

FRENCH START BIG OFFENSIVE

Brilliant Victory Marks First Great Forward Movement of France.

BRITISH TROOPS ADVANCE ANOTHER MILE

Allies Offensive Extends Over a Front of One Hundred and Seventy Miles.

London, April 17.—(By United Press)—The greatest offensive of the greatest war in history is on today over a front of 175 miles. French and British forces are driving with all the strength of energy conserved through months of winter preparation. The French movement began with a brilliant victory, despite the desperate German resistance.

Laon, one of the most important German supply stations, is menaced. General Haig today jammed his forces a mile closer to Lyscaetelet on the main line of communications between Cambrai and St. Quentin.

Turks Defeated—Turkish troops in Mesopotamia are steadily retreating before Maude's advancing forces, according to official statements. The enemy fell back without offering any opposition.

GOVERNMENT GETS CHECK ON ALL COLLEGE MEN

That the Intercollegiate Intelligence Bureau is lending valuable aid to the government in mobilizing the man power of the United States to meet the war emergency is indicated by blanks received from the University of Indiana today by Attorney Victor Oliver.

Former students of the Eastern and Middle Western universities are being requested to fill out the blanks, thus indicating their training in various lines in which their experience might properly qualify them in the event they are needed.

TWO BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED AT ONE DINNER PARTY TODAY

An enjoyable birthday dinner party was held this noon at the home of F. L. Holmes in North Albany. The occasion was the 77th birthday of Dr. Holmes and the 52d birthday of Mr. W. P. White. The former was born in New York state on April 17, 1840, and the latter was born in Ohio on April 17, 1865.

Present at the dinner were Dr. White, A. E. B. L. and F. W. Holmes and their wives; Mrs. Maude Holmes; ten grandchildren; Mrs. Holmes and Mr. and Mrs. Truman Babb.

WOMEN OF WOODCRAFT DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

At the meeting of the Women of Woodcraft held last night the delegates and alternates to the District Convention, which will be held at Dallas the last of July, were named.

The following are the delegates: The Mesdames George Fiddeman, H. A. Warford, J. Voss, Candace Chesney, Alice School and Dora Chanes. Their alternates are Mrs. Alice Kirk, Mrs. Charity Beson, Mrs. Bell Pate, Mrs. Lola Junkin, Mrs. Trina Walters and Miss Pearl Cameron.

Mrs. J. S. Van Winkle, of this city, is District Banker of District No. 21, and Mrs. J. W. Warner is District Guardian.

Warren, O., April 17.—If hens are kept in this city, they must be handcuffed. This was the edict given by the police chief, who said that all chickens (feathered) running loose will be confiscated.

Strawberries in Market—Strawberries made their appearance in the local markets yesterday. They are probably a part of the big shipment from Louisiana received in Portland Saturday. They are good looking berries and sell for 20 cents a box, or two for 35 cents.

PRICES STILL SOARING IN STAPLE FOODS STUFFS

Wheat Hits \$2.20 Mark and Hogs Bring Top Price of \$15.35 in Portland.

The food situation is becoming more and more alarming. Prices on nearly all staples are going out of sight. Yesterday in Portland wheat sold for \$2.20 a bushel for Bluestem, and oats and barley were almost to the \$50 mark.

Hogs hit the \$15.35 mark and there is no stopping at this. In England at the present time the government has placed a limit of 36 cents a pound on good bacon, and this price is almost reached in this country.

Flour, of course, is also up. The bakers are charging more for cookies and cakes. Local grocers state that crackers and cakes that formerly sold at ten cents a package are now two for 25 cents. And other raises are also noted all along the line.

A perusal of the daily reports on another page of this issue will show the tendency of the markets in the principal commodities, mostly retail.

SEVERAL REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS MADE RECENTLY

There has been some little real estate movements in Albany the past few days. Hecker & Beam report the sale of the following pieces of property.

C. W. Reed purchased a lot in Burkhardt Park.

Deputy County Clerk Charles C. Curry bought the lot and dwelling at 1336 East 10th street from E. W. Hunsaker, of Portland, giving in exchange a lot in Ridgmont Addition, and a cash balance.

N. D. Conn, who has been figuring in many transfers of late, both buying and selling, sold his ten-acre Walnut tract in North Albany to O. Wanson, of this city.

HOW THE SCHOOL GARDEN CAN HELP

Washington, April 17.—The school garden can be made of great assistance to city folks planning to bear the cost of living by planting back yard gardens this year. The helpful hints which the little ones get in the school garden can be employed profitably in the home garden.

The National Emergency Food Garden Commission is making a special effort to interest school children in gardening, as the knowledge gained therein is very valuable.

The school should have individual gardens, if possible, for the pupil will take much greater interest in his own little patch than he will in a common ownership garden. His pride will be excited and he will want to do his best. Since the area must be limited the school garden must eliminate the broad leaved, tall, climbing plants. Beans, beets, lettuce, radishes and even tomatoes can be recommended.

Make the rows run the short way of the garden and be a foot apart with the exception of the rows of tomatoes which should be 20 inches apart. A rotation of crops, in order to get the most out of the area, just as was outlined in the Democrat yesterday, should be planned. Quick maturing crops should be planted in groups, thus providing as much area as possible when it comes time for replanting.

All work should be done by the pupils as well as planting the seed and caring for the plants. The teacher can explain the reason for each step. This entire dependence upon the pupil will be to his best interest and if success comes it will all be his.

Lettuce should be sown in drills in the open, or in boxes in the windows. If in the open, the seeds should be scattered about half an inch apart, along the row. Cover with not more than one-half inch of earth. The earth should be made firm over them. When the plants are well up, thin to six inches apart. If window box, transplant young plants to stand two inches apart each way. When they begin to crowd, transfer them.

Radishes should be sown half an inch apart and not deeper than one inch, yet not less than half an inch, in rich, well-tilled soil. When showing the second set of true leaves should be thinned from one to two inches apart in the row.

Beans should be sown in the open for the best results. Delay their planting until after the last frost has passed. Plant in rows one foot apart and place the seeds two inches deep at intervals of six inches. The soil must be kept loose and free from weeds.

Beets require a longer season for maturing than beans, radishes or lettuce; but they can be planted at the same time as radishes and lettuce. The seeds should be placed in rows one foot apart, an inch apart in the row, and covered one inch deep. When two inches high, thin to four inches in the row. Keep the soil well tilled.

On Way to Poplar—M. L. McPherson started last night for Poplar, Mont., where he will look after business interests.

AEROPLANE SEEN NEAR NAVY YARD

It is Rumored Germans Have Aeroplane Base in New Hampshire Woods.

GERMAN DIVER FIRES ON U. S. DESTROYER

Missed By Thirty Yards; Chased By American Warship But Escapes.

Boston, April 17.—(By United Press)—Another aeroplane was sighted flying over the Portsmouth navy yard. It is rumored that an aeroplane base is located in the New Hampshire woods.

Boston, April 17.—(By United Press)—An engagement between a submarine and the submarine chaser "Smith" is officially reported. The message came from Fire Island Station to the Charlestown navy yard, and was as follows: "At 12:20 this morning, April 17th, the 'Smith' apparently sighted a submarine. She fired a torpedo and missed the 'Smith' by 30 yards, the wake plainly crossing her track. The submarine then disappeared."

Washington, April 17.—Germany fired the first shot in the war against the United States and missed. The Navy Department officially confirmed the report that the destroyer "Smith" was fired upon by a submarine at 3:30 this morning. The torpedo missed. The "Smith" chased the submarine, which submerged and escaped.

The Navy Department believes the "Smith" affair will arouse the country, showing that the war is at its own altitudes.

Discovery of this submarine was the first definite evidence that German underwater boats are plying off the American coasts.

State Department Worried. New York, April 17.—The belief that Germany may have obtained information concerning the departure of the allies' commissioners was expressed this afternoon. It is recalled that Germany leaped of Kitchener's departure. The submarine off the American coast may be waiting the arrival of the ship with the officials.

ADVERTISED LETTERS The following is a list of the advertised letters in the postoffice at Albany, Oregon, April 17, 1917: Miss Ruth Chambers, Lloyd Hausler, Kwong Sang Wa Co., Mrs. Etta Marshall, Mrs. John Marks, M. Otterbeck, Mr. Thum Parker, Hubert Prescod, Mr. Vincent Stokes, Mrs. William Thurston, Mrs. Elnorah Tyler, Catherine Tracey. C. H. STEWART, P. M.

Left for Canada—Mrs. Hugh Bowen and two daughters, of Lebanon, left yesterday for Calgary, Canada.



Scene from "A Daughter of the Gods," the million-dollar Wm. Fox production, at the Globe next Monday.

BRITISH COMMISSIONERS FAIL TO REACH WASHINGTON

Believed in Washington That German Submarine Has Sunk Their Ship.

Washington, April 17.—Where Britain's commissioners are and when they will arrive in Washington is a mystery to the State Department today. It is stated officially that the department had "absolutely no word" concerning their whereabouts. Definite information before night is sought. The French commissioners are not expected to arrive before the British.

MEXICAN CONGRESS OPPOSED TO NEUTRALITY PLAN

El Paso, April 17.—(By United Press)—Only eight members of the entire Mexican House of Deputies favor Carranza's neutrality plan. It is announced in a message received Sunday. It is reported unofficially that scenes of the wildest disorder occurred when the discussion of Carranza's message began. Several deputies openly urged an alliance with Germany.

ALL BIDS FOR RURAL CREDIT BONDS REJECTED

Salem, April 17.—(By United Press)—Because all bids received were below par, the State Land Board rejected all bids for the \$250,000 rural credits bond issue. The board instructed the clerk to wire immediately the board's attorney in each county to cease taking loan applications. The board decided to advertise immediately for a \$500,000 bond through the East, hoping to obtain better offers.

Yellow Fever Reported Rio de Janeiro, April 17.—Several experts from the Federal Health Department were rushed to Campos, a city in this state, to investigate reports of yellow fever. After several newspapers had thrown a scare into this city over the supposed proximity of the dread plague, the government doctors reported that a few cases of yellow jaundice had caused the fright.

MARCH JINX FOR MONARCHS London, April 17.—The month of March holds a persistent jinx for European royalties, as shown by a table of regal murders, dethronements and abdications following the czar's removal. Old Gustavus III, King of Sweden, got his on March 16, 1792; Alexander II, of Russia, on the 13th of March, 1881; and George I, of Greece, on March 18, 1913. All were murdered. Charles III, Duke of Parma, also went by the murder route in March, 1854.

Gustavus IV, of Sweden, was dethroned by his affectionate uncle, the Duke of Sudermania, March 13, 1809. The abdication of Nicholas, of Russia and his abdication at the same time on behalf of his son, completes the list of March upheavals which prove the monarch's life in March is not a happy one.

VETERANS PLAN MEMORIAL DAY

Will Make This Year's Greatest Patriotic Occasion Ever Witnessed in Albany.

SPANISH WAR VETERANS HOLD FINE MEETING

G.A.R. and Other Patriotic Organizations Asked to Cooperate in Big Event.

One of the best meetings of the United Spanish War Veterans ever held by Camp Phillips No. 4 took place in the armory last evening. The attendance was larger than usual. Whenever there is danger threatening the country it is the boys who have been under fire and appreciate the meaning of the protection of the stars and stripes who are first on hand to lend assistance. The members of the local camp stand ready to respond to the call when it comes and when their services are wanted. Mr. Tischenor, of Marshfield, was a guest of the local camp.

Arrangements were begun to make Memorial Day this year the best that has ever been celebrated in Albany. With the country at war the entire population will respond in a manner never before witnessed, and the chances are that, instead of a ball game or some other attraction dividing the attention of the people, Albany and surrounding country will, with one accord, turn out to do honor to the nation's dead who fought the wars of other days.

A committee was appointed to confer with the Grand Army of the Republic, the Daughters of the Revolution, the Women of the G. A. R. and other bodies, to secure their cooperation with the Spanish War Veterans. The committee is composed of F. C. Stellmacher, Ed. Hawker and G. M. Turner.

There will be many special features to attract the people besides the respect and the patriotic sentiment that will compel the largest attendance ever. The realistic work will be divided, the Spanish War Veterans putting on half of it at one cemetery and the members of the G. A. R. the other half.

There will be firing squads, salutes, etc.

With the certainty of Fifth Company, C. A. C., being away at that time, arrangements have been made for the care of the two graves of members of that company—George Willert and Thurston Hackleman.

The graves of dead soldiers and sailors will be cleaned up by members of Camp Phillips.

In honor of the sailor dead a floral ship will be launched on the Willamette.

A resolution was passed last night expressing the appreciation of the Spanish War Veterans to the general staff of the O. N. G. in appointing their Department Commander, Major Carl Abrams, of Salem, to be Lieutenant Colonel of the Third Oregon Regiment.

Other routine business was transacted.

CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR RUSSIA IS DEMANDED

Petrograd, April 17.—(By United Press)—A congress of the council of workers and soldiers adopted a report providing for the election of a constitutional assembly for Russia as soon as possible. It recommended the election under the supervision of the Duma. All above 20 years of age will be given the privilege of voting. Women are included.

THE OLD ORIGINAL CURFEW

Chertsey, England, April 17.—Curfew may ring its head off tonight, with the passing of the ban on needless nocturnal noises. And the Chertsey curfew is the old original and only genuine "must ring tonight" contraption that inspired the poem.

When the Zeppelins were making periodic tours to strafe the tight little island it was a question whether engine bells, curfews and the like didn't serve as a guide. The authorities couldn't find out definitely so they refused to take any chances. Every curfew in England had its throat done up in a muffler and there was nothing doing on the happy chimneys.

Chertsey was hard hit by the order, inasmuch as the local curfew has been part of the town's life for seven or eight years.

Well, now the Zepps have had their wings clipped pretty short and the risk is brought down to a minimum, so the curfews are telling their tale or tolling their toll with oldtime solemnity.

CHIEF OF POLICE CATLIN RECEIVES INSTRUCTIONS

Letter From U. S. Attorney General Indicates Treatment of Aliens With Guns.

Chief of Police John Catlin has received the following instructions from the Attorney General of the United States, T. W. Gregory, with regard to the treatment of aliens having in their possession firearms. Department of Justice, April 16, 1917. Chief of Police:

Under the Proclamation of the President, date April 6, 1917, it is unlawful for alien enemies to have in their possession the following articles: Any firearm, weapon, or implement of war, or component part thereof, ammunition, maxim or other silencer, bomb, or explosive, or material used in the manufacture of explosives, any aircraft or wireless apparatus, or any form of signalling device, or any form of cipher code, or any paper, document, or book written or printed in cipher or in which there may be invisible writing.

Your cooperation in enforcing this Proclamation is earnestly desired; and you are requested if possible, to post notices or otherwise notify all alien enemies within your locality to bring to police headquarters and surrender any and all articles which it is unlawful to have in their possession. A detailed receipt should be given for all articles so surrendered, and at the close of the war such articles should be returned.

Any alien enemy who fails to surrender such articles within 24 hours after public notice given by you, will be subject to summary arrest if such articles shall be found in his possession; and the articles will be seized and forfeited to the use of the United States.

Respectfully, T. W. GREGORY, Attorney General.

OTT DELIVERS LECTURE AT M. E. CHURCH

Before a fair-sized crowd Edward Ames Ott, professor of oratory at Drake University last night delivered a lecture at the Methodist church on the subject, "Sour Grapes."

Professor Ott proved himself an excellent speaker and this number of the Y. M. C. A. lecture course was said by those who attended to have been one of the best of the entire year. Optimism was the keynote of the lecture and some wholesome advice was given to fathers and mothers as to the necessity of properly training their children.

SAYS DANCING IS GOOD FOR NERVES

Columbus, April 17.—(At last) Dancing has come into its own. For years it's borne the burden of blame for a thousand and one afflictions, "tango foot," fallen arches, loss of weight and scores of other ailments have been laid at the door of the dance.

But now comes Miss Florence A. Myer, head of the department of military education at Ohio State University, who is an advocate of the dance, especially the esthetic dance, which is an instant cure, she says, for the nervous girl who jumps at every sound, and the slouchy, care-free type of girl who is affected by nothing.

"The combination of the physical exercise and the mental stress of remembering the different steps is wonderful for the nerves," said Miss Myer. "Those who formerly startled at every little sound can bear almost any shock now."

NO DANGER OF RAID IN WINTER

London, April 1.—(By Mail)—Springtime has many harbingers in many lands. The robin and the crocus tell New England, New York and the South that the winter is over. But you can't persuade people over here to shake the red flannels and the bottle of Spring Tonic, until the "Zepps come out."

Almost on the date the Farmer's Almanac says for spring to commence, the Kaiser sent England his official notification. The year's first "strafing" occurred on the day the proverbial lion starts snapping his roar and mane for wool and a bleat.

Zeppelins can't stand cold weather. They're very particular anyway—demanding nitcheblock, partly cloudy, calm, dry nights, with whatever wind there is blowing from the East. But as long as Winter, R. I., holds sway over the British Isles, there's no danger of a raid. However, when the days get longer and the evenings balmy, England generally looks to the skies for the almost always laughingly ineffectual leaden shower that brings the first tidings of Spring to London.

ANTI-GOVERNMENT PARTY IN GERMANY

General Strike in Berlin Cripples Output of Wood and Metal Is Report.

REDUCTION IN BREAD RATIONS STARTS TROUBLE

Rioting in Berlin Reported; Semi-Official Reports Say Not Serious.

Amsterdam, April 17.—(By United Press)—Official reports without any steps toward fulfillment resulted in the formation of an anti-government party in Germany. The new group is an offshoot from the regular Socialist party, and is called the independent socialistic democratic party.

Amsterdam, April 17.—(By United Press)—Berlin's general strike is crippling the output of metal and wood, and blocking the transportation systems, according to dispatches here which reported disorders in Berlin. Unconformable details are meagre. A general strike has long been expected.

Extreme Socialists announced the move as a protest against the reduction in bread rations.

It is semi-officially declared that the strike affected very few industries, and is without general support.

Germany's Peace Terms Christiansa, April 17.—(By United Press)—Germany will soon issue its neutrals a statement of her peace terms, according to rumors in diplomatic circles. The reports came from sources known to be closely identified with the German officials' plans.

Germany's proposition is not known. Diplomats believe the terms will be unchanged from those made in the December peace offer.

Scandinavia is the center of Germany's peace efforts aimed at Russia. Teutonic officials are bending every effort toward a separate Russian peace, it is learned here.

Count von Bernstorff has been named German Ambassador to Sweden to help in the peace move.

HIPPODROME SHOWS END AFTER ONE MORE WEEK

After tomorrow night Albany theatre fans have but one more Hippodrome Vaudeville show to look forward to this year. The 16 weeks' tour sent out from Chicago will end at that time and Albany patrons will have to settle back to pictures and take their chances on road sensations.

Tomorrow's bill looks pretty good. George Murphy and Phil Wick have a military burlesque comedy playlet, depicting a scene on the firing line during the Civil War. The playlet is full of laughs from start to finish, showing General Bull Con's mishaps with his stupid aide, Hot Air Mulligan.

Tom Queen and La Petite Ruth present a dancing, talking and singing act which is a scream from start to finish. The De Ber Sisters, two comely maidens, are dancers of more than ordinary merit and have pleased their audiences wherever they have appeared.

The picture bill includes Fanny Ward in "The Years of the Locust," a comedy and a feature reel.

NEW CLASSIFIED

WANTED—An experienced waitress wants work in either hotel or restaurant. Bell phone 276. a17-19

FOR SALE—Bred sows, \$25 and up. Address Box 66, Albany. a17-19

GOATS FOR SALE—Ranays, \$25. Address Box 66, Albany. a17-19

WANTED WAITRESS—An experienced girl to wait on table at Home restaurant, 208 Second St. a17-19

Weather Report—Yesterday's temperature ranged between 55 and 33 degrees. This morning fell to 84 feet.