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The Toronto World

TUESDAY MORNING OCTOBER 29 1918

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,866 TWO CENTS

ALLIES CUT RAILWAY NEAR GENT

Italians Establish Strong Bridgeheads Across Piave, Facing Gorizia—Americans Open Fire on Longuyon With New Monster Guns—French and British Make Advances Between Valenciennes and Guise—British in Mesopotamia Take Kerkuk

ANGLO-ITALIANS CROSS THE PIAVE

Nine Thousand Austrians Are Taken Prisoner in the Operations.

ALLIES NEAR ALESSIO

Advance Guards Cross Mati River and Approach the Town.

Rome, Oct. 28.—More than 9000 Austrians were taken prisoner in the operations on the Italian front yesterday, according to the war office announcement today. Fifty-one guns were also captured.

The Italian and British troops have crossed the Piave River, notwithstanding the resistance of the Austro-Hungarians. In Albania the Italians have reached the vicinity of Alessio, 20 miles southeast of Scutari.

The text of the communication issued by the war office follows: "Our army, in conjunction with allied contingents, has crossed the Piave River by force of arms, engaging in bitter battles the enemy, who strove desperately to bar the way.

"Between the Piave and heights of Veduggiada and the mouth of the Soligo torrent our infantry assault troops passed during the night, under violent fire, to the left bank of the river, broke into the enemy's front lines and carried them.

"Supported by the fire of the artillery on the right bank, they gained ground and repulsed enemy counter-attacks throughout the day.

"To the south the tenth army, taking advantage of the successes of the British at Grave di Papadopolo, compelled the enemy to retire and repulsed two counter-attacks in the direction of Borgo Malanotte and Ronadelle. The prisoners taken yesterday aggregated more than 9,000. Fifty-one guns were captured.

"Allied aircraft, with extreme daring, attacked the enemy troops from low altitudes.

"In local fighting on Monte Grappa, 150 prisoners were taken. The enemy heavily attacked on Monte Pertica and obtained a foothold in the Italian positions at great sacrifices. Later the Italian infantry in severe fighting drove out the enemy and regained the lost positions.

"In Albania our advance guards, having overcome the resistance of the enemy, have crossed the Mati River and are marching on Alessio."

CENTRAL ALLIANCE ALREADY TORN UP

Only Question for Allies is Military Guarantees, Not Negotiation of Stipulations.

Paris, Oct. 28.—Commenting on the Austrian note as to the request of Austria-Hungary for a separate peace, it is pointed out generally by the Paris papers that Count Andrássy, the new Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, represents nothing but a nomination by the Austrian Emperor.

"It," says The Journal des Debats, "Secretary Lansing replies, which is no certain, it will be easy for him to say: 'There is no occasion to pursue the subject as neither Austria-Hungary nor a common minister of foreign affairs exists.'"

Referring to the phrase in the Austrian reply, "without awaiting the result of other negotiations," The Temps says: "In these words the son of the minister who concluded the Austro-German alliance gives official notification that the alliance has been torn up itself that it still exists in Vienna, with that in Berlin and with that in Constantinople," the newspaper continues, "the only question at the present moment can be taken for military guarantees and not negotiate territorial or political stipulations."

Three Towns, Three Mines Taken by Allies in Serbia

Paris, Oct. 28.—The following French official communication was issued tonight: "Eastern theatre, Oct. 27.—The allied forces, continuing their advance to the north, have occupied the important towns of Kragujevatz and Jagodina, as well as three mines at Senje and Ravaraka. Serbian cavalry have occupied Despotovac."

WILSON IS ELECTED.

London, Oct. 28.—Havelock Wilson was today returned unopposed for South Shields.

MAY TIE UP MINES AND STEEL PLANTS

Sydney, N.S., Oct. 28.—At a meeting of representatives of unions among the employees of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, the Dominion Coal Company and the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company, it has been decided to bring on a general strike at the Cape Breton steel plants and coal mines next Friday unless J. A. Nicholson, president of the recently organized clerks' union is reinstated in his position on the clerical staff of the Dominion Iron and Steel Co.

If the strike decision is persisted in, all steel plants as well as all the island collieries of both the Dominion and Scotia companies, will be completely tied up.

A telegram has been sent to Ottawa by the Sydney Trades and Labor Council notifying the government of the proposed strike.

AUSTRIA SENDS OUT FRESH PEACE NOTE

Count Julius Andrássy Requests President Wilson for Armistice.

Basle, Oct. 28.—Austria-Hungary is notifying President Wilson that it is ready to enter upon peace negotiations and arrange an armistice asks President Wilson, in its reply to him, to begin overtures on the subject.

The Austro-Hungarian foreign minister instructed the Austro-Hungarian minister at Stockholm yesterday to ask the Swedish government to send the following note to the Washington government:

"In reply to the note of President Wilson of the 13 (1917) of this month, addressed to the Austro-Hungarian Government, and giving the decision of the president to speak directly with the Austro-Hungarian government on the question of an armistice and of peace, the Austro-Hungarian Government has the honor to declare that equally with the preceding proclamations of the president, it declares also to the same point of view contained in the Austro-Hungarian peoples, especially those of the Czech-Slovak and the Jugoslavians.

"Consequently, Austria-Hungary accepts all the conditions the president has laid down for the entry into negotiations for an armistice and peace between Austria-Hungary and the States in the opposing group for an immediate armistice upon all Austro-Hungarian fronts.

"It asks President Wilson to be so kind as to begin overtures on this subject.

The Austrian note is dated October 28, at Vienna, and is signed by Count Julius Andrássy, the new foreign minister.

FRENCH PROGRESS NORTH OF GUISE

Troops Move Forward to East of the Peron River.

Paris, Oct. 28.—Still further progress has been made by the French north-west of Guise, and they have moved forward to the east of the Peron River beyond the Pargny wood, the war office announces tonight. French aviators have been exceedingly active.

"On the Oise front there have been stubborn engagements on the east bank in front of Grand Verly, where the enemy delivered several counter-attacks.

"Further south we carried our lines as far as the approaches to the Oise, capturing points of support northwest of Guise. We likewise advanced to the east of the Peron in the region north-west of Bois le Pargny.

"On the whole front between the Oise and the Serre our troops are in fresh contact with the enemy lines. The Chateau Porcien we have made an advance north of Herpy."

AMERICAN SUCCESS ALONG THE MEUSE

Bois Belle Entirely in Their Hands as Result of Surprise Attack.

Washington, Oct. 28.—The American official statement of today follows: "On the Verdun front east of the Meuse our troops yesterday carried out a successful attack against the Bois Belle. As a result of this operation this wood, which has been the scene of constant fighting since Oct. 25, is entirely in our hands. Further south lively combats are in progress in the eastern portion of the Bois d'Ormont. Artillery fire has been violent on the front from Bois de la Grande Montagne to the Bois de Caures.

"West of the Meuse hostile elements which attempted under cover of heavy shelling to penetrate our positions north of Grand Pre were repulsed by our machine gun fire.

LIBERAL IS ELECTED IN RED DEER RIDING

Edmonton, Alta., Oct. 28.—With seven polls yet to be held from J. J. Gaetz, Liberal, is leading by a majority of 500 over F. W. Galbraith, Unionist-Independent, in the provincial by-election in Red Deer constituency.

The missing polls will increase Gaetz's majority, and it is claimed by the Liberals that Galbraith will lose his deposit. The City of Red Deer gave Gaetz a majority of 112.

KERKUK CAPTURED BY THE BRITISH

Turks Forced to Give Up the City and Retreat Northward.

London, Oct. 28.—British troops have captured the important town of Kerkuk, in Turkish Kurdistan, lying 155 miles north of Bagdad, according to the war office announcement on operations in Mesopotamia. The town was occupied on Friday. The statement says:

"The Turks still held on Friday strong positions on Jebel Hamrin, west of the mouth of the Lesser Zab; but on the previous day some of our armored cars, by desert track further west, struck in on the Turkish line of communications in the neighborhood of Kalesh Sberghat, where they attacked enemy convoys. At the same time our cavalry moved up the left bank of the Tigris, threatening the enemy communications from the east.

"The pressure of our troops in front, combined with the attacks on their communications, compelled the Turks to retreat twelve miles to the north on Saturday night to a position three miles south of Kalesh Sberghat, where we are in close contact with them. Our troops are showing great powers of endurance in a country possessing no roads and devoid of supplies.

"Kerkuk was captured by us on Friday after slight opposition, and the Turks retreated towards Altky Kupri. Armored cars inflicted many casualties on the enemy close to the town, and on Sunday our main body was in touch with the Turkish troops covering the crossings of the Lesser Zab."

GERMAN TRADE PLOTS TO BE INVESTIGATED

New York, Oct. 28.—An exhaustive inquiry by government officials into alleged plots of German industrial representatives for the re-establishment of German trade in America after the war will be started here this week.

The investigation, it was said, will centre largely around the expenditure of vast sums of money placed in the hands of officials of the Hamburg-American and North German Lloyd lines.

FOUR-MILE ADVANCE BEYOND RIVER PIAVE

London, Oct. 28.—British and Italian forces in their offensive in northern Italy this afternoon had advanced for a distance of four miles beyond the Piave River. Seven thousand Austro-Hungarians were taken prisoner.

VALENCIENNES LINE HAS BEEN IMPROVED

British Troops Draw Closer to Town, Which is Infested With Machine Guns.

With the British Armies in France and Belgium, Oct. 28.—The British launched a local attack this morning south of Valenciennes. They improved their positions and drew closer to the town, which is infested with enemy machine guns.

On the rest of the front it was comparatively quiet.

Lille today is celebrating her deliverance after four years of German oppression. President Poincare and other notables reviewed British detachments. The populace is enthusiastically showing its sympathy.

OVER QUARTER MILLION GERMAN PRISONERS

London, Oct. 28.—It was announced in the house of commons today that since the commencement of the war British troops have taken 327,416 enemy combatant prisoners, including 284,242 Germans. There were, it was also stated, 97,000 German combatant prisoners in the United Kingdom at the present time.

EXCITING SCENES IN THE REICHSTAG

Militarism Blamed for Persecutions Carried on in Poland.

REICHSTAG TO REFRAIN FROM DEBATING NOTE

Amsterdam, Oct. 28.—A despatch from Berlin says a proposal that President Wilson's note to Germany should not be discussed in the reichstag was adopted by that body at a meeting held on Friday. The Conservatives and Independent Socialists voted against it.

EMPEROR CHARLES SEES PEACE COMING NEARER

Amsterdam, Oct. 28.—The Vienna Gazette today published a letter signed by Emperor Charles appointing Count Julius Andrássy to succeed Baron Burian as foreign minister and president of the Austro-Hungarian cabinet council.

Emperor Charles, in an order to the army and navy dated Oct. 23, which also is printed in the newspaper, announces that the day bringing peace to the homes is coming nearer. The emperor appeals to all to maintain loyalty and obedience in these grave times full of confusion which must not spread to the army and the navy."

KAISER HOLDS REINS IN SPITE OF "REFORMS"

Amsterdam, Oct. 28.—The Berlin Vorwarts, the Socialist organ, in an account of Saturday's session of the reichstag, says Eduard Bernstein, the independent socialist leader, complained that the government proposals constituted only a half-way reform, because in giving a voice to the bündersath in questions of war, peace and treaties the people were deprived of being able to render the decision.

"After all," Bernstein added, "the kaiser finally retains the reins and can impart spirit to the army which is extremely dangerous for democracy. President Wilson refuses to negotiate with those at the head of affairs, and we must meet him if we desire peace."

REVOLTING LITHUANIANS DEFEAT GERMAN FORCE

Washington, D.C., Oct. 28.—Diplomatic advices from Amsterdam today say that the peasants in Lithuania have revolted and thousands of them have joined other deserters who are hiding in forests and swamps. German troops are declared to have been defeated in fights with the peasants.

There was no possibility of a reconciliation according to these advices, and the emperor was compelled to accept Ludendorff's resignation.

LUDENDORFF RESIGNED AS RESULT OF ROW

Washington, Oct. 28.—Press despatches to The Hague transmitted to the state department today say General Ludendorff resigned his post as first quartermaster-general and real leader of the German army, as the result of a complete disagreement with Prince Maximilian, the chancellor.

There was no possibility of a reconciliation according to these advices, and the emperor was compelled to accept Ludendorff's resignation.

DEFENCES PILED UP IN REGION OF METZ

Elaborate Fortifications Are Thrown Up in Dread of Allied Breach.

With the American Army Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 28.—Although the German army is making the most desperate effort in the war's history to prevent the Americans from breaking thru in the vital Verdun sector, it is equally or more fearful that there may be a breach endangering Metz, with the consequent necessity of abandoning all the territory still occupied, and of suffering an invasion of the German empire itself.

With division after division of troops, machine guns and artillery, the enemy is bitterly defending himself west of Verdun. But it is with an elaborately strong trench system, planned to be made impregnable, and with rows of barbed wire, and even electrified wire, that he has been feverishly working during the past few weeks to make Metz invulnerable. The system has been laid out, roughly, between Pont-a-Mousson, Avricourt and the River Selle, with a parallel front from Chemnot to Vieux.

The enemy's activity first showed itself between Chateau-Salins and Moyenvic, where no less than five parallel trenches have been constructed, and three on the reverse side of the slopes. The greater part of this system has only recently been completed. Two additional lines in the rear have already been planned and traced out, and a double system of dugouts and machine gun emplacements has been prepared. This position is continued in the direction of Marsal and Mulcy.

Another position has been hastily organized, depending upon the heights of Juvetville and Donnelay. It runs along the ridge upon which is situated Marjont Chateau, and passes about a third of a mile from Bourdonay. It follows the southern outskirts of Malsieres Wood, and finally reaches the southern outskirts of Rechy-court Forest and the heights of Poutery, east of Avricourt.

The southern pivot of this fortified position is situated northwest of Ciry. The greater part of the line is strong with electrically charged wires, the current of which is furnished by high tension generators, plants being located at the Salins Gorge, Morhange and Sarrebourg.

CHATHAM MAN WON THE VICTORIA CROSS

Chatham, Oct. 28.—The posthumous honor of the Victoria Cross has been awarded to Corporal Harry Garnet Bedford Miner, a Chatham man, who died of wounds August 8, after an act of conspicuous bravery. Corporal Miner captured a machine gun single handed, killing the entire crew, and turned the gun on the enemy. Later, with two others, he attacked a machine gun post and put the gun out of action. Miner then rushed, single handed, an enemy bombing post, bayoneting two of the garrison and putting the remainder to flight. Despite mortal wounds he refused to withdraw. Corporal Miner was the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Miner, Park street, of this city.

EMPEROR AT VIENNA

Vienna, Oct. 28.—Emperor Charles and Empress Zita, of Austria, arrived at the Schoenbrunn Palace on Sunday morning from the royal chateau at Goodenoe, near Budapest. The emperor immediately received Count Julius Andrássy, the new foreign minister, and Prof. Lammasch, the premier.

FASHIONABLE IN PARIS

The fashionable furriers in Paris and London are authoring for the season that the demand in furs for street wear this season will be centred in long-haired furs, such as foxes in a variety of shades. Wolf is dyed into taupe shades, which makes a very handsome set of furs, especially for young people. Hudson seal is having the call for ladies' coats, coats, capes and muffs. Many of these coats are handsomely trimmed with sable, lynx, fox, mink, squirrel and other stylish furs. The Dineen Co. are showing some exclusive lines in the particular furs, and invite your inspection at 149 Yonge st.

TRY TO MIX ARMISTICE WITH PEACE QUESTION

Paris, Oct. 28.—Commenting on the German reply The Temps remarks that President Wilson did not ask for a reply, adding:

"His note virtually ended with the word 'capitulation.' Dr. Solf accepted everything without wincing and begins his reply with placid banality. The German reply is another attempt to confuse the question of an armistice with the question of peace."

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