

WEATHER  
Thursday: Fair, cooler, except near the coast; moderate westerly winds.

# The Oregon Statesman

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## AVIATORS SEE CLEAR BREAK IN SEA WALL

### Greater Part of Channel at Ostend Filled With Sunken Objects—Numerous Bombs Dropped on Shore

## THREE DESTROYERS SUNK, SAY GERMANS

### Crews of Ships Tell Thrilling Stories of Adventures While on Zebrugge Raid

LONDON, April 24.—Air observations show a clear break of twenty yards in width in the Zebrugge mole at the inner end and that sunken objects blocks the greater part of the channel in the harbor of Ostend, according to an official bulletin issued by the admiralty.

The text of the statement reads: "Following the naval operation on the enemy's coast yesterday morning, observations were made by aircraft and bomb attacks carried out. Observation was difficult owing to the clouds, and on this account our machines descended as low as fifty feet.

A clear break twenty yards wide was observed in the Zebrugge mole at its inner end. At Ostend a sunken object was seen lying between the pier and blocking the greater part of the fairway.

Numerous bombs were dropped on objectives on shore.

## BATTERIES SINK BOATS

In the British naval raid Tuesday morning on the German submarine bases on the Belgian coast, the German admiralty announces that in addition to the five British cruisers sunk near the coast, three destroyers and a number of motor boats were sunk by the fire from the coast batteries.

## BRITISH FIRE ENEMY GUNS

DOVER, England, April 24.—Crews of the ships which took part in the raid on Zebrugge have many thrilling stories of their adventures. One of them has described how, despite the fact that the Germans discovered their presence while they were still outside the harbor, they made their way in through heavy gun fire, the vindictive reaching the wharf, where she remained for an hour and a half.

A landing party was put ashore, the seaman said, "and we captured the German guns on the breakwater and turned them around, firing them on the German fortified positions. As far as we could see, there was not a place of any military importance left—we destroyed a lot.

## Motor Boats Rescue

"We had to leave many of our landing parties behind but they were taken off by motor boats." One of our destroyers received a salvo of shells in her engine room and had to be beached. She was blown up after the survivors had been rescued.

Motorboats destroyed every floating thing in sight, including two German destroyers and some submarines. Those of the landing party who remained behind to continue the work of smashing German guns knew they would either lose their lives or be taken prisoner. They were volunteers and a brave lot of fellows."

Detailed Description. An officer of one of the motorboats has given the Daily Mail a story of the blowing up of the mole.

"The submarine which did it," says this officer, "went at it from the outside. The German star shells helped greatly in showing the way. We could see about 200 Germans on the bridge leading from the mole to the shore. They apparently thought the submarine had lost her way and were rejoicing in the belief that they were going to trap her. But the submarine pushed under the bridge and when her cargo of explosives was touched off, it blew the bridge and all standing on it into the air.

"For a little time afterward fragments of Germans and wreckage of the bridge were falling all around us. By the blowing up of the bridge the mole was isolated and it was in this island that the vindictive's men were landed and the fighting occurred.

Much Concrete Walls. Stoker Bendall of the submarine which blew up the Zebrugge mole, is quoted as saying that the explosion of the submarine caused much concrete to fall from the mole.

"It was silent and nervy business," he said. "We were going full tilt when we hit the viaduct. It was a good jolt and we ran right into the middle of the viaduct and stuck there, as we intended to do. I don't think anybody said anything except 'well, we are here all right.'"

"We lowered a skiff and stood by while the commander touched off the fuse and then tumbled into the skiff and pushed off. By bad luck the propeller fouled the exhaust pipe and left us with only two cars and two minutes to get away. The ene-

## Champ Clark Appointed to Succeed Late Senator

Jefferson City, Mo., April 24.—Governor Gardner tonight tendered to Champ Clark, speaker of the house of representatives, the appointment as senator to succeed the late William J. Stone. The governor announced he had sent the following telegram to Clark:

"I have the honor of tendering to you appointment as senator to fill vacancy caused by death of Senator Stone. I hope to have early advice of your acceptance."

May Not Accept. WASHINGTON, April 24.—Speaker Clark tonight received the telegram from Governor Gardner offering him the appointment as senator to succeed the late Senator Stone but declined to discuss it. The tendering of the office to the speaker had been expected by many members of the house of representatives, but they do not believe Mr. Clark will surrender the speakership to accept it.

## Influx of New Recruits Increases Camp Epidemics

WASHINGTON, April 24.—The influx of new men to the army training camps in this country resulted in an increased rate of admission to hospitals last week, today's report to the division of field sanitation shows. Epidemics of influenza prevail in national guard camps in the south, as well as national army camps, and, as a result, pneumonia continues with a high incidence, although the number of new cases is lower than the week before.

In the regular army some 800 new cases of pneumonia were reported. The total deaths for the week were 278 against 285 for the week before. There were 69 deaths in the regular army; 49 in the national guard and 160 in the national army.

## Efforts Made to End Car Strike in Detroit

DETROIT, Mich., April 24.—Street cars remained in the barn tonight despite efforts of officials of the union and the Detroit United Railways company to end the strike of 3500 motormen and conductors who refused to make their regular runs today, pending a decision of the wage dispute between the men and the company. The men demand wage increases of 13, 14 and 15 cents an hour, depending upon length of service, and improved working conditions.

It is estimated that more than 200,000 wage earners were affected by the strike and today every available automobile, truck and horse-drawn vehicle was pressed into service to transport them to and from work. Mayor Marx announced today that the state constabulary would be called upon to man the cars if the men did not return to work by tomorrow morning.

## CONVICTED MEN ENTER PRISON WITHOUT DELAY

Case Will Not Go Before United States District Court of Appeals

## PLOT HATCHED EARLY

Former Members of German Consulate Begin Serving Sentences Immediately

SAN FRANCISCO, April 24.—The former members of the German consulate here who were convicted shortly after midnight last night of having participated in a conspiracy to foment an uprising against British rule in India, will not submit their case to the United States district court of appeals but immediately will begin serving the sentence to be imposed by Federal Judge William C. Van Fleet. This was announced here tonight by Attorney Theodore Roche, their legal representative.

These defendants are Franz Bopp, former German consul general; E. H. Schack, vice-consul; Heinrich Kaufman and Charles L. Attendorf.

The plot which resulted yesterday in the murder of Ram Chandra, one of the defendants, by Ram Singh, another defendant, who in turn was shot and killed by United States Marshal James B. Holohan, was hatched April 4, according to the authorities. On that date, the officials said, Ram Singh purchased the weapon in a local pawn shop.

Santokh Singh, accused of having passed the revolver to Ram Singh, was closely examined by the federal and police authorities today but emphatically denied his guilt. One of the codefendants, according to the authorities, said he saw Santokh pass the pistol to Ram Singh.

## POUNDING AT AMIENS' DOOR BEGUN AGAIN

### Infantry Resume Attempts to Advance—Three Weeks of Preparation Are Ended—Withdrawal From Village

## DRIVE TOWARD ALLIED SUPPLY BASE IN NORTH

### Blows Are Simultaneous—Situation Between Germany and Holland Obscure

OFFICIAL SUMMARY.

After three weeks of preparation in the Somme, during which time they launched an offensive in Flanders, the Germans have resumed their hammering at the front door of Amiens. For days there has been heavy artillery firing along the northern sectors of the Somme salient and finally the German infantry began their attempts to advance on the line passing Villers-Bretonneux, Hangard, Hallies and Castel.

The first attacks were repulsed, but subsequent attacks, centered about Villers-Bretonneux, have caused a British withdrawal from this village, according to a report from Field Marshal Haig. This marks a German gain of about a mile.

Town at Northern End. Villers-Bretonneux is about eleven miles directly east of Amiens and is on the northern end of the latest fighting front. It is situated between the Somme and Luce rivers and while it is flanked on the south by low-lying ground, it is backed by rolling hills to the west and northwest.

The fighting on the rest of the front where the Germans have resumed their drive toward the allied base of supplies in northern France has not, so far as known, resulted in any notable retirements on the part of the allies. The German official report issued on Wednesday was silent as to events in this sector of the front.

Battle at Ypres. This new drive has been made at the same time that another blow has been struck at the British and French lines northeast of Ypres. Savage fighting is reported at various points along the line from Bailleul to Merville and Berlin claims that heights to the northeast of Bailleul have been stormed. Coincident with these attacks there have been assaults on the British forces near Bethune along the Lawe river, but these have been repulsed.

On the front in France, with the exception of the Somme salient, there has been little fighting of an unusual nature.

President Opposes Declaration. The situation between Germany and Holland is still obscure. It has been reported that a virtual ultimatum was delivered to The Netherlands government by Berlin, but this is not as yet known to be a fact. Dispatches from The Hague insist that Holland will not depart from her attitude of neutrality.

Congress, which has been considering a declaration of a state of war with Bulgaria and Turkey, probably will not take any action in the face of opposition on the part of President Wilson. It is said that the safety of Americans in both countries has caused the president to indicate that hostilities should not be declared at the present time.

## ACTIVITY AT LYS LIMITED

BERLIN, via London, April 24.—"On the battlefield of the Lys and the Somme the fighting activity was limited to local actions," says the official communication from general headquarters today. "To the northeast of Bailleul we captured Vleugelhoek hill by storm and took a number of French prisoners. West of Bailleul we repulsed British attacks.

"Strong enemy advances northwest of Bethune were frustrated in our advanced post line. Field engagements at many points on the remainder of the front resulted in the bringing in of prisoners."

## Announce Cessation of Weekly Shipping Report

LONDON, April 24.—The admiralty has announced the cessation of the weekly return of shipping losses and the substitution of a monthly report on the Thursday following the twenty-first of each month.

## Two Italian Steamers Are Sunk During Week

ROME, April 24.—One steamer of more than 1500 tons and one steamer of less tonnage were sunk during the week ending April 20, according to the official statement on losses by mine or submarine issued tonight.

## DEBATE NEARS FINAL STAGES

### Voting on Amendments to Overman Bill Will Begin; Both Sides Support

WASHINGTON, April 24.—Support for the Overman bill empowering the president to reorganize government departments came from both sides of the chamber today as the long drawn out debate neared the final stage and proceeded under an agreement limiting speech making. Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, chairman of the military committee, for whose war cabinet and munitions director bills the pending measure virtually is a substitute, together with Senators Borah of Idaho and Nelson of Minnesota, Republicans, spoke for the bill. Senator Chamberlain, however, limited his support by stating he would vote for an amendment to exempt the interstate commerce commission and federal reserve board from executive action.

For the administration, Senators Williams of Mississippi, Wolcott of Delaware, and others made spirited speeches in behalf of the bill. Tomorrow voting on amendments will begin with the fight centered on the amendment exempting the interstate commerce commission. Senator Overman tonight expressed the hope of reaching a final vote by Sunday.

Senators Chamberlain, Williams, Borah and Nelson all scouted the suggestion that the powers proposed in the bill might be abused. Other legislation, Senator Nelson said, has conferred more "despotic" authority, while Senator Borah declared the pending measure would be helpful without permitting a permanent change in the government organization.

## SIGNAL CORPS IS REORGANIZED BY SECRETARY

### Aviation Section Virtually Divorced From Remainder of Division

## JOHN RYAN NEW HEAD

### Howard Coffin Retires From Board, Which Will Continue As Advisory Body

WASHINGTON, April 24.—Direction of the army's great aircraft production program has been placed in the hands of a civilian, John D. Ryan, copper magnate, railroad man and financier.

Secretary Baker announced the step tonight, disclosing at the same time a reorganization of the signal corps under which the aviation section now virtually is divorced from the corps proper, heretofore supreme on all questions. With actual production turned over to a civilian division headed by Mr. Ryan, Brigadier General William L. Kenly is made chief of a new division of military aeronautics, to control training of aviators and military use of aircraft.

Major General Sautler, chief signal officer, will continue his activities in the future to the signal branch. Howard Coffin, chairman of the aircraft board, and under whose direction the building program has developed to its present stage, retires from the board and relinquishes the chairmanship to Mr. Ryan. The aircraft board itself, created by congress, will continue as an advisory body.

Throughout all the agitation over delays and mistakes in getting quantity production of aircraft under way all critics have agreed that the great fault lay in the absence of concentrated control. The power of Mr. Coffin and his board was subject to the signal corps and this divided responsibility has been blamed largely for the fact that the program is about three months behind.

Mr. Coffin himself made the only official comment on the reorganization.

"The appointment of a single individual with definite and adequate power to deal with all aspects of army aircraft production is a logical and necessary step," he said.

This reorganization forecast at the war department since before the senate military committee made its report referring to the aviation program as a "humiliating failure," follows a preliminary report from a special committee of investigators appointed by President Wilson and headed by H. Snowden Marshall of New York. The report never has been made public but it is known to have been submitted to Secretary Baker soon after his return from France.

## MINISTER OF DUTCH GOES FROM BERLIN

### Officials, Still in Dark, Speculate Upon Possibilities of Germany Having Delivered Ultimatum to Holland

## TRANSPORTATION IS CAUSE OF DISPUTE

### Use of Railway Line Through Limbourg Also Involved—Dutch Want Neutrality

AMSTERDAM, April 24.—The Hetvok announced that the German minister to The Netherlands has left The Hague for Berlin and that the Dutch minister to Germany is on his way from Berlin to The Hague.

LACK INFORMATION. WASHINGTON, April 24.—Washington was without any official information tonight to throw light on the situation between Germany and Holland and officials and diplomats could only speculate on reports that Germany had delivered an ultimatum to The Netherlands government demanding the movement of war supplies through Dutch territory.

If the Amsterdam report is correct that the Dutch minister has departed for The Hague and the German minister is on his way to Berlin, apparently the step short of breaking diplomatic relations has been taken.

SECURES INFORMATION. AMSTERDAM, April 24.—The Berlin correspondent of the Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant is informed by a person in authority that difficulties have arisen in the negotiations between Germany and Holland and that the question of the transport of sand and gravel and the use of the railway line through Limbourg depends entirely on the intentions of Germany. The correspondent adds that the Dutch government will finally observe neutrality whatever happens.

## NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION PLEDGES TO GIVE SUPPORT

NEW YORK, April 24.—Declaring that "our material and financial resources are at the call of the nation," the American Newspaper Publishers' association, embracing 457 daily newspapers, pledged the support of its members to the government's war program, at the opening of the annual convention here today. A telegram sent to President Wilson advised him of the convention's action.

The convention, which will continue until Friday, is being presided over by Hopwell L. Rogers of the Chicago Daily News, president of the association.

Mr. Rogers in his address said the newspapers were not properly fulfilling their obligations to the people through lack of editorial force, arising from a weakness not having facilities for protecting the public's interests on questions of legislation and in the administrative departments of the government at Washington.

## FOURTEEN HUN PLANES DOWNED

### Ostend Dock Heavily Bombed—Direct Hits Observed on All Targets Tuesday

LONDON, April 24.—The official statement relative to air operations issued by the war office tonight reads:

"The weather on Tuesday was unfavorable for flying until 5 p. m. after which sharp fighting occurred in the air. Reconnoissances were carried out at a low altitude throughout the day. Merville, Estaires, Steenwerck, Lagorgue, the Chaulnes railway junction and the dock at Ostend were heavily bombed.

"Fourteen hostile machines were brought down, two were driven down out of control and one was shot down back of our lines by anti-aircraft fire. One of our machines is missing.

"During the night 21 tons of bombs were dropped on different targets including Roulers, Merville, Armentieres, Bapaume, the railway stations at Chaulnes, Thourout, Tournai and the docks at Zebrugge. Direct hits were observed on all these targets and several fires were started. All our machines returned."

## Aeronaut Drowns in Gatun Lake When Machine Falls

PANAMA, April 24.—Lieutenant A. J. France was drowned in Gatun lake today when a hydro-aeroplane in which he was flying caught fire at a height of 3000 feet. It came down safely, but Lieutenant France was drowned while attempting to swim ashore.

## Automobilist Convicted on Manslaughter Charge

PORTLAND, April 24.—Edward Brune was convicted by a jury in the circuit court tonight of manslaughter in having caused the death on February 15 last of Miss Geraldine Anderson, whom he ran down with an automobile. This is the first conviction for manslaughter in Oregon of an automobilist on account of the death of a person run over.

## Prisoners Say Korniloff Succumbed From Wounds

LONDON, April 24.—A Reuter dispatch from Moscow, dated April 24, says that on April 17, the soviet forces repulsed Lieutenant General Korniloff's detachments about eight miles from Yekaterinodar and by a successful maneuver routed them. Korniloff's troops, the dispatch says, sustained heavy losses and were dispersed or captured.

According to prisoners, General Korniloff was wounded seriously and succumbed later.

Lieutenant General Korniloff, who formerly was commander in chief of the Russian armies, has several times been reported wounded or killed.

## American Men Return To Help Loan Campaign

(By The Associated Press) WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, April 24.—There is slightly increased activity of the enemy artillery in the region of Toul, but the number of shells falling on the American lines is still below normal.

Fifty enlisted men and non-commissioned officers are on their way to America to help the Liberty loan.

## Riverside Bank President Is Lodged in County Jail

LOS ANGELES, April 24.—W. W. Phelps, who until today was president of the National Bank of Riverside, and whose resignation followed his confession to the bank directors that he had forged and discounted notes aggregating \$15,500, was lodged in the county jail here today as a federal prisoner. Mr. Phelps was taken before Robert O'Connor, United States district attorney, where he waived the reading of the complaint and asked that he might be permitted to plead guilty.

## THREE FIRES IN OHIO BURN LARGE SHOPS

### Damage to Lake Erie and Western Plant Amounts to Practically \$500,000

## WATER PRESSURE CUT

### One Man Held by Police—Three Firefighters Missing Flames Spread

LIMA, O., April 25.—Three fires, breaking out simultaneously in the Lake Erie and Western shops here last night had practically wiped out the \$500,000 plant and were still raging at an early hour this morning.

Water pressure has been cut at some unknown point while federal agents report that the hose was cut in two places, with a knife. One man is being held by the police. Three firefighters are missing, one is in the hospital unconscious, a workman is seriously injured, Fire Chief Mack badly cut and several others injured.

Another fire, breaking out in a distant part of town, is still burning. Homes of several foreigners are re-occupied.

The railroad shop fire followed a blaze at the same place two hours earlier in the evening. Later railroad officials say, flames were discovered at three different places in the plant. These spread rapidly.

Ten to fourteen locomotives urgently needed in war work, a new train of troop coaches just completed in the shops, and many other coaches as well as a score or more of box cars, were destroyed.

Ten thousand dollars worth of Liberty bond subscriptions were burned in the office of the shops.

Three firemen who were missing for more than an hour after being trapped in by falling walls, dashed through the surrounding flames early this morning and escaped with only slight burns.

## POSITION TAKEN BY GERMANS

### Villers-Bretonneux Falls to Huns After Violent Bombardment—Enemy Surge Forward Along Whole British Front

## RESUME FIGHTING ALONG SOUTHERN PART OF LINE

### Slight Progress Made Against French—Trouble Brewing in Sector for Days—Attack on Albert Failure

LONDON, April 24.—Field Marshal Haig reports that the Germans have taken Villers-Bretonneux. The text of the statement reads:

"About 6:30 this morning, after a violent bombardment, the enemy attacked our whole front south of the Somme and the French on our right and was repulsed.

"Later in the morning an attack on our positions in this sector was renewed in strength, and, although repulsed with loss on the southern and northern positions of the front, made progress at Villers-Bretonneux where the fighting has been severe throughout the day. By evening the enemy had gained possession of the village" and the fighting was continuing.

Other Attacks Repulsed. Other attacks by the enemy this morning on the north bank of the Somme and north of Albert were repulsed; we secured a few prisoners.

"By a successful local operation carried out this morning northwest of Festubert a post, captured by the enemy in this locality on the 22nd, was regained. The hostile garrison offered strong resistance and lost heavily. We captured a few prisoners and four machine guns.

"Early in the morning the enemy delivered a strong local attack, without success, against our new positions east of Robecq. Our line was maintained intact and eighty-four prisoners were left in our hands. Additional prisoners were secured in successful minor enterprises in the forest of Nieppe and in the neighborhood of Meteren."

## HARD FIGHTING DEVELOPS

(By The Associated Press) WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 24.—Hard fighting developed this morning on the southern battle front, the enemy attacking south of the Somme along the line of Villers-Bretonneux, Hangard, Hangard, Hallies and Castel. Early developments indicated that the Germans were trying only for limited objectives.

On the British sector of Villers-Bretonneux, which nestles on a ridge overlooking the long stretch of the Somme valley, was the storm center and here the enemy for the first time since the war began had tanks in action. Three of these engines of war accompanied the storming infantry, which at latest reports had battled forward into the eastern outskirts of the town, where severe fighting took place.

From the French sector came word that the Germans had made very slight progress.

Position Dominating One. The assault was preceded by a heavy bombardment about Villers-Bretonneux. At the conclusion of this preparation the Germans surged forward along the whole British front south of the Somme, although it seemed evident that they had Villers-Bretonneux as their ultimate goal because of its dominating position.

The first attack was thrown back, but the enemy immediately came forward again and this time met with more success.

In the face of heavy machine gun and rifle fire the Germans pushed on toward the town, their three tanks leading. The British gave way slightly and the enemy got a footing in the eastern fringe of the town.

Artillery Gives Aid. Further north a little above the Albert region, the British infantry put up an S. O. S. for artillery protection about 4 o'clock this morning and what appeared to promise a serious attack began to show. It turned out to be nothing more pretentious than an attempted raid, however, and the British artillery smashed the enemy infantry as they were leaving their trenches.

Between Robecq and Givenchy-La Bassée there was also considerable enemy shelling this morning and the Germans made a small attack.

(Continued on page 5)