



BRITISH CONTINUE GAINS, ARRAS DRIVE

1000 YARD GAIN AT VIMY RIDGE MADE IN STORM

British Capture Two Important Positions and Take Eleven More Guns—Intensity of Fighting Increases—Germans Re-Inforced—British Bring Up Big Guns.

LONDON, April 12.—The British captured early this morning two important positions in the enemy's lines north of the Vimy ridge and are now astride of the River Souchez, according to an official statement issued by the war office. A number of prisoners were taken. The statement says the weather conditions continue wet and stormy.

1000 Yard Gain.

LONDON, April 12.—About 1000 yards of trenches south of Farnbus wood in the region southeast of Vimy were captured by the British this morning, Reuter's correspondent telegraphs from the front. A hill south-east of Wancourt also was captured. The British yesterday took eleven additional guns in the fighting between Croisilles and the Scarpe.

The dispatch reads: "The latest news this morning is that we occupied about 1000 yards of trenches running south from the commandant's house to the southward of Farnbus wood and have cleared the ground to the bank of the Cojeul river. We also occupied a German trench running southeast from Neuville-Vitasse and have taken Hill No. 90, lying southeast of Wancourt. "Between Croisilles and the River Scarpe our troops captured eleven more guns in the course of yesterday's fighting.

"The enemy is shelling our new positions beyond Vimy ridge."

Increase in Intensity.

"The past 24 hours has been marked by a general increase in the intensity of the fighting. The Germans appear to have been reinforced in the positions upon which the British assaults have driven them back and are offering desperate resistance to the heavy British pressure.

"Various counter attacks were launched, but with the exception of Bullecourt these met with no success. Fighting for the key positions at Monchy-le-Preux was very bitter, but with the British retaining all their gains and consolidating the position.

"Time now is required to get forward the big guns and to make good the communications before attempting another great stroke."

PARIS, April 12.—In an attack (Continued on Page Two.)

RAILROADS MERGED FOR WAR PURPOSES

WASHINGTON, April 12.—National transportation facilities of the principal railroads of the United States during the war will be merged voluntarily and operated under the general directions of a central executive committee of seven, co-operating closely with the government in handling troops military supplies and general commodities.

This committee consists of Fairfax of the Southern, chairman; Howard Elliott, of the New Haven; Samuel Hoen, of the Pennsylvania; Hale Holden of the Burlington and Julius Kruttschnitt, of the Southern Pacific—all named yesterday at a meeting of railroad heads here, when the plan was devised; Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore and Ohio, and chairman of the council of national defense's advisory board, ex-officio members and one other to be appointed by the inter-state commerce commission.

GREAT ARMADA OF SHIPS BUILT TO FOIL U-BOATS

Colossal Campaign to Break Down German Submarine Blockade and Keep Entente Plentifully Supplied With Food and Munitions Determined Upon by President.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—A colossal campaign to break down the German submarine blockade and keep the entente plentifully supplied with food, clothing and munitions has been determined upon by President Wilson as America's first physical stroke against her enemy.

Unable now to send an army into the trenches, the president believes the United States can do an even greater service in the common cause against Germany by providing a great armada of merchantmen to invalidate the undersea campaign about which have been rallied the fading hopes of Prussian conquest.

Details Complete.

For weeks officials have been at work on such a plan but not until today was it revealed on how great a scale the task had been projected or how great importance was attached to it in the administration's general war program. Virtually every detail now has been completed and by fall the campaign itself will be in full swing. Many officials believe it may attain a supremacy over the submarine which will prove the decisive victory of the great war.

Quickly built light wooden ships of 2000 tons and upwards are to make up the fleet of merchantmen and to insure maximum construction the shipping board has enlisted the country's entire shipbuilding facilities, now the greatest in the world. Upwards of a hundred private plants on all the coasts will help, giving the board's orders precedence over every other class of work except the most urgent naval construction. For the first year production is expected to reach an average of three ships a day.

Goethals to Supervise.

General Goethals, builder of the Panama canal, has been selected to supervise the construction program which is expected to involve within the next year a total tonnage of three million tons, or more than now is building in all the shipyards of the world.

The ships will cost about \$300,000 each, be equipped with oil burning engines and carry a crew of about 35 men. They will also be armed.

The first of the vessels are to be ready in about six months and during the year following the number afloat is expected to pass 1,000.

In their calculations the president and the shipping board have had the advice of allied naval authorities and have computed carefully the ability of the German U-boats to cope with large numbers of merchantmen. They are convinced that by building ships of only two thousand or three thousand tons and forcing Germany to pay with a torpedo for each one sent to the bottom, the United States soon can exhaust the resources of the sub-

(Continued on Page Two.)

FERRYBOAT STRIKE AT SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO, April 12.—A ferryboat strike, long threatened, tied up half the trans-bay facilities here today. Some 25,000 commuters found their usual connections out of business.

Engineers and officers on the boats of the San Francisco-Oakland Terminal Railways company (Key Route) operating to Oakland and Alameda, failed to appear for work, pending a settlement of a demand for different hours of labor. The men left work as individuals, not as a unit. Southern Pacific ferryboats were not affected.

GUNS RUSHED TO COAST FORTIFICATIONS, "SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA."



This picture shows the method of moving great coast defense cannon from the steel foundries to the coast forts where they are to be placed to defend the country from the German fleet. Note the construction of the special make of car on which this gun is moved. Each truck consists of 14 wheels, and the cannon is mounted on a super-truck swung above the smaller cars. This photograph was taken somewhere in Pennsylvania.

AMERICAN SHIP SUNK OFF SARDINIA BY A SUBMARINE

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The American schooner Marguerite of New York, was captured and presumably sunk by a submarine 35 miles southwest of Sardinia on April 4, and her crew, including one American, exposed for forty-six hours, in open boats. A dispatch to the state department today from Ambassador Sharp at Paris, forwarded the information from the American consul at Tunis. The ship made no attempt to escape or resist and was refused all aid by the submarine.

Ambassador Sharp's dispatch follows: "Consul at Tunis on the tenth reports schooner Marguerite, New York, 1553 tons Cagliari in Algeri in ballast, Charles W. Willard, South Portland, Maine, master, only American on board, reported captured and probably sunk by submarine, unknown nationality, 35 miles southwest Sardinia, April 4, 8 p. m. No resistance or attempt to escape. No ships in sight. Ten minutes notice. Strong wind. Tow refused. Forty-six hours in open boats, picked up by French torpedo boat, landed by Bizerto. No casualties. Papers held by submarine. Total crew of 12 shipped Marseilles."

JOFFRE COMING TO UNITED STATES FOR WAR COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Official dispatches on the coming of the French and British commissions to discuss the conduct of the war only mention the possibility that General Joffre may accompany former Premier Viviani of France but do not give any definite announcement.

An impression conveyed in some quarters that the entente commissioners would seek to bind the United States to the general arrangement not to negotiate a separate peace is generally discounted here. It has been stated that the United States will not enter into an alliance in the old world sense of the term but will commit itself to unlimited participation in the war until the aims which President Wilson announced are achieved.

An impression has been created that the United States will feel itself free to judge when that moment has arrived and will not commit itself over and above its own aims in the war to an unlimited participation.

GERMAN BREAD RATION TO BE CUT ONE-FOURTH APR. 15

LONDON, April 12.—The food situation in dominating all other considerations in Germany, according to the Berlin Vorwaerts as quoted in an Amsterdam dispatch to the Central News.

The Vorwaerts says: "Notwithstanding all the big events the new food regulations which are to be introduced on April 15 from the exclusive subject of discussion in the most considerable circles of the people. The nearer the fateful day approaches the greater becomes the tension. A diminution in the bread ration forms serious difficulty for the entire population and causes great preoccupation."

Some weeks ago the German newspapers announced that the bread ration would be reduced by one-fourth beginning April 15 owing to the scarcity of wheat. It was stated that the potato ration would be continued at five pounds weekly and that 250 grammes weekly would be added to the meat ration. Surprise and consternation were expressed by the press over the prospect and the Berlin Volks Zeitung declared that it would mean that for many the limits of the bearable had been exceeded. The bread reduction was ordered, it was stated, as a necessary step to ensure the lasting of the present stocks until the next harvest.

UNITED STATES NAVY TO PATROL ATLANTIC LANES

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Vice-Admiral Browning of the British navy and Rear Admiral De Grasse of the French navy, conferred today with Secretary Daniels and Admiral Benson, chief of operations in co-operation between the allied navies for the conduct of war. Both foreign commanders came to the United States on their flagships.

The first step by the United States navy in taking up its part of the war operations will be to take over the Atlantic and Caribbean path patrols hitherto maintained by British and French ships. No announcement of the results of the conference was made.

Eventually American ships probably will relieve those of the allies in all north and south Atlantic waters on this side of the world.

It is assumed the visiting officers furnished much first hand information as to the steps the entente powers have found most effective in dealing with the submarine peril.

AMERICAN AID FOR NEW RUSSIAN REGIME OFFERED

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Efforts of the American government are being directed toward assisting the newly democratized government in Russia to strengthen its position, lessen internal troubles and quickly bring Russia's latent forces to bear against Germany.

Reports to the government say the difficulties of Russia are many and that Germany's principal object is either to bring about a separate peace with that nation, or, failing in that, to stir up internal troubles and exert unusual military pressure from without.

One of the principal objects of the administration's desire for expedition in getting authority from congress for a large bond issue is to extend a loan to the new Russian government.

Other ways of helping Russia are being studied. Charles R. Crane of Chicago, close personal friend of President Wilson, long interested in developments in Russia, is now on his way to that country.

The needs of France, Great Britain and the other members of the entente alliance are not being forgotten and everything possible will be done for them, but they are understood to agree that Russia should get assistance first.

MONTH IN PRISON FOR REPLYING TO GERMAN OFFICER

HAYRE, April 12.—A well authenticated incident which occurred recently during a German court-martial in Belgium has become known here. M. Paul Terlincken, Baroness of Rixensart, appeared before the court charged with shielding a wounded Frenchman for which he was condemned to twelve months imprisonment.

His daughter, Baroness de Coninek, a young married woman, whose husband is at the front, was present at the hearing. A German officer sat down behind her, saying: "I believe madame I have met you before."

Baroness de Coninek replied: "You are mistaken, that you greatly resemble an English woman whom I knew well," replied the officer.

"Evidently you mean Miss Cavell," retorted the baroness.

For this answer she was sentenced to one month in prison.

ARRAS BATTLE SUPREME ONE OF THE CONFLICT

General Maurice, Chief Director of British Army, Declares Present Offensive Conducted According to Plans Made in February and Gains Already Greatest Recorded.

LONDON, April 12.—That the Arras conflict will develop shortly into the greatest battle of the war was the prediction made by Major General F. B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the war office, in his weekly interview with the Associated Press today.

General Maurice declared the present British offensive was being conducted according to plans completed in February, thereby controverting the claims of the Germans that their retreat had upset the British schedule and that the Teutonic military authorities control the situation.

The British losses during the first two days of the offensive were only half what they had been in the corresponding time in the Somme offensive, General Maurice declared.

Planned in February.

"We have heard a great deal about the Von Hindenburg retreat," said General Maurice, "it has been claimed the retreat was according to plan and that as a result the British calculations had been upset and the Germans were in a position to give battle whenever they desired."

"Let me tell you how much the British plans were upset. On February 20 I was in France and at the time saw on paper the plans for the very offensive which the British are now carrying out, including the assault on Vimy ridge. Arrangements had been made at that time to begin the attack on April 8, but this was postponed until the ninth on account of the weather. This shows that we are conducting our affairs according to schedule. Things are going well and the prospects look bright."

Line Not Weakened.

"That the Germans had not only not weakened their line in this section, but had strengthened it, they call attention to the fact that we took 10,000 prisoners in the first 24 hours, which is the greatest number we have taken in a corresponding time and is indicative of the strength of the Germans here."

General Maurice's attention was called to the fact that the German military experts were claiming the battle of Arras to be the decisive conflict of the war.

"I suppose the experts have got to have something to write about," said the general with a laugh, "but it is impossible to say at this time that the battle will be the decisive one. It may be stated with certainty, however, that the battle of Arras will have a far-reaching effect."

ANALYZE POWDER IN SHRAPNEL SHELLS

CHESTER, Pa., April 12.—Experts today are analyzing powder in the shrapnel shells at the works of the Eddystone Ammunition corporation, Eddystone, Pa., with the hope of establishing beyond doubt the cause of the series of explosion which killed 122 persons at the plant Tuesday.

There is a theory that if a plot existed, an acid capsule might have been dropped into a shell in the charging room. An investigation by the authorities includes a probe into the theory of defective materials.

So far there is no definite evidence that the disaster was the work of alien plotters. The authorities have been told however, of an anonymous warning said to have been sent workers in the plant and of other notes and letters said to have forecast the tragedy.

U. S. WELCOMED AS BELLIGERENT BY LLOYD GEORGE

Luncheon Held to Celebrate Entrance of America into War—Three Years of Blunders to Profit by—Absolute Assurance of Victory Found in Word "Ships."

LONDON, April 12.—Addressing the American Luncheon club today, Premier Lloyd-George said the advent of the United States into the war had given the final stamp and seal to the character of the conflict, which was a struggle against military autocracy.

The premier said he was not surprised that America had taken time to make up her mind as to the character of the struggle, having regard to the fact that most of the great wars in Europe in the past had been waged for dynasty aggrandizement and conquest.

Early in the war, Mr. Lloyd-George continued, the United States did not comprehend what had been endured in Europe for years from the military caste in Prussia. Saying that Prussia was not a democracy, but that Emperor William had promised it would be after the war, he added: "I think the Kaiser is right."

Celebrates U. S. Entrance.

The luncheon, held to celebrate the entrance of the United States into the war brought together the most distinguished gathering in the history of the club. The guests included Chancellor Bonar Law, Colonel Winston, Spencer Churchill, Lord Reading, General Smuts, Lord Derby, Lord Bryce, Walter Hume Long, the Italian ambassador, Marquis Imperiali di Francavilla, the Cuban minister, Garcia y Velez, and Herbert C. Hoover, chairman of the American commission for relief in Belgium.

Premier Lloyd-George, the guest of honor, delivered the principal speech, after a brief introduction by Ambassador Page. The premier received a tremendous ovation when he entered the room. Toasts were drunk to President Wilson and King George.

The premier said he was happy in the position of being the first British minister of the crown speaking on behalf of the people of the country to salute the American nation as comrades in arms. He was glad and proud, he rejoiced, as a democrat, he declared, at the advent of the United States in this conflict.

Three Years of Blunders.

"In three years were tried every kind of blunder," said Mr. Lloyd-George.

"We got into every bunker. But now we have got a good niblick stroke and we are right out into the course."

"It is worth America's while to study our blunders and begin where we are now. I am so glad the United States is sending naval and military experts to this country to exchange views with men who have been through three anxious years of war."

Absolute assurance of victory, the premier said, was to be found in the word "ships." He saw that the United States realized this fully and had arranged to build a thousand ships for the Atlantic.

Field Marshal von Hindenburg, the premier went on, had declared that German submarines would put Eng-

(Continued on Page Two.)

RUSSIA SEIZES ALL GRAIN CROP RESERVES

LONDON, April 12.—A Petrograd dispatch to Reuter's says that the provisional government has ordered all reserves of the 1916 harvest of corn and cereals which are fit for fodder to be placed at the disposal of the state. The entire reserves of the 1917 harvest, except what is required for seed and the needs of families of the peasants, has also been appropriated.