



MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE



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GERMANS FAIL TO CHECK FRENCH DRIVE

QUARTER MILLION FRESH TROOPS HURLED AGAINST FRENCH IN VAIN EFFORT TO STOP VICTORIOUS RUSH

Germany has thrown nearly a quarter of a million fresh troops into the fray on the sixty-mile sector of the western front between Soissons and Auberive, and still is unable to check the French advance.

Both north of the Aisne and in the Champagne, General Neville's forces are pressing forward. The last stronghold of the Germans on the Aisne was taken with the capture of the Vailly bridgehead yesterday, and their wavering lines continued last night to be pushed rapidly northward.

From Chavonne, on the Aisne, the French have driven more than three miles north of the river, despite desperate resistance by Von Hindenburg's reinforced armies.

In the Champagne the French have driven a great wedge more than three miles deep into the German lines between Rheims and Auberive, and last night's attacks netted General Nivelle's men several important heights in the Moronvilliers region.

Meanwhile the British are quiescent, so far as the official accounts show, awaiting their turn to strike the other flank of the Von Hindenburg line.

The French have so far taken more than 17,000 prisoners in their offensive. At last accounts the British had taken in excess of 14,000.

The French also have captured nearly 100 guns.

PARIS, April 19.—The Germans threw 12 new divisions (226,000 men) against the French between Soissons and Auberive last night. The war office announces they were unable to check the successful offensive of the French.

The French continued to make progress north of Vailly and Ostel, notwithstanding violent German attacks. The successes of the French in the Champagne were followed by further advances in the region of Moronvilliers. Several important heights and strong positions were taken.

Two more batteries of German artillery were captured on the front between Soissons and Auberive. The prisoners now total 17,000.

Hindenburg Line Shaken.

That section of Von Hindenburg's granite wall which runs from Soissons to Rheims has been shaken to its foundation by the terrific blows of General Nivelle. The French have the whip hand and the Germans are still staggering from the great rebuff dealt to them on Monday. The French soldiers who won the first line have been relieved by fresh formations and the second phase of the battle has begun with renewed vigor.

Unaffected by counter attacks in some places and the sturdy resistance offered everywhere, the French have gained substantial advantages and have driven forward with such speed that the Germans have been obliged to abandon many guns. The enemy made a desperate effort to stem the tide between Buvincourt and Berry-Au-Bac. This is the weakest point of his line, being devoid of natural defenses. Thirty thousand of the best German troops were hurled forward here in a furious counter attack but the move had been foreseen and the French guns were ready. Artillery and machine guns smashed wave after wave of the green-clad soldiers until finally the attempt was given up after awful carnage.

French Outclass Germans. Further details of yesterday's bat-

HOUSTON INVITES FARM ORGANIZATION

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Secretary Houston today invited the heads of the principal farmers' organizations to come here next Monday to confer on the food situation and give advice and suggestions as to the best means of increasing the supply.

tle from Soissons to Auberive show that the French infantry tactically outclassed the Germans. The French army, operated from Soissons to Craonne had established itself on Monday night along the front running from northeast of Margival and Vauxaillont to the south of Craonne by Vregny, Chives, Chavonne, Chivy and Ailles. North of the Chives-Chivy the enemy maintained all the heights and the footing had to be won thereon before the operation, auspiciously begun, could be properly completed.

Two simultaneous attacks were decided upon with Nanteuil-La-Fosse on the left, Chivy and Bray-En-Lainois on the right, as the respective objectives. The attacks succeeded perfectly notwithstanding the determined resistance of the enemy, who had all the advantage of the ground.

Bridgehead Is Won.

Driven out of Nanteuil and Bray, the Germans nevertheless still clung to the intermediate positions, comprising Vailly and the important bridgehead on the Aisne, by which they could threaten the French flank.

The movement was then extended to the bridgehead, which was soon carried and the attacking troops scaled the slope of the plateau north of Vailly. They advanced rapidly as far as Rouge Maison farm and a country house to the right, gaining several hundred yards of ground on the summit of the plateau. Substantial progress was also made east of Nanteuil and by the afternoon only one narrow gap was left through which the Germans could withdraw the troops in the region of Conde, Celles and Sancy. These detachments are in serious danger of capture.

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ASK PRESIDENT TO CHECK BUREAUCRACY

WASHINGTON, April 19.—An open letter to President Wilson, signed by twenty citizens, including Jane Adams, Amos Pinchot, Oswald Garrison Villard, Rabbi Wise and others, made public here today, asks President Wilson to make a statement "discouraging the too zealous spread of bureaucratic laws and activities which might tend to jeopardize the historic rights of free speech, press and right of assemblage during the war."

RUSSIA FIRM TO FINISH WAR SAYS MILUKOFF

"Allies Need Have No Fear Russia Will Desert Alliance or Weaken Her Resistance to Enemy," Says Foreign Minister—Free Russia Is Doubly Strong.

PETROGRAD, April 19.—"Russia's allies need have no fear she will desert the alliance or weaken her resistance to the enemy," Professor Paul Milukoff, the foreign minister, said today in answer to representatives of British and French workmen who are now in Petrograd.

"We understood that at the moment of the revolution you might have feared that we would lose our strength for resistance," said the foreign minister. "I beg you to announce to your countrymen that free Russia has become doubly strong through democratization."

"Thorough democratization of Russia will overcome all sufferings which war entails; despite the revolution, we stand firmly for the principal object which was imposed on us. Russia will continue the crusade for annihilation of German militarism with the greatest intensity, for our ideals is to prevent all possibility of war in the future. Our present problem, consists of organizing our force, shaken by the revolution. We shall encounter the enemy with redoubled strength, confident of victory."

Peace Plot Denounced.

PETROGRAD, April 19.—The Russian press considers the semi-official German and Austro-Hungarian notes concerning the possibility of conciliating the war aims of the central powers with those of Russia as a "base, treacherous and hypocritical" maneuver. The Reich, in reiterating that the Russian provisional government is pursuing no aims of conquest, declares it is fully and entirely in agreement with the views expressed by the representatives of the other entente powers.

"The enemy precipitately deduces a Russian desire for a separate peace, in these notes scarcely more clever than the proclamations thrown into the Russian trenches inviting the peasants to return to their villages and share the estates of the landowners," says the newspaper. "These notes will have no better success than the proclamations in the naive attempt to embroil Russia with her allies."

Struggle to Continue.

Emphasizing the "monstrous sophism" of the Austrian declaration that the aim of the dual monarchy is to give the peoples the right to regulate their own destinies—the war aim announced by the Russian provisional government—the Reich continues:

"Our enemies are trying to avoid any concrete indication of their aims, just as they abstained from replying to the definite appeal by President Wilson."

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NICARAGUA FOR ENTENTE ALLIES

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Nicaragua has aligned herself with the Latin-American nations endorsing the entry of the United States into the war with Germany, it was announced today.

Reports of anti-German riots in Argentine, wholesale dismissal of nationals of the central powers from government workshops and arsenals and the order to German residents to evacuate a certain suburban zone of Buenos Aires are construed here as indicative of the difficulty the Argentine government will have in preventing itself being forced by its own people into an open break with Germany.

HER HUSBAND, WHO THOUGHT HE WOULDN'H HAVE TO GO TO WAR, GETS FOOLED



ORDERS PLACED FOR 6000 LEWIS GUNS FOR UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Emergency orders for 6000 Lewis machine guns for the navy and army have been placed by the government although the American-made weapon which has been the subject of such bitter controversy, has not been adopted as the standard light machine gun for the army.

Tests of the Lewis and other light weapons will take place May 1, it was stated at the department, as a result of which a final decision will be reached. The Lewis gun, once rejected by the American government, has become one of the factors of entente armaments on the western front.

For the army 1300 guns have been ordered, that being the limit of available funds for the purchase. Another 1700 will be ordered as soon as additional funds are voted in the pending army appropriations act. The marine corps ordered 2000 guns some time ago and an additional 1000 have been ordered for the navy.

BELL TO COMMAND EASTERN DIVISION

SAN FRANCISCO, April 19.—Major General J. Franklin Bell, commander of the western department of the U. S. army will leave here Monday, he announced today, for New York to take charge of the eastern department of the army. Until Major General Hunter Liggett arrives about May 1 from the Philippines, General Wm. Sibert will command the western department.

COLORADO MANTLED BY HEAVY SNOW

MONTROSE, Colo., April 19.—Southwest Colorado was mantled today in from one to three feet of snow. Train service is paralyzed, many trains being snowbound on the roads. Twenty-four inches fell at Ouray; thirty at Telluride; thirty six at Silverton.

NEW BRIDEGROOMS TO BE DRAFTED SAME AS THE UNMARRIED MEN

WASHINGTON, April 19.—The following announcement was issued today in regard to men who have married since the outbreak of war: "The war department announces that men married since the outbreak of war will be treated upon the same basis as unmarried men insofar as their military obligations are concerned. It is desired that the utmost publicity be given by the press to this announcement."

GERMANY PERMITS EXILES TO RETURN

COPENHAGEN, April 19.—The German government has granted permission to a second delegation of Russian exiles to return to Russia from Switzerland. This time fifteen social revolutionists of the extreme radical type will be repatriated. The earlier delegations were social-democrats of a milder persuasion. The fifteen exiles are headed by Nathanson, who next to Prince Koropatin, is the oldest Russian revolutionist of prominence. Nathanson was one of the leaders in the original revolutionary party of "the people's will." While Koropatin was a nihilist, Nathanson and his colleagues are extreme peace apostles.

PATRIOTS DAY IS OBSERVED IN BOSTON

BOSTON, April 19.—Patriots' day was observed with more than usual enthusiasm today. The principal event was the trip of a horseback rider impersonating Paul Revere, over the route from Boston to Lexington and the outskirts of Concord, followed by the revolutionary patriot who warned the Middlesex county farmers of the approach of the British troops in 1775.

GERMANS ADMIT RETREAT BECAUSE 'LINES UNSUITABLE'

BERLIN, April 19.—The battle in the Champagne northwest of Auberive yesterday continued into the night, says today's official announcement. This morning the fighting increased in intensity as a result of the introduction of fresh troops.

Near Ville Aux Bois, the statement says, "the forest position became unsuitable to us, and we established ourselves in a rearward line." A local French attack near Brave En Lannois succeeded, the statement says, but assaults on the elevated front along the Chemin-Des-Dames and near Craonne failed.

Documents captured from the French indicate far-reaching objects of the French attack launched on Monday, the communication adds. At no point were the hopes of the French realized. Their troops only approximately attained their tactical aims, to say nothing of their strategic objects.

KENNEDY WINNER AMERICAN MARATHON

BOSTON, April 19.—William Kennedy, of New York, today won the American marathon, the champion long distance running event of the country. Seventy runners from various parts of the United States, Canada and Greece, were entered and more than 100,000 spectators were gathered along the 25-mile course.

Sidney B. Hatch, Chicago, was second; Clarence H. DeMar, Boston, third; Hannes Kolehmainen, Brooklyn, N. Y., fourth.

PERMIT PRESIDENT TO ISSUE DRY EDICT

WASHINGTON, April 19.—House democrats in caucus today voted to consider at the present session of congress the Howard bill to permit the president to prohibit the sale or manufacture of liquor during the war. Representative Smith's proposal to consider a general rivers and harbors bill was rejected.

PRESS CENSOR BILL OPPOSED AS AUTOCRACY

Espionage Bill Under Debate—Provides \$10,000 Fine and Ten Years' Imprisonment for Publication of Matters of National Defense—Declared an Attack on Free Speech.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Senate debate on the administration espionage bill continued today with the fate of a press censorship still in doubt. This section of the bill provides a ten-year imprisonment or a fine of \$10,000 for persons who collect, publish or elicit information concerning matters of national defense which might be of use to the enemy, in violation of the regulations by the president.

Senator Borah contended that congress was devoid of power to interfere in any way with the liberty of the press. He also declared the framers of the constitution were agreed that the national government should be excluded absolutely from all power over the press. The first constitutional amendment, he said, was added to make certain that interference with liberty of the press by the federal government was expressly denied.

Borah Opposes Bill.

Regarding the contention that national safety makes a censorship necessary now, Senator Borah said: "The public interest has always been the basis for all attacks upon the press. Kings and dictators have suppressed publications because they believe them against public interest."

Senator Thomas of Colorado proposed to strike out virtually the entire so-called "censorship" section, but action was deferred.

Senator Johnson of California opposed the whole section as a blow at free speech as well as at a free press. "My opinion is not so much because of tenderness for the press," said Senator Johnson. "A decent and self-respecting press in time of war will censor itself and will not be deterred by any law from honest and legitimate criticism."

Free Speech at Issue.

"I am concerned mostly with the right of free speech, the preservation of democracy itself. This is not a partisan war. It is an American war of all our American people, and America is the light of all the world of democracy."

"We have already conferred almost autocratic powers financially. We will probably confer extensive other powers on the president. But we must stop short of an assault upon democracy."

"The censorship section gives the president power to prescribe what people shall speak and write, and is drawn with nebulous and elastic language," Senator Johnson concluded. "The powers conferred, even upon an officer, no matter how high and highly respected, constitute an excursion into autocracy and one that cannot be excused by our desire to destroy autocracy in Europe."

MARSHALL FIELD III ENLISTS IN CAVALRY

CHICAGO, April 19.—Marshal Field III, one of Chicago's richest young men, arrived from New York to enlist as a private in the First Illinois cavalry. He will draw \$15 a month.

"I believe every young man of my age—23—should enlist," he said. "My wife thinks as I do. There is a lot of flar raising in New York, but more real recruiting is being done in the middle west."

"I think the young of the country will do their duty, but there is no doubt that conscription is the fairest and most efficient method of raising an army."