

Fair and continued warm Sunday and Monday, light northwest to north winds.

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GREAT AUSTRIAN OFFENSIVE HAS BEGUN

Italians are Attacked Along a Front of Over Seventy-Five Miles

MORE THAN 800,000 AMERICAN SOLDIERS NOW IN FRANCE

AUSTRIANS MAKING ATTEMPT TO BREAK DOWN ITALIAN DEFENSE BETWEEN ASIAGO AND THE SEA

General Diaz's Troops, However, Are "Everywhere Resisting Magnificently."

NO LOSSES YET REPORTED

Premier Orlando Announces In Chamber of Deputies That Drive Has Started.

ANGLO-FRENCH GIVING AID

Is First Great Attack By Austrians Since October.

The long awaited Austrian offensive against the Italians has begun. On the Italian front, for a distance of from twenty-five to a hundred miles, Austrian troops and heavy artillery are endeavoring to break down the resistance of the Italians, who are aided by French and British forces.

The Italian premier, Vittorio Orlando, announced in the chamber of deputies that the Italian troops were "everywhere resisting magnificently."

The last great Austro-German offensive, begun in October, 1917, rolled back General Cadorna's line from the Piave front and along the Venetian plain. More than a million enemy troops participated in this operation and it was not for many weeks that the Italians were able to stay the advance.

About the middle of November, the Piave battle began along a ninety-mile front in northern Italy and French and British troops were hurried to reinforce the shaken Italian army.

The crisis was passed about the first of December, and since that time there has been heavy fighting, in which the Italians and their allies carried out many successful counter attacks.

There have been insistent cries from Germany for Austrian action along the Italian front, to co-ordinate with the German offensive in the western zone, and for months past the Italians have been preparing for just such a blow as apparently is now being struck. The Italian army has been re-equipped, and General Diaz has succeeded General Cadorna as the commander-in-chief.

The present line extends from Asiago to the sea.

ATTACK WAS LAUNCHED AT 7 O'CLOCK THIS MORNING. Rome, June 15.—The Austrians began a great offensive at 7 o'clock this morning on the front from the Asiago plateau to the sea.

This announcement as made in the chamber of deputies today by Premier Orlando, who added:

"Our troops are everywhere resisting magnificently."

Nearly the whole of our front is engaged as the offensive extends with extreme violence from Asiago to the Piave, from the Piave everywhere in the Asiago plateau, the Mount Cappa sector and the plain."

Premier Orlando declared that the Austrians had failed to achieve even the preliminary results which usually followed a crushing offensive.

Describing the operations, the premier said:

"A very violent bombardment began at 6 o'clock and at 7 o'clock an infantry attack was launched along the whole line. The latest news which has reached me summarizing the situation at 1 o'clock is that our troops have offered magnificent resistance."

GREAT DRIVE INDICATED IN AUSTRIAN COMMUNICATION. Vienna, June 15.—The beginning of a great offensive is indicated in the official communication from the Austrian headquarters which was received here today.

"We have increased to great intensity many sectors of the southwest front early this morning."

"The Albanian front new French attacks which were carried out yesterday northwest of Sinapente broke through the Italian lines."

AUSTRIANS ATTEMPT SURPRISE ATTACK BUT FAIL COMPLETELY. Italian Army Headquarters, Friday, June 14.—The attempted surprise attack by the Austrians in the Tolosa sector today was decisively repulsed by the Italians with artillery and machine gun fire and bayonet charges. The frequent encounters were spirited, notwithstanding the cold and the standing darkness of the night.

This action was an aftermath of the three weeks ago when the Italians took the Paradiso pass for the purpose of protecting Val Camonica and the river and the western-most entrance to the Italian plains.

Believe the Germans Will Strike Anew In Few Days

Paris and London, However, Have Different Opinions Regarding the Point Where Enemy Is Most Likely to Launch Attack. Infantry Is Quiet, But Heavy Guns Are Active.

Checked in their plunge against the French positions from Montdidier to the Oise, the Germans have not resumed their offensive on the western front. There have been patrol encounters at various points, with the allies improving their positions, notably in the Villere Cotterets region, southwest of Soissons.

The inactivity of the infantry, however, has given place to heavy bombardments along the front. In this work the American forces have had a part. Angered by a gas attack against them by the Germans, the Americans launched thousands of gas shells against the enemy. The Americans on the Marne and Picardy fronts have also given the Germans no rest from patrol incursions.

It is believed in Paris and London that not many days will elapse before the Germans begin a new assault against the allies. It is known that Crown Prince Ruprecht of Bavaria has large reserves which are somewhere along the Somme and Flanders fronts. Opinion is divided as to the point against which the blow will be struck, Paris believing that the Germans will continue their thrust toward the capital, either by a continuation of the fighting west of the Oise or a new assault farther south toward the Marne.

London, however, believes that the German drives along the Aisne and east of Montdidier were for the purpose of drawing the allied reserves to those theatres of the war and then hurling the decisive blow either at Amiens or against the Flanders salient in the hope of reaching the channel ports.

Dispatches from the front say that the situation is tense along the whole line and it is probable that the Germans when they strike will find the allies ready to receive them.

The official report from the Italian war office speaks of the growing intensity of artillery from the Legarina (Continued On Page Two.)

Will Be Required to Man Great Fleet of Warships to Be Turned Out This Year.

DANIELS ASKS INCREASE Transmits Letters From Benson and Palmer Showing Why the Estimated Personnel Should Be Raised to 131,485 Men.

Washington, June 15.—Upwards of 40,000 men will be needed to man the great fleet of warships which the United States will turn out during the next fiscal year, the House naval committee was advised today by Secretary Daniels.

In asking the House to concur in the Senate amendment to the naval appropriation bill, increasing the navy's enlisted personnel from 87,000 to 131,485 men, Mr. Daniels transmitted letters from Admiral Benson, chief of naval operations and Rear Admiral Palmer, chief of the bureau of navigation, showing in detail why this increase is necessary.

The correspondence revealed that new warships are being turned out faster than they can be manned with the present limited personnel and should there be a change of naval tactics and the nation be forced to a defensive instead of offensive fight, the navy would be seriously handicapped in handling the fleet against an enemy.

Admiral Palmer said in his letter that a shortage of officers of higher grade should be made up, pointing out that American destroyers now are operating in the war zone without a designated commander other than the British officer, Admiral Bailey. The submarine chaser force in foreign waters is commanded by a captain, the admiral said, whereas there should be at least one rear admiral and preferably two for this force.

The American divisions or armored cruisers are also without a flag officer and there is no flag officer for the division of super-dreadnaughts which will be added to the navy within a year. Admiral Palmer also pointed out that the admirals and vice-admirals in command of American fleets should have read admirals as chiefs of staff.

"Merely to man our fleet properly and to make our war organization efficient," Admiral Palmer's letter said, "we must have immediately 27 additional rear admirals by July 1, 1918, six more in addition to those we have now."

GRAVE EVENTS IN AUSTRIA IMPENDING. Outbreaks Take Place in Bohemia and Moravia and Other Parts of the Country.

RIOTING OCCURS IN VIENNA. Re-Organization of the Ministry is Planned in Spite of the Threats Made by the German Deputies.

GRAVE EVENTS IN AUSTRIA IMPENDING. Grave events are reported to be impending in Austria, according to unconfirmed advices from Spain and Holland. It is said that rioting has been going on in Vienna and matters have come to a critical stage. How serious the situation has become is not as yet known. There have been outbreaks in various parts of the country, notably in Bohemia and Moravia, and the political tension between Austria and Hungary has been one of the features of the news emanating from the dual monarchy for some time.

INTERNAL SITUATION IS DAILY GROWING MORE ACUTE. Washington, June 15.—The internal situation in Austria daily becomes more acute. An official dispatch today from France says the reorganization of the ministry is planned in spite of threats of the German deputies to go over the opposition if the Seydler ministry resigns. Several members of the cabinet already have threatened to give up office, the dispatch says, unless the government convenes the reichstag in response to the demands of the Czechs.

In reply to accusations of the Germans that they are trying to betray the dual monarchy for the benefit of the entente allies, the Slavs and Poles have announced that they will continue to fight for the realization of their national aspirations at whatever cost.

DEATH SENTENCE PASSED ON AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT. Amsterdam, June 15.—The Berlin Tagblatt prints the following dispatch from its Vienna correspondent: "The death sentence has been passed on the government and it remains to be seen what course the government will take if the crown declines to accept the coming resignations. This is a state crisis and the Austria of 1867 has gone. Premier Von Seydler declines to recognize this and the danger of the situation. Berlin must realize that the old signatory of alliance no longer exists and no power on earth not even Germany's protection, can revive it."

AMERICANS TAKE OVER NEW SECTOR OF BATTLE FRONT

Are Occupying Sections in Alsace, Having Entered These Positions May 21.

AVIATORS BOMB STATION. Number of Direct Hits Made by American Airmen in a Town Behind German Lines.

With the American Army in France, June 15.—It is now permissible to occupy sections on the battlefield in Alsace. The first entered these positions on the 21st of last month. The Germans have made a raid on the American front in Alsace. The attack was preceded by a brief artillery and machine barrage. The American casualties were light.

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT SAY THAT THE situation is tense along the whole line and it is probable that the Germans when they strike will find the allies ready to receive them.

THE OFFICIAL REPORT FROM THE Italian war office speaks of the growing intensity of artillery from the Legarina (Continued On Page Two.)

SUCCESSFUL BOMBING RAID IS REPORTED BY PIERREING. Washington, June 15.—The successful bombing by American aviators of a station and railroad tracks in a town behind the German lines last night was reported in General Pennington's communique tonight. A number of direct hits were made and all the American machines returned.

Aside from patrol raids there was no marked activity on the fronts held by American troops, the statement said. "There was no marked activity, except that of patrols at points occupied by our troops. Last night our aviators bombed the station and railroad tracks at a number of direct hits were made. All our machines returned."

CIVILIAN LABOR COMPANIES WILL RELEASE SOLDIERS. Friday, June 14.—Labor companies, composed of civilians, are being organized to take over construction work on the American line of communications at the ports of debarkation and for releasing for a place on the firing line many American fighting troops, now engaged in this work.

These companies are offered by two American lieutenants and five American commissioned officers. They include civilians of many nationalities.

"HOLD BACK AMERICANS AT ANY GERMAN IN ORDER WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE. June 15.—(By The Associated Press).—German prisoners report that two German divisions which had been en route to the rear of their lines for several weeks' rest, after taking part in the Chateau Thierry offensive, suddenly were ordered back to the battle line. Their new orders were: "Hold back the Americans at any cost."

JEREMIAH O'LEARY IN CLUTCHES OF THE LAW. Is Nabbed in Washington State By Federal Officers and Is Being Brought to New York.

New York, June 15.—Jeremiah O'Leary, a fugitive from justice since the eve of the date set for his trial on a charge of violating the espionage act by publication of seditious matter in the anti-British periodical, and later indicted for conspiracy to commit treason, was arrested at Sahara, Washington, and is on his way back to New York in the custody of federal agents, it was announced here tonight.

Employee Betrayed O'Leary. Vancouver, Wash., June 15.—Jeremiah O'Leary was arrested by federal officials at Sahara, Clarke county, Washington, last Thursday, it was learned here tonight, on information given the federal officers by a man employed by O'Leary on a three-acre chicken farm which O'Leary had rented on coming here in mid-May.

EVERYBODY'S DOING IT. Raleigh Car Line Asks for Rate of 7 Cents—4 For Quarter. (Special Star Telegram).

Raleigh, June 15.—The Carolina Power and Light Co. filed today with the corporation commission a petition for permission to increase street car fares in Raleigh to seven cents with four tickets for a quarter, and a rate of seven cents the round trip for school children. The present fare is five cents with twenty tickets for ninety cents, and round trip school tickets for five cents. No time is yet named for hearing the petition.

SCOTLAND HOME BURNED. Dwelling of Malcolm Jones Destroyed Six Miles From Laurinburg. (Special Star Telegram).

Laurinburg, June 15.—The elegant home of Malcolm Jones of Johns six miles south of here was destroyed by fire today, most of furniture saved. The building was partially insured. Rais are thought to have started fire in the ceiling.

UNITED STATES TROOPS ONE MILLION STRONG IN FRANCE EARLY IN JULY

Says 28 Submarines Have Been Sunk By U. S. Navy Since First of January. They Are Being Rushed in Order To Give Allies Superiority Over the Germans.

OVER 800,000 THERE NOW. General March Reveals These Facts at Weekly Meeting With Newspaper Men.

REVIEWS WAR SITUATION. Channel Ports First Objective of the Germans.

Washington June 15.—To give the allies a mastering superiority of numbers over the German invaders American troops are being rushed to France as rapidly as transport tonnage will permit. When the purpose will be realized cannot now be foretold but more than 800,000 men have been sent over seas and this number will be increased to 1,000,000 early in July.

These facts were announced today by General Peyton C. March, chief of staff, in inaugurating the government's new policy of giving newspapers a weekly summary of battle conditions.

General March drew a graphic picture of a single gigantic campaign expected during the first six months of the present year and the third of the allied lines have been battered back in four successive phases. The great wedge of assault has now increased the allied lines 66 miles from Rheims to Ypres.

"In a condition of this kind" said General March, "where a new line has to be held and where the attacks of the Germans have been made with the utmost frequency, the importance of getting American troops to the front is more and more pre-eminent."

"We have now passed the 800,000 mark in troops shipped overseas." The extent of the American troop movement was particularly striking because Secretary Baker stated less than a week ago that "more than 700,000" it is impossible to predict a day—say a month ahead of any other definite time—when a mastering superiority in man power might be attained.

"The matter of the number of troops on the western front," General March replied, "is a question that must be considered with reference not only to the enemy divisions which have been known to be there all along but with the potential increase which might be attained by bringing divisions from the eastern front."

"It is impossible to predict a day—say a month ahead of any other definite time—when a mastering superiority in man power might be attained."

General March made it clear that there is no doubt in his mind or in that of the allied military leaders that the channel ports were the main objective of the whole German effort.

"The four drives," he said, "one beginning June 9 are all part of the common scheme of offensive. Considering as a whole the succession of attacks the first penetrated the allied line on the Swiss frontier some 36 miles into Picardy the second some 15 miles into Flanders and the third a distance of 38 miles further along the Marne. Under the present drive the line has been penetrated an average distance of from 5-12 to six miles."

"One striking feature in connection with this whole advance is the extension of front which the allies have had to cover as a result. The total stretching of the line from Rheims to the sea was 66 miles."

"All of these drives have been stopped. The last advance the advance which we are now considering in the daily press is more to straighten out the German line than it is advance considered as a military movement with a definite and important objective—like Paris, for instance."

"Taking the general location of the advance along the Oise you will see that between the Picardy and Marne advances we have been holding a re-advance." (Continued on Page Two.)

PRESIDENT WILSON WRITES APPRECIATION TO POSTAL TELEGRAMS OF MACKAY WAITING RIGHTS AS TO EMPLOYMENT. Atlanta, June 15.—Clarence M. Mackay, president of the Postal Telegraph & Cable Co., has received the following letter from President Wilson: "The White House, Washington, D. C., June 13, 1918."

"My dear Mr. Mackay: May I not express my warm and sincere appreciation of your kind telegram of this morning, and may I not say I was sure of the response which my request would meet."

"Sincerely yours, 'WOODROW WILSON.' The telegram mentioned in the above letter reads as follows: "Hon. Woodrow Wilson, President, the White House, Washington, D. C. "In reply to your letter of yesterday, allow me to say that this company has done its very utmost since the beginning of the war to assume its full share of responsibility to the government and to the public and that in order to still further show its sincerity and earnest desire to be of service at this time of national trial, we cannot but respond to your request that we waive during the war our right to discharge employees who join a union and you may rely upon our doing so."

"Very truly, 'CLARENCE H. MACKAY, 'Pres. Postal Tel.-Cable Co.' SCOTLAND HOME BURNED. Dwelling of Malcolm Jones Destroyed Six Miles From Laurinburg. (Special Star Telegram).

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THREE MILLION TO BE UNDER ARMS BY 1ST OF AUGUST. If Present Draft Rate Keeps Up It Will Be Necessary to Extend Age Limits. CLASS 1 DWINDLING FAST. Heavy Calls to Service During First Six Months of 1919 Very Probable.

Washington, June 15.—Three million Americans will be under arms by next August 1, the senate military committee has told today by Provost Marshal General Crowder. Extension of the age limits in the army draft will be necessary, General Crowder said, if the present rate of draft calls is continued. He estimated that all the men in Class 1 would be exhausted soon after next January 1.

General Crowder said that 3,447,000 of the 2,428,000 men placed in Class 1 already have been called to the colors. He estimated that some 400,000 additional men for the first class will be secured from the men who registered last June 5 and that another 200,000 will be added by the reclassification of men in the re-examination of the questionnaires now being made.

Requisitions from the draft to complete the 3,000,000 total by August 1, General Crowder said, have been made. Of these 2,000,000 will be draft registrants and the others volunteers and national guardsmen.

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"Everybody thinks there will be heavy calls during the first six months of 1919," was a significant statement made by General Crowder.

General Crowder approved the general principle of the bill introduced by Senator Francis, extending the registration ages to from 18 to 45 years, thereby providing additional men for military and industrial service. He did not approve the age limits fixed in the bill.

After outlining the plans of the war department for additional calls General Crowder said that at the present rate Class 1 will be exhausted by the end of the progress of the draft unless the age limits are extended and another registration held, it will be necessary early next year to call men in Class 2 and probably soon thereafter in Class 3.

Final figures of classification of the first registration totaling 8,869,447, were given. The registrants were shown to have been divided as follows: Class one, 2,428,729; Class two, 569,666; Class three, 427,870; Class four, 3,483,326; Class five, 1,839,956.

General Crowder submitted figures showing the progress of the draft this year. A total of 1,347,512 men, all from Class 1, will have been called by the end of July divided by months as follows: January 23,288; February 38,779; March 132,487; April 174,377; May 360,230; June 283,354; July 290,000.

HAS FAILED TO KEEP SKILLED MEN ON JOBS. Original Purpose of Selective Draft Service Has Not Been Met—Situation Still Serious.

Washington, June 15.—Selective service has failed to fulfill its original purpose of keeping at their work skilled men engaged on government contracts, Darragh De Lancy, of the war department, today told the National Labor conference.

Problems of obtaining skilled labor are but little less serious than those attending the shortage of common labor, I. W. Litchfield, of the department of labor, told the conference at the closing session. In an attempt to solve the problem, the employment service soon will handle skilled labor recruiting exclusively, he said.

Farmers soon will have to rely largely upon emergency boy labor as most of the former supply of skilled farm workers has been drawn into industry, said M. A. Coykendall, chief of the farm service section of the employment service.

William E. Hale, national director of the boys' working reserve, said his organization will have placed between 250,000 and 500,000 boys of between 16 and 21 on farms by the end of this season.

HUNS READY TO QUIT AFTER ONE FIGHT WITH AMERICANS. Paris, June 15.—"We know from prisoners that after every fight between Americans and Germans, the Germans do not want anymore." This is the remark of a French officer quoted by a socialist deputy in the lobby of the chamber of deputies today.