

SLIGHT ADVANTAGES CLAIMED BY BOTH SIDES WHILE THE TERRIFIC CONFLICT IS CONTINUED

MUCH CONTRAST IN TWO ARMIES

French Are Gay, Glittering and Dashing—Germans Silent, Complete, Gray-Colored Machine.

GERMAN EQUIPMENT COVERED ALL DETAILS German Army Rules Go Into Brain, Says Officer—"Retreat" Not in Military Vocabulary.

(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)

Beumont, Belgium, Aug. 18.—When the French regiments marched along the border a ripple of excitement was caused by the blue and red uniforms, their gaudy, glitter and dash everywhere apparent. But when the Germans appeared on the outskirts of Brussels the troops might have been mistaken for a cloud of low-flying mist, their gray-green uniforms melting against a neutral background. The entry was not theatrical, but it throbbled with power and efficiency.

In place of the romantic French color of war, there was a silent gray-colored machine, complete to the last detail. Wagon doors, instead of flapping, as in the French camp, had painted locks. For several days the gray-green soldiers marched through Brussels, part of an army of over a million and a half that rushed their way through Belgium. Completeness of equipment made it like a traveling city. It had its postal service, its telegraph corps, its provision trains, miles in length, which provided for the soldiers a menu as satisfactory as they could have obtained in a first class restaurant.

Six caissons with ammunition drawn by six horses, followed each field gun and there were processions of them two miles long. There were in addition many truck and traction engines for the heavy siege guns and in all this colossal train not a wheel squeaked, not an accident delayed the forward progress.

The efficiency of the Red Cross departments is best indicated by that fact that in following the army for 100 miles over battlefields, at times only a few hours behind the fighting, none of the small group of correspondents discovered a wounded German soldier uncared for or any dead. The speed of the army is attested by the fact that correspondents with bicycles and carriages found it difficult to keep up with the German advance. Daily marches of 50 kilometers was the regular thing and frequently they exceeded this. The physical stamina is wonderful.

At Beumont a gas lighting system was established ten hours after the army arrived in town and trains were running to Charleroi. Each soldier carried with him, not only the necessities of war, but food enough to sustain him if he became separated from the army train. It was interesting to note that even his suspenders were protected against emergencies and his trousers carried an extra set of buttons in case one set gave way. No detail seems to have been too small for German observation.

The German rules, in the words of a German officer, "go into the brain" of the soldier and he is not merely the unthinking reflex.

"The German soldier cannot retreat or turn back," said an orderly during a barrackroom discussion at Beumont. "If he goes forward and is killed, then there are others who will take his place, but in the vocabulary of the German soldier, there is no such word as retreat."

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP LIKELY TO START OCT. 8 Chicago, Sept. 22.—The world's championship baseball series will probably start on October 8, one day after the National and American league seasons close, according to President B. B. Johnson, of the American league and member of the national baseball commission.

Mr. Johnson asserted today there was no truth in the report that October 16 had been selected. Elaborate Program. New York, Sept. 22.—An elaborate program of business and pleasure with its principal feature a water trip has been arranged for the eighth annual convention of the Atlantic deep-sea waterways association here.

THINKS BATTLE IS TURNING TO SEIGE

Germans Have Constructed Series of Small Fortresses Along Whole Line.

London, Sept. 22.—The correspondent of the Times in Paris says: "The battle of the Aisne continues, having lasted a week with the allies making some progress against extraordinary difficulties. 'It is no longer, properly speaking, a battle, but a siege, the Germans having constructed along their 100-mile front a series of small fortresses from the Oise to the Meuse, made of old forts and disused quarries. 'Bomb proof shelters, formed of bags of cement, and subterranean passages connect the casemates on the heights of Pommiers with the open country by means of which the enemy secures victory and is supplied with ammunition. These elaborate works were prepared by the Germans before the March on Paris, thus indicating they had some doubts of success. 'The plains of Champagne are not admirably suited for the French offensive. They bristle with trenches and redoubts but if these hamper French action they also stop German attacks. The battle of the Aisne thus becomes a kind of Sebastopol. Operations of this sort always result in the defeat of the besieged unless reinforcements arrive.'"

A British military expert says the allies' line now extends from Dietre to Montfaucon Souain, Rheims, Craonne, Noyon, Lassigny and Rolsel Lecallelet. 'The news of the day,' this expert says, 'is the appearance of fresh forces around Peronne, 18 miles northwest of St. Quentin attacking the German extreme right at St. Quentin. The English army is at Soisson. On the left are French troops who probably reach through to Lassigny to Ham, 12 miles west of St. Quentin and are endeavoring to close in upon La Fere, 14 miles northwest of Laon.'"

MR. BRYAN PLANS TO RETURN HOME

Secretary of State Has Secured Reservations for Afternoon Train.

After having spent about a week in Asheville taking the "rest cure" the secretary of state and Mrs. William Jennings Bryan had sleeping car reservations for the afternoon train over the Southern railway today for Washington. While in the city the secretary of state and Mrs. Bryan have been the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Seely, their personal friends, at Grove Park Inn. Both declare they have thoroughly enjoyed their stay in the Land of the Sky and although the rest of the secretary from affairs of state has been rather brief.

Mr. Bryan declares that his health has been greatly improved. He has spent a great deal of his time in the open air automobile and mountain climbing. It is quite probably that Mr. and Mrs. Bryan will come to Asheville early next summer and spend the entire heated term at the summer home "Blue Brier," which was prepared for them long ago at the foot of Sunset mountain.

During his stay here Mr. Bryan has refrained from discussing war or politics. He made an impromptu address before the National Convention of Insurance Commissioners in session at the Inn last week but did not discuss either of these matters. An invitation was extended to Mr. Bryan by the local suffragists to attend the mass meeting to be held at the court house tonight and he is quoted as having said that he was rather inclined to postpone his trip to Washington and avail himself of the opportunity to speak here on the subject of woman's rights, but did not know whether he could so arrange matters. Mrs. Bryan, in a signed statement made public while she has been in Asheville, declared for woman's rights at the ballot box.

According to the announcement made at Grove Park Inn this morning the secretary of state will make an effort to return to Asheville the latter part of the present week, from Washington, to continue his rest period.

Killed by Prisoner. Doylestown, Va., Sept. 22.—Henry Kolbe, constable of Doylestown was shot through the heart and killed today by William Miller, an eighteen year old youth he was taking to jail on a charge of robbery. The prisoner's attempt to escape was unsuccessful.

Counter Attack Follows Attack; However Neither Front Has Yet Been Broken --Long Struggle Exhausts Men.

RHEIMS CENTER OF FIERCEST FIGHTING

Vienna Hears of Reorganization of Austrian Army Which Petrograd Says Is Broken.

London, Sept. 22.—With the battle-front practically unchanged after nearly a week of fighting the terrific struggle of the French and English allies to drive the German invaders out of France continues. Laonic and conflicting official announcements set forth the claims of each side that its troops are gaining slight advantages. Paris says the allies are making progress between Rheims and the Argonne. Berlin, on the other hand, declares German counter-attacks about Rheims resulted in their capture of the strong hill position at Craonne, about 16 miles from Rheims, and of the village Bethanny, about three miles north of Rheims. Berlin also claims a successful attack on the forts of Verdun.

Many Rumors. Engendered perhaps by the lack of news, many rumors are current in London. These are important, however, from the fact that they originate simultaneously at widely different points. They seem to substantiate a report from Belgium that General von Kluck, commander of the German right wing, has removed his headquarters back to Mons, which is the latest of these rumors. One thing seems certain, however, the long drawn out conflict is wearing down the impetuous aggression that hitherto has characterized the fighting, and except at Rheims no great effort is being made, apparently, to carry a frontal attack. One side of the other must execute an outflanking movement or Rheims will witness the most decisive battle of the war.

Belgium Sorties. The Belgium sorties continue from the shelter of Antwerp, but this has not caused a material change of position in this district. From Petrograd come stories of the continued flight of the broken Austrian armies in Galicia while at the same time Vienna declares that these armies are reorganizing for offensive action. It is clear, however, that only Przemysl is today standing out.

Retrograd reports further that the populace already is fleeing from Cracow, from which city a portion of the unique library already has been removed for safety. Reports received from the Russian capital are to the effect that the Russian-Polish volunteers are declining to serve against the Russians. This leads to the hope that Cracow might be delivered to them without a struggle. Russians claim still further victories against the Austrian forces attempting to reach Cracow, and they predict there is no chance of the Austrians resuming the offensive before next spring.

Limit of Endurance. Paris, Sept. 22.—Today is the seventh day of the great battle of the Aisne and the limit to human endurance seems to have almost been reached, as the intensity in the struggle has diminished in front of Rheims. At Craonne, after a brief lull the fighting has become fierce again and the losses of the Germans were increased. Here alone, of the whole line, hand to hand fighting occurred yesterday. Everywhere else the invaders left the attack to the "Brummers" as they call the immense mortars which did so much damage to the cathedral of Rheims. Their projectiles are between five and six feet long.

According to official communications the allies have advanced at points where the danger of invaders is greatest. Progress to the north of Noyon threatens the German right, while the advance between Rheims and Argonne threatens their left and communications between Stenay.

The deduction by military experts here is that weariness shows more decidedly in the German camp. They are said to be feverishly active in their work on the fortifications along the Sambre from Maubeuge to Namur, and even on their lines of defense across the German frontier, and this is taken to indicate a lack of confidence in the final issue of the clash of the Aisne.

The troops are in good condition, considering the weather conditions according to announcement made here by the official war department today. French Statement. Paris, Sept. 22.—The following announcement was made in Paris today: "Along the entire front from the Oise to Woverre the enemy manifests increased activity without, however, gaining any ground. "First, on our left wing, on the right bank of the river Oise, the Germans were obliged to give ground. On the Aisne the situation remains the same. The enemy has not delivered any serious attack, contenting himself Monday evening with a continued cannonading. "Second, on the center between Rheims and Souain, the enemy attempted an offensive movement, which was repulsed, while between Souain and the Argonne, we have made some progress. "Between the Argonne and the

WAR NEWS IN BRIEF

Neither Germany nor the allies yet lay claim to any decisive outcome in the battle of the Aisne where the supreme conflict of the war up to the present time has long been raging.

The engagement, taken as a whole seems to be partaking of the nature of a siege. Both sides continue to hold a majority of their strongly entrenched positions. The German lines for 100 miles are described as a virtual continuation of forts and entrenchments. Artillery fire exchanges go on night and day and under their cover are sorties of infantry. Counter attack follows attack and occasionally one side or the other gains ground. It would appear today that nothing but a tactical flanking movement could have had a serious effect. But neither front had broken and neither side has been outflanked.

Rheims appears to be the center of the most persistent fighting. It is between the lines of battle and has suffered seriously. The Germans are described as most anxious to recapture it. The official announcement issued at Paris this afternoon, declared that German attacks delivered yesterday were unsuccessful and that the Germans have been compelled to retire at more than one point. The French took many German prisoners.

The latest German official communication issued last night says the Germans have captured the hill positions at Craonne and took the village of Bethanny fully three miles outside of Rheims to the north. This announcement described the Germans as also attacking the strong forts south of Verdun.

The military expert of the London Times gives the positions of the French fortresses to the left of which the English seem to have made an advance. No portion of the report from Antwerp last night that General von Kluck had transferred his headquarters to Mons, has been received. Germans, however, are said to be fortifying with great haste along the river Sambre and at Maubeuge.

The Russians are before Przemysl, with artillery fire. The Russians claim that the Austrians in Galicia are fleeing from them, while Vienna declares Austrian arms are fighting well and standing their ground.

NORTH CAROLINIANS SEE SECRETARY OF TREASURY

Complain of Inability to Get Money From Banks, It Is Understood.

Washington, Sept. 22.—Governor Craig, Senator Overman and a delegation of cotton men from North Carolina today discussed cotton conditions in that state with Secretary McAdoo. It was understood they complained of inability to get money from banks despite the deposit of federal funds and the issuance of emergency currency. Secretary McAdoo reiterated his intention to inquire into the interest rates charged and credits extended by banks with a view to remedying the situation.

WAR REVENUE BILL REPORTED TO HOUSE

Washington, Sept. 22.—The administration war revenue bill was formally reported out of the ways and means committee today with all democrats voting in its favor, and all republicans against. Progressive Leader Murdock was not present. The two cent tax on gasoline was extended to cover "motor spirits." A tentative agreement was reached with republicans for a vote at 4 p. m. Friday.

Should File Claims. Washington, Sept. 22.—Americans, whose automobiles were requisitioned at the outbreak of the war have been advised by Cone Johnson, solicitor of the state department, that they should file claims with the belligerent governments. Only in the event that such representations fall will the claims be taken up by the department.

EFFECT SUCCESS WITH FILIBUSTER

Senate Proposes to Spend \$20,000,000 on Existing Waterways in Lump.

Washington, Sept. 22.—The victory of the senate filibuster against the rivers and harbors bill was complete today when the commerce committee reported a new measure providing \$20,000,000 to be spent by the army engineers. No prolonged discussion was expected in the senate, but how the house would receive the reduction of nearly \$35,000,000 could not be predicted.

Washington, Sept. 22.—Revolutionary party leadership sixteen democratic senators last night accomplished the overthrow of the rivers and harbors appropriation bill and crowned with victory a filibuster against the measure directed by Senator Theodore E. Burton of Ohio.

The senate, by a vote of 27 to 22, ended the struggle over the \$34,000,000 bill by adopting a motion by a democrat, Senator Bankhead of Alabama, to recommit the bill to the commerce committee with instructions that it substitute a measure appropriating a lump sum of \$20,000,000 to be expended on existing waterway projects in the discretion of the secretary of war and board of army engineers.

The collapse of the fight for the bill came suddenly after a desperate attempt to wear down the republican opposition led by Senator Burton, aided by Senator Kenyon, of Iowa, which began Friday morning, and included a 39 hour session ending Saturday night.

Senator Bankhead's motion was interjected in the proceedings last night at a moment when it became apparent that a substitute offered by Senator Burton for the committee bill championed by Senator Simmons, of North Carolina, was to receive the support of democrats who had been fighting for the original bill. Senator Burton himself had expressed dissatisfaction over his own substitute because it did not cut deep enough, and had given notice that he would submit later his motion to recommit the bill. It was then that Senator Bankhead surprised the senate by presenting the same resolution to recommit. Senator Simmons in charge of the bill, made a game last stand, but it was at once apparent the fight was lost and the roll call was quickly ordered.

Today the commerce committee will meet to carry out the instructions of the senate.

PROPOSE TO RAISE PASSENGER RATES

New Rates Will Be Fixed on Basis of 2 1/2 Cents Mile But Will Vary.

Washington, Sept. 22.—Interstate passenger fares, in eastern and western territories are to be increased soon by the railroads. The new rates will be fixed on a basis of 2 1/2 cents a mile, but will vary slightly in particular cases from that base.

Information received by the interstate commerce commission is that the straight fare between New York city and St. Louis, for instance, will be advanced \$2. The fare between New York and Chicago will be based entirely upon a 2 1/2 cent a mile schedule, and so far as practicable, the fares between those cities and intermediate points will bear a like mileage charge. Because of the laws of some intermediate states fixing the maximum of intrastate passenger fares at two cents a mile, some difficulty is being experienced by railroad officials in working out the details of the proposed advance in interstate rates, but it is expected these difficulties may be solved.

The new passenger tariffs, it is expected may be in readiness to file with the commission by October 1. The law requires that notice of at least 30 days be given of any change in passenger, or freight rates, so that, in any event, the proposed changes could not become effective before November 1.

The determination of the railroads to raise their passenger fares is a direct result of the suggestion made by the interstate commerce commission in its decision of the advance rate case. The commission expressed its belief that passenger traffic of railroads ought to bear its proportion of the burden of maintaining the roads and that the traveling public, which demanded speed, safety, comfort and luxury ought to be willing to pay for them.

"DRYS" EXPECT BIG MAJORITY

Anti-Saloon League Claims in Virginia Increasing Everywhere—Good Vote Is Out.

TOLLING OF NORFOLK CHURCH BELLS FEATURE

President Wilson Goes to Princeton to Vote in Primary—Small Massachusetts Vote Expected.

Richmond, Va., Sept. 22.—Morning reports from all over Virginia were that fair weather prevailed, and voters were coming forward to polls in the "wet" and "dry" election in good shape. Anti-saloon league claims everywhere have increased and a total majority of 40,000 is expected by them. The last legislature directed the government to call the election upon petition of one fourth of the people voting at the preceding November election. Approximately 76,000 persons signed the petition. Ninety of the 100 Virginians voted "dry" in previous local option contests. Even in the event, therefore, that statewide prohibition is voted down, the local option laws now in effect in nine-tenths of the state would continue in force.

Norfolk, Va., Sept. 22.—Tolling of the church bells, prayer meetings and serving of lunches at the polls by the ladies were the features of the statewide prohibition election here today. Boston, Sept. 22.—The absence of a contest for the head of the state ticket in any of the three parties, led to the expectation that not more than a third of the voting strength would be represented at today's Massachusetts primaries. Governor David I. Walsh will lead the democrats. Of the present congressmen seeking renomination one has strong opposition.

In New Jersey. Trenton, N. J., Sept. 22.—Candidates for senator, representatives and all state and county offices will be voted on in this state today.

Washington, Sept. 22.—President Wilson left here at 8 o'clock today for Princeton where he will vote in the primary. He will return to Washington at 6 o'clock tonight.

PROTEST IS MADE BY POPE BENEDICT

Because of Destruction of Cathedral—Germans Likely to Raise Rheims.

London, Sept. 22.—A Rome dispatch to the Central News says Pope Benedict XV. has telegraphed to the German emperor protesting against the destruction of the cathedral of Rheims. A Paris dispatch to the Express says military experts here say Germans intend to raze the entire city of Rheims. While the city itself is immaterial from a military standpoint it is the center of a district of the highest strategic value. In great strength, close to the city, are many forts.

"While the German attack is developing at Rheims the French attack is centering toward Noyon. The plateau of Craonne is held by 100,000 Germans while the village is occupied by the French. Blucher, who was defeated by Napoleon on this ground, declared that 25,000 soldiers could hold the plateau against any odds." The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph at Rheims says the city is wreathed in smoke and suffering the effects of the enemy's cannon, was kept awake all through the night by the dropping of howitzer projectiles by the Germans which smashed into a shapeless mass of brick, mortar and wood many important buildings. Hardly a public building escaped damage. Outside the facade of the cathedral stands a statue of Joan of Arc. The figure is unscathed but the horse and pedestal are chipped and seared by the fire.

"The general impression is that the cathedral can be restored although most of its priceless decorations are lost."