

## THE GREATEST BATTLE OF WAR COMING SOON

FORCES OF GERMANY BEING CONCENTRATED FOR STAND ON THE WEST FRONT

### EXPECT GIANT CLASH AT ARMS

British Capture Two More Positions in Their Continued Offensive in France

London, April 12.—The greatest battle of the war is coming soon.

Germany has her reserves ready and is about to hurl her full force against the allied line on the west front, according to General Maurice, director of military operations, in an interview today.

London, April 12.—General Haig today jammed his forces still further north of Vimy ridge.

"Early this morning," he reported "we captured 2 important positions of the enemy lines to the north of Vimy ridge. Astride of the river at Souchez, a number of the enemy was taken prisoner."

"Two German attacks against our new positions against the northern end of Vimy ridge were driven off by machine gun fire, which inflicted heavy losses on the enemy."

"We made some progress on the Scarpe river."

Haig said the weather continued wet and stormy.

Paris, April 12.—Violent fighting along the French front was reported in today's official statement, indicating possibly the start of a joint French offensive with the British "push."

"Important points were carried after the most bitter kind of fighting southeast of Coney forest," the war office declared.

"Between the Somme and the Oise there was a violent artillery struggle during the night," the statement said. "South of the Oise French troops, following artillery preparation, attacked a German position east of Coney and Quincy Baissee, pushing the enemy to the southeast border of Coney forest and after violent fighting carrying important points in the face of heavy resistance. The Germans lost heavily."

"In the region of Neoissons there was artillery firing and patrol fighting. North of Line French reconnoitering parties entered the enemy's lines at several points, imprisoning 40 of the enemy."

## TROUBLE BETWEEN ENGLAND AND SPAIN

Buenos Aires, April 12.—Indications of a serious crisis between England and Spain were contained in Madrid dispatches received here today. They asserted that the British ambassador at Madrid had been sent to the frontier on a special train. Despite denial of the foreign minister, it was said Spain was expelling him, because of suspicion that he was fomenting revolutionary plots against the government.

The Spanish ambassador to Argentina was informed by his government today that Spain had withdrawn the bulk of her troops from Africa. It was stated that 29,000 men had already been landed at home ports.

Lester Bocoek left this morning for Bray, Cal., where he will work during the summer in the Williams' saw-mill.

## BULGARIA NOW BREAKS WITH U.S.

Balkan State Follows Lead of the Central Powers and Sends American Minister Home

Paris, April 12.—The American minister to Bulgaria has been handed his passports and has left Sofia, according to a dispatch from the Bulgarian capital reaching Paris via Zurich, Switzerland, today.

Washington, April 12.—Bulgaria's reported action in breaking off relations with the United States was received here this afternoon with no surprise. At the state department, however, it was said no word of such rupture had come. At the Bulgarian legation it was stated that no news of any kind had reached the legation from the home government "for some time."

London, April 12.—An Exchange Telegraph dispatch today from Lausanne asserted it was stated on semi-official authority, that Bulgarian delegates were in Switzerland endeavoring to reach a basis for a separate peace with representatives of the entente.

## LOYD-GEORGE SEES PEACE ON THE WAY

London, April 12.—"I can see peace coming now—not a peace which is the mere beginning of another war—but real peace," was the salutation which Premier Lloyd-George sent to America today.

It was part of a feeling tribute which England's prime minister paid to the United States in a tumultuously demonstrative meeting today of the American Luncheon club.

Scores of British notables were there and American Ambassador Page presided.

"I salute America as one of our comrades in arms," Lloyd-George declared. "I am glad of it—I'm proud of it. I am glad not merely because of the stupendous resources that your great nation can render to succor the alliance, but I rejoice as a democrat that the advent of the United States gives the final stamp and seal to the character of the conflict. We rejoice that America has won the right to be at the peace conference table when the terms are fixed. It would have been a tragedy to mankind if America had not won the right to be at the peace conference table, with all the influence and power she has now obtained."

"The Kaiser promised that Prussia would be a democracy after the war," the premier observed whimsically at another juncture. "I think the Kaiser is right. The United States has a noble tradition that it has never been engaged in war except for liberty."

"This is the greatest struggle for liberty in which the world has ever embarked."

"It was a bad day for the Prussian military autocracy when it challenged the great republic of the west. The road to victory is found in the word 'ships.' America already realizes this; hence, the preparation for a thousand 3,000-ton merchant vessels."

"For three years the British tried every blunder thinkable and got into every bunker," the premier continued, relapsing into golf terms, "but a fine niblick has made our score. It will be worth while for America to study our blunders so as to begin where we now are, not where we were nearly three years ago."

"I am glad America already has sent naval and military experts to confer," Lloyd-George declared, amid cheers. "America's enormous help is illustrated in the guns used in Monday's victory."

## GREAT CROWD SEES PATRIOTS OFF TO ARMY

GRANTS PASS SENT ANOTHER DELEGATION OF 16 TO JOIN FIGHTING FORCES

### MUSIC AND CHEERS FOR BOYS

Recruiting Officers Still Working Over-Time, and Those Enlisting Today Go North Tonight

Hundreds of people were at the depot last night to bid farewell to the 16 boys who had joined the army and were on their way to Vancouver. Parents, relatives and schoolmates were all there endeavoring to shake hands with the young patriots who were answering the call of the nation. In some instances, the parents of the young men had been notified only a few hours previous to their departure and many tears were shed at the hasty leave-taking.

The Caldwell band, aided by a few members of the Moose band, played numerous selections during the half hour preceding the arrival of the train. The crowd had become so dense when the train arrived that it was difficult to get near enough the boys to shake their hand, though everyone was striving for that privilege. The High school students present gave High school yells and cheered all of the young men who were leaving.

The boys who left last night were George Campbell, Nijah Roberts, Clement Baker, Waldo Wallace, Arthur Tanner, Royal Carter, Ben Lichtenberger, John Maloney, Bert Coffenberry, Orin Ruth, Alois Pimperl, Ray Bailey, Claude Smith, Elden Woolfolk, William Pollock and Juel Bestul.

Patriotism is running high among the young men of the city and country, and although only a few will leave tonight, it is expected that large numbers will leave during the week. At the High school, enthusiasm is at white heat and many High school boys have announced their intention of joining the army in a very few days. In the smaller country towns, the young men are getting ready to answer the call and in several instances, they have already sent in many of their youths.

Tonight Clifton Booth, Charles Adair, Norman Bailey and Charlie Woodcock will leave for the mobilization camp at Vancouver.

## BRAZILIAN PEOPLE CLAMORING FOR WAR

Rio de Janeiro, April 12.—Serious outbreaks at Sao Paulo marked the continued public insistence on war with Germany today. The proponents of war attacked houses of German-born residents of Sao Paulo and reserves of police were called out. Reports reached here today asserting a number of citizens had been killed and wounded in resisting the guard.

German Minister Paolis and his staff, with all German consuls, will be transported to Christiania on the steamer Rio de Janeiro, leaving here April 18, according to formal announcement today. A number of high sources were authority for the statement today that Brazil's rupture of diplomatic relations would be extended to include Germany's ally, Austria.

The Brazilian populace is crying for war with an insistence that the government will apparently be able to withstand only temporarily. Bitter speeches draw great crowds in the various parks and on the city streets; patriotism is at a high pitch.

## 517,868 MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED IN ARMY

OVER HALF MILLION MEN REQUIRED TO FILL VACANCIES IN THE SERVICE

### WAR DEPARTMENT'S FIGURES

Volunteers Also Needed to Fill Places of Guardsmen With Dependents Discharged

Washington, April 12.—The war department needs 517,868 volunteers for the period of the war, to fill vacancies in the army and the national guard and to replace officers who have gone for training.

Without issuing a formal call for volunteers, but in answer to misapprehension as to room for volunteers under the administration plan, the department this afternoon gave out figures showing that more than half a million men are required.

Orders have not been required to fill up the ranks and it was said the department would await passage of the army bill so as to be sure how the remainder of the required forces are to be raised.

The war department tabulation of 517,868 was exclusive of the number which will be required to fill up the places of the men discharged because of dependent relatives.

## RUMOR THAT KAISER SEEKS PEACE WITH U.S.

Copenhagen, April 12.—Apparently positive reports were received here that the German foreign office was making overtures to the United States. It was understood the negotiations sought peace between the two nations.

No further details were available here. Official circles manifested the most intense interest in the report. It is understood that Secretary Lansing already has received the overtures through unofficial intermediaries.

The proposal, as reported here, is for the United States to send Colonel E. M. House to The Hague for a "secret, unofficial conference."

Germany's terms were not specified in the report here, but it was hinted there had been no change in her position as outlined by the German embassy in Washington early in December. At that time Germany hinted that the question of indemnity for Belgium would not be an insurmountable obstacle to peace, but plainly insisted on a return to the status quo before the war—including return of all her colonies or a re-arrangement of all belligerent colonial possessions.

Several weeks ago it was reported that another peace proposition was to be made by the central powers. The report at that time said Emperor Carl of Austria-Hungary would act as sponsor for the Teutons. Germany has frequently sent out unofficial peace "feelers" in the past, in addition to the proffer made early last December.

New York, April 12.—When Colonel E. M. House was informed today of the Copenhagen report of German peace overtures to America, he said:

"I know nothing of any formal offer or action along that line. As for any peace suggestions that may come to me personally, I can only say that these have been so informal, so indirect and so vague, that I have given them no consideration and they can in no way be the subject of the Copenhagen report."

## AMERICAN NAVY ATLANTIC PATROL

Officials of English and French Navies Confer With U. S. Authorities on Co-operation

Washington, April 12.—Vice-Admiral Browning of the Royal British navy; Rear Admiral Grasset of the French navy, with their staffs, today conferred in Washington with Secretary Daniels and Admiral Benson, chief of operations of the United States navy, regarding naval co-operation with the allies, it was announced late today.

While the subject they discussed were not announced, it can be said reliably that the American navy probably will take over the work of patrolling the north and south Atlantic, relieving allied ships engaged in that mission for many months past.

Co-operation with the entente allies will be so complete that the navy can either use Bermuda or other British territory in that vicinity for base purposes.

The officers consulted the British and French ambassadors, called on Secretary Daniels and upon Admiral Benson, chief of the operations.

Their conference are the forerunners of even broader meetings between the American and the British and French committees, which will take up, in addition to the navy work, such problems as army co-operation, food supplies and other vital topics.

### AUSTRIA URGES POPE TO MAKE PEACE MOVE

Rome, April 12.—Austria is pressing Pope Benedict to move for peace among the European belligerents, according to an authentic report in Vatican circles today. The Corriere della Sera, in mentioning the move today, declared the holy father is refusing to proceed now "for diplomatic reasons."

Chicago, April 12.—The Star Spangled market is booming. Flag stocks of many wholesale houses are cleaned out, the manufacturers are overwhelmed with orders, and there is a flag famine.

## STILL RECRUITING NATIONAL GUARD

Washington, April 12.—Recruiting of the national guard up to one hundred a company and probably later to 150, will continue, the war department said today in answer to inquiries as to whether recruiting had ceased.

The statement issued by the army censor said:

"The war department learned that the impression exists that recruiting for national guard organizations is not to continue. Such an impression is not correct and in order that it may be removed, department commanders have been informed that national guard organizations may be recruited to the maximum peace strength of the regular army. That strength is 100 per company. The guard has a very much lower percentage strength than the regular army and sixty-five was the maximum strength allowed the guard before this last call into the federal service. We will probably authorize it to 150 when we get the 100-companies filled."

At the same time the department said its calls for 20,000 artisans, clerks, stenographers and the like for the quartermaster's enlisted corps is meeting with satisfactory response. Applications for these positions can be made to the department quartermasters at Governor's Island, New York; the federal building, Chicago; Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and 218 Pine street, San Francisco.

## BUILD FLEET OF 3000 SHIPS TO BEAT BLOCKADE

PRESIDENT APPROVES BOAT BUILDING CAMPAIGN BY THE UNITED STATES

### ATLANTIC OCEAN TO BE BRIDGED

Vessels Will Be of 3,000 Tons, and Will Have Speed of Ten Knots Per Hour

Washington, April 12.—To smash Germany's U boat blockade the United States will virtually bridge the Atlantic.

Plans for the construction of 3,000 small wooden boats—the most tremendous merchant shipbuilding program ever undertaken—have been completed and approved by the president.

The boats will be used to transport food and supplies to entente ports. This is America's answer to Lloyd-George's appeal: "The ultimate success of the allied cause depends, in my judgement, on our solving the tonnage difficulties with which we are confronted."

The government naval board has sent a call for 150,000 lumbermen and wood workers to begin the task at once.

Congress has authorized \$50,000,000 to start the program and will be asked for \$300,000,000 more.

The first thousand ships are to be completed within eighteen months and immediately thereafter 1,000 more will be ordered. Each vessel will be of 3,000 tons, with a speed of ten knots.

It is the purpose to run them in such fashion that they will constitute a veritable pontoon bridge across the sea—one boat every three miles. The tremendous number is expected to exhaust the most valiant efforts of U boat commanders to cut off supplies from England and France.

Work on the ships already have begun at Jacksonville, Fla., Beaumont, Texas, and a half dozen other points.

President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor has promised all co-operation in supplying labor.

Each ship is to be manned by a trained gun crew and equipped with anti-submarine guns and wireless.

Commencing November 1, three ships a day will sail into service.

The plan which President Wilson and the shipping board believe will overwhelm the U boats and break the blockade, provides the following:

One thousand 3,000-ton wooden ships to be turned out within one year, beginning November 1, 1917. Standardization of design so far as practicable, to expedite construction. Construction of 2,000 more in the second year of the war, if the submarine blockade still remains effective. This would place a ship every mile from the United States to England.

The ships to cost about \$300,000 each completed—one-half the cost of a steel ship of the same tonnage.

Ships to have a normal speed of ten knots, with extra size engines to develop 16 knots on emergency to escape attack.

Ships to be built by private shipyards under contract for their purchase when completed by the shipping board.

The board may then either re-sell the ships, charter them, or operate them.

At least 70 per cent of the first year's program to be built on the Pacific coast. The new vessels will be then brought through the Panama canal with lumber cargoes, for which service at present freight rates, they will earn \$40,000 apiece—more than enough to pay for the trip.