

TROOPS SLEEP IN FLOODED TRENCHES

RAIN MAKES ARMY LIFE WORSE THAN EVER—RIGORS OF FIGHT.

8 SHIPS ARE DESTROYED

Both Sides Report Losses of Vessels to the Enemy on the Seas. Italy Reported Prepared.

Reports differ as to the progress of the great battle in Northern France between the Allied British and French armies and Germany. Some indicate that there is extremely heavy fighting while others tell of great masses of troops lying in flooded trenches, many of them utterly exhausted.

At some points, at least, fierce engagements have been fought with the tide flowing first in one direction and then in the other. The Allies have won a position here and the Germans have gained one there. But all reports, official and otherwise, agree that there is much fighting yet to be done before any material advantage can be claimed by either side.

The British in the trenches say: "We are slowly beating them back."

The French official statement declares that though furiously counter-attacked by superior forces and obliged to yield some ground this was regained almost immediately. Berlin officially announces that the Franco-British forces have been obliged to take the defensive in entrenched positions and that therefore the result of the German attacks are slow. Interesting information has been given out by the British Admiralty regarding British successes and misfortunes in various waters. The British merchant cruiser Carmania has sunk a German merchant cruiser, supposed to be either the Cap Trafalgar, or the Berlin, off the coast of South America, but the German cruiser Koenigsberg has disabled the British cruiser Pegasus, while the latter was overhauling her machinery in Zanibar harbor, killing 25 men and wounding more than three times that number and the German Cruiser Emden has sunk six British merchant steamers in the Bay of Bengal.

In fighting around Rheims the matter of greatest interest has been the destruction of the famous cathedral, one of the most noted structures in the world, dating back to the Thirteenth Century, which is reported to have first been pierced by many German shells and then to have burst into flames.

Against the destruction of the cathedral the French Government has decided to send through diplomatic channels a protest to all the Powers.

There has been a review off the Island of Haik, by the Sultan, of the Turkish fleet, including the former German cruisers, Breslan and Goeben, after which the warships proceeded to Constantinople for coal.

Italy, according to reports from Rome, has more than a half million men under arms.

ALLIES MAKE SLIGHT GAINS.

Germans Lose on Left, and Fail to Force Break in French Front.

Paris.—The French war office issued the following communication: "On our left wing we again have made a slight advance along the right bank of the River Oise."

"A division of Algerians captured another flag. All efforts of the Germans, supported by strong artillery to smash our front between Craonne and Rheims have been repulsed."

"Near Rheims the hill of Brimont, a portion of which we had occupied, has been retaken by the enemy. In return we have taken possession of the defenses of La Pompele (about five miles East by Southeast of Rheims.)"

"The Germans have roused themselves to a condition of such fury that without military reason they have fired on the cathedral of Rheims, which is in flames."

"On the western side of the Argonne our gains are maintained. In Woervez there is nothing to announce."

"On the right wing in Lorraine the enemy has been driven back beyond the frontier, evacuating in particular the region of Arvicourt (a border village). In the Vosges, the enemy has tried to resume the offensive in the neighborhood of St. Die, but without success."

"Our attacks progress slowly on that side because of the difficulty of the ground, the defensive works encountered there and the bad weather. As yet we have no certain confirmation of the reduction of the forts not previously destroyed at Maubeuge, but Germans report the taking of the city and even indicate that its governor will be interned at Torgau (Prussia.)"

"The Saxons army has been broken up and its commander, General Von Hausen, has been relieved of his command. The cavalry division of the same nationality, which had fought in Lorraine at the opening of the campaign and later was sent to Russia, has shared the downfall of the Austrian army and must have suffered heavy losses."

BATTLE OF AISNE IS IN PROGRESS

Pushed Back Near Belgian Border by Allies Germans Make Desperate Stand

RUSSIANS ARE IN CONTROL

Of Situation in Galicia and Are Progressing in Poland and Russia Against Germans

The second great battle between the allied armies of Great Britain and France against the Germans in the northern part of France is in progress. It is the battle of the Aisne. The Germans are strongly entrenched in the mountains in the region of the Noyon on the river Oise, northwest of Paris. Their battle line extends to the river Meuse, north of the Verdun. Strong reinforcements, probably from Lorraine, has strengthened their lines.

Allies Win Battle of Marne. When the German armies invaded France from Belgium they swept the allies before them and pushed steadily forward until they were almost under the walls of Paris. Then the tide of the battle turned. The allies were the pursuers and the Germans the pursued. This was known as the battle of the Marne. The battle ended when the Germans had been driven north of the Aisne river and the allies were the victors.

Three Million Men Engaged. It is predicted that the battle of the Aisne will be even more appalling than the battle of the Marne. Military experts estimate that there are nearly 3,000,000 men assembled on a battle line about 110 miles long. Thousands of lives will be sacrificed in the attempt of the armies of the defenders to push the invaders out of France. The Germans have left a sufficient force in Belgium to protect their retreat through that country in the event they are forced to fall back.

Reinforcements For Germans. Word has been received that Germany has recalled the armies she sent from the north of France and Belgium to East Prussia to check the onward rush of the Czar's armies through East Prussia, and will send them to the assistance of the Germans in France.

Move For Peace Is On. The negotiations that have been going on between the United States and Germany with regard to a movement for peace have given little encouragement. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, the imperial chancellor of Germany, has suggested to United States Ambassador Gerard at Berlin that the United States secure terms of peace from Great Britain, France and Russia. "Germany," he said, "wants permanent peace and protection from further warfare." President Wilson announced he would continue his efforts along this line.

Russians Moving Forward. According to dispatches from Rome and Petrograd, the Russian capital, the armies of Austria in Galicia are in a pitiful condition. At present they are hovering under the protection of the forts surrounding Przemyśl, but the Russians have surrounded this location and are expected to make an attack at any time. The German troops that were sent to the assistance of the Austrians failed in their mission and themselves were forced to fall back.

Undaunted by the former defeat at Koenigsberg, in East Prussia, the Russians are preparing to take advantage of the withdrawal of a large portion of the German soldiers in that vicinity, who have been ordered to the relief of the Kaiser's armies in France, and are planning another assault on Koenigsberg. The Russians are also enjoying victories against the Austro-German armies in Poland. The armies of the Czar in Galicia and Poland are already marching on Berlin and in the event they are successful in defeating the Germans in East Prussia it will be only a short time before there will be three great armies pushing their way to Berlin.

Fighting Spreads to Asia. The European war during the past week spread to Asia and Africa. The Japanese, who declared war against Germany several weeks ago, have begun an attack on the German possessions in China. The British forces in Africa have begun a campaign against the Germans in Africa.

Austria in Deep Gloom. The deepest gloom overspreads Austria. The government has called the last reserves to the colors. News of victories over the Servians was given out to the people of Austria, but this has not helped to dispell the depression caused by the continual defeats suffered by their soldiers fighting the Russians in Galicia. Vienna lives in constant fear that the Russians will change their course in Galicia and instead of continuing on to Berlin they will encircle the Carpathians and besiege the capital of the dual-monarchy.

Germany Urges Italy's Aid. Rome.—Germany continues to try to influence public opinion with all kinds of publications; the latest being a pamphlet in Italian which has been widely distributed and bears the title, "The Truth About the War." Among the collaborators of the article are Count Ernest Von Revontlow, the naval expert; Mathias Erberger, leader of the clerical center in the German Reichstag, and Joseph Friedrich Nauman and Count Oppendorf, also members of the Reichstag.

AUSTRIAN SHARPSHOOTERS HOLD BACK SERBS



Austrian sharpshooters along the Danube river checking the advance of the Servian troops.

Battle of Aisne in Progress

London.—For five days the British and French armies have been trying to dislodge the Germans from the strong line of defenses which they have constructed on the battle front stretching from the Oise to the Meuse rivers. There have been attacks and counter attacks, but, in the words of the official communication, "there has been no change in the situation."

The allies claim to have made slight progress at some points against the German right wing north of the river Aisne and to have repulsed Craonne and Rheims, while they say in the center and on the right the Germans are acting purely on the defensive, having "dug themselves into entrenchments."

The German official reports are almost identical with those of the allies. They say no decision has been reached, but that the allies' power of resistance is weakening; that a French attempt to break their right has failed; that in the center the Germans are gaining ground slowly and that salient from Verdun has been repulsed.

It would seem from all this that the commanding generals have not yet found the weak points in their opponents' dispositions and that each is withholding his determined blow for, as Lord Kitchener said in the house of lords, "the right moment."

British Fly Across Channel

London.—So little has appeared regarding the movements of the British aerial forces that the following excerpts from a discussion of its activities by one professing to be closely connected with this branch of the service is interesting.

Speaking of the sending of thirty-six British aeroplanes across the channel by air, which was kept secret for some time, he says: "As a combine flight, that surpassed anything ever done in aviation; but it was only part of a big movement; other machines had flown across the previous day, and at the present moment three full squadrons, Nos. 2, 3 and 4, each consisting of twelve aeroplanes, besides reserves, spares and motor transport, are with the expeditionary force. But apart from the news of two fatal accidents, and the appearance in the casualty lists of an airman's name among the wounded, nothing authentic has been published concerning the doings of the royal flying corps."

Russian Victory in Prussia

Petrograd.—The following communication was issued by the chief of the general staff:

"On the front in Eastern Prussia the armies of General Rennenkampf definitely stopped the offensive movement of the Germans. At several points the Germans are falling back and shifting to new positions. "On the Austrian front the pursuit of the enemy continues. The Russians are approaching the defensive positions of Stenawa, Jarosau and Przemyśl (Galicia.)"

Germans Deny Defeat

Washington.—The German embassy received the following wireless from Berlin:

"All the French-English reports of victories of battles in France are untrue. The German retreat of the western wing was a practical maneuver not affecting the strategic position. The French attempt to break through the center of the German position was victoriously repulsed. "There is confirmation of German successes at several points of the long extended battlefield."

French Laugh at Siege Guns

London.—The Paris correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says the value of the German siege guns is limited to two points. They can be dragged over muddy roads and they have wonderful armor-piercing qualities when used against forts. In permanent fortified positions their effect on the soldiers is terrible; some of the Belgians in the Liege forts were driven crazy. But the French laugh at their effect in the open.

Thrilling Rescue by Submarine

London.—"The most romantic, dramatic and piquant episode that modern war can show," says a naval lieutenant in describing an episode in the Heligoland fight. His letter reads:

"The Defender, having sunk an enemy, lowered a whaler to pick up her swimming survivors; before the whaler got back an enemy's cruiser came up and chased the Defender, and thus she abandoned her whaler. Imagine their feelings; alone in an open boat without food, twenty-five miles from the nearest land, and that land the enemy's fortress, with nothing but fog and foes around them. Suddenly a swirl alongside, and up, if you please, pops his Britannic majesty's submarine E-4, opens his conning tower, takes them all on board, shuts up again, dives and brings them home 250 miles! Is not that magnificent? No novel would dare face the critics with an episode like that in it, except, perhaps, Jules Verne; and all, true! Magnificent, indeed, and it is war."

German-American Protest Rejected

Washington.—President Wilson declined to receive Horace L. Bland of Chicago, who came to present messages from several German-American organizations protesting against the charges of atrocities made by the Belgian commission against the German army.

The president took the position that he had already refused to permit natives of other belligerent countries living in the United States to discuss the war with him and that the messages of the German-Americans were not of the same nature as those brought by the Belgian commissioners. He planned to write a letter to Mr. Brand explaining that his recent statement on neutrality addressed to the American people should apply equally to all living in this country.

Peace Move Appears Hopeless

Washington.—Great Britain has received no proposal for peace, either directly or indirectly, from Germany or Austria, and, therefore, has nothing to say on the subject.

This was the substance of a message received by Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, British ambassador here, from Sir Edward Grey, British foreign secretary. The ambassador had inquired whether any peace proposal was before his government in view of persistent rumors from Berlin that proposals were being exchanged.

Coincident with the receipt of this information from Great Britain it was learned authoritatively that President Wilson had not pursued either with Great Britain, France or Russia the informal suggestion of the imperial German chancellor that "it was up to the United States to obtain a statement of peace terms from the allies."

Moving Toward Russian Frontier

London.—The Daily Telegraph's Rome correspondent says he learns that eight German army corps left France and Belgium for the Russian frontier.

Servians Capture Semlin

Nish, Servia.—The Servian offensive movement continues successfully on the left bank of the Save. No important developments along the lower Drina have been reported since the Servians victory on September 9. The following official statement was issued: "On our northern front, after taking Semlin, our troops still continue successfully to pursue the offensive. The hurried retreat of the flight of the enemy at Semlin can be estimated by the quantity of provisions, equipment and arms found."

British Victory in Africa

London.—A dispatch from Cape Town to Reuters says the Fourth South African mounted rifles, commanded by Colonel Deetman, after two night marches, surprised the German force which had occupied a drift sixty miles from Stenakopf, in the Mamiqualand. After a sharp skirmish the Germans were compelled to surrender. Another Cape Town dispatch reports that the action took place at Raman's drift, an important strategic position.

DEMOCRATS AGREE ON FULL WAR TAX

REPUBLICANS ARE FIGHTING BILL PROVIDING FOR SUM OF \$105,000,000.

WILL TAX ALL THE BANKERS

Theatre Tickets, Pullman Berths, Pool and Billiard Rooms, Legal Papers, Circuses, Tobacco, etc.

Washington. An emergency revenue bill to provide \$105,000,000, taxing beer, wines, gasoline, sleeping and parlor cars tickets, insurance, telegraph and telephone messages, amusements and a variety of documents was agreed on by Democrats of the house ways and means committee and was introduced by Democratic Leader Underwood early this week.

Republicans of both house and senate have already gone on record in opposition to any war tax measure. Democrats hope to rush the bill through the house. The big fight will be in the senate.

The committee increased the internal revenue tax on beer by 50 cents a barrel, making the new tax total \$1.50. Domestic wines are to be taxed 20 cents a gallon on sweet wines and 12 cents a gallon on dry wines. Gasoline is to be taxed two cents a gallon.

Stamp tax provisions and the tax on tobacco dealers, brokers, bankers, and amusements, as carried in schedule A, will continue in effect until December 31, 1915. The remainder of the bill will be in force until repealed.

Bankers are to be taxed two dollars on each \$1,000 of capital surplus and undivided profits; brokers will pay \$50 each, pawnbrokers \$20; commercial \$20; customs house brokers, \$10. Proprietors of theaters, museums and concert halls in cities of 15,000 populations or more are to pay \$100 each. Circus proprietors are to pay \$100 a year, proprietors of other amusements \$10 and proprietors of bowling alleys and billiard rooms \$5 for each alley or table.

Tobacco dealers and manufacturers are to be taxed the same as in 1898 except that in the largest cities, "tobacco dealers not specifically provided for" the tax is to be \$4.80 each. In 1898 there was a \$12 tax on tobacco dealers having annual sales of 50,000 pounds or more.

Bonds and certificates of indebtedness are taxed five cents for each \$100 involved, and freight express receipts one cent each with a mandatory provision that the shippers must pay this tax. Telephone messages are to be taxed one cent on all tolls of 15 cents or more and telegrams one cent a message.

The bill carries taxes of 50 cents on each indemnity bond, two cents on each certificate of profits, 25 cents on each certificate of damage and 10 cents for each certificate not especially provided for.

Life insurance policies are to be taxed eight cents on each \$100 and fire, marine, casualty, fidelity and guaranty insurance policies one-half cent on each dollar, as in 1898. Goods withdrawn from custom houses will pay a stamp tax of 50 cents as in 1898, but the 25 cent tax on each warehouse receipt imposed in 1898 is omitted. The 1898 tax of from 25 cents to one dollar for entry of goods at customs houses, according to value, is renewed.

For each seat in a palace car and for each berth in a sleeping car the tax now is to be two cents against the one cent war tax of 1898.

Tickets from a United States port to a foreign port will be taxed from one dollar to five dollars each, according to the value of the ticket as in 1898. Other provisions are: Brokers' contracts, 10 cents; deeds and other conveyances, 50 cents when not exceeding \$500 in amount and 50 cents for each additional \$500; mortgages 25 cents for each \$1,500; power of attorney to vote, 10 cents; power of attorney to sell, 25 cents; protest of a note, bill of acceptance, etc., 25 cents.

Because of constitutional questions, the committee eliminated altogether foreign bills of exchange, charter agreements, manifests and foreign bills of lading and also struck out all reference to stamp tax on checks, bills of exchange, drafts and deposit certificates and postoffice money orders and on leases.

Loose Lives in Schooner Wreck

Astoria, Ore.—Between seventy and eighty men, women and children, coastwise passengers and crew, were drowned when a steam schooner was pounded to pieces in a gale 60 miles

May Close Wireless Station

Washington.—Unless a prompt and satisfactory explanation is forthcoming of the action of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America in receiving and forwarding a message from the British cruiser Suffolk to a British Admiralty agent in New York regarding supplies for the warship, the company's station at Sisseton, Mass., will be closed "for all communication." This was the reply of Secretary Daniels to protests of the company.

ASK CONGRESS FOR LEGISLATION

DR. ALEXANDER AND MR. J. Z. GREEN IN WASHINGTON BEFORE COMMITTEE.

STATE MEETING IS CALLED

Annual Convention of Farmers' Union to Be Held in Greenville, N. C., in November.

Charlotte.—The annual convention of the Farmers' Union of North Carolina will be held November 18, 19 and 20 at Greenville, N. C.

Announcement to this effect was made recently by Dr. H. Q. Alexander, state president. It will be of interest to the 40,000 members in good standing throughout the state, as well as the equal number of others who are not in quite such good standing with the treasurer.

The meeting will be one of much importance, as officers will be elected for the next year, reports will be heard from the various officials and the organization's policy for the ensuing twelvemonth will be decided.

Doctor Alexander and Mr. J. Z. Green of Marshville, the latter the state organizer and editor of the Progressive Farmer, went to Washington where they were to appear before the committee of Congress on banking and currency.

"We will appear in behalf of the Henry bill or any other legislation that will relieve the cotton situation," said Doctor Alexander.

The Henry bill authorizes the Government to issue Federal reserve currency sufficient to purchase at the rate of 12 cents a pound an amount of cotton equal to the number of bales exported during 1913.

"The effect of this," said Doctor Alexander, "would be to stabilize cotton, even if the government bought only one bale, it would bring the price to 12 cents, or whatever price may be specified in the bill."

Objection is anticipated to any such legislation on the ground that it is radical and unprecedented but the farmer-advocates appeared hopeful of securing something helpful.

"The time merchants and the fertilizer manufacturers have in their hands more power to help the situation than any other class," said Mr. J. Z. Green. He pointed out that if these classes would take cotton at the rate of 10 cents a pound this would remove the distressed cotton entirely from the market and hence the situation would be much sounder. It would be possible to use warehouse receipts for cotton so that these might be used as a basis for transactions between the store owner and his banker and at the same time the farmer could retain his equity in his cotton.

"I think the state warehouse company is something we will have to adopt ultimately not merely for this year but for every year," said Doctor Alexander. "This would provide an agency through which all staple farm crops could be sold."

TWO KILLED IN MOTOR WRECK.

Mr. J. M. Craig and Miss C. Maxwell Killed Instantly, Three Others Injured.

Charlotte.—Mr. John M. Craig, secretary of the Ed Mellon Company and Miss Christine Maxwell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Maxwell, who live at 1605 South Boulevard, Dilworth, were instantly killed at 10:45 p. m., when Mr. Craig's high powered seven-passenger touring car in which they were riding was overturned on the Statesville road, one-half mile north of Crofts, and 10 miles from Charlotte. Mr. David J. Craig, of Statesville, a brother of Mr. John M. Craig, and Mr. W. Heyward McCabe, Jr., who were also in the car were both painfully but not seriously injured while John Fingers, the colored chauffeur, had his leg broken.

The tragedy is made all the more distressing by reason of the fact that Mr. Craig was soon to be wedded to Miss Marguerite Crittenden, of Greenville, Miss.

To Have Model Playground.

Kinston.—Seven business leaders, comprising the chamber of commerce's committee on playgrounds, is investigating proposed sites for Kinston's first park, to be the model for North Carolina. The committee advocates raising a fund for the park by public subscriptions. About 10 acres in the eastern end of the city is receiving favorable consideration and it is believed an organization will be perfected by the chamber of commerce early in October to take up an option on it.

Falling Gun Kills Child.

Newborn.—News reached this city recently of a distressing accident which took place early in the day at Simpson, a small station on the Norfolk Southern in Pitt county. According to the information received here, Lillian, the eight-year-old daughter of R. L. Lamb, section master at that place, was killed when a shotgun which her father kept around the house was accidentally knocked down by another child and the falling body of the child struck the gun.