



Wilson Checks Revolt in Congress by Firm Stand

GERMANS NEAR VERDUN; LOSSES PUT AT 150,000

Capture Ridge Only 4 1/2 Miles from the French Fortress.

BATTLE RAGES IN SNOWSTORM

300,000 Men Are Believed Massed for New Drive to Break Line.

London, Feb. 25.—With the distance separating the Germans from the fortress of Verdun cut down today from six to four miles and a half, Paris to-night tells of a lull in the attack.

London reports the capture of six additional villages in an advance from Beaumont to the ridge of Loudeumont, north of the fortress, and the capture of 7,000 additional prisoners.

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

"In the region to the north of Verdun snow has fallen in abundance during the day. The activity of the artillery on both sides has continued very intense on the whole of the front, and principally to the east of the Meuse, where the fighting goes on with the same tenacity."

"On the right bank of the River Meuse," says the Berlin report, "our successes previously reported were exploited yesterday in different directions. The fortified villages and farms of Champneuville, Cotelle, Marmont, Beaumont, Chambrettes and Ornes were captured."

"In addition, all the enemy's positions as far as the ridge of Loudeumont 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."

Fate of Paris at Stake. The German offensive, conducted under the eye of Emperor William himself, is now recognized as probably only the beginning of a determined effort to take the fortress, and its development is awaited with the greatest anxiety.

Not since the great Allied drive last September, or even the withdrawal from the Dardanelles, have bulletins been awaited so tensely.

Something of its importance to England was emphasized by Major General Sir Francis Lloyd, commanding the London district, in a speech delivered to-day at Wimbledon.

"Once our ally's line is pierced," said General Lloyd, "the way will be open to the French capital, and if that capital is reached a new complexion will be put upon the whole face of the war. A German success on the French front would not merely mean the loss of Paris, but would endanger London as well."

In Paris it is assumed that the battle may continue a fortnight. The aim on the front last night, it is believed, was due only to the terrific execution of the French artillery and machine guns have wrought in the attack columns. Whole divisions are known to have been destroyed, and the flower of the German army.

300,000 Germans in Assault. More than 300,000 troops are believed to have been massed for the assault, which was to be by storm. These included, it has been learned from prisoners, the famous Third Corps of Brandenburg, supposedly equal in valor to the Prussian Guard, and the Fifteenth Army Corps, commanded by General von Deimling, reputed by the French to be one of the most brilliant of German officers.

Preparations for the battle were observed early in December, when the first troops assigned to the operation were brought up. Eight divisions which returned from Serbia were sent to Belgium for a rest and then transferred to the region of Verdun in January. Five army corps in all are known to have been brought up to reinforce two corps which previously held that part of the line between Etain and Vauquois.

There was a corresponding concentration of artillery. Hundreds of 15-inch and 17-inch Austrian mortars have been brought up from Serbia, together with many formerly employed on the Russian front. Paris says that the bombardment was the most intense ever

HINDENBURG OPPOSED VERDUN OFFENSIVE

Petrograd, Feb. 26.—The "Rusky Invalid," the official organ of the Russian army, publishes to-day 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 Field Marshal von Hindenburg opposed the plan, contending that it would be better to develop the operations already planned against the Russian front.

Field Marshal von Hindenburg is declared to have had little hope of the operations against Verdun, and to have feared an adverse effect on the morale of the army in case of their failure. These arguments did not prevail, and Emperor William supported the Crown Princes.

LAUDS MARJORIE; REBUKES DANIELS

"The Outlook" Makes Second Bow to Founder of Battleship Fund.

"The Outlook" has made its second bow to Marjorie. Last week it reprinted for its readers the girl's original battleship suggestion, with a word of praise for her practicality, and also Colonel Roosevelt's new famous "grandchildren letter." The current issue mildly rebukes Secretary Daniels for being too severe with the thirteen-year-old builder of battleships.

"Marjorie Sterrett's fund may yet grow to a size that will command the respect of the Secretary of the Navy," says "The Outlook." Since those words were written the fund has trebled; this very morning it passed the \$1,500 mark, and with every indication of speedy growth. In its columns a week ago the weekly said:

"Marjorie Sterrett decided that, if the way to resume specie payment was to resume, then the way to prepare was to prepare. Unlike some of her older fellow citizens she did not merely announce that SOMEBODY ought to do SOMETHING about it. Instead, she took the very practical course of sending 10 cents to The New York Tribune, with a letter."

Mentions Dime's Growth. In its current issue "The Outlook" again comments upon the fund, this time to speak of the growth of the first contribution.

"Marjorie Sterrett's dime, given to The New York Tribune to start a fund for the building of a battleship for the United States Navy, seems to have fallen on good ground," it says. "At least it has produced almost enough money to fire a 14-inch gun once and more than enough to provide wadding for the guns of a whole regiment of Washington's Continentals."

"By this time Marjorie Sterrett has doubtless learned that public life cannot be entered without the danger of encountering considerable adverse criticism. Both her grammar and her political wisdom have been questioned by authorities of note."

"The only real opposition to Marjorie Sterrett's suggestion came from the official head of the Navy Department, the exclusive beneficiary of her patriotic endeavor. Perhaps we are captious, but it seems to us that Secretary Daniels fails in his letter to display that delicate spirit of fancy which might have emanated from the pen of the creator of the late lamented Sir Joseph Porter, K. C. B., but, like Mercutio's wound, 'tis enough, 'twill serve."

"On further consideration we are inclined to state it as a fact that Secretary Daniels has been too severe with Miss Marjorie Sterrett. So dignified a proof might better be reserved for such activities as those of the late General Gaines, who in the year of 1812 took into troops without waiting for instructions from the national government.

"As to the general question of private initiative as a substitute for governmental deficiency, it may be remarked that even in so well organized a country as Germany a very large part of Germany's air fleet before the outbreak of the present war was bought and paid for through private subscriptions."

"Adventure" Favors Fund. Another magazine to favor the plan of a battleship built by popular subscription is "Adventure," in whose columns the idea of the American Legion first appeared. Its managing editor, Arthur Sullivan Hoffman, whose views

100 RIOTERS KILLED IN BERLIN, IS REPORT

Cavalry Charged Crowd, Says Belgian Paper. Amsterdam, Feb. 25.—The "Echo Belge" says it learns that a serious outbreak occurred in Berlin three days ago. Cavalry charged the crowd, and in the fight which ensued over one hundred persons were killed. According to the "Vossische Zeitung," potato cards, allowing a pound daily to each person, already in force in Dresden, will be adopted soon throughout Germany. A potato census is now being taken to ascertain whether the shortage among the Teutonic allies is serious.

VINCENT ASTOR MISSES DEATH ONLY BY INCHES

Shower of Heavy Glass Passes Two Feet from Him. Palm Beach, Fla., Feb. 25.—Vincent Astor had a narrow escape from death here to-day. He was passing beneath a skylight seventy-five feet above in the rotunda of his hotel when a shower of glass fell with a tremendous crash two feet in front of him. It was a half inch thick and some of the pieces weighed more than a pound, having a sufficient velocity to brain a man. A coconut, dropped accidentally by sight-seers in a high tower above the roof, broke the glass.

DENIES EUGENIC BAR TO MARRIAGE PLEDGE

Physical Cultivist Sues Ex-Columbia Student for \$10,000. Miss Signa Ahlgren, a "physical culturist," the daughter of Swedish parents who had eight other children, all robust and in good health, found it necessary to mention these facts in the Supreme Court yesterday because Ward Hall Ream, formerly a Columbia University student, has refused to marry her on the ground that she had a tubercular affliction. Denying the allegation, Miss Ahlgren is suing Ream for \$10,000 for breach of promise. Ream said he had his information from Dr. Lucretia Morden, of 255 West Ninety-fifth Street, with whom Miss Ahlgren boarded. He feared that the plaintiff could hardly be the mother of eugenic children.

TO WOONG GO, MAKE \$1,600 AND DANCE

Minnesota Girls Fix Average Requirements of Men They'd Wed. Minneapolis, Feb. 25.—"The Minnesota Daily," student newspaper of the University of Minnesota, which had asked the women students of the institution the question, "How much salary must a man receive before you would consent to marry?" to-day received replies ranging from \$800 to \$10,000 a year. Most of the girls were conservative in their demands, however, and the general average, based on early replies, is about \$1,600.

One girl wrote: "What is money to me? Give me a true, loving husband and a cottage." A large majority of the girls demanded that their future husbands be good dancers, and some said they must know the "latest steps." One said she would marry only a man who was a "dreamy dancer."

Smoking would be permitted, even demanded, by a large number of the girls, but drinking would be prohibited. Those who advocated card playing said bridge should be substituted for poker. One girl concedes her future husband one night a week for the latter game.

Marshall testified that he presented the case with all the skill and ability at his command. He declared he did not know when he was retained by Hays, Hershfield & Wolf, that his real client was the Interborough.

Mr. Marshall was one of the lawyers connected with the case who was not involved by the testimony, in the opinion of the committee and its counsel. During yesterday's inquiry into the merits of the Admiral Ryan suits James L. Quackenbush, counsel of the Interborough, defended the Interborough's action in the matter. He said that it would have been to his company's interest for the contracts to be declared unconstitutional. This decision of the court, he explained, would have driven the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company from the field and left the entire subway situation in the hands of the Interborough.

Quigg's Entrance Dramatic. The appearance of Mr. Quigg yesterday was the one big moment in the career of the committee. Not even the swearing of J. P. Morgan or T. P. Shonts, or George W. Young, who gave the testimony that started all the talk of a \$2,000,000 slush fund, matched in the dramatic intensity the entrance of the "accelerator" to the stuffy little room in the New York County Lawyers' Association's suite, where the hearings are held.

He had been expected for three hours before he finally appeared. A man attendant carried his umbrella and stood outside as Quigg stepped through the door. A witness was testifying. Quigg sat down, and after nodding to a couple of newspaper men he knew—he was a reporter before entering politics—he took out a cigar and lighted it.

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QUIGG DENIES 'ACCELERATING' SENATE QUEST

Says \$2,500 Gillespie Check Was for Legal Services Only. "Nobody has spoken to me about this committee but wayfarsers on the highway," said Lemuell Ely Quigg, as he rose from the witness stand at the Thompson committee hearing yesterday afternoon. The "accelerator" as he described himself during the Interborough-Metropolitan investigation of 1907—then smiled and bowed low to Senator Thompson, and paid the same courtesy to Frank Moss, the committee's counsel.

P.S.C. COUNSEL'S REMOVAL URGED

Thompson Advises It, Angered by Coleman's Persistent Forgetfulness. "The 'accelerator' as he described himself during the Interborough-Metropolitan investigation of 1907—then smiled and bowed low to Senator Thompson, and paid the same courtesy to Frank Moss, the committee's counsel.

Mr. Quigg denied that the \$2,500 check from T. A. Gillespie, whose firm has the contract for third-tracking the "L" lines, was for anything but legal services. Throughout his examination Mr. Quigg and his inseparable smile and brown derby held the fixed attention of the entire room. Even when he gave way to a slight show of temper under the examination of Senator Thompson, whom he called a "conscious blackguard" in a letter Wednesday night, the smile did not leave his ruddy, boyish face, whose boyishness was heightened by his snow-white hair.

When the committee adjourned for the day Senator Thompson, after consultation with Mr. Moss, said that the committee would send a transcript of the testimony regarding the friendly suits of the Admiral Realty Company and John Ryan to test the validity of the dual subsidy contracts to the grievance committees of the State Bar Association and the New York County Bar Association, with a recommendation that the conduct of some of the lawyers who participated in these suits be investigated.

Urges Coleman's Removal. The singular inability of George S. Coleman, chief counsel to the Public Service Commission, to remember conversations and consultations he had with some of the counsel engaged in these two cases so angered Senator Thompson that he recommended Coleman's removal from his \$10,000 berth to Oscar Straus, chairman of the commission.

Louis Marshall, who argued the Admiral Realty Company's case in the Court of Appeals, occupied the entire morning session describing his connection with the case. As in interviews the day before, Mr. Marshall testified that he presented the case with all the skill and ability at his command. He declared he did not know when he was retained by Hays, Hershfield & Wolf, that his real client was the Interborough.

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150 ALLIES' AUTOS SUNK; PLOT SEEN

Float of Specially Made Cars Drifts from Dock—British Ship Afire. Two serious mishaps, one of which is declared to bear unmistakable marks of the work of plotters, yesterday occurred on ships in New York waters that were bearing cargoes to the Allies. In both instances the shipments will be delayed indefinitely as a result of these accidents.

The most important setback to war cargoes came in the morning, when a float carrying 150 automobiles was cut loose from its moorings at Weehawken. Although strenuous efforts were made to save the craft and its especially constructed war cars, it sank in thirty feet of water.

The craft on which the machines were being held preparatory to being transferred to the Student, was towed to Liverpool within a few days, was tied up securely to a dock in the morning. Shortly after 6 o'clock it broke adrift and was in mid-stream before tugs from the New York Central docks succeeded in getting lines to it.

After the lines had been attached it was found that the float was taking water rapidly, but the tug crew hoped to rush it to shore before it could sink.

The race for the shore was on in earnest when the weight of water and soaked cargo caused the float suddenly to lurch to leeward and sink. It was with difficulty that the tugs released the lines in time to save themselves from a like fate.

At first it was thought the accident was the result of the storm that broke early in the morning. Investigation indicated that even if the float had broken from its moorings, which is considered highly improbable, it could not have sunk unless a hole had been cut in its bottom. The weight of the autos was not sufficient to cause it to sink.

As soon as officials of the Erie Railroad learned of the accident they sent divers to the spot. Many of the machines were raised before midnight. To-day efforts will be made to bring the sunken float to the surface. Not until then will it be possible to say positively whether it was sunk through intent or accident.

Fire started on the British steamship Irvington, moored in the bay off the stationing of guards along the waterfront at the foot of Fulton Street where there are several important steamship line piers. He refused to discuss the contents of the letter, but confessed that it contained a warning.

Through a leak in the District Attorney's office, it was learned that the writer of the letter advised Mr. Crosey that certain shippers feared a plot to blow up a part of the Brooklyn waterfront.

Since the fire ten days ago, which destroyed one of the largest piers in the Erie Basin, three English steamships loaded with ammunition and several lighters, Mr. Crosey has received three anonymous letters. He was said last night. The third, however, was so specific in indicating the time and scope of the alleged plot that he sent it to Captain Coughlin, in charge of the Brooklyn Detective Bureau.

The police refused to give out the letter. It was said that additional patrolmen had been sent to the Fulton Street waterfront.

Police Guard Liner Piers After Warning to Crosey

District Attorney James C. Crosey, of Brooklyn, admitted last night that he had turned over to the police of the waterfront a letter which had caused the stationing of guards along the waterfront at the foot of Fulton Street where there are several important steamship line piers. He refused to discuss the contents of the letter, but confessed that it contained a warning.

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ERICK BUILDS WING TO HIS ART GALLERY

Addition at 5th Ave. and 71st St. to House Rare Pictures. The art gallery belonging to Henry C. Erick, which adjoins his residence at Fifth Avenue and Seventy-first Street, is to be enlarged to accommodate the new additions to his collection of paintings and porcelains.

Mr. Erick's present gallery was designed by Carrere & Hastings, and they are now working on plans for the new wing, which will probably be 50 feet wide and 100 feet deep, and will be built on a piece of property facing in Seventy-first Street, acquired by him in October.

Mr. Erick's collection has been reported to have cost him \$10,000,000, and Great Britain maintains extra-territorial rights over the waters immediately adjacent to Shanghai, the China's sailing port for San Francisco. Should the British government set up the claim that the vessel was within waters under British jurisdiction the United States would have no cause for further action.

Advices to the State Department are in doubt the exact position of the China. One consular report fixed the location as "ten miles offshore." The department has been advised that the British Foreign Office is investigating the incident.

AMERICAN KILLED BY ZEPPELIN BOMB

William Dunn, Noted Gambler, Struck in Barber Chair. Boston, Feb. 25.—The death in Paris, by a bomb dropped from a Zeppelin, of William Dunn, a former assistant of Richard Ganfield in the latter's gambling enterprises at New York, Saratoga and Narragansett Pier, was announced to-day by his brother, Joseph J. Dunn, in a letter from the British Consul in Paris.

The letter said that Dunn was killed while seated in a barber chair in a Paris hotel on January 23 and that John Simmons, who was with him, was injured. Both men were widely known in sporting circles on both sides of the Atlantic.

London, Feb. 25.—An official communication announcing the total casualties in the recent raid on England says: "The final figures of the air raid of January 31 are: Killed, 27 men, 25 women and 15 children, a total of 67; injured, 45 men, 53 women and 19 children; total, 117; grand total, 184. "The number of bombs dropped aggregated 393."

GERMAN BOMB CAUSED TENNYSON EXPLOSION

Put on Board Steamship at Bahia, Authorities Learn. Rio Janeiro, Feb. 25.—A Bahia newspaper says that a box containing a bomb was put on board the Lamport & Holt Line steamship Tennyson at Bahia, at the request of a German merchant, by a person whose identity has been discovered.

The Tennyson put into Maranhao on February 21, badly damaged as the result of an explosion, believed to have been caused by an infernal machine. The explosion killed three of the crew—an American, an Englishman and a Dutchman.

WASHINGTON DENIES PLAN TO DEAL DIRECT WITH BERLIN

Washington, Feb. 25.—State Department officials to-night disclaimed knowledge of any move to carry on negotiations over the conduct of submarine warfare direct with Berlin, instead of through Count von Bernstorff. During the entire course of the confidential negotiations between Secretary Lansing and the German Ambassador dispatches have passed between Ambassador Gerard and the State Department, and the State Department has been keeping this government advised in regard to certain matters involved, such as editorial expressions in German newspapers, but there has been no outward indication that his activities in connection with the submarine controversy have been broader.

Upon the circulation recently of reports that Count von Bernstorff was in disfavor at the State Department Secretary Lansing stated that there had been no change in either his official or personal relations with the Ambassador.

DELAY SCUTTLE BILL, APPEAL FROM MANILA

Postpone Action Until War Ends, Merchants Ask Congress. Manila, Feb. 25.—The Merchants' Association, the membership of which is largely American, voted to-day to send an appeal by cable to Congress to hold off final action on the Philippine bill until the end of the war.

The British and Filipino members of the association declined to join in the appeal, the British on the ground that they were foreigners and the Filipinos after they had conferred with Sergio Osuna, Filipino delegate to Congress.

LEADERS HALT EFFORTS TO YIELD U. S. RIGHTS

LONDON PRESS PRAISES WILSON U-BOAT STAND

London, Feb. 26.—London daily newspapers express satisfaction with President Wilson's letter to Senator Stone. Following are comments: "The Daily News"—"The President's letter carries the controversy with Germany to a point from which there can be no receding. Whatever the forces against him, the President must stand or fall by his letter. No man could in word or deed recant such language as he has deliberately used and remain a vital force in American politics."

"The Daily Chronicle"—"The President's words have the right ring to them. He makes plain to the whole world that the United States is resolute in its resolve to reject the impudent demand of Germany."

"The Times"—"The President remains immovably true to his lofty moral attitude. President Wilson deserves credit for standing manfully to his guns."

BERLIN HOPEFUL OF SETTLEMENT

Expecting U. S. to Deal Direct with German Government on U-Boat Issue. Berlin, Feb. 24 (via London, delayed).—The morning newspapers to-day print a Havas dispatch from New York which says that the Administration at Washington has determined to break off relations with Count von Bernstorff, German Ambassador to the United States, and negotiate direct with Berlin.

Nothing is known here regarding the reported disfavor of Count von Bernstorff, but it is considered extremely probable, as was intimated in a dispatch to The Associated Press from Berlin some time ago, that the submarine negotiations will be transferred to Berlin, in accordance with recommendations submitted to President Wilson several weeks ago. It is felt here that this may expedite a satisfactory settlement of the whole submarine controversy.

The putting of the submarine question in Count von Bernstorff's hands after the Arabic incident served its purpose. It is felt here that Count von Bernstorff has a thorough familiarity with the American viewpoint and the currents of opinion with regard to a solution of the controversy, and that with the progress that has been made in Washington on the problem, much may be hoped for from the second shift to Berlin.

Less importance would be attached to such transfers and retransfers in normal times than under present conditions, with communication between the Foreign Office and the United States so limited and so difficult.

The recent accident to James W. Gerard, the American Ambassador, disposes of the transfer of the question to Berlin. The Ambassador's broken collarbone does not prevent him from being at his desk and transacting business as usual.

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Resolution Warning Citizens Off Armed Ships Blocked.

LODGE STANDS BY PRESIDENT

Bryan Telegram to Pacifists Fails to Stir House.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The attempt to stampede Congress into forcing the President's hand and accomplishing a surrender of American rights to the exigencies of German submarine warfare seemed tonight to have collapsed. Apparently, the President's firm stand, expressed in his letter to Senator Stone, has done its work.

There is still a tremendous sentiment in the House and Senate, amounting to a majority in the House, and a substantial minority in the Senate, in favor of a resolution warning Americans off armed merchantmen, but the prospects for passage of such a resolution have dwindled to practically nothing.

All of the leaders, whether they personally favor the resolution or not, are beseeching their friends in both houses not to complicate the situation, even by talking. The parliamentary situation in the House, due to the control by friends of the Administration of the Rules Committee, which prevents a special rule ordering a vote on the resolution, makes it certain that a vote could not be obtained in the House before June, unless the friends of the measure could muster a two-thirds majority. This is not believed to be possible to-day, although it would have had a three-fourths majority day before yesterday.

In the Senate all but about six of the Republicans are opposed to any surrender of American rights. The policy of the minority, despite a few radical exceptions, has had its effect in cooling the panic of the Democrats.

Figuring on Consequences. The latter are now wondering what would be the political consequences of a surrender resolution passed by Democratic votes in opposition to the President; they concede must be renominated if the Democrats wish a chance of retaining the spoils of office for another four years. With most of the Republicans, a large minority of the Democrats are opposed to taking any action to which the President is opposed.

Senator Sheppard, of Texas, the state of Representative McLemore, whose resolution warning Americans off armed ships helped start the wave of fear Thursday, declared to-day it would be almost criminal to pass any resolution which would embarrass the President in his negotiations with Germany.

"Despite all the cloak room oratory," he said, "I do not believe such a resolution could muster a majority in a Democratic caucus."

A ringing statement from Senator Lodge, ranking Republican member of the Foreign Relations Committee, which virtually calls on the Republicans to support the President now that he has taken a firm stand, sums up the way most of the Republican Senators feel about the situation.

"Of course, I shall stand by the President," declared Senator Lodge. "I agree fully with what he says (referring to the President's letter to Senator Stone). I believe it would proclaim us to the world as cowards to tell our citizens that they must not exercise their undoubted rights and that if they do so we shall not protect them. A nation that will not protect its citizens cannot protect itself, and if Democracy fails to project itself how can we hope to live?"

Wilson Unmoved by Leaders. President Wilson turned a deaf ear early in the day to the pleas of Speaker Clark, Floor Leader Kitchin and Chairman Flood of the House Foreign Affairs Committee when they went to the White House and told him of the seriousness of the revolt in the House. The President virtually sent a message to the House through these recognized Democratic leaders that Congress should not be permitted to "compromise national honor."

The President is so confident that the country is behind him in his opposition to Democratic leaders who favor