

STAGE SET ALONG PIAVE FOR ITALY'S DECISIVE BATTLE

Re-Enforced By British and French, Italians Confident of Result—The Piave, Swelled By Floods, Offers Natural Barrier to Teutonic Advance—Bridges Blown Up

London, Nov. 10.—The forces were arrayed tonight for Italy's decisive battle of the war. The Austro-German invading armies were reported by both Berlin and Rome to have reached the line of the river Piave. Behind the river, facing the Germans over a front of nearly 40 miles, the Italians with French and British reinforcements, were confidently awaiting the issue.

As London saw it tonight, the only grave menace to the Italian position was the German official claim of having reached Asiago. This city is in the Trentino, and is 65 miles beyond Piave river line on the plains. The claim of its occupation indicates the Teutonic command is once again trying its favorite strategy of a flanking movement.

IS ASHEVILLE MAN HUNG'S PRISONER?

William L. Crosby, Former Asheville Fireman, May Be In Prison Camp—His Brother Believes Report

Is William L. Crosby, formerly a member of the Asheville Fire department, now in a German prison camp? According to a story in the Jacksonville Times-Union of November 3 he is. The Times-Union says that in the casualty list sent out the name of Sergeant William L. Crosby was an error for the name of Crosby, in the list of those American soldiers captured in the German raid of November 2.

The Jacksonville paper states that the casualty list gave Crosby's mother's name and address as Mrs. C. F. Crosby, of Jacksonville and Asheville. Now, Mrs. Crosby's initials are C. F., and she is at present at her Asheville home on Montford avenue.

And she does make her home part of the time in Jacksonville. Leland Crosby, brother of William, stated last night that he believed that his brother had been captured.

Crosby enlisted in the army and left for France some months ago as a truck driver in the quartermaster's corps. Several post cards have been received from him by Asheville firemen, but nobody, not even his brother, knew of his transfer to another branch of the service. It is thought possible that he was driving an ammunition truck and was at the front when the raid was made in the dawn of Saturday, November 3.

ANTI-PROHIBITIONISTS HOLDING LEAD IN OHIO

Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 10.—Ohio's vote on prohibition will not be known until Monday.

When Secretary of State Fulton closed his office late today the "wets" majority of 1,452 was based on official returns from the 67 counties by mail; official returns from 11 by wire and the remaining ten unofficially tabulated.

The totals now show: "Wets," 522,741; "drys," 621,309. Meantime the anti-saloon league, "dry" republicans and democrats have joined forces to attack the final count, should the "wets" hold the lead.

FINLAND TO JOIN WITH BOLSHEVIKI AGAINST KERENSKI

Baltic Fleet and the Finland Army Have Decided On Such a Course

GERMAN FLEET IN BALTIC THURSDAY

London Convinced Germany Had a Hand In the Russian Revolt

London, Nov. 10.—Behind the curtain of censorship held by the Bolsheviks in Russia tonight the drama of a national tragedy may be unfolding. But the few telegrams and those exceedingly contradictory, have been received from Petrograd since those dated Thursday night. Of the two messages sent Friday, received this afternoon, one announced the Bolsheviks as assembling their government with Lenin and Trotsky at its head and the other merely stated that the finance and foreign ministries had suspended their work.

London eagerly waited for further word of the possible battle. So far there has been no confirmation of early reports today that Moscow had joined with the maximalists. The revolt, however, has spread to Finland, apparently, judging from Copenhagen dispatches. They reported that delegates of the Baltic fleet and committees representing the Russian army in Finland had decided to join with the Bolsheviks. The maximalist revolutionary committee revealed that another Baltic fleet had "occupied all important strategic points" according to Copenhagen.

This news tending to indicate Finland's decision against the Kerensky government, came coincidentally with other Copenhagen reports, quoting the newspaper Berlingske Tidende, that the German fleet on Thursday reported the Finnish port and naval station at Helsinki.

It was this attack by the German fleet on Finland that was regarded here as final evidence of Finland's aid in the Petrograd revolt. More weight was furnished in the reports regarding the Revolt. This naval station was completely evacuated by the Russians several weeks ago when the German fleet was reported to have landed on the Gulf of Riga and German troops had been landed on Werder peninsula.

The fragmentary rumors and reports as to the actual situation in Petrograd and elsewhere in Russia were violently contradictory. German sources, apparently well pleased with the Bolshevik coup, had news that the pacifist leaders were smoothing out a government. Other reports told of ominous troop movements.

The stage was apparently set all along the Piave line for the battle which will mean Italy's stoppage of the invasion or forced surrender of Venice and the Northern Italian industrial section.

The utmost confidence was felt here tonight over the outcome. French and British reinforcements are now in the lines. Badly needed guns are in place. The Italian populace is a unit in stern unyielding determination to fight the invaders to the uttermost.

Berlin Statement. Berlin (via London), Nov. 10.—"Strong English attacks around Poelcapelle and Paschendaele broke down under sanguinary losses," today's official statement asserted.

SHOWING GERMANY HOW PRISONERS ARE TREATED

Washington, Nov. 10.—America has provided 1,754 German prisoners of war with every comfort and wants the German government to reciprocate with its 150 captured Americans.

Negotiations on the treatment of prisoners started tonight. Through the Swiss government, photographs of German prison camps in America were sent to Germany by the war department.

When a representative of the Swiss government inspected some of these camps recently he found conditions "entirely satisfactory."

Armistice Probable. Lugano, Switzerland, Nov. 10.—The Austrian press today gave great prominence to a rumor that Austria is soon to formulate proposals for an armistice.

RUSSIAN EMBASSY TO RECOGNIZE THE MAXIMALISTS

Must Have National Government Uniting All Factions Says Bahkmetieff

AMERICA STILL HAS FAITH IN RUSSIA

May Treat With Any Government As Soon As It Becomes Established

Washington, Nov. 10.—Russia's defeat government set up by the maximalists was tonight the biggest question mark in the Russian crisis. Kerensky's star was in the ascendancy, even Russian embassy admitted, while declaring they would never accept the maximalists' authority.

Russia will be allowed to work out its own destiny by the United States and the allies. None will recognize any new democratic government there until the atmosphere clears. But allied diplomats stated they would not deal with a Russian government clinging to a policy of "immediate peace."

The hour of Russia's greatest trial has come, according to officials. With the German fleet hammering away at Helsinki, German agents, running wild in the country preaching sedition and discord, only a miracle can save Russia for the allied cause against Germany.

The pacifists have won both Moscow and Petrograd. Ambassador Francis reported to the state department today. More troops and probably the Bolshevik cabinet set up by the maximalists with Lenin and Trotsky at its head. The expected opposition from Kerensky, alone of the old cabinet to be at liberty apparently, has so far failed to materialize.

The United States government feels that it must continue to have faith in Russia even to an extent which might appear foolhardy from a financial point of view. As soon as there is a government firmly established undoubtedly the United States will seek to learn just where the new government stands with regard to all questions affecting American interests.

So far the maximalists have been playing a long hand, too busy with international affairs to seek outside recognition. They have at last permitted Ambassador Francis and other allied diplomats to cable the dispatches were withheld and only confirmation of earlier press reports were given out.

State department officials tonight said they were hopeful that next week would bring detailed information on conditions throughout Russia upon which the government can base its future attitude.

The diplomatic sensation locally was the embassy's defiance hurled at the maximalists.

"Russia can be headed only by a national government, and all constructive elements of Russian democracy," stated Ambassador Bahkmetieff.

The belief was strong that he would not have issued such a statement without further consultation with the state department. But it was pointed out that if the maximalists establish their government finally the ambassador and practically his entire staff will be relieved of office.

NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS LEAVE CAMP SEVIER

Special to THE TIMES. Greenville, S. C., Nov. 10.—The First battalion, 105th engineers, including a number of Asheville men, left Camp Sevier this morning, destination unknown. It is thought that this move means final preparation for the journey to France. The First regiment band from North Carolina is now attached to the engineers, its membership including Bandmaster John D. Cole, Joe Johnson, Charles Glass and others of Asheville, Canton and Waynesville. Other Tar Heels from Statesville, Hickory, Salisbury and other North Carolina towns are with the 105th.

CLASSIFICATION OF REGISTRANTS WILL BEGIN DECEMBER 15

Questionnaire, Which Will Fix Exact Status of Each One of 9,000,000 Registered Men, Will Be Made Public In Few Days—Classification Should Be Finished In 60 Days—President Calls Upon All To Give Aid

Washington, Nov. 10.—Calling upon every citizen in the nation to put personal interests aside and help the government classify the remaining 9,000,000 draft registrants, President Wilson tonight issued a foreword on the new draft regulations.

He asked every lawyer to volunteer his services and every doctor to do the same, in order that free legal and medical aid bureaus may be established for the registrants in conjunction with each local board. The president estimated that the classification which the Provost Marshal General announced will begin throughout the country about December 15, should be completed in 60 days.

The questionnaire itself is now in the mails to the local boards and will be made public in a few days. Under its terms the exact physical, mental, moral, social, commercial and industrial status of every registrant will be fixed. It will give the government data on how many ship builders, foresters, brick layers, hod carriers, musicians and every other type of man power is at its disposal.

Speedy mobilization and equipment of units for any war task will be possible, efficiency that was practically impossible under the old draft system. The new method will enable the government to exempt men with closer regard to the nation's labor needs in all lines.

A place will be arranged near each local board headquarters where the men may fill out their questionnaires. Under the direction of county judges or other officials a committee will see that there are always plenty of lawyers to help the registrants do this. Questionnaires will be mailed to five per cent of the registrants each day beginning December 15. Each man has seven days to fill out and return the list. On December 23 the boards

will begin placing the men in five classes. They should finish their task about February 13 and soon after the second draft call may be expected. The questionnaire is somewhat formidable and complicated in appearance. But in explanation of this the provost marshal today said:

"A rating of the questions shows that they are simple enough to answer for any person who can read and write understandingly. It is the only printed form which any registrant needs to use either in making claims or filing proof."

The president's foreword to this document tonight said:

"The task of selecting and mobilizing the National Army is nearing completion. The expedition and accuracy of its accomplishment will be a most gratifying demonstration of the efficiency of our democratic institutions. The swiftness with which the machinery for its execution had to be assembled, however, left room for adjustment and improvement. New regulations putting these improvements into effect are, therefore, being published today. There is no change in the essential obligation of men subject to selection. The first draft must stand unaffected by the provisions of the new regulations. They can be given no retroactive effect."

"The time has come for a more perfect organization of our man power. The selective principle must be carried to its logical conclusion. We must take a complete inventory of the qualifications of all registrants in order to determine, as to each man not already selected for duty with the colors, the place in the military, industrial or agricultural ranks of the nation in which his experience and training can best be made to serve

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LABOR CONVENTION WILL OPEN MONDAY

President Gompers and Secretary Morrison Arranging Details for Meeting of Federation In Buffalo

Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 10.—The "big four" brotherhoods of railroad engineers, firemen and engineers, railway conductors and railway trainmen affiliate with the American Federation of Labor during the organization's convention which opens here on Monday, according to an official of the Federation today.

If this amalgamation is made it will swell the Federation's membership to about 80,000 men. Delegates have been taken in the brotherhoods, it is declared, and the brotherhoods are now in favor of joining forces with the Federation.

President Samuel Gompers and Secretary Frank Morrison were busy today with pre-convention business. The executive council of the Federation was in session, deliberating on the annual report, which will be submitted at the opening session. What is contained in the report would not be revealed by Mr. Gompers, who said the public would learn its contents when it is read Monday.

Government is expected to arrive on Sunday and will address the delegates at the opening meeting. At a session of the building trades section today application of the International Brotherhood of Builders and Ship Builders union, to be affiliated with the building trades, was rejected.

The Mining section and Pattern Makers' section also held meetings, prepared reports to be presented to the convention.

The union went on record as standing behind President Wilson in the prosecution of the war for democracy and everything possible will be done to co-operate with the government. The United States Department of Labor was represented at the meeting by Guy D. Goff, who told the delegates that the government intends doing to meet the need for labor of all kinds during the war. He said that employment agencies all over the country would be opened through which men will be advised where they are most needed.

Secretary Baker has issued an order to Colonel Heavey, in charge of the Officers Training camp at Port Niagara, to have the men under his command act as guard of honor to the President and his party.

Included in the President's party will be Mrs. Wilson, Secretary Tamm and Dr. Cary Grayson.

PLANS TO SPEED UP SHIPBUILDING

Emergency Fleet Corporation Is Reorganized—Men at Cantonments May Be Used—Capps Is Relieved

Washington, Nov. 10.—Ship builders have been promised exemption from the draft. Further to speed the ship construction program the emergency fleet corporation has been re-organized and the reins taken from the hands of Admiral Capps.

With this announcement from the shipping board tonight the drive to float sufficient new shipping to overcome the emergency fleet corporation is speeded up. Labor is now expected to be found a plenty. Even drafted men now in cantonment camps who are needed by the shipping board will be returned to the ship building industry. Secretary of War Baker and Adjutant-General McCain promised Chairman Hurley.

Investigation disclosed that to attain its 4,000,000 ton goal by January 1, 1918, the emergency fleet corporation needed new direction. Ships were not being produced fast enough despite the undoubted technical ability of Admiral Capps.

Charles Piez, of Chicago, taken active charge of construction as the new vice-president of the corporation. Admiral Capps will not resign, and as President Wilson's appointee, will continue with the title of general manager. Chairman Hurley, of the board, who is president of the corporation, has given Mr. Piez full authority to use his well-tried executive powers.

The change in the management of the fleet corporation was precipitated by the Maryland Ship Building and Dry Dock company, which showed Chairman Hurley that it had not been getting co-operation from the organization under Admiral Capps; that general mismanagement and inefficient business methods frustrated the government's merchant marine program.

Piez will have a number of assistants. It is expected later he will devote himself entirely to the steel-ship program. At present the building of wooden ships is being rushed to the utmost. James Hayworth, of Chicago, is to have control of this end of the program. John Barton Payne, of Chicago, is made chief of the legal staff; A. J. Mason of Chicago, Frank Kirby of New York and Charles Day of Philadelphia are three others to assist Piez.

Lack of southern pine has been holding up ship building for some time. Piez will at once bring Oregon fir from the Pacific coast.

The shipping board, through its industrial service bureau, will see that exemption of ship workers affords no loophole for slackers. The war department, granting exemption to every man certified by the shipping board or fleet corporation, will require a monthly report from each.

METHODISTS WILL HOLD CONFERENCE HERE THIS WEEK

Twenty-Eighth Session of W. N. C. Conference Opens Wednesday

CONFERENCE DATA IS VERY INTERESTING

List of the Delegates and Hosts for the Meetings—Important Sessions

The twenty-eighth annual session of the Western North Carolina conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, south, will convene at Central Methodist church next Wednesday, for sessions which promise to be among the most important ever held by this body. This conference is one of the strongest in the south and its sessions are always looked forward to with a great deal of interest.

In addition to the assignment of preachers of the conference to their posts for the next year, delegates to the general conference of the church, which will be held in Atlanta next May, will also be selected at this time. The conference was formed in Concord in 1890 and since then has grown to be large and strong, including several of the best-known ministers of the church in the south.

The eastern line of the conference extends to Guilford county, Randolph to the Yadkin river, to the South Carolina line and all of the counties west of this line in western North Carolina. There are 263 traveling preachers in the conference, besides 22 preachers on trial and 28 local preachers supplying churches. There are 11 presiding elder districts in the Asheville district being supplied by G. Tuttle. During the year the presiding elder, Rev. Dr. J. H. Weaver of Greensboro, has died.

The elder districts of the conference are divided as follows: Asheville, Charlotte, Hendersonville, Morganton, Mt. Airy, North Wilkesboro, Salisbury, Shelby, Statesville, Waynesville and preachers and one presiding elder who Winston.

Of the conference there are 18 presiding elders as follows: Asheville, W. F. Wamble; Hendersonville, E. A. Gross; Sulphur Springs, E. W. Fox; Weaverville, B. F. Hargett; Pineville, W. R. Thompson; Deep River, H. L. Powell; Cliff Side, J. H. Bowles; Forest City, A. C. Swafford; Morganton, B. A. Gable; Hendersonville, D. P. Walters; Booneville, B. W. Tucker; Kannapolis, E. W. Vick; Park avenue, Salisbury; J. W. Moser; Bellwood, W. B. Shinn; Bessemer City, A. L. Stanford; Hickory, J. W. Vestal; Fort-Cochy, J. S. Hyatt; Winston, R. M. Cowley; New End, Winston; H. K. Byer, presiding elder, Winston district.

In the immediate vicinity of Asheville, in this district, there are no changes to be made except in the cases of W. F. Wamble, E. W. Fox, L. H. Hester and A. Burgen.

There will be preaching each afternoon of the conference by several of the distinguished ministers who will be in attendance. The services that are open to the public will be very interesting, and those who care to attend are urged to be present at the various sessions.

It is expected that several young preachers will apply to the conference for admission. Central Methodist church, where the sessions of the conference will be held, is one of the largest churches of the conference and list of preachers who have filled its pulpit contains many of the best known men in the church.

Pastors of Central Church. Asheville was made a station in the year 1848. Before that date, it was a circuit called the Asheville circuit. The pastors of Central church from the time it was made a station until the present (1917) are as follows: 1848-49, Jackson S. Burnett; 1849-50, William M. Kerr; 1850-51, George W. Alexander; 1851-52, David Sullivan; 1852-53, E. W. Chancelor; 1853-54, E. E. Gillenwaters; 1854-55, John H. Carlisle; 1855-56, Coleman Campbell; 1856-57, E. E. Gillenwaters; 1857-58, Preston H. Estes; 1858-59, William H. Kelly; 1859-60, Philip S. Sutton; 1860-61, E. C. Wexler; 1861-62, A. D. Stewart; 1862-63, J. D. Wagg; 1864-65, William C. Bowman; 1865-66, Jas. S. Kennedy; 1866-67, R. N. Price; 1867-68, L. K. Haynes; 1869-70, W. H. Bates; 1871-72, W. C. Bowman; 1873-74, John Boring; 1874-75, C. T. Carroll; 1875-76, E. E. Hoss; 1877-79, James Atkins; 1879-81, J. S. Burnett; 1881-82, J. H. Keith; 1882-86, G. C. Rankin; 1887-90, W. W. Bays; 1890-92, C. W. Byrd; 1892-96, H. F. Cheltzberg; 1896-99, R. C. Byrd; 1899-01, J. H. Weaver; 1901-05, Frank Siler;

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Date For Allied Conference. Paris, Nov. 10.—Premier Painleve returned from the Italian front at noon today and immediately met with the full French cabinet for discussion of the Italian situation. At the meeting he night Premier Painleve announced the date of the inter-allied war conference as November 19, and the place as Paris.