

FRENCH GAIN IN THEIR BIG DRIVE ON ST. QUENTIN

Paris War Office Reports Additional Progress in Move Against Strongly Defended Town.

BERLIN ADMITS RETREAT

German Official Statement Says Rear Guards Fall Back According to Order.

FIGHTING ON NEAR VERDUN

Paris, March 25.—Further progress was made last night by the French toward St. Quentin, from north of Grand Seracourt, as well as on the east bank of the Ailette, south of Channy and north of Soissons, the war office announced today.

German Losses Heavy.

Another important advance has been made by the French in their movement against the strongly defended town of St. Quentin, the war office reporting tonight that the position embracing Castres and Essigny-le-Grand, extending over a front of about two and one-half miles, has been taken.

Heavy fighting has been in progress in various sectors and the French report large German losses.

Teutons Fall Back.

Berlin (Via Wireless to Sayville), March 25.—German rear guards engaged with hostile forces near Beaumont and Roisel and east of the Crozat canal on the front in northern France have fallen back, according to orders, after inflicting losses, army headquarters announced today.

Samaritan Gets Short End of the Deal in Omaha

J. M. Aldrup of Watertown, S. D., formerly of Fremont, who was held by the Omaha police for a short time in connection with the robbery of a man named Brennan, furnishes a satisfactory explanation of his acts. Aldrup was in Omaha for the purpose of employing a man who had formerly worked for him. This man had been concerned in the incident at the roadhouse, and was leaving town. He asked Aldrup to carry word to his wife as to his whereabouts. This Aldrup agreed to do, and on going to the home of his former employer, he learned that the victim of the robbery had agreed not to push the case if his money and other valuables were returned. On learning this, Mr. Aldrup went with the woman to the home of another, where the property was recovered, and with the two women he went to the Paxton hotel, where he expected to meet the police and give over the property. Here the victim of the robbery denounced him and he was arrested. On explanations forthcoming, however, he was dismissed, as the victim of a misunderstanding. The woman who went with Aldrup were not the ones concerned in the robbery.

Retirement of Grand Duke Nicholas Now Confirmed

London, March 25.—The retirement of Grand Duke Nicholas from his post as commander-in-chief of the Russian army is officially confirmed, according to a Reuter dispatch from Petrograd. Pending the appointment of a successor, the dispatch adds, General M. V. Alexieff, chief of the general staff, will act as commander-in-chief. The retention of the grand duke as commander-in-chief was considered undesirable by the Russian minister of war because of Grand Duke Nicholas' connection with the Romanoff dynasty.

Ex-Governor Eberhart Talks on "Enforced Peace"

Ex-Governor Eberhart of Minnesota, is to speak on "The World Problem of Enforced Peace," at the public affairs luncheon, Friday noon, March 30. Governor Eberhart was a Nebraska "cowboy" when he was but 11 years old. He was not a "cowboy" of the type who shot the lights out in frontier towns in the early days, but he was a "cowboy" in the sense that he got a job herding cattle.

The Weather

Table with columns for Hour, Deg., and Comparative Local Record. Includes data for 1917, 1916, 1915, 1914, and 1913.

"BONE DRY" BILL UP FOR DECISION

Change in Sentiment Promises Close Fight Over Radical Features of Measure.

"SEARCH" NOT LIKED

(From a Staff Correspondent.) Lincoln, March 25.—(Special.)—The coming week will settle the proposition of just how dry Nebraska is to be.

The bill backed by the dry people, which passed the house with only three dissenting votes, has been on the griddle in the senate since that time. Last week a day was set for its consideration, but a bunch of amendments sprung by the so-called liberals had the effect of putting it over until Tuesday.

Change of Sentiment.

A change in sentiment since the bill passed the house is apparent. The "bone dry" features are not liked by many and the apparent effort to place the law enforcement machinery of the state in private hands and the right of unlimited search of private property has worked against the bill. The dry plea that Governor Neville is in hearty sympathy with all the requirements of the bill is denied. In fact it is given out on trustworthy authority that Governor Neville opposed certain features of the bill before the committee. It is said that he is for a dry bill, but opposes giving the private individual the right to force the searching of another's premises without taking some responsibility himself.

Pressure on Democrats.

Local dry papers are attempting to force democratic members on to the strength of the plank in the democratic platform pledging the enactment of a law in conformity with the vote of the people on the dry amendment.

While admitting that the democratic platform pledged a dry law, some of the democratic members insist the present "bone dry" bill is not at all what the people voted for and as proof use the arguments put out officially through the secretary of state by the dry people as to what the amendment really meant. Page 3 of that document, paragraph 3, reads as follows: "This amendment does not in any way infringe upon the rights of the individual. The right to sell and manufacture liquor should be prohibited, but its personal use should be left to the discretion of the individual."

Beyond Real Issue, He Says.

One very prominent democratic official said this morning he believed that if the proposition of a "bone dry" bill had been submitted it would have been defeated. He looks upon the attempt to put over the present bill as one which is not in accord with the wishes of the people and utterly beyond the real issue. A leading member of the legislature said yesterday that while he was always willing and anxious to carry out every platform pledge of the democratic party, he did not consider that he was held to vote for a "bone dry" bill when the proposition upon which the people voted was not a bone dry bill, but one which would close up the saloons.

Both Sides Claim Victory.

The initiative and referendum law was enacted for the very purpose of giving the people a chance to instruct the legislature as to their desires and it was not to be expected that the members elected would pass any other law than that proposed in the amendment," said he, "and for the life of me I can't see how a democrat elected on a platform pledging the candidates to enact a law covering the proposed amendment have any right to vote an other kind of a law than the one the people voted for." However, it looks as though the fight would be interesting if it takes seventeen votes to carry the bill and both sides are claiming that number. Both sides, in particular, claim Senator Albert B. Dyer, claiming he pledged by the vote of his district, which went dry by some 800 majority, while the "wets" contend this majority cast was not for the kind of measure under consideration, but for the kind covered by the amendments to be considered Tuesday.

Army Balloon Makes Mile a Minute for One Hundred Miles

A mile a minute for 100 miles is the record established yesterday afternoon by Expert Pilot Leo Stevens and four army officers taking aeronautic instructions at Fort Omaha, in a flight in one of the government's free balloons. Pilot Stevens and the four officers landed seven miles from Macksburg, Ia., a little town about twenty miles northeast of Creston. The distance is a little over 100 miles. They were in the air one hour and forty minutes, which makes the average speed of the aircraft for the trip a mile a minute.

The officers who accompanied Pilot Stevens as passengers were Captains Prentice, Muller and McElgin and Lieutenant Davidson.

Alleged Boy Forger Is Arrested in Washington

Broken Bow, Neb., March 25.—(Special.)—Jesse E. Weigle, the 17-year-old boy who is wanted here on charges of forgery and who disappeared immediately after the alleged offenses were committed, has been located at Clehals, Wash., and Sheriff Wilson, armed with a requisition, has gone to bring him back. Weigle's alleged operations occurred during the last part of January, when several worthless checks for him and gave him merchandise amounting to nearly one hundred dollars. The sheriff located the young man by means of a letter sent to relatives here.

PEOPLE STANDING ON BRIDGE FLUNG TO DEATH BELOW

Three Persons Killed When Ice Gorge Sweeps Out Span over the Keya Paha River in Northern Nebraska.

ANOTHER PERHAPS DYING

Crowd Watching the Jammed Waters Dashed Into Depths as Support Torn Away.

SUBSIDING AT NORFOLK

Three people were killed and several injured, one probably fatally, when the bridge that spans the Keya Paha river at Brocksburg, Neb., in Keya Paha county, 150 miles northwest of Norfolk, was swept asunder by an ice gorge at 6:30 Sunday night, according to a telephone message from Brocksburg. While forty people, residents of Brocksburg and farmers from near there were standing on the bridge watching the rushing ice gorge pass through beneath, the structure collapsed in the center. The entire assemblage was spilled into the rushing ice and water.

Two Instantly Killed.

Two were killed instantly by drowning, the third died of his injuries. Several were seriously injured.

The dead:

MRS. WAKEFIELD, Brocksburg, Neb., aged 70. SYLVIA WALES, GEORGY, S. D., aged 18. JUDSON STEWART, farmer near Brocksburg, aged 45. Mrs. Arnold Hudson was seriously injured and may die. Men, women and children were thrown without warning into the rushing water. Great pieces of ice swept in a dangerous channel and many clinging to portions of the bridge were painfully mangled by the cutting ice. The three who were killed were standing on the spot where the break in the structure occurred.

Mrs. Wakefield and Sylvia Wales were standing next each other. They went down together. Judson Stewart was caught in the rafters of the broken ends. He suffered a broken back and after being rescued died two hours later on shore.

Homes Turned Hospitals.

Brocksburg, a village of seventy-five persons, was in an uproar. Homes on the outskirts were transformed into hospital stations. Mrs. Hudson, at whose home Miss Wales was visiting, was removed to her home, where she is being cared for. Little hope for her recovery is felt. The bridge was one of the two structures still left standing by the flood. The Mills bridge in the same district, crossing the Keya Paha river, is the only bridge standing. The ice gorge is expected to sweep this one, too.

The bodies of Mrs. Wakefield and Sylvia Wales have not been recovered. The Keya Paha is a branch of the Missouri river. Reports from Norfolk last night say the water has subsided a foot and further relief from the floor situation is expected.

State Officials Are Worried Over Supervision Bill

(From a Staff Correspondent.) Lincoln, Neb., March 25.—(Special.)—State officials are wondering where they will be at if H. R. No. 614, which has passed the house and now on the sifting file in the senate becomes law.

The bill law. The state treasurer authority to supervise the collection of all funds in every department of the state. According to state officials, this means that no state officer or clerk under them will be permitted to receive money for the state and that it will necessitate the state treasurer appointing a representative or deputy in every department of the state where there is money to be received.

One official this morning was considerably agitated over the matter. He said that he did not propose to have the state treasurer appoint any member of his office force to represent the state treasurer's office and receive money coming into his department. "I put up a heavy bond myself as a protection to the state and I don't propose to allow any other official to say who shall receive the money coming into my department and account for it." The bill was introduced by the finance ways and means committee of the house and is said to have the backing of State Treasurer Hall.

Boy Five Years of Age Suffers Wound, But Holds "Fort"

James Thorkas, 5 years old, 607 South Thirkas street, has a bad cut in his forehead besides a severe scalp laceration, but he didn't give up the fort. With a bunch of boys he was playing "soldier" on a pile of bricks at Thirkas and Jackson streets. The pile had been made in a fort and James was captain. While he was trying to eject an enemy, he fell from the top, receiving the above injuries. He was attended by Dr. Shook.

W. H. Hamilton, 1710 Jackson street, a driver for the American Trust and mercantile company smashed the little finger of his left hand while attempting to unload a large barrel from his wagon in the rear of 1110 Douglas street.

"For He's a Jolly Good Fellow!"



HEAR OF WORK OF AMERICAN ARMY

Young Men Attending Plattsburg Training Camp Last Year Have Banquet.

COLONEL BINGHAM SPEAKS

Fifteen young men, all ready to answer the president's first call to arms, heard army officers tell of the work of the regular United States army Saturday night at the Hotel Loyal. The occasion was the first get-together meeting and banquet of Omaha young men, who had attended the Plattsburg military training camp in New York last summer.

"The young men of today do not realize the exceptional opportunities in the army," Colonel Gonzales Bingham, head of the quartermaster's department here, said. "There are thousands of positions now open, which the army must fill and which pay better than do the ordinary positions in civil life."

Chandler Talks.

Major De Forest Chandler, commandant of Fort Omaha, told of the work of the signal corps. Following the talks the following committee was appointed to look into the matter, with a view to studying and later taking examinations that might fit them for the army: Taylor Belcher, "Cub" Potter and Mr. Frazer.

General G. H. Harries was on the program, but was called to Washington by military business.

Is Against Using Army Building for The Farm Loan Bank

Officers of the Omaha Federal Farm Loan bank have asked permission of the War department to have the bank located in the army building, Fifteenth and Dodge streets. Colonel Bingham, head of the quartermaster's department here and custodian of the building received a letter from the War department for his recommendation as to such a move. "I certainly will not recommend it," the colonel said. "There are many buildings in the city more favorable whose owners would welcome the bank. The army building is for army purposes."

Attorney Prince Given Judgment for \$1,000

Grand Island, Neb., March 25.—(Special.)—The jury in the case of W. A. Prince against the Southern Surety company, Harm Shank, Tom Dwyer and Frank Shank of Silver Creek, in which case damages in the amount of \$5,000 were asked for as the result of an assault on Mr. Prince at Silver Creek in September last, awarded a sum of \$1,000 damages against the defendants alike. The case was quite a sensational one, the assault being alleged to be in reprisal against Attorney Prince for his participation in a prosecution some years ago as the result of which Harm Shank was sentenced to the penitentiary on the charge of arson. The testimony in the case reviewed in a general way the assault, which took place in front of Shank's saloon, and disclosed in the rebuttal examination an alleged attempt at bribing the jury. Frank I. Olson, a business man of this city, who was acquainted with Shank, testified under the objections of the defendants, that Shank had come to him some time in October, related to him that he was "in bad" on account of the Prince deal; that Olson could do him a favor by fixing the jury, and that Olson declined, and revealed the attempt to Mr. Prince.

"Bone Dry" Advocates Champion Amendments

Advocates of the "bone dry" phase of prohibition, will leave Omaha at 8:20 o'clock Tuesday morning for Lincoln to appear before the senate in the interest of the amendments to the dry bill they are championing.

READY RIGHT NOW TO FIGHT GERMANY

Pastor Clark of First Congregational Church Delivers a Real War Sermon.

DEFINES HIS POSITION

Probability of war involving the United States was prominently mentioned in many churches of Greater Omaha Sunday, mostly in prayers by the ministers. One pastor, however, Rev. Fred J. Clark of the First Congregational church, delivered a sermon on the subject and came out openly in favor of war with Germany. "Why We Must Fight Germany" was Rev. Mr. Clark's theme at the morning service, and he did not hesitate to declare his opinion that peace talk should give way to war. "I think the time has come when it is absolutely imperative that we fight Germany," Rev. Mr. Clark told his church members. "The time has come when patience is cowardice and to hold back is to sacrifice our principles. We are facing a great crisis today, and we need a man to lead us who is awakened, aroused and inflamed with the spirit of Americanism and America. The people should become conscious of the situation. President Wilson should become inflamed with his responsibility as our leader in this crisis. We all should realize what is at stake, and with the courage of our convictions we should fight Germany without compromise."

Wyoming Oil Production Is Increasing Rapidly

Cheyenne, Wyo., March 25.—(Special.)—Wyoming oil producers will be required to pay taxes on a valuation of 85 cents a barrel for their production during 1916, as against a valuation of 60 cents a barrel on their production during the preceding year, as the result of an order issued by the State Board of Equalization. The order shows that there was reported to the board a production during 1916 of 6,199,717 barrels, valued for taxation at \$5,269,759.45. In 1915 the production reported for taxation was 4,212,374 barrels and the taxable value \$2,527,424.40.

Carry War to Germany, Is Plea of Colonel Roosevelt

Jacksonville, Fla., March 25.—Theodore Roosevelt, in an address here today, said he would have a division of American soldiers in the trenches of France, within four or five months if given permission by the government. The statement was made just after the band played "Dixie" and Colonel Roosevelt had remarked, "I would like to hear that tun against Von Hindenburg's line in France." The colonel said the United States should carry the war to Germany. He pleaded for universal military training. Colonel Roosevelt departed today for Fort Meyer to hunt devil fish.

Colonel W. A. Morgan, Once G. A. R. Commander, Is Dead

Hutchinson, Kan., March 25.—Colonel William A. Morgan, Kansas pioneer and editor, former commander of the Grand Army of the Republic and the father of Lieutenant Governor W. Y. Morgan, was stricken with apoplexy here this afternoon and died this evening. He was born March 6, 1841, in Ireland.

GERMANS THREATEN DRIVE ON PETROGRAD

Massing Great Bodies of Troops Along Northern Front to Move Against Capital.

RUSSIANS TOLD OF DANGER

Petrograd, Saturday, March 24 (Via London, March 25, Delayed.)—From internal troubles and the problems of reconstruction the attention of Russia has suddenly been diverted to a new danger which threatens from without. There now is indisputable evidence that the Germans are massing great numbers of troops along the northern front ready for an effort against Russia's capital. The country has been apprised of the new menace by a series of proclamations from its ministers.

Washington, March 25.—Transfer of the Russian capital from Petrograd to its ancient site at Moscow is regarded as highly probable in entire circles here which have kept closely advised regarding the situation in Russia. The belief is founded upon reports that Petrograd is swarming with spies; that it is strongly under the influence of the pro-German elements; that the real seat of reform for the present triumph is in Moscow, and that such a change would appeal strongly to the people. Moscow is regarded as much more secure against a drive by the German army, which is believed to be impending.

Kearney Objects to Poor Mail Service

Kearney, Neb., March 25.—(Special.)—Kearney has fallen in line with other cities of Nebraska in making a protest against the recent changes enforced by the postmaster general. The service locally feels the changes, which hit hard in a number of places. The Burlington morning special mail coach has been taken off the run and the mail clerk transferred, only a month service being given now. On the Kearney-Stepleton branch line two men are asked to do the work three formerly performed. Some mail matter coming from the east is three and four days behind time, including eastern papers, this being explained by the postmaster as being due to time lost at the terminal distributing centers. A general voice of disapproval is going up and it is possible that a formal protest may be made to the department.

Hyphenate Out of Luck With Argument in Benson

A war argument started out in the Benson district of Omaha Saturday night. A hyphenate exclaimed that President Wilson was good but he didn't know what for. A loyal American showed him. He punched him in the jaw, knocking him to the gutter. "Help," yelled the advocate of kaiserism. A policeman came. He heard what it was all about. "He did not give you enough. I guess I'll lock you up," he decided, picking the hyphenate up and leading him off away from the crowd of angry citizens gathered by the loud arguments of the German-American whose loyalty was for Germany.

Vaccination War Leaders Form Improvement Club

Citizens of the North Side who have led in the fight in the vaccination war, met Monday evening at 8 o'clock at the Prairie Park club rooms, according to announcement of C. W. Fields last evening. The session will be held for the organization of a permanent improvement club.

CALLS FOURTEEN GUARD REGIMENTS INTO U. S. SERVICE

War Department Summons Them Into Federal Ranks for Purposes of Police Protection, it Is Said.

FOUR MILITARY DIVISIONS

Country Will Be Split Up Into Six Instead of Four Army Zones.

NAVY POWER INCREASED

Washington, March 25.—Calling into the federal service of fourteen regiments of the National Guard for police protection purpose was announced today by the War department. The department issued this statement: "Many states have deemed it advisable to call out the National Guard for police purposes of protection. As the necessity for such steps arises from issues which are more national than local, it has been deemed advisable by the president to call into federal service for the above mentioned purpose the following organizations of the National Guard:

- The Fourteen Regiments. "Massachusetts, Second and Ninth regiments. "Pennsylvania, First and Third regiments. "Maryland, Fourth regiment. "District of Columbia, First separate battalion. "Virginia, Second regiment. "Vermont, B company, First regiment. "Connecticut, First regiment. "New York, Second and Seventy-first regiments. "New Jersey, First and Fifth regiments. "Delaware, First battalion, First regiment. "The following organizations which are now in the federal service will not be mustered out: Thirteenth Pennsylvania, A and B companies of the First Georgia. "Naval Strength Increased. President Wilson has signed an order authorizing the increase of the navy to 87,000 men from the present authorized strength of 74,500. He took the step on the recommendation of Secretary Daniels under authority granted by congress in case of a "national emergency." The present actual strength of the navy is 62,000 men. The additional men will be used to man the reserve ships. "Division of the United States into six instead of the existing four military departments was announced by the War department today. The two new departments are the northeastern, comprising the New England states and the southeastern, comprising the states in the old south. "Transfer of Commanders. Major General Wood is transferred from the department of the east to the new southeastern department; Major General J. Franklin Bell from the western department to the eastern department; Major General Hunter L. Liggett from the Philippines to the western department; and Brigadier General Clarence R. Edwards from the canal zone to the northeastern department. Major General Barry of the central department and Major General Pershing of the southern department remain in their commands. "The changes were outlined by the department in the following statement: "To facilitate decentralization of command the United States is divided into six military departments in place of the four now existing. The new organizations become effective May 1 and comprise the following: "Northeastern Department. "A—Northeastern department to embrace Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Headquarters at Boston. "B—Eastern department: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania. (Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

Thief Makes Haul at Places On North Twentieth Street

Some thief with a mania for stealing postage stamps is worrying merchants of North Twentieth street. Some time Saturday night he broke into N. Brodsky's store, 2002 North Twentieth street, and passed up valuable loot to take \$2 worth of postage stamps. In the drug store at Twentieth and Grace streets, he stole about a dollar's worth of stamps. He gained entrance to both places by forcing locks on the front doors.

Miss Suber Is Held Up and Robbed by Young Bandit

A boy bandit with a white handkerchief tied over his face flashed a nickel-plated revolver in the face of Miss Florence Suber, 2509 Pinkney streets, as she was going home Saturday night about 11 o'clock. The holdup was staged near Twentieth and Pinkney streets, almost in front of Miss Suber's home. Miss Suber said that the bandit was not more than 18 or 19 years old. She got a glance at a beardless chin when the wind blew the handkerchief mask away from his face. He wore a gray cap and a gray overcoat, she reported to the police. The boy got her purse, which contained \$2 and a string of beads.