



MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE



Forty-seventh Year.
Daily—Twelfth Year.

MEDFORD OREGON, MONDAY, MAY 7, 1917.

NO. 39

ALLIES WIN BRILLIANT VICTORIES IN WEST

FRENCH GAIN NEW POINTS IN BIG DRIVE

Total of 29,000 Prisoners Captured in Offensive—Violent Counter Attacks Along Entire Line by Germans Repulsed With Tremendous Slaughter—Teutons Mowed Down in Masses—Entire St. Quentin Line in Danger of Being Outflanked

PARIS, May 7.—The Germans have counter attacked along the entire French front and everywhere have been repulsed, according to today's war office statement.

The fighting was particularly severe in the region of Chemin-Des-Dames and east of Soissons. The statement says that since April 16 the French have taken 29,000 prisoners. The number taken in the last phase of the offensive has reached more than 6200.

The statement follows:
29,000 Prisoners Taken.

"Yesterday evening and last night were marked by violent new reactions on the part of the Germans in the region northeast of Soissons and along the Chemin-Des-Dames where we identified four fresh divisions. Violent counter attacks, preceded by intense bombardments, were launched against our positions at Froimont Farm on the Ceray-Hartebise front and on the Craonne and Vaucelle heights. The fighting, which assumed a most violent character, terminated to the advantage of our troops, which maintained their positions everywhere. The Germans were mowed down in masses by our heavy and field artillery and machine guns, suffering large losses in these engagements. The number of our prisoners is now more than 6200. This brings up the total number of prisoners taken by French troops in the fighting since April 16 to about 29,000.

"On the remainder of the front there were intermittent artillery engagements. We broke up several surprise attacks by the enemy, particularly in the Argonne, near Bolante and Gracie Wood. We made several successful incursions into the German lines near Sonvaux hill and east of Moncel."

Attacks Beaten Back.

The Germans concentrated their efforts yesterday morning in attacks west of the French front in the region of Laffaux and in the eastern section of Braye to Craonne. But the French held the whip hand and beat off wave upon wave of the enemy's dwindling reserve, with terrible losses. More than that, the Frenchmen, after hours of stiff fighting, still had the energy to dash forward and maintained fresh positions in regions naturally fortified.

The desperate resistance of the Germans and the frequent counter attacks in force are comprehensible when it is realized that if the French capture Alençon and Pion they will outflank the whole line running north to St. Quentin. General Viville, however, has no sign of being confronted by the famous Siegfried line, a system of fortifications on which the Germans have lavished weeks of work and which is of the most formidable type.

Germans Annihilated.

On the right wing German battalions.

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CANADIAN WHEAT SOLD TO THE ALLIES

WINNIPEG, Man., May 7.—An understanding under which at least 50 percent of all Canadian wheat will be sold to the allied governments or to Dominion mills was announced in a cablegram from the Winnipeg grain exchange council to the royal grain commission in London, made public today.

STOPS BULLET IN ARMOR HE INVENTS



Dr. Guy Otis Brewster of Dover, N. J., is here shown in the quaint armor headgear and jacket he invented for holders. In a recent test, Dr. Brewster withstood without injury bullets fired at him from a distance of 60 feet and hitting the armor at a speed of 2740 feet a second and a force of 2400 pounds. The armor weighs less than 20 pounds.

GERMAN SHIPS IN DANISH ISLANDS CANNOT BE SEIZED

WASHINGTON, May 7.—It was revealed in the house today that an unpublished provision in the agreement with Denmark by which the Danish West Indies were acquired by the United States was that German or other warbound ships in the island would not be seized or confiscated.

The disclosure was made by Chairman Alexander of the commerce committee presenting the administration bill to confer congressional sanction upon the president for seizure and operation of enemy war bound ships in American ports. When Republican Leader Mann asked for more information, Chairman Webb of the judiciary committee warned the house that it was not a subject to be discussed publicly.

Mr. Alexander then explained the purposes of the bill which he said were to give the president full power to take title to the ships except in the Virgin Islands and to provide for their operation or lease by the government.

TWO NORWEGIAN SHIPS SUNK BY SUBMARINES

LONDON, May 7.—According to a Central News dispatch from Copenhagen, the Norwegian foreign office has announced the sinking by German submarines of the steamers Cayto and Natuna. The crews were rescued.

AMBASSADOR ELKUS REPORTED IMPROVED

WASHINGTON, May 7.—Ambassador Elkus, sick in Constantinople with typhus, is much better, but may not be able to leave for home for three weeks.

RAILROADS OPEN FIGHT TO SECURE 15 PERCENT RAISE

Hearings Begun Before I. C. C. on Application for Blanket Increase in Rates to Yield \$300,000,000 More Revenue for Coming Year—Railroads State Case.

WASHINGTON, May 7.—Eastern railroads at the opening today of the hearings before the interstate commerce commission on the application on all roads for a general 15 per cent increase in freight rates, stated that the advance sought would fall \$75,000,000 short of the \$217,000,000 increase of 1917 operating expenses over 1916.

Cost of coal, wages and materials have gone up so rapidly in the last year or two, declared the eastern roads, who will be followed by southeastern and western lines and by shippers, that income from present rates cannot keep pace. Higher rates are necessary to maintain their credit and to make efficient service possible, they said.

Gain of \$300,000,000.

The proposed 15 per cent advance would yield all railroads a sum estimated at between \$300,000,000 and \$400,000,000 based on last year's record earnings. Of this amount, roads east of Chicago and north of the Ohio and Potomac rivers, operating sixty thousand miles of line and carrying about half of the country's traffic, stated today their share would be \$142,000,000.

Hearings will continue through the week and then be resumed May 23. Many shippers appear to agree to a rate increase but they disagree on the amount. The proposed increase would go into effect July 1.

Samuel Rea, president of the Pennsylvania, read a statement to the commission in part as follows:

Menace to Country.

"The conditions surrounding the railroads at the present time involve a direct and immediate menace to the country at large and also to the shippers, passengers and owners of the properties because of inadequate facilities and insufficient credit. If we are adequately to handle the existing traffic and be prepared to meet the necessities of the internal situation it is absolutely necessary that the railroads be granted higher rates."

Alfred H. Smith, president of the New York Central lines, in a statement read to the commission, declared that the railroads were not seeking to shift the burdens on others but that they asked "merely to share in the prosperity of the country" and to maintain their position in relation to those whom they serve.

He pointed out the difficulty the railroads have had in raising capital to increase their property which would have had an influence on the present high prices.

Howard Elliott, speaker for the New Haven, said a fifteen per cent advance would not pay the increased cost bill of that road. He also indicated that heavy outlays would be necessary to handle properly the nation's wartime business.

TWO BOARDS TO DIRECT COURSE OF U. S. IN WAR

Allied War Commissions Sitting Continuously, One in England, One Here, to Coordinate Powerful Resources of United States With Those of Allies—Keep Sea Clear.

WASHINGTON, May 7.—Two allied war commissions sitting continuously—one in England and the other here—appeared today as one of the first actual steps to coordinate the powerful resources the United brings into the war with those of the allies across the sea.

The commission in London, with representatives of all the allied nations including the United States would receive and decide upon the apportionment of seaboard traffic. The commission would then charge itself with getting such supplies to the seaboard, either by direct purchase or through present agencies.

While the inroads of the submarine menace continue it is absolutely essential to conserve every ship for the most needed freight and the only way that this can be done is to have the allies submit their needs to a central body in London which shall have the power to give priority to the most pressing.

At the same time the commission in this country, knowing exactly how much was wanted would buy it judiciously and keep the railroad lines open to the seaboard.

With the great bulk of the detailed work now distributed amongst various sub-committees British Foreign Minister Balfour now is awaiting reports. Today he was officially received at the supreme court.

Later the new Belgian minister to the United States said a visit to Mr. Balfour. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, called with British labor leaders who have just arrived in this country upon his invitation.

REBEL ACTIVITY RENEWED IN CUBA

WASHINGTON, May 7.—Fresh reports of rebel activities in Cuba are regarded by this government as renewed evidence of influences seeking to force intervention, but they have not altered the state department's confidence in the ability of President Menocal to restore order.

Reports from American Minister Gonzalez that the rebels are being brought under control are supported by consular reports from Guantanamo and Santiago, although it is admitted that in these provinces hand-dit raids and much destruction of property continue.

The railroads have not been reopened in all places, but substantial progress has been made and state department officials appear confident that May 20, the date for the inauguration of the president, will pass without serious revival of the revolt.

POWERFUL U. S. MOTOR BATTERY IS READY



Powerful armored cars are the battery of the New York national guard and show the kind of land battleships Uncle Sam is ready to use. Eight men have room to many as many machine guns, three on each side, and two above.

GREAT BRITAIN LOANED ANOTHER HUNDRED MILLION

WASHINGTON, May 7.—The government has decided to lend Great Britain \$100,000,000 to meet her needs in this country during May. A second installment of \$25,000,000 was transferred to the British embassy today, making, with the \$25,000,000 loaned her Saturday a total of one-half of the May loan.

The decision to advance Great Britain \$100,000,000 during May agrees with estimates that this government would be called upon to finance the allies up to at least \$400,000,000 a month.

Summ already pledged for the next month or so are at the rate of \$200,000,000 a month and cover only the needs of Great Britain, France, and Italy. Additional loans to Russia, Belgium and possibly to Serbia will swell the total, it is believed, to at least \$400,000,000 and bring the total advanced to the allies prior to July 1 when the first proceeds of the liberty loan will be available, up to approximately \$1,000,000,000.

Subscriptions to the liberty loan continue in large volume.

IRISH PROBLEM REACHES CRISIS

LONDON, May 7.—Powerful representations are about to be made to Premier Lloyd George and the war cabinet by representatives of labor as to their view of the imperative urgency of a settlement of the Irish question, the Pall Mall Gazette understands.

NOISY WELCOME TO FRENCH MISSION GIVEN BY ST. LOUIS

ST. LOUIS, May 7.—The demonstrative welcome accorded Former Premier Viviani, Marshal Joffre and other members of the French war mission at the St. Louis coliseum last night was outcome today when the visitors took part in a parade across the city.

Many remembered that this was the second anniversary of the sinking of the Lusitania and regarded the occasion as a fitting memorial to the victims of that first great submarine outrage.

The parade was preceded by a breakfast attended by 700 persons, during which medals of honor were presented to M. Viviani and Marshal Joffre on behalf of the French society of St. Louis. M. Viviani was much affected and kissed the spokesman of the society on the cheek.

Two toasts were drunk in water—one to the president of the United States and one to the president of France.

Mayor Kiel of St. Louis, who was to have delivered a welcoming address at the breakfast, was unable to be present on account of illness, but he appeared later, rode in the first automobile with M. Viviani and Marshal Joffre during the parade.

BANKS LOSE SUIT AGAINST LLOYD LINER

WASHINGTON, May 7.—New York banks today lost their litigation in the supreme court against the North German Lloyd liner Kron Prinzessin Cecilie at Boston from which they claimed \$2,240,000 damages for failure of the vessel to deliver gold bullion worth \$11,000,000 shipped to England and France just at the outbreak of the war.

The Cecilie, the supreme court decided, is not liable in damages to the shippers for turning back to America in mid-ocean and abandoning her voyage. The decision determines large similar claims against a score of other German vessels in American ports. Justice Holmes delivered the decision. Justice Pitney and Clark dissented.

UNCLE JOE CANNON IS 81 YEARS OLD TODAY

WASHINGTON, May 7.—Representative Joe H. Cannon of Illinois, former speaker of the house, is 81 today. He received many congratulations from members of congress, government officials and others.

BULLECOURT CAPTURED BY BRITISH

Hindenburg Line Positions Taken by British Who Start New Attack at Daybreak—Prisoners Taken in Infantry Charge—Guns Continue to Pound German Positions—Teuton Losses Mount to Appalling Totals—Best Troops Suffer.

LONDON, May 7.—After hard fighting the British have pushed forward west of Bullecourt and have taken a number of prisoners, according to an official statement issued by the war office today.

The announcement follows:
"There was sharp fighting early today on the Hindenburg line. East of Bullecourt our position has been improved. We progressed westward in the direction of the village and took a number of prisoners. A hostile bombing attack during the night on our front line south of Oppy, delivered after heavy artillery preparation, was successfully driven off.

Bullecourt Won.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, May 7.—The British have pushed their way well within the town of Bullecourt. Hand to hand fighting has developed there.

Renewed fighting broke out about Bullecourt today. The British, who had been holding positions south and east of the village where they had been violently attacked during the last four days, moved forward just before dawn in a general attack upon the village itself.

There has been patrol fighting in Bullecourt before this, but today's attack was of an enveloping nature. It met with stubborn resistance, but steady progress was being made as this dispatch was written and khaki-clad troops have passed well within the town which lies absolutely astride the Hindenburg line, the front trench and two systems of support trenches all being within the village limits.

Prisoners Sent Back.

Prisoners began coming back soon after the battle started.

English battalions made an attack today from the south and west of Bullecourt. The attack was preceded by the usual violent bombardment. The moon had shone with wonderful brilliance all through the night and was just setting as the infantry climbed out of their shallow trenches and truded forward, laden down with hand grenades. In its earlier stages the battle was a bombing contest between the attacking forces and the defenders, although it was later reported that hand to hand fighting had developed.

(Continued on page six.)

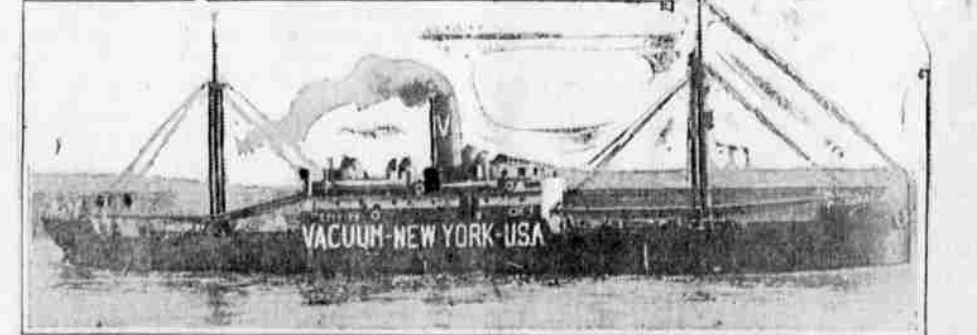
AIRSHIP DROPS BOMBS ON LONDON

LONDON, May 7.—A hostile airplane dropped four bombs northeast of London this morning, it is officially announced.

The statement announcing the airplane raid reads:
"In the early hours this morning a hostile airplane appeared over the outskirts of northeast London and dropped four bombs. One man was killed and a man and a woman injured. Slight damage was done to buildings."

No one in the area where the German airplane dropped bombs saw anything of the hostile machine. The people were awakened by the explosions but by the time they reached the street the machine had disappeared. The bomb which caused the casualties fell on the roof of some residential buildings, and the other missiles landed in a nearby swamp.

FIRST AMERICAN FIGHTING MEN LOST ON STEAMER VACUUM



United States Naval Lieutenant Thomas and a naval gun crew of nine men are still reported missing as the result of the torpedoing by a German U-boat of the American steamer Vacuum, owned by the Vacuum Oil Co. While this is the first group of men lost and the lieutenant the first officer lost, J. I. Epolucci, boatswain mate aboard the Aztec is still missing.