

GERMANS RETIRE ON WESTERN LINE

British Sweep Into Evacuated Positions.

ADVANTAGE TAKEN OF FOG

New Teuton Line Reported to Be Three Miles in Rear of Old One in Places.

OLD DUGOUTS ARE BURNED

Patrols Harass Movement and Occupation of Baupaume Is Now Expected.

From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press. BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Feb. 25, via London, Feb. 25.—On one portion of the British front at least the war today became a war of movement.

Under cover of fog and mist, which have been particularly heavy in the past 48 hours, the Germans carried out the greatest retirement they have made on the Western front in the last two years and the British have swept into possession of Pys, Serre, Miramont and Petit Miramont, including the famous Butte de Warlencourt, which has been the scene of some of the fiercest fighting of the war and in places is deep with the bones of dead men.

Retiring Germans Harassed. The exact extent of the German retirement is not known tonight, but it is estimated that it approaches a depth of three miles at some points. British patrols are out in all directions harassing the Germans and keeping in touch with their movements. Until they report it will not be possible to say just where the Germans have determined to fix their next line of resistance.

It can be said that the British now, or soon will be, in a position possibly to force the evacuation of Bapaume, which has been the key to the German position since the beginning of the battle of the Somme. The points which already have fallen into the British hands have stood out in the history of the fighting on this front and had been most stubbornly defended. Only a week ago when the British attacked on a two-mile front east and south of Miramont and Pys the German resistance was bitter and the high ground desired was won only after desperate hand-to-hand encounters and the taking of more than 800 German prisoners.

Stronger Positions Prepared. The British had been waiting for a clearing of the foggy weather before pressing the advance, but meantime it is apparent that the German high command decided to retire without any further fighting to stronger positions prepared well in the rear. Friday fires were observed in the German front line trenches. They were only dimly visible through the thick mist of the particularly black night, but it was discovered that the flames issued from burning German dugouts.

Patrols sent forward reported the evacuation of the German outposts. Similar reports came from north of Ancre, and by nightfall yesterday the British had established themselves in Petit Miramont and advanced all along the line, meeting only with sniping resistance here and there.

Today the British patrol pressed forward, keeping in close contact with the Germans, who had retreated a further 2000 yards during the night. Thus the way was opened to the ground which for months had been contested. There were bursts of stiff resistance from German obstructing parties which had been scattered in the rear of the retiring columns. Early today a big mine was exploded in the main street of Miramont just before the British advance patrols entered.

Ammunition Shot Away. It is evident now that the Germans, taking advantage of the last days of heavy frost and hard ground, moved a great many of their guns well to the rear, leaving others forward to keep up a show of resistance. This they had been valiantly doing for the

DAY'S U-BOAT TOLL THREE STEAMSHIPS

BOTH VICTIMS BRITISH, TOTALING 5966 TONS.

Sister Ship of Vedamore Arrives in Baltimore With Largest Defense Gun Yet Mounted.

Table with 2 columns: Name of ship, Tonnage. Includes Dorothy (British), Iser (British), Falcon (British), Total known tonnage, etc.

PARIS, Feb. 25.—A war office communication tonight says: "Vessels sunk February 24-25: British steamer Dorothy of 3508 tons gross."

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Lloyd's reports the sinking of the British steamship Iser, 2140 tons gross, and also the British steamer Falcon, 2243 tons gross. The survivors of the Falcon will be landed Monday.

AMSTERDAM, via London, Feb. 25.—A Berlin dispatch says submarines, 2140 tons gross, and also the British steamer Falcon, 2243 tons gross, two sailing vessels and eight trawlers.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 25.—The British steamer Vedamore, sister ship of the Vedamora, which was torpedoed several weeks ago, arrived today armed with a 5-inch gun. This is the largest gun mounted on any ship coming to this port.

He said the Impression in England is that a Spring drive is soon to begin and that guns, heavier than any yet used on either side, are being massed by the British in France. Captain Hignett's son was killed in action six weeks ago and the boy's mother died from the shock.

SAN JOSE FLOODS RECEDE

Newspaper Carrier Electrocutated by Fallen Live Wire.

SAN JOSE, Cal., Feb. 25.—Rain-swollen creeks that topped their banks last night, inundating parts of this city and miles of farm lands, subsided today. Two cottages were washed away and several bridges, highway and railroad, were undermined. Two Southern Pacific bridges at Alviso were so weakened that it was necessary to divert traffic.

John Christian, a newspaper carrier, aged 40 years, was electrocuted this morning on the road between Congress Springs and Saratoga, when he came in contact with an electric power wire which had been blown down by the storm of last night. This is the first death reported directly due to the storm.

GERARD OFF FOR COAST

Duke of Zaragoza Drives Engine of ex-Ambassador's Train.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Telegraphing from Madrid Sunday, Reuter's correspondent says that James W. Gerard, former American Ambassador to Germany, Mrs. Gerard and the members of the Embassy staff left the Spanish capital at 4 o'clock on a special train for Corunna, where the party will embark for the voyage to the United States.

The Duke of Zaragoza drove the engine, having volunteered for the task. Mr. Gerard, learning of this, asked for an introduction to the Duke, with whom he chatted cordially before boarding the train.

SPUDS RISE \$1 A MILE

Gaston Potatoes Worth \$2500 on Track at Home, \$6000 in East.

GASTON, Or., Feb. 25.—(Special.)—Oregon potatoes increase in value at the rate of \$1 a mile as they travel east. A car of 655 sacks standing on the track here is worth \$2500. When it reaches the New York market, its value rises to \$6000.

The highest price ever paid for potatoes here was received by farmers from J. H. Westcott & Son, who gave \$3.25 a hundred. Twelve cars of Burbanks have been shipped and six more are awaiting cars. Many farmers are holding for higher prices.

NEUTRALS MEET AT BERLIN

Bethmann-Hollweg Calls Conference of Diplomats.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The German Chancellor, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, is reported by the Exchange Telegraph's Copenhagen correspondent to have invited the Ambassadors and Ministers of neutral countries to a conference yesterday at the Foreign Office, in which Foreign Secretary Zimmermann took part.

PRESIDENT TO GET AUTHORITY HE ASKS

Result Will Be Determined in Advance.

UTMOST SOLIDARITY DESIRED

Appearance of Divided Councils to Be Avoided.

EXTRA SESSION UNLIKELY

Senate, However, Will Fail to Ratify Colombian Treaty—Grayson's Nomination as Rear-Admiral Will Be Confirmed.

BY JOHN CALLAN O'LAUGHLIN.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—(Special.)—There will be no serious trouble between President Wilson and Congress respecting the authority the former desires in order to protect American life and property during the coming months.

This statement is predicated upon results which are floating from various important conferences today. The President quietly has seen some of the leaders; the leaders have held meetings and the temper of the rank and file has been sounded. Before the President goes to Congress he will know precisely the extent of the authority which will be granted to him. He will base his recommendation upon the knowledge he has gleaned.

House Will Acquiesce. The House of Representatives will lose no time in following his views.

There will be grumbling in the Senate on the part of a few pacifists who want Congress to be called in extra session in order to act as a curb upon the chief executive. There will be grumbling also on the part of the Senators who believe that with Congress here the President will be forced to act more vigorously. In the end the Senate will do practically what the House has done and the resultant legislation will be adequate for the purposes of the Administration.

A whirlpool will be created in political Washington by the conflicting currents which have been set in motion. These currents are centering on the White House. They have not changed the policy of the President since he appeared before the two houses three weeks ago and announced his rupture of relations with Germany. He said then that before he would take a stronger measure he would await today an "overt act" by Germany.

U-Boats Secretly Instructed. The Berlin government apparently has given secret instructions to its submarines not to attack American ships. By this course it has hoped to avoid war. But American citizens have been drowned or killed and the lives of others have been put in jeopardy by the submarine operations. These various cases are having an important influence on the Presidential determination.

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GIANT SNOWSLIDE IN IDAHO KILLS 15

Danger of Avalanche Stops Rescuers.

MANY ARE SERIOUSLY HURT

Disaster Worst in History of Wood River Mining.

SUPERINTENDENT IS HURT

Injured Men Are Carried Miles in Sleighs to Railroad—Hope of Finding Any More Alive Has Been Abandoned.

BOISE, Idaho, Feb. 25.—Fifteen men were killed and 15 injured when a giant snow slide destroyed the bunkhouse, compressor-house and warehouse of the North Star Mine, 13 miles northeast of Halley, Idaho, at 3:30 o'clock Sunday morning.

Bodies of these men have been taken from the debris: John Fleming, Elton G. Cooley, Jack Vaughn, James Peterline, Phil Welch, John Purnell, Frank P. Mangino, Roy Judd, Sam LaBarge. Six Believed Buried. The following six men are missing and all are believed to be buried beneath the slide: John Kistle, John Hearn, Jack McKelvey, Emmett P. Russell, W. R. Motley and W. C. Schmidt.

On the list of those injured is Tom Jay, mine superintendent. A. E. Wood is in a precarious condition, with his back broken and hip fractured. Others on the injured list are: George Lee, Jack Lindsay, L. O. Beeson, Bert Judd, E. C. Jones, J. H. Carter and Fets Peterson.

Work of searching the wrecked buildings for the remaining bodies is being delayed because of the imminent danger of bringing down a slide from the opposite side of the gulch. Rescuers Are Called Out. For a time the Federal Mining & Smelting Company, owner of the North Star Mine, had a force of 90 men engaged in recovering the dead. Abandonment of all hope of finding any yet alive and the danger of precipitating a second slide which would cover the entire force of rescuers caused the company late Sunday to call off the workers.

Immediately upon receiving news of the disaster, a special train conveying physicians and rescue workers was run from Halley to Gimlet, from where the party was obliged to travel six miles to the mine in sleighs.

Injured Carried in Sleighs. The injured men were brought to Gimlet station in sleighs and from there were taken to Halley on the

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BERLIN IS FIRM IN REPLY TO BRAZIL

BLOCKADE DETERMINATION DECLARED UNCHANGEABLE.

Germany Suggests Diplomatic Negotiations in Event Southern Nation's Ships Are Sunk.

RIO JANEIRO, Feb. 25.—Brazil's declaration to Germany that she does not recognize the submarine blockade and leaves with Germany full responsibility for all acts from which Brazilian merchantmen may suffer in violation of international law has elicited from Germany a statement that the blockade will not be abandoned.

It is announced officially that the German Foreign Office in Berlin that it regrets neutral interests should suffer on account of military measures. Nevertheless, Germany has reached the unchangeable determination to maintain the submarine blockade, to abandon which would involve national annihilation. In case of the loss of Brazilian ships, the German government, the Foreign Office says, will suggest diplomatic negotiations.

AUTOIST PINNED BY CAR

Machine Goes Over Bank at Vancouver Bridge Fill; Ivan Smith Hurt.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Feb. 25.—Ivan Smith, auto stage driver of Vancouver, was pinned up just before midnight last night unconscious from under his automobile, which had gone over the steep bank of the fill about 100 feet south of the Oregon Slough bridge on the road connecting the Interstate bridge and approach bridge. Roy Ferguson, city driver, who found him, brought him to St. Joseph's Hospital, this city, where he was still unconscious early this morning. Physicians were unable to determine the extent of his injuries, which seemed to be serious. Smith was alone in his automobile. The machine tumbled down about 30 feet, pinning the driver under it. Smith was trying to dodge a car which took the wrong side of the road and was forced off the paving to the dirt. Starting to slip, he forced the car back, but the steering-pedal broke and the car shot across and fell down the opposite bank.

FREDERIK VIII COALING

Bernstorff's Steamer Expected to Leave Halifax Tuesday.

HALIFAX, Feb. 25.—The work of replenishing the bunkers of the steamer Frederik VIII, which has for passengers ex-Ambassador von Bernstorff and a large party of Germans from the United States, was begun today. Although the authorities declined to make any statement as to when the steamer would be permitted to sail for Copenhagen, it was said in quarters usually well informed regarding the vessel that the examination of passengers, cargo and baggage had been completed. It was reported that the vessel would leave Tuesday.

JAPAN TO GUARD HONOR

Statesman Says Nothing Else Will Provoke War With America.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 25.—Rev. C. S. Reifsnider, president of St. Paul's College, Tokio, in an address here today declared that Japan would guard its honor. "By 'honor,' Dr. Reifsnider said, the Minister meant such things as the alien laws in California and restrictions on immigration. 'Japan,' read the message, 'will never go to war with the United States unless the United States impugns Japan's honor.'"

STEAM SCHOONER ASHORE

Raymond in "Good Position" and Tugs Will Try to Float Her.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 25.—The steam schooner Raymond, Captain Staustand, which left San Pedro, Cal., in ballast February 23 for this port, went ashore last night about eight miles south of Cape Sur, according to advices received here today by the marine department of the Chamber of Commerce. All hands were safely landed. The vessel, of 350 tons net register, was reported "in a good position" and tugs, it was announced, would be sent from this port to float her.

GRAIN ELEVATOR IS BURNED

Half Million Bushels Destroyed in Louisville; Loss Exceeds Million.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Feb. 25.—Damage aggregating more than \$1,000,000 was caused by a fire here tonight which destroyed the elevator of the Kentucky Public Elevator Company and several score of freightcars. Approximately 500,000 bushels of wheat, corn, rye and oats were destroyed.

\$2,000,000 DEAL RUMORED

Seattle Shipbuilders Buy 15 Acres on Waterfront Is Report.

SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 25.—(Special.)—The rumor is current and not denied that the Skinner & Eddy Corporation, local shipbuilders, have taken an option on 15 acres of land on the East waterfront adjoining the plant and owned by the Centennial Mills for a price in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000.

CRIMINAL INSANE BATTER 2 GUARDS

Murderer Saves Injured Men at Asylum.

DR. H. A. STURDEVANT PLOTTER

Attendants Fitch and Lane Cut About Heads.

SEVERAL JOIN IN BREAK

Improvised Weapons Wielded in Effort to Steal Keys and Escape. Officials Believe Murder Was Intended.

SALEM, Or., Feb. 25.—(Special.)—Joe Castranova, insane murderer from Multnomah County, today was the leading spirit in breaking up an organized insurrection at the criminal insane ward of the Oregon State Hospital, and probably saved the lives of D. B. Fitch and F. M. Lane, attendants.

Dr. H. A. Sturdevant, former Portland dentist, sent to the institution on the sixth of this month, joined with John H. Thompson, former Milwaukee, Or., blacksmith, in organizing the conspiracy to disable the guards, steal their keys and make a break for liberty. Dangerous Men in Plot. Many others apparently were in the plot, but out of the confusion surrounding the melee which ensued, and from conflicting stories of the insane patients, it is practically impossible to ascertain just the depth of the plot, but it seems certain half a dozen or more of the most dangerous men of the ward were implicated.

The insurrection came like a bolt from the blue. Fitch, the attendant first attacked, was reclining in a barber's chair in the criminally insane ward, reading a paper. He had been left in the ward with Lane by other attendants, who were attending a chapel meeting. Sturdevant Attacks Fitch. Suddenly Sturdevant rushed into the room. He was armed with a steel ball cap which he had removed from the bathroom, and it proved to be a nasty weapon. He attacked Fitch from behind, striking him on the head with the weapon. Fitch, dazed, fell partly forward in the chair. The first cut inflicted a wound three inches long in his scalp, penetrating to the bone. Sturdevant again brought the gly weapon down on the head of Fitch, leaving another ugly cut near the back of the head. Fitch dropped, and in doing so, tripped Sturdevant.

In the meantime, Thompson ran out, armed with a metal handle from a dishpan, which he had tied to a sock and which he used as a slingshot. He attacked Lane, who ran forward to assist Fitch. Hammering Lane over the head with his improvised weapon, Thompson inflicted two deep gashes on Lane's head and dashed him into a near-stupor.

Joe Castranova Interferes. Joe Castranova, who was in the hall at the time, then rushed into the conflict. He attempted to seize Thompson by the arm, and Thompson made a vicious swing with his weapon. Castranova raised his arm and sustained an ugly blow on his forehead. He then lunged at Thompson, secured a half-Nelson on him, and threw him. He then joined in quieting Sturdevant. Half a dozen or more of the insane patients engaged in the struggle and attempted to lock Fitch and Lane in a small room, but the attempt failed. Castranova and the attendants fought them off and assistance came from the outside.

Finally the patients were placed under control and locked into their steel-barred rooms. Fitch and Lane, however, both have ugly wounds from which they will not recover for some time. A number of the patients were bruised and cut up in the fight, but the three most seriously injured are Castranova and Attendants Fitch and Lane. Thompson has a bad record at the Asylum. He was sent to the institution from Milwaukee, September 18, 1914, and one of his first acts was to engage in a hand-to-hand encounter with Superintendent Steiner. William Bowen, another patient, who assisted the conspirators, is wanted in Lane County for forgery. Ernest Klinkman, another desperately insane criminal, also engaged in the fight.

Sturdevant Admits Plot. Dr. Sturdevant admitted afterwards that he and Thompson hatched up the plot last night, that it was the plan to knock the attendants unconscious and, the asylum authorities believe, kill them if necessary, steal the keys and make their escape. William Bowen also was acknowledged to be one of the arch-conspirators, and from reports in the asylum records, he is an exceedingly dangerous criminal.

Joe Castranova was sent to the Penitentiary after conviction for manslaughter in Multnomah County, for a crime committed December 24, 1902. He was sentenced for 12 years. He has been transferred back and forth from the Penitentiary to the Asylum a number of times, and is considered a desperate criminal, regardless of his price in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000.

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