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GERMANS TAKE 10,000 FRENCH IN GREAT DRIVE

All French Positions in Region North of Verdun South of Beaumont Are Taken—Fighting Diminishing in Violence, Say French—Kaiser Directing Offensive in Person.

BERLIN, Feb. 25.—The German war office announced today the capture of all French positions in the region north of Verdun as far as the ridge of Londement, just south of Beaumont.

The number of prisoners has been increased by more than 7000 to over 10,000.

Capture of the fortified villages and farms of Champneuville, Cotellat, Marmont, Beaumont, Chambrettes and Ornes was announced.

The text of the German official statement follows:

"Western theater: On the right bank of the River Meuse our successes previously reported were executed yesterday in different directions. The fortified villages and farms of Champneuville, Cotellat, Marmont and Ornes were captured.

"In addition, all the enemy's positions as far as the ridge of Londement were captured by storm.

"The sanguinary losses of the enemy again were extraordinarily heavy, while our losses were normal.

"The number of prisoners taken was increased by over 7000 to more than 10,000."

Fighting Diminishing.

PARIS, Feb. 25.—The fighting north of Verdun is diminishing in violence, the war office announced today. No attack by the Germans was attempted last night.

The official statement admits that the French have fallen back to the rear of Beaumont.

The text of the statement follows:

"East of Vanquois we have launched fresh attacks on the enemy's works in the region of the forest of Cheppy. Intermittent artillery activity has been carried on between Malancourt and the left bank of the Meuse. In the district north of Verdun the cannonade has diminished in violence and the enemy made no attack on our positions during the night. We have established organized positions in the rear of Beaumont on the heights stretching to the east of Champneuville and south of Ornes. The night was calm on the remainder of the front."

Kaiser Directs Battle.

PARIS, Feb. 25.—The Petit Parisien's correspondent at the front says that the great German offensive against Verdun is under the personal direction of Emperor William, who arrived at general headquarters Saturday last and who, in order that nothing might go wrong, immediately ordered that a sort of dress rehearsal of the coming attack be held. At a given signal, the correspondent says, every infantryman and gunner took the post assigned to him in advance and the motions of a general attack were gone through behind the lines. The emperor seemingly was satisfied and gave the word to begin the offensive on Saturday night.

The French losses are declared to be insignificant in comparison with those of the Germans. The German artillery preparation, which reached its height on Tuesday, was of unparalleled violence. Every inch of ground was searched out; every point where it was thought guns

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GEORGIA MOB LYNCHES A NEGRO RAVISHER

CARTERSVILLE, Ga., Feb. 25.—Jesse McCorkle, a negro, was taken from jail here early today by half a hundred men and boys, hanged to a tree in front of the city hall and his body riddled with bullets. McCorkle was arrested last night for breaking into the home of A. T. Heath and attacking Mrs. Heath, whose husband was away. The woman shot the negro in the wrist with a pistol, but she was overpowered. When caught McCorkle's wounded wrist was still bleeding and he had the pistol in his possession.

HEAVY SNOW FALL THROUGHOUT FRANCE AND ON BATTLE LINE

PARIS, Feb. 25.—Snow is falling heavily throughout France. In Paris the snowfall has been heavy since 4 o'clock this morning, having attained a depth of five inches.

The storm is in progress along the battle front. At some places the cold is intense.

PORTUGAL SEIZES GERMAN STEAMERS INTERNED IN PORTS

ST. VINCENT, Cape Verde Islands, Feb. 25.—Eight German steamships in the harbor here were taken in charge yesterday by officials of the Portuguese government.

LISBON, via Paris, Feb. 25.—The Official Gazette publishes two decrees regarding the thirty-six German and Austrian merchant vessels seized yesterday in the Tagus river and placed under the Portuguese flag.

The first indicates the work of refitting to be performed in order to adapt these vessels for the transport or other purposes for which they have been requisitioned, as it is distinctly given to be understood that they have not been confiscated.

The second decree appoints a committee to supervise the execution of the work ordered. Portuguese newspapers say that in other parts of the republic there are eighty German and Austrian vessels, which it is understood will also be requisitioned by the government. The total tonnage of the Teutonic ships is 150,000 tons.

CHINESE REBELS CAPTURE SUI FU

PEKING, Jan. 26.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—Official acknowledgement of the defeat of government troops by the Yunnan rebels on the Sze-Chuen border was withheld until today when the state department issued a mandate denouncing Tsai Ao, in which admission is made that the revolutionists surprised the regular army and defeated a small garrison.

Information received in Peking from non-Chinese sources shows that the Yunnanese who descended on the city of Sui Fu and captured it, numbered about 10,000. The government garrison at Sui Fu numbered about 4000, but these troops left for the north several days before the arrival of the Yunnanese and consequently there was no resistance to the entrance of the latter. The fleeing government forces are reported to have started north for Tze-Chow.

Neutral military experts are of the opinion that the revolutionists can probably get about 40,000 men into the field.

LABOR PEACE COUNCIL MUST STAND TRIAL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—United States Commissioner Taylor today dismissed the attack on the indictments of H. Robert Fowler, Herman Schulzeis and Henry B. Martin, returned in a federal grand jury's investigation of the activities of labor's national peace council and held that the three men must appear for arraignment in New York March 7.

LEACH CROSS RETIRES FROM RING; FIGHT OFF

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—The permanent retirement of Leach Cross from the boxing ring was announced today by his manager, Samuel Wallace, who said that Cross' fight with Johnny Griffiths had been cancelled by mutual consent. Cross is 39 years old.

RUSSIANS WIN VICTORY OVER TURKS IN PERSIA

After Series of Battles, Moslems Are Driven From Strong Mountain Passes—Russians Driving to the Junction With British—Turks Are Driven From Erzerum.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 25.—An official dispatch from Heberan says: "After a series of battles in Persia, the remnants of the adversary troops were reorganized and concentrated in the region of Kermanshah and with the help of German and Turkish sappers, occupied and fortified two mountain passes—Bidesurks pass, an almost impregnable natural position and Sakabe pass. News has now been received that our troops dislodged the enemy from Bidesurks pass and occupied Sakabe pass and are now pursuing the Turks, who are in full retreat toward Kermanshah. Our forces captured three field guns, one mountain gun, a quantity of shells, ammunition wagons and field machine guns."

Junction With British.

The Russian successes in the region of Kermanshah is a sequel to Russian operations in Persia, with the view of ending the activities of hostile mountain forces and organized bands of Kurds. Russian progress in Persia, however, is regarded here as also indicating greater possibility of a junction of the Russians with the British expeditionary forces in Mesopotamia.

After the retreat from Hamadan all hostile forces which succeeded in escaping were concentrated in the Kermanshah district, where they fortified themselves in the mountain passes. Simultaneously frontal and flank attacks already have forced the Turks to make a partial retirement and they are now occupying the main approaches to the difficult position of Kermanshah. The Russian troops are expected to make a determined effort to expel the Turks from this entire neighborhood.

Turks Made a Stand.

Although little news is available from the Erzerum front, it is apparent that having been forced back some forty miles to the west of the captured fortress, the Turks, who have begun to receive reinforcements, are beginning to make a stubborn stand. It is not considered impossible here that the serious fighting which already has begun to take the place of the desultory rear guard actions will develop into a big battle.

WHEAT MARKET SHOWS ADVANCE

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—Instead of showing a fresh break in values, the wheat market today surprised many traders by opening at an advance. Opening quotations—\$1.18 to \$1.19 1/4 for May and \$1.14 1/4 to \$1.15 1/2 for July—were 1/4 to 1/2 higher than yesterday's finish. The reason for the upturn seemed to be a reaction from the semi-panic selling of yesterday and optimism on the part of a majority of the dealers that some practical way out of the difficulty with Germany would yet be found.

Despite considerable nervousness shown by rapid fluctuations, the market kept within a normal range today, the difference between high and lowest prices being less than 3 cents.

Closing prices were firm at 1 1/4 net advance, with May at \$1.18 1/4 and July at \$1.15 1/2.

VILLA BURNS HOUSES SAN BUENA VENTURA

EL PASO, Tex., Feb. 25.—Francisco Villa burned several houses at San Buena Ventura yesterday and occupied El Valle, according to official reports received by General Gabriel Gavira, commandant at Juarez today.

Gavira said Villa's movement north was due to pressure of Carranza's cavalry from the south.

HUGHES AGAIN SAYS IS NOT A CANDIDATE, ACTIVELY OR TACITLY

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—In a letter to Henry A. Wise Wood, former member of Secretary Daniels' naval advisory board, made public here today, United States Supreme Court Justice Charles E. Hughes reiterates his declaration that he is not a candidate for the presidential nomination. He states: "In view of my judicial office I do not feel that I have any right to take part in any political discussion or to make statements of the sort that would be expected from candidates for office. I am not a candidate, active or tacitly."

BRYAN SUPPORTS MOVEMENT TO WARN AMERICANS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Telegrams to congressmen from William J. Bryan, supporting the movement for warning Americans off armed ships, began arriving today. Representative Bailey of Pennsylvania received one and after a conference with Majority Leader Kitchin, made it public:

"I honestly hope that congress will speedily announce legislation refusing passports to Americans traveling on belligerent ships, or still better, refusing clearance to belligerent ships carrying American passengers.

"No owner of belligerent ships will claim that he has the right to safeguard a contraband cargo with American lives and no citizen should be permitted to endanger the peace of the nation at a time like this. Ours is the greatest of the neutral nations and probably will be the mediator when the time comes for mediation. It would be a crime against civilization as well as against our own people to become involved in this war and thus loan our army and navy to a European monarch to use in settling his quarrels.

"If congress has the right to declare war, it certainly has the right to promote peace by restraining citizens from taking unnecessary risks. A mayor keeps the people of his city out of the danger zone during a riot. Can our government afford to do less when the world is in riot?"

"That's right," Representative Bailey quoted Mr. Kitchin as saying when he read the telegram.

LODGE STANDS BY PRESIDENT FOR AMERICAN RIGHTS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Senator Lodge, ranking republican member of the foreign relations committee, declared in a statement today that he was in full accord with President Wilson's views on the submarine issue as expressed in his letter to Senator Stone, and that he would stand by the president.

"The president takes the precise position that I have taken and have been urging in public speeches for the last eighteen months," said Senator Lodge. "Of course, I shall stand by him. I agree fully with what he says. I believe it would proclaim us to the world as cowards to tell our citizens that they must not exercise their undoubted rights and that if they do we shall not protect them. A nation that will not protect its citizens cannot protect itself, and if democracy fails to protect itself, how can we hope to live?"

"The president says: 'What we are contending for in this matter is of the very essence of the things that have made America a sovereign nation. She cannot yield them without conceding her impotency as a nation and making virtual surrender of her independent position among the nations of the world.'"

GET-RICH-QUICK SWINDLER KING NABBED, FLORIDA

Dr. John Grant Lyman, Who Secured from \$300,000 to \$700,000 in Two Months by Mail-Order Munition Fraud, Arrested at St. Petersburg, Fla.—Indicted at New York.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Feb. 25.—A man arrested and put in jail here in the belief that he is Dr. J. Grant Lyman, wanted in New York on charges of having obtained more than \$300,000 through illegal use of the mails, maintained silence today regarding his identity. He took steps today to bring his corpus proceedings for his release.

W. H. Smith, who sold the man a yacht, said he knew him as "Mr. Putnam." Letters found on the prisoner were addressed to "J. H. Putnam." It was under the firm name of John H. Putnam and Company that Lyman is alleged to have perpetrated fraud.

In searching the prisoner's clothing the police found \$16,000 in currency and certified checks.

Identified by Californian.

A resident of Los Angeles, now here, whose name is known to the police, but withheld at his request, today said that the man arrested here yesterday is Dr. Grant Lyman. He said he knew Lyman in California.

Lyman left New York after exposure of stock swindling operations of the firm of John H. Putnam and Company, of which he was said to be the head. Operations of the Putnam company began December 15 last. About two years ago Lyman forfeited \$20,000 bail and fled from Los Angeles after conviction and sentence to fifteen months imprisonment there for a land fraud. He went to Europe, but returned and according to post-office authorities, perpetrated a mail fraud in Boston.

Is Indicted Today.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—John Grant Lyman, believed to be under arrest in St. Petersburg, Fla., was indicted by the federal grand jury today on the charge of using the mails to defraud. Prompt action was taken by the federal authorities here on receipt of information that the prisoner sought release on a writ of habeas corpus.

Federal authorities are positive the man under arrest is Lyman. They say they have traced his flight since leaving New York through Philadelphia, Washington and Richmond, Va., to Florida.

Authorities Certain.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Postal authorities announced today that they were satisfied that a man arrested last night at St. Petersburg, Fla., was John Grant Lyman, wanted in New York for using the mails to defraud and estimated at from \$400,000 to \$700,000 the amount he is alleged to have obtained through his New York office and branches at Hartford, Conn., and Springfield, Mass.

Federal authorities say they obtained a clue to Lyman's whereabouts through a personal in a New York paper, which was a communication to his wife informing her he had left money for her in a Philadelphia bank. The post office department says it learned of his chartering a yacht at Clearwater, Fla., and provisioning it for a two weeks' cruise.

In a Richmond hotel, inspectors found Miss Belle Hampton, hotel stenographer, who had been employed by Lyman. She identified Lyman's picture at once, they said.

COLLISION AT SEA OFF CAPE HATTERAS

BALTIMORE, Feb. 25.—The Merchants and Miners liner Cretan, from Philadelphia for Savannah, was in collision with the steamer Dorothy, fourteen miles north of Cape Hatteras during a thick fog early this morning, according to advices received at the general offices of the line from its Norfolk office late this forenoon. No one was hurt on either vessel. The Cretan's passengers were transferred to the Dorothy and both vessels proceeded to Norfolk.

NEW YORK SUBWAY TRAFFIC TIED UP BY FLOODS FROM STORM

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—New York's subway, which carries more than a million passengers a day, experienced the worst tie-up in its history today because of flooded tracks, the result of a heavy downpour of rain. Trains became blocked during the morning rush hours by floods of water which poured into the tube near Times Square and rose two feet over the road bed. Traffic had not been restored to normal by mid-afternoon.

RUSSIA TO BUY FROM JAPANESE CAPTURED WARSHIPS

TOKIO, Feb. 25.—Russian negotiations for the purchase from Japan of warships which were captured in the Russo-Japanese war are reported to be proceeding satisfactorily. The Soya, the Tango and the Sagami are stated to be the vessels which Russia desires to purchase. Russia would have bought warships from Japan at the outbreak of the war, in order to take part in the bombardment of Tsing-Tau, the seaport on the Chinese coast in the German territory of Kiao-Chau, but the negotiations which were then undertaken fell through.

The Tango and the Sagami are battleships and the Soya a protected cruiser.

The Tango, formerly the Russian warship Poltava, was sunk at Port Arthur and afterward raised and repaired. She is of 11,000 tons and has a complement of 730 men. Her armament includes four 12-inch guns, twelve 6-inch guns and sixteen three-pounders. She has two 18-inch submerged torpedo tubes.

The Sagami, like the Tango, was built at Petrograd and is of 13,500 tons, with a complement of 732 men. She is armed with four ten-inch guns, ten 6-inch guns, sixteen 12-pounders and a number of small guns. She has two submerged torpedo tubes.

The Soya was built at Philadelphia in 1901, was sunk at Chemulpo in 1904 and raised and repaired in 1905. She has a displacement of 6500 tons and carries twelve 6-inch guns, twelve 12-pounders and six 3-pounders. She has four torpedo tubes, two submerged and two above water.

NORTHERN PACIFIC TRAIN BANDITS ESCAPE

SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 25.—It is believed the two men who held up and robbed the eastbound North Coast limited train on the Northern Pacific ten miles east of Auburn last night escaped to Seattle in an automobile. The robbers rifled four pouches of registered mail.

No estimate has been made of the value of the contents of the mail, which came directly from the Orient, arriving Wednesday night on the Empress of Japan, but Albert M. Holtz, assistant superintendent of mails in Seattle, says that it was the heaviest shipment that had passed through the station for several weeks.

SENATE CONFIRMS FLETCHER AS MEXICAN AMBASSADOR

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The senate today confirmed the nomination of Henry Prather Fletcher as ambassador to the government of Mexico. The vote was 49 to 16.

LINCOLN EXPLOSION WORK OF A PRACTICAL JOKER

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 25.—The explosion in aquatic figures of the state capitol Wednesday was the work of a practical joker. Chief of Detectives Antles declared today.

MOVE TO WARN CITIZENS HALTS; PRESIDENT FIRM

Fight in Congress Over Warning Americans Off Armed Ships Marks Time With Developments Favoring Wilson's Position—Bryan Supports Warning Move.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The fight in congress over warning Americans off armed ships marked time today with the parliamentary situation and other developments favoring President Wilson's position.

At an early morning conference with house leaders, the president was told that if resolutions to warn Americans could be forced to a vote now they would be passed in the house by a majority of two to one.

President Wilson, nevertheless, firmly and emphatically reiterated the unyielding position he outlined last night in his letter to Senator Stone. The leaders went back to the house prepared to hold the situation in check for the present at least.

Bryan Takes Stand.

Former Secretary Bryan's influence came openly into the fight today when Representative Bailey of Pennsylvania gave out a telegram from Mr. Bryan opposing the president's position and supporting the agitation in congress.

In the senate, Mr. Lodge, the ranking republican of the foreign relations committee, openly declared his support of the president's position. Senator Gore, democrat, introduced a resolution to require a break in diplomatic relations to go first before congress.

The cabinet discussed the situation thoroughly and administration officials said the members were standing solidly behind the president.

Secretary Lansing said so far as he knew no word had been received from Germany concerning a postponement of the new submarine policy.

President Is Firm.

The president told the house leaders he felt that the United States must stand for the right of Americans to the freedom of the seas. He said he hoped he would be able to conduct the negotiations with Germany in such a way that war would be avoided.

Speaker Clark, Mr. Kitchin and Mr. Flood all expressed the hope that the United States would not go to war over the armed ship issue. They left the white house saying they believed the situation serious.

The president is understood to have declared that if the United States gives up the right for which it is now contending that it will lose its position as defender of the principles of international law.

President Wilson spent practically the entire morning discussing phases of the foreign situation. In addition to conferring with the house leaders, he saw Henry Morgenthau, American ambassador to Turkey, and then took up the international situation with the cabinet.

Warns All Nations.

Administration officials said that the president's warning in his letter to Senator Stone that the United States must defend international law from infringement by any nation or group of nations was directed toward all the European belligerents. The government is about ready, it was said, to forward to Great Britain the contraband note which has been under preparation for weeks, and will

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ATTACKS BY ZAPATA FORCES DEFEATED

GALVESTON, Tex., Feb. 25.—Defeat of the Zapata forces which attempted a surprise attack upon the de facto government troops at the village of Mihuatlan, near Oaxaca City, is reported in a dispatch received here today by the Mexican consulate. The attacking force lost nearly 200 killed, the report says, and a considerable quantity of arms and ammunition was taken by the Carranza forces, whose losses are given at 12 killed and 20 wounded.