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FORTY-FIRST YEAR— NO. 222 SALEM, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18, 1918. PRICE TWO CENTS ON TRAINS AND NEWS STANDS— FIVE CENTS

AMERICANS DRIVING TOWARD METZ TAKE IMPORTANT POINTS FRENCH ADVANCE MILE AND HALF

BRITISH CROSS HINDENBURG LINE—ADVANCE THREE MILES ON 15-MILE FRONT, 1500 PRISONERS

British Start New Offensive This Morning And Break Through Hindenburg Line Despite Spirited Resistance.—Advance Of Two To Three Miles Made On Fifteen Mile Front.—Attack May Develop Into Great Battle.—Americans And French Drive Nearer Outposts of Metz.

London, Sept. 18.—The British have crossed the Hindenburg line in their new attack at Villeret and at the sugar beet factory, south of Gouzeaucourt, according to battle front dispatches received here this afternoon. The British are within a mile of the Hindenburg line on a wide front, the dispatch stated. The advance was made on a front of nearly 15 miles, extending northward from the village of Holnon. The latest advices said the British had advanced an average distance of two or three miles and had taken 1500 prisoners.

Villeret is five and a half miles northwest of St. Quentin. Gouzeaucourt is five and a half miles north and west of Villeret and seven miles southwest of Cambrai.

FRENCH LEND SUPPORT
By Lowell Mellett
(United Press staff correspondent)
Sept. 18.—(Noon)—British and French troops swept forward in a simultaneous smash against the Hindenburg line defenses centering about St. Quentin, this morning.

The British attacked on a front of about 12 miles, extending from Savy wood (two and a half miles directly west of St. Quentin), northward to Pienrice (12 miles southwest of Cambrai). At the same time the French, supporting the British right flank, advanced southwest of St. Quentin. Despite a heavy rain, the attack was going well at the hour of cabling. The attacks began at 5:30, following a brief "crash" bombardment. The attack caught the Germans in the midst of the new trench building begun a few days ago. A long tunnel had been partially constructed in the middle of the portion of the line under attack.

METZ GUNS USED
By John De Gandt
(United Press staff correspondent)
Paris, Sept. 18.—(3:25 p. m.)—The advanced defenses of Metz have entered the action against the Americans, according to L'Heure.

American forces are continuing their progress along the left bank of the Moselle. The Germans are slowly withdrawing toward their prepared line covering the Conflans junction of the Metz-Conflans-Montmedy railway. At certain points the Americans have advanced about 27 kilometers (nearly 17 miles) since the start of their offensive. Our infantry has reached a point less than ten miles from Conflans (12 miles west of Metz) while patrols have advanced from two to five kilometers (a mile and quarter to more than three miles) farther north. The Americans are nearing Pagy.

War Summary of United Press

1507th Day of the War; 63d Day of Counter Offensive

Metz front—American and French forces continued to advance on the two wings. The Americans are moving up the Rupt De Mad valley toward Gorze and Chambley, while the French are striking eastward and northeastward from Verdun, along a front of more than two miles, toward the new Hindenburg line at Etain.

FIGHTING IN BALKANS WILL STOP BULGARIA ASSISTING GERMANY

(Warning To Bulgars That They Must be Prepared to Defend Themselves.)

By J. W. T. Mason.
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)
New York, Sept. 18.—The French, Serbian and Greek operations along the Balkan front give promise of a major offensive being conducted against Bulgaria next spring in strategic conformity with the operations which America and the allies will then start against Germany in the west.

The present movement, itself in Macedonia, can scarcely have been planned to preserve for any length of time into the winter season, which soon begins in the Balkans. It would be hazardous, if not impossible, to prolong an offensive during the severe snows of mountainous southeastern Europe. A Balkan offensive has always been associated with the spring.

The purpose of the present drive is doubtless to secure possession of local points of vantage for which a spring advance can successfully be undertaken. This, of course, implies the issuance of notice to the Bulgarians that they will be attacked next year. There is good strategy in giving the notice. Germany is desperately trying to persuade Bulgaria to send troops to the West Front to help Von Hindenburg defend German territory. The Bulgars have been reluctant to agree, but they have lately been some signs of wavering at Sofia. Now, however, it would positively be dangerous for the Bulgarian government to permit any large number of troops to go to the west front. If this were done Bulgaria's own defensive position would be weakened to an extent that would give high encouragement to the allies to strike for Sofia itself.

Czar Ferdinand of Bulgaria, is a timid monarch, who is out exclusively for spoils. The changing conditions in the war situation are already reported to have sent him to health resorts where broken down nerves are treated. The Bulgarian retreat along the Macedonian front is certain to make Ferdinand still more timorous and to cause him to think of the safety of his own throne before considering the plight of the Hohenzollerns. This means the Kaiser will be unable to rely on serious Bulgarian military support when the Americans start for the Rhine.

NO COMPROMISE WITH CRIME SAYS MINISTER

Premier Clemenceau Says No Bargaining Between Crime And Justice

Paris, Sept. 18.—Premier Clemenceau speaking in the senate last night, declared that the allies must keep on fighting until Germany understands there can be no compromise between crime and right.

"France desires the honor of expressing her gratitude to the splendid soldiers of the entente whose efforts are about to free the populations from the subjugation of barbarism," the premier said.

Referring to German atrocities, he said: "There will be no victory until such criminals are made to pay in full."

ALLIED VICTORIES PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF KAISER'S SCREAMING

Secretary Daniels Says Teuton Rulers Acting Quickly Because Afraid

Annapolis, Md., Sept. 18.—Austria's peace conference note; Germany's peace offer to Belgium and the "scream of the Kaiser at Essen" were all due, directly to the allied American victories, Secretary Daniels said today at the graduation of 846 ensigns for the naval academy.

"If the allied forces had not won military victories," said Daniels, "no such remarkable speech as Wilhelm made to the workers in Krupp would have been delivered, the tender to Belgium would not have been made and the Austrian feeler would not have been put forth."

"There is a lesson for us today in the sequence in these events. Military success is the only argument German militarists can now understand."

"The allies advances are alone responsible for the offer of peace to Belgium and the proposition of the Austrian emperor for a conference."

WILSON'S NEXT MOVE WILL BE RECOGNITION OF JUGO-SLAV NATION

Of These There Are Six Million In Austria-Hungary—Hit Austria Hard

Washington, Sept. 18.—Recognition of the Jugo-Slavs in Austria will be President Wilson's next thrust at the enemy, according to diplomatic officials here today.

Outright recognition of the independence of over six million Jugo-Slavs in Austria-Hungary will follow the blunt dismissal of the Austrian attempt to entice the allies into a secret peace conference, authorities predicted. Jugo-Slavs in the United States, formerly Austrian subjects, have shown their loyalty to the allies again by defeating an alleged Austrian socialist coalition which attempted to get control of the convention of the national Croatian society, now meeting in Chicago. At the request of Secretary of State Lansing, officials began work on their brief, setting forth the grounds on which they will ask recognition.

Military aid to the allies, as well as political organization looking toward independence, are the grounds on which the Jugo-Slavs will present their case to the allies.

In the recognized Serbian army, which has made advances in Macedonia this week, are thirty thousand Jugo-Slavs formerly Austrian subjects, representatives here state.

ABE MARTIN

GERMANY BEHIND AUSTRIAN PEACE OFFER TO ALLIES

Vienna Paper Says Note Dispatched Only After Full Consultation

Rome, Sept. 18.—The vatican chancery had not received the Austrian note to the pope up to a late hour last night. It was considered possible that the message was sent directly to the pope, not passing through the chancery.

NOTE HAD NOT REACHED VATICAN THIS MORNING

German Press Already Using American Refusal To Stir The People.

Germany Behind It
Amsterdam, Sept. 18.—The Austrian peace note was dispatched after the fullest consultation with Germany and with the latter's approval, according to the Vienna Reichspost.

The newspaper said the proposal was composed following an exchange of views, the German government expressing the belief that the moment for publication was not ill chosen.

Belgium Scorns It

Paris, Sept. 18.—Belgium, after consultation with the allies has decided to reject absolutely Germany's offer of a separate peace, the Petit Parisien announced today.

American Watchful
Washington, Sept. 18.—American government officials are on guard to ward off any Teuton move in the desperate peace offensive.

It was foreseen here today that Germany and Austria are likely later to make some fresh maneuver, perhaps attempting to start a discussion on certain points of President Wilson's peace terms.

COMPERS PROPOSES LABOR STAND WITH ALLIES TO THE END

This Until The Central Powers Are Driven Out Of All Invaded Territory

London, Sept. 18.—Samuel Compers, president of the American Federation of Labor, presenting the proposals of that organization at the inter-allied labor conference today, said the delegation is unprejudiced and open minded, but that it is bound by the principles expressed in the proposals.

The following, he said, are the essential fundamental principles for a peace treaty:
A league of free peoples; no political, economic or discriminatory restrictions, no indemnities or reprisals for vindictive or injurious purposes, but to right manifest wrongs; recognition of the rights of small nations; no territorial changes, except for the welfare of the people affected.

CLASS EXEMPTION ASKED BY M'ADOO CROWDER SAYS NO

Railroad Director Then Appeals To Exemption Boards To Help Him Out.

Washington, Sept. 18.—Railway employees, like all other workers must prove their services are essential, to avoid the draft. Provost Marshal General Crowder has ruled that there can be no blanket class exemptions of any kind.

MANY RAILROAD MEN REQUIRED IN FRANCE

Places Cannot Be Filled And Boards Asked To Exempt Every Real Worker

"Since the railroads are indispensable and branches of the service to which employees belong are indispensable, I understand the remaining questions for consideration by the district boards are whether a particular employee can be dispensed with (1) on the ground that the railroad has more of such employees than it needs, or (2) on the ground that it can readily replace such employees with others."

Appeals to Boards.
"Please state to the district board with my full authority that after eight and a half months of a thorough and continuous study of this subject, being constantly in touch with employers of railroad labor, the representatives of the labor situation generally for the whole country, there is no surplus supply of a labor from which employees can be drawn to replace those who may be taken for military service. Any competent railroad employee taken from an indispensable branch of the railroad service will be subtracted from a force which is already too small and which cannot be adequately replenished. The taking of any such employee by any district board would be a step tending to injure war operations of some railroad."

The taking of any such steps by numerous district boards, would in the aggregate, constitute a cumulative and far reaching injury to the United States railroad administration and would destroy the purpose for which the government took possession of such control of the roads.

Skilled Labor Scarce.
"The scarcity of skilled labor employees is due partly to the fact that up to the present time the railroads of the country, in addition to meeting their full share of the demands of men for general military service, have been subjected to the peculiar disability that they alone out of all the industries of the country have had to furnish large numbers of men for special military service."

Hundreds of miles of military railroads in France are being operated for the military forces of the United States by men who have been drawn from the ranks of the skilled officers and employees of railroads in this country. In this way the drain upon skilled railroad labor has already been proportionately greater than the drain upon skilled railroad labor of other industries. And this, in part, accounts for the exceptional shortage of skilled labor that confronts the United States railroad administration.

Cannot Be Replaced
"It must also be clear that employees in these classes cannot be supplied by the employment and training of new employees. Practically without exception, these employments are not suited to women, but able bodied men are needed for the discharge of the duties. These men are not available in adequate numbers and will become less and less available as the war progresses. Besides, untrained men cannot perform the functions and if skilled railroad employees are taken for military service the substitution of untrained employees even if available would prove destructive to efficient railroad operation."

"It is desired that the understanding and sympathetic co-operation of the district boards shall be sought in all instances. To the extent that railroad men can be spared from railroad service for military service, we ought to spare them. But to the extent that they are needed for railroad service the district boards should not attempt to take them for military service."

Is Patriotic Duty.
"The United States railroad administration intends to ask for deferred classification only when the men on whose behalf the request is made are needed in the public interest for the continued performance of their duties and when experienced substitutes can

(Continued on page three)

SOLICITOR GENERAL JOHN W. DAVIS MADE NEW AMBASSADOR

Is Now On Way To Switzerland To Arrange For Exchange of Prisoners

By Robert J. Bender.
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)
Washington, Sept. 18.—John W. Davis, solicitor general of the United States, has been selected by President Wilson as American ambassador to Great Britain, it was officially announced today. Davis, who is now enroute to Bern, Switzerland, to confer with German representatives on questions involving disposition and exchange of prisoners, is one of the less widely known, but most popular officials of the government.

In many ways Davis' position as United States ambassador to Britain would not be unlike that of Lord Reading, British ambassador to the United States. Both men are legal minds of great repute, Davis being recognized as one of the most able solicitors general the government ever had.

Both Davis and Reading are of the so-called "liberal" element in world politics and both are of charming personality.

In view of the delicate problems which are bound to come out of the war and the need for studios handling of these situations between the United States and Great Britain, Davis' selection carries with it the knowledge that he is held in extremely high esteem by President Wilson.

Many times he has been mentioned for important cabinet posts but at the time when his selection was deemed likely, he was involved in important government cases before the United States supreme court.

His selection for an ambassadorship now would be timely, because the justice department has decided to drop trust prosecutions for the war period and Davis' duties as solicitor general have been lightened.

John William Davis was born at Clarkburg, W. Va., April 13, 1873. He graduated from Washington and Lee law school and later was associate professor of law in the institution. He has been prominent in democratic politics all of his life, being a former member of the West Virginia house of delegates, delegate to democratic conventions and member of the 62nd and 63rd congresses, from which he resigned August 30, 1913, to become solicitor general at the request of President Wilson. He is a 32nd degree Mason, an Elk and a prominent clubman here. Davis is married and has a daughter.

LATEST NEWS FROM BALTIC PROVINCES AND FROM SIBERIA

Indications Germany Is Preparing To Withdraw From Baltic Front

Washington, Sept. 18.—Germany gives some indication of preparing for a future withdrawal from the Baltic provinces.

Spanish Influenza Epidemic In Navy Yard

Philadelphia, Sept. 18.—Several hundred cases of Spanish influenza have developed at the Philadelphia navy yard and the naval home, according to reports to the bureau of health today.



(Continued on page two)