

45,000 Austrians and Enormous Stores of War Materials Have Been Captured By Italians

ITALY'S VICTORY IS GREAT TRIUMPH AS TEUTONS ARE DRIVEN BACK IN DISORDER

Swift Retreat Across River With Italians in Pursuit. TURNS TO UTTER ROUT Hunger-Offensive of Austria Has Been Forlorn Hope For Past Several Days. FORCES ARE SHATTERED Effect of Monster Defeat on the Internal Crisis in Austrial-Hungary Can Only be Conjectured at Present.

Washington, June 24.—Capture of 45,000 prisoners and enormous stores of war material by the Italians in their counter offensive, which has driven Austrians across the Piave, is announced in an official cablegram received today by the Italian embassy from Rome. "Offensive operations by our troops began Sunday," says the dispatch. "After violent artillery preparations that destroyed all bridges except one, the infantry drove forward with irresistible impetus. The flooded Piave contains thousands of enemy corpses. Divisions which had passed the Piave were decimated by our artillery and infantry. "American airmen displayed great bravery in the first encounters. Lieutenant Young, attacked by two Austrian chasers, was obliged to land on the lower Piave."

Italy's victory over the Austrians on the Piave front appears likely to assume the proportions of a veritable triumph for the Italians and a disaster of great magnitude for the defeated enemy.

Already it is announced in official dispatches from Rome the Austrians have lost 45,000 men in prisoners and great quantities of material, while the extent of their other casualties may be indicated by the thousands of bodies floating into the waters of the swollen river.

Austria's defeat is being hailed throughout Italy and allied countries not so much because of the Italian victory, but because of the awakening of the Italian morale which was shaken severely last fall by the Austro-German offensive. Holding the final barriers to the Venetian plain and Lombardy the Italians by their steadfast resistance during eight days of heavy fighting turned the great enemy onslaught into a disorderly repulse.

Unable to force his way further than the immediate vicinity of the west bank of the river and with bridges thrown across the stream swept away by the swirling waters of the flood pouring down from the mountains, the enemy began a precipitate retreat Saturday night.

So hasty was his withdrawal that he left a great many cannon on the west bank of the Piave, while his retreating infantry columns, according to news dispatches, are already being pressed by Italian detachments thrown over to the easterly side of the stream. From the Montello plateau southward to the Adriatic comes the same story of the Austrian retreat. The Piave river formerly emptied into the sea quite near Venice, but in recent years its course was changed to its present location. In the first rush of the Austrian offensive the enemy succeeded in crossing the old river-bed, which is now a canal. From their positions there the foe has been driven and the Italians re-entirely pressing the pursuit.

The latest news dispatches from the Piave front, sent out on Sunday, tell of Italian bombing units being thrown across the main stream of the Piave, which seems to indicate that

MOST HEARTENING NEWS FOR ALLIES

Papers Seize Retreat of Austrians With Much Enthusiasm PUBLIC BEEN PREPARED Vienna's Claims Did Little or Nothing to Lessen the Confidence.

IMPORTANT INFLUENCES Not Known If Resignation of Cabinet Is Connected With Defeat of Armies Along the Piave.

London, June 24.—The laconic bulletin from General Diaz announcing that the defeated Austrians are retreating in disorder with the Italians in pursuit is the most heartening news received in allied countries in many months.

Although nothing is yet known as to the exact extent of the Austrian defeat or how far the Italians and allies may be in a position to take full advantage of it, the statement of the Italian commander-in-chief is hailed with enthusiasm by the morning newspapers.

Public opinion here had been prepared by the progress of the operations since the first days of the fighting to hope that Italy was destined to redeem the grievous disaster suffered last October and as each day of the battle passed hope began to grow into confidence.

Austrian claims in the meantime did little or nothing to lessen this confidence and when the Austrian communique of Sunday was received with its lament regarding floods in the Piave observers saw in it an intention to prepare the people for painful news.

Comment in some quarters here assumes that the defeat on the Piave will have an important influence on operations on the western front, it being supposed that the aim of the central powers in the offensive was to destroy the Italian power of resistance so that the Austrian army might be transferred to France as a counterpoise to the Americans.

It is taken for granted generally that the defeat must have an important effect on the internal situation in Austria-Hungary where some conspicuous Austro-German triumph was needed solely to counter-balance the damaging influence of food scarcity and other causes of popular dissatisfaction.

Whether the decision of the Austrian cabinet to resign is connected with what appears to be a considerable disaster to the country's armies, along the Piave is not yet known.

Look For End Soon

Washington, June 24.—Confidence at Rome that the war may be brought to a victorious close this year, if the allies give the Italians a full measure of support on the offensive which has been launched against the Austrians, is reflected in official wireless dispatches received today from the Italian capital.

These messages say the Austrian retreat across the Piave, in which the Italians already have taken 45,000 prisoners, has become a veritable rout, but that information from secret sources shows that many divisions of German troops have been detached from the front in France, and are being rushed to the aid of the Austrian army.

STRIKES SPREAD IN VIENNA PLANTS

Demand Austria Show Itself Ready For General Peace. SMALLPOX IS AT ESSEN Bread Ration Causes 20,000 to Walk Out at Cologne and Muelheim.

MUST EAT—STOP WORK Military Mobile Kitchens Will Be Used to Supply 100,000 Persons For Four Weeks With Warm Meals.

New York, June 24.—Strikes in the various factories at Vienna on Saturday formulated a demand that the Austrian government show itself ready for a general peace and invite the governments of enemy countries to enter into peace negotiations, says a dispatch from The Hague to The Times. Representatives of the workers submitted the plea to Baron Burian, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister.

20,000 on Strike. London, June 24.—Extensive strikes broke out Thursday in Cologne and Muelheim, on the Rhine, owing to a reduction in the bread ration. 20,000 persons quitting work in munitions factories, according to a dispatch to The Daily Mail from The Hague.

A Dutch workman returning to The Hague reports that the military and police interfered but failed to prevent a street procession of more than 9,000 strikers at Cologne. The strikers who included women, marched in a dense mass to an open place, where a mass meeting was held. All the speakers, who included foremen and forewomen, made this declaration: "Unless we get more to eat, we shall not work."

The Dutchman said that smallpox is increasing greatly among the Krupp workmen at Essen.

Half Bread Ration. Amsterdam, June 24.—Although he has done what has been possible there is only sufficient corn for half a bread ration in Austria, declared Food Minister Paul, in an interview with the Vienna correspondent of The Lokal Anzeiger. The food department is attempting to make up this deficiency with other foodstuffs and in addition to 20 grammes of beef, two pounds of horse flesh will be distributed weekly.

Military mobile kitchens will be used to supply 100,000 persons daily for four weeks with a warm meal consisting of soup, 100 grammes of meat and vegetables.

Emperor Charles, a Vienna dispatch to The Lokal Anzeiger of Berlin, says, undoubtedly will refuse to accept the resignation of the von Seydler cabinet, which will remain as constituted except probably for the Polish minister, Herr von Twardowski, who will retire.

It is problematical, however, whether Minister von Waiser and Minister of Agriculture Tronca will be able to reconcile their differences and work in harmony until autumn.

Speak on Estimates. Amsterdam, June 24.—Chancellor von Hertling, according to The Vossische Zeitung, of Saturday, will speak today at the opening of the debate on the estimates for his office and the foreign office.

River Boat Burns. Washington, June 24.—Partial destruction by fire of a river boat used as a fleet supply vessel at an Atlantic port, was reported today to the navy department. An explosion preceded the fire, but no loss of life was reported.

Will Ask for 15,000,000,000 Marks. Amsterdam, June 24.—The reichstag this week will be asked to pass a new vote of credit of 15,000,000,000 marks, according to The Berliner Tageblatt. This will raise Germany's war credit to 132,000,000,000 marks.

LICHNOWSKY SPOILS A NICE ALIBI



After framing up a beautiful alibi—



And getting the German people to hate with their full capacity—



Wouldn't you think a disillusioned people would now turn their hate output on their deceivers?

AUSTRIAN RETREAT IS WILD AND CONFUSED

Many Thousands Surrender When Overtaken by the Pursuing Italians.

Italian Headquarters, Sunday, June 23.—South of the Zenson bend the Austrians are fighting rear guard actions to cover the retreat of their body over the two bridges they have left—at San Dona, and Grisoleria, three and a half miles from the Adriatic.

The Austrian retreat, began in an orderly manner, soon became wildly disorganized and confused. Many thousands of Austro-Hungarians surrendered at the first opportunity when overtaken by their pursuers. Rain, which had been falling for eight days, broke forth more violently about daylight today at a time when Italian artillery and machine guns began to open up on the retreating Austrians who were struggling knee deep in mire.

The Italian cavalry took part in the pursuit, harrying the fugitives.

As the Austrians were pressed by the Italians they threw away their guns and equipment. They even left on the Montello stacks of bread, canned meat and preserves which Austrian aviators had succeeded in bringing to them. The Austrians crossed the Piave on rafts and boats which they had brought or had prepared during the darkness on Saturday night. They left well built trenches great quantities of ammunition and blankets and every variety of army equipment in their retreat.

Militia To Get Resisters

Raleigh, N. C., June 24.—The state reserve militia company at Winston-Salem has been ordered to hold itself in reserve for a week's campaign against some 40 drafted men who are defying the authorities in Ashe county, Adjutant General Young announced today.

He said reports to his office from the Ashe county draft board were that one man, a civilian, had been killed in attempting to arrest some of the resisters. The men refuse to be inducted into service and legally are deserters from the army.

AMERICA AND PARIS CHEERED BY ROUT OF AUSTRIANS ON PIAVE

Washington, June 24.—Though cheered by the good news that the Italians are pursuing, the defeated Austrian army across the Piave, Italian officials and military observers here are preparing to hear at any time of a stiffening of the enemy line and of the launching of another offensive movement supported by Germans withdrawn from France.

Some officials suggested today that the absence of any great enemy activity along the fronts in France and Flanders during the past few days might be accounted for by the movement of German reinforcements toward Italy. With Austria facing famine and revolt at home, it is believed that Germany will undertake to throw powerful forces to the rescue to prevent the grave consequences to her ally that would be certain to follow a real defeat at the hands of the Italians.

There is much speculation among Americans and allied officers here as to what steps General Foch may be taking to deal with the situation. Unity of command is counted upon to prevent another such catastrophe as that which followed the first great Austrian offensive, and as the Germans move southward to aid their tottering allies, allied soldiers may be on their way to further strengthen the rejuvenated Italians.

Ended in Rout. Paris, June 24.—The Austrian offensive appears to have ended in a rout according to the view taken by the Paris press of the news from the Italian front as summarized today by the Havas Agency. Believing that under such conditions as the news indicates, the enemy will be compelled to give up important booty, in material and prisoners to the victorious Italians, the newspapers predict that the questionable defeat will react seriously upon the population of the dual monarchy.

The comment of Le Journal upon the Austrian situation bears the caption "Defeat and Famine" while the Matin points out that Austria-Hungary has received one of the heaviest blows since the beginning of the war, at a moment when the internal situation renders the event particularly to be dreaded by the Vienna government. "The great Italian victory will bring a loud echo from the whole world," the newspaper adds.

The Echo de Paris thinks that in consequence of the outcome on the Italian front new offensive actions are likely to be begun shortly by the Germans on the Franco-British front.

The newspapers point to the coincidence of the success of the Italians upon the French front on the same day that the Austrians were yielding to the victorious assaults of their brothers in arms in Italy.

YOUNG HAS NAMED MEMBERS OF STAFF.

Norfolk, Va., June 24.—J. H. Young, federal manager of the Virginia railway, today announced the appointment of the following officials as members of his staff:

M. S. Hawkins, assistant to federal manager; J. D. Stack, general manager; S. M. Adsit, general freight and passenger agent; H. Fernstrom, chief engineer; F. W. Russell, local treasurer; W. C. Everett, auditor; Loyall, Taylor & White, general solicitors; A. B. Lacy, purchasing agent.

May Succeed Wekerle. Amsterdam, June 24.—In discussing the crisis in the Hungarian government, Budapest newspapers, says the Lokal Anzeiger of Berlin, mentions Count Tisza, presumably as successor to Premier Wekerle.

AERIAL WARFARE NEXT DEVELOPMENT

Third Phase of War Now Being Discussed by Experts.

GERMANS DREAD MOVE

Allied Airmen Will Carry Fighting to Heart of Berlin Next Summer.

WILL CROSS ATLANTIC

Will Direct Efforts to Task of Constructing Bombing and Fighting Craft for Long Distance Flights.

By FRANK P. MORSE.

Washington, D. C., June 24.—The third phase of the war, and one that Germany has good reason to dread, is the subject of conferences now going on between the aerial experts of the United States and Great Britain. Trench warfare gave way to open fighting exactly three months ago today. The next development will be war in the air on a large scale which Germany's heavily taxed resources cannot meet. If American factories measure up to the requirements demanded, allied airmen will carry the fighting next summer to the heart of Berlin.

The announcement by Major Gen. William Brancher, British controller of aeroplane equipment, that American-built flying machines would attempt to cross the Atlantic next September, is a hint of an agreement just entered into between Washington and London for a complete pooling of the future air navies of this country and Great Britain. Gen. Brancher has come to this country, ostensibly to give the United States aircraft board the benefit of England's knowledge of aerial warfare, gained from nearly four years of actual experience. In reality, the paramount purpose of the mission is to aid the development of plans for an aerial drive against Germany next summer.

The United States will direct special efforts to the task of constructing machines capable of long distance flights. If the first of these machines accomplish the difficult task of crossing the Atlantic, with a single stop at the Azores, the factories in this country will pour forth a steady stream of powerful planes for an aerial offensive that will carry terror and destruction to every part of the German empire.

Up to the present time allied aerial fighting and bombing craft have confined their activities to regions near the German borders. A complete mastery of the air and successful experiments with long-distance flying machines will enable American and English aviators to move in waves over the battle line to Berlin or any other German objective selected for special attacks.

It is an open secret that Germany had an overwhelming advantage in aerial fighting during the first three years of the war. Great Britain lost valuable time through failure to appreciate the full importance of the fighting above the clouds and did not make sufficiently comprehensive arrangements for quantity production of planes and training aviators. The situation changed, however, during the offensive that Germany has been conducting for the last three months. British pilots have proved themselves incomparably superior to the Germans and English aeroplanes now far out class those of Teuton manufacture.

The delay in the American aircraft program was a bitter disappointment to the English government. It is realized, however, that the United States is rapidly recovering from the confusion and preparation delays that have put actual airship construction many months behind the schedule. Great Britain is now turning out an air navy at top speed. The English government basing the opinion on the latest reports, is convinced that America will soon be keeping pace. Consequently, the experts of the two Anglo-Saxon nations are now actively engaged on practical plans for an air drive next year that is to prove the third, and, possibly, the final phase of the world war.

Troubles Are Extending. Zurich, Switz., June 23.—The Austrian troubles are extending, according to a dispatch from Munich quoting The Neueste Nachrichten of that city. The Vienna Zeit, according to these advices, states that the strike has become general.