

REPLY OF ALLIES TO U. S. MAIL PROTESTS DEFENDS POSITION

Note Is Considered Flat Rejection of Demands Made by United States.

LETTERS TO BE EXEMPT

Maintain Right to Seize Merchandise Sent Parcel Post and Also Goods Wrongfully Sent as First Class.

Washington, April 4.—(U. S. S.)—The reply of the allied governments to the protests of the United States on seizures of mails was received by the state department yesterday.

The allies defend their right to arrest and seize merchandise sent as parcel post and to seize goods falsely sent as first class mail. However, they will refrain from seizing and confiscating letters or dispatches.

The reply is considered a rejection of the demands made in the American note of protest of January 4, 1918. In this note the United States made "a formal and vigorous protest of these unwarranted interferences with inviolable mails."

U. S. Protest Overruled. Summing up their conclusions, the memorandum of the allied governments says: "First—That concerning their right to visit and eventually to arrest and seize the merchandise shipped under the shape of parcel post must and shall not be treated differently from the merchandise shipped any other way."

"Second—That the inviolability of postal correspondence stipulated by convention No. 11 of the Hague treaty of 1907, carries by no means any prejudice to the right of the allied governments to visit and eventually to arrest and seize the goods which are falsely deposited in the covers, envelopes or letters contained in the mail sacks."

Letters to be Exempted. "Third—That faithful to their engagements and respectful of true correspondences, the allied governments will continue for the present to refrain from seizing and confiscating at sea these correspondences, letters or dispatches, and that they will insure the most rapid transit of them possible as soon as the genuineness of their character is known. The greatest stress is laid in the allied reply on their right to seize parcels post shipments. On the other hand, the United States in its protest touched only lightly on this phase and raised the greatest objection to censoring and seizing first class mails.

Parcel Post. The allies insist that parcel cannot be considered as letter correspondence or dispatches, and that "nothing can save them from the exercise of the rights of police control, visit and eventual seizure, which belongs to the belligerents on the high seas in regard to all cargoes."

The allied governments' reply charges that Germany and Austria-Hungary have utilized the mails for the purpose of removing cobalt and shipment. Among numerous examples, it is stated that 1822 packages seized on eight steamers from South America contained 437,510 kilograms of rubber for Hamburg. Another seizure of 69 packages containing 400 revolvers for Germany is cited.

What action the United States will take in the light of rejection of its demands was not known today. In the American notes mention was

DOUBLE GOLDEN WEDDING



Mr. and Mrs. Otis Brooks.

A most enjoyable event was the celebration of the golden wedding anniversary, of Mr. and Mrs. Otis Brooks, of 107 East Sixteenth street, north, and Rev. and Mrs. C. H. Campbell, of Milwaukie, at Grant Army headquarters in room 525, court house. Those who came to do honor to the brides and bridegrooms, of 50 years ago, were the children and grandchildren of the happy couples, department officers and a large gathering of members of the post and corps. The room was beautifully decorated in yellow and gold, as were the long tables extending nearly the full length of the hall. The wedding march was played by the Clifford orchestra. The couples marched into the hall, two color bearers preceding and two following, taking their places beneath a large golden bell, where the "wedding ceremony" was performed by the Rev. B. J. Hoadley, chaplain of the post.

After congratulations were extended \$5 in gold was presented by Commander W. M. Hendershott, to each of the bridegrooms, and to each of the brides, by President Rosetta McKennett. Past Dept. Commander T. B. McDewitt presented to Mr. and Mrs. Brooks from their children, a gold clock, which bore the legend, 1868 to 1918. The women of the corps who served the banquet, were charming in their white gowns and solid colored caps. The brides at each end of the table served the wedding cakes. A jolly time followed with music by the orchestra, and songs by Miss Lucile Hewitt, a grand-daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brooks, accompanied by Miss Grace Squires. Mrs. Elizabeth Stowers and Miss Elgie Thompson, and Miss Margaret Egbert gave entertaining readings. During the Civil War Mr. Brooks served in Co. F, Ninth Main Regiment, was performed by the Rev. C. D. Second Michigan Cavalry.

EVACUATION MAY BE FORCED ON SOLDIERS IN BETHINCOURT LINE

Three Sides Are Being Given Terrific Bombardment by German Batteries.

OTHER POINTS SHELLED

French Successes at Vaux and Elsewhere Do Not Offset the German Gains Near Verdun.

Paris, April 4.—(U. P.)—Germs heavily shelled French positions northwest of Verdun during the night, particularly Malancourt and Avocourt, official announcement declared today. There were no infantry attacks. West of the Meuse the French batteries kept up a continuous fire from Douaumont to Vaux village. In the Argonne forest also French guns were busy. Enemy firing also French infantry dispersed among German reconnoitering parties.

London, April 4.—(U. P.)—Massed German batteries on three sides of Bethincourt are giving French positions a terrific bombardment today, and it is feared the defenders will soon be forced to evacuate the strongholds. French Vaux village and the surrounding country were not sufficient to offset the German gain of a two mile strip lately of Verdun. French positions west of the Meuse are believed to be seriously endangered.

A heavy artillery battle continued during the whole of yesterday on the entire sector northwest of Verdun. For a week the Germans have been shelling hill 304 in the vicinity of Verdun, outer defenses in that district. Trenches have crumbled in the trenches and wrecked the French batteries stationed there.

Indications are that the Germans plan to take Bethincourt and another French line to the west under an overwhelming attack, forcing the French to retire to the shelter of the first permanent fortifications of Verdun, near the station of Douaumont. French gains yesterday near Vaux confirmed military observers in their belief that the crown prince will not be able to take Verdun from the northeast. He has sacrificed thousands of men and made no important progress on the side since the capture of Douaumont.

Dispatches from the front said large forces of Germans were noted on the British front in Flanders and northern France. Since beginning their smash at Verdun the Germans have depleted their armies elsewhere to aid the principal offensive, but the large force opposite the British has not been disturbed. Last General Sir Douglas Haig's men seize the opportunity for an allied drive.

Counter Attacks Prepared.

Paris, April 4.—(U. S. S.)—Preparings for further counter attacks French artillery literally droned the region about Douaumont and Vaux throughout the night, today's communique says. The German response was feeble. They were no infantry engagements of importance. An artillery duel was in progress on the night of the Meuse throughout the night.

Vista House Fund Dance Big Success

Although It Was Billed as an "Old-Fashioned Dance," the Steps Were Executed in Modern Way.

The old-fashioned dance held at Cotillon hall last night for the benefit of the Vista House fund was a big success.

The label, "old-fashioned," bothered no one. The very first dance that Miss Walter's donated orchestra played was a step, and one could just see the delight on the faces of the old-fashioned folk who had dug out their long-lost white vest buttons, as they pranced out on the polished floor and commencing their three-step waltz, schottische or three-step airs were played by that orchestra. The dancing was thoroughly modern at all times.

Lawyer, doctor, merchant—every branch of Portland's business world was represented. A number of them looked after a handsomely gowned woman.

Professor M. M. Ringler and Mrs. Ringler in addition to donating the hall and orchestra gave an exhibition of fancy dancing. In each corner of the big hall was a concession of some kind to which a steady stream of nickels and dimes flowed in, guided by a flock of pretty maidens from whom one just had to buy.

E. H. Holt was floor manager and was assisted by the following committee:

- Publicity—Roy Edwards, chairman; Ocean Jolly, vice chairman.
- Refreshments—O. M. Smith, chairman; Mrs. T. L. Graves, vice chairman.
- Music—I. L. Riggs, chairman; E. H. Holt, vice chairman.
- Cards—T. L. Graves, chairman; Mrs. W. H. Daugherty, vice chairman.
- Decorations—L. A. Spivey, chairman; David Briggs, vice chairman.
- Ticket selling—Miss M. Sellers, chairman; Mrs. S. Mills, vice chairman.
- Concessions—Samuel Moses, chairman; Mr. Piepenbrink, vice chairman; Mrs. T. L. Graves, Mrs. Mack.

Team Runs Away, Dash Into a Barn

One of Animals Sustains Broken Leg; Policeman Shoots Horse; Other Horse Terribly Bruised.

Frightened by the noise of a sand truck a team of horses standing on Fourteenth and Clay streets, hitched to a furniture van ran away about 11 o'clock this morning and wound up by crashing into a barn at Chapman and Jefferson streets.

The leg of one of the horses was broken in two places and the horse had to be shot. A policeman and a policeman shot the horse.

The team ran west on Clay to Chapman and they plunged down the Chapman street hill narrowly missing some children playing on the pavement. The team was owned by Sam Jones of 125 Russell street and driven by Harry Sullivan.

Primary Election on At Tacoma Today

Though Weather Is Fine, There Seems to Be but Little Interest in Voting During Morning.

Tacoma, Wash., April 4.—(U. P.)—Voting in the primary election being held today for two members of the city council and for city controller, started off listlessly, although weather conditions are favorable. It is expected the balloting will be heavier during the afternoon and early evening hours. All but six of the 24 councilmanic candidates will be eliminated by the result of today's election. A second and final election will be held April 18. Among the candidates for councilmen are Lorenzo Dow, formerly prosecuting attorney, ex-Sheriff R. W. Jamieson, Francis H. Pettit, former commissioner of public safety, and F. W. Steever, who resigned the pastorate of a local church to enter the political race.

CONGRESSMAN SAYS THERE'S NO GASOLINE SHORTAGE IN U. S.

Georgia Representative Declares He Can Prove Assertions With Facts.

By William Schley Howard, Representative from the Fifth District of Georgia.

Washington, April 4.—(U. S. S.)—There is no shortage in gasoline. All facts gathered absolutely and successfully refute this statement. Gasoline can be obtained in the remote districts if you pay the price. We can believe there is a shortage when automobile owners commence running races to get to the supply house first.

I am in a position to prove the following facts at the proper time: 1—There were 53,000,000 gallons less of gasoline exported in 1915 than there were in 1914.

2—There were 8,000,000 barrels more of crude oil produced in 1915 than there were in 1914.

3—Pipe line cargoes are so manipulated by the trust that it is now at

most impossible for independence to exist. That the decree in the Standard Oil Trust dissolution was a complete farce and only scattered their devilment and the people are worse off than the trust bear off.

4—That the "on hand" supply of crude petroleum is larger today than it has ever been in the history of the oil industry—to wit: six billion gallons.

The only immediate and effective remedy is a complete embargo on crude petroleum and all products extracted from it, until such time as the president of the United States shall deem the price fair and just to consumers.

The complete and everlasting remedy for this and all other like cases is to order the department of justice to proceed to dissolve the oil trust in fact.

Says Tobacco Men Paid Revenue Men

Counsel for Thirty Tobacco Manufacturers Held for Alleged Frauds Declares Deputies Received Pay.

Washington, April 4.—(U. P.)—Charging that deputy internal revenue collectors had been on the payrolls of certain tobacco manufacturers for illegal purposes, Carl Whitney, counsel for 30 manufacturers arrested in New York in connection with an investigation of alleged tobacco frauds, issued a sensational statement today.

He claims that the revenue collectors were paid \$5 or \$10 weekly for "collusion." Whitney refused to reveal the names of the accused men, saying he intended to see them in the defense of his clients. If his charges can be proved, the New York grand jury may be asked to vote indictments.

Austrians Bottled Up by Allied Navies

During Evacuation of Durazzo Allied Ships Made Chain in Front of Cattaro—Attempts Caused Losses.

Rome, April 4.—(U. S. S.)—It is learned that the action of the allied navies during March, especially by the Italian navy, has been particularly brilliant in the lower Adriatic.

When the Italians evacuated Durazzo the allied ships made a veritable chain in front of Cattaro. The Austrians dared not venture out. The few attempts made by the Austrian ships against Italian transports were paid for by the Austrians with important losses.

COLONEL ERWIN WAS REAL LEADER IN DASH AGAINST VILLA FORCE

Led 600 Cavalrymen on 17-Hour Ride; Bandits' Losses Estimated at 300 Men.

By H. D. Jacobs

United Press Staff Correspondent. United States Army Headquarters, Dublin, Mexico, by motor to Columbus, N. M., April 4.—Though Colonel Dodd has been credited with the American victory over Villistas at San Geronimo, Colonel Erwin actually led the 600 cavalrymen on the sensational 17 hour ride which resulted in the complete rout of the bandits, with losses estimated at 300.

Villa's friends prevented a surprise attack by notifying the outlaws that Americans were coming. Nearly all the Villistas had their horses saddled and were ready to mount as Colonel Erwin's men swept in on them from the west. Waiting only to fire a hurried volley, they leaped to their horses and raced toward the east.

The Americans pursued, yelling and shooting, clinging to their saddles with their legs, so their arms would be free to manipulate rifles and revolvers. As the bullets sang many Mexicans toppled from their mounts and tumbled among the scurrying horses.

For five hours the saddle worn Americans kept up the pursuit over strange and dangerous mountain trails. Groups of bandits scurried into mountain pockets and defiles at each turn. At intervals small bands halted, fired volleys point blank and then resumed their wild flight.

The sure-footedness of the Mexican ponies coupled with their riders' intimacy with the country, enabled the fugitives to outdistance their pursuers by many miles.

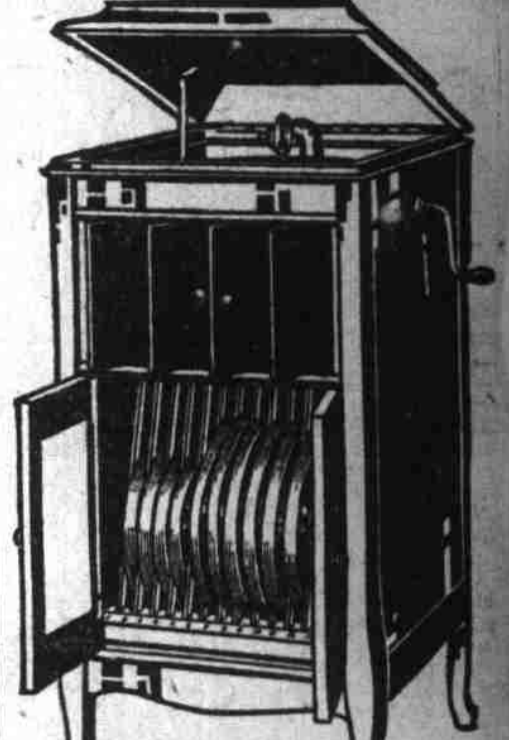
After staying behind 22 hours in the saddle Colonel Erwin's men administered this overwhelming defeat. Villa's force was crushed. It lost 60 men killed and 200 captured and abandoned its prisoners. The American cost was only four troopers wounded.

Colonel Erwin was in command of the American center engaged in an enveloping movement outlined by Colonel Dodd. He intended to fight at

Guerrero. Erwin followed the Rio Guerrero valley close to the railroad. The left moved eastward from Namiquip, then southward through the hauses. The center rode to Guerrero after the Carranzista-villa battle, in which Villa was reported wounded. Erwin learned that the main Villista body was at San Geronimo and immediately galloped in pursuit.

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"The most terrible battle in the world's history rages" around the French town against which the Germans have put forth their greatest effort since the war commenced. Will history repeat itself and Verdun again fall into German hands?

With leading German authorities claiming a triumphant victory and asserting that "Germany cannot be beaten and nothing now remains but for the Allies to seek an arrangement with her," and the French Minister of Finance declaring "that we have reached the decisive hour; and can say without exaggeration, without allusion and without even optimism that we now see the end of this horrible war," a careful consideration of both claims should be made.

In THE LITERARY DIGEST for April 1st, there is a searching article that enables the reader to get a very definite idea of what the siege of Verdun has accomplished up to date. The article is illustrated by a topographical sketch of the forts of Verdun and the various points which have been the scenes of great battles during the past several weeks.

Among other fine articles in this unusually interesting number of THE DIGEST are:

- Our Military Unpreparedness Revealed by Villa
- A Consensus of Editorial Opinion Upon the Developments That Have Been Brought to Public Notice in Moving a Small Military Force into Mexico
- For a Government Armor Plant What Is Behind the Tirpitz Retirement
- Long-lived Persons Have the Most Children
- A Research Institute to Study Apes
- Fitting Instead of Firing Men
- Cutting the Chinese Vocabulary
- To Educate the Immigrant for Citizenship Will Rome Suffer Like Ravenna?
- To Condense the Decalogue
- The Testimony for and Against Mr. Brandeis
- The Plight of Poland
- Japan's Alliance Coquetry
- The Monitor Type "Comes Back"
- A Magnetic Hand for Cripples
- Bierbohm-Tee's Henry VIII
- The Higher Learning in Paris Today
- The Dialects of Our Stage
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The Literary Digest

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