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PARIS, Sept. 17, 5:20 p.m.—The Germans are slowly giving way in the great battle that continues to-day all along the line of the River Aisne, according to official announcement made in Paris this afternoon.

HEAVY RAIN IS FALLING

Germans are Handicapped by Severe Wet Weather.

Report From Paris on Late Developments of War.

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

PARIS Sept. 17.—The rear guard action, supposed at first to be intended as a check to pursuit and to facilitate the retreat of the mass of the armies of the Generals Von Kluck and Von Buelow, has developed into what will probably be called in history the Battle of Aisne. Whether the Germans found it necessary, or advisable to turn and engage in a general action, this great battle wages fiercely and rivals in importance the Battle of the Marne. The war office says that the French have not retreated at any point. This is true, as if they were on the defensive and this might be expected, in view of the strength of the position the Germans occupy. The official communication Sunday said that the French had not retreated on the Aisne. It is so they have the river at their back while the Germans are strongly entrenched on the heights of Laon and Rheims with their right protected by the Oise and the Aisne at Noyon. The undetermined element in this fight is the allies right which is in pursuit of the crown prince's army. All reports indicate that the latter is quite as demoralized as was Von Kluck's army and is suffering equally from lack of provisions and ammunition. While Von Kluck has no doubt received what he needs in this respect it is doubtful if the crown prince has. The issue of the battle may depend upon what condition the crown prince reaches the front and whether he can make a stand and prevent the allies from turning the German left. Some of the military experts still think that the Germans hope by this action only to check the onrush of the allies and that later they will take up the defensive on the Namur line, there was credit even for a rumor current yesterday that Emperor William had ordered General Von Kluck not to resist in France, and that he was ready to listen to offers of peace through Pope Benedict XV. or President Wilson, but the steady stream of wounded coming from the front seems to disprove this and indicates that the battle will be to a finish. There is still no confirmation of the report that the Indian cavalry have landed in France, and are ready for action. Paris is filled with rumors of the imminent co-operation of these troops as well as of the Belgians, but the reports are without definite foundation. In despatch reporting the rout of 3,000 German cavalry between Hoogeledé and Poperinghe, Belgium, the name of the cavalry forces operating against them is censored. This combat was violent and many autos with quick-firers, and much ammunition and

(Continued from Page 1)

90 MILES OF BATTLE RAGING

British Make Great Attack Across the River Aisne.

Progress of Fighting Recorded in a Late Despatch.

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

LONDON, Sept. 17, 10.15 a.m.—Along a 90 mile front the German armies are at bay and the allies are occupying a ledge across the River Aisne, which was won after one of the most spectacular and thrilling river crossings ever made by an attacking force under fire. For the past two days there have been sporadic attacks from both sides along this line, but according to admissions from the rival headquarters they have not produced any definite results. Both sides have suffered enormously during the past week and the present pause undoubtedly is being used to bring up reinforcements and supplies. Petrograd reports that the flower of the German corps detached for service in East Prussia are again hurrying back to the western front, and Stockholm learns that General Von Hindenburg flushed with victory against the Russians on the East Prussian frontier, has been urgently summoned to command the western army. Something of the horrors of modern warfare is indicated by the hesitancy with which the allied strength, which the allies discuss the losses marking the progress of the armies from the Marne to the Aisne. The stories are told with a great restraint, but with enough gruesome details given to make even military men shudder. The terribly battered second Austrian army is safe around the guns of Przemysl, but with the Russians only 19 miles away. Desperate efforts will likely be made to form a junction with the fourth Austrian army with the idea of reorganizing with Cracow as the main base. The Russians have crossed the River San and are hammering away at the retreating Austrian-German forces. Despite their unprecedented losses, the forces retain their fighting organization and if they gain Cracow they may prevent the Russian right from making a march on Berlin from Warsaw. The Petrograd military critics express the belief that the Germans having recognized the strategic unimportance of East Prussia, will detach their army from that region and begin a march on Warsaw, thus forestalling a Russian offensive movement on Berlin from that direction. The position at Grodek, 16 miles west of Lemberg, occupied by the Russians, is of great natural strength, provides an ideal operating base, and in case of counter attack can be easily defended. The Servian and Montenegrins, continuing their campaign in Bosnia and Herzegovina, are well within these provinces and are optimistically planning a march on Budapest.

MADE BIG BLUNDER IN WITHDRAWING HER MEN TO PRUSSIA

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

LONDON, Sept. 17.—9 a. m.—A Petrograd special despatch to The Times says: "According to the latest information available here, the Germans, realizing the futility of the withdrawal of eight army corps from their western front, are returning their first line of troops from East Prussia westward. Military writers here are still puzzling over the problem why Germany should have made the blunder of sending such an enormous army to East Prussia, where it is now found to remain either inactive or make an attempt to invade Russia with the almost complete certainty of sharing the fate of the Austrian forces in Galicia. "The real object seems to be when half the population of East Prussia stampeded before General Rennenkampf, carrying the panic to Berlin, Germany felt compelled to tranquilize the population by sending a great army to the area occupied by the Russians."

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

NEW YORK, Sept. 17.—The steamer Patia from Marseilles, with 418 passengers, and the steamers Thessaloniki and Athina from Piraeus, the latter having 380 passengers, arrived in port to-day. The steamship Baltic is scheduled late to-day or early tomorrow with passengers from Liverpool and the Lusitania sailed for the same place. The steamship Ansonia sailed for Glasgow with 276 passengers and general cargo.

BRITISH GENERALS PRAISED FOR HEROIC FIGHTING.



All England was electrified by the report of Sir John French, commander of the British expeditionary army, in which, after detailing the thrilling retreat of his forces, always outnumbered four to one, from the battle field of Mons on August 24, to the lines Noyon-Chauny-La Fere on August 28, fighting every inch of the way, he tells how, when the divisions commanded by General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien and Sir Douglas Haig were faced by serious loss in the divisions commanded by General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien and Sir Douglas Haig, to go to his assistance. General Sordet promised to ask the sanction of General Joffre, but said his horses were too tired to move before the next day. General Sordet, however, General French says, intimated valuable assistance. The text of the report of Field Marshal French is addressed to Lord Kitchener, the Secretary for War, and its publication indicates that the government is responding to the public demand for fuller information on the progress of operations, so far as the British forces are concerned, in France.

KRON PRINZ WAS SUNK, REPORTS PILOT AT NEW YORK BUT DETAILS ARE LACKING

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

NEW YORK, Sept. 17.—The North German Lloyd liner Kron Prinz Wilhelm has been sunk at sea by the British cruiser Lancaster now off the Ambrose channel. Petrograd reports that information brought ashore to-day by Pilot Nichols, of the Pioneer, who boarded the Lancaster yesterday, that the Kron Prinz Wilhelm was sunk. The pilot says that the Lancaster's officers so declared. Where and when the Kron Prinz Wilhelm was sunk was not stated. The Kron Prinz Wilhelm sailed from New York on the night of August 3, heavily laden with coal. It was believed that she put to sea to meet German cruisers in the Atlantic and replenish their fuel supply. This belief was strengthened about two weeks later by a story told at Halifax by officers of the British Cruiser Bristol to the effect that they had surprised the German Cruiser Karlsruhe at sea while she was taking aboard coal for the Kron Wilhelm and other German vessels fled. The Kron Prinz Wilhelm has not been reported as arriving at any port. The story of her being sunk was brought to quarantine by Pilot McCarthy aboard the Norwegian freight steamer Hermod, which reached this port to-day from Iceland. McCarthy and Nichols are stationed aboard the Pilot Boat Privateer in the Ambrose channel. According to McCarthy the Lancaster signalled yesterday afternoon for a pilot. Nichols answered the signal and went aboard. The Lancaster's officers wanted the latest newspapers and these were given them by Nichols. Nichols remained aboard a few minutes chatting with the officers and they told him what he afterwards related to McCarthy, that the Lancaster had sunk the Kron Prinz Wilhelm. Fearing that they might believe him too inquisitive, Nichols did not ask when or where the Wilhelm had been sunk and this information was not volunteered. Upon returning to his station, Nichols related the alleged conversation to McCarthy. Both Nichols and McCarthy have long been stationed aboard pilot boats in the channel. Upon reaching quarantine McCarthy left the Hermod and went back to the station boat. Before returning, however, he said that the British cruisers Suffolk and Essex were with the Lancaster about one mile off Ambrose channel and that all three warships apparently were watching closely every outbound vessel.

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

prising in the opinion of observers in London to see the Germans quit Belgium altogether if there is any truth in the report from the eastern arena of the war, which has become the decisive position in German eyes, and that Germany will become content, for the present, to maintain a defensive attitude in the west. Italian and Roumanian activities seem to-day to point to decisive action in the near future. Should these countries take the field against Austria-Hungary, it is argued here that Russia would have her hands freed and that Germany would be thrown entirely on her own resources to repel the Moscowite hosts thus strongly reinforced. Italy seems to have called her reservists to the colors and to be apparently on the point of occupying Avlona in order to safeguard her interests in the Adriatic.

World Watching Clash on River Aisne--Reports are of Conflicting Nature

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

LONDON, Sept. 17, 1.30 p.m.—The world at large has once more been set the task of guessing how the terrific clash of arms on the heights northward of the River Aisne is progressing. Berlin claims that the attacks of the allies have been repulsed and that the German counter-attacks have succeeded while it is asserted officially in London that the German counter attacks have been repulsed and that the invaders are slowly giving away. Sympathizers with both sides are thus met with directly conflicting statements which can be reconciled only on the assumption that the narrators are referring to different points on the vast field of action. As the crow flies the front of the opposing armies, which with the heavy reinforcements that have reached them still probably total in the neighborhood of 3,000,000 men stretches for 110 miles. Making allowances for the deviation north to Laon, the line must be quite 150 miles long, so there is ample room for successes on one part of the field and reverse elsewhere. The Germans are in their selected positions with strong reinforcements rush-

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

ed up from Lorraine; consequently this great battle may yet prove to be the most decisive and momentous of the war. The British and the French armies seem to be attempting to repeat on the Aisne, the turning movements carried out so successfully on the Marne and in the present case they have the additional incentive of knowing that should the German right be again turned there are no great defensive positions behind the invaders until they reach the River Meuse. The position of the army of the German Crown Prince making its way toward the Stenay Gap, remains full of interest. The French army which barred the exit of the Crown Prince my Toul is still hurrying in pursuit of him. There is no confirmation of the reported German abandonment of Liege, but it would not be sur-

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

prising in the opinion of observers in London to see the Germans quit Belgium altogether if there is any truth in the report from the eastern arena of the war, which has become the decisive position in German eyes, and that Germany will become content, for the present, to maintain a defensive attitude in the west. Italian and Roumanian activities seem to-day to point to decisive action in the near future. Should these countries take the field against Austria-Hungary, it is argued here that Russia would have her hands freed and that Germany would be thrown entirely on her own resources to repel the Moscowite hosts thus strongly reinforced. Italy seems to have called her reservists to the colors and to be apparently on the point of occupying Avlona in order to safeguard her interests in the Adriatic.

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LONDON, Sept. 17.—In a despatch from Paris, the correspondent of the Reuter Telegram Company, says a Saxon officer, now a prisoner at Troyes, France admits that the Germans made serious mistakes during the fighting at night which they have indulged in since the beginning of the war. Near Malines, this officer says, a detachment of German artillery annihilated a Prussian regiment

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

under the impression that it was engaging French infantry. Near a frontier village two battalions of the German infantry, mistaking one another for French troops, shot each other down to the last man. Continuing, the correspondent says that Gaston Doumergue, the French minister of the colonies, is going to the department of the Marne to inquire into the situation of the local populace and organize relief measures.

WAR SUMMARY

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

The third day of the battle of the Aisne finds the hosts of the Germans and the allies facing each other along a line of some 90 miles, stretching from Noyon, 55 miles northeast of Paris, southeast to the Swiss frontier. The battle line proper extends roughly from Noyon to Nancy, a distance of about 150 miles. Here between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 men are engaged in a struggle that in ferocity and strategic importance bids fair to rival the battle of the Marne. Each side claims a slight advantage and no more. It is only known that the German retreat has been turned into a stubborn resistance. The allies assert that they were so close on the heels of the Germans that the latter were compelled to turn about and fight to prevent their destruction. German reports represent their armies as re-forming in strong positions, following the withdrawal from the vicinity of Paris and again taking the offensive. Thus far death is the only decided victor. It is admitted that its toll already is enormous—so staggering that official sources hesitate to reveal the facts. Rain continues falling on the battlefield and has rendered parts of it impassable for guns and cavalry, while adding greatly to the distress of the men. This afternoon's official announcement at Paris says that a great battle continues all along the River Aisne and that the Germans are slowly giving way. Conflicting reports of the situation in the eastern theatre of the war are received from official and

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

unofficial sources. The several German army corps sent into East Prussia appear to have pushed back the Russian invaders of that territory with great loss to the Russians. It is thought that a part of the German force may be diverted to Russian Poland. In Galicia the Russian successes seem to be continued with the Austrians and Germans falling back on Przemysl. Enormous losses to the Austrians are admitted at Vienna to which city thousands of wounded are being brought. The latest official announcement at Nish claims less for the Servian arms than have earlier statements, indicating that Austria still has considerable forces available to oppose the Servian invasion. The Servians, however, with the aid of their Montenegrin allies, appear to be more than holding their own. The most recent word from the far east describes the Japanese troops as struggling through the flooded districts south of Shantung peninsula, trying to reach Kiaochow. There is no indication of an early investment of that German stronghold. The Turkish army is reported from Petrograd to be concentrating on the Bulgarian frontier. The final attitude of Italy is awaited with intense interest. Demonstrations in favor of the allies at Rome and other places have been suppressed by the military. Meantime Italy is engaged with the serious situation in Albania, where the insurgents have been threatening since the withdrawal of Prince William of Wied. Italian troops already have been landed at Avlona.

RUSSIA WINNING IN EVERY SPHERE OF IMMENSE CONFLICT

Despatches Indicate That First Chapter of War in the East is Over--Russians Have the Advantage of Fortified Positions

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

LONDON, Sept. 17.—8.45 a. m.—A despatch from Petrograd to the Reuter's Telegram Company gives this outline of the situation in Galicia. "The position of Grodek, occupied by the Russians, is eighteen miles west of Lemberg, and is situated on the heights under which a chain of six almost continuous lakes stretch out towards the Russian frontier, forming a natural defence for 14 miles running north and south. The Austrians abandoned this position after the capture of Lemberg. "Moscoska, to which the Russians have advanced, is a little over 40 miles west of Lemberg, on the main line between Przemysl and Lemberg. The shattered second Austrian army was evidently incapable of staying the Russian advance, and took refuge in Przemysl, from which the Russians are according to the latest official report, are only 19 miles away. "The greatest enthusiasm continues to prevail throughout Russia, and all classes are doing their utmost to help in the present emergency. At Moscow, the Barbers' Guild have offered to shave and cut the hair of soldiers free of charge, while at Vilna, fifteen cab drivers have offered their services for the transportation of the wounded. EVERYONE CALLED OUT PARIS, Sept. 17.—Rome despatches over Vienna says a telegram to the Havas Agency, state

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

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PILED UP THE DEAD AS A BARRICADE TO RENEWED ATTACK

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

LONDON, Sept. 17.—The correspondent of The Times at Paris sends this story of the fighting on the River Aisne: "The enemy has found means to arrest his retreat for the time being and is offering a stubborn resistance on the line which he has prepared strongly for defence. He has received considerable reinforcements, probably from Lorraine, where he seems to have abandoned the offensive.

[By Special Wire to the Courier]

"The fighting is hottest around Soissons where the British army is in action. "Terrible stories are reaching Paris of piles of dead and wounded which encumber the battlefield of the Marne, and the Red Cross is working night and day. At one place, it is said, the Germans erected a barrier, six feet high of corpses behind which to resist the French. The barrier was carried after a terrible struggle by the French troops, leaving 7,500 dead on the battlefield."