MARTIAL LAW FOR U. S. EFFECT OF NEW MEASURE

Bill Approved by President Wilson Provides for Government Control of All Railroads, Telegraph and Telephone Lines.

A despatch from Washington says: Government control and operation of all railroads, telegraph and telephone lines, during the period of the war, and the drafting into the military service of the country of the employees of such common carriers, is authorized in a bill approved to-day by President Wilson.

The bill, drawn at the request of the President, will be introduced in the House to-morrow by Representative William C. Adamson, Chairman of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. The draft of the bill, prepared by Mr. Adamson, received the approval of the President to-day. It is probably the most far-reaching of all the war bills prepared or in process of preparation by the Administration.

Under the comprehensive provisions of the Administration measure, the President is given unlimited power to take actual possession of the physical property of all railroads and all telephone and telegraph lines of the United States, to direct their operations and 'to draft into the military service of the United States and to place under military control any and all officers, agents and employees of the railroads, telephone or telegraph companies whose lines are so taken into possession."

Severe penalties are provided in the event that any person having control of the common carriers declines to deliver into the possession of the United States the property demanded by the President.

Persons who resist the military draft authorized are likewise subject to fine and imprisonment.

The drafting of employees is to be under the direction of "officers of the military establishment," who shall prepare a roster of all employees subject to draft and shall serve notice upon the persons so drafted "as to the place where and the time when he shall appear and enter upon his service."

President Wilson is given complete control and supervision of "the communication of intelligence over said telephone and telegraph lines, and the transportation of troops, military property and stores throughout the United States shall be conducted under the control and supervision of such officers as the President may designate."

So broad are the powers conveyed by the bill that martial law is virtually established throughout the country so far as common carriers are concerned. There is no limitation whatsoever upon the authority of the President to seize railroad, telephone and telegraph property, and to commandeer persons operating the same whenever the President may determine that public safety necessitates so radical a step.

Not since Abraham Lincoln was given power to commandeer the railroads of the United States in 1862 has any President been granted such unhampered authority.

CANADIANS SWEEP FOE POSITIONS

Situation in Northern France Shows Vast Improvement in a Week.

A despatch from Canadian Headquarters in France, (via. London), says: No serious attempt has yet been made by the enemy to counter-attack our new front, which hourly grows in strength. If the Germans return in force they will be met with some of their own guns, as well as their machine guns, which have been found in good condition, and will now be brought into service against their former owners. The subterranean galleries which were hastily abandoned by the Germans continue to yield much material, especially machine guns. One officer who has specialized in exploration found five machine guns, all in good condition. During the night of Tuesday the enemy sent forward patrols, and occasional encounters took place, in which there was distinct advantage to the Canadians.

It will be interesting to the people at home to know that in machine gun equipment the British army now is greatly superior to the German army, as in artillery also.

A remarkable incident is reported as having befallen the official Canadian photographer. He found a body of forty Germans and two enemy officers in "No Man's Land," who, while a battle was in progress, had surrendered, but there was no one with them to conduct them to the rear, and they were crouching in a large shell-hole to escape the German barrage. There the cinema man photographed them, afterwards sending them on, "tame as sheep," was his comment.

KING GEORGE NOW CHIEF OF ROYAL FLYING CORPS

A despatch from London says:—King George has become Colonel-in-Chief of the naval and military wings of the Royal Flying Corps, "to mark his admiration of the splendid services both wings have rendered since the commencement of the war."

TWO HOSPITAL SHIPS ARE SUNK

One Torpedoed in the Channel—Fifty-two Persons Drowned.

A despatch from London says:—The British hospital ship Salta was sunk by a mine in the English Channel on April 10, the War Office announces. Fifty-two persons were drowned.

The British hospital ship Gloucester Castle was torpedoed without warning in the English Channel on March 30.

All the wounded on the ship were saved. There were no wounded on board the Salta.

A German wireless despatch of April 11 says the Gloucester Castle was torpedoed by a German submarine.

The British steamship Gloucester Castle, 7,999 tons gross, was built in Glasgow in 1911 and owned in London.

The only Salta listed in maritime reference books is a French merchantman of 7,284 tons gross, owned in Marseilles. There are no records of her recent movements.

FOOD CRISIS MAKES ALL FATHERLAND TALK

Vorwaerts Warns Government of Consequences of Bread Diminution.

A despatch from London says:—The food situation is dominating all other considerations in Germany, according to The Berlin Vorwaerts as quoted in an Amsterdam despatch to the Central News. The Vorwaerts says:

"Notwithstanding all the big events, the new food regulations which are to be introduced on April 15 form the exclusive subject of discussion in the most considerable circles of the people. A diminution in the bread ration forms a serious difficulty for the entire population and causes great preoccupation."

Some weeks ago the German newspapers announced that the bread ration would be reduced by one-fourth, beginning April 15, owing to the scarcity of wheat.

ALLIED COUNCIL AT WASHINGTON

British and French Commissions to Discuss War Policy With U. S.

A despatch from Washington says: Assembly in Washington within a few weeks of a great international war council was foreshadowed by an announcement from the State Department on Wednesday that a British commission, headed by Arthur J. Balfour, Minister of Foreign Affairs, is expected to arrive within ten days to discuss with the Government here questions connected with the conduct of the war. In addition to the Foreign Minister, the commission will include Admiral DeChair, of the British navy; General Bridges, of the army, and the Governor of the Bank of England, attended by a numerous staff.

This was as far as the announcement made by the State Department goes, but it was learned authoritatively that a French commission, composed of officials and officers equally as distinguished as the British representatives, also will be in Washington about the same time. This commission will be headed by M. Viviani, at present Minister of Justice in the French Cabinet, and formerly Premier.

CROPS IN GERMANY SET BACK BY STORMS.

Severe Weather Will Delay Harvest of All Foodstuffs.

A despatch from Copenhagen says: The Easter holidays in Germany were marked, according to reports in the German newspapers, by a return of Winter weather, over a large part of the empire, an occurrence of considerable importance in connection with the prospects for the next harvest. Particularly sharp drops in temperature with snow, were reported in the important grain-growing regions of Germany. Before this development the agricultural papers had complained of the effects of the severe and protracted Winter. The Winter grain crop was several weeks behind its normal development, although it is declared that the proportion requiring resowing was comparatively small. Farmers were unable to commence their Spring planting, and it seems certain that the new delay will materially defer the Fall harvest of all food crops.

The net result is that there will be increasing difficulty in carrying over until the harvest on the scanty reserve of stock, even if the harvest itself is not affected in quality.

"DEFENSIVE SEA AREAS" AROUND U. S. DESIGNATED

Regulations Governing The Movements of Vessels in These Waters Issued.

A despatch from Washington says:—An Executive order designating "defensive sea areas" on coasts of the United States and its insular possessions was made public on Friday. Regulations governing the movements of vessels in these waters are appended, and the order concludes with this statement:

"The responsibility of the United States of America for any damage inflicted by force of arms with the object of detaining any persons or vessels proceeding in contravention to regulations duly promulgated in accordance with this Executive order shall cease from this date (April 5th)."

TO PROVIDE FOOD FOR USE OF ALLIES.

Head of Board Appointed in U. S. Defines America's Present Duty.

A despatch from London says: Herbert C. Hoover, head of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium, has after consultation with his colleagues on the commission, accepted the chairmanship offered him by the National Defence Council of the new food board in the United States.

Mr. Hoover expects to leave shortly for America. Meanwhile he has initiated a wide enquiry in France, England and Italy regarding the existing food situation, having the co-operation of the various Governments in this work.

Markets of the World

Breadstuffs

Toronto, April 17.—Manitoba wheat—No. 1 Northern, $2.28½; No. 2 do., $2.24; No. 3 do., $2.19; No. 4 wheat, $2.08½, nominal, track Bay ports.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 78¾c; No. 3 C.W., 76¾c; extra No. 1 feed, 76¾c; No. 1 feed, 75¾c., all rail delivered.

American corn—No. 3 yellow, $1.39, track Toronto, subject to embargo.

Ontario oats—No. 2 white, 71 to 73c, nominal; No. 3 white, 70 to 72c, nominal, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 Winter, per car lot, $2.00 to $2.02; No. 3 do., $1.98 to $2.00, according to freights outside.

Peas—No. 2, nominal, according to freights outside.

Barley—Malting, $1.26 to $1.28, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—$1.38 to $1.40, according to freights outside.

Rye—No. 2, $1.68 to $1.70, according to freights outside.

Manitoba flour—First patents, in jute bags, $10.70; second patents, in jute bags, $10.20; strong bakers', in jute bags, $9.80, Toronto.

Ontario flour—Winter, according to sample, $8.35 to $8.45, in bags, track Toronto, prompt shipment; $8.10 to $8.20, bulk seaboard, export grade.

Millfeed—Car lots, delivered Montreal freights, bags included—Bran, per ton, $38; shorts, per ton, $40 to $42; middlings, $43 to $45; good feed flour, per bag, $2.70 to $2.80.

Hay—Extra No. 2, per ton, $11.50 to $12.50; mixed, per ton, $8.50 to $11, track Toronto.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, $7 to $7.50, track Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale

Butter—Fresh dairy, choice, 40 to 41c; creamery prints, 43 to 45c; solids, 42 to 43c.

Eggs—New-laid, in cartons, 39c; out of cartons, 37c.

Live poultry—Fowl, lb., 20 to 25c; chickens, 20 to 25c.

Dressed poultry—Chickens, 23 to 26c; fowl, 20 to 22c; ducks, 22 to 25c; squabs, per doz., $4.00 to $4.50; turkeys, 25 to 28c.

Cheese—New, large, 27 to 27½c; twins, 27¼ to 27¾c; triplets, 27¾ to 28c; old, large, 28½c; twins, 28¾c.

Honey—White clover, 2½-lb tins, 14½ to 15c; 5-lb tins, 14½c; 10-lb, 13½c; 60-lb, 13c; buckwheat, 60-lb tins, 10 to 10½c. Comb honey—extra fine and heavy weight, per doz., $2.75; select, $2.50 to $2.75; No. 2, $2 to $2.25.

Maple syrup—Imperial gallon, $1.50 to $1.65.

Potatoes—On track Ontario, per bag, $3.00; New Brunswick Delawares, per bag, $3.30 to $3.40; Albertas, per bag, $3.25.

Provisions—Wholesale

Smoked meats—Hams, medium, 27 to 28c; do. heavy, 24 to 25c; cooked, 38 to 39c; rolls, 24 to 25c; breakfast bacon, 30 to 33c; backs, plain 32 to 33c; boneless, 35 to 36c.

Lard—Pure lard, tierces, 25 to 25¼c; tubs, 25¼ to 25½c; pails, 25½ to 25¾c; compound, tierces, 19½ to 20c.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 21 to 22c per lb; clear bellies, 20 to 20½c.

Montreal Markets

Montreal, April 17.—Oats—Canadian western, No. 2, 78½c; do., No. 3, 77½c; extra No. 1 feed, 77½c. Barley—Man. feed, $1.09. Buckwheat—No. 2, $1.32. Flour—Man. Spring wheat patents, firsts, $10.80; seconds, $10.30; strong bakers', $10.10; Winter patents, choice, $10.00; straight rollers, $9.30 to $9.60; do. bags, $4.50 to $4.65. Rolled oats, barrels, $7.45; do., bags, 90 lbs, $3.60. Bran, $37 to $38. Shorts, $40. Middlings, $42. Mouillie, $45 to $50. Hay—No. 2, per ton, car lots, $13.50. Cheese—Finest westerns, 24 to 24½c; finest easterns, 23 to 23½c. Butter—Choicest creamery, 43c; seconds, 40 to 41c. Eggs—Fresh, 36c; selected, 38c. Potatoes, per bag, car lots, $3.15 to $3.25.

Winnipeg Grain

Winnipeg, April 17.—Cash prices:—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, $2.08¼; No. 2 Northern, $2.04¼; No. 4, $1.88¼; No. 5, $1.69¼; No. 6, $1.39¼; feed, $1.10. Oats—No. 2 C.W., 68½c; No. 3 C.W., 66½c; extra No. 1 feed, 66½c; No. 1 feed, 65½c; No. 2 feed, 63½c. Barley—No. 3, $1.12; No. 4, $1.06; feed, 92c; rejected, 92c. Flax—No. 1 N.W.C., $2.79; No. 2 C.W., $2.74¾.

United States Markets

Minneapolis, April 17.—Wheat—May, $2.07¼ to $2.08¾; July, $2.00¼; cash, No. 1 hard, $2.19¾ to $2.22¾; No. 2 Northern, $2.13¾ to $2.15¾; No. 3 Northern, $2.09¾ to $2.15¾. Corn—No. 3 yellow, $1.26¼ to $1.28¼. Oats—No. 3 white, 62½ to 64½c. Flour unchanged. Bran, $38.00 to $38.50.

Duluth, April 17.—Wheat—No. 1 hard, $2.14½; No. 1 Northern, $2.09½ to $2.13½; No. 2 Northern, $2.05½ to $2.08½; May, $2.05¾; July, $2.00½ bid. Linseed, $3.08½ to $3.08½; May, $3.06½; July, $3.07½.

Live Stock Markets

Toronto, April 17.—Extra choice heavy steers, $12.00 to $12.50; choice heavy steers, $11.25 to $11.75; good heavy steers, $10.60 to $10.75; butchers' cattle, choice, $11.25 to $11.75; do., good, $10.65 to $10.90; do., medium, $10.00 to $10.50; do. common, $9.00 to $9.50; butchers' bulls, choice, $10.00 to $10.75; do., good bulls, $9.25 to $9.75; do., medium bulls, $8.25 to $8.75; do. rough bulls, $6.40 to $6.50; butchers' cows, choice, $10.00 to $10.25; do., good, $8.75 to $9.50; do., medium, $7.00 to $7.25; stockers, $7.50 to $8.35; feeders, $9.50 to $10.25; canners, and cutters, $5.25 to $6.25; milkers, good to choice, $85.00 to $110.00; do., com. and med. each, $40.00 to $60.00; springers, $50.00 to $110.00; light ewes, $10.00 to $14.00; sheep, heavy, $8.50 to $9.50; calves, good to choice, $12.50 to $14.75; spring lambs, each, $8.00 to $12.00; lambs, choice, $14.25 to $15.50; do., medium, $10.50 to $12.50; hogs, fed and watered, $16.50 to $16.60; do., weighed off cars, $16.75; do., f.o.b., $15.75.

Montreal, April 17.—Good to choice milk-fed calves, $8.00 to $11.00, others $4.00 to $7.00; sheep, $9.50 to $10.50; Spring lambs, $12.00 to $15.00 each; selected hogs at $16.70 to $17.00.

Hearing has been restored to more than two-thirds of his accidentally deafened patients by a French physician who massages their ears with sound waves.

MORE OF FRANCE WRESTED FROM FOE BRITISH INFLICT HEAVY LOSS

British North of Vimy Ridge Carry Lines Along Both Banks of Souchez River Close To Givenchy—Canadians Take Mile of German Trenches.

Prisoners, over	13,000
Guns	166
Trench mortars	84
Machine-guns	250

Many captured guns are being used against the enemy.

A despatch from London says: Swift hammer-blows at many points along the disorganized German front north and south of Arras last week showed that General Haig's drive is far from over, though the resistance of Hindenburg's troops stiffened perceptibly. Boring through the slush underfoot and the falling snow and sleet, British troops north of the Vimy Ridge carried their lines along both banks of the Souchez River to within a few hundred yards northwest of Givenchy, while the Canadians, sweeping down the southeastern slope of the ridge, overran a mile of German trench systems south of the Farbus Wood.

South of the Scarpe, too, where the British are trying to straighten out their front toward Cambrai, a notable success was won. Driving down from Neuville Vitasse to the banks of Cojeul River, Haig's men stormed and held Hill 90, and pressed onward to Wancourt and Heninel. Both these towns, with their adjoining defences, were captured, and the victors deployed across the stream and occupied the heights on the right bank. The fighting in this segment was an all-day matter, and the ground was won foot by foot. The British are clearly determined to shoulder the Germans out of the entire angle between Monchy-le-Preux and Croisilles, and seem to be doing it.

Meanwhile the fighting for the key positions at Monchy was furious. The Germans feel the loss of this town and of its heights, which they admit in their official statement, and have thrown repeated counter-attacks against the British defenders. According to the accounts of observers, they suffered some of their heaviest losses since the present series of battles started, several of the charging battalions being practically annihilated under the rattle of British machine guns.

Prisoners who were attached to German batteries complain that so many German guns were lost because of a shortage of artillery horses. They say that the British were up and over their pieces before they could be hauled back down to safety. On the Vimy Ridge alone the storming Canadians took four 8-inch howitzers, nine of the famous 5.9 guns, the most mobile and useful piece in the German battery, and 23 other pieces. Elsewhere the British took a dozen.

A despatch from London says: The great British offensive north and south of Arras gained renewed momentum on Friday, and General Haig's fighters achieved the most solid success they have won since the first dash on Monday morning—a sucess which will compel German retirement to the Drocourt-Queant line five miles farther east. Tearing through the German defences on a twelve-mile front from the north bank of the River Scarpe to the trench systems just south of Loos, the British divisions drove ahead and captured six villages—Angres, Givenchy, Vimy, Petit-Vimy, Willerval, and Bailleul. South of Bailleul the line was bulged back clear to the Scarpe. Two of these towns, Vimy and Givenchy, were fortified by systems which the Germans considered impregnable. Northeast of the mining and railway centre of Lens the British have also obtained a footing.

Further victories were recorded south of Arras. Straightening out the German salient which projected into their lines between Monchy and the Cojeul River, Haig's men stormed Wancourt Tower, on a spur east of the village of Wancourt, and according to Friday night's official news report, have advanced astride the Hindenburg line as far as a point seven miles southeast of Arras. The communiques of the British War Office have not hitherto mentioned the Hindenburg line.

But success did not stop here. To the southward the British battalions progressed on a front of about nine miles between Metz-en-Coutre and a point to the north of Hargicourt. The captured positions include Sart Farm, Gauche Wood, Gouzeacourt, straddling the road to Cambrai, and the wood near the village.

Throughout the length of interlinked chain of advances the fighting was of the utmost ferocity. Prisoners and guns were sent to the rear. According to the official report Friday night there are now more than 13,000 in the British cages back of Arras, and the number of captured guns has reached 166.

General Nivelle's forces are fighting desperately against the Germans south of the town of St. Quentin between the Somme River and the St. Quentin Railway. Friday night's official report from Paris says that the battle in front of the positions captured by the French continues. The Germans resisted desperately, but the French carried several lines of trenches between the river and the railway. Artillery actions are reported between the Somme and the Oise and in Champagne.

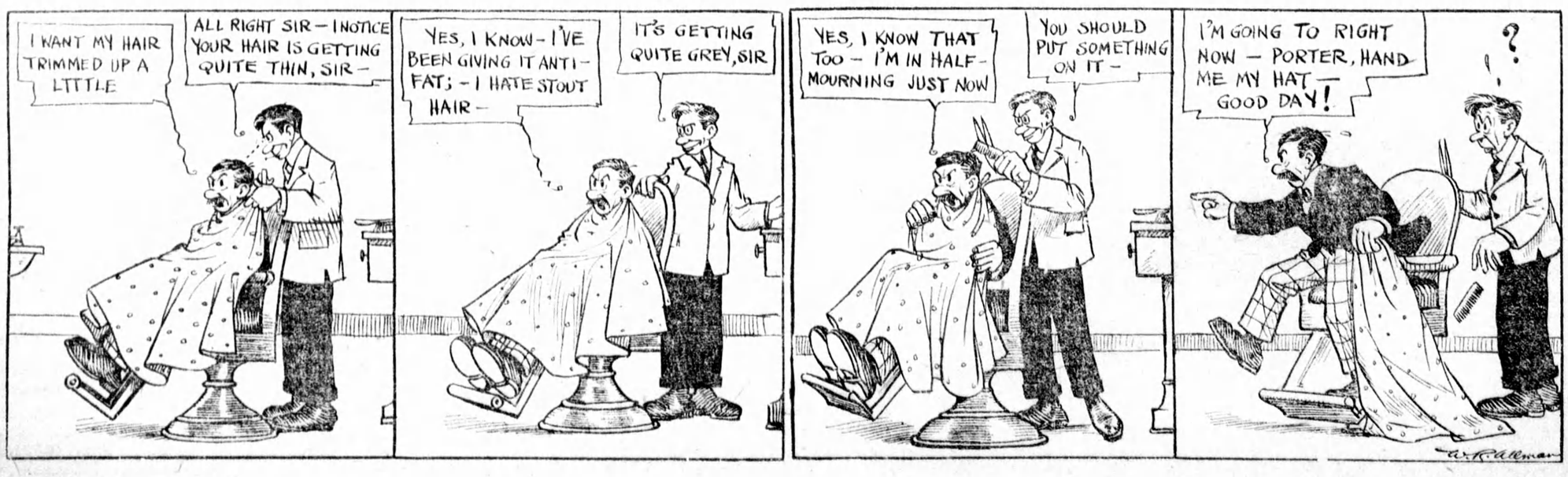
ENEMY WOMEN BRUTAL TOWARD THE PRISONERS

Those Employed by German Red Cross Show Themselves as Barbarous as Any Huns—Spit in Coffee Handed to British Troops.

A despatch from London says: Appalling revelations of the systematic brutality of German women of the Red Cross towards British wounded have been made to the Berne correspondent of The Times by scores of British soldiers of all ranks released from German prison camps. On the long journey of the British wounded through Germany it was the common amusement of these women to tempt our men, who were in the last extremity of hunger and thirst, by holding out food and drink to try and make them snatch at it, and then withdrawing it. Many of the wounded begging for water had coffee, water and soup tendered to them, and then at the last moment the gentle nurse would spit in the cup or glass. Frequently the wounded had to drink the defiled stuff while the women looked on and laughed.

An equally common entertainment with these women was to offer a wounded man a glass of water and then pour it slowly on the ground. Cases of physical maltreatment of British wounded by German nurses were just as common and systematic as the refusal to give them nourishment.

The nurses not only refused to attend to British wounded but regularly insulted and spat on them. Frequently they even struck or kicked a bandaged limb in order to give pain.

"If," says The Times, "the German Red Cross is merely a branch of German militarism it has prostituted its sacred sign, shamed its name and forfeited all right to be regarded as an organization of humanity."

The Doings of the Duffs.