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The Toronto World

THURSDAY MORNING JUNE 20 1918

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 43,735 TWO CENTS

ITALIANS WITHSTAND BITTER ASSAULTS

40,000 Germans Cut to Pieces at Rheims---Peasants Revolt at Kiev

GERMANS MEET DISMAL DEFEAT BEFORE RHEIMS

At Every Point They Are Repulsed With Heavy Losses.

ONLY A FEW RETURN

French Troops Prevent the Enemy From Scoring Even Initial Success.

With the French Army in France, June 19.—Large units of German shock troops which had been concentrated on the western side of Rheims, between Vigny and Ornes, and which went over to assault last night, were met with such an awful fire from the French defence that they were unable to make the slightest progress. They suffered such losses after trying time after time to reach the French positions that only a few of the attackers were able to return to their own lines.

When the Germans launched their attack in full force on Rheims their intention was to deal a heavy counter-blow to compensate for their failure to capture Compiègne. Forty thousand troops participated in the assault along the front extending from Vigny Plateau to Sillery, with orders to carry the city at all costs. They met with dismal defeat.

At every point they were repulsed with heavy losses. In a most gallant manner the French troops prevented the enemy from scoring even an initial success. The artillery preparation lasted for several hours and was one of the most terrific yet carried out. High explosives from hundreds of cannon intermingled with numerous poison gas shells.

To the east of Rheims the Germans at first made some gains, but were soon thrown back to their original positions, and a considerable number of them were taken prisoner.

At Rheims the fighting was still heavy, but the attack may for the moment be regarded as a complete defeat for the attacking forces.

Four separate columns of troops. The first covering on Zouaves Wood, southeast of Sillery, obtained a momentary foothold in the French lines, but was immediately ejected with heavy losses.

The second debouched near the artillery range eastward of Rheims, but it did not even reach the allied positions. The third column tried to reach the Constantine farm and proceeded in the direction of Haubette, west of Rheims, but was unsuccessful while the fourth operated between Vigny and Ornes, bearing chiefly toward the last-named village, but equally without result.

The Germans suffered severe casualties in the latter region.

The admirable counter-battery work of the French gunners upset all the German plans, their shells doing great execution among the enemy. Enemy concentrations in the vicinity of Jambry were waiting to enter the combat in the event the first onslaught succeeded.

FRENCH OFFICIAL

Paris, June 19.—The war office announcement tonight says: "There was no event of importance during the course of the day."

"On June 18 our air squadrons brought down or put out of action six German airplanes and set fire to one captive balloon. Our bombing machines dropped ten tons of projectiles last night on railway stations, cantonments and bivouacs in the region of Villers Franqueux, Faverolles and Fismes.

"Eastern theatre, June 18: West of Lake Dolman and on the right bank of the Vardar there were artillery duels. North of Monastir our troops repulsed an enemy surprise attack. Our patrols penetrated several points of the enemy's lines and brought back Bulgarian and Austrian prisoners. Allied airplanes carried out numerous bombardments. British aviators brought down three enemy machines.

"Belgian communication: Several of our detachments effectively carried out raids on the enemy lines in the region of Merkem and Boesinghe and brought back about 20 prisoners.

"In the last 48 hours the artillery activity has been quite feeble along the whole front. Our artillery has done some shelling."

EMEMY STRATEGY IS NOT PROFOUND

Nervousness of Initial Failure Has Handicapped Austrians.

CHANGES FAVOR ALLIES

Germans Give No Active Help, But Are After Booty.

London, June 19.—The military correspondent of the British wireless service, describing the situation on the Italian front, says: "Such slight alterations as have taken place on the Italian front have been in favor of the allies. On the Montello the situation appears to be better than was at first imagined. The ground gained by the enemy in his initial attack is now seen to be less than the first estimate, while the high points remain in Italian hands.

"Up to the present the enemy has not exhibited anything very profound in the way of strategy, and the present situation suggests that the nervousness of his initial failure handicapped him and prevented him from developing his plans upon the line he had previously laid down.

"Apart from a certain amount of material and artillery he has received no active help from the Germans, although it is interesting to note that, if he did not supply infantry, the Germans have not failed to send a requisitioning battalion for the express purpose of securing for the Germans a definite share of whatever booty fell to the attacking forces."

AUSTRIANS NOW ARE DESPERATE OVER FAILURE

Emperor is Determined to Make Another Attempt to Advance.

ITALIANS GAIN GROUND

Immense Losses Inflicted on the Enemy as Bitter Battle Continues.

London, June 19.—Reuter's Rome correspondent says that according to reports the Austrian Emperor, who is at the front, is disappointed at the results obtained in the present offensive, and, jealous of the excessive credit the Germans took for their share in last year's offensive, is determined to make another desperate attempt to overwhelm the Italians unaided, before asking German assistance.

Italian Official Report.

Rome, June 19.—The text of the Italian statement follows: "On the night of June 17-18 and in the course of yesterday the enemy did not renew his attack from the Asiago Plateau to the Montello. His partial actions were completely repulsed in the Grappa and Montello region.

"We carried out thrusts on the Asiago Plateau, the allied detachments capturing many scores of prisoners and two guns.

"With unceasing pressure we shortened the front opened by enemy south of the Montebelluno Railway. Our artillery with deadly concentration of fire did not give truce to the enemy masses waiting along the front of the battle or in movement in the back areas.

"Yesterday morning was calm on the Piave River, but in the afternoon the battle again broke out furiously.

Enemy's Impetus Broken.

"New attempts made by the enemy to cross to the right bank from San Andrea to Candeli were repulsed. On the embankment of the river between Candeli and Fossalta the strenuous defence of our troops tried the enemy severely, and his impetus was broken by our infantry.

"Equally intense was the struggle which raged in the sector of Fossalta, southwest of Meolo and north of Capo Sile.

"Every yard of ground was the theatre of epic struggles, in which our own and allied airplanes took part, bombarding with 15,000 kilograms of bombs and firing tens of thousands of machine gun rounds into the vulnerable targets offered by the enemy troops forced into the narrow space on the right bank of the river.

"The battle is continuing bitterly. The enemy, in order to preserve some of the initial advantages gained by him, takes no heed of the immense losses which our rifle fire and the guns of our army have been inflicting in the past few days.

"Prisoners taken since the beginning of the battle amount to 9,011. Many guns and several hundred Austrian machine guns remain in our hands.

"The number of enemy airplanes brought down now amounts to fifty. Two of our own or allied machines are missing."

STOCKS OF LIQUOR NEAR EXHAUSTION

Two Months' Supply Imported in Last Great Rush.

SALES BY VENDORS

License Board Interviewed Those in Toronto Yesterday.

Curiosity as to the amount of liquor shipped into Ontario during the big drive just prior to the prohibition of importation may be appeased by the statement of those who watched closely the traffic, that it was valued at \$5,000,000. This is regarded as a conservative figure. Under the old license system, Ontario's drink bill was about \$30,000,000 a year, so that the last-minute supply shipped in from Quebec would, under normal conditions only last two months. Of this, the same authority figures that half is now resting in the cellars of the rich, while the other half is or was available for bootlegging purposes.

But the bootleggers have had a pretty busy time of it of late, and most of their stock has been disposed of or confiscated in raids by the authorities. For what they have left they are asking anywhere up to \$8 a bottle, according to the brand. A standard brand of Scotch will bring this price, and there is no occasion to be afraid of a shortage. There are about 12,000,000 gallons of spirits in the country, and the stock of whisky is a potable liquor and drinkable. The balance is high wines. As nearly all the large distilleries are in Ontario it is not surprising that the government is now in bond here under the supervision of the inland revenue department. The only outlet under the law for this province with whisky of a sort, is now in bond here under the supervision of the inland revenue department. The only outlet under the law for this province with whisky of a sort, is now in bond here under the supervision of the inland revenue department.

Nearing Exhaustion.

With the traffic well on the road to exhaustion "moonshining" and smuggling it in are the only ways to secure liquor, except thru the government vendor. This state of affairs has led to an agitation to have the government take over the whole business.

The temperance forces, however, are united in opposing this. "It would be a huge mistake for them to do any such thing," said Ben Spence, president of the Ontario Temperance Society. "The drugists should be cut down. The whisky should be secured now by the government, and the distilleries will be taken over by the government. This is the only way to handle the situation. It is not a matter of liquor, but of the human wreckage of the open traffic liquor."

It is pointed out that while some doctors are issued orders for liquor in such quantities as to create a public scandal, this is not a general practice, but is confined to a comparatively few members of the profession. In fact, there are some physicians who decline absolutely to give prescriptions no matter what the ailment is.

With regard to the big profits made by the present vendors the Ontario License Board is making an investigation. Yesterday they had before them the two local ones, and as a result an announcement may be made shortly of a reduction in the price. It is felt that if liquor has to be prescribed no enormous profits should be allowed.

COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS TO BE CREATED IN ENGLAND

Will Deal With All Domestic Questions Requiring Cooperation of More Than One Department.

London, June 19.—Chancellor Bonar Law, in the house of commons, and Earl Curzon, in the house of lords, today gave explanations of a report that another cabinet for home affairs was to be created.

Mr. Bonar Law said the report was an entire mistake. It was simply intended to appoint a committee to deal with definite sets of questions, and the ultimate authority would be the war cabinet.

Earl Curzon was more explicit. He said that a committee on home affairs would be appointed. It would consist of members connected with the principal home departments and would meet under the presidency of the home secretary, at least once a week. All domestic questions requiring the cooperation of more than one department would be referred to the committee, which would be empowered to reach decisions on behalf of the cabinet. But the larger questions of policy, he added, would be referred, at the chairman's direction, to the war cabinet.

During the course of the debate in the house of commons today, several members criticized the extravagance of the government finance, and the needless multiplying of official bodies.

The chancellor, in reply, contended that in such a tremendous affair as the war some extravagance was inevitable, but he said, the government was doing everything possible to check the expenditure and had already, by taking control of commodities, saved the country many millions.

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PEACE ONLY BY LEAGUE OF ALL NATIONS

Two Principal Conditions for League Essential, Says Viscount Grey.

LEAD, NOT FOLLOW

Germany Must Experience Change of Heart and Abjure Her Militarism.

London, June 19.—The widest interest will be evinced in a pamphlet on "The League of Nations," written by Viscount Grey, who was secretary of foreign affairs in the cabinet of Herbert Asquith, at the beginning of the European war.

"There is more at stake in the war than the existence of individual states or empires or the fate of a continent," says Viscount Grey. "The whole of modern civilization is at stake, and whether it will perish and be submerged, as has happened to previous civilizations of older type, or whether it will live and progress depends upon whether the nations engaged in this war, and even those that are onlookers, learn the lessons that experience of the war may teach them.

"It must be with nations, as with individuals in the great trial, if they cannot stand still. They must learn and profit by experience and rise to greater heights, or else they will drop eventually into the abyss. And this war is the greatest trial of which there is any record in history. If the nations do not learn the lessons that this war may teach, the world will be a more desolate place than it is now. The idea must be adopted with earnestness and conviction by the executive heads of states. It must become an essential part of their practical policy, one of the chief reasons for their being or continuing to be responsible for the policy of their states. They must not adopt it only to render such service to the persons whom it is convenient to please or ungracious to displease. They must lead and not follow; they must compel, if necessary, and not be compelled."

This condition Viscount Grey thinks is actually fulfilled as regards the executive head of the United States and may really be found present in regard to the entire government, while Austria has publicly shown a disposition to accept the proposal and probably will do so. It is a safeguard for the future, not only against bold enemies, but against Prussian domination. As long, however, as military rule in Germany continues, Germany will oppose a league of nations, he says.

Germany must abjure Militarism.

"Nothing will change this," Viscount Grey continues, "except conviction in the German people that the use of force causes at least as much suffering to themselves as to others, and that security based upon the law and a sense of mutual advantage is better than the risks, dangers and suffering of the exerting of supreme power and efforts to obtain it. And this conviction must so work upon them as to displace the military party and their policy and ideals from power in Germany.

"Germany has to be convinced that force does not pay, that the aims and policy of her military rulers inflict intolerable and also unnecessary suffering upon her, and that when the world is free from the menace of these rulers, she will be able to enjoy the fruits of peace with their sharp swords, shining armor and mailed fists. Germany will find peaceful development assured and preferable to the expansion by war, and will realize that the condition of true security for one nation in absence of security on the part of all nations.

"Till Germany feels this to be true, there can be no league of nations in the sense intended by President Wilson. A league such as he desires must include Germany and should include no nation that is not thoroughly convinced of the advantage and necessity of such a league and that therefore is prepared to make the efforts, and if need be the sacrifices, necessary to maintain it."

Will Impose Limitations.

The second condition, says Viscount Grey, is that the governments and not the people of states willing to favor the league, must understand clearly that it will impose some limitations upon the national action of each and may entail some inconvenient obligations. The smaller and weaker nations will

WITNESS IN SCANDAL CHARGED WITH BIGAMY

London, June 19.—Mrs. Villiers-Stewart, one of the chief witnesses at the trial of Noel Pemberton Billing, member of parliament, and publisher of the newspaper Vigilante, for having libeled Miss Maud Allen, was charged in the Marylebone police court today with bigamy. It is alleged that she married Stewart, her present husband, who is an army officer, while her first husband, Percival Bray, formerly a motor bus driver, was still alive.

Mrs. Stewart caused a sensation at the Pemberton-Billing trial by testifying that Noel Primrose, who was killed while with the British forces in Palestine, had showed her the German "black book," which was alleged to have contained the names of 47,000 persons in England, including those of ex-Frank and Mrs. Asquith and Viscount Haldane. She was remanded for one week.

TRANSIT FACILITIES THE CHIEF PROBLEM

King Street Association is Considering Improvement of Thoroughfare.

ACCESS TO STATION

Opening of New Streets One of the Matters Being Thought Out.

West King street, from Bay to Simcoe, which has fallen from grace in a business sense, as the result of the northward trend, bids fair to come into its own again. The merchants, financial institutions and property owners who have recently formed an association with the object of restoring the street's lost prestige, met yesterday afternoon. The president, Julian Sale, presided. He had been out of town for a considerable time and was surprised to see that things had improved during his absence. Several new shops had opened up, the older ones looked brisker and brighter, and indicated what might be accomplished when a well considered campaign for the rejuvenation of the street was got under way.

The association will probably develop into something more than a purely parochial organization. It is felt by some of the members that a general policy for the whole of the downtown section will have to be developed before they may expect to receive any benefits themselves. With this in view a transportation committee will be appointed to consider the improvement of the transit facilities not alone on King street but also on streets leading to it. The opening of new streets as a means of retaining its position as a fashionable shopping thoroughfare will be taken up and already plans to this end are being prepared to show the members what might be accomplished. A street in the middle of the long block extending from Bay to York so as to give access to the new union station is one of the first proposals to be considered, and also streets to the north.

"Watch King street grow" is the association's motto.

The executive committee, around which will centre the really active work of the association has been appointed as follows: R. T. Stanley, H. Taylor and Julian Sale, Wesley E. Barker is the publicity representative.

FIGHTING IN THE OPEN WITHOUT ANY TRENCHES

Italians and Austrians Continue the Struggle With No Protection—Airmen Are Active.

Italian Army Headquarters, June 19.—Sirensounding fighting continued today around the Montello Plateau and on the bottom lands along the Piave near Sandona di Piave, both the Italians and Austrians concentrating their efforts at these points. Most of the battles are in the open without protecting trenches.

There is great aerial activity, the opposing airplanes flying low over the fighting soldiers, doing much damage in the opposing ranks.

"They almost take your hat off," is how one officer described the low flying of the airmen.

With their machine guns the aviators pursue the troops along the fluctuating battle lines and even seek them out among the thick bushes which are characteristic of the country along the lower Piave.

ORGANIZED REVOLT HAS BEGUN AT KIEV

Forty Thousand Armed Peasants Expel Artillery Stores and Street Fighting is Continuous.

London, June 19.—A great revolt has broken out at Kiev, according to an intercepted wireless message transmitted from Moscow to the Exchange Telegraph Company. Artillery stores have been expelled and there is continuous street fighting. The revolt is spreading to the Poltava and Tchernigov districts. Forty thousand peasants, armed and organized, are participating in the revolt.

Prisoners and Machine Gun Are Taken by the British

London, June 19.—Field Marshal Haig reports tonight as follows from the British front: "In a successful raid we captured a few prisoners and a machine gun. Tuesday night northeast of Bethune. On Wednesday morning a hostile raiding party was repulsed with loss of prisoners and a machine gun. The raiding party was somewhat more active Wednesday in the Albert sector, in the neighborhood of Locon and Dickebusch Lake."

STRIKES IN VIENNA

Reduction in Bread Rations Causes Rioting in Streets.

London, June 19.—According to a despatch from Zurich to the Exchange Telegraph there have been considerable strikes in Vienna owing to a reduction in the bread rations. At one time the police had to disperse the strikers.

CRISIS IN BULGARIA SINCE PEACE TREATY

Censorship Prevents Any Allusion to Conditions Existing Since Agreement Was Signed.

Amsterdam, June 19.—The Cologne Volks Zeitung declares that a crisis has existed in Bulgaria ever since the conclusion of the Bucharest peace, but that censorship prevented any allusion to it.

The Bulgarian parties, it says, did not forgive Premier Radoslavoff that he failed to return from Bucharest with the entire Dobruja. This, together with the food situation, led to the defection of a large number of the premier's supporters.

With Radoslavoff, the last of the leading statesmen active at the outbreak of the war lays down office.

THE CITY'S SENIOR MEMBER, AT LEAST

Ottawa Citizen: Toronto Globe says that the C.N.R. office will not be moved from Toronto and that "public ownership will dwell in the house of its friends."

Does The Globe base its description of Toronto in this respect on the record of Toronto's representatives in the commons in regard to public ownership in the past? What a tribute to Billy Maclean!

Upper Yonge Street.

Editor World: I fully agree with the writer in yesterday's World to the intolerable condition of upper Yonge street, and hope some attempt will be made to improve it. Loud complaints are made by the drivers of the ambulances who have to go to and from the Davill's military hospital. I am told that Controller McBride was mainly responsible for cutting Commissioner Harris' appropriation down to such a low figure that the commissario or finds it impossible to make even a reasonable attempt to keep the city's main highway in a safe and satisfactory condition for travel.

One Who Uses Yonge Street.

CANADIAN FORESTERS WILL NOT RAISE RATES

Long Discussion Ends in Vote Near Midnight Against the Proposal.

The proposal to increase the rates of the Canadian Order of Foresters was defeated yesterday. The convention which is meeting in Toronto spent most of the day debating the matter, and it was nearing midnight when the vote was taken. There was much support for the proposal to raise the rates, and the discussion was lively at times. Many amendments to the proposition were presented. Some time was spent on the choice of a place of meeting next year, but no decision was arrived at.

MAKE NO HEADWAY AGAINST BRITISH

Austrians Cannot Gain Any Ground Along Piave River.

FIGHTING STILL HEAVY

River is in Flood and Enemy's Bridges Are Washed Away.

London, June 19.—The Austrians have been able to make virtually no progress against the British forces holding an important section of the line on the Italian front. The situation on the British front is unchanged, according to the official communications tonight describing these operations.

The statement says: "There has been heavy fighting on the Piave front, but the enemy made little if any progress Tuesday. The river is in flood and many of the enemy's bridges have been washed away."

"The situation on the British front is unchanged. Two additional mountain guns have been captured."

THERE'S LUCK IN LEISURE

In some instances this old saying is true, but it does not apply in the matter of summer hats. These are the days when a man feels alert and jaunty, and a new straw or Panama helps materially. Get all the wear you can out of your new summer hat by selecting it now. Don't wait until the real hot days come and then find the best values and varieties gone. Visit Dineen's, Temperance and Yonge streets.