

FLEEING FROM ST. GOBAIN.

GERMANS DRIVEN FROM FOREST STRONGHOLD.

They are Evacuating Chemin-des-Dames and Converging Attacks West and South of Laon Makes Their Situation Perilous.

London, Oct. 11, 1 o'clock.—Today's advices from the battle front indicate that it is virtually certain that the Germans have evacuated St. Gobain forests almost immediately. The Germans are evacuating the Chemin-des-Dames under the pressure of converging attacks on the west and south. The Hunding line near Laon, between the Rivers Serre, and Sissonne has been turned, making the German situation in the Laon area difficult.

In Champagne the French and Americans joining hands north of Argonne in Grand Pre-Gap occupied the Grand Pre station while patrols are said to have entered the town itself. On the Meuse, north and west of Verdun the Americans cleared a little pocket in the direction of Sivy which held them up.

HUN AMMUNITION TAKEN.

Great Store of Shells and Other Ammunition Covered Acres of Ground.

With the Anglo-American Forces, on the Valenciennes, Oct. 12.—(By Associated Press).—American and British troops captured in the Bohain region what was probably the largest enemy ammunition dump ever taken. The shells piled high, covered a large area. This capture will greatly reduce the quantity of ammunition available to the Germans on this section of the front.

All the Bohain roads were found to be mined when the Anglo-American forces entered the town. When the German sentries discovered that the mines failed to catch they shot at a big one in the center of the place. They made a direct hit and the explosion blew a hole in the ground big enough to hold a large chateau.

Because the German divisions and regiments are so mixed up and decimated, the Germans are now supposed to have abandoned numbers on shoulder straps. Instead they are wearing different letters on their sleeves designating groups.

Since the beginning of the present operations the Americans have captured 46 officers and 1,900 men and since joining the British fighting forces they have secured 3,000 prisoners and more than 60 cannon.

Officer prisoners say their orders were to stop fighting with infantry and to defend themselves solely with artillery and machine guns. They complained there was a great lack of ammunition and guns as a result of the recent enormous captures by the allies and they added that the lack of motor transportation was responsible for such large numbers of infantrymen being taken since the offensive began.

Troops from five divisions from other sections of the front have now appeared in the line opposite the British and Americans. The bulk of them undoubtedly is being used to garrison the positions known as the Valenciennes line. All, however, are believed to have been engaged in the recent fighting and are in low strength and poor morale.

It has now been established that 50 enemy divisions (715,000 men) have been engaged on the Cambrai-St. Quentin front since September 29.

FLU IN WESTERN STATES

Believed That Strict Measures, Official Effects of Closing Order, are Becoming Apparent.

Washington, Oct. 13.—The epidemic of influenza has subsided somewhat in Eastern States but continues to spread in the Middle and Far West. On the basis of meager reports received today officials of the public health service bureau were optimistic that the stringent measures taken such as closing schools, churches, theatres and forbidding public gatherings generally, had begun to show a beneficial effect.

Health authorities of California today reported the malady to be spreading in that State. From Utah came a similar report while numbers of new cases were reported in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Minnesota, Iowa, New Mexico, and South Dakota. Information that the disease was abating came from Massachusetts, Ohio, New York and Maryland.

The office of the surgeon general of the army made no statement today as to the situation in the army camps, but reports to the public health service told of subsidence at Chillicothe, Ohio, the site of Camp Sherman, and at Louisville, Ky., where Camp Taylor is located.

Miss Benson Goes to Camp Jackson Base Hospital.

Miss Martha Benson, one of South Carolina's graduate nurses, has been assigned through the American Red Cross, to Camp Jackson base hospital, and will leave in a few days to assume her work there.

Miss Benson was graduated from Dr. Mood's Infirmary, and for a number of years did private nursing in the vicinity of Sumter but for the last year and a half has been connected with the Columbia Graduate Nurses' Association and registry.

Married.

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Reynolds, 216 West Hampton Avenue at 7.30 o'clock Saturday evening their eldest daughter, Aline, was married to Lieut. Eugene Sory, Rev. R. S. Truesdale performing the ceremony. On account of the illness in the family the marriage was a very quiet affair, only the immediate family being present.

PROHIBITION LAW UPHELD.

SUPREME TRIBUNAL RENDERS UNANIMOUS DECISION.

Case Brought in Sumter County Against Judge of Probate for Not Issuing Permit.

Columbia, Oct. 11.—The prohibition law of South Carolina was yesterday declared to be constitutional by unanimous opinion of the State supreme court. The opinion was written by D. E. Hydrick, associate justice, and concurred in by Chief Justice Gary, and Associate Justices Watts, Fraser and Gage.

The case was first brought by Singleton Bradford, citizen of Sumter county, who made application to Thomas E. Richardson, judge of probate for a permit with which to order whiskey, the permit being denied by Mr. Richardson to test the constitutionality of the law. Arguments in the case were made before Judge Thomas S. Sease of Spartanburg in March, 1918, at which time Judge Sease overruled both grounds of contention and declared the law constitutional. From this decision Mr. Richardson appealed to the supreme court. In his opinion Judge Hydrick says:

"The respondent applied to the probate judge of Sumter county for a permit, and filed the affidavit required, but the probate judge refused to issue the permit, alleging that the act is unconstitutional on two grounds: First, because it violates section 17, which says that every act shall relate to but one subject and that shall be expressed in the title. And second, because it violates section 19 of article 5, in that it attempts to extend the jurisdiction of the probate court. The circuit court overruled both grounds and the probate judge appealed.

"The subject expressed in the title of the original act, which is incorporated into and made a part of the title of the amendatory act, is the regulation of the importation of liquors into the State. Under that title it was clearly competent for the legislature to enact any provision having a reasonable relation to the subject, including penalties for violations of the provisions of the act, for that is clearly a means to the end proposed.

"Clearly the issuance of permits may be regulated by specifying the conditions upon which they may be issued, and by penalizing the issuance of them, except upon the conditions specified.

"The duty imposed upon the probate judge is not an extension of the jurisdiction of the probate courts. While the probate judge is required to exercise judgment and discretion in issuing permits, in that he must be satisfied of the truth of the statements contained in the affidavit before doing so, it by no means follows that in doing so he is performing a judicial function. It is rather one of a ministerial nature. He is required to exercise judgment and discretion in taking bonds, perhaps to a greater extent than in issuing permits. Nevertheless, the taking of a bond is a ministerial act. There is no difference, so far as the judicial qualities of the act are concerned, in granting licenses to sell liquor and in issuing permits to import liquor. The power to issue permits might have been conferred upon the sheriff, clerk of court or any other ministerial officer.

"The legislature in express terms, imposed the duty on the probate judge and not upon the probate court. The language used clearly manifests the intention that the duty should be performed by the probate judge, personally and ministerially, and not by him as the court."

LAST LINE OF DEFENSE.

German Front Cracked for Many Miles—Pin Faith to Woods.

Paris, Oct. 13.—The entire German front from St. Gobain to the Argonne has cracked on a 60 mile front and it now appears that the enemy will be forced to retreat to a depth of some 30 miles before finding a suitable line of defense. At the best, his position will be menaced at its flanks on the Oise to Sambre Canal to Diebmont from Landreois, which lines are very near the Belgian frontier. There will be nothing here like the enemy's strong defense on the Hindenburg line. The Germans are expected to cover their retreat, as usual, with the best of natural defenses the country affords, the principle enemy asset in the present instance being the forests in the area of the backward movements.

Between the Oise and Berry-au-Bac the German army has been forced to abandon the line of the Ailette, retiring its right in the forest of St. Gobain. In the Champagne Gen. Gouraud is continuing his onslaughts on his disorganized adversary.

For 17 consecutive days General Gouraud's men have been pounding the German positions and continuing to make inroads on the defenses. To the north the British armies are pushing their advance almost to the point of liberating Douai which is one of the great objectives on their front. Virtually all the German line is in movement and there seems now to be no chance for the enemy to reorganize his forces for resistance.

Japs to Investigate American Schools.

Tokio, Sept. 25 (Correspondence).—The Tokio municipality has decided to send the principals of six municipal elementary schools to the United States on a tour of inspection. The party, headed by Mr. Moriya, chief of the educational section of the Tokio Municipal Board, will visit various parts of the United States, returning to Japan after ten months. The group is the first of its kind to be sent abroad by the city of Tokio.

Tooth Paste for Soldiers.

Clean teeth rank high with the Y. M. C. A. overseas management. 255,000 tubes of tooth paste having been shipped to soldiers in France and England during the past ten months.

NORTH OF SENSEE.

BRITISH ADVANCE AT NIGHT FOR MORE GAINS.

Several Towns in The Region Beyond Douai Captured During Night and Morning.

London, Oct. 12.—The British last night continued their advance north of the Sensee River, it is officially announced. The advance in the direction of Douai, resulted in the capture of the villages of Hamlet, Brebieres and Cuincy. Further north the British pushed to the east of Henin-Litard. Northwest of Douai, they are in the environs of Ennay.

BEHIND SENSEE CANAL.

Germans Withdrawing From Douai Seek Temporary Rest.

London, Oct. 12.—German troops in the region of Douai are retiring behind the Sensee Canal. Their withdrawal across the canal has been more or less completed. It is believed Gen. Haig's men will be on the outskirts of Douai by tomorrow morning.

IN BITTER STRUGGLE.

Gen. Pershing's Men North of Verdun in Fiercest Battle of War.

With Americans Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 12 (Noon).—Gen. Pershing's forces continued their attacks against the Germans on this front today. The opposition proved even more bitter, if possible, than it was yesterday. The fighting this morning was especially violent on the center and on the left center. St. Juvin and Cum, both of which are now in No Man's Land, are aflame.

RELIEF COMMITTEE ORGANIZED.

Civic League Creates Committee to Relieve Distress.

The Civic League this morning organized a committee to try to relieve some of the distress occasioned by whole families being sick at one time and having no one to wait upon them. Already many of the school teachers and other ladies of the city have gone into these homes and rendered what assistance they could. The League realizes there are many who are willing to help take care of these stricken families but do not know where to go or what to do, and so it has made the following arrangements:

All those willing to help with nursing will please phone one of the undersigned committee and at the same time state whether she is able to give her services or needs remuneration for her time. Training is not necessary. Willingness to help in time of need is the only requirement. The nurse will be sent to the home needing her with a trained graduate nurse who will give her instructions as to what to do.

Families that are in need of some one to nurse or care for their well children during the sickness of the parent will please notify the undersigned committee in order that it might endeavor to find nurses.

Families in need of nourishment will please notify the committee that it might arrange to have nourishment supplied.

Any one having milk or eggs for sale please notify the undersigned committee as these things are greatly needed by the sick and they do not know where to turn to get them.

Apply to undersigned committee for information about masks for protection in nursing influenza.

Since the formation of the committee this morning it has had several cases reported to it and it is doing all it can to give relief in these cases. The committee is working in cooperation with the Tuomey Hospital, Miss Gibson and the doctors, it has been able to communicate with so far.

Mrs. Horace Harby, President, Mrs. C. H. McMahon, Mrs. Ferdinand Levi, Mrs. E. W. McCallum, Mrs. Walter Cheyne, Mrs. I. A. Ryttenberg, Mrs. Ansley Harby, Miss Armda Moses, Civic League Committee on Relief.

Would You be a Slacker?

Editor Daily Item.

There has come a pathetic appeal right to our doors to lend a hand of mercy, to so many suffering just in sound of our own voice. This is the first time our physicians have asked our aid. Anybody with a little common sense, and judgment, can follow directions and give medicine. There is not a finer corps of doctors in the State than Sumter has; but the demand on them is so great and they are powerless to do the nursing. Woman has longed to be patriotic—now is your chance. Just as you sent the boys over seas to fight for what is right, can you sit at home and be content. "We haven't influenza at our house and I hope to the Lord none of our folks will take it."

Women of Sumter, do you know the one that runs from duty is the one that suffers most? Can you deafen your ears to this heart-rending appeal. In some cases, it has been contagious, but not half as much as our brave boys on the firing line. Is it in justice to those boys who today are gladly giving their lives, that you can be content and let their loved ones here suffer for, and even die for want of attention. Can't there be some Florence Nightingales, and brave Joan of Arcs? I know of a case right here where one of the family has influenza and some of the neighbors are actually afraid to phone to the house for fear of inhaling the germs. Notwithstanding they never hesitated to ask help of this very family in different contagious diseases, which this good samaritan might have carried to her little children.

When a boy refuses, or is rather slow in enlisting how quick you classify him as a slacker. If we do not respond to this emergency call when we can so easily help a day at a time then too, we are worse than slackers and "Lo, I called, but ye would not." One Who is Now Hoping.

WAR NOT ENDED.

BAKER HOME AGAIN SAYS ON WITH DRIVE.

Secretary of War Declares Liberty Loan Must "Go Over the Top" Regardless of Result of Peace Proposals. Way Paved for Fighting on Greater Scale.

Washington, Oct. 13.—Secretary Baker returned from the Western front today with the message that the Liberty Loan "must go over the top," whatever the result of peace proposals. This was the only comment the secretary would make on the peace overtures. His own explanation of his trip shows that it was taken to pave the way for war on a greater scale.

"The army has done and is doing all that a proud and grateful country could ask," Mr. Baker said on reaching Washington tonight, "and the time has come for us to put in every ounce of our strength to assure its complete victory. The people at home have a solemn responsibility for their share in the final result.

"The Liberty Loan must go over the top. Its success is both our message of gratitude to the boys who are braving war's worst perils in defense of our liberties and a message to Germany that our people at home are as resolute as our soldiers are brave. "Whatever the result of the peace proposals, the war department must proceed at full speed with men and supplies, and the people must support the army until the boys are back with the fruits of victory safe and assured. If every American could have seen our boys in khaki as they stormed the German trenches, assailed with shrapnel, high explosives and machine guns, he would be eager to subscribe his all to the Liberty Loan, the success of which after all is the measure of our support of the cause for which these boys are giving their lives."

As to the purpose of his six week's visit to Europe, Mr. Baker said:

"My trip abroad was principally for the purpose of arranging further cooperation in the matter of shipping for troops and supplies. It was entirely successful and a complete understanding was reached which assures the American army adequate cargo tonnage for its support. The matter was taken up with the inter-allied maritime transport council and the cooperation of the British, French and Italian governments was heartily given.

"Many questions involving cooperation on the part of the several governments were taken up and satisfactorily settled," the secretary continued. "The attitude of both the governments and peoples of the European allies toward America is cordial and every question is approached from the point of view of uniting our strength in the common cause and with the understandings which have been reached with regard to shipping, aircraft, ordnance, and other parts of the allied program, the contribution which the United States can make is rendered definite and the means of accomplishment are arranged."

"The American soldier has won his way in Europe and has helped to cement for all time the good will and good feeling which unites our countries. In England, France and Italy the knightliness of America and her soldiers in this war has won the admiration of the people and in turn the valor and sacrifice of the European allies and their great armies have been an inspiration to Americans."

Of the military situation he said: "The battle of St. Mihiel started the present triumphant advance of the allied armies. From a fortified hill overlooking the battle field, I saw General Pershing's army advance into the salient while more than 2,000 big guns silenced the German artillery and pointed the wedge which finally cut off the salient and rescued from German occupation French soil which for four years had been in their possession.

"The next day I went into St. Mihiel and saw the people at the end of their captivity singing the national songs of France and having a festival of thanksgiving for their deliverance. The blow was sudden and the victory complete.

"For a few days there was a lull. Then by a concerted movement, the French and Americans opened a new attack from the Meuse to the west, covering the Argonne forest, and later the battle was taken up on the entire front, stretching to the channel.

"I witnessed the start from one of the forts of Verdun and again saw divisions of American troops pressing forward with irresistible dash through defenses which had for three years seemed impregnable. The stream of German prisoners and the captured war material told of the surprise and rout of the enemy. The cheers of our soldiers as they pressed on into the battle, and the brave happenings of our wounded in the hospitals back of the line, told the same story. The American army had shown it is irresistible and its spirit is unconquerable."

In summarizing his views of the military situation, Secretary Baker said:

"The allied armies are now in the full tide of victorious advance. American divisions are fighting with the British, with the French, and in their own sectors, and everywhere the enemy is in retreat and disorder."

Accompanying Mr. Baker on his return trip were Assistant Secretary John D. Ryan, now at the head of the army aviation program in which connection he visited France and England, Brig. Gen. Hines, chief of the embarkation service and Walter Gifford, director of the Council of National Defense, who has been in France some months in connection with the formation of the inter-allied and American economic council. Surgeon General Gorgas, who accompanied Mr. Baker to France, will remain abroad for some time.

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ARMISTICE NOT POSSIBLE.

PRESIDENT HAS NOT INDICATED NATURE OF REPLY TO GERMAN'S LAST NOTE.

Unofficial Opinion in Sharp Division—Indications Found That Germany Having Failed to Win Victory Seeks to Have Civil Authorities Arrange Peace and That Failing Revolution May be Expected.

Washington, Oct. 13.—The government asks the American people to withhold their judgment on Germany's note until President Wilson has received the official communication and has had opportunity to consider it.

The official document had not been received in Washington tonight when the president returned from New York. It probably will be here tomorrow when the president with his advisers, among them Secretary Baker, who returned today from the Western battle front, undoubtedly prepared to give him some inside information on the broken condition of the German military power which the world necessarily does not know at this time.

Tonight, as last night, no official of the government felt justified in speaking to guide public opinion in the direction of the views which are being formed. The Associated Press is enabled to say, however, that these views are rapidly crystallizing and the next step will be taken promptly probably sooner than may be expected.

President Wilson is expected to first decide if Foreign Secretary Solf's reply to the inquiries, addressed to Chancellor Maximilian, warrants him in presenting Germany's original proposal to the entente allies. It should be borne in mind that the president's inquiry merely was a move ad interim, in which he proposed nothing, bound himself to nothing, and merely asked some questions which, he declared, required an answer before he could go further.

If the president puts the proposition before the entente it probably will draw a quick reply. Dispatches last night from London, quoting the London Express as announcing the British, French and Italian governments had reached a unanimous decision for a line of common action, were regarded as being deeply significant.

Lacking official guidance on which to base prediction, observers are forced to record indications.

The indications are that there will be no armistice, and that if the entente allies were disposed to agree to one they probably would demand as guarantees of German faith that such places as Metz, Strassburg, Trieste, and possibly Essen be placed in the hands of entente forces to guarantee fulfillment of Germany's words. If Germany expects that by agreeing to the evacuation of occupied territories she will exact the evacuation of German colonies occupied by entente forces, Germany's statesmen have made another mistake. A reference to President Wilson's inquiry shows that he spoke distinctly in reference to invaded territory occupied by troops of the central powers.

When the American capital recovered its balance after the surprise of Foreign Secretary Solf's note it found its unofficial opinion divided into two distinct lines.

One, shared largely by the Republicans in congress, is inclined to the view that Senator Lodge's prediction of a situation which may threaten the substitution of deliberation of diplomacy for victories at arms has been fulfilled.

The other confident in the success of President Wilson's diplomacy and probably forming its conclusions from close knowledge of what the government is planning is very certain that the president has created a situation where he now can deliver another stroke which will bring about unconditional surrender or throw the Kaiser and the German militarists completely out of any power they may retain.

There is a general feeling that the next move will confront the military party with the choice of such an unconditional surrender as will be acceptable to all the allied cobelligerents or a genuine political revolution in Germany which will bring about one.

It has been pointed out that President Wilson's inquiry to Chancellor Maximilian to develop whether the chancellor merely was speaking for the German leaders who have been conducting the war probably was skillfully framed to pave the way for an opportunity to inform the German people directly that no covenants of peace can be made with the men who have betrayed the world.

The present German government which as Secretary Solf says, was supported of the majority of the reichstag, was formed through an imperial decree which permitted it. There is nothing before any of the allied governments, so far as is known to show that there has been any change in the German system which would prevent the autocratic power which uttered that decree from revoking it, when its purpose had been accomplished. In other words, an allied diplomat considering the arrangement of the practical details to carry out the application of the arms of peace, President Wilson has laid down might ask: "What guarantee have we that these arrangements will not be regarded as a scrap of paper."

A close reading of all of President Wilson's pronouncements on the subject, when all else has been eliminated, shows him repeatedly laying down the fundamental principle that no peace can be made while the German people endure Kaiserism. In his reply to the pope's note August 27, 1917, the president said:

"We can not take the word of the present rulers of Germany as a guarantee of anything that is to endure, unless explicitly supported by such conclusive evidence of the will and purpose of the German people themselves as other peoples of the world would be justified in accepting."

In his subsequent pronouncements finally coming down to his New York

BATTLE IN AMERICA.

LIBERTY LOAN MOVES DESPITE OBSTACLES.

German Peace Talk and Spanish Influenza Make Task of Raising Six Billion Dollars Harder But Success Will be Registered if People Continue Efforts.

Washington, Oct. 13.—German peace talk and Spanish influenza, the two great obstacles encountered in the Fourth Liberty Loan campaign, will not be permitted to defeat plans for obtaining more than the \$6,000,000,000, although half of that amount must be raised in the next six days.

Reports from all parts of the country tonight indicated that the American people were fully aroused to the danger of failure through belief that Germany's offer to agree to President Wilson's peace terms meant an early end of the war. Committees everywhere set out to dispel this feeling among the people while thousands of other workers met the situation created by the influenza epidemic by house to house canvasses.

A message to local campaign officials from leading workers in the Cleveland district reflected the sentiment in respect to the German peace proposals.

"The measure of our over subscription," it said, "will be the measure of our efforts to make the roar of our steam down out the peace and victory shouters."

From other districts there came assurances that the people, equal to every test heretofore, would respond patriotically and liberally and provide the tremendous sum needed to carry on the war to a successful end.

From scattered official returns received here today on subscriptions taken shortly after noon yesterday the treasury announced that approximately \$2,500,000,000 had been subscribed through incorporated banks and trust companies. With reports in previous campaigns as a basis it was fair to assume, the announcement said, that the total was not far short of \$3,000,000,000. Thousands of new volunteers will begin work in every district tomorrow and while it is realized here that the task assigned for the closing week is stupendous there was a hopeful feeling at headquarters that the country would go over the top.

Youth 8 Feet 1 Inch Ready to Go to War.

Des Moines, Ia., Oct. 12.—The extreme height of Bernard Coyne, of this city, is expected to keep him out of the army. Bernard, who is just twenty-one is eight feet one inch tall and still growing. He wears a No. 23 shoe.

When he registered in August, military men told him because of his extreme height he would not be accepted by the army. His parents are of ordinary height.

Home Demonstration Work.

Club members are urged to make up their annual reports of work done in gardening, canning, poultry raising, butter making, cooking and the making of labor-saving devices and turn in at once on blanks already supplied them by the Home Demonstration Agents.

The production of food is just as important as the production of munitions in the carrying on of the war, and at this time when every man, woman and child must exert every effort to aid our government in every possible way to bring a speedy and victorious peace, no community wants to be branded as a slacker in any line of service; so send in your reports to the agent in time to prove what the patriotic women, girls and boys are doing. Every pound of food produced or saved for home consumption adds a pound to the national supply.

In Sumter county the following prizes are offered to home demonstration workers:

- 1. To the club making the best all-round record, a beautiful silver trophy cup (to be kept by the club for one year).
- 2. To the club making the best record in conservation of food, \$10 given by the county fair association.
- 3. To the woman making the best individual record, a ten day's scholarship to short course at Winthrop College.
- 4. To the woman making the second best individual record, a ten day's scholarship to short course at Winthrop College.
- 5. To the women making the 3rd, 4th and 5th best individual records each, a ten days' short course at Winthrop College.
- 6. To the Poultry Club girl making the best individual record, a ten days' short course at Winthrop College.
- 7. To the Canning Club girls making the 1st, 2nd and 3rd best individual records each, a ten day short course at Winthrop College.

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speech of September 28, the president drives home the same point each time with a new emphasis.

The conclusion, in the opinion of close observers, would seem to be, that the military party failing to make peace by the sword as it promised gives way to a political party. Upon President Wilson's estimate of how far the present peace party in Germany represents the will of the German people themselves, and of what guarantee there may be that the military autocracy will not be in position to undo at will their work, the next step depends.

There seems little doubt that unless the German people themselves, to use the language of the president, destroy the autocratic power which of its own choice can disturb the peace of the world, or at least reduce it to virtual impotence, the allied armies will continue the work of destroying that power on the battlefields of France and Belgium and probably Germany.