

GERMAN FOREIGN SECRETARY ADMITS POSSIBILITY OF DEFEAT

Czecho-Slovak Forces Have Captured Irkutsk

German Army Astounded At Defeat of The Austrians

Home Rule Issue Baffling Declares Lloyd George

Huns Cannot be Certain of Winning the War by Force

Kuehlmann's Admission Caused Sensation in Reichstag; Atmosphere of Gloom Pervaded Building, and Exchange Weakened on Receipt of His Speech

ALEXIEFF HAS TAKEN IRKUTSK

Czecho-Slovak Troops Advancing Under Former Russ Commander-in-Chief

GERMANS TO MARCH UPON SMOLENSK

Foreign Minister Protests to Berlin Against Resumption of Hostilities ACT INEXPLICABLE

IRISH QUESTION MOST BAFFLING ISSUE OF DAY

No Doubt of Conspiracy in Ireland Against British Rule, Declares Lloyd George—Hopes For Restoration of Peace and Amity in Ireland

By Courier Leased Wire. PARIS, June 26.—Havas Agency.—Acknowledgement by Foreign Secretary von Kuehlmann that Germany cannot be certain of winning the war by force of arms caused an indescribable sensation in the Reichstag, says a Zurich dispatch to The Petit Journal. His prediction that the war might last through a fifth winter was received in silence, and there was much consternation among the members of the Right. The debate which followed the foreign secretary's speech was very stormy, pan-Germanist speeches being interrupted by the Left.

hardly begun to speak when it became so dark in the House that the deputies could hardly be distinguished from the press gallery. This atmosphere of gloom, it is added, was sympathetic of the entire speech and its reception, especially the foreign secretary's reference to the prolongation of the war. Chancellor von Hertling and Vice Chancellor von Paye sat on either side of the Foreign Secretary.

ZEYLLER DECLINES LONDON, June 26.—Baron von Zeydler, the Austrian premier, announced on Monday that he had declined the invitation of Emperor Charles to constitute a new cabinet, according to a Zurich dispatch to The Exchange Telegraph Company. The premier's decision was announced at the time the Austrian situation, which was unanimously recognized as critical, was discussed.

A dispatch from Germany says that exchange on Berlin and Vienna weakened on the receipt of the secretary's speech. The mark fell 2.60 and the crown 1.05. Allied exchange continued firm.

ABSENCE OF ENTHUSIASM AMSTERDAM, June 25.—There was an utter absence of enthusiasm in the Reichstag debate, says a Berlin dispatch to The Handelsblad. Foreign Secretary von Kuehlmann had

Emperor Charles announced that he was personally addressing Emperor William in connection with this situation.

By Courier Leased Wire. London, June 26.—The city of Irkutsk, Siberia, has been captured by (Czecho-Slovak troops under General Alexieff, according to Berlin advices received in Copenhagen and transmitted to the Exchange Telegraph Company. General Alexieff is the former Russian commander-in-chief. EX-CAZAR STILL LIVING. London, June 26.—There is no foundation for the persistent rumor that Nicholas Romanoff, the former emperor has been assassinated, says an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Moscow, dated June 21. A report last night received in Copenhagen through Stockholm, said that Russian Red Guards had murdered the former emperor. A dispatch from German sources last week reported that the former emperor had been removed to Moscow for safekeeping.

By Courier Leased Wire. London, June 26.—The Germans are preparing to march eastward toward Smolensk, says an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Moscow. Foreign Minister Teletchurim, accordingly, it is added, has sent the following telegram to Ambassador Joffe at Berlin: "The military authorities at Smolensk report that Germans are concentrating large forces. On the road to Smolensk a German detachment has attacked and occupied a few small villages and demand is made that the bridge across the Dnieper be handed over. The German soldiers declare they have been ordered to advance to Smolensk. I consider the advance inexplicable." Smolensk is about 225 miles west-southwest of Moscow and is on the direct route to the Belshvsk capital.

By Courier Leased Wire. LONDON, June 26.—Discussing the Irish question in the House of Commons last night, Lloyd George said that the problem was the most baffling that had ever come under the consideration of the government or of parliament. It had baffled many governments that had more time to consider it than the present one. Dealing with the evidence on the conspiracy, the prime minister said it was the same evidence that was adduced in 1916. There was no doubt in the mind of anyone who had examined the evidence that there existed a very serious conspiracy in which powerful people in Ireland were engaged in an effort to subvert British rule in Ireland.

In the second place, he said, there was the attitude of the Catholic Church, which associated itself with the challenge to imperial supremacy. He thought that was one of the most fatal mistakes the church had committed and believed every member of the church outside Ireland and a great many inside Ireland, felt it was a mistake and wished to disassociate themselves from it. Mr. Lloyd George said it would be an act of folly to try to force home rule through under these conditions and until the existing attitude was removed. He regarded the action of the Sinn Feiners and others concerned in the plot in attempting to deal a deadly blow at the Empire at a moment of great peril by

GUELPH CLERGYMEN IN THE PUBLIC EYE



Rev. W. D. Spence, Congregational minister, president of the Guelph Ministerial Association, who in his church centre of the controversy raging around the recent Dominion police raid on the Jesuit Novitiate there.

RYAN PRESS FIRE SWEPT

Several Thousand Dollars' Damage Done by Blaze at Noon Today

FIREMEN PROMPT

Fire, which started in the plant of the P. Ryan Press at 12.20 to-day, and spread to the premises of the Dominion Stationers, Limited, caused damage to the extent of thousands of dollars, and practically wiped out the Ryan printing plant, which occupied the ground floor.

The fire, when first discovered, was located in some cases of writing tablets, already packed and awaiting shipment. On account of the inflammable nature of the materials the fire spread with amazing rapidity, and reaching the ceiling bursted its way into the premises of the Dominion Stationers. Here tons of paper, in course of preparation for the making of tablets and scribbles, made fine fuel, and in spite of the best efforts of the firemen, the upper storey was soon a seething mass of flames. Dense smoke made entrance for the firemen dangerous, but a few moments after the water was turned on the firemen were able to get to the interior of the building, and after a stubborn fight succeeded in preventing the flames from entering the working rooms of the Dominion Stationers, where a quantity of heavy machinery is installed.

In the Ryan plant, where the fire started, the damage is great. Type and presses will be almost a complete loss. This includes a large cylinder press, recently installed. The loss to the Dominion Stationers, of which Mr. Chas. Smith is manager, will be heavy, principally because of the paper stocks destroyed. This will be difficult to replace. Both concerns carry heavy insurance, and the hope is that the amounts may be large enough to cover their loss.

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challenging the whole supremacy of the British Parliament, as the deadliest blow to the liberties of Ireland that had been dealt in its history. Whatever folly there might be in attempting to pass through a measure of self-government until this emotion had subsided the folly of abandoning every attempt to secure Ireland's assent to imperial rule would be still greater folly, said Mr. Lloyd George.

He added that he still was hopeful of the restoration of conditions in Ireland which would recreate the conciliatory spirit which at one time dominated all parties in England and Ireland "that we should be able to secure a settlement of the problem during the war."

The Premier said he hoped the House would not allow any temporary bitterness aroused by the follies of the last few weeks in Ireland to interfere with the prosecution of that policy. Ireland, he continued, would take her share in the war. The Allies were fighting for the principle for which Ireland has struggled, and he hoped that Ireland was prepared voluntarily to take her share in the struggle at any time. It was the duty of the Government, first of all before it took any further action in the matter, to see that Ireland had the opportunity of entering the struggle voluntarily.

Dublin, June 26.—The Irish committee profess to look for active support from the Catholic Church and the Nationalist Party in connection with the proposed meeting of the United Irish League last night, but they would get neither the support of one or the other, it is said. Ireland was prepared voluntarily to take her share in the struggle at any time. It was the duty of the Government, first of all before it took any further action in the matter, to see that Ireland had the opportunity of entering the struggle voluntarily.

Borden Heard Debate London, June 26.—Sir Robert Borden, the Canadian premier, and Sir Horace Plunkett, chairman of the recent Irish convention, watched the proceedings in the House of Commons during the Irish debate with keen interest. Earl Curzon of Kedleston's statement to the House of Lords on the Irish situation, which everyone understood to mean that the government had dropped both home rule and conscription, and the disbelief of the retiring viceroy, Baron Wimborne, expressed in the same House, gave to their views to the House and left the problem where it stood before Earl Curzon spoke.

FOE RETREAT DISORDERLY ROUT

Italian Army Headquarters, June 25.—(By The Associated Press).—Under the fire of Italian machine guns and artillery, which were brought up rapidly, the Austrian withdrawal across the Piave soon became a disorderly rout. It is estimated that the Austrian losses total more than 200,000. It was a terrible sight as the maddened Austrians fled under the deluge of Italian bullets and shells. They leaped into the river and grabbed pieces of wood or anything that would aid them; they tied themselves to mules and horses, but their efforts were in vain as the enemy troops reached the opposite bank, they were again caught by the

fire of Italian guns, which had been trained accurately on the eastern bank for some days. Men who are found in a worse position and sustained heavier losses. A single episode shows how and why the retreat started. On Saturday the Austrian command sent the 91st Schuetzen brigade, composed of regiments numbers 31 and 32, with orders to widen this Austrian breach at Lampon and to do this at all hazards. The brigade attempted to carry out this order and fought like wild men, but the Italian pressure was so terrific that they were unable to accomplish the object which was to succor the Austrian divisions already surrounded in this section.

Along the lower Piave the Austrians found themselves, if possible, in a worse position and sustained heavier losses. A single episode shows how and why the retreat started. On Saturday the Austrian command sent the 91st Schuetzen brigade, composed of regiments numbers 31 and 32, with orders to widen this Austrian breach at Lampon and to do this at all hazards. The brigade attempted to carry out this order and fought like wild men, but the Italian pressure was so terrific that they were unable to accomplish the object which was to succor the Austrian divisions already surrounded in this section.

ANNIVERSARY OF SOLFERINO

After six attacks which continued Saturday night and Sunday morning there remained at one o'clock Monday morning only 90 men of this brigade. Others were either prisoners, wounded or dead. The commanding officer then committed suicide and the 90th surrendered.

Yesterday was the anniversary of the Battle of Solferino, in which the French and Italian armies defeated the Austrians 59 years ago. The victory was proudly emulated by the Italian army in the present fighting. In fleeing the Austrians left behind them much war material. The enemy troops even threw away their rifles and deserted hundreds of machine guns, which were to have been used to protect the retreat. It is estimated that the number of Austrians on the western bank of

the Piave when the retreat began was over 100,000. This great number of men, however, could do nothing against the Italian pressure, despite continuous counter-attacks. The Italian official statement in the past week has frequently emphasized the cruel losses inflicted on the Austrians. Among sixteen prisoners taken at one time on Montello, for instance, it was observed that they belonged to no less than seven different regiments. Prisoners report that serious losses were caused by the Italian artillery, tanks, bombs and machine guns. The 19th Schuetzen division is reported to have lost 30 men from each company on an average.

From the first day of the offensive, Italian morale was of the highest among both the troops and the civilian population. Venice appeared to be little concerned over the fact that the enemy was striking in her direction only 20 miles away. Today, however, Venice awoke to celebrate the Italian victory.

Italian Army Headquarters, Monday, June 24.—(By The Associated Press).—The Duke of Aosta's third army continued today to advance along the Piave front, in the Cape Sile region, cleaning the positions abandoned by the Austrians, picking up the abandoned war material, burying the masses of dead, and reorganizing the entire defense system which had been badly cut up during the past ten days.

The silence of death, it might be said, prevails to-day along the greater part of the Piave river region. The scene at some places where the fighting had been extremely severe.

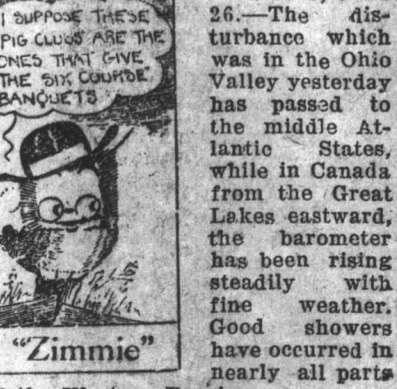
Men will find cool comfort in a pair of Coles' Oxfords on the first. Coles Shoe Co., 122 Colborne Street.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, June 26.—The disturbance which was in the Ohio Valley yesterday has passed to the middle Atlantic States, while in Canada from the Great Lakes eastward, the barometer has been rising steadily with fine weather.

Good showers have occurred in nearly all parts of the Western Provinces.

Forecast. Light winds, fair. Thursday.—Easterly winds, fair at first followed by showers before night.



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Pays R SALE... Cottage, No. 4, 6, and... price \$1,500 each.

Trunk Railway... N. LINE EAST... Standard Time...

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