

BATTLE OF THE AISNE SEEMS DESTINED TO BE LONGEST OF ALL BIG BATTLES OF HISTORY

Great Claws, as Wings of the Allied Armies Have Been Described, Are Still Opening to Clutch at the German Wings—Germans Fighting Desperately to Prevent Allies From Encircling Their Wing.

ARTILLERY HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN BATTLE

Unprecedented Artillery Duels Have Been Followed by Infantry or Cavalry Charges of a Fierceness Which Has Not Been Expected of the Modern Soldier.

LONDON, Oct. 1.—A Paris dispatch to the Daily Telegraph says:

"A fight is proceeding on part of the allies left resembling that at Paardeberg, in the South African war. Nearly 4,000 Germans are in the same plight as General Cronje was. They are completely surrounded by French troops in some quarries where they are cut off from all hope of rejoining their division and are being shelled."

LONDON, Oct. 1.—(9:50 p. m.)—The battle of the Aisne, now nearing the end of its third week, soon will outstrip in respect to time the great contest fought at Mukden nearly ten years ago, but still no decisive result has been achieved.

The French official communications issued late today, condensed into about thirty words, was one of the shortest given to the public since the war began. It records that progress has been made by both right and left wings of the allied armies, but gives no details or the extent of the progress between the lines.

Claws Opening.

Military experts believe the great claws, as they have been described, continue to open to clutch at the outspread wings of the German army, particularly the right, which forms the upright portion of the L, and now has its back to the east, fighting with desperation to prevent the French left from encircling or smashing it along most of the front, estimated at 180 miles in length.

The artillery has played by far the most important part in the struggle but on the German right lighter guns, cavalry and infantry are doing most of the fighting with a stubbornness and disregard of life that people so often have said in recent years modern soldiers never would display.

Artillery Duels.

There have been unprecedented artillery duels between the rivers Oise and Aisne and between the Oise and the Somme, which have taken a heavy toll of the opposing armies, followed by cavalry and infantry charges in which first one and then the other side would gain or be compelled to give ground.

Still they have held on, the German wing being extended farther northward as the French made another move to work around it. With an unlimited supply of troops this might go on for an indefinite period, but with the forces at the disposal of the two staffs the operation soon must come to an end.

The German official account says the Germans have defeated the French north and south of Albert. This doubtless refers to an engagement in which the French admit they suffered a temporary reverse but later regained the ground. Tonight's report that further progress had been made, indicates that they have penetrated north of Albert.

On the allies' right, in southern Woivre, where progress also is reported, the French have been fighting to compel the Germans who crossed the Meuse at St. Mihiel, to return to the eastern side of the river.

The statement last night that the French had occupied Seicheprey and Rupt de Mad, suggested that this at least had been accomplished, but it has not been officially announced.

Nothing Worthily Mentioned.

Along the extended front the Oise to the Meuse, except the fighting mentioned on the wings, nothing has happened that the French staff considers worthy of mention. It cannot be that the troops in these positions are entirely idle. It is known that an artillery duel is going on continuously, but probably neither side has moved forward, while the infantry has been constantly on the alert to meet attacks and counter attacks. For a time the Germans had the

better of the artillery fighting, as they possessed the bigger guns. This situation now is said to have been overcome, for the French have brought up additional artillery, including some big naval guns, which are credited with being able to outrange the German guns by seven hundred yards and which are being used to drive the Germans out of their strongly fortified positions.

Both sides appear confident. The Germans, bringing up reinforcements to meet the attempts to outflank them, are in what appears to be almost impregnable positions and are fighting sternly.

The allies, on the Oise, place their hopes in the arrival of reinforcements on their left and the possibility of finding a weak spot in the German front. The Indian troops should now be with the British army, the official bureau having today permitted the publication of the fact that they landed in France last Friday.

Destination Unknown.

Of course it is not known where the Indian troops are going, but it is believed the left wing will be stiffened by them. Some of the territorialists also have reached Field Marshal French. These include the London Scottish, one of the best of England's volunteer regiments, recruited from Scotchmen in London. They have reached a high state of efficiency and in their ranks are some of the best marksmen in the empire. Among them are a number of men who competed with the United States for the Palma trophy a few years ago.

A call has been issued for British railway men to go to France and assist in working the railroads there. With the German attack on the Belgian fortifications of Antwerp, again Belgium has become the scene of serious operations. The invaders, so far, have confined their attack to the forts protecting the river crossings between Malines and Antwerp. A German report says two forts have been silenced, but the Belgians deny

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DISPATCH RIDERS OF GREAT SERVICE TO ALLIED ARMIES

Daring Youths, on Motorcycles, Keep Brigades in Close Touch.

ARE BRITISH YOUTHS FROM UNIVERSITIES

Many Times Their Audacity and Speed Scatters Cavalry Detachments.

AT THE BATTLE FRONT, Oct. 1.—Via Paris 8:21 p. m.—The general in command of the allies have nothing but praise for the corps of dispatch riders who, since the beginning of the great battle of the Aisne, have kept the communication between various corps along the line, now spreading from the Somme to the Meuse and along the frontier of Alsace-Lorraine.

The dispatch riders mostly are volunteers from British universities, many of them wealthy youths. Night and day they have made dashes through the country infested with German cavalry, carrying messages which have kept the brigades and army corps in close touch and enabled commanders to send reinforcements to points where they were most needed.

Scatter Cavalry.

On many occasions these dispatch riders, mounted on motorcycles, by sheer audacity and speed, have scattered reconnoitering parties of German cavalry, sometimes facing enormous odds in their dangerous work. Recent terrible hand to hand conflicts on the western and eastern

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U. S. AND GREAT BRITAIN WILL REACH AGREEMENT ON SHIPPING QUESTION

Conference Now Going on in London Expected to Settle Controversy.

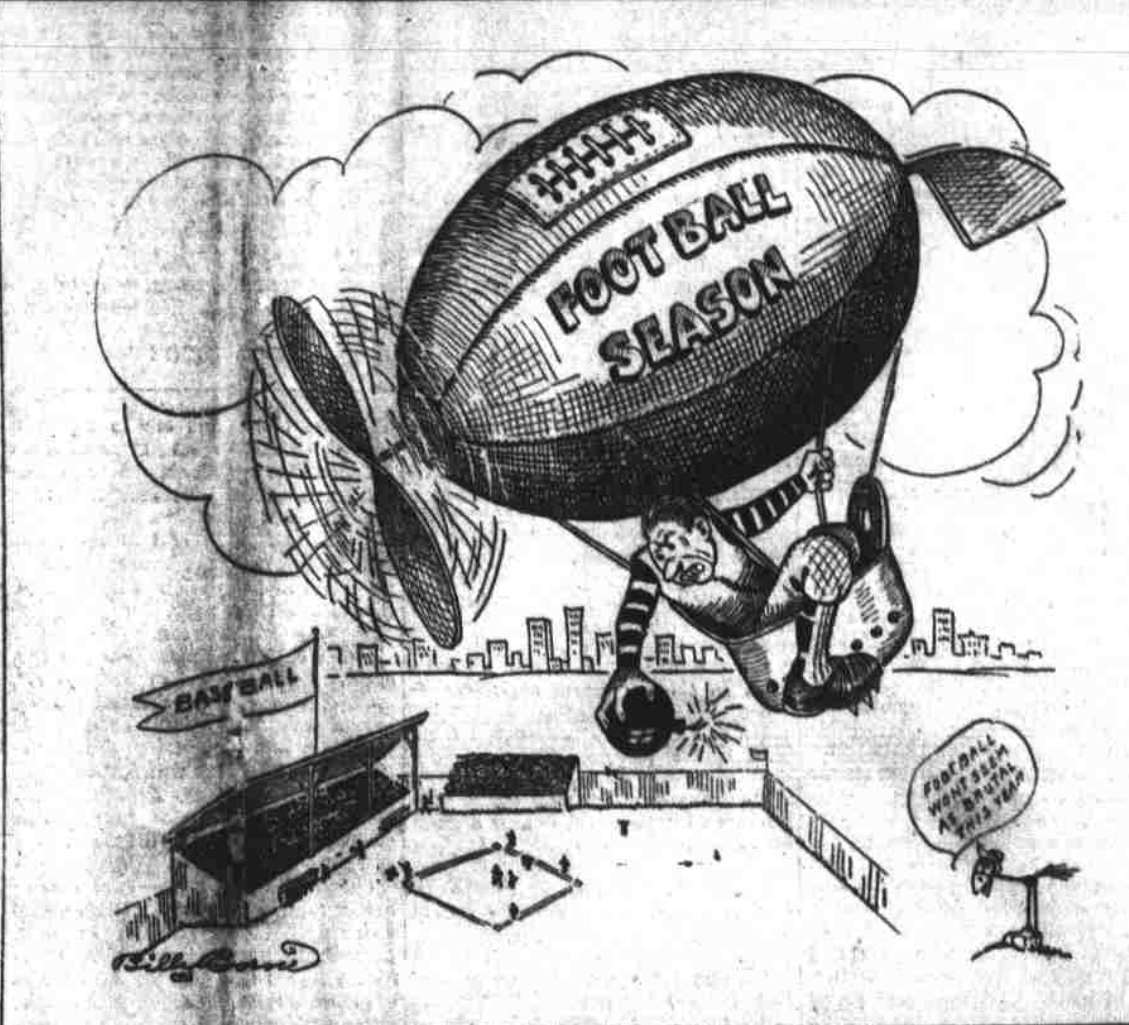
HOLLAND IS OPEN.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1.—Conferences progressing in Washington and London are expected to result shortly in a complete understanding between the United States and Great Britain as to conditions under which American products may be shipped to neutral European countries, and the products of those countries, as well as of belligerent countries, transported to the United States without interference from British or French cruisers.

There are many phases of the subject requiring separate examination, and treatment and the state department regards each one disposed of as a step toward a final and comprehensive understanding. Germany and Austria have not been taken into the consideration owing to the fact that so far no issue has arisen from the attempt of any of their cruisers to detain American vessels or cargoes. Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, made several calls at the state department today, and later indicated that substantial progress had been made.

In connection with the complaint of an American copper company that the cargoes in ingots had been diverted from Rotterdam to British ports, it was said that Solicitor Johnson, of the state department, was endeavoring to ascertain all the facts as a condition precedent to any formal representations. A statement issued tonight by Counselor Lansing denied that the British ambassador had given notice that Great Britain intended to seize goods listed as conditional contraband, destined for Germany if they were carried in neutral ships and consigned to neutral ports.

The British government agreed today that no interference would be offered by British cruisers to the shipment of food supplies to Holland or any other neutral country.



JURY IN THE SORRELS CASE CAN RENDER ONE OF FIVE VERDICTS; HEARING OF EVIDENCE FINISHED

Defendant Takes the Stand in His Own Behalf, Making First Public Statement Which Gives His Version of Automobile Trip of Last June—Contradicts the Evidence of Prosecuting Witness—Arguments Being Heard.

Evidence was concluded in the hearing of Charles E. Sorrels on trial for his life on a charge of criminally assaulting Mrs. Ernestine Hooper, in the Buncombe county superior court yesterday afternoon, and when adjournment was taken for the afternoon, Robert H. Williams, of counsel for the defense, was presenting the first argument to the jury. The state waived the opening address and Mr. Williams was selected as the first speaker on behalf of the defense.

One of the features of the day was the announcement that at the close of the arguments Judge E. B. Cline, of Hickory, presiding at the present term of the court, will charge the jury to the effect that it can render one of five verdicts: That the defendant is not guilty; that the defendant is guilty of criminal assault; that the defendant is guilty of attempt to commit criminal assault; that the defendant is guilty of assault on a woman; that the defendant is guilty of assault with a deadly weapon. That the twelve men who will pass on the guilt or innocence of the defendant will be charged to return one of the five verdicts in information which will be received with a great deal of interest by those who are interested in the proceedings. The announcement was made at the close of the afternoon session of the court, after Judge Cline had ordered that the jury retire from the court chamber for the evening.

The presiding officer stated that he didn't want to take the attorneys for

the defense by surprise, stating that Mr. Williams' remarks to the jury had indicated that the attorneys who are representing the young man, expect that the jury will either free their client or send him to the electric chair. He outlined the five verdicts from which the jury can select its decision as attorneys for both sides faced the judge's bench. Interesting developments. Yesterday's sessions of the court called for many developments not the least important of which was the testimony of the defendant who, for the first time since his arrest, gave his version of the automobile ride on the night of Sunday, June 28, which was fraught with unexpected results. The young man calmly told of leaving the city of Asheville for the joy-ride and maintained on direct examination and cross-examination that he did not assault the woman who was his companion on that night. It was his first public statement concerning the drive, the defendant having steadfastly refused to comment on the case in published since he was arrested in a barn loft on the road between this city and Black Mountain.

One of the dramatic incidents of the trial was the cross-examination of Judge W. P. Brown by Judge Jones, the former taking the stand as a witness for the state to testify that on the morning following the alleged assault, Sorrels told him that he had assaulted the woman. Judge Jones pleaded that this testimony be kept from the jury, maintaining after Judge Brown had said that Sorrels was drinking that he was irresponsible and even if his statement were true, Judge Brown had no right to divulge it, as it was privileged. In a long appeal to the presiding officer, while the jury was out of the room, Judge Jones declared that justice would be a farce and a man's method of defending himself would be a joke if an attorney who received information of this kind from a man who stood charged with a crime

could have no protection from the lawyer in whom he had confided. If Sorrels were in earnest when he made the statement, and if he were not under the influence of intoxicants when he talked to Judge Brown, the latter, Judge Jones declared, should regard the information as sacred and should not relate it under any circumstances. Judge Brown maintained, however, that Sorrels had not employed him, although later he admitted that he believed that Sorrels was talking as a client to an attorney.

The first witnesses introduced yesterday morning were men who testified as to the character of the defendant and witnesses for the defense. Character witnesses. Dr. G. W. Porefoy swore that he has known Sorrels since he was a boy, the witness giving the defendant a good character. Cross-examined the witness said the defendant has drunk some and has been "a little wild; not vicious." S. Lipinsky testified that Sorrels' character is good. The witness didn't know of any reputation for drinking. W. H. Westall gave the defendant a good character. He knows of no reputation for drinking. B. M. Marlowe swore that Sorrels has a good character as did C. B. Moore. J. Baylis Reeder gave Sorrels a good character. Mrs. Lula Barnes, on cross-examination conducted by Mr. Johnston, said her mother lives on Buncombe street, Greenville, S. C., and that she has recently been at Knoxville, leaving here a short time after the alleged assault. She didn't think she needed at the last term of court. She admitted asking a lawyer for advice as to whether she could be held, but maintained that she "had planned to leave the state" before the trial; couldn't recall that she told a lawyer she never intended to return. She maintained that she

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WORK ON WAR REVENUE MEASURE IS CONTINUED

Senate Sub-committees Are Busy Outlining Additional Details.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1.—Work on the war revenue bill was continued today by senate finance sub-committees, and preparations were made for the consideration of the measure by the full committee tomorrow. No general changes were considered, the sub-committees confining their discussion to details.

The proposed tax on gasoline has been eliminated, the sub-committee considering that section of the bill, substituting instead a tax of 25 cents per horsepower on automobiles, and a selling tax on manufacturers of \$1 per horsepower.

The National Association of Dyers and Cleaners of America, through its president, W. H. Braco, of Buffalo, today presented to the committee a protest against the proposed tax of two cents a gallon on gasoline. Mr. Braco stated that with this tax the dry cleaning industry had but one of two alternatives, either to increase charges or add to their annual expense of conducting business. The protest stated 75 per cent of all gasoline used in the United States is consumed in mechanical and industrial uses and less than 25 per cent by automobiles.

ORDERS GRANDCHILDREN OF TILLMAN INTO COURT

Will Decide Whether Mother Shall Keep Them—Disobey The Court.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Oct. 1.—Chief Justice Gray, of the state Supreme court, today ordered Mrs. Lucy Dugas Tillman, mother of Lucy Frances Tillman and Douschka Pickens Tillman, granddaughters of United States Senator B. R. Tillman, to produce the two girls before the Supreme court here November 25 and show why they should not be taken from her charge and given over to "those who may be more successful in training them and teaching them the duty of obedience to lawful authority."

It is stated in the court's order that the children have disobeyed the mandate to spend July and August with their grandparents and that their mother has confessed inability to compel obedience.

It is said that in compliance with the court's order the girls were sent to Trenton, S. C., to visit Senator Tillman, but they refused to leave the train and returned home. Later, according to report they were sent under charge of an attendant, but slipped away from the Tillman residence and again went home. Legal proceedings to determine the proper custodians of the two girls have been before the courts for some time.

OCT. 15 IS TENTATIVE DATE FOR ADJOURNMENT

Democratic Senate Leaders Agree Upon This Date—House Ready.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1.—October 15 was agreed upon today by democratic leaders as a tentative date for the adjournment of the present session of congress. The senate steering committee quickly framed a legislative program designed to conclude pending legislation by that date.

House leaders declared work on their side would be finished well before October 15.

At the white house October 10 was mentioned as a date for adjournment, but democratic leaders after a conference with the president, determined at least two weeks would be necessary to allow the senate to finish pending legislation. The steering committee agreed that legislation should be confined to the war revenue bill and measures now in conference between the two houses, including the Clayton anti-trust bill. It is expected the Clayton bill conference report now under discussion in the senate will be disposed of by the end of this week, and that the war revenue bill will be brought in Monday.

THE WEATHER. WASHINGTON, Oct. 1.—Forecast for North Carolina: Generally clear Friday and Saturday.

PEACE IN MEXICO NOW ASSURED IS REPORT AT CAPITAL

Believed That Calderon Will Be Named Provisional President.

CONFERENCE HELD BY CHIEFS YESTERDAY

Troop Movements Have Been Ordered Discontinued and All is Well.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1.—Unofficial reports reaching the administration tonight from constitutionalist sources here conveyed further assurance that permanent peace soon would be restored in Mexico through the designation of Pascando Iglesias Calderon as provisional president, pending an election.

No official word from Mexico City concerning the convention, called to meet today to promulgate plans for a general election, or from the peace conference between Carranza and Villa representatives was received by the state department today.

Both President Wilson and Secretary Bryan said, however, the outlook for a peaceful settlement of differences between the factions in Mexico was "very hopeful."

Reports that troop movements had been ordered discontinued by agreement of the peace commissioners and that preparations for a general convention of constitutionalist chiefs, scheduled for October 10, has been approved by the Carranza-Villa representatives, were accepted by officials here as an important step in the interests of peace. Rafael Zubaran, head of the constitutionalist agency here, issued a statement tonight in which he denied reports of the capture of Huajuquilla by Villa forces. Further information received by the agency confirmed reports that Generals Monclovia and Luis Herrera had revolted against Villa.

Strong representations have been made to the Carranza-Villa peace commission today, and officials here said that both leaders had assured the administration that the constitutionalists will be pleased, however, that in cases where the clergy have aided the Huerta regime they will be compelled to leave the country.

CALL OFF TROOPS.

AGUAS CALIENTES, Mex., Oct. 1.—Definite agreement to cease all troop movements immediately and to call the greatest possible number of constitutionalist chiefs together here on October 5 preparatory to a general convention October 10, was agreed upon yesterday at the first conference between Villa and the Carranza peace commissioners.

The first conference was held at Zacatecas. The following commission from Mexico City left here yesterday to participate in it: Generals Obregon, Iturbide, Santos

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N. C. CONGRESSMEN TALK WITH PRESIDENT WILSON ON COTTON SITUATION

They May Urge Chief Executive To Hold Congress In Session.

SPECIAL MEASURES.

(By George H. Manning.)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1.—The "committee of ten," composed of senators and congressmen from cotton states, of which Congressman Pou is the North Carolina representative, received an invitation today from President Wilson to come to the white house tomorrow at noon and discuss ways and means of relieving the cotton situation.

The committee asked the president last Saturday to name a date when he could give sufficient time for them to go over the matter fully, and were today advised that they could have all tomorrow afternoon if necessary.

Mr. Pou said the committee, among other things, would urge the president not to permit congress to adjourn until every legislative means has been adopted to aid the treasury department and other executive branches in relieving the cotton problem.

Congressman Small, of North Carolina, along with Senator Robinson and Congressman Lever and Hardwick, have an appointment with Secretary McAdoo tomorrow to discuss the cotton situation. This committee will talk with McAdoo to see if some legislation can be passed which will make it possible to issue bonds on the cotton situation.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1.—Forecast for North Carolina: Generally clear Friday and Saturday.