

NEW ITALIAN DRIVE ROUTES AUSTRIANS

General Diaz' Surprise Attack
Is Big Success.

TAKE 800 PRISONERS

Unexpected Drive Gains Strong Positions and Breaks Up Preparations for Enemy Offensive.

Attacking the Austro-Hungarian lines on the Asiago plateau, the Italians have taken Monte Di Valbella, captured more than 800 prisoners and have held it against repeated counter-attacks.

This turn to the offensive came as a surprise to the laymen of the allied world, for it was believed that General Diaz would be content to hold his lines in the mountains against a new offensive intended by the Austrians and Germans.

The Italian attack was not limited to Monte Di Valbella. On the left bank of the Brenta they captured the height of Sasso Rosso, just north of the village of Valstagna.

These actions may explain the failure of the Italians to pursue the Austrians across the Piave when, on June 23, the enemy fled from the west bank with a haste that indicated something of demoralization.

General Diaz probably has expected the heaviest enemy blow along the mountain front, which is the key to the Italian situation. In attacking he has carried the fight to the foe, gained strong positions at vital points and broken up some of the preparations made by the enemy for an offensive.

It is not believed General Diaz plans to go further than local objectives, but if he should make much progress on the Asiago plateau he could be able to take under his artillery fire the railroad paralleling the battle line and running along the Brenta river east of Lake Caldonazzo.

This line is the connecting link between the Piave and Adige fronts, and if the Italians could dominate it, the Austrian system of communications would be seriously impaired.

FIFTY PROBABLY DEAD IN SIOUX CITY DISASTER

Sioux City, Iowa.—Burrowing deep under tons of wreckage, firemen and volunteers Sunday removed 30 more bodies from the wreckage of the Ruff building, which collapsed Saturday afternoon at Fourth and Douglas, and announced that the toll of the disaster may reach 50. It is probable several persons were completely incinerated, judging from the condition of most of the bodies removed.

Toiling feverishly, some of them so weak they wobbled after their 22 hours, workers could see parts of charred bodies still deep under smouldering timbers and so badly burned they could not be sure they were men or women.

The opening of the Chain Grocery, which was crushed under the walls of the Ruff building, revealed the extent of the disaster. Thirty-five volunteer motor trucks removed debris so rapidly Sunday morning the ruins of the crowded grocery were entered six hours ahead of schedule.

Men found in the ruins were burned alive in cells, pinned down by wreckage, their positions indicated.

The cause of the disaster has not been determined. Some of the persons who were in the wrecked buildings at the time of the collapse asserted that it was caused by an ammonia explosion in the Chain Grocery or the Beaumont Market, while others declared it was due to reconstruction work which was going on in the Ruff building.

Non-Partisan Ticket Wins.

Fargo, N. D.—The entire Non-partisan ticket, state and congressional was nominated in the Republican primaries of Wednesday.

Governor Lynn J. Frazier, Non-partisan, who took the lead over John Steen, independent, as returns came from the rural precincts Thursday, steadily increased that lead until it is near the 15,000 mark.

In the congressional race in the first district, it is estimated, Congressman J. M. Baer's final majority will be nearly 800 over Henry Vick; in the third district J. H. Sinclair's approximately 700 over P. D. Norton. In the second district, George Young was successful over John Hanchett by a vote of approximately 3 to 1.

Fear of Americans Felt.

Paris.—German prisoners are virtually unanimous in confirming the fear felt of the Americans by the German high command. According to the declarations of officers, this is the principal reason for the determination of Germany to seek at all costs to impose peace on the allies before next winter.

The prisoners make no secret of their astonishment at the spirit and versatility of the American soldiers.

U. S. WILL POLICE PANAMA

War Department Acts to Prevent Trouble Over Elections.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary Baker Saturday instructed Major-General Blachford, commanding the Department of Panama, to take over the policing of the cities of Panama and Colon for the purpose of maintaining public order.

The action resulted from information received at the State Department from the government of Panama that grave disorders were expected because of the postponement of the national elections set for June 30.

Decision to postpone the elections for six months was taken by the Government of Panama because of vice conditions in the two terminal cities of the Panama Canal, which had led to a boycott against them by the American army authorities.

DRAFT AGE LIMITS STAND UNCHANGED

Senate Defeats Move to Make Extension and Prolonged Fight Is Ended—12 Billion Bill Up.

Washington, D. C.—Immediate extension of the present army draft age limits, 21 to 31 years, was overwhelmingly defeated Saturday in the senate.

The amendment proposed by Senator Fall, of New Mexico, to the army appropriation bill to make the limits 20 and 40 years, together with all compromises suggested for different minimums and maximums, were voted down.

Settlement of the controversy which has held senate attention for several days cleared the way for passage of the \$12,000,000,000 appropriation.

Besides disposing of the draft-age question, the senate adopted several amendments to the bill.

One authorized organization of the \$100,000,000 aircraft production corporation proposed by the Aircraft Production Board as a vehicle for co-ordinating aircraft production as shipbuilding is co-ordinated by the Shipping Board through the Emergency Fleet Corporation.

Others authorized the plan of basing draft quotas on the number of men in class 1, instead of upon state populations and affecting rights of neutrals under the draft law. The senate had previously adopted the draft quota legislation, but it has been held up in the house.

The amendment affecting neutrals provides that citizens of neutral countries now subject to draft who have declared their intention of becoming American citizens shall not be eligible for citizenship if they claim exemption from the draft. This provision, offered by Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska, was adopted as a substitute for an amendment approved by the state department, providing for exemption from the draft of all citizens of neutral countries.

Eugene V. Debs Under Arrest.

Cleveland, Ohio.—Eugene V. Debs, four times socialist candidate for the presidency of the United States, was arrested here Sunday by United States Marshal Charles W. Lapp and Deputy Marshal Charles Boehme as he was about to deliver a speech.

The arrest was made on a warrant in connection with his speech at the socialist state convention in Canton, O., June 16 last.

The arrest was made on a secret indictment. It is understood the indictment contains 19 counts under the espionage act, which provides a penalty of 20 years in the penitentiary and a fine of \$10,000 and costs for each violation.

Debs was arrested as he was about to enter the garden where the meeting was held. No commotion was caused, as few persons were aware of what was transpiring until after Mr. Debs was taken to the federal building.

Following the announcement of Mr. Debs' arrest, a defense fund of more than \$1000 was raised by popular subscription before the meeting ended.

Forty-Nine Flyers Downed in One Day

London.—Forty-nine German airplanes were brought down by British and French airplane squadrons Thursday, according to the official announcements of the respective war offices Saturday.

In the air-fighting over the British sector of the line British planes destroyed 20 German machines and forced down nine more enemy aircraft out of control. The British lost 14 machines. The British vigorously bombed behind the Teuton lines, dropping 21 tons of explosives on railway junctions and other targets.

At the same time the French air fighters brought down or put out of action 20 German airplanes and set on fire four captive balloons.

Indiana Corn Damaged.

Lafayette, Ind.—A loss of between \$7,000,000 and \$8,000,000 in corn alone was sustained by northern Indiana farmers as a result of the frost last Saturday night, according to estimates made public at the Purdue university agricultural experiment station. The damage to truck crops also will extend into millions of dollars, it was said. The damage covered an area of 125,000 acres, according to the reports of county agricultural agents.

KERENSKY IN LONDON ENROUTE TO STATES

Visit to America Holds Big Possibilities, Declared.

WASHINGTON STIRRED

Ex-Premier of Russia Expected to Start Freedom Movement—People Tire of Hun Aggression.

Washington, D. C.—The unheralded appearance in London Wednesday of Alexander Kerensky, former provisional premier of Russia, together with his announcement that he is on his way to America and that he is certain Russia will soon be fighting again with the forces of democracy against German domination, furnished the subject for a discussion in official and diplomatic circles that covered a wide range.

As there had apparently been no intimation of Kerensky's intended visit to this country, speculation naturally centered around his purpose in coming.

The belief seems to be general that he will not only seek to enlist the support of his own people in this country in his efforts to rehabilitate Russia and cast off the German yoke, but will discuss the subject with officials as well.

Appearing as he does at a time when both the United States and the entente governments are earnestly considering how they may best aid Russia to rid herself of German influence and establish a stable government, the visit of the one-time dictator of that stricken nation is regarded by officials as having many and far-reaching possibilities.

Coincident with the appearance of Kerensky in London, John Sookine, a member of the Russian commission sent to the United States by the Kerensky government a year ago and now just back from France, said that a few months ago military action by the allies would have been intolerable to the people, but German aggression in spite of the Brest-Litovsk treaty had caused so much suffering and privation that allied intervention would now be hailed with relief.

Mr. Sookine's statement and that of ex-Premier Kerensky concerning the change in the sentiment of the Russian masses served to bear out reports received at the state department.

HUGE ARMY PROJECT IS NOW UNDER WAY

Washington, D. C.—Secretary Baker disclosed to the senate military committee Thursday that within three months an enlarged army project now being worked out will be presented to congress to represent the maximum fighting effort of the country.

Already the calculations upon which the pending army bill was framed have been exceeded, and the war department is now revising its plans on an enlarged basis that means additional billions in money and additional millions of fighting men.

The full scope of the new measure is not yet apparent even to officials who are preparing it.

Mr. Baker disclosed the new plans in explaining his reasons for opposing any changes now in the draft age limits. Later, during general debate in the senate chamber, figures were disclosed showing the great strides being made toward bringing American fighting power to the front in France.

General March, chief of staff, has already announced that the army is five months ahead of schedule in troop movements, 900,000 men having been shipped abroad.

Italy Annexes July 4th.

Rome, Tuesday.—The coming Fourth of July, which will be proclaimed an Italian national holiday, will be celebrated throughout the country. Cities and villages will be decorated with the American and Italian flags and will have processions.

One of the most imposing processions will be in Rome, the line of march leading to the monument of King Victor Emmanuel II, where speeches will be delivered by cabinet ministers, senators and deputies.

Drouth Ruins Wheat Crop.

Helena, Mont.—In the northern half of Montana winter wheat has been ruined by the drouth, and rain is badly needed to save the spring wheat, according to the weekly crop bulletin issued by Meteorologist William A. Mitchell, of the local station of the United States weather bureau. Showers in the southern half of the state have helped greatly and crops there are in good condition, with the winter wheat starting to head.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Harvesting of the first strawberry crop throughout the North Bend section is approaching the final stages and growers report the production far below normal.

The cranberry marshes in the vicinity of Astoria are now in full bloom. Oldtime cranberry growers admit that they have never seen anything like the bloom on the marshes that is seen this year.

Joe Thurin is the latest trusty to escape from the state penitentiary. He was convicted in Multnomah county in 1911 on a charge of burglary and is a parole violator. He also served time at Walla Walla.

The Astoria school board received a letter from the capital issues committee of Washington declining to authorize the proposed \$125,000 issue of school district bonds for new school buildings.

The present cherry crop will set a record for Lane county in point of quality, if the dry weather continues a few days longer, according to County Commissioner M. H. Harlowe, owner of one of the largest orchards.

The little village of Harbor, which nestled on the south side of the Chetco river in Curry county, is reported to have been practically wiped out by the fire which started in the C. & O. logging camp in the neighborhood.

The sale of 100,000,000 feet of timber on the Klamath reservation to the Pelican Bay Lumber company, of Klamath Falls, has just been approved by the government, according to J. M. Bedford, who has charge of the timber on the reservation.

The sum of \$104.30 was paid over in the justice court at Pendleton Saturday morning by William McGowan and George Brown. The men, who were arrested in their car at Unatilla, with Mrs. Brown, were charged with importing liquor.

Omar Lewis Renninger, 16 years of age, was drowned in the millrace at Coburg, Lane county, Thursday afternoon, when he slipped into the deep water while wading near the shore. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Renninger, of Coburg.

The Johnson mill at Coquille was totally destroyed by a fire of unascertained origin Friday night. The mill was cutting lumber for shipyards building United States vessels and also airplane material. The loss is estimated at more than \$50,000.

Robert Potter, of Fossil, died Friday from injuries he sustained in the cloud burst near Fossil last Friday. He, with Gordie Rambo, another victim, was brought to Fossil Monday. Although suffering intensely, he told clearly of his frightful experience.

An old feud between Vernon McAllister and Joe Quinn, convicts at the state penitentiary, is close to its last chapter Wednesday, as Quinn is lying dying in the prison hospital, with a stab cut over his heart, which penetrated his left lung. McAllister is locked in a death cell.

Investigation of an application made by Eastern Oregon lumbermen to the Industrial Accident commission for a reduction in rates on risks in that territory under the workmen's compensation act may result in legislation widening the power of the commission, Commissioner Marshall said Saturday.

The schooner Spray made a record catch of fish near Heceta Head some distance off shore. After four days' fishing the crew brought in 15 tons of halibut and 3000 pounds of black cod. Each member of the crew cleared \$300 and the Burke company, of Portland, owners of the vessel, cleared over \$2000.

Benton Bowers, of Ashland, member of the State Lime board, announces that the board will continue to construct and operate the Gold Hill plant, which will be completed about the first of August. Funds to continue operation will be forthcoming, pledged on the credit of members of the board until such time the State Emergency board or the next legislature comes to their relief.

Work on the Prineville railroad is progressing rapidly, the rails having been laid within two miles of O'Neil station, 10 miles from Prineville.

The Klamath county council of defense, a branch of the state council, has opened an office in Klamath Falls, where all information relative to the defense of the Nation will be received.

Rev. Robert E. Browning, former rector of Emmanuel Episcopal church in Marshfield, has written to local friends advising them of his arrival in Europe. Rev. Mr. Browning enlisted for service with the British army and is a chaplain.

Floater who travel up and down the coast are regularly picked up at Grants Pass, questioned and searched by the police authorities. Tuesday a German giving his name as John Weidheimer was picked up and is now in the Josephine county jail as an alien enemy. Weidheimer had no registration papers.

Charles Owens is making up his first carload shipment of chrome ore from his mining property on Sucker Creek, in the Illinois river district, says a Grants Pass dispatch. The ore, which runs 40 per cent, is being hauled by auto truck from the property to the Waters Creek terminus of the California & Oregon coast railroad.

Highway Improvement

ANNUAL COST OF HIGHWAYS

Construction and Maintenance Involve Expenditure of \$300,000,000—Burden on Roads.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Road construction and maintenance in the United States involve an annual outlay of over \$300,000,000, a sum which, if capitalized at 5 per cent, would represent an investment of \$6,000,000,000.

As recently as 1906 there were only 100,000 motor vehicles in the United States compared with nearly 5,000,000 of 1917, while in 1904 the total outlay



Vitrified Brick for Paving Country Roads—Filling the Joints, First Coat.

in money and labor on the public roads aggregated only \$80,000,000, compared with some \$300,000,000 for 1917. Thus the public roads have been changed with bewildering rapidity from the status of the purely local utility to that of a utility of national importance and scope.

It is well known that the railroads of the United States are unable to carry the enormous traffic now offered for transportation, and it is to be expected that the public roads will from now on have added to their present traffic burdens such freight as may be shifted to them to relieve railway congestion.

It is beyond question that for passenger haul the public roads are used to a greater extent than the railroads. These impressive conditions have been created within the span of a single generation.

On July 11, 1916, President Wilson approved a measure generally known as the federal-aid road act, which carried an appropriation of \$75,000,000 to aid the states in the construction of rural post roads and \$10,000,000 to be expended for the construction and maintenance of forest roads.

BUILDING ROADS IN ALASKA

Road Commissioners Find Trouble in Maintenance on Account of Narrow Tired Trucks.

Alaska has been building roads since 1905. It has built 920 miles of wagon roads, 629 miles of winter sled roads and 2,210 miles of trails. One of these roads was built for motorcar traffic, but more than 250 trucks and passenger cars were in use over them at the close of the last fiscal year.

Much damage has been done to the roads by heavy narrow-tired trucks, and the board of road commissioners finds troubles of maintenance with them always. In addition, they found it necessary to build a five-mile road along a hillside last summer by covering the road bed with willow corduroy and surfacing the corduroy with gravel because the material underlying the location consisted of six feet of gravel on the bed rock, forty feet of clear ice on the gravel and two feet of moss and tundra on top.

PERMANENT ROAD IS FAVORED

Saving in Cost of Rebuilding Would Pay for Them in Comparatively Few Years.

A writer on the advantage of permanent highways makes the point that the saving in the cost of rebuilding would pay for them in a comparatively few years—and then there would be a prospect of valuable returns. The thing would be like making a few payments to secure an annuity. Wherever the money can be raised there should be permanent highways. That is the good roads gospel par excellence.