



OFFENSIVE ON WEST FRONT NEARS; RED LEADERS ORDER GERMAN PEACE

RUSS RADICAL LEADERS INSTRUCT DELEGATES TO SIGN TEUTON TERMS

Former Peace Delegate Pleads With Slavs Against Abject Peace; Declares Germans are Drawing "Iron Ring" Around Revolutionary Russia; Francis Asks for Support of Allies.

(By Associated Press.)

Petrograd, March 7.—The central executive committee of the soldiers' and workmen's council, while recognizing that the German peace terms were those of "political bandits," has called on its delegates to the Moscow congress to vote for the ratification of the peace, says the Izvestia, the Bolshevik organ.

This action is advised because the peace has afforded the social revolution an "absolutely necessary respite," declares the radical newspaper.

PLEADS FOR WAR

To a gathering of workmen's and soldiers' delegates at Moscow on Monday, M. Prokrovsky, leader of the second peace delegation at Brest-Litovsk, explained the treaty with the central powers. Deeply moved, he begged those in sympathy with the democratic revolution not to deceive themselves.

The new frontiers traced by Germany, M. Prokrovsky declared, constitute a ring of iron around revolutionary Russia. He said the Germans were endeavoring to stifle the revolution, the conquests of which were reduced to nothing by the economic demands of Berlin.

The decree nationalizing the banks had fallen into abeyance because the German terms had the effect of converting the banks into German concerns. Military evacuation by Russia of Estonia, Courland and Livonia gave the enemy full authority in those regions.

M. Zinoviev, president of the Petrograd council of workmen's and soldiers' delegates; M. Sverdloff and others from Petrograd addressed the conference. They said the Russian representatives were obliged to sign the peace agreement as a tactical measure owing to the situation brought about by Ukraine in agreeing to ignominious peace terms. The meeting adopted no resolution.

Francis Makes Plea

Vologda, Russia, Wednesday, March 6.—In a public statement to the people of Vologda today on the international association as it affects Russia, David R. Francis, the American ambassador, said:

"America has no plans or desire for territorial conquest in Russia. While the present government has never been formally recognized by my government or any of the allies, both Premier Lenin and Foreign Minister Trotsky are aware, because I so advised them, that I had recommended to my government that it recognize any government the Russian people might select and would also earnestly urge that material assistance be rendered to such government, provided that it would continue the war against the central powers.

The success of Germany would result in the loss by the Russian people of all the liberties they have gained by the revolution. Consequently the free people of the United States sincerely hope that the severe terms of the separate peace imposed by Germany will not be ratified by the Russian people."

FORTY PERSONS FACE JUDGE AS RESULT OF RAIDS

Sixteen women and 23 men arrested in a raid on a restaurant and cabaret known as the "Races" were arraigned before Police Judge Fitzgerald Thursday morning.

F. Smith, Ernie Wehl, P. J. Christian and F. J. Boukal, musicians, were discharged. All other alleged inmates were discharged, with the exception of Thelma White, who was fined \$15 and costs. Cases of Charles Moore, manager; Ed Rasgorshak, bartender; Harry Riley, "Froggie" Howard and Patsey Carroll were continued until Friday.

Other alleged inmates of the disorderly house were not so fortunate. Babe Anderson, 617 North Twentieth street, was fined \$25 and costs and Dollie Brown of Sioux City was sentenced to 10 days in jail. These two were said to be "army vampires."

Corinne Jewell, arrested in a raid on the Belmont hotel, was fined \$12.50 and costs. Elvina Thompson also was fined \$12.50 and costs. John Flick and Edward Clark, state university students, were discharged with a warning not to frequent "such places." Mable Epps, alleged vagrant, provided some excitement by making her escape while telephoning for money to pay her fine.

Destroying War Material Made Crime by House Bill

Washington, March 7.—A bill imposing severe penalties on persons convicted of destroying war materials or conspiring to prevent its manufacture, was passed by the house today by unanimous vote after it had been amended to meet the objection of members that it would operate to penalize workmen in war plants who went on strike. A similar bill has been passed by the senate.

ENVOY FRANCIS LODGED WITH SIAMESE MEN

Washington, March 7.—Ambassador Francis, reporting to the State department under date of March 4, said he was temporarily quartered with the Siamese and Brazilian diplomats in a club house placed at their disposal by the mayor of Vologda. He added that a few of the Red Cross and publicity workers were still in Petrograd.

The State department was without advice of the ambassador's intention to leave Vologda, but it was pointed out that any move was dependent upon his own judgment, although it was not expected he would leave Russian territory.

A dispatch to the State department from Sweden said that the British charge d'affaires, accompanied by eight members of the staff, had left Helsingfors on March 4 for Sweden via Tornea.

GERMANS SEIZE JAMBURG, NEAR RUSS CAPITAL

Teutons Now Within 68 Miles of Petrograd; Old Regime Revived in Occupied Towns.

(By Associated Press.)

London, March 7.—The Germans have captured Jamburg, east of Narva, while the Turco-German offensive is continuing beyond Trebizond, says a Russian official agency dispatch received here today. This action, adds the statement, is despite the official announcement by the German high command that hostilities against Russia have ceased.

Jamburg is on the railway line from Revel to Petrograd and only 68 miles from the Russian capital. The Germans were reported in yesterday's dispatches to have halted at Narva, approximately 100 miles from Petrograd. Trebizond is on the Black Sea coast of Turkish Armenia. The Turks were reported to have reached the Trebizond region in their offensive when the recent peace treaty was signed.

The bolshevik government has been showing concern over reports that the central powers were continuing on the aggressive against the Russians despite the conclusion of peace under the recently signed treaty.

Petrograd dispatches on Wednesday (Continued on Page Two, Column Three.)

German Socialists

Decry Finnish Policy

Amsterdam, March 7.—Intervention of Germany in Finland and the consequent ill-feeling against Germany in Sweden is criticised severely by independent socialists and progressive members of the Reichstag, a Berlin dispatch says. Baron von Dem Busche-Haddenhausen, under secretary of foreign affairs, in reply said that Sweden no longer raised objections to Germany's action, which was taken in response to appeals for help from Finland. The occupation of the Aland islands as a base, he said, had not yet taken place.

GERMANY THREATENS TO SINK NEUTRAL SHIPS

(By Associated Press.)

Amsterdam, March 7.—In an obviously inspired article the semi-official Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung warns neutral states in connection with the negotiations by the United States to acquire neutral tonnage and argues that vessels so acquired assume a hostile character and must be treated as such no matter whether the tonnage is employed within or without the barred zone.

The paper contends that such transfer of tonnage by neutrals is tantamount to indirect participation by neutrals in economic war against Germany and involves serious danger of complications "as already shown in the history of the United States during the present war." It adds that participation by neutrals in such negotiations is an act hardly consonant with neutrality.

U-BOATS LOSING GROUND, BELIEF OF OFFICIALS

Month of December Shows Allies Sunk More Submarines Than Germany Able to Build.

Washington, March 7.—More submarines were destroyed by the allies and American naval forces in December than Germany was able to build during that month, according to information reaching Washington.

This fact developed today in discussions of the statement made to Parliament yesterday by Sir Eric Geddes, first lord of the British admiralty, that the submarines were being checked.

Whether succeeding months have shown a net loss in German submarines is not known here. It is believed that the anti-submarine campaign has proved so effective that increased efforts this spring will see a steady decrease in the number of U-boats available to prey on allied and American shipping.

Officials Are Optimistic.

What officials know of plans for pressing home the attack with increasing vigor explains the feeling of optimism that now prevails in official circles despite continued heavy drains on ship tonnage through the U-boats. The gradual decline in tonnage losses was graphically pictured to Parliament by Sir Eric with curve charts.

American naval officials appear to be satisfied that the weapons with which they expect to crush finally the submarine menace are forthcoming. Increased numbers of patrol vessels of various types, appliances and devices to make them more effective against underwater craft and the increased skill of the navy personnel are among the things upon which they count. It has taken time to devise and build the weapons, but they are beginning to become available now.

U. S. Help Appreciated.

When the United States entered the war the navy contributed promptly all that it had available to join in the submarine hunt. Sir Eric paid high tribute in his remarks to the spirit and efficiency of American naval units, crediting them with a fair share of what had been accomplished. Vice Admiral Sims' destroyer forces have constituted only the advance guard of what the American navy planned to furnish for the fight. Even with that limited aid, the allied navies have held the enemy and are now destroying one out of every four or five German U-boats that put to sea.

Now America's real contribution to the naval warfare is about to be felt. With every passing week the strength of the force will grow, for it is embodied in the most extensive construction program ever undertaken for the navy of any power.

The new destroyers and other craft must be added to the patrol fleets gradually as they are completed.

Therefore, no sudden falling off of tonnage losses is to be expected. Higher British naval authorities, however, have stated publicly by higher British naval authorities, however, the statement is, despite the official announcement by the German high command that hostilities against Russia have ceased.

It was agreed that the armistice between Roumania and the central powers should run for 14 days from midnight of March 5 with a period of three days for denunciation. Complete agreement was reached between the signatories that the final peace should be concluded within this period on the basis of the preliminary treaty.

Omaha to Receive No Aid From Released Freight Cars

Omaha railroad freight men now fear that Omaha will not be benefited by the recent release of a large number of freight cars from Atlantic coast lines. These cars, it was reported, would be sent into the grain belt, but few of them got as far west even as Chicago before they were commandeered and started east again.

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When Army Training Camps Are Included



CITY COULD SAVE ON FIRE TRUCKS, ASSERTS BUTLER

Issue Postponed One Week; Commissioner of Finance Fights Withnell's Recommendation.

City Commissioner Butler told the city council the city could save \$12,000 by buying fire apparatus from several bidders, instead of adopting the recommendation of Commissioner Withnell of the fire department to accept the combination bid of the American LaFrance company.

The council, after a spirited discussion, decided to put the proposition over a week, and during the interim City Purchasing Agent Poel, Assistant City Attorney T. Poel and Otto Bauman will prepare and examine blue print tabulations of the technical features of the bids.

The LaFrance company's bid of \$68,300 for nine pieces of motor apparatus was recommended by Withnell as being the best bid. The superintendent and chief of the fire department are contending for standardization of fire apparatus. LaFrance apparatus was bought in 1916 and in 1917.

Butler's contention is that the city is paying for the luxury of standardization. The other commissioners were willing to have him show where in a saving might be obtained by going against the recommendation of the fire department officials.

A representative of the LaFrance company explained to the council that he was \$1,700 lower than the only other bidder on high grade apparatus.

BARE BIG LOSSES IN GOTHAM VICE INVESTIGATION

New York, March 7.—Gambling losses of \$26,400 at chemin de fer preceded the attempt of Captain Nicholas Iseguine, Russian army officer, to take his life here some time ago.

This was brought out today at District Attorney Swann's vice gambling inquiry when Captain Iseguine was called to the stand as a witness. The testimony was sensational.

He testified to losing the money at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in January, and that the next day he was taken to a hospital suffering from a revolver wound. The witness objected to being questioned on the subject in detail.

Captain Iseguine came here from Russia before the revolution as a financial representative of the government. He said he was still getting an allowance from the present Russian government.

Omaha Woman Drops Dead in Los Angeles

Los Angeles, Cal., March 7.—(Special Telegram.)—A woman, said to be Mrs. Alice Duffy of Omaha, dropped dead in a department store here Wednesday afternoon.

Relatives of the woman reported dead in Los Angeles could not be located in Omaha. Her name does not appear in Omaha city or telephone directories.

POLITICAL SHRAPNEL

M. W. Rooney, Frank C. Gardner, H. L. Birdwell, R. G. Becker and Harry F. Wolf of the Working Men's Nonpartisan and Economic league primary ticket have filed their petitions. H. H. Hartnett filed before the referendum. The seventh member of this combination, T. P. Reynolds, has yet to file.

"Senator" Alfred Sorenson is really in the race. He told his friends last week he would file and he has made good his word. Mr. Sorenson, one of the pioneer newspaper men of Omaha, is at present publishing a weekly paper.

In innate modesty he has not come out for major party honors, but says he will be contented with a plain city commission.

Mayor Dahlman plans to file formally on Saturday.

Candidate Ed P. Smith is seeking to reinstate himself in the good graces of the feminine portion of the electorate. His opening speech indicated that and the pages of recent political history show that a few years ago he addressed a meeting of women, to whom he did not lend aid and comfort in equal suffrage. He is for the women now, appreciating the possibility that they may be able to vote at the election if not at the primary.

In view of the status of the suffrage amendment and the mixup over it in the courts, it is not probable the women will vote at the April primary, even should the proposed referendum on the amendment collapse. The election commissioner would have to have a reasonable length of time to register the women and prepare the books for the election boards, all of which means considerable work.

The election commissioner makes it known that his office is open every working day for revision of registration. Voters who have moved within the city or have moved into the city or have become of age since the last election must register if they wish to vote at the forthcoming city election.

J. J. Cameron, secretary of the Omaha Retail Grocers' association, seeks a place on the city commission. He is listed as "the grocers' and butchers' candidate." He is advocating full publicity of all city affairs and "an honest, efficient business administration."

Martial Law in Brazil.

Rio Janeiro, (March 7.—A presidential decree was issued today extending martial law in the federal district and several states until May 6, when congress convenes. Martial law has been in force since November in order to keep in check the activities of Germans who have attempted to embarrass Brazil in its war activities.

British Aviator Killed.

Fort Worth, Tex., March 7.—Burton Hurlburt, royal flying corps cadet, whose mother lives at Prescott, Ont., was killed this morning when he tried to make a landing. He was flying with an instructor at the time. The latter, in the back seat, escaped unharmed. Hurlburt is the 36th cadet killed here.

FINNS SIGN PEACE PACT WITH GERMANS AT NOON

(By Associated Press.)

Amsterdam, March 7.—Official announcement was made in Berlin today of the signing of a peace treaty between Germany and Finland, and also of trade and shipping agreements and a supplementary protocol. The treaty was signed at noon today.

Finland, by the conditions of the treaty, agrees to cede no territory nor grant territorial rights to any foreign power without the previous consent of Germany, who undertakes to exert herself to secure the recognition of Finland's independence by all the powers.

BIG BATTLES OF DECISIVE YEAR SOON TO BEGIN

Officials Believe Conditions Nearing Point Where World Will Be Stunned By Magnitude of Operations; President Wilson's Predictions to Come True in War-Torn Europe.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, March 7.—It is felt strongly that the opening of major operations in what President Wilson has predicted will prove the decisive year of the great war will not be delayed much longer.

Mud has been the determining factor of many previous western front operations.

U-Boat Crew Brutally Kills Wounded Captain

London, March 7.—How the members of the crew of a German submarine brutally killed the wounded master of a Belgian fishing vessel, who refused to leave the vessel, is described in a Press Association dispatch from Penzance. The submarine attacked the smack with gun fire and the skipper was wounded severely. He urged his men, including his son, to save themselves.

The submarine commander forced the fishermen to row German sailors to the smack in order to place bombs aboard. One of the Germans drew a revolver and shot the helpless skipper through the head in the presence of his son.

NEW U. S. FORCES FACE ENEMY IN FRENCH SECTOR

Third Detachment of American Troops Enters Front Line Trenches; Repulse German Raid.

BULLETIN.

With the American Army in France, Wednesday, March 6.—An American patrol comprising one officer and eight men which had been missing since last night in the sector northwest of Toul suddenly emerged from a shell hole close to the German lines today and made a dash across No Man's land without a shot being fired at them.

With the American Army in France, March 7.—The third American force to enter the trenches has now taken up a position facing the enemy.

An American staff colonel, while with a French raiding party for the purpose of obtaining information a few days before his men took up their positions in the new American sector on the Lorraine front, met a Prussian lieutenant in an enemy trench and captured him.

The colonel, with an American captain, brought the Prussian officer back to the lines the Americans are now occupying.

The German raids in this new sector occurred on Monday night, a sharp fight taking place, in which the Germans suffered a repulse, with losses. In it a unit which was among the most recent arrivals displayed the customary American fighting energy and apparently gave the enemy a much warmer reception than its expected.

Repulse German Raid.

Paris, March 7.—An official statement issued today by the French war office announcing the repulse of German raiding forces on trenches held by Americans in a new sector of the Lorraine says: "In Lorraine a German raid on trenches held by American troops was repulsed. Patrols of our allies operating in this region took some prisoners."

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GROUND STILL SOFT. So long as the ground is soft with the winter rains it is impossible to move forward great guns and necessary transport trains to support an advancing line.

Troops and supplies for General Pershing's forces are now moving to France on schedule time, it was learned today on high authority.

While figures may not be published, it was stated positively that transportation requirements of the army are being met by the shipping board and the immediate situation as to ships was described as satisfactory.

LOOK FOR SIGNS.

In view of this assurance that the United States will be able to maintain its place as a fighting unit on the battlefronts reports from the western front are being scanned more eagerly than ever before by officers here for the first signs of the 1918 campaign.

Even in Flanders, however, indications this year are that the ground will harden early in the spring, permitting either side to undertake the enterprises planned.

Start Offensive Early.

In previous years, April has seen offensive operations set in motion by the allies. For that reason many officers here seem to anticipate raiding and minor assaults before the middle of next month, which will show in themselves that the ground is being mapped, information obtained and local strategic advantages established by one side or the other in preparation for a great effort.

To others it appears probable that no offensive will be undertaken on any considerable scale before May 1. They base that view on reports that the French offensive in 1916 started in April, proved to be at least two weeks too early. The guns and transport could not be brought forward to consolidate all the ground the troops were able to wrest from the German control.

Meanwhile, during the last few days there has been less discussion of a German offensive on the western front. There are observers here who never have been convinced that the Germans actually intended to attempt another drive at the channel ports or at Paris. To these officers, the admitted concentration of German forces has seemed a defensive rather than an offensive step. They believe that the German general staff foresaw a great allied effort this year and were moving to offset it.

While much has been said both officially and unofficially of an expected German offensive, nothing as to probable aggressive measures by the allied forces has come over the cables. This fact has attracted particular attention because of the reiterated official declaration that the allied front out-matched the German in gun and man power and in view of the formation during the winter of the supreme war council, designed to make the warfare more aggressive on the part of the allies and the United States.

A substantial American army already is in the trenches on the western front and Secretary Baker has indicated that there may be at least 1,000,000 American troops in France during 1918.

Refloat Big Steamer.

A Pacific Port, March 7.—The Pacific Steamship company's liner Umattilla, reported aground on the southern Japanese coast, has been floated and is proceeding to Hongkong, according to company advices today.

INFORMATION and SERVICE

In furthering our policy of the best possible service, we have installed an information desk in the lobby of the Bee Building. To the right of the elevators. A step off Farnam street.

When you wish copies of back numbers of The Bee, when you wish to place a Want-Ad, or when calling for answers to your advertisements, use this lobby counter.

Competent clerks are in charge, who will give you any information you may desire. This service will save you time and inconvenience.

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