

U.S. PREPARATION AWAKENING HUNS

German Military Critic Says America's Strength Is Now Realized

WASHINGTON, April 8.—Word that American reinforcements are moving to the support of the allies in Picardy has revived argument in Germany over the efficacy of the submarine and drawn from Captain Persius, military critic of the Berliner Tageblatt, the comment that, after being persuaded to underestimate America, German opinion is undergoing a change.

An official dispatch from Switzerland today reviewing the latest discussion quotes Captain Persius as follows:

"We were at first a great deal inclined to underestimate the capacity of America in the war. We begin now to note a change of opinion. It is beyond a doubt that it would be well to curb at the present time, these more or less fantastic vagaries of persons discussing the submarine war. We cannot for the moment estimate when the United States will have ready the millions of men her population will permit her to raise, but it is certain America will, in the very near future, succeed in amassing armies which, in any case, will constitute a very valuable aid for our enemies."

Captain Persius concludes by noting that America is preparing for a war of long duration.

PREMIER IS FOR DRAFTING OF IRISH

(Continued from page 1)

all that is essential and most sacred in our national life.

"Before I come to the circumstances which led up to our submitting these proposals to parliament, I ought to say one word as to why parliament was not immediately summoned. Since the battle began the government has been engaged almost every hour in concerting with the allies the necessary measures to assist the armies to deal with the emergency.

"The proposals which we intend

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submitting to parliament require very close and careful examination and I think there is this advantage in our meeting today, rather than immediately after the impact of the German attack that we shall be considering these proposals under conditions which will be far removed from any suggestion of panic. Happenings Not Known.

"I shall now come to the circumstances which have led to the present military position. It is very difficult at this time to present a clear, connected and reliable narrative of what happened. There has been a great battle on a front of fifty miles—the greatest battle ever fought in the history of the world. Enormous forces have been engaged; there was a considerable retirement on the part of the British forces, and under these conditions it is not always easy for some time to ascertain what actually happened.

"The house will recollect the difficulty we experienced with regard to Cambrai. It was difficult to piece together the story of the event for some time and Cambrai was a very trivial event, compared with this gigantic battle.

"The generals and their staffs are naturally engaged and have to concentrate their attention upon the operations of the enemy and until the strain relaxes it would be very difficult to institute the necessary inquiries to find out exactly what happened and to furnish an adequate explanation of the battle.

"However, there are a few facts which stand out, and, in stating them I should like to call attention to two things, which I think above all must be avoided. The first is that nothing should be said which could give information to the enemy; nothing should be said which would give encouragement to the enemy, and nothing should be said which would give discouragement to our own troops, who are fighting so gallantly at this very hour.

Reimprimatur Shut Out.

"And the second question is that all reimprimatur at this hour must be shut out.

"What was the position at the beginning of the battle?

"Notwithstanding the heavy casualties in 1917, the army in France was considerably stronger on the first of January, 1918, than on the end of 1917—up to, say about October or November—the German combatant strength in France was as two to the allies' three. Then came the military collapse of Russia, and the Germans hurried up their released divisions from the eastern front and brought them to the west. They had a certain measure of Austrian support, which had been accorded to them.

"Owing to the growth of the strength of our armies in 1917, when this battle began the combatant strength of the whole of the German army on the western front was only approximately, though not quite, equal to the total combatant strength of the allies in infantry. They were slightly inferior in artillery; they were inferior in cavalry; they were considerably inferior, and what is very important, they were undoubtedly inferior in aircraft.

"The Germans, therefore, organized their troops so as to produce a larger number of divisions out of a slightly smaller number of infantry and a slightly smaller number of guns. They had fewer battalions in a division and fewer men in a battalion. That is entirely a question of organization and it yet remains to be seen that their organization is better than ours. It is necessary to explain that in order that the house should realize why with approximately the same number of men, the Germans have a larger number of divisions on that front.

German Advantages Seen.

"According to all the facts which have come to hand as to the losses of the battle, that roughly represents the relative strength of the combatants on both sides at this moment. The Germans had, however, one or two important advantages, which is always commanded by the offensive, is that they know where they mean to attack. They choose the ground; they choose the location; they know the width of the attacks; they know the dimensions of the attack; they know the time of the attack; they know the method of the attack. All that invariably gives the initial advantage to the offensive.

"The defense has a general advantage. Owing to air observation concealment is difficult. At the same time in spite of all that, owing to the power of moving troops at night, which the Germans exercised to a very large extent, there is a large margin for surprise even in favor of air observation and of this the enemy took full advantage.

"I should like to say one word here as to the difficulty which the allied generals were confronted with in this respect. Before the battle the greatest German concentration was in front of our troops. That was proof that the full weight of the attack would fall on us. There was a very large concentration opposite the French lines. There was a very considerable concentration—I am referring to the German reserves—on the northern part of our line.

"After the battle began, or immediately before the battle, the Germans by night brought their divisions from the northern part to the point where the attack took place. They also took several divisions from opposite the French in the same way and brought them to our front. But it would have been equally easy for them, while concentrating troops opposite our front, to maneuver them in the same way opposite the French. I am only referring to that in order to show how exceedingly difficult it is for general on the defensive to decide exactly where, in their judgment, the attack is coming and

where they ought to concentrate their reserves.

Newsies' Consider Problem.

"I may just say a word here. This problem was considered very closely by the military staff at Versailles, and I think it right, in justice to them, to point out that after a study of the German position and the probabilities of the case, they came to the conclusion, and they stated their conclusion to the military representatives and to the ministers in the month of January, or the beginning of February, that the attack would come south of Arras; that it would be an attack on a very wide front—that it would be an attack on the widest front ever yet assailed; that the Germans would accumulate ninety-five divisions for the purpose of making that attack; that they would throw the whole of their resources and their strength into breaking the British line at that point and that their objective would be the capture of Amiens and the severance of the British and French forces.

"That was the conclusion Sir Henry Wilson, chief of the Imperial staff, came to and which was submitted at that time, two or three months ago, and I think that it was one of the most remarkable forecasts of enemy intentions that was ever made.

"As a matter of fact, the attack was made up, I think, by about ninety-seven divisions. There was an attack on the widest front that ever had been engaged. Its objective undoubtedly, was the capture of Amiens and the severance of the British and French forces. So that almost in every detail, that very remarkable forecast has been verified in the event.

"Another remarkable prediction was that it might probably succeed to the extent of penetrating the British line to the extent of half the distance of the front attacked. They came to that conclusion from a close examination of the offensives of the war.

Kaiser Sees No Enemy Unity.

"There was another advantage. There was, first of all, the advantage which the Germans had from having the initiative. There was a further advantage they had, and this undoubtedly was the greatest advantage from having a united command opposed to a dual one. The Germans undoubtedly relied on this to a very large extent for their success in this attack to this.

"It was reported to me on good authority that the Kaiser informed ex-King Constantin: 'I shall beat them, for they have no united command.' Which shows that that was what they were relying in the main, that although their numbers were slightly inferior, they knew the importance that was to be attached to the fact that there was a perfectly united command.

"And that is an obvious advantage, for, if the risks in one particular part of the line are great, another in another part of the line are great, but substantially less than in the former, with one command there is no hesitation in the mind of the commander-in-chief as to which he will make the greatest provision against.

"With two separate commands the problem is a difficult one.

"The enemy have another incidental, but, as it turned out, very important advantage—that of weather. Exceptional weather favored his designs. It was both dry and misty. The attack which succeeded was made on that part of the line where under ordinary spring conditions the ground would have been almost impassable.

Huns Use Advantage.

"The fact that it was warm increased the mist, and the Germans were actually in some parts within a few yards of our front line before any one knew of their approach. They had, therefore, a very splendid advantage, of which they made full use.

"With regard to the battle itself, it will take some time to ascertain the whole facts. At one time it was undoubtedly very critical. The enemy broke through between our third and fifth armies, and there was a serious gap, and the situation was retrieved owing to the magnificent conduct of our troops. They retired in perfectly good order, re-establishing the junction between the two armies and frustrating the enemy's purpose.

"The house can hardly realize, and certainly cannot sufficiently thank—nor can the country—our troops for their superb valor and the grim tenacity with which they faced overwhelming hordes and clung to their position. They retired, but were never routed and once more the cool pluck of the British soldier, that refuses to acknowledge defeat, saved Europe. I mean the whole army, and I draw no distinction.

"And I specially refer to what one brigadier general did. Some reference has been made in the press already to it, where it one point there was a serious gap, which might have let the enemy into Calais.

"Until the whole circumstances which led to the retirement of the fifth army and its failure to hold the line of the Somme, at least till the Germans brought out their guns and perhaps the failure adequately to destroy the bridges are explained, it would be unfair to censure the general in command of the army, General Gough. But until those circumstances are cleared up it would be equally unfair to the British army to retain his services in the field. It is necessary to recall him until the facts have been fully ascertained.

Position Held Stabilized.

"After the retirement of the fifth army, the French reserves came up with remarkable rapidity, when their positions before the battle has been borne in mind. In fact the speed with which, when the final decision was taken as to the real designs of the enemy, the French reserves were brought up is one of the most remarkable feats of organization in this war and between the courage of our troops and the handling of the army—the way the third army held, I think it right that it should be said about the army commanded by General Byng—the position is for the moment stabilized. But it is clear that the Germans, having

gained an initial success are preparing another, and perhaps an even greater attack on the allied armies.

"Up to the present the enemy has undoubtedly obtained a great initial success. There is no good in not accepting the fact. It is from that basis we must begin to build. But he has failed so far in his main objects. He failed to capture Amiens. He failed to separate the French and British armies. But we should be guilty of great, it might be fatal, error if we were to underestimate the gravity of the prospect.

"The enemy has captured valuable ground which is too near Amiens for comfort and security, and he has succeeded for the time being in crippling one of our great armies.

Boys Hurried to France.

"To meet the emergency, the cabinet took every step to hurry up reinforcements. No such large numbers of men ever passed across the channel in so short a time.

"As the emergency was great, it was impossible to allow those who were summoned to France the usual leave to visit their relatives.

"There was an understanding that the boys under 19 years of age would be only used in case of emergency. We felt that the emergency had arisen, and insofar as those who were over 18 were concerned, those who had already received six months' training, we felt it necessary that they should be sent to France.

"As to prisoners, guns and machine guns, which were lost, the numbers are grossly exaggerated by the enemy.

"The ministry of munitions were able to replace those guns and machine guns and still have got a very suitable reserve. The same thing applies to ammunition. There is an ample reserve of ammunition both in this country and in France.

Next Encounter Awaited.

"Our aircraft strength is greater now than before the battle and we all know what brilliant service our airmen rendered in this battle. Until the whole story of the battle is told it will be almost impossible to estimate the services they rendered. We feel confident that our armies, generals and soldiers, will be quite equal to the next encounter, whenever it comes.

"The next step to which I should like to call attention is the material and dramatic assistance rendered by President Wilson in this emergency as one of the most important decisions in the war. In fact, the issue of the battle might very well be determined by this decision.

U. S. Help Anticipated.

"In America there is a very considerable number of men in the course of training and the allies looked forward to having a large American army in France in the spring. It has taken longer than anticipated to turn those soldiers into the necessary divisional organizations. If America wanted to complete these divisional organizations it would not be possible for these fine troops in any large numbers to take part in this battle in this campaign, although it might be very well the decisive battle of the war.

"This was, of course, one of the most serious disappointments from which the allies had suffered. It is no use pretending it was not one of our chief causes of anxiety. We depend upon it largely to make up the defection of Russia. For many reasons—reasons, perhaps of transport, reasons connected with the time it takes, not merely to train troops and their officers, but to complete the necessary organization—it was quite impossible to put into France the number of divisions everyone had confidently expected would be there.

"Under the circumstances we therefore suggested to the president of the United States a definite proposal, the aim in June and within the secretary of state for war in this country within two or three days after the battle had commenced. Mr. Balfour and I had a long conversation with him upon the whole situation and we submitted to him certain recommendations which we had been advised to make to Mr. Baker and the American government.

Americans Merge With Allies.

"On the strength of the conversation we submitted proposals to President Wilson which, with the support of Premier Clemenceau, enable the combatant strength of the American army to come into action during this battle, inasmuch as there was no hope of it coming in as a strong separate army. By this decision American battalions will be brigaded with those of the allies. This proposal was submitted by Earl Reading on behalf of the British government to President Wilson and President Wilson assented to the proposal without any question, with the result that arrangements are now being made for the fighting strength of the American army to be brought immediately to bear in this struggle, a struggle which is only now beginning, to this extent, and it is beginning to a small extent, that the German attack has been held up. It has stirred up the resolution and energy of America beyond anything which has yet occurred.

"Another important decision taken by the allies I must also call to the attention of the house. It became more obvious after the battle than ever before—that the allied armies were suffering from the fact that they were fighting as two separate armies and had to negotiate support with each other. Valuable time was thus lost. Some of us had been deeply impressed by this need for some time and had done our best to avoid it.

"But the inherent difficulties to be overcome are tremendous. There are national prejudices, national interests, professional prejudices and traditions. The inherent difficulties of getting two or three separate armies to fight as one are almost insurmountable and it can only be done if public opinion in all these countries insist upon it as one condition of success. The Versailles conference was suggested as a remedy. How were the Versailles decisions carried out; and the extent to which they were not carried out? This is not the time to inquire.

"I respect the opinion of the house that no good would come at this stage in discussing this question. But if any one needed conviction as to the wisdom of that policy,

this battle must be supplying it. The peril we passed through, by establishing the conviction without challenge, may, I think, be worth the price we paid for it. A few days after the battle commenced there was not merely the government, but the commanders in the field. We had not merely field marshals, but army commanders present. We were so convinced—and the same thing applied to the French—of the importance of more complete strategic unity that they agreed to the appointment of General Foch as the supreme director of the strategy of all the allied armies on the western front.

"May I not say just one word about General Foch? It is not merely that he is one of the most brilliant soldiers in Europe, but there is this to be said about him. Foch is the man who, when we were attacked and in a similar plight at the battle of Ypres, roused the French army there by every conceivable expedient—buses, cabs, lorries, anything he could lay his hands upon. He crowded French divisions through and undoubtedly helped to win the great battle.

Unity Condition of Victory.

"There is no doubt about the loyalty and comradeship of General Foch. I have no doubt that this arrangement will be carried out, not merely in the letter, but in the spirit. But what is the most important decision that has been taken in ference to the coming battles. This strategic unity is, I submit to the house, the fundamental condition of victory. It can only be maintained by complete cooperation between the governments and the generals and by something more than that—the unmistakable public opinion behind it.

"Why do I say that? For the reason. A generalissimo in the ordinary and full sense of the term may be impracticable. There are three functions which a general wields—strategical, tactical and administrative. What does administrative mean? It means control of organization, the appointment and dismissal of officers and generals, and that is a power which it is difficult or almost impossible to give to generals of another country with a national army.

Success Depends on Backing.

"Therefore, in spite of all the arrangements made, unless there be not merely god will, but the knowledge that the public of France, Great Britain and America will assist in co-ordination and in supporting the authority in the supreme strategic plans chosen by the governments and supporting the governments in any action they may take to assert their authority, any arrangements made will be futile and mischievous. I make no apology for dwelling at some length upon this point. I have always felt that we were losing value and efficiency in the allied armies through lack of co-ordination and concentration.

"We have sustained many disasters already through this and we shall encounter more unless this defect in our machinery is put right. Hitherto, every effort at amendment led to rather prolonged and very bitter controversy and the most inherent difficulties were the greatest accentuated and aggravated. There were difficulties of carrying out plans and other obstacles and what is worst, valuable time is lost."

SOLDIERS TELL TALES OF WAR

Private Burke and Sergeant-Major Christy Thrill Big Audience

Sergeant Major Christy and Private Burke, two Canadian soldiers who stirred the liberty bond solicitors at the noon assembly at the First Methodist church yesterday, spoke to an audience at the armory last night that packed the auditorium. The fact that one of the soldiers who stood before them had lost an eye and had his body lacerated with wounds, and that the other, after being gassed at Ypres, had endured fearful hardship in a German prison camp before his escape, brought the war nearer to those in the audience than it has been brought on any previous occasion.

Mr. Christy said that he had been incorrectly reported as having been wounded eight times, but that the shrapnel that wounded him on one occasion had lacerated his body in eight different places. His left eye was blown out and his skull fractured so that a bit of bone from one leg was inserted to fill the whole.

"There is some advantage in that," said the sergeant major, "because now when I want to scratch my leg I don't have to reach so far."

Skilled Doctors in Arm.

"Don't you young fellows be afraid of being wounded," he continued, "for no matter what the bullets and the shells do to you, those doctors over there can patch you up so that your girls will never know you have been hurt unless you tell them."

Christy was one of twenty-four men out of 275 in his company left after a certain engagement which he described last night. He emphasized the work of the Canadians and said that whenever an officer desires to have something done over in France he is likely to ask the Canadians to do it. He described conditions as they have been caused by the war, particularly the devastation of the country, and pointed to the necessity of wheatless and meatless days and other food regulations. He urged the young men in his audience to enlist for service and put in a word for the liberty bond sales.

American Soldiers Praised.

Sergeant Major Christy has no use for the I. W. W. and mimes no words in saying so.

"Drive them out," he urged, "if they are allowed to settle in any community they will cause trouble. Keep them moving on."

He visited the cantonment at Camp Lewis some time ago and commended the type of men quartered there.

Private Burke's story of his escape from the German prison camp illustrated the truth of the saying that "truth is stranger than fiction," and left no doubt that the cruelties and atrocities attributed to the Huns are as bad as reported. He described the cruelty of the German officers to prisoners compelled to work on the coke ovens and in the mines, and told of Belgian children with their arms and legs cut off.

"When the Canadian prisoners of whom I was one landed at Essen," said Private Burke, "the people of the city gathered about us and spit upon us." He told how the prisoners were starved on filthy rations.

The occasion of a visit of former Ambassador Gerard to the prison camp before the United States entered the war, Mr. Burke said, caused a general clean-up in the camp and the display of nicely dressed beavers, but the camp reverted to its regular condition as soon as the ambassador left the camp.

Adventures Are Thrilling.

Hair-breadth escapes were daily occurrences after Private Burke had escaped the camp with one companion until they succeeded in getting across the boundary of Holland.

Private Burke still suffers from the effects of the gas attack of the Germans, his speech being very noticeably affected as a result.

Following the addresses of the soldiers, Miss Ada Miller sang two selections.

BENCH OFFICES ARE ATTRACTIVE

Charles A. Johns Files Candidacy to Succeed Justice McCamant

One candidate for the supreme court bench and two candidates for the circuit bench for the fourth judicial district, all Republicans, filed their declarations yesterday. Charles A. Johns of Portland aspires to the supreme court position, now held by Justice McCamant. His slogan is "Fearless and impartial administration of justice."

Arthur C. Dayton of Portland is a candidate for judge in department No. 2, fourth district, and Robert C. Wright of Portland is a candidate for judge in department No. 4.

Seymour Jones of Salem, who is elected to the legislature will be a candidate for speaker of the house, filed his declaration of candidacy yesterday. His platform is: "I favor strict economy in state and local matters consistent with proper public administration; I favor state aid to dependent wives, children and mothers of soldiers in cases where the federal government has not afforded proper or adequate assistance; favor passing a law permitting soldiers outside the state in the government service to vote, and the prosecution of the war at any and all cost until victory."

Four other candidates for the lower house, all Republicans, filed yesterday. They are: John Lowell, Oregon City, sixteenth representative district; Clar C. Clark, Arlington, twenty-eighth district; W. C. Bolton, Friend, twenty-ninth district; Orest R. Richards, Portland, eighteenth district. A part of Richards' slogan is "No 6-cent car fare."

Scouts Will Organize for District Council

It is proposed by the local Boy Scouts to organize a district council, the district to include Salem and all nearby towns in Marion and Polk counties, the body to be made up of one representative from each Scout troop organized. Also a few members from other organizations interested in Scout work. One of the first matters to come before the council will be the formation of a Scout commission which will have charge of the organization of new troops in the district, and also have supervision of the scout work generally.

At a meeting held at the First Christian church Sunday afternoon, at which seven or eight troops were represented by their scout masters, a committee was selected composed of O. J. Hull, M. A. Fulkerson and Fred Cook, which will arrange for a Scout rally to be held in the court-rooms at this meeting members of the council will be elected and the district organized. Boy Scout work will be put on and a good program presented. Scout Executive Brockway of Portland will be invited to attend and preside over the meeting, the date of which will be announced later, possibly about the time the Scouts enter upon their liberty campaign work April 20.

Emergency Board Provides for Quarantine of Women

The state emergency board yesterday authorized the creation of a deficiency in the state board of health's department for the provision of a fund of \$15,000 for the quarantine of women infected with venereal diseases. The board meeting was attended by representatives of the state board of health, the Oregon Social



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STARTING THURSDAY LIBERTY THEATRE

Hygiene society and by Colonel Magruder of the health department of the army, whose special work is the protection of soldiers from diseases of this character.

The plan to be followed is that of transporting infected women from all parts of the state to a central quarantine station to be located at Portland. Colonel Magruder and Dr. H. E. Holt, secretary of the board of health will tour the state to secure the co-operation of the different towns. A conference was held with city Health Officer Miles and other local officials here yesterday.

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