

FRANCIS IS PREPARED FOR FLIGHT

American Ambassador in Petrograd Contemplates Speedy Departure From Russian City in Face of German Advance Against Bolsheviks.

ENTENTE DIPLOMATS ALL PLAN TO LEAVE

Complete Break With Russians, Even Though Separate Peace Has Been Made With Enemy, Not Regarded Probable, It is Stated.

Berlin, via London, Feb. 21.—Pressing eastward from Dvinsk, Pinsk and Rovno (a front of more than 400 miles) we have cleared the country of the enemy and taken prisoner a general, several divisional commanders, 425 officers and 8,700 men, the German war office declared today.

"We have occupied Leal after crossing the frozen Sand river," the report said. "We have marched through Wenden and are now before Wolmar."

"In addition to prisoners, we took 1,353 guns, 120 machine guns, over 4,000 automobiles, food laden trains and incalculable other material."

"A strong French attack penetrated isolated points around Moncel, Rechi-sart and Meuncourt last evening," the statement said. "The enemy was later driven out by counter attacks."

Wenden is 50 miles northeast of Riga and Wolmar or Volmar, is 15 miles farther toward Petrograd. Both cities are on the direct railroad line from Riga to the capital.

Petrograd, Feb. 20.—(Delayed)—German forces are attempting to cut the Luga-Romen railway. The Russians are resisting without resistance, abandoning material and ammunition.

Turkish troops have appeared near Trezpend.

The reference to "Trapsund" probably means Trebizond, an important Black sea port, captured some time ago by the Russians. It is in Asiatic Turkey.

BY JOSEPH SHAPLEN
United Press Staff Correspondent
Petrograd, Feb. 20.—(Delayed)—The American Ambassador Francis and the allied envoys at noon today were preparing for a quick departure from Petrograd. They were overwhelmed by the sudden news of Lenin's and Trotsky's willingness to sign the German dictated peace. They declared, however, that a separate peace would not mean a break between Russia and the allies.

Premier Lenin was the chief advocate of the wireless sent out from here announcing Russia's willingness to sign a German peace. Four other committees supported Lenin, while four opposed him.

The opinion prevails here that Petrograd's fate will be decided in a fortnight. The commissaries (ministers) peace session was reached after two extra sessions.

War Commissary Podvoisky reported the organization of forces of thousands of Red Guards.

Members of the Petrograd garrison prepared for a desperate defense and are throwing up trenches around the city.

The above despatch said Ambassador Francis and the allied diplomats were to leave for "San Francisco" which may have meant "San Francisco" but was garbled in cable transmission.

This would be the only comparative route they could travel. On the north, the Finnish revolution is under way; on the west and southwest the Austro-Germans are advancing; while on the south, the Cossacks are threatening.

BY JOSEPH SHAPLEN
United Press Staff Correspondent
Petrograd, Feb. 19.—(Delayed)—The Russian armies are concentrating at Itebek, under General Bonchbruyevitch to halt the German invaders.

(Vitebsk is a Russian province, bordering on Courland and Livonia. Its capital of the same name lies about 250 miles east of Riga and 300 miles south of Petrograd.)

Commanders of the Russian army on

CONVENTION WILL OPEN IN EUGENE ON FRIDAY FORENOON

Christian Endeavor Delegates From All Over Western Oregon Will Attend "Twin" State Gathering This Week.

The first session of the Christian Endeavor State convention for Western Oregon will be held in the First Christian church in Eugene on Friday forenoon at 10:30 o'clock with a song service, followed by devotional exercises and an address of welcome from O. H. Foster in behalf of the city and Raymond Osborne in behalf of the City Young People's union. The response will be by Miss Gertrude Eakin, of Salem.

Friday afternoon there will be a session for the intermediates at the Central Presbyterian church lasting from 1:20 to 2:05, at which Effie Torgenson, of Milton, Oregon, will preside. At the first Christian church the session will be called at 1:30 and will hold till 2:15 for the seniors, to be followed by union demonstrations and the Army Ladies' Aid society. At 3:45 there will be a sight-seeing tour of the town. On Friday evening there will be the Cabinet Banquet at the Methodist church to be followed by an interesting evening session at the same church. The convention will close Sunday evening.

RUSS SUDDENLY BREAK PARLEY WITH GERMANS

Dramatic Scene at Termination of Peace Negotiations at Brest-Litovsk Is Described in Message From Petrograd.

The following dispatch filed last Saturday relates the scenes at the breaking off of peace negotiations at Brest-Litovsk—the first detailed account of that dramatic occurrence:

BY JOSEPH SHAPLEN
United Press Staff Correspondent
Petrograd, Feb. 16.—(Delayed)—The central powers' delegates refused the proposal of Foreign Minister Trotsky to send a German officer to Kiev to prove that the Ukraine Rada (governing body) did not exist.

The following day the tenth plenary session of the peace conference was called.

Foreign Minister Kuehlmann, flushed with his diplomatic victory over the Ukraine, arose to present General Ludendorff's ultimatum, directed at the Bolsheviks.

Trotsky, anticipating his action, took the floor and read the declaration breaking off the negotiations. There was dead silence.

When Trotsky had concluded, Kuehlmann and General Hoffman sat apparently stunned. Kuehlmann finally hinted it was "impossible to quit the war cart without the proper ticket."

"You evidently are suggesting that your guns are a proper substitute for proper judicial formula," said Trotsky. Hoffman nodded affirmatively.

"I don't believe the peoples of Austria and Germany will permit you to do that," continued the Russian minister. None of the central powers' representatives replied.

Kuehlmann finally muttered that it was necessary to settle the diplomatic details and suggested another session.

Trotsky refused, saying: "We must return to Petrograd; we have no more to say. If you have anything to say, the radio is still working."

The Russian delegates departed without bidding farewell and refusing to shake hands.

District Exemption Board Thanked for Co-operation

M. Svarverud, secretary of the district exemption board of Eugene, has received the following letter of thanks and appreciation from Adjutant-General Major George A. White, acting adjutant-general of the 60th artillery brigade, of the expeditionary forces in France:

"I regret not having had an opportunity before departing for France of writing you and your board in appreciation of the co-operation and help which my department received in every possible way from you and your co-workers.

"The amount of work performed at personal sacrifice by the district boards entitles the personnel to a place on the permanent record of state and nation.

"Will you be good enough to convey my sincere appreciation to Dr. Kuykendall and Messrs. Travis, Williams and Fischer?"

NEW ZEALANDERS IN RAID
London, Feb. 21.—A successful raid by New Zealand troops early today in the neighborhood of Polygon Wood, in which a few Germans were taken prisoner, was reported today by Field Marshal Haig.

"Near Flesquieres the enemy's artillery was active yesterday evening," the report stated.

AIR BATTLES ON WEST LINE KEEP AVIATORS BUSY

Thirty-Five German Planes Are Destroyed and 19 Are Driven Earthward by British Within Three Days.

ENTENTE AIRMAN IN FLIGHT DAY AND NIGHT

Unusual Activity Preceding Expected German Offensive, Finds British Soldiers in Fine Fettle and Ready.

BY WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS,
United Press Staff Correspondent
With the British Armies in the Field, Feb. 21.—Aerial cavalry has been successfully and extremely busy during the past few gorgeous days in the high, freezing, sun-filled heaven.

The Kaiser's aerial Uhlans continue to battle Britain's cloud-burbling lancers, which are daily observing preparations for the German offensive.

Thirty-five German war planes have been destroyed in the past three days and 19 driven eastward, uncontrolled—a total of 54, "quiet-used" by the British, of whom only ten are missing, despite the severest and almost unending fighting—day and night.

While Hindenburg and Ludendorff are poring over the details of their impending forlorn hope, the air is filled with the throbbing of motors, the faint patter of machine guns and the thunder of air bombs exploding in towns and villages behind the firing lines.

The British airmen have dropped huge quantities of explosives on billets, ammunition dumps, railway stations and aerodromes in northern France. They attacked enemy quarters from just above the roofs, machine gunned marching columns, disrupted transport trains and wrecked big gun pits. The fine, freezing weather has aided them greatly.

Meantime, British troops are busy raiding and repulsing raids. Short, sharp clashes are constantly occurring on the frozen earth of No Man's Land. The ice in shell holes is sufficiently strong to support the death grappling men.

The Britishers are in fine fettle, not nervous, and ready whenever Hindenburg starts. While this may happen any day the Germans may try to surprise the allies by a sudden shift, or may attempt to produce a state of "nerves" by further delay.

AMERICAN LINE FIRM

New York, Feb. 21.—The Germans may bend our lines in some places, but they can never break it, was the message brought back to America by Major-General H. A. Greene, today. Greene is commanding the national army division at Camp Lewis.

"The British will stop any drive made against them and so will the French," he said. "As for the Americans, it goes without saying they will bring to a halt any thrust made at them by the enemy."

General Greene saw Major-General Wood in Paris and stated that he was rapidly recovering from the wounds he received while at the French front.

Other returning commanders were Major-General D. T. Allen, commanding the national army of the southwest, and Harry C. Dale, whose command comes from Kentucky and Indiana.

Band Concert Is Fine; Dance Is Well Attended

The monthly concert given Wednesday night at the armory by the municipal band was well attended and the crowd was enthusiastic and encored the performance heartily.

The song, "The Red Cross Girl," was sung by Curtis Peterson in a manner which drew forth hearty applause. This song which was written by C. A. Barnett and the music by Alfred H. Dillard, is a beautiful thing and bids fair to be very popular.

"The Mill Race," which was to have been sung by Mrs. Daise Beckett Middleton, was not given. It had to be rewritten for her voice, and Mr. Arrant, the composer, was not able to find time to do it. She will sing it at the next concert which will be given in about a month.

The next concert will be a "request" concert. Anyone who wishes a particular piece played has been requested to write Albert Perfect, 1248 Oak street. Unsigned requests will be ignored.

The dance following the concert was also enjoyed by a goodly number of people.

Bristows Plead Not Guilty to Charge of Larceny

Clyde Bristow and Martin Bristow, indicted on a charge of larceny of nine sacks of beans from James J. Knights, pleaded not guilty in the circuit court Thursday. They are each under \$1500 bail. As a witness needed by both the prosecution and the defense is now enlisted in the marines and in a hospital the case was continued without date.

VILLA BANDITS KILL 400 FEDERAL TROOPS

Outlaw Leader Recruits 1000 Followers in Capture of Jiminez and La Luz.

El Paso, Texas, Feb. 21.—After looting Jiminez and La Luz and increasing his forces by 1,000 recruits from these towns, Francisco Villa with 5,000 bandits is today closely pursuing the remnants of the federal forces under Francisco Murguia, fleeing toward Chihuahua City.

During the three days fighting preceding the capture of Jiminez and La Luz by the bandit hordes, nearly 400 federal soldiers were killed, including General Juan Carrasco and Colonels Dario Gonzalez and Simitro Davila.

More than 150 wounded federal troops have been brought to Chihuahua City. Both Chihuahua City and Juarez are today threatened with attack by the bandits headed by Villa.

General Murguia is preparing for a determined stand at Chihuahua City and has asked for reinforcements from Durango to aid in repelling the impending bandit attack.

GRAFT EXISTS IN RESERVE BANKS, GLASS ASSERTS

Chairman of House Banking and Currency Committee Charges Officers of System With Accepting Favors.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Graft exists to an alarming degree among officers and directors of the federal reserve system, Chairman Carter Glass of the house banking and currency committee charged today in introducing amendments to the federal reserve act submitted by the treasury department.

"Particularly in the east, officers of the federal banks are selling their influence so that certain persons who really have bribed them, may obtain federal loans," Glass said.

"To break up this practice and to clarify the penal provisions of the act, which have been the excuse for some of this work, the amendments make it a crime, punishable by imprisonment for an officer to accept any fee, commission or gift in obtaining loans or to take any loan of more than \$10,000 from the reserve bank for his personal use."

Other amendments which were included in one bill extend the scope of the federal reserve system in the line of general trust business. State banks have bitterly fought the encroachment of the federal reserve act on this phase of banking, but the provisions regarding trust business were recently held invalid by the supreme court.

Changes in the groupings of banks so as not to ignore the small institutions in the elections of directors were also recommended.

"The directors now are not representative enough," Glass said. "Too many of them come from the big banks."

Looking toward American business after the war, the provisions of the act concerning foreign banking are modified so that American institutions may greatly extend their operations. Banks of this sort would be granted charters of the federal system by the new amendment.

Authorization of reserve notes in denominations of \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000 is provided.

Sale of Oregon and California Grant Land Timber Ordered

Washington, Feb. 21.—Secretary of Interior Lane today ordered the sale at public auction of 70,000,000 feet of timber on public lands. It will be sold at the land office at Roseburg, Or., to the highest bidder after public advertisement.

The timber is on a former land grant to the Southern Pacific railroad, forfeited because of failure of the road to live up to conditions of the grant.

The lands, after being stripped of timber, will be sold as homesteads, mineral lands, etc.

Funeral of Mrs. Thompson to Be Held Friday Afternoon

The funeral services of Mrs. David Thompson, who died in Portland Wednesday, will be held from the Branstretter and McLaughlin chapel Friday afternoon at 2:30, followed by interment in Old Fellows cemetery.

Girl Gets Bounty for Two Coyote Pup Pelts

Stell Brendell, of Vida, secured the bounty on two coyote pups at the county clerk's office Wednesday evening. Miss Brendell trapped the coyotes and killed them herself. The bounty was \$6.

DUTCH BUTCHERS STRIKE

The Hague, Feb. 21.—The butchers in Holland were on strike today because the prices on cattle will not allow them a profit at the maximum retail prices fixed by the government. The government, it is said, intends to seize all cattle.

BILL TO CONFER MORE POWER ON WILSON URGED

Sub-Committee of Senate Judiciary Committee Reports Favorably Measure Designed to Give Executive Authority.

SEVERAL AMENDMENTS ADOPTED IN COMMITTEE

Legislation Would Make Possible Reorganization of Governmental Agencies and Permit Slashing of Red Tape.

Washington, Feb. 21.—The sub-committee of the senate judiciary committee today voted, three to two, to report favorably the "empowering" bill, designed to give President Wilson authority to slash red tape in the war department.

Senators Overman, Nelson and Fletcher voted for the favorable report, with Senators Reed and Dillingham against it. The committee amended the bill in several particulars but did not change its purpose, that of giving the president broad powers of re-organizing governmental agencies in practically any way he may see fit for more effective prosecution of the war.

Only two amendments limit in any way his power. One eliminates the authority originally conferred for creation of new agencies without congressional action. The other provides that appropriations heretofore made for any executive department shall be spent only for the purposes for which appropriated and not made available as a general fund for all departments.

SUMNER SAYS WEST IS OVER OPTIMISTIC

Bishop Believes United States Must Throw Every Ounce of Power Into War.

In a brief address at the student assembly in Villard Hall on the University campus this morning, Right Rev. Walter T. Sumner, Episcopal bishop of Oregon, took occasion to deprecate the over-optimism of the west regarding the outcome and duration of the war.

"I have recently returned from the east," said Bishop Sumner. "I find on returning here a feeling of optimism regarding the duration of the war, and of certainty as to its result. This feeling is not shared by the people of the east, who are nearer the conflict and in a better position to judge of the trend of things. Let me say to you, that it is a prevailing opinion in the east that unless the United States gets into this war with every ounce of energy, and gets in quickly, it is very doubtful if Germany can be defeated at all."

"The second point I should like to make is this: We have been through a good many drives of various kinds, more are coming. We are asked to do a great deal and to sacrifice a great many things. Let me say that if we ever give up every cent we have, and all our time to the service of the government, we are still not making the sacrifice which is offered by the men who are going into the trenches."

Bishop Sumner mentioned a third point, with reluctance. "The idea seems so absurd," he said, "that it seemed foolish even to mention it. You all know, however, the law of psychology by which even untruth, repeated and reiterated, finally makes headway. Recently I have been requested by the national council of defense to refute, in my public addresses, the falsehood so sedulously cultivated by Germany, to the effect that the Kaiser is the agent of God, and that the Germans are God's chosen people. No people who have done the things that Germany has done in this war, to the Belgians, and to the British and American noncombatants, can lay any claim to represent God. There is no chosen people of God, except the individuals who accept Christ and live in harmony with His laws."

Former Mayor Mitchell of New York in Service

San Diego, Cal., Feb. 21.—Former Mayor John Purroy Mitchell, of New York, reported for duty at the North Island army aviation station. He has the rank of major and joined the corps in New York immediately after his defeat for re-election.

Asks Order in Finland Before Food Is Supplied

Stockholm, Feb. 21.—Copies of newspapers received here from Helsingfors state the American consul-general there has informed Socialist Minister Tokoi that order in Finland must be restored before America will send food shipments.

VOTE UPON RAILROAD CONTROL BILL IS DUE

Ballot On First Big "Win the War" Measure Is Expected Tonight.

RAILROAD BILL IN BRIEF

Washington, Feb. 21.—Here are the outstanding features of the railroad bills now the center of congressional attention:

- The supreme rate-making power given to the president by the house bill and to the Interstate Commerce commission by the senate measure.
- Limitation of federal control to two years after the war by the house bill and 18 months by the senate.
- Compensation on the basis of the net operating income of the last three years.
- A revolving fund of \$500,000,000 to increase facilities.
- Roads to be taxed as heretofore.
- Not exempt from excess profits tax.

Washington, Feb. 21.—The senate late today went on record against permanent government control of railroads after the war, when it rejected Senator Cummins' amendment providing the railroads should be put into the hands of the government railway board to be named by the president as soon as the war ends. The vote was regarded as a test of government ownership sentiment in the senate.

A moment later, by a vote of 61 to 10, the senate also rejected an amendment by Senator Johnson, South Dakota, providing government control should continue until congress specifically ordered otherwise.

BY L. C. MARTIN, United Press Staff Correspondent

Washington, Feb. 21.—Congress today put the finishing touches on the railroad control bill—the first big "win the war" measure to be passed at this session.

The senate began voting on amendments with strong hope of getting a final vote on the bill itself tonight. From 2 p. m. today debate will be limited. Senator Lewis, Illinois, is the only senator with a set speech to make. Debate and disposition of the large number of amendments will take many hours, with five and ten minute speeches on each.

Senator Cummins has nearly a dozen amendments, designed to reduce compensation to the roads, and to define governmental powers more specifically than the committee bill. Senator Townsend of Michigan has offered a complete substitute bill, while a score of other changes will be sought.

There is no doubt the bill will be passed and Senator Smith of South Carolina who has charge of it, predicted today it will not be greatly amended.

The house will end general debate on the measure and begin considering it under a five-minute rule. Prospects for its passage this week are bright. The conference between the two houses should take but a few days and indications today were that President Wilson will get the measure for signature late next week.

Meantime, preparations went on apace to speed up other war measures. Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo is re-writing several provisions of the war finance corporation bill, covering exceptional cases, and will return the measure to the finance committee today.

Senator Overman's sub-committee took up the empowering bill this morning, hoping to agree on it.

Pupils Portray Famous Ancestors in Pageant

An unusual feature of the observance of Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays at the Junior high school Thursday afternoon was an historical pageant in which those who represented famous characters are descendants from those characters. Besides the pageant, there were musical numbers by the orchestra, the glee club, and individuals, recitations to commemorate the lives of Lincoln and Washington and other features.

The characters represented in the pageant and the pupils who took part were: Percy Hunt, Henry Hudson; Louis Talcott, Governor William Bradford; James Fenimore Cooper; Bernice Raor; Walter Raleigh; Mabel Reynolds, General Warren; Margaret and Lela Horton, Pocahontas; Harold Mason, William Pitt; Gail Winchell, Betsy Ross; Melvin Hughes, Colonel Prescott; Maurice Conley, Colonel Conley; Eleanor Foster, Captain McMillan; Eugene Malkin, Lafayette; Glenn Veeder, Edmund Randolph; Daisy Parker, John Adams; James Morris, Robert Morris; Roland Walker, an aide to Washington and an aide to Napoleon; Wallace Hemenway, General Greene; Elma Stanfield, Colonel Weston; Harold Crocker, an ancestor who started the temperance movement; Eugene Slatery, Andrew Jackson; Frank Nunn, Andrew Jackson; Carol Groshong, Daniel Webster; Eloise Hill, Abraham Lincoln; Donald Hartung, Napoleon; Nina Moore, Clara Barton; Arthur Bailly, General Sherman; Robert Morris, Dewey; Frieda Campbell, General Funston.

HAS TONSILS REMOVED

Mrs. W. G. Hill of Springfield, had her tonsils removed at the Northwest hospital Thursday.

AUSTRIAN WAR FUND IS HELD UP

Emperor Karl Warns Leaders of Parliament He Will Dissolve That Body and Govern by Martial Law Unless Budget get Is Voted.

AMERICA'S WEDGE IS WORKING IN DEEPER

Socialists in Vienna Are Pressing Demand for Consideration in Austria of President Wilson's Proposals as Basis for Peace Negotiations.

Zurich, Feb. 21.—Emperor Karl has warned leaders of parliament he will dissolve that body and govern the country by martial law if they do not pass the war budget, according to Vienna despatches today.

Washington, Feb. 21.—When Count Czernin again answers President Wilson's peace proposals in the Austrian parliament, he will have a new force to consider. This is the belief here today, following publication of a United Press despatch from the Hague, telling of a socialist demand for consideration in Austria of the American president's proposals.

The feeling here is that the wedge between Germany and Austria is slowly but surely being forced. Whether it eventually will lead to an actual breach between the two nations is a matter of conjecture, but in circles close to the situation, the belief is it will not at this time. Military men point out Austria cannot afford to split with her powerful ally.

The demand of the socialists, however, is a straw, bending to the current diplomats believe is forming in Austria. It is an indication, they declare, that President Wilson's statements are having the desired effect. How much power the group of socialists has to influence the government is unknown here.

General weariness of the war, together with a growing dissatisfaction with proposals that Austria join a new drive on Russia, is believed to be responsible for the demands.

IAN HAY BEITH MAY STOP AT UNIVERSITY

Major Ian Hay Beith, author of "The First Hundred Thousand," and a man of world-wide reputation, may speak in Eugene next week. Mrs. Colonel John Leader, who is an intimate friend of Major Beith, on Thursday received the following telegram from him dated at San Francisco:

"Am now at St. Francis hotel. I arrive Portland morning February 27 and leave night February 28. Shall be glad to speak for you but am not certain which night I speak in Portland. Please find out which and make your own suggestions.

(Signed) "IAN HAY BEITH."
Lieutenant Ray Couch, who heard Major Beith at the Presidio last summer, states that he is a wonderful speaker and Eugene will be very fortunate if he secures him.

Danger of Strike in Butte Increase of Union's Action

Butte, Mont., Feb. 21.—Butte's labor situation grew more tense today when the Metal Trades Council voted to send a committee to John F. Kelly, president of the Anaconda Mining company and insist upon the dismissal of union members remaining at the mine during the strike last summer or the payment of the fines levied against them.

The Metal Trades Council includes the blacksmiths, sheet metal workers and boiler-makers' unions. They are acting up on a request from the machinists' union, which voted to walk out if the unionists remaining on the job are not dismissed or made to pay fines.

The local electrical workers' union today issued notice of a strike vote March 1.

So far the Anaconda company has refused all demands of the unions for dismissal of the men in question or payment of their fines.

Seattle Labor Council Pledges Wilson Support

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 21.—The Central Labor Council pledged support to President Wilson and his cabinet and opposed the Chamberlain bill at its meeting here last night.