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ary Service Board.

June 24, 1918

There is a good deal of flowered
used for dainty underwear.
White jersey makes some of the
most charming dresses of the year.
Wall-flower red is a new shade that
is with geranium for popularity.
White wash satins are a great suc-
cess on account of their laundering
qualities.

Austrian Defeat Crushing.

**Italian Forces Follow Retreating Enemy.
Capture of Prisoners and War Material
Enormous. Victory Incalculable.**

WAR REVIEW.

The defeat of the Austrians on the west bank of the Piave is complete. The admission is made by the Austrian war office that the troops of Emperor Charles have been forced to evacuate the Montello Plateau, over which they had hoped to press their way and gain the Venetian plains and some sectors of the positions they attained on the bank of the River between the Plateau and the point where the stream empties into the Adriatic. Bad weather and the rising of the Piave under rain falls are assigned as reasons for the withdrawal, but the Rome war office asserts that it was impetuous attacks of the Italians that brought about the failure of an operation which was with the intention of crushing the armies of General Diaz and forcing the Italians like the Russians to accept a Teutonic peace.

Al along the river the Italians have pressed back the invaders of their territory until only small units remain. On the west bank and across the stream King Victor Emmanuel's men are keeping well on the heels of the retreating enemy, who is fleeing in disorder. Again cavalry has been thrown into the fight, and is harassing the enemy, while machine guns from the ground and from the aircraft, some of the latter operated by American aviators, are working havoc among the fleeing Austrian columns. The losses to the enemy are described as enormous both in killed and wounded or men made prisoners. An official report from Rome to the Italian Embassy in Washington asserts the Austrians have lost 45,000 in prisoners alone. The Italian war office statement mentions only 40,000 Austrians as having been taken, but it is probable this statement antedated that sent to the Embassy, and the captures in the hands of the Italians greatly exceeded this figure. So hurried was the retrograde movement of the Austrians at some points they did not take time even to attempt to save their guns and stores, great quantities of which are now in the hands of the Italians. As yet there has been no sign that the enemy is again to renew an early date another move in the mountain regions, notwithstanding the fact that reports coming from Switzerland have said that he was bringing up large reinforcements and great quantities of supplies along the front behind the lines from the Swiss border to the upper reaches of the Piave. That another great drive is expected, and at any moment, has been made known by David Lloyd George, the British Premier, to the House of Commons, where it was to come was not stated, but it was asserted that on the blow the issue of the campaign might depend. Hopefulness was expressed in the statement that the Allies never felt better prepared to meet it. Enough of Americans have arrived to satisfy the Allies and to disappoint

and ultimately defeat our foes, the Premier said. On the front in France and Flanders the operations continue of a minor character. The Italians again have defeated the Germans near Bligny in the Marne sector, inflicting heavy casualties on them and taking a number of prisoners. In the same region last evening the Americans succeeded in clearing the wood north-west of Chateau Thierry of the Germans who had been clinging stubbornly to positions which were regarded as almost impregnable. Prisoners were taken and five machine guns were captured by the Americans. The German official reports that the trenches near Badonvillers, occupied by French and American troops, have been invaded by the Germans, who inflicted heavy casualties on the defenders.

45,000 PRISONERS CAPTURED.

WASHINGTON, June 24. Offensive operations by our troops began Sunday, says the despatch from Rome to the Italian Embassy here. 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. Montello was attacked in three columns. Enemy lines were broken at Cella Della Madonna and Nervosa and recaptured from Maserada to Sordana. The Austrians first resisted our attack desperately, but finally were forced to retire to the left bank. The battle continues fiercely in the Sordana sector. Forty-five thousand prisoners and enormous booty were captured by the Italians. American airmen displayed great bravery in the first encounters. Lieut. Young, attacked by two Austrian chasers, was obliged to land on the lower Piave.

RETREAT HAS BECOME ROUT.

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 in the offensive which has been launched against the Austrians, is reflected in official wireless despatches received to-day 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 show 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.

RETREAT CUT OFF.

LONDON, June 24. All but one of the bridges left for the Austrian retreat across the Piave have been destroyed by the Italian artillery, according to advices received here this afternoon. It is added that enormous booty has been taken by the Italians.

COLLAPSE UNEXPLAINABLE.

LONDON, June 24. Italy's victory is hailed as glorious news, which will be universally felt as the great moment of the war. The report that the enemy was retreating in disorder is regarded as being of great military significance, but experts warn against the assumption that all danger has been averted on the Italian front, as the ability of the Italians to take the offensive must depend upon the magnitude of the Austrian disaster. Nevertheless it is conceded that the victories on the Asiago and the Piave influence the balance of favor for the entente on all fronts, if only by discrediting the legend of German invincibility, while the effect of the victory on the Italian temperament may evoke a national spirit that must prove irresistible. It is difficult to determine the causes of the dramatic collapse of an offensive planned on so great a scale and backed with such enormous resources.

GERMANS RUSHING TO ASSISTANCE.

WASHINGTON, June 24. The Germans are said to be awake to the probability of a complete collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Government, already struggling with a half-starved and riotous people, in the event of a complete Austrian rout at the hands of the Italian. Realization of this fact, Rome believed, has caused the German General Staff practically to suspend, if not to abandon, its great offensive in France as has been evidenced by the comparative quiet there for the past week. German soldiers are being rushed by rail to the northern end of the Austro-Ital-

ian battle lines with the purpose of restoring the Austrian morale and not only checking the Italian counter attack, but by force of numbers breaking through the mountain passes in the plains of Venetia. With such help as the Entente Army can give and immediately supplement as rapidly as transportation can be had by troops directly from America and even more important by ample military supplies and food for the army, the Italian General Staff is said to be convinced that the victorious sweep of the Italian army will traverse the famous Bainsizza Plateau, the scene of the great battles last fall, and will not stop until the Italians have reclaimed all of the country up to the right bank of the Isonzo, which marked the extreme of General Cadorna's advance.

ITALIAN OFFICIAL.

ROME, June 24. (Official.) Yesterday gave us the crowning results of victory. Pushed up against the bank of the Piave in a strip of ground ever becoming narrower, bombarded without pause by our artillery and airplanes, the enemy after having maintained himself desperately for eight days at the price of enormous sacrifices on the right bank of the river, began on the night of June 22-23 his withdrawal to the left bank of the river. The crossing of the river under the fire of our artillery continued yesterday, protected by a strong array of machine guns and covering troops, which, after stubborn resistance, were successfully driven back with our troops at their heels. The Montello and all the right bank of the Piave with the exception of a small portion of the bank at Mutille, where the struggle is continuing, have returned into our hands. So far more than 40,000 prisoners have been counted. A quantity of arms and materials of all kinds has fallen into our hands. An extraordinary number of Austrian dead covers the ground of the struggle. This proves the unfortunate valor and the great defeat of the enemy.

CRUSHING DEFEAT.

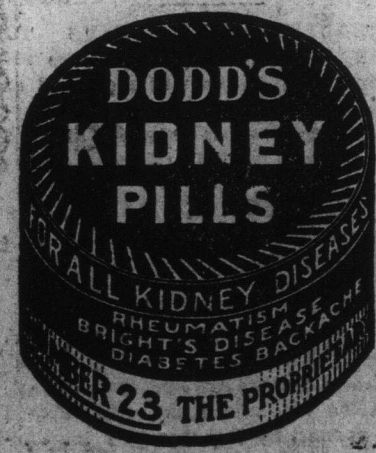
LONDON, June 24. The view in military circles to-night is that the defeat of the Austrians is so crushing that it will be impossible for the enemy to repeat his offensive on a serious scale for some weeks. One cause for the Austrian disaster is said to have been faulty judgment in placing the reserves by which they failed to be brought up at a critical moment to meet the clever strategy of the Italians. So strongly is the Piave line held by the Italians, says the military critics, that it will be impossible for the disorganized armies to retake it, and there is not the slightest fear they again will try to cross the river. It is said they staked everything on this offensive and threw all their forces into it. Thirty-seven divisions have been identified as being in the battle.

AUSTRIAN LOSSES.

WASHINGTON, June 24. Austrian losses in the retreat across the Piave included an appalling number of troops killed, more than 40,000 made prisoners and an enormous amount of war booty, said reports from General Diaz, the Italian commander, which was cabled from Rome to-night to the Italian Embassy.

ANXIOUS TIMES.

LONDON, June 24. Premier Lloyd George announced to-day that the next couple of months would be anxious ones. There might be a great blow coming in the next hours, he said, and certainly in the next days, and on this blow the issue of the campaign might depend. The Entente allies he added never felt better prepared to meet it. The Premier said the Austro-Hungarians were in full retreat. The question now was whether they would be able to effect a retreat. The Premier who made his announcement in the House of Commons referred to the amazing organization which was bringing American



troops to France. Enough of Americans have arrived to satisfy the Allies and to disappoint and ultimately defeat our foes. Mr. Lloyd George said the difficulty and the impossibility of dealing with Russia was her many differing and changing governments. He agreed, however, it would be to the interest of the British people, and also just and equitable if Russia wanted it that Great Britain stand by Russia.

SUCCESSFUL OPERATION.

LONDON, June 24. (Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.) A despatch from the British headquarters says the operation south of Megeren this morning, which resulted in the killing of at least one hundred Germans, took place in an angle which the enemy thrust into our lines west of Bailleul, having Megeren and Strazeele at each end of the base and Fieffe near the apex. The Germans have been considerably mentioned in this part of the line lately, and any thrust they might contemplate in Flanders would likely be an attempt to advance by this sector on the high ground of Kewale. The enemy has hitherto been unable to gain an inch of ground in the direction of Strazeele. We not only dealt him a heavy blow, but attained an objective that greatly strengthened our line.

GERMAN REPORT.

BERLIN, June 24. German troops in an attack on the trenches in the Badonvillers region occupied by the French and Americans, inflicted heavy losses, according to the official statement from headquarters to-day, and brought prisoners.

A HAIG OFFICIAL.

LONDON, June 24. Field Marshal Haig's report from British headquarters in France to-night says, the minor operation carried out last night in the neighborhood of Megeren was completely successful. All our objectives were gained and our line advanced. In addition to the prisoners reported this morning, ten machine guns were taken. A few prisoners were brought in last night in a successful raid by the French troops in the Loree sector.

AMMUNITION SEIZED.

DUBLIN, June 24. The police to-day seized 40,000 pounds of ammunition found in a consignment of grain in the Smithfield market. It is believed the consignment formed a part of a cargo of arms and ammunition landed on the north coast some time ago.

TRANSPORT TORPEDOED.

WASHINGTON, June 24. The sinking of an Allied transport under American charter, on June 18, about 700 miles east of the Delaware Capes, was reported to-day to the Navy Department. The transport had no troops aboard and was westward bound. Reports say that the submarine wasn't seen until after the torpedo struck the ship. The crew took to the boats after the ship settled, and it was futile to use the guns. The U-boat appeared on the surface and fired 19 shots into the ship. In view of the fact that the vessel was attacked far outside the European zone of submarine activities, some officials here think she may have encountered a submarine heading for home after participating in the raid on the American coast. Three boats with about 67 members of the crew are missing. The crew of 148 got away from the ship in seven boats, four of which have been landed. The total rescued so far is given as 81. The two boat loads arrived by steamer at New York, one by steamer at Hampton Roads, and one by sailing vessel at Bermuda.

POSITION IMPROVED.

PARIS, June 24. A local operation enabled us to improve our positions on the plateau north of Le Port, says the war office statement to-night. We took 170 prisoners. An enemy counter attack delivered at once was repulsed. On June 23rd five enemy airships were brought down or forced to land in a damaged condition. Fifteen tons of projectiles were dropped on aviation grounds in Picardy, along the Aisne and in the neighborhood of Chaulnes and Mont Didier. In the eastern theatre there were artillery duels west of the Vardar and north of Monastir. In the region of Vitrinik a Serbian detachment occupied an advanced enemy work, which it maintained, despite many counter attacks.

BRITISH OFFICIAL.

LONDON, June 24. (Official.) In the strong winds and low clouds on June 23rd our airships carried on reconnaissance work and artillery co-operation with difficulty. There was little air fighting. One hostile machine was destroyed during the day. Two of ours are missing. Five tons of bombs were dropped by us during the day and 15 tons on the following night, over six tons falling on sidings and stations at Cambrai with good results. One of our night flying machines is missing.

(Continued on 7th page.)

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ou to-day's market. Try it.

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