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WEATHER FORECAST:

RAIN FRIDAY.

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ASHEVILLE, N. C., THURSDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 17, 1914.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

TERRIBLE SLAUGHTER RESULTS ON BOTH SIDES IN BATTLE OF AISNE

ISNE BATTLE IS DESPERATE

War Correspondents Give Graphic Description of Germans' Attempt to Stop Allies' Advance.

HEAD AND WOUNDED ENCUMBER FIELD BRITISH ARTILLERY SILENCES GERMAN GUNS SO THAT RIVER CAN BE CROSSED ON PONTOONS.

London, Sept. 17.—The Paris correspondent of the Times sends this story of the battle of the Aisne:

"The enemy has found means to rest his troops for a moment and is stubbornly resisting the allies, along a line which he has prepared for defense. He has received strong reinforcements, probably from Lorraine where he appears to have abandoned an offensive.

"The fighting is hottest around Compiègne, where the British are in action. Terrible stories are reaching Paris of piles of dead and wounded which encumber the battlefield and which are working night and day.

"It is said at one place the Germans erected a barrier six feet high of logs with which to resist the French. This barrier was carried after a terrible battle by French troops, leaving 1,700 dead on the battlefield."

"The correspondent of the Times at Compiègne, thus describes the battle: "As opposed to the battle of the Marne, which was a battle of rivers and plains, woodlands and high places, the battle of Aisne was a river crossing on a scale never before seen in the history of the world, a triumph of organization and engineering as well as fighting powers. The time was Saturday evening and the moment arrived when, if the fleeing host was saved some sort of a stand must be made. The army was hurriedly gathered on the heights overlooking the river. He had his guns and men placed when the British and French troops reached the south bank of the river. Clearly it was essential to the allies that a crossing be made if the great pursuit was to be continued and the hard won victory pressed home.

"But the river was swollen, running swiftly after the recent heavy rains; bridges must be built under a withering fire; they must be maintained undamaged and must be crossed. All the vantage points were held by the men rendered desperate and fighting for their lives. It was a terrible prospect but it did not daunt our splendid forces.

"The attack began Sunday morning with all the dash that characterized the struggle of the week before. Our guns were brought up, placed in position and a terrible artillery duel opened; for as long as the German artillery remained unslung there was little hope of crossing the river. During this fire our engineers worked laboriously, bringing up great pontoons while the fire slowly decreased their numbers.

"After some hours of this supreme effort the guns of the enemy on the north bank were silenced and the troops began crossing, while the allies artillery still swept the heights protecting their passage.

DIARY DESCRIBES BATTLE OF MARNE

French Citizen Keeps Account of the Varying Fortunes of the Battle.

Paris, Sept. 17.—The following extracts from the diary of a citizen of Crepy-En-Valois, published today in the Petit Parisien, gives a graphic resume of the varying fortunes of the battle of the Marne:

"August 30—Passage of the English troops, 10,000 men.

"August 31—Arrival of French wounded.

"September 1—Cannonade. Patrol of Uhlands arrive and Taube (German type of aeroplane) throws a bomb. Officiala flee with part of population; of 5,200 only 1,400 remain.

"September 2—German troops passed. General makes formidable regulations on towns and fixes a fine of 100,000 francs (20,000) per day for delay. First vicar captured and ten other citizens taken as hostages. Systematic pillage commenced yesterday continues.

"September 3—Continual cortège of troops. Some set fire to houses for amusement.

"September 4—All Germans have passed. Heavy firing toward Nanteuil.

"September 5—Germans come back; pillage resumed.

"September 6—First wounded Frenchman arrives. Indecision apparent among German troops; don't know whether to go south or north.

"September 7—Cannonading resumed furiously. German aeroplane throws bomb on a factory transformed into a hospital. A Taube brought down at the station. The French arrive and capture German stores.

"September 8—A Taube aeroplane catches fire and falls toward Felnes. Cannonading continues without respite.

"September 9—French cavalry retreats and Germans come back to town at noon and pillage is resumed.

"September 10—Germans capture the Senlis bridge and leave toward Compiègne. The French come back.

"September 11—A train of French engineers arrive.

"September 12—There is a continual passage of English and French troops.

"September 13—Paris newspapers arrive. Calm and general joy prevail."

SERVIANS LOSING RELATIVELY FEW

Fierce Guerrilla Warfare Is Raging on Frontier of Bosnia.

Rome, Sept. 16.—(Via London, Sept. 17.)—A telegram from Nish says that Servians are losing few men compared with Austria, and besides they are replaced with new men of which there is a plentiful supply. The forces are abundant and the health of the soldiers excellent.

Reports of the existence of cholera and typhoid are absolutely false, the dispatch says.

Fierce guerrilla warfare, it is said, is raging on the Bosnian frontier between the Servians and Montenegrins on one side and the Austrians on the other. Special mounted troops are preventing the advance of the allies toward Sarajevo while the Austrians defend themselves along the railway lines and the Drina river in blockhouses provided with quick fire. Some of these have been taken by Servians.

Emperor Troubled.

Paris, Sept. 17.—Rome dispatches from Vienna says a telegram to the Havas agency states that the Nius Freie Presse announces the approaching call of all reservists en masse.

A telegram to the Reichspost says Emperor Francis Joseph says "never in my life has the duty of taking life in this way caused me so much pain."

Young Blockader Runs to Freedom.

Fayetteville, Sept. 17.—After being bound over to the higher court by United States Commissioner J. C. Bibbs on a charge of retailing, George Sapaolis, a young Greek, broke from the grasp of United States Deputy Marshal J. W. Tomlinson just as he reached the gate of the county jail yard, dashed up Mumford and down Worth street and has not been seen since.

GERMANS OCCUPY STRONG POSITION

Front of Battle, With Estimated Total of 3,000,000 Men, Possibly Stretches For 150 Miles.

BOTH CONTENDERS CLAIM VICTORIES

Russians Hammer Retreating Foes --Teutons May Prevent March on Berlin by Gaining Cracow.

London, Sept. 17.—Along a front of over one hundred miles, the German armies are at bay and the allies occupy a ledge across the river Aisne which was won after one of the most spectacular river crossings ever made by an attacking force under fire.

For the past two days there have been sporadic attacks from both sides along this line, but according to admissions from the rival headquarters they have not produced any definite results. Both sides have suffered enormously, and the present pause undoubtedly is being used to bring up reinforcements and supplies.

Petrograd reports that the flower of the German corps detached for service in east Prussia, is again hurrying back to the western front.

Stockholm learns that General von Hindenburg, flushed with victory against the Russians on the east Prussian frontier, has been urgently summoned to command the western army. Something of the horrors of modern warfare is indicated by the hesitancy with which the authorities discuss the terrible losses marking the progress of the armies from the Marne to the Aisne. The stories are told with great reserve but with sufficient detail to make even military men shudder.

The terribly battered Austrian army is safe under the guns of Przemysl, but with the Russians only 19 miles away.

Desperate efforts will probably be made to prevent junction with the fourth Austrian army with the idea of reorganization with Cracow as the base.

The Russians have crossed the river San and are hammering away at the retreating Austro-German forces. Despite their unprecedented losses, the forces of the German allies seem to preserve their fighting organization, and if they gain Cracow they may prevent the Russian right from making a march on Berlin from Warsaw.

Petrograd military critics express the belief that the Germans having recognized the strategic unimportance of the east Prussian section, will

draw their army away from that section and begin a march on Warsaw, thus forestalling a Russian offensive toward Berlin from that city.

Grodek, 16 miles west of Lemberg, occupied by the Russians, and of great natural strength, provides a fine base and in case of a counter attack and can easily be fortified.

The Servians and Montenegrins, continuing their campaign in Bosnia and Herzegovina, are well into the provinces and are optimistically planning a march on Budapest.

Regarding the battle of the Aisne, the Chronicle correspondent says:

"The unending and terrific struggle has lasted for days and only now one may say the victory is turning in favor of the allies.

"The allied pontoon corps are trying to keep the bridges they built, free. Men tell me the battle has been a veritable slaughter and that the unceasing fire of the past four days puts any previous battle anywhere in the shade.

"Several crossings were effected Sunday but the German guns got the range and compelled them to withdraw. Tuesday night, however, the allies brought up heavier guns and these change the prospect.

"I can clearly trace the abandonment during the last three hours, of a number of German positions by the smoke of their guns moving further over the hills."

Claims of Berlin that the attacks of the allies along the Aisne have been repulsed and that German counter attacks have succeeded and official assertions here that the German counter attacks have been repulsed and that the invaders are slowly giving way, leave no conclusion but that the narrators are referring to different points in the vast field of action.

"As the crow flies the front of the opposing armies, with the reinforcements that have reached a probable total of 3,000,000 men, stretches for 110 miles.

"Making allowances for the

(Continued on Page 2.)

The third day of the battle of the Aisne finds the hosts of the Germans and the allies facing each other along a line of some 200 miles stretching from from Noyon, 55 miles northeast of Paris, southeast to the Swiss frontier. The battle line here extends roughly from Noyon to Nancy, about 150 miles. Here between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 men are engaged in a struggle which for ferocity and strategy bids fair to exceed the battle of the Marne.

Each side claims a slight advantage and no more. It is known only that the German retreat has been turned into a stubborn resistance. The allies assert that they were so close on the heels of the Germans that the latter were compelled to turn about and fight to escape destruction. German reports represent their armies as reforming in strong positions after withdrawal from the vicinity of Paris and again taking the offensive. It is admitted that the death toll already is enormously staggering, so much so that facts are hard to believe. Parts of the battlefield has been rendered impassable for guns by heavy rains, which also has added greatly to the distress of the men. Reports say the battle continues all along the river and the Germans are slowly giving way.

Conflicting reports of the situation in the eastern theater of war are received from official and unofficial sources. Some have it that Germany is pushing back the Russians with great losses to the latter.

It is thought German forces also may be diverted to Russian Poland.

In Galicia the Russian successes continue with the Austrians rushing back to Przemysl. It is admitted at Vienna, to which city thousands of wounded are being brought, that the Russians are close to Przemysl.

HAS NOT REPLIED TO PEACE PROPOSITION

Washington, Sept. 17.—Officials here have no information today of published reports in Berlin that Emperor William had replied to the American government's recent inquiry as to the truth of the report that the German government was ready to ask for peace.

Neither the state department nor the White House had any dispatch relating to the matter during the last few days. The emperor is in the field and probably the imperial chancellor is awaiting his return to Berlin before drafting a reply on so important a question.

Discusses Labor Laws.

Birmingham, Sept. 17.—Discussions on general labor legislation in the south, child labor laws and mechanics liens were features today of the third annual convention of the southern labor congress. The convention will adjourn tomorrow.

SEC'Y W. J. BRYAN COMES THIS P. M.

Head of the State Department Will Spend Several Days in Asheville.

Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan wired Grove Park Inn this morning that he would arrive in Asheville early in the afternoon for a rest of a few days. He and family will be at home at "Blue Brier," the summer home which was prepared for them some weeks ago, at the foot of Sunset mountain. The secretary of state was detained in Washington, however, by the big war in Europe. He had planned to spend August and a greater part of September here.

Mr. Bryan will be met at the local Southern railway passenger station by Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Seely, personal friends, and the secretary of state and Mrs. Bryan will go direct to "Blue Brier" which is all ready for their reception.

"Blue Brier" was the former home of Alderman W. F. Randolph and it is modern in every detail. Secretary and Mrs. Bryan who have often visited Asheville and other points in the Land of the Sky will also probably spend a greater part of next summer here.

The first news of the intended visit of Secretary Bryan to Asheville at this time came over the Associated Press wires last night. The message was as follows:

"Washington, Sept. 16.—Secretary Bryan and Mrs. Bryan left tonight for Asheville, to spend several days at their summer home, which until now the secretary has not had time even to inspect. They may stay until next Wednesday unless something happens to recall Mr. Bryan."

FRENCH STATEMENT.

Paris, Sept. 17.—The Germans are slowly giving way in the great battle that continues today all along the line of the river Aisne, according to announcement today.

Washington, Sept. 17.—The French embassy today announced the receipt of this dispatch from Bordeaux: "On the fourteenth and fifteenth the allies have been in touch with the rear of the enemy. The rear of the enemy has been reinforced by German troops. The enemy was forced to accept battle along the whole front part of which was strongly organized.

"The allies are on the north of Vic-sur-Naisne, Solissons and Laon and also the high hills on the north of France. The line reaches on the north to Ville-sur-Tourve, town on the west of Argonne mountains, and continues over the Argonne by a line passing to the north of Verdun. This last place has been evacuated by the enemy, who has reached the river Meuse, close to the forests of Forges on the north of Verdun."

GERMAN STATEMENT.

Washington, Sept. 17.—The German embassy today received the following wireless from Berlin: "All the French-English reports of victories in the battles of the west was a practical maneuver not affecting the strategic position. The French attempt to break through the center was victoriously repulsed.

"There is confirmation of German successes at several points in the western field. Indications point to the fact that the allies lost 15,000 dead and wounded in one day."

ITALY MAY ENTER.

London, Sept. 17.—In a dispatch from Paris the correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says the Italian reservists in Paris have been called for September 28. They believe this means Italy's entrance into the war.

Will Not Send Ships.

Washington, Sept. 17.—President Wilson has no intention of sending warships to Turkey at present to relieve the fears of missionaries there, according to high officials.

INSURANCE MEN BEING KEPT BUSY

State Commissioners Devote Much of Their Time to Business at the Grove Park Inn Convention.

SECRETARY W. J. BRYAN MAY GET INVITATION

Movement on Foot to Have the Distinguished Visitor Address the Convention—Good Program.

The forty-fifth annual convention of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners in session this week at Grove Park Inn devoted a greater part of the morning session today to a general discussion of the subject of "Workmen's Compensation Results" following the reading of a paper by Commissioner F. H. Harrison of Massachusetts on the subject, with special reference to the matter in his state.

Following the reading of the paper there was a symposium of experience in other states, including Idaho, Connecticut, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and others. All of the talks were of an interesting nature and were well received by the large crowd present at the morning session at the Inn. President James R. Young, insurance commissioner of North Carolina presided.

As usual, quite a number of insurance matters not on the formal program are being brought up at every session of the convention and this adds materially to the interest in the meeting. Other matters, too, of semi-public interest are often presented and discussed in a clear and forcible way by the delegates and visitors who are here for the convention from practically every state in the union.

Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan who is due to arrive in Asheville this afternoon for a few days will probably be invited to deliver an informal address before the commissioners of the several states either tonight or tomorrow, before final adjournment. This feature, however, had not been decided upon at noon and it is not known whether or not the secretary of state, who comes to the Land of the Sky for rest, would be willing to accept.

Today's program as originally announced follows: Thursday Morning, 10 O'Clock. "Workmen's Compensation Results in Massachusetts, and Suggestive Drawn Therefrom," F. H. Harrison, Massachusetts.

Symposium of Experience in other States, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Wisconsin.

Discussion of papers. Thursday Evening, 8:30 O'Clock. "Sphere of Activity of an Insurance Department," Robert J. Merrill of New Hampshire; Charles Johnson of Pennsylvania and John S. Darst, of West Virginia.

Discussion of papers. Will Enjoy Ball Tonight. The delegates and visitors to the convention will be the guests of the management of Grove Park Inn to-morrow.

Steamer in Port. New York, Sept. 16.—Arrived: Melnomine, Liverpool.

GENERAL SUMMONED. Copenhagen, Sept. 17.—(Via London)—General von Hindenburg, who has been directing the German forces in east Prussia, has been urgently summoned from that section to take command of a division in the western area, according to a message received here from Stockholm.

ABANDON LIEGE. London, Sept. 17.—A Rome dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company states that it is officially admitted in Berlin that the Germans have abandoned Liege.

ALL WRECK VICTIMS BUT THREE IDENTIFIED

St. Louis, Sept. 17.—All but three of the twenty-seven persons who perished in the wreck of the "Texas Limited" on the St. Louis and San Francisco railroad Tuesday had been identified yesterday. All the identified dead are residents of this and neighboring states. Those who have not been identified are:

Man about 50 years old; clasp pin, initials "E. F. W."

Woman; aged 25 to 30; ring engraved "E. V. to T. K." April 8, 1912.

Small baby.

The Missouri public service commission today began an investigation of the wreck.