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BRITISH PREMIER ADVISES AGAINST OVER OPTIMISM

Lloyd George Admits Recent Victories Are Greatest of War for Allies, but Says, "Steady; Don't Gloat Yet."

By ED L. KEEN
(United Press Staff Correspondent)
London, Aug. 12.—"Steady; don't gloat yet"—Premier Lloyd George's advice, thus epitomized, is as good for America as it is for Great Britain, which is having a hard time to keep the lid on its optimism, although fully appreciating the soundness of the warning against over-optimism.

It is granted that for the allies this is the greatest victory of the war. The enemy has been out-strategized, out-generaled, out-soldiered, out-fought and out-tanked, with a force which even the German press admits is only slightly superior numerically. And, although the enemy is temporarily demoralized and disorganized, military authorities agree the allies have only got a fair start on the road to triumph.

The German military machine is still potent and capable of indefinite resistance on the defensive. Nor is the possibility of a resumption of the enemy offensive in some unexpected quarter altogether removed.

Although the allies in the past four days have tightened their grasp on the recently recovered initiative, this might easily be lost through over-confidence, unwarranted over-estimation of the enemy's unrecuperative powers or some strategic error. It would be a deplorable mistake, if assuming the end of the war is in sight, any of the allies should permit the slightest relaxation of effort. The war will end sooner if they apply from now on every possible ounce of power and resource.

Germany's substitution of a political for a military initiative already is becoming apparent. Resumption of peace efforts, with attractive amendments to the former suggestion of a trade in the west for the east, can be expected for the purpose of beguiling the allies into withholding the knockout.

BOCHE ARE UNABLE TO STEM TIDE

(Continued from page one)

and British forces were reported approaching Bray last night.

The Germans are reported to be centering attacking in front of Roye. The French, however, have L'Eschelle (three miles west of Roye).

The French have made a further advance on an 18-mile front between the Avre and the Oise, while the situation between Roye and the Somme has become more stabilized, owing to the increased enemy resistance.

The British have taken Lihons. (They previously were reported to have captured the city, but evidently were driven out in the German counter attack there). Reports that Chaumes and Roye have been captured are incorrect.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS

With the British Armies in France, Aug. 12.—(2:45 a. m.)—Von Derwitz and von Butler are trying desperately to stiffen the resistance of their armies, whose backs are now almost tight against the Somme.

The allies are advancing slowly but steadily, their guns commanding not only Roye, Chaumes, Neule and Peronne, but the Somme crossings everywhere.

By LOWELL MELLETT

With the French Armies in the Field, Aug. 12.—(12:40 a. m.)—German reserves rushed into action, partial reorganization of the demoralized elements and arrival of fresh artillery have succeeded in slowing up, but not stopping the advance of General Debeny's and General Humbert's armies.

The line last night showed progress between the Oise and Mats rivers, little Switzerland—as this is sometimes called—becoming untenable for the enemy. Progress toward Ribecourt is threatening the Germans' hold on Noyon. The French are within a mile and a half of Roye.

Against strong resistance, the French have captured Montigny wood, Elincourt and Antheval.

Montdidier Mass of Ruins

Trees felled across roads and paths choked with abandoned German material are contributing toward slowing up the French advance. They also prevented two American correspondents from advancing beyond Montdidier yesterday. We were the first Americans to reach the newly delivered city, if the mass of ruins can be called a city.

Montdidier has been a battle gauge only since March and we hoped to find it only partly devastated.

Approaching gingerly along a road which the seventy-five had pitted and pecked and which busy crews of Indo-Chinese had restored sufficiently to enable free passage of automobiles, our first view from the nearest hill made it seem as though it was the same city, sitting proudly upon a butte.

When we reached Mesnil, the nearest

suburb, we began to see what looked like buildings, but were only wrecks. Of the ancient church of St. Pierre only a battered tower and enough of the facade to form a pointed arch above the doorway remained.

Devastation Complete.
Mesnil forecasted the condition of Montdidier. Mesnil apparently was composed chiefly of houses built of wooden framework, with plastered walls and tiled roofs. Only the frames remained, shining in the sunlight with a ghastly appearance, like the carcasses of horses on an Arizona desert.

In Montdidier the first building we recognized was the railway station. We only recognized it because the wall bearing the same happened to be left standing. We rode down the main street past the hotel Deville—in American lingo, the town hall. Nothing remains except ruins and more ruins, many of which bear German signs. Across the main street are successive strips of matted camouflage.

Five months ago Montdidier was one of the prettiest of French towns. Today its condition reveals how France is contributing not only men and money to the war, but whole cities—and coolly facing the cost.

Roye Is Threatened.

London, Aug. 12.—British troops, continuing their advance, have progressed to within less than four miles of Roye, capturing Armancourt and Tilloy, the British war office announced today.

Additional progress was made astride the Somme, where the lines were joined east of Mericourt and Etinehem. New counter attacks in the center south of Lihons were repulsed.

"Yesterday evening the enemy again attacked our positions south of Lihons, but was repulsed," the statement said.

"As the result of a successful operation we carried out immediately south of the Somme, we captured over 200 prisoners and linked up our positions east of Mericourt with the line east of Etinehem on the north bank of the river. Armancourt captured."

"On the right of the fourth British army the allies progressed yesterday afternoon in the direction of Roye, capturing the villages of Armancourt and Tilloy."

"In the northern portion of the British front we effected local improvements east of Roye and between Vieux Berquin and Meris (all in Flanders)."

Paris, Aug. 12.—(Noon.)—The French war office today reported that the situation between the Avre and the Oise is unchanged.

"Between the Avre and the Oise there is no change," the communique said.

"During the night the Marquilliers and Grivillers regions (six miles east of Montdidier) were bombarded."

SPRINGFIELD NEWS

Will Arrive From California.

C. E. Martin of San Francisco, will arrive Wednesday and will join Mrs. Martin, who has been here for the past summer, visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Young, of this city.

Has Operation on Eye.

Mrs. E. N. Duryee on Saturday went to Eugene and had an operation on one of her eyes for ulcers. Mrs. Duryee suffered much pain from the affliction.

Goed to Raymond.

Miss Edna Fischer left here Saturday for Raymond, Wash., where she will be employed. She has a sister there.

On Camping Trip.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sidwell, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sidwell and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Skinner left for Oakridge on a camping trip Saturday.

Goed to Grants Pass.

Miss Cleomina Groute and sister, Mrs. George Preitman, left Saturday for Grants Pass where they will visit for a while.

SPRINGFIELD PERSONALS

R. A. Bates and family left Saturday for Wendling where they will reside.

Miss Willma White of Cottage Grove spent over Sunday in town.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Carney of Thurston were city visitors on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Skinner went to Wendling Saturday night.

Miss Myrtle Ralston has gone to Albany to work.

Miss De Etta Duryee returned Saturday from Yarnell after spending several days at the home of her sister, Mrs. Elgin Hadley.

Vin Williams came up from Anlauf for over Sunday.

Mrs. Bert Nickum came up from Anlauf for over Sunday.

Albert Johnson of Wendling spent over Sunday in town.

German Plot Trails Are Uncovered by Federal Agents

Chicago, Aug. 12.—Chicago police and federal investigators today waded through a mass of material secured in a raid early Sunday on an alleged anarchist newspaper plant. It was indicated further German plot trails had been uncovered. Twelve have been held for investigation. Officers said two of them were members of the anarchist propaganda group and that their correspondence would show German money had been used to propagate general social unrest and to foster opposition to the war.

Among those held is Linda Jose, "the dynamite girl," arrested months ago when found in the union station here with a suitcase load of dynamite.

JAPANESE AVIATOR KILLED
Stockton, Cal., Aug. 12.—I. Nichiroka, Japanese aviator, was instantly killed Sunday when his airplane went into a tail spin 400 feet from the ground. Nichiroka was to have received his pilot's license after Sunday's flight. He had been a student under T. Nakamura and was considered a competent flyer.



AT THE PLAYHOUSES TODAY

REX
Enid Bennett
in
"A Desert Wooing"
and
"The Woman and the Web"

OREGON
Francis X. Bushman
with
Beverly Bayne
in
"Neatness and Dispatch"
and
Allied War Review
and
Mutt and Jeff Cartoons

EUGENE
Dark.

Delightful Enid Bennett, the Thomas H. Ince star who will be seen in her new Paramount photoplay, "A Desert Wooing" at the Rex theatre today has an unusually strong role, that of a society girl who later attains to the full measure of womanhood as the wife of a masterful man whom she marries in order to provide her mother, a society woman, with funds to maintain her high social station.

Avice Bereton is a product of the social set, with her capacity for love and the better things of life dwarfed and subdued by her associations and upbringing. Her mother is in sore financial straits and plans to marry her daughter to wealth to rehabilitate her own fortunes. Avice is admired and cynically returns the attentions of a Dr. Fortesque Van Fleet, social parasite. Billy, her brother, is more or less of a young waster.

From the west comes Barton Masters, a multi-millionaire copper man and rancher. He is attracted to Avice and she to him but still cynical she assures Van Fleet that a marriage to Barton will not seriously interfere with their possible relations. Married, the two set out from the western ranch and Masters, thrashed and thrown out to make terms brings along the doctor and Mrs. Bereton. Billy has gone on ahead and is rapidly improving in the clean life of the open lands.

The doctor tries to compel Avice to make good her cynical assurance but is caught by Barton Masters who way home on the desert as best he can. Masters then sends the whole crowd of relatives and friends, back to New York. Avice is rebellious, a slave, to her husband's will. Secretly she worships him. Van Fleet slinks back and shoots Masters, leaving him for dead. Avice secures a revolver and forces the doctor to give Masters the surgical attention that will save his life. Then the physician is banished and a complete understanding between husband and wife is finally established.

Francis X. Bushman and Beverly Bayne, supported by a cast of stellar rank, will appear at the Oregon theatre today in the Metro All-Star Series picture, "With Neatness and Dispatch," a screen version of Kenneth L. Roberts' Saturday Evening Post story. June Mathis and Luther Reed prepared the scenario and Will S. Davis directed the production.

Frank Currier, Metro's sterling character actor, appears as Police Commissioner Roger Burgess. He has been prominently cast by Metro in "Social Hypocrites" with May Allison, "The Brass Check" with Bushman and Bayne "Revelation" with Nazimova, and "Outwitted" with Emily Stevens. Hugh Jeffrey, who plays Police Inspector Corcoran, has supported the Metro co-stars in most of their recent releases including "The Brass Check" and "Under Suspicion."

BATTLE IN PICARDY IS SLACKENING

(Continued from page one)

lery and stores to the right of the Somme.

The Americans are with the British before Bray as this is written. The Somme makes a horseshoe bend east of them and the sluggish stream is paralleled by a canal flowing through a broad, salt marsh. It is difficult to cross save by built-up roads and bridges, which have been rendered dangerous by allied artillery and aerial bombs.

The Canadians have advanced two and a half miles beyond Chaumes, cutting the Chaumes-Roye railway, while at Damery (three miles northwest of Roye) I personally witnessed the taking of the last high ground before Roye, the English and French co-operating. The hill is 300 feet above sea level. Across its crest runs the Amiens-Roye road. Three miles from Roye, a thick wood crowns the hill. To the left of the road the German positions were defended by concrete "pickle boxes" and nests of machine guns, while trees were fitted up for observation posts. A mile to the northward lies Damery village. Halfway between is Damery wood. Between these positions the allies could control the entrance or exit of Roye.

Enemy Artillery Weak.

The attack began at 9:30 with half an hour's barrage from the British heavy guns, the Germans replying in kind. The enemy's counter battery work yesterday showed he had brought up reserve artillery, but as an officer at my side remarked, "it is nothing to write home about."

French 75's opened up and a light

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French patrol advanced toward the hill. This frightened the boches, who began laying down barrages, south of the road, apparently thinking they were about to undergo another cavalry charge such as the British made in this region the day before.

The tanks came up from behind us and charged the woods in plain sight. Enemy shells fell to the left and right, but none of the tanks was hit. Each tank had to cross the highway. The machine guns on our left began pouring bullets into the wood. The Germans retaliating blindly. The French began advancing up the hill, crossing the road within a short distance of the wood itself. Here, for the purpose of steadying his men, a French officer coolly walked up and down the road, in plain view against the chalk-white dust, waving them on. Meanwhile, the British were approaching Damery wood. The tanks were now close up and our barrage was lengthened, falling in the wood itself.

Then, as though from a signal, a vast mass of Germans ran out of the north end of the wood, toward a copse to the eastward. The gunners never had a finer target, the enemy running in compact bunches, carrying machine guns and machine guns parts. All enemy machine gun fire stopped and all but the heaviest artillery fire stopped.

I have gone into the fullest detail on this battle, because the get-away-fighting on the whole front is like this from Albert to south of Montdidier, where there are many little battles inside the big one, but they are timed to fit inside each other, while whippets and tanks and airplanes pave it into a compact whole.

Since last Thursday, 10 fit divisions of German reserves have been identified making a total of 41 divisions engaged since the start.

Prisoners say six of these divisions were taken from the Vesle region.

Three German Generals Removed for Neglect of Duty

Amsterdam, Aug. 12.—Three German generals who led troops near Montdidier have been relieved of their commands, according to advices from Belgian sources today. They were charged with neglect of duty.

Many soldiers at St. Quentin were tried by court martial Saturday on charges of high treason, Belgian advices said. The Kaiser is now in Brussels.



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ENID BENNETT in "A Desert Wooing"

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