



WEATHER—Maximum yesterday, 49; minimum today, 33. Precipitation, trace. FORECAST—Tonight and tomorrow, showers.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE



Forty-seventh Year.
Daily—Twelfth Year.

MEDFORD OREGON, MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1917.

NO. 2

FRENCH OPEN GREAT OFFENSIVE IN WEST

BRITISH TAKE ST. QUENTIN ALSO LENS

French Begin Great Drive in Champagne Sector—British Capture Villaret and Are Fighting in the Streets of Lens and St. Quentin, Though Neither City Has Yet Fallen—Large Captures of Guns and War Material Made.

LONDON, April 16.—“News of the opening of the great French offensive has spread like wildfire through the British forces,” telegraphs Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters in France today.

No official announcement from Paris of a widespread offensive movement by the French has been made. The indications have been, however, that an offensive was about to be opened by General Nivelle's forces in the sector between Soissons and the Champagne, where the artillery battle has been raging violently for several days. Today's German headquarters' report hints that the battle has started.

LONDON, April 16.—The British captured last night the village of Villaret, south of Hargicourt, according to an official statement issued by the British war office. They also made progress northwest of Lens.

Large captures of guns and war material were made by the British at Lievin and on the Zouche river in the Lens region; the statement announces. The cannon taken include a six inch naval gun of long range. Truck loads of new tools, many thousands of rounds of ammunition and quantities of bombs, grenades and engineering equipment also were captured.

Official Statement
The statement reads:
“We captured the village of Villaret, south of Hargicourt, and progressed northwest of Lens.

“Full particulars of the booty we took at Lievin and on the Zouche river are unavailable, but the fact is established that our captures were exceedingly large, including a long-range six-inch naval gun, many thousands of rounds of ammunition of all calibres up to eight-inch, a number of trench mortars and great quantities of bombs and grenades of all kinds. In addition, truckloads of new tools, many lengths of tramlines with tracks complete and two large engineering dumps have fallen intact into our possession.

Bavarian Losses Heavy.
“The attack at Monchy-Le-Preux on the 14th was pressed by the enemy with great determination. The third Bavarian division which was brought down to resist our offensive during the battle of Loos in 1915 and later took part in the fighting near High Wood during the Somme battle of 1916 was again hurried down to reinforce the divisions already in line. It was ordered to retake Monchy-Le-

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GENERAL STRIKE AND RIOTING IS REPORTED IN GERMAN CAPITAL

LONDON, April 16.—Travelers arriving in Holland from Germany, according to a dispatch from Amsterdam to the Central News agency, say that a general strike was commenced this morning in Berlin, and that riots have taken place in the German capital.

BRITISH WIDEN GAPS SLICED IN GERMAN LINE

St. Quentin Continues to Burn and Lens Still Holds Out, Though Both Cities Largely in Possession of the British—Desperate Fighting in Progress Along Entire Line.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, April 16.—The British continued today gradually to widen the second gap cut in the Hindenburg line north of St. Quentin, having captured the position known as the Three Savages, east of Griecourt. St. Quentin continues to burn. Away to the north, Lens still holds out. The Germans have several strong positions about the city to which they still cling.

The British apparently would like to take Lens without inflicting too great damage from an extensive bombardment. They have always been in a position to reduce the city to ruins, but the shells have been directed against selected spots known to be used for military purposes by the Germans. Nevertheless the Germans continue their work of destroying the city by blowing up buildings.

Hand-to-Hand Fighting.
Further details of the fighting yesterday show the desperate character of several German attacks on the new British positions. The attack which was essayed from both sides of Queant and temporarily pierced the British line at Lagnicourt, was exceptionally bitter. It began at 4:30 o'clock Sunday morning and continued for three hours without interruption. British advanced posts were driven in, but the support units joined the issue with the Germans.

Many hand-to-hand encounters followed. There was also more actually aimed rifle shooting than for many months. During this fire the Germans fell in clumps. They attempted to seek cover behind bushes and in small thickets. The British fired into these with good results.

Break in Flight.
When the reserves came up at last the Germans broke into full flight. Hundreds of them were caught in their own wire entanglements as they attempted to regain their trenches and they died by scores. Prisoners were taken along the six-mile front of the German attack, more than 300 being brought in.

There was further fighting all day about Monchy Le Preux, east of Arras, which already had witnessed some fierce encounters since the battle of Arras began. Monchy in its way is a little Vimy ridge all by itself, standing sentinel as the last high ground over miles upon miles of plains sweeping eastward. The Germans held out there for two days after the Arras battle opened and have launched half a score of counter-attacks against it, without success. The place lends itself to counter-attacks because of outlying woods, where troops ordinarily could assemble unobserved.

Air Battles at Monchy.
There has been notable air fighting over Monchy and many machines have been brought down there in the last two days. Large German formations have attacked the British scouts, and the patter of machine guns overhead has been almost continuous during the daylight hours.

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BRITISH DEFEAT TURKS IN PERSIA

LONDON, April 16.—The British forces in Mesopotamia have driven back to their position on the Jebel-hairin hills the Turkish forces which made an advance from the hills beginning April 9, the war office announces.

FAMOUS WOMEN GATHER RECRUITS IN NEW YORK



Society and professional women have formed a volunteer recruiting organization in New York and are gathering in men fit for army and navy. Mrs. Cyrus Field is captain and Mrs. Samuel F. Streit, lieutenant of this company of women recruiting officers, called to motor squad of the city committee for women's service. Below, Miss Frances Starr, the famous actress, is shown starting with Miss Robinson Smith on a recruiting trip.

KUROPATKIN IS UNDER ARREST WITH HIS STAFF

TASKENT, Asiatic Russia, April 16.—General Alexi Kuropatkin, governor general of Turkistan; his assistant, General Yerofeff, and General Sivers, chief of staff, have been arrested by the council of soldiers' delegates.

General Buroff commander of the Siberian brigade and General Tsuomillen commanding the local brigade, also have been placed under arrest and confined to a guard room. The officers are charged with distributing arms to Russians in various districts for defense against natives in event of an attack. This action has been held to be of a provocative character.

The Cossack guards of General Kuropatkin appeared at the meeting of the soldiers delegates and announced they would not defend him.

Colonel Tcherkes, commandant of the town has been appointed temporary commander of the Turkistan troops.

General Kuropatkin has sent a telegram to the Russian premier and minister of war at Petrograd pointing out the necessity of distinct military and civilian jurisdiction. He asked that he be given command of the grenadier corps and sent to the front.

General Kuropatkin was appointed governor general of Turkistan last August. Five months earlier in the year he had been made commander in chief of the Russian armies on the northern front in succession to General Nicholas Ruzhik. Prior to that time he had acted as chief of the Russian grenadier corps. At the beginning of the Russo-Japanese war General Kuropatkin was in chief command of the Russian forces in Manchuria.

ALLEGED ARSONIST ARRIVES FOR TRIAL

Deputy Sheriff Paul Anderson returned from Eugene Sunday with Mrs. M. M. Garwood, who was arrested in that city with W. E. Hempel last Thursday in connection with the incendiary fire at the Strickfadden house in Ashland last March. She is now a prisoner at the county jail.

Sheriff Jennings is expected back Tuesday from Seattle with Mrs. Nan Snelkoff and Mrs. I. Dryfoos, others implicated in the same case, in custody. County Prosecutor Roberts will also return to Medford on Tuesday from Portland and Seattle.

GERMANS STILL RULING MEXICO AND ITS FINANCES

WASHINGTON, April 16.—Further evidences of German activities in Mexico, spreading anti-American and anti-entente propaganda and exerting German influences upon the Mexican government are contained in diplomatic dispatches passing through here to European capitals.

Funds of a number of foreign banks are reported to be in danger. Circulation of any matter at all favorable to the United States or the entente is disapproved by Mexican officials and the newspaper El Universal recently was suppressed because of publications disapproved by German agents. The public here and elsewhere have been summoned before a military tribunal.

Property of foreigners, Germans excepted, is said to be in constant danger; efforts of the German propagandists and agents being directed especially against materials which might be of assistance to the enemies of Germany. A writer of one of the dispatches says that he has information that 12,000 barrels of oil, the property of the Eagle Oil company, a British concern, has been burned at Mazatlan.

The German bank and the German legation in Mexico City are said in these reports to be dominating Mexican affairs more than ever; the former having intimately connected itself with Mexican finances and the latter guiding and advising the government.

BILL INCREASING ARMY GENERAL STAFF

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The bill increasing the army general staff, increasing machine gun companies, providing armored motor car companies for each division and to pay \$15 monthly to dependents of enlisted men in time of war and a half year's salary in case of their death was reported favorably today to the senate.

SARAH BERNHARDT TAKEN TO HOSPITAL
NEW YORK, April 16.—Sarah Bernhardt has been removed from her hotel here to a hospital, it was learned today. Her condition is not serious, physicians said, and denial was made of a report that she was to be operated on. The nature of her malady was not disclosed. The actress has been ill for several weeks. She is 71 years old.

WILSON PLEADS FOR UNITED ACTION FOR LARGER CROPS

WASHINGTON, April 16.—Fresh impetus was given to the nation-wide campaign for more food crops today by President Wilson's plea for unity of action in furthering America's success in the world war.

The president's appeal, addressed to his "fellow countrymen," urged all the people to join in making the nation a unit for the preservation of its ideals and for the triumph of democracy, but particularly emphasized the need of growers concentrating their energies on planting of crops so that the United States might fulfill its task of feeding the armies and peoples who are fighting Germany.

“Without abundant food, alike for the armies and the peoples at war,” said the appeal, “the whole great enterprise upon which we have embarked will fail. Upon the farmers of the country, therefore, in large measure, rests the fate of the war and the fate of the nations.”

APPROVES EXTENSION PACIFIC AND EASTERN

WASHINGTON, April 16.—General Bell wires Senator Chamberlain his approval of the proposal made by the mayor and Commercial club of Medford for connecting the railroad line from Butte Falls to Bend. “This line would be a valuable military asset,” said Bell, “and if the Medford proposition is practicable, I cordially recommend it.” He says the line over the Siskiyou is well guarded.

BRITISH TO ROUND-UP SLACKERS IN AMERICA

WASHINGTON, April 16.—One of the first efforts of the British commission coming to America, will be to round up all the slackers who have been avoiding military service by remaining in the United States and force them into either the American or British armies.

PRESIDENT TO SEE FOREIGNERS ON WEDNESDAY

British and French War Commissions to Be Received by Wilson and Participation of United States Outlined—Balfour on British and Joffre on French Board.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—It was announced today that President Wilson would meet the British commissioners coming to discuss conduct of the war at the white house on Wednesday. Foreign Minister Balfour heads the commission.

It was also announced that the president would receive the French commissioners on the same day if they have then arrived in the country. The French commission includes Premier Viviani, General Joffre and other distinguished Frenchmen.

Both sets of commissioners will be formally welcomed to the country by official delegations representing the army, the navy and the civil department of the government. Elaborate preparations have been made for their entertainment.

Vice-Admiral Chocheprat, dean of the French vice-admiralty, and because there are no admirals in the French navy of the highest rank in that service, will represent the French navy on the commission. This will make the commission consist of M. Viviani, minister of justice and former premier; Grand Marshal Joffre, representing the army; Vice-Admiral Chocheprat, of the navy, and Marquis Pierre de Chambrun, representing the French chambers.

Henry White, former American ambassador to France and Italy, has tendered the use of his home here, adjacent to the French embassy, for the accommodation of the French commission, and the offer has been accepted.

CROWDS AT FUNERAL OF DIAMOND JIM BRADY

NEW YORK, April 16.—Bankers, brokers, directors of corporations, lawyers, actors and actresses, sporting men and restaurant proprietors and people from the poor sections of the East Side who had been rebuffed by his benefactions were among the cosmopolitan throng which filled St. Agnes church to overflowing today at funeral services for James Buchanan Brady—“Diamond Jim.” Hundreds unable to enter the edifice remained in the street until the services were over.

CONSUL FROST IS GIVEN A PROMOTION

WASHINGTON, April 16.—Consul Wesley Frost at Queenstown, whose name has figured in more than a hundred reports of submarine outrages, today was advanced a grade in the consular service as a reward for his work.

Frost's first big case was the Lusitania, and his name has become well known to newspaper readers since.

\$200,000 FIRE AT ROCKAWAY PARK

NEW YORK, April 16.—Twelve cottages were destroyed by fire and twelve others damaged, with an estimated property loss of \$200,000 today at Rockaway Park; a residential section of Long Island. Members of the Home Defense league, organized after the war with Germany began, saved much threatened property by fighting the flames.

SENATE TO PASS SEVEN BILLION REVENUE BILL

Finance Committee Approves War Measure That Passed House Saturday—Minor Changes Made—War Embargo Bill Introduced—Merchant Ship Measure.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The \$7,000,000,000 revenue bill which has passed the house was approved today by the senate finance committee and will be taken up in the senate tomorrow for passage.

The committee vote was unanimous, and senate leaders expect to make an effort to put the bill through in one session.

Three minor changes were made in the bill as it came from the house. One in the title is to make more apparent its purpose of assisting in the prosecution of the war; another suggested by Secretary McAdoo is to permit funds raised under the measure to be deposited in banks not members of the federal reserve system. A third is to more clearly exempt certificates of indebtedness from taxation.

War Embargo Bill.
With the approval of the administration, Chairman Adamson of the house commerce committee today introduced a war embargo bill to empower the president to forbid export of any sort when he deems it in the public interest to do so.

Senator Swanson today introduced the administration bill to authorize the president to requisition merchant ships in time of war for compensation to be fixed by the government.

Senator McCumber introduced a resolution proposing creation of a new federal bureau composed of experts to study and stimulate invention of means to combat submarines.

Drastic penalties for damaging or obstructing railroad property are provided in a bill introduced by Senator Chamberlain. If death to passengers or trainmen result, those guilty would be subject to penalties for murder or manslaughter.

To Extend Prohibition.
Senator Culberson, chairman of the senate judiciary committee, today introduced the house bill proposing that the allies be permitted to recruit forces from their subjects residing in this country.

As a means to extend prohibition because of the war, Senator Kenyon introduced a bill increasing the internal revenue tax on distilled liquors to \$10 a gallon.

Senator Jones offered resolutions prohibiting liquor sales within twenty miles of any military training camp, sale of liquor to uniformed soldiers or sailors or knowingly to them when not in uniform.

DISCOVER PLOT TO DESTROY RAILROADS

DES MOINES, Ia., April 16.—United States secret service operatives, it was learned today, have been dispatched to Clarion, Ia., to investigate the fire which Sunday destroyed the Chicago, Great Western round house there.

Officials here stated that evidence had been obtained which pointed to the existence of a plot to destroy railroad buildings and equipment throughout the state in an effort to impede increased transcontinental transportation resulting from the declaration of war on Germany by the United States. The loss was estimated at \$5000.

AMSTERDAM, April 16.—The German Reichstag, according to the Cologne Gazette, will meet April 24 and continue until the end of May. Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg is expected during this session to make another statement in regard to Russia.