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GERMANY PREPARES FOR SECOND FIGHT

GREAT BATTLE MAY BE WORSE STRUGGLE THAN FIRST OF THE WAR.

SUPERIOR FIGHTING GROUND

Some Experts Believe That Teutons Will Stand at Meuse Field, Which Will be Scene of Great Clash.

London.—The battle on the Marne has about come to an end and although the allied armies are keeping in touch with the retreating Germans it is evident the latter are taking up positions to stay the northward advance of the British and French.

General von Kluck's army has made a stand north of the River Aisne on a line marked by the forest of L'Aigle and Chaonne, while the armies of Generals von Buelow and von Hausen, the Duke of Wurtemberg and the crown prince are falling back to straighten out the front on which the next big battle is likely to be fought.

Although the Germans have been punished badly in their long retreat and have lost many guns and men they maintain cohesion, and, unless the French succeed in their attempt to get between the army of the crown prince and those operating west of him, Emperor William's forces will present a solid front when the time comes for another clash which will be fully as important as the recent battle.

If the Germans can gain the new position, it offers better opportunities for defence than the ground they have passed over the last 10 days. Their right apparently extends as far west as St. Quentin, through a country intersected by rivers and streams that will embarrass the attacking forces.

The main German forces under General von Buelow and von Hausen, the Duke of Wurtemberg and the crown prince stretch along the river Aisne to the hills behind Rheims and then north to Verdun, thus securing the roads and railways running north from Bethel to the Belgian frontier and eastward to Luxemburg and Metz in Lorraine.

Thus by bringing the army of the crown prince of Bavaria more into line they will be covered on one wing by their own fortress of Metz.

Some military experts believe the Germans will offer their next big resistance on the Meuse and that another battle of Sedan will be fought before many days.

FRENCH LEFT MEETS ENEMY.

In Contact With Whole Front North of River Aisne.

Paris.—An official communication issued by the French Government gives details from the battle line except to say that the Allied armies are in close contact with the Germans everywhere and that the forward movement continues between the Meuse and Argonne.

The communication reads: "On our left wing our armies are in close contact with the enemy on the whole front from the heights north of the River Aisne, west and south of Rheims."

"On the center our forward movement between the Argonne district and the Meuse continues."

"It is absolutely untrue as has been published time and again by the official Wolff Agency that the army of the Crown Prince is besieging and bombarding Verdun. This city never has been attacked. Only the fort of Vion which is not a part of the Verdun defenses, but protects the heights of Meuse, has been bombarded on several occasions."

"It is known that the violent attacks of which it has been the object have not succeeded and since yesterday it has been relieved."

Vanguard at Kiau-Chow.

Peking.—A report from Tsing-Tau of German origin, declares that a vanguard of Japanese cavalry is at Kiau-Chow city.

Findlay Among Killed.

London.—Brig. Gen. Neil Douglas Findlay, Royal Artillery, has been killed in action, according to official announcement.

Italians Are Killed.

London.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Trieste, Austria, that 15,000 soldiers from Trieste and Trent, mostly Italians, fighting in the first line, have been killed in the Galician battles.

AMERICAN TROOPS LEAVE VERA CRUZ

PRESIDENT DECIDED ON ACTION AFTER CONSIDERING THE REQUEST OF CARRANZA.

EVACUATE THE PORT AT ONCE

Transports Are Ordered to Remove Troops From Vera Cruz Numbering 7,200 Soldiers and Marines.

Washington.—Evacuation of Vera Cruz was ordered by President Wilson.

American soldiers and marines under General Funston who have held Mexico's principal seaport since it was seized by the fleet, April 12 last will embark for home as soon as transports can go after them and shortly afterward all of the war fleet except a few light draft vessels will be withdrawn.

The evacuation order was announced at the White House after a long cabinet meeting. It is the concluding chapter of the second armed conflict between the United States and Mexico in which a score of Americans lost their lives, nearly a hundred were wounded and upwards of 300 Mexicans were killed or wounded.

The reasons for the step were set forth in the following statement from the White House:

"The troops have been ordered withdrawn from Vera Cruz. This action is taken in view of the entire removal of the circumstances which were thought to justify the occupation. The further presence of the troops is deemed unnecessary."

Specifically, the American forces were withdrawn at the urgent appeal of General Carranza, first chief of the Constitutional army, through Paul Fisher, personal representative of President Wilson in Mexico, General Carranza set forth that the presence of American troops, instead of being a safeguard against further revolution and peace with the United States constituted a constant menace to friendly relations. The Mexican chief contended—and he was supported by Generals Villa and Obregon—that the Mexican people would not understand the continued presence of American troops on Mexican soil and would cherish resentment, no matter how well intentioned the American government was.

Until this time the Washington government had not decided on any fixed time for the withdrawal and awaited negotiations with the new government. At first the president believed it desirable to keep American forces at Vera Cruz for salutary effect, hoping a constitutional election would be conducted fairly and the troops brought back after a constitutionally-elected executive was in power. Carranza argued, however, that no election could be free with a part of Mexican territory controlled by American forces.

STAMP TAX TO RAISE REVENUE. Democrats Frame a Bill to Raise the Emergency Revenue as in Spanish War. Washington.—Abandoning the proposed tax on freight transportation, Democrats of the House caucus agreed to a war revenue measure to include the Spanish War stamp tax on commercial and legal papers, the Spanish War tax on bankers and brokers, a tax on theaters and other amusement places, a tax of two cents a gallon on gasoline, a special tax on tobacco manufacturers and dealers and a tax on domestic wines and beer.

Expected wide disagreement which threatened to embarrass the Administration did not develop in the caucus.

Representative Underwood announced that the proposed bill would yield an estimated revenue of \$105,000,000; the stamp tax to yield \$35,000,000; special taxes on bankers and brokers \$5,300,000; special tax on tobacco dealers \$4,000,000, an increased tax on beer of 50 cents a barrel \$32,500,000; gasoline \$20,000,000; dry wines at 12 cents a gallon and sweet wines at 20 cents a gallon \$8,000,000.

Twenty-Seven Drowned in Train. St. Louis, Mo.—Twenty-seven persons were drowned early one day recently when a St. Louis & San Francisco westbound passenger train plunged into a cloudburst two miles west of Lebanon, Mo., and two passenger cars toppled into a gully swollen with water. Eighteen persons were injured, but none seriously. For several hours the train had been going carefully as the engineer feared the heavy rains had weakened the track. Suddenly the train entered the wash-out and toppled over in the water.

GERMAN NATION IN DEEP GLOOM

People Demand Truth Concerning Fate Of German Army—Defeat On Every Hand

RAY OF HOPE FOR TEUTONS

Their Main Army Is Intact—Lorraine Provides Opportunity for Last Desperate Stand

There appears at the present time only one ray of hope for the fast retreating German armies. The main German army is still intact and it must be crushed by the allies before the victory is complete.

It is also noted by military experts that on the German left lies Metz, the capital of Lorraine and the chain of forts lying between Metz and Diedenhofen. This, together with the dense forests along the course of the Moselle river and the strategic roads, provides an excellent location for a defensive action on the part of the Germans, should the French follow the pursuit this far.

Germans Fleeing From France

From the news of the fighting in the north of France, it appears that the rout of the kaiser's army is complete. The allied armies are steadily pushing the Germans back, and within a short time there will be no Germans on French soil. The ranks of the Germans are fast thinning and though no accurate estimate can be obtained, it is expected the casualties will reach far into the thousands.

Gloom Hangs Over Germany

News of the reverses met by the German troops in France have filtered into Germany through Switzerland. The entire nation is in deep gloom. "Tell us the truth!" is the cry that is going up from the lips of the people of Germany. They have also heard of the great victories of the Russians in Galicia. This has added to their despair.

Ranks of Germans Demoralized

The condition of the German army, according to dispatches, is critical in the extreme. The allied armies have succeeded in destroying the last remnants of their cavalry and a large part of their mobile artillery and ammunition trains have been taken. It is also reported that the German army is suffering greatly for lack of food. With these conditions facing them, it is hardly expected that they would be able to do more than to reach Germany in safety.

Three Million Men Fighting

This is the world's greatest battle. The fighting extends from within a few miles of Paris to as far as Nancy close to the Lorraine border, a distance of nearly one hundred and twenty miles. It is estimated that nearly three million men, both active and those held as reserves, are engaged in the conflict. So constant has been the fighting that it has been impossible to get any reliable information regarding the casualties, but the numbers are expected to reach far into the thousands.

Allies Hold Favored Positions

This battle is being fought on the same ground that Napoleon fought in 1814 with entrenched wings on both sides and in the center. The odds are in favor of the allies. It now appears that their previous retreat before the German hosts was purposely planned in order to give them the opportunity to choose their own ground to fight on. Now that they are taking the aggressive their armies occupy the most favored positions. The lines of the allies are unbroken. Their ranks are strongly reinforced with fresh troops.

Russian Victories in Galicia

The messages that come from the other theaters of war in East Prussia, Galicia and Russian Poland are no more encouraging to the German people than the news that is filtering through to them from France. In Galicia, particularly, a great disappointment was meted out to the Germans when the Austrian forces failed to hold the advance of the Russian hosts. For a time the Austrians did keep the Russians from Galicia, but this was because of the poor railroad facilities in Russia for transporting troops to the border.

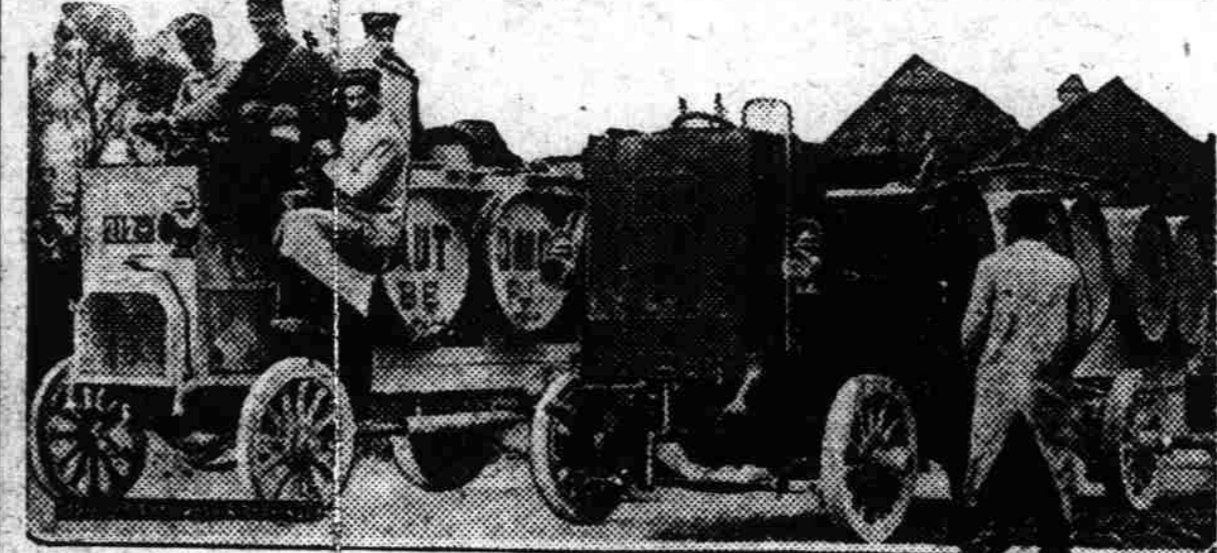
Exchange of Prisoners Arranged

London.—A Reuter's Telegram company's dispatch from Amsterdam says that an agreement has been reached whereby France and Germany will exchange an equal number of prisoners, officers and men, who may rejoin their respective armies.

German Fleet Is Located

Copenhagen.—A dispatch from Rangoon, Finland, says that according to statements by pilots and fishermen, a German fleet has been cruising for the last two days in the Aland islands.

WATER SUPPLY OF THE FRENCH FORCES



Motor trucks carrying tanks of pure drinking water follow in the wake of the French army.

"Tell Us the Truth," Cry the Germans Geneva, Switzerland.—News of the German retreat, despite every precaution, has passed through Switzerland to the north and caused profound depression in Germany. According to advices received here people have gathered in the streets in various German towns, shouting: "Tell us the truth! Give us the news!"

Newspaper offices at Munich have been closed, as disorders are feared.

Along the Swiss-German frontier, the full extent of the German retreat is known. People are crying: "If the French have beaten us, what will the Russians do?"

Wilson Sends Peace Message

Washington.—The knowledge that Emperor William for several days has been considering a message from the United States government inquiring, in effect, if Germany desired to discuss peace measures set official and diplomatic Washington on the alert for a possible exchange of peace terms between the belligerents. No reply from the emperor had reached Washington.

It had not been a matter of general knowledge that beginning with the dinner in New York a week ago attended by Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, and Oscar Strauss, American member of The Hague peace tribunal, an informal movement was under way to learn Germany's attitude toward peace.

British Winning in Africa

London.—A Reuter's dispatch from Nairobi, British East Africa, says a strong force of Germans from German East Africa crossed the border at Mochu and occupied Karangu and are advancing on Kisii.

"British forces," the correspondent says, "have been dispatched from Kisumu and from Port Florence, on the northeastern shore of Lake Victoria, Nyanza, to check them."

"The German force on the Tsalo river is retreating and is in conflict with troops sent from Bura and Mtoto Anel. Full details of the fighting are not obtainable, but the capture of two German officers and some native troops is confirmed. Another German officer has surrendered."

Austrian Situation Grave

London.—A Reuter's dispatch from Rome says: "News from the Austrian frontier describes even in darker colors the situation of the Austrian army, especially since Germany has notified her ally that she is unable to send more reinforcements into Galicia, owing to graver conditions on the western front."

"It even is asserted that the German contingents which reached Grodek to help the Austrians may be recalled to Germany, as Germany wishes to center all her efforts against the allies."

Communication of Germans Cut

London.—A Bordeaux dispatch to Lloyd's Weekly News says the line of communications used by the Germans has been cut and they cannot make use of the lines east of the Argonne forest, owing to the rapid advance of the allies on the center and right. They, therefore, must try the line through the Meuse valley and Luxemburg.

South Africa Loyal to England

Capetown, Union of South Africa.—The senate and assembly of the Union of South Africa have adopted an address to King George in which the express approval of the action taken by Great Britain "in defense of the principles of liberty and justice and of the integrity and sanctity of international obligations."

Japan Friendly to Russia

Petrograd.—Japanese officers have told a Russian journalist that the whole of Japan is in favor of an alliance with Russia.

Balkans Unite Against Turkey

London.—Telegraphing from Rome a correspondent of the Daily Telegraph declares he has learned from diplomatic sources that Roumania, Greece and Bulgaria have signed an agreement which may be regarded as a real alliance under the terms of which these three nations engage to interfere whenever necessary in order to prevent Turkey's aiding Germany and Austria in the present war. If Turkey remains neutral, however, those three states will do the same.

GINNERS DISCUSS COTTON PROCESS



Philadelphia Believes His Device Will Work a Revolution in the Cotton Industry.

Columbia.—The merits and demerits of the Hall cotton reclaiming machine were discussed at a conference of about 50 cotton ginners and farmers, held in Columbia recently. The working of the machine was explained by John B. Hall of Philadelphia, the inventor. Mr. Hall told those present that his maturing and reclaiming process means a revolution of the cotton industry of the world. He said that he had brought the machine South for the benefit of the farmers of this section. "I do not want to sell any stock," said Mr. Hall.

Among those present at the conference were: P. R. McIntosh, A. H. Brice, J. Whitner Reid, secretary of the South Carolina State Farmers' Union E. J. Watson, of the state department of agriculture; W. M. Claire, T. S. Cave of Barnwell, J. C. Dye of Richburg, W. P. Rushton of Johnston, C. B. Page, W. A. Anderson, A. H. Hawkins of Prosperity, A. G. Wise of Prosperity, L. P. Boylston of Blackville, P. C. Mellichamp of Barnwell, J. B. Morrison of McClellanville, Harry D. Calhoun of Barnwell, H. C. Randolph of Columbia, A. B. Langley of Columbia, E. O. Calhoun of Galveston, E. Boineau of Columbia, James A. Cathcart of Columbia, E. W. Gibson, W. B. Stevenson, Richburg; W. B. Gladden of Richburg, J. E. Harrison of Lykesland, D. B. Reed of Columbia and C. G. Cate of Columbia.

Mr. Hall said that his process for maturing and reclaiming all waste and frost bitten cotton will mean tremendous additional income for the South in by-products.

"The process gives the South immediate money," said Mr. Hall, "through the tremendous amount of cotton seed that will be reclaimed now going to absolute waste and the great amount of potash which can be obtained from the cotton hulls."

"Since Germany is now at war, the world has no sure or adequate supply of potash, except from the Southern cotton bolls. Without potash, no fertilizers. Next year no cotton crop to worry about. Think what this dominion of the potash supply means to the South in money."

"The fats of the world must come from the cotton seed. The tremendous amount of seed which will be reclaimed from your waste cotton bolls is simply incalculable in money value."

Mr. Hall said he had received offers from foreign governments for his machine. He said that to show he had faith in the South he had established a complete plant at Barnwell. He invited the farmers of the state to make a trip to Barnwell to investigate the merits of the machine.

ANDERSON MILLS ARE BUSY.

Orders Sufficient to Keep Mills Busy For Many Days. Anderson.—James D. Hammett, president of Anderson, Chiquola and Orr Cotton Mills, on his return from New York announced that he had secured orders sufficient to keep his mills running until the first of January and that there would be no curtailment or close down by any of them.

Robert E. Ligon of the Equinox and Gluck mills announced that instead of closing down his mills he might have to increase hours or secure larger forces to fill orders booked by him.

A. S. Farmer, president of Connors yarn mill, states he has secured orders sufficient to keep his machinery running on full time for 60 days.

Mr. Hammett declares that the feeling in Eastern cities is much better than it was the first of last week.

Optimism in Cotton Circles.

Charleston.—A distinct note of optimism was sounded in local cotton circles when the information was given out, that W. Gordon McCabe Company had received cables from foreign concerns asking for offers on the staple. This was from sources which had hitherto, it is understood, been significantly silent, and was taken to indicate a resumption pretty soon of an encouraging demand for cotton.

The morning was by no means a blue one among several of the cotton factors, Mr. McCabe declared.

Field Marshal Sir John French, commander of the British forces, reported that the Germans had been driven back all along the line; that the British had crossed the river Marne; that the Germans had suffered severely, and that their men were supposed to be in an extremely exhausted condition.

Notwithstanding this report, military experts do not rush to sweeping conclusions.