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NEW GAINS FOR ALLIED OFFENSIVE

Harg and Petain Renew Drive in Northern France—British Capture Trenches Behind Hindenburg Line, Forcing Germans Back Inch by Inch—French Resume Advance in the Champagne, Capturing Several Trenches—Italians Take Hill.

LONDON, May 21.—British troops during last evening captured a support trench behind the Hindenburg line trench taken during the morning, the war office announced today.

Generals Haig and Petain are again pushing ahead with their offensive in northern France and today both report new gains.

After driving into the Hindenburg line along a mile front yesterday morning in the sector northwest of Bullecourt the British resumed their attack last evening and captured a support trench behind the position just taken.

British Hold Firm. The firmness of the British hold on this section of the Hindenburg line seriously threatening the Queen-Drocourt switch protecting Douai, is attested by the failure of the German reactions. General Haig is well maintaining his initiative and bit by bit forcing the Germans to give ground.

Not only did the British prove themselves able to hold their gains from morning against heavy counter-attacks but to resume their offensive the same day and push farther ahead, maintaining their second advance against renewed counter attacks.

French Resume Drive. The French for their part in the great battle have resumed their advance in the Champagne. Having foiled the crown prince's desperate and costly effort to regain control of the Chemin-Des-Dames plateau on the Aisne front, General Petain turned to the Champagne sector and struck northward on the Moronvilliers heights.

Several lines of German trenches were captured in these operations and some 800 prisoners taken. All the important observation posts in this section of the front are now in French hands, facilitating their further advance in the drive calculated to flank the Germans out of the salient to the northwest projecting towards Rheims.

On Italian Front. ROME, May 21.—Italian troops yesterday took a hill between Pali-ova and Brivio in their offensive on the Julian front and also extended their positions on the Vedice, says the official statement issued today by the Italian war department.

Berlin Official Report. BERLIN, via London, May 21.—The Germans on the Arras front yesterday maintained their positions except in one demolished trench which was evacuated, according to a plan during the British attack Sunday on an eight and one-half mile front, says the official German statement by the army staff.

The statement says that the French (Continued on page six.)

SWISS MOB FREES SOCIALIST SOLON

CHAUX DE FORDS, Switzerland, May 21.—Paul Grabe, a socialist national councillor, was freed from jail yesterday by a mob of sympathizers after he had been sentenced to eight days' imprisonment by a court martial. Grabe was convicted of libel in connection with an article which appeared in his newspaper, La Sentinelle.

At the request of the council of the canton of Neuchatel, the general commanding the district has occupied Chaux De Fords with a regiment of infantry and a squadron of cavalry. There was much rioting during the day.

TWO AMERICAN NURSES KILLED ON WAY TO WAR

In an Accident During Practice Firing at Sea, Two Red Cross Nurses Killed and Third Wounded When Fragment From Exploded Shell Flies Back and Strikes Women.

NEW YORK, May 21.—In an accident during practice firing at sea yesterday of a gun aboard an American merchantman bound for Europe, two American Red Cross nurses were killed and a third wounded, marking virtually the first American casualties of the war.

The two killed were: Miss Edith Ayres and Miss Helen Barnett Wood, both of Chicago.

The wounded is said to be Miss Emma Matzen of Chicago, member of base hospital No. 1, bound for duty in France.

Ship Returns to Port. The ship which sailed yesterday, her flag at half mast, with the two bodies and the wounded nurse, who was taken in a tug to the New York navy yard hospital.

Official announcement of the cause of the accident has been withheld by both army and navy authorities here. One version obtained when the steamship reached quarantine was that the shell from the gun had exploded about 175 feet distant just as it was striking the water, and that pieces of the shell flew back and struck the nurses. Another was that it was caused by a breech explosion of a defective shell as the gun was fired.

Information as to the seriousness of Miss Matzen's injuries was refused at the navy yard hospital, although it was understood that she was expected to recover.

Hospital Unit Aboard. There were about 260 members of the No. 1 base hospital on board the ship, of whom sixty were women nurses. Miss Emma Matzen, the American nurse enroute for the Europe war zone, who was injured by a shell during target practice on the ship, is a daughter of T. J. Matzen of Columbus, Nebraska. She is 35 years of age and graduated four years ago from the Illinois School for Nurses at Chicago. Since that time she has been practicing her profession in that city.

Watched Practice Shots. Major Frederick Besley, professor of surgery of Northwestern university, who was director in charge of the division, said he and all the nurses were watching the practice shots.

"I was standing between Mrs. Ayres and Miss Wood and Miss Matzen was to the left of Mrs. Ayres," he said. "Simultaneously with the discharge of the gun the three nurses fell. No one else in the vicinity was touched. There is no accurate evidence as to the exact cause of the accident."

Major Besley said the gun was not damaged and the members of the crew did not know of the tragedy until told.

ITALIAN MISSION CROSSES ATLANTIC

NEW YORK, May 21.—The Italian commission to the United States headed by Prince Udine and including William Marconi and several other distinguished Italians, has safely crossed the Atlantic and soon will be in Washington to begin conferences with American officials and the Italian ambassador. Fuller announcements will be made later.

MISSOURI RAILROAD LAW IS SUSTAINED

WASHINGTON, May 21.—Provisions of Missouri statutes of 1909 prohibiting railroads from fixing higher freight rates for a short than a long haul, whether such rate discrimination is reasonable or unjust, were today sustained as constitutional by the supreme court.

RAILROADS HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR COAL SHORTAGE

Federal Trades Commission Holds That Producers, by Taking Advantage of Lack of Cars, Are to Blame for Prevailing High Prices—Stocks Exhausted.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—The bituminous coal shortage is blamed on the railroads, in a report today by the federal trade commission. Producers, by taking advantage of the lack of cars, are charged with responsibility, however, for the prevailing high prices.

"There is no scarcity of coal in the ground," the report says. "There is sufficient coal in the bituminous coal mines now being operated, not only to supply the present demand, but also to supply a greatly increased demand."

"The unprecedented demand for this fuel in the past six months, together with the difficulties of rail and water transportation, not only have absorbed the coal as fast as it could be shipped from the mines but have led to almost complete exhaustion of the coal stored at tide-water point and at the docks on the Great Lakes.

Serious State of Affairs. "The country faces a serious state of affairs in obtaining a commodity which is basic to practically every form of its military and industrial activity."

"Under 'wartime conditions,' says the report, "it may become the duty of the government to take steps similar to those found necessary by belligerent European countries and not only to regulate the distribution of coal from the mouth of the mine to the ultimate consumer by allotting the quantity of the product which the different classes of consumers shall be allowed to purchase, but also to establish the prices to be paid by different classes of consumers. At a time like the present excessive profits should not be permitted to be extorted from the public by producers and distributors of any prime necessity of life."

Of prices now charged for coal the report says:

Excess Prices Charged. "Figures submitted to the commission show that most of the present prices now charged are far in excess of the cost as shown by the operators' books. Many of the operators frankly take the position that they are trying to get for their coal the highest price possible under the present demand and are refraining, even at prices greatly increased over last year, from contracting their output to the extent of their usual custom. They defend this action by claiming that under the operations of the law of supply and demand they have for many years past been getting little more for their coal than the bare cost of production; that the mining of bituminous coal during that period has been a most unprofitable industry and that now is their chance to recoup themselves for the losses of several years. Accordingly, they are demanding prices at the mine today which run from 50 per cent to several hundred per cent over the cost of their output.

"As a result of this policy much of the bituminous coal output has been auctioned off to the highest bidder. This has resulted in great profits to certain operators and special hardship to municipal public utilities, hospitals and other public and private charitable institutions and to domestic consumers especially in the west and south where relatively little anthracite is used."

The assembly also adopted a resolution favoring national prohibition of the liquor traffic and forwarded a copy of it to President Wilson, Vice-President Marshall and Speaker Clark of the house of representatives.

TWO-CENT FARE LAW HELD CONFISCATORY

WASHINGTON, May 21.—The interstate commerce commission, the supreme court decided today, has power to compel railroads to furnish "a reasonably adequate" supply of coal cars to handle "normal and seasonal" demands for interstate commerce originating at mines along their line and to award reparation to shippers for failure to supply such cars.

WILSON DEDICATES RED CROSS HOME



President Wilson is here shown speaking at the dedication exercises and pageant of the new \$800,000 Red Cross building in Washington.

STATES WARNED IN ORGANIZATION OF THE MILITIA UNITS

WASHINGTON, May 21.—Warning against attempts in any state to organize new units of the national guard which do not accord with the organization plan for the guard approved by President Wilson was given today by the war department.

As it stands, the guard is deficient in artillery, signal, engineer and other special service troops in proportion to the number of infantry regiments. Specific instructions have been given to the adjutants-general as to the units of each arm of the service for which each state will be held responsible and in this connection the department's statement says:

"Notwithstanding such action, some states have undertaken the organization of units which cannot be utilized in the formation of complete higher tactical units. While it is much to be desired to take full advantage of the patriotic interest stirring the country, such advantage can only come through a co-ordination and regulation in keeping with the general and basic plan.

The department requests that national interest in raising new regiments interested in raising new national guard units confer with the adjutant general of their state in order to determine what branch of the service should be augmented.

PRESBYTERIANS FAVOR MERGER

DALLAS, Tex., May 21.—The Presbyterians in session here today voted unanimously in favor of reunion of the two branches of the church—the north and the south. A copy of the resolution was ordered sent to the southern assembly now in session at Birmingham.

TWO-CENT FARE LAW HELD CONFISCATORY

WASHINGTON, May 21.—Federal decrees holding the Arkansas maximum freight and two-cent passenger rates confiscatory as applied to the St. Louis and San Francisco railroad were sustained by the supreme court today.

WAR REVENUE BILL DISCUSSED IN LOWER HOUSE

WASHINGTON, May 21.—Hope of passing the war revenue bill within the next two days was not strong among house leaders today, particularly because the ways and means committee was still toiling over the question of higher second-class mail rates proposed by the bill. Even after agreeing on these rates, the committee must pass on the provisions for taxing advertising, automobiles and musical instruments before the house itself can make much progress.

Another meeting of the ways and means committee today resulted in no definite decision on second-class mail rates or the advertising tax. Both will be considered again tomorrow. A new graduated second-class mail zone rate proposal, ranging from a cent and a half a pound in the first zone to 5 cents in the eighth, received much consideration today in committee. It will be perfected and discussed again tomorrow.

An amendment to tax ray cotton \$2.50 a bale, proposed by Representative Moore of Pennsylvania, was ruled out on a point of order in the house after prolonged and heated debate.

A proposal by Representative Kelly of Michigan to strike out the 5 per cent tax on automobiles at the factory was rejected by a vote of 85 to 48. Debate then began on the Doremus amendment to levy the tax only on manufacturers earning more than \$ per cent on their capital stock.

The Doremus amendment was adopted 96 to 92.

NAVAL RESERVE OFFICER SHOT—WIFE RELEASED

SAN FRANCISCO, May 21.—Mrs. Geraldine Marhoff, arrested on the charge of assault with a deadly weapon, was dismissed in a police court hearing here today. An official naval statement was presented in court saying that her husband, Lieutenant William C. Marhoff, United States naval reserves, had been shot accidentally in the foot, and would be able to resume his duties.

ARMY AGE LIMIT RAISED TO 40 YEARS

NEW YORK, May 21.—The age limits of applicants for enlistment in the regular army has been raised from 17 to 35 years to 18 to 40 years, according to an order made public at the office of Major John H. Hughes, in charge of recruiting offices here.

PREMIER CALLS IRISH TOGETHER FOR HOME RULE

Lloyd George States That Government Proposes to Summon Immediately a Convention of Representative Irishmen in Ireland to Submit Constitution to Parliament.

LONDON, May 21.—It was announced by Premier Lloyd George today in the commons that the government proposed to summon immediately a convention of representative Irishmen in Ireland to submit to the British parliament a constitution for the future government of Ireland.

Premier Lloyd George stated today that the chairman of the proposed Irish convention will be nominated by the crown.

"If a substantial agreement is reached regarding the character and scope of the constitution framed by the convention," said the premier, "the government will take the necessary steps to enable the imperial parliament to give legislative effect therein. The convention will be held within closed doors."

The convention, said the premier, would be representative of the local governing bodies, the churches, the trade unions and commercial and educational interests and would include Sinn Feiners. The delegates would be chosen by the respective bodies. John Redmond, the nationalist leader, speaking after the premier had made his announcement, said that for the first time in her history Ireland had been asked virtually to settle a problem for herself.

"I take it for granted," he added, "that all sections of Irishmen feel it their duty to come in."

Sir Edward Carson, leader of the Irish unionists said he did not hesitate to assert he found no reason to modify the opinion he had always held that the best solution of the Irish problem lay in maintenance of the union. He did not know whether the Ulster unionists would accept the government's invitation, but he did know that no threats would have the slightest effect.

PORTLAND TO BUILD 14 WOODEN SHIPS

WASHINGTON, May 21.—Contracts for the building in Portland, Ore., of fourteen wooden ships were awarded today by the Emergency Fleet Corporation in the shipping board's shipbuilding program. The G. M. Standfiter Construction corporation is to build ten of these ships and the Peninsular Shipbuilding company four.

Contracts for 23 vessels, 26 wooden and twelve steel, have been let. Twelve of the wooden ships and four of the steel vessels will be built by the Merrill-Stevens company at Jacksonville. Announcement was made last week that the Los Angeles Shipbuilding and Drydock company would build eight steel cargo ships. These are included in the total.

PLOTTERS SENTENCED TO YEAR IN JAIL

NEW YORK, May 21.—One year in jail was the sentence imposed today upon Captain Franz Rintelen of the Germany navy, David Lamar and H. B. Martin, convicted yesterday in the federal court of conspiracy to interfere with shipment of munitions to the entente allies in 1915.

FEDERAL PROBE OF CONSCRIPTION PLOT

DALLAS, Tex., May 21.—The United States grand jury was ordered today to investigate the alleged conspiracy to make armed resistance to conscription which agents of the department of justice claim to have uncovered in northwest Texas.

ATLANTA AFIRE; FLAMES FANNED BY BRISK WIND

Fire Starts in Warehouse Section and Negro District, Sweeps North Over White Residence Section—Forty Blocks Destroyed and Soldiers Ordered to Fight Flames.

ATLANTA, Ga., May 21.—Several square miles of residential section in northeastern Atlanta were swept by fire late this afternoon. Many fine residences were destroyed, the flames going beyond the control of the fire department and raging over a great section without hindrance. By 4 o'clock about forty blocks had been burned and the fire was still progressing unchecked before a high wind.

The firemen, aided by 1000 men from the officers' training camp at Fort McPherson, made a stand on Boulevard place, two blocks from exclusive Ponce De Leon avenue, and shortly after 4 o'clock began dynamiting, hoping to clear a space wide enough to check the flames.

Aid was asked from Macon, Chattanooga, Augusta, Newnan and Griffin.

ATLANTA, Ga., May 21.—At 4 o'clock about forty blocks had been swept, extending from about Decatur street northward to Merritts avenue, taking a toll of many fine residences. At that time the blaze had not reached Ponce de Leon avenue, but there appeared to be nothing to stop its progress northward.

Starts in Warehouse. ATLANTA, Ga., May 21.—Fire starting in a warehouse section and negro district here late today swept north over the city, whipped by a brisk wind. More than sixty houses and several warehouses covering an area of a dozen blocks, were destroyed at 4 p. m.

In a short time the fire got beyond control and went rapidly into the white residence section. Reports said it had covered a distance of ten or twelve blocks and was gaining.

One thousand men from the officers' training camp at Fort McPherson were ordered into Atlanta to help the fire department, which acknowledged its inability to cope with the flames. The Southeastern Underwriters' association asked Mayor Chandler to call for aid from outside cities. Aid also has been asked from small nearby communities.

Spreads to Residence Portion. The fire, which started two blocks east of Edgewood avenue at Fort street, had completely swept at least a dozen blocks by 3:30 p. m. and an area of more than a score of blocks appeared doomed. As the flames were swept forward by a high wind they ate northward, soon getting as far north as Auburn avenue. They had crossed Forest avenue at 3:30 o'clock and were going toward Ponce de Leon avenue, one of the best residence sections of the city.

Private automobile trucks by the score were commandeered to gather every foot of hose in the city. Block after block was burning without anything whatever being done to check the flames.

CLASH BETWEEN TORPEDO FLOTILLAS

BERLIN, May 21.—An engagement between German and French torpedo boats off the coast of Flanders is reported in an official announcement from the admiralty. The announcement says:

"In the morning of the 20th, off the coast of Flanders, a short outpost engagement took place between German and French torpedo boats. The enemy boats were repeatedly hit by our artillery and our vessels returned without losses or damage."

The French official statement issued yesterday reported that a flotilla of German destroyers had been driven back to its base by a patrol of four French torpedo boats. The statement said one of the French vessels had suffered some damage.