the mine has been worked only spasmodically and for the last three years that of time has been almost inactive. Since 1901 approximately \$450,000 was taken out, and the mine has a total yield, through its entire history, of \$3,000,000.

SWEDEN WILL GET COAL

Britain Grants Trade Privilege in Exchange for Concessions.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—Sweden will be permitted to import larger supplies of coal from Great Britain than hitherto under a fresh arrangement with the British government. In return, Sweden has consented to the export of certain articles, including pit props, to Great Britain.

Sweden also will transmit goods for Russia.

ROSEBURG TRAIN RESUMED

Improved Business Warrants Local Freight to Junction City.

EUGENE, Or., Feb. 23.—(Special)—The Southern Pacific Company announced today that a local freight train would be put on between Junction City and Roseburg. This train was discontinued several months ago on account of business depression.

Improved conditions warrant the resumption of this service, it is said.

BRITAIN SHORT OF DYES

Prices Soar and Vast Stocks of Textiles Await Treatment.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Consular dispatches received here today told how Great Britain, as well as the United States, is feeling the pinch of dyestuffs shortage.

Prices are soaring and vast quantities of goods are accumulating to be dyed, the reports said.

FIGHT AUTHORIZED FOR LOWER RATES

Plan of Campaign Left to Committee.

CHAMBER BUREAU IS UNIT

Analytical Review of City's Present Position Given.

NEW SUIT TO BE STARTED

Attitude Is That Portland's Advantageous Geographical Location Should Be Recognized Now as It Was in Original Case.

A committee of five representative Portland business men will determine, within the next few days, what will be Portland's future attitude on the terminal rate situation.

The executive committee of the Chamber of Commerce, transportation bureau, at a special session at noon yesterday authorized L. A. Lewis, chairman of the bureau, to appoint this committee. Three members are to be selected from the membership of the bureau and two from members of the Chamber outside the bureau. Their action, of course, will be subject to the approval of the Chamber directors.

Analysed Report Made. At yesterday's meeting an analytical report of the Interstate Commerce Commission's recent ruling in the Astoria rate case was presented by J. H. Lothrop, traffic manager for the Chamber of Commerce. J. N. Teal, traffic attorney, supplemented Mr. Lothrop's report by a brief discussion of several phases of the case as they apply particularly to Portland.

It seemed to be the universal sentiment of the men attending yesterday's meeting that Portland should take a firm stand in defense of its advantageous position at the foot of the water grade, that drains the great interior region.

New Rate to Be Sought.

It was informally decided to bring a new suit before the Commission seeking a rate for Portland lower than the Puget Sound and the Astoria rate.

This action, it was agreed, should be started at the earliest possible moment. But whether Portland should bring action aiming to set aside that part of the Commission's recent decision that applies to Portland was not determined.

In support of the contention that Portland should ask for lower-than-terminal rates, students of the situation point out that Commissioner Clark, in his decision on the original Astoria rate case, laid down the principle that Portland is entitled to lower rates than Astoria.

Now the Commission, in its decision of last week, has set aside this principle. (Concluded on Page 2, Column 1.)

BRITISH SEIZURE IS TO BE PROTESTED

WASHINGTON GETS REPORT OF ACTION OFF CHINA COAST.

Rest of Germans on American Vessel on High Seas to Be Held Violation of Territory.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The American Consul at Shanghai, China, today submitted a partial report to the State Department on the recent seizure of 28 Germans aboard the American steamship China by a British warship. The report gave no details, but fixed the location of the incident as "16 miles offshore."

Should it be established that the seizures took place on the high seas, as the Consul's report indicates, the State Department is expected to protest to Great Britain, reasserting its contention that persons on American vessels outside territorial waters are entitled to the same protection that would be due them on an American territory.

That principle was asserted in a protest to France recently, which effected the release of Germans and Austrians seized by the French cruiser Descaartes, and has been maintained in several similar cases.

CO-EDS PRESENT PAGEANT

Fifty-Year Jubilee of Y. W. C. A. Celebrated at Eugene.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Feb. 23.—(Special)—One hundred pretty co-eds today participated in an historical pageant—a feature of the Nation-wide Y. W. C. A. jubilee celebration of the organization of the association in 1866. The pageant was entitled "Girls of Yesterday and Today."

Miss Juanita Wilkins, of Eugene, and Miss Emma Wootton, of Astoria, typifying the girls of 1866 and 1916.

The pageant was presented before an audience of university and townspeople at the regular assembly hour of 10 o'clock.

\$50,000 MADE FROM FARM

Land Regarded as Worthless 12 Years Ago Is Developed.

EUGENE, Or., Feb. 23.—(Special)—Intelligent farming methods employed on a ranch near here, which 12 years ago was regarded as worthless and of no soil value, resulted in a profit by the owner, J. M. Wilson, of \$50,000 in the 12-year period, according to George H. McMorran, of this city.

Mr. Wilson bought the land on a "shoestring," developed it, netted good profits from his crops and is now well-to-do, according to Mr. McMorran.

POSTOFFICE PLANS HALTED

Change in Portland Building Means New Delay of Several Weeks.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Because of modifications which are deemed necessary, plans for the Portland Postoffice building have been returned to Architect Hobart at San Francisco.

The changes are not radical, but will delay the advertisement for bids three or four weeks.

British Deny Mutiny in Egypt.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The British Embassy today issued a denial of a report received here by wireless from Berlin that there had been a mutiny of Indian tribes in Egypt.

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 56 degrees; minimum, 43 degrees. TODAY'S—Fair, northerly winds.

War. Seven German army corps attacking Verdun. Page 1. Germans take British prize into Canary island port. Page 1.

National. Representative McArthur proposes complete revision of shipping laws by experts. Page 2. Navy's needs and dangers to be revealed behind closed doors. Page 2. British action in arresting Germans on American vessel will be protested when confirmed. Page 1. Armed merchantman crisis acute in Congress; Wilson strives to prevent action to warn Americans from sailing on belligerent vessels. Page 1. New charges of legal trickery made against Brandeis. Page 1.

Domestic. Burton and Cummins officially in Presidential race. Page 4. New charge made by Chicago woman against woman superior in office. Page 3. Connecticut Republicans favor Hughes. Burton or Root for President. Page 4. Prince Miskinoff drops separation suit on learning baby is founding. Page 5.

Sports. James John High School defeats Franklin at basketball. Page 14. Dolmar Baker praises Will and Harstad. Page 14. Frank Moran confident of victory. Page 14. State fair racing programme arranged. Page 11.

Pacific Northwest. Baker gold producer is leased for steady operation. Page 1. L. P. Schiller arrested as prime mover in Seattle blackmail syndicate. Page 5. Commercial and Marine. Wool contracting starts in Eastern Oregon. Wheat slumps at Chicago on weakness at Winnipeg and Liverpool. Page 19. Wall street stock dealings smallest in months. Page 19. Negotiations for sale of gasoline schooner Anvil pend. Page 18.

Portland and Vicinity. Warring Chinese tong agree to 30-day truce. Page 1. Representatives of great lumber interests meet here today. Page 1. Portland to fight for lower freight rate. Page 1. Fish Warden Kelly quits because of friction with Commissioner. Page 7. Intent to wreck Union Pacific Life, charge in reply to suit. Page 18. Opera benefit for Baby Home is tonight. Page 5. Auctioneer contract is let to Hans Pedersen, Joseph protests. Page 20. Chamber approves plans for new bureau of public economy and efficiency. Page 2.

WAR IS FEARED IN SHIP CRISIS

Democrats Seek to Tie Hands of President.

TENSION IN CONGRESS HIGH

Administration Fights Resolution Warning Americans From Armed Vessels.

DAY FULL OF SURPRISES

Wilson Holds Repudiation of Policy Would Hamper Diplomatic Negotiations.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN CRISIS OVER GERMANY'S SEA POLICY.

Agitation suddenly develops in Congress for warning to Americans to keep off armed merchantmen of belligerents. Administration insists on right of Americans to travel on merchant vessels, as broad principle, not to be abandoned.

Many Democrats favor repudiating Administration policy if necessary. Wilson known to believe breaking off of relations with Germany means war, but holds Congress' action would embarrass him in negotiations. Republican Leader Mann in sympathy with President's position.

Administration leaders concentrate effort on preventing outbreak of discussion today. Senator Gore to offer resolution refusing passports for voyages on belligerent vessels. Wilson determined to insist on settlement without prolonged negotiations.

Only six days remain before German order to submarine commanders becomes effective. Tension in both houses of Congress is keen.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Agitation in Congress for action warning Americans off armed ships of the European belligerents suddenly grew to such proportions today that Democrats of the foreign affairs committee voted to canvass the sentiment of the House on several pending resolutions of that nature.

Sentiment in the Senate in favor of some such action also was expressed openly, but at the end of a day of surprises, tension and agitation such as has not been seen in Congress in some time, the word came that President Wilson still was unalterably opposed to any such action by Congress, and that he would only be embarrassed thereby in the negotiations with Germany.

Final Position Undetermined.

Suggestions were widely circulated that the situation had reached a point where the President soon would lay it before Congress, that Secretary Lansing might in some way define the attitude of the Government in a communication to Senator Stone, and that a time had been fixed within which the United States would expect Germany to signify her intention to abandon the announced intention to sink armed merchant ships without warning.

In reply the uniform statement was made officially that nothing had been determined upon; that the situation, though grave, still was a waiting one, and that no final position would be announced until Berlin was heard from.

Leaders Are Apprehensive.

The sudden developments at the Capitol brought surprise and apprehension to the Administration leaders. While confronted with the possibility of Congressional interference, with all its grave aspects, ranging from a defection from the Administration policy to downright embarrassment of the President and the Secretary of State, the leaders were confident they would control the situation and leave the executive branch of the Government free to carry on diplomatic negotiations with Germany.

At no time today did the question come out openly on the floor of either the House or the Senate, but about a score of members who announced they were in favor of warning Americans, (concluded on Page 2, Column 2.)

SEE WHO'S BACK FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE DEEP, DARK WOODS!

