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## GERMANS FAIL TO HALT FRENCH DRIVE ON AISNE

Gradually, But Surely, All Salients Along Front Are Being Crushed—Ft. Conde Captured—Violent Fighting Continues, With French Keeping Initiative.

PARIS, April 20.—The failure of the Germans to resist the pressure of the French is the outstanding feature of the operations to date in the great offensive on the Aisne and in the Champagne. It is clear that General Nivelle's armies are in no danger of losing the initiative and that gradually but surely all the salients along the Soissons-Aubervie front are being crushed.

The principal salient to which the enemy had long formed an angle where the front, running south from St. Quentin, hinged to the line running eastward toward Rheims. Caught in a vise by the troops advancing northeast from Laffaux and northwest from Vailly and Chavonne, the angle collapsed yesterday and Fort Conde was captured. Substantial progress also was made in the center, ground being won east and west of Craonne.

### Trenches Captured.

Violent fighting continued during the night, in the course of which the French made further gains in the regions of Laffaux and the Vanelere plateau, the war office announced. Several lines of trenches east of Lencure were taken. Heavy counter-attacks by the Germans in the Champagne were repulsed, severe losses being inflicted on the enemy.

### The statement follows:

"South of St. Quentin the enemy's artillery kept up a heavy fire, to which our batteries replied vigorously. During the night patrol encounters occurred north of Urvillers. In the region of Laffaux we made appreciable progress and took fifty prisoners. We report several counter-attacks in this sector.

### In the Champagne.

"On the Vanelere plateau and southwest of Courcy we carried several trenches with grenades. East of Loivre a well-conducted operation enabled us to gain ground and take 250 prisoners.

"In the Champagne the night was marked by violent reactions of the enemy. Very strong counter-attacks, preceded by bombardments, were launched by the Germans in the region of Moronvillers. Our curtain of fire and our machine guns completely negated these efforts, which cost the enemy very heavy losses. A number of prisoners remained in our hands. Everywhere else the night passed in quiet.

"On April 16 ten German airplanes and two captive balloons were brought down by our pilots."

## CATHOLIC CHURCH PLEDGES LOYALTY

BALTIMORE, Md., April 20.—A letter addressed to President Wilson pledging the loyalty and service of the Catholic church of America was made public today by Cardinal Gibbons as chairman of the meeting of the Catholic hierarchy held Wednesday at Washington. In addition to the cardinal the signers of the letter are Cardinal O'Connell, of Boston, and the archbishops of St. Paul, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, San Francisco and Chicago. The remaining six archbishops were unable to attend the meeting.

## ASKS BOY SCOUTS TO CULTIVATE BEANS

NEW YORK, April 20.—On the ground that beans are the best of goods for war emergency, Herbert C. Hoover, chairman of the National Food commission, urges the Boy Scouts of America to devote their energies to the cultivation of this crop.

## POTATO CROP WILL BE 25 PERCENT SHORT IF SEED ALL PLANTED

CHICAGO, April 20.—Mayor Thompson said today on authority of an expert of Armour & Co., that if every seed potato now in this country were planted the crop would be 25 per cent under normal.

## SOCIALISTS ASK CENTRAL NATIONS PEACE CONDITIONS

BERNE, Switzerland, April 20.—The Hungarian socialists have adopted resolutions at a secret convention demanding that the central powers make public their peace conditions, excluding all forcible annexations, according to the Tagwaech, the official organ of the Swiss social democracy. The convention was the first to be held since 1913, and several resolutions of a drastic and even revolutionary character were adopted.

The convention called upon the Hungarian government to abolish all restrictions on public gatherings, to restore the freedom of the press and to furnish genuine proof of the honorableness and sincerity of its desire for peace. The resolutions declare that peace terms should provide for the obligatory reference of all disputes to an international tribunal, gradual disarmament of the nations, means for the free economic, national and cultural development of all peoples and the removal of causes of friction between the nations and their governments.

Demands were also made that all states make public every international agreement, place foreign policies under the control of parliaments and abolish secret diplomacy.

## ONLY LEGISLATION WILSON FAVORS TO BE CONSIDERED

WASHINGTON, April 20.—No legislation will be acted on in the house during the present extra session except such as may be recommended by President Wilson. An agreement to this effect was reached at a caucus of house democrats last night, but only after it had reconsidered its previous action in adopting a resolution to take up nation-wide prohibition legislation. Several New York City members bolted the conference after adoption of the prohibition resolution, but harmony was restored by reconsideration.

Whether a waterways measure or prohibition will be considered depends on President Wilson's recommendations. The president has already indicated his willingness to approve a waterways measure and certain restrictions.

## FEDERAL DEEPENING OF SEATTLE HARBOR

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Federal improvement of Seattle harbor by maintenance of depth of thirty-six feet at mean low water in the east waterway when the state or other local agencies completed the waterway to that depth was recommended to congress today by the war department. Federal maintenance of the west waterway and deepening of the lower Duwamish river there were reported inadvisable.

## ADMIRAL KOLSCHAK TO LEAD RUSSIAN FLEET

PETROGRAD, April 20.—Admiral Kolshak, commander of the Black sea fleet, has been appointed commander-in-chief of all Russian naval forces in the Baltic.

## ASKS AUTHORITY TO FIX PRICES OF FOOD PRODUCTS

Secretary Houston Recommends to Senate That Council of National Defense Be Empowered to Fix Minimum and Maximum Food Prices—Requests Authority.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Secretary Houston today recommended to the senate that the council of national defense be empowered to fix minimum and maximum food prices.

To meet the food situation, Secretary Houston told the senate, the department of agriculture needs the following authority:

### Authority Needed.

To make a complete survey of the food supply of the nation to determine its location, ownership, control and distribution.

"In cooperation with the interests involved, to establish minimum grades of farm products, including seeds and standards of receptacles.

"To license and supervise the operation of all plants, mills, packing houses, canneries, slaughter houses, breweries, distilleries, storage houses or other establishments or factories in which food or feeds, implements and any other articles required for agricultural purposes are prepared, manufactured or kept for sale or distribution.

"To require the preference movement by the common carriers of seeds, fertilizers, farm implements or the materials required in their manufacture.

"To enlarge the existing telegraph-ic market news service of the department to assist in the distribution of products according to the proportionate requirements of the consuming centers.

### Power to Fix Prices.

"In case of extreme emergency, the government should have power to purchase, store and dispose of food products and to fix maximum and minimum prices.

"It is estimated that approximately \$25,000,000 will be required to carry out the plans herein outlined. In order that prompt steps may be taken to put them into effect, it is urged that immediate action be taken to give the department the requisite authority and to make available the necessary funds."

Secretary Houston informed the senate committee that the increase of food production this year must come through increased efficiency on the farms and ranges already in operation and that the chief problem is obtaining an ample supply of labor.

### Increased Production.

"Increased production of the staple crops," he added, "is especially important. There is yet time to increase the acreage not only of corn, oats, barley, rice and the sorghums, but also of spring wheat in certain areas, as well as to extend the acreage beans. The livestock and poultry resources of the country need to be carefully considered and encouragement given to them. The marked activity in home gardening will result in a considerable additional production of perishable crops for local use."

## SEVERE SNOW STORM, NEBRASKA

OMAHA, Neb., April 20.—A severe snow, sleet and rain storm, which has been raging in the western part of Nebraska for the last twenty-four hours, while laying low many miles of telegraph and telephone poles, did the growing wheat and other crops of that section much good, it is reported. Many wheat fields which had been given up as only 50 per cent available now are reported to be looking very green, and perhaps will yield in the neighborhood of a normal crop.

## TACOMA BANK SUBSCRIBES \$100,000 TO WAR LOAN

TACOMA, Wash., April 20.—The National Bank of Tacoma subscribed \$100,000 to the war loan for which a call was issued yesterday. Other banks promise liberal subscriptions.

## BERT ANDERSON DECLINES APPOINTMENT AS FARM APPRAISER

PORTLAND, April 20.—The Journal has received the following from its Washington correspondent: James H. Anderson of Medford has declined appointment as appraiser in Spokane district, according to announcement by federal farm loan board. The explanation given is that Anderson had made other business arrangements. He denied that protests had caused his effacement.

## KAISER BELONGS INSEPARABLY TO GERMAN PEOPLE

AMSTERDAM, April 20.—A Berlin dispatch says that a resolution was passed at a meeting of the progressive people's party denouncing President Wilson's "attempt to sow discord between the kaiser and the German people." The resolution declared the kaiser and the German people belong inseparably to each other, and in the combined strength of themselves and their allies, will attain a victorious peace, guaranteeing their future.

The meeting was addressed by President Kampf of the reichstag, who, discussing the unrestricted submarine campaign, said that all objections to it had been considered before a decision was reached. "We were finally guided," he said, "by the opinion that we had better resort thereto than be mastered by America."

President Kampf reiterated the familiar accusation that President Wilson was a hypocrite who had only dropped his mask when the submarine warfare began to cut off America's trade with England.

## SOUTH DAKOTA DELUGED BY STORM

SIOUX FALLS, S. D., April 20.—A heavy downpour of rain last night soaked the southern and eastern portions of South Dakota, which according to observers will materially improve the growing conditions in those sections. A severe sleet storm in the northeastern part of the state last night disturbed wire service in that region today.

Watertown, S. D., was completely cut off from the outside world by wire and no news reports or commercial messages could be transmitted to the stricken town. No extensive property damage or loss of life was reported there before the lines went out early this morning.

## INDIAN GROUNDS TO BE PLANTED

ABERDEEN, Wash., April 20.—Every available plot of ground on the Quinalt Indian reservation, bordering on the Pacific ocean, forty miles northwest of here, will be plowed up and planted to vegetables this year, under orders from the department of the interior. Superintendent E. M. Garber took in a supply of garden seeds Tuesday and the work is now in progress. Indians on the reservation who get their living chiefly by salmon fishing will do the garden work.

## EACH BOY SCOUT TO FEED A SOLDIER

WASHINGTON, April 20.—A call to observe April 21 as "National Planting Day" by the Boy Scouts of America was sent out today to the 218,000 members under the plan that "every scout feed a soldier."

## SENATE DEFEATS MOTION TO KILL CENSORSHIP

WASHINGTON, April 20.—By a vote of 43 to 22 the senate today defeated a motion to strike the entire press censorship clause from the espionage bill. It also rejected forty to thirty-four a substitute by Senator Cummings, of Iowa, designed to modify the provisions.

## TREASURY BILLS TO TAKE PLACE OF WAR BONDS

Certificates of Indebtedness to Be Replaced by Bonds When Issued Will Meet Immediate Wants of the Federal Government—To Avoid Derangement of Money Market.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Treasury certificates of indebtedness authorized up to \$2,000,000,000 in the \$7,000,000,000 war finance measure now before congress will be issued, Secretary McAdoo announced today, "as may be necessary to meet the requirements of the treasury" as soon as the bill becomes a law.

The bonds authorized by the bill probably will not be offered before sixty days.

SEATTLE, April 20.—A large bond-selling firm in Seattle today issued the following statement:

"The first of the week we notified our clients and correspondents through the newspapers that we had subscribed for \$100,000 war bonds, offering to handle their subscriptions without cost either to them or to the government. Up to this morning we had received from our correspondents among the country bankers alone reservations for more than \$800,000 of these bonds."

Meanwhile, certificates of indebtedness maturing June 30 and bearing accrued interest in payment of subscriptions for bonds, will be sold.

"The secretary appreciates the desirability of avoiding any derangement of the money market," said an official statement, "and in the financial operations in which the government is about to engage it will be his purpose to adjust receipts and disbursements in such a way that as far as possible money paid in will be promptly returned to the market."

"The secretary sounded the market yesterday with respect to temporary borrowings and was assured that immediate requirements could be met by a sale of certificates bearing as low a rate as 2 1/2 per cent interest, but there would be no doubt about the sale of the largest amount of such debt certificates and that a wide market for the same could be created if they were offered at 3 per cent interest.

"Therefore, as soon as the war loan bill becomes a law, the secretary proposes to authorize federal reserve banks to receive applications for treasury certificates of indebtedness payable June 30 next, and bearing interest at the rate of 3 per cent per annum. The further offering of such certificates will probably be \$200,000,000."

## KANSAS WHEAT CROP 55 PERCENT SHORT

TOPEKA, Kan., April 20.—Fifty-five per cent of the 1917 wheat crop in Kansas has been abandoned, leaving the smallest average since 1897, according to the official crop report issued today.

Prospects for a crop from the remaining 45 per cent of the last fall sowing is shown as 60.13 per cent, which would indicate a probable crop of 48,000,000 bushels—nearly 51,000,000 bushels less than last year. Increased acreage for corn and oats is shown.

## BRITAIN CALLS ALL DOCTORS AND SURGEONS IN NATION TO COLORS

LONDON, April 20.—The war cabinet today decided that every physician and surgeon and every man with medical training of military age must be called up for service immediately.

## BRITISH DEFEAT TURKS IN PERSIA AND IN PALESTINE

LONDON, April 20.—The general officer commanding the British forces in Egypt reports in an official statement to the war office that on April 17 the British advanced north of Wadi Ghuzze, in southern Palestine and captured the Turkish advanced positions along a front of 6 1/2 miles.

The attack, the British statement says, was assisted by the fire of warships and the positions gained were consolidated.

LONDON, April 20.—General Maude, commanding the British forces in Mesopotamia, has forced a passage of the Shatt-el-Adhem, attacked the Turkish main positions and completely routed the Turkish forces, says an official statement issued today by the British war department. So far 1214 Turks have been taken prisoner.

## BLAME BANKERS FOR WRECK OF PERE MARQUETTE

WASHINGTON, April 20.—The financial downfall of the Pere Marquette railroad and the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railway is attributed in a long report made public today by the interstate commerce commission primarily to a "breach of trust to corporate officials, often for personal gain."

"That downfall with its deplorable consequences," the report reads, "can be traced only to betrayal within and not to compulsion without. Neither rivalry nor rate level nor regulation nor all combined can be found on this record to have contributed any appreciable degree to the disaster."

"Nothing disclosed in the record before us is more to be regretted than the readiness of great banking institutions to loan enormous sums of money upon exceedingly precarious security, in aid of such schemes as have been devised in the wrecking of these railroads.

"Not only this, but the high officers of such institutions which are ostensibly as directors of the railroads, have in fact been little more than tools and dummies for the promoters."

## CABINET REGULATES EXPORT OF FOOD

WASHINGTON, April 20.—President Wilson and his cabinet took up today the regulation of food exports to the northern European neutrals to prevent food reaching Germany from the United States. Whatever policy is adopted will not interfere with shipments to neutrals unless they benefit Germany.

Under embargo legislation pending in congress with the approval of the administration, the government could ration the European neutrals. It is probable that further legislation will be asked to create an agency to handle exports.

## OLD GLORY FLIES FROM TOWERS OF PARLIAMENT

America's Partnership in World War Celebrated at a Religious Service in St. Paul's Cathedral. Attended by King and Queen, Cabinet and Parliament.

LONDON, April 20.—America's partnership in the world war was celebrated at a religious service in St. Paul's cathedral. The Stars and Stripes floated from the highest tower of the parliament buildings at Westminster—the first time a foreign flag was ever displayed on that eminence—and flew above all government buildings.

The service in the historic cathedral where the most momentous occasions of national rejoicing and mourning have been solemnized, was unprecedented in being the commemoration of an act of another nation.

Overhead in the dim arches hung the dust-weighted and battle-torn flags of famous British regiments, some of which had been carried in the American war of the revolution, while among the tombs and memorials of famous soldiers ranged about the walls were the names of those who fought against the colonies in that war.

### Royalty is Present.

The cathedral seats nearly 4000 people and was filled to its furthest recesses. All seats were occupied when King George and Queen Mary entered, followed by the mayors and aldermen of the twenty-six boroughs of London, wearing their scarlet robes of office, the cabinet members and families and members of parliament.

The American embassy and consular staffs occupied front seats with representatives of the Pilgrims, the American society, the American Lambeon club and the American chamber of commerce.

Throughout the cathedral the army khaki and the navy blue were conspicuous. In the reserved seats there were a large number of wounded officers and soldiers, including many Canadians and several Americans serving with the Dominion forces. Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law represented the cabinet in the absence of Premier Lloyd George.

The king and queen and Princess Mary were received at the west entrance by the lord mayor and sheriff, the archbishop of Canterbury, the dean and chapter of St. Paul's and United States Ambassador Page. The congregation rose while their majesties walked down the center aisle and remained standing until the royal party was seated.

### Religious Services Held.

Then the hymn, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past, Our Strength Through Years to Come," was sung in a deep and mighty chorus with a heavy roll of drums from the band of the Welsh guards. The service which followed consisted of the Lord's Prayer, Psalms xlii and xlv, lessons from Isaiah lxi, the Apostles Creed, a prayer, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," a sermon by Bishop Brent, the hymn "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow," benediction by the archbishop of Canterbury, the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" and "God Save the King."

The clergy of St. Paul's conducted the service, assisted by the archbishop of Canterbury and the bishop of London. The text from which Bishop Brent spoke was chosen from Maynards, second chapter, thirteenth verse, "Having gone apart from the elders, He resolved that they should go forth and try the matter in fight, by the help of God."

(Continued on Page Four)

## SPANISH PREMIER DECLARES FOR WAR

MADRID, April 20.—Count Romanones, in tendering his resignation to King Alfonso said he was convinced that the defense of the lives and interests of Spaniards could not be assured if the government policy continued bound by the limitation hitherto existing.