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MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1918

NO. 75

FRENCH REPULSE NEW GERMAN SMASH

HUNS STRIKE HEAVY BLOW AT RHEIMS

Germans Attack On 14-Mile Front in Semi-circle About Devastated City in Vain Attempt to Straighten Out Lines—Heavy Bombardment Followed by Attack in Massed Formation to Meet Repulse With Heavy Losses at Every Point Assailed.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS, June 19.—Standing firmly before the war-stricken city of Rheims, the French have checked a new German drive launched last night, five days after the offensive on the Montdidier-Noyon line came to a halt. In the fighting the active battle front has been extended to a point five miles southeast of the cathedral city. The German artillery Tuesday evening began a heavy bombardment between Virigny, west of Rheims, to the village of La Pompelle, on the north bank of the Vesle river east of that city. Three hours later the Teutonic infantry stormed out of their trenches to begin the assault. According to the official statement issued at Paris, the Germans were nowhere successful in their attempts to enter the French lines, being repulsed with heavy losses.

15-Mile Front.—The front over which the new attack was launched is approximately 14 miles in length. It has been expected that the Germans would sooner or later attempt to straighten out their lines in this region because the close of the Aisne offensive left the allies in a favorable position along the front from the Marne, east of Chateau Thierry to the region north of Chalons. Having interior lines, they are able quickly to concentrate their forces on either side of the angle having its apex at Rheims. Raiding operations are reported from the British fronts in the Somme and Lys sectors.

Official French Statement.—PARIS, June 19.—The Germans last night, after violent preparatory bombardment, began an attack on the front between Virigny and La Pompelle, the war office announced today. The French are resisting the German blow with entire success. On the western front of the attack the enemy was not able even to reach the French line. In the center, before the city, the Germans were completely repulsed, and suffered heavy losses. East of Rheims the French were equally successful.

Circling Rheims.—The front of the new German attack (Continued on Page Six.)

AUSTRIA FACES FAMINE; GRAIN ALL EXHAUSTED

Nation On Verge of Starvation—All Food Received Is What Germany Doles Out From Ukraine—Bulgaria Also Suffering From Famine.

WASHINGTON, June 19.—Austria's grave food situation, coupled with the apparent failure of the new offensive against Italy, is exciting pessimistic comment in the Vienna press. An official dispatch today from Zurich quotes the Arbeiter Zeitung of Vienna as saying: "The situation will be still more serious in Vienna when the sanguinary defeat of the imperial forces on the Italian front becomes known."

Supplies Exhausted.—LONDON, June 19.—Austria's grain supplies have been completely given over, and all the food of this nature she is getting is coming from what Germany has allotted to her from the Ukrainian supplies, according to indications in a Copenhagen dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company. This message quotes an interview with Herr Paul, the Austrian food minister, obtained by the Vienna correspondent of the Berlin Tageblatt in which the minister confirmed the news of the recent reduction in the Austrian bread ration. This, he said, was due to insufficient supplies from Bessarabia and Hungary. The entire 1917 harvest from those sources had been distributed and consumed, the minister stated, and the Rumanian harvest also had been used up.

Bulgaria Also Suffering.—AMSTERDAM, June 19.—According to the Germania of Berlin, the food situation in Bulgaria brought about Premier Radoslavoff's resignation. The food problem in that country, the newspaper adds, is becoming increasingly difficult. Its supplies are entirely exhausted and the nation is asking advances of grain to cover the time until the next harvest. The central powers, however, Germania declares, cannot give Bulgaria this aid to the extent desired.

TEST VOTE NEXT WEEK ON SUFFRAGE

WASHINGTON, June 19.—The test in the senate on the federal woman suffrage amendment probably will come on Thursday of next week. The senate woman suffrage committee today decided to seek a vote then on the resolution passed by the house to submit the amendment to the states.

MARSHALL HITS 'LADY THEODORA' SLAP ON WRIST

Vice-President Tells Indiana Democrats to Support Only the Democrat Who Is Whole-Heartedly Behind the President in Winning the War—Take Fling at Roosevelt's Policy.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., June 19.—"Support only the democrat who is wholeheartedly behind the president and the way he proposes to win the war," Vice President Thomas H. Marshall said here today in addressing the Indiana state democratic convention. The vice president said that while he wanted the democrats to win the coming election, "at the risk of being read out of the party," he urged the members to vote against the democrat who was not in hearty accord with the president and his ideas, and against the democrat "who is not in favor of taking the German language out of the schools of Indiana and welding into a united people by the use of a common language, all those who dwell within our borders."

Candidates for all state offices, with the exception of those of governor and lieutenant governor will be nominated today or tonight. "Just what the republican party means by saying that its purpose now is to win the war most of us do not understand," said Vice President Marshall. "What the democratic party stands for is to win the war as soon as it can be won and it holds that to the speedy winning of it are these essentials: Conviction of the justice of the cause in which we are engaged; a fixed and definite end to be attained; the whole-hearted disinterested, political and patriotic sacrifice of personal ambition, party preference and individual success to the object attained and confidence, absolute confidence in the commander in chief."

Mr. Marshall referred to "Lady Theodora" during the course of his remarks, saying: "T. R. as 'Lady Theodora'" "Lady Theodora being left at home concluded to take a hand in the war by writing letters in derogation and criticism of its management to a newspaper, which newspaper had as its general manager a man who was, at the declaration of hostilities against the imperial German government, an alien enemy of the United States, and which newspaper had published the Rose Pastor Stokes letter and other seditious documents. "Some men at least are going to object if she is the Republican Party and if she is going to fight the war in this way—through the columns of the Kansas City Star,—and notwithstanding her great desire to take charge

Among visitors registered at the hotels today were A. Trask of Boston, W. C. Michael of Chicago, B. F. La Londe of Duluth, Eugene Neal of Scappoose, Ore., R. Ritchie of Eugene, Harris Ottenstein of New York City, Mr. and Mrs. H. Ladd of Seattle, H. Ward of Rosburg, and James E. Perry of Mican, Nev. (Continued on Page Three.)



Brigadier General James G. Harbord, at left, commander of the American marines in France, and General Pershing, commander-in-chief of the American army in France, photographed recently after a conference at Pershing's headquarters. Harbord's men have electrified America and her allies by the manner in which they plunged into the German line on the Marne, making a three-mile gain and capturing several villages.

RECLASSIFICATION TO ADD 250,000 TO CLASS 1, DRAFT

WASHINGTON, June 19.—Preliminary reports indicate that more than 250,000 men may be added to class one available for immediate military duty as a result of Provost Marshal General Crowder's recent order for revision of deferred classification lists by local draft boards. There will be no reconsideration of Provost Marshal General Crowder's decision not to grant deferred draft classification to coal miners as a class. Members of congress from mining districts were so informed today by General Crowder's office.

Some kind of general ruling of what constitutes useful and non-useful employment under Provost Marshal General Crowder's work or light order probably will be issued within a day or two. It was learned officially today that the question is being studied by army officers in co-operation with the department of labor and other government agencies.

BURNQUIST LEADS IN MINNESOTA BY MORE THAN 50,000

ST. PAUL, June 19.—The bitterness of the struggle between Non-partisan league and republican candidates for success at the state wide primary election last Monday, has been reflected by the record breaking vote. In 1916 the primary vote was 168,308. Available returns from 2,279 of 3,119 precincts give a total of 285,678 votes. Governor J. A. A. Burnquist leads his opponent, Charles A. Lindberg by more than 50,000. The latest figures, representing 3498 precincts out of 3119 in the state, give Burnquist 189,156; Lindberg 131,493. Returns from 1543 precincts gave Fred Wheaton of Minneapolis for democratic candidate for governor, 11,175 votes; W. L. Comstock of Mankato, 12,412.

ST. PAUL, June 19.—A heavy majority from St. Louis (Duluth) county put Wheaton in the lead for the democratic gubernatorial nomination late today. Returns from 1826 precincts gave Wheaton 14,193 and Comstock 12,719. When the car which he uses in his work as meter reader for the power company backfired Monday, A. S. Bliton suffered a badly sprained forearm.

GRAFTERS ASK LENIENCY FOR ADMITTING ACTS

Self-Acknowledged Contingent Fee Agents Hasten to Explain Operations, Claiming Ignorance of Law—System of Making Commissions From War Orders Most Extensive.

WASHINGTON, June 19.—Many self-acknowledged contingent fee agents appeared today at the department of justice to explain their operations and to ask leniency in any action the department may take to break up the exposed system of defrauding contractors and the government out of millions of dollars. Many of these agents heretofore had been unknown to the department and this fact prompted the impression that the system of making commissions out of war orders is even more extensive than officials had believed.

Ask for Leniency.—Hundreds of letters, telegrams and personal calls came to Attorney General Gregory and Assistant Attorney General Houston Thompson, in direct charge of the campaign against the contingent fee system, inquiring concerning the legal status, contracts already made, or the legality of maintaining representatives in Washington. Some admitted they had let contracts not knowing that this was a violation of the law. Although no formal statement of policy was made by the department of justice officials intimated that leniency would be shown in all cases where it was apparent that the contractor or the commission agent neither pretended to use nor actually did employ any sinister influence in obtaining orders. A group of lawyers, working today on the mass of reports on raids made on manufacturers offices, found considerable new evidence of improper, if not illegal, practices in connection with the soliciting of government war contracts. In many cases, it is understood, manufacturers have written to army officers who formerly held positions with them or with American concerns, asking them to use influence in getting contracts.

Bill to Prohibit.—A bill to prohibit "cost plus" contracts and annual government contracts, secured by payment or promise of a commission for use of influence was introduced today by Senator Poindexter of Washington and referred to a senate judiciary sub-committee. Robert Pelouze who has been ill with spinal meningitis at the Letterman general hospital in San Francisco for several months, is now able to sit up and will soon be able to make the journey home with his mother who has been by his bedside since he was stricken with the disease.

By the Associated Press, June 19.—Pierce attacks are being made by the Austrians to overcome the Italian resistance along the Piave but the defensive line still holds. Apparently the enemy seems his only hope of success in enlarging his gains across the Piave, has been given a disastrous check in the mountains from west of Asiago to the Piave. (Continued on Page Six.)

SLIGHT GAIN BY AUSTRIA ALONG PIAVE

Italians Pushed Back Several Miles Toward Venice—New Foothold On Montello, Austrians Making Desperate Effort to Drive Italians Off Height—Gains Made Not Commensurate With Preparations Made, Shells Expended and Life Lost.

VIENNA, June 19.—Austro-Hungarian troops have crossed the Fossalta canal at some points, the Austrian war office announced today. It is added that the Italians are staking everything in order to stop the advance of the Austro-Hungarians in their offensive on the northern Italian front. Italian attacks delivered on each side of the Oderzo-Treviso railway, the statement adds, broke down under heavy losses. The Austrians broke thru several Italian lines at the southern foot of the Montello.

9000 Austrians Captured.—ROME, June 19.—The Italians have captured since the beginning of the Austro-Hungarian offensive prisoners to the number of 9011 and have taken many guns and several hundred machine guns, the Italian war office announced today. The battle on the Piave river broke out again furiously yesterday afternoon, the statement adds. Fresh efforts of the invaders to cross to the right bank from San Andrea to Candelu were repulsed. An intense struggle also took place in the Fossalta sector north of Capo Sile.

Enemy Uses Reserves.—PARIS, June 19.—The battle on the Italian front now in its fourth day, presents a favorable aspect, according to dispatches to the Havas agency. The Austrians have gained ground along a line four kilometers in extent on the Montello plateau and on a line four kilometers long on the west side of the Piave river. Losses of the enemy show that he is using his reserves while the Italians are protecting theirs.

By the Associated Press, June 19.—Pierce attacks are being made by the Austrians to overcome the Italian resistance along the Piave but the defensive line still holds. Apparently the enemy seems his only hope of success in enlarging his gains across the Piave, has been given a disastrous check in the mountains from west of Asiago to the Piave. (Continued on Page Six.)

UNITED STATES MARINES "FIRST TO FIGHT!" GOING "OVER THE TOP"—THE MEN WHO DROVE THE HUNS BACK ON THE MORNE LIVE UP TO THEIR BEST TRADITIONS

