

BAKER'S STATEMENT

SECRETARY'S WEEKLY REVIEW OF EUROPEAN EVENTS

GERMANY OUTNUMBERED

Allies Hold "Appreciable Superiority Both in Men and Guns"—Disturbances in Germany, While Serious, Must Not Stop Our Preparations—American Troops Actually in Battle.

All reports to the war department indicate that the allies still hold a very appreciable numerical superiority both in men and guns on the Western front despite the heavy German concentration there since the defection of Russia.

Secretary Baker's weekly war review Monday made this announcement and in commenting later, Mr. Baker said it represented the best judgment of the department based upon advices from all sources.

The review this week gives first place to the statement that "American troops which have completed their training are now occupying a portion of the actual battle front." It warned the country that "the world has been flooded" with reports of internal unrest in Germany which must not be allowed "to affect the effectiveness or speed of our own preparations."

Commenting on the meeting of the supreme war council at Versailles, the review says it "promises to show positive results" in the way of unity of action on all fronts.

Reviewing operations for the week ending February 2, Secretary Baker says: "American troops which have now completed their training are occupying a portion of the actual battle front. The operations in which our troops have so far been engaged were of a minor character."

"On January 30 the Germans attempted a strongly pushed raid, against our line for purposes of identification. Under cover of a heavy mist the enemy was able to reach our positions. A short brush ensued and the raiders were compelled to withdraw in haste, after inflicting slight casualties."

"Two days later the enemy apparently attempted another reconnoitering thrust but was dispersed before any headway could be made. "Our patrols have been active in No Man's Land and our scouts have made themselves familiar with the details of the hostile positions opposite them."

Another event of importance took place in France. The inter-allied supreme war council met at Versailles, attended by General Bliss, chief of staff of the army and General Pershing as well as the representatives of France, Great Britain and Italy. "Complete and close cooperation between the allies and ourselves, and a harmonious understanding between the supreme commands of all the forces engaged, promises to show positive results. Unity of purpose on all fronts will thus be attained."

During the past seven day period the world has been flooded with the news of very serious internal unrest in Germany. Widespread strikes among munitions workers are reported. While dissatisfaction is no doubt rife in Germany, and strikes of increasing seriousness have occurred, we must not allow any reported disturbance within the German empire to affect the effectiveness or speed of our own preparations.

"During the week hostile concentrations in the West continued. In certain quarters the reports, spread by the enemy, that he holds a preponderous numerical superiority in the West, have gained some credence. While positive proof has been received that the enemy has removed troops from the eastern theater and is stripping other fronts for the coming struggle in the West, nevertheless, the allies are believed still to hold a very appreciable numerical superiority both in men and guns."

"In the British theater numerous raids took place. South of Lens and northeast of Langemark, as well as south of the Scarpe, the Germans sent out reconnoitering detachments. The British forces were also busily engaged sounding the enemy line, identifying new units, taking measure of the value of the new contingents which are arriving along the German line in the west from other theaters."

"Northeast of Havrincourt and near Epehy, British patrols brought in prisoners. Hostile artillery kept up a heavy fire throughout the week in the Ypres and Cambrai salients. Passchendaele was the scene of very lively shelling and the regions of Arras and Lens were also principal targets for the Germans."

"The French were also busy raiding the enemy and kept a careful outlook along their entire front. Opposite the French, the Germans confined operations to minor raids north of the Aisne and upper Alsace."

"Profiting by the favorable atmospheric conditions which prevailed, air raids on a large scale were undertaken. The British successfully bombed railway centers in Flanders and air squadrons undertook attacks upon munition plants and other military objectives in the Rhine area, London and Paris, as well as Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne were visited by hostile aircraft."

"In Italy a further improvement in the combat situation is noted. The Italians were very successful in following up their plans to regain points of particular strategic importance along their battle front. As a counter part of the French assault

SOCIALISTS ACTIVE

German Strike Was Called By Pamphlet of Leaders

A copy of a pamphlet issued by the Independent Socialists which has reached Copenhagen shows that the strike in Germany was prepared by them. The pamphlet points out that the Pan-Germans have brought the peace negotiations and the future of Germany into great danger.

Admiral von Tirpitz, leader of the Fatherland party, after an interview with the imperial chancellor, declared that he was satisfied with the government's plans concerning the East. Such a declaration, says the pamphlet, proves that the government is in collusion with the advocates of violence.

"Our press is gagged, our comrades are imprisoned and the factories to a still greater extent are martialized," continues the pamphlet. "Men and women of the working classes, there is no time to lose. After the horrors and horrible suffering we have undergone, a new and frightful disaster threatens our people—yes, even the whole of humanity."

"Only a peace without indemnities and annexations can save us and the hour has come when you must raise your voice for such a peace. At this moment the German people must by means of powerful demonstrations manifest its will to finish the war."

The pamphlet is signed by Edward Bernstein, Hugo Haase, Wilhelm Dittmann, George Ledebour and other leaders.

Lost at Sea.

The sinking of the British transport Tuscania, with the loss of a number of American soldiers, is the first tragedy of its kind which has enveloped our forces since the war began.

While the men on board were for the most part from Michigan and Wisconsin the entire country feels the shock of the disaster, and mourns the loss of the brave men who died.

That this loss may be the beginning of more extensive interference with the transportation of American troops abroad, and may be the opening casualty of the U-boat offensive against our transports, is a fact to be considered. Dispatches some time ago intimated that German submarines were being refitted for a drive against the American army. If this is true our largest losses may be still ahead of us, but so far the nation should be thankful that no greater casualties have been sustained through the transportation of the troops across the sea-infested sea.

No one would deny the import of a single death to the bereaved relatives, and in the two states which seemed to have suffered most, the sinking of the Tuscania is a heavy blow. While unlimited sympathy goes out to them in their grief the fact remains that no decisive victory has been won by the Germans in this exploit. Unless they can do better in the future than they have done in the past American troops will be able to cross the Atlantic with about as much safety as they can ride in automobiles and on trains.

GOES TO JAIL

German Socialists Sent Up for Helping the Strikers

Wilhelm Dittman, the radical Socialist deputy, who was tried by an extraordinary court martial on the charge of inciting high treason, retransgression of the prohibition against participating in the direction of the general strike was sentenced to five years' confinement in a fortress. Dittman also was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for resisting public authority. Mitigating circumstances and the absence of dishonorable intention were admitted.

In the region of the Honte Tomba, the Italians early in the week launched a powerful offensive thrust against the Austrian positions along the Asiago plateau. This attack was directed against the strongly entrenched enemy positions in the region between the Frenzela and the Brenta.

"The Italians succeeded in keeping the hostile strongholds of the important peaks of the Col del Rosse and the Monte di Val Bella, which resulted in appreciable advance of the Italian line in this area, the capture of 100 officers, 2,500 men and a large quantity of munitions. By this very fortunate operation the Italians were able to regain the important ground lost in this area in December and their hold on their positions is rendered more secure."

"Austrian reaction was prompt. An assault against the new Italian positions on the Monte di Val Bella was undertaken. The attacking forces were stopped and the Italians immediately drove a fierce counterattack on the enemy. Patrol encounters took place in the Val d'Astice and in the Val Giudicaria a hostile raiding party was driven off by hand grenades."

"Along the Balkan front a renewed activity is recorded. Patrol encounters took place west of Lake Doiran. British and Serb detachments raided Bulgarian positions and enemy concentration in the vicinity of Sere and in the valley of the Vardar were bombed by aircraft."

"In Palestine the British are pushing slowly but steadily forward, enlarging their sphere of operations and consolidating the ground won."

WOULD TRAIN AMERICANS

British Anxious to Help Our Soldiers to the Firing Line

In view of the difficulty in finding ships to put American fighting power in France, General Bliss, representing the United States at the military session of the supreme war council, is considering with British officials the advisability of starting a flow of American battalions through the British training system to front line trenches in Flanders.

This project, it was learned here, was talked over in various forms, one of the concrete proposals being that 150 battalions be assigned for such training.

"Congestion at the American embarkation ports in France lies back of the suggestion. By diverting certain units to British ports and passing them through the British system it has been urged that a considerable body of men could be trained and put on the firing line, who otherwise could not be sent forward for months."

It is known that proffers of British and French ships to carry American troops have accompanied other representations from the other side in behalf of the early movement of as many men as possible across the Atlantic. There are intimations, in fact, that British transports already have been used to carry American troops to a limited extent.

The question, apparently, however, is one largely of maintaining continuous supply lines for all troops sent over, rather than of finding ships to carry the men.

Secretary Baker refused today to discuss any of the questions involved in the shipping situation. Asked specifically as to the proposal to train additional forces in Flanders, he said:

"I can not discuss the movement or projected movement of troops."

LOOKS FOR SHIPS

Wilson Goes Into Shipping Question With Chairman Hurley

President Wilson took up personally the shipping problem Tuesday night and at a conference with chairman Hurley of the shipping board, went into the great problem of procuring tonnage for the movement of American troops and supplies overseas.

Every phase of the question was discussed, including the progress of the government building program, plans for obtaining allied ships for transporting soldiers and negotiations with the European neutrals for tonnage to release American vessels for trans-Atlantic service. The president was particularly interested in the proposal to obtain additional ships by reducing imports.

A full realization of the extent of which America's troop movement to France depends on tonnage has come not only to this government but to the allies as well, and it was indicated that one of the chief topics at the recent session of the supreme war council at Versailles was that of finding ships for that purpose. A big American army is substantially ready to go, but before it is sent the war department wants to be assured it can be supplied. Ships are available to transport the men; the problem is keeping them furnished with materials with which to fight.

A million men on the fighting front will require, according to the best estimates available, from 4,000,000 to 7,000,000 tons of shipping in continuous service across the 2,000 miles of water between America and France. The United States can lay its hands on about 4,000,000 tons now and expects to build during the year anywhere from 2,000,000 to 6,000,000 tons more.

"IN PARIS BY APRIL"

Washington Not Concerned With von Hindenburg's Boast

Travelers from Germany bring an account of a recent conference at Berlin at which Field Marshal von Hindenburg received the editors of 30 German newspapers and discussed the food situation with them. The editors told von Hindenburg that by next May there would be no food in Germany.

"My reply is," said the field marshal, "that by next April I shall be in Paris."

Hindenburg's latest boast—that he would be in Paris by April—has left official Washington undisturbed and a trifle amused.

"It's Hindenburg's little April fool joke," was the comment in some quarters. In others it is looked upon as a boast for home consumption. The war lords of Berlin, semi-official advices indicate, are holding out high hopes to an exasperated sullen people, while preparations are rushed for a spectacular drive on the western front.

President Wilson took further steps to upset the calculations of Hindenburg. The German general staff, the advices show, is staking everything on the expectation that the most telling blows of the "mailed fist" can be struck before the United States can play any appreciable part on the western front.

WANTS CAVALRY

Pershing Asks for 15 Regiments to Be Sent to France

The war department has approved a recommendation of General Pershing that 15 cavalry regiments be formed for the National Army. This was disclosed in the announcement of the appointment of commanders for seven of these regiments. Organization of the remaining eight has been temporarily postponed.

FARMER'S COLUMN

A Captain of the Commissary. The county agents constitute American agriculture's first line of defense.

They are men in the first line trenches, zealously guarding the farmer's interests and bringing to his attention all that is of immediate practical value in our scientific teaching, and fortifying this with results from the experience of the most successful hard-headed practical farmers of each county.

At a time like the present, when the nation is engaged in a great war wherein food production is of vital military importance, the value of the county agent to the government can hardly be over-estimated.

Since the United States became a belligerent, the county agent has done valiant war service. In counties having agents, it was possible during the past summer to secure truly wonderful results, in quickly and adequately meeting a difficult labor situation; in locating available seed stocks; in arranging for farm credits for the purchase of machinery and fertilizer; in supplying tractor power, and in other forms of effective leadership, all contributing to a great increase in the production of spring wheat, oats, corn, potatoes and other food crops; and finally, in assisting in facilitating marketing.

Some of the most important battles of this war will be won during 1918 in the furrows and fields of America. The county agents will be the captains of the soldiers of the commissary who will make these victories possible.—Carl Shurz Vrooman, Assistant Secretary, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Cheaper Spray Materials.

Owing to the tremendous advance in the price of Arsenate of Lead it is suggested that substitutes may be used under certain conditions. We do not recommend any substitute for Arsenate of Lead on fruit trees, but on vegetables, such as potatoes, and cabbage one can use Arsenate of Lime—Calcium Arsenate—Paris green or Arsenate of Zinc. These substitutes are not recommended on tender plants. In our humid southern climate we can not safely use many of the substitutes recommended farther North.

When no plants are at stake, as for example when one wishes to destroy grasshoppers or army worms on crabgrass, then London purple can be used to advantage. This may kill both the insects and grass but there would be no loss. This would not do on valuable plants.

Free Soon From Cattle Tick.

While South Carolina does not share in record-breaking releases from cattle-tick quarantine authorized for December 1st, 1917 the tick work in the State has shown such progress that Department of Agriculture officials believe it can be finished in 1918, and that all of the State then can be placed in the free area.

The counties still under quarantine are Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper and Williamsburg.

On July 1, 1916, forty-four counties were under quarantine; 34 have been released. The area quarantined on July 1st, 1906, was 26,495 square miles. The area released since then is 21,576 square miles, or 77 per cent of the State.

Love for the Soil.

A love for the soil is not created or enhanced by the study of a book on agriculture, or any pedagogic lessons in soil manipulation. It is founded on an intelligent and successful farm life and the environment of an orderly and thrifty country home. The home eventually controls the viewpoint of a man and you may do all that you are a mind to in schools, but unless you reach in and get hold of that home and change its conditions you are nullifying the uplift of the school. We are reaching for the "Home"—Dr. Heaman A. Knapp.

Due to the difficulties of transporting coal, wood will no doubt largely replace coal as a fuel. In this day of the necessary conservation of all our resources, every one who burns wood should save all the ashes and keep them dry. In the towns and cities the ashes can be used as a source of potash for gardens; leaving the domestic sources of potash for the growing of cotton on light soil types, and for tobacco on lands to which this crop is adapted. In addition to the potash content, ashes also contain some phosphoric acid and a large amount of lime. Ashes should not be mixed with soluble phosphates as its lime content will revert these phosphates to a less soluble form; nor with ammonia salts, as sulphate of ammonia for example, because the caustic lime content will liberate some of the ammonia. Therefore, it is best to apply ashes to the soil ahead of other fertilizers by a week or ten days.

The amount of ashes from a cord of wood varies with the kind of wood burned and with the completeness of the burning. It is higher when small limbs and twigs are burned than when the trunk of the tree is used. Therefore, the tree may be sawed into lumber and the branches used for fuel, so obtaining a higher percentage of ashes. Pine wood yields about one-third of one per cent of its weight of pure ashes while hardwood yields around one per cent of ashes. Further, a cord of hardwood weighs 4,000 pounds while a cord of pine weighs approximately 3,500 pounds, hence a cord of hardwood produces about five times as much ashes as a cord of pine wood.

We have analyzed a number of samples of ashes which vary widely in composition. Much of the variation is doubtless due to the way ashes are handled, because the water soluble potash will leach out if the ashes are exposed to the weather.

Sample	Kind	P.C. Water Sol.
No. 1721	Hickory	5.49
No. 1646	Oak	4.75
1807	Red Oak	3.08
1808	White Oak	3.04
1809	Water Oak	3.01
1799	Sweet Gum	3.47
1810	Tupelo	14.37
1773	Aswood	7.29
1774	White & Water Oak	3.48
1775	White & Post Oak	2.92
1767	Canadian ashes	2.91

*also 2.98 per cent Total Phosphoric Acid, and 41.74 per cent Lime.
*also 2.49 per cent Total Phosphoric Acid, and 17.54 per cent Lime.

AGREES ON TERMS

Lansdowne Accepts Statements of Wilson and Lloyd George

The marquis of Lansdowne, in an address said that he concurred entirely with the recent speeches of David Lloyd George, the British prime minister, and President Wilson on peace aims.

"I believe all of us are ready to prolong this war, as terrible as it is, until we can get a clean peace," said the leader of the opposition in the house of lords.

Lord Lansdowne added that the time for obtaining such a peace should not be too long delayed and that no opportunity should be neglected to bring it nearer.

The speaker said he accepted wholeheartedly the suggestion of Mr. Lloyd-George that territorial questions should be settled on the basis of national self-determination.

The speech of Count von Hertling, the imperial German chancellor, was a disappointment to him, Lord Lansdowne added.

"I think nobody would be more surprised that von Hertling," the speaker said, "if he thought we were going to hand over Gibraltar, Hong Kong and some other little quarters of the earth."

SHIP CARRIES 10,000

Former German Craft Work in Carrying Soldiers to France

Secretary Daniels, discussing the dispatch from the army headquarters in France regarding German ships being used to transport American troops abroad, disclosed that between 600,000 and 700,000 tons of former enemy shipping now is actively engaged in augmenting the expeditionary forces and maintaining their supplies.

The Leviathan, formerly the Vaterland, is capable of carrying up to 10,000 troops in a single voyage. Mr. Daniels said, but 5,000 was considered the largest number which could be comfortably accommodated.

In connection with the repairs of the Leviathan it was learned that alterations made by American engineers resulted in the increase of several knots in her speed.

The greatest single factor which operated for the return to service of the German vessels was the use of new methods of welding by the engineers' association assigned to repair the damage done the ship's engines by their German crews.

NAVY HAS TRANSPORTS

Daniels Says Half Million Men Can Be Carried Across

Secretary Daniels authorized the statement that the navy is assured of enough transport facilities to make sure that there will be 500,000 American troops in France early this year, as was stated by Secretary Baker recently before the senate military committee.

Mr. Daniels made the statement when informed that Secretary Baker's forecast of the number of men to be sent abroad had been challenged in the senate today by Senator Hitchcock. He would not say whether the navy department outlook for ships was such as to warrant the expectation of having 1,000,000 more men in France by the end of 1918.

Different German Methods. In one of the dispatches from the American front it is stated that it became necessary to carry an American wounded soldier to the field dressing station and upon the medical officer displaying the Red Cross "the Germans ceased firing until the man was removed."

The incident has drawn some attention among the newspapers, as the truthfulness of the dispatch is not open to question. The New York Times thinks this shows that the Germans are more generous enemies than their enemies have hitherto admitted, or that the German high command is trying to earn a better reputation among its foes and replace the existing bitter antagonism, or that the German soldiers have at last seen the light which their rulers rejected, and are trying to conduct war on a plane higher than that of utmost barbarism.

Regardless of which theory is accepted the fact is a source of gratification to Americans everywhere, if it is a true sign of future methods against our men. Being in war means death to men, but the observance of recognized rules of war is much better than a cut-throat murdering match, and the choice of these two is to be left to the Germans. If they act fairly to our soldiers, they may expect equal fairness in return; if they act otherwise, let us hope no misguided person in this country will cry out for mercy to the Germans.

Only the day before the above incident newspaper dispatches reported that captured orders indicated a determination on the part of the Germans to place all American prisoners of war in a cage for four days without food, in order to induce them to impart military information. That such brutal treatment would not be suffered without retaliation is plain to all Americans, but at the same time we hope it will not become the rule.

POWDER MILLS TO BE BUILT

Two Huge Government Plants at Nashville and Charleston.

Contracts have been signed by the War Department for the construction of two great smokeless powder plants, which will each employ from 10,000 to 15,000 men, and together will cost approximately \$100,000,000. The estimated capacity of each plant will be 500,000 pounds daily. One of the plants will be at Charleston, W. Va., and the other at Nashville, Tenn.

EXIT HEATLESS MONDAYS

Order Includes South Carolina and Seven Other States

In so far as it relates to Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, North and South Carolina and Louisiana the heatless Monday order which went into effect January 15, has been suspended.