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GERMANS GREATLY STRENGTHEN LINE

DESPITE OBSTINATE RESISTANCE ENEMY BATTLE LINE FORCED BACK AT ALL POINTS.

THE FIGHTING IS SANGUINARY

Americans Prove Themselves Masters of Picked Enemy Troops in Several Bloody Combats.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Germans have powerfully strengthened their battle line running across the Soissons-Rheims salient with additional reserves and have stubbornly disputed further passage northward to the entente allied troops, the enemy front has been compelled to bend back appreciably on all sides of the salient, except at the anchor points resting immediately on Soissons and Rheims.

South of Soissons further wedges have been driven eastward into the enemy front down to the Ourcq river; eastward along the Ourcq, French and American troops have crossed the stream at various points and advanced their line well to the northward, while southwest of Rheims the allies have debouched from the wooded sector and gained the plains, notwithstanding the violence of the enemy's counter maneuvers. At some points the Germans succeeded somewhat in checking the forward movement.

The retirement of the Germans still remains orderly, but everywhere the allied troops, and especially the Americans near Fere-En-Tardenois, are pressing them hard. Particularly bitter fighting has taken place around Fere-En-Tardenois and at Sorcy, both of which towns are now well in the hands of the French and Americans. At Sorcy the Germans paid the Americans the compliment of reinforcing their battle line with two divisions of well-trained Bavarian troops, men whose courage previously has been tested when the tide of battle was going against the Germans. It was an effort either to destroy the Americans or to herd them back across the Ourcq. The effort resulted in failure.

The battle line shifted back and forth and Sorcy changed hands four times, but the Americans proved to be the masters of the picked enemy troops and finally drove them out and retained the village. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the Germans.

ENEMY LOSSES ARE ESTIMATED 200,000

AMERICANS ARE CREDITED WITH ONE-FOURTH OF LOSSES INFLICTED ON GERMANS.

FOCH'S TRAP MAY BE SPRUNG

Will Foes Yield to Fate and Withdraw, or Continue the Fight to a Finish?

With the American Army on the Aisne-Marne Front—With the sides of the Soissons-Rheims sack coming steadily closer together, the German crown prince's generals are driving their men mercilessly in an effort to hold them off long enough to extricate the armies threatened at the bottom, north of the Marne.

The American and French troops are never far behind the retreating forces, and the vicious rear guard actions are not sufficiently resistant to enable the Germans to proceed in the orderly manner planned.

At Dormans, north of the Marne and east of Chateau-Thierry, the Germans counter-attacked, taking the position, but were promptly driven out.

Minor advances have been made by the allies in the woods in that part of the sector.

The Americans have occupied Courpion on the road to Fere-En-Tardenois, and the French positions have been advanced until Oulchy-Le-Chateau is dominated by the guns.

It is estimated unofficially that the enemy losses are more than 200,000, of which 50,000 were inflicted by the Americans. The prisoners alone number over 20,000 and the losses in dead and wounded are appalling.

Should the Franco-British forces be able to enlarge their advance materially, the great trap might be finally sprung by final overwhelming blows on both sides. In that event, all of the victories pictured in tonight's rumors might be well realized.

To the cool judgment of army officers, however, the situation did not warrant, on the basis of any information available at a late hour, the assumption that the time had come when the jaws of Foch's great vise might be crushed together. Knowing what they know of the strength of the Germans massed to hold back the menacing flank attacks, they believed it entirely possible for the enemy to escape northward. The question in their minds was whether he had finally determined to retreat and surrender all the ground gained in his efforts since he struck the French lines on the Chemin-Des-Dames last May, or had resolved to fight it out to a finish where he now stands or on lines slightly withdrawn from their present position near the Marne.

Late advices indicated that further withdrawal was in progress along the southern loop of the line. Franco-American advances north of Dormans shows that points to which the enemy has clung tenaciously for days are being taken. Pressure all along the line from Jaulgonne to the Ourcq probably has made these most southerly German positions untenable, it was said.

SIX NEW DIVISIONS TO BE ORGANIZED AT EARLY DATE

Washington.—With reference to the American program, General March said, "I have directed to be organized in the United States six new divisions during the month of July. These six divisions will be organized at Camp Devens, Meade, Sheridan, Custer, Funston and Lewis, and will be numerically designated from 9 up to 14. In the organization of these divisions, we intend to use as a nucleus in each one of them two regular regiments of infantry which have been taken from the regular regiments still left in the United States guarding utilities, quietly replacing them during the last month or two by home guards. These regiments are now moving into the designated camps as the national army.

MOUTH OF POCKET REDUCED TO 21 MILES IN WIDTH

London.—British and French troops have advanced to Gueux and Mery Premacy, in the battle sector just west of Rheims, according to information received here from the battle front. The new line shows an advance of about two miles toward Fismes. The mouth of the pocket is now only 21 miles wide and the whole distance between the two sides is under the range of the entente allied guns.



Many People Come From a Distance to Hear Powerful Sermons by Cyclone Mack—Attendance Continually Increasing—Results Already Apparent.

The attendance from the beginning has been growing and the 2000 seating capacity of the McLendon tent is being taxed already. While the attendance at the four o'clock services have not been large the crowds pour in from far and near at night. Many who heard McLendon at Clover last year are coming here. Folks at Red Springs where McLendon has just closed a campaign are writing here for accommodations that they may enjoy another of his meetings. Some object to the clean-cut way Mack has of putting things sometimes but the objectors are on the decrease and pessimistic are falling in line. Mack contends that it is time for plain talk in preaching and he is practicing his doctrine with telling effect. There is no kid glove handling of the subject with Mack. He is condemning sin in high places as well as low. His discourses so far have been devoted mainly to "stewing over" church members who are falling so far short of their Christian privileges and obligations. The devil is on the job as usual, but Mack shakes his fist in his face and openly defies him. Mack says that he has come to Kings Mountain to have a revival and that a revival will be forthcoming. To this all good men and women say, Amen.

The above is the likeness of Prof. G. C. Pledger, music director in the McLendon tent meeting. He was born and reared in Dallas, Texas, and was educated at the Boston Conservatory of Music and the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago. He started in his career about thirteen years ago and during that time has directed the music for some of the country's most noted evangelists, among them being the great Gypsy Smith, who said of him that "he is one of the best choir leaders in America." He has been with Mr. McLendon three years. Mrs. Pledger and their 12-year-old daughter accompany him. Mr. Pledger is a personal worker and goes into the homes and conducts cottage prayer meetings. Mr. Pledger has as his assistants in the music here Mr. Wiley, blind cornetist, of East Kings Mountain, and Mr. Ralph Richardson, blind cornetist, of Atlanta, Ga. They did not come here officially with Mr. Pledger but were attached after arriving here. Mr. Richardson is visiting at Mr. E. L. Campbell's.

To complete the McLendon organization is Fred Seibert, the utility man. Mr. Seibert is a Jew, born in Iowa. A number of years ago he was converted to the Christian religion and since that time has devoted his life to evangelistic work. He doesn't preach but in a Scripture quoting bout he can give chapter and verse for about as much of the Bible as anybody we have heard. He was with Billy Sunday at the beginning of his career as an evangelist and remained with him for ten years. Sunday says that "Fred," as he likes to be called, will bring more people to Christ during a revival than fifty ordinary church workers. Fred does the flunky work. He attends to the tent and sleeps in it at night and does up the little odd jobs. He is always in fine humor and has a great time with the children.

Rev. Mr. McLendon, the evangelist, is boarding at the hotel. His wife and four children are here with him, also a nephew.

Prof. G. C. Pledger, Music Director in the McLendon Meeting.

Site for Home for Women.

Admirably designed buildings excellently equipped, including a fine library and other desirable features, located on a farm of 224 acres in the sandhill section of Moore county, was procured by the directors for the State Home and Industrial School for Women, provided for by the last legislature through an appropriation of \$25,000. This work of reclamation through state support is to be started at once, without the delay which would be necessary if a new plant were to be erected for the purpose. Dr. A. A. McGeachy, Charlotte, is chairman of the board of directors.

This site and plant is the school property of Dr. Henderson, located four miles from Samarcand, a station on the Norfolk-Southern. Dr. Henderson, who came from Vermont four years ago and established his school, decided to go to France for rehabilitation work, after the young men of his faculty went into war service and the difficulties of maintaining such a school for boys in war time became manifest. He closed the plant and sold furnishings and livestock, library and bedding. The property is provided with a fine water system with standpipe, baths and other conveniences.

Miss Agnes McNaughton of Pennsylvania has been chosen superintendent and will at once assume charge in preparation for opening the institution.

Regimental Road Completed.

The 24-foot concrete road through Camp Greene has been completed and opened to traffic. It required only six

weeks to build the road which runs from Liberty Park, on the Tuckasee road, to the Dowd house on the Dowd road. It is known as the Regimental road. Within a couple of months the Dowd road will be linked up with Mint street and then it will be possible to go completely around the loop from the city on paved roads. The construction of a large bakery and nurses home has been authorized.

Charter for One Million.

The Secretary of State issued a charter to the Granville Iron Corporation, a million dollar concern, to do business in Durham. Martin B. Bloomer, Daniel F. Lewis and R. O. Everett are among the incorporators of the new concern. This concern was chartered some time ago with a half million dollar capital but did not begin business. It is chartered to buy and sell iron and iron products. One-fourth of the capital stock will be preferred and three-fourths common.

Boom in Navy Recruiting.

With the acceptance for enlistment in the navy of 54 applicants last week and 10 so far this week the total number of men accepted at the local recruiting depot since April 1 is increased to 277. Never before have as many men been accepted for the navy or even applied for enlistment at the local depot as have since April. Formerly it was considered remarkable if 10 men applied in a single week. Now the recruiting officers are surprised if as many as 10 or 15 fail to apply in a single day.

ALLIES ARE STILL AT DEADLY GRIPS

ALONG MARNE AND SEVERAL OTHER SECTORS, STRUGGLE CONTINUES UNABATED.

IMPORTANT POINTS ARE TAKEN

Considerable Fighting in Macedonia and Albania with Allies Holding the Upper Hand.

The ninth day of the allied offensive on the Soissons-Rheims salient saw a lessening in the intensity of the battle along the western side of the salient, where only mutual bombardments were in progress. Along the Marne, however, and southwest of Rheims, the Franco-Americans, British and Italian troops were still at deadly grips with the enemy on various sectors.

The Germans strove hard in the forest region north of the Marne to hold back the French and American troops, debouching from the woods in strong counter attacks. The enemy, however, everywhere was forced slightly further back to the north and the forests now have been almost entirely cleared of Germans.

Southwest of Rheims heavy reinforcements evidently have been thrown along the front, where the British, French and Italians are fighting. In the immediate region of Reull, where the battle line turns sharply towards Rheims, the French have captured several important points of vantage, including the village of Reull and also advanced their line northward, notwithstanding the violence of the German counter move.

Before the fighting died down along the western side of the Rheims-Soissons salient the villages of Oulchy-le-Chateau and Ville Monroie were captured by French and American troops.

Big allied guns have been pulled up in this region and are heavily shelling the sectors before them over which it is supposed to push forward for the capture of Fere-En-Tardenois.

In France and Flanders the British have been compelled to withstand several violent attacks by the Germans, near Hebuterne and in the vicinity of Meteren. The enemy in both sectors was repulsed with heavy casualties.

On the other battle fronts the military activity is nominal, although considerable fighting in Macedonia and Albania with the allied troops holding the upper hand.

MAY BE SETTING STAGE FOR DECISIVE BATTLE

Washington.—Behind the apparent lull in the struggle around the Aisne-Marne salient the high command of the allied and German armies may be setting stage for the decisive battle of the war. In that event it seems more than likely to observers here that the fourth anniversary of the beginning of the world conflict will see a flame of fighting raging from east of Rheims to the North sea, but with the crucial conflict in progress somewhere just north of the historic Marne where the Germans have twice tasted the bitterness of defeat.

There is nothing as yet in unofficial reports, however, nor in official advices so far as known, to show the plan of General Foch. Flickers of fighting have occurred to the north that may have more than local significance behind them. There is some evidence of a feeling here that the time has not yet come when a sufficient American army has been assembled in France to warrant passing definitely to offensive tactics. It was recalled that General March recently indicated to members of Congress that this was not to be expected until later in the year. The situation has changed greatly at the front since then, however, and only developments there will show what decision has been made.

BRITISH CRUISER AND DESTROYER TORPEDOED

London.—The British armed cruiser Marmora was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine, according to an announcement made by the British admiralty. Ten members of the crew of the vessel are missing and it is presumed they were killed. The admiralty also announces that a British torpedoboat destroyer ran ashore and later sank. Thirteen of her crew are missing and it is presumed they were drowned.

EDITORS ENJOY FINE PROGRAM

CONVENTION OF N. C. PRESS ASSOCIATION AT ASHEVILLE WAS UNUSUALLY LARGE.

WHITEHEAD ELECTED PRES'T.

Sherrill Again Secretary—George Creel and Senator Overman Make Addresses

With a good attendance and one of the best programs in the history of the organization, the North Carolina Press Association met in Asheville July 24 and 25 for a two days' convention.

The features of the program were speeches by George Creel, chairman of the Committee of Public Information, Washington, and Senator Overman.

President Martin's annual address, an address on "War Savings Stamps" by Judge Gilbert T. Stephenson, of Winston-Salem, and the annual oration by W. T. Bost, of Raleigh, were enjoyable numbers of the first day.

Dr. J. Y. Joyner, State superintendent of schools, in an address, urged the editors to work for six months' school terms throughout the State.

An important step was taken for the press of the State when the editors directed the formulating of a resolution asking the State legislature to place legal advertising on the same basis as commercial advertising. Previous to the instruction for the resolution, M. L. Shipman, commissioner of labor and printing, of Raleigh, and H. B. Varner, publisher of The Dispatch, Lexington, spoke on "Legal Advertising," maintaining that under present arrangements the publishers do not get just compensation for their space.

"The Editor's Duty in War Times" was discussed by T. W. Chambliss, Times, Asheville; W. H. Harris, Observer, Charlotte; and Archibald Johnston, Charity and Children, Thomasville.

R. P. Beasley, Journal, Monroe, spoke on "Democracy in Action."

The executive committee reported new members as follows: J. Leake Carroway, Charlotte; W. G. Campbell, Winston-Salem; W. J. Martin, Raleigh; L. M. Allen, Gastonia; Hion H. Butler, Southern Pines.

Officers elected for the following year are as follows:

President, Z. W. Whitehead, of the Southern Labor Journal, Wilmington. First vice president, R. T. Wade, of the Morehead City Coaster. Second vice president, Ike London, of the Rockingham Post-Dispatch. Third vice president, Miss Beatrice Cobb, of the Morganton News-Herald. Secretary, J. B. Sherrill, of the Concord Tribune.

Historian, M. L. Shipman, Commissioner of Labor and Printing.

Orator, H. R. Dwire, Winston-Salem. Poet, Dr. William Daurie Hill, Raleigh.

Executive committee, H. B. Varner, W. C. Hammer, J. F. Hurley, James H. Cain, and Sanford Martin.

Henry M. London and W. T. Bost were made members of the legislative committee.

In electing Miss Beatrice Cobb third vice president the association will have a woman president in three years if precedent is followed at subsequent meetings. Miss Cobb is a zealous worker in the association and her newspaper, the News-Herald, Morganton, reflects her ability to handle the presidency of the association.

The election of J. B. Sherrill as secretary is the beginning of his thirtieth year in this position.

ORGANIZATION U. S. EMPLOYMENT SERVICE PERFECTED

The organization of the United States Employment Service in North Carolina is about perfected now for the mobilization after August 1 of unskilled labor in North Carolina for the benefit of employers, contractors and industries engaged in war work and employing more than one hundred men.

STATE BOARD SUCCESSFULLY COMBATS SPREAD OF TYPHOID

The nine counties in North Carolina which are co-operating with the state board of health through the bureau of county health work were particularly active during the past month in their efforts to combat the spread of typhoid fever, the great scourge of the summer months. These large and populous counties contain large negro populations. These counties reported 46 cases of typhoid fever for the month or less than five per cent.

GERMAN RELATIONS WITH TURKEY PART

London.—"The relations between Germany and Turkey have been severed, according to direct information from Constantinople."

This announcement is made by the Copenhagen correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph company.

The excitement against Germany, the advices further say, has been growing, particularly after last week's events.

The Germans recently demanded the cruiser Hamidieh, the only large ship then in possession of Turkey, as compensation for the Breslau, the former German cruiser which was destroyed in the Dardanelles, while under the Turkish flag. Despite Turkey's protest the Hamidieh departed.

WASHINGTON OFFICIALS NOT MUCH SURPRISED.

Washington.—While no official notice of the breach of relations between Turkey and Germany—or rather the central powers, for without doubt Austria is involved with Germany in the dispute with the Ottoman government—has reached Washington, officials expressed little surprise at the Copenhagen dispatch that Germany and Turkey had severed relations. In official circles here for some time past, it has been realized that Germany, in her efforts to serve both Turkey and Bulgaria in the division of spoils resulting from the enforced peace treaty with Rumania, had incurred the ill-will of both her allies.

TREMENDOUS STORE OF GERMAN AMMUNITION

With the American Army on the Aisne-Marne Front.—The tremendous stores of German ammunition found by the Franco-American troops in the forests of Fere and Rheims leads officers to believe that the allied offensive nipped in the bud German plans for a momentous drive upon Epernay.

The forests and the surrounding country north of the Marne were virtually one great arsenal for German ammunition of all kinds.