

OFFENSIVE BY THE AUSTRIANS GAINS LITTLE

Only Where Positions Were Temporary Have Italians Lost Ground.

RETREAT JUSTIFIED

Roman Official Statement Reviews Events of Week and Explains Them.

Rome, Cable.—The great offensive of the Austrian forces so far has found such well-placed resistance that all their efforts have resulted, according to Italian official communications, in heavy losses and the dispersion of their troops. Several thousand prisoners, with arms, munitions and provisions, abandoned by the retreating Austrians, have been captured.

Some of the fiercest fighting occurred on mountain heights far above those on which any previous combats have taken place.

The official statement issued by the Italian War Office this afternoon reviews the events of the last seven days, leading to a rectification of the Italian lines between the Adige and the Asiago, and explains the reasons justifying the retreat.

The statement says that owing to the nature of the ground the abandoned positions were not permanent, but were only intended to be the base for a further advance.

Speaking of the Austrian success the statement says:

"The enemy began the offensive with equal intensity in seven different sectors, the Ledro valley, the San Pellegrino valley, the Marmolata zone, the upper Cordevole zone, the head of the Zeebach valley, the heights northwest of Gorizia and the Montefalco zone.

AT ONE POINT ONLY.

"Wherever the Italian lines were permanently fortified the offensive failed. The offensive succeeded at only one point."

The statement concludes:

"In his bulletin the enemy boasts about results achieved and calls 'decisive success' these which are nothing but the results of the first offensive impact. The history of every other offensive of this war proves that the first easy leaps ahead are inevitably followed by long exhausting pauses when the attacking party faces well-garrisoned and fortified positions and leaves behind his heavy artillery.

"Every offensive has two phases, the initial crisis, favorable to the aggressor, and the re-establishment of equilibrium, favorable to the defender. We can only succeed with absolute confidence in the development of the operations by which the enemy is endeavoring to shake off the strictly defensive position imposed on him a year ago and to disturb the allied plans."

CLAIM 13,000 PRISONERS.

The Italian forces have been ejected from Col. Santo (south-east of Rovereto), according to the Austrian official statement issued to-day.

"Since the beginning of the Austrian attacks," the statement adds, "we have captured 257 officers, 12,900 men, 107 guns, twelve 28-centimetre howitzers, and 63 machine guns."

PERFECTLY TRANQUIL.

After a protracted council meeting attended by Cabinet Ministers, Gen. Paolo Morone, Minister of War, issued a statement concerning the military situation in connection with the Austrian offensive which will leave the Italian supreme command perfectly tranquil.

The plans of the Italian military authorities cannot be divulged, nor discussed, but it can be stated that measures have been adopted to cope with any possible situation. In addition to direct action on the Italian front, it is expected that a general offensive movement against the Austrians will be made on other fronts, especially in the Balkans and in Russia, and in addition to a contemporaneous attack is expected to be sprung by Italy's allies in France. Meanwhile, military critics, including Gen. Morone, advised restricting the Italian front by abandoning the far advanced positions in order to be better able to repulse the Austrians whose forward move along the Trentino from Italy ready has lasted a week. This action is a repetition of what Austrian generals did more than a century ago when Napoleon attacked Austria from the Isonzo River.

The Austrian staff, it is believed, hopes to invade Italy along the Adige River valley, thus forcing the Italians to abandon their offensive on the eastern front for fear of having their main army taken in the rear. For this attack Austria, which had thirty divisions on the Italian front, augmented them by twelve, six of which were drawn from Serbia and six from the Russian front.

AUSTRIAN LOSSES \$,000.

Reports received from Innsbruck are to the effect that severe fighting continues along the Italian front. The reports say that 3,500 Austrian wounded have arrived at Latbach, and the Austrian losses since the beginning of the offensive are estimated at \$,000.

The Austrian forces are estimated to number 100,000 men, and have thousands of guns of all calibres. Their front is supported by a line comprising forty permanent forts, all of which are participating in the action. The battle is taking place entirely on Austrian territory, except for a short stretch near the Asiago torrent. The attacks of the Austrian

infantry developed, according to the German method, with dense masses of men.

The Austrian headquarters are at Trent, where the Archduke Eugene and Marshal Conrad von Holtzendorf, chief of the general staff. The conduct of the Italians is quiet and orderly without any wastage, whereas the Austrians squander ammunition in the most extraordinary manner. The fire of the Italian artillery is very accurate, whole units of the Austrian forces being annihilated. There are places where the ground is covered with Austrian corpses, forming heaps several feet high. The Italian losses have been relatively small.

BAR INSPECTORS.

Germans Refuse U. S. Men Permits to Prison Camps.

London, Cable.—Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of War Trade, stated in the House of Commons this afternoon that representatives of the United States Government had been refused permission to visit some industrial camps in Germany where British prisoners were employed. The Minister added that the treatment of prisoners in Germany was somewhat better than formerly, though the situation at some of the working camps and industrial establishments left much to be desired.

A suggestion made by Rowland Hunt, Unionist member for the Ludlow Division of Shropshire, in a question, that German prisoners in England be subjected to a most rigorous treatment short of actual cruelty, would not be lost sight of, Lord Robert Cecil said, but the Government was anxious to avoid reprisals if possible.

GEN. LAKE AT KUT-EL-AMARA

British Reach Town On South Bank of the Tigris.

Turks Still Hold Sannayyat, On North Bank.

London, Cable.—A despatch received from Gen. Lake, Sir Percy Lake, commander of the British forces in Mesopotamia, shows that the forces of Lieut.-Gen. Sir George Gorringe, operating on the south bank of the Tigris, have now virtually reached Kut-el-Amara, this region now being clear of Turks up to the junction of the Shatt-el-Hai River with the Tigris at Kut. On the north bank of the Tigris to the east of Kut-el-Amara, however, the Turks still occupy Sannayyat. An official communication issued to-night concerning the operations in this region says:

"Gen. Lake reports on May 20 that the right of south bank of the Tigris is clear of the enemy as far as the Shatt-el-Hai, except for small rear-guard covering the bridge over the Hai some 500 yards below its junction with the Tigris. Our main force on this bank has reached the line of Nagals Dujaalam.

"On the left, or north bank, the enemy is reported still occupying the Sannayyat position. The weather is intensely hot and trying. The temperature during the last few days was over 100 degrees in the shade."

REFUSE HYDRO.

Orillia Decides to Stick to Her Own Plant.

Orillia, Report.—The by-law for transferring Orillia's power plant to the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission, submitted to the ratepayers to-day, was defeated by an overwhelming majority, the vote standing 513 against the by-law to 79 for it.

Though it was admitted that the town would gain financially under the proposed arrangement, the townpeople were strongly opposed to giving up control of the town's generating plant, which has been in operation for nearly fifteen years. The town will now have to proceed with the completion of their new plant at the Swift Rapids, at an estimated cost of \$90,000.

RUSS AIRMEN BOMB ENEMY

New York, Report.—A Petrograd dispatch to the Journal to-day says: Russian aviators have carried out a successful bombardment behind the German lines in Courland. It was officially announced to-day in the following statement:

"Petrograd aviators bombed the railway at Ponewjash. About two miles of the line was destroyed. Ammunition depots were blown up."

Ponewjash is on the Libau-Dvinsk railroad.

HUN CASUALTY LISTS USELESS

British Headquarters in France, Cable, via London.—Confirmation of reports that the German casualty lists are so far in arrears that their total as issued from time to time is no wise representative of the actual loss to have been supplied. It is now known that the names of Germans taken prisoner and left dead in the trenches at the battle of Loos in September last have only just been published as among the German missing.

STRUGGLE ABOUT VERDUN STILL RAGING UNABATED

French Hold Germans Almost Everywhere, Replying Shot For Shot

May Abandon Le Mort Homme and Hill 304 For Main Line.

London cable says: The Battle of Verdun continues unabated. On both sides of the Meuse River, northeast and northwest of the fortress, the Germans are keeping up their unprecedented bombardments and vicious infantry attacks, while the French are replying to the German guns virtually shot for shot, and under a withering fire holding the Germans at almost every point.

One more gain, however, has been made by the Germans. After recapturing Fort Douaumont and taking trenches south and southwest of the fort, the Germans to the west have occupied a section of French trenches following a series of attacks, in all of which they were repulsed with heavy casualties except the one where they penetrated the French lines.

Their hold on the Douaumont ridge regained, the Germans have again concentrated on the reduction of Le Mort Homme and Hill 304, across the river. The French made three attempts to-day to recapture Cumieres, stormed night before last, Berlin says that all the attacks failed.

Cumieres is important because it links the German lines east and west of the Meuse. In German hands it also helps to prevent the flanking fire on troops operating on the east bank, which is the larger objective also, in the capture of Le Mort Homme and Hill 304. Once these are taken and with a wedge already driven in at Douaumont, the Germans can resume their frontal assaults on the main line of the fortress.

DEAD MAN AGAIN ATTACKED.

The Germans have already advanced south of Cumieres, and are now striving to rout the French from the Carreteras wood. With Le Mort Homme already exposed to attack from three sides it would place the Germans almost in the rear of the heights. Evacuation by the French would then be almost necessary. Indeed, military opinion in Paris is now generally agreed that the evacuation of Le Mort Homme and Hill 304 cannot be much longer delayed. Both are outposts from the real first line of defence west of the Meuse. The Charnay ridge and their sacrifice would not jeopardize the safety of the fortress.

German shells for days have rendered both heights practically untenable. There is scarcely the vestige of a trench left on either, though by the marvelous concealment of their guns, the French have managed to prevent the Germans from occupying them. Their value has been chiefly that of enfilading the German positions on the left bank of the Meuse.

If the French withdraw from these hills, the Germans will be able to advance the attack west of the river to the same stage as at Douaumont. The Charnay ridge, on which is situated Fort Bourras, will be their objective, through Avocourt they will seek to flank this line and cut the only railway still serving Verdun. Whether the Germans accomplish this of course, depends upon how much strength they have left after the stupendous exertions of the past week. Their expenditure of shell alone has exceeded anything previously seen in the war, and taken together with extravagance of the Austrian artillery in the Tyrol, it is taken to mean one of two things, either the Central powers are gambling desperately to break the Allies' power of launching any offensive this year, or their own resource are much greater than has been suspected in any Entente capital.

FRENCH REPORT.

Paris cable says: The official communication issued by the War Office to-night reads:

"On the left bank of the Meuse the activity of the enemy artillery increased during the day against our positions on Hill 304.

"On the right bank after a violent bombardment, the Germans delivered at about five o'clock, a series of offensive actions between the Haudromont wood and the Thiaumont farm. All of these attacks were repulsed with heavy losses, except at one point where enemy troops occupied a section of trenches.

"In the region of Douaumont the artillery actions continue very violent on both sides. The fire of one of our long-range guns caused a fire in a German supply depot at Heudicourt, northeast of St. Mihiel.

"The cannonading was intermittent on the rest of the front.

"In an aerial fight, one of our pilots brought down a Fokker, which fell within the enemy lines to the north of Vaux.

"In the region of Etain one of our squadrons gave battle to a group of German aeroplanes. Two of the enemy machines, seriously hit, were compelled to make a landing."

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TRY CASEMENT JUNE 26 NEXT

Grand Jury Returned True Bill Against Traitor,

And His Alleged Accomplice, D. J. Bailey.

London cable: The grand jury to-day returned true bills against Sir Roger Casement, leader of the Sinn Fein revolt, and Daniel J. Bailey, the former British soldier, who is held as his accomplice.

The action of the grand jury follows the preliminary hearing before a police magistrate, at which Casement and Bailey withheld their defence and were held without bail, pending the grand jury deliberations.

Seventy-five grand jurors were summoned before Lord Chief Justice Reading to-day, and from their number 23 were selected to decide whether or not indictments for high treason should be returned against the two prisoners. Their decision was reached promptly.

After a short deliberation the jury returned true bills. The judge fixed the trial of Sir Roger for June 26.

In explaining the law to the jury the judge stated it was necessary treason should be proved by overt acts. In the indictment against Casement as it stood, he said, six overt acts were mentioned.

The court nominated Alexander Sullivan, of Dublin, and Artemus Jones, who appeared for the defence at the preliminary hearing, as counsel for Casement. It is understood that Professor J. H. Morgan, who took part in the defence at the preliminary hearing, also will appear, but under the statute only two attorneys can be nominated.

Holman Gregory and W. T. Snell were named to defend Bailey. Thomas Scanlon, member of Parliament, and one of the secretaries of the Irish party, also will appear for Bailey.

DUBLIN IS INDIFFERENT.

Dublin cable: Astonishing little interest is displayed here in the trial of Sir Roger Casement, both in political and general circles. Casement was almost entirely unknown here before the war. Since then vague reports of his activities in Germany have been all that have reached the Irish public, in spite of the fact that

he was in touch with the leaders of the recent rebellion.

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LANSING OUT?

Report Has U. S. Secretary About to Resign.

Washington despatch: Reports of a breach between Secretary of State Lansing and President Wilson, and the possible retirement of Mr. Lansing from the Cabinet, are current here to-night. The gossip is to the effect that Frank L. Polk, Counsellor for the State Department, will soon become Secretary.

It is no secret among those on the inside of Administration matters that there has been a lack of harmony in the views of the President and Secretary Lansing on several issues.

One complaint Mr. Lansing is reported to have is that the President has acted too independently in a number of instances, and has not confided in him to the extent that he believed his position as Secretary called for.

Mr. Lansing has been indisposed for nearly a week and has not been at the State Department. During his absence Mr. Polk has acted as Secretary of State.

ASQUITH ASKS BIG WAR VOTE

London, Cable, 3.46 p.m.—In moving the vote of credit for £300,000,000, as had been forecasted, in the House of Commons to-day, Premier Asquith commented that this was the eleventh vote since the beginning of the war, and the second for the current financial year. The total granted this year, he added, was therefore £600,000,000, making a grand total of £2,382,000,000.

With the high cost of living, even the shoemaker can't always keep the body and sole together.

ITALIAN FRONT.

Defensive Line Adopted is Shown by War Office.

Rome cable, via Paris cable says: It is stated on good authority that Premier Salandra and Foreign Minister Sennino will leave shortly for London to return the visit of Premier Asquith to Rome.

The official bulletin issued to-night by the War Department indicates further the defensive line taken up by the Italians who are still on Austrian territory in the Lagarina valley by the Italians, who are still on Austrians to recapture the village of Marco, about 15 miles south of Rovereto, have failed.

In the Area valley, on the direct route to Vicenza, the Austrians and Italians are fighting on the frontier line. Between this point and the Astico River, the Italians have withdrawn from the upper basin of the Posina river, which comprises part of the Terragnola valley, and have concentrated in the Arsiero basin, which descends to Schio and Vicenza.

ITALY CHEEKS THE AUSTRIANS

Ally Force, in New Defence, Throws Back Teutons.

Enemy, Losing Heavily, Retreated in Disorder.

London cable says: In the region of southeast of Trent and across the border of Italy, Rome reports the repulse of Austrian attacks and the throwing back of the attackers in disorder. In the Astico-Posina region, the Italians are replying effectively to the bombardment of the Austrians.

The principal fighting during the past two days has been in the Lagarina valley, where after an intense night bombardment against the Italian positions at Coni Zagua, the Austrians made two attacks in the direction of Serravalle and Col de Buole, which were repulsed. This morning the assault was renewed with fresh troops on Col de Buole, but was again repulsed with heavy enemy losses. The Italians followed up the repulse by recapturing the height of Darnesman, southeast of Col de Buole.

A night attack by strong Austrian columns on the Italian position of Pasubio was thrown back, great numbers of the enemy being mowed down. The sector of Asiago and Sugano is unchanged, according to to-night's official report.

"The situation on the front along the high plateau of Arsiero is still grave, but it is not alarming," says a semi-official announcement issued at Rome to-day "concerning the Austro-Hungarian attempt to widen the only line occupied on Italian territory."

The Italian military authorities, it is added, have taken all necessary measures to prevent a further Austrian advance and are organizing a counter-offensive.

The civilian population which evacuated the districts of Arsiero and Asiago and the smaller neighboring villages is being taken care of by the Government.

AGAINST THE HUN.

Higher Hierarchy of Italy Turns Against Germany.

Rome, Cable.—(New York Times cable).—Up to the present time the feeling here among Italian prelates, especially in the higher hierarchy, has been on the whole pro-German, but recent events have changed their views. A prominent cardinal said the other day:

"I have so far avoided having any opinion as to the war, but now, were it not for my hour, I would take the sword in my hand."

The Pope maintains his impetuous attitude, but his instructions to the clergy in Trentino show his patriotism.

FROM ARCTIC.

First Member of Crocker Land Expedition Returns.

London, Cable.—The first member of the American Arctic Crocker Land Expedition, Professor Maurice C. Tanquary, of Chicago, arrived at Copenhagen to-day on the steamship Hans Egede from Greenland. He reported good scientific results had been obtained by the expedition.

The remaining members of the expedition party which is headed by Donald B. MacMillan, have been forced to stay at North Star Bay as the relief ship Cluitt was unable to get through the ice. The arrival of Professor Tanquary at Copenhagen is reported in a despatch from the Danish capital to the Central News Agency.

Professor Tanquary and two others of the expedition sledged all the way south overland with the object of reaching the first Danish steamer sailing, but only Tanquary succeeded in getting the vessel. The expedition will reach home it is expected, during the summer.

Unfortunately the man who is satisfied with himself is seldom satisfied with anything else.

SHORT ITEMS OF THE NEWS OF THE DAY

Casement's Sister Fails in Her Appeal to the Pope for Aid for Traitor.

PRAIRIE CENSUS

Conciliation Board Appointed to Act in N. S. Mine Dispute.

The British steamship Washington, of 5,000 tons gross has been sunk by a submarine, according to an announcement made at Lloyd's Shipping Agency.

James McGale, a prospector from Cobalt, was arrested in Toronto by Inspector Greer, of the Provincial force, and Detective Cronin. He is suspected of high-grading ore.

Philip Maurice, one of the most prominent local members of the Social Democratic party of Canada, has enlisted at Brantford with the 216th Bantam Battalion.

John McDonald, contractor, one of the oldest residents of Ingersoll, died in the Alexandria Hospital, of that town, after an illness of about two weeks.

Herbert Down, of Toronto, attached to the Engineers, at Ottawa, appeared in the police court on a charge of bigamy, and was remanded for a week.

A board of conciliation has been appointed in the dispute between the employees of the Acadia Coal Company, Nova Scotia, and the company regarding a new schedule of wages. The employees demand an increase.

Charles Harris, a private of the 11th Battalion at Waterloo, was sentenced to nine months in the Ontario Reformatory. The charges against him was assault and attempted highway robbery.

Fifteen hundred enumerators will on June 1st begin the quinquennial census of the three prairie provinces, under the Census and Statistics Branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce.

The latest announcement of black-listed neutral shipping posted on the Baltic shipping exchange by the Trade Division of the Admiralty, contains the names of 200 vessels, representing in round numbers, 123,000 net tonnage.

For the first time in the history of the Great Lakes navigation iron ore is being loaded at the Ashland docks, Wisconsin, into the steamer Cloca by the aid of giant magnets, thus doing away wholly with the use of long-shoremen.

Sir Roger Casement's sister, who is a Catholic, has appealed to the Pope, and has begged him to intercede for a reprieve for her brother, should he be condemned to death. She was informed that the Pope was powerless to intervene in the internal affairs of Great Britain or to impede the course of justice.

CARSON READY FOR A PEACE

Ulster Leader Wants Compulsion for Ireland.

Asquith Said to Favor Coalition Irish Cabinet.

New York, Cable.—The Herald has the following from London: I am informed that Mr. Asquith, who conferred with the King for an hour to-day, has decided to propose to Parliament that Ireland be governed until the close of the war by a coalition Irish Cabinet, or Council, in which Nationalists, Irish Unionists and neutrals, like Lord Dunraven, will be represented.

The News of the World this morning declares that if Mr. Redmond and the Nationalists agree to the extension of the compulsory military service law to Ireland, Sir Edward Carson is not only ready but eager to make a treaty of peace, and even to accept an Irish Parliament, thus realizing the long-prayed-for and fought-for harmony between the Orange and the Green.

OPPOSES JOINT COUNCIL.

London, Cable.—T. P. O'Connor, in an article in Reynolds' weekly New-paper, says that the suggested creation of a joint Executive Council representing the two great Irish parties is impossible, and would aggravate, not alleviate, passions and divisions. It is disastrous to think, he says, of coercing Ulster, which must be won by equitable concessions.

O'Connor adds he has just received discouraging accounts of the state of feeling in Ireland. Among the wholesale arrests now going on there are those of many men violently opposed to Sinn Feinism. He says he knew personally in a case of a boy of 17, home from school of vacation, who was sent to solitary confinement for five days, was given insufficient food, was only freed from his cell for ten minutes out of each twenty-four hours and had nothing to read. This boy was a son of an ardent supporter of John Redmond.

Born in the garret, in the kitchen bred.—Byron.