

# General Boche Retreat In North Belgium; Berlin May Accept Wilson's Peace Terms

## GERMAN ARMY IN FLIGHT ON BELGIAN SOIL

The Enemy Starts a Wide Retreat on Tremendous Scale.

## GERMAN TROOPS ARE ABANDONING LILLE

So Rapid Is Enemy Withdrawal in Belgium That Allies Are Left.

## NORTH FRANCE WILL BE EVACUATED SOON

Success of Allied Forces in Flanders Greater Than Expected.

With the Allied Armies in Belgium, Oct. 16.—(4.30 p.m.) By The Associated Press.—The Germans have started a retreat on a tremendous scale, from Northern Belgium. French cavalry is approaching Thiel, seven miles from the banks of the Ghent-Bruges canal. The canal itself is only ten miles from the border of Holland. So fast is the enemy retreating that the French, British and Belgian infantry, at least in the center of the battlefield, have lost touch entirely with the enemy.

There have been many signs of late that the Germans planned a further withdrawal in the face of the steady pressure of the Allies. Great streams of enemy traffic began moving last night and continued today on the roads around Courtrai and Harlebeke and on the railways running north-east.

French mortars and direct machine gun fire are seriously hampering the enemy transport, in its attempt to get the material away through the mud. The Germans' withdrawal continues in the Lille sector, but slowly. In the southern battle area there has been fighting of a minor character. More civilians have been rescued from towns.

Establish Bridgehead. The British have established a bridgehead of the Lys near Wavescout, and are fighting all night and smashing a way for a gain of 7,000 yards. British corps continued its advance until it had reached the banks of the Lys south of Courtrai. Another corps established itself between Heute and Courtrai. The village of Heute was captured after severe fighting in which the Germans suffered tremendous losses.

Germans Leaving Lille. Berlin, Oct. 16, via London.—The German forces in Northern France have withdrawn their forces somewhat in the district west and southwest of Lille army headquarters announced today.

## TRIPOLI FALLS.

London, Oct. 16.—British cavalry have occupied Tripoli, 45 miles north of Beirut, and Hama, about 85 miles north of Damascus, according to an official statement on operations in Palestine, issued tonight. Tripoli, Tarabous or Tripolis, is the capital of a pashalik of the same name, and a Syrian sea-port on the Mediterranean. It has a population of more than 20,000 persons. The city was taken by the Crusaders in 1108, and a valuable Arabic library was destroyed by them. Tripoli has considerable trade in cotton, wool, silk, tobacco and furs.

## BRITISH WINNING

London, Oct. 16.—The British forces in the sector between Douai and Lille have made further gains all along the front and driven their line to within about two and a half miles southwest and three and three-quarter miles west of Lille, according to Field Marshal Haig's communication issued tonight.

## SERIOUS IN PRAGUE.

London, Oct. 16.—A despatch to the Central News from Amsterdam says that in Prague the streets from the suburbs to the city proper are occupied by troops armed with hand grenades and machine guns in consequence of a threat by the Czechs to call a general strike throughout Bohemia.

## BOCHES MUST BE WELL PUNISHED DECLARES SMITH

London, Oct. 16.—Sir Frederick F. Smith, the attorney general, in the preface to a new edition to his book on international law, after dealing with Germany's defiance of all international law, says the future of civilization requires that the authority of public law must be reasserted with a punishment so memorable, because so dreadful, that the offences will not be repeated. The attorney general declares the assumption that the Central Powers will be represented at a peace conference, in the sense that the Allies are represented, would seem to require very considerable qualifications. The Central Powers, he suggests, should be present in the later stages of the war but not to contribute to the decisions of the Allies.

## BALFOUR GROWS INDIGNANT AT BOCHE CRIMES

Germans Were Brutes When They Began the War and Now When Asking Peace Are Still Mad and Unchanged.

By ARTHUR S. DRAPER. (Special Cable to the N. Y. Tribune and the St. John Standard.)

London, Oct. 16.—The fire of indignation filled Balfour, the other day, as he spoke at a luncheon given to the visiting American newspapermen about the torpedoing of the Leinster, a packet ship carrying no military stores, and sailing in broad daylight on the Irish Sea. Balfour says that the Germans were brutes when they began the war, and that now when asking peace they were mad and unchanged. I never heard Balfour speak with such force as he did when he spoke of the Leinster just at the moment when Germany was pleading to be admitted into the league of nations. He called it pure barbarism, pure frightfulness, and though he was willing to admit that a small body of militarists directed German policy and feared the masses applauding the repetition of the act which brought America into the war.

## No Change of Heart.

Germans are attempting to make constitutional reforms, but what the Allies wanted was a change of heart, and this submarine outrage did not leave any change, he said. These words of the Foreign Secretary are highly significant as reflecting the attitude of the British government. Nothing Germany could have done would make a worse impression than the Irish Sea outrage. Whatever reply Max will make to Wilson, the British will regard it with suspicion. If the German militarists deliberately attempted to arouse the hatred of the British and prevent the continuation of the diplomatic exchanges, they succeeded admirably. Balfour spoke with the greatest optimism regarding the military situation though he made no forecast of the date of victory. Balfour's speech might be considered as official utterance. Copenhagen reports the resignation of many Junker officials and military functionaries. Both Holland and the Vatican have been sounded by the Central Powers regarding peace. Germany's reply is expected to reach Washington by Sunday. It is reported that the Germans accept all points, will evacuate all territory and promise constitutional changes. Berlin exchange is optimistic and the people are being encouraged to believe that peace is near. If Germany falls, there is almost certain to be an internal revolution. Americans who have been living in Switzerland the last three years arrived here today and tell me that Germany is finished and willing to grant anything to get peace by Christmas. They say the country is demoralized, short of food and munitions and totally changed in the last three months. Germans are no longer attacking America, they say, but consider their hope of escaping annihilation by throwing themselves on America's mercy. They think Germany is ready to surrender unconditionally.

## CENTRAL POWERS WILL THROW UP SPONGE SOON

Baron Burian Says They Can Hope No Longer For Military Success.

## USELESS HE DECLARES TO CONTINUE THE WAR

H. H. Asquith Endorses the Peace Terms Outlined By Mr. Wilson.

## HOW KAISER CAN QUIT THE THRONE

Suggested That Crown Prince's Eldest Son, William, Succeed Him.

Basel, Switzerland, Oct. 16.—The Central Powers found themselves "no longer able to hope for a military decision in their favor, and Bulgaria's demand for peace only hastened the presentation of their peace proposition," Baron Burian, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, declared in a statement recently to the foreign affairs committee of the Hungarian delegation at Vienna.

Although the Central Powers have been able to face the new military situation," the foreign minister said, "it must be stated that we cannot hope any longer for a decisive success by arms, while our adversaries are not in a position to make any such statement. Hence further bloodshed is useless." Confidence that Turkey would remain faithful to the Teuton alliance was expressed by Baron Burian.

Amsterdam, Oct. 16.—Baron Burian, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, speaking to the foreign affairs committee of the Hungarian delegation, said there was a prospect that at no far distant date "we shall reach a cessation of hostilities and enter into negotiations for the conclusion of a general lasting and just peace."

Favors Kaiser's Grandson. Paris, Oct. 16.—According to a source of information not without value Berlin is considering how Emperor William can disappear without endangering the dynasty. A despatch from Geneva to the Temps. One solution being considered, it is said, is the abdication of the emperor in favor of his grandson, William, the eldest son of the German Crown Prince, with the emperor's brother, Prince Henry, as regent.

The Journal Des Debats yesterday mentioned editorially the possibility of such a plan but it condemned it as unacceptable. The semi-official North German Gazette of Berlin says: "President Wilson's reply has partly clarified the discussion further and partly extended it. A fresh counter utterance by the German government therefore is necessary, so that the bringing about of an armistice and the inauguration of peace negotiations are not yet immediately attainable."

## Asquith Endorses Wilson.

London, Oct. 16.—Ex-Premier Asquith in a speech today referred to President Wilson's latest note in reply to the peace proposals of Germany, saying: "The reply which President Wilson has given to Germany is exactly what was required. It is terse, dignified and outspoken and goes to the root of the matter. It leaves no loophole to escape." "We cannot imperil the ascendancy we have gained on sea and land or give breathing time to an enemy who could not be trusted to observe either the rules of honor or humanity."

Mr. Asquith said the main objective of the Allies was to destroy Prussian militarism. "There is no one in the civilized world who does not feel that the doom of war is sealed," he added. Mr. Asquith declared that the overtures of the enemy came from people who knew in their hearts that they would have to give up the game. The reply must come from the German people themselves. He said there was none better qualified than President Wilson to be spokesman for the common cause.

—BUY VICTORY BONDS—

## SAVE TO SAVE ENEMY MUST GET PEACE AT ANY PRICE

Endeavored To Get Let Down Easy, But Now That Sacrifices Must Be Made Germany Will Quit the War.

By H. W. Smith. (Special Cable to the New York Tribune and St. John Standard.)

Amsterdam, Oct. 15.—Among the London comment on the German peace overtures which have been wired here I note the remark that Germany is making political virtue out of military necessity. This is true only in the limited sense that the military disasters have convinced all that the minority in the court and military circles that peace affords them the only hope of saving their own skins. The nation at large sincerely desires peace and apparently is even willing to make amends. A reference which appeared in the Frankfurter Zeitung last week, the crown council of Berlin and which was written before the chancellor's speech was published seems to hint that decisions were reached which overstep the usual peace offer and which may result in the emperor's rejection plunge Germany into a new crisis. (Continued on Page Two.)

## LOCKEPORT, N. S., IS SADLY AFFLICTED

Three Hundred Cases of Influenza and 28 of Pneumonia in Southern N. S. Town.

Halifax, Oct. 16.—Dr. Hattie, provincial health officer, has received an urgent appeal for nurses, or if they cannot be obtained, for anyone who can care for those suffering from Spanish influenza at Lockeport. The situation in this town is more serious than anywhere else in Nova Scotia.

There are three hundred cases of influenza, the majority of them critical and last night alone twenty-eight pneumonia cases had developed, several of them apparently fatal. A large part of the population is stricken, and the few who have escaped have worked day and night caring for the sick. Now they are exhausted, and can do no more. Because of their depleted strength, they are themselves menaced by the disease. It has been impossible to obtain nurses from the neighboring points. Although he spent the greater part of a day trying to obtain nurses, Dr. Hattie was unsuccessful, because of the increase of the epidemic in this city. He managed to secure a medical student, who left today.

## FRENCH CAPTURE VILLAGE OF TALMA

Paris, Oct. 16.—Northwest of Sissonne in Champagne the French have captured the town of Notre Dame De Liesse, and west of Grand Pre have taken the village of Talma, according to the official communication issued by the war office tonight. The text of the communication follows: "We have realized local progress, notably northwest of Sissonne, where we captured Notre Dame De Liesse, and west of Grand Pre enlarged our gains in the capture of the village of Talma."

## BERLIN STATEMENT.

Berlin, via London, Oct. 16.—The war office communication issued this evening follows: "Northeast of Roulers, on the Selle sector near Hausay, between the Aire and the Meuse, and on the eastern bank of the Meuse, enemy attacks failed. "The town of Denain (5 1/2 miles southwest of Valenciennes) which is filled with French refugees, has under the continuous fire of the heavy English artillery. "Yesterday the enemy shelled the Welfare Center at Liesse (18 miles from Laon), which had been carefully spared by us during the war."

## GERMANY PAVING THE WAY FOR A SURRENDER?

Significant Crop of Peace Rumors Set on Foot By Ambitious Persons.

## WASHINGTON HAS YET RECEIVED NO REPLY

London Would Not Be Surprised to Hear Good News Soon.

## THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE HAS NOTHING

Reports of Surrender Originated in Berlin, The Hague and Amsterdam.

(By Arthur S. Draper.)

Special cable to the N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard.

London, Oct. 16.—A Berlin report transmitted via Amsterdam states that the German government will accept all of President Wilson's terms provided that assurance is given that the interests of the German people are safeguarded.

The Amsterdam Report. Amsterdam, Oct. 16.—The Nieuwe Rotterdam Courant today issued a special edition, giving the report that Germany had capitulated and that Emperor William had abdicated.

The Nieuwe Rotterdam Courant has withdrawn its statement reporting the capitulation of Germany and the abdication of Emperor William.

This step was taken, the newspaper says, because it was unable to obtain any confirmation of the report.

London, Oct. 16.—The official press bureau is officially informed that the reports published this afternoon to the effect that Germany has capitulated, have no foundation in fact.

May Be True Prophecy. Reuters' Limited learns that the German reply to President Wilson is expected to be communicated immediately and that it is likely to constitute a general acceptance of the president's conditions.

According to news received here through diplomatic channels from Holland the reply will be an acceptance of President Wilson's terms with some stipulation to the effect that the interests of the German people must be respected.

The British foreign office stated this evening that it had no official confirmation of the rumors that the German emperor had abdicated but that opinion in well-informed circles was not disposed to reject these rumors.

Washington, Oct. 16.—No official information concerning the report that Germany is about to accept the peace conditions of President Wilson's note had been received early this evening at the State Department or allied embassies.

## T. R. GREET'S MEN.

Special cable to N. Y. Tribune and St. John Standard.

(By Casper Whitney.)

Paris, Oct. 15.—The following letter from Roosevelt dated July 17, the day he received news of Quentin's death, was given out by Secretary Conaway of the Y. M. C. A. It was addressed to the soldiers of the American Expeditionary Force overseas: "I send my heartfelt greeting to you men at the front. You have made all of us who stay behind lift our heads high with pride by what you are doing. It is you men, and only you men, who are doing the one vital work for the American people today. All good Americans at this time owe homage to the fighting men at the front. What you are doing is vital for the honor and interest, for the future welfare and for the very existence of our republic, and you are also battling for liberty of every well behaved civilized nation, big or little. I congratulate you on the great good fortune that is yours in that you now have the chance to endure the hardship and peril for that great ideal, and to render to our country the great service of all services. I would give anything to be over with you."

Faithful yours, THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

—BUY VICTORY BONDS—

## DEFEAT DEVILISH ENDEAVORS OF HUN DIPLOMACY

Ottawa, Oct. 16.—"Conscious of lurking dangers in the present situation from a battlefront drenched with the blood of their comrades, the men who may die in the battles of tomorrow expect and pray that our young nation shall raise its voice and exert its full strength to defeat the devilish endeavors of German diplomacy. Complete victory is within our reach. Let us save it so that the blood of our bravest and best shall not have been shed in vain, and that generations yet unborn shall know that the sacrifices we consent to make and the bitter sorrow we have endured have not been without justification or purpose." Thus ends a cablegram of thanks which Sir Arthur Currie, Canadian Corps commander in France, has addressed to Sir George Foster, acting prime minister, in reply to a message of appreciation of the corps four years' work overseas.

## THE PEOPLE OF GERMANY ARE RESPONSIBLE

It Would Be Mistake For Allies To Exonerate Them of All Blame For Hun Ruthlessness and Devilishness.

By Cascar Whitney.

(Special Cable to the N. Y. Tribune and The St. John Standard.)

Paris, Oct. 16.—I was talking with a man of international reputation, who has travelled extensively, including Germany, whose language and people he well knows, who said apropos to Wilson's adroit reply: "It would be an irreparable calamity if the war closed without holding the German people responsible for their share of four years of outrageous warfare with poison gas, brutal conduct towards prisoners and the French Belgian and Serbian peoples. It would be fatal to hope for permanent peace, only assured with the utter destruction of militarism and the complete purging of Germany and her present ideals, if the German people are now given to believe that by a mere change of their government and rulers through an internal revolution or by Allied exaction they can escape their liability to the civilized world for the past four years of national piracy, wanton destruction and violation of every law of God and man."

## All Mere Talk.

"Democratic talk in Germany is all mere talk. The German people are not ready to pay the price of such a peace. They want it solely as a means of escaping material loss and discomfort, and inside the enemy-held territory is all but captured by the French. Eastward the Americans also have advanced slightly forward."

## METHODISTS WANT ECONOMIC REFORM

Hamilton, Ont., Oct. 16.—The Methodist Church of Canada stands committed to a complete change in the economic and industrial system of the country, a veritable social overturn. This evening the report of the committee on the church in relation to war and patriotism stated that the war has made more clearly manifest the moral peril inherent in the system of production of profits. "The whole system called for a change."

## GERMAN REFORMS.

Copenhagen, Oct. 16. (By The Associated Press.)—Germany's federal council has accepted the proposed amendment to the constitution, article 2, which reads: "The consent of the federal council and the Reichstag is required for a declaration of war in the name of the emperor, except in a case where imperial territory has already been invaded or its coasts attacked." Section 5 of article 2 is amended to read: "Treaties of peace and treaties with foreign states which deal with this is certainly braggadocio but the spirit is truly representative and suggestive of the Boche intent." (Continued on Page Two.)

## EVERYWHERE THE ENTENTE ALLIES DEFEAT ENEMY

King Albert's Army Sweep Forward in Driving Huns From Belgium.

## ALLIES ALSO MAKING PROGRESS IN FRANCE

Further Victories in Albania, Palestine and Elsewhere.

## BRITISH ALMOST IN BIG CITY OF LILLE

Americans and French in Champagne Keep After the Teutons.

(By The Associated Press.)

Hostilities are proceeding without cessation, and, as in days past, the forces of the Allies everywhere are defeating the enemy. In Belgian Flanders, the British, Belgian and French troops under King Albert are sweeping forward for further material gains in the process of driving the invader from Belgian soil, on the front in France, the British, French and Americans are hard after the Germans and are making progress, although slowly, notwithstanding the strenuous defense that is being offered.

In Albania the Entente troops are well to the north of Durazzo on the Adriatic Sea, and in Serbia a considerable distance beyond Nish, with the enemy falling back toward the frontier of Austria-Hungary.

Tripoli Taken. In the Palestine theatre the British cavalry has driven far to the north and northwest of Damascus, having reached Tripoli, near the Mediterranean coast, 45 miles north of Beirut and Hama, 85 miles north of Damascus.

In Flanders, Thourout, at the head of the railway leading to Bruges and numerous villages to the south have been taken, while Courtrai, the junction point of the railway to Ghent, is almost entirely surrounded. Large numbers of prisoners and many additional guns have been captured by the Belgian, French and British troops who are carrying out the operation.

## German Retreat.

To the south of this region the Germans are continuing to withdraw, closely followed by the British, who are within two and a half miles and three-quarter miles of Lille, respectively southwest and west of the city.

In the Champagne region where the French and Americans are driving their way northward, Reims, the important junction point for the railways running to Mezieres and other points inside the enemy-held territory is all but captured by the French. Eastward the Americans also have advanced slightly forward.