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BATTLE GOES ON WITH GERMANS STILL HOLDING STRONG POSITIONS

PARLIAMENT HAS BEEN PROROGUED

Unusual Enthusiasm Manifested in Westminster When Announcement Is Made —King Cheered.

IRISH HOME RULE BILL SIGNED BY KING GEORGE

Royal Assent Also Given to the Welsh Disestablishment Measure—Address of King Read.

London, Sept. 18.—Enthusiasm unusual in the staid executive chambers of Westminster palace was manifested today when the two houses of parliament were prorogued. While King George was inspecting the troops, his speech was read in the house of lords by Viscount Haldane, the lord high chancellor, and in the house of commons by John H. Whitley, the deputy speaker.

When the announcement was made in the house of lords that royal assent had been given to the home rule and the Welsh dis-establishment spa-pensory bill, cheers were given.

On the announcement of the signing of the home rule bill in the house of commons the nationalists and liberals broke into loud hurrahs which were repeated again and again.

Will Crooks, the labor leader, asked if it was in order to sing "God Save the King." Without waiting for permission he started the first verse himself, and then broke down with emotion. The hymn was then taken up by spectators in the gallery as well as the members themselves, and the volume was heard in the palace yards.

Coming out of the chamber, Will Crooks cried, "God save Ireland," John Redmond, the Irish nationalist leader, cried, "God save England."

Parliament will sit again October 27.

In a speech from the throne on the prorogation, King George said:

"The lords and gentlemen:

"I address you in circumstances that call for action rather than speech. After every endeavor had been made by my government to preserve the peace of the world, I was compelled in the assertion of treaty obligations deliberately set at naught and for the protection of the public law of Europe and the vital interests of my empire, to go to war. My navy and my army have with unceasing vigilance and skill, sustained in association with our gallant and faithful allies, a just and righteous cause. From every part of the empire there has been a spontaneous and enthusiastic rally to our common flag.

"Gentlemen of the house of commons, I thank you for the liberality with which you have met a great emergency. My lords and gentlemen we are fighting for a worthy purpose, and we shall not lay down our arms until that purpose has been fully achieved. I rely with confidence upon the loyal and united efforts of all my subjects and I pray that Almighty God may give us His blessing."

GERMAN STATEMENT.

Berlin, Sept. 18.—(Via wireless by way of Sayville.)—The following official statement has been given out by the headquarters of the German general staff:

"The battle between the Oise and the Meuse rivers still is continuing but there are sure indications that the enemy's force is failing. The French attempt to cut through the German right wing was broken down without notable exertion on the German side.

"The German army is advancing slowly but surely. A sally from Verdun on the right bank of the Meuse was vigorously repulsed."

Another official statement issued by the general staff says the aeroplanes came up to expectations after undergoing long and dangerous flights. Some of the air craft were damaged but all have been repaired. Nine have been destroyed by the enemy.

LUSITANIA MAY CARRY TROOPS

Ordered to Halifax to Transport Canadians Says Report —Mrs. Vanderbilt and Daughter Aboard.

SIR GEO. M. BARRIE GIVES VIEWS ON WAR

Thinks It Will Last Long and One Side Must Be Whipped—Famous Musicians Enlist.

New York, Sept. 18.—The Cunard liner Lusitania reahed here early today under wireless orders, according to passengers, to make all possible speed in unloading, so as to be ready to sail for Halifax to act as transport for Canadian troops. The officers would not verify this report but offered no explanation for rushing the big liner to her pier at 1 o'clock in the morning.

Among the 1,502 passengers were George M. Barrie, E. W. Mason, the English novelist; Mrs. George W. Vanderbilt; Miss Cornelia Vanderbilt; Mrs. DeForest Lord; Mme. Jomelli, and Marshall Field, third.

In speaking of the war, Sir George M. Barrie said the ultimate cause of the war is militarism.

"In my opinion the war will last a long time and the cause which brought it about is whether soldiers or citizens are to rule in Europe.

"As far as England is concerned, the most striking feature of the war is the way in which young men of Britain are enlisting. One hears the kaiser generally blamed for the war. This is somewhat less than fair. The kaiser was a young man in 1870 when the war spirit was very strong and he is merely the product of a system.

"It is too early to talk of peace negotiations. No peace would be lasting, nor would it produce the results we all hope for unless one side is thoroughly beaten."

Dr. William C. Karl brought news of musicians well known in America whom he said are now doing military duty. Fritz Kreisler, the Austrian violinist, was one of the first to join the colors, he said. The other artists mentioned by Dr. Karl as having enlisted were Chaliapin, the Russian basso; Rachmenioff, the Russian composer;

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6 KILLED, 15 HURT IN TRAIN'S WRECK

Passenger Train No. 2 On Alabama Great Southern R'y. Strikes Gondola.

Birmingham, Sept. 18.—Bloodhounds have been sent to Livingston, Ala., where six persons were killed and a seventh is missing as a result of the derailing of the Alabama Great Southern passenger train early today. The officials believe the switch was tampered with and an effort will be made to trail the alleged wreckers.

Birmingham, Sept. 18.—Six persons were killed and fifteen seriously injured this morning when passenger train number two of the Alabama Great Southern railroad was derailed at Klondike switch, one mile south of Livingston, Ala.

All of the dead were passengers. The engineer is said to have been probably fatally injured. The engine was derailed at a switch, swerved and crashed into a gondola loaded with slag which was standing on a side track. The mail and baggage car, two coaches and three sleepers were wrecked. Other sleepers remained on the track. Three of the sleepers left New Orleans at 2:30 last night attached to a New Orleans and Northeatsern train bound respectively for New York, Cincinnati and Birmingham. They were coupled onto the Alabama Great Southern train at Meridian. Fewer passengers than usual were in the sleeping cars. It was thought that the New Orleans sleepers probably were the ones that remained on the track.

CROWN PRINCE HAS TURNED ON ENEMY

Berlin Says Germans Are Driving Allies Back--Paris Claims Progress For The French and British.

GERMANS INVADE RUSSIAN POLAND

Austrians Probably Are Reforming At Cracow--Reports of Servian Defeat and Victories.

London, Sept. 18.—As far as the British public knows the great artillery battle along the Aisne continues to be a draw. In the pause of the thunder of the huge guns, the infantry and cavalry units, scattered along the line of batle, are being flung into the afray without appreciable effect on the outcome.

Only the most meagre reports have been received during the last few days.

Roughly speaking the line of the advance of the allies is threaded by six rivers, four of which have already been crossed. The crossing the Marne, arking the assumption of the aggressive by the allies, was purely a rear guard action in which General von Kluck cleverly kept the German right from being outflanked. So far as the British were concerned the passing of the Ourcq was not contested.

The Vesle river also was only slightly defended by the Germans, but their resistance at the Aisne was and still is of the most stubborn character.

If the allies hold the shore across the Aisne which they gained despite the heavy artillery fire from concealed German batteries on the heights above the river, two more rivers, the Ailette and the Oise, remain to be crossed. The country between th Aisne and the Ailette is ideal for defensive purposes, and if the German army holds the Aisne heights for a few days defensive works can be constructed along the other two rivers which may delay the allies' advance on German territory for a long time.

On the other hand, it is said if the Germans resume the offensive the country now occupied by them affords an excelleit operating base for them. Reports now coming in say the result of the battle of the Marne had a great moral effect on the enemy.

General von Hindenburg's brilliant an ddaring move across the border lake was successful in driving back General Rennenkampf's forces, the Russians were not completely outflanked, and the previous east Prussian victory was not duplicated as the Russian general retired in good order, saving his artillery.

There is a lull in Galicia where the victorious Russian army is evidently moving to cut off the retreat of Austrans toward Cracow.

Germans Yield Slightly?

Paris, Sept. 18.—The great battle of Aisne continues. All that is known officially of its progress is that the Germans are yielding slightly at some points on the left.

Though this fact was given out officially yesterday, it evidently refers to the situation on Tuesday since it accords with the English press statement of Wednesday. Many wounded prisoners coming in from the front indicate that the allies have made the Germans give ground, the latter leaving their wounded behind.

The army of Crown Prince Frederick William has finally turned on its pursuers at Montfaucon, to the northwest of Verdun, encouraged no doubt by advices of reinforcements coming from the Rhine garrisons, and the line of defense is clearly established from Noyon 67 miles east of Paris, to Montfaucon.

In addition to the difficulty of re-organizing their forces to withstand the attack on their new line, the Germans are no doubt afraid of an attack on their rear. The Belgium troops have had time to rest, and no doubt there is good foundation for the many rumors that King Albert's forces have been reinforced, though from where is only a matter of conjecture.

London, Sept. 18.—Presumably the efforts of the allies in the west are being divided into three supreme struggles: first to dislodge the Germans from the heights of the Aisne, second, to break through the fourth and fifth German armies at the center; third, to outflank the German right under German von Kluck. The position of the fourth and fifth German armies are considered not so good as the others, for if a flanking movement is successful the railroad lines upon which the Germans depend would be cut.

The press of London today dwells on the possibility that the Germans are striving only to hold the strong positions they now have assumed with the view of keeping the allies at bay and affording Emperor William opportunity to rush more troops to his eastern frontier.

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WAR NEWS SUMMARIZED.

An official statement issued at Berlin today says the battle between the Oise and the Meuse rivers continues with indications that the allies were falling back.

It is declared the French attempt to cut through the German right wing failed and a sortie from Verdun on the right bank of the Meuse was repulsed.

The German army is said to be advancing slowly but surely.

It was declared officially in Paris at 3 o'clock this afternoon that the allies had progressed somewhat. The western wing was declared to have repulsed a vigorous German offensive movement.

In proroguering parliament King George said he was compelled to go to war for the protection of the public law of Europe, in defense of the empire and that Great Britain would not lay down her arms until that objective has been reached.

Vienna reports that the Servians were compelled to evacuate Semlin which they seized at the beginning of their advance into Hungary.

Servian reports are that their successes continue.

Germans, successful in driving the Russian invaders from east Prussia, are said to be pushing their way into Russian Poland.

Austrians, following their disastrous clash with the Russians in Galicia are believed to be attempting to re-form at Cracow.

A dispatch from Cettinje says the Montenegrins have been received with enthusiasm by the inhabitants of the Austrian province of Bosnia.

FRENCH STATEMENT.

Paris, Sept. 18.—The allies have progressed somewhat on their western wing and are repulsing a vigorous German offensive movement, according to an official announcement this afternoon by the French war department.

The communication follows:

"The battle continued during the day of September 17 along the front from the river Oise to the Woevre without important changes in the situation at any point.

"First, on our left wing on the heights to the river Aisne, we have made slight progress against certain points. Three offensive counter attacks undertaken by the Germans against the English army failed. From Craonne to Rheims, we ourselves repulsed some very violent counter attacks executed during the night. The enemy tried in vain to take the offensive against Rheims.

"Second, on the center from Rheims to the Argonne the enemy has reinforced himself by constructing important fortifications and has adopted a purely defensive attitude.

"Third, in the Woevrne district the situation is unchanged. On our right is the Lorraine and the Vosges, which the enemy occupy in position organized in a defensive basis on their frontier."

TRIED TO ASSASSINATE RUSSIAN GOVERNOR

Vienna, via Rotterdam and London, Sept. 18.—According to a dispatch received here an attempt was made to assassinate Count Georges Brobensky, Russian governor of Galicia, by a Ukranian who is said to have been irritated at the court's remark that anti-Russian agitation existed there. Three revolver shots were fired, one bullet hitting the count in the shoulder. The assailant was arrested and afterwards all the houses of Ukranians were searched.

Steamer Arrives.

New York, Sept. 18.—Arrived—Steamer Cretic, Liverpool.

BELGIAN WOMAN MAKES APPEAL

Wife of Belgian Minister of State Seeks Aid for People of Her Stricken Country.

DESIRES TO RELATE WHAT SHE HAS SEEN

Says Thousands Are Destitute and Have Become Wanderers and Outcasts—Implores Help.

New York, Sept. 18.—Madam Vandervelde, who came from Belgium on the steamer Cretic to seek aid for the people of her stricken country, issued this statement as soon as the Cretic docked here today:

"Madam Vandervelde, wife of the Belgium minister of state, has come to the United States to appeal to the generosity of the great democracy on behalf of her fellow countrymen—men and women—whose country has been ravished through no fault of their own, and thousands of whom are now destitute. Thousands have lost all they had, land, houses, farms, money and the very tools with which they got their daily bread. Thousands are even without clothing, and have become wanderers and outcasts at the gates of the earth.

"Madam Vandervelde wishes to tell the American people that she has seen herself—the stream of refugees leaving Malines during the bombardment; the murderous raids of the Zeppelins and the burning of Louvain. She wishes to tell them also of the sublime courage of the Belgian people.

"A few hours before she left Antwerp, King Albert of Belgium sent his secretary to Madam Vandervelde to wish her good luck and to tell her that the king approves of her intention of appealing for help for the Belgian refugees to the people of America.

"She brings with her the following letter from Queen Elizabeth:

"'Her majesty, the queen, wishes to tell you that she approves of your project of putting before public opinion in England and in the United States the sufferings which the German invasion placed upon our population. Five of our provinces are devastated and thousands of families driven out of their houses are at this moment without homes. It is deserving well of one's country and of humanity to try to help them. Best wishes of the queen accompany you to these two countries which love to give help to those in distress.'

"Madam Vandervelde implores Americans to help repatriate the poor people, to start them again in life in new homes. Their sufferings are unutterably terrible and hundreds of the bread-winners, fathers, husbands and sons have been killed in the war.

"Is it not right and fitting that those who can help should do so at this moment. Madam Vandervelde is convinced that her cry for help will be heard, that it is not in vain that she is appealing to the American people."

ATTY. GEN. BICKETT SPEAKS AT COLUMBUS

Attorney-General T. W. Bickett will open the democratic campaign in western North Carolina tomorrow, when a rally will be held at Columbus, Polk county. R. R. William and Captain R. R. Reynolds will also speak at Columbus tomorrow, at which time a county ticket for Polk county will be nominated.

Arrangements are being made to accommodate a large gathering of people at the rally tomorrow and the indications are that the crowds will be large.

Attorney-General Bickett is recognized as one of the best speakers in the state and readily accepted an invitation to speak at the Polk county rally.

AUSTRIA WANTS PEACE?

London, Sept. 18.—Austria is desirous of peace according to a Rome dispatch to the Times which represents internal conditions, particularly in Bosnia, Crotia and Dalmatia as disastrous.

BRYAN SPOKE TO INSURANCE MEN

Informal Talk by Secretary of State Before State Commissioners at Grove Park Inn Today.

RECEPTION GIVEN OF ENTHUSIASTIC NATURE

Forty-Fifth Annual Meeting Will Come to a Close This Afternoon—Good Program for Today.

OFFICERS FOR 1915.

President—J. S. Darst of West Virginia.

Vice President—Burton Mansfield of Connecticut and J. P. Winship of Michigan.

Secretary - Treasurer—F. H. McMaster of South Carolina; re-elected.

The evecutive committee will select the next place of meeting.

Resolutions were passed thanking Retiring President Young; the people of Asheville; Grove Park Inn, the press, the board of trade and others who aided in making the convention success.

An informal address by Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, delivered upon special invitation of the body, featured the morning session today of the forty-fifth annual convention of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners in session this week at Grove Park Inn.

This was the last day of the convention.

Secretary of State Bryan was introduced by President James R. Young. In his brief talk to the Insurance commissioners he made no reference to the European war situation, as was expected.

Besides the address of Secretary Bryan the convention heard talks this morning on "Combination Policies" made by Commissioner Frank Hasbrouck of New York and "Fire Insurance and the Prevention of Fire Waste" by C. F. Nesbit of the District of Columbia. The delegates and visitors present joined in the discussions.

Mr. Bryan Is Received.

Secretary Bryan received an enthusiastic reception from the insurance commissioners of many states and from high insurance company officials during the entire morning at the Inn. He told them that although he came to Asheville to take a short vacation, he was glad to comply with State Insurance Commissioner Young's request and say a few words to those attending the convention of insurance commissioners at the Inn.

While assuring his hearers that he didn't intend to tell them anything about their own business he pointed out how invaluable insurance was to the people when their interests were safeguarded and when absolute security was offered at a minimum cost to the insured.

Mr. Bryan assured those present that the people of this country were overwhelmingly in favor of private enterprise instead of governmental control when the end might be attained by private individuals. In this connection he explained that the government had been compelled to start the postal savings banks because the financiers of the country were opposed to making deposits absolutely secure. He said the people became tired of putting their money under an old carpet and that lots of the savings of the country were being sent to Europe until the government established the postal savings banks.

Secretary Is Humorous.

Amid laughter and applause Mr. Bryan declared that he felt ashamed of himself when he looked back and realized that he got married without any life insurance and asked a young lady to rich her future with him when he had almost nothing in the way of property.

The secretary of state put himself on record in favor of all kinds of insurance and declared the man would be a public benefactor who devised a way of giving absolute security to the insured at the least possible cost.

Mr. Bryan, too, pointed out that when there was not security, insurance became gambling and that all laws enacted were aimed at compelling everybody who took another's

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