

NEWS OF BATTLE OF AISENE RIVER MEAGRE; ALLIES HAVEN'T WEAKENED IN ANY PLACE

GERMANS DRAWN UP FOR FIGHT ON LINE FROM NOYON TO BOIS FORGES

How the Enemy is Situated in Great Battle Now in Progress—Right Wing Now Seventy Miles Further Back Than Two Weeks Ago—Aisne River in Front, Hills of Rheims, and Forest of Argonne, Make German Position More Favorable for Defence—Being Reinforced—Cover Several Lines of Retreat to the North—Their Only Chance of Escape in Case of Repetition of Marne Defeat—Right Wing Reinforced and Allies Will Find it Hard to Envelope it.

London, Sept. 16, 9.30 p. m.—The German army, which less than a fortnight ago was at the "gates of Paris," and the right wing of which then extended to the southeast of the French capital, is tonight drawn up on almost a straight line, extending from the neighborhood of Noyon, in the west, to Bois Forges on the Meuse, north of Verdun, with its left resting on the German fortress of Metz.

GERMANS IN STRONG POSITION.

That the Germans intend to give battle on this line, with the Aisne river in front of their right, the hills of Rheims facing their centre and the mountains and forest of Argonne on their left, there seems to be little doubt. They went back steadily before the French and English armies, fighting only rearguard actions until their right, in command of Gen. Von Kluck, got across the Aisne. Then they turned and delivered several counter attacks, which, however, according to the British official report, were repulsed, the Germans leaving 200 prisoners in the hands of the British.

These counter attacks were doubtless delivered in the hope of giving the troops of the right wing, exhausted by the long advance, followed by an almost as long retreat, the opportunity of resting and preparing positions from which they could await reinforcements before taking up the offensive again.

The Germans are in the hilly country around Noyon, on the plateau north of Vic-Sur-Aisne and Soissons, and north of Rheims, where they are digging strong entrenchments and receiving reinforcements.

But even here this right wing, which has up to the present borne the brunt of the fighting in the advance and the retreat, is not altogether safe, for the French army operating from Amiens clings to its flank, while the British and French forces continue to press in front.

It is essential, however, that they should hold their positions, for they cover the lines of retreat to the north, which would be the only way out, if defeat should be their lot. That they realize this is shown by the fact that they have been contesting every foot of the ground with the allied armies, the last two days, and that both sides have suffered heavily.

BRITISH TAKING FULL SHARE OF THE FIGHTING.

The British army, as had been its lot since it landed in France, is taking its full share in this fighting, which on the front has been particularly severe, since the Germans crossed the Aisne and made their first determined stand in the retreat from Paris.

The German centre, which in the last few days has come more in line with the two wings, now stretches from the heights north of Rheims to the western foothills of the Argonne ridge, dipping a little south to touch Ville Sur Tourbe, just northeast of Camp De Chalons. This is all high, rough ground, in many places covered by heavy forest, which may by this time have been destroyed.

The German left has been driven back a little further than the centre, and holds the ground from west of the Argonne hills, north of Verdun, which the French have re-occupied, to the Meuse, which it crosses at Conservey, and thence southward to Metz.

ENEMY COVERING LINES OF RETREAT IN CASE OF ANOTHER ROUTE. The crossing of the Meuse, which the Germans have selected at Conservey, is just out of range of the fortress guns of Verdun, so that, as far as the battle now pending is concerned, they have not to reckon on any help from that source.

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MARNE BATTLE IN PROGRESS YET BERLIN SAYS

Berlin, Sept. 16 (via Rotterdam London, Sept. 17, 1.20 a. m.)—The battle of the Marne, according to reports received from general headquarters, is still in full progress along the whole front, from Paris to Verdun. There has been no decisive result, and thus far the action is said to be stationary generally. A staff officer declared today that it might take several days of hard fighting to decide the issue.

Last night's bulletin showed that the armies of Gen. Von Kluck and Von Buelow were in engagements Sunday and Monday, and that the other armies yesterday joined in the general action, including that of the Crown Prince of Germany, who hitherto has had his hands full with Verdun.

Most of the newspapers refrain from commenting on the war. The North German Gazette today published the text of President Wilson's call to the people of the United States to be impartial with regard to the war. Though issued August 19 it has only now been made public in Germany. Commenting on the call, the North German Gazette says:

"It is with satisfaction that we learn of this noble and worthy announcement." Referring to assertions made by the foreign press concerning peace the newspaper declares:

"Our German people will not lay down their arms in the war until the guarantees necessary for Germany's future position in the world have been secured in the struggle."

ANOTHER THOUSAND FOR PATRIOTIC FUND IN ST. JOHN

Ottawa, Sept. 16.—The Imperial Oil Company of Canada has completed arrangements with Hon. Mr. White, minister of finance, and treasurer of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, whereby it will make the handsome contribution of \$15,000 to the fund. Having decided on giving this amount, the company consulted Mr. White as to its apportionment, and on his advice the \$15,000 is to be spread over the various divisions of the Canadian Patriotic Fund administration as follows:

- Hull, \$1,000; St. John, \$1,000; Montreal, \$2,500; Toronto, \$2,500; Winnipeg, \$2,500; Regina, \$1,000; Saskatoon, \$1,000; Edmonton, \$1,000; Calgary, \$1,000; Vancouver, \$1,500. The contribution is to be local to these centers in its application, however, payment simply being made to these divisions for distribution as the national Patriotic Fund Committee sees fit.

The company has placed the money in the hands of this committee without any stipulations, desiring that all parts of the country should share alike. It is expected that this donation will prove to be the foremost of a series of similar ones from large Canadian manufacturing concerns.

TWO FAVORITES LOSE IN RACING AT HALIFAX

Halifax, Sept. 16.—Nearly 4,000 persons witnessed the horse races on the Exhibition track today. The weather was beautiful and the racing good. Two of the favorites went down to defeat.

In the 2.30 trot Lloyd Achille took the first heat and then dropped back. R. M. T., New Glasgow, took the three succeeding heats. Alverston Roy, Sydney, won third money, and Alfred K., Charlottetown, fourth. Best time—2.21 1/2.

Prince Wilkes, Halifax, won the 2.15 pace in straight heats. Dan Falan, Sydney, second, Harry Mack, Fred.

JOFFRE STILL MASTER OF SITUATION

May Again Adopt Plan of enveloping Enemy—Russian Grand Duke's Strategy Turned Tables on the Germans.

(By J. L. Garvin, Editor Pall Mall Gazette.) (Special to The Standard Through International News Service.) London, Sept. 16.—There is still no sign of hurry on the part of Gen. Joffre. He has the grip now and he means to keep it. He has not yet taken his final decision as to whether he will attack him with a couple of days rest for the bulk of his troops and with every available man of France concentrated for the second struggle and the more decisive, if it goes well with the allies, he might inflict a fatal disaster on the enemy and with his name on the list of the great captains. Instead of attempting the Napoleonic stroke he may trust to the enveloping operation on the allies' left that would probably lead to the case of another German defeat on a still more serious and decisive battle, but the bulk of the German forces might again escape. We do not, of course, presume on the allies' success, but the signs are good. What drama ever staged or written could compare with the tension and grandeur of this third act?

RUSSIA HAS LEARNED 'WELL' LESSON OF MANCHURIA.

In the meantime the armies of the Grand Duke Nicholas are raising the prestige of Russia higher than it ever stood in Europe. By their failure in Manchuria they have learned how to conquer in the west. The strategy of the Grand Duke has simply turned the tables on the German who in the first instance were kept too busily engaged by the prompt invasion of East Prussia to think of any campaigns further afield. The Kaiser's army corps sent to assist the Austrians in the south were necessarily involved in their fate. The Germans further east, who were so confused, scattered and reduced almost to strategic impotence. The Hapsburg troops forming a mighty curve from the Vistula to Lemberg for the imagined plan of taking Russia in flank were first taken in the rear by their enemy when the Austrians were beaten in Galicia. Their main army in the Russian Poland had the gun its retreat as the right of the Hapsburg forces regarding them as a whole has been smashed near Lemberg, their left being driven into hopeless region of march between Vistula and San.

This miserable country for the Austrians will be the right of Benin, where few come out though many go in. The centre of the defeated host is falling back upon the Przemysl fortress which seems likely to be an Austrian Metz. The Czar's army may prove after four weeks' fighting to have written in blood the epitaph of the dual monarchy-Lochobad.

There are strengthening rumors of a German counterstroke. According to this version the Kaiser's advisors mean to risk anything which would keep the Czar's main armies for at least some time longer in Russian territory. More troops would be drawn from the west. The Kaiser in person would take the nominal command and 600,000 Germans keeping in touch with the sea on their left flank, would begin a march towards St. Petersburg. It is at least one of the picturesque legends of war, if it proves to be any more than that the Kaiser's Eastern army will launch out on an adventure that would almost surely be fatal. Amid the snows of November and December how many would return?

erison, third, and Minnie, Halifax, fourth. Best time 2.13 1/2. The talent got a bad upset in the free-for-all. James K Newbro, the favorite, won the first heat in 2.18. In the second heat he was well in the lead at the quarter pole, when his bike collapsed, and Driver Raymond dropped to the track. Both horse and driver escaped injury. Under the rules the horse was not allowed to start again. Hilda S. Hillsboro, P. E. I., won the race and Walman, second. All the others were distanced.

OHIO COPPER MINING COPPER CO. BANKRUPT New York, Sept. 16.—An involuntary petition in bankruptcy was filed today against the Ohio Copper Mining Company, a Maine corporation with an authorized capital of \$5,000,000, on behalf of the Gallegier Machinery Company; Sham Smith, and the Pembroke Company of Utah, all of Salt Lake City. Their joint claims aggregate \$223.

Washington, Sept. 16.—A resume of the findings of the Belgian commission of inquiry, appointed by the King of the Belgians to investigate the alleged atrocities committed by German troops by the Belgian legation here was made public today, after the report had been presented to President Wilson. A partial summary follows:

"German cavalry, occupying the village of Lisameau, were attacked by some Belgian troops and two policemen. A German officer was killed by the Belgian soldiers during the fight. None of the civilians had taken part in the fight, nevertheless, the village was invaded at dusk on August 10th, by a strong force of Germans.

"In spite of the formal assurance given by the Burgomaster that none of the civilians had taken part in the fight, two farms and six outlying houses were destroyed by gun fire and reduced to ashes. No recently discharged fire-arms were found. Nevertheless, the invaders divided the

male peasants into three groups. Those in one group were bound, and eleven of them placed in a ditch, where they were afterwards found dead, their skulls fractured by the butts of rifles. "During the night of August 10th, German cavalry entered Veim in great numbers; the inhabitants were asleep. Without provocation the Germans fired on Mr. Deglimme's house, and broke into it. They destroyed most of his property. They carried off Mme. Deglimme, half naked, to a place two miles away. She was then released, and as she fled, was fired upon without being hit, however. Her husband was carried to a point in another direction and fired upon; he is dying.

Aged Man Hanged, Then Burned Alive "Farmer Jef Dkerckx, of Neerhespen, is an eye-witness to the following acts, committed by German cavalry at Orsmael and Neerhespen on

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NEWS OF GREAT FIGHT GOING ON IS MEAGRE

What Little is Given Out, However, is Encouraging—German Cruiser Sank Within Hour After British Torpedo Boat Attacked Her.

Paris, Sept. 16.—The French official communication issued tonight announces that headquarters sends no new details of the action now being fought along the Aisne River. The text of the announcement follows:

"This evening general headquarters has communicated no new information about the action going on along our front."

As has been remarked before, it is not to be wondered that during the course of a battle which has lasted several days no definite conclusion of any kind can be inferred. We know, however, that up to six o'clock tonight we have not weakened on any position.

Paris, Sept. 16, 11.10 p. m.—A despatch to the Havas Agency from Petrograd says:

"It is announced that the Turks have concentrated a large army on the Bulgarian frontier, and that Gen. Von Sanders, a Prussian cavalry officer who trained the Turkish army, is expected to take command."

Harwich, England, via London, Sept. 16.—The submarine boat E9, which sank the German cruiser Hela off Heligoland, Sunday morning, arrived today and was cheered by the crews of the warships as she entered the harbor. The submarine fired two torpedoes at the Hela, one striking her bow and the other hitting her amidships. The cruiser immediately burst into flames.

A number of German merchant ships which were in the neighborhood went to the Hela's assistance, and it is believed that a majority of her crew were saved. The Hela sank within an hour after being hit.

"OUR COUNTRY FIRST" MOTTO OF UNIONISTS

London, Sept. 16 (via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—Mr. F. E. Smith, K. C., one of the leaders of the Unionist party, in an interview tonight, emphasized that though the Unionists might justly resent the putting of home rule on the statute book, their firm and single determination was to support the government to defeat the common enemy. The government represented a united empire. When the sword was sheathed it was time enough to resume home affairs. Mr. Smith added:

"Party politics are a very small consideration, and until we are victorious all domestic questions are laid aside. The Unionist party will lend every assistance to the government, which is determined to see the country through the present crisis, and is resolved to carry the great struggle to a successful and triumphant conclusion."

"The motto of Mr. Bonar Law and Sir Edward Carson, alike, is 'Our Country First,' and that has always been our motto." Mr. Smith concluded:

"I am addressing a meeting with Right Hon. Winston Churchill in Liverpool on Monday, and am prepared to stand, side by side, till the war is over, with any Englishman, Scotchman, Irishman and Welshman who means to see the war through. I know this is the view of the whole Unionist party."

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THE ROUT IN GALICIA COMPLETE—HUNDRED THOUSAND PRISONERS AND 400 GUNS TAKEN BY RUSSIANS WHO ARE STILL PURSUING ENEMY IN HOPE OF STRIKING ANOTHER BLOW BEFORE GERMANS AND THEIR ALLY CAN RE-FORM—SERVIANS AND MONTENEGRINS CONTINUE ADVANCE INTO BOSNIA—BRITAIN'S NAVY NOT IDLE.

London, Sept. 17, 12.25 a. m.—The official press bureau issued the following announcement tonight:

"It is stated from Russian official sources that the rout of the Austrian army in Galicia is complete, though full details have not been received. The Austrian loss since the taking of Lemberg is estimated at 250,000 killed and wounded, 100,000 prisoners and 400 guns, many colors and vast quantities of stores.

"The Germans made desperate efforts to save the Austrian army, but failed completely. "At one point the Germans lost thirty-six pieces of heavy artillery, and at another several dozen pieces of siege artillery."

Russians Cut Communications Between Cracow and Przemysl The losses in Galicia and Poland, where fighting has been going on incessantly for more than three weeks, are even greater than those in France, and, according to official reports, the Russians are still following the Austrian and German forces, in the hope of striking another blow before they can re-form.

One report from Petrograd says that the Russians have severed communications between Cracow and Przemysl, the two fortresses for which the Austrians and their German allies are heading, and have begun an advance to sever communications between Galicia and Budapest.

Meanwhile, the Russian General Rennenkampf, who, according to Russian reports, invaded East Prussia to compel the Germans to withdraw troops from the west, and thus relieve pressure on the allies is having some difficulty in extricating his army from a difficult position. He has been compelled to fall back to fortresses on his own frontier, where he is waiting for the Germans, under Gen. Von Hindenburg, whom, some reports say the German Emperor has joined.

The opinion is held that the Germans plan some bold stroke against Rennenkampf before the troops which have been engaged in Galicia can reach him. It is pointed out, however, that it would be a bold stroke indeed for the Germans to attack the Russian forts on the frontier, or invade a country that within a few weeks will be a marsh, and later a snow-covered wilderness.

The Servians and Montenegrins continue their advance into Bosnia. The Servians, it is said, have advanced twenty-five miles beyond Semlin, so that in this event, it is evident that little opposition is being offered them.

While all this fighting is going on land, the British navy has not been idle. It is learned that the German cruiser Hela, which was yesterday reported from Berlin to have been sunk was attacked six miles from Heligoland by a British submarine, which made a raid toward that German stronghold. The submarine in question, which was commanded by Lt. Col. Max K. Horton, has returned to her base in safety.

Whether she was accompanied by other submarines has not been disclosed in the Admiralty report which is as brief as it possibly could be, but as these vessels usually travel in squadrons, accompanied by a cruiser as a parent ship, it is probable that the E9, the vessel which torpedoed the Hela, was not alone.

The small warships which have been patrolling the North Sea have been having a rough time of it, as they have just come through a forty-eight hour gale. For the big ships this is nothing, but the torpedo boats and destroyers, and particularly the submarines, are not comfortably at home during a North Sea storm.

Amsterdam, via London, Sept. 16, 11.10 p. m.—A large number of troop transports passed through Aix La Chapelle the last few days to join the German army in France. All the hospitals, schools and public buildings in that city are filled with wounded.

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