

SLAVS LAND INFRANCETO AID FRENCH

Strong Force of Russian Troops Arrive at Marseilles to Strengthen Verdun Defense and Are Welcomed by General Joffre—Came From Archangel, Outside Submarine Zone—More Troops Said to Be En Route, as Russia Is Long on Men and Short on Equipment.

PARIS, April 20.—A strong force of Russian troops disembarked at Marseilles at noon today.

The Russians are to fight beside the allied soldiers in France.

General Joffre welcomed the Russians in an order of the day, saying their arrival was another proof of the devotion of Russia to the common cause.

The Russians are believed to have embarked for France from the port of Archangel on the White sea, the only port through which there is free communication between Russia and her allies in the west. It is considered probable that the transports carrying the troops made a wide sweep out into the North Atlantic before heading for the Mediterranean, to avoid the submarine danger zone in the vicinity of the British isles.

In this connection it is to be noted that cable advices state that Russia had closed the port of Archangel to all except government traffic. This may indicate that other troop movements from Archangel to the western front are either under way or in contemplation.

Welcomed by Joffre.

The text of the order issued by General Joffre follows:

"Our faithful ally, Russia, whose armies already are fighting so valorously against Germany, Austria and Turkey, wanted to give France further assurance of her friendship, more striking proof of her devotion to the common cause.

"Russian soldiers chosen from the bravest in her armies and commanded by officers of the highest renown, have come to fight in our ranks.

"You will receive them like brothers. You will show them that warm sympathy which you feel toward those who leave their country to come and fight at our sides.

"In the name of the French army, I welcome the officers, under-officers and soldiers of Russia who have debarked in France. I hope before the Russian flags upon which their soon will be inscribed the glorious names of our victories."

To Fill Verdun Gaps.

The Russian forces will be used to fill in gaps on the western front caused by the recent fighting.

The arrival of the Russian troops is regarded here as an event of great importance and of significance from both a military and political standpoint.

The Russians came on a great flotilla of transports. Not a single word of their coming was permitted to become generally known until they had actually concluded the journey and were landing on French soil.

No exact details as to the number of Russian troops are available.

BRYAN COMING TO AVERT WAR

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Telegrams from William J. Bryan announcing the hour he expects to arrive here and reiterating the opinion that it would be a "crime against civilization" for this country to go into war, were the only intimations which Representative Bailey, of Pennsylvania, Mr. Bryan's spokesman in the house, had today of the Nebraska plan on his Washington visit.

Mr. Bailey today recalled Mr. Bryan's statement that if war seemed to him imminent he would come to Washington, dropping anything else that he might have on hand. Mr. Bailey said Mr. Bryan would attend a testimonial dinner here tonight.

GERMANS BRING STRONG FORCES TO VERDUN LINE

Troops From Russian and Serbian Fronts Brought to Strengthen Western Line—French Resume Offensive, Capturing German Trenches—Germans Occupy British Trenches.

PARIS, April 20.—French resistance in the region of Verdun is compelling the German general staff to withdraw large forces from the Toulon front in Macedonia and Serbia and in Russia, according to information obtained today by the highest military authorities here.

The first division of the first German army corps and another division not yet identified are said to be among the troops which have just been brought from the other fronts. The eighteenth army corps and the eleventh Bavarian division, it is declared, have been brought from Serbia.

PARIS, April 20.—French troops took the offensive last night in the Verdun region on the right bank of the Meuse. The war office announcement of this afternoon says that they captured parts of German trenches, occupied a redoubt and took several hundred prisoners.

The text of the statement follows:

Capture German Trenches.

"In the Argonne, at Haute Chevauchee, there has been some mine work which resulted to our advantage. We caused the explosion of a small mine which destroyed some subterranean works of the enemy.

"On the left bank of the Meuse the bombardment of our second line continued last night. On the right bank of the river our troops yesterday evening delivered a spirited attack against the German positions northwest of the Pond of Vaux. This operation made it possible for us to occupy certain sections of the German trenches, as well as a fortified redoubt. In the course of this action, which caused heavy losses to the enemy, we took prisoner ten officers, sixteen under-officers and 214 men. In addition to this, we captured several machine guns and a certain quantity of war material.

"In the Woivre our artillery has directed a concentrated fire upon the communicating roadways of the enemy.

"There has been no event of importance on the remainder of the front."

British Section Captured.

BERLIN, April 20, via London.—British trenches for a distance of 600 meters between Langemarck and Ypres, Belgium, have been occupied by German troops, according to the official statement given out at army headquarters today.

The text of the official statement issued today says:

"Western front: In the Ypres salient German patrols succeeded at several points in penetrating the English trenches. In one instance on the high road between Langemarck and Ypres they gained about 600 meters of the enemy's positions and firmly maintained them against several hand grenade attacks. At this point and near Wietze and south of Ypres the number of prisoners taken amounted altogether to 1 officer and 105 men. We also captured two machine guns.

"East of Tracy le Mont a quantity of gas directed by the enemy last night against our trenches only spread into the trenches of the French themselves.

Battle in Progress.

In the Meuse sector the enemy directed a lively artillery fire against

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VILLISTAS GUILTY OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER

EL PASO, Tex., April 20.—The six Villistas played on trial at Deming, N. M., yesterday, charged with killing Charles B. Miller in the Columbus raid today were found guilty of murder in the first degree, according to word received here. The jury was out thirty minutes.

PEACE OR WAR WITH GERMANY SEEMS TOSS-UP

American Note Delivered to German Government—Von Bernstorff Visits Lansing to Discuss Situation and Tells of Confidential Message Received.

BERLIN, April 20, via London.—The American note to Germany arrived in Berlin late yesterday evening. Ambassador Gerard probably will present it to the foreign office early this afternoon.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—The United States government having said its last word to Germany in the submarine controversy, turned today with grave expectancy to Berlin, where rests the decision whether the imperial government shall abandon its present methods of submarine warfare or break with Washington.

No time limit was set in the communication, but the president is known to hold the hope that three or four days will be sufficient for a decision. If none is forthcoming within a reasonable time the step accomplishing a break in relations, with all its grave possibilities, will be taken. Count Von Bernstorff, German ambassador, would receive his passports and American Ambassador Gerard at Berlin would be instructed to come home.

It was stated that a rupture would not necessarily extend to consuls, although diplomatic custom generally included such officials.

Bernstorff a Visitor.

Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, went to the state department today for a conference with Secretary Lansing on the submarine warfare situation and also to discuss the arrest in New York of Wolfe von Igel, secretary to former German Military Attache Captain Von Pape.

Secretary Lansing and the German ambassador were in conference fully twenty minutes. After the ambassador had left the secretary of state would make no statement.

After the conference it was learned that German diplomats regard the receipt of a reply from Germany within two or three days as physically impossible. It was thought a reply could not be received here before ten days. It was pointed out that Easter Monday is a holiday in Germany, and that necessary consultations of officials would cause almost another week to elapse before the German decision could be transmitted here.

Peace or War a Toss-Up.

Ambassador Von Bernstorff refused to discuss his conversation with Secretary Lansing, but indicated his call was not prompted by the arrival of instructions from his government.

Regarding the hope held by German officials here for an amicable settlement, one official described the prospect as a "toss-up."

Secretary Lansing explained in detail to the German ambassador the position of the United States and is understood to have expressed the sincere hope that the attitude of the German government would be so adjusted as to meet the position taken by the United States.

The ambassador was understood to have informed the secretary of the details of a message he sent yesterday to his government making certain recommendations which he believed, if acceptable to his government, would be satisfactory to the United States.

In addition, the ambassador in-

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HOUSE SUGAR BILL FRAMED BY CONFEREES

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Legislation repealing the free sugar clause of the tariff, which was to have become effective May 1 next, will be passed immediately by congress. This was passed upon by a caucus of senate democrats last night when they voted to accept the house repeal bill instead of the senate substitute providing for the continuance of the existing duty on 1 cent a pound on sugar until 1920. As a result the president's duty will be continued indefinitely.

PLANNING DEFENSE OF VERDUN



General Humbert (left) is immediately in charge of the Verdun defense—the man who held out against the first great German rush and prevented the fort from being overwhelmed in the descent toward Paris. General Joffre is engaged mapping out further plans for defense of Verdun.

TWENTY PERISH \$750,000 DAMAGE IN KANSAS CYCLONE

KANSAS CITY, Mo., April 20.—Reports received up to noon today from the tornado-swept sections of Missouri and Kansas, indicated the death list in yesterday's storms would reach twenty. Over 100 persons were injured. Property damage probably will amount to more than \$750,000.

Stover, Morgan county, Missouri, still was cut off from communication today and it was impossible to confirm reports that six persons were killed.

The death list was added to by reports from Uniontown, Bourbon county, Kansas, which said four persons had been killed there. Clean, Missouri, reported the death of John Farris and wife, who lost their lives when a tornado wrecked their home. Two deaths and the injury of thirty persons were reported from Arthur, Mo.

The wind swept a path four miles long and a quarter of a mile wide near Port Scott, Kan., razing all buildings in its path.

The little town of Berlin, in Bourbon county, Kan., which recently petitioned state officials to change its name, was badly damaged.

All of the Kansas storms broke during the daylight. Black clouds gave people ample warning and most of them were able to get into storm cellars.

LAND GRANT BILL NOW COMPLETE

WASHINGTON, April 20.—The Oregon-California land grant bill, designed to reserve to the federal government title to 2,300,000 unsold acres of the original grant to the Southern Pacific railroad, was completed today by the lands committee and probably will be introduced in the house tomorrow. It has the approval of the interior, agricultural and justice departments.

Provision is made for the institution of suits to determine what amount, if any, is due the railroad company.

The land would be divided into four classes—waterpower sites, mineral, timber and agricultural.

BESIEGED BRITISH IN CRITICAL SITUATION

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 20.—The war office announces that the position of the British army which is being besieged at Kut-el-Amara is becoming very critical and that the British commander has ordered the evacuation of the British population to evacuate the town on account of the severity of food.

WITHDRAWAL OF VILLA'S PURSUERS DEPENDS ON SCOTT

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., April 20.—Early withdrawal of the troops sent into Mexico as a punitive expedition or the authorization of military operations on a large scale must be the result of General Hugh L. Scott's investigation of the situation, in the opinion of army officers here.

General Pershing is not pushing his campaign against Villa and will not until he gets from headquarters authority and facilities to operate more freely. Officers here believe the facts in the case, showing the futility of extending operations along the existing lines, will convince Secretary Baker's envoy of the hopelessness of further pursuit unless the commanding officer in Mexico is given more effective backing.

Villa, if he is yet alive, can be caught, officers here believe, but only if the adoption of a plan that Mexicans generally almost certainly would characterize as a war. Army officers are convinced further operations must be undertaken with the understanding that armed opposition from both factions will be met.

General Pershing is holding intact his 10,000 men stretched from Columbus to points almost 400 miles from the border. The mobile cavalry detachments that have been securing the district beyond Satevo now are in easy communication with the main column and will hold their positions for the present.

General Pershing has sent through several reports in the last forty-eight hours, but General Funston has not made them public.

NAVAL INCREASE PROVIDED BY BILL

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Substantial increases in the fighting personnel of the navy are made in the naval appropriation bill, determined upon by the house naval subcommittee. The full committee will meet next Thursday to take up the bill as now drafted and to pass on the building program. The bill increases the enlisted force by between 12,000 and 14,000 and the marine by 2000. A new provision is incorporated for a medical corps of 2500 to 2000 men and for a general reorganization of the marine corps, with one major general commanding and three major general officers, and for a marine reserve.

There is considerable increase in the number of gunners with thirty-five or forty gunnery sergeants.

Civilians are authorized to be appointed from technical schools for service as engineers as recommended by the secretary of the navy.

An appropriation of \$1,500,000 is made for erection of a naval munitions plant, expected by the committee to cost ultimately between \$4,000,000 and \$4,000,000.

BRITAIN AVERTS CABINET CRISIS O'ERCOMPULSION

Compromise Agreement Reached Between Ministers on Subject of Recruiting—Reopen Voluntary Enlistment Scheme for Six Weeks, Then If Unsatisfactory, Compulsion.

LONDON, April 20.—It is stated authoritatively that a settlement has been reached in the cabinet crisis.

LONDON, April 20.—At a meeting today of the British cabinet an agreement was reached upon the proposals which the ministers will make to parliament on the subject of recruiting. Their proposals will be submitted at a secret session of each house of parliament on Tuesday. The foregoing was announced in an official statement issued this afternoon.

It is understood that a proposition advanced by Arthur Henderson, president of the board of education, and a labor leader, will have the effect of reopening the voluntary enlistment scheme for a month or six weeks and that this proposal was accepted in principle by the cabinet with a view to ascertaining whether sufficient men would come forward for military service without the introduction of general compulsion.

Demands of Labor.

The labor members, however, demanded that all facts and figures regarding the military situation and requirements shall be submitted to the house of commons before they consent to any measure of universal conscription. This has not been officially confirmed.

Up to yesterday the labor members had steadfastly refused to listen to any proposition concerning universal conscription. It is understood, however, that at the cabinet meeting yesterday when the ministry was about to be disrupted, Arthur Henderson made a compromise proposal for a further trial of the voluntary service which was to be followed by compulsion if the necessary number of men demanded by the army council was not forthcoming.

The announcement that the cabinet crisis has been settled will bring great relief to a majority of the British people. The prospect of a general election or any change in the administration at one of the important stages of the war was recognized as dangerous.

Propose Alternative.

Attacks upon the cabinet have been confined to a small group of London newspapers which have a wide popular circulation and to a few politicians.

The only alternative to the present cabinet proposed was one to be headed by David Lloyd George, minister of munitions, or by Sir Edward Carson, the Ulster unionist leader, and, according to political observers, a considerable portion of the people lack confidence in the stability and capacity of both.

A large majority of the provincial newspapers this morning strongly demanded a continuance of the present cabinet and their voice often is a better index of the nation's views than is the London press. The crisis which now is overcome or postponed undoubtedly has brought the government nearer to a dissolution than any of the previous difficulties.

LATEST CONFIDENCE GAME YET INVENTED

CHICAGO, April 20.—The very latest in confidence games was revealed here today through the arrest of Harry Watson by agents of the department of justice. Watson, it is said, rode in and out of Chicago on passenger trains questioning passengers as to what kind of money they carried. When he found unsuspecting persons carrying Canadian money, it is alleged, he informed them that it was unlawful to transport British money from one state to another and he would take the money. His arrest came as the result of a complaint of a passenger, who said Watson "embezzled" \$100 of his Canadian money.

MEXICO MOVES MILITARY INTO PARRAL REGION

Troop Movements Hint to American Forces to Get Out—Made Without Carranza's Knowledge, Indicating That De Facto Government Has Not Full Control Over Army.

EL PASO, Tex., April 20.—Francisco Villa passed through Troya, about twenty-five miles east of Parral, two days before the engagement between American and Carranza troops, reports received here today said.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Official advices to the state department today noting recent movements of Carranza troops from Chihuahua to the Parral region, caused concern among administration officials. The dispatches expressed the opinion that the movement was intended as a hint to the American forces that they might expect at least a show of opposition if they sought to penetrate farther into Mexico than their present position. It was added, however, that there was every indication that the movement was made without the knowledge of General Carranza.

No estimate as to the number of men involved was communicated. Officials here, however, basing their figures on previous reports as to the strength of various Carranza garrisons in the vicinity, believe it could not have exceeded 1500 men. According to the dispatches, it was the purpose of the commander who ordered the move to establish the force south of the most advanced position of General Pershing's troops near Parral.

Army Without Discipline.

The most important aspect in the official viewpoint here, it was intimated, is the indication that the de facto government has not full control over all its military forces.

It was learned authoritatively today that the United States has acknowledged through Special Agent Rodgers at Mexico City the receipt of General Carranza's note suggesting the withdrawal of the American troops. The instructions to Mr. Rodgers went forward some days ago. General Carranza was informed that his argument was being given serious consideration.

Another message today told of additional brigandage in the Mazatlan region, which Americans are leaving. The disorder was described as due to bands of thieves taking advantage of disturbed conditions.

General Carranza, the department has been informed, has framed a new mining law making some concession to the mining companies. It is believed by those who have studied its details here that it will not prove satisfactory to mining interests generally. The tax law of March 1, 1915, is replaced under the new law.

Nothing on Villa.

There were no official messages to the state or war departments dealing with the reported death of Francisco Villa.

A message to the Mexican embassy last night and press reports said General Obregon, the war minister, was inclined to place confidence in reports that a search party of two Mexican officials and an American officer had examined the grave, General Obregon has been described previously as very dubious of Villa's death and if he has now changed that view officials feel he must have new information.

The war department had received no confirmation of press reports that a shipment of hay via the Mexican Northwestern had been seized by Carranza officials.

GUNMEN CONVICTED OF MURDERING BAFF

NEW YORK, April 20.—Giuseppe Archella and Frank Ferrara, recently convicted of the murder of Barney Baff, the poultry dealer who was shot to death at the alleged instigation of rivals in November, 1914, were sentenced to die in the electric chair this week of May 24.