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The Daily Capital Journal

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AMERICAN DIVISION CAPTURES ARTILLERY PARK OF 72 CANNON THREE MILES NEARER METZ TODAY

AIRMEN DROP BOMBS ON METZ FRENCH CAPTURE 300 PRISONERS AND DRIVE AHEAD TOWARD LAON

German Air Fleet Greatly Increased But Cannot Face That Of Allies.—Americans Strengthen Position And Straighten Lines.—Many German Airplanes Brought Down.—British Advance Line On Two Mile Front.—German Prisoners Say They Were Headed For Home.

By Frank J. Taylor (United Press Staff Correspondent)

With the Americans on the Metz front, Sept. 16.—Both American wings are reported to be straightening out and co-ordinating their positions across the late St. Mihiel salient. Our patrols now control the area between the American lines and the Hindenburg reserve defenses. The Germans are digging in far to the rear, rather than attempting to dispute the American gains.

Aerial fighting is intense, battleplanes are forcing the boches to remain more than five kilometers (about three miles) behind positions which otherwise would constitute their forward lines, while reconnaissance and bombing planes and artillery liaison units operate undisturbed despite numerous air fights.

The number of German airmen has suddenly increased tremendously, but is still insufficient to meet the British, French and American forces. Tons of bombs are being dropped on the German military positions far in the rear.

There was still infantry fighting during the night along the Moselle, where Americans stormed fortified quarries.

French Captured Vally.

Paris, Sept. 16.—French troops captured Vally (on the northern bank of the Aisne, eleven miles south of Laon) last night, the French war office announced today.

They also took Mont. Singes, together with 300 prisoners. "Between the Oise and the Aisne last night we continued to progress," the communique said. "We captured Mont Des Hinges with 300 prisoners and also captured Vally."

Airplanes Reach Paris.

Paris, Sept. 16.—Several enemy airplanes approached Paris last night, it was officially announced today. There were some casualties and material damage.

Germans Withdrawing.

London, Sept. 16.—The Germans apparently are withdrawing along the whole 33 miles front between Aube-

court and the Moselle in an effort to improve the protection of communication in the vicinity of Metz.

Metz is under long range bombardment, it is learned here today. (Metz is about ten miles from the farthest known advance of the Americans.)

Americans advanced from two to three miles on this front and some places, their patrols pushed forward an additional two miles.

Six German divisions, totalling about 60,000 men were operating in the St. Mihiel salient when the Americans began their attack, it has been learned. Of these fully a fourth were taken prisoner.

The British have captured Maissey (four and a half miles northwest of St. Quentin) thus wiping out a small salient which had its apex at Verdun.

In their local operations, the French have taken 2,500 prisoners.

"HEADED FOR HOME."

By Fred S. Ferguson, (United Press staff correspondent.)

With the Americans on the Metz front, Sept. 16.—The American positions on the eight mile front between Jaulny (on the Mad river) and the Moselle were markedly improved today, the Germans further retreating in that region.

A certain American division captured an entire artillery park near Jaulny, taking seventy two cannons and making its total ninety for the drive. All their attempted counter attacks having been repulsed, the boches apparently are giving their full attention to strengthening their withdrawal positions.

The Americans are being heavily bombarded, but continue to improve their positions. Their morale is of the highest and they are anxious to press on while the boche morale is correspondingly lower. Prisoners say they have no hope of winning the war. The Austrians are bitter toward the Germans, saying they were left to shift for themselves and that repeated requests for more ammunition were ignored.

Aerial activity is steadily increasing. Several tons of bombs were dropped on Couvelles, Ehrange, Saarbrucken Roulay and Buhl. American day bombers attacked the bridges at Corny (six miles southwest of Metz) and Arnaville, (two miles south of Corny). Many hits were made with the four

aircraft. The reason penny weight machines have failed to "spruce up" accounts of the war is because a quarter won't fit 'em. A girl who doubt herself up 't' look foxy, but you've got t' be born purty, t' be purty.

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AUSTRIA'S APPEAL FOR PEACE WILL NOT SERVE TO DECOY ALLIED NATIONS

Ally of Germany Begins Greatest Peace Offensive Yet Undertaken

By Carl D. Groat, (United Press Staff Correspondent.)

Washington, Sept. 16.—The United States government will not accept Austria's proposal for a get together peace conference, it was announced on high authority today.

This course will be followed by the entente governments, according to all indications here.

Taken as the most desperate peace offensive the boche has ever attempted this latest drive is regarded also as the most insidious. It is considered as intended to dull the war spirit and the war work of the associated nations, particularly America, and is held to be another of the series of efforts to bolster up the Austro-German home spirit.

When it is rejected Germany and Austria will set up the cry of self defense and as the war comes closer to the German border this cry may serve to stimulate a wearied force of central allies according to the belief here.

However, in answering the communication—for it is assumed an answer must be made—the government will take care to see that the edge is removed from this stimulation scheme, as far as possible.

This answer, it is held, will point out that Wilson has said frequently he is willing to talk peace any time if an "honest" proposal was made. This proposal was not considered honest. The answer, too, would probably inform Austria that the president's basic peace principles would have to be accepted before even a get together session for discussing father bases could be undertaken.

Germany and Austria have shown no signs of accepting the cardinal principles, for they have practiced annexations and indemnities, with a vengeance.

President Wilson's dictum of "force without stint" and Chief of Staff March's "we are going through with it" talk Saturday, are held to be the surest proofs of the American spirit.

The most forceful argument ever heard here every time the Teuton has laid down a peace barrage has been: "If we quit now it is a German victory."

This same call was heard today. Germany is still on foreign soil. Her industries are intact. And while she is in a worse position tactically and economically than ever before, a peace now would leave her in a better shape than ever to start new world domination plans, it is held.

How insidious this latest peace drive is may be gathered from the fact that a direct proposal of peace is reported to have been made to Belgium. This places no blame on Germany and falls far short of righting the wrong done that country. But the German intention as seen here, is to convince the small pacifist group of the Teuton nations that a sincere peace desire now abides in Germany.

Another point emphasized here is the fact that Austria proposed a "non-binding" peace discussion. In other words, the peace conference would act as a brake on the war spirit and thus give a bit of breathing space to the central powers, while if terms did not please the Teutons, or if they staged some sort of a comeback they could leave the get together conference.

Germany is considered the dictator of the Austria note. Austria says she and her allies are in accord. It is held here to be doubtless, true that Germany and Austria are in accord.

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BRITISH PRESS IS UNIT AGAINST PEACE MOVE

Austria's Object To Give Germany Time To Pull Herself Together

By Ed L. Keen, (United Press Staff Correspondent.)

London, Sept. 16.—With the exception of the Daily News, London morning newspapers are unanimous in the opinion that Austria's proposal for a conference to discuss peace is camouflage, the real reason for which is that Hindenburg wants time to reorganize his shattered forces.

Another theory advanced is that the people of the central empire really want peace, but their governments seek to sway them and embrace the entente, thus dodging the howls of the masses against continuing the war.

What benefit Austria might have obtained from the proposal undoubtedly has been lessened by publication of Germany's effort at a separate peace with Belgium, which is self evident of the Kaiser's bad faith.

The Daily News favors Austria's proposal for a conference, declaring: "Only actual discussion can prove whether discussions at this stage can lead the world nearer peace. Austria's dominating motive hardly can be doubted. There is no doubt that for her, more than any other belligerent, an early peace is imperative. Such a conference would not compromise the allies fundamental principles. On the other hand, there is more than a remote prospect that a discussion that might leave Germany obdurate might be different in the case of Turkey, Bulgaria and Austria. The allies have everything to gain and nothing to lose by discussion."

Proposed Absurd

Telegraph: "The proposal is absurd and insincere. Its object is to gain time for Hindenburg to reorganize his shattered forces, though perhaps Vienna and Constantinople so ardently desire

peace that they are prepared to relinquish their bellicose attitude. But it is not clear yet whether Berlin wants to come to terms."

Mirror: "Stand by our public declarations of war aims, being in no mood to enter secret diplomacy with Prussia, or any others."

Mail: "The proposal is an impudent sham. Wilson, in advance, disposed of the proposal when, on January 8, he said, 'None but open covenants of peace, openly arrived at.'"

Graphic: "The proposal is a war maneuver. If Germany is prepared to surrender unconditionally, peace is possible at once."

Post: "We are dealing with the first definite peace overture from Germany which, in substance, is a proposal to conclude an armistice. There can be but one answer. To pause now would be to throw away the fruits of four years; to dismiss forever the hope of victory; to betray the common cause of civilization."

An Impudent Note

Regarding Germany's note to Belgium, the Post said: "It is an impudent, shameless proposal which was put forward not to benefit Belgium or satisfy the allies but to provide propaganda for the defeatists."

Express: "The proposal brings peace no nearer. It is true that 'all peoples long for a speedy end to the struggle,' but the allies have stated their preliminary conditions. They are: withdrawal from Belgium and France; abrogation of the Brest-Litovsk and Bucharest treaties, etc. There is not the faintest suggestion that the central powers will agree to these conditions. It is just an invitation to a secret conference at which bargains can be struck and the destruction of militarism prevented. Hindenburg wants time to pull his armies together. Negotiations mean a practical armistice. Germany's note to Belgium is another Brest-Litovsk scheme."

Chronicle: "Two motives inspire the notes—first, the desire to embarrass the entente by throwing upon it the odium of continuing the war. Second, a genuine longing for peace. Berlin and Vienna now realize for the first time that the central powers cannot win the war. Instead they are fearful with the dread of defeat and disaster. No one wants to continue the war a day longer than necessary, but the entente is not going to be fooled with an unreal peace. It would be foolish to expect good results from a conference until Berlin and Vienna change their methods of negotiations."

Austria the Catspaw

"In Wilson language, 'No general peace, no peace without the infinite sacrifices of these years of tragical suffering,' can be arrived at under the old method of barter and concession."

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TO AVOID ANOTHER PERSHING POCKET GERMANS FALL BACK

Americans At Nearest Point Only Two Miles From German Border

By J. W. T. Mason, (United Press war expert.)

New York, Sept. 16.—Fearing that General Pershing is trying to create another pocket along the St. Mihiel front, the Germans have given way in the center of the line for a distance of three miles or more.

Abandonment of territory tends to straighten the German front before Metz. The Americans, however, have begun a new movement at Doncourt to drive another wedge in the line. If the operation succeeds, it will create two pockets, the first in the center of the front once more and the second about the important town of Frennes.

The salient formations are now playing as important a part in General Pershing's strategy as they have done for the last two months in General Foch's plans. By this process, the Americans are moving closer and closer to the German front. Once General Pershing has between two and twelve miles to cover before his army is again up along the German boundary, directly facing Metz.

The farther west will then be subjected to its first intensive bombardment of the war.

Meanwhile, the Americans have begun to progress along the principal railway running from Verdun to Metz. They have about 18 miles to go along this line before they can cut it at Containville, where it begins to feed the German front. Once Containville is reached Metz usefulness as a supply station for the Germans in France will be gravely compromised.

In the midst of these promises of large American successes, the central powers have begun their long anticipated peace offensive.

Austria-Hungary's purpose in suggesting a "non-binding conference" is to prevent the attainment of a democratic peace. A democratic peace is one brought about by public confession of defeat by the military camarilla of Germany. A reactionary peace is one arranged at a private conference by a handful of men who will thereby be encouraged to continue using the

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SALEM O. N. G. IN NEED OF RECRUITS

Failure To Organize Company Will Leave Capital City Out In The Cold.

Unless something is done pretty quick to secure recruits for the Salem company of the Oregon National Guard, the regiment may be formed and the capital city left out of it. There is required for the regiment 12 companies. Already 13 are under organization and it is understood that the first 12 that complete organization will be accepted.

For the past month there has been an effort to secure 110 men for this Salem company but notwithstanding all efforts made, there has been up to date only about 75 signed for service.

This does not mean that Salem cannot find 110 men who will join the Oregon National Guard, but it does mean that unless something is done pretty quick to secure about 35 more men, Salem stands a chance of being left out when the first regiment is officially organized.

At the meeting held Sunday afternoon at the armory, it was decided to appoint several committees to work at the meeting called for the army Tuesday evening of this week. This meeting is for all selective service men which means every man who carries a blue card.

It is thought that if the proposition is put to many of these men, that they would prefer service with the Oregon National Guard, rather than to be drafted. According to the present plan, as soon as the Oregon National Guard is organized, it will be federalized and then within a few weeks will be called into the service.

It is through this Oregon National Guard that a man has the privilege of enlisting and serving with his friends. Army recruiting officers have been called in and there is no such thing as enlisting in army service. Every man now is subject to call by the local draft board who is between the ages of 18 and 46.

It is thought by men who are interested in the Oregon National Guard that if a special effort is made this week, the 35 more men needed can be signed up and that the company can be organized. If it cannot, the capital city will have the name of being the only community in the state with a large population that failed to organize, even one company for the first regiment of the Oregon National Guard.

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AMERICAN EDITORS OPPOSED TO ACTING ON AUSTRIA'S PLANS

New York Times Alone Favors It.—Offer Is Made Only To Deceive

New York, Sept. 16.—The New York Times, in an editorial today urged that the allies accept the Austrian proposal for an "unbinding discussion," looking toward peace. The newspaper, however, declared peace conditions must throttle German militarism and insure that there be no repetition of the war.

Pointing out that the peace offer comes from the quarter where for three years the allies have felt it would come, the Times said: "It comes in a form which the allies may honorably accept in the confident belief that it will lead to the end of the war."

"The custom and practice of nations," the editorial continued, "demands that this invitation to enter upon the preliminary of peace receive the most serious and respectful attention of the governments to which it is addressed."

Commenting on what might be foreseen from the central powers, the newspaper said: "A peace that left Germany master of the east would be a crime against ourselves and our posterity. Control of vast regions where also could renew her now diminished might, she must once and for all renounce. The restorations and reparations to be decreed in the west are equally indispensable, but restoration has made them familiar."

Other New York newspapers declared the proposals must be spurned as they now stand.

"No one but a German or a vassal of Germany could imagine that, with the responsible leaders of Prussian militarism almost as false and boastful as ever, a peace by negotiation is possible," the World said.

"The awful tragedy of this war is not to be thus adjusted. No lie is to come triumphant from the fields where so many brave men have perished."

The Tribune asked: "Do we believe what we say about this German thing—that it is frightful beyond redemption, that it has no faith to pledge, that it has betrayed the very principles of civilization, that it cannot be lived with, and that it must be utterly destroyed?"—and then pointed to the crimes which have been committed.

"Germany has lost the war," it continued. "The peace offensive is now her most dangerous weapon. Let it break itself upon the text 'He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity; he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword.'"

Tacoma Times: "If Lincoln had stopped when the south was half defeated, human slavery would have endured. We are now going to half win this war. Austria's peace whimper shall not halt stern retribution. The allies will not huddle with any international cut throat."

Tacoma Ledger: Staggering about the ring, clinging to the ropes and hugging in the clinches, the Hun is endeavoring to stall for a knockout. Peace talk is part of the German propaganda designed to weaken allied morale."

German Press Comment

Amsterdam, Sept. 16.—The German press seeks to give the impression that it is not wholeheartedly in favor of the Austrian note.

The Berliner Neueste Nachrichten calls the note "risky."

The Boersen Zeitung thinks there is little hope of its success. The Post fears the allies will interpret the note as a sign of weakness. The Vorwaerts warns against "lover hasty optimism," but says the "widest circles of the German people will welcome the note."

The Krene Zeitung fears the note is futile and may lead to results opposite from those desired. The Vostische Zeitung anticipates the proposal will fail, saying "if rejected, it will mean declaration of the bankruptcy of the official policy."

French And Serbians Attack Bulgarians On Saloniki Front

Washington, Sept. 16.—French and Serbian troops are attacking strongly fortified Bulgarian positions on the Saloniki front, according to official dispatches to the Serbian legation here today.

After a day's artillery preparation, the allied troops advanced yesterday on the peak Vetrenik (4,724 feet), Dobro Polje (5,577 feet) and mountain Sokol (4,637 feet), piercing the enemy front and capturing all three positions which the Bulgarians have been fortifying for thirty months.

Several hundred prisoners were taken, numerous guns and great quantities of other material. The operation continues, the cable stated.



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