

GREAT GAINS BY GERMANS AT VERDUN

Capture of French Position West of Meuse, Villages of Forges and Regneville, Heights of Raben and Cumieres Wood in German Possession—French Retake Trenches Lost in Champagne—Fighting is Most Severe.

LONDON, March 8.—The official German account today of the new drive at Verdun's defenses from the northwest shows that in their sweeping advance the troops of the crown prince captured more than seven square miles of territory west of the Meuse from the French.

In sweeping over this ground the Germans drove through Forges and Regneville, capturing more than 3500 prisoners and ten cannon. Reporting on their capture of Fresnes, in the Woivre regions, the Germans announce the taking of 700 additional prisoners.

In the Woivre district the Germans launched an attack in the vicinity of Manheulles, which Paris declares was checked by the French curtain of fire.

Assault on Verdun

The assault on the fortress of Verdun is now being pressed with greatest vigor along the four mile front running from the north of Cumieres, near the river, to Babinecourt, where the Germans already have pressed forward into the Corbeux woods, between Dead Man and Goose Hills, the commanding positions held by the French in this sector.

The Russian advance along the Black sea coast in Armenia is enabling the central Russian army, well inland, to keep up its onward march from Erzerum toward Sivas.

Rome advises indicate that Italy has determined to make every effort to retain possession of the Avlona section of Albania.

Berlin Statement

BERLIN, March 8.—The capture of a French position west of the Meuse on both sides of the Forges brook below Bethinecourt, six kilometers wide and three kilometers deep, was announced today by German army headquarters.

It was also announced that the villages of Forges and Regneville, the heights of Raben and the Cumieros woods were in German possession.

The capture of 58 officers, 3277 men and ten cannon is officially reported.

In the Woivre district the French were driven out of the last houses they held in the village of Fresnes. More than 700 prisoners were made.

French Retake Trenches

Paris, March 8, via London.—In the Champagne the French have recaptured portions of the trenches lost on March 6, according to the official announcement made here today.

The situation north of Verdun is unchanged. No infantry attacks were made last night, the announcement says. Artillery fighting continues.

The text of the communication follows:

"In the Champagne district east of Maisons de Champagne, we launched an attack which placed us again in possession of the section of trenches occupied by the enemy March 6. We took 85 prisoners, including three officers and captured a machine gun.

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DELEGATIONS ARRIVE FOR STATE CONFERENCE

SALEM, Or., March 8.—Delegates representing the state grange, and the Oregon drainage association arrived here today for the irrigation, drainage and rural credits conference to be held here tomorrow. Sentiment seemed to be crystallizing among them in favor of having separate constitutional amendments drafted on rural credits and on irrigation and drainage. The delegates representing the Oregon drainage association will hold a meeting this afternoon.

VERDUN BATTLE GROWS IN SIZE AND INTENSITY

Second Effort to Take Stronghold on Larger Scale Than First—Germans by Employing Masses of Men Without Counting Cost, Obtain Small Gains at Meuse.

PARIS, March 8.—The battle of Verdun developed both in intensity and in extent all day yesterday and is now raging along the line from Cheply, in the Argonne, to Fresnes in the Woivre, showing that the second attack for the stronghold is to be made on a larger scale than the first. So far, according to the reports received here, the Germans, by employing masses of men without counting cost, obtained some slight gains both to the west of the Meuse and in the Woivre, where they carried Fresnes after a fierce struggle.

Desperate Fighting

Desperate fighting is again going on on the left bank of the river. Following up the advantage of yesterday, the Germans, going around the foot of the slope which served them as a mask, followed the railroad and entered Regneville. From there they launched 15,000 men against Hill No. 265, to the east of Cote de l'Oie, and carried it. Thus they control the loop of the Meuse, within which Regneville is located.

The French withdrew their right from within the loop and it now rests on the Meuse above Cumieres. This withdrawal from an advanced position on the left bank became necessary, according to the military experts, in order to maintain alignment with the positions on the right bank, and it would have been difficult to hold the advanced point which the Germans had at the same time attacked in the front and flank.

Gain a Footing

Having thus obtained commanding positions on the heights which run from Bethinecourt to Cote de l'Oie by the spur of Le Mort Homme and the woods of Corbeux and Cumieres, the Germans without losing a moment's time hurled masses of infantry against these positions. They gained a footing in the Corbeux woods, but elsewhere their attacks were repulsed with heavy losses.

In this district centers at present the chief interest of the battle, and the result of the German effort is awaited by the French without fear, as they rely on the defensive power of their forces.

NEW LEADS FOR G. O. P. NOMINATION

INDIANAPOLIS, March 8.—With unofficial returns of yesterday's primary in from almost half of the precincts, Harry S. New led this afternoon in the race for the republican nomination for United States senator and former Congressman James E. Watson a close second.

James P. Goodrich led Warren T. McRay and Quincy A. Myers in the race for the republican gubernatorial nomination.

John M. Adair, representative in congress from the eighth district, is conceded by many leaders to have won the democratic nomination for governor over Leonard B. Clore.

FINAL DEBATE UPON SHIELDS BILL TODAY

WASHINGTON, March 8.—When the senate resumed debate on the Shields waterpower bill today, Senator Shields announced he would seek to hold the body in continuous session until it reached a vote.

SIX STEEL FIRMS INDICTED FOR TRUST IN WAGES

United State Steel Corporation and Five Other Concerns Accused by Ohio Grand Jury of Conspiracy to Fix Wages—Youngstown Riot Is Probed and Officials Censured.

YOUNGSTOWN, O., March 8.—Indictments were returned today by the Mahoning county grand jury against the United States Steel company, five other steel companies and E. H. Gary, executive of the United States Steel company. The defendants are charged with having formed a trust to fix the wages of common labor in violation of the laws of Ohio.

In addition to the United States Steel company the following concerns were indicted: The Youngstown Sheet and Tube company, the Republic Iron and Steel company, the Brier Hill Steel company. The indictments followed a sweeping probe of the East Youngstown riots and labor troubles of January.

Conspiracy Alleged

The specific offense charged against the six steel concerns is that they conspired to keep the wages of common labor at the same figure at the time of the strike at the Republic Iron and Steel company and the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company in January. Announcement was made by all these companies within two days time of ten per cent increase in wages.

This action is held to be due to an agreement. The jury report sets forth that the grand jury was unable to fix any particular cause for the recent East Youngstown riots.

The report charges that neither the mayor nor any member of the police force made any effort whatever to disperse the mob. Mayor Cunningham is criticised for not closing the saloons of East Youngstown early on Friday morning after he had received notice of the temper of the mob.

Took Militia as Guards

The report cites the fact that a guard at the Youngstown Sheet and Tube company who is a member of the state militia, without legal authority took ten members of the National Guard to the sheet and tube company's property to guard the same. It is also stated that the guard appropriated state ammunition. It is set forth that the action of the guard made it impossible for the sheriff or the captain of the militia to mobilize militia men in time of grave public danger.

Guards on the sheet and tube company bridge who fired into the crowd assembled about the time office before the rioting began are censured. The grand jury, says the report, was unable to find that the influence of any foreign government was responsible for the riot. The alleged combination of manufacturers with the intent to keep down the wages of common labor is criticised.

Indictments also were returned against Mayor Cunningham and six councilmen of East Youngstown, charging them with being financially interested in property purchased for village purposes.

TWO AMERICANS REPORTED SLAIN

EL PASO, Texas, March 8.—Accredited but unconfirmed reports received today by General Gabriel Gaviro at Juarez, state that two Americans named Franklin and Wright, were killed today at Colonel Pacheco, by Villa bandits between Casas Grandes and Janos, Chihuahua.

The advices contained nothing as to the wife and small son of Mr. Wright, who were reported with the men at Colonel Pacheco. Gaviro declared the men, said to be Mormon ranchers residing west of Casas Grandes, disregarded warnings he had sent to all American residents northwest of Chihuahua when he first learned of Villa movements to that section.

"I HEARTILY ENDORSE THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY!"



Who Threw That Brick?

RAIL EMPLOYEES VOTE IN FAVOR OF EIGHT HOUR DAY

CHICAGO, March 8.—Tabulation of the referendum vote of railroad employes on the question of whether their demand for an eight-hour day with time and a half for overtime shall be presented to the railroads, was taken up today at a meeting of union officials. The present wage agreement expires March 31.

The vote of the employes has been in progress by mail two months and it is said more than 80 per cent of the men have voted in favor of the eight-hour day with overtime. About 400,000 railroad employes, including every road in the country, or 528 different lines, are involved in the present controversy. The leaders are said to be opposed to arbitrating their differences this year, although they express the hope that a general strike which would tie up every steam railroad in the country will not be necessary.

Railroad officials have declared that the eight-hour day and overtime demanded by the employes would mean an increase in wages of approximately \$100,000,000 a year, and that this increase cannot be granted under existing conditions.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON BRANDEIS CASE END

WASHINGTON, March 8.—Public hearings on the nomination of Louis D. Brandeis of Boston to be associate justice of the supreme court were terminated today by the judiciary sub-committee of the senate. The inquiry has been in progress for a month. The sub-committee gave no indication as to when it would report to the judiciary committee.

THREE AMERICANS PRISONERS OF VILLA

COLUMBUS, N. M., March 8.—With three American cattlemen presumably held as prisoners, Francisco Villa was reported today with between 200 and 300 men at a point on the Boza Grande river in Chihuahua, fifteen miles west of Columbus and twenty-seven miles south of the border.

THREE SOLDIERS PERISH IN FIRE AT FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, March 8.—Three soldiers were killed and two seriously injured in a fire early yesterday morning that destroyed the main barracks and ammunition houses at Fort Gibson, occupied by company B, 14th Infantry. The dead, Privates Herman Lund, Henry Miner, Curtis B. Willis. Injured: Sergeant Anthony Kivnak, Private Gross Kelly.

The bodies of the dead were recovered. The fire broke out in the upper story of the barracks, close to the bed occupied by Private Miner. Sergeant Kivnak severed an artery in his arm while breaking the glass in a window of the barracks, and nearly died. Private Kelly fell to the ground through an open window, struck on his head, and was picked up unconscious.

The members of the company fought bravely against the flames, although the temperature was fifteen degrees below zero and a gale raging. The pump house was saved with great difficulty. The oil was removed from the oil house before the building was burned. The ammunition store rooms were burned, with their contents.

Fort Gibson is situated at the mouth of the Tanana river which is a tributary of the Yukon.

GILL RE-ELECTED SEATTLE'S MAYOR

SEATTLE, Wash., March 8.—The unofficial majority of Mayor Hiram C. Gill over Austin E. Griffiths in yesterday's election is 5673. The vote cast was 5000 larger than in the primary.

The charter amendment for preferential voting appears to have been beaten, while the amendments eliminating ward boundaries and placing certain city employes under the industrial insurance act were ratified. In the Port of Seattle election the proposition to transfer funds already on hand to build a belt line along the waterfront and make other improvements received a majority, but probably not the required 60 per cent.

RAILROAD ASKS \$10,000,000 FOR LANDS IN GRANT

Southern Pacific Proposes to Congress to Relinquish All Claims in O. & C. Grant Lands for \$4.40 an Acre and Release of Perpetual Obligation to Transport Troops Free.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—The Southern Pacific railroad proposals to relinquish all claims to lands of the Oregon & California land grant for \$10,000,000, if released of its perpetual obligation to transport American troops and property free of charge over that part of its lines covered in the land grants, were made to the house public lands committee today by J. P. Blair, general counsel of the road.

Mr. Blair said the company was willing to compromise in this way to avoid future litigation and that the road now claimed the right to remove timber valued at upwards of \$30,000,000 from the land grant portion of its property.

The company's proposal, the committee was told, involved payment by the government on the basis of \$4.40 an acre. Attorney General Gregory contends that the railroad is not entitled to more than \$2.50 an acre, with deductions for past excess sales.

S. A. D. Pater spoke in behalf of persons located on those land grants to the railroad, who want preference rights upheld in any legislation. He said he had contracts with them under which he could repurchase much of this land at a nominal price, if they secured title. He will continue testimony tomorrow.

WILSON'S DESIRE IS TO AVERT WAR

WASHINGTON, March 8.—Senator Stone of Missouri, chairman of the foreign relations committee, declared in the senate today after a conference with President Wilson last night, "that so far from the president desiring to involve this country in this disastrous European war, his supreme wish is to avoid that calamity."

"All through his service as president I have co-operated with him, and with all my heart I wish to continue that co-operation, and so I have concluded not to say anything at this juncture that might be misunderstood, especially in foreign capitals, and which might by any chance contribute to the difficulties with which the president is beset. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

INDICTMENT AN OUTRAGE SAYS GARY

NEW YORK, March 8.—When informed of the indictment returned at Youngstown against the United States Steel corporation and other steel companies and himself, Judge Elbert H. Gary today issued the following statement:

"There are no facts to justify the indictments returned by the Mahoning county grand jury against the United States Steel corporation or the Carnegie Steel company or any others; or, so far as I know, against any of the companies. The indictments are an outrage."

GOVERNOR PAROLES NINE PRISONERS

SALEM, Or., March 8.—Nine penitentiary prisoners were paroled today by Governor James Withycombe. Among them was a woman, Stella Williams, convicted in Umatilla county of robbery. T. F. Nugent and Eben J. Whitman, convicted in Lane county of larceny and attempted assault respectively, also were paroled.

GERMANY SENDS NOTE ON POSITION

Controversy Over Submarine Warfare Reopened—Asserts That the Blockade and Armed Ships Are as Illegal as Submarine Warfare and Will Live Up to Laws if Great Britain Does Not Violate Same Laws.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—The German government, in a memorandum, handed today by Count Von Bernstorff to Secretary Lansing, outlines in detail its position in regard to armed ships, reviews events leading up to its decision to torpedo without warning all armed merchantmen of its enemies, concedes that international law, as at present constituted, makes no provision for the use of submarines, and expresses a willingness to operate its submarines in accordance with international law prevailing prior to the war, on the condition that Great Britain does not violate the same laws.

Britain Accused

It is alleged that Great Britain has taken advantage of the contention of the United States that Americans must be safe on defensively armed merchantmen to have those ships act offensively toward enemy submarines.

The memorandum contends the evidence appended to the late German announcement proves that British ships armed ostensibly for defense have been instructed to act, and have acted offensively and that they are not peaceful traders, as the United States was assured they would be by Sir Cecil Spring Rice, the British ambassador.

The memorandum reiterates the previous declarations that submarine warfare was begun by Germany in reprisal for the announced intention of Great Britain to starve the civilian population of the central empires.

Enumerates Violations

The memorandum refers to the long-standing friendship between the United States and Germany, and expresses the hope that the American people will, when familiar with the explanations offered, appreciate the position in which Germany finds herself as a result of the blockade.

By way of supporting the contention that Germany's reprisals are justified, the memorandum enumerates various actions of Great Britain which have operated against the interests of neutrals and their citizens. These are cited to show that Great Britain has violated international law. To sustain the German contentions, it is pointed out that Germany agreed to abide by certain terms of the declaration of London, but that inasmuch as Great Britain has not regulated her actions to conform with the terms of the declaration Germany cannot be expected to agree to operate under a code which Great Britain disregards.

CHEMICAL PLANT AT NIAGARA BURNS AFTER EXPLOSION

NIAGARA FALLS, March 8.—Fire following an explosion in the chlorate department of the Niagara Electro-Chemical company here today threatened to complete the destruction of the plant begun last night when several explosions and the resultant fires inflicted damages estimated at \$150,000.

The explosion was heard for several miles around and across the Niagara cataract in Canada, where it caused a hasty mobilization of the militia guarding the frontier. Dr. Hector R. Carvath, manager of the company, issued a formal statement today saying the plant had been "bombed."