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Vigorous Allied Offensive Continues

Big Minnesota Forest Fire

725 BODIES FOUND—POSSIBLE DEATH ROLL OF 1,000—PROPERTY DAMAGE \$75,000,000.

MOOSE LAKE, Minn., Oct. 14.—Men and women of the Moose lake districts of Minnesota, driven by fire from their homes, penniless, many of them wearing clothing furnished by charitable relief workers, tonight took up the search of their dead.

Barred by the military officials from leaving the city, they wandered between long lines of bodies in the improvised morgues, searching for loved ones who have not been heard from since the forest fires laid waste this section of Minnesota and a portion of northern Wisconsin four days ago.

The bodies of 725 victims have been found in the charred "No Man's Land," which before the fires formed the smiling shores of Moose lake and Kettle river. The majority of the bodies, some of which were taken to Duluth, were so badly charred that identification will be difficult.

Adjutant General Rhinow tonight estimated that the number of dead in the Moose lake and Kettle river regions might reach 500. These, with the other dead from adjoining regions, will, it is said, swell the list of dead to near the thousand mark.

Improvised hospitals here, and the permanent institutions at Duluth, are caring for thousands of more or less injured refugees, many of whom are in a critical condition.

Property Damage Amounts to \$75,000,000

Greatest loss of life and property damage is believed to have occurred in the Cloquet region, where a number of towns have been destroyed and all semi-rural settlements virtually wiped out.

A special train of 20 coaches brought 7,500 refugees from Cloquet and Carleton. They confirmed reports that many persons lost their lives in these towns.

The towns of Cloquet, Brookston, Brevort, Corona, Adolph, Thompson, Arnold, Moose Lake and Wright have been wiped out, according to refugees. Scores of hamlets and hundreds of settlers' homes have been destroyed.

Strikes and Lockouts Prohibited

Severe Penalties Provided.

OTTAWA, Oct. 12.—Provision having been already made for the prompt and equitable settlement of all matters of dispute between employees in industries affected by the Industrial Disputes Investigation act, an order-in-council was passed today forbidding for the duration of the war, strikes of lockouts, and imposing severe penalties for violation of the law.

Any person violating any of the regulations is made liable upon summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding \$1,000, or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months, to both fine and imprisonment.

Any male person, employee or employer of military age who vio-

lates any of the regulations and any director of a company who, being of military age, acquiesces in a violation by the company of any of the regulations, shall be deemed to be a soldier enlisted in the military forces of Canada and subject to military law for the duration of the war and of demobilization thereafter. He shall furthermore forfeit any exemption granted to him and any right to apply for, or obtain exemption from military service under the Military Service act.

Announcement of these important regulations was made by Sir George Foster, acting prime minister, following a meeting of the cabinet today.

Whole World Seems Victim of Epidemic of Spanish Grippe

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—Spanish influenza now has spread to practically every part of the country. Reports today to the public health service showed the disease is epidemic in many western and Pacific Coast states as well as in most regions east of the Mississippi river. Its spread also continued in army camps, the number of new cases reported being greater than on the day before.

Influenza now is epidemic in three places, in Arizona, in Maryland, in many parts of Arkansas, in Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia and many other states.

The disease is reported from many parts of California, while in Texas the malady has been reported from seventy-seven counties, with the number of one to four thousand in each county. A slight decrease is noted in the number of cases reported in Massachusetts,

but in the district of Columbia the disease is spreading rapidly, more than 2,000 new cases being reported.

The epidemic continues in New Jersey, and the public health service announced that a physician has been placed in charge at Perth Amboy in co-operation with the state and local health authorities.

New cases of influenza reported today at army camps totalled 13,605, a slight increase over the number yesterday. There also was an increase in pneumonia cases with 2,842 reported. The 820 deaths made a total of 6,543 in the camps since the epidemic started last month.

Reports to the state department today said Spanish influenza is prevalent in Capetown, Africa; Elizabethtown, Australia, and Pernambuco, South America.

Close Stores Early to Fight Plague in Ottawa

OTTAWA, Oct. 14.—The local (Continued on Page 4.)

President Wilson Declines to Accept Prince Maximilian's Peace Offer

Allied World Feels That Arms Have to Decide—Want Complete Victory and Terms of Armistice Dictated by Military Leaders of Allied Forces.

President Wilson's First Reply to Germany's Note.

"To the Imperial German Chancellor.—Before making reply to the requests of the imperial German government, and in order that that reply shall be as candid and straightforward as the momentous interests involved require, the President of the United States deems it necessary to assure himself of the exact meaning of the note of the Imperial Chancellor. Does the Imperial Chancellor mean that the Imperial Government accepts the terms laid down on January 8 last, and in subsequent addresses, and that its object in entering into discussions would be only to agree upon the practical details of their application?"

"The President feels bound to say with regard to their suggestion of an armistice, that he would not feel at liberty to propose a cessation of arms to the governments with which the government of the United States is associated against the central powers so long as the armies of those powers are upon their soil. The good faith of any discussion would manifestly depend upon the consent of the central powers immediately to withdraw their forces everywhere from invaded territory."

"The President also feels that he is justified in asking whether the Imperial Chancellor is speaking merely for the constituted au-

thorities of the empire who so far have conducted the war. He deems the answer to these questions vital from every point of view.

"Accept, sir, these renewed assurances of my high consideration."

(Signed) ROBERT LANSING.

Germany's Reply to Wilson

The full text of Germany's reply is as follows:

"In reply to the question of the President of the United States of America, the German government hereby declares: 'The German government has accepted the terms laid down by President Wilson in his address of January and in his subsequent addresses on the foundation of a permanent peace of justice. Consequently its object in entering into discussions would be only to agree upon practical details of the application of these terms.'

"The German government believes that the governments of the other powers associated with the government of the United States also take the position taken by President Wilson in his address. The German government in accordance with the Austro-Hungarian government, for the purpose of bringing about an armistice, declares itself ready to comply with the propositions of the president in regard to evacuation."

"The German government suggests that the president may occa-

sion the meeting of a mixed commission for making the necessary arrangements concerning the evacuation."

"The present German government which has undertaken the responsibility for this step toward peace, has been formed by conferences and in a great deal with the great majority of the reichstag."

"The chancellor, supported in all of this action by the will of this majority, speaks in the name of the German government and of the German people."

(Signed) SOLF.

State Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Berlin, Oct. 12."

Full Text of President Wilson's Reply to Note from Germany Declaring Against Armistice

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14.—President Wilson today answered Germany's peace proffer with a note declaring anew that there can be no peace with the German government controlled by a military autocracy and no thought of an armistice while Germany's atrocities continue on land and sea.

The full text of the President's note follows:

"The unqualified acceptance by the present German government and by a large majority of the reichstag of the terms laid down by the President of the United States

(Continued on page 4.)

372 Lives Probably Lost Czechs Appeal to Allies to Send Help in U. S. Troopship Disaster

Serious Situation Said to Face New Russian Government in East.

A BRITISH PORT, Oct. 11.—A large number of American troops have been lost as the result of the sinking of the transport Otranto in the North Channel between the Scottish and Irish coast, in a collision with the steamer Kashmir. The Otranto, after the collision, was dashed to pieces on the rocks off the south Scottish coast with a probable loss of 372 American soldiers.

Three hundred and one men were taken to Belfast, by the British destroyer Mounsey, the only vessel which made an attempt at rescuing in the terrific gale when the Kashmir, another vessel of the convoy with the Otranto, rammed the Otranto amidship. Seventeen men were picked up alive on the Scottish coast.

Of the 699 American soldiers on board the Otranto, 310 were landed, 17 were rescued alive at Islay, leaving 372 unaccounted for.

The news of the collision reached London today, but nothing was known of the fate of the Otranto until this morning when the first reports came from Islay. The storm continued to make further attempts at rescue impossible. No ships pass close enough to that coast in rough weather to see a stricken vessel ashore.

Czechs Appeal to Allies to Send Help

Serious Situation Said to Face New Russian Government in East.

VLADIVOSTOCK, Oct. 12.—An appeal to the allies to avert the loss of Samara and Ekaterinburg, as well as to revive the morale of the Czech-Slovak forces fighting in eastern Russia, has been received here at allied headquarters. The situation there is said to be serious.

Czech-Slovak units, which have been fighting at Ekaterinburg, Kazan, Simbirsk, Samara and Orenburg are imperiled, 120,000 Bolshevik troops have joined the Germans in opposing the allied forces in that region. News comes from Tcheliabinsk that the Czech-Slovaks are losing heavily and retreating along the northern front. Ufa, which is one of the principal points for Czech-Slovaks, is threatened and its loss would be well nigh fatal to the Czech-Slovaks at Samara.

Discouraging reports are received from Orenburg, which it has been supposed was held by the Cossacks. German activities in Astrakhan indicate a movement by the enemy through Turkestan and the exploiting of vast quantities of cotton, wheat and minerals.

Another Appeal.

VLADIVOSTOCK, Oct. 13.—Another appeal to the Allies for im-

Explosives Plant Wrecked By Blast

But Only One Life Lost.

TRENTON, Ont., Oct. 14.—A dozen explosions in the T. N. T. and gun cotton works of the British Explosives Limited here this evening, resulted in the practical destruction of that works, but, so far as is known, resulted in the death of only one man, name unknown. The first explosion took place at 7.10 p.m. which, followed by a dozen others, set fire to the works and broke every window in town. The fire was confined to the works, in which the explosions took place and at midnight it was reported that no further danger was to be feared. Alarming rumors which had spread to Toronto, Ottawa and other cities, stated that hundreds, if not thousands of persons had lost their lives.

mediate help for the Czech-Slovak troops on the Volga front in European Russia is made by Dr. Girsas, of the Czech-Slovak National Council. Unless help is sent to them, Dr. Girsas declares, the fruits of their sufferings will be lost.

Nevertheless, he says, the troops, through their commanders, assure "Father Mazaryk" (Czech-Slovak provisional president) that they will perform their duty to the end and die rather than tarnish the honor and glory of the Czech-Slovak arms.

French Have Taken Laon—Roulers, First Important Belgian City Recaptured by French—British Stormed Cambrai, with Canadians Entering First

Marshals Foch and Haig Start Huge Drive Across Flanders; Ghent Their Objective—From the Balkans the Capture of Nish, Serbia, and Durazzo, Albania is Reported.

BRITISH

LONDON, Oct. 15.—The British second army fighting in Flanders has reached Lechat on the Courtrai-Ingelmunster road and has captured the villages of Gulleghem and Heule. The British have advanced to the outskirts of Courtrai. This announcement was made shortly before midnight by the war office, which also corroborated the Belgian and French successes in Flanders.

Northeast of Lens, the British have advanced in the region of Hauburdin and to the south have crossed the Haute Deule canal, south of Pont-a-Vendin, and taken several villages, according to the communication from Field Marshal Haig issued tonight. The text follows:

"We have crossed the Haute Deule canal on both sides of Pont-a-Vendin and have captured Estevelles, Meurchin and Bauvin. Further north our troops made progress in the region of Hauburdin."

On the remainder of the British front south of the river Lys there is nothing to report."

FRENCH

PARIS, Oct. 15.—"Local operations enabled us to better our positions on the left bank of the Oise in the region of Mont d'Origny. South of the Serre we occupied Monecau-les-Leups. We have reached one kilometre south of Assis-sur-Serre."

"With the co-operation of Italian troops we took and passed Sissons, more to the east. In spite of stubborn resistance by the enemy, we have greatly progressed on the north bank of the Aisne. We have advanced our lines past the villages of La Malmaison, Lor, Le Thor and St. Germain Mont. In the region of Asfeld we have crossed the Aisne at several points north of Blancy."

(Continued on Page 4.)

Thousand Lives Lost in Torpedoing of Three Steamers by German Sub-marines

LONDON, Oct. 10.—The Dublin mail boat Leinster has been torpedoed, according to the Exchange Telegraph company. The steamer was making a trip from Dublin to Holyhead. Four hundred perished on board, according to a report which has not yet been confirmed. The report that the Leinster had been torpedoed on her regular voyage from Dublin to Holyhead would indicate that the German U-boats have again succeeded in getting into St. George's channel. Nothing has been reported of a U-boat in that water for a long time and it was reported that extraordinary precautions had been taken with respect to this channel as well as the English channel.

The gross tonnage of the Leinster is 2,646.

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Oct. 10.—Scores of American sailors and soldiers were killed or wounded by shrapnel fired by a German submarine after it had torpedoed the steamer Ticonderoga, 1,700 miles off the Atlantic coast, according to the story told by twenty survivors who arrived here today aboard a British freighter.

There were 250 men aboard the Ticonderoga, an American steamship of 5,130 tons, and all but the twenty who arrived here today are believed to have perished. The survivors got away in the only boat which was not demolished by the shell fire from the submarine, they said. Seventeen of the men who reached port were members of a detachment of soldiers detailed to care for horses which were being transported.

presumably on Oct. 2, when she fell behind her convoy because of engine trouble. According to the story of the survivors, the submarine was not sighted until she had sent a torpedo crashing into the side of the ship. The torpedo did not strike a vital spot however, and the captain crowded on full steam in an effort to escape.

A BRITISH PORT, Oct. 7.—The Japanese steamer Hirano Maru, of 7,935 tons gross, has been torpedoed and sunk. It is feared that 300 lives were lost.

The Hirano Maru was outward bound for Japan and carried about 200 passengers. The vessel was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine early Friday morning, when about 300 miles south of Ireland.

The few survivors who were picked up by the American torpedo boat Sterrett have been brought here. They declare that the torpedo struck the steamer in the forward engine room. Nothing remained for those on board, including the women and children, but to plunge into the water. A large number, however, went down with the ship. The vessel disappeared completely within seven minutes after being struck by a torpedo.

The scene was indescribable. The weather was bad and rather hazy.

480 Perished LONDON, Oct. 11.—According to the latest estimate, 480 persons perished when the passenger liner Leinster was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine. The vessel carried 687 passengers and a crew of about 70 men.

BRITISH ADVANCE FORCES ENTER LILLE

PARIS, Oct. 16—British patrols entered the southwestern suburbs of Lille this morning.