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NEW OFFENSIVE OF ALLIES BEGUN

FIERCER BATTLE THAN VERDUN RAGES OVER 40-MILE FRONT.

BRITISH GAIN MUCH GROUND

Apparently Germans Will Lose Lens Coal Region and Great Stretch of French Territory.

By International News Service. London, April 9. — Evidently the Allies' new offensive has commenced. A battle fiercer than that of Verdun is raging on a front of over ten miles between Arras and Lens with the initial success on the side of the British. More than 5,000 Germans were taken prisoners in less than twelve hours. The Teuton lines between Arras and Lens were penetrated everywhere. Vimy Ridge was carried by storm by the British. The Germans will evidently be forced to withdraw from the Lens coal region and the evacuated French territory as given up since the beginning of the year is assured. The British have also advanced further toward St. Quentin.

Many big guns were captured by the British, who advanced to a depth of three miles over a front of twelve miles. More prisoners are being brought in. The total now is 5,911.

SEPARATE PEACE WITH RUSSIA

Amsterdam, April 9. — The Kaiser is bending all his efforts toward a separate peace with Russia. Philip Scheidemann, a socialist leader, has left Berlin, presumably to confer with the Russian Socialists.

ALL TOPICS HAD WAR TIME TINGE

The regular meeting of the Orleans Parish Medical Society last night had a war-time tinge, all of the topics discussed bearing upon management of camps, hospitals and medical relief work. Dr. O. L. Pothier, of the Washington Artillery addressed the physicians in regard to the organization of field hospitals. Dr. W. A. Love, of the Washington Artillery, spoke on camp sanitation. Dr. H. B. Gossner delivered an address on the organization of a base hospital. Dr. Rudolph Mats, professor of surgery at Tulane, spoke on the American Red Cross and its purpose. The question of admitting dentists as associate members was left to a committee.

FOREIGNER KILLED BY GUARD

Shanokin, Pa., April 10. — One foreigner was shot dead and another wounded when they refused to halt by a sentry guarding the Pennsylvania railroad bridge here today.

QUAKE AT ST. LOUIS

St. Louis, Mo., April 9. — An earthquake shock of eight minutes was felt here this afternoon.

SERIES OF FIRES CREATES ALARM

TWO KNOWN TO BE OF INCENDIARY ORIGIN

ASST. FIRE CHIEF IS INJURED

By Collision of Auto With Fire Insurance Patrol—Losses Aggregated Total of \$7,540

Four fires, entailing a total loss estimated at \$7,540, broke out in various sections of the city late Sunday night and early yesterday. One fireman was hurt in a collision and another injured while fighting the flames. Two of the blazes are said to have been of incendiary origin. Assistant Fire Chief Albert Monaghan was responding to an alarm for a fire at 501 Elysian Fields avenue when his automobile was run into by fire insurance patrol No. 1, driven by Chauffeur Edward Burke. Monaghan's car was thrown aside and he received bruises of the head and left hand. No one else was hurt. The other fireman hurt is a member of the same fire company No. 25. He slipped and fell on glass in a burning building at 1018 Joliet street, sustaining a cut of the right arm. He is in the Charity Hospital in a serious condition.

No. 501 Elysian Fields avenue is owned and occupied by K. and E. Numond, dealers in food. The fire, believed to have been caused by spontaneous combustion, started in the fuel-mixing room. It was extinguished with a loss of but \$10.

The house at 1018 Joliet street, where Lieutenant Winsten was injured, was owned and occupied by Thomas Norman. This building was destroyed and the adjoining residence of Herman Sinner, 1012 Joliet street, was damaged. The total loss in this case is \$4,025.

Two unidentified men who were seen to drive up to the place just before the fire and then escape in a wagon, are believed by the police to have been responsible for the fire that destroyed Frank Forest's oyster and vegetable establishment at 1401 Music street and damage two other buildings. The damaged structures were the residence at 1407 Music street, occupied by Peter and Ray, and the home of Henry Camos, 215 North Villere street.

Frank Bohne, 726 Frenchmen street, told Captain Wheatley, of the 17th precinct station, that he was sitting on a step on Villere street just before the fire when he saw two men drive up to the oyster stand in a wagon. They got out, he said, entered the rear of the building and emerged shortly after, carrying the wagon and drove off at a fast rate. Almost immediately after they left Bohne heard an explosion and saw flames.

The residence at 2538-2535 Calhoun street, owned by Mrs. Julia Schwarz, and now in course of construction, was almost destroyed by a series of incendiary bombs. According to the police, kindling wool saturated with oil was found in different rooms. No. 2534 Calhoun street, owned and occupied by Theodore Baker, was damaged.

NEGRESS WITH LOTTERY LISTS

Helen Mitchell, negress, 1411 Perdido street, was arrested yesterday by Patrolmen Shannon and Hartman on a charge of having lottery paraphernalia in her possession. The officers had her under surveillance and when the woman found she was being watched, she went into the alley of a house at 1210 South Liberty street and tried to throw a package containing lists and plays under the building.

ONE NEW WAR AND PROBABLY TWO OTHERS ON HANDS OF U.S.

Austria Broke off Relations Yesterday; Bulgaria and Turkey May Follow—Bond Issue of Five Billions Latest Project—Patriotic Demonstrations

Washington, April 9. — The status of the relations between the United States, Bulgaria and Turkey gave the State Department grave concern tonight, following the official announcement that Austria had broken off relations with the United States, causing practically a state of war to exist between the two nations.

The Bulgarian minister called at the State Department today but said that his country had not yet broken with the United States.

The break with Austria cuts off communication with Ambassador Elkus, at Constantinople, and a break with Turkey would cause embarrassment to a thousand American refugees at Beirut, and endanger the American gunboat Scorpion at Constantinople.

Congress today began a long grind of war legislation. Legislation authorizing a bond issue of five billion dollars as America's war loan will probably be forthcoming before the end of the week.

A three billion dollar war loan to the Allies and two billions toward the conduct of the war by the United States will be the division of America's first war loan, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo announced tonight. He said that the President will ask Congress for authority to issue five billion dollars in bonds.

Secretary McAdoo's official statement was issued after a day of conference with the congressional leaders.

Morgan said that New York financial interests are solidly behind the President.

Although there is great opposition to the conscription bill, confidence is expressed that it will pass Congress.

Governor Ferguson, of Texas, has telegraphed that the Texas boys want to be under Texas officers.

Houston, Tex., April 9. — When the United States marshal seized the Austrian steamers Morowitz and Campania this afternoon he found the boilers and valves had been wrecked.

Springfield, Ill., April 9. — Governor Lowden is preparing the state for immediate war. The appropriation of a million dollars will probably be approved by the legislature and a military census of the state will be taken.

Chicago, April 9. — The recruits enrolled today in Chicago numbered approximately one thousand.

Austin, Tex., April 9. — The greatest public demonstration ever witnessed here took place this afternoon. More than 20,000 people attested their loyalty to the flag.

A procession, headed by Governor Ferguson, was participated in by many negroes, Mexicans and citizens of German nationality.

Washington, April 9. — Austria-Hungary, under the pressure of Germany, has severed diplomatic relations with the United States. Baron Erik Zwiadinek, charge d'affaires of the Austro-Hungarian embassy here, called at the State Department today and asked for passports of himself and the embassy staff.

Almost at the same time a dispatch was received from American Minister Steudtner at Bern, saying the dual monarchy had broken off diplomatic relations with the United States in Vienna yesterday. It is presumed this was done by handing passports to American charge d'affaires. American Ambassador B. B. Boylston, who had left Vienna on Saturday, probably did not know of the government's action.

By arrangement Spain will take over the diplomatic and consular interests of the United States in Austria-Hungary. All Austrian consular agents will depart from the United States with the diplomatic mission, as was the case with Germany.

Up to the time charge Zwiadinek asked for his passports, no similar action had been taken by Bulgaria and Turkey—Germany's two other allies and their representatives here disclaimed having any knowledge of the intention of their governments. It is expected they will follow by breaking diplomatic relations.

Austria's break with the United States, undoubtedly is the prelude to a declaration of a state of war, sixty-two days elapsed between the break in relations between the United States and Germany and the formal declaration of a state of war. How many days will elapse before Germany's ally enters a state of war Germany's newest enemy will be decided entirely by circumstances. The diplomatic history of civilization and the precedents of centuries show a state of war invariably follows a break in diplomatic relations between first-class powers.

Acting upon instructions from Washington yesterday, Special Agents United States marshals yesterday seized the interned Austrian steamships Torosa, Anna and Clara. The members of the crews were placed in custody ashore.

Examination of the ships showed that the machinery of each of them had been tampered with. About half of the machinery of the Clara has been dumped overboard, it is said. Experts searched the ships for explosives to prevent possible damage.

LADY SLIGHTLY HURT Mrs. Emily Dumas, 40,5516 Tchoupitoulas street, was crawling along the southside Plantation. Jefferson parish, when she slipped and broke her left leg Sunday. She was taken to the Charity Hospital in New Orleans.

MOVE HELPS LIBERALS Berlin, April 9. — The immediate effect of America's entrance into the war was to give impetus to the proposed liberal reforms. Germany will ignore the declaration of a state of war and no effort to meet America's war preparations will be made.

FIRST LOUISIANA REGIMENT HERE

TWO COMPANIES FROM BATON ROUGE FIRST TO ARRIVE.

OTHERS EXPECTED LAST NIGHT

Mobilization Camp at City Park in First-Class Shape for the Louisiana Soldiers.

Arrival of National Guardsmen from various sections of the State who are mobilizing at the City Park race track camp, began yesterday. The two companies of National Guardsmen of Baton Rouge, including the headquarters, arrived yesterday. Other companies are expected today.

The two divisions of the Louisiana Naval Reserves, which have been sworn into the Federal service and will undergo training at the Charlestown, S. C., naval station, are expected to depart tonight. The other division will remain at the Algiers naval station for a while.

will be done now by the militia alone, which is also patrolling certain parts of the commercial section of the city. The fifth division of the reserves arrived yesterday from Shreveport, La.

The following National Guard companies were expected to arrive sometime today or tonight, according to information given out at headquarters last night: Company K, Lake Charles; Company G, from Monroe, and the separate troop of cavalry from Jennings.

Captain Frank U.S.A., is in charge of the City Park camp, work on which is well under way. Everything is being done to make the soldiers feel at home. Up-to-date camp kitchens and sanitary improvements are being installed. The total number of troops to occupy the camp will be about 2,000.

BRAZIL READY TO MAKE THE PLUNGE

Rio Janeiro, April 9. — Brazil is expected to break with Germany tomorrow. The seizure of German ships will immediately follow.

Washington, April 9. — Work of promptly equipping and arming the United States military and naval forces was placed under the control of a general munitions board, created by the council of national defense after a lengthy session tonight.

The board will direct the purchases of army supplies, and assist in securing raw materials.

The creation of the board is one of the outstanding war-time moves of the day. The board met immediately and launched upon its task.

From administration sources it is learned today that the President's cabinet will not be increased to include ministers of munitions and transportation, as reported.

14 ARRESTED AS SPIES IN CHICAGO

Chicago, April 9. — Fourteen persons accused of being German spies were arrested by government agents and jailed today. They are accused of plotting to blow up an industrial plant.

REVIVING TRADE ON THE BIG RIVER

EAST ST. LOUIS LEAVES WITH MANY PASSENGERS ABOARD

CARRIED BIG FREIGHT CARGO

President Rogers Will Supply as Many Boats as Trade Demands. Safeguard Against Congestion

The big steamer East St. Louis left at 5 o'clock last evening for St. Louis and way landings completing its second round trip on the Mississippi. It will make stops at Baton Rouge, Natchez, Vicksburg, Greenville, Helena, Memphis and Cairo.

President Charles Rogers, of the St. Louis-New Orleans Navigation Co., owners of the East St. Louis, expressed great pleasure over the business the steamer is receiving. Over one hundred cabin passengers left on the East St. Louis last night. The boat has accommodations for 150. The cabins are comfortable and handsomely furnished. The dining room is beautifully decorated.

the expectations of Percy Mitchell, the local agent, who feels much encouraged over the patronage received.

The East St. Louis is scheduled to leave this port every twenty days. "The business we have received," said President Rogers to The Bee last night, "is surpassing our expectations. If we have the support of the New Orleans business men, we will add other steamers to our line and give frequent and fast service."

The holding up of a great steamship line on the Mississippi is of the utmost importance to New Orleans business interests as it furnishes the greatest safeguard against the congestion of rail trains, often threatened by war conditions.

Besides being president of the St. Louis-New Orleans Navigation Co., Mr. Rogers is president of the J. C. Grant Chemical Co., of St. Louis, and of the McManus Transfer Co., of St. Louis. W. M. Ward, general manager of the chemical company, was also a passenger aboard the East St. Louis on its northbound trip last evening.

NAT'L FEDERATION OF CLUB WOMEN

The session of the general council of the General Federation of Clubs opened last night at the French Opera house. Mayor Lehmann welcomed the delegates and the principal address was delivered by National President Mrs. Joseph Evans Taylor. A reception at the General hall followed.

At noon yesterday, a luncheon given at the Country club by the City Federation of Clubs. Over four hundred local club women were present.

Speakers at the luncheon included: Mrs. Josiah Evans Cowles, president of the National Federation; Mrs. S. B. Sneath, Mrs. E. J. Graham, president of the City Federation; Mrs. J. D. Wilkinson, president of the State Federation; Mrs. Edward McGohee, head of the Mississippi Federation; Mrs. Joseph Fraughton, director for Arkansas; Mrs. W. W. Van Meter, Mrs. Roylan Douglas, Mrs. John Lombard, Mrs. P. J. Friedrichs, Mrs. Alan Johnson, Mrs. J. R. Morton, Mrs. John Shuttleworth, director for Louisiana; Mrs. Joseph Friend and Miss Florence H. Wald.