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GERMANS ARE SLOWLY DRIVING ALLIES BACK

GREAT BATTLE AS YET UNDECIDED, ADVANTAGE WITH GERMANS

ARE ENTRENCHED

Allied Armies Face Desperate Chances in Attempting to Dislodge the Enemy

(By Associated Press.) London, Sept. 18.—For five days the British and French armies have been trying to dislodge the Germans from the strong line of defenses which they have constructed on the battle line, stretching from the Oise to the Meuse rivers. There have been attacks and counter attacks but in the words of the official communication, "there has been no change in the situation."

The allies claim to have made some slight progress at some points against the German right wing north of the river Aisne and to have repulsed the counter attacks there and between Craonne and Arras, while they say in the center and on the right the Germans are acting purely on the defensive, having "dug themselves into entrenchments."

The German official reports are almost identical with those of the allies. They say no decision has been reached but that the allies' power of resistance is weakening; that a French attempt to break their right; that in the center the Germans are gaining ground slowly and that the allies from Verdun have been repulsed.

It would seem from this that the commanding generals have not yet found the weak points in their opponents' dispositions and that each is withholding his determined blow for, as Lord Kitchener said in the house of lords, "the right moment."

The Germans having reached selected positions, which they have strongly fortified, would appear to have the advantage according to the military critics, but for that fact they must defend the whole of their front to make good their retirement should an attack by them fall or a smashing blow from the allies break their line while the Anglo-French forces are declared to be free to mass at any point. General Joffre may select as most suitable for the attack.

It is not certain where the French commander will direct his assault. While the armies forming his left are pressing the German right wing it is thought probable that Joffre is making arrangements for an attempt to cut through the German front somewhere north of Verdun and thus drive the armies of the German crown prince, the Duke of Wurtemberg, General von Hosen, General von Bulow and General von Kluck westward, sever their communications with the Rhine through Luxemburg and compel them to rely on lines running into Belgium, which are menaced by the Anglo-French.

The Germans are reported to be prepared, however, to offer tremendous resistance to such a move. They not only are in strong positions where reinforcements and munitions and provisions can reach them easily but they have additional defended positions to fall back on if necessary. Furthermore, they are said to be strengthening their positions along the river Sambre from Mapeuge to Namur and along the Meuse from Givet to Namur, so that nothing evidently is being left to chances.

It is even reported that the Germans are concentrating transport trains on the Luxembourg frontier to enable them to move troops eastward should they so desire. This leads some military observers to believe the Germans have decided to remain on the defensive on the west while they re-sending their main army east to confront the Russians, apparently they are concentrating their western armies for, with the exception of the occasional Ulan troops, northwestern France seems nearly clear of Germans. The Calais and Boulogne routes to Paris have been reopened.

One of the Ulan patrols was caught by a British armored motor car in command of Commander Sampson at Doullens on the main road of Amiens a few days ago and four out of six were killed. The other Ulan was wounded and captured. Commander Sampson is one of the most efficient of the navy's flying men, many of whom are now working with the army. His exploits show that the British like the Germans have armored cars with which to chase scouting parties.

Reports from Petrograd today say the Russian pursuit of the Austrians continues and that the Russians have gained important successes over the Austrians' rear guard. Convoys of two army corps with thirty guns and ammunition and 5,000 prisoners are said to have been captured. The whole of the Austro-Russian border between Yuzovsk and Anapol is reported to be overrun by the Cossacks leading the Russian advance. The Russian army now in Galicia will be left there to complete the work. (Continued on Page 7.)

ALLIES CLAIM TO HAVE ADVANTAGE

No Important Developments in Line of Battle Reported

(By Associated Press.) Paris, Sept. 17.—The allies have progressed somewhat on their western wing and are repulsing a vigorous German offensive movement, according to an official announcement made this afternoon by the French war department.

The communication follows: "The battle continued during the day of September 17, along the front from the river Oise to the Woivre, without important changes in the situation at any point."

"First: On our left wing on the heights to the north of the river Aisne, we have made slight progress against certain points. Three offensive counter German attacks undertaken by the Germans against the English army have failed. From Craonne to Rheims we ourselves repulsed some very violent counter attacks executed during the night. The enemy tried in vain to take the offensive against Rheims."

"Second: On the center from Rheims to the Argonne the enemy has reinforced itself by constructing important fortifications, and has adopted a purely defensive attitude. To the east of the Argonne in the Woivre district, the situation is unchanged."

"On our right wing in Lorraine and the Vosges, the enemy occupies positions organized on a defensive basis in the vicinity of the frontier."

GOVERNMENT BOAT GOES TO BOTTOM

Fourteen Lives Lost When Collier Crashes Into Steamer on St. Lawrence

(By Associated Press.) Quebec, Sept. 18.—The Black Diamond collier Lillian rammed and sank the government steamer Montagny, at 5 o'clock this morning during a fog at Beauju banks, in the St. Lawrence river, 26 miles from Quebec. Fourteen persons, members of the Montagny's crew and families of two light house keepers aboard the Montagny lost their lives.

Second officer La Chance of the Montagny, was among those who perished. He dared with two children in his arms in a heroic but unsuccessful attempt to rescue them.

Mrs. LaVallie, wife of the lighthouse keeper at Flower Island, and her four children were lost.

Mrs. Richards, wife of the lighthouse keeper at Belle Isle and her seven children were aboard the Montagny, but how many of them were saved is unknown.

The vessel was on her way from Quebec to the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the straits of Belle Isle, N. F.

She had on board a cargo of coal and provisions for wireless stations and signal service stations along the coast.

Although the Montagny was not a passenger vessel she was utilized to transport the families of the lighthouse keepers at Belle Isle and Flower Island to their stations.

NOTED VET. KILLED

Virginian in Railroad Wreck Was a Gallant Veteran.

(By Associated Press.) Bristol, Va., Sept. 18.—John A. Preston, who was killed today in the wreck near Livingston, Ala., was captain of Co. K, of the 37th Virginia cavalry and had a gallant war record in the Confederate army. He was born and reared at Abingdon, Va. He owned a large stock farm at Abilene, Texas.

WANT FACTS MADE KNOWN

BELGIAN CRUELTY WAS THE CAUSE OF DESTRUCTION OF LOUVAIN

LETTER EXPLAINS

Communication Sent From German Official Tells of Conditions Troops Encountered

(By Associated Press.) New York, Sept. 18.—Adolph F. Bruenen, formerly secretary to the German embassy at Washington, who now is at Genoa, Italy, has sent to a relative here the following communication from Dr. A. F. M. Zimmerman, German under secretary of foreign affairs, with the information that the German government requested that it be given publicity:

Berlin, August 30, 1914.

"Official Communication of the German General Staff: 'The city of Louvain (Louvain) had surrendered and was given over to us by the Belgian authorities. On Monday, August 24, some of our troops were shipped there, and intercourse with the inhabitants was developing quite friendly.'"

"On Tuesday afternoon, August 25, our troops, hearing about an imminent Belgian sortie from Antwerp, left in that direction, the commanding general ahead in motor car, leaving behind only a colonel with soldiers to protect the railroad. As the rest of the commanding general's staff with the horses was going to follow and collected on the market place, suddenly rifle fire opened from all the surrounding houses, all the horses being killed and five officers wounded, one of them seriously."

"About ten different places in town, also on some of our troops just arrived and waiting on the square in front of the station and on incoming military trains. Two priests caught handing out ammunition to the people were shot in front of the station."

"Street fighting lasted till Wednesday, the 26th in the afternoon (24 hours), when stronger forces arrived, in the meantime succeeded in getting the upper hand. Town and northern suburb were burning at different places and by this time have probably burned down altogether."

"On the part of the Belgian government a general rising of the population against the enemy had been organized for a long time; depots of arms were found, where to each gun was attached the name of the citizen to be armed."

"A spontaneous rising of the people has been recognized, at the request of the smaller states at the Hague conference, as being within the law of nations, as far as weapons carried openly and the laws of civilized warfare are being observed, but such rising was only admitted in order to fight the attacking enemy."

"In the case of Louvain the town had already surrendered, the town being occupied by our troops. Nevertheless, the population attacked on all sides and with a murderous fire the occupying forces and newly arriving troops."

"Therefore, there can be no question of means of defense allowed by the law of nations, neither of a warlike guerilla (ambush) but only of a treacherous attempt of the civil population, the more to be condemned, as it apparently was planned long beforehand with simultaneous attack from Antwerp, as arms were not carried openly as women and young girls took part in the fight and blinded our wounded attacking their eyes out."

"The barbarous attitude of the Belgian population in all parts justified by our troops not only has justified our severest measures, but forced us to..."

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

ARE DISAGREED ON COMPROMISE

SENATE HAS AN ALL NIGHT SESSION IN DISCUSSION OF BILL

MANY ARE MISSING

Not Enough Members Present To Pass On River and Harbor Appropriations

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Sept. 18.—In a final effort to break the determined filibuster against the river and harbor appropriation bill, Senator leaders tonight had the sergeant-at-arms sent to round up absentees and settled down for what promised to be an all night session.

A proposed compromise contemplating a \$20,000,000 lump sum appropriation for river and harbor improvements as a substitute for the pending bill evoked the enthusiasm from river and harbor advocates, who decided on a continuous session in the hope of wearing out the members trying to talk the bill to death.

A point of order to hamper the filibuster yesterday, occupied all of today and finally proved abortive. The ruling of yesterday when by a vote of 24 to 23 it held that Senator Kenyon, occupying the floor, could not yield it to another except by unanimous consent. The debate occupied the whole day's session, Senators Bryan and Stone arguing vigorously that a senator had no right to occupy the floor and "farm it out."

The compromise plan, suggested at a meeting of the commerce committee early in the day, was discussed on both the house and senate sides of the capital. It was not received favorably at an informal meeting of the house rivers and harbor committee, and aroused considerable opposition among senate supporters of the bill. The latter declared no vigorous cooperation had been taken by the majority of the filibuster, and Senator Williams made an impassioned plea for a "permanent and perpetual session of the senate."

"Let 'em talk till they drop from their feet," he shouted. "Let 'em talk until their mouths are so dry they can't utter another word."

Majority leaders, although doubtful of their ability to keep a quorum in attendance, finally succeeded in the demand for drastic action and determined to keep the senate in session all night if possible.

Senator Kenyon concluded five days of discussion of the bill and surrendered the floor to Senator Burton, who spoke for more than two hours. He then presented a formal motion to recommit the bill to the commerce committee.

But few senators were on the floor and Senator Burton obtained a roll call on his motion, which showed 38 senators, 11 less than a quorum, were present. For an hour the Senate sought in vain to get a quorum, and finally the sergeant-at-arms was directed to compel the attendance of absent senators.

BRYAN MADE TALK

Made Closing Speech Before Insurance Commissioners in Asheville.

(By Associated Press.) Asheville, N. C., Sept. 18.—An informal address by Secretary Bryan featured the closing day of the forty-fifth annual convention of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, in session here. Officers were elected as follows: President, John S. Darst, West Virginia; vice presidents, Burton Marshall, Connecticut, and J. P. Winship, South Carolina; secretary-treasurer, F. H. McMaster, South Carolina, re-elected.

The executive committee will select the next place of meeting later.

Mr. Bryan urged insurance when the interests of the people are safeguarded at a minimum cost.

WAR NEWS

Bordeaux, Sept. 18.—8 p. m.—The Troyes correspondent of the Temps has sent the following dispatch:

"According to wounded prisoners, German aeroplanes have been put out of action through lack of gasoline. French aviators, on the other hand, have been doing excellent work. One French aviator dropped bombs at an important railroad junction with the result that ten trains filled with retreating Prussians were stalled."

"In the last convoy of prisoners brought to Troyes were seventeen Imperial guardsmen captured in the wood near Vitry-Le-Francoise (Department of Marne.) Attached to their sleeves by pins were Red Cross insignia, to which, it is believed, they had no right. They immediately have been sent to a French ambulance corps where their qualifications may be tested."

"Military automobilists report that the country seems to be full of stragglers, who frequently fire on French convoys."

BRITAIN ASKED TO EXPLAIN

CRITICISMS OF SIR LIONEL CARDEN ARE RESENTED

MAY LOSE POSITION

Sir Lionel May Not Be Sent To Brazil As Result of Controversy

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Sept. 18.—The United States government has sent a formal note to Great Britain inquiring if the recent interview attributed to Sir Lionel Carden, British minister to Mexico, criticizing President Wilson for withdrawing American forces from Vera Cruz was accurate in part.

An Indian government over the incident is understood to have been conveyed in the note.

High officials tonight did not explain what is expected to be the outcome of the representations but it would occasion no surprise here if a complete repudiation of whatever views Sir Lionel may have expressed would be issued by the British foreign office. Diplomats also consider it possible that Sir Lionel may not be accredited to Brazil, this new post, because of the incident.

The American government more than once has had occasion to intimate to the British government that Sir Lionel Carden was thwarting the Mexican policy of the American government. He virtually was forced to leave Mexico by General Carranza, the diplomatic intervention of the United States alone preventing the Constitutional chief from abruptly handing him his passports.

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador here, already has expressed his own regret for the incident, apologizing personally to the state department. He did this without instructions from the foreign office.

President Wilson is constantly receiving reports of the rapid construction of affairs in Mexico, contradicting the statements of disorder alleged to have been made by Sir Lionel Carden. General Villa telegraphed the president today his thanks for the withdrawal of troops and spoke of his co-operation with other subjects of peace.

The Constitutionalist agency here received advices from Mexico City that General Zapata had replied to General Carranza's invitation to attend the national convention of military and political leaders October 1 to choose a provisional president. Zapata has requested that a truce be declared and a cessation of hostilities be arranged pending the deliberations of the convention.

It generally is understood here that General Carranza will resign as first chief and that Fernando Iglesias Cardou will be named provisional president. The latter will conduct a general election in which Carranza expects to be a candidate.

Austrians Anxiously Wait For Complete Details of Conditions

(By Associated Press.) Venice, via Paris, Sept. 18.—In the complete absence of satisfactory details regarding the progress of the campaign in Galicia and along the Croatian frontier, the Austrian public is waiting with dumb patience for definite news of what really is happening.

Since it became known that Russia was making great headway in Galicia the comment in Vienna newspapers has been guarded, editorials dealing chiefly with the German campaign in western Europe. The presence of 70,000 Polish refugees from Galicia, however, added to the constant arrival of train loads of wounded, tended to offset this reticence.

The police recently issued a decree warning persons against spreading unfavorable war news under threats of the severest penalties. Spies are found everywhere, in cafes, in streets, trying to overhear private conversations and then hastening to the police and denouncing suspected persons. Hundreds of arrests already have been made and many persons have been placed under more or less strict police surveillance.

Six Slav deputies in the reichsrath already have been imprisoned. These include Dr. Kramarz, the Czech leader.

Clarence E. Tolly has been spending the last few days at Portland, Me., where he went to attend the national convention of the Improved Order of Red Men. Mr. Tolly is expected to return either today or tomorrow.

Dove of Peace Has Departed

BROKERS WILL BE FORCED TO PAY

Exchanges Being Closed Does Not Exempt Bankers From Special Tax

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Sept. 18.—Stock brokers who have protested against a proposed special tax of \$50 a year will not escape assessment. Democrats of the ways and means committee determined today to include them in the war revenue bill which is now being perfected.

Arguments that brokers should not be taxed because stock exchanges are now closed were not regarded as sufficient to entitle brokers to exemption inasmuch as it is probable the exchanges again will be operating before the need for war revenue has passed.

Perfection of the revenue bill was not completed today. Stamp tax rates will be taken up tomorrow. Few changes are contemplated in the stamp tax rates as levied during the Spanish-American war, though the matter of eliminating checks is undetermined.

The committee today approved the additional tax of fifty cents a barrel on beer, the tax of two cents a gallon on gasoline, and the special taxes on bankers, brokers and tobacco dealers. The committee decided to eliminate the minimum tax contained in the Spanish war revenue law on bankers. That levied a tax of \$50 on bankers with a capital and surplus not exceeding \$25,000, and \$2 a thousand additional. The proposed bill will fix the bankers tax at the flat rate of \$2 per thousand of capital and surplus.

Incidentally the state department hasn't communicated with the British or French ambassadors here or the German ambassador in New York on the subject. Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, as well as Jules Jusserand were at the state department today. Ambassador Spring-Rice did not mention peace, discussing neutrality questions. The French ambassador made only casual inquiry as to the correctness of newspaper reports regarding the peace possibilities.

Diplomats representing the allied forces are said to believe President Wilson will not ask the American ambassadors abroad not to continue conversations until terms of peace were voluntarily proposed by the belligerents.

The informal exchanges thus far conducted by the American ambassadors at Berlin, London and Paris have brought forth almost identical statements, each side charging the other with the responsibility of starting the war, each declaring it had been attacked and saying it would consider terms of peace only if overtures were made by the enemy with a definite statement of terms.

It was pointed out here today that the United States was careful to avoid informal soundings and obtained a written request from Russia and Japan for a discussion of peace before acting as an intermediary to settle the Russian-Japanese war.

AMERICANS HAVE STRENOUS TIME

Well Known Veteran and Niece Have a Few Thrilling Experiences

(By Associated Press.) Paris, Sept. 18.—Trying experiences befell major Edwin Jacob Stivers, U. S. A., retired, and his niece, Miss Stivers, who were caught in the track battle at the village of Vaumoules, about 45 miles northeast of Paris.

American Ambassador Myron T. Herrick learned yesterday of the major's situation and sent an army officer attached to the embassy in an automobile to bring him with his niece to Paris. Major Stivers, who is in his 50th year, was found broken in health. He said the British troops had been in the village on August 29 and 31, and the Germans from September 1 to 10. There had been a good deal of shooting around his cottage. He pointed a small American flag on a piece of board which he called to the cottage and this usually was respected. Miss Stivers, however, was made to do all kinds of work for the German soldiers such as serving them at table, making tea and washing their horses.

Major Stivers was born in Brooklyn, Ohio, and distinguished himself in the war between the states. He was mentioned by General Sherman for conspicuous gallantry in the battle of Chickamauga. His home recently has been in Paris.

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