



TITANIC COMBAT EBBS AND FLOWS

Germans, Halted at Verdun, Gain in Champagne.

BOTH SIDES LOSE HEAVILY

Teutons Advance Over 1600-Yard Front in Champagne and Attack in Woevre.

FIGHTING IS HAND-TO-HAND

Carnage Around Ancient Fort Frightful—Douaumont Is Center of Battling.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—Attacks of the Germans to the north of Verdun, where the battle for the fortress is still raging fiercely, were driven back by the French fire and counter attacks, according to the official communication issued by the French War Office today.

Hand-to-hand encounters occurred to the west of Fort Douaumont and the Germans are reported to have been driven from a small redoubt which they had taken. German attacks on Fresnes, in the Woevre, the official communication adds, completely failed.

Germans Gain in Champagne. The fighting in the Champagne district, however, was, according to Berlin War Office reports today, far more effective from a German standpoint. There French positions on both sides of Navarin farm, over a front of about 1600 yards, were taken, Berlin reports. It is said that more than 1000 men and nine machine guns were captured.

Berlin also reports that in the Verdun region fresh French reserves were exhausted in fruitless efforts against Fort Douaumont and that the Germans advanced their lines further toward Bras and Vacherauville and made fresh gains in the Woevre.

The Berlin report maintains that all the French troops have been driven from the Meuse peninsula.

Massacre Is Frightful. "A frightful massacre," is how German soldiers taken prisoner in the battle of Verdun describe the effect of the French artillery, machine-gun and rifle fire. But the impetus of the assaulting force was not diminished thereby during the first four days, because fresh troops were thrown into the battle unceasingly.

"Advance, no matter what the losses may be," was the order given to the German troops before the attack. This is verified by documents found on one of the captured officers.

The most critical moment in the six days' actions was when the Germans gained a footing in the entrenched camp by the capture of Fort Douaumont. The least hesitation on the part of the defenders would have been disastrous. The Germans redoubled their efforts to take advantage of any confusion, but the French immediately began a counter offensive.

Clash Is Murderous. French infantry advanced at double quick to the trumpet charge and leaped at the first ranks of the Germans with irresistible fury. The clash was murderous to both sides. The thinned French ranks were not to be denied, but went on to the second German wing, while reinforcements were hurried to their support. The German lines wavered first west of Douaumont; then were driven out of the ruins of the fort. A cry of triumph went up all along the French line and the ardor of the counter attack was redoubled. In the meantime an artillery duel, surpassing in intensity any previous action of the war, added to the carnage.

The battle now seems to have reached a critical point. The assaulting forces, however, recoiled slightly in the region of Douaumont, leaving the regiments which occupied the fort cut off and surrounded by French troops. The attacks upon the French left at Pepper Hill (Cote du Poivre) seemed to have failed completely. However, attacks made repeatedly with such heavy masses as the Germans are constantly bringing up, it is admitted by the military authorities,

\$200,000 OR MORE STOLEN FROM MAIL

Million-Dollar Robbery Attempted on Ferry.

Packages of Money From Washington to New York Banks Taken From Pouches.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—The robbery of four valuable registered mail packages, which appears to have been an attempt to steal at least \$1,000,000 in currency consigned to New York banks, became known here today. The robbery occurred Saturday when a United States mail automobile truck was entered while it was on a ferry bound from the Central New Jersey Railroad station, at Communipaw, N. J., to Liberty street, New York. The packages were stolen from mail pouches, three of which were from Washington and one from Baltimore. Postoffice inspectors admitted that other pouches containing currency consigned to New York banks were on the truck and while professing ignorance of the amount, said that such consignments frequently ran as high as \$1,000,000 and more. It is believed that this currency was the booty sought. According to unofficial reports, one of the stolen Washington packages contained \$200,000. The robbery, the inspectors said, was done by some one who had keys both to the mail truck and the pouches.

OREGON GINSENG THRIVES

Farm Near Molalla Sends Out Largest Shipment in History.

MOLALLA, Or., Feb. 28.—(Special.)—C. A. Ramsay, proprietor of the largest ginseng tract in Oregon, which is near this place, is making the largest shipment ever sent from this section. Mr. Ramsay has a little more than an acre and a quarter planted to this root and it nets 10 per cent interest on \$30,000. The Oregon ginseng roots are larger than those grown anywhere else. While eastern ginseng averages between 20 and 40 roots to the pound, the Oregon product averages about 14 roots to the pound.

MONKS ISOLATED BY SNOW

Even Famous Dogs Unable to Travel From Mount St. Bernard.

GENEVA, Switzerland, Feb. 26, via Paris, Feb. 27.—(Delayed.)—Monks and travelers are imprisoned on Mount St. Bernard by 12 feet of snow, which is banked up to the lower windows of the monastery. The famous Saint Bernard dogs are not able to make swiftness have interrupted wire communication with the monastery. Snow has fallen steadily for eight days and nights and the monks will be isolated for a month. They are plentifully supplied with food.

JUDGE SHEA MAY GET POST

Indiana Man Virtually Decided on as Ambassador to Chile.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Sponsors for various candidates for appointment as Ambassador to Chile to succeed Henry P. Fletcher, newly appointed Ambassador to Mexico, said today they understood the President had virtually decided upon the appointment of Judge Joseph H. Shea, of Indianapolis. Judge Shea was recommended by Senator Kern.

7 LOST ON SUNKEN RUSSIAN

Steamer Captured From Germans Is Destroyed.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—The Russian steamship Peshenga has been sunk. Fifteen of those aboard were saved. The Peshenga was formerly the German steamship Erik Larsen, captured by the Russians early in the war. She was of 1847 gross tons. Seven of the Peshenga's crew were lost.

BRITISH STEAMER IS SUNK

Two of Southford's Crew Killed When Disaster Occurs.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—According to Lloyd's, the British steamer Southford, formerly the Sindbad, has been sunk. Eleven of the vessel's crew were saved. Two were killed. The Southford was a vessel of 87 tons.

LONE NEGRO ROBS BANK

St. Joseph, Mo., Cashier and Clerks Imprisoned; Robber Gets \$1600.

GERMANY REPEATS FORMER PLEDGES

Right to Sink Armed Ships Maintained.

MOTIVE OF VESSELS IS ISSUE

Americans on Craft at Own Risk—Mr. Lansing.

BRITISH WORD AWAITED

Merchantmen's Right to Defend Selves Upheld by State Department, but Armament to Attack Foe Is Different.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Germany, in a formal note presented by Count von Bernstorff to Secretary Lansing today, reiterates assurances regarding the future conduct of submarine warfare given in the Lusitania case, declares those assurances have not been modified by the memorandum setting forth its intention to treat armed merchantmen of the entente allies as auxiliary cruisers after midnight tomorrow, and attempts to justify the issuance of the memorandum by presenting evidence and assertions designed to prove that the British government has instructed merchantmen to use their armament for purpose of attack in violation of assurances given to the United States. Later it was said at the State Department that while the United States stood unalterably for the right of merchant ships to carry guns for defense it was not now, and never had been, contending that Americans could travel with immunity on ships having orders to act offensively.

MILL ADDITION STARTED

Excavation Commenced for \$750,000 Building at Oregon City.

OREGON CITY, Or., Feb. 28.—(Special.)—Work on the \$750,000 addition to the Hawley Pulp and Paper Company plant began today, which the C. J. Cook Company started a steam shovel on the excavating.

R. P. HOBSON IS CANDIDATE

Ex-Representative in Race for Election to Port Once Held.

TUSCALOOSA, Ala., Feb. 28.—Ex-Representative Richmond P. Hobson will be a candidate for Congress from the new Tenth District, it became known here. He will oppose W. B. Bankhead, son of United States Senator Bankhead.

3 CO-EDS OUT OF 23 HAVE GOOD FEET

NOT ONE OF ENTIRE LOT HAS PERFECT TOE LINE.

Varsity Tests of Newly Registered Girls Show Defects Laid to Styles of Shoes Worn.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Feb. 28.—(Special.)—Prints taken by the physical culture department of the feet of 23 second semester freshman girls, show that but three have good feet, and not one a perfect toe line. These co-eds are the first to undergo a new test being tried out by the department to determine the condition of the feet of girls entering the university. Most of the girls were found to have flat feet, caused by wearing high heels and pointed toes. "When one wears high heels the muscles of the arches and the muscles in the back part of the foot are weakened and gradually the arch breaks down, causing a flat foot as well as many physical disorders," said Miss Freida Goldsmith, who has just completed the first set of prints. The method of taking pictures of the feet is similar to taking the thumb prints. The foot is painted and an impression made on a card. The print is then painted with a solution which makes the lines more distinct, so that crooked toes and broken arches can be determined. In the future all freshmen will have prints taken upon registering, and defective foot classes will be organized.

GOVERNOR TO SEE HAWAII

Rosarians Will Be Accompanied on Excursion by State Executive.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 28.—(Special.)—Governor Withycombe today accepted the invitation of the Portland Rosarians to be their guests on the excursion to Honolulu this Spring. The executive will be accompanied by his daughter, Miss Mabel Withycombe.

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DIAZ TO LEAD NEW REVOLT IN MEXICO

General Eluro American Secret Service.

EXILES TO BE MET IN CUBA

Neutral State of Oaxaca Is to Be Called to Arms.

25,000 TROOPS AVAILABLE

People Already Object of Carranza Attack to Force Recognition of De Facto Government—Defenders Poorly Equipped.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Felix Diaz, who has been watched for several months by Department of Justice agents because of suspected activities in violation of American neutrality, apparently has left the United States for Mexico with the intention of launching a new revolution against the Carranza de facto government. Information reaching officials here indicates that he hopes to organize and lead the troops of his native state, Oaxaca, and such other forces in Southern Mexico as he can gather about him. General Diaz left New Orleans Friday for Havana, where several Mexicans, whose names have been associated with his in reports of a revolutionary movement, were understood to be awaiting him. Teodoro Dehesa, ex-Governor of Vera Cruz, and General Aureliano Blanquet, War Minister under Huerta, were reported to be among them. Arrest Not Warranted. Although Diaz eluded the Federal agents detailed to match him, Department of Justice officials said tonight that since no evidence warranting his arrest had been found, and as he left the country, according to reports, as a private citizen of Mexico and not as a leader of any organized revolutionary movement, nothing probably could have been done to detain him. General Diaz, a nephew of the Mexican ex-President of that name, has been absent from Mexico since Huerta, whom he helped establish in power, sent him abroad on a diplomatic mission. Most of this time he has spent in the United States, and although he was suspected of being connected with the revolutionary plot for which Huerta and several others were indicted, no direct evidence against him ever developed. Oaxaca Long Neutral. Oaxaca, where Diaz is expected to launch his movement, is the only state that has held aloof during the fighting of the past two years. Led by state officials the people declared their independence of all factions and Carranza and other leaders were told that the state would be glad to resume its place in the union whenever anyone demonstrated that he had restored a stable central government. After Carranza's recognition by the

HUNTERS TRAP LIVE COUGAR FOR MOVIES

BATTLE IN TREE-TOP FOLLOWS ALL-NIGHT WATCH.

Party Returns to Grants Pass and Lodges Animal in Dry Goods Box After Hard Trip Over Trail.

GRANTS PASS, Or., Feb. 28.—(Special.)—Three Grants Pass sportsmen yesterday brought to this city a live cougar entirely unharmed and fully grown. After an all-night watch and a thrilling battle of two hours with the cougar in its lofty retreat in a towering giant of the forest, John B. Hammersley, Claude Bardou and John McTimmis finally succeeded in passing a rope over the animal's neck and brought it to earth unharmed. The dogs struck the scent too late to attempt the capture the previous night. The cougar now is safely lodged in a dry goods box. The men, with three trained dogs, made their way from the Illinois side of Greyback in the vicinity of the Oregon Caves over the mountain trail to Grants Pass, carrying the cougar lashed to a pole. Outfitted for a trip into the wilds, the three hunters started out last week to catch a cougar for use in work before a motion-picture camera. The cougar soon will be placed in training for its initial appearance. The only difficulty anticipated by the showmen is the completion of a suitable cast for the wild animal film. The carcasses of 15 or 20 deer were found along the route traversed by the party.

BIG WAR PLANT BLOWS UP

Tri-Nitro Toluol Explosion Rocks Boston, 12 Miles Away.

WOBURN, Mass., Feb. 28.—The T. N. T. building of the New England Chemical Company blew up with a terrific explosion early today. The tri-nitro toluol stored in that section of the great chemical plant is said to be one of the most powerful explosives used in the manufacture of war munitions. BOSTON, Feb. 28.—A heavy explosion today felt over a wide territory early today. Windows in Melrose, more than seven miles from the chemical works, were shattered and buildings in Boston, 12 miles from Woburn, were shaken. The chemical works have been filling large war orders.

BOND FOR RAILROAD AID

Bonds of \$30,000 to Buy Terminals Approved, 179 to 17.

BEND, Or., Feb. 28.—(Special.)—This city today gave evidence of its desire to assist Robert E. Strahorn in the construction of the Oregon, California & Eastern Railroad by voting 179 to 17 in favor of the bond issue of \$30,000 for the purchase of land needed for terminal purposes. Only a light vote was cast because of the certainty that the bonds would carry.

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

- The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 48 degrees; minimum, 37 degrees. TODAY'S—Occasional rain; westerly winds. War. German editor advises sinking of all ships bound for Britain. Page 2. French repulse furious German attacks at Verdun. Page 1. Foreign. Henry James, novelist, dead. Page 4. Mexico. Felix Diaz on way to lead new revolt against Carranza. Page 1. National. Senate ratifies treaty for protectorate over Haiti. Page 2. Slide and Myers water-power bills to be debated jointly in Senate. Page 2. Admiral Knight counsels speed in building House to revise land grant bill, using Chamberlain bill as basis. Page 3. Germany repeats assurances in submarine warfare policy. Page 1. Secretary Daniels opposes Naval base at Astoria. Page 2. Domestic. Two hundred thousand dollars or more stolen from mail. Page 1. Lieutenant-Governor Keshleman, of California, dies suddenly. Page 4. Sport. Gus Fisher signs Beaver contract. Page 12. Unconditional release denied Galveston player who wanted 60 days for six days pay. Page 12. Miller and O'Connell wrestle here tonight for middleweight championship. Page 12. Cleveland franchise issue is still in air. Page 12. Pacific Northwest. Grants Pass hunters battle in tree top and capture live cougar for movies. Page 1. Addison Bennett finds town of Powers "bum-dinger." Page 4. Seattle women indignant when patrolman breaks up party. Page 7. Slayer at Grants Pass calmly relates killing of couple. Page 5. Commercial and Marine. Butter prices cut to shut out Southern competition. Page 17. Five-cent slump in wheat at Chicago. Page 17. War stocks lead in decline in Wall street market. Page 17. Cuban interests after vessel being built here. Page 17. Portland and Vicinity. Farm near Gresham is leased for boys' school. Page 7. Medical college strike war wages fitfully. Page 10. Bankers to recommend paying lower rate on savings accounts. Page 2. Chamber plan would amend coastwise ship law. Page 10. Three are rescued and three go way out in early morning fire. Page 11. City passes inspection laws and will begin "better meat" campaign. Page 18. Council is firm in determination to let Auditorium contract in accordance with bid. Page 10. United States National Bank to build headquarters here. Page 1. Mrs. Edward MacDowell is honored at two receptions. Page 15. Palmatine pagant opens in White Temple. Page 16. Weather report, data and forecast. Page 17.

BANK WILL BUILD FINE NEW HOME

United States National Making Plans.

START THIS SUMMER LIKELY

Exclusive Banking-House Proposed on Site Just Bought.

LAND VALUE IS \$275,000

Property on Stark Street at Sixth Is 100 by 100 Feet and Removal Will Put Six Financial Institutions on Thoroughfare.

A modern bank building that shall rival in magnificence and utilitarian qualities all other banking houses in Portland will be erected by the United States National Bank on the quarter block at the northwest corner of Stark and Stark streets, purchased yesterday. Several bank buildings in other cities now are being informally considered by the United States National's directors, and one of these may serve as a model. Definite plans have not been prepared. Early Start Probable. It is probable that work will be started before the end of the summer. Leases on the old buildings on the property expire in July and August of this year and it is understood that some of the directors are eager to have work begin as soon as those leases run out. It is possible, however, that construction may not be undertaken this year. The property acquired by the bank consists of two full lots, each 50 by 100 feet in dimensions. The outside lot, at the corner of Stark and Stark streets, was purchased from Harry Wolf and Marcus Wolf for \$175,000, covered by a cash consideration of \$137,000 and assumption of a mortgage of \$38,000. Inside Lot Costs \$100,000. The inside lot, next to the Wells-Fargo building, was acquired from Alexander Wagner, of Portland, for \$100,000 in cash, making the aggregate price paid for the full corner of 100 by 100 feet \$275,000. "We certainly would not invest that amount of money in property unless we intended to improve it," said J. C. Alsworth, president of the bank, last night in discussing the proposed new building. Plans Are Indefinite. "We have made no definite plans at all," he continued, "and don't know when we will be in position to build. It is probable, though, that as soon as conditions warrant we will improve the property. We are certain to do nothing before the present leases expire next July and August." It is understood that the new building will be erected for the purpose of serving the United States National Bank exclusively. The directors are said to be convinced that this style of structure will best serve the growing needs of the institution. Option Exercised After Five Months. Final transfer of the Stark and Stark-streets property yesterday was the consummation of an option on the property held by the United States National directors for the last five months. The first option was taken in October, through the local real estate firm of Wakefield, Fries & Co., in the name of J. W. Hellman, president of the Wells-Fargo Nevada National Bank, of San Francisco, who is one of the directors of the United States National. This option expired January 20 and was renewed at that time for a period of 60 days. It is understood that Mr. Hellman and other directors at first intended to purchase the property on their personal accounts, but subsequent developments made it advisable for the United States National, as a corporation, to take over the property. The deeds filed yesterday provide for a transfer to the bank. Stamp Tax \$237. Incidentally, the deeds bore an aggregate of \$237 worth of revenue stamps. By the time the new home of the United States National is completed it will mark another step in the up-town movement of financial institutions. It will also add another bank to the comparatively large number located on Stark street. The Canadian Bank of Commerce is at the corner of Second and Stark streets, the Bank of California at Third and Stark, Hartman & Thompson at Fourth and Stark and the Lumbermen's National at Fifth and Stark. The new home of the First National Bank at Fifth and Stark is nearing completion. The present home of the United States National is at Third and Oak streets.

MUNITIONS SHIP IS BURIED

Fire on Russian Vessel Origin to Sail Is of Unknown Origin.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—Fire broke out here today on the Eurymachos, a Russian ship laden with munitions of war, which was about to sail for Vladivostok.

The fire was extinguished after the ship had been seriously damaged. The cause is unknown.

