

ALL FOE ATTACKS REPULSED

Total of Over 900 Prisoners Taken in Battle at Lens

Allies Grow More Favorable Toward Pope's Peace Note

St. Quentin Cathedral in Flames; Fired by the Huns

Franco-British Hold and Consolidate All Gains

BRITAIN IN A SAFE POSITION

Lloyd George's Speech in Commons A Forecasting Of Victory

PREPARED TO FIGHT

By Courier Leased Wire.

Washington, Aug. 17.—Premier Lloyd George's optimistic speech in parliament yesterday was interpreted here as a preliminary indication of the allied nations' attitude towards any discussion of peace on a basis which might permit Germany as a conqueror to dictate terms.

News of the premier's speech came while the state department was receiving by cable from the British foreign office, the text of Pope Benedict's message to the leaders of all belligerents proposing a basis for peace negotiations and earnestly appealing for its consideration. In Entente diplomatic circles and among government officials, Mr. Lloyd George's announcement of improvement in food conditions removing the danger of England being starved into submission, his assurance that losses through submarine attacks continued to decrease and his declaration that there would be sufficient tonnage for 1918 and for 1919 if necessary, were hailed joyfully as a sign of Great Britain's safe position and firm attitude.

Russian Telegram

London, Aug. 17.—In the House of Commons last night J. Ramsay MacDonald, ex-chairman of the Labor party, questioned the government with regard to The Daily Mail's Petrograd despatch giving the correspondent's version of Premier Kerensky's attitude towards the Stockholm conference. He accused the premier with mistreating the London conference which induced Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, to read the text of M. Kerensky's telegram, which the chancellor asserted was spontaneous and not due to any inquiry from the British Government. The text of the telegram follows: "You are hereby authorized to inform the foreign secretary that although the Russian Government does not deem it possible to prevent Russian delegates from taking part in the Stockholm conference, they regard this conference as a party concern and its decisions in no way binding on the government."

Lord Hugh Cecil, member for Greenwich, had previously intervened in the debate and accused the proposed delegation to the Stockholm conference of being unfit, either mentally or by training, to discuss the problems that would arise. To go to Stockholm, Lord Hugh said, would be unwise and foolish.

Little Interest. Apparently the House of Commons as a whole has no overwhelming interest in the Stockholm conference. There was only a small attendance of members during the debate last night and the amendment moved by Phillip Snowden to adjourn the House only until September 11, on the ground that the government could not be trusted to meet, was rejected by 74 votes to 14.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, Aug. 17.—The shallow depression which was over the Great Lakes and Upper St. Lawrence Valley in our westward from Quebec southward to the middle Atlantic coast. Numerous showers and thunderstorms have occurred in Ontario and Quebec followed by cooler weather. Forecast: Fresh northwesterly winds, fair and cooler. Saturday—Moderate winds and comparatively cool.

British Re-establish Lines After Temporary Success For the Enemy; French Also Repulsed German

(By Stewart Lyon, special correspondent of the Canadian Press.

Canadian Army Headquarters in France—The total of prisoners captured by the Canadians in the action around Lens is now over 900.

BRITISH OFFICIAL

London, Aug. 17.—The Germans made two counter-attacks last night against the new British positions near Loos. They gained temporary success at some points, the war office announces, but subsequently the British line was re-established. The statement follows: "Early last night the enemy twice counter-attacked the new positions gained by us yesterday near Loos, in direction of Cite St. Auguste. At the second attempt he succeeded in pressing back our line slightly at some points, but later in the night our troops again attacked and re-established our positions. A further hostile counter-attack was completely repulsed. We secured a few prisoners.

"The artillery has been active on both sides in the night east of Ypres."

ENEMY REPULSED.

Paris, Aug. 17.—The Germans last night attacked the new positions gained by the French on the Steenbeke River in Belgium, the war office announces, and were repulsed completely. Vigorous German assaults on the Aisne front also were beaten back.

The Germans also made a violent attack on the Verdun front. They gained a footing in the French advanced positions at some points, but were ejected by a counter-attack.

The statement follows: "In Belgium a German attack against our new positions on both sides of the Steenbeke was repulsed completely.

"At nightfall yesterday the enemy, after an intense bombardment of our positions, made a vigorous attack on a front of more than two kilometres, between the Vaulcure mill and the Calferite plateau. Beaten back by our artillery fire, the German infantry was not able to approach our lines at any point.

"Violent and repeated attacks against the positions we captured recently east of Cerney also met with a sanguinary check. It has been established that the losses of the Germans during the operations from August 13 to 15 in the vicinity of the Craonne plateau were particularly heavy.

"A surprise attack of the enemy west of Bray-on-Laonnois was easily broken up. In Champagne there was heavy artillery fighting near Mont Blond and Carnillet.

"On both banks of the Meuse (Verdun front) there were spirited artillery engagements. To the right of the river the Germans, after a brief bombardment, made a violent attack last night on the front between the northern corner of Caubrières wood and Benoivaux. Our counter-attacks and the precision of our fire ejected the enemy from almost all points at which he succeeded in gaining a footing in advanced elements of our first line. There is nothing to report from the remainder of the front.

"Our aviators took an active part in the operations on the Belgian front, engaging in numerous combats with enemy machines, of which two were brought down and two were forced to land within the German lines. Our aviators also attacked with success, using bombs and machine guns and flying at a very low altitude, attacking both troop trains and aviation grounds of the enemy.

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SITUATION IN SPAIN GROWS MORE NORMAL

Order Being Restored And Control Gained By The Authorities

STRIKERS SUBDUED

Activities Resumed In Madrid, Where All Is Quiet

Helsingfors, Aug. 17.—The general strike has ended.

Paris, Aug. 17.—A dispatch from Madrid to the Associated Press says that news from Spain is that everything is becoming normal. It was necessary to use cannon against the barricade made by strikers at Sabadell, near Barcelona, resulting in the demolishing of four houses and the killing and wounding of several strikers. Two soldiers were killed and ten wounded.

All prisoners in the Madrid jail tried to escape. A struggle with soldiers occurred wherein there were a number killed and wounded on each side. It is said that revolutionists throughout Spain are plotting with prisoners for their escape, taking advantage of the disturbance.

Madrid has become more animated. Some vehicles and tramways are circulating. A dispatch to the Havas Agency, received here, says the imprisoned strikers did not join in the prison mutiny. They are occupying separate quarters. The mutiny occurred at a moment when families were allowed to visit the jail.

Madrid Normal.

Paris, Aug. 17.—A Havas dispatch from Madrid says that the strike situation today was entirely normal. All activities are being taken up as usual. Traffic of all kinds has been resumed and business houses all have been reopened. The special police have been withdrawn from the centre of the capital and now are guarding the railroad lines as a precautionary measure. No untoward incidents were reported up to noon.

St. Quentin Cathedral is in Flames as Result of the Enemy Bombardment; Fresh Hun Vandalism

French Front in France, Aug. 16.—By the Associated Press—The fire in the St. Quentin cathedral was first observed about six o'clock Wednesday night by sentinels in a French trench outside of St. Quentin, they were startled to see tongues of flame breaking from the famous cathedral and soon the entire structure was ablaze. The fire continued to light up the town and surrounding country until two o'clock in the morning. As it died down it was seen that the steep roof had fallen in. Everything but the walls must be destroyed. The cause is unknown. Certainly it was not due to the French fire. There was little bombardment last night and when the correspondent watched columns of smoke float away on a light wind the landscape was singularly peaceful. Prisoners say the town has lately been pillaged by officers and men who are sending many stolen valuables to Germany.

"At nightfall Wednesday," telegraphs a Havas correspondent on the French front, "we saw from our lines which are less than half a mile from the suburbs of St. Quentin that the cathedral was surrounded by smoke. Soon fire was visible, increasing each moment until at midnight the imposing monument was a mass of flames, visible for twenty miles around.

"It is impossible at this time to determine the origin of the fire. The Germans cannot lay it to our shells for St. Quentin is so near our lines that not a single French projectile has fallen into the city. The high towers of the cathedral gave the Germans an observation point unique in the region.

RUSSIA TO RALLY AND CRUSH FOE

Vast Operations on Rumanian Front And Elsewhere Are Forecast

KORNILOFF SPEAKS

Moral Fighting Capacity of Army Has Been Greatly Strengthened

REGENERATION NEAR

By Courier Leased Wire.

Petrograd, Aug. 17.—Lieutenant General Korniloff, the commander-in-chief, in an interview today said that in consequence of the energetic measures which had been taken the moral fighting capacity of the army had been considerably strengthened. He hoped for complete regeneration of the Russian forces. The General predicted operations on a vast scale on the Rumanian front and also elsewhere, especially in the north, where he indicated there was a possibility of combined sea action. He expressed the opinion that another winter campaign was inevitable.

Destroyer Sunk.

Petrograd, Aug. 17.—The Russian torpedo boat destroyer, Lieutenant Bourakoff, has been sunk by a German mine in the Baltic Sea near the Aland Archipelago. It was following a squadron of destroyers, on one of which was Lieutenant Lebedeff, minister of marine. The official Russian statement of yesterday announced the loss of a torpedo boat by striking a mine in the Baltic.

Foe Repulsed

London, Aug. 17.—On the Bukovina front, between the Dniester and Moldavia, enemy attacks were everywhere repulsed except at a single point south of the Varna, where a portion of the trenches in the mountains were lost, says the official Rumanian statement under date of Tuesday just received here. All enemy attacks, continues the statement, in the Slanic and Oltuz valleys were repulsed. Our infantry and cavalry delivered counter-attacks on the enemy which fled in disorder. We occupied several peaks and took more than 600 prisoners. Some machine guns were captured.

"This action was facilitated by the Russians in the north, who after repulsing several attacks and taking offensive and drove back the enemy in conjunction with the Rumanians. The battle continues violently.

"South of the Maraschet, the enemy attacked all day with fresh troops. There were violent hand-to-hand encounters and counter-attacks. A Russian regiment in a counter-attack took more than 400 prisoners. A Russian raid south of Berezany also resulted in the capture of prisoners and some machine guns.

"The battle continues with unparalleled stubbornness on both sides of the Sereth. An artillery bombardment of varying intensity occurred on the Danube."

A Conference.

Petrograd, Thursday, Aug. 16.—Lieutenant-General Korniloff, the commander-in-chief, arrived here today and had a long conference with Premier Kerensky.

Frontier Opened.

Petrograd, Aug. 17.—The Russo-Swedish frontier, which was closed recently, has been reopened.

Concessions to Poland.

London, Aug. 17.—Reuter's Limited, says it learns on good authority that the German concessions in Poland are expected shortly, but that they will be conditional on Austria's approval. It is probable, says the news agency, that the Central Powers will offer a regency composed of three eminent Polish politicians and a ministerial cabinet and council of state, which will not have as members any person who belongs to the provisional council of state, the ground being taken that the latter individuals have lost Poland's confidence.

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PEACE PROPOSALS OF POPE BEING VIEWED MORE FAVORABLY

Meet With Favorable Reception in Germany, While Entente Allies Upon Reconsideration, See Perceptible Advance Toward an Agreement

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, Aug. 17.—The proposals of Pope Benedict, notwithstanding many wholly unsatisfactory features, The Daily Telegraph thinks, mark a perceptible advance toward the formulation of such a peace as the allies demand and the world needs. The note, it says, creates a new situation and it may well represent what Austria-Hungary, South Germany and a strong body of opinion in East Russia itself are trying to force upon the German imperial government. Nevertheless, as the basis of peace negotiations, the note is, in The Telegraph's opinion, wholly inadmissible but very far indeed from the satisfying requirements of a just peace as stated in the allied note to the United States in January.

The Daily News finds the note considerably less important than the intimations indicated, and describes it as a rather weak and plaintive document. It adds: "It is a series of aspirations, not a basis of settlement. If the Pope can persuade the warring nations to build on his foundation well and good, but if he has reason to believe his efforts will be successful, it must rest on some other guarantee than the proposals themselves. To take one instance only, Germany is to guarantee with other powers, the independence of Belgium. That is a master stroke of irony, have not beforehand agreed to the papal conditions. It is expected the allies will give the Pope a collective answer and perhaps the Central Empires will do likewise. Monsignor Baccaria, chaplain of the court of Italy, was entrusted last week to deliver the Pope's note to the king.

"The Pope's peace proposals are true restoration in the sense of Lloyd George's last speech and constitute a peace as outlined by President Wilson, while they also correspond to peace without annexation or indemnities supported in other quarters," says The Corriere d'Italia, the semi-official organ of the Vatican. The paper adds that the Pope's note does not propose to return to the status quo and suggests the restoration of the old kingdom of Poland as it was before being dismembered by the three empires. The note suggests autonomy of Armenia, a re-arrangement of the colonies and the return of Alsace-Lorraine and Trent and Trieste to their respective nationalities.

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Paris, Aug. 17.—The official communication, issued by the war office to-night reads:

"In Belgium our attack continued with success during the day. Our infantry dominating our adversary broke his resistance west of the Steenbeke and continuing its progress in conjunction with the British troops, captured all the positions of the enemy, and more than 300 prisoners of which there were four officers. As much material which has not yet been classified.

"The two artilleries were active in the regions of Laffaux and Hurtebise."

"On the left bank of the Meuse in the region of Hill 304, one of our patrols brought in some prisoners.

"In Alsace two German attacks at Barenhoff and south of Hartmannsweller Kopf completely failed.

"The Germans fired at the cathedral of St. Quentin, which has been burning for several hours.

"Eastern theatre:

"Slight artillery activity on the front generally. There were patrol combats in the valley of the Struma in the region of Lakes Presba and Ochrida. Twenty-three French airplanes and five Italian, bombarded enemy encampments in the region of Pogradec, while the British aviation service bombarded depots in the region of Sere."

ON WAY HOME

A telephone message was received in the city this morning from Sgt. William Lane, who is convalescing at the Spadina Military Hospital, Toronto, stating that Sgt. George Patts and Charles Draper, of this city, had arrived there this morning from Quebec. Mr. J. W. Patts returned to Toronto and expected to return this afternoon with his son.

SALT SHORTAGE?

Fear of a shortage of salt has caused many housewives to make extensive purchases of this household necessity, and many are laying in a heavy supply. The cause of their apprehension is a mystery, but local merchants state that the salt market is experiencing a rush.