



# MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE



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## OFFENSIVE BY ALLIES IN BELGIUM

Reports From London and Berlin Indicate Beginning of Offensive to Smash German Flank on Belgian Coast—Heavy Artillery Attack Underway South to Ypres District—Resumption of Drive by French Indicated—Italians Hold Ground.

LONDON, June 1.—Many tons of bombs have been dropped by British aircraft on the Belgian towns of Ostend, Zeebrugge and Bruges, the war department announced today.

BERLIN, June 1.—Heavy gun firing last night reached a stage of great intensity in the region of the dunes on the Belgian coast and in the Ypres bend, particularly in the Wytschaete sector, the war office announced today.

Advance Probable. Reports from both Berlin and London today indicate the probability of an important military movement by the allies is under way on the Belgian front—possibly an attempt in force to hit the German flank on the coast a crushing blow.

A pitch of notable intensity such as usually precedes an attack has been reached by the artillery fighting near the coast and to the south in the Ypres district.

Meanwhile British air raids have been carried out on and near this coast. "Many tons of bombs," says the London official statement, have been dropped on Ostend, Bruges and Zeebrugge, the last named being one of the principal German submarine bases.

To Renew Offensive. Dispatches from the French front today indicate a renewal soon of the Great offensive against the Germans. The French are in more advantageous positions now than when they began their offensive in April. Last night a German post in the Chevreux district near Craonne was captured.

The British to the north are again reporting gains after a brief period in which only raiding operations were attempted. The advance was scored in the region of Cherisy between Croiselles and the Lens-Cambrai road. In one of their big attacks during the height of the Arras battle British troops were reported as having reached Cherisy, but were not able to hold it at the time. They now have pushed forward again a little to the west of the town.

Official Reports. LONDON, June 1.—"Our troops gained ground slightly during the night west of Cherisy" (Arras front) says today's official announcement. "Patrol encounters resulted in our favor last night in the neighborhood of Gouzeaucourt. Successful raids were made by us northwest of Lou and near Ploegsteert wood."

ROME, June 1.—Violent efforts were made by the Austrians last night to regain some of the ground they recently lost in the Italian offensive. The Austrian masses attacking in the Vedice area were firmly met and the attack failed completely, the war office announced today.

PARIS, June 1.—French troops last night captured a German post south of Chevreux, taking a number of prisoners, the war office announces. Raids by Germans and an attack on the Casque were repulsed.

## SPAIN SEIZES WHEAT SENT SWITZERLAND

BILBOA, Spain, June 1.—According to news received from Madrid the government has ordered the seizure of a cargo of Argentine wheat on board the steamer Rosario which arrived here Wednesday. The cargo was consigned to Switzerland by way of Cete.

The Spanish cabinet, the advice state, maintains that it is entitled to take over the wheat to meet the needs of Spain.

## INITIATIVE NOW HELD BY FRENCH ON WEST LINE

Artillery Duels Continue Unceasingly At All Points—Germans Showing Great Nervousness as to What is About to Happen—French Demonstrate Superiority.

(From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.)

ON THE FRENCH FRONT IN FRANCE, Thursday, May 31.—Between April 15 and May 24 the number of German prisoners falling into French hands reached a total of 31,829, of which 28,045 were unwounded. This period covers three phases of the general attack now temporarily abated, which the French undoubtedly will continue when the proper moment arrives.

As a result of the successful attacks the French now possess the initiative and occupy more important positions than when they began the forward movement in April. Artillery duels continue unceasingly at all points on the front, occasionally intermingled with local infantry combats in which short stretches of trench sometimes change hands. Thus far the French always have regained any positions taken from them and at some places have bitten further into the German lines.

Germans Nervous. The Germans are showing great nervousness as to what is about to happen and the slightest movement in the French lines calls for that hurricane of artillery and machine gun fire. The absolute confidence of the French in their superiority is seen in the manner in which they move over intervening ground between the lines when ordered to attack. The tactics now employed permit them to attack with minimum losses.

This was demonstrated, for instance, in a recent raid in the range of hills and foods south of Chevreux, advanced in order to straighten out the line, severe artillery preparations having preceded the assault. The infantry gained the objective and took thirty prisoners in addition to killing a number of Germans. Later it was discovered that French shells had battered the German shelters so thoroughly that six full German companies, cronehing in the shelters while awaiting an opportunity for a counter-attack had been killed to the last man. The place was a shambles. The total French loss in this affair amounted to only 27 men killed or wounded.

French Losses Slight. This proportion applies only to one corner of the battlefield, for in other places the French encountered difficulties which held them back for a period and entailed much more severe fighting, with consequent higher casualties. Close observation by the correspondent of the whole fighting front from Soissons to Aubervy, however, shows clearly that the French casualties are much lower than the German.

## SENATE HEARS PROTEST AGAINST WAR TAX BILL

WASHINGTON, June 1.—The senate finance committee today heard protests on its revision of the house war tax bill.

Senator Broussard of Louisiana protested against the decision to levy a consumption tax of half a cent a pound on sugar. Although some senators thought the tax would be imposed only upon imported sugar, Chairman Simmons said that the committee intended to have the tax apply on all sugar, domestic or imported.

A new tax of 25 cents per primary horsepower developed from public waters was suggested to the committee by Senator Bankhead of Alabama, who estimated it would raise \$1,500,000 this year and much more as hydro-electric development proceeds.

Another change recommended by Senator Kellogg was to exempt from taxation income received by corporations from other corporations to avoid double taxation.

## ILLINOIS CITY REDUCED TO RUINS; PROPERTY LOSS IN MILLIONS



As if bombarded by huge cannon, Mattoon, Illinois, is here shown, a city of death and destruction. Mattoon suffered more than any other city by a tornado sweeping from the west which left 63 dead, about 500 injured and a property loss estimated at \$2,000,000 in Mattoon alone. Charleston, nearby, suffered a loss of 50 dead, 150 injured and \$1,000,000 in property damage.

## QUICK ACTION TO HALT AGITATION AGAINST DRAFT

WASHINGTON, June 1.—With only four days more before Tuesday, draft regulation day, the department of justice planned today to exert every energy to quell anti-draft agitation, which already has resulted in a number of arrests in various cities.

Department of justice officials say many persons have responded to their request that cases of opposition to the draft regulation be reported. These reports are referred for investigation to United States attorneys or marshals who have instructions to make arrests promptly when they discover attempts to hamper execution of the draft law.

The war department announced that no man registering would be required to answer the question of whether he claims exemption. It will be sufficient to present his claim if he is called before an exemption board later. Officials at sea ports and along United States boundaries had orders to detain men seeking to leave the country to avoid registration and the war department is considering means of enrolling Americans living abroad.

## BOISE ATTORNEY SUICIDES IN HOSPITAL

PORTLAND, Ore., June 1.—An interne at a Portland hospital early today found the body of C. E. Lingerfunder, said to be a Boise, Idaho, attorney, hanging out of a second story window from a rope around his neck. The interne called for help and in the haste to get the body inside, the rope slipped and the dead man fell two stories to the ground.

Later today the coroner said he was uncertain whether death resulted from the hanging or the fall. Lingerfunder left no reason for his act. He was about 45 years of age.

## PRESS CENSORSHIP LEFT OUT OF BILL

WASHINGTON, June 1.—Administration managers in the senate today decided to let the newspaper censorship section of the espionage bill die with the house vote of yesterday against it. The senate conferees expect to drop the hard fought section entirely and bring the bill before the senate for final passage containing only the indisputable.

## VIENNA WORKMEN STRIKE FOR PEACE

COPENHAGEN, June 1.—Reports from Vienna say that simultaneously with the opening of the Austrian parliament thousands of workmen ceased work and organized a great procession as a demonstration for peace.

## NEW ELECTION TO END PARLIAMENTARY CRISIS, HUNGARY

COPENHAGEN, June 1.—Austrian dispatches to the German papers give the impression that the Hungarian crisis is gradually working in the direction of a dissolution of parliament and new elections. In the interior a minority ministry would hold office and Count Androssy is mentioned as a possible head for such a cabinet. Unless the Hungarian electoral practices are changed, the cabinet in power during the elections would probably emerge with a majority.

The address of the Budapest municipality to the king, thanking him for his stand in the franchise question, reveals the fact that King Charles desires a universal secret ballot. Count Tisza advocates a restricted and involved suffrage, perpetuating Magyar dominance. Under royal pressure, however, he has dropped from his program some of the limitations on the labor vote, such as requiring the qualification of a year's residence and the retention of the same employment.

Count Tisza professes to be weary of the parliamentary struggle and tells his friends that he wants to go to the front and fight. However, it is safe to assume that when parliament opens the former premier will be vigorously leading the opposition.

## PORT OF NEW YORK CLOSED TO SHIPPING

NEW YORK, June 1.—The port of New York was closed at daylight today to outgoing vessels, not even fishing boats or barges being permitted to pass out the narrows. Arriving steamships were permitted to enter. The cause of the closing of the port was not made known.

Shortly after the order prohibiting vessels from leaving the harbor became known, preparations were made to close the gate in the net that stretches across the mouth of the harbor. The gate has not been closed in the day time since it was placed in position soon after diplomatic relations with Germany were severed. Both navy yard and customs officials refused information as to the reason for the move.

## CIVILIANS TO PROBE CONDITIONS ON SOLACE

WASHINGTON, June 1.—A civilian commission composed of Abraham Flexner of New York, Dr. William H. Welch of Baltimore, and Nathan Strauss of New York will inspect the naval hospital ship Solace and the navy's method of treating sick sailors.

Already Admiral Mayo is conducting an investigation of charges of mistreatment contained in a round robin signed by several enlisted men who were patients on the Solace.

## THREE AMERICAN SAILING SHIPS SUNK IN MEDITERRANEAN

LONDON, June 1.—The American sailing ship Dirigo, 3,065 tons, has been sunk by a German submarine. The crew has been landed with the exception of John Ray, third mate, who was drowned when the small boats were being launched.

A statement issued by the British admiralty says that the Dirigo was attacked by gunfire by a German submarine, which gave no warning. The vessel was subsequently sunk by bombs after it had been ransacked by the crew of the submarine. The sinking occurred May 31 and the crew was landed at Plymouth.

The Dirigo was attacked at 7 o'clock in the morning. The weather was fine although hazy. The men were rescued before 9 o'clock. Joseph G. Stevens, American consul at Plymouth, is caring for the survivors.

LONDON, June 1.—The admiralty reports that the American sailing vessel Barbara was attacked by gunfire of a German submarine at 7 o'clock on the morning of May 24. All the members of the crew were landed at Gibraltar.

LONDON, June 1.—The American sailing ship Frances M. was attacked by gunfire on the morning of May 18, according to a report from Cadiz, given out today by the admiralty. All the members of the crew are at Cadiz.

## RECLAMATION CROPS SHOW GOOD GAIN

WASHINGTON, June 1.—Government reclamation projects covering 1,426,000 acres of irrigable land in 1916 furnished water to 295,000 acres, from which \$33,000,000 worth of crops were harvested, Secretary Lane announced today. The value of crops from similar land in 1915 was \$18,000,000.

## PARIS STRIKE MOVE IS ON THE WANE

PARIS, June 1.—The strike movement in Paris is now on the wane. Of forty classes of working people that were out on strike yesterday, 21 have obtained satisfaction for their demands and will return to work today. Only twelve new trades, on the other hand, joined in the strike movement.

## BRAZIL PLANS TO REORGANIZE ARMY

RIO JANEIRO, June 1.—A political movement of considerable strength is on foot to bring about re-organization of the army. The voting of new credits for military purposes and an increase in the enlisted strength of the army has been proposed.

## SEATTLE BANDIT SHOTS HIMSELF WHEN FIRED UPON

SEATTLE, June 1.—A stranger who entered the King County State bank in the university district today and demanded \$3000 was fired upon by Assistant Cashier William A. Nordquist. The would-be robber shot and killed himself. He has not been identified.

The man entered the bank and laid on Nordquist's desk a note printed with a rubber stamp and reading as follows: "Do not give any alarm while I am in here and you will live. I have two pint bottles of nitroglycerine and just want to die. One signal of alarm and I will blow up the entire block."

"I want \$3000 in gold or currency. You needn't hurry. When I am tired of waiting, I will make the explosion. I carry a loaded gun, too."

Instead of complying with the man's request, Nordquist suddenly ducked behind his desk and, seizing a revolver, began firing thru the counter, wounding the would-be robber in the thigh. The robber turned his revolver on himself, pulled the trigger and died almost immediately.

An examination of his clothing shows that the goods were bought in Spokane. The body has been taken to the county morgue. He was well dressed and about 40 years of age.

## FIRST FOOD BILL TO PASS SENATE TOMORROW NIGHT

WASHINGTON, June 1.—Passage by the senate of the administration's first food bill probably will not occur before tomorrow night. Final action was delayed today by a number of proposed amendments which were not yet disposed of.

Resuming consideration of the bill which provides for a food survey and stimulation of production the senate today took up for discussion Senator Fletcher's amendment to permit the food stringency. The proposal has the endorsement of the administration.

Work of perfecting the bill to authorize a food administration and price-fixing, second of the government's measures, was continued today by the house agricultural committee.

## KURDS HARASSING RUSSIANS IN PERSIA

PETROGRAD, June 1.—British admiralty per wireless—Kurds continue to harass the Russian troops along the border of Persia and Mesopotamia. Yesterday, Kurds mounted on horseback, attacked the Russians at a point northwest of Kermanshah, the war office announced today.

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## ITALY NOW HAS FOUR MILLION MEN IN ARMS

Front Covered is Greater Than That Held by France and Belgium—Fighting in Progress on Peaks 9000 Feet High—Supply Lines Cut Thru Solid Ice in Inaccessible Alps.

WASHINGTON, June 1.—How Italy's action helped France throw back the Germans at the Marne and also weakened the German-Austro offensive on Russia was detailed today by Augusto Cluffelli, former minister of public works and now a member of the Italian war mission. In both cases, he said, Italy's attitude was most decisive.

"Upon Italy's declaration of neutrality at the outbreak of the war," said Mr. Cluffelli, "France was able to withdraw one-half million men from our frontier to throw them across the German path before Paris. At that time France was pressed for trained men and for supplies and the British army was not yet mobilized. Without Italy's action, the Germans would probably have entered Paris."

Also Aided Russia. "Similarly, Italy's actual entrance into the war in May 1915, tremendously aided the retreating and disorganized Russian armies and created such a diversion as to save Russia from being reduced to impotence. Again Italy's action was decisive."

"If Italy had been inspired by the lust of conquest she could easily have joined with Germany whose victory would have been tremendously facilitated by her intervention. But Italy could not make herself party to the aggression of Austria upon Serbia or aid in a war featured by the invasion of Belgium. Italy could not join the two imperial dynasties which dreamed of world domination on the principle that might makes right."

"Italy's sacrifice in this war has been almost staggering. We now have four million men under arms. Our front is 540 kilometers long, greater than the whole French and Belgian front. Every yard we have conquered has cost us terribly."

Battles Two Miles High. "Some of our heavy guns are fighting from an elevation of over two miles on peaks none thousand feet high. Our roads and supply lines in many cases have been cut thru solid ice. A whole new human center has been built up in the most inaccessible part of the Alps."

"This must be the last war. Nations cannot in the future squander their money on military preparedness. The new spirit must make us live together in the ideals of peace and justice. Italy is eager to take her place in a new world organized for peace just as on a smaller scale at the Algiers conference she made possible the international agreement on Morocco."

## GENERAL STRIKE IN PETROGRAD FOR SIX HOUR DAY

LONDON, June 1.—Strikes or other measures to paralyze production have been decided upon in more than 120 of the largest factories in Petrograd, most of which are engaged in war work, Renter's Petrograd correspondent telegraphs.

After the failure of efforts of the conciliation board to reach an agreement on any points, the staffs of the factories resolved to strike or alternatively to paralyze work by carrying out all regulations to the letter. The time and form of strikes are to be decided in each factory separately.

In some cases the strike already has begun, while in others the staffs are busily enlisting the support of the workers.

According to the Nova In Zhizn, Maxim Gorky's paper, the demands of the workers include a six-hour day and a minimum wage for women of 150 rubles monthly.

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