

WASHINGTON MAY DISCUSS WHAT IS AN ARMED CRAFT

Lansing Indicates United States May Take Up Question with Germany if it is Raised.

LESS EXCITEMENT AT CAPITOL
Leaders in Congress Apparently Willing to Await Outcome of Diplomatic Exchanges.

PRESIDENT WILSON IS FIRM

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The United States, Secretary Lansing indicated today, may discuss the question of what property may be regarded as armament on a merchant ship, if the question is raised.

One of the entente allies, to which Secretary Lansing suggested disarmament of merchant ships, replied today, but the nature of the reply or the name of the government which made it will not be disclosed until all of the allies have answered. The impression prevailed that it was not Great Britain, but probably was France or Italy.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—With the apparent quieting down of the situation in congress, the submarine crisis shifts back to the negotiations between Secretary Lansing and Count Von Bernstorff.

Mr. Lansing said today there was no intention of transferring the negotiations to Berlin to be conducted between Ambassador Gerard and the Berlin foreign office, as was intimated in dispatches published abroad, and reiterated that the State department had heard nothing more from Germany on its request for a declaration that the new submarine campaign would not be conducted in violation of previous assurances for the safety of Americans traveling on unarmored liners.

The situation in congress apparently is being held in check by the administration, while President Wilson remains firm in his determination to insist on the rights of Americans to travel on ships armed for defense only.

Ice Goes Out of Platte at Fremont and Flood Subsides

FREMONT, Neb., Feb. 26.—(Special Telegram.)—Ice in the main channel of the Platte went out early this morning and the danger of flood is believed to be over. The river is over a foot lower than during the night, when it overflowed the lowlands in this vicinity. The ice from the Loup, which broke up yesterday, was the cause of the high water here.

Near Mercer the Union Pacific tracks were threatened when a gorge formed, throwing the water out, but the use of sand prevented a washout. There was no delay to trains. The Burlington railroad and the county bridge at Fremont withstood the high water without any damage.

The wagon road leading from the Fremont bridge to the dike, a half mile north, was covered by water during the night in a depth of over a foot. When it subsided several big cakes of ice went left on the roadway. It was necessary to remove them before traffic could be resumed. There is very little ice in the main channel of the river.

Bonding Clause Omitted from Bill

(From a Staff Correspondent.)
WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—(Special Telegram.)—It will be of interest to a number of employees of the postoffice at Omaha to know that the rules committee of the house has failed to include that section of the postoffice appropriation bill relative to the bonding of employees up to 75 per cent of their salaries, and consequently the point of order that will be made against the section will be sustained.

The Weather

Forecast till 7 p. m. Sunday
For Omaha, Council Bluffs and Vicinity
Partly cloudy; slightly colder.
Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Max. | 36 |
| Min. | 24 |
| Mean. | 29 |
| Wind. | S.W. 10-15 |
| Clouds. | 1-4 |
| Humidity. | 75 |
| Barometer. | 30.1 |
| Direction. | S.W. |
| Force. | 10-15 |
| Visibility. | 5-10 |
| Relative Humidity. | 75 |
| Wet Bulb. | 58 |
| Dew Point. | 52 |
| Wind Chill. | 35 |
| Heat Index. | 58 |
| Wind Gust. | 20 |
| Wave Height. | 0-1 |
| Ice. | 0 |
| Sea. | 0 |
| Lightning. | 0 |
| Thunder. | 0 |
| Hail. | 0 |
| Snow. | 0 |
| Fog. | 0 |
| Smog. | 0 |
| Drizzle. | 0 |
| Freezing. | 0 |
| Thunderstorm. | 0 |
| Heavy Rain. | 0 |
| Light Rain. | 0 |
| Sleet. | 0 |
| Freezing Rain. | 0 |
| Ice Storm. | 0 |
| Blizzard. | 0 |
| Strong Wind. | 0 |
| Violent Storm. | 0 |
| Heavy Fog. | 0 |
| Low Visibility. | 0 |
| Dark. | 0 |
| Light. | 0 |
| Clear. | 0 |
| Partly Cloudy. | 0 |
| Mostly Cloudy. | 0 |
| Overcast. | 0 |
| Thunder. | 0 |
| Lightning. | 0 |
| Thunderstorm. | 0 |
| Heavy Rain. | 0 |
| Light Rain. | 0 |
| Sleet. | 0 |
| Freezing Rain. | 0 |
| Ice Storm. | 0 |
| Blizzard. | 0 |
| Strong Wind. | 0 |
| Violent Storm. | 0 |
| Heavy Fog. | 0 |
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| Overcast. | 0 |

PROSPECTS BRIGHT FOR SETTLEMENT OF SIOUX CITY STRIKE

Men Will Consider Terms Offered by Packers at a Conference to Be Held at Later Hour.

HIGHER WAGES FOR WORKERS
Cudahy and Armour Announce Increase of Pay of Men in All Plants, Beginning Monday.

EXPECTED TO SETTLE STRIKE

SIOUX CITY, Ia., Feb. 26.—M. R. Murphy of Omaha, general manager of the Cudahy packing plants, made the statement today that the Cudahy and Armour packing companies will immediately advance the wages of employees in all their packing plants.

The peace conference between packing house strikers and managers of the plants was in progress at noon. It was reported that the indications were favorable for a settlement. Both sides seem anxious to end the strike.

It was learned that the advance of which Mr. Murphy spoke as applying to the Armour and Cudahy plants would also apply to all of the Omaha packing houses and that the voluntary raise would be effective Monday.

SIOUX CITY, Feb. 26.—At 2 o'clock this afternoon when the packing house strike peace conference adjourned it was announced that the prospects of a settlement were very bright. The strikers will consider the terms offered at a mass meeting late this afternoon.

Woman Leader of the Anti-Recruiting Movement Jailed

LONDON, Feb. 26.—(Special Telegram.)—Mrs. Nellie Best, secretary of the Women's Anti-Recruiting league, was sentenced today to six months' imprisonment in the Westminster police court for circulating literature urging men not to enlist. The scenes in the court were reminiscent of the trials of militant suffragists.

German Losses in Flanders Attacks Are Reported Heavy

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 26.—The Germans have gathered a considerable number of troops in Flanders and artillery reinforcements have been continuously arriving since December, according to the Echo Belge.

Aeroplane Circles Over Elevators and Scares Watchmen

SUPERIOR, Wis., Feb. 26.—Watchmen guarding big grain elevators, containing millions of bushels of wheat for the allies, were alarmed early today when an aeroplane, soaring 3,000 feet in the air, circled above the docks for half an hour.

At Last! Ig Dunn To Try for Senator

After impatiently waiting all this time for some one else to do the job, "Ig" Dunn has volunteered to sacrifice himself for his country as a candidate for the democratic nomination for United States senator against Senator G. M. Hitchcock, seeking re-election.

Von Hindenburg and Mackensen Opposed the Assault on Verdun

PETROGRAD, Feb. 26.—(Via London, Feb. 26.)—The Rusky invalid, the official organ of the Russian army, published an account of the war council held in Berlin, at which the decision to attack Verdun was taken.

It asserts that the German and Bavarian crown princes strongly favored an attack on the French front at Verdun, but that both Field Marshal von Hindenburg and Field Marshal von Mackensen opposed the plan, contending that it would be better to develop the operations already planned against the Rus-

FRENCH REAKE LOST FORTRESS BEFORE VERDUN

Paris Officially Re-Announces Capture of Fort Douaumont by Germans Again in Gallie Hands.

HAVE ADVANCED PAST THAT
All Teuton Efforts to Drive Republican Forces Back Are Futile.

INVADERS' LOSSES ARE HEAVY

PARIS, Feb. 26.—The official statement issued by the war office tonight mentions the sanguinary struggle which has been going on round Fort Douaumont, which it describes as "an advance element of the old defensive organization of the fortress of Verdun and declares that the position captured this morning by the Germans was reached again by the French troops, who advanced beyond that point and have resisted all attempts to drive them back."

The text of the statement follows: "In Artois mine fighting has been in progress. We exploded two mines, one to the west of the road to Lille and the second to the east of Neuville-St. Vaast, under a tunnel occupied by the enemy."

Reprise Attack of Enemy.
"In Champagne we completely repulsed an attack by the enemy against a salient carried by us to the south of St. Marie-A-Py. The total number of prisoners taken by us in this affair has reached 50, of whom nine are officers and thirty-six non-commissioned officers."

"Destructive fires have been carried out against the German works to the north of Ville-Sur-Tourbe and in the region of Mont Tets.
"In the region to the north of Verdun the bombardment continues without cessation to the east and to the west of the Meuse. To these attacks of the enemy our troops have replied by counter attacks, carried out with vigor at the various points assailed on our front."

"All the new attempts of the Germans in the region of Champagneville and on La Cote Des Poivre, where we are solidly established, have been repulsed."

Position Retained.
"A furious struggle has been in progress around Fort Douaumont, which is an advance element of the old defensive organization of Verdun fortress. The position captured this morning by the enemy after several fruitless assaults which cost it extremely heavy losses, was reached again and gone beyond by our troops, which all the attempts of the enemy have not been able to push back."

"To the northeast of St. Mihiel, our heavy artillery bombarded enemy hangars and depots near Vimondville. The Germans have fired several shells of large calibre in the direction of Lunville and Nancy.
"Today in the region of Verdun, Adjutant Nevarre in a monoplane flew down with a machine gun two German aeroplanes, this achievement making five enemy aeroplanes brought to earth by this pilot. The enemy machines fell in our lines. Two aviators manning them were killed while two others were made prisoners."

Shell Hits Station.
"On the same day one of our squadrons composed of nine bombing aeroplanes dropped 144 shells on the railway station at Metz. Another of our aeroplanes squadrons bombarded the enemy establishments at Chambley, northwest of Pont-A-Mouss."
"The Belgian official communication reads:
"The artillery actions were very spirited today on our front, particularly in the region to the north of Dixmude. Our batteries carried out destructive fires on the enemy works at Mercken."

Italian Poet Wounded in Eye

PARIS, Feb. 26.—Gabriele D'Annunzio has been injured in the right eye in an aeroplane accident and taken to a hospital in Berlin, says a Paris correspondent of the Petit Parisien. There is possibility that the sight of the injured eye may be preserved.

Blue Stem Wheat Drops Eleven Cents

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 26.—April bluestem wheat quotations on the Portland Grain exchange plunged downward 11 cents today on reports of rumors that Verdun had fallen and in sympathy with drops in midwestern markets. There were no sales, but all bid prices were affected.

American Nurses Go to the British Front

LONDON, Feb. 26.—Thirty-three American nurses, most of them from Mercy hospital, Chicago, left London today for the British front. They have been detailed to service for six months in field hospitals. The nurses had been in London for nearly two weeks gathering their equipment.

R.K. TECTS AND CON TRACTORS BY THE BEE'S CARICATURIST



COMMISSION PLAN FOR WATER PROBLEM

Conference Favors Creation of Body to Take Over All Features of Waterways Regulation.

PROVIDES CONTINUING BUDGET

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Adoption of the commission plan of dealing with waterway problems of the country, which would include continuing annual appropriations, was agreed upon today as a general policy to be recommended to the president in a conference between cabinet officials and a committee of senators.

Secretaries Lane, Houston and Redfield, who were named by the president, with former Secretary Garrison, to investigate the problem, and Senators Newlands, Broussard and Randall participated in the conference. The policy agreed upon, it is believed, will be recommended to congress by President Wilson in the near future.

Under the plan there would be created a "waterways commission" consisting of the president, the secretaries of war, interior, agriculture and commerce and the chairman of the Board of River Regulation. Chairmen of the Interstate Canal commission are proposed as members ex-officio.

The commission would have direction and control over all waterway projects and expenditures.

All features of river and inland waterway regulation would be placed in the commission's hands, including hydro-electric power development; confining the navigable rivers to their channels by means of levees; and the prevention of deforestation and soil erosion.

The recommendations will be submitted to the president in time to have them enacted into law at the present session and to substitute them for the river's and harbors' appropriation bill. It is probable that the president will submit a special message on the subject.

Man Supposed to Be Jean Cronos Held at Moberly, Mo.

MOBERLY, Mo., Feb. 26.—The man detained here yesterday believed to be Jean Cronos, wanted in Chicago in connection with an alleged poisoning plot today was held on a fugitive warrant charging him with being Cronos. It is understood the Chicago police are sending an officer after him.

Two Small British Steamships Sunk

LONDON, Feb. 26.—Lloyd's announces the sinking of the British steamer Denaby of 2,987 tons, and the steamer Tumbler of 231 tons.

Official Taster is Named for Feast on St. Patrick's Day

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—An official taster to test all dishes served to William Howard Taft, Archbishop Mundelein and other guests who will attend the St. Patrick's day banquet of the Irish Fellowship club, was appointed today. Club officials, mindful of the recent poisoning of soup served at a banquet given in honor of Archbishop Mundelein, named W. J. Healy, a club member, taster.

GRID CLUB AGAIN ROASTS ITS GUESTS

President Makers and Candidates Are Helped Aboard Trains to Chicago and St. Louis.

CHAMP CLARK HAS OLD TICKET

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The Gridiron club tonight at its second dinner of the winter, projected itself into the convention activities of next June and helped a distinguished party of president makers and candidates board trains for Chicago and St. Louis to meet the fates awaiting them there. In a make-believe railway station the actor members of the club satirized the follies of some of their guests and some well known men who were not present.

President Wilson was among those who looked on and he may have received an intimation of the opposition he will meet later in the year. Vice President Marshall, the secretary of state, navy and interior, the British ambassador, the Chinese and Bolivian ministers, several members of the senate and house, officers of the army and navy and a number of the most notable figures in the nation's financial and industrial life were present.

Kugel Enforcing Rule Against Rum in the Police Force

Plenty the poor copper, as he wends his stily-footed and weary way up and down the toilsome length and breadth of his beat. No longer may he stop off, every block or so and sink a schooner of suds to slake his burning thirst.

Farmhand Given Fifteen Thousand Back Pay by Jury

DES MOINES, Feb. 26.—Louis O. Bates, a farm hand who worked for twenty years on farms owned by the late Edward Howell and his daughter, Jennie, without salary, expecting as a reward that Miss Howell should be his wife, will receive \$15,000 as the result of a jury's decision in the Polk county district court.

Senator Norris Says Water Power Lobby Backing Shields Bill

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—In an attack on the Shields bill to provide for water power grants on navigable streams to private interests, Senator Norris of Nebraska today declared the bill was being championed by the strongest lobby that ever came to Washington.

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DRY DEMOS OF IOWA ARE MAKING SLATE

Two Full Tickets Probably Will Be Placed Before Voters at Primary on June 5.

CLARKSON SELECTED TO LEAD

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 26.—Two full democratic state tickets may be placed before Iowa voters at the June 5 primary this year as the result of a decision early today by leaders of so-called progressive democrats to enter a slate of their own.

After an all night meeting the conference unanimously selected Senator John T. Clarkson of Albia, leader of the dry forces in the thirty-sixth general assembly, to head the new ticket as candidate for governor. An opposition to the regular democratic ticket.

Haggood Explains The Employment of Brandeis by Weekly

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Norman Haggood, former editor of Collier's Weekly, today told the senate judiciary subcommittee investigating the nomination of Louis D. Brandeis to the supreme court, that the reason Collier's had employed Mr. Brandeis in the Ballinger-Finchel investigation was because Collier's wanted to support L. R. Glavin whose charges against Mr. Ballinger it had published and for whom Brandeis ostensibly appeared.

ARMED ITALIAN SHIP ARRIVES AT NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—The Napoli, the third Italian steamer to arrive here within the last few days with guns mounted, arrived today. The Napoli carried two three-inch guns mounted on the poop-deck. It is a freighter and carries no passengers.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN FALLS DEAD IN A SALOON

Shortly after 3 o'clock an unidentified man about 50 years of age fell dead in Holtz's saloon, Twenty-second and Cumming streets. The coroner has taken charge of the body.

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FIRST BREAK IN FORTIFICATIONS OF VERDUN CITY

Fort Douaumont, the Northwestern Pillar of the Line of Strongholds, Stormed by the Germans.

FRENCH DO NOT ADMIT LOSS
Paris Report Says Battle Continues and Thousands of Teutons Have Been Slain.

ATTACKS NEAR BEAUMONT FAIL

BULLETIN.
BERLIN, Feb. 26.—(Via London.)—The French forces in the Champagne have made an attack on the German positions south of St. Marie-A-Py. The war office statement today says the French penetrated the first German trenches over a distance of about 350 yards.

BERLIN, Feb. 26.—(Via London.)—It is officially announced that Fort Douaumont, one of the fortifications of Verdun, was taken by storm yesterday afternoon and is now firmly held by the Germans.

The official announcement is as follows:
"The armored Fort Douaumont, the northeastern corner pillar of the permanent line fortifications of the stronghold of Verdun, was stormed yesterday afternoon by the Twenty-fourth regiment of Brandenburg Infantry and is now firmly in German hands."

An official statement issued today says that considerable advances have been made east of the Meuse in the region north of Verdun in the presence of Emperor William. Resistance of the French broke down on the Wever plain along the entire front to Marphville, south of the high road from Paris to Metz.

"We are pursuing the retreating enemy," the statement says.
German Losses are Enormous.
PARIS, Feb. 26.—The Germans are continuing their violent attacks north of Verdun without regard to their sacrifices, the war office announced this afternoon.

The German attacks in the region of Beaumont, east of the Meuse, have failed, the war office said, notwithstanding repeated attacks and tremendous slaughter. The Petit Parisien says that the battle now raging before Verdun was preceded on February 12 by a feat in Champagne intended to divert attention from the coming attack on Verdun. The attack in the Champagne on February 12, which was conducted in three successive waves, failed chiefly because the change of wind, the Petit Parisien says, rendered ineffective a large quantity of asphyxiating gas and flame throwers, which were relied upon for the success of the attack.

London Clearly Anxious.
LONDON, Feb. 26.—The only word concerning the German claim to taking the armored fortress of Douaumont, outside of Verdun, comes through German sources. Further information is awaited anxiously, owing to the recognized strategic importance of this fort, which is the base of solid field works on a line of hills 1,000 feet high, about six miles northeast of Verdun.

The last detailed information showed the French holding lines two and a half miles beyond Douaumont, with this powerful fortress and its field works giving steady support.

The Petit Parisien says the French are sustaining an assault squalling in intensity the hottest engagements of the entire war.

The Westminster Gazette expresses confidence that the main fortress is impregnable. It predicts that the principal result of the German attack will be tremendous losses, which will cripple the effectiveness of the Germans in subsequent operations.

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