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The Courier

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AUSTRIA'S PEACE OFFER REJECTED

Americans Launch Successful Offensive in Lorraine — More Than 20,000 Prisoners Taken; St. Mihiel Salient Wiped out

New Allied Offensive on Macedonian Front

British Statement.
LONDON, Sept. 17.—The official statement reads: Our offensive continues with complete success. The front pierce has been widened to include the remainder of the village of Gradshnitz, and extends over a front of more than 20 kilometres.

The whole of the ridge of Sokol is in our hands as well as the ridges of Truvisko, Rovovska and Brazdasta. We have advanced more than eight kilometres.

Up to the present the French and Serbian troops have taken more than 3,000 prisoners and more than 24 guns. Our casualties have been quite small.

A Jugo-Slav division has reached Kozjak (5,085 feet and northeast of Sokol), the most important position in this region. Our advance continues.

Bulgarian.
SOFIA, Sept. 17 (via London).—Franco-Serbian troops, in an attack on the Bulgarian lines in Macedonia early Sunday morning, succeeded after a desperate struggle, in occupying the Sokol, Dobropolje and Vetrenik positions, says today's war office announcement.

French.
PARIS, Sept. 17.—The text of the official statement issued at the war office today, reads: Between the Oise and the Aisne, French forces continued their progress during the night. East of Vauxaillon we have taken Mont Des Singes and

captured more than 200 prisoners. Further south we have taken Vailly.

In Lorraine we carried out a number of raids in the region of Leintrey and captured prisoners.

During the day our troops continued their attacks east and northeast of Anoy. In spite of the resistance of the Germans we have advanced one kilometre on a front of about four kilometres. Six hundred prisoners, two cannon and 105 machine guns were taken.

British.
LONDON, Sept. 16.—The statement says: "On the southern portion of our front, our patrols have brought in a few prisoners."

"In the neighborhood of Plogsteert and east of Ypres, our line has been advanced slightly."

"On the remainder of the front there is nothing to report beyond artillery activity on both sides in the different sectors."

"On the battlefield on the night of Sept. 15-16, four hostile aeroplanes were heavily and repeatedly attacked by our machines with excellent results. Four fires were started, three hostile machines on the ground were wrecked, two hangars were completely demolished and several more hangars received direct hits. A transport convoy was hit four times."

"The railways at Metz-Sablons were again bombed and a fire started. The railway junctions at Mainz and the docks and sidings at Karlsruhe were successfully attacked."

"Very good results were observed on both targets, and at Karlsruhe, where 3½ tons of bombs were dropped, 17 direct hits were obtained. During the night 350 bombs, totalling 16½ tons in weight, were dropped."

"All our machines returned."

French.
PARIS, Sept. 16.—"To the northeast and east of Nancy (north east of Soissons), French troops today advanced about a kilometre on a front of four kilometres, according to the war office announcement tonight. Six hundred additional prisoners were taken."

German.
BRUSSELS, Sept. 16.—"On the Lys plateau, south of La Bassee canal, we carried out successful enterprises."

"There was a vigorous artillery engagement early in the morning between Havrincourt and Epely, which was followed by enemy partial attacks near and south of Havrincourt. The enemy was repulsed. Fighting activity remained within moderate limits the whole day."

"North and east of Vermand, at Holton wood and near Esigny-le-Grand, there were infantry engagements."

"There have been vigorous partial engagements between the Aisne and the Aisne. After further

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THE WAR AT SEA

Britain Will Prove Claim Re Submarines.

LONDON.—Although the British government does not intend to adopt the practice of giving proof of official utterances made by its ministers, it has been thought desirable to print in the newspapers the names of the commanding officers of 150 German submarines which have been disposed of in order to substantiate the statement of Premier Lloyd George, in the house of commons, that "at least 150 of these ocean pests have been destroyed." The statement to be published tomorrow does not include the names of officers commanding Austrian submarines put out of action.

A majority of the 150 officers mentioned are dead. Some of them are prisoners of war, and a few are interned in neutral countries where they took refuge.

Lusitania's Commander
Among the officers named are Kapitän-Lieutenant Schweifer, who while in command of the U-20 torpedoed the Lusitania in May, 1915. The U-20 was lost on the Danish coast in 1916, but Schweifer survived and was in command of the U-80, which was lost with all hands in September, 1917.

Kapitan-Lieutenant Paul Wagner, who sank the steamer Belgian Prince July 1, 1917, and drowned forty of the crew, whom he had ordered to line up on the submarine's deck when the U-boat was about to submerge. His submarine, the U-44, was sunk with all hands about a fortnight later.

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R. Lansing, United States Secretary Foreign Affairs Unconditionally Rejects Peace Proposal

Baron Burian, Austro-Hungarian Minister for External Affairs Invited Warring Nations to Discuss Peace

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—The United States, as was fully expected, has unconditionally rejected Germany's peace offer. In doing so, the government has spoken for all the co-belligerents.

Almost immediately after receiving the Austrian government's note from the minister for Sweden, Mr. Ekengren, Secretary Lansing tonight issued this formal statement:

"I am authorized by the president to state that the following will be the reply of this government to the Austro-Hungarian note, proposing an unofficial conference of belligerents:

"The government of the United States feels that there is only one reply which it can make to the suggestion of the imperial Austro-Hungarian government. It has repeatedly and with entire candor stated the terms upon which the United States would consider peace and can and will entertain no proposal for a conference upon a matter concerning which it has made its position and purpose so plain."

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 14.—The Austro-Hungarian government today invited all belligerent governments to enter into non-binding discussions at some neutral meeting-place with a view to bringing about peace. An official statement from Vienna making the above announcement has been received here.

In extending its invitation to all the belligerent governments to enter into non-binding discussions at some neutral meeting-place, the Austro-Hungarian government states that the object of the conference would be to secure an exchange of views which would show "whether those pre-requisites exist which would make the speedy inauguration of peace negotiations appear promising."

No Armistice.
The Austrian proposal suggests that there be no interruption of the war, and that the "discussions would go only so far as is considered by the participants to offer prospects of success."

The proposal calls for all the belligerents to send delegates to a "confidential and non-binding discussion on the basic principles for the conclusion of peace, in a place in a neutral country and at a near date that would yet have to be agreed upon."

The proposal says the conference would be one of "delegates who would be charged to make known to one another the conception of their governments regarding those principles and to receive analogous communications as well as to request and give frank and candid explanations of all those points which need to be precisely defined."

Neutrals Informed.
The government announces that

a note embodying its suggestions had been addressed to the various belligerent powers and that the Holy See had been apprised of the proposal in a special note. The governments of the neutral states also had been made acquainted with the proposal.

The text of the official communication reads:

All Want Peace.
"An objective and conscientious examination of the situation of all the belligerent states no longer leaves doubt that all peoples, on whatever side they may be fighting, long for a speedy end to the bloody struggle. Despite this natural and comprehensible desire for peace, it has not so far been possible to create those preliminary conditions calculated to bring the peace efforts nearer to realization and bridge the gap which at present still separates the belligerents from one another."

"A more effective means must therefore be considered whereby the responsible factors of all the countries can be offered an opportunity to investigate the present possibilities of an understanding."

"The first step which Austria-Hungary, in accord with her allies, undertook on December 12, 1916, for the bringing about of peace did not lead to the end hoped for."

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Latest Developments in Russia

BOLSHEVIKI THREATEN TO KILL BRITISH OFFICIALS IF LENINE DIES — ALLIES ADVANCE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11.—Reports from Petrograd received today through Stockholm, says the Maximalist papers are openly advising the murder of French and English nationals in Petrograd. From Moscow comes word that an extraordinary commission there has ordered the arrest of the relatives of former Premier Kerensky, among them his first wife, his son and his niece.

Say Lenine is Recovering.
LONDON, Sept. 11.—Nikolai Lenine, the Bolsheviki premier, is recovering from the wounds recently inflicted on him, according to a medical bulletin received here by Russian wireless service Sunday morning.

Threaten to Kill 26 British.
STOCKHOLM, Sept. 11.—Twenty-six British subjects, holding official positions, have been arrested since the attempt to assassinate Lenine, the Bolsheviki premier, according to a despatch to the Svenska Dagbladet, from Helsingfors. These Britons have been threatened with death by shooting, should Lenine die.

Urge Killing of Allies.
STOCKHOLM, Sept. 11.—American refugees from Moscow who arrived at Haparanda, Sweden, Thursday, say that while the storm raged in Moscow and Petrograd against the bourgeoisie that the Bolsheviki newspapers demanded the lives of 1,000 members of the

bourgeoisie for every Bolsheviki killed. The Bolsheviki newspapers openly charge the British and French with attacks upon Premier Lenine and Moses Uritsky.

Newspapers received from Petrograd, the refugees said, told of the arrest of British and French there, and carried such slogans as "a bullet in the forehead of every enemy of the soviet government."

Execute Lenine's Assassin.
AMSTERDAM, Sept. 11.—Thora Kaplan, the alleged assassin of the Bolsheviki premier, Lenine, was executed on Sept. 4, according to a Moscow despatch to the Local Anzeiger of Berlin.

Shoot 512 Revolutionists.
AMSTERDAM, Sept. 12.—An official announcement made at Petrograd and received here by telegraph says that 512 so-called counter-revolutionaries, including ten members of the Right Social-Revolutionary party, have been shot as a reprisal for the murder of Moses Uritsky, chairman of the Petrograd commission for the suppression of a counter-revolution.

In Smolensk, 34 large land owners and the former Moscow arch-imandrite, Makari, have been shot as a reprisal for the attempt made on the life of Premier Lenine.

A list of 121 others, who will be shot if further Bolsheviki are murdered, has been published. These include many former high officials and nobles.

(Continued on page 4.)

Abbey Nearly Wiped Out in Serious Fire

Harvest Leave is Extended to October 31st

Abbey, Sask., narrowly escaped complete destruction by fire on Saturday afternoon when the Union Bank building, a garage, every barn, two restaurants, a butcher shop and a real estate office were destroyed. The fire started in one of the restaurants and a heavy loss, the exact extent of which is not estimated yet, resulted. Some insurance is carried but even after making due allowance for this, a large loss is expected.

Many of the other buildings in the town caught fire but were saved by prompt action on the part of C. P. R. employees in placing the water stored in the company's large tank at the disposal of the citizens who were fighting the flames.

Huber Bros. Fierce Fight With Soldiers

Dashed to Death in Engine Wheel While Threshing

Frederick J. Holden, son of J. Holden, of Indian Head, was horribly mangled Saturday about one o'clock at the farm, one mile south of Francis, when he was caught in the engine fly wheel and whirled around five or six times, then dashed to the ground. The young man died at 2 o'clock yesterday morning at the farm. Dr. Tucker, of Francis, and Dr. Hardy, of Indian Head, were both in attendance within a short time after the accident, but could do very little, as the young man had an arm practically wrenching out of the shoulder, several broken bones, and, it

Harvest Leave is Extended to October 31st

In order to assist in every way possible the harvesting of the crop, military authorities at Ottawa have issued an order which reached headquarters of M. D. 12 Saturday morning, extending harvest leave from October 15 to October 31 to all men of any militia unit, now working on the farms in the province. Extension is granted to categories A, B, and C men who are actually working at harvesting.

Huber Bros. Fierce Fight With Soldiers

Provincial Police Came to Rescue, and Captured Men After Hard Fight.

Peter Paul Pilcher, a returned soldier, a member of the District Intelligence Officers' staff, M. D. 12, is lying in the General hospital Regina, suffering seriously from wounds received when assaulted by the four brothers, Huber, of Morse, on Saturday about noon, when he attempted to arrest one of them as a deserter under the Military Service Act. The Huber brothers are alleged to have used pitchforks, and as a result Pilcher has several scalp wounds, one of them seven inches in length, a broken left arm and a pierced right hand. The four brothers are now in Regina jail and will face a charge of attempted murder on Friday next at Morse.

German Imperial Vice-Chancellor Speaks About Peace

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 14.—Reiterating that Germany "as the innocent and attacked party" in the war, had a right to demand indemnification, Friedrich von Payer, the German imperial vice-chancellor, in his speech today at Stuttgart, said that "We prefer, on calm reflection, and even with our own favorable military situation, to abandon this idea."

Turning to the question of the occupied territories, the vice-chancellor said that as a preliminary condition of peace for Germany and her allies, those nations must have all their pre-war possessions, including the German colonies, restored. Then Germany, he declared, could evacuate the occupied regions and could give back Belgium without encumbrance and without reserve, providing no other state was more favorably placed in regard to Belgium than was Germany.

He asserted that Germany would not submit to the entente powers for approval or alteration the peace treaties which Germany had signed with the Ukraine, Russia and Rumania.

Huge State Debts.
"Our state debts," the vice-chancellor said, are everywhere reaching fantastic heights and everywhere we struggle against the encroachments on our personal liberty. All of the belligerents of Europe must admit if they are not blind, that the more the European

peoples lacerate each other the more certainly will the historical and paramount position of weakened and impoverished Europe be lost in favor of cleverer and more calculating peoples."

U-Boat War a Failure.
Herr von Payer reminded his hearers that after four years the war still was being waged entirely on enemy territory. He admitted that the U-boat war had not worked so quickly and surely as had been hoped. He added that it was useless to dispute whose was the fault. The enemy, he said, was still unable to compensate its losses by new construction, and declared that the robbery of neutral ships almost without parallel by the entente could not be repeated.

"The more troops the United States sends, the greater will be the need of shipping for reinforcements of munitions and provisions," Herr von Payer said. "The filling up of the enemy army by Americans therefore bears in itself its limitations."

He argued that the loss of shipping would become fatal to Great Britain after the war because it would lose its shipping superiority to the United States and "the hope of compensating themselves from the German fleet, which still has to be conquered, will surely be adequate comfort only for the very imaginative Britishers."

Allies Hope for Collapse.
The speaker said that the Ger-

mans have only to see that the war continues to be waged in a foreign country, that the Germans are fighting for their lives and their homes and that the enemies only hope is that the Germans collapse inwardly sooner than they. He asserted that the enemy attempt to sow discord was unavailing and that the Germans were strong enough to reach a decision "in our differences of opinion regarding economic powers and protection right even down to the food question."

Regarding the Prussian suffrage bill which he considered of prime importance, he said, "it is no longer Prussian, but eminently a German question," and on its decision depends the confidence which the population places in the Prussian and the imperial government. Further postponement, he said, is not permissible," adding:

"Moreover, it is my belief that the decision of the Prussian government may be regarded as already taken and if equal suffrage does not issue from the committee of the upper house, the government will proceed to dissolution."

(To be concluded in next week's issue)

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