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NEW BRITISH DRIVE WINS VALENCIENNES

HAIG DRIVES SALIENT INTO BOCHE LINE

Third and Fourth British Armies Attack on Wide Front South of Valenciennes, Menacing German Line to Holland—Good Progress Made—French Advance Towards Ghent and Above Laon Reach Serre River—Americans in Heavy Fighting.

LONDON, Oct. 23.—The British first army has crossed the Scarpe canal east of Nivelles, north of the Raimes forest, and continues to fight its way steadily forward. The Fifth and Second armies, on the line further north, also report progress but they are meeting with increased resistance. The Belgian troops are having a similar experience.

North of Valenciennes the British have captured about two-thirds of the Raimes forest. Farther north they have got well east of St. Amant and reached the Scheldt north of the Belgian frontier.

WITH THE ALLIED ARMIES IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, Oct. 23.—(By the Associated Press.)—The attack of the British Third and Fourth armies on a wide front south of Valenciennes today is of vital strategic importance. The allied salient here menaces the German lines all the way to Holland and if it is widened it will have a tremendous effect on the enemy front to the south.

Driven Back a Mile LONDON, Oct. 23.—The new British attack south of Valenciennes is on a front of five to six miles and the Germans have been driven back about a mile along the entire front. The enemy is resisting stiffly.

The British have captured Bruay, two and a half miles north of Valenciennes and have reached the west bank of the Scheldt. In their attack Tuesday southwest of Ghent the French captured Molenhoek and gained the west bank of the Lys from Maehelen to Driessch. They had to fight hard for all their gains.

Romeries Captured BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Oct. 23.—(Reuter's.)—The British troops in their new attack today north of LeCateau are reported to have captured the town of Romeries, one and one-half miles northeast of Solesmes.

A good many prisoners, mainly in small groups, rare being brought in. The Germans are fighting doggedly. The new attack today was a general one and was delivered by strong forces of the British Third and Fourth armies. The British forced ahead toward the Scheldt canal and the tributary lines along which the enemy is endeavoring to protect the flank of his grand retirement.

Struggle at Grandpre WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, Oct. 23.—(By the Associated Press.)—Heavy fighting is taking place in the region of Grandpre, on the western end of the American sector. A bitter struggle also is taking place in the center of the line. The Germans are holding Bantheville in strength and along the Bantheville-Ainerville road every available point has been fortified with machine guns.

Throughout last night the Germans bombarded the greater part of the American front and the roads far to the rear.

Improved visibility today resulted in greater aerial activity.

LONDON, Oct. 23.—The British began a new attack today on the front between LeCateau and Solesmes, south of Valenciennes. Field Marshal Haig announces.

Now in Valenciennes WITH THE ALLIED ARMIES IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, Oct. 23.—(By the Associated Press.)—British troops were fighting their way into the center of Valenciennes early today. They were facing a strong enemy machine gun fire from the east bank of the Scheldt canal which flows through the city.

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS, Oct. 23. (Continued on Page Six.)

GERMAN STATE OF AUSTRIA TO BE ARRANGED

German Austrian Deputies Form Assembly for Purpose of Conducting Affairs of Germanic People in Austria, Creating New State to Affiliate With German States.

BASEL, Switzerland, Oct. 23.—The German-Austrian deputies in the Austrian reichsrath have formed an assembly for the purpose of conducting the affairs of the Germanic people in Austria and have issued a declaration announcing the creation of a "German state in Austria."

Karl Seitz, leader of German socialists in Austria, has been elected president of the new assembly. The deputies announced their desire to bring about the autonomy of the Germans in Austria and to establish relations with other nations.

The assembly has drawn up a resolution respecting the form of government of the territory occupied by Germans. The "German state of Austria" will seek access to the Adriatic sea, in agreement with other nations. Pending the establishment of a constitution according to this program, the people will be represented by the reichsrath deputies constituted as a provisional national assembly. This body will represent the Germans in Austria in negotiations for peace and will exercise legislative powers. The legislative branch will consist of twenty members who will have power to contract state debts and administer interior affairs.

"We are able and must act in favor of peace," said Herr Seitz in taking the presidency. "We must do all possible to lessen the misery of the German-Austrian people. The new German-Austria for which we will lay the foundation will be constituted in conformity with the free will expressed by the German-Austrian people."

To Unite With Germany Deputy Waldner in opening the assembly announced that he had been commissioned by the German deputies in the Austrian reichsrath to convolve the assembly as the representative assembly of the German-Austrians.

There has been evidence that the German people in Austria fearing that Austro-Hungary might draw away from Germany were desirous of ensuring their own close unity with the German empire.

The German population in Austria forms the center of Austrian society. The census of 1910 gave the German-speaking population as 9,950,000 out of a total of 28,325,000.

RETREATING HUNS STAGGER UNDER LOADS OF LOOT

WITH THE ALLIED ARMIES IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM, Oct. 23.—(By the Associated Press.) North of Valenciennes the British have forced their way almost thru the Raimes forest. Along the entire front between Valenciennes and Tournai recent rains have made the ground difficult and progress has been slowed.

The Germans on this front in the last few days have been following the tactics of retreating during the night. The British have not been able to establish contact with the enemy rear-guard until noon of the next day. The rear-guard endeavor to hold the British in check until nightfall, when they again retreat.

There appear to be good indications that the line on which the Germans now are resting temporarily in this region will not be defended for any great length of time.

The entire country between Valenciennes and Tournai is as barren as a desert as far as the personal property of the French inhabitants is concerned. Liberated civilians say that the retreating Germans carry so much loot that they stagger under the loads. Apparently the alleged instructions given the German troops to take most strict care as regards the property of civilians are not observed at the front.

WILSON DELAYS REPLY TO HEAR FROM ALLIES

German Note Received and Conference Held Over Answer Which Awaits Word From London and Paris Before Final Draft Is Completed—Nothing to Alter Decision.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23.—There will be no announcement today of President Wilson's decision in regard to the new German note. This was learned after White House conferences participated in by Secretaries Lansing and Daniels and General March. It is understood the outcome of exchanges with London and Paris is awaited.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 23.—Germany's new note to President Wilson in official text was delivered to Secretary Lansing at 10 o'clock this morning by Frederick Cederlin, charge of the Swiss legation. It may be stated that there is nothing in the communication to alter the decision of the president that he will not propose an armistice to the allies before the Germans evacuate all occupied territory.

Official intimation already had been given that the only question for immediate consideration is whether there shall be a discussion of "terms" of evacuation while the allied and American armies continue their work of clearing Belgium and northern France.

Secretaries Lansing and Daniels and General March, chief of staff of the army, were called to the White House shortly after noon, just as a state department messenger arrived to deliver the German note to the president.

Secretary Daniels and General March remained only a short time, leaving the president and Mr. Lansing in conference. Exchanges between Washington and the allied capitals have been in progress on the basis of the wireless version of the note received Monday and it is regarded as certain that any reply the president may make will be governed by the supreme war council in France. Only the president and a few of his advisers know how far these exchanges have progressed. No one else can say when an announcement of the president's attitude may be expected.

Although an English translation was delivered with the note in German text, the state department made its own translation before sending the documents to the White House. Nothing was made public pending a careful comparison with the wireless version, though it was said the expected verbal differences did not appear to alter substantially the meaning of the note.

BULGARS DEPORTED GREEK CIVILIANS

SALONIKI, Oct. 23.—During the occupation of the Greek town of Seres, Bulgarians not only deported many civilians, but also treated harshly those left in the town. The first persons to be deported were the priests, professors and other well-known persons.

NAVAL OFFICERS TO WEAR GAUZE MASKS

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 23.—Admiral J. L. Javne, commander of the Twelfth Naval district, issued the following order today: "All officers and enlisted personnel attached to the Twelfth Naval district on duty where influenza is epidemic shall protect themselves by wearing gauze masks on the streets, in street cars, ferries, offices and places where people congregate."

ITALIAN NAVAL AVIATORS BOMBARD SUBMARINE

ROME, Oct. 23.—Italian naval aviators have bombarded an enemy submarine from low height and believe that the U-boat was sunk, says an official statement issued today.

ALLIED ADVANCE AVERAGES 28 MILES IN PAST 97 DAYS

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS. Oct. 23.—During the last 97 days of fighting the allies have advanced along the line from the Pont-au-Mousson to Nicuport, an average distance of about 28 miles. This advance aggregated 28 miles from Chateau Thierry to Grand Lury, 59 miles from Amiens to the Sambre river, and 38 from Dixmude to the Ecloo-Zeebrugge canal. The grand average is held to a low figure by the fact that attacks east of Rheims have not carried the German line back over permanent fortifications and against desperate resistance as far as the enemy was forced to flee further west and north. In this sector the progress made, however, is as important as much greater advances in some other part of the front.

TRAIL OF DEATH LEFT BY VILLA IN LATEST RAID

CHIHUAHUA CITY, Mexico, Oct. 23.—Francisco Villa and his band have again been on the warpath and have left a trail of death, destruction and desolation in their wake. With the departure of General Francisco Moravia, the northeastern zone commander, for Mexico City, Villa returned his guerrilla warfare on the towns and small settlements in Chihuahua state. Making a point on Chihuahua City to draw in federal troops from outlying garrisons he then dashed at Parral, was driven off, and attacked Jimenez Junction.

He held Jimenez for 12 hours, killing which his men looted stores, burned soldiers and civilians, poisoned one family and hanged another, including an eight year old girl. Driven out by General Joaquin Amaro, the Durango Indian, with his cavalry, Villa attacked Jimenez the second time. Before he could re-enter the plaza General Moravia arrived from the south with reinforcements and drove Villa into the hills.

One of Villa's typical tricks was executed against a federal force garrisoning Parral. The garrison commander received a letter written on official government stationery and signed with the name of General Pedro Favala, ordering him to proceed to Pilar de Concho to form a junction with Favala's force in pursuit of Villa. A signal fire on the pillar of the Conchos river was to be the signal for the junction of the two forces. The federals marched to the appointed place, the signal fire appeared on the limestone pillar and the Parral command advanced without advance guards or flankers. They were ambushed and almost annihilated.

Villa had written the letter on captured federal stationery, had copied Favala's signature from an old order taken from a prisoner and had set the trap for the government force.

AUSTRIANS RETIRE PRESSED BY ITALIANS

ROME, Oct. 23.—Austrian rear-guard in Albania, hard pressed by Italian cavalry and Albanian detachments, have retired to the north of the Matin river, thirty miles north of Elbasan, according to an official statement from the Italian war office today.

PRESIDENT POINCARE ON VISIT TO LILLE

PARIS, Oct. 23.—(Havas.)—President Poincare, accompanied by members of his cabinet, visited Lille yesterday and received an enthusiastic ovation. The president said that "the hour of defeat for the enemy will strike soon." He bestowed the cross of the Legion of Honor upon the mayor.

COLONIES NOT TO BE RETURNED SAYS BALFOUR

"In No Circumstances Is It Consistent With the Safety, Security and Unity of British Empire to Return Germany's Colonies" Says Foreign Secretary in Speech.

LONDON, Oct. 23.—In no circumstances is it consistent with the safety, security and unity of the British empire that Germany's colonies should be returned to her, declared A. J. Balfour, the British foreign secretary, in a speech at the luncheon of the Australian and New Zealand club today.

Mr. Balfour said it was absolutely essential that the communications of the British empire should remain safe. He asked if the German colonies were returned what security was there that their original possessors would not use them as bases for piratical warfare.

The doctrine that the colonies should not be returned, Mr. Balfour claimed was not selfish and imperialistic. It was one in which the interests of the world were almost as much concerned as the interests of the empire itself. If the empire was to remain united it was absolutely necessary that communication between the various parts should not be at the mercy of an unscrupulous power.

LONDON, Oct. 23.—The German reichsrath after a short debate, adopted unanimously a resolution approving the statement made to it by Prince Maximilian, the chancellor, according to an Exchange Telegram despatched from Amsterdam. The resolution also expressed confidence in the new chancellor.

TO GIVE REICHSTAG WAR POWER AFTER PEACE CONCLUDED

COPENHAGEN, Oct. 23.—An announcement was made by the chancellor of a bill making the reichstag responsible for war and peace, the measure to become effective when the project for a league of nations should become operative.

Speaking of the powers to be vested in the reichstag under the terms of the new measure the chancellor said the bill provided for the compulsory embodiment in the constitution of the fundamental idea of the new form of government. He said the effect would be to make the reichstag the people's house of representatives which should be responsible "in the decision of the most important questions for the nation, namely of peace and war."

"That means peaceful development of the empire and its relations with other powers," he continued. "In such an extension of the people's rights the imperial government is willing to lend a hand when a league of nations has taken practical form. When such a league puts an end to all secret separate treaties I am confident that all agreements can be amplified in this sense."

The chancellor said the German nation long had possessed political rights which its neighbors envied. He spoke in praise of the municipal and reichstag elections and said that although the German people had not made use of its power in dealing with vital questions, the development which had occurred at the end of September had changed everything.

"Therein lies the guarantee of the continuance and growth of the new system," he added. "This is a better and more real guarantee than any law or paragraph."

"The German people, he declared, must not resort to forms of government which they did not in their hearts believe in for the sake of foreign countries or to meet the needs of the moment."

"The enemy is at our gates," he said. After paying tribute to the men at the front, he added: "End elements are to be found in every army, but the fundamental will of the people's army is opposed to them."

ALLIED DRIVES WILL CONTINUE THRU WINTER

Unless Germans Are Saved By Plea for Peace, They Will Be Subjected to Steady Hammering All Winter—No Breathing Spell to Be Given to Huns By Yanks.

WITH THE AMERICAN FORCES NORTHWEST OF VERDUN, Oct. 23.—(By the Associated Press.)—Unless they are saved by their plea for peace the Germans will be subjected to steady hammering along the greater part of the western front through the winter. Indications are that it is not intended to give them a breathing spell.

It is pointed out that decreased activity would enable the Germans to recuperate to such a degree as to make certain a prolongation of the struggle. During previous winters the enemy has been able to rest up his forces and replenish his supplies and there is no reason to believe he would not avail himself of the same opportunity now.

There are two places on the front where it is conceded that military operations during the winter will be virtually impossible, but American officers insist that 75 per cent of the front offers no real obstacle to a continuance of the fight.

It is indicated that the Americans' part in the general program is well defined.

It is to be expected that they will continue to deliver short smashing blows against the pivotal center of the long sweeping line. The big gain made between the American front and the seas are conceded to have been due in a large measure to the menacing demonstration by the Americans and the enforced employment by the Germans of 30 divisions here. The enemy will be compelled to continue to mass forces of men and materials in front of General Pershing's troops at the expense of other places because to fail to hold the line between the Meuse and Grandure would endanger an enormous area.

GERMANS WANT CHANCE TO RETREAT UNMOLESTED

PARIS, Oct. 23.—Germany's high command is ready to evacuate the invaded territories of France and Belgium on the express condition that the allied troops will not follow them in retreat, but will remain where they are now located, according to the latest information from Berlin, says the Zurich correspondent of the Journal.

This grotesque proposal is the outcome of the latest conferences at Berlin between the members of the general staff and the war cabinet, it is said. The militarist party is rapidly gaining ground but the members of the moderate factions believe that the long grave internal events will help to improve the situation.

The dispatch says that the existing governments remain very hostile to the retrocession of Alsace and Lorraine to France. Emperor Wilhelm himself is reported to have denounced emphatically such an event at the meeting of the crown council on Saturday.

PLAN QUICK GETAWAY FROM OCCUPIED LAND

AMSTERDAM, Tuesday, Oct. 22.—Admitting that under modern conditions even defensive warfare on the German frontiers would involve great dangers, the Frankfurt Gazette says that even the most careful defense on the western front will entail big losses. It is not to Germany's interests, the newspaper says to make a slow defensive retreat from Belgium and the fighting there will not be unnecessarily prolonged a single day.

MAX PLANS DEFENSIVE WARFARE

German Chancellor Discusses Peace Terms—Declares for Retention of Alsace-Lorraine—Wants "Peace With Justice" and Desires to Know What Wilson's 14 Points Mean to Future of Germany—Call for National Defense to Be Issued.

COPENHAGEN, Oct. 23.—Peace conversations between Berlin and Washington have reached a critical point, according to Prince Maximilian, the German imperial chancellor, speaking before the reichstag yesterday. In the course of his address he urged that debate on the situation be restricted as much as possible.

"Today, therefore, I am going to say only this regarding the international situation," he continued. "The president's first answer to the peace move of the German government has in all countries brought the questions of a peace of justice or a peace of violence to the highest point," he continued. "President Wilson's last note did not make clear to the German people how this public agitation will end."

Prepares for Defense "His next answer will perhaps bring definite certainty. Until then we must in all our thoughts and in our actions prepare for both eventualities—first that the enemy govern-

in flavor and cooking, baking

No doubt that the German government in the name of the German people will issue a call for a national defense in the same way that it spoke when it took action for peace. He who honestly took a stand on the basis of peace will also undertake the duty of not submitting to a peace of violence without a fight. The government which would act otherwise would be left to the mercy of the fighting and working people. It would be swept away by public opinion.

Must Know Beforehand "There is also another possibility. The German people must not be blindly brought to the conference table. The German people today have the right to ask, if peace is realized on the basis of President Wilson's conditions, what they mean for our future. Our answers to the president's question must be framed on the German people's understanding of that question. What it now wants is clearness."

The principles upon which we have agreed as a rule of conduct also involve internal questions. From many quarters it has been represented to me that an acceptance of President Wilson's conditions would mean submission—anti-German submission—to an anti-German court of justice which would decide legal questions entirely from the viewpoint of its own interests. If that is the case, why then is it the extreme apostles of force in the entente fear the council chamber as the guilty fear the court of justice?"

Victory for Justice "The essence of President Wilson's program for a league of nations cannot be achieved when all peoples have not the right of national self-determination. This realization of community law means the abandonment of part of the unqualified independence which hitherto has been the indication of sovereignty, both by us and others. Should we at home maintain as fundamental the national egoism which until a short time ago was the dominating force of the peoples' life, there would be no restitution and no renovation for us. There would be a feeling of bitterness which would cripple us for generations."

"But if we comprehend that the significance of this frightful war is, above all, victory for the idea of justice and if we do not resist this idea, but submit with all good faith, then we shall find in it a cure for our present wounds and a reservoir of future strength."

Prince Maximilian said that he would not deny that heavy opposition

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