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BRITISH REPEL FRESH GERMAN ATTACKS

NEW TROOPS HURRIED UP BY GERMANS

Fresh Reserves Used to Press Counter Attacks Which Meet Defeat With Heavy Loss of Life—British Creep Forward as Every Attack Meets Repulse—German Army Being Drained at Deadly Pace Which Brings Collapse Within Distance.

LONDON, April 26.—Renewed German attacks on British positions near Gavrelle were repulsed last night the war office announced today.

PARIS, April 26.—The Germans vainly renewed their counter attacks last night on the high ground near the Chemin-Des-Dames, the war office reports.

LONDON, April 26.—Telegraphing today from British headquarters in France Reuter's correspondent says: "The Germans are still hurrying up fresh reserves to press their counter attacks. They are fighting a great delaying battle, although not now standing upon any well prepared system of defenses and can only hope to check the advance by using up great masses of troops whose breasts have taken the place of parapets."

Exhausting the Army. "This policy must result in greatly accelerating the process of exhaustion, and if long continued the situation will resolve itself into the simple problem of which side can most maintain the deadly pace. "Prisoners declare that the German army is now being drained at a rate which brings collapse within a measurable distance."

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, April 26.—There has been a comparative lull in the fighting east of the Arras in the last twenty-four hours, the German counter attacks in the effort to retake the positions captured by the British in Monday's push have worn themselves out. After each of these attacking waves had been thrown back the British managed to creep forward still further.

Lull in Air Battle. Heavily overcast skies are giving the German airmen a brief respite from British aerial attacks, enabling them to make efforts to reorganize their badly damaged squadrons, for in four days fighting the British have accounted for nearly 100 enemy machines. The British airmen were praying for continuance of the clear weather, as their worrying tactics had provoked the Germans into heavy fighting, but clouds gathered yesterday and today also the skies were overcast. In consequence, the airplane hunt was restricted.

Owing to the heavy intrusions made by British airmen, the German kite balloons are extremely timid these days, although the Germans depend mostly on them for aerial observation. They seldom attempt overhead observation with airplanes. The only aircraft seen on this side of the line are fast fighting scouts which attempt raids and scurry home again in the clouds. One German balloon

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AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT TO MEET MAY 30

VIENNA, April 26.—Official announcement was made here today that the Austrian government had decided to convene parliament for May 30 to deal with questions of food supply and with "economic, social and financial problems." The parliament has not been in session since before the war.

FRENCH MISSION WELCOMED BY NATION'S CHIEF

Viviani and Joffre, With the Members of War Commission Greeted by President—Day Spent in Official Visits.—Noisy Welcome Accorded Along Streets of City.

WASHINGTON, April 26.—The French commission began its first day in Washington with a round of official calls. The first was at the state, war and navy departments.

Former Premier Viviani, head of the mission, Marshal Joffre, Admiral Chocheprat and Viscount De Chambrun called first at Secretary Lansing's office. The clerks of the great building lined the halls and gave the Frenchmen a warm reception of cheers and handclapping.

After spending a few minutes with Secretary Lansing, M. Viviani, Marshal Joffre and Admiral Chocheprat went over to the white house to be formally received by President Wilson.

Met by President.

The visitors took motorcars for the short ride from the state department to the white house. Hundreds of automobiles decorated with the French tri-color sounded their sirens and people lining the streets added to the cheering. At the main entrance of the executive mansion a large party of the president's army and navy aides in full dress uniforms met the Frenchmen. Salutes were exchanged and the guests were ushered into the blue room where President Wilson was waiting to receive them.

The white house reception for the members of the French commission differed from that accorded Foreign Minister Balfour and his British associates, in that it included all the members of the French mission.

Since neither Minister Viviani nor Marshal Joffre speak English, M. Hovelague, acted as interpreter. After the president had shaken hands with members of the mission, M. Viviani went to the capitol accompanied by Assistant Secretary Phillips while Marshal Joffre accompanied by Colonel Spencer Cosby of the army and Lieutenant Commander Robert L. Berry of the navy walked from the executive mansion to the state, war and navy building.

Expresses Appreciation.

President Wilson in the brief exchange of greetings told the French commissioners how deeply the American people appreciated the action of the French republic in sending the commission to the United States and Minister Viviani replied, saying that the French people felt very deeply the bond of friendship between the two countries cemented by the entrance of the United States into the war.

While at the white house M. Viviani presented to President Wilson a letter from President Poincare.

WASHINGTON, April 26.—President Wilson has taken up horseback riding for exercise and recreation. He took a ride yesterday afternoon and planned to go out again today.

GALLERIES HISS MASON'S ATTACK UPON PRESIDENT

Debate Over Army Bill Brings Accusations From Illinois Congressman Who Assails Wilson for Failing to Accept Immediately Roosevelt's Offer to Raise Division.

WASHINGTON, April 26.—The army bill continued to thread its way through debate in both houses of congress today under a constant fire of attack from those who oppose selective conscription and ardently defended by those who support the administration plan.

First prospect of a vote appeared in the house where it was agreed that general debate should close with adjournment today and leave only the summed up speeches by leaders of each side.

Then the bill will be considered by the house under the five minute rule with prospects of a vote probably Friday night or Saturday.

An agreement to vote on and finally dispose of the bill not later than Saturday night was reached in the senate.

Mason Is Hissed.

Hisses from the gallery greeted Representative Mason, republican, of Illinois, today when he assailed President Wilson for failing to accept immediately Colonel Roosevelt's offer to raise a division for service in France. A few members joined in the demonstration.

"The man in the white house hasn't the courage or political sagacity to permit the colonel to enlist for fear he will profit politically," was the sentence which drew the hissing.

Senator Hale in a speech in the senate opposed the volunteer system of raising an army and urged that an American force be sent to Europe at once, if only because of its moral effect.

Bill Sure to Pass.

Results of a canvass to ascertain sentiment of the house membership on the administration bill providing for raising an army by selective draft caused renewed confidence today among champions of the measure of its passage by the house by a safe majority. The house canvass, taken by friends of the bill disclosed, it was said, a majority of from 60 to 70 in favor of the measure.

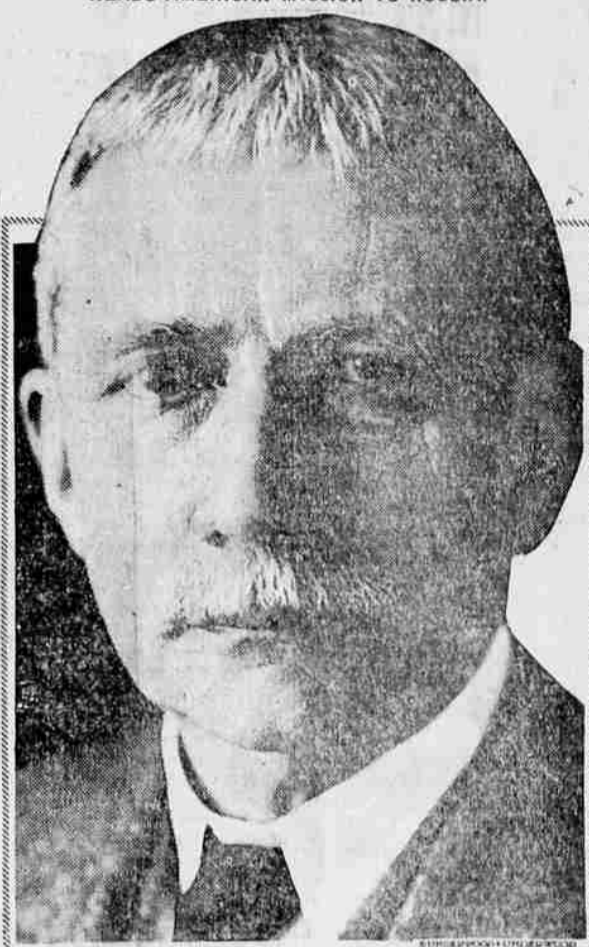
Debate on the bill continued in both houses today. In the house the leaders figured on reaching a vote by Saturday and in the senate Senator Chamberlain sought an agreement to fix a vote by that time.

FIRST AMERICAN PRISONER OF WAR

LONDON, April 26.—The taking of the first American prisoner of war was reported today to the American embassy through the American consul at Glasgow.

It is usually the practice of the Germans to take prisoners captives

HEADS AMERICAN MISSION TO RUSSIA.



ELIHU ROOT

GERMANS REPORT ARTILLERY DUELS OF GREAT VIOLENCE

BERLIN, April 26.—The German position at Gavrelle in the Arras battlefield, is now situated at the eastern boundary of the village, says today's army headquarters statement.

The statement follows: "Yesterday the enemy exerted himself only in local attacks near Arras. South of the Scarpe river three attacks were repulsed by us.

"The artillery battle continued with considerable violence in some sectors. At Gavrelle our position is now situated on the eastern boundary of the village.

"Army group of the crown prince: The general situation is unchanged. The artillery duel limited itself to a narrow front. Near Hurthoise Farm and further east our position on the Chemin Des Dames ridge was improved by some advances, during which we took prisoner three French officers and more than 100 men. In the evening the enemy attacked on a large front of three kilometers, but was repulsed.

"In the Champagne the fighting was limited to hand grenade encounters.

"The enemy lost six airplanes yesterday."

of merchantmen sunk by their submarines. In view of this fact, the above may mean that an American has been sunk.

ELIHU ROOT TO HEAD AMERICAN MISSION TO RUSSIA

WASHINGTON, April 26.—Elihu Root, former secretary of state, after conference early today with President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, formally accepted the chairmanship of the American Commission to Russia.

Mr. Root spent an hour with the president at the White House discussing the Russian situation. The president outlined fully what he desired to accomplish.

The commission will be composed of three or four principals and a staff of secretaries and assistants. It is expected to depart for Russia within a few days.

The needs of Russia are outlined to President Wilson are for political, financial, transportation and commercial advice and assistance.

BRITAIN WITHDRAWS AMERICAN BLACKLIST

LONDON, April 26.—The British blacklist of shipping has been withdrawn, in so far as it concerns the United States.

The following announcement was made today by the foreign office: "Now that the United States have entered the war against our common enemy and are adopting safeguards of their own, it has been decided to withdraw the statutory list (blacklist) from the United States."

BRITONS VICTORS AGAINST ODDS IN NAVAL BATTLE

Two British Destroyers Give Battle to Six German Warships—Vessels Rammed, Locked Together, Boarded and Fierce Hand to Hand Conflict Waged—Exciting Narrative.

LONDON, April 26.—Two British destroyers on patrol duty in the English channel off Dover, on the night of April 20, came upon a flotilla of six German destroyers and then ensued an encounter which will live long in the history of naval engagements. German destroyers were torpedoed and rammed; every gun aboard the combatants was working, sweeping the decks and tearing gaps in the sides of the opposing craft.

There was the locking together of a British and German destroyer and the men fought furiously in a hand-to-hand battle.

German seamen of a rammed destroyer climbed aboard one of the British boats, and a midshipman fought them back with an automatic pistol. They were killed or driven again into the sea by British jacks who came to the midshipman's aid.

Men Fought on Decks

The British destroyers were the Swift and the Broke, and, although they had received many wounds, they returned to port. The story of the engagement, compiled from the accounts of officers and men, has been made public in an official report. It is an exciting and graphic story of a boarding encounter with cutlasses and bayonets, recalling the days when wooden warships came together and the men fought on decks.

The British destroyers were steaming on a westerly course. It was intensely dark, but calm. The Swift sighted the enemy at 600 yards and the Germans instantly opened fire. There were six German destroyers according to German prisoners.

The Swift replied and tried to ram the leading enemy destroyer. She missed ramming but shot through the German line unscathed and in turning, neatly torpedoed another boat in the enemy line.

Desperate Encounter.

Again the Swift dashed at the leader, which again eluded her and escaped with the Swift in pursuit. In the meantime the Broke had launched a torpedo at the second boat in the line, which hit the mark, and then opened fire with every possible gun. The remaining German boats were calling furiously for full speed ahead. The Broke's commander swung round to port and rammed the third boat fair and square abreast the after funnel. Locked together thus, the two boats fought a desperate hand-to-hand conflict. The Broke swept the enemy's deck at point blank range with every gun, from armament to pom-pom, Maxim, rifle and pistol.

Two other German destroyers attacked and poured a devastating fire on the Broke, whose foremost gun crews were reduced from 18 to six men. Midshipman Donald Gyles, although wounded in the eye, kept all the foremost guns in action, he himself assisting the depleted crews to load. While he was thus employed, a number of fringed Germans swarmed up over the Broke's forecastle out of the rammed destroyer and, finding themselves amid the

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QUARTER MILLION BERLIN TOILERS OUT ON STRIKE

Washington Officially Reports Labor Troubles in German Capital Reflecting Growth of Desire for Peace on Part of Workmen—General Strike Threatened for May 1.

WASHINGTON, April 26.—Official dispatches from Bern to the state department, announce the appointment of a committee on propaganda in favor of the establishment of a republican form of government in Germany, headed by Dr. Roese Meyer, former editor of the Morgen Post of Berlin.

WASHINGTON, April 26.—Reports to the state department through official channels tell of a strike of 250,000 laborers in Berlin. The department says the incident shows the growth of desire for peace on the part of the workmen. It is reported also that bread rations have been reduced from 1900 to 1600 grams per week.

Newspaper reports from Bern issued in summarized form by the state department today said that the strikers returned to work under threat of being sent to the front.

AMSTERDAM, April 26.—"Today's statement from headquarters comes just early enough to influence the conscience of the munition workers," says the Berlin Lokal Anzeiger in a recent issue. "For the most part they have resumed duty again but they will also have to repair the consequences of their dereliction from duty and above all things, these regrettable occurrences must be prevented from taking place again today or tomorrow."

To Renew Strike.

"We are informed that attempts are still being made to instigate renewed action by the munition workers and it is openly threatened that we must be prepared for new outbreaks of it will it certain claims are not acceded to. It is also reported that on May 1 there will be another general strike for twenty-four hours."

The reference in the foregoing to a German headquarters statement probably refers to that of April 24 in which the part played by the workers at home in promoting "the successes of recent battles" is alluded to. The statement recounted that the German soldier on the battle line knew that "every man and woman at home is doing his or her duty and is working unceasingly to support him out there in the turmoil of battle for life or death, for existence or non-existence."

BRITISH SUCCESS DUE TO SUPERIORITY IN THE ARTILLERY

LONDON, April 26.—The outstanding feature of the second phase of the battle at Arras is the definite establishment of superiority in artillery by the British and it is due to this superiority that they have been able to maintain a successful offensive, according to Major Bruce in his weekly talk with the Associated Press today.

General Maurice declared the Germans had drawn on their strategical offensive and brought up great new forces in an attempt to stem the onslaught but that the British machine was working without a hitch. German losses had been terrific and thousands of dead, he said, were lying in front of the British lines.

MINISTRY RESIGNS AT LUXEMBERG

AMSTERDAM, April 26.—A telegram from Luxembourg says that the administration has placed its resignation in the hands of the Grand Duchess. The action was based on the ground that government no longer enjoys the confidence of the people and that neither producers nor consumers were doing their duty.



Girl students of Hunter college, New York, are here shown taking lessons in wireless telegraphy. They have volunteered to serve as operators in the United States army and navy in case of war.