

BAKER SAID TO BE IN REACTIONARIES' GRIP

Senator Chamberlain Charges Bad Faith by Secretary.

ACTION TERMED IMPROPER

Advice of Colonel Ansell to Reform Court-martial System Alleged to Have Been Rejected.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, chairman of the senate military committee, made public today a letter to Secretary Baker in which he charged the war secretary with being under the influence of reactionaries opposed to changes in the army court-martial system, with acting in bad faith toward congress and with ordering an investigation which the senator said, in his judgment, was designed to destroy Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel T. Ansell, "the man who exposed the injustice of the present system."

With his letter Senator Chamberlain gave out a copy of a telegram received from Secretary Baker, now on an inspection trip on the Pacific coast, declining to make a reply to a statement made by Mr. Baker and Judge-Advocate-General Crowder.

Baker Sends Reply.

In response to a message from Senator Chamberlain published, Secretary Baker telegraphed:

"More than a year ago I asked of the military committee of both the senate and house legislation to correct the evils of the present court-martial system. I shall renew the request when congress assembles. There would seem to be, therefore, no controversy on the merits of the subject. Have not yet seen the letter in question and cannot imagine why my consideration of it on my return will not be time enough."

In his letter, Senator Chamberlain said Secretary Baker was "deaf to complaints" and was fencing on the subject. He declared the bill drafted by the war department to correct the court-martial system was not sent in good faith to congress, but was "simply designed to ally public apprehension and inquiry by the appearance of doing something."

SENATOR MAKES CRITICISM

The letter continued: "You supplanted the officer who had seen fit to call your attention to the beginning of the war to the necessity of keeping the strictest supervision over court-martial proceedings by an officer who contended that such supervision was not necessary and that such supervision would derogate from the power of the commanding officer and destroy discipline. You allowed aside the one officer who even then had the courage to condemn the system and the provision to point out its terrible results—General Ansell—and took into the bosom of your confidence a trio of men who are pronounced reactionaries—General Crowder, the acting chief-of-staff, and the inspector-general—the last named of whom is even this day engaged, by your order, in a so-called 'investigation' designed in my judgment to destroy the man who exposed the injustice of the present system."

"I think that any further responsibility might be shifted to congress, the senator wrote, Mr. Baker presented a bill which if he did not know, advisers did, could not be passed. The slightest consideration of the measure, he asserted, would show that had it been enacted into law it would have made the system even more reactionary, if possible, than it is now."

ACTION DECLARED IMPROPER

Senator Chamberlain said Colonel Ansell, while serving as acting judge-advocate-general, had written an opinion in which he demonstrated that the power of supervision to correct evils was given in existing law, but that the secretary either ordered or permitted General Crowder to write an overruling opinion.

FARM WEEK IS PROCLAIMED

Pacific Northwest Congress at Walla Walla Indorsed by State.

OLYMPIA, Wash., March 20.—(Special.)—Walla Walla's national tractor and power farming congress demonstration for the Pacific northwest, beginning April 22 and continuing for four days, was formally proclaimed farm power and tractor week for the state by Acting Governor Louis F. Hart yesterday.

REDS BEATEN BY GREEKS

(Continued From First Page.)

Greek troops from Saloniki said that Greek troops had defeated the bolsheviks at Kherson, north of Odessa. In the center of the front between Odessa and Riga, the bolsheviks apparently have been giving ground, as reports say that the bolsheviks have been forced to evacuate Pinsk by the Poles. In the region about Riga, Lithuanian forces have driven the bolsheviks steadily eastward and now are at Mittau, about 25 miles southwest of Riga.

There has been more or less activity in the last fortnight on the allied front south of Archangel, but the bolsheviks have made no gains. There have been no reports of activity in the Caucasus since General Denikin wiped out the bolshevik army operating along the Kuma river.

OFFENSIVE IS IMMINENT

Recent reports from Omek have been that the Kolchak government was preparing for an extended offensive movement west of the Urals early in the spring. The Russian government is expected to advance northward from Perm to join hands with the allied forces at Archangel and southwestward from Ufa to connect with General Denikin in the Caucasus.

COL. HOUSE REPLIES TO CAMP DETRACTORS

Conditions at Brest Declared to Be Excellent.

ARMY'S WORK COMMENDED

French Minister Joins With American in Appreciation of "Example of American Efficiency."

BY HERBERT BAYARD SPOPE.

(Copyright by the New York World. Published by Arrangement.)

PARIS, March 20.—(Special Cable.)—Mud is still present at the American army camp at Brest, but it is a cleaner and healthier mud than the sort thrown at the plant in the last few weeks.

There has been a radical improvement in conditions. Not an improvement of the sort based upon negligence or mismanagement in the past, but an improvement of the sort that always follows the presence of Yankee enterprise and energy when these qualities have a chance to show themselves.

HOUSE AND LEGYONS PRAISED

The base command, the head of which is Major-General Helmick, and Camp Pontzenec, commanded by Brigadier-General Smedley Butler of the marine corps, were inspected on Thursday by Colonel House and French Minister of Marine Legyons, while they were awaiting the arrival of President Wilson.

Their visit of several hours took them into all quarters of the camp, and when it was over they praised it highly. Colonel House, who is not given to loose talk and who rarely lets himself be quoted, said:

"I think the conditions in the camp and in Brest have been unjustly attacked. The manner in which everything like 70,000 men are being handled is one calling for commendation. It is just such work as this, throughout our participation in the war, that has made the Paris conference possible. The American army work has been done excellently, and, if my words carry any weight, I should like to assure my fellow countrymen that there is nothing at Brest to cause them the least concern. On the contrary, there is much to be proud of. The men are being well treated, well fed."

AMERICAN EFFICIENCY NOTED

The French minister spoke in the same vein.

"I am more than pleased and impressed by my inspection of conditions in the American army at Brest and at Camp Pontzenec," he said. "These two places afford a striking example of American efficiency. Every possible detail has been taken for the comfort and care of the soldiers, and the military management is above reproach."

Minister Legyons, accompanied by his aide, drove later, under the guidance of Colonel Singleton, chief of staff of the base command, to Penfield, where the Americans have constructed big waterworks that probably will be bought by the French government either for national use or to be sold to the Brest municipality. It is a triumph of the public mind in the United States, executed entirely by an American army outfit.

DEATH RATE AMONG LOWEST

Conversations with soldiers in camp and in the hospital show that they have no kind of objection to a campaign that will give Brest a better reputation than most other camps in France or America. For two months the death rate at Brest has been among the lowest in the American expeditionary force, and lower than in any of the camps in America east of the Mississippi.

Red Cross Knights of Columbus, Salvation Army and Jewish Welfare workers have done good work in keeping up the morale of the men in the face of adverse conditions. Brest will not be a profitable subject for traders of the American army and searchers for scandal.

PRESIDENT IS CONFIDENT

(Continued From First Page.)

than ever he is willing to listen to the voice of the people and it is his heart's wish to make their desires articulate. But he declines to be frightened into any false position by any bores that may be conjured up in the name of public opinion. More than ever is he insistent that his faculty for interpreting the public mind is as keen as in the insight of those who assume to speak for the public, whether the oracles be American, French or British.

He is unable to make any definite conjecture as to the length of his present stay, but he hopes to be able to return home in 30 or 40 days. Should further conferences be required later on, in order to shake down details of the peace terms, it is within the bounds of possibility that he may make a third trip to Europe in the summer.

AMERICAN SQUADRON SAILS FOR HOME

RIO JANEIRO, March 20.—The American squadron under Rear-Admiral Caperton, which for some time has been paying visits to South American countries, sailed for the United States today.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

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ing the elaborate plan of social and labor legislation which he has long been interested. He has withheld this plan because of the absorption of public interest in war measures, and he wishes the people to be free from such distractions before submitting to them a new programme of such importance.

If the plan, as finally divulged, be anything as captivating as the outline imparted to me, it will give to America the leadership in the solution of the gravest problems that the world faces today—the problem of workers and their work.

In the first hours of his return to Paris the president learned of the tremendous new tasks that have been set for him. On every question over which there was disagreement in his absence, the delegates referred their issues to him for decision. Within the next few days he will be expected to pass upon five main phases of the treaty with Germany, covering military, economic, financial, territorial, terms and the matter of repatriation.

REPARATION HARD PROBLEM

In respect to reparation the President is expected to give an exact definition to the term, saying whether it means damages in the American sense or damages plus war costs, as other nations urge. To this distinction he will give little attention, as the matter is largely academic, the controlling factor being not a definition of the term, but an appreciation of what Germany may be able to pay.

In the economic and financial fields the president feels he has only to follow the course as laid down in his 14 points as generally accepted. In the study of boundary issues he will find much to perplex him.

Not the least of the tasks before the president is the decision he must make in respect to Palestine, and another decision in respect to the mandatory which America may be willing to assume, with direct reference to taking Armenia under our wing.

Then the great and perplexing problem of Russia must be considered by him, and the obscurities and menaces of that vast land must be cleared away. The world cannot be at rest with the Russian problem unsolved, while Russia settled and contented will restore the world-balance.

Great as may be the reward for a solution of this problem, there is no light to show the way and the wise men of Paris are groping in the dark and sounding for a channel that will lead them to a safe haven. There is no longer advocacy of any particular policy in respect to Russia. Any plan that seems to assure good results will be seized avidly. Russia seems to have caused a bankruptcy of world statesmanship, yet Russia assembly exists with increasing strength, though she starves and suffers.

The truth about Russia has not yet been revealed. One by one prejudiced and partisan indictments collapse, and the subject remains baffling and apparently impenetrable.

FOUR TO FORMULATE TERMS

With Russia always looming portentously in the background, attention is now required for the more immediate task of reaching conclusions with Germany, which will not be so entirely dissociated with Russian prospects as many pretend to believe.

Drafting the peace terms will be formulated by four men, President Wilson and Premiers Lloyd George, Clemenceau and Orlando. This quartet will hold daily sessions in executive and care of the supreme council.

When the German delegates arrive, probably about March 25, these four men will confer to form a committee that can say what will happen if the Germans refuse to sign the preliminary terms. It may be that provision has been made for such a contingency, but the measures to be adopted have not been divulged. No one likes to think of such a possibility, and the few who contemplate it see the only remedy for it in the re-establishment of a rigid blockade.

Persons who have studied the possibilities admit that a fresh blockade might sound the knell of Germany as a nation; and they do not try to conceal their apprehension that in her fall other countries might be carried with her and chaos come upon the world.

EXPLOSIVES TO BE SOLD

Disposal of Surplus War Material Not to Upset Market Conditions.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Tentative agreement has been reached with manufacturers of explosives, under which 50,000,000 pounds of surplus ammonium nitrate and 100,000 pounds of fulminate of mercury held in the war department will be disposed of in such a way as not to upset market conditions.

A committee from the manufacturers will meet shortly in Philadelphia to work out details.

CENTRALIA PUPILS MAKE RECORD

CENTRALIA, Wash., March 20.—(Special.)—Graduates of the Centralia high school are making a good academic record at higher institutions of learning in the state. A report issued by the University of Washington for the school year of 1917-1918 shows that 84.42 per cent of the freshmen grades earned by Centralians were above 75 per cent, while only 13.85 per cent of the entire freshman class won grades above this figure.

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ASK FOR PIANO EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.
LIPMAN, WOLFE & CO.

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Merchandise of Merit Only

The New Has Complete Possession of Every Floor of the Store

—Have you noticed the radiant Springtime note of the Street Floor, these glorious Spring days? You will find it repeated on every floor of the store—with new Springtime wearables, new Springtime fabrics and new Springtime articles for the home here in delightful profusion. Wonderful new Springtime assortments of everything—come and see for yourself!



Charming New Models in Blue Serge Suits \$40-\$45-\$50

—What is so desirable to wear early in the season as a well tailored, good-looking blue serge suit? Judging from the number of women who are buying them this season, their popularity has increased, if such a thing is possible. That may be because the styles this season are so beautiful when developed in this ever-popular fabric. They are beautifully tailored in every respect.

—Some are on the jaunty box lines, with vests of novelty silk, in gay colors, and some are in fitted styles with novel touches of embroidery or braid.

—All have beautiful lining; some plain and some fancy. Most of them have straight, plain, narrow skirts that are so smart. All sizes are shown from misses' 16 to women's 52.

First Importation Wool Challies—\$1

—This is the first importation of all-wool challies that has come in from France since the war, and you will find patterns here that are exclusive with us, for this is the only Portland store to be showing these exquisite fabrics.

—The most beautiful colors and combinations are shown; soft tones in all-over designs and the dainty rosebud patterns. Practically all wanted shades are here. Not a great quantity of each kind.

Modart Corsets for Spring—Here

—You will find in these handsome new models a charm that will delight you, for they express the very newest ideas of America's foremost designers.

—Your spring silhouette will assuredly be of the most approved fashion if you use a "Modart" as a foundation. We have complete assortments of Modart corsets, and our expert corsetiers will find the model that is best suited to your individual needs. Priced \$5 to \$15.

MEN

New Fibre Silk Shirts in Spring Patterns Much Underpriced—\$3.85

—We know you couldn't possibly duplicate these shirts at the low price elsewhere in Portland, for they were made to sell for ever so much more.



—All the newest and most wanted and most spring-like patterns are shown; in striped and multicolor effects that are beautiful.

—Another sale that shows the real values always to be found in Lipman, Wolfe & Co.'s Men's Shop—Portland men have learned to expect the best here, always.

—These shirts are cut full and tailored beautifully in every detail. The workmanship is of the highest order throughout. All have French cuffs and the color assortment is extraordinarily varied. Men, you'll want at least half a dozen when you see them. The price is extremely low.

Men's Store, Just Inside Washington Street Entrance.

Newest Collar Laces at \$1

—Laces in beautiful imitations of Venise and filet. These are made to fit round necked frocks; made to flare a bit at the outer edge. It requires 24 to 27 inches for a collar.

Newest Spring Rufflings \$1.25

—Such pretty new rufflings for the adornment of your new spring frocks or the rejuvenation of your old. There are gay new rufflings in two-tone effects; red and navy, tan and navy, white and flesh, navy and blue and delft and navy.

New Blouses of Georgette and Crepe de Chine Special \$5

—New models in spring blouses, both plain tailored and fancy models. High necked blouses in very plain style; round necked blouses with shallow yokes.

—Trimmings of tucks, pin tucks, buttons, laces and pleats are used to good effect.

—White, flesh and maize colored blouses in so many pretty styles we cannot begin to describe them here. Button on the shoulder styles vie with collarless and rolling collar models for smartness. All are unusual at \$5.00.

Very choice
VAN DYCK
CIGAR
FOUR SELECT SIZES
We suggest Staples: 2 for 25c
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