

BOCHES HIT HARD SOUTH OF SOMME

British Yield Slightly Where Attack Centers.

TEUTONS PRESSED BACK

Battle on Wider Front With Fluctuating Fortunes, According to Reports.

GERMAN LOSSES INCREASE

Massed Assaults Made at Expense of Many Lives—Britons Firm in North.

LONDON, March 29.—The counter offensive of the French continues between Montdidier and Lassigny, says the official communication issued this evening. It adds that fresh French troops are arriving on the scene.

LONDON, March 29.—Apart from local fighting at different points, the enemy has not pressed his attacks north of the Somme, according to the official statement issued by the war office tonight. "We gained ground at certain places," the statement continues. South of the Somme heavy hostile attacks developed during the morning in the neighborhood of Mezieres and Demum. Fighting is still going on in this sector.

BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, March 29.—On the Somme the British have maintained their positions and gained ground in places by successful counter-attacks. British Retire Slightly.

After holding their line all day in the face of repeated assaults by numerically superior enemy forces, the British retired a short distance from their advanced positions at some points.

The Germans again suffered exceedingly heavy losses. The British took prisoners. "Heavy fighting has taken place south of the Somme in which the British have been pressed back to a line running west of Hamel, Marcellave and Demum," says this evening's War Office announcement.

North of the Somme all the British positions were maintained. There were no serious attacks by the enemy in this region during the day.

French Continue Offensive.

The French, says the announcement, are continuing their offensive on the southern front between Montdidier and Lassigny. Fresh French troops are arriving in this region. The Germans were able to penetrate Marcelave, 12 miles east of Amiens, in the region south of the Somme, only by means of heavy massed attacks late yesterday, which gradually forced the British back.

It was in this district, south of the Somme, that the invaders continued to make their greatest efforts. The British here are battling stubbornly and brilliantly against an advance which, it must be admitted, has been steady.

Conflict Is Deadly.

The conflict in this region had been most sanguinary, and at latest reports was continuing along a line represented roughly by Hamel, Warfusse, Abancourt and Marcelave. This point seemed to mark the extreme advance against the British.

The German attack in this region was made from Cerisy, on the Somme, supported by artillery from across the river.

Yesterday's assaults on the extreme northern and southern parts of the battlefield were in continuance of the Germans' scheme to swing their lines out so as to broaden the salient which they have driven in and thereby possibly enable them to make an attempt to envelope Amiens.

Arras Battle Desperate.

The fighting east of Arras yesterday was of a most desperate nature, especially in the region of Telegraph Hill, southeast of the city. Here the masses of troops struggled at close quarters throughout the day. The British held grimly to the defenses which guard the already war-shocked town.

Neville-Vitasse, southeast of Tele-

SOLDIERS CALLED TO DISPERSE MOB

QUEBEC NEWSPAPER PLANT IS DEMOLISHED.

Theater Reported Afire—Federal Officers Arresting Deserters Are Attacked.

QUEBEC, March 29.—The militia has been called out to quell a mob which is terrorizing the business section of the city. The office of the Chronicle, owned by Sir David Watson, commander of the Fifth Division of the Canadian expeditionary forces, has been wrecked and the Auditorium Theater is reported to be on fire.

OTTAWA, Ont., March 29.—The assault on Dominion police officers by a mob in Quebec last night when an exempted military service man was placed under arrest for failure to produce exemption papers, resulted in a conference today between Prime Minister Borden, the Minister of Justice and the Chief of the General Staff. They decided to take immediate steps to prevent the obstruction of officers appointed to carry out the provisions of the military service act. A representative of the government left today for Quebec to obtain a full and accurate account of the incident.

QUEBEC, March 29.—Arthur Evanturel, a federal officer, is recovering today from injuries sustained at the hands of a crowd here last night when Dominion police undertook rounding up of deserters under the military service act. Authorities say Evanturel was tied to a post and whipped into unconsciousness. Leon Belanger, one of Evanturel's fellow officers, is in a hospital suffering from a fractured skull sustained during the outbreak.

PERSISTENT BOY ACCEPTED

Edward Sanders, With Finger Missing, to Serve in Army.

BAKER, Or., March 29.—(Special)—Edward M. Sanders, who has persistently endeavored to get into the Army, although he has a finger missing, was finally rewarded today, when Corporal Oxley, local recruiting officer, notified him that he had received instructions from the War Department to accept him. Sanders was turned down by the local examining board, but later persuaded Corporal Oxley to write to the War Department. Except for the missing finger, he is in perfect physical condition.

U. S. SEED FUND PROVIDED

Bill Passed by House Would Take Care of Grain Growers.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Relief for farmers who raise wheat, corn, rye, oats or barley and who are unable to purchase seed this year would be provided in a bill passed by the House today.

It would supply a fund of \$7,500,000 from which to lend farmers money to buy seed and would give the Secretaries of Agriculture and Labor \$2,500,000 to mobilize labor for the harvest this year.

WOMEN TO HAVE HOSPITAL

Anne Morgan Favors Establishing Institution in France.

NEW YORK, March 29.—Immediate establishment of a woman's hospital in Northern France to alleviate the suffering caused by the latest German offensive was endorsed by Miss Anne Morgan in addressing the American women's hospitals here today. Miss Morgan, who returned recently from France, emphasized the importance of reconstruction work, asserting that "you cannot separate the welfare of the soldiers from that of their women and children."

2 FLYERS FALL TO DEATH

Members of Royal Flying Corps Are Killed at Texas Aviation School.

FORT WORTH, Tex., March 29.—Two members of the Royal Flying Corps were killed in practice flights today at British training camps near Fort Worth. They were Cadets P. J. Dwyer, of Montreal, Quebec, and James H. Rowan, of Gabriola Island, B. C. Dwyer dropped to his death at Everman Field while making his first cross-country flight alone. Death resulted from his inability to right his airplane when he had sent it into a spinning nose dive.

NEW BANK TO OPEN SOON

Vancouver to Have Fourth Financial Institution.

VANCOUVER, Wash., March 29.—(Special)—The new bank, to be opened within a short time, will be a state bank, with a capital of \$50,000 and a \$5000 surplus. The stockholders will meet soon to decide upon the location of the bank and elect officers. There are three banks here now. O. Jorgen Olson, of Yacolt, is the organizer of the new bank, assisted by Henry Crass, a local attorney.

CAMOUFLAGEURS MAY QUIT

Ship Painters of New York Demand Increase in Pay.

NEW YORK, March 29.—The work of camouflaging ships in this harbor may be brought to a halt next week unless the demands of ship painters for a rise in pay is granted. The painters, who now get 50 cents an hour, ask an increase of 25 cents and threaten to strike next Monday unless their demands are granted.

FOCH, MARNE HERO HEADS ALL ARMIES

Pershing Offers U. S. Forces for Battle.

ALL ARE ANXIOUS FOR HONOR

Pershing Offers United States Troops for Battle.

COUNTER OFFENSIVE SOON

New Chief of Staff, One of Most Brilliant Strategists of Day, Will Direct Allied Forces on Western Front in Great Drive.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—General Foch, the French chief of staff, has been appointed to the supreme command of all the allied and American forces in France.

This means unification of all the armies opposing the Germans, a step which the American and French military men long have urged, and which apparently has been brought about by recognition of the imperative demand of concentrated effort to hurl back the gigantic thrust of the enemy in France.

It was learned tonight that the President had been officially advised of the action when he sent a cablegram to General Foch today congratulating him "on his new authority."

Washington Offers Army.

The first hint of the historic development came in press cable dispatches telling how General Pershing had placed the American Expeditionary Forces at the disposal of the French commander. This was confirmed tonight in a message from General Pershing to the War Department.

General Pershing's message, made public by Major-General March, acting chief-of-staff, follows: "Have made all our resources available and our divisions will be used if and when needed. French are in fine spirit and both armies seem confident."

No Mention of Foch Made.

There was no mention in the Pershing dispatch of the new authority given General Foch, and War Department officials were speculating over the reasons for the absence of any official announcement. Some still were inclined to believe that the French general had been placed in command only of the "army of maneuvers" the reserve force composed of contingents from all the allied armies created after the formation of the supreme war council.

Before General Pershing's message came tonight General March was without advice to confirm the press dispatches, because of the inevitable delays in transmission of official messages.

The news of the appointment of General Foch, one of the heroes of the (Continued on Page 2, Column 4.)

THEODORE WILCOX IS CRITICALLY ILL

HOPE FOR RECOVERY OF FLOUR MILL HEAD SLIGHT.

Federal Commissioner Is 61 Years Old and Has Been a Resident of Portland Since 1877.

Theodore B. Wilcox, Federal Milling Commissioner for the Pacific Northwest and president of the Portland Flouring Mills Company, is critically ill at his residence, 215 King street, with but slight hope for recovery. It was announced last night.

Mr. Wilcox, who is widely known throughout the Northwest, was taken ill during a recent visit to New York, where he went on Federal business, and was immediately attended by his physician, Dr. H. C. Jeffers, upon his return two weeks ago. His case is diagnosed as acute intestinal trouble.

For some time after his return Mr. Wilcox kept resolutely at his desk, but several days ago was forced to give up his work and submit himself to the constant care of his physician. Despite every effort, his condition has grown steadily worse, and the original ailment is now complicated by irregularities of the heart, which cause sinking spells.

"Mr. Wilcox is conscious," said Dr. Jeffers late last night, "but his condition is exceedingly grave. He is growing steadily weaker. While hope has not been given up, it must be said that his chances for recovery are slight and he may pass away at any time."

Mr. Wilcox is 61 years of age, and has been a resident of Portland since 1877, coming to this city from his home state, Massachusetts, to accept a position in the Ladd & Tilton Bank. His rise in Portland was rapid and marked by executive genius of a high degree. In 1884 he organized the Portland Flouring Mills Company. His recent appointment in charge of Federal milling control in the Northwest was in testimony to his marked ability and sound experience.

NELSON MORRIS IN CLASS 1

Youthful Chicago Packer Refused Exemption by Appeal Board.

CHICAGO, March 29.—Nelson Morris, chairman of the board of directors of Morris & Co., packers, today was placed in Class 1-A of the draft by his district appeal board. Mr. Morris in his questionnaire claimed exemption on the ground that he was necessary to vital industry.

A few days ago he announced that he had accepted a position with the Government and would become one of the \$1 a year men and left here for Washington. The board, in announcing that Morris had been placed in Class 1-A, said that "since Mr. Morris had left for Washington to accept a position with the War Department, it was clear that he was not essential to the business of Morris & Co."

NEW BOCHE BLOW IMPENDS

Berlin Paper Predicts Germans Will Strike at Another Point.

AMSTERDAM, March 29.—The German supreme command is about to deliver a new and mighty blow on another part of the front, which will "tear a new hole in the already pierced enemy ring," the Vossische Zeitung of Berlin declares.

ABSOLUTE BAN PUT ON USE OF WHEAT

Hotel Men Give Pledge of Abstinence.

HOOVER APPEALS TO NATION

Well-to-Do Asked to Forego Chief War Food.

HARVEST BELOW ESTIMATE

Sacrifice Must Come From Those Who Have Most, Food Administrator Says, in Asking Complete Renunciation.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Wheat and wheat products were wiped off the menus of several hundred of the country's leading hotels today in response to a request of the Food Administration that "every independent, every well-to-do person in the United States" should pledge complete abstinence from wheat until the next harvest in order to supply the imperative needs of the allies.

Hotel managers who had come from every state in the United States to hear new conservation regulations explained were told by Food Administrator Hoover that the need for wheat was even greater now than when the new regulations were promulgated and that a census of supplies revealed that the harvest had been less than estimated and that shipping difficulties made it imperative to feed the allies from here instead of from the Argentine. It is impossible to ship corn, owing to loss from germination, so that wheat must be America's chief contribution to the rations of the peoples abroad.

Upper Classes Must Lead.

Mr. Hoover said the renunciation of luxurious food must begin at the top of the social scale, not only to set an example, but because the industrial population is dependent to a large extent on baker's bread, which must have a considerable proportion of wheat to be durable. Therefore, he asked the hotels which have as patrons people of wealth, to set an example to their clientele and to other public eating places by refusing to serve any wheat whatever until the new crop comes in, using other cereals and potatoes instead.

"We stand at the most critical period of our national history since the battle of Gettysburg," Mr. Hoover declared. "We may have to cut our wheat consumption more than one-half, but the sacrifice must come from those who have the most, not from those who have the least. Our wheat acreage this year will be greater than ever before, and if the Lord is good to us in the matter of weather, our difficulties will be at an end by September—that is not a long period of sacrifice."

The reply was an outburst of applause (Continued on Page 4, Column 2.)

DISLOYALTY PUTS TWO BEHIND BARS

NON-AMERICANS FINED AND GIVEN JAIL SENTENCES.

H. C. Bishop and Victor Sault Refuse to Rise When "Star-Spanned Banner" Is Played.

With a fine of \$250 and a jail sentence of 15 days each, H. C. Bishop, who says he is an American, and Victor Sault, a Russian, were punished yesterday by Judge Rossmann, of the Municipal Court, for a disloyal act Thursday night, when they refused to rise to their feet when "The Star-Spanned Banner" was played at the Helix Theater.

Evidence was presented showing that the two men refused to rise when the anthem was played, after repeated requests by others in the audience. A. E. Wellington and J. B. Rhoades, both of Portland, and Dr. H. C. Coe, of Bend, were the complaining witnesses. Bishop offered the excuse that he was not aware that "The Star-Spanned Banner" was the National anthem, and besides, he said, he was too tired to stand up.

Sault said he had been in the United States about 11 years and intended to return to Russia as soon as he could. Deputy City Attorney Lansing failed to draw out information as to whether Sault was a "Bolshevik."

Judge Rossmann told Bishop and Sault they were fortunate in escaping with fines and sentences, as they might have been subjected to severe treatment on the part of patrons of the theater. Both are Socialists. Bishop is employed at the Portland Stove Works and Sault has been working in saw-mills.

Both gave notice of appeal and bail was fixed at \$1000 each. The two men are held in the City Jail.

TEUTONS STIR UP KURDS

Tribesmen Asked to Attack Russians in Asia Minor.

LONDON, March 29.—(By Mail)—Kurdish tribesmen used repeatedly by the Turks in their campaign against the Armenians, are urged to take advantage of the armistice in Asia Minor and attack the withdrawing Russian troops, in a document in possession of the British War Office.

The document is an order from Major Druffel, a German staff officer with the Turkish forces in Mesopotamia, to the Turkish commanders on the Persian front.

POLICE FIRE ON STRIKERS

Troops Called On to Quell Kansas City Street Rioters.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 29.—Serious rioting occurred when attempts were made late today to operate streetcars. A crowd of about 1500 persons attacked a car. The police guards on the car fired into the crowd. Troops with an armored motorcar and a machine gun squad were called out.

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

Table listing various news items and page numbers, including sections like 'The Weather', 'War', 'Foreign', 'National', 'Domestic', 'Sports', 'Commercial and Marine', and 'Pacific Northwest'.

HUN GUN KILLS 75 IN PARIS CHURCH

90 Wounded by Bursting of Great Projectile.

VICTIMS ARE AT SERVICE

Shell of Long-Range Cannon Hits During Observance of Good Friday.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN DIE

Among Slain Is Counsellor of Swiss Legation—Edifice Struck Once Before.

PARIS, March 29.—The long-range bombardment of Paris was resumed shortly after 3 o'clock this afternoon. Seventy-five persons were killed and 90 wounded, most of them women and children, when a shell fired by a German long-range gun fell on a church in the region of Paris while Good Friday services were being held, according to an official communication issued this evening.

Among those killed was H. Stroehlin, counsellor of the Swiss legation in Paris. The same church was struck by a shell during the celebration of high mass last Sunday and many casualties resulted.

ROOSEVELT SEES GRANDSON

Archibald, Jr., Two Months Old, Smiles Upon Former President.

BOSTON, March 29.—Archibald B. Roosevelt, Jr., two months old, opened his eyes today and smiled for the first time at his grandfather, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, who stopped over in Boston on his way home from Portland, Me., to see him.

The Colonel spoke last night before the Republican Convention of Maine, against the advice of his physicians, but he told friends here that he was feeling fine and was not worn by his trip.

FRANCE CALLING RECRUITS

Class of 1919 Will Mobilize, Beginning April 15.

PARIS, March 29.—The soldiers of the class of 1919 are to be called to colors at an early date, which is to be fixed by the Ministry of War. This was decided on by a vote of the Chamber of Deputies this afternoon. It is known that the Ministry of War has decreed that the recruits shall report April 15.

WORLD'S CAPITAL SOLEMN

London's Good Friday Devotees Reflect Events in France.

LONDON, March 29.—The spirit of devotion pervaded England this Good Friday. Thoughtful, of course, were centered on France, and the critical fighting of the past few days gave a particular significance to the services which were held in all churches. The preachers exhorted their congregations to face the immediate future with courage and confidence. St. Paul's and Westminster cathedrals and Westminster Abbey were crowded.

EVERY BRITON TO FIGHT

Proposed Conscription Bill Would Draw Heavily on Man-Power.

LONDON, March 29.—The parliamentary correspondent of the Daily Express, says that powerful influences within the government are pressing for the introduction, when Parliament reassembles April 9, of an entirely new conscription bill, which would raise the age limit to between 45 and 50 years and which would apply conscription to Ireland and call for mobilization of the volunteer home defense force.

U. S. SEIZES TEUTON MILLS

New Jersey Plants Valued at \$70,000,000 Commandeered.

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Six great German-owned New Jersey woolen mills, with a total valuation of more than \$70,000,000, have been taken over by the enemy alien property custodian, who has named governing boards of directors to assume control of them. The earnings of the properties during the war will go into the Federal trade treasury for the purchase of liberty bonds.

