

The Weather.

Fair Wednesday except rain in extreme west portion; Thursday probably rain, except fair northeast portion.

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FALL OF THE CITY OF VALENCIENNES IS NOW IMMINENT

EARLY CAPTURE OF IMPORTANT MANUFACTURING CENTER BRINGS REJOICING TO FRENCH PEOPLE

British Already in Valenciennes On the West; Drive Forward On the North.

ENEMY LINES STIFFENED

Allied Forces in Belgium and French Flanders Have Slowed Up Some.

IMPORTANT GAINS MADE

A Number of Villages Have Been Wreathed From Huns.

(By the Associated Press).

The fall of Valenciennes to Field Marshal Haig's forces is imminent. Despite the desperate resistance of the Germans the British have entered the city on the west, while to the north they have made a deep thrust into the great Raimels forest and are moving in the direction of Conde, near the angle of the Scheldt.

Valenciennes had been in uninterrupted French possession from 1677 until the on-rush of the Germans early in the present war led them many miles into France. It is now about to be added to the rapidly growing list of towns, the redemption of which has brought rejoicing to the French people.

Although the progress of the allied forces in Belgium and French Flanders has slowed up somewhat in the face of the suffering of the lines of rear guards aiding the retreat of the German armies, appreciable gains have been made some of them of much importance.

Hainin and Bruyelles, on the Scheldt, south of Tournai, are now in the hands of the British and north of Tournai the village of Froyennes has been cleared of the enemy who is withdrawing toward the Scheldt. There has been sharp fighting for the crossings of this waterway at Pont-A-Chin; the Germans are battling hard to keep the allies from outflanking Tournai on the north.

Beyond the Scheldt the Germans are being pushed on the east bank and have now reached the Lys canal along their entire front and have captured a number of villages with numbers of the enemy killed and wounded.

An item of great interest appears in the latest announcement by the French staff concerning operations along the Aisne. It says: "The Czechoslovaks with us retook the village of Terton."

The French are still moving actively toward the north of Laon and have now completed occupation of Chalandry and Grandpuy. To the southwest of them they are firmly established on the east bank of the Lys river, having made crossings at several points, each of which the enemy resisted with determination.

Around LeCateau, where Americans are fighting with the British fourth army, activity has diminished greatly. The same is true of the American sector northwest of Verdun, where the chief activity of the enemy has been the shelling of the American lines with mustard and other gas shells and an aerial work which came near to achieving the destruction of an American base hospital.

The German reply to President Wilson is still the subject of much comment, newspapers and public meetings alike agreeing that Germany has by no means adequately met the desires of the president and the allied powers. Official cognizance of the note has not been taken by the United States government.

Numerous German newspapers are calling upon the emperor to abdicate himself from the question of whether peace must not be declared on account of the Hohenzollerns. A prolonged lull is looked for in this territory.

RAILROAD EMPLOYEES PUT MANY MILLIONS IN BONDS

Washington, Oct. 22.—Employees of railroad, under federal control subscribed not less than \$16,492,150 to the fourth Liberty loan. This total, according to incomplete reports received by the railroad administration, was distributed among 1,642,694 persons.

Subscriptions thus far reported by the Southern operating regions total \$1,000,000.

Employees and enlisted men of the war department in Washington subscribed \$14,341,400.

Motor Equipment Ordered.

Washington, Oct. 22.—To supply the requirements of the recently organized motor transport corps, the war department today announced that contracts have been let for motor equipment, including trucks, tractors, passenger cars and motorcycles amounting to approximately \$130,000,000. The order is the largest ever issued by the government for such equipment.

Hun Airmen Drop Bombs Near American Hospital

One Outbuilding is Torn Down and Other Damage Done—Red Cross Nurse is Thrown From Her Bed, But is Uninjured—Patients All Removed to Dugouts, None Being Hurt.

With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 22, 5:30 p. m.—(By the Associated Press.)—In retaliation for the destruction wrought by American bombing planes within the enemy's lines recently, German aviators last night raided the American front and back areas in the largest force since the American offensive began on the Meuse and in the Argonne. In addition to attacking the infantry the Germans bombed the region around Clermont, Montfaucou and Rarecourt.

Four bombs were dropped near the American hospital in the neighborhood of Rarecourt, one of the bombs tearing down an outbuilding. The glass ends of four former French barracks, now used by the Americans as hospital wards were shattered.

A Red Cross nurse, Marjorie Sawyer, of Buffalo, N. Y., was thrown from her bed, but was not injured. All the patients were taken to dugouts, none of them being injured. Another Red Cross nurse, Mabel Butler, of New Haven, Conn., was in the same building with Miss Sawyer but was not hurt. Both of them immediately went to the aid of the patients.

When the first bomb fell the hospital attendants gave their first attention to their charges, leading or carrying them to shelter. Rocks thrown up where this bomb struck broke the windows in the southern end of the building. Ten other bombs were planted in succession in a great semicircle. Throughout most of the night German planes were heard many times passing over.

Fifteen American night fliers responded to alert signals when the Germans raided the front and back of the hospital.

THEODORE WOLFF WRITES IN A BOASTFUL MANNER

London, Oct. 21.—Theodore Wolff in the Tagblatt of Berlin says that great difficulties will be caused if President Wilson or the allies refuse to negotiate for an armistice as proposed by Germany.

"In Paris, London and New York now there is talk of military necessity," Herr Wolff continued. "We won't deny our own politicians spoke with violence in the same strain when they sought possession of Paris was in sight."

The article includes: "Should President Wilson demand the impossible we must reckon with a continuation of the war."

NO ABSTINENCE IN CARRYING CONTROVERSY MUCH FURTHER

London, Oct. 2.—British Wireless.—The Manchester Guardian says it does not see that this particular controversy can with advantage be carried much further.

"President Wilson," the paper goes on, "insisted from the first that as a preliminary condition to armistice, the German armies must be withdrawn on all fronts within their own frontiers, and this condition has already been accepted by Dr. Solf. The conditions of an armistice, therefore, can only be considered with this as a starting point and the actual position of the forces in the field cannot be taken as a 'stand-ard.'"

PEOPLE READY TO SACRIFICE KAISER FOR EARLY PEACE

It Must Not Be Delayed a Single Day on Account of the Hohenzollerns.

PAPERS SPEAK OPENLY

German Censorship Probably Preparing the People For Coming Events.

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RESULT MAY BE DECIDED BY THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY

Copenhagen, Oct. 22.—(By the Associated Press.)—"President Wilson's reply to the latest German note may, Herr Wolff continued, be the result of the negotiations," Prince Maximilian, the Imperial German chancellor said today, according to a dispatch received here from Berlin.

"I'll then we must prepare to resist a peace of violence."

Princess Maximilian continued: "A government which acted otherwise would be left to the mercy of the fighting and working people. It would be swept away by public opinion."

SOUTH MUST PREPARE TO RECEIVE IMPORTS

F. R. Eldridge of the Bureau of Commerce Discusses Southern Trade After War.

President Will Probably Be Guided By Decision Of The Supreme War Council

Mr. Wilson Himself Is Still Silent Regarding Germany's Reply, the Official Text of Which Will Be Delivered This Morning—He Has Been in Communication With the Allied Governments.

Washington, Oct. 22.—The prevailing belief here tonight is that any action President Wilson may take as a result of the new German note will wait and largely be guided by a decision of the supreme war council in France.

Shrewd diplomatic observers and some officials take this view, though no intimation of his own attitude has come from the president because admittedly the one question immediately at issue is a military problem—that of the evacuation of invaded territory by the German armies as the only condition upon which the plea for an armistice even will be given consideration.

The Germans now are evacuating Belgium and northern France as rapidly as they can move before the sweep of the allied and American soldiers and still maintain their organization. Since the government at Berlin says they want to get out without further fighting apparently the issue is one for the allied war council to determine—

whether it shall be suggested through President Wilson that General Foch be applied to for terms, or whether without further diplomatic parley the approach of a white flag from the German lines shall be awaited.

The official text of the German note reached the Swiss legation here by cable early today, but it was not delivered at the state department because the entire day was spent at the legation on the tedious task of decoding the document and preparing an English translation of the German text. The translation was made with the greatest care by Frederick Osterlin, the Swiss charge, because there are obscure phrases in the unofficial version received yesterday by wireless which may be cleared up by a more accurate rendering of the German note.

When the charge's work was done Secretary Lansing had left his office and an engagement was made for delivery of the note at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

This incident in itself was pointed to later as evidence that exchanges between London, Paris and Washington have been proceeding since the arrival of the wireless version and that the allied war council to determine—

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IS BELIEVED NEW STORM OF ATTACK WILL BREAK SOON

American Army Officials Are Intently Watching Western Battlefront.

AMERICANS MAY STRIKE

Wide attack by Pershing's First and Second Armies Seems Possible.

Washington, Oct. 22.—Now that the Germans have been cleared out of Belgian Flanders and much of northern France, army officials here are watching the battlefront intently, many of them with a distinct feeling that a new storm of attack may be about to break against the enemy.

There was nothing tonight to indicate that this expectancy was founded upon definite information and it probably grows out of a number of happenings of a minor character in themselves, but possibly important links in a chain of events soon to be disclosed.

Beyond doubt the German retirement in Belgium has slowed down. However, it is not yet clear whether this is due to the fact that the retreating forces are facing on the whole northern front the line which frequently has been selected by military critics as the first pausing place on the way to the Meuse or the border, or to the necessities of extending allied communication lines as the troops advance. It is probable, officers said, that there is necessity for a breathing spell on both sides.

There is little doubt here that the German army is headed for nothing short of the Meuse itself and that any pause will be but temporary to permit readjustment of the columns and supply lines. Without question, the orderly sequence of movements shall be expected, it was said, as the withdrawal project is carried out. The fact that the allied armies are hampered by extending communication lines gives opportunity for such a pause before Marshal Foch's forces can come up in sufficient force to compel a resumption of the forward movement.

The line surrendered by the enemy from Lille northward to the coast, it was pointed out, was far stronger and no longer than that he now stands upon in Belgium. In addition by the evacuation of the Flanders coast he has furnished the allies with means of setting up new and more direct communication lines from England, via Ostend, Zeebrugge or other Flanders ports. Without question, it is said, these avenues of supply to the advancing armies already are being opened to free the longer lines of the rear from the burden consequently officers cannot see any technical advantage gained by the enemy unless he intends to fall back at least to the line of the Meuse.

The first stage of the great retreat is almost complete. The German right flank has been swung back like a gate all the way from Solesmes, south of Valenciennes, to the Dutch border. South of the pivot, however, there has been little change in the position of the Oise to the Meuse. It has been noted that heavy concentration of forces was made by the Germans on the LeCateau-Oise-Serre front and also against the American pressure northwest of Verdun. Without question the retention of these lines unbroken was vital to the German plan of action. Now that the withdrawal in the north has progressed so fully however, it would cause no surprise here that the German offensive on the Oise and the Serre were undertaken without delay, to reestablish the whole line.

To many officers it seems possible that new events have so shaped the lines that a great drive may soon be undertaken, calculated to upset the whole German plan of retirement.

Already the allied lines have been shortened so that considerable forces must be available for the work, particularly British. The time cannot be far away, also, when the American second army under Maj. Gen. Bullard will be put into play.

To some observers it seem possible that a new attack of early peace being haggled before the eyes of the weary troops, their morale will be at its lowest ebb, it was said, while in the allied and American ranks the roundabout German admissions of defeat can only have given new zest for the fight.

Two Killed in Airplane Accident.

Miami, Fla., Oct. 22.—Percy M. Gerling, of Pittsburgh, Pa., and M. L. Hope, of Meroboss, Ill., student of the marine corps, were killed in an airplane accident here this afternoon. Their machine crashed to earth during evolutions at Curtiss field, killing both young fliers almost instantly.

King Addresses Allied Deputies

Large Inter-Parliamentary Delegation Calls at Buckingham Palace.

London, Oct. 22.—(British Wireless Service)—King George received a large deputation of inter-parliamentary delegates at Buckingham Palace yesterday. The deputation included thirty British representatives, 22 from France, 8 from Italy and one from Belgium.

"More than two years have passed," said the king, "since the first visit of the inter-parliamentary committee of the French chambers when you and we were in the throes of a conflict, the issues of which then seemed to many foreign observers uncertain, although you and we never doubted that our common humanity would prevail. Now the armies of France, Italy, Belgium and the United States, side by side with ours, are driving the enemy before them, his forces shattered, his people clamoring for peace."

"Victory is within our reach; and we are all agreed that it must be a complete victory. I congratulate you, senators and deputies of Italy, on the prospect which opens before you of recovering the regions guarded by those Alpine snows, where your valiant soldiers have won such glory—regions inhabited by men of your own race and speech, who have long desired to be united to free Italy."

"And I congratulate you, senators and deputies of France, on the approaching restoration of Italy, on the prospect which opens before you of recovering the regions guarded by those Alpine snows, where your valiant soldiers have won such glory—regions inhabited by men of your own race and speech, who have long desired to be united to free Italy."

"But," he continued, "in those days there was always between both sides a spirit of chivalry which forbade bitterness, and when peace came it was made with a sense of mutual respect. We in England have always continued to admire the brilliant gifts of France, gladly owning our intellectual debt to her, as we own also our debt from even earlier days to the versatile genius of Italy."

"That respect and gratitude have furnished a solid foundation for the affection which has now grown up between your nation and ours. Consecrated by the memory of the heroes who have fallen fighting side by side in the name of a common humanity, and the devotion of your soldiers and earnestly wishes for you a return of that prosperity which you gallantly sacrificed at the call of duty."

Continued on Page Eight