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AUSTRIA'S PEACE PROPOSALS ARE REJECTED TREMENDOUS SMASH COMING FROM SALONICA

STRONG BULGARIAN POSITIONS TAKEN BY FRENCH AND SERBS

Most Important on the Macedonian Front Fall, With 1500 Prisoners; in First Move of Great Offensive.

London, Sept. 16.—Reuter learns that after an intense artillery fire, the Franco-Serbian troops yesterday attacked the most powerful Bulgarian positions that had been organized and fortified for over two years. The whole positions on a front of fifteen kilometres, including Vetrnik, Dobropolje and Sokol, constituting the most important part of the Macedonian front, have been captured. Fifteen hundred were taken prisoners and a great number of guns and material were captured.

Greece Has 200,000 Men. Reuter's correspondent interviewed Michael Anagnostis, the Greek minister of agriculture, today. The minister said that Greece had 200,000 soldiers under arms and could raise an additional 100,000, but was handicapped owing to the lack of shipping facilities. They were immediately commencing to build shipyards. He concluded that he was convinced that the Salonica front was far more important than was generally realized. "Soon there will be big developments there," he said.

A Serbian official statement issued here tonight gives the positions captured by the Franco-Serbian forces at Vetrnik, Dobropolje and Sokol, which is the most important part of the Macedonian front.

Big Offensive Coming. The capture of the first and second line Bulgarian positions along a ten-mile section of the Dolran-Vardar front Sunday, was announced by A. J. Balfour, the foreign secretary, at a reception to the Greek delegation to-night. He referred to this, which involved the taking of 800 prisoners and ten guns, as the prelude to an important offensive "bringing greater triumphs in which the British and Greek troops would take an equal and glorious part."

GERMANS MAY ATTACK AMERICANS IN VOSGES

Artillery and Airplane Activity Suggest a Possible or an Expected Advance.

With the American Army in the Vosges Sept. 15, 9 p.m.—Artillery activity of an intensity to suggest a possible attack, or an expected attack, occurred in the Vosges today. It was accompanied by a very heavy amount of signaling. Enemy airplanes were unusually active. Ten flew over St. Die and 20 over Germering.

BRUTALLY BEATS WIFE THEN ATTEMPTS SUICIDE

Windsor, Sept. 16.—Following words with his wife in Ford, Sunday, Archibald McComb, 42, an employee of the Canadian Bridge Works, beat her brutally over the head with a mallet and then fearing he had killed her, slashed his throat several times with a razor. None of the wounds were deep enough to kill him and McComb will probably recover. The woman was taken to Hotel Dieu, where her condition is considered quite serious.

Plan to Use War Prisoners To Bring in Essex Crops

Windsor, Sept. 16.—Prisoners of war may be released to assist in bringing in some of the late crops in Essex, particularly in the tobacco fields. A plan will be suggested to the department of justice by William C. Kennedy, M.P., who left town for Ottawa today.

JAPAN RECOGNIZES CZECHO-SLOVAK ARMY

Washington, Sept. 16.—Recognition of the Czechoslovak forces as an allied and belligerent army against Germany and Austria-Hungary, and the Japanese Government consented to a board of arbitration to deal with their grievances against the Bell Telephone Co. They also demanded that the company cease its policy of intimidation of employees alleged to be now carried on.

TONS OF BOMBS DROPPED ON CITIES BACK OF THE LINE

Long Distance Fliers Pass Over Mainz and Karlsruhe and Also Drop Explosives on Aerodromes.

With the American Army on the Lorraine front, Sept. 16.—British airplanes which are co-operating with American squadrons in this front flew far back of the enemy lines today and bombed aerodromes at several places. Some of the long-distance fliers passed over Karlsruhe and Mainz, dropping five and a half tons of explosives.

Eleven tons of bombs were dropped on the aerodromes at Longuyon, Boulay, Marhegnie and Bohm.

French and Italian units co-operated with American squadrons in carrying out nine missions, in addition to which, patrolling and photographic work was successfully conducted.

ITALIAN RAIDS SUCCEED UPON MOUNTAIN FRONT

Allies Make Improvements in Positions in Region of Grappa.

Rome, Sept. 16.—In the region north and northwest of Grappa, on the northern Italian mountain front, Italian detachments this morning raided the enemy lines and improved at some points the positions already occupied. The Italian war office statement issued today. The Italians took 321 prisoners and captured numerous machine guns.

On the remainder of the front there were artillery duels and patrol activity.

BRITISH ADVANCE LINE SLIGHTLY IN FLANDERS

Few Prisoners Brought in on Southern Portion of the Front.

London, Sept. 16.—British troops today advanced their line in the neighborhood of Ploegsteert and Ypres, in Flanders, according to the official statement issued this evening by the British war office. The statement says: "On the whole, our front on our southern portion of our front our patrols have brought in a few prisoners."

"In the neighborhood of Ploegsteert and 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."

MANCHURIAN STRIKERS RECEIVE ULTIMATUM

Harbin, Sept. 15.—Enlightened allied consuls have presented an ultimatum to the striking employees on the Chinese Eastern Railway, demanding that the strike come to an end as it regards military movements. The men have agreed to run trains from Harbin to Vladivostok in order to make military connections, but have stated that they will not act as strikers.

Stefansson in British Columbia After Absence of Five Years

Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 15.—Back from the far north, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, Canadian Arctic explorer, reached here late today. He will continue on his outward journey tonight, and early tomorrow will arrive at Victoria, B.C., whence he sailed over five years ago on the trip he is now bringing to a close.

Condition of Cardinal Farley Is Considered Almost Hopeless

Manoronock N. Y., Sept. 16.—The condition of Cardinal John M. Farley, Archbishop of New York, who is critically ill with pneumonia at his summer home here, was pronounced tonight "almost hopeless."

CANADA'S CONGRATULATIONS Sir Robert Borden Sends a Message to General Pershing.

Ottawa, Sept. 16.—Sir Robert Borden has sent the following congratulatory message to General Pershing: "On behalf of the government and people of Canada I send warmest congratulations upon the magnificent victory which has just been won by the gallant army under your command and which I am confident is only the prelude of still greater achievements that will ensure an enduring peace thru the triumph of our common cause."

BIG OFFENSIVE SOON TO START FROM SALONICA

British and Greek Troops Are Ready for Combined Smash.

SEVERE AIR FIGHTING

Marked Increase Reported in Airplane Work Along All Fronts.

New York, Sept. 16.—The Associated Press tonight issues the following: In the various theatres of the war the fighting is going on steadily, and with added impetus in Macedonia, where the reconstituted Serbian army, co-operating with French forces, has stormed three strongly fortified Bulgarian positions and occupied Vetrnik, Dobropolje and Sokol—considered the most important part of the Macedonian front.

Farther to the east on the Dolran-Vardar front the first and second line Bulgarian positions have been captured by the allies over a ten-mile section. This successful operation, according to Mr. Balfour, who announced it at a reception of the Greek delegation in London, is "the prelude to an important offensive bringing greater triumphs, in which the British and Greek troops would take an equal and glorious part."

French troops, in their advance toward the Chemin des Dames, have gained two-thirds of a mile on a 2 1/2-mile front to the northeast and east of Sancy, where they captured an additional 800 prisoners.

American and German patrols are doing the major part of the work on the Lorraine front, but there are reports of a possible great attack by one side or the other in the Vosges. In that mountainous territory the artillery fire has developed great intensity and hostile airplanes have been unusually active.

Severe Air Fighting.

All reports indicate a marked increase in the work of the airplanes along all the fronts. The Germans, who quite recently appeared to lack adequate air forces, have now sent augmented forces into the air, and there have been numerous engagements. As an illustration of the severity of the fighting, the British airmen on Sunday accounted for 37 German planes, while they themselves reported 15 missing.

While the Czechoslovaks have been continuously and successfully carrying on the war against the Bolshevik steps have been taken looking to the organization of a Polish division, under Polish officers, to wage the fight in Siberia westward to their fatherland as integral units in the American army. It is estimated that 100,000 trained men can be made available at once in the regions of Harbin, Nikolaev and Vladivostok.

JAPS CAPTURE TRAINS ON SIBERIAN RAILWAY

Main Strength of Allied Cavalry Enters Khabarovsk.

Tokio, Sept. 16.—An official statement issued by the Japanese war office reporting operations on the Ussuri River front in Siberia says: "The main strength of our cavalry has entered Khabarovsk on the Ussuri branch of the Trans-Siberian Railway. Between Uvaenskaya and Khabarovsk, seventeen locomotives, 191 freight cars and four passenger cars were captured. Thirty-five prisoners, including some Germans were taken. There were in addition to the 150 prisoners, including German officers, captured on Sept. 6."

DUNLAP'S HATS.

Dineen Co., 140 Yonge street, announce the arrival of a large shipment of Dunlap's New York Hats. It is no small honor for Dineen being so agent in Canada for this firm of hat makers. Where hats are worn, the name of Dineen and Dunlap are known. The fall Dunlap is right up to the minute in style and the quality cannot be surpassed. The price here is just the same as charged all over the United States—\$7.00, and they're worth it. Stetson Hats also, price \$6 and \$7.

PEACE FEELER IS REJECTED QUICKLY BY UNITED STATES

Reply by Secretary Lansing To Austria's Peace Proposals

"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."

CYNICAL PROPOSITION FOR DIVIDING ALLIANCE

Points in Balfour's Speech A. J. Balfour Comments on the Clumsy Diplomacy in Austrian Note—Questions Between Belligerents Are Definitely Defined.

It is incredible that anything can come of the Austrian proposal. It is not a genuine attempt to obtain peace; it is an attempt to divide the allies.

The German excels in direct, simple brutality; but when he tries to act as President Wilson would not he is clumsy.

Germany feels that she must restore Belgian independence.

She intended to pay no indemnity to Belgium.

At the same time she was squeezing millions of dollars from Russia.

The German colonies are one question on which there is no misunderstanding.

Britain stands on one side and Germany on the other regarding these colonies.

Lorraine: how are conversations going to set that right?

Until central powers are of open mind and prepared to discuss the allied views, mere conversations for practical results are worthless.

FRENCH AT SOISSONS MAKE MILE ADVANCE

Six Hundred Additional Prisoners Taken, When Ground is Won on Three-Mile Front.

Paris, Sept. 16.—To the northeast and east of Sancy (northeast 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.

AUSTRIA JUST ACTS AS GERMAN CATSPAW

Step Brought About by Rapidly Increasing Clothing Difficulties.

Berne, Switzerland, Sept. 16.—It is generally believed here that Austria-Hungary made her peace proposal with the consent of Germany and it is even maintained in some quarters that Germany really inspired it. It is pointed out that the German Socialist leaders have used very threatening language to Chancellor von Hertling lately, demanding internal reforms and the opening of peace negotiations. In addition the rapidly growing food and clothing difficulties in Germany also must have had a considerable part in bringing about the step.

Half an Hour After Receiving Document Thru Swedish Ambassador, Secretary Lansing Turns Austria Down on Allies Behalf.

Washington, Sept. 16.—The United States, as was fully expected, has unconditionally rejected Germany's peace feeler. In doing so the government has spoken for all the co-belligerents. The Austrian Government's note from the minister from Sweden, Mr. Ekengren, Secretary Lansing tonight issued his formal statement.

Lansing's statement was given out within half an hour after he had received the Austrian proposal. It would have been forthcoming almost immediately upon delivery of the Austrian note had it not been found necessary, in order to avoid the possibility of grave error, to make a careful comparison between the official text and that which was received in news despatches last night from Amsterdam.

Speedy Decision. Thus, emphasis was added to the declaration, if any were needed, of the quickness of the reply indicating the existence of no shadow of doubt in the mind of the administration as to what it should be. As soon as Lansing's reply can be put in form it will be handed to the Swedish minister for transmission to Austria.

The Swedish legation notified the state department early in the afternoon that it had received the note and that it would be presented as soon as it could be decoded and translated from the French. This continued several hours, and it was not until 6.30 o'clock that Mr. Ekengren appeared. He remained with the secretary only two minutes.

There is some reason to believe that the secretary acted with this unprecedented promptness in a matter of such great import with the design not only to indicate clearly the position of the United States Government, but perhaps to anticipate and prevent as far as possible newspaper discussions of the Austrian proposition, which might convey to the enemy a misleading impression that there was any considerable element in the United States willing to consider a negotiated peace, such as the "non-binding" discussions, proposed by Austria, might develop.

To Sound Note for Allies. Also, it is understood, there was a purpose to sound the note which the entente powers might repeat in making their own answers. All these powers had gone on record formally regarding the conditions of peace laid down by President Wilson as their own.

There is some speculation in official circles as to what will be the next step in what is recognized as the great Germanic peace offensive. Generally, it is believed that the German and Austrian military leaders will point to the American reply as an evidence that they have done everything possible to bring about peace and thus to try to strengthen their people for another winter campaign. But another view is that owing to the intolerable conditions in Austria-Hungary there is more than a possibility of a breaking up of the quadruple alliance; that Austria, having gone thru the form of making a peace proposal, which was promptly rejected, has thus cleared the way for her next step—an unconditional surrender on the terms laid down by President Wilson.

GOVERNMENT AT OMSK AT WAR WITH GERMAN

Two Classes Will Be Mobilized in Asiatic Russia.

Olovannaya, Trans-Baikalia, Sept. 16.—The Siberian Government at Omsk, a fortified town of Asiatic Russia, has declared war on Germany and has ordered the mobilization of the 1918 and 1919 classes.

man diplomat, and contended that it made impossible a settlement by conversations. "Until the central powers are of open mind and are prepared to discuss our views of what we believe to be right and just, and for the uplift of civilization," continued the secretary, "mere conversations for practical results are useless."