

HEAVY BATTLES IN PROGRESS ON WESTERN FRONT

Germans Capture Position 700 Yards Wide, 400 Yards Deep in Upper Alsace, Taking 3000 Prisoners—French Claim Recapture of Forest of Causes—Whole Units Destroyed

BERLIN, Feb. 23.—Announcement of another important gain in the offensive on the western front was made by the war office today.

The war office also announced that German forces had penetrated the opposing lines for a distance of three kilometers (two miles), in the northern sector of the Woivre.

The text of the statement follows: "Western theater: In the neighborhood of the trenches captured by our troops February 21 to the east of Souchez the positions of the enemy were considerably damaged by mining operations.

"In the Maas hills artillery duels continued with undiminished violence. East of the Meuse river we attacked a position which the enemy had been fortifying for one and a half years with all means of fortress construction in the neighborhood of the village of Conservois in order to maintain an embarrassing effect on our defense in the northern sector of the Woivre.

"The attack was delivered on a front extending well over ten kilometers (six miles), and we penetrated as far as three kilometers into the enemy lines.

"Apart from considerable sanguinary losses, the enemy lost more than 3000 men in prisoners and great quantities of material, the extent of which cannot yet be estimated.

"In upper Alsace our attack east of Heildwiler resulted in capturing an enemy position extending over a width of 700 meters and for a depth of 400 meters. About 80 prisoners were taken.

"In numerous aerial engagements behind the enemy lines our aviators maintained the upper hand."

French Account of Battle. PARIS, Feb. 23, via London.—Fighting of great violence is in progress from the right bank of the Meuse to a point southeast of Herbe forest the war office announced today.

"The war office admits the recapture of the village of Haumont by the French, but declares they still hold the approach to the village.

"We have retaken some of the trenches in the woods of Givenchy. In the regions north of Verdun the bombardment by the enemy, which has been energetically answered by us, continued throughout the day.

"East of this point a counter attack enabled us to retake the greater part of the forest of Causes, situated in the salient occupied yesterday by the enemy north of Beaumont.

"A strong German attack on Herbe forest was stopped by our curtain of fire. According to statements of prisoners, whole units were com-

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RIVERS AND HARBORS CUT TO \$39,000,000

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The annual rivers and harbors appropriation bill, aggregating \$39,000,000 in direct appropriations and authorizations for expenditures on various parts of the country was favorably reported to the house today.

LORD ROBERT CECIL APPOINTED BRITAIN'S WAR TRADE MINISTER

LONDON, Feb. 23.—In the house of commons today Premier Asquith officially announced the appointment of Lord Robert Cecil, parliamentary under secretary for foreign affairs, as war trade minister.

UNITED STATES PROTESTED SINKING JAPANESE LINERS

TOKIO, Japan, Jan. 25 (correspondence of the Associated Press.)—The fact that Japan, through the United States government, has made a strong protest to Germany and Austria over the sinking of the Japanese steamship Yasaka Maru, was disclosed yesterday by Baron Ishii, the foreign minister, speaking before a committee of the house of peers.

The Yasaka Maru, of the Japanese Mail Steamship company, was sunk in the Mediterranean on December 21 by a submarine, the nationality of which has not been established.

A Copenhagen dispatch yesterday said a Japanese fleet had arrived in the Mediterranean. A week after the Yasaka Maru was torpedoed the Japanese steamship Keukoku Maru was sunk in the Mediterranean by a submarine.

CUMMINS FILES IOWA PRIMARIES

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 23.—United States Senator Albert B. Cummins of Iowa today filed an affidavit with the secretary of state as a candidate for the presidency of the United States on the republican ticket.

NEW HAVEN WRECK VICTIMS NUMBER TEN

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Feb. 23.—The death list as a result of the rear end collision of two passenger trains on the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad in Milford yesterday, stood at ten this morning.

FRANCIS ACCEPTS PETROGRAD MISSION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—President Wilson will nominate David R. Francis, former governor of Missouri, to be ambassador to Russia, as soon as it can be ascertained whether he is acceptable to the Russian government.

NO WARNINGS TO AMERICANS SAILING ABROAD

President Opposes Legislative Action Regarding Citizens Traveling on Belligerent Ships, as Such Action at This Time Embarrasses Diplomatic Relations With Germany.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—President Wilson is unchanged in his opposition to having congress pass any resolution warning Americans to keep off armed merchantmen of the European belligerents, and congress leaders have been so advised.

The official account is that Senator Smith, of Georgia, recently went to Senator Stone to discuss the form in which such a resolution might be introduced.

Congressmen who were at the White House today said there was considerable discussion of Senator Gore's resolution to warn Americans off belligerent merchantmen, but that there was little prospect of passing it unless desired by the administration.

The president's wishes were reflected in an announcement by Chairman Stone, of the senate foreign relations committee, that he might not make his anticipated speech later this week on the submarine question and in reply to the attack upon the administration's foreign policy by former Senator Root.

The administration has made clear its opposition to any legislative action regarding Americans traveling on belligerent ships, many members of congress says, and to take any action at this time would embarrass diplomatic negotiations with Germany.

Gore to Father Bill. Senator Stone today submitted to the senate for publication as a document portions of international law on the subject of arming merchant ships and recent addresses at Morristown, N. J., by Senator Lodge, republican.

Senator Gore announced that he would introduce tomorrow a resolution to prohibit American civilians from traveling on armed merchant vessels of belligerent nations.

Senator Stone and Representative Flood conferred today and later it was said that no action was expected at this time by either of the foreign relations committees on anything af-

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CHALARO OFFERS CAPITULATION

EL PASO, Texas, Feb. 23.—Francisco Lagos Chazaro, the last conventionalist president of Mexico, has offered to surrender unconditionally the remnant of his forces, according to official dispatches to the Mexican consulate today.

FRANCIS ACCEPTS PETROGRAD MISSION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—President Wilson will nominate David R. Francis, former governor of Missouri, to be ambassador to Russia, as soon as it can be ascertained whether he is acceptable to the Russian government.

Mr. Francis' acceptance of the post became known following his conference with the president yesterday. He will succeed George T. Marve, resigned.

KELLY RESIGNS AS MASTER FISH WARDEN; TO ABOLISH OFFICE

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 23.—At a special meeting of the state game and fish commission here this afternoon, H. L. Kelly, master fish warden, tendered his resignation. Members of the commission stated that it would be accepted, Mr. Kelly has been in ill health for some time. It was understood, however, that the commission is considering the abolishment of the office and assigning its duties to the game warden and superintendent of hatcheries.

TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR OFFICERS NEED OF PREPAREDNESS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—"The military affairs committee is of the opinion that we do not need a large standing army, but that we do need at all times a large body of our young men well trained and educated," said Representative McKellar, of Tennessee, submitting to the house today a favorable report on his bill to establish and maintain military training schools in the various states.

"Educate and train 4800 boys a year as provided in this bill, graduating 100 a year in each state, and in a few years such would be the military spirit created in all parts of the country that a call for volunteers in times of trouble would easily bring forth one million men.

"Within a seven-year period there would be created a reserve of some 33,600 of the best trained men in this country, or any other country, between the ages of 20 and 32, who could be lawfully required to respond and instantly to a call to arms."

Former Secretary Garrison had approved the bill.

ASK PAROLE OF DYNAMITERS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Appeals for the parole of fifteen of the labor leaders, serving sentences in Leavenworth penitentiary for their part in the so-called dynamite conspiracy, of which the destruction of the Los Angeles Times building was the climax, were laid before President Wilson today by Senators Lewis, Clapp, Kern, Husting and Randall, and Representative Nolan of California.

The fourteen men for whom they spoke are eligible under the law for parole, having served one-third of their sentences. Their cases have been heard by the parole board, which has taken no action. President Wilson said he would consider the request and discuss it with Attorney General Gregory.

SENATE TO ACT CONFIRMING FLETCHER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Henry Prather Fletcher's nomination as ambassador to Mexico was ordered reported to the senate today by the foreign relations committee with the recommendation that it be confirmed as soon as possible.

Chairman Stone will submit the report in executive session late today and an effort will be made to get an immediate vote on confirmation. Confirmation, in the opinion of administration senators, is assured.

Senators Borah and Smith opposed the recommendation on the ground that the United States senate should not participate in recognition of General Carranza by confirming an ambassador.

PACIFIC COAST NEEDS A FLEET FOR DEFENSE

Admiral Badger Declares That Panama Canal Has Failed to Solve the Problem of Defending Both Atlantic and Pacific With One Battle Fleet—Naval Academy Not Needed

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Rear Admiral Badger of the navy general board told the house naval committee today that the Panama canal had failed to solve the problem of defending both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts with one battle fleet and that the defense of the Pacific coast would require a fleet there able to dominate that ocean.

As to the Panama canal, he said he understood the present difficulty with slides was expected to be overcome soon, but he thought it questionable whether the fighting fleet could cross into the Pacific within a year.

Mr. Stephens asked if the policy that the navy should equal the strongest afloat by 1915 had not been evolved viewing the possibility that it might be necessary to face two enemies simultaneously, one in the Pacific and one in the Atlantic.

"I can answer that question," Admiral Badger said, "but do not think I should do so in open court."

Admiral Badger disapproved the suggestion for a new naval academy on the Pacific coast. Annapolis, he said, could be increased to supply all necessary officers. He urged, however, that at least 50 per cent crews be maintained on reserve ships.

Representative Britten asked if the navy had not materially decreased in efficiency last year, "because of our Mexican policy." Admiral Badger said not.

While it was a bad thing to have the fleet withdrawn from its routine of drills and maneuvers to stay at Vera Cruz, the admiral said, it was not serious and the ill effect was quickly overcome.

Representative Hensley contended that the training of military officers might lead them to look with less dread on the possibility of war.

"Of all the people in the United States," said Admiral Badger, "none is more opposed to war or anything that would lead to war than the officers of the army and navy."

WILSON ENDORSED BY LUMBERMEN

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 23.—Opening its thirteenth convention here today with the avowed purpose of educating its members in modern sales methods, the Western Retail Lumber Dealers' association quickly turned to an enthusiastic endorsement of President Wilson's preparedness program.

J. M. Crawford, of Walla Walla, president, in his address urged support of the president and forecasted the adoption of a resolution declaring that the northwest believes in a larger army and navy.

Emphatic endorsement was voiced by the Rev. Peter A. Simpkin, of Salt Lake City, who declared, "I do not believe there should be any meeting of American men and women without the matter of preparedness having an important place. We here in America need fear no military autocracy, for the control of this country will always be in the hands of the common people."

WAR DEPARTMENT REJECTS IMPROVEMENT WILLAMETTE RIVER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The war department advised today against improving the Willamette river, Oregon, to provide a six-foot channel between Oregon City and Corvallis, and between Corvallis and Eugene by means of locks and dams. The department held that the traffic did not warrant the large expenditure involved.

ACCUSE BRANDEIS OF GETTING PROXIES FOR HARRIMAN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—New charges, alleging employment of Louis D. Brandeis by E. H. Harriman to obtain proxies in the celebrated fight for control of the Illinois Central railroad and Mr. Brandeis' relations to the Equitable Life Assurance society, were filed today with the senate sub-committee considering Mr. Brandeis' nomination for the supreme court.

Austen G. Fox, a New York attorney in charge of presenting evidence for those opposed to the confirmation of Mr. Brandeis, laid the new charges before the committee.

In 1907, he said, when E. H. Harriman was fighting Stayvesant Fish for control of the Illinois Central, Sullivan and Cromwell, Harriman's attorneys, sent Wadell Catechin to Boston to employ Brandeis, Dunbar and Nutter to secure proxies from Illinois Central stockholders in New England to be voted against Fish.

"Thereafter," said Fox, "Mr. Brandeis' firm acted for Harriman and sought to obtain proxies in his behalf. A number of letters soliciting proxies were sent out by Brandeis, Dunbar and Nutter."

Mr. Brandeis, in his book, "Other People's Money and How the Bankers Use It," Mr. Fox said, attacked Harriman and quoted from the opinion of Commissioner Lane (then of the interstate commerce commission) telling of Mr. Harriman's interest in various roads.

BIG DIVIDENDS FOR DUPONT POWDER

WILMINGTON, Del., Feb. 23.—At a quarterly meeting today of the E. I. DuPont company, a regular dividend of 1 1/2 per cent was declared along with a special dividend of 22 1/2 per cent on the company's common stock. These dividends are payable 5 per cent and 19 per cent in Anglo-French bonds with coupons attached at 95.

A regular dividend of 1 1/2 per cent on debentures was also declared. The E. I. DuPont Powder company directors also declared a regular dividend of 1 1/2 per cent on preferred stock and regular dividend of 1 1/2 per cent on common stock.

MONTANA TO HOLD TWO PRIMARIES

HELENA, Mont., Feb. 23.—The supreme court today handed down a decision holding that Montana must hold two primaries this year instead of one, as was contended by some. The first primary will be held on April 21 to indicate presidential preference, to nominate electors and to elect national delegates; the second August 29 to nominate state and county tickets.

The Montana primary laws were adopted from the Oregon measure. The court bases its decision upon the fact that "the apparently deliberate separation of the single Oregon law into the two Montana acts cannot be ignored."

RUSSIA FIRM TO CONTINUE WAR UNTIL VICTORY

Czar and Foreign Minister Speak to Duma—International Unity Among Allies to Conclude Common Peace When Prussian Juggler is Crushed—Rumanian Aid Promised.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 23.—Addressing the duma today, Foreign Minister Sazonoff reviewed the war situation in a most optimistic way, although he declared it was more difficult now than ever before to foresee the end of the world struggle.

"The imperial government remains unshaken in its determination to continue the struggle to conquer the enemy," he said.

"This war is the greatest crime of high treason against humanity. Those who provoked it bear a heavy responsibility and today stand entirely unmasked.

"We know who it was that laid loose the misfortunes without number with which Europe is oppressed. Even German public opinion is beginning to realize that the German people have been the dupe of those who thought the hour had come to realize the dreams of plunder and rapine they had cherished so long.

"When dealing with an enemy like Germany we must take thought in good time how best to prevent the repetition of the events which occurred so rapidly eighteen months ago. The instinct of self-preservation demands putting an end to the ruthless egoism and passion for plunder which are the distinctive characteristics of Prussianism, and they must be crushed once for all. Otherwise the sacrifices of the allies would be vain.

"The allies have brought about a complete union without the sacrifice by any one of them of a particle of independence or personality. With the enemy it is different. Germany's allies have become vassals. It is hard to speak any longer of Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria as independent states. The clutching grasp of Germany has seized the power in their armies and all branches of administration.

"The signing by the five allies of the treaty to conclude peace in common proves the falsity of absurd rumors of a separate peace."

Speech of Emperor Nicholas before the duma was devoted principally to the victory of the Russians at Erzerum.

"I rejoice that I am able to join you in thanksgiving for the brilliant victory of our army of the Caucasus," the emperor said. "I am happy to be among the representatives of my faithful people. I pray for God's blessing on your labors in this time of trial and am convinced you will use all your experience and knowledge and be guided by love of your country in the work for which you are responsible to the country and to me. I wish you fruitful labor and complete success."

M. Sazonoff also dealt with the Polish problem.

"From the beginning of the war," he said, "Russia has had inscribed on her banners the reunion of dismembered Poland and never has this resolved to be our aim. Germany has granted a few minor concessions to Poland and in return it is said she contemplates raising hundreds of thousands of Polish troops to be used in the attempt to bring about the triumph of Germanism."

Sentiment Toward Swedes. In regard to Russia's relations with Sweden, the foreign minister said:

AUSTRIANS SEEK NEWS ON PETROLITE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Austria has asked the United States for additional information on the protest against the attack by an Austrian submarine upon the American tanker Petrolite several weeks ago. Such information as this government has will be furnished promptly.