

GERMAN ATTACK NOW CENTERS AT PEPPER HEIGHTS

Forces of the Kaiser are Trying to Smash Way to Verdun But French Continue to Hold Back Enemy.

DOUAMONT VILLAGE TAKEN

General Petain's Men Are Making Stand in Redoubt a Mile Southeast Where They Are Reported to Have Repulsed Repeated Charges of the Germans—Losses Heavy.

LONDON, March 4.—Infantry drives against Douaumont continue, dispatches today indicated, but Paris and Berlin agreed there was no important change occurred during the night in the contest between the German and French troops for Verdun.

Paris reported artillery duelling north of Verdun, but no important infantry onslaught. Minor engagements at Eparges, 12 miles southeast of Verdun, were reported. Paris declared the French prevented the Germans from occupying a mine crater there.

After intense artillery preparation the French attempted to recapture Douaumont but were repulsed in hand-to-hand fighting, Berlin claimed. The French bombardment of both banks of the Meuse is growing more violent.

LONDON, March 4.—The German efforts to reach Verdun today center at Pepper Heights. Driven from Douaumont village, General Petain's men are making a stand at a redoubt a mile southeast where they heavily repulsed repeated charges. The German sacrifice continues enormous. A Paris dispatch today described the German attacks which took Douaumont.

The first two sections the enemy heavily reached the barbed wire entanglements, but hail of mitrailleuses and rifles melted the gray lines. A third wave swept over the French trenches.

At midnight Thursday the Teutons scoured the positions and drove the French through the streets in hand-to-hand combats. A counter attack yesterday reestablished the French on the outskirts of the town. The Times' Paris correspondent today estimated the French casualties in the early Verdun attacks at 20,000.

The tactics of the Germans and the fact that Italian brigades are participating against Verdun, tends to confirm the belief that Von Mackensen is directing the offensive.

PARIS, March 4.—Lively artillery battling occurred north of Verdun last night, a communique said. No infantry attacks of importance were launched.

Only 695 Men Are Saved From French Steamer

VESSEL CARRIED 4000 WHEN IT SANK IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

PARIS, March 4.—Making public the fact there were 4000 aboard the Provence which sunk in the Mediterranean, the admiralty indicated today there was no hope of more survivors than the 695 landed at Malta and Mexico.

The first announcement said about 1800 were aboard. If it is true there were 4000 troops aboard the Provence the victims are over 3000, the largest in history.

3 Vessels Are Sunk. BERLIN, March 4.—German submarines sank two French auxiliary cruisers and an English patrol boat, it was officially announced.

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES ELECTED TRACK CAPTAIN

HUGH BOWMAN CHOSEN TO THE POSITION AT MEETING HELD YESTERDAY.

The sophomores of the high school met yesterday and elected a track captain. Several short talks were made by the boys to get everybody out on the field.

Hugh Bowman, a star sprinter on the track team, was elected to the captain position.

French Commander at Verdun



GENERAL HUMBERT

The youngest French general commanding an army in the field—General Humbert—is having the chance at Verdun of gaining for the highest stakes of military renown, an opportunity to be envied by all his fellow commanders. He was appointed to take charge of the forces in the Argonne early last fall, succeeding General Serrail, who had come into conflict with General Joffre and General Millierand, then secretary of war.

General Serrail was sent to Salonika and Humbert was chosen to oppose the attacks which the German crown prince has been making against the fortress at Verdun at intervals for a year and a half. General Humbert was only a major when the war broke out, and his rapid promotion has been due to his ability to carry out the plans of General Joffre who is now at Verdun directing the defense.

Cars Side-Tracked For Munitions is Charge Made

TRAINS CARRYING WAR SUPPLIES SAID TO HAVE GOTTEN RIGHT OF WAY.

CHICAGO, March 4.—Thousands of cars, packed to capacity are strung along the lines between Chicago and New York, some sidetracked for three months. This claim was made today in a Tribune article as a result of the work of a special expert investigator. He reported he heard rumors that munitions shipments were put ahead of others, the munition traffic being unbelievably large.

There were 216,492 students in 561 colleges and technical schools in the United States in the year 1914. Those included 138,271 men and 77,120 women.

Holly Couple to Wed. A marriage license was issued today to Roy Edward Pierce and Loreta Fern Quest, both of Helix. Miss Quest, being only 15 years old, it was necessary for her to have her mother's consent.

Pendleton High School Girls Defeat Athena Team 22 to 7

In a fast and hard fought game the Pendleton high school girls defeated the Athena team last night on the local court, 22 to 7. The game was very interesting and the Pendleton team showed superiority throughout. The score stood 12 to 5 at the end of the first half. In this half Miss Bonney, the coach, played an entire second team with the exception of center. Alice Finnell and Veva Cook, the midjet forwards, showed fast work in those positions, Alice alone made 10 points under a guard two times her size.

In the last half the first team was put in and the score at once began to rise until it stood 22 to 7. The girls were far superior in overhead passing and in shooting baskets. Veva Cook made two points, Grace Rugg four points and Vera Temple 6 points.

Norborne Berkeley Heads Democratic Central Committee

IS CHOSEN CHAIRMAN OF ORGANIZATION AT A MEETING THIS AFTERNOON.

Norborne Berkeley, well known realty dealer of this city, was this afternoon unanimously chosen chairman of the Umatilla county democratic central committee at a meeting in the office of Will M. Peterson, the retiring chairman. Judge J. W. Maloney, whose name had been suggested as a successor to Peterson, refused to accept the office. Mr. Berkeley, the new chairman, has been identified with the democratic party of this county for more than 20 years.

To Foreclose Big Mortgage. The First National Bank of Hermiston has brought suit in the circuit court to foreclose a mortgage on holdings in the west end of the county alleged to have been given to protect three notes, aggregating \$12,415.79 executed by Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Skinner and Mr. and Mrs. William R. Longhorn. Plaintiff asks for interest in the sum of \$923.25 and \$1000 attorney fees.

Ex-Secretary of Navy Says Fleet is in Poor Shape

VON MEYER SAYS WE COULD NOT PREVENT AN INVASION OF OUR COAST.

NEW YORK, March 4.—"If war were declared tomorrow, the navy under Daniels would be absolutely impotent to check an invasion of the coast," ex-Secretary Von Meyer declared today. He found the following faults: The navy is without organization or prepared to act on a war footing. No tested war plan. No tested mobilization plan. No general staff or national council of defense. No enlisted reserves. Only a small supply of ammunition. Shortage of enlisted men and officers on practically every ship. No fast cruisers, except three obsolete ones. Lacking in armed hydroplanes. Submarine flotilla in a lamentable condition. Fewer destroyers in commission than in reserve. Only 13 battleships, against 21 when Daniels took office. Five battleships of the Connecticut class demonstrated they cannot exceed 12 or 15 knots without danger of breaking their driveshafes. Daniels has disorganized and demoralized the organization he found when he took office. He has not appreciated the condition the country has faced since the European war began. Meyer styled Daniels' hobby a "pedagogic program." The remedies lie with congress, he declared. He urged the immediate passage of an act to build four of the speediest battle cruisers in the world.

VILLA REPORTED HEADED TOWARD AMERICAN MINE

Rebel Chief is Leading 700 Cavalry in Two Columns Into Northern Sonora Near Texas Line.

APPEAL IS MADE FOR TROOPS

Americans Are Ready to Flee As Carranza Has Only a Handful of Soldiers in the Vicinity—American Vice Consul Has Been Asked to Use His Influence to Get Aid.

DOUGLAS, Arizona, March 4.—Villa is heading 700 cavalry, divided into two columns, is entering northern Sonora today, couriers arriving reported. Villa is within 30 miles of the Lucky Tiger mine, Sonora's richest silver camp, and American owned. The 25 American employes are preparing to flee to the border. The American vice consul at Cochran, Nogales, has received an appeal from Lester Dudgeon, manager of the mine, asking him to use his influence with the Carranza governor to have troops sent to the mine, which is unprotected. Less than 400 troops are available in entire northern Sonora. The latest reports indicate Villa is on the eastern border of Sonora, 80 miles southeast of Douglas.

Shorter Hours for Women Who Work Said to be Planned

INDUSTRIAL WELFARE COMMISSION CONSIDERING A 48 HOUR WEEK.

If the industrial welfare commission of the state carries out a proposed change in its rulings, reducing the maximum limit of labor women girls and minor boys from 54 hours a week to 48, the Saturday evening shoppings will be virtually doomed, according to some of the larger merchants. Such a change is being contemplated, but, according to telegraphic reports from Portland today, the ruling has not yet been made. A hearing will be held in Portland Monday between employers and the commissioners to discuss the matter. At present the commission's rulings prevent the employment of women or minor boys more than six days a week, more than 9 hours a day or more than 54 hours a week. Under that ruling the stores are able to keep their women help for the Saturday evening shopping, but the cutting off of an additional six hours would make this impossible.

Little Change Today in Wheat Markets

CHICAGO, March 4.—(Special.)—M. y., at opening, \$1.14, closing, \$1.17 5-8. July, opening, \$3.11 1-4; closing, \$3.10 1-2.

Portland. PORTLAND, Ore., March 4.—(Special.)—Club bid 95, asked 98. Blue-steel bid \$1.02, asked \$1.05.

Liverpool. LIVERPOOL, March 4.—Wheat—Spot, No. 1 Manitoba, 14s 7d; No. 2, 14s 3d; No. 3 hard winter, 14s 1d; No. 4 red western winter, 13s 11d. In American terms the highest price for spot No. 1 Manitoba at Liverpool is \$2.12 2-8 per bushel.

Italian Ship Sunk

ATHENS, March 4.—The Italian liner Clava was submerged. The passengers and crew were rescued after being adrift in small boats for a day.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY IS BLANKETED BY SNOW

PORTLAND, Ore., March 4.—Twelve inches of snow fell at Eugene last night, ceasing at 10 this morning. The surrounding mountains are blanketed by snow from two to eight feet. The entire lower Willamette valley, which escaped the worst February storms, is covered with March snow. The snow is soggy and broke wires in many places. It fell heavily in Portland last night, turning to rain today. At the present rate, \$1,000,000 will be expended in electric ranges this year.

Official Denial to Rumor Wilson Going to Resign

STORY DISHONOR TO PAPER PUBLISHING IT DECLARES MR. TUMULTY.

Many Killed in Fort Explosion

ONE OF DEFENSES NEAR PARIS IS BLOWN UP AND 30 MEET DEATH.

PARIS, March 4.—Thirty bodies were recovered and 130 others were wounded as a result of a munitions explosion which wrecked the double defenses near Fort St. Denis on the northern outskirts of Paris. The ruins are still burning. Numerous explosions followed the initial one. Desperate efforts were made to prevent the fire spreading to other forts.

CHECKER CHAMP IS READY TO MEET ALL ASPIRANTS

HERMISTON IS OUT WITH DEFT TO MATCH PLAYER AGAINST THE WORLD.

Come on, ye checker champs! Hermiston is out with a deft to the world. She claims to have a proficiency at the ancient and weatherbeaten game of checkers who can outfox anyone in these parts. C. D. Porter, who is in charge of the Hermiston reading room which is the hotbed of "checkers," has sent word to the outside world that he has a man ready to meet all comers at checkers and chess.

Farmers Discuss Handling Wheat Without Sacking

About 50 representative local farmers are gathered this afternoon in the Farmers Union headquarters discussing the subject of handling grain in bulk with a view to eliminating the use of expensive grain sacks. The meeting is presided over by J. R. Porter and at the outset of the meeting W. W. Harrah was asked to explain the results he has obtained in handling grain in bulk. He made an extended talk telling of the construction of a concrete granary on his place and the fitting up of equipment for handling grain without sacks.

Mr. Harrah sold his grain to a local mill at a good price, but says Portland dealers are asserting that if grain is handled without sacks here it will have to be resacked in Portland. In the view of Mr. Harrah the assertion is a bluff.

HOUSE WILL NOT ACT ON WARNING TILL NEXT WEEK

Perplexed Over the Significance of Senate Vote, Leaders Postpone Vote Until Next Tuesday.

MERITS TO BE CONSIDERED

House Will Not Act on Question of Tabling McLemore Resolution But Will Consider Matter from Different Angle—Discussion Again Breaks Out in the Senate Today.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Perplexed over the significance of the senate vote on the Gore resolution to warn Americans off armed ships, house leaders postponed the vote on the McLemore resolution, similar to Gore's, until Tuesday. A difference of opinion in the rules committee was mainly responsible for the postponement. It was reported that the house, with the president's approval, might vote strictly on the merits of the McLemore resolution instead of on the question of tabling as the foreign committee recommended. Advocates of immediate action urged that this be done because the senate tabled a substitute proposal without realizing its provisions. The house must clear up the middle, it was declared. A discussion of the armed ship issue burst forth anew in the senate today. Lodge tried to insert into the records a denial that England, during the Russo-Japanese war, ever warned her citizens to avoid armed liners. Several questioned Lodge. McCumber denounced his rule by which the administration suppressed a discussion of the warning issue. A recess was planned tonight to prevent talk on the McCumber resolution. Concerning the tabling of the Gore resolution yesterday, McCumber said: "If we take the usual construction of this, the senate voted that the killing of an American is not a cause for war."

BIG SUM IS AVAILABLE IN FIGHT AGAINST THE COYOTE

Word was received this morning by E. F. Averill, station agent with the U. S. railway, that \$5000 had been set aside for the purpose of buying coyote traps. This money had been made available for the purpose and will be available for use in Oregon, California, Washington, Idaho, Utah and Utah in preventing the coyote menace.

NEWS SUMMARY

General. Germans center attacks on Pepper Heights in effort to force surrender of Verdun. Former secretary of the navy Von Meyer says fleet could not prevent invasion of our coast in case of war. House postponed vote on warning resolution until Tuesday.

Local. N. Berkeley is new democratic chairman. Farmers this afternoon discuss grain bags. Proposed ruling would make Saturday night shopping almost impossible.

Willamette valley is blanketed by snow. Portland, Ore., March 4.—Twelve inches of snow fell at Eugene last night, ceasing at 10 this morning. The surrounding mountains are blanketed by snow from two to eight feet. The entire lower Willamette valley, which escaped the worst February storms, is covered with March snow. The snow is soggy and broke wires in many places. It fell heavily in Portland last night, turning to rain today.

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