

TERRIFIC FIGHTING IS RAGING ALONG FORTY MILE FRONT

Great Battle Now In Its Sixth Day Reaches Acme of Fury

MAY BE WEEKS BEFORE CONTEST IS DECIDED

French Artillery Destroys Everything It Is Turned Loose On

By Henry Wood

(United Press staff correspondent) With the French armies in the field, April 21.—The French out-Hindenburg Hindenburg in their great offensive. It is possible today for the first time to reveal some of the strategy which to date has kept the French forces on their greatest victory in general offensive since the war began.

It was the same strategic superiority that enabled the French to force the German acceptance of the ground previously chosen by the French, as the site of the battle of the Marne. In the same fashion, the French forced the Germans to accept the site of the present battle of the Aisne—on ground carefully selected by the French strategists from Soissons to Auberive.

Hindenburg's "strategic retreat" was for the purpose of forcing the French to accept battle on ground which the German staff had chosen before the Hindenburg line. That strategy has now failed. The French did not choose Hindenburg's line as the main point of their offensive.

Destruction was useless. Likewise, all the wanton destruction in the pathway of the German retreat—all the razing of trees, farms and villages—done to interfere with the allies' advance, has now proved utterly useless as a military step and completely unjustifiable.

The battle of the Aisne is now in its sixth day. It will likely continue for weeks before a decisive moment is reached, according to the general impression among strategists at the front. Along the forty odd miles of fighting line, there are three general sections, where the topography of the country makes three natural divisions. To the left is the section from Soissons to Craonne, the center lies between Craonne and Rheims and the right is between Rheims and Auberive.

Information obtainable here at the front today was that these divisions are likely to undergo modifications with the possibility always of a great extension of the front.

Today the battle is raging everywhere along the three divisions with incredible fury. The great struggle subdivides itself into numerous smaller engagements. They may seem meaningless little or big clashes—but every one of them tends to a common objective—long before hand.

Attacks Continuous

Scarcely an hour of the day or night does not witness at some point either an attack or the repulse of a counter attack. These are always indicated by a sudden rise to terrific intensity of the ceaseless artillery roll along fronts of one, two, three or more miles.

Although these battles are furious in their intensity, only the artillery is usually visible as the sign of the conflict—because the infantry fights its way forward under the cover of fire.

(Continued on page five.)

ABE MARTIN



Mrs. Tipton Bud's nephew, who got married 't' git th' \$4,000 income tax exemption, has accepted a travelin' position. Th' trouble with a type-written letter is that you nearly, alius have 't' take it 't' th' postmaster 't' find out who it's from.

Wheat Market Closed Prices Two Cents Lower

Chicago, April 21.—Lightning changes were recorded in an erratic wheat pit today. Fluctuations were fast and unexpected, owing to the smallness of trade. May wheat opened down 3/4 and later sold as high as \$2.37 1/2 or one cent higher than yesterday's close. It declined and the market closed 1/2 cent down from the opening at \$2.31. It opened down 1/2 and subsequently closed at \$1.98 7/8. September opened down 1/2 and later sold at \$1.76 1/2.

Corn had a weak undertone in particular being weak. May opened down 2 3/4 and later lost 1 3/4, closing at \$1.04. July opened down 1/4, later declining 3 to \$1.36 1/2. September opened down 1/2, subsequently losing two to \$1.20.

Trade in oats was moderate. Values averaged lower in sympathy with the major grains. May opened up 1/4, remaining unchanged at the close. July opened down 1/2, later declining 7/8 to 62 1/8. September opened up 3/8 and remained unchanged. Provisions opened lower but later advanced slightly on moderate buying.

RUMOR IS PROVED ABSOLUTELY FALSE

District Attorney Reames Says No Shadow of Foundation For It

We are pleased to publish the following letter from United States Prosecuting Attorney Reames which completely sets at rest the malicious rumors which have been circulating the past few days about Mr. Hofer. Where such stories start is hard to say but this furnishes an excellent illustration of the wrong which may be done one of our most respected citizens by the circulation of false reports. We are indeed glad to publish these facts and say that it is high time to stop the circulation of such groundless rumors about any of our citizens.

Mr. Reames' letter follows: "Portland, Or., April 20, 1917. "Mr. R. M. Hofer, Salem, Or. "Sir: You have today called my attention to an article appearing in a local newspaper, reading as follows: "No Foundation Known for Persistent Rumor. Persistent rumors have been current in the city for the past several days that Col. E. Hofer, well known publicity man of Salem and Marion county, has been arrested in San Francisco by government secret service agents for alleged pro-German utterances, but so far there has been no confirmation of the report. Yesterday an inquiry was sent to San Francisco to ascertain if the report was true but San Francisco reported that nothing was known of the arrest there. This may be one of the many wild rumors that arise no one knows where, and it is suggested that those who circulate such rumors without knowing them to be true may be doing much harm."

"There is nothing pending in this office against either yourself, your brother or your father, and there has been no investigation into the conduct of yourself or of either of the other parties mentioned for the purpose of being absolutely certain of this, I have today wired the San Francisco and Seattle offices requesting them to advise me whether or not there has been any investigation pending against any of you in either of those two cities. I am just in receipt of a telegram from the office of the United States attorney at San Francisco and another from the United States attorney at Seattle. In both telegrams it is stated that neither yourself, your father or your brother have ever been arrested by either of said offices or any agent thereof; that there is not now and never has been any investigation relative to the conduct of either of you instituted by either of said offices.

"I regret that such an unfounded rumor as is mentioned in the newspaper report could ever have been started. It certainly has done you a most gross injustice. This office is in no wise responsible for the rumor and I sincerely trust that this letter may do something to brand the rumor as absolutely false and untrue.

"Respectfully, "Clarence L. Reames, "United States Attorney."

REVOLUTION IMMINENT

Rome, April 21.—A revolution is imminent in Hungary, according to Vatican advices today.

As a result of various disturbances, the information here asserted, Budapest and 25 other cities and towns had been proclaimed in a stage of siege.

Adverse weather conditions have contributed materially to delay in building a flume at the upper end of the locks and canal at Oregon City, a task that was to have been finished today, but may not be in condition for the passage of steamers until Wednesday.

ROOSEVELT SAYS RAISING DIVISION IS PROPER SYSTEM

Says Compulsory Service Is Best and Absolutely Necessary

BUT VOLUNTEER FORCE SHOULD BE SENT AT ONCE

Conditions Demand America Get to the Front Speedily

New York, April 21.—Colonel Roosevelt struck back today at those who have been using his plan for raising a division of troops as an argument against obligatory service. In the first interview he has granted on his army plan, accorded the United Press, he reiterated strongly his demand for universal obligatory service coupled with a plan that while this compulsory system was being made operative a volunteer force be sent abroad.

"I do not want to be put in the position of saying to my fellow countrymen, 'go to the war,' he declared. "I want to be in the position of saying, 'come to the war; I am going with you.' "I wish we already had universal military training in this country. But we are as Great Britain was when the war broke out. She had disregarded Lord Roberts' advice to have universal military service. She was very wrong in doing that.

England Aided Promptly. "But it would have been a capital mistake if when the war broke out, she had declined to send a small military expedition at once to Belgium and had refused to accept volunteers from Canada and Australia—on the plea that she then intended to do nothing except in accordance with the theory of obligatory military service.

"What she ought to have done, was to send her expeditionary army exactly as she did—and instantly to introduce the system of obligatory service also. This is precisely what we should do.

"With all my heart I approve of the president's plan for universal obligatory service—both for the present war and as our permanent policy. This plan will give us the army we must have 18 months hence. But we ought to treat as a necessary supplement to this plan the utilizing of volunteers who would not be reached under the obligatory plan—who will not and ought not to be asked to volunteer in the regular army or the national guard; but who have special fitness for the war and who will come forward eagerly to serve if they are to be sent abroad at the earliest possible moment.

"The obligatory service idea is capital to make those serve who ought to do something, and we ought not to let it be twisted into preventing those who ardently desire to serve from serving—even although they would be exempt from serving under the obligatory law."

No 'Hymn of Hate.' The colonel was asked how he felt toward Germany.

"I am utterly against any 'hymn of hate' in this country as against any nationality," he exclaimed. "Let us have our 'hymn of hate' against that system of organized tyranny which has made Germany a menace to the world—as a sequent of itself becoming the evil genius of what was best and noblest in the German character. We are fighting in the spirit of Andreas Hofer and of those Germans who led the fight against the tyranny of Napoleon's France—when we now rally the free peoples of the world against tyrannous militarism which would destroy all freedom.

"Once we have destroyed the tyranny we shall hail the Germans as our brothers and we shall eagerly hope to admit them to the fellowship of free peoples."

Colonel Roosevelt was here reminded of the fact that in the past he had differed sharply in matters political with the president under whom he now sought to serve.

"Once this country is at war," he answered quickly, emphasizing his state of utterance with clenched fists, "I recognize no partisanship and no distinction of parties. Let us all stand shoulder to shoulder without the slightest regard to ordinary partisan considerations—without the slightest regard to our differences on internal subjects—pledged all of us alike to war for the honor of the flag and in the interests of mankind."

SOUTHERN PACIFIC PROFITS

New York, April 21.—The 1916 net income of the Southern Pacific Company and subsidiaries was \$35,422,514, an increase of \$7,268,083, or 20.52 per cent, according to the annual report issued today.

Total operating revenues were \$163,427,423, an increase of \$29,959,518, or 18.41 per cent. Total operating income was \$52,008,300, an increase of \$8,479,703, or 16.48 per cent.

WIN THE WAR MOVEMENT

Columbus, Ohio, April 21.—Dick Grabe, "tensorial artist," wants to organize a corps of barbers to follow Ohio boys into the trenches of Europe, keep them shined and trimmed, and wield the razor on the enemy if the opportunity offers.

San Francisco, April 21.—"Let the old men go to the trenches first; the men above 45. Then I'll enlist," is the plea of Eugene Shelly, secretary to Mayor Ralph. "Why destroy the flower of youth and preserve the relics?"

AMERICA'S WAR DOG THE AIREDALE

San Francisco, April 21.—The German police dog, which turned scout and did Red Cross duty, and the St. Bernard which has been used by French and Italian soldiers, is to be followed by an American war dog, the air-dale, in the opinion of dog breeders and army men here. There are thousands of air-dales where there are few police dogs.

FROM THE END OF THE RAINBOW

Portland, Ore., April 21.—Mrs. L. C. Parrish wants to know where her turkey got the gravel in its craw. She may start another Klondike rush.

Winning a turkey in a movie show drawing, she found several dollars worth of small gold nuggets when she prepared the dinner to celebrate her luck. Today she is trying to trace it back to its first owner.

COUNCIL IS WILLING TO HAVE BRIDGE BUILT

Fears of Government Engineers Quieted—But Little Other Business

There will soon be a comfort station on the court house lawn at the corner of High and State streets. At the special meeting of the city council last night the special committee having this matter in charge was authorized to go ahead with the work in conjunction with the Marion county court, which will bear half of the expense.

It is estimated that the cost of construction will be about \$300. After it is constructed it devolves on the city to maintain it. This sum does not include adjusting the State street sewer on the heating of the station.

At the meeting last night the council, by resolution, approved of the plans of Marion and Polk counties to build a bridge across the Willamette river at the foot of Center street. This was the prime object of the called meeting, and was done by Mayor Keyes at the request of the highway commission and the Marion county court. On account of the fact that the Willamette river is a navigable stream, the approval of the council was necessary before the matter was presented to the government engineers at Portland.

This matter is being attended to today by the members of the highway commission. Just as soon as the government gives its approval to the plans, the work of construction can proceed. The ordinance bill abolishing card games in the pool halls of the city, which came up for third reading and passage, was indefinitely postponed.

The contract for furnishing the new steel cell to be placed in the city jail for the restraint of obstreperous prisoners was awarded to the E. T. Barnum Iron Works. The cell is to cost \$174.

IT WAS BLASTING

Boston, April 21.—The "firing" heard "off the coast" a few days ago has turned out to be blasting in Scituate, Mass.

A man named Emerson reported to Captain Robertson, chief of staff here today, that he had done much blasting in the past few days.

GIVEN SAFE CONDUCT

Washington, April 21.—The British government has granted a safe conduct to Count Adam Tarnowski and his party who are expected to depart next week for Vienna, the state department announced today.

The British government has taken similar action in reference to the German minister and consuls who are to return from China through the United States.

SENATE RUSHING CONSCRIPTION BILL OVER OPPOSITION

Fillibuster Starts But Is Squelched at End of First Hour

ONLY FIVE SENATORS ON RECORD AGAINST IT

Will Raise 600,000 Through Volunteers and Million by Draft

By J. P. Yoder.

(United Press staff correspondent.) Washington, April 21.—Administration forces and selective conscription advocates won their first real legislative skirmish at the capitol this afternoon when a filibuster that was bitterly waged for more than an hour was finally squelched.

Plans of leaders to rush the army bill through to a vote ahead of everything else proceeded after Chairman Chamberlain of the military committee forced a vote to take up the army measure.

Only five senators—Thomas, LaFollette, Gromna, Hiram Johnson and Pennington—voted against Chamberlain. The army bill provides for getting the 600,000 men needed to raise regular army and national guard to their war strength through volunteers and by getting an army of 1,000,000 men by selective draft.

In Chamberlain's Bill. Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the military affairs committee, piloted the bill. He explained the first provision would authorize both the regular army and national guard raised to war strength—a total of about 20,000 officers and 614,730 enlisted men.

"This is the largest volunteer force ever called for in the United States," said Chamberlain.

"At the same time, 500,000 men between the ages of 19 and 25 would be immediately selected and put into training. Another 500,000 would be selected later.

"Between those ages comparatively few men have contracted family ties," he continued. "It would entail small expense to the government to care for dependents."

The selective draft will make available about 6,000,000 men. Of this vast army about 3,500,000 would be fit physically.

Only about one-half of that number would be taken and for this reason are resorting to 'selective draft,' said Chamberlain said.

In the meantime, the house military committee finally and formally reported out the army general staff bill, so modified as to shift responsibility for use of the selective draft system upon President Wilson, unless he should consent to try out the volunteer system first.

Chairman Dent, volunteer proponent and Representative Kahn, California, conscription advocate, ranking republican member of the military committee, completed their respective majority and minority reports. Dent's report carries an appropriation of \$3,000,000.

Kahn's report, signed by eight members of the committee, four of whom have resigned military service, insists on the original general staff bill.

A letter from Secretary Baker to the military committee a few days ago, in which Baker pleaded with the committee to report out a strict selective draft bill, was published with the report.

Minority Report. The minority report declares that "the majority of the committee have seen fit to set their own views on the raising of the proper military forces for the successful conduct of the war above the views of the trained military experts of the government. In this great crisis, we deem it to be our patriotic duty in this manner of increasing temporarily establishment of the United States to follow the counsel of the commander-in-chief of our army and his expert advisers."

"We desire to follow the plan which they have laid down for us in this manner, rather than follow any plan which we ourselves might devise."

The report emphasizes the difficulties of obtaining volunteers in the Civil war and in the present war. It would take about two years, the report states, to raise the men needed if the present rate under the volunteer system should continue.

Volunteer System. "The volunteer system would always carry in its train an element of uncertainty," the report said. "It is our judgment that the volunteer system is not a fair one. It is neither equitable nor democratic. In this republic every American should esteem it an honor to bear his share of the country's burden. That can only be done under the principle of universal obligation to serve. In our opinion, it is for the nation, not the individual, to determine what service the citizen should bear."

25,000,000 Bushels of Grain Now at St. Paul

St. Paul.—A glut of 25,000,000 bushels of grain now paralyzing the big Minneapolis terminals will not be more than one-third moved at the present rate before the new 1917 crop begins to arrive.

Minneapolis flour mills, running from 40 to 50 per cent of capacity since last fall, present another serious phase of a car shortage situation almost without precedent.

The foregoing complaints of Minneapolis elevator and milling interests have been laid before the Minnesota railroad and warehouse commission and are to be taken up with George T. Slade, vice-president of the Northern Pacific railroad, who will represent western lines on the railway war board, immediately on his return from the east.

This is the only method of seeking relief suggested, following expressions of doubt of the commission's authority because the problem involves interstate traffic largely.

WANTS FORCE SENT TO FRANCE QUICKLY

Thinks Presence of Americans Would Have Stimulating Effect

By Ed L. Keen.

(United Press staff correspondent.) London, April 21.—Winston Churchill, former first lord of the admiralty, now himself in khaki, wants an American expeditionary force sent to France as soon as possible—simply for the effect the presence of Americans would have on the allied forces.

"Of course, I can express only my personal opinion," he said to the United Press today, "but it seems to me certain that the presence of even a single American division on the battle fields of France or Flanders this year would exercise influence and afford encouragement of all proportion to the actual number of men employed."

"It was always represented to us that the timely arrival of even a small force of British troops in France would stimulate and cheer the heart of every French soldier."

"As it turned out, our small army achieved very great material results in addition to its moral effect. Perhaps it played a decisive part in the supreme event of the opening phase of the war. But now, when the terrible weight and burden of this struggle has pressed for nearly three years upon the French, British and Belgian troops, the arrival of the American flag and the American uniform on the actual line of battle would be the veritable signal of approaching deliverance and of victory and would kindle joy and enthusiasm in every heart."

Horrible Story Is Indignantly Denied

London, April 21.—Indignant denial that Germans are using human carcasses from which to render fats, lubricating oils and fertilizers, was made in a Berlin wireless dispatch intercepted here today. The story of a German factory where the dead were thus reduced had been in circulation here for several weeks.

The newspaper Lokai Anzeiger, which was quoted in stories describing the mill used to transform the carcasses of animals into oil, used the expression "cadvater," the wireless declared. "This word is never used to describe human bodies—it means only the carcasses of animals."

The Lokai Anzeiger today, commenting on the anti-German propaganda, revealed in distorted stories of this plant, calls it "the acme of stupidity."

Apparently recognizing the fundamental cause for the strike lies in inequitable distribution of the food, the German government is conducting the most searching investigation to unearth hidden stores of food. Berlin advices today related a house to house travesty ordered by the food dictator, which, it was said, had already revealed "an amazing quantity" of food hidden away.

Summarizing rumors, reports and known facts, reaching here from all sources, it appeared today that the general strike had spread somewhat as follows:

Berlin—Several thousand men still out; efforts being made to arbitrate, but Chancellor Hottweg declined to act as umpire.

Magdeburg—Grave rioting reported; 10,000 strikers demanding violence. (Magdeburg contains one of the great Krupp factories—the machine shop principally).

Essen—Workers at Krupp plant said to have joined the strike.

Leipzig—Several thousand strikers out; number of street demonstrations occurred, but no violence. Munitions plants not believed to be affected.

Mrs. Alice Vundrik, who was born in Claekmas county 62 years ago, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Fred Ruple, at Anity, Thursday night.

TWENTY THOUSAND GERMAN MUNITION MAKERS ON STRIKE

Riots Reported in Several Cities, and Attempts to Burn Buildings

PROMISE OF MORE FOOD FAILS TO MOVE STRIKERS

Serious Rioting Reported at Some of Great Krupp Factories

Amsterdam, April 21.—Twenty thousand munition workers in Berlin and Spandau are out on a general strike today in protest against reduction of the bread ration, according to latest information from Germany.

Scores of conflicting rumors as to the strike—including a number of reports of great violence accompanying riots in various cities—reached here today.

A great force of strikers is said to have revolted at Magdeburg and tried to burn public buildings.

According to this report, troops were called out to restore order and in clashes with the rioters had killed and wounded several, the city now being in a state of siege.

Reports from Dusseldorf declared a meeting of strike delegates in Berlin had rejected a proposition advanced by some of their leaders, demanding that the German government immediately renounce any intention of association in the war, abolish compulsory service and institute at once a general equal franchise system.

Promises Ineffectual. Not even the promises of an increase in the allowance of meat and potatoes has been sufficient to offset the curtailment of bread supplies, according to the German reports. Workers apparently have seized upon this as not only a logical time in which to express their demand for more food and more equitable distribution by the government, but to press demands for more pay and reduction in hours.

That Germany's leaders recognize the seriousness of the general strike and a hint that it may be more grave than reports here have indicated, was evidenced today in an appeal which Field Marshal Von Hindenburg was said to have dispatched to General Groener, chief of the munition branch, urging that "every strike, however small, may be the means of an unjustifiable weakening of our defensive forces, and is an inexcusable crime against the fighting forces, especially the men in the trenches, who bleed in consequence."

Extraordinary efforts are apparently being made by the German government to restore order and to suppress news of the internal situation. Two days ago the government let it be known through official news channels that the entire strike "was settled."

Strike Widespread. Apparently recognizing the fundamental cause for the strike lies in inequitable distribution of the food, the German government is conducting the most searching investigation to unearth hidden stores of food. Berlin advices today related a house to house travesty ordered by the food dictator, which, it was said, had already revealed "an amazing quantity" of food hidden away.

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THE WEATHER

THIS IS SURE SPRING! Oregon: Tonight and Sunday fair except probably showers north-west portion; east tonight east portion, light frost tonight south and east portions; south to west winds.