

ALLIES PRESS Foe OVER VESLE RIVER

Fismes' Suburbs Taken By Yankee Troops.

GREAT SALIENT ELIMINATED

Line Now Runs Virtually Direct Along Railway From Soissons to Rheims.

BOCHE RETREAT CONTINUES

Gains of Six Miles Made in Day's Fighting; Entente Forces Rush Up Guns.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY ON THE AISNE-MARNE FRONT, Aug. 3.—(By the Associated Press.)—(10 P. M.)—American troops entered the southern part of Fismes today, while other forces of the allies hold the southern banks of the Aisne and Vesle rivers from Soissons to Fismes.

Eastward it is almost a straight line through Courville, Branscourt, Courcelles and Champigny.

The advance of the whole army was along a front of almost 45 miles.

Many Villages Recaptured.

To the east of Soissons the extension of the line northward along the Aisne, as well as the extension of the general line, makes it probable, in the opinion of military experts, that the Germans will hesitate before concentrating themselves for a stand along the plateau to the east between the Aisne and the Vesle, as the branch railroad from Sermeuse to the north is now dominated by the allied guns.

The broad field covered by the advance today included at least 50 small towns and villages.

PARIS, Aug. 3.—American troops hold the outskirts of Fismes, the great German base in the center of Aisne-Marne salient, according to the War Office announcement tonight.

The allies continued their successful advance today along a front of about 30 miles, toward the Vesle River. They have reached the southern banks of the Aisne and the Vesle, the line extending from Soissons to Fismes.

French Cavalry Operates.

French cavalry patrols now are operating along the railroad between Soissons and Rheims.

The text of the statement reads:

"During the course of the day our troops, driving back the enemy rear-guards, continued their victorious march on a front of about 60 kilometers in the direction of the Vesle River.

"On our left our line extends along the southern banks of the Aisne and the Vesle, from Soissons as far as Fismes, the outskirts of which the Americans hold.

"East of Fismes we have reached a

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CHICAGO SEEMS TO SUSPECT THOMPSON

MAYOR SEEKING TO 'BE SENA-TOR PUBLICLY ACCUSED.

Signs in Street Parade Refer to Illinois City's Executive as Kaiser's Dachshund.

PEORIA, Ill., Aug. 3.—A demonstration against Mayor William Hale Thompson, of Chicago, Senatorial candidate, was staged this evening previous to a Thompson meeting scheduled at a local theater. Men and boys paraded the streets with signs bearing such legends as the following:

"When Thompson speaks the Kaiser smiles."

"Pro-Germans, come hear your leader at the Majestic tonight."

"Thompson is every color except red, white and blue."

"Thompson, the Kaiser's dachshund."

Boys carrying the signs followed the band provided by the Thompson organization.

18 TO 45 PROPOSED DRAFT AGE LIMITS

Increase of Man Power of U. S. Planned.

LEGISLATION TO BE HASTENED

Bill Will Be Introduced in Both Houses Tomorrow.

BAKER FAVORS NEW MOVE

Opposition That Has Existed Herebefore to Lowering of Minimum for Conscripted Men Is Not Likely to Cause Delay.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—Draft ages of from 18 to 45 years will be recommended to Congress in the bill embodying the War Department's new manpower programme, which will be introduced in both houses of Congress Monday and expedited by committees with a view to prompt consideration when regular sessions of the Senate and House are resumed late this month.

Secretary Baker said all the possible combinations of age limits were carefully studied and it was found that in order to get the men into class I for the programme proposed 18 to 45 was necessary.

Age to Have Preference.

He said the bill, as recommended to Congress, will contain a provision authorizing the President to call men out of class I by classes according to ages, so that if it is found possible the men between 18 and 19 will be called out later than the older men who are found eligible to class I.

The War Department programme, the War Secretary said, is purely a military one and cannot be called a conscription of labor, although it will have the effect of putting at useful labor or in the Army all able-bodied men within the age limits.

No Number Agreed On.

In recommending this extension of the age limits, Mr. Baker said, the department had it in mind simply to get for the Army the number of men which it believed necessary to defeat Germany.

The Secretary was not prepared to say how many that would be, nor to give any estimate as to the proportion of males between the ages of 18 to 45, inclusive, which would be found eligible.

In making up the list and classes, the same rules would be followed that had governed in the first draft, with the same exceptions from the first call of married men with dependents and those engaged in essential industries.

He said so far about 1,600,000 had been taken from class I.

Lower Minimum Opposed.

There has been considerable opposition in Congress to lowering the minimum age, many members being reluctant to draft youths before they attain their majority and come into full citizenship.

Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the Senate military committee, said that he expected opposition on that score, but expressed the opinion that there would not be unusual delay in passing the bill.

Senator Chamberlain explained that under the provisions of the bill men between 18 and 21 years of age would be divided into three classes, subject to call in such sequence of years as prescribed. The Senator added that the calling of men between the ages of 21 and 45 would be made by a similar plan.

Youths May Be Called First.

He expressed the opinion, however, that the younger men—those between 18 and 21 years—would be called first.

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The Weather.

YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 75 degrees; minimum, 55 degrees.

TODAY'S—Fair; gentle northwesterly winds.

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England smiles in face of hardships. Section 1, page 15.

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Domestic.

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Coast shipyards lead again. Section 1, page 1.

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Newsmen arrive. Section 1, page 12.

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Louis Stinson to address visiting Elks. Section 1, page 11.

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Pacific Coal Company to rush work on coal bunkers. Section 2, page 11.

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MAN POWER TO BE STUDIED

Shipping Board Announces Appointment of Special Committee.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2.—Appointment of a special committee to make a study of man-power for the merchant marine and future trade requirements was announced today by the Shipping Board.

Includes George Nichols, a cotton goods manufacturer of Boston and New York; A. S. Hebble, of New York, who is connected with the Southern Pacific shipping service, and Dr. E. M. Hopkins, president of Dartmouth College. Headquarters of the committee will be in New York.

Big Building Is Burned.

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 3.—Fire destroyed the four-story building occupied by the Mutual China Company, in the wholesale district of Indianapolis this afternoon, causing a loss estimated at \$250,000. Dense smoke for several hours previously impeded traffic in the greater part of the downtown section of the city.

U. S., JAPAN TO TAKE UP SIBERIAN TASK

Other Allied Nations In Accord.

CZECHO-SLOVAKS TO BE AIDED

"Few Thousand Men" Will Be Sent to Vladivostok.

COMMISSION TO GO LATER

Representatives of American Red Cross, Y. M. C. A., Merchants and Farm Experts Will Be Dispatched.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—Official statements by the American and Japanese governments, made public here tonight, announce that the plans for extending military aid to Russia in Siberia will be undertaken by the United States and Japan alone, with the other allied co-belligerents assenting in principle.

The United States and Japan will each send "a few thousand men" to Vladivostok to act as a common force in occupying and safeguarding the city and protecting the rear of the westward moving Czechoslovak army.

The numbers of the American troops, from where they will go and when may not be discussed.

United States to Co-operate.

While the United States and Japan are extending aid to the Czechoslovak army in Siberia, the United States will continue to co-operate with the allies operating from Murmansk and Archangel. To what extent and in what nature is not announced.

The only present objects of the Japanese-American forces will be to give such aid and protection as is possible to the Czechoslovak forces against the armed body of German and Austrian prisoners of war and to steady any efforts at self-government and self-defense in which the Russians themselves may be willing to accept assistance.

Commission to Be Sent.

Later the United States will send a commission of merchants, agricultural experts, labor advisers, Red Cross representatives and agents of the Y. M. C. A.

Both the United States and Japan in the official announcements make the most specific pledges of the action agreed upon being wholly without thought of interference with the sovereignty of Russia or any interference whatever in her internal affairs.

The Japanese government at the same time pledges itself that when the objects of the mission are accomplished it will withdraw every Japanese soldier and leave the sovereignty of Russia unimpaired in all its parts.

Plan Devised by Wilson.

The agreement, to which all the allies assent, is largely the result of the personal efforts of President Wilson, who has been at work almost unceasingly for weeks to bring the nations together in the most effective plan which at the same time will convince the Russian people that the aim was purely to help them preserve and develop their new-found democracy.

The statement by the Government as to its purposes and aims in extending military and economic aid to Russia, issued in the form of a "statement to the press on the American-Japanese action in Siberia," from the acting Secretary of State follows:

"In the judgment of the Government of the United States—a judgment arrived at after repeated and searching considerations of the whole situation—military intervention in Russia would

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COAST SHIPYARDS LEAD IN OUTPUT

ANOTHER RECORD MADE FOR STEEL AND WOOD SHIPS.

Grant Smith-Porter and Supple-Ballin Companies Among Those That Win Pennants.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—Pacific Coast shipyards in June again led the country in production of both steel and wooden vessels for that month, the Shipping Board announced tonight. Pennants signifying the leadership were awarded today as follows:

Steel yards—First, to the Skinner & Eddy Shipbuilding Corporation, Seattle; second, Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation, Alameda, Cal.; third, Columbia River Shipbuilding Company, Portland.

Wooden yards—First, Grant Smith-Porter Ship Company, St. Johns, Or.; second, Grant Smith-Porter Ship Company, Aberdeen, Wash.; third, Supple-Ballin Shipbuilding Corporation, Portland.

Among the Eastern yards, the Newport News Shipbuilding & Drydock Company's Virginia plant had the best record in steel construction.

ESCAPED CONVICT CAUGHT

A. S. Thurber Is Apprehended While Walking on Powell Road.

GRESHAM, Or., Aug. 3.—(Special.)—A. S. Thurber, who escaped from the Oregon penitentiary last Monday, was captured tonight on the Powell Valley road. The capture was effected by Constable Squire and Deputy Sheriff Cogswell, shortly before 9 P. M. The prisoner was removed to the Multnomah County jail.

Thurber escaped with Bennett Thompson, murderer and life term, by sawing the bars which block exit from the prison yard where the waters of a creek flow beneath the walls.

Constable Squire said that Thompson was believed to be near where his companion, Thurber, was caught and search was under way.

FRAUD IS AGAIN CHARGED

Government Seeks Reversal of Decrees Favoring Southern Pacific.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—Reversal of Federal Court decrees dismissing proceedings brought by the Government against the Southern Pacific Company to have canceled patents to \$109 acres of oil land alleged to have been obtained through fraud in the Elk Hill regions in California was asked in an appeal filed in the Supreme Court today by the Department of Justice.

The government charges that the company represented the land to be non-mineral.

TRAVELING IS DISCOURAGED

Passports Are Refused Prospective Brides by U. S. Government.

CHICAGO, Aug. 3.—Nearly a score of prospective brides have been refused passports to visit the Philippines, Hawaii, Panama and South America, it was announced today. Their applications expressing their wish to join their prospective husbands have been returned in each case marked "Reason inadequate."

It was intimated that the Government is seeking to discourage traveling during the war.

1000 NURSES ARE SOUGHT

Urgent Call Sent Out for Mercy Workers in Overseas Service.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—An urgent call to the American Red Cross to enroll 1000 nurses a week for the next two months for immediate duty with the Army Nurse Corps was issued today by Surgeon-General Gorgas.

With the American Armies overseas entering more and more into the fighting, the Surgeon-General said, the need for additional nurses becomes imperative.

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HOUSER ACQUIRES PORTLAND MILLS

Grain Corporation Official in 10 Million Deal.

WILCOX INTERESTS BOUGHT

Action Taken Only to Head Off Outside Control.

PROPERTY TO BE IN TRUST

Purchaser Not to Take Hold Until After War—Trade Expansion Sought—Excess Profits to Go to Charity.

Financial control of the Portland Flouring Mills Company, one of the largest and oldest milling companies on the Coast, has passed from the Wilcox estate to Max H. Houser, vice-president of the Grain Corporation, and several associates, it was announced yesterday by Mr. Houser. While the consideration was not announced, it is believed to have been close to \$10,000,000.

The deal involves complete control of the Portland Flouring Mills Company, Puget Sound Flouring Mills Company, Puget Sound Warehouse Company, Pacific Coast Elevator Company and subsidiary corporations. The company owns and operates 12 mills in the Northwest having an aggregate capacity of more than 11,000 barrels of flour daily. The principal mill is in Portland, having a capacity of 4000 barrels.

The deal, it is understood, has been pending for some time. Soon after the death last March of Theodore B. Wilcox, who was sole owner, it became generally known that the company was to be sold. Dutch interests were said to have been angling for the properties but, with the reorganization of the company, with R. B. Wilcox at the head, outside interests had little chance to obtain control.

Slow to Step In.

Mr. Houser, who in the last ten years has built up the largest grain export business in Portland, became interested in the property, but because of his position with the grain division of the United States Food Administration, hesitated to acquire large private interests. His decision came only after it had been represented to him that the property probably would be controlled outside the Northwest if he did not step in.

Reorganization plans are held up pending Mr. Houser's arrangements for placing the property in trust for the period of the war. His connection with the grain corporation will make this step imperative. Raymond B. Wilcox, president of the company, is co-operating with Mr. Houser in the transaction, but will sever connection when reorganization plans are complete, he said last night. It was stated that the Wilcox estate has disposed of its entire interest in the company.

Ganong to Remain.

No changes are contemplated in the staff and management. J. W. Ganong, vice-president and general manager, will be retained in that capacity with his entire office and sales force. Other changes