

FRENCH WAR OFFICE SAYS DEVELOPMENTS ARE VERY FAVORABLE

Claims Check of Germans by Belgians Places Allies in a Strong Position.

HEAVY LOSSES IN ALSACE

Aeroplane Corps Has Been the Eyes of France's Army in Several Instances.

By William Philip Sims.
Paris, Aug. 15.—Four developments, the results of serious fighting since the opening of the war, were published by the war office tonight which declared them of inestimable importance to the cause of the allies.

They were:
First: The absolute check of the German plan for a sudden rush toward Paris.

Second: The perfect and swift mobilization of the French army with complete munitions and equipment, making possible coordination with the allies.

Third: The complete domination of Herzegovina by the Serbians, thus checking the sending of Austrian reinforcements either against France or Russia.

Fourth: The control of the seas by the United French and British fleet which insured the revivification of France and England.

French Losses Have Been Large.
The war office knows that the losses in the fighting in Alsace, in the passes of the Vosges mountains, and in the region on the frontier extending from Lunenburg northwest to Montmedy, have been very large. But it insists that the French frontier is intact everywhere and that the road is now open so that an advance in force on Strasbourg, the ancient capital of Alsace-Lorraine, can be pushed after next week.

In the frontier fighting, the aeroplane corps has indeed proved the eyes of the army. Time and again advancing German raiding columns intended to surprise the French outposts, have been located and annihilated. Two instances of this were dwelt on in the official report today.

Aeroplane Corps Proved Valuable.
One was in the fighting that gave the French forces control of the Saale pass, which dominates the valley of the Bueche, an affluent of the Rhine. The German troops were entrenched in a very strong position, but the French airmen mapped the fortifications, located all the defense guns, and the French, advancing in force, supported by artillery, placed their guns so they were able to get the range of the German guns right from the start.

The French artillery proved far superior to the German, according to the war office reports, and were able to disable most of the defensive guns. Then the French charged the German front and carried it at the point of the bayonet, driving the Germans completely through the pass and into the open country beyond.

Column from Metz Driven Back.
The second was when a very strong German column was driven from Metz towards the French frontier defenses. Long before they had reached the French border an attacking column of French infantry, supported by motor and motorcycle detachments and several batteries of artillery had taken up a position fronting the advancing German line.

The result was a complete check to the Germans, who were driven back on Metz with heavy loss. During this engagement a German division was captured and the French advanced base and dropped three bombs, none of which did any damage to the troops, who saw the aviator coming. He was pursued by a German line by French aviators, but made his escape.

British Commander in Paris.
Field Marshal Sir John French, commander in chief of the British army now on French and Belgian soil who yesterday joined General Joffre at the French concentration base, spent today in Paris. He conferred with the chiefs of the army general staff and also paid his respects to the president.

The presence of the British commander-in-chief of the British expeditionary force, the strength of which is estimated at 100,000 men, at its base, probably in front of Brussels.

Charges of alleged German violations of the rules of civilized warfare have brought a sharp reply from Germany. Neutral powers forwarded it to the French government today, and a copy has already been served on the Belgian government. The German notification is construed here as a threat to kill without mercy any non-combatant who falls into their hands without question, the Germans, should they gain a foothold either in Belgium or France.

General Joffre Commands Allies

GENERAL JOFFRE COMMANDS ALLIES



General Joffre, French military leader, who assumed chief command of the allies' forces in Belgium Saturday.

BOYS CAUGHT IN ACT OF SETTING FIRE TO UNDERBRUSH IN LANE

Suspected That Man Who Wanted Work Is Leader of the Gang.

Eugene, Or., Aug. 15.—Three boys were caught in the act of setting fire to the underbrush in the Lane County Fire Patrol association, which was being prosecuted. Carl V. Oglesby, head warden for the Lane County Fire Patrol association, declared that the numerous fires discovered in that portion of the mountains were being maliciously started, and began to watch for the guilty persons. One evening this week he caught one youth 18 years old and two boys between 11 and 13 years old applying a burning torch to the dry underbrush and fern on both sides of the road for half a mile.

Their names are not divulged at this time in the hope of rehabilitating the man the boys say is responsible and who, they say, has set out a number of the fires so that he might get paid for the work of assisting the fire rangers in fighting them. This man was in Eugene a few days and put in a bill to the United States forestry department for his services so far.

At that time his speech and actions were suspicious, and the officials of the department and the members of the patrol association began an investigation, with the result that these boys were caught.

The fire thought to have been set out by these persons have covered an area of over 100 acres, but there has been little damage to timber. It cost the fire patrol association over \$100 to catch them.

The penalty for this offense is a term in the state penitentiary of from one to 10 years.

Cyrus H. Walker Gives Books.
Albany, Or., Aug. 15.—Learning that the Lin County Historical society is making an effort to collect all historical works, literature on Oregon and the Pacific northwest, Cyrus H. Walker, the oldest living white man born west of the Rockies, today presented to the Albany public library at the solicitation of the society, a valuable collection of historical books, which he has collected during his life.

Many Real Estate Exchanges Offered Today in the Journal

The following items will give some idea of the variety of exchanges offered in the Journal "Want Ads" today.

These all appear in the "Exchange-Real Estate" column.

"I have 10% income property to exchange for a good improved farm up to \$20,000."

"Income flat building, close to good business street. Cash price \$15,000. Owner wants an improved farm with stock and implements, not over 40 miles from Portland."

"800 acre green ranch, fully equipped, stock, machinery, tools, etc. Trade for small farm in valley."

"Eastern Oregon irrigated quarter section partly improved, unimproved, value \$8000, for farm or city property."

ADVERTISING DIRECTORY

SECTION ONE

1. Jaeger Bros.—Silver Specials. Thompson—Optician. Edwards Furniture Co.

2. Roberts Bros.—Specials. 3. Lion Clothing Co.—Fall Styles for Men.

4. Ben Selling—Men's Suit Sale. 5. Portland Hotel—Announcement.

6. Fairless Parker—Dentistry. 7. Union Dentists—Special Prices.

8. Lane-Davis—College. 9. Majestic Theatre—Reading Notice.

10. Baker Shoe Co.—Shoe Specials. 11. Multnomah Hotel—Announcement.

12. Morgan-Archley—Fire Sale, Furniture. 13. Woodward-Clark—Picture Framing.

14. J. G. Mack—Clothing Out Sale, Furniture. 15. Jimmy Dunn—Suits for Men.

16. Meier & Frank—Specials. SECTION TWO

1. Olds, Wortman & King—Specials. 2. LaFerty—Reading Notice.

3. Kilham Stationery & Printing Co. 4. Max Michel—Men's Suits.

JAPANESE OFFICIALS SAY JUSTICE WOULD PROMPT WAR ACTION

Count Okuma, Premier of Japan, Declares Country Would Maintain Peace.

(By the International News Service.)
New York, Aug. 15.—The following cable dispatch was received today from Tokyo by the East and West News Bureau, a Japanese news agency here:

"Count Okuma, Japan's premier, declared that 'Japan, if forced to join the European conflict, will do so, with the single purpose of fulfilling her treaty obligation to her ally and of upholding the cause of justice. Her object is the maintenance of peace in the Orient.'"

"Japan's conscience is clear. 'Japan's proximity to China breeds many absurd rumors, but I declare that Japan acts with a clear conscience, in conformity to justice and in perfect accord with her ally. Japan has no territorial ambition but hopes to stand as the protector of peace in the Orient.'"

"A high official of the foreign office says: 'Japan has received no note whatever from the American government in connection with the present crisis. Even in case a necessity arises for Japan to take upon herself the duty of discharging her treaty obligation to Great Britain, Japan sees no need of any explanation for such an action for she shall act with a clear conscience in conformity with justice. We are confident that the United States understands full well this position of Japan and consequently we cannot think for a moment that our good neighbors in America shall be awarded by any uneasiness by the attitude of Japan.'"

Launch Looking For Leipsig Warned

San Francisco, Aug. 15.—A launch carrying Dr. Simon Reimer, representing the German consulate and looking for the Leipsig, was warned back to shore today by order of Collector J. O. Davis.

This decisive action for the preservation of the absolute neutrality of San Francisco was taken at the request of Rear Admiral Pond, supervisor of neutrality.

As naval commandant of the Twelfth district, Admiral Pond had arranged for port lookouts to see that neutrality is not infringed.

The keenness of the German consulate to communicate with the Leipsig is easily explained.

Last Wednesday the German consul spoke with Captain Haun of the Leipsig and probably was told exactly what the vessel would wish to do with its 24-hour neutrality license.

The Leipsig, as well as the Narnburg, is in a peculiar position. It is far away from a German port, it is stripped for action, it is running low on food for the 120 officers and men aboard and coal is sliding low in its bunkers.

To wait outside the heads and grab contraband is one way to a lower price today by order of Collector J. O. Davis.

Money is Great Factor

Germany Has the Odds Against Her in the Conflict, Is the Opinion of Noted Experts.

By Sir Hiram S. Maxim.
London, Aug. 15.—(Special Cable to the International News Service.)—I have seen this coming for a long time. Four great continental powers have been straining every nerve to see how large an army they could raise and equip. They had these armies, and, like a boy with a plaything, they wanted to use them.

It appears to me that the Kaiser was anxious for war. He was of the opinion that he had the strongest army the world had ever known. He deemed this a favorable time to strike, and, as he believed England was so absorbed in the Irish trouble, that she wouldn't support her friends. The Kaiser fully expected no opposition would be offered to the march of a large portion of his army through Belgium in order to attack France.

Russia to Sweep Down.
Now that Serbia has been quite successful in keeping Austrians out of her country, the Colossus of Russia will sweep down on Germany and Austria like an avalanche in about three weeks.

French and Belgians are very much alike. They have the same system of fortifications. A great deal has been done in the last 20 years to make the eastern frontier of France impregnable. Lorry has a great variety of defensive works of great strength; not only this, but the French artillery is undoubtedly the best in the world.

Austria has a large army, but the Austrians will have all they can do, and a great deal more, to keep the Russians out of their own country, to say nothing of keeping them out of Germany. It will be necessary for Germany to send a large force to the east to aid Austria, and in all probability the alliance will not last a great deal longer than the war.

The English army, it is true, is not very large, but England can certainly send 200,000 men to the front. Little Belgium can send a like number. If England is pressed, she can send fully 600,000 to the front. The English are very good, stubborn fighters, and, as matters stand, I don't think the Germans have much chance.

It was to look at it from a purely mathematical standpoint, I should say the chances against Germany are fully 10 to 1.

Nothing but a very unfavorable mistake on the part of the English and French will enable the Germans to reach Paris.

This particular war is not like the war in South Africa, nor any other uncivilized country. Troops can and will be moved with great rapidity.

Quick Marches Won.
Napoleon said that battles were won by quick marches. I opine that this war will be of rather short duration. In regard to these, England is supposed to have a force little more than equal to two of the largest continental fleets.

There are no better sea fighters in the world than the English. If they had to deal with Germany alone, they would be little chance but that the German fleet would be wiped off the sea; but when you consider the French and Russian fleets are added, I should say the Germans don't stand one chance in a hundred.

Money is the great factor in war. Leaving the United States out of the question, England is the richest country in the world; France is second; Russia third, and Germany fourth. France is extremely rich; her people are quite as patriotic as any. The war of 1866 between Russia and Austria lasted only six weeks.

Kaiser Is Anxious To Bring On War of the Nations, Says Maxim

Conflict Was Bound to Come Sooner or Later, Declares Inventor.

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