ITALY FACES PERIL

TEUTONS TRY TO BAR ROAD OF ALLIED ASSISTANCE

MUST GIVE UP ALONE

Dash Is From the Trentino Vast Armies Strive to Cut Communications With France—Italian Army May Be Captured With Loss of a Million Men Unless Allies Rush Great Assistance.

The Teuton Trentino army has begun its dash southward to take the whole Italian battle line in the rear. Nothing short of an Italian Sedan, an encirclement of an army of—at least 1,000,000 men, by armies whose minimum strength is estimated at 2,000,000 is the bold venture upon which the combined staffs of the two empires have staked all.

Almost at the moment that Rome announced the completion of the retreat to the Paive line, where Diaz must make his stand or lose Venice an official report was issued at Berlin showing that the whole Austro-German Trentino army, redoubled since Italy's Isonzo disaster has been set in motion. Asiago, the mountain fortress 20 miles west of the upper reaches of the Piave fell to the Teuton after bitterest fighting. Westward as far as the Ledro valley the Teutons are on the move, too.

Only 20 miles due south of Asiago lies Cittadella, on the Trento-Verona railway, which is one main line of communication for the Italians. Less than 15 miles farther east is Padua, on the Venice-Turin railway. That is the only line of the disposal of the Italians for

[illegible] would be sealed. At Padua the Teutons would be forced miles in the rear of [illegible] on the Piave.

On that line the Teuton and Italian forces met at last accounts [illegible] on opposite banks of the Brenta, 20 miles to the east, in front of Padua.

Between the main forces of the Austro-German thrust into Italy in this campaign has been from the northeast. With their left standing along the east bank of the Isonzo River, however, the Teutonic armies apparently have begun to exert their chief pressure with their right wing from the north, along the line [illegible] the Brenta and from Trento, 30 miles from the Adige to the Piave.

Austro-Hungarian forces, Berlin announced on Saturday, are pressing forward in the Persina Valley as well as in the upper Piave. The Trentino region virtually begins at the Sugana.

Just what line the Italian command had chosen for resistance to the invading armies is not apparent, but if it ran north of Treviso, 20 miles west of Venice, it is apparent that the invading armies already have gained a decided advantage for Berlin reports the capture of Asiago after hard fighting in the streets.

It is nearly a dozen miles, however, from Asiago to the Venetian plains, the Austro-German objective, with the route running through a hilly country lending itself admirably to defense, as was shown in the Austro offensive in 1916, when the enemy was halted in the Asiago region.

British batteries have taken their position along the front line prepared to give support to the heroic services heretofore chiefly borne by the Italian rear guards in the effort to stay the Austro-German advance.

The reformation of the Italian army along the established position is progressing in good order and there has been no material change in the situation for the past day or two.

Detailed military information has not been forwarded to Washington, but the latest news of an apparent success of the Germans on the left wing of the Piave line has not diminished Italy's determination and enthusiasm.

It is pointed out in other quarters in Washington, however, that successes of the enemy at this point may put an entire new complexion on the campaign. It is now predicted that the Germans are aiming a blow at the communications of Italy with France. Should the point of the German advance be thrust on through the Piedmont, it might prevent the movement of guns and reinforcements and cut the "leg" of Italy off from her allies.

It is believed that to this point the Allied reinforcements will be raced. The completion of this move in all that it comprehends would break the western front for the Germans. **It would cut off Italy and make a separate peace almost imperative. There is no disposition to minimize this danger and it is believed in official quarters that steps are being taken to meet it.**

These steps, it is admitted, may include the abandonment of Venice to the Hun and the swinging of the battle line into a northwest and southeast direction instead of north and south as at present.

In Italian quarters, however, it is still insisted that the battle will be fought and won as the forces are now aligned. The effects of the inter-Allied committees appointment have already become apparent in a general shake-up of the Italian commanders. Younger men have been placed in charge.

There is no disposition to criticize Gen. Cadorna. He is still regarded as the hero who organized Italy's fighting machine and pushed it to its limit. But in the formation of the inter-Allied committee Rome sees not only military but political co-ordination on the side of the Allies for the first time since the war began.

Rome itself has been aroused to the peril. Hotels run by German-Swiss have been closed. Among them the Palace hotel, famous among American tourists. The proprietors are charged with participation in the German propaganda.

From the Trentino-Swiss border to the Sugana Valley, southeast of Trent, the Teutons are engaged in a violent offensive designed to cut off all Italian armies in Venetia from the rear and trap them between the Piave and Brenta rivers. At Asiago, officially reported by Berlin as captured, the Teutons stand behind the Grenta. Dashing southward as far as Padua they would form a wall on the west bank of the Brenta which the Italians in a further retreat from the Piave would have to break.

There seems no choice left to the Italians except that of making a supreme stand. With French and British aid, especially British artillery, they are expected to give a good account of themselves. The middle course of the Brenta is more than 30 miles to the west of the middle course of the Piave.

An Italian war office statement issued told of the successful resistance of the armies in the north against the new Teuton onslaughts from the Trentino front. But that this statement events which preceded the Teuton attack in force was evident. It described the fighting activity as "normal" and said nothing to even indicate that any advance in the direction of Asiago was under way. Military critics therefore discounted it and pinned their hopes rather in the resistance further attacks than in mere words.

[illegible] from Rome [illegible] the United will be confronted in all parts of the kingdom and the news from the front was to the effect that [illegible] of the armies began [illegible] to be checked.

The [illegible] of Italy has been [illegible] by the formation of the [illegible] military committee with [illegible] Paris, Paris and Milan. Gen. [illegible] dispatches told of the [illegible] in Italy began by this co-operation throughout the entente front.

Gen. Cadorna, who has been in supreme command of the Italian armies since the beginning of the war, has been given a place on the new committee. New heads of the Italian army have been named, with Gen. Diaz [illegible] and Gen. Badoglio second and Gen. Grandino third.

Gen. Foch, chief of staff of the French war ministry, and Gen. Wilson, chief of the British general staff, will serve on the inter-Allied committee with Gen. Cadorna.

Among the military effects the decision of the Allies to create a permanent military committee has caused great satisfaction. It is accepted as evidence that the Allies have awakened to the necessity for the closest union of the whole length of the western front for the political and military conduct of the war.

Gen. Diaz is rated as one of the ablest Italian military leaders. For years he was connected with the general staff. He took part in the Libyan war, serving as a colonel and was wounded so severely that he asked to be wrapped in a flag, feeling that death was at hand. He has rendered distinguished service in the present campaign. He is from southern Italy.

Gen. Badoglio is a northerner. In the war he has been in command of a brigade of Bersaglieri, whose heroic deeds have done much to decrease the gravity of the disaster.

Gen. Grandino was minister of war in the cabinet of Premier Boselli. He was one of the leading generals of the second army.

The agreement for a central military council for "the entire western front" for the first time recognizes and incorporates the Italians as part of the western front, thus terminating the Italian front a separate entity. It also establishes a reciprocal control in which not only the French and the British have a voice in the Italian campaign but Italy has a voice in the French and British campaign.

USE NEW GAS

Austrians Invent Deadlier Fumes Than That of Germans.

According to the correspondent at Corizia of the Budapest newspaper Pesti Hirlap, the Austrians made their attack upon Gorizia with a new poisonous gas, the invention of a Viennese professor.

The rain which fell during the attack, it is explained, kept the fumes close to the ground and rendered the Italian masks useless against the new invention, which the correspondent declares is one hundred times stronger and more deadly than the gas used in former attacks on the same front.

WANT CONSCRIPTION

Australian Government Again Ask People to Pass Law.

The Australian government has decided to hold another referendum on the question of conscription.

A referendum on scription was held in Australia last year. The final vote showed that 1,085,000 ballots were cast in favor of conscription and 1,146,000 against it.

THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY PRESIDENT

President Wilson has issued his 1917 Thanksgiving proclamation calling upon the nation, even in the midst of the sorrow and great peril of a world shaken by war, to thank God for blessings that are better than mere peace of mind and prosperity of enterprise. The proclamation, fixing Thursday, November 29, as Thanksgiving Day, follows:

"It has long been the honored custom of our people to turn in the fruitful autumn of the year in praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God for His many blessings and mercies to nation. That custom we can follow now even in the midst of the tragedy of a world shaken by war and immeasurable disaster, in the midst of sorrow and great peril, because even amidst the darkness that has gathered about us we can see the great blessings God has bestowed upon us, blessings that are better than mere peace of mind and prosperity of enterprise.

"We have been given the opportunity to serve mankind as we once served ourselves in the great day of our Declaration of Independence, by taking up arms against a tyranny that threatened to master and debase men everywhere, and joining with other free peoples in demanding for all the nations of the world what we then demanded and obtained for ourselves.

"In this day of the revelation of our duty not only to defend our own rights as a nation, but to defend also the rights of free men throughout the world, there has been vouchsafed us in full and inspiring measure the resolution and spirit of united action. We have been brought to one mind and purpose. A new vigor of common counsel and common action has been revealed in us. We should especially thank God that in such circumstances, in the midst of the greatest enterprise the spirit of man has ever entered upon, we have if we but observe a reasonable and practical economy, abundance with which to supply the needs of those associated with us as well as our own. A new light shines about us. The great duties of a new day awaken a new and greater national spirit in us. We shall never again be divided or wonder what stuff we are made of.

"And while we render thanks for these things, let us pray Almighty God that in all lumbleness in spirit we may always look to Him for guidance; that we may be kept constant in the spirit and purpose of service; that by His grace our minds may be directed and our hands strengthened; and that in His good time liberty and security and peace and the comradeship of a common justice may be vouchsafed all the nations of the earth.

"Wherefore I, Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States of America, do hereby designate Thursday, the 29th day of November, next, as a day of thanksgiving and prayer, and I invite the people throughout the land to cease upon that day from their ordinary occupations and in their several homes and places of worship to render thanks to God, the great ruler of nations.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

"Done at the city of Washington, this 7th day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the hundred and forty-second.

"Woodrow Wilson."

By the President:

[illegible]
Secretary of State.

KERENSKY FIGHTING

LEADS 200,000 LOYAL TROOPS TOWARDS PETROGRAD

MAY REGAIN CONTROL

Bolsheviki Government Is Threatened by an Immediate Overthrow. But Situation Is Complicated by Presence of Germans in Finland—Railway Workers' Union and Moscow Garrison for Kerensky.

Kerensky is back in the ring. At the head of some 200,000 loyal troops he is reported marching on Petrograd.

In the capital the support behind the Lenine-Trotzky Band is fast crumbling.

The railway workers' union, which can tie up all Russia overnight, has deserted the Bolsheviki government and a strike is threatened. The Moscow garrison has gone back to Kerensky's side. The garrison of Petrograd, Lenine's chief weapon, is threatening.

Troops backing Kerensky have taken Tsarkoe-Selo, where Nicholas had hi great palace that later became his prison. Kerensky, according to another dispatch, is now in communication with loyal troops in Petrograd. Street fighting is reported to be going on in the capital.

Another force loyal to the provisional government is said to be marching on Petrograd from Finland. This may spell danger rather than hope, however, for the Germans are reported to have taken Helsingfors, the Finnish capital.

Details of how Kerensky succeeded in escaping the fate of his fellow ministers are yet lacking, but in its rough outline the story could be placed together from every eye-witness, reports and rumors.

The night that the Bolsheviki, perched on motor cars bristling with machine guns, tore loose against the provisional government, there came dashing from the direction of Tauric Palace a great grey automobile ambulance. Its clanging bell commanded gangway everywhere, causing even the rebels to pause in their wild venture to let the "sick man" pass. At top speed the ambulance raced through the Newsky Prospect and disappeared in the darkness.

It was manifestly a hurry call, a race for life. Some of the Bolsheviki chieftain voiced displeasure. It seemed an ill omen. Had those who cast a curious glance behind them been able to penetrate the heavy curtains that covered the glass part of the ambulance door they would have only seen a great white sheet covering an apparently lifeless form.

Under that sheet lay Alexander Feodorevitchy Kerensky. He was indeed racing for life; not so much his own, as for that of Russia. That was Wednesday night.

Whither the ambulance took him is not known. Fact is that a day or two later he appeared at general headquarters and rallied a strong force of loyal troops behind him.

Whether he had conferences with Kornlioff or Kafedine, or with both, is also uncertain. But there is a strong report that he did, and that the three "K's" then and there formed a sacred alliance with the vow to save Russia from her foes, at home and at the front.

Meanwhile the Bolsheviki hold on the capital and the rest of Russia is fast bowing to pieces. "Premier" Lenine seems to have been tried and found wanting by his countrymen in a short and confusing test. What will happen to him and to Trotzky, the former New York East Side newspaper reporter, once the workers, soldiers and peasants become convinced that these two men attempted to deliver Russia into the hands of her enemies, is a thought that makes those who know the lust-stare shudder.

If Kerensky succeeds in recapturing control it is believed he will institute the rule of the iron hand which he so often threatened but never employed. His experience at the hands of those whom he time and again saved from the wrath of their countrymen is believed to have taught him a bitter lesson.

The first thing that the pro-Kerensky troops did when they took Tsarkoe-Selo waste to seize the chief wireless station. In Petrograd, also, the Bolsheviki monopoly of outgoing news is losing. This was indicated by a dispatch from the capital that Kerensky has gathered an army of fully 200,000 men. Nor would the Lenine censorship have allowed to pass the message that the railway workers' union has bolted.

The encouraging feature of the dispatches received from Russia is that the Bolsheviki seem to have lost control of at least one avenue of communication. Further consolation is seen in the fact that the dispatches indicate what has been predicted in high circles in Washington for many days—that a counter revolution is under way.

The prospect of civil war in Russia is considered more favorable in Washington, even among Russians, than unconditional surrender to the Bolsheviki with the implied yielding of Russia to the Germans.

It is pointed out that if Kerensky has succeeded in rallying around him anything like the number of troops indicated it will mean the nucleus about which can be gathered the vast bulk of the Russian peasants who are still considered to be loyal to the cause of the Allies.

The dispatches which reached Washington also indicated that the Cossacks have sided against the Bolsheviki in the capital and that Petrograd is already the scene of bloody street fighting.

In view of this fact, it is believed quite possible that the Lenine-Trotzky regime may be short lived. It has relied so far upon the bourgeois of Petrograd. Russian embassy officials describe them as anything but fighting men. The peasants, on the other hand, who make up the bulk of the army, have again and again proven themselves the most superb fighters.

The plan of the Trotzky-Lenine leaders to seize the great estates and distribute them to the peasants was immediately recognized in Washington as a bait to swing the peasants into line with their traditional opponents, the city working men of Petrograd and the other large cities.

If, as indicated in the dispatches received, Kerensky's loyal army is growing as it marches, it means that the bait has failed and that the peasants will remain loyal to the hypnotic young leader who has proven the only cohesive force in Russian affairs.

The reported German invasion of Finland is not considered of vast importance at this time. It may imperil the Russian communication to Archangel and to the new Arctic port of Kola.

The defection of a large part of the navy to the Bolsheviki is admitted as very grave. It will, it is believed, facilitate the German naval operation against Petrograd and the defection of Finland.

Every indication available is to the effect that those who would make a separate peace with Germany will have a hard time of it. If any considerable portion of Russia remains loyal to Kerensky it will mean that millions of German troops will still have to watch the eastern front. This is all that the Allies are now expecting of Russia.

NEW DRAFT BEGINS

WILSON CALLS ON ELIGIBLES TO CLASSIFY THEMSELVES

WILL TAKE SIXTY DAYS

President Appeals to Lawyers, Doctors, Newspapers, and Public Generally to Assist Enrolled Men in Answering Their Questionaire—Second Draft Call to Come in February.

President Wilson has formally put the new machinery for the carrying out of the selective draft bill into operation with the publication of the foreword he has written to the regulations under which the second call will be made. The regulations themselves and the questionaires which more than 9,000,000 registrants will be required to fill out are being forwarded to local boards but have not yet been made public.

War department officials estimate that the whole process can be completed within 60 days. This means that no second call will be made upon the draft forces before the middle of next February as the period of classification will not begin until December 15.

The president describes the new plan of dividing all registered men [illegible] classified into five classes, subject to military service [illegible] intended to produce "a more perfect organization of our man power."

"The principle must be carried to its logical conclusion," the president said. "And he added that must be made a complete inventory of qualifications of each registrant in order to determine the [illegible] of the nation in which [illegible] service of the nation [illegible] projected in the questionaire will go deep into the qualifications of each of nearly 10,000,000 men. The success of the plan and its completion within the estimated time rests absolutely upon the wholehearted support given by the people, especially by the doctors and lawyers of each community and the president calls upon them for their unstinted aid.

The president's foreword follows:

"The work of selecting and mobilizing the first contingent of the National Army is nearly completion. The expedition and accuracy of its accomplishment were a most gratifying demonstration of the efficiency of our democratic institutions. The swiftness with which the machinery for its execution had to be assembled, however, left room for adjustment and improvement. New regulations putting these improvements into effect are, therefore, being published to-day. There is no change in the essential obligation of men subject to selection. The first draft must stand unaffected by the provisions of the new regulations. They can be given no retroactive effect.

"The time has come for a more perfect organization of our man power. The selective principle must be carried to its logical conclusion. We must make a complete inventory of the qualifications of all registrants in order to determine as to each man not already selected for duty with the colors, the place in the military, industrial or agricultural ranks of the nation in which his experience and training can best be made to serve the government. This project involves an inquiry by the selection boards into the domestic, industrial and educational qualifications of nearly 10,000,000 men. Members of these boards have rendered a conspicuous service. The work was done without regard to personal service and conditions under pressure of immediate necessity, which imposed great sacrifice. The service trained by the experience of the first draft must of necessity be retained and the selection board must provide the directing mechanism for the new classification. The thing they have done is scarcely one-tenth the magnitude of the thing that remains to be done. It is of great importance both to our military and to our economic interests that the classification be carried sion. An estimate of the time necessswiftly and accurately to a conclusary for the work leads to the conclusion that it can be accomplished in 60 days.

"I call upon all citizens, therefore, to assist local and district boards by proffering their service and such material service as they can offer as by appearing before the boards, either upon summons or upon their own initiative, to give such information as will be useful in classifying registrants. I urge men of the legal profession to offer themselves as associate members of the legal advisory boards to be provided in each community for the purpose of advising registrants of their rights and obligations and of assisting them in the preparation of their answers to the questions which all men subject to draft are required to submit. I ask the doctors of the country to identify themselves with the medical advisory boards which are to be constituted in the various districts throughout the United States for the purpose of making a systematic physical examination of registrants. It is important that police officials of every grade and class should be informed of their duty under the selective service law and regulations, to search for persons who do not respond promptly and to serve the summons of local and district boards. Newspapers can be of very great assistance in giving wide publicity to the requirements of the law and regulations, and to the numbers and names of those who are called to present themselves to their local boards from day to day. Finally, I ask that during the time hereafter to be specified as marking the 60 day period of the classification, all citizens give attention to the task in hand in order that the process may proceed to a conclusion with swiftness and yet with even and considerate justice to all."

Supplementing the president's call to the nation, Provost Marshal General Crowder issued the following statement:

"The questionnaire which is the basis of the new system is a collection of questions bringing out the essential facts upon which all classifications are made. It is the only printed form which any registrant needs to use either in making claims or filing proof.

"At first sight it may seem a little formidable but a reading of the questions show that they are simple enough for any person who can read and write understandingly to answer.

"The president's message lines up the whole legal profession of the TWO—NEW DRAFT BEGINS . . . United States as assistants of the selective service system, and as impartial advisers to registrants in filling out their questionnaires. Under the new regulations a place is to be provided convenient to every local board where registrants may go for free advice and assistance and in making out his document. The county judge or other judicial officer of a similar court is placed at the head of a committee of lawyers in each district, and this committee is charged with the duty of seeing that there are always plenty of lawyers and other volunteers present to help registrants in filling out the questionnaire.

"Questionaires are to be mailed by the local boards to 25 per cent. of [illegible] each day. The [illegible] work on the first [illegible] Board will thus be over in 20 days by which time all the questionnaires should be returned to the boards. Every man has seven days in which to return his questionnaire fully made out. The process of classification will begin about December 15, eight days later the boards will begin the great process of classification which becomes in the words of the president a national war undertaking of such significance as to challenge the attention and compel the assistance of every American.

"Not since the war began has an opportunity been offered for practically every person to take an active part in so important a war measure as the actual raising of our armies. The president's foreword offers this opportunity. It gives a definite place for the doctors to work in making the physical examination. For the first time it assigns every lawyer to active duty in building up the National Army. In the legal advisory boards it gives every one who responds to the president's call a place in the ranks of the army behind the army.

"The nation already has a remarkable record of efficiency in adjusting its political machinery to the registration of 10,000,000 men within 18 days after the enactment of the law authorizing registration.

"It is now proposad to better this record by classifying 10,000,000 men in a period of 60 days."

HYLAN ELECTED

Tammany Candidate Wins Victory—Socialist Vote Large.

With only 72 districts missing in greater New York City the vote for mayor was: Bennet, 51,956; Hylan, 288,435; Hillquit, 134,890; Mitchel, 145,459. Hylan's plurality over Mitchel was 142,976. Mitchel's lead over Hillquit was 10,569.

From the time the returns were received from the first 100 districts the result never was in doubt. It was evident Hylan had scored an overwhelming victory and again brought control of the city into the hands of Tammany Hall.

Most of the newspapers which had supported Mitchel, and that included all in the city except those owned by W. R. Hearst, conceded Hylan's election before 7 o'clock. Hillquit was the first of the unsuccessful candidates to admit defeat. The Republican county committee announced at 7.30 that Hylan undoubtedly had been elected.

The tremendous Socialist vote was the feature of the election. The total polled by that party in the last mayoralty election was only 32,133. This year Hillquit ran a close third to Mayor Mitchel and in many election districts on the East Side in parts of Harlem and the Bronx he polled more votes than Mitchel. Hillquit ran on a straight cut peace platform. He declared a victory for him would be a mandate to the government to negotiate an immediate peace.

DIAZ SUCCEEDS CADORNA

Creation of Inter-Allied Military Committee.

The conference of British, French and Italian representatives has resulted in the creation of a permanent inter-allied military committee. New leadership for the Italian army has been provided.

Gen. Cadorna, who has been in supreme command of the Italian army since the beginning of the war, has been given a place on the new committee.

New heads of the Italian army have been named. Gen. Diaz has been appointed first in command, with Gen. Badoglio second and Gen. Grandino third.