



MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE



Forty-seventh Year. Daily—Twelfth Year. MEDFORD OREGON, TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1917. NO. 28

BRITISH GAIN GROUND ON WIDE FRONT

RESISTANCE OF GERMANS INCREASING

British Gain Ground on Wide Front—In South Reach St. Quentin Canal—Further North Capture Villages of Beaucamp and Villers-Plouich—Bitterest Fighting of Present Advance in Progress—Resistance Increases.

LONDON, April 24.—The British gained ground on a wide front last night south of the Bapaume-Cambrai road. They reached the St. Quentin canal at one point. Further north the villages of Beaucamp and Villers-Plouich were captured. The positions gained on the French front yesterday, says the official statement today were maintained and further progress was made east of Monchy and near Rouex. More than 1500 prisoners were taken in yesterday's operations and many more are coming in.

Bitterest Fighting.
What is apparently the bitterest fighting of the present Anglo-French offensive is raging today along the Wotan line, the hastily organized position east of Arras to which the Germans retired when the northern end of the Hindenburg line was turned by General Haig. The Germans are putting forth a supreme effort to hold this vital portion of their defenses, the crumbling of which would expose Douai and Cambrai and bring into prospect another great retreat.

The British have driven two wedges into the German positions, forming sharp salients in the region of the Scarpe river and north of Bapaume-Cambrai road. The head of the first salient has been thrust within four miles of Vitry, the most important point on the Wotan line, but the tenacity and power with which the Germans are fighting leaves the issue for a time in doubt.

Resistance Increases.
BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, April 24.—The resistance of the German armies appears to increase in accordance with the nearness of the British approach to the Hindenburg positions. This is particularly true along the present front, where the threat is against the Drocourt-Queant switch line which is depended upon by the Germans as the connecting link between their lines north of St. Quentin and south of Lille. This is the switch toward which the Germans are falling back slowly, but surely as a result of the turning of the top of the original Hindenburg line, running from just southeast of Arras toward Queant.

Desperate Fighting.
The fighting which began at dawn yesterday beyond Arras increased in intensity in the afternoon and last night. The ground gained by the British was won in the face of some of the most desperate fighting on the part of the Germans since the war began. French warfare for the time being was forgotten. The Germans, away from their deep dugouts

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BONAR LAW'S SON AMONG THE MISSING

LONDON, April 24.—J. J. Law of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, second son of Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, is reported to have been wounded in Palestine and to be missing.

Chancellor Bonar Law has four sons and two daughters. His eldest son, Captain J. K. Law of the Royal Flying Corps, was wounded in France last year.

GERMAN, HUNS LEAVE DESERT OF DESOLATION

Destruction of Evacuated Portion of France Most Complete—Sad-Eyed Women Wander Among Ruins—Churches and Graves Defiled—Wanton Acts of Vandalism.

PARIS, France, April 24.—(Staff Special).—Why do the French and British call the Germans "Huns" and "Vandals?"

One trip through the French territory just recovered from the invaders' grip, and you will no longer ask that question!

You never hear of "Germans" among the British or Canadian troops. Its "Huns" and "Boches."

The wrecked towns, the ruined houses, the defiled churches, the devastated gardens, and above all the kidnapped girls and the dishonored women of Bapaume and the country thereabouts, answers the question, Why?

Destruction has been excused by many neutrals as "military necessity."

Instances of Vandalism.
But it is a strange sort of military necessity that leaves high hilltop walls and tall towers intact, while smashing mirrors with pistol shots, putting the ax to pianos, and desecrating graves.

In Bapaume, for instance, the tower of the "hotel de ville" (city hall) still stands despite the terrific bombardments. From this vantage point much of the surrounding territory can be viewed.

The old town wall also remains intact, even where it runs over a fair sized hill. From the wall, too, the country can be surveyed. The tower and the wall are the highest structures in Bapaume.

But in the church, paintings have been slashed with knives from their frames, and in the homes, furniture has been chopped up, elsterns filled with debris and offtal, draperies cut and mutilated, and silver and books carried away.

Gravestones have been crisscrossed with shallow trenches, graves opened, leaden covers stripped from coffins, and tombs broken open.

Desecrating Graves.
Fifth has been spread over unopened graves and in opened vaults. Fifth has been placed in living rooms of houses; fifth has been placed on priestly vestments torn from churches and thrown into the streets—and, to all appearances, deliberately placed.

Houses have been made uninhabitable by fifth smeared about the walls. And among the ruins of these once prosperous French towns and villages roam sad, furtive eyed women, cringing at every sudden noise, screaming maledictions at German prisoners brought through to the allied rear, and mourning for dead children and lost daughters carried into exile by the German retreat.

They will not talk easily of the things they have seen, the sufferings they have passed through.

"Sufferings? The moral suffering was the worst of all!" one woman told a party of newspaper correspondents making a tour of the reconquered waste.

Unbelievable Barbarities.
Another told of being fined 90 francs because, penniless, she visited her father and mother without ob-

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AMERICAN WRITERS MUST LEAVE BERLIN

LONDON, April 24.—The German foreign office has notified the American correspondents who have remained in Berlin that their presence in Germany is no longer desirable, according to the Exchange Telegraph correspondent at The Hague. The American newspapermen, it is added, have therefore decided to leave for Switzerland or Scandinavia.

French Commission Arrives to Discuss War Problems

WARSHIPS ESCORT FRENCH MISSION TO ATLANTIC PORT

American Warships Break Out in French Colors and American Bards Play French Anthem as Joffre and Viviani Enter Harbor—No Untoward Incidents on Trip.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—"The department of state is advised of the safe arrival of the French commission," it was officially announced early today.

Later the state department issued this further statement: "The department of state is advised that the French mission will reach Washington tomorrow morning. The precise time and place of arrival will be announced later."

The commission, which includes Marshal Joffre, and former Premier Viviani, arrived early this morning on board a speedy steamship of the French line, which was convoyed across the Atlantic.

Welcomed to America.
The vessels were met off the coast by American torpedo boat destroyers and escorted to a port.

The naval and military attaches of the French embassy at Washington and American naval and military officers, together with a representative of the state department immediately boarded the French vessel and extended a welcome to American shores.

The Associated Press correspondent who accompanied the party from France sends the following dispatch from the port of arrival: "As the ship bearing the French commission came into port today American warships broke out French colors from their mastsheads and American bands played the French national anthem. American and French sailors lined the rails of their respective ships. No salutes were fired."

Slips Out in Morning.
"The special train bearing the commission slipped out of Paris early in the morning observed only by a few secret service agents and railway men. The transfer from train to ship was without event, as was the voyage across the Atlantic."

"Warships passed out ahead of the French steamer into the danger zone, which in this case is one of the haunting places of German submarines."

"The first night out the ship and convoy made eighteen knots an hour before the wind, all running without lights. After three years war service the celebrated liner which bore the party is a mixture of former elegance

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STREET SCENE IN WHAT WAS A PROSPEROUS AND HAPPY VILLAGE OF FRANCE BEFORE GERMAN OCCUPATION.



Homes of the poor are wrecked and burned by the German troops retreating from northern France. Here is a sample of this work—a street in the village of Villers Carbonnel. German explanations of this destruction have laid it to military necessity, but it is noted that plain homes of working people like these often are wantonly ravaged while stone towers and high walls that might form observation posts are allowed to stand.



GEN. JOFFRE



ARTHUR J. BALFOUR



ADM. D.R.S. DE CHAIR



RENE VIVIANI

Master minds of war conference. Left to right, upper, General Joffre, French Field Marshal, the hero of the battle of the Marne; Arthur J. Balfour, secretary of foreign affairs for Great Britain; Rene Viviani, former premier and minister of justice in France; Admiral De Chair, commander of British ship Crescent, former secretary to first lord of admiralty.

TOTAL LOSS IN TREADWELL MINES \$15,000,000

JUNEAU, Alaska, April 24.—Above the flooded Treadwell mines cracks in the earth extend from 700 feet up the hill to the Old Glory hole and down to the mess house end on the baseball grounds. All persons living in houses on the hill moved out when the cracks began to appear. Bank house No. 434 out of plumb by six feet, ready to slide into the abyss. The club house is equally out of plumb.

A thousand miners were thrown out of work, although scores of these are being used on the surface, protecting mills and shops.

Five million tons of ore had been blocked out for mining in the lower levels of the flooded mines. Most of this work had been done within the past two years at an expenditure of millions of dollars, all of which will be a dead loss, unless the mines are reopened. The total loss, including this ore, is estimated at \$15,000,000.

SPECULATORS HOLD 30 MILLION EGGS TO RAISE PRICE

CHICAGO, April 24.—According to Herbert A. Emerson, who has been to the Pacific coast investigating food conditions for John Dillon, commissioner of the state of New York, there are between thirty million and thirty-six million eggs on the tracks in Chicago, held by speculators to keep up high prices.

Mr. Emerson said that the Pacific coast states this year, instead of importing eggs as they have done generally, will have a surplus of 75,000 to 100,000 cases to sell.

Mr. Emerson said he had no evidence of an "egg trust" but said he is sure there is a "mighty close understanding" between the big dealers and was confident an investigation would cause a break in prices. "The butter situation is a parallel," he said. "The Pacific coast this year will be able to ship next a surplus of 150 cars of butter, 24,000 pounds to the car. Four years ago the coast imported 200 cars."

STANDARD OIL TO BLAME FOR GASOLINE GRAFT

Federal Trade Commission Reports to Senate the High Prices of Gasoline During Past Two Years Due Principally to Trust—Price Arbitrarily Raised and Output Cut.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—Dominion of the gasoline industry by the Standard Oil interests, the federal trade commission reported to the senate today, has been largely responsible for high gasoline prices of the last two years.

The report written after an exhaustive investigation into the entire petroleum industry declares interlocking stock ownership prevents any real competition among the various Standard Oil companies and the commission recommends legislation to permit the reopening of the oil trust case to obtain modifications of the supreme court's dissolution decree.

No conclusive evidence was found, it is stated, that collusion exists among the Standard companies in violation of the decree, but the commission's findings have been transmitted to the attorney general.

Prices Arbitrarily Fixed.
Prices are declared to have been arbitrarily raised, although natural causes contributed. Pronounced price inequalities were found in different parts of the country.

The principal findings of the commission are:

That in most marketing territories the Standard companies are dominant.

That the Standard companies have maintained a distribution of territory in marketing gasoline and that no substantial competition in the chief petroleum products exists among the Standard companies.

That the absence of competition is due to a community of stock ownership.

That the facts disclose in prices of gasoline and differences in prices, corresponding to Standard marketing territories which could not be explained except under the conditions charged.

Perpetuates Monopoly.
That the combination of pipe lines with other branches of the industry has tended to establish and perpetuate monopoly.

That there is no conclusive evidence of collusion among the Standard companies in violation of the dissolution decree.

The commission recommended these measures as necessary to remedy conditions:

A law providing for the reopening of anti-trust cases on the application of the attorney general by a bill of review for the purpose of obtaining such modification of decrees as are required by new conditions.

Legislation to abolish in certain cases common stock ownership in corporations formerly members of combinations dissolved under the Sherman law.

Effective limitation of common ownership of stock in potentially competitive corporations by withdrawing the power of voting and control.

Limitation of Ownership.
Legislation, which, while recognizing common ownership would fix un-

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DENY CAPTURE OF GERMAN U-BOAT

WASHINGTON, April 24.—Denial of reports that a German submarine has been captured by an American warship after being caught in a net near Newport News, Va., and was being taken to New York was made today by Secretary Daniels.

The statement is entirely without any basis of truth, the secretary said. "It has been current here for several days and has been denied officially by the naval commander of the Norfolk district."

ENGLAND SOLID FOR UNIVERSAL MILITARY DUTY

Member of British Commission States That British Democracy Almost Fanatical for Conscription—Volunteer System Crippled Army and Nation—Proved Failure.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—Lieutenant General Bridges, a member of the British commission, declared today in talk with newspaper correspondents that the British democracy had become "almost fanatical" over universal military service. The volunteer system under which the empire entered the war, General Bridges said, cost the lives of the most valuable citizens and crippled industrial mobilization.

"War," said General Bridges, "now has become an immensely democratic business and needs the full effort of every member of the community. Men, women and children are equally drawn into its vortex, the women and children being forced into industry and fed on half rations to supply the men at the front."

General Bridges talked of the difficulties which had beset England at the beginning of the war.

British Mistakes.
"The source of our greatest difficulty," he declared, "was the sending to Europe of practically our whole trained army as an expeditionary force. This robbed us of all trained officers and it was only through returned wounded officers and the withdrawal of others that we were able to build the skeleton for our new forces. At the same time we allowed most of our better class youths, university men in many cases, to enter the ranks which withdrew them from the officers class and placed that responsibility on far less well equipped persons. The wastage of the best blood of the nation was enormous."

"It is my opinion if it had not been for Kitchener's immense personality we should have had conscription within a few months. If Lord Roberts' proposal for universal service had been enforced, we should have saved enormously, not only in men but in industrial efficiency."

General Bridges estimated eight months as the necessary time to train a division. Individual recruits, however, may be made fit to go to the front in a short space of eleven weeks provided they are distributed in proportions of fifty amongst two hundred trained men.

Artillery Needed.
"Artillery must be in great preponderance," General Bridges said, "before an attack can be initiated. The bayonet, however, is still essential. I should estimate that the present successes on the western front are due to a British preponderance over the German artillery of at least three or four to one. There is absolutely no doubt as to the outcome of the war; the only question is as to its length."

General Bridges commented briefly on the difficulties of making good fighters in a democratic nation full of personal freedom and lacking military experience. The French bourgeois in the general's opinion, makes the ideal soldier because war has been almost an instinct in his blood since the days of Napoleon. General Bridges praised the French army in the highest terms and said that there had grown up between France and England, former enemies a feeling that was more than friendly and that almost a love existed.

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ELIHU ROOT HEADS MISSION TO RUSSIA

WASHINGTON, April 24.—Elihu Root will head the American commission to Russia if he will consent to undertake the duty. It became known today that the president has completed the selection of the principal members of the mission.