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VICTORIOUS GERMANS CONTINUE ADVANCING; FRENCH GIVING GROUND

CONTRADICTORY REPORTS OF THE SITUATION COME FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES; BUT OFFICIALS ADMIT THAT KAISER'S TROOPS ARE DAILY NEARING PARIS—PARISIANS ARE FLEEING SOUTH

A long official statement is issued by the French war office reviewing the operations in Belgium and along the French frontier. A new retirement by the allied forces is recorded, while at the same time the statement is optimistic with reference to the opposition which the French and British are offering to the German advance.

No definite details are forthcoming regarding the general battle which apparently is in progress all along the line.

The French war minister has inspected the supplementary defenses around Paris, which are being rapidly pushed forward in anticipation of a possible investment of the French capital.

An Antwerp dispatch credits General Pau with a victory over 50,000 Germans near Perennes. Whether this is a new victory or one to which reference was made several days ago is not known.

Queen Elizabeth, of Belgium, and her children have arrived in England.

According to official advices received at Washington, France is considering the advisability of moving the seat of government to Bordeaux.

Great Britain has joined France in objecting to purchase by the United States of German liners in connection with the plan to build up an American merchant marine.

It is reported by steamship officers arriving at Honolulu that British warships off Hong Kong are holding up all vessels including those under the American flag, and removing Germans and Austrians bound to the scene of hostilities.

The moratorium proclaimed at the outbreak of the war in Great Britain has been extended for another month.

A Japanese destroyer, which ran ashore near Tsing Tau, China, was shelled by a German gunboat. The crew of the destroyer, previously had abandoned her.

War News

London, August 31.—4.47 p. m.—Taken at its face value the French official announcement issued late today, which mentions that the progress of the German right wing has forced the allies to yield further ground, would seem to indicate that the Germans, notwithstanding repulses, are making daily advances toward Paris.

The statement Sunday of Field Marshal, Sir John French, commander of the British forces, however, spoke of fighting on the French left, but this according to one report, resulted in the German right being slightly turned.

The Austrian invasion of Russia in the Lublin district, which aroused the apprehension of the allies, has, if Russian dispatches are to be relied upon, been blocked and the Muscovites claim to have turned the Russian defensive into an offensive action. There is no confirmation of the report that the Russians are in Koenigsberg.

If silence means that there is nothing doing, Sir John French's statement Sunday that the British had not been molested since Wednesday still holds good. Nothing is known by the public in London of the fighting in either northern or eastern France.

From Canada, India, Australia and South Africa the British army front will soon receive large reinforcements. Some of these troops are reported already to have landed in France.

In England the recruiting fever has not abated. At Liverpool today a battalion of a thousand business men was filled within an hour and there was such an overflow that it was decided to enroll a second battalion.

The British government has started negotiations, through the American consul at Berlin, for an exchange with Germany and Austria of non-combatant prisoners.

COMPLAINT HAS NOW BEEN MADE

ENGLAND, FRANCE AND RUSSIA ARE OPPOSED TO MERCHANT MARINE

WILL AID GERMANY Nations Claim Purchase of German Vessels Would Greatly Aid Them in War

(By Associated Press.) Washington, August 31.—Great Britain, France and Russia have advised the United States informally that they would look with disfavor on the purchase by this government of German merchant steamers to relieve conditions growing out of the European war and also to build up an American merchant marine. While not conveyed in any diplomatic correspondence their position nevertheless has been vigorously set forth to President Wilson and Secretary Bryan.

France took the initiative, Ambassador Jusserand, carrying his objections to President Wilson in his recent interview at the White House. George Bakemetoff, the Russian ambassador, conferred with the British and French ambassadors today and later saw Secretary Bryan.

All three diplomats held that there was no precedent in international law for the purchase by a neutral nation of any great quantity of ships from a belligerent. The chief objection urged is that the transaction would establish a large gold credit in the hands of Germany.

Would Aid Germans.
The diplomats point out that the German steamship companies are closely affiliated with the German government and to buy their ships now marooned in American ports, would be tantamount to furnishing Germany with a large loan. Should the American government, however, distribute its purchases of ships equally among the belligerent nations, they do not believe there would be objection from any quarter. Considerable difficulty would arise, however, it is asserted, if for instance, the crew of a German vessel purchased by the United States were maintained on it as the English and French governments would not allow the nationals of any belligerent to land from neutral ships at their ports.

Other Reasons Offered.
Aside from the question of possible financial aid to Germany and complications over the crews of the vessels, the European diplomats who are opposed to the plan believe difficulties would arise with reference to the cargoes of the American ships. Their effort in the present war has been to sweep German commerce from the sea and look upon any means to supply food to Germany or Austria as an unsound act.

Would Observe Neutrality.
Administration officials here have declared that the ships would only carry neutral articles which are especially defined as non contraband of war but it is the belief of the diplomats that their governments would object even to conditional contraband, thus restricting considerably any commerce with belligerents.

The European diplomats have endeavored to point out that they desire in no way to interfere with the upbuilding of an American merchant marine and wish it success in neutral countries, but they think the American government's ships would not be available for commerce with the belligerent countries of Europe.

WILL THE SMOKE RISE?

Crowds Will Watch to See if Smoke Rises from Chimney Today Proclaiming Election of New Pope
Rome, Aug. 31.—At 7:30 o'clock tonight Cardinal Della Voipe, the papal chamberlain, closed the inside door to the conclave hall in which the college of cardinals is gathered to elect a successor to the late Pope Pius. Outside stood the governor and the marshal of the conclave.

Not until a new pope has been chosen by ballot will the doors be opened or any intimation of the procedure inside be known.

All telephone wires leading into the edifice have been cut and communication with the outside world is severed.

Tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock great crowds will gather in the square outside St. Peter's. Every eye will be focused on the chimney of Sixtine Chapel. If smoke should arise from it, it will indicate that no Pope has been elected. The smoke will be from the burning ballots which has been mixed a little straw.

Should a pontiff be elected workmen immediately will break in the doors and the cardinals will repair to the balcony of St. Peter's and proclaim him.

RAISED TO THE FRONT.
London, Sept. 1.—3:29 a. m.—The correspondent of the Express at the Hague wires his paper that Emperor William has gone to the Russian front.

The Horrors of War.

(By Associated Press.)

London, August 31.—12.25 p. m.—A dispatch to the Reuter telegram Company from Ostend says that a small party, which has returned there from Liege, describes the destruction wrought by the war as appalling.

"All along the road to Vise," said one of the party, "there was nothing to be seen but walls blackened by smoke, the remains of burned factories, mounds of earth freshly dug—the sepulchres of the first Germans to fall."

"And then comes Vise. What a painful sight for those who knew 'the proud city, so typical of Wallon gaiety and now nothing but a mass of ruins while many of the inhabitants lie all over the place, their chests riddled with bullets. I was told here that the natives were put to work building roads for the invaders from Vise to Aix-La-Chappelle."

"On the way to Argenteau we met a procession of able-bodied men marching four abreast and commanded by a non-commissioned officer, all carrying implements for road or trench building. These men have to submit to discipline draconic with severity."

Herstal, usually filled with the busy hum of activity in factories, coal mines and work shops, we found plunged into deathly silence.

At last we entered Liege. The inhabitants stood at the thresholds of their homes, silent and anxious, but afraid to speak. The streets in the middle of the town wore a deplorable aspect. Many houses had been abandoned. Their doors and windows were shattered and their contents had been removed. Nobody but soldiers was to be seen. The Place de L'Universite, the Rue des Pitteurs and the Qua des Pecheurs had been burned."

Flashes

OATS AND CHEESE GRATIS

London, Sept. 1.—1 a. m.—The official press bureau, in an announcement today, says the government has accepted gratefully an offer from the people of Alberta of half a million bushels of oats for the army and from the government of Quebec 4,000,000 pounds of cheese.

30,000 RUSSIANS CAPTURED

Berlin, August 31.—By Wireless to The Associated Press, Via Sayville, L. I.—It was officially announced tonight that about 30,000 Russians had been taken prisoners by the Germans during the fighting in East Prussia, particularly at Ortelsburg, Hohensalze and Tannenberg. They include many officers of high rank.

The German attack at these three points was across swamps and lakes.

ARE AFTEE RUSSIANS ALSO

London, August 31.—12:53 p. m.—An official telegram received in London declares that fresh forces of Germans have made their appearance on the Prussian frontier and at some points they are taking the offensive against the Russians.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

Queen Wilhelmina Receives Congratulations on Thirty-Fourth Birthday.

(By Associated Press.) London, Sept. 1.—12:40 a. m.—A dispatch to the Reuter Telegram Company from Amsterdam says that all Americans now in Holland, yesterday sent congratulations to Queen Wilhelmina on the occasion of her thirty-fourth birthday. The message of congratulation also expressed the thanks of Americans for the hospitality shown them in Holland and the hope that a speedy peace between the warring nations of Europe would be brought about.

BRITISH SHIPS HALT LINERS

AMERICAN VESSELS ARE HELD UP BY ENGLISH WAR SHIPS

TAKE RESERVISTS

German and Austrian Reservists Bound For War Are Taken In Charge By War Dogs

Honolulu, T. H., August 31.—The American liners Manchuria and China of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's Oriental fleet, were halted by British warships off Hong Kong and forced to surrender sixty German and Austrian reservists bound for the European war from the Philippines. This was the news brought by Captain Thompson and Purser Landers, of the China, which arrived here today bound for San Francisco.

According to officers of the China, the Germans and Austrians before starting on their journey, asked for and received assurances from Washington that they could not be molested on an American registered vessel. Then they took passage for San Francisco via Hong Kong, Shanghai, Nagasaki and Honolulu.

On arriving at Hong Kong, the vessels were halted by ships of the British fleet, the passengers were summoned for inspection and required to give their nationality at the call of the three miles limit of the British port. Inasmuch as Hong Kong is under British jurisdiction war ships under their jurisdiction could arrest the nationals of any belligerent within territorial waters.

What might be the opinion of the American government if the reservists were taken from American vessels on the high seas is undetermined. State department officials said tonight no complaint of that character had been placed before them. The right of search for contraband cargoes on the high seas is accorded by all nations to belligerent ships; but the right to take a passenger from a neutral ship on the high seas long has been in dispute and no official of the department was willing to express an opinion.

THREATEN TO DESTROY CITY.

Striking Miners Say That If Troops Interfere They Will Burn City.

(By Associated Press.) Butte, Mont., Aug. 31.—Miners openly threatened tonight to lay the town in ashes if either State or Federal troops attempt to enter Butte. One of the miners' leaders declared they did not purpose to fight the soldiers, but they would wreak vengeance upon the business men for bringing soldiers to Butte.

"We have quantities of dynamite and oil," said one leader, "and the troops will find ashes."

Hitherto the majority of the miners have not credited the report that the militia was being mobilized, as the local newspapers withheld the news on request of business men who feared that its publication would excite the miners. But today a Helena editor brought an automobile load of newspapers to Butte for sale and news boys soon began crying the news of the mobilization.

Calls immediately went forth from President "Muckie" MacDonald and the other leaders for a secret meeting of the union miners. Later a committee of miners was sent to the railroad depots to see if the troops had arrived.

The miners called another meeting for tonight. The electric light plant and all the larger stores were guarded by many armed men, as were the mines. On the attic floor of the court house there were stationed fifty guards armed with rifles.

County Attorney J. J. McCaffery issued a warrant for the arrest of the Helena editor on a charge of inciting a disturbance, but he had left the city. All ammunition in the hardware stores has been removed and firing pins have been taken from the rifles.

GREATLY OUTNUMBERED

Washington, August 31.—Seventy thousand British troops for three days held in check two hundred thousand Germans until relieved by French reinforcements, according to information received here today through neutral diplomats. The advances did not give the place of the battle.

Official Statement of French Success and Loss

Paris, Aug. 31.—5:55 p. m.—The following official statement was issued tonight by the war office:

"The situation generally is actually as follows:

"First—In the Vosges and in Lorraine, it must be remembered, our forces, which had taken the offensive at the beginning of the operations and driven the enemy outside of our frontiers, afterwards underwent serious checks before Sarre, where they encountered solid defensive works, and forces were obliged to fall back and to re-form, one part of Couronne de Nancy, and the other on the French Vosges.

"The Germans then assumed the offensive, but our troops, after having thrown them back upon their positions, resumed the offensive two days ago. This attack continues to make progress, although slowly. It is a veritable war of sieges, as each position occupied is fortified immediately.

"This explains the slowness of our advance, which is nevertheless, characterized each day by fresh local successes."

"Second—The region of Nancy and Southern Weivre, since the beginning of the campaign in this section, between Metz on the German side and Toul and Verdun on the French side has not been the theatre of important operations.

"Third—In the direction of the Meuse between Verdun and Mesieres, it will be remembered the French forces took the offensive in the beginning toward Longwy, Neufchateau and Palsieul. The troops operating in the region of Spincourt and Longuyon have been able to check the enemy's army under the command of the German crown prince.

"In the regions of Neufchateau and Palsieul, on the other hand, certain of our troops have received partial checks, which obliged them to retire

upon the Meuse without having their organization broken up. This retiring movement has compelled the forces operating in the neighborhood of Spincourt to withdraw also towards the Meuse.

"During the last few days the enemy has endeavored to spread out from the Meuse with considerable forces, but by a vigorous counter-offensive they were repulsed with very great losses. In the meantime, fresh forces of Germans advanced to the district of Rocroy (in Ardennes) marching in the direction of Rethel. Now a general attack is taking place between the Meuse and Rethel, and it still is impossible to see definitely the issue of this.

"Fourth—Operations in the North: The French and British forces originally took up positions in the Dinant and Charleroi country and at Mons. They endured several repulses and the forcing of the Meuse by the Germans near Givet upon our flank, compelled our troops to retire.

"The Germans seek continually to move toward the West. It was under these conditions that our English allies, attacked by the enemy in greatly superior numbers in the region of Le Coteau and Cambrai, have withdrawn toward the south, at the moment that our forces were operating in the district of Avesnes and Chimay. The retiring movement was prolonged during several days.

"In the meantime a general battle took place in the region of St. Quentin and Verins, and at the same time in the Ham-Perennes district. This battle was marked by an important success by our right, where we have thrown back the Prussian guard and the tenth army corps into the line.

"Owing to the progress of the German right wing, where our adversaries have united their best troops, we have had to make new retirement."

The Philippine Situation Is Very Complicated

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, August 31.—"The nations involved in the far eastern struggle have many interests and territorial possessions in close proximity to the Philippines and to discuss the disposition of the Philippines at this time would be impolite and extremely unwise," declared a minority report of the house insular affairs committee today on the pending Philippine independence bill.

The report signed by the republicans of the committee, declares Japan might seize all of Germany's Pacific possessions.

"A distinguished Japanese," said the report, "once observed that the Philippine Archipelago is but a continuation of their own. Territorially we are in close relations with Japan, one of the nations now at war."

Still closer are our territorial relations with Germany. The Samoan Islands, in the South Pacific, are divided between England, German and the United States.

Americans Outnumbered.
Hawaii, with 191,000 population has 50,000 Japanese and only 10,000 Americans. This group of islands, in the center of the Pacific, probably is the most desirable strategic point in the world.

"It is true that Japan has stated that her offensive operations would be confined to Kiao-Chow, but why should they, from Japan's point of view? If, angered by stubborn resistance, severe losses and, pressed

by an already aroused war spirit among her people, Japan should seize all of Germany's Pacific possessions, no one would be surprised.

A Delicate Problem.

"To enter on debate in which all our relations and interests in the Pacific would be discussed and our rights in the Philippines, Hawaii, Samoa and Guam, challenged, would be to encourage disregard to our interests and lead nations with opposing interests to believe the United States would not go far in the defense of possessions so lightly regarded by those in control of this government. To make the world believe we were anxious to get rid of the Philippines, is to invite aggression which would mean war."

Best As It Is.

"It is unwise to consider at this time to complete change in the government of the Philippines. There is a great need just now of emergency legislation to which there would be little or no objection. A bill to increase the limit of indebtedness from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000 or any other emergency measure could be reported out at once and pass without opposition. As to the other branch of Congress (the senate) an emergency measure will receive immediate consideration but this bill will not even be considered in committee there during the present session or possibly not at all in the senate at the short session."

Representative Towner today introduced a bill increasing the limit of the Philippine government to \$15,000,000 at any one time.

A Remarkable Jump Cotton Crop Estimate

Department of Agriculture One Month Ago Predicted Size of Crop 1,350,000 Bales Less Than Yesterday's Figures.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Aug. 31.—A bumper cotton crop which may equal if not exceed the big crop of 1911 when final returns are made, is indicated by the department of agriculture's report today showing the condition of the crop of August 25, to be 73 per cent of a normal.

A total production of 15,000,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight is interpreted by the department experts from the condition figures. This is 1,355,000 bales more than forecast from the July condition figures, the result of excellent growing conditions throughout the cotton belt during August.

"The condition of the cotton crop on August 25, which was 75 per cent

of a normal," says an official statement, "is interpreted as indicating a yield per acre of 197 pounds, which compares with 182 pounds per acre produced a year ago, and 187.3 pounds the ten year average."

"A yield per acre of 197 pounds on the estimated planted acre of 28,900,000 acres would produce about 7,290,000 bales of 500 pounds weight.

"There is usually some abandonment, the average about 1 per cent. Allowing for one per cent abandonment, there would remain as indicated a production of about 14,150,000 bales last year, 12,795,000 in 1912, a production of 15,555,000 in the record of 1911, and 14,609,000 in 1910."