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The Toronto World

MONDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 16 1918

VOL. XXXVIII.—No. 13,823 TWO CENTS

AUSTRIA INVITES PEACE CONFERENCE AMERICANS POINTING METZ FORTRESS

WOMEN AND CHILDREN PERISH ON TORPEDOED BRITISH SHIP

Steamer Galway Castle Sunk on Way to South Africa and 189, Including 120 Passengers, Are Missing—Ninety Women and Children Lost.

London, Sept. 13.—The British steamer Galway Castle of 7958 tons gross, bound for a South African port, was torpedoed and sunk this morning, she had 189 persons on board, of whom the majority were women and children.
The missing number 189. They include 120 passengers, 36 naval and military officers and men and 33 of the crew.
Ninety third class passengers lost were without exception women and children. The bodies of three of the children, who had died, were brought ashore. The captain and several of the officers are reported to have been with on board the ship when she was last seen and sinking.
The boats were picked up by escort-

BRITAIN'S KING TO U. S. PRESIDENT

Sends Congratulations on Victory Won by Americans in St. Mihiel Salient.

London, Sept. 15.—King George has sent a message of congratulations to President Wilson on the victory won by General Pershing in the St. Mihiel salient. The King's message reads:
"On behalf of the British Empire, I heartily congratulate you on the brilliant achievement of the American and allied troops under the leadership of General Pershing in the St. Mihiel salient.
"The far-reaching results secured by these successful operations, which have marked the active intervention of the American army on a great scale under its own administration, are the happiest augury for the complete and final triumph of the allied cause."

VILCEY AND NORROY TAKEN BY AMERICANS

Gen. Pershing's Army Advances Two to Three Miles on Thirty-Three Mile Front, Engaging Fortress of Metz.

London, Sept. 15.—Gen. Pershing's army, according to this afternoon's news, is making fine progress. Since yesterday afternoon it has advanced from two to three miles on a 33-mile front, and the fortress guns of Metz have come into action against it.
One to Two Mile Gain
Washington, Sept. 15.—The American line on the left bank of the Moselle River, in the St. Mihiel sector, has been advanced from one to two miles and now includes the towns of Vilcey and Norroy. Gen. Pershing said in his communique for today, received tonight at the war department, that an enemy counter-attack launched near St. Hilaire at daybreak today was stoutly repulsed and a number of prisoners taken.
Seventy-two guns abandoned by the enemy in his hasty retreat were brought in during the normal extension of the American lines beyond Jaulny, Gen. Pershing said. This brought the total number of guns captured since

AUSTRIA AGAIN GERMANY'S TOOL

General Tone of Comment in London Over Latest Overtures for Peace.

**MANY CONFERENCES
German, Bulgarian and Turkish Magnates Have Been Hovering Round Vienna.**

London, Sept. 15.—"Austria again is Germany's cat's paw," was the comment generally heard in London today when the news of Austria's invitation to the belligerents "to confidential non-binding discussions at a neutral centre" became public. It was not considered surprising that Austria should make a move to secure peace, for Vienna since the early days of September has been the scene of many conferences of the statesmen of the central powers and of Teutonic allied monarchs.
Week before last Admiral Von Hintze, the German foreign minister, was there, and besides having a long conference with Baron Burian, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, he received in audience by Emperor Charles. Likewise King Ferdinand of Bulgaria on his way back to Sofia had a conversation lasting an hour with emperor Charles. Talat Pasha, the Turkish grand vizier, also has been hovering around Vienna and Budapest and giving off interviews, declaring that a military victory by either side is now impossible.
It has been thought the Austrian emperor intended to ask for mediation either by the king of Spain or the queen of Holland, but he has gone no farther than to ask for a non-binding discussion and incidentally by sending a note to the Pope to endeavor to secure the pontiff's support for the proposal.

Maissemy Taken by British

London, Sept. 15.—The British have captured Maissemy, northwest of St. Quentin, together with the trench system to the southeast and east of that place. Field Marshal Haig makes this announcement in his night report.
The text of the statement reads:
"By a successful minor operation carried out early this morning our troops captured Maissemy, northwest of St. Quentin, together with the trench system to the southeast and east of the village. One hundred prisoners and a number of machine guns were taken by us.
"On the remainder of the front a few prisoners have been brought in by our patrols in different sectors.
"The hostile artillery has shown considerable activity during the day and a number of points along the front south of the Arras-Cambrai road."
Further progress was made by the British last night in the region northwest of St. Quentin, the war office announced today. Their lines were advanced both north and south of Holnon Wood in this area. German local attacks in the Trecault section, southwest of Cambrai, were repulsed, as were similar thrusts in Flanders, near La Basse.
The text of the statement reads:
"Northwest of St. Quentin our troops made progress yesterday and last night south and north of Holnon Wood.
"Local hostile attacks were repulsed in the Trecault and La Basse sectors.
"The hostile artillery has been active during the night in the Roisel, Maissemy, Marquion and Givency sectors, and with gas shells northwest of Armentieres.
"Further progress has been made by the British in the Havincourt battle area, and new posts have been established east and north of the vil-

Vessel With Canadians Target For Submarine

Five Shells Fired at Ship Bringing Home Canadian Officers, But She Made Her Escape.

An Atlantic Port, Sept. 15.—A British passenger steamer, which arrived here today, reported she was shelled by a German submarine eighty miles off the American coast, earlier in the day. Five shells were fired by the U-boat. None took effect. The steamship fled without returning the submarine's fire and escaped in the fog.
Five shots were fired by the submarine at the steamship, which is in the transport service and was bringing home 96 wounded Canadian officers. None of the shells struck the vessel. The first screamed across the starboard bow, struck the water beyond, and exploded harmlessly. In-

POWERFUL ONSETS MADE UPON METZ

Air Attacks Are Maintained Against Important German Railway Triangle.

**BLOW AT STUTTGART
British Machines Bombard Daimler Works With Good Results.**

London, Sept. 15.—Powerful air attacks are being continued around Metz, according to the statement issued by the air ministry tonight. The stations and tracks at Metz-Sablon and Courcelles have been attacked, as well as various enemy concentration points. The statement says:
"On the battlefield, in addition to the bombing reported in yesterday's communique, the following bombing operations were carried out:
"Two further attacks were made on Metz-Sablon in the late afternoon, and many incendiary bombs were obtained on the railway triangle, on the workshops, the gas works and the barracks. The Boulay airfield was also attacked with good results.
"Heavy attacks were kept up throughout the night of Sept. 14-15 on Metz-Sablon, Courcelles, Enrange, Saarbrücken, Kaiserslautern and the airfields at Freytag and Boulay. Many direct hits were obtained on the railway triangle, on the workshops, and several fires were started at Metz, Kaiserslautern, the Saarbrücken station and the Freytag airfield. Three of our machines failed to return.
"Metz-Sablon was again attacked and many direct hits were obtained. Enemy scouts were active. Bombs were dropped on the allied airfield. Three of our machines are missing.
"The Daimler works at Stuttgart were also attacked with good results. During this raid 20 enemy aircraft were shot down and two were destroyed. Our machines all returned safely.
"The total weight of bombs dropped during the 24 hours was more than 27 tons."

DISCUSSIONS TO PROCEED WITHOUT STOPPING WAR

Vienna Proposes to Have Confidential, Non-Binding Conversations in Some Neutral Place—To Send Notifications to Holy See With Other Non-Belligerents.

Amsterdam, Sept. 14.—The Austro-Hungarian Government today invited all belligerent governments to enter into non-binding discussions at some neutral meeting place with a view to bringing about peace. The Holy See and all neutral nations also will be notified. An official statement from Vienna making the above announcement has been received here.
In extending its invitation to all belligerent governments to enter into non-binding discussions at some neutral meeting place, the Austro-Hungarian Government states that the object of the conference would be to secure an exchange of views which would show "whether those prerequisites exist which would make the speedy inauguration of peace negotiations appear promising."
The Austrian proposal suggests that there be no interruption of the war, and that the "discussions would go on only so far as is considered by the participants to offer prospects of success."
The proposal calls for all the belligerents to send delegates to a "confidential and unbinding discussion on the basic principles for the conclusion of peace, in a place in a neutral country and at a near date that would yet have to be agreed upon."
The proposal says that the conference would be one of "delegates who would be charged to make known to one another the conception of their governments regarding those principles, and to receive analogous communications, as well as to request and give frank and candid explanations on all those points which need to be precisely defined."
Vatican Notified.
The government announces that a note embodying its suggestions had been addressed to the various belligerent powers and that the Holy See had been apprised of the proposal in a special note. The governments of the neutral states also had been made acquainted with the proposal.
The text of the official communication reads:
"An objective and conscientious examination of the situation of all the belligerent states no longer leaves doubt that all peoples, on whichever side they may be fighting long for a speedy end to the bloody struggle. Despite this natural and comprehensible desire for peace, it has not so far been possible to create those preliminary conditions calculated to bring the peace efforts nearer to realization and bridge the gap which at present still separates the belligerents from one another.
"A more effective means must therefore be considered whereby the responsible factors of all the countries can be offered an opportunity to investigate the present possibilities of an understanding."
First Offers Failure.
"The first step which Austria-Hungary, in accord with her allies, undertook, on Dec. 12, 1916, for the bring-

PEACE OFFER TO BELGIUM IS MADE BY GERMANY

Conditions Are Neutrality, Renewal of Pre-war Commercial Treaties and Good Offices to Secure Return of German Colonies.

London, Sept. 15.—It is understood that the government has received the Austro-Hungarian peace note and also the proposal, previously referred to, that all the powers should withdraw their troops from the Murman territory.

It is also learned that Germany has made a peace offer to Belgium. The terms of this proposal are as follows:
That Belgium shall remain neutral until the end of the war.
That thereafter the entire economic and political independence of Belgium shall be reconstituted.
That the pre-war commercial treaties between Germany and Belgium shall again be put into operation after the war for an indefinite period.
That Belgium shall use her good offices to secure the return of the German colonies.
That the Flemish question shall be considered, and the Flemish minority, which sided the Germans invaders, shall not be penalized.
The proposal contains no word respecting reparation nor indemnities, no admission that Germany wronged Belgium.

GROVELLA POSITION TAKEN BY ITALIANS

Nearly Three Hundred and Fifty Prisoners Taken—War Material Captured.

Rome, Sept. 15.—A war office communique issued today follows:
"Infantry and artillery parties after a short, but effective, artillery bombardment, and assisted by low-flying airplanes, yesterday morning attacked and captured the whole of an enemy defensive system on the Grovello southward of Corle. The prisoners taken numbered 345 and included 15 Yonge streets. It is estimated that less than five per cent of the city's motors were in use, and most of these must have been on necessary errands. The saving effected has been computed at 22,000 gallons of gas and probably \$12,000 in money. Toronto's motorists have well stood the test of patriotism."

ZONE ALONG RHINE FEELS WAR'S BLAST

British Air Forces Bomb Twenty-One Towns in Wide Belt.

London, Sept. 15.—Twenty-one important German towns have been bombed by the British independent air force during the month of August, according to information from an authoritative source. The objectives were railway stations, chemical and other factories and blast furnaces, and the towns included Frankfurt, Mannheim, Metz-Sablon, Saarburg, Thionville, three times each; Burbach, Coblenz, Cologne, Darmstadt, Karlsruhe, Luxembourg, Offenbourg and Treves.
During the past three months the independent air force has made 249 aerial raids over German territory. The extensive damage done has been confirmed by photographs in many cases. The German territory thus brought definitely into the war zone represents a belt in the Rhine valley approximately 250 miles in length.

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MAGNIFICENT RESPONSE

The motorists of this city are to be heartily commended for the fulness of their response yesterday to the fuel controller's appeal to eliminate all unnecessary motoring. Toronto's streets and favorite motoring roads have been so empty of motors since the gasoline vehicle first came to stay. For as long as fifteen minutes at a time not a single motor passed the corner of King and Yonge streets. It is estimated that less than five per cent of the city's motors were in use, and most of these must have been on necessary errands. The saving effected has been computed at 22,000 gallons of gas and probably \$12,000 in money. Toronto's motorists have well stood the test of patriotism.

To Point Out Path.

"The Austro-Hungarian Government has therefore resolved to point out to all the belligerents, friend and foe, a path considered practicable by it, and to propose to them jointly to examine in a free exchange of views whether those prerequisites exist which would make the speedy inauguration of peace negotiations appear promising. To this end the Austro-Hungarian Government has today invited the governments of all the belligerent states to a confidential and unbinding discussion at a neutral meeting place, and has addressed to them a note drawn up in this sense.
"This step has been brought to the knowledge of the holy see in a special note, and an appeal thereby made to the Pope's interest in peace. Furthermore, the governments of the neutral states have been acquainted with the step taken.
"The constant close accord which exists between the four allied powers warrants the assumption that the allies of Austria-Hungary, to whom the proposal is being sent out in the same manner, share the views developed in the note."
Text of Note.
The official telegram proceeds to say that the note has been drawn up in French and runs as follows:
"The peace offer which the powers of the quadruple alliance addressed