

GERMANS PRESS FORWARD ON TWENTY-MILE FRONT

Drive Forward Rapidly in Attempt to Win Decision Before French's Reserves Arrive.

The great German military machine is in full motion along the 20-mile front in the Aisne river sector between Vailly and Berry-Aux-Bac, and greatly outnumbered, the British and French everywhere are giving ground.

According to the German official communications, numerous towns and villages in the fighting zone have been taken by the enemy and 15,000 allied troops, already have been made prisoners.

Carried Out Rapidly.

At last accounts the Germans were endeavoring to press back the defenders on the Vesle river which runs parallel with the Aisne and at several points had reached positions dominating the Vesle valley. The offensive is being carried out with the greatest rapidity, for the German high command evidently is well aware of the fact that General Foch's reserves have been reported to be coming up rapidly to reinforce the hard-pressed British and French who are fighting valiantly against the terrible odds and making every step of the enemy pay dearly in casualties for every foot of ground they obtain.

Allied Front Nowhere Pierced.

Notwithstanding the rapidity of the drive and the large number of the enemy pressing it—some unofficial estimates place the number of shock troops alone at 25 divisions, or about 500,000 picked men—the allied front nowhere has been pierced, but under the onslaught has bent back in perfect balance and all the time giving battle.

Albion Low No Supplies.

With such precision has the retirement been conducted that both the British and French troops have been able to carry back with them all of their supplies and guns or to destroy those they were not able to handle.

At present it is impossible geographically to depict the extent of the German gains, but it would seem evident that the deepest salient they have driven is in the region due east of Vailly—about eight miles.

Although the Germans, for the moment at least, seemingly are having their own way on the southern part of the line in France, on the sectors around Meuse and southwest of Ypres they are being harassed by the Americans and British and French.

Great Day for Americans.

Tuesday's fighting in the vicinity of Meuse will mark an epoch in the war, so far as the American troops are concerned. Here in an attack they captured their first village—Cantigny, which lies a short distance northwest of Meuse. They also took several other objectives and held all of them in the face of counter-attacks. The Germans suffered severe losses in men killed or wounded and in addition left behind them 200 men made prisoner, among them two officers. The American casualties were relatively small. The German official report announces the taking of American prisoners. The report from American headquarters, however, shows only two Americans missing, one in France and the other in the Luxembourg sector.

Enemy's Maneuver Nullified.

Libertine southwest of Ypres the enemy received hard usage at the hands of the British and French east of Dikrich where Monday the Germans in an attack had taken ground. Starting immediately after the gain was made the British and French began counter-attacks in an endeavor to wipe out the captured salient and Tuesday succeeded in completely nullifying the enemy's maneuver which had been carried out with extremely heavy losses.

In the Italian theatre the Italians are keeping up their offensive against the Austrians on various sectors in the mountain region and along the lower reaches of the Piave river. At Capo Sile, near the Adriatic coast, the Italians penetrated the enemy line to a depth of more than 700 yards, inflicted numerous casualties, took prisoners and captured four trench mortars, ten machine guns, several hundred rifles and quantities of ammunition and stores.

Attempt to Hold Paris.

Again the Germans have endeavored to carry out an all-out drive over Paris. But of their machine succeeded in reaching the suburbs of the French capital and dropping several bombs, but the air defenses kept them from landing the city itself. The long range German guns continue to hurl projectiles into Paris.

"Frightfulness" has been carried out against a victim hospital behind the line by German planes. Several bombs were dropped near the hospital, but no damage was done. It is officially announced that shells were carried out against British hospitals situated in 200 ambulances among sick and wounded inmates.

The British committee reported to the regular weekly bulletin are given as 28,225 as against 26,277 the previous week.

BIG INCREASE IN FREIGHT AND PASSENGER RATES.

Is Indicated That the Average Will be More Than Twenty-Five Per Cent.

Washington, May 27.—Examinations today of Director General McAdoo's order raising freight rates on a basis of 25 per cent and passenger fares to three cents a mile and abolishing all lower increase would be higher than 25 per cent.

Many changes and readjustment will be made by the railroad administration either on its own initiative after receiving suggestions from shippers and state or local authorities, or by order of the Interstate Commerce Commission which has power to review and modify the schedules. This will not prevent the new rates from going into effect, however—passenger fares on June 10 and freight tariffs on June 25—for the commission today gave its approval to the rate order without hearings. This action was perfunctory and is not intended to cut off later complaints and hearings on them.

State railroad or rate commissions have no authority to change the rates, the railroad administration holds, even though many provisions of the new order more than double charges for short hauls within states. The director general today explained in a telegram to chairman of state commissions, however, that he will welcome suggestions for readjustment of rates on interstate traffic and these will be referred to the Interstate Commerce Commission for its consideration in passing on specific complaints. State commissions also may enter formal protests direct to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

These complaints are expected to result in hundreds of modifications affecting specific commodities or classes, and rates between certain communities, but probably will not reduce to any great extent the total revenue to be derived from the sweeping increases which is estimated at from \$200,000,000 to \$300,000,000.

The additional charges must eventually be absorbed in higher prices of commodities. It was noted today by shippers interests, and this effect may be noticeable particularly for coal, brick, lumber, meats and grain and for materials shipped to market only a short distance. Analysis of the new schedules showed that for hauls of from five to fifty miles, particularly in states which have their own intrastate classification rates, will be raised in varying amounts ranging from 25 to 50 per cent.

Some comfort for summer vacationists was derived from assurances of the railroad administration that excursion rates would be re-established, though on a higher basis. The director general's order provided for the discontinuance of all existing excursion rates and many other lower rates and special passenger privileges. Local excursion fares to summer resorts will be raised generally about 20 per cent. Long distance excursion rates in the east will be ten per cent less than the regular three-cent rate. In the west these fares will be approximately 20 per cent above the existing rather low rates.

It was reported here during the day that commercial travelers organizations would protest against the three-cent passenger rate which is from 1-2 to 3-4 cent higher than present mileage rates. They will ask, it was said, for sale of mileage books at a lower rate on the ground that they are wholesale purchasers of mileage.

OVER-SUBSCRIPTION ABOVE \$2,000,000.

Returns from Red Cross Mercy Fund Campaign Continued to Come in Last Night.

Washington, May 27.—Germany's challenge of righteousness in France has been answered by the American people with an outpouring of \$125,000, 000 for the second war mercy fund of the Red Cross. This was an over-subscription of \$25,000,000, with returns still coming in from some districts late today.

Greater New York, which early in the night had reported only \$77,000, 000, turned in final subscriptions of \$48,000,000. The Atlantic division outside of Greater New York and the Pennsylvania and mountain divisions also reported substantial increases after final totals were made public.

Every Red Cross division except the central and every state in the Union except Illinois went over the water.

The Jewish division rolled up the greatest percentage against its quota. Palestine division \$1,200,000; District of Columbia, \$1,000,000; Maryland, \$1,700,000; Virginia, \$1,000,000; West Virginia, \$200,000.

Southern division \$4,500,000; Florida \$2,000,000; Georgia \$1,500,000; North Carolina \$2,000,000; South Carolina \$275,000; Tennessee \$1,200,000.

Federal revenue agents discovered two illicit stills in a kitchen near Birmingham, Ala. The owners complained that the sanctity of the home had been violated by the raiding party. The revenue men contended that the sanctity of the home had been violated by the stills. Homebushers now face the charge of manufacturing whiskey and other food in the manufacture of alcoholic liquors.

KU KLUX KLAN REVIVING.

Secret Organization is Paying Attention to Leaders.

While the Vigilante organization in Birmingham, Ala., composed of 1,500 patriotic citizens, have been driving from that community, under threats of severe bodily punishment, men suspected of disloyalty in the war, the Ku Klux Klan on a revised plan is giving its attention largely to leaders and members who are actively getting to work or suffer the consequences. The result is that hundreds of men who have been able to lead half their time because of high wages in the industrial field, and especially negroes whose large wages have encouraged idleness to a more alarming degree, are either being busy or making themselves busy.

Recently the Ku Klux Klan revived those memorable scenes sacred to the people of the South in recent days following the Civil war, re-enacting an impressive spectacle. No hint was given of the event. At 9 o'clock at night 200 members of this secret order gathered, mounted on a platform. Every man wore a flowing white robe covering his body, while masks concealed their individual identity. Robes and masks were similar to those that struck terror in the hearts of carpet-buggers and scalawags during the reconstruction period in the South.

People in Birmingham were astonished when the long line of white-robed cavalry appeared suddenly and walked their horses from one end of the city to the other. Not a word was spoken. There was no sound but the clatter of the horses' feet. Whence came the white riders and where they disbanded are mysteries. The scene was weird and suggestive. It produced a profound impression on many leaders, and already as a result the number of Klans is perceptibly increased. Hundreds who were working not at all or half time have got busy.

FEWER GERMAN BABES.

Compulsory Marriages Considered as Means to Boost Birth Rate.

The German commission appointed to examine the decline of the birth rate in Germany has reported a recommendation for the compulsory marriage of Germans before their twentieth year is passed, according to a dispatch to the Daily Express from Amsterdam.

Financial assistance would be granted by the state, according to this plan, which provides penalties for those failing to comply. Provision also is made for the punishment of married couples who remain childless.

A report compiled by the local government board based on information from German sources shows a fall in the birth rate in Germany during the three years 1915-1917 in many instances to the loss of 2,000,000. Forty per cent fewer births occurred in 1915 than in 1913.

The infantile death rate in Germany has been kept well down, but nevertheless the report shows it is 20 per cent higher than in England and Wales.

Twenty-also Aviation Plans.

The War department announced that the Government had 20 aviation fields in operation, most of which were service fields, whose graduates of the ground schools receive flying instructions. Some are reserved for advanced flying, bomb work, artillery observation, etc. Four other fields—Paine, Southern, March and Indian—will soon be opened for flying instruction.

By Jones, a former resident at Black Hawk, N.C., estimates that he has 200,000 dogs in the state. He declares that each dog consumes an amount of food as will raise and produce 200 pounds of pork, or a total of 20,000,000 pounds, which at 20 cents a pound would yield \$4,000,000.

To Cure a Cold in One Day. The LAXATIVE BROWN BREAD, which is high and nutritious and is the best food for the sick and for the aged. It is a good food for the sick and for the aged.

FOR MEN ONLY THE "CLAPP"--"NUF SED"

Because every man knows when a Low Cut Shoe bears that name, it means America's Best Shoes for Men.

I have a few pairs in all styles carried over from last season, which I am offering for a few days at \$5.98 a pair. The new price is \$10.00 to \$12.50.

Mail Orders Receive Prompt Attention.

Evans' White Front Dept. Store

Laurinburg,

North Carolina

Telephone Company Plans To Improve Service

Our request of the North Carolina State Corporation Commission for authority to enforce the clause in our subscribers' contract for service which provides that we shall furnish service "for the use of (the) subscriber, subscriber's agents and representatives only," is in the interest of improved service, conservation of facilities and the elimination of an unnecessary burden now borne by the company and certain of its subscribers.

For many years we have permitted our operators to furnish our subscribers an information service, such as giving the time of the day and answering other inquiries not in any way connected with the furnishing of telephone service.

We have also indulged the practice of many subscribers to business service in allowing the general public free and unrestricted use of telephone stations in the subscriber's place of business, with the result that this practice has developed into an abuse.

This free use of service by the general public prevails extensively in our larger cities and is noticeable in public and semi-public places in many of which a telephone station is provided for the free use of the public for advertising purposes. Telephone stations of this class are used beyond all reasonable limits for frivolous and unnecessary purposes and prove a burden upon the service by requiring operators and facilities which are urgently needed for necessary and serious uses.

It is such stations as these that will be effected by the enforcement of the contract. The plan, as applied elsewhere, has met with public approval and does not restrict the service of the individual subscriber.

The demands upon the operators and facilities of the company by reason of the innumerable requests for the time of day and other information and the extensive and unauthorized use of the service in public and semi-public places, have grown to such proportions as to seriously handicap us in our efforts to render efficient service to our subscribers who are paying for the service.

Coupled with this there is such an unprecedented demand for telephone service and facilities, both for business and social purposes that we felt it our duty to petition the State Commission for authority to enforce our subscribers' contract, so that facilities now used for frivolous and unnecessary purposes might be released for a more serious and legitimate use.

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY

