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MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1918

NO. 76

ITALIANS FORCE ENEMY BACK TO PIAVE

CAPO SILE REGAINED BY DEFENDERS

Italians Win Back Lost Territory Along Piave River and By Counter-Attacks Regain Further Ground at Montello and Other Sectors—Austrian Forces Across Piave Now Divided—Vienna Report Claims Gains Held.

ROME, June 20.—From the Montello to the sea the battle of the Piave river is continuing bitterly and without pause, the Italian war office announced today. Last night the Italians forced the Austrians to withdraw their whole front north of the Monte Belluno railway.

More than 1200 Austrian prisoners were taken and numerous machine guns were captured. French forces on the Asiago plateau stormed the Austrian positions at Bertigo and Pennar.

Italian troops succeeded in capturing Costalunga, the statement adds.

LONDON, June 20.—News reached London this afternoon that the Italians have regained Capo Sile, the town on the lagoon to the west of the Piave river near its mouth which was captured by the Austro-Hungarians.

It is also reported that the Italians have regained all the territory between Zenson and the Fossetta canal. The Austro-Hungarians, it is declared have been confined to the ground between the Fossetta canal and the Sile canal, on the west bank of the Piave river.

Regain Lost Ground LONDON, June 20.—By counter-attacking all along the Piave the Italians have gained further ground on the Montello in the northern sector of the river front, and also have made headway southeast of this ridge says the Evening Standard today. The Austrians here had been occupying a narrow strip along the river bank. The Italians drove in the Austrian line and established themselves on the bank of the Piave below Salletto (about 18 miles from the Adriatic). Thru the reaching of the river here, the positions occupied by the Austrians have been divided.

Austrian Statement VIENNA, June 20.—The Austrian troops under Field Marshal Von Borovik, have held all the ground they gained from the Italians on the west bank of the Piave, today's official war office report states, and in addition have driven the Italians back westward, south of the railway that leads to Treviso.

The battle in the Montello region increased in violence yesterday, equalling that of the great battles on the Carso front. The official statement says the Italians drove forward six times and employed reserves indiscriminately, but all their efforts were in vain.

Growing Weaker By the Associated Press, June 20.—Austrian pressure on the front from Lake Garda to the Adriatic is still strenuous along the Piave front from Montello to the sea.

(Continued on Page Six.)

COMSTOCK LEADS IN MINNESOTA

ST. PAUL, Minn., June 20.—Judge W. L. Comstock of Mankato took the lead today for the democratic gubernatorial nomination. Returns from 2755 of 3119 precincts gave Comstock 15,009 and Fred E. Wheaton, of Minneapolis 14,907.

ITALIANS WIN CONTROL OF AIR ON PIAVE LINE

Assistance of Allied Fleets drives All Austrian Machines Off—Realization That Offensive Has Failed Has Spurred the Italians to Desperate Resistance—Floods Help Italy.

ITALIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS, June 19.—(By The Associated Press.) The Italians have won complete control of the air along the Piave line, where the most determined fighting of the present Austrian offensive is in progress. This afternoon not a single Austrian machine was aloft on this front.

In general the situation of the Austrians along the Piave appears far from satisfactory to them. Prisoners taken by the Italians all declare the Austrian army has little food. Some of the prisoners have not eaten in forty-eight hours.

Italians Fight Hard Realization that the Austrian offensive has failed is spurring the Italian troops to a desperate resistance along the Piave. Heavy fighting continued today around the Montello plateau on the north and near San Dona Di Piave on the south.

On Montello, which is hilly and wooded, the opposing forces frequently stumbled upon each other unexpectedly, sharp encounters resulting. The spirit of the Italian troops is at a high pitch despite wounds, loss of sleep and constant movements made necessary by the conditions of the terrain at several points.

Bridges Destroyed The river Piave, overflowing its banks, has destroyed several pontoon bridges constructed by the Austrians at Intestadura and also at San Dona Di Piave. This has increased difficulties of the Austrians in their rear communications affecting the transportation of artillery ammunition, food and fresh troops.

It is stated that the Austrians fighting south of the Piave river, continue to implore help and also that two of their divisions have been greatly reduced by losses. Y. M. C. A. ambulances and also the American Red Cross supplies are proving useful to the Italians, both for refugees on trains and also for wounded soldiers.

AMERICANS RUSH HUNS FOR GAIN

WITH THE AMERICAN FORCES ON THE MARNE, June 20.—(By The Associated Press.) The American troops in this sector attacked the German line northwest of Chateau Thierry during the night and made an advance of five-eighths of a mile, driving the Germans back from a small pocket on the northern side of Belleau wood.

The Americans occupied the German positions without resistance from the enemy, the Germans having withdrawn when the short and sharp preliminary artillery bombardment indicated that an infantry attack would follow.

The Germans carried their material with them in their retreat, and the Americans therefore did not take any machine guns. As a matter of course also, no prisoners were taken. One small salient is all that the enemy continues to hold in Belleau wood.

HOOVER, ENGLAND'S GUEST ON FORTHCOMING VISIT

LONDON, June 20.—The British food minister yesterday announced that Herbert C. Hoover, American food administrator, will be the guest of the nation when he visits England in a few weeks.

Washington—Senate passed \$220,000,000 pension bill.

PHOTO OF FRENCH REFUGEES FLEEING BEFORE GERMAN ARMIES AND FLOCKING INTO PARIS FROM EVACUATED TOWNS.



SENATE PROVIDES INCREASED RANK FOR ARMY DOCTORS

WASHINGTON, June 20.—Revision of the twelve billion dollar army appropriation bill was completed today by a senate military sub-committee. The bill will be submitted tomorrow to the full committee in an effort to bring it before the senate early next week. Few additional appropriations and no reductions were recommended by the sub-committee but it added as amendments a number of minor army bills pending before the senate and house in various stages of completion.

The committee does not plan to add any provision in connection with the proposal for extension of the draft ages. The house provision giving the president unlimited authority to increase the army has the sub-committee's approval, but is expected to meet some opposition tomorrow in the full committee.

One of the important amendments approved is designed to meet the agitation for increase in rank of medical corps officers. It provides for an additional major general and two brigadier generals for the regular army and two major generals and six brigadiers for each million men in the national army, including the reserve officers corps.

SUGAR FOR CANNING CUT TO 25 POUNDS

PORTLAND, June 20.—The amount of sugar which may be bought by Oregon families and exclusively for canning purposes was cut today from one hundred to twenty-five pounds, the state food administration announced. The limit of twenty-five pounds already has been set in many other states.

The allowance of two pounds for city dwellers and five pounds for those living in the country, for personal use, remains unchanged.

AMERICANS BOMB RAILROAD CENTER

WASHINGTON, June 20.—Successful bombing of the German railroad yards at Conflans was reported today in General Pershing's communique for yesterday. Artillery activity at various points, the repulse of an enemy raid in the Woivre and the capture of more prisoners by American patrols crossing the Marne also was announced.

RAID ACTIVITIES DISTURB LULL ON WESTERN FRONT

LONDON, June 20.—British raiding parties were active in several sectors along the front last night, taking prisoners and inflicting losses upon the Germans in numerous clashes, the war office announced today. The statement says:

"A number of raids were carried out by us last night in the neighborhood of Boyelles, southeast of Arras, Lens and Givenchy, and in the Strazelle and Ypres sectors (in Flanders). Certain of these enterprises led to sharp fighting in which the enemy suffered many casualties. We captured 18 prisoners and three machine guns."

PARIS, June 20.—French troops entered the German lines between Mondidier and the Oise river last night and captured 20 prisoners, says the official statement issued today. There was nothing of importance on the rest of the front.

The statement reads: "French detachments penetrated the enemy lines between Mondidier and the Oise in the region of the Chateau wood. We brought back 20 prisoners. Quiet reigned on the rest of the front."

ITALIAN AIRPLANE FORCES SURRENDER OF GUN FLOAT

ITALIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS, June 20.—(By The Associated Press.) As thousands of Italian and Austrian soldiers looked on today, an Italian airplane swooped down upon the river and forced the occupants of the float to swim to the right bank of the river and surrender to the Italian soldiers.

The Austrians brought the float up on the south bank of the Piave, occupied by the Italians, and from this vantage point poured a harassing fire into the Italians. It was impossible to use light artillery to any great extent because of the proximity of the float to the Italian lines. Finally an Italian airplane swooped down upon the river and forced the occupants of the float to swim to the right bank of the river and surrender to the Italian soldiers.

The arrival of allied air fighters to assist the Italians has heartened the Italian air force which is much wearied after six days of heroic work. Washington—General Pershing denies that gas masks furnished American soldiers have proved defective.

WESTERN UNION CAUGHT SENDING TELEGRAMS BY TRAIN

WASHINGTON, June 20.—Postal inspectors today arrested a number of traveling agents of the Western Union Telegraph company on trains between Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington and seized suitcases they were carrying filled with messages filed for transmission by telegraph.

This practice, which is said to have been in operation by the telegraph company for some time, is considered a violation of postal laws forbidding persons not connected with the post-office service from conducting a traffic in communications over regular post roads.

The facts discovered will be presented to grand juries and officials of the telegraph company will be summoned to explain the practice. The penalty for violation of the postal law is a fine of not more than \$500 or six months imprisonment.

NEW YORK, June 20.—Newcomb Carlton, president of the Western Union Telegraph company, today declined to discuss the arrest of agents of the company on charges of conveying "night letters" by train instead of by wire.

AMERICA BUILDING "UNSINKABLE" SHIPS

WASHINGTON, June 20.—A new type of "unsinkable" ship is being built in America. It became known today that contracts for ten of the vessels have been let by the French government to an American yard. The design is the work of a Frenchman and embodies principles hitherto untried, details of which are being kept secret.

PEACE DEMONSTRATION HELD IN GERMANY

LONDON, June 20.—Heavily censored messages received in Stockholm indicate that peace demonstrations were held recently in Berlin, Hamburg and Cologne and that several workmen were killed and many persons arrested, says a dispatch to the Morning Post. The police and military dispersed crowds of demonstrators.

Springfield, Ohio—Lieut. Frank S. Patterson, Dayton, O.; and Lieut. Leroy Swan of Norwich, Conn. were killed in an aviation accident.

CURTIS AIRPLANE WORKERS STRIKE FOR 8 HOUR DAY

BUFFALO, N. Y., June 20.—A strike at the main plant of the Curtis Aeroplane and Motor corporation was inaugurated at ten o'clock today. Two hundred men, according to union leaders, laid down their tools. Machines at other plants will be called out at noon, it was announced. James E. Keppeler, general manager, met a committee of the men this morning.

The strike was called as the result of a meeting of 800 machinists and took makers of the plant, which lasted from last night until early today, when it was voted to walk out unless granted demands which include an eight hour day and a wage scale equal to that paid in navy yards for similar work. They also demand the reinstatement of men alleged to have been discharged last month when federal intervention temporarily delayed a crisis in the difficulties between the employees and the company.

Andrew T. McNamara of Washington, representing the International Association of Machinists, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, was present. The strike vote is said to have been practically unanimous.

Mr. McNamara said the first request for a readjustment of wages was made May 20. The company refused to do anything, he said, and a number of union men were discharged. Not all of these men have been reinstated and their cause is involved in the present issue.

The scale of wages at the Curtis plant ranged from forty to seventy cents an hour. The navy yard scale, the men claim, grades up to 81 cents an hour for special work.

SENATE APPROVES RECIPROCAL DRAFT

WASHINGTON, June 20.—Approval was given unanimously today by the senate foreign relations committee to the revised draft of the treaty between the United States and Great Britain for reciprocal operation of army draft laws. The committee recommended the treaty's reaffirmation at the earliest opportunity.

Chicago—1500 members of the National Credit Men's association pledge support to the president in carrying out the war program.

St. Paul—American Federation of Labor passed resolutions calling upon president and Governor of California to obtain a new trial for Thomas J. Mooney.

SERIOUS RIOTS IN VIENNA OVER FOOD SHORTAGE

Mob Breaks Into Bakeries, Stone Residence of Premier and Emperor's Palace—Troops Rushed to Capital—Salads and Vegetables Only Diet for Six Weeks.

LONDON, June 20.—Burgomaster Weiss-Kirchner of Vienna has informed the Austrian premier, Von Seydler, according to a dispatch from the Austrian capital transmitted by the correspondent at Amsterdam of the Exchange Telegraph company that in view of the reduction of the bread ration he declines to guarantee order in the capital.

The burgomaster's demand for dried vegetables to make up for the lack of bread has been refused.

LONDON, June 20.—Serious rioting broke out in Vienna yesterday, says an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Amsterdam. The mob broke into a number of bakeries, stoned the residence of the premier and also one of the wings of the Hofburg palace, the message adds. Cavalry is being rushed to the capital to restore order. It is probable, it is said, that martial law will be proclaimed.

The rioting was in protest against the reduction of the bread ration.

Bread Ration Cut

There have been reports from various sources recently of trouble in Austria, notably in the capital, because of the bread ration reduction forced by the exhaustion of the Austrian grain supplies. The bread allotment to each individual in the city of Vienna is now less than one and one-half pounds weekly, it was stated in a dispatch from Copenhagen on Tuesday.

Protests against this rationing have been vehement in many quarters, the Vienna city council on Tuesday adopted a resolution of protest, and the labor council in that city emphasized its protest by the passage of a resolution renewing its demand for a speedy general peace.

Salads and Vegetables

AMSTERDAM, Monday, June 17.—For at least six weeks, says the Vienna Neue Freie Press, the people of Austria will have to exist on little more than salads and certain vegetables.

AMSTERDAM, June 19.—A Vienna dispatch to Berlin newspapers says the reduction of the bread ration in Austria Hungary caused intense excitement throughout the dual monarchy. All Austrian newspapers without distinction of party protest against the measure, demand its removal and ask immediate help from Germany and Hungary.

Discussing the inability of Germany to help Austria in her food difficulty, the Cologne Gazette says the bread ration in Germany will also have to be reduced until the next harvest.

AUSTRIAN GENERAL KILLED BY ITALIANS

ITALIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS, June 19.—(By The Associated Press.) Deserted by his staff on the Montello plateau Major General von Kronstadt of the Austrian army fought single handed against the Italian Arditi until he was wounded seriously. The general died later in a hospital.

It seems that the general and his staff became lost in the woods of Montello and ran into a unit of Arditi. When the members of the staff saw the Italian soldiers, they ran away. The general was called upon to surrender, but refused and opened fire on the Arditi. In the exchange of shots he received his death wound.