

The St. John Standard

VOL. X, NO. 144.

TEN PAGES.

TUESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 17, 1918.

SHOWERY.

PRICE TWO CENTS

VOSGES REGION SCENE OF NEXT BIG DRIVE? WASHINGTON REJECTS THE AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL

Uncle Sam Turns Down Peace Plan

Will Entertain No Proposal For Discussion of Peace Terms.

PRESIDENT WILSON AND BALFOUR AGREE

Secretary Lansing Issues Statement From Washington in Which American View Is Expressed.

New York, Sept. 16.—The United States has turned its back on the Austro-Hungarian peace proposals. Secretary Lansing, by authorization of President Wilson, announces that the United States "can and will entertain no proposal for a conference upon a matter concerning which it has made its position and purpose so plain."

The British Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Balfour, has also stated, though unofficially, that he was utterly unable to see that such a conference as proposed by Austria could have the desired end, adding: "It is incredible that anything can come of this proposal."

While the German newspapers comment on the proposal as though Germany had no part in it, the Vienna newspapers declare emphatically that all of Austria's allies had been informed of Austria's intention, though the action itself was Austria-Hungary's own.

Washington, Sept. 16.—Austria's proposal for peace discussions was delivered to Secretary Lansing tonight by W. A. F. Ekenberg, Swedish Minister to the United States. After reading the document Secretary Lansing said that the United States will entertain no proposal for a conference upon a matter concerning which it has made its position and purpose so plain. The Secretary of State let it be known that he was speaking on authority of President Wilson.

The Note in Washington. Washington, Sept. 16.—Austria's peace proposal reached the Swedish Legation late today and arrangements were at once made for its delivery to the United States. Secretary Lansing authorized the announcement that he would have a statement to make as soon as he could read the note.

In official and diplomatic quarters this statement was expected to disclose the government's intention to reject promptly and flatly the Austrian proposition.

FEAR LOSS OF FISHING VESSEL

A Canadian Atlantic Port, Sept. 16.—The Canadian fishing schooner Otoko, 59 tons which was expected to make port from the fishing banks about a week ago has not yet returned and her owners fear that she has been lost. A report that the masts of an abandoned sailing vessel have been sighted at a point on the coast some distance east of here is being investigated by the marine and fisheries department.

STEAMER GROUNDS IN FOG

A Pacific Port, Sept. 16.—A wireless message received here last night indicates that the British steamer Rosemond, which went around Saturday in a heavy fog, will be able to make port with the assistance of a tug sent from a Canadian port yesterday.

BENNY LEONARD A WINNER.

Philadelphia, Sept. 16.—Benny Leonard, the lightweight champion tonight had an easy time in his six round bout with Harry Pierce of Brooklyn. The champion hit Pierce when and where he pleased but did not knock him out.

Lloyd George from Sick Bed Appeals to Cotton Strikers

London, Sept. 16.—Greatly concerned over the cotton strike, Premier Lloyd George tonight from his sick-bed issued an appeal to the strikers to return to work and leave the decision in the matter under dispute to the government after an inquiry by a special tribunal, to be immediately appointed. The Premier bases his appeal on the fact that the strike will seriously interfere with the production of war material.

HUN GOVERNMENTS SEE DEFEAT AHEAD

Austria's Peace Move Specifically Designed To Save Central Empires From Disaster.

GERMAN RULERS FEAR ABOVE ALL SOCIAL EXPLOSION IF DEFEATED

Peace Proposals Have Reached Swedish Embassy in Washington and Will Be Submitted To United States Government At Once—London and Paris Papers Refer To "Hun Impertinence," While German Press Openly Attempts To Repudiate Vienna's Action.

(By Arthur S. Draper.)

London, Sept. 16.—It was a dramatic move in the new German offensive to have a direct invitation issued by Austria to all the belligerent governments to engage in a confidential non-binding discussion at some neutral centre.

All Germany is now talking peace, and hints are being thrown out from many official quarters to the German people that the end of the war is not far distant.

The Germans, who still regard themselves as the initiators of "peace of renunciation," would be glad to appear to acquiesce in such a peace as Austria's request, while pretending to do so for the sake of humanity. That is virtually what Germany and Austria intend to tell the Allies at the proposed peace conferences.

The governments of the central empires recognize that defeat is staring them in the face, but they dare not wash the morals of their subjects by such an admission except at a confidential conference. If, however, the Allies are willing to make peace on acceptable terms, the German government will undertake to make a gradual public avowal of defeat, while if the Allies refuse to be satisfied with German "renunciation," Germany intends to bolster up the morale of her people for further resistance.

(Continued on Page Two.)

FROM BORDEN TO PERSHING

Canadian Premier Sends Congratulations To Commander of American Army.

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 earnest 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 through the triumph of our common cause."

C. P. R. SECTION MAN KILLED BY ALIEN

Ottawa, Sept. 16.—Carleton Wallen, aged 48 years, employed by the C. P. R., as a section hand, was murdered two miles east of Carleton Place around 8:30 this morning by an unknown foreigner, whom he and Thomas Nattingley section foreman, had placed under arrest charged with breaking into the section house. The murderer also fired several shots at Nattingley who was unarmed, which missed his mark, and then took to the bushes, and is believed to be headed in this direction.

An armed posse is searching the district, and inspector Jiolet and his men here are co-operating in the man hunt.

Wounded—C. E. Horsman, Moncton, N. B. Wounded—Machine Gun Company. Wounded—Captain R. H. Morris, M. C. Middleton, N. E. R. S. Bruce, Shelburne, N. S. C. Provost, Pith Bay, Que. Gassed—A. Hellison, West Bay, N. S. Wounded—Mounted Rifles. D. McCormick, Glace Bay, N. S.

Mangin Has The Brunt Of Battle

French Army in Terrific Fight For Chemin Des Dames.

SLOWLY BUT SURELY DRIVING HUNS BACK

British Gain Southeast of Ypres, While American Army Had Quiet Day.

(Copyright 1918 by New York Tribune Association.)

(Special cable to the New York Tribune and the St. John Standard.)

London, Sept. 16.—The hardest battle of the moment is being fought by General Mangin's army along the wide front from Verdun to Pontamousson where Mangin is fighting a terrific battle with the "chemin des Dames" as his goal.

General Pershing is following closely the Germans who are dropping back to prepared positions. Monkey mountain, east of Vauxillon, has been taken by the French, who have also captured Vally, an important position on the Aisne. Few details have come in of the operation north of Boissois, but that it is a desperate affair is apparent from the frequent changes in positions in the past two days. The Germans are offering resistance comparable with that at Paschendale in 1916. Despite the enemy's stubbornness Mangin is steadily drawing closer to his goal.

In some places he has reached new fighting ground and in others he has approached the 1917 lines. The enemy's losses are reported to be running very high.

Although General Pershing's push at St. Mihiel exceeded all expectations, it is wise not to expect progress to continue at the same rate, nor should hopes be too extravagantly raised at this moment.

The British have pushed forward southeast of Ypres on a front of two miles, the operation being intended to improve their position.

Along the Hindenburg line fighting is largely between patrols.

Berlin Admits French Success. Berlin, Sept. 16, via London.—In engagements between the Ailette and Aisne rivers the enemy gained a footing in the southern part of Vally. The text of the statement reads: "On the Lys plateau south of La Hassee canal, we carried out successful enterprises."

"There was a vigorous artillery engagement early in the morning between Havrincourt and Ephe which was followed by enemy partial attacks near and south of Havrincourt. The enemy was repulsed. Fighting activity remained within moderate limits the whole day.

"North and east of Vermand, at Holnon Wood and near Esnygny Le Grand there were infantry engagements.

There have been vigorous partial engagements between the Ailette and the Aisne. After futile thrusts early in the morning the enemy in the evening again broke forward to attack. In the main he was repulsed, but he has somewhat extended the point which he has gained a footing in the southern part of Vally.

"Between the Aisne and the Vesle the enemy infantry remained inactive. We cleared up a small French nest which remained as the result of the fighting on Saturday.

100,000 POLES READY TO FIGHT WITH ENTENTE

Polish Division Will Act With Allies in Siberian Campaign. Harbin, Saturday, Sept. 7.—(By The Associated Press)—A movement exceeding, perhaps, that of the Czechoslovaks is being organized by Polish officers to form a Polish division to fight in Siberia westward to their appointed destination as integrals in the American army. According to conservative estimates an army of more than 100,000 trained militiamen is immediately available in the regions of Harbin, Nikolai and Vladivostok.

BOLSHEVIKI LEADERS MERELY HUN AGENTS

Another Amazing Chapter in the Record of German Intrigue and Russian Perfidy.

COMPLETE EXPOSURES OF PLOTS TO DISRUPT ALLIED WAR EFFORT

German Agents To Be Sent To Allied Countries To Promote a Peace By Negotiation, Organize Counter-Revolutionary Campaigns and Spread Seeds of Dissatisfaction With Continuance of War—Trotzky's Guilt Amply Proven.

Washington, Sept. 16.—Secret activities against the United States and the Allies by the German paid and controlled Russian Bolsheviki government, are the subject of today's chapter of confidential documents from Russia, given to the public by the American government.

One of the documents, a terse note from the German general staff to the council of people's commissars, discloses that as long ago as a November, 1917, when the Russian regime still was regarded as an ally of the nations at war with Germany, the Germans were busily requiring Lenin and Trotzky to furnish information regarding the amounts and places of storage of supplies received by Russia from America, England and France. Others tell of the launching in January and February, of this year of a Bolsheviki peace and socialist propaganda against the United States, England and France, at the direction of the German intelligence service. This was at the very time that Scheidemann, the powerful German Socialist and world socialism apostle was in communication with his Russian brothers regarding the destruction of the traces of the party's business relations with the imperial government.

The intelligence service requested the Bolsheviki to send to the Allied countries through neutral Europe "comrades" under assumed names and with false neutral passport, to preach their doctrine of disorganization and to carry on campaigns of "counter revolution, sabotage, looting, etc."

(Continued on Page Two.)

UNION OF THE PRESBYTERIANS AND ANGLICANS

Interesting Suggestion Made To the General Church of England Synod in Toronto

Toronto, Sept. 16.—Unity of effort between the Christian Churches of Canada, more especially between the Presbyterian and Anglican Communions, was urged before the general synod of the Church of England in Canada, in session here today by a deputation representing the former denomination, who conveyed a message of greeting to the Anglican clergy, and by Right Rev. A. J. Doull, Bishop of Kootenay, and Venerable Archdeacon Paterson-Smythe, Montreal, who replied on behalf of the synod.

Hamilton Cassels, representing the laymen of the Presbyterian Church, appealed for the unity of the two churches under one head, and, in replying, the Bishop of Kootenay hoped that a way would be found to unite the best features of Episcopacy and Presbyterianism. The two churches, he said, should let bygones be bygones, and as Christian brethren, see what could be done, "to bring about the dawn of that blessed day when Christian people can be of one accord in one place."

He was followed by Archdeacon Paterson-Smythe, who hoped that the relations existing between the two denominations would extend beyond mere friendly courtesies.

In joint session, the major portion of the day's proceedings was taken up with the revision of the Book of Common Prayer, and the report of the joint committee was read by Right Rev. David Williams, Bishop of Huron. He thought that something like finality should be arrived at in the matter of revision, but was not desirous that the door be absolutely closed against further changes. No alterations, he said, had been made, either in doctrine or principle, and theoretical revisions had been rigorously excluded. The discussion on the sections relating to the prefatory matter to the prayer book was concluded at the evening session, few amendments being made.

LENINE IN FEAR OF THE CZECHO-SLOVAKS

Amsterdam, Sept. 16.—In a note issued by Premier Lenine, hints are made that the Bolsheviki government may seek alliances with other governments, because of the situation on the Czechoslovak front, which the note says, is becoming more dangerous daily.

Macedonia Is A Centre Of Interest

New Serbian Army Making Good Headway Against the Bulgars.

GREAT ATTACK NOW EXPECTED IN

Work of Airplanes Increasing on All Fronts—British and French Troops Do Well.

London, Sept. 16.—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, have stormed three strongly fortified Bulgarian positions and occupied Vetrok, Dobropole and Soka—considered the most important part of the Macedonian front.

French troops in their advance toward the Chemin-Des-Dames, have gained two-thirds of a mile on a two and a half mile front to the northeast and east of Sancy where they captured an additional 600 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.

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 air force on Sunday accounted for 37 German planes, while they themselves reported sixteen missing.

While the Czechoslovaks have been courageously and successfully carrying on the war against the Bolsheviki, 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 integrals in the American army. It is estimated that 100,000 trained men can be made available at once in the regions of Harbin, Nikolai and Vladivostok.

CANADIAN WINS VICTORIA CROSS

Corporal Joseph Keeble of Quebec Gets Coveted Honor For Deed That Cost Him His Life.

London, Sept. 16.—(Canadian Press despatch from Reuter's Limited)—The London Gazette announces the award of three new Victoria Crosses, the recipients being a Canadian corporal, Joseph Keeble, M.M., late of a Quebec regiment, an Australian lieutenant, and a sergeant of the 54th (Highlanders). The latter, like Keeble, is dead in bravery, and extracted for conspicuous bravery, and extraordinary devotion to duty, when in charge of a Lewis gun section in the front line trenches, upon which a strong enemy raid had been attempted.

CARDINAL FARLEY "HOPELESSLY ILL"

Mamoureck, 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."

Last Minute Bulletins Telling Latest War News

Flight Coming in Vosges. With the American Army in the Vosges, Sept. 16.—Artillery activity of an intensity to suggest a possible attack, or an expected attack, occurred in the Vosges today. It was accompanied by an extraordinary amount of signalling. Enemy airplanes were unusually active. Ten flew over St. Die and twenty over Gerardmer.

Serbia Still Gaining. London, Sept. 16, (Franco-Serbian offensive)—A Serbian official statement issued here tonight gives the captured by the Franco-Serbian forces as Vetrok, Dobropole, and Soka, which is the most important part of the Macedonian front.