

NO ADVANTAGE WON BY EITHER BELLIGERENT

Allies and Germans Continue Battle of the Aisne—Allies Strive to Dislodge Enemy From Heights to Break Through and to Outflank—German Losses 3200 Daily.

LONDON, Sept. 18, 1 p. m.—As has been the case heretofore when the struggle along the vast battle line in France has been most acute, the public in Germany, as well as in France and England, has been forced to content itself with the most meagre news of the progress of military operations. Experience has shown that extended statements are issued only after the retirement or the temporary defeat of one army or the other.

The information this morning sets forth laconically that the battle is raging with great fierceness along the whole front, which extends, roughly speaking, from the River Oise near Noyon to the German fortresses of Metz, but, barring a slight retirement of the German right wing, at certain points, no decided advantage is credited to either side.

Three Supreme Struggles

Presumably the efforts of the allies have been divided into three supreme struggles: first, to dislodge the Germans from the heights of the Aisne; second, to break through the fourth and fifth German armies at the center; third, to outflank the German right under General Von Kluck. The position of the fourth and fifth German armies is considered not so strong as the remainder of the line, while if the flanking movement is successful, the railroad lines on which the Germans depend would be cut.

Evacuation of Semlin

No confirmation has been received here of the reported Serbian evacuation of Semlin, nor have the brief dispatches bringing this rumor told whether the Serbian retirement was due to strategic reasons as a result of the onslaughts of the Austrians, aided by the gunboats which are reported to have bombarded both Semlin and Belgrade. All Serbian advice insist that the Serbs are continuing their vigorous forward movement.

There was nothing today to indicate a change in the situation in the eastern zone. Presumably the armies of Austria are still trying to unite at Cracow, while the Russian army under General Rennenkampf is holding.

CONGRESS ELIMINATES WASHINGTON SLUMS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—The last wish of Mrs. Woodrow Wilson was fulfilled today when the senate passed the house bill eliminating the crowded dwellings in the alleys of Washington, the slums of the city. The bill was the result of Mrs. Wilson's investigations, and no goes to the president for signature.

FUTURIST LEADERS ARRESTED IN ITALY

LONDON, Sept. 18, 2:25 p. m.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company from Milan says that Signora Marinetti and Boccioni, well known futurist leaders, have been imprisoned for organizing an anti-Austrian demonstration during which the Austrian flag was burned in one of the leading theaters of Milan.

RESERVE BOARD AGAIN DISCUSSES FOREIGN EXCHANGE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—Foreign exchange was discussed again today at a conference between the federal reserve board, A. H. Wiggin, president of the New York Clearing House association, James B. Forgan, chairman of the recently appointed bankers' committee on foreign exchange, and Benjamin Strong, Jr.

BELGIANS FOUGHT AT DISADVANTAGE

NEW YORK, Sept. 18.—Paul Van Develde of Dallas, Texas, for 34 days a lieutenant in the Belgian army and a veteran of the battles of Haelen, Heuton, St. Margaret, Tiremont and the fighting before Liege, arrived today on the steamer Celtic. Mr. Van Develde was visiting his parents in Belgium when the war started and he enlisted as a reservist.

MINERS WORKING TO DIG OUT COMRADES

EUREKA, Utah, Sept. 18.—Working in fifteen-minute shifts, a hundred and fifty miners are laboring today at the limit of their strength to reach the remaining ten of the twelve miners buried in the Centennial-Eureka mine by last night's cave-in. The miners believe they are within fifty feet of the men, but the obstructing material is so soft that it has to be timbered as the work advances, and progress is slow. There is little hope of finding the men alive.

GERMANS RETREAT TO JOIN AUSTRIANS

PARIS, Sept. 18, 1:10 p. m.—It is announced at the Russian capital, according to a dispatch to the Havas News agency from Petrograd, that the Germans who were campaigning in the Kielec province of Russian Poland, on learning of the Austrian defeat from Krasnik to Mascoff, retreated rapidly to the southward with the intention of rallying the routed army.

ASKED \$8,000,000 INSURANCE ON SHIPS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—Although in existence less than two weeks, the federal marine war risk insurance bureau has had requests for \$8,000,000 insurance on American hulls and \$1,500,000 on cargoes.

ENTHUSIASM AT ADJOURNMENT OF PARLIAMENT

Home Rule Bill Signed by King—Each Party Cheers the Other—"God Save the King" Sung by Laborites—Speech From Throne Upon War.

LONDON, Sept. 18, 12:40 p. m.—Enthusiasm unusual in the staid legislative chambers of Westminster Palace was displayed today when the two houses of parliament were prorogued. While King George was absent inspecting the troops his speech was read in the House of Lords by Viscount Haldane, the Lord high chancellor, and in the House of Commons by John H. Whitley, the deputy speaker.

When the announcement was made in the House of Lords that the royal assent had been given to the Irish home rule and the Welsh church disestablishment suspensory bill and to a number of emergency measures, cheers were given for the passing of the Irish and the Welsh bills.

Home Rule Bill Cheered

On the announcement of the passing of the Irish home rule bill in the House of Commons the Nationalists and Liberals broke into loud cheers, which were repeated again and again.

Will Crooks, the labor leader, asked if it was in order to sing "God Save the King." Without waiting for permission he started the first verse himself and then broke down with emotion. The anthem was taken up by the spectators in the galleries as well as by the members and the singing was heard in the palace yard.

As the members filed out of the chamber Mr. Crooks cried out, "God Save Ireland."

John Redmond, the Irish Nationalist leader, replied: "God Save England."

Parliament will sit again October 27. Mr. Redmond, who was the recipient of many warm congratulations in the lobbies of the house after adjournment, left later in the day for Ireland, where he will take part in the recruiting campaign.

King Speaks From Throne

In his speech from the throne, proroguing parliament, King George spoke today as follows: "My lords and gentlemen: I address you in circumstances that call for action rather than for speech. After every endeavor had been made by my government to preserve the peace of the world, I was compelled, in the assertion of treaty obligations deliberately set at naught and for the protection of the public law of Europe and the vital interests of my empire, to go to war."

"My navy and my army have with unceasing vigilance, courage, and skill, sustained in association with"

FUNSTON ADVISES ARMY EVACUATES MEXICO ON TENTH

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—Brigadier General Funston's recommendations that the evacuation of Vera Cruz be postponed until October 10 was forwarded today to Secretary Garrison at Seabright, N. J. It will probably be adopted, as transports cannot reach Vera Cruz for several days.

GENERAL DE CASTLENAU GRAND OFFICER OF LEGION

BORDEAUX, Sept. 18, 1:25 p. m.—Acting on the recommendation of General Joffre, President Poincare today signed a decree raising General De Castleau to the rank of grand officer of the Legion of Honor.

TALK OF PEACE STILL FUTILE SAYS KAISER'S ENVOY

NEW YORK, Sept. 18.—Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador to the United States discussed today the prospect of peace in Europe and the efforts of President Wilson to bring it about.

"Talk of peace was started by the people of the United States," said the ambassador. "Its continuance after the answer sent by the German government, through Ambassador Gerard, depends on the attitude of the allies."

"As long as they talk of crushing and dismembering Germany there is absolutely no possibility of peace. I am quoting Premier Asquith and other Englishmen. I have no idea that Germany could be crushed or dismembered."

"No lasting peace would be possible if a square inch of German territory was given up. That applies to the colonies of Germany as well as the German empire itself. It is perfectly clear that if any territory was taken Germany would again arm to the teeth."

Count Von Bernstorff was asked if it was possible that peace in Europe might lead to general disarmament.

"That," he replied, "would depend on the sentiment with which peace was entered into by the allies."

Count Von Bernstorff said that undoubtedly the German emperor had been informed of the talk between Ambassador Gerard and the Imperial German chancellor and that the answer given had been first submitted to the emperor. He added that it should be emphatically understood that from a military viewpoint Germany was not seeking peace at this time, any more than before.

PARIS PROHIBITS AUTO TRAFFIC

PARIS, Sept. 18, 4:30 a. m.—Beginning today no automobiles will be allowed to leave Paris except military automobile ambulances and cars carrying officers and journalists bound to and from Bordeaux. It is thought this action may be due to the use of automobiles by spies.

Two cars, one black and one green, have been speeding around the outskirts of Paris, defying the challenge of sentinels. Both automobiles were driven by chauffeurs wearing French uniforms and carrying passengers in plain clothes, who, in some cases, have returned the fires directed at them by sentinels. There seems to be no doubt that the cars were used by spies to locate positions of troops in the vicinity of Paris.

Two Germans, a woman and her daughter, suspected of spying, were driven from Saint Michel Sur Orge amid the hootings of the populace. Voluminous correspondence with German officers has been seized.

BRITISH CRUISER OFF GULF OF CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Sept. 18.—On arrival here today the Pacific Mail liner City of Sydney, from Balboa, reported that she sighted last Sunday the British cruiser Newcastle off the Gulf of Lower California.

The City of Sydney tried to communicate by wireless with the Newcastle, but the cruiser refused to reply. Instead, she inquired by the international flag code if anything had been seen of the German cruiser Leipzig. Nothing had been.

GERMANS IN POLAND SUMMONED TO FIGHT

LONDON, Sept. 18, 2:30 p. m.—German military authorities occupying the territory around Kalisz, in Russian Poland, have called to the colors all the German inhabitants there between the ages of 16 and 45, according to a dispatch to Reuters' Telegram company from Petrograd.

SLIM PROSPECTS OF PEACE SEEN BY PRESIDENT

Wilson Feels Hands Are Tied Unless Belligerents Themselves Act—Unwise to Press Either Side to Make Overtures—Position of America is Absolutely Neutral.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—President Wilson sees little prospects of peace in Europe reflected in the unofficial exchanges which American ambassadors have been conducting with Germany, Great Britain, France and Russia.

This was learned today at the White House. Until something more tangible and more definite in the way of overtures comes from the belligerents, the president feels that his hands are virtually tied. To undertake to elicit terms from Great Britain, France and Russia, as Germany suggested, would place the president, he believes, in a delicate position, in view of what Sir Edward Grey has told Ambassador Page.

The British foreign secretary recently took the position that the war had been forced on Great Britain; that the neutrality of Belgium had been disregarded and that it would be necessary to crush German military system before the allies could feel safe against new attacks and before a treaty of peace could be worth a "scrap of paper."

The president, it is understood, feels that in view of the neutral position of the American government it would be unwise to press either side to make overtures to the other. He hopes, however, that as the war progresses, one side or the other will make known its terms in some definite form, so that the American government can act.

ONLY PORTION OF LOUVAIN BURNED

BERLIN, via London, 2:04 p. m., Sept. 18.—The Nord Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung publishes official dispatches from the German administration of Louvain, stating that although from a fifth to a sixth part of the city is in ruins, most of the public buildings have been preserved, including the beautiful city hall, regarding which there has been so much discussion.

The dispatch says the damage to St. Peter's cathedral was such that the building can be restored easily and the art works were protected by German soldiers. The German officers did everything possible to check the fire. Many of the residents are returning and some of the shops have reopened. Trains are being operated between Louvain and Brussels. Courts of justice have resumed in Louvain.

WOMEN APPEAL FOR WORLD PEACE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—President Wilson received today an appeal from women of all nations that he lead a movement to end the European war. It was carried to the White House by Mrs. Rosika Schwimmer of Hungary, secretary of the international woman suffrage alliance.

BELGIUM COMMISSION TO VISIT UNIVERSITIES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—The Belgian commission which presented a petition to President Wilson protesting against alleged German atrocities, having finished its mission in Washington, will return to Belgium after visiting Columbia, Harvard, the University of Chicago and some other American universities.

ELIZABETH SHAKEN BY EXPLOSION AT GUN COTTON MILL

ELIZABETH, N. J., Sept. 18.—The city of Elizabeth was shaken this afternoon by an explosion of gun cotton at the plant of the Wright Chemical company at Springfield, five miles away. Five buildings at the plant were blown up. The ruins caught fire. Several workmen were killed.

Several thousand pounds of gun-cotton were stored on the premises and it was believed that it all exploded.

The loss of life was difficult to ascertain, but it was said that at least three men were missing.

ASK AMERICANS PROBE ATROCITIES

LONDON, Sept. 18, 2:45 p. m.—An inquiry by American jurists into the allegations of German atrocities of the rules of civilized warfare is suggested by the Weekly Spectator in its current issue.

"Undoubtedly American jurists would command most general confidence," the Spectator says. "We cannot ask President Wilson or the American government to appoint such a committee of inquiry. They would naturally be afraid of annoying the German government by so doing, and of imperiling that strict neutrality which they desire to maintain in the case of the German empire. We do not see, however, why the French, British and Belgian governments should not privately invite three American jurists of high distinction to undertake the work of discovering whether the Germans have respected and are respecting the agreement made at The Hague in 1899 and 1907, and also those rules of civilized warfare which generally are respected by belligerents, and to report whether any infringements of these conventions and these rules have taken place."

Counter Attacks Met

"Second, on the center from Rheims to the Argonne the enemy has reinforced himself by constructing important fortifications and has adopted a purely defensive attitude. To the east of the Argonne in the Woerwe district, the situation is unchanged.

On our right wing, in Lorraine and the Vosges, the enemy occupies positions organized on a defensive basis in the vicinity of the frontier."

Berlin Statement

BERLIN, Sept. 18, via wireless to Sayville, L. I., Sept. 18.—The following official statement has been given by the official headquarters of the German general staff:

"The battle between the Oise and Meuse rivers still is continuing, but there are sure indications that the enemy's force is falling.

"The French attempt to cut through the German right wing was broken down with no notable exertion on the German side.

"The German army is advancing slowly, but surely.

"A sortie from Verdun on the right bank of the Meuse was most easily repulsed."

Another official statement issued by the German general staff says that the German airships came up to expectations after undergoing long and dangerous flights. Some of the aircraft were damaged but now all of them have been repaired. None has been destroyed or captured by the enemy.

"With German energy, we have determined to win, and we invite the Italians to win with us."

GERMANS TAKE OFFENSIVE BUT ARE REPULSED

French Statement Says Allies Have Progressed Somewhat and German Statement Says That There are Sure Indications That Enemy's Force is Falling.

PARIS, Sept. 18, 3:09 p. m.—The allies have progressed somewhat on their western wing and are repulsing a vigorous German offensive movement, according to an official announcement made this afternoon by the French war department.

The communication follows: "The battle continued during the day of September 17 along the front from the river Aisne to the Woerwe, without important changes in the situation at any point.

"First, on our left wing on the heights to the north of the river Aisne, we have had slight progress against certain points. Three offensive counter attacks undertaken by the Germans against the English army failed. From Craonne to Rheims we ourselves repulsed some very violent counter attacks executed during the night. The enemy tried in vain to take the offensive against Rheims."

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"The Ross Sea party will board the expedition ship Aurora at Hobartstown, Tasmania."