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## BLOODIEST BATTLE IN HISTORY BEING FOUGHT

### French Claim German Drive Is Checked—Trainloads of Wounded Tell of Terrific Struggle—30,000 Wounded Dying in Rain and Snow and Beyond Reach of Comrades—Some Regiments on Both Sides Annihilated—Germans Say Verdun Must Fall

London, Feb. 28.—Checked at Verdun by French reinforcements, the German crown prince's drive is spreading to the Champagne, 40 miles west of the Verdun woods. The Berlin official statement today virtually confirmed the French claims that the Verdun offensive is halted temporarily at least. At the same time, Berlin reported the capture of over 1600 yards of trenches and the Navarin farm, the scene of desperate conflict in last September's offensive. Efficient artillery preparation preceded this assault, indicating that the big Teuton howitzers battered the Champagne defenses as they did the French lines at the beginning of the Verdun drive. More than 1,000 prisoners were taken by the Germans.

Paris admitted the Champagne loss, attributing it to a "surprise" attack. For the first time since the opening of the Verdun campaign, though, Berlin claimed no important gains in that region. The Meuse "peninsula," a strip of land five miles from Verdun, said Berlin, has been cleared of the French, who have exhausted themselves in their efforts against Douaumont and Harcourt. The Germans claimed to have progressed further in the direction of Vacherauville and Bras, four miles north of Verdun, and to have gained the foot of Cote Lorraine in the Woëvre. Before Bras can be taken, the Teutons must storm the Pepper Heights. Berlin mentioned no fighting there. As for Douaumont, Paris reported the repulse of attacks, while Berlin said the French had worn themselves out there. Attacks northwest of Fresnes have been repulsed, Paris declared.

Paris, Feb. 28.—The Verdun woods may go down in history as the world's bloodiest battlefield. Trainloads of wounded, shattered men are reporting here, giving evidence of fearful carnage north of Verdun. Other trains are steaming eastward with reinforcements and ammunition to fill the gaps made by the German offensive. There must be 30,000 wounded men dying in awful agony in the rain and snow, simply because their comrades cannot reach them," said a surgeon today. "The percentage of dead will exceed that of the Champagne offensive last September because in this battle there is no lull, and no chance to withdraw the wounded under fire." Thousands of dead and wounded men lay in the open on the plain north of Pepper Heights, under a hurricane of shells. Other thousands are among the stumps of Caures forest, the wounded in a living death, the dead left to rot, while the killing continues. On the plain north of Douaumont, the slaughter is frightful. Surgeons reported that some regiments on both sides had almost disappeared, so awful is the battling. All agree that never before has there been known a campaign comparable to that by the Germans. Though the tragedy of Verdun is written on the faces of the Parisian men and women, they are nevertheless

## Abie Martin



cherished by the latest advice indicating that the French left holds the Pepper Heights while the center and right are counter attacking from the ruins of Douaumont. Officers assert that the French have accumulated so strong a reserve for such an offensive as this, that the German losses soon will be so great that the offensive must halt from sheer exhaustion. Attack is Only Prelude. London, Feb. 28.—With all his resources, the Kaiser is striking for an immediate, overwhelming victory, intended to end the war. The past week's battling for the fortress of Verdun is but the prelude to a grand assault along the western front—the most tremendous offensive the world has ever seen. Simultaneously with the land operations, the German submarine campaign against armed ships is due to start at midnight Tuesday. Prince Henry of Prussia, has taken over a high navy command preliminary to this. London is tense. She awaits news that the German fleet is coming out into the North sea or that Zeppelins are approaching. "It is the real thing at last," said the Times critic today. While Europe and the world are on edge, perhaps the greatest artillery and infantry battle ever known rages over the ruins of Douaumont, not far from Verdun. The position has changed hands repeatedly during the past few days. Two miles west of Douaumont, the French are projecting the flame of an artillery across the Talu ridge and the approach to the "Pepper Heights," barring the advance to Verdun. Austro-German guns are shooting tons of explosives into the armored slopes of the Pepper position in an attempt to blast the ridge away, thus opening the road through Bras to Verdun. Say Verdun Must Fall. Berlin, Feb. 28.—The fall of Verdun, possibly within a fortnight, was predicted by military critics here today. They pointed out that no fortress since the war started has withstood a German attack once a breach was made in the outer defenses. "Douaumont was in ruins Thursday, the day before the Brandenburg forces stormed it," said the Vossische Zeitung correspondent today. "Four of our heavy shots hit the bull's eye of Douaumont and explosions in the interior followed. "A second fort nearby blew up just as did Fort Loncin at Liege, the result of a single large calibre shell crashing into an ammunition magazine. "Our artillery opened a murderous fire on the morning of the 21st. Thanks to the splendid activity of our fliers, the aeroplanes of the enemy were unable to observe our extensive preparations. Our fire raged with increasing fury until late afternoon, crashing trenches and tearing entanglements to pieces." (Continued on Page Five.)

## McARTHUR INDORSES CHAMBERLAIN BILL

Washington, Feb. 28.—Representative McArthur, of Oregon, today endorsed the Ferris-Chamberlain bill dealing with the California-Oregon land cases. "The proposition to sell timber lands worth \$10,000 to \$20,000 a quarter section for \$2.50 an acre is ridiculous," he told the house public lands committee. "The proceeds should go to the school and road funds." Representative Wilson withdrew his bill, which Chairman Ferris had denounced as "loaded."

## HE SAW TOO MUCH

Portland, Ore., Feb. 28.—Vladivostok was far as Petroff Burachenko, 39, got when he set out to join the grand duke's army in the Caucasus. Today he is back in Portland and wants to take out citizenship papers immediately. Sight of all the war preparations at the Siberian port chilled his blood, he said.

## QUARREL IS ENDED BY DOUBLE MURDER

M. D. Bousman Kills Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Akers Near Wilderville

Grants Pass, Ore., Feb. 28.—M. D. Bousman was formally charged today with murdering Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Akers near Wilderville, 10 miles from Grants Pass. Arrested by Sheriff Smith late yesterday, Bousman admitted that he hit by the roadside and shot Akers and his wife when they passed by on their way to Sunday school. Their two horses also were shot and killed. Bousman, aged 53 years, had quarreled with Akers his neighbor over a boundary fence. Because he uttered threats against Akers, Bousman received a letter from the district attorney warning him to stop quarrelling with his neighbor. Akers frequently preached at the Wilderville church. At 10 o'clock Sunday morning he was driving to Wilderville with Mrs. Akers when Bousman fired from the brush, killing one of Akers' horses. A second shot killed Mrs. Akers. By this time Akers probably had recognized their assailant. A bullet wounded him, but he leaped from the wagon and, without a weapon, attempted to fight. "The next thing I knew," said Bousman at the county jail in terror of a mob, "my rifle was empty and they were all dead, even the horses." The bodies were found late yesterday when officers went to arrest Bousman. They found him in his cabin. He offered no resistance. He had attempted to end his own life by drinking laudanum, but it only made him sick.

## To Discuss Rural Credit at Men's Liberal Club

Rural credit is one of the growing questions before the American people. A number of managers are now being drawn up to be presented to the next legislature. In order that the people may have a full knowledge of the importance of this movement the Men's Liberal club has invited the Hon. W. H. Dufur of Portland, father of the Dufur bill, to discuss rural credits at a public meeting. Mr. Percy A. Cupper, also the framer of a rural credits bill, will speak at the same meeting. As the question is of special importance to our farmers and fruit-growers, the grange and the agricultural department of the Salem Commercial club are urged to get behind the movement and make the meeting a success. This will be a public meeting and ladies are invited to be present. Remember the date and place of meeting, Wednesday, March 1, at the Unitarian church, 7:45 o'clock.

## Prices Drop On Receipt of Germany's Memorandum

(Copyright 1916 by the New York Evening Post.) New York, Feb. 28.—On reports of German successes in the Verdun drive, stock market prices at the opening today fell from one-half to 1 point. A regular recovery followed, however, seemingly in response to dispatches contradicting the earlier claims. While the trading was swinging back and forth, news of Germany's memorandum with its seeming refusal to postpone its new submarine campaign was published. Naturally this caused prices to break again in the afternoon's decline was sharp and general. Bodies Wash Ashore. London, Feb. 28.—The bodies of the captain and eight sailors of the Wilson liner, Dido, sunk early Saturday, were washed up today on the Lincolnshire coast. The Dido was a 4,800-ton steamer.

## LINER MALOJA HITS MINE IN CHANNEL 171 ARE DROWNED

London, Feb. 28.—That the Peninsular and Oriental liner Maloja carried 429 persons, including 119 passengers and that only 200 had been saved when she was mined off Dover yesterday was the revised report of the company today. Its statement, however, expressed the hope that further rescues would be made. Previous figures indicated 409 aboard, with 55 passengers and 96 crew lost. The new figures indicate that 171, instead of 151, perished.

## STEAMER EMPRESS GOING TO HER AID ALSO STRIKES MINE AND GOES DOWN

Other destroyed ships were: the British liner Empress, of Fort William, mined in going to the Maloja's rescue; the British vessel Elrigt, and Saverit; the French vessel Trigane, and the Dutch steamer Mekelebourg.

## FIVE OTHERS HIT MINES WITHIN LAST TWO DAYS

The bodies of 12 women and six children in morgue—One Baby Floats Safely

The Russian liner Petahenga was sunk today, the seventh victim of mines in two days. Fifteen of her crew were landed. The bodies of 12 women and six children victims of the Maloja explosion lay today in the Dover morgue. Several survivors were dying of exposure. Meanwhile an investigation was under way to determine how the vessel was mined. The ship sank within view of Dover. A heavy explosion turned the vessel keel up and she sank within a short time. For the most part good order was maintained. Forty seven dead have been identified at the Dover morgue. It is possible the Maloja struck one of the mines the Germans are known to have sown off the Thames channel by German ships operating under neutral flags. The Holland-American liner Ryndam is reliably reported to have struck one of these recently. The Maloja was a 12,451-ton liner, and was the sister ship of the destroyed liner Persia. A baby girl, wrapped in blankets and unharmed, was picked up an hour after the Maloja sank.

## Siskiyou Mountains Still Impassable for Automobile Tourists

The state highway department has received information from employees on the Siskiyou mountain road that it is still impossible for automobiles to get through over the mountains. Two cars last week from Portland got as far as Siskiyou and found it necessary to turn back. It will probably be 10 or 15 days, if the weather continues favorable, before it will be possible to get over the mountains. The weather has been exceptionally favorable there, and a crew has been set to dragging the road as far as the station at Siskiyou and it is expected that it will be in excellent condition for the season's traffic. There have been no serious slides and the grade has settled materially during the winter season.

## Medical Students Still On Strike Over Frog

Portland, Ore., Feb. 28.—Freshmen at the University of Oregon medical college today still refused to attend the classes of Dr. John D. MacLaren. Furthermore, the entire student body has endorsed the freshman "strike." The class declared a boycott against MacLaren Friday. MacLaren had refused to apologize for comparing the gray matter of Archibald N. McDonald, a student, to that of the frog which the class was studying. McDonald is a graduate of Whitman college and a married man. Trouble had been brewing between MacLaren and the students for months.

## Bloodhounds Lose Scent of Fleeing Murderer

San Jose, Cal., Feb. 28.—The chief hope of the police of capturing the murderer of George N. Jones, College Park banker, lies today in the fact that the slayer who stabbed himself in the arm when he attacked Jones, will be compelled by infection or loss of blood to seek medical aid. The bloodhounds after trailing the slayer across the marshes into Alameda county by the scent left on the top of trees in water two feet deep, lost the trail completely.

## EUGENE TO MARSHFIELD BY APRIL 15 SAYS SCOTT

Portland, Ore., Feb. 28.—Railroad service between Eugene and Marshfield will be an actual fact before April 15, said John M. Scott, general passenger agent of the Southern Pacific, returning today from an inspection trip. A bridge across the Umpqua river is not yet constructed, but until it is built, passengers and baggage will be ferried across.

## CITIZENSHIP IS RESTORED

Governor Withycombe has granted restoration to citizenship of Ed Henderson and Duke McCurdy, who in April, 1913, were tried in Washington county for a statutory offense and sentenced to serve from three to 20 years in the penitentiary but who were paroled from the bench at the time sentence was pronounced, by Judge J. U. Campbell. Citizenship was restored at the request of Judge Campbell, District Attorney E. B. Honger and numerous residents of Washington county.

## LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA DEAD

John M. Eshleman Expires Suddenly at Indio This Morning

Sacramento, Cal., Feb. 28.—John M. Eshleman, lieutenant governor of California, died this morning at 5:30 at Indio, Cal. The first news was received at the governors office at the capital. Eshleman died in the Southern Pacific club house in the town of Indio. His death was due to tuberculosis. Eshleman left San Francisco Friday night for his home in Imperial, Cal. He was taken ill en route and stopped off at Indio. Eshleman was born in Villa Ridge, Ill., June 14, 1876, the son of William J. and Rachel Elizabeth (Kelly) Eshleman. He was graduated from the University of California with the degree of A. B. in 1902, and received the M. A. degree the following year. He married Miss Elizabeth Ledgett of Oakland in 1906. Eshleman early took an interest in political questions, and after being admitted to the state bar in 1905, ran for the legislature and was elected in 1907. For three years, from 1907 to 1910, he served as district attorney of Imperial county. Eshleman's most recent place of residence was in Los Angeles. He also had a home in El Centro and was en route there when stricken with his last illness. The lieutenant governor had been in ill health for a number of years. In 1915 he removed temporarily to Arizona and returned to California in an apparently improved condition. He presided at the special session of the legislature this year and said he was feeling better than in some years.

## DIED ALL ALONE

Indio, Cal., Feb. 28.—Lieutenant Governor John M. Eshleman died alone in his room at the Southern Pacific hotel here shortly after 5:30 o'clock this morning. Death was due to a hemorrhage which followed a severe coughing spell. Just before he died, Eshleman called for help. His feeble cry was heard by Manager Craig of the hotel, but the end came before Craig reached the lieutenant governor's bed chamber. Eshleman was en route to El Centro. He was taken ill on the train, and decided to stop over night at the hotel, intending to resume his journey in the morning. The body was taken in charge by members of the Masonic lodge. State Senator Thompson is coming to Indio to make funeral arrangements.

## Johnson's Fine Tribute

Sacramento, Cal., Feb. 28.—Governor Johnson was visibly affected by the news of Eshleman's death. Eshleman was always referred to by the governor as "Jack." In a statement the governor said: "Jack's death is the worst blow and saddest blow the state has ever had. I am broken hearted. I love Jack Eshleman as I have cared for few men. I was hoping and planning that he might be my successor as governor. He was braver than all the rest of us. God gave us health and strength to work and fight with Jack had neither, but he worked and fought better than any of us, and always at his elbow, was the grim specter. "This state is so close to what Jack Eshleman has done that its colossal importance may not now be wholly appreciated; but the generations of his children and his children's children, with pride, gratefully and reverently will point to the lasting achievements of the master mind in California's liberation from the commercial tyranny of transportation companies, and John M. Eshleman as the years pass, will grow bigger and greater, just as we who love him have ever seen and known him. "There is just one man like Jack Eshleman in each generation and his loss is irreparable."

## WILSON'S FIRM STAND MAY CLEAR SITUATION

### President's Declaration "I Have No Choice in Honor But To Take the Position I Have" Strikes Home—German Officials However Think Secret Orders Issued by England, for Merchantmen to Attack Submarines, Found On Ship Woodfield May Change Position

By Carl W. Ackerman, United Press Staff Correspondent. Berlin, Feb. 28.—Germany will not torpedo passenger liners without warning even after Tuesday, when her warfare against armed merchantmen becomes effective, the United Press was reliably informed today. Germany will endanger human lives only in case a steamer attempts to escape, to fire on a submarine or to ram it. The difference between the past and the future submarine warfare will be that: Armed ships will not be considered legitimate peaceful trading vessels. Commanders will not torpedo every ship encountered, trusting later that they may prove them vessels armed for offense. Commanders will not violate previous instructions to warn passenger liners before sinking them.

Germany is not courting trouble with America, but if a future accident endangers Americans, Germany will consider she is not responsible, inasmuch as she has warned Americans and the American government officially. Officials and the American colony read with surprise President Wilson's letter to Senator Stone. Leaders were astounded that the armed ship controversy had been linked by the president with a question of America's national honor. As the hour of the new campaign approaches, the question of a possible diplomatic break is receiving more consideration, as both officials and the public believe America's attitude in the pending negotiations is unfriendly.

The above is the first indication that Germany does not intend to torpedo liners, even if armed and it indicates she intends to fulfill her pledges in the Arabic case. There is almost a contradiction, however, in the statement that she will not consider armed ships "legitimate, peaceful trading" vessels. This may mean she insists that armed vessels must be regarded as warships and it might prevent embarrassment should an overzealous submarine commander sink an armed liner.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Germany's reiteration of intent to torpedo armed merchantmen beginning Wednesday was handed Secretary of State Lansing today by German Ambassador Von Bernstorff. Lansing's only announcement was Ambassador Von Bernstorff left his government's memorandum. That is all I can say. The German envoy was equally uncommunicative. Later, however, it was learned the memorandum contained the report of submarine commanders on a score of cases, in which it was alleged British merchantmen used their armament offensively. It also gave further references to alleged secret British admiralty orders to destroy submarines. The original copy of the alleged copy, found on the seized liner Appan, was recently given to Lansing by Von Bernstorff. The Austrian charge d'affaires visited the secretary after Von Bernstorff and declared Austria's views were identical with Germany's. The house and senate kept hands off in the situation.

## England's Secret Orders

Washington, Feb. 28.—England's alleged orders to merchantmen to attack submarines, as claimed by Germany, seemed today to offer the last hope for a satisfactory adjustment of the German-American deadlock. If these orders are proved to exist, the American position toward Germany may be somewhat altered. Ambassador Von Bernstorff's instructions from Berlin, however, offered no apparent basis for a settlement. The German envoy had an appointment with Secretary of State Lansing shortly before noon. Austrian Charge d'affaires Zwiedineck conferred with Lansing soon after Bernstorff left, saying Austria's views are the same as Germany's. He left no memorandum, however.

Though the state department heads expect no postponement of this decree, they were gratified that Germany, in her instructions, has recognized that the Lusitania settlement is involved in the decree. Bernstorff's word from Berlin was reported to include assurances that Germany recognizes the pledges given in the Lusitania and Arabic cases not to attack peaceful ships without warning.

### THE WEATHER

Oregon: Tonight fair south, rain or snow north portion; Tuesday fair west, rain or snow east portion; westerly winds.

