

GERMANS TIGHTEN LINES NEAR VERDUN

Footings Obtained in Village of Vaux After Fierce Battle.

CITY IS IN PLAIN VIEW

Cathedral Not Yet Shot Down, but German Officer Says That It Probably Will Be Done Later.

LONDON, April 1.—According to official advices from Paris today, the Germans are gradually closing in on Verdun, drawing their lines a little closer northeast of the fortress, where, by massed attacks from two directions, they have secured a footing in the village of Vaux.

FE. UD CHARGE VOIDED

WASHINGTON PAVING COMPANY WINS SUIT FROM PIERCE COUNTY.

BY CYRIL BROWN. Staff War Correspondent of the New York Times.

WITH THE CROWN PRINCE'S ARMY BEFORE VERDUN, March 27.—(By courtesy of Berlin, April 1.)—The German artillery is eating into Verdun like a cancer—slowly but fatally.

As it was, it seemed to climb a height on the Meuse, ten miles from the heart of Verdun, as the Fokker flies and under ideal weather conditions for observation sweep the whole of the Verdun front.

Church Tower Easy Mark. That it would be easy to hit the church tower was apparent from the desultory bombardment of Verdun that appeared to be in progress.

Prinze's Army Confident. "I shouldn't care to be in the shoes of the French up there," remarked the Crown Prince's intelligence officer.

NORTHWEST FOUND RICH

FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD SAYS TRADE CONDITIONS GOOD.

Bank Clearings Are Increasing Heavily, Farmers Are Prosperous and Mining Is Active.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, April 1.—The monthly report of the Federal Reserve Board, discussing conditions in the Twelfth or Pacific Coast District, says:

Auto Victim Sues. SALEM, Or., April 1.—(Special.)—S. F. Anderson, of this city, today filed action against Dr. W. H. Byrd, of this city, to recover \$16,660 damages for injuries which he received last August when an automobile driven by the physician struck a garage door, hurling it onto Anderson.

PORTLAND ROSE FESTIVAL

Good for One Vote—Void After Friday, April 7, 1916.

Organization. This coupon will count one vote when properly filled out and sent to Portland Rose Festival Contest Department, 837 Northwestern National Bank Building.

northern side, which were the most strongly fortified.

"I had an opportunity today to inspect the booty so far taken in the Verdun battle. The quantities of weapons, munitions, uniforms and supplies of all sorts which were accumulating here are incalculable."

ONE CRAFT IS CAPTURED

Crowds on Streets Applaud as Fire From Batteries Takes Effect and Flier Vanishes in a Cloud of Smoke.

LONDON, April 1.—Two squadrons of Zeppelins, flying over England last night in the most extensive air raid of the war, killed 25 persons and wounded 31 others in the discharge of at least 90 bombs.

One detached ship, making a raid over the northeast coast, was disabled by the fire of the anti-aircraft guns which followed the searchlights playing on the raider.

GENESEE, Idaho, April 1.—(Special.)—Chris Steltz was badly hurt here Tuesday while trimming some large shade trees.

OLYMPIA, Wash., April 1.—(Special.)—In permitting the Washington Paving Company to undertake and complete the Steilacoom boulevard on a permanent highway contract made by Pierce County before bringing direct action on fraud charges, the Supreme Court today by a majority of one holds the state estopped from withholding a \$25,000 payment and ordering payment made by the State Auditor and the highway department.

Justice Bausman wrote the ruling opinion in which Justices Mount, Parker, Holcomb and Chadwick concur.

It is estimated that \$200,000 worth of highway improvement in Washington and Oregon has been held back until this decision was rendered.

The prevailing opinion holds in brief that only the Attorney-General is competent to bring actions to prevent misappropriation of public funds, and that the state had been apprised of such charges by two previous suits attempted by taxpayers on allegations that the successful bidder had employed unfair means through a secret contract with the Warrenton Company, whereby it was enabled to procure the required bituminous paving material at 38 cents cheaper per square yard than could competitors, by allowing the contract to proceed to completion thereafter the state is held to have waived whatever fraud there might have been.

In writing the dissenting opinion Justice Main calls the methods adopted to procure the contract "unfair to other bidders, injurious to the public, indefensible in morals," and considers that the contract is thereby rendered illegal.

The ruling opinion pronounces fault found with the work as shown by the fact that most too trifling for consideration.

The decision is rendered on a mandamus action brought by the company and the Attorney-General, the latter appearing for the Auditor and Highway Commissioner.

Presently the booming of guns brought hundreds of persons into the streets. Just before 10 o'clock I saw the searchlights pick up a Zeppelin.

The crowd loudly applauded the work of the gunners and became very enthusiastic when one shell seemed to burst right under the airship. The last I saw was a cloud of smoke which seemed to be discharged from the Zeppelin. Behind this cloud the raider disappeared.

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"Livestock interests are especially prosperous. Wool is being contracted for at from 27 cents upward and sheep are commanding exceptional prices.

"February bank clearings in 17 principal cities of this district show a gain of 20 per cent over the preceding year and building permits a gain of 25 per cent."

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, April 1.—Tri-weekly rural free delivery will be inaugurated at Knappa the first row of houses on the

28 DIE IN GREAT AIR-FREEZING RAID

Zeppelins Also Injure 34, but Bombs Dropped Do Little Material Damage.

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busses and streetcars were running as usual during the fight.

BUILDINGS COST \$1,074,457 Aberdeen's School Census Grows From 1583 to 2045 in Five Years.

ABERDEEN, Wash., April 1.—(Special.)—Aberdeen has undergone a rapid growth in both population and wealth in the past five years.

UNION, Or., April 1.—(Special.)—W. J. Townley, prominent breeder of short-horn cattle, of Eastern Oregon, has returned with a dozen head of registered animals purchased at the Spring sale of shorthorns held at Portland March 22.

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Edwards' Automobile Carts \$10.95 on Sale One Week Only at \$7.00. Baby's Picture FREE! AUTOMOBILE TOP Detachable side curtains and rear arm adjustable. OUT-OF-TOWN FOLKS When you send us your order, we welcome to credit here.

3 Rooms Furnished Complete \$148.25 as Pictured. \$15 Cash and Then \$2.50 Per Week puts this luxurious furniture into your own home. The Dining-Room \$41.75. The Bedroom Set \$52.60. Free Catalogue For Out-of-Town Folks. EDWARDS CO FIFTH AND OAK STREETS.