

FRENCH CHECK FOE

TEUTONS CAPTURE SIX TOWNS, BRINGING THEM TO WITHIN SIX MILES OF FORTRESS.

LOSSES ARE ENORMOUS

Berlin Claims 10,000 French Prisoners and Much Booty—Battle May Last a Fortnight—Allies Face 300,000 Troops.

London, Feb. 28.—The irresistible German and Austrian siege guns which smashed Liège, Maubeuge and Antwerp are raining shells upon the northern forts of Verdun. The greatest of French fortresses, keystone of the elaborate arch of French national defense, is the center of a struggle of unheard-of violence.

London, Feb. 28.—More than 150,000 Germans have fallen in the great battle for Verdun, which is raging more fiercely than at any time in the last five days of desperate fighting, according to the highest official authority. Massed infantry attacks launched with huge forces and backed by a cloud-burst of shell fire were repulsed, according to the French official report.

Berlin, however, announces new and serious gains toward Verdun were made by the Germans on Friday. The official report tells of the capture of about 7,000 more French soldiers, bringing the total of prisoners in the last few days to 10,000, and the capture of important fortified towns, pressing the French center back to within six miles of the fortress. At one point the Germans are attacking four and a half miles from the fortress.

The great battle—it is now spoken of as the greatest since the battle of the Marne, which saved Paris—is now not only a contest between two huge armies for the fortress key to the eastern French front, but has become a battle between the two master minds of the war, the kaiser and General Joffre, commander in chief of the French forces. The kaiser has directed the German fighting from the beginning of the new offensive. General Joffre, it is reported, arrived at the scene of battle Thursday.

After a slight pause, probably to bury their dead, the Germans resumed the same battering attacks that have marked this front for almost a week. Row after row of men piled into French trenches, and at certain points there was real fighting in the open.

The French assume the battle may continue a fortnight. The German forces are known to be at least 300,000, supported by numerous 15-inch and 17-inch Austrian mortars, with all the heavy artillery used in the Serbian campaign and part of that formerly employed on the Russian front.

The official French communication says: "In Champagne we attacked and captured an enemy salient to the south of St. Marie-a-Py. During this action we captured 300 prisoners, including 16 noncommissioned officers and five officers.

"In the Argonne our destructive fire has been efficacious on German organizations to the north of Laharaze.

"In the region to the north of Verdun snow has fallen in abundance during the day.

"Several German attacks with large effectives have been conducted with unprecedented violence on La Cote du Poivre (about four and one-half miles north of Verdun), but were without success.

"Another attack on our positions in the Bois de la Vauche also has been stopped.

The military critic of the Temps reports that heavy French reinforcements have been brought up.

The text of the German official statement follows:

"On the right banks of the River Meuse our successes previously reported were exploited in different directions. The fortified villages and farms of Champneville, Cotellat, Marmont, Beaumont, Chambrette and Ornes were captured.

"In addition all the enemy's positions as far as the ridge of Loudmont were captured by storm.

"The sanguinary losses of the enemy again were extraordinarily heavy, while our losses were normal.

"The number of prisoners taken was increased by over 7,000 to more than 10,000.

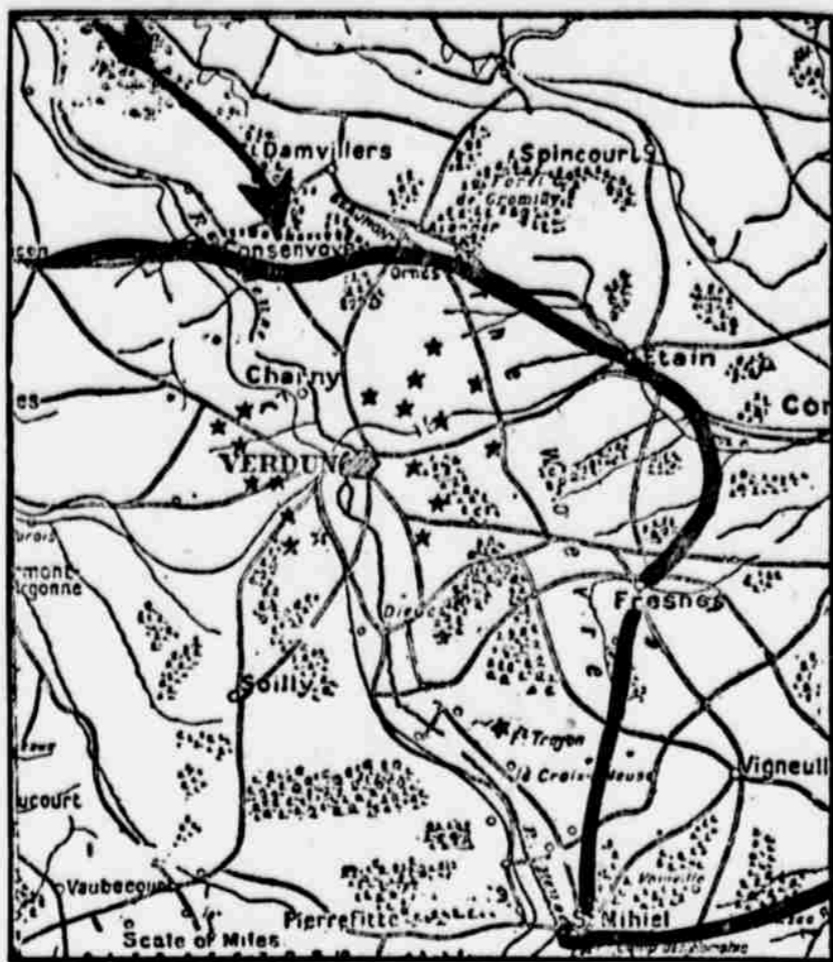
"No information can yet be given with regard to the booty in materials which we captured."

The importance of the gains northward of Verdun is evident. It is not alone the strongest French fortress but it offers direct communication with Paris and has been a thorn in the flesh of the Germans for 18 months. Military observers consider that it is now likely that Verdun soon will be menaced on all sides. The German line of communication north of Verdun has been greatly improved.

Milwaukee Man Bankrupt. Milwaukee, Feb. 26.—Francis J. Romadka, formerly connected with the Romadka Brothers' company, trunk manufacturers, has filed a voluntary bankruptcy petition in the federal court. He admits liabilities of \$98,700.

Military Training at Princeton. Princeton, N. J., Feb. 26.—President Hibben of Princeton university announced he favored the plan to incorporate a course in military training into the curriculum, allowing it to count in the awarding of degrees.

GERMAN DRIVE ON VERDUN



This map shows the location of the furious fighting that is taking place in France in connection with the drive on Verdun being made by a strong German force under the crown prince. The arrow points to the place where the conflict has been the most desperate.

CAPTURE 3,000 FRENCH EIGHT DIE IN WRECK

BERLIN REPORTS BIG SUCCESS ON WESTERN FRONT.

Teutons Pierce Enemy's Line for Two Miles—Paris Admits Evacuation of Haumont.

Berlin (via London), Feb. 25.—Announcement of another important gain in the offensive on the western front was made by the war office. The statement says that in Upper Alsace the Germans captured a position 700 yards wide and 400 yards deep.

The war office also announced that German forces had penetrated the opposing lines for a distance of three kilometers (two miles) in the northern sector of the Woëvre.

It is said the allies lost more than 3,000 prisoners and great quantities of material.

The text of the official statement follows:

"In the neighborhood of the trenches captured by our troops February 21 to the east of Souchez the positions of the enemy were considerably damaged by mining operations. The number of prisoners taken here was increased to 11 officers and 348 men. The booty consisted of three machine guns.

"In the Maas hill artillery duels continued with undiminished violence.

"East of the (Meuse) river we attacked a position which the enemy had been fortifying for one and a half years with all means of fortress construction in the neighborhood of the village of Consenvoye in order to obtain an embarrassing effect on our defense in the northern sector of the Woëvre.

"The attack was delivered on a front extending well over ten kilometers (six miles) and we penetrated as far as three kilometers into the enemy lines.

"Apart from considerable sanguinary losses the enemy lost more than 3,000 men in prisoners and great quantities of material.

"In Upper Alsace our attack to the east of Heidweiler resulted in capturing an enemy position extending over a width of 700 meters and for a depth of 400 meters. About eighty prisoners were taken."

The war office communique on Wednesday says that the battle is proceeding violently and admits that the French troops have evacuated the village of Haumont. This position was abandoned after a sanguinary conflict in which the Germans suffered heavy losses.

The battle extends over a front of forty kilometers (twenty-five miles) and seven German army corps (280,000 men) are engaged. This announcement was made officially by the war office.

BARS TRAVEL ON ARMED SHIP

Gore Has Resolution to This Effect Which He Will Introduce in the Senate.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Senator Gore of Oklahoma announced that he would introduce a resolution on Wednesday to prohibit American citizens from traveling on armed merchant vessels of belligerent nations.

Senate Agrees to Fletcher. Washington, Feb. 28.—The senate confirmed the nomination of Henry Prather Fletcher as ambassador to the government of Mexico. The vote was 49 to 16. Fletcher is expected to take up his new duties at once.

Crew Fears Another Bomb. Mobile, Ala., Feb. 28.—Fearing for their lives, the crew of the Italian tank steamer Livretta, aboard which an explosion occurred six weeks ago, refused to go back to Port Arthur to reload the vessel with oil.

Self-Defense Plea Wins. Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 28.—J. H. Miles was acquitted of the murder of A. M. Eady, who was killed at the Miles home January 15. Miles claimed self-defense. Eady's mother and sister fainted when verdict was brought in.

Two Negroes Executed. Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 28.—A double electrocution occurred in the state prison when George Poston and Ernest Lowry, negroes, went to their death for the murder of Grant Davis, a farmer, a year ago. Both confessed.

REAR-END COLLISION NEAR NEW HAVEN, CONN.

Yale Athletes Are Hurt and Many Other Passengers Suffer Severe Injuries.

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 24.—Eight persons were killed, sixteen seriously injured and scores shaken up and bruised on Tuesday on the New York, New Haven & Hartford when the Connecticut River special, from Springfield for New York, stalled near Milford, was run into by a special train from Boston.

One of the cars on the Springfield train was filled with Yale students on the way to New York. It is not believed that any of them were killed, but several noted Yale men were injured and taken to a hotel at Bridgeport. Among these are John R. Kilpatrick of New York, former track athlete and football star; Allan Corey, son of William E. Corey, former president of the United States Steel corporation, and former Yale baseball captain; Morgan O'Brien, son of former Justice Morgan O'Brien of the New York supreme court, and Ford Johnson.

The Springfield train had stopped just outside of Milford because of trouble with an air hose. While this was being repaired the Boston train was seen coming. The flagman rushed ahead to give the warning, but in vain. He was ground to pieces by the oncoming train, the engineer and fireman of which also lost their lives. A Pullman porter also was crushed to death.

WOOD HITS AT DEFENSE FOES

Major General Calls Those Who Oppose Preparedness Dangerous Enemies of Nation.

Peoria, Ill., Feb. 24.—Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, U. S. A., on Tuesday night made a stirring plea for preparedness of men, "not in preparation for war, but as insurance against it," in a speech at the annual Washington's birthday dinner of the Creve Coeur club in the Coliseum. A great audience heard him. Other speakers were Henry D. Estabrook and Dudley Field Malone, collector of the port of New York.

General Wood confined his speech to the value of the military instruction camps, from which, he said, he hoped to see the army develop 50,000 officers for the reserve. He pointed out how small even this number is when compared to the 127,000 officers that wore the blue in the Civil war.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES

Des Moines, Ia., Feb. 25.—United States Senator Albert B. Cummins of Iowa filed affidavit on Wednesday with the secretary of state as a candidate for the presidency of the United States on the Republican ticket. The affidavit was sent from Washington and was filed by John Jamieson, state binder.

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PLAY WAITING GAME

WARRING MEASURE CANNOT BE PUT THROUGH.

ECCONOMICAL PREPAREDNESS

President of Illinois University Urges It Along With Military Measure—Congress Gives Suffrage Little Hope.

Washington.—Leaders in both houses of congress, who for several days have agitated the passage of a resolution warning Americans not to travel on armed ships, seem convinced that no such measure could be put through at present. Senator Gore, who has such a resolution pending, issued a statement saying that while he still favored a warning, he believed the objects sought by his resolution already had been accomplished through public discussion. Representative McLeMORE, whose warning resolution in the house has been kept from coming up by administration leaders, said he was content to wait until the president and Secretary Lansing had opportunity to try out their policy of asserting determinedly the right to travel on ships bearing arms.

See Little Hope in Congress. Boston.—A survey of the present congress has convinced suffrage advocates that there is no hope of obtaining from it action favorable to national woman suffrage. Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National American Woman Suffrage association, said at a conference of suffrage workers of this state here. "The campaign to convince congress will be continued," she added, "because by aiming at congress we may hit something else."

FOR ECONOMIC PREPAREDNESS

President James Urges It Along With Military.

New York.—Urging economic as well as military preparedness, Edmund J. James, president of the University of Illinois, speaking before the economic club, asserted the power of the nation should be toward developing all strength of the people, individually and collectively.

"We must plan to develop and train our industrial, social and political leaders," he said. "In this country these come out of all classes and we should encourage their activity and initiative. The shackles must be removed from American enterprise and energy if the highest interests of the laboring man as well as other classes in the community are to be secured. Our laws must be certain, and interfere as little as possible with that liberty of action and thought which is the strength of democracies, whether in industry or politics."

British Liner Strikes Mine. London.—The Peninsular and Oriental line steamship Maloja, carrying approximately 150 passengers, a crew of about 200, mostly Lascars, was sunk in the straits of Dover Sunday morning, presumably by striking a mine.

A majority of the passengers, according to an official announcement, was saved. An unofficial report says that about twenty-five bodies were landed at Dover.

The steamship Empress, of Fort William, of 2,181 tons gross, while attempting to rescue the survivors of the Maloja, struck another mine and sunk in less than half an hour. The crew of the Empress was saved by other boats in the vicinity.

Sheep Feeders' Day at State Farm. A sheep feeders' day will be held at the Agricultural Experiment Station on Friday, March 17. At this time ten lots of sheep which have been fed different rations will be on exhibition, and the results of the test will be announced. In addition to the announcement of the results a program by sheep feeders will be given.

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INCLINED TO DIFFER.

State Superintendent Thomas Takes Issue With Attorney General.

State Superintendent A. O. Thomas is inclined to differ with an opinion of Deputy Attorney General Dexter T. Barrett. The attorney general's department recently held that a consolidated school district is liable for the payment of a bonded debt that has been voted by a district that was taken into the consolidated district. Mr. Thomas is investigating for himself and had about made up his mind that the original district that incurred the debt must pay it, that property of the entire consolidated district cannot be taxed to pay the bonds. If such a ruling is given it will stand as the law of the state until set aside by the courts. The attorney general's opinion is not as effective, though Attorney General Reed once issued a statement saying a state officer who follows the attorney general's opinion is relieved of liability that may go out of his following it. A large and almost unanimous dissent went up when the attorney general made this announcement.

Time Deposits in Nebraska Banks

What has been rumored for some time, but never definitely stated from any official source, now receives confirmation in a report filed by State Accountant DeFrance showing that State Treasurer Hall has \$19,000 of state money placed as time deposits in certain banks of Nebraska, on which 4 and 5 per cent interest is being drawn. The banks and the amounts carried by them, respectively, are: Elba—Farmers State Bank, \$5,000; Elba State Bank, \$5,000. Carroll—Citizens' State Bank, \$4,000. Leigh—Leigh State Bank, \$5,000.

Depository banks generally are paying the state only 3 per cent interest on the money furnished them by the state treasurer. State Accountant DeFrance thinks it would be a good plan to put out more public funds as time deposits, for the sake of the higher interest collected. He says this could be done just as well as not, because most of the banks holding regular deposits keep the money the year round.

But Two Mexican Veterans in State. A roster of the veterans of the Mexican, civil and the Spanish-American wars, issued by Secretary of State Pool, under provisions of an act of the last legislature, shows a total of 4,609 civil war veterans, 1,230 Spanish-American war veterans and two veterans of the Mexican war living in Nebraska. The names were furnished by the counties to the secretary of state and have been published in pamphlet form. W. A. Rawley of Falls City, company F, Third Minnesota regiment, and Robert Wood of Waterbury, Dixon county, Fourteenth Ohio, are the two Mexican war veterans listed in the roster. It contains the names of a few who served in Indian wars and in the Sioux Indian war.

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Land Drawing at Alliance. Alliance.—Thousands of acres of land are to be opened to entry through the Alliance land office March 24. The tracts contain from forty to 160 acres each and are located twenty-five miles southwest of Alliance. The land is under the government reclamation project and has been withheld from entry for a number of years until the canal could be completed. To file on this land it will be necessary for persons to come to Alliance and secure a plat of the land. It will be necessary for each person to visit the land personally and pick out the place best suited for his requirements.

Nemaha Good Corn County. Washington.—The department of agriculture has just issued a thirty-eight page soil survey of Nemaha county, based on the work of the department and the Nebraska soil survey. The county is a heavy corn producer, one acre of corn being grown for every acre of all other crops combined. The report contains an analysis of the various soils encountered in the county. Forty-two per cent of the area of the county is made up of Carlington silt loam, which is considered a good agricultural soil.

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