

Italians Flooding Plains of Piave

Invaders of Italy Faced With Menace of Drowning

Socialist Proposals For Russ Govt. are Rejected

General Strike Reported in Force Through Finland

To Drown Out Invading Austro-German Forces

Floodgates of Piave and Sile Rivers Opened by Italian Engineers--Pope Appeals to Central Powers For Observance of Civilized Warfare

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Thursday, Nov. 15.—(By the Associated Press)—The flood gates of the Piave and Sile Rivers, northeast of Venice have been opened by Italian engineers.

The action of the Italians in opening the flood gates of the Piave and Sile Rivers probably means an attempt to drown out the Austro-German forces which crossed the Lower Piave several days ago at Grisolera, about 17 miles northeast of Venice.

EXPECTS CIVILIZED WARFARE OF HUNS

Rome, Thursday, Nov. 15.—Pope Benedict has asked the governments of the Central Empires to instruct their military authorities operating west of the Isonzo to follow the rules of international law in respecting the lives and property of civilians and in the protection of women and children, the clergy, hospitals, churches, bishops' palaces and presbyteries.

The Pontiff also has ordered the papal nuncios at Munich and Vienna, if necessary, to appeal personally and directly to Emperor William and Emperor Charles to obtain the fulfillment of his wishes.

VENICE IS ALMOST EMPTY.

Venice, Thursday, Nov. 15.—(By the Associated Press)—Venice is now almost empty, the population having been reduced from the usual 160,000 to 20,000. Despite the proximity of the enemy lines at the mouth of the Piave River and the unsuccessful efforts the Austro-Germans have made to take the long triangle between the mouths of the Piave and Sile Rivers, the remnant of the population is calm.

The city may not be defended in case of an attack in order to spare the monuments and art treasures. The Mayor of Venice, who is a descendant of the Doges and a Chamberlain to the Queen of Italy, announced to-day that he would remain at his post.

The outward appearance of the city is very desolate, much like, when the Austrians made their last descent upon it more than fifty years ago. All the main hotels, cafes, factories and jewelry and glass shops patronized by tourists are closed. The hotel Royal Raniele, on the Grand Canal remains partly open, and two well known cafes on the Piazza of St. Mark, the Florian and Quadri are still open. There is nothing open along the Lido.

The city authorities are furnishing trains and ships to take away any of the remaining population who wish to go. The best known centres, such as the Rialto bridge, St. Marks Square and the Square where the gondolas are hired are now deserted, except by a few stragglers. There are few shops open, and they are selling goods at any price to save them from passing into the enemy hands. There has been much activity outside the lagoon and yesterday several guns bombarded the enemy positions at the mouth of the Piave River.

Some foreign consuls remain but most others residing here temporarily have gone. All the palaces along the Grand Canal have gone though a few noble families and some descendants of the Doges remain with the firm purpose of not abandoning the city under any circumstances. All the government offices have been removed outside the city, but the government prefect, Count Ciola, remains at his post. Vienna, Wednesday, Nov. 14.—(via London, Nov. 15)—Austro-Hungarian general headquarters to-day issued the following statement: "Yesterday our troops entered

Feltre and Fonzaso. On both sides of the Saguna valley the army of master of ordnance, Count Scheuchenstul, has greatly extended the results we obtained in the last few days. Our divisions captured by storm, after having taken Monte Longara, two days previously, several defensive works east of Asiago and an armoured work on Monte Misera. The allied (Teutonic) fighting forces are battling against the Italians and are now on enemy territory from the Adriatic to Monte Pasubio. On the Ledresose our thrusting troops drove the enemy out of two advanced posts during which prisoners and machine guns fell into our hands.

"Eastern and Balkan theatre —There is nothing of importance to report."

THE SITUATION. Embattled for the protection of Venice and Lombardy, the Italians have opened the flood gates of the Piave and Sile Rivers, northeast of Venice, to keep in check the Austro-German force which has crossed the Piave near Grisolera. In attempting to inundate the triangle whose apex is near San Dona di Piave, the Italians hope to prevent any enemy movement to flank the right wing of the Italian army along the Piave.

North of the Adriatic the Piave and Sile Rivers are connected with canals running at or below sea level and which stretches for many miles along the Adriatic from Venetian lagoon. With the rivers allowed to flow unchecked it would appear to make Austro-German efforts in this region barren of results.

In the mountains between Asiago and the Piave, the great pressure of the invaders has not brought great results. On the Asiago plateau the Italians are straightening out their line gradually, and it is here that the Austro-Germans have progressed slightly. These gains,

however, apparently have not been of great strategic value and the danger of the Piave line being outflanked, although still present, probably has not become serious enough to cause any changes in the Italian plans. The Teutonic pressure between the Saguna valley and the Piave is very strong, but the Italians have been able to check violent attacks at various points along the sector.

Fresh Austro-German attempts to cross the Piave have been rendered futile by the Italian defense. The Italians are holding in check those troops which crossed near Zensore and in the marsh land near the Piave, the invaders had been unable to make any progress in the face of Italian counter-attacks and artillery fire previous to the opening of the flood gates.

The greater portion of the population of Venice has left that city from which all portable art treasures also have been removed. The city, which is now but a scant 17 miles from the battle line, may not be defended in the event of an attack, in order to spare the monuments and art treasures that remain there.

VICTORY LOAN RALLY

A grand patriotic rally is being arranged for Brantford, to take place on Monday evening next at the Tenthers hall, that building not being used on Mondays for revival meetings. There have been all too few patriotic meetings in Brantford, and this one is being arranged by the Victory Loan committee. A big parade will precede the meeting, starting from the Market street depot at 7.45 and will consist of military features, the Great War Veterans, the A. R. club, the Victory Loan teams, Dufferin Rifles band, and possibly a British tank. For the meeting a splendid program has been arranged, the principal speaker being Lt.-Col.

SOLID MILES OF MEN ON WAY TO FIRING LINE

Civilian Party Together With Italian General Staff Made Trip Along Piave Battle Line, Where Nation's Destiny Hangs in Balance

By Courier Leased Wire. Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Wednesday, November 14 (By the Associated Press)—The Italian general staff gave the first opportunity to-day to see the Piave battle front, and the correspondent was among the first four civilians authorized to take the trip. It came at an opportune moment when the enemy had succeeded in getting small parties across the river at two points, and when the holding or breaking of the Piave line promised to bring the whole issue into the balance for Italy and to some extent for the entire Entente. An officer from the headquarters staff was in charge of the party, which gave it free access through the rear lines to the Piave, where the chief points along the 30 miles of front were visible and a view obtained of the whole range of the gigantic operations.

Some ten miles back from the river the correspondent passed through solid miles of troops coming and going to the front. Those going to the rear were mud-covered and tired, but not disheartened. Those going forward appeared resolute and some were singing. Refugees stood in ex-carts crowded the fields and roads, seeking safety from this sudden onrush of the enemy. The party passed through the hamlet, where Pope Pius X. was born, and a small cross church marked the place where he used to be a curate before his elevation to the papacy.

An air raid took place as the party passed near the church. Five shots were fired, but the raiders got away. Knots of soldiers filled the streets and villages as they stood gazing at the black pall of smoke in the east. At the outskirts of the villages there were long low lines of Chevau-légers ready to obstruct infantry rushes. Along the road toward the front, military telegraph lines were strung on the tops of bushes as there had been no time to erect poles. The first camp was made at Asiago, ten miles back from the river where the ancient castle to which Queen Catherine of Cyprus retired on her abdication, located on a high hill, gave a commanding view of the whole plain. The castle was 700 feet, and from this eminence spread out a peaceful plain to the west and the battle line to the east.

The Piave lay straight ahead. It appeared rather wide at this point.

LENGTHY CONFERENCE

Is Taking Place With The Liberal Executive

The delegates appointed at last night's meeting went into session to-day with the Liberal executive. A four-hour session was held, and was tendered the request to withdraw. At this writing (2 p.m.) the confab was still on.

Mayor Bowly refuses absolutely to retreat from his stand taken at last night's "independent", or as it later turned out to be, Laurier Liberal meeting. When interviewed by the Courier this morning he reiterated his determination to adhere to the conditions he made and emphatically declared:

"I am not going to budge a particle. If I cannot be nominated on the principles I have enunciated, I will not stand. I stand upon that platform and no other. If it is not sufficient to obtain enough votes to elect me, I don't want to be elected."

J. G. Wright, commanding officer of the 189th Battalion, Lt.-Col. Wright has just returned from the trenches, and has the most thrilling stories to tell of the work of the Canadians in all the big fights. In addition, there will be some splendid music, a moving picture, and a couple of short addresses. This will be a capital chance to have a big cheer, and citizens are asked to turn out in great crowds.

although further on it was so narrow that it was difficult to believe a desperate foe could be restrained by such a barrier even in the face of the Italians' heroic resistance. Across the river five small villages now held by the enemy, could be seen. Houses, churches and towers stood out plainly. These were on the plain bordering the east bank for a half mile back, where the foothills rose to high hills on which the German and Austrian batteries were located. The cannonade had now become heavy and continuous, and bursts of smoke from the hills on the other side of the Piave marked the line of the enemy's batteries.

The route now turned along the west bank of the river, where long lines of peaceful villages had been transformed suddenly by terror of the enemy bombardment. The townspeople were hastily gathering their belongings together and the women and children seemed terrified as they hurried away from the sound of the guns. The party passed groups of "Arditi" which indicated that the fighting front was getting near. Arditi is the Italian word for ardent, and they are men who volunteer to risk everything and to push to the extreme front. Their shirt fronts were often, although it was a cold autumn day, as they looked at the dangers they are now to be.

Hopes all along the road had been transformed into temporary field hospitals and marked with improvised signs. Soldiers near on horse were carrying flowers, which looked like gaby, but others soldiers who followed with a funeral wreath, made it look more like death. There were ambulances along the road, but no sign of wounded. Batteries and field guns were also moving down to the river with evergreen bushes screening the guns. The whole western bank of the river is lined with beautiful villas and extensive parks. The party had now reached a village three miles from the Piave line and the shelling was continuous. As the army automobile came up the road to the railway station a shell burst squarely in the road, 100 yards ahead.

"They are shelling the road," said the escort as he wheeled the automobile behind the station, where groups of soldiers were crouching in the doorways. One of the fragments of this shell came whizzing towards the station and buried itself in the wall.

A soldier led the way through a thicket up the side of a hill, where an Italian observation post had been established and from this point of vantage the correspondent looked out on the long lines on both banks of the river. The town of Vidor now held by General von Buelow's German troops, was just across the river from the point of observation and a big German sausage-balloon was insolently hanging over the town observing the work of Italian batteries. The Campanile of Vidor was distinctly visible and with field glasses several men could be seen moving about on the outskirts of the town. How this could be with such shelling going on was difficult to understand. The advantage the Germans had at this point was evident as the hills rose back of the town, giving them a screen for their batteries which played on the Italians in the plain on the eastern side of the river.

Again the route turned southward along the river. At one point the party passed one of those heroic regiments of cavalry which acted as a rearguard, while the main Italian army retired to the western bank of the Piave. The cavalry horses had been tethered in a vineyard. All the vineyards, haystacks and gathered crops are being sacrificed and in the present emergency, nearer the river the roads were full of frightened people hurrying away with their pitiful families on the top of household goods, carried on carts and wagons. The actual river bank was now near and the escort gave a special warning of rifle and machine gun fire in addition to shrapnel from the batteries. The town of Nervesca on the river's edge was deserted completely as the party passed down

BOLSHEVIKI REJECTED SOCIALIST PROPOSALS

Socialist Government for Russia Suggested, Which Would Quell Revolution and Give Amnesty to Rebels Though Excluding Them From Government

London, Nov. 15.—An attempt to negotiate for the creation of a Socialist Government in Russia and the postponement of a railway strike there, are described in an Exchange Telegraph Company despatch from Petrograd, dated Tuesday. The Socialist leaders offered the Bolsheviki the following basis for an agreement: First—the disarming of the Red Guard; second—the transfer of the control of the Petrograd garrison to the municipality; third—the cessation of military operations—and, in consideration of the acceptance of these terms, fourth—full guarantee that Kerensky's army would be the only one entering Petrograd and would not fire a single shot; fifth—the army would abstain from domiciliary searches and arrest.

The negotiations for the armistice collapsed because, although the Bolsheviki agreed to the terms, the Socialists insisted that the Bolsheviki be excluded from the proposed government. Premier Kerensky, the despatch adds, has issued proclamations declaring his adherence to the revolution and guaranteeing the clearing out of the Bolsheviki as well as to the transfer of power to democratic organizations—the preliminary parliament and the committee for safeguarding the country, and the revolution.

The railway union has sent a delegation to Kerensky proposing that he should withhold aggressive measures against the Petrograd garrison and the workers. The premier, it is said, replied that he would not pursue an aggressive course or apply repressive measures in the event of the Socialist parties arriving at an agreement. It is reported from Kiev, the despatch adds, that there is heavy fighting throughout that city. Airplanes are participating on both sides and there have been numerous casualties. The armistice at Moscow expires to-day.

Strike in Finland. Stockholm, Nov. 16.—A general strike has broken out in Finland. Railroad communication from Tornea to Russia has stopped entirely. A train leaving Petrograd Wednesday morning, was permitted to come through, but the train leaving Tornea Thursday morning is now held at Uteborg. Telegraphic communication across Finland still is broken. The strike is due to the refusal of the bourgeois parties to acknowledge the law of Finnish sovereignty, adopted July 31. The railway men's union has not yet joined the strike. A rumor has reached Haparanda that Premier Kerensky has retired from Gatchina.

Buelow Coming Back? Copenhagen, Nov. 16.—The German crown prince recently had a long conference with Prince von Buelow, the former imperial chancellor, at the Prince's Berlin hotel. All the Berlin newspapers make note of the conversation and some comment on the crown prince's call and the prince's candidacy for his old post as being a noteworthy event. Undoubtedly it is a little too early to accuse the crown prince, whose visit to Berlin was accounted for by the christening of his youngest daughter, as again attempting to play the role of over-thrower of chancellors.

Prince von Buelow is believed to be in accord with the crown prince regarding Germany's political and war objectives, while Chancellor von Hertling, is exponent of a policy to which the crown prince is opposed.

THE MERCHANTS' CORNER

ADVERTISING DRAWS YEARS AFTERWARD.—That the result from newspaper advertising do not cease coming after the ink on the paper dries is shown by the fact that three letters were received at the Burlington Railroad immigration office last week from a newspaper advertisement that was published four years ago and has not been duplicated since that time. All three letters were asking about Nebraska homesteads and the "key" numbers in them showed them to be answers to a 1911 advertisement. Two weeks ago an answer was received to an advertisement that was published five years ago.

UNIONIST MEETING! Friday, November 16th, 8 p.m. Victoria Hall, Y.W.C.A.

FOR ALL UNIONISTS Liberal, Conservative and Labor

Ladies and Gentlemen,—A sincere invitation is extended to all supporters of the Union Administration whose chief purpose is

WIN THE WAR!

WEATHER BULLETIN Toronto Nov. 16.—A depression is developing quickly off the Nova Scotia coast while pressure remains in the interior of the continent. A few light showers have occurred near Lakes Erie and Ontario, otherwise the weather in Canada has been fair. Forecasts Moderate north-west winds, fair to-day and on Saturday and continued mild.

The Kaiser Started This; Buy Victory Bonds and Help Finish Him

ays TORS AGREED red After Use Pinkham's compound. "I was suffering ache and pains in y side, with bearing down pains and as very nervous. was always tired, lways drowsy, never could get ough sleep and could not eat. I had our doctors and ach told me something different. I read of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegeta- ecided to try it. I now feel better ears and I am gain- gladly recommend Mrs. GEORGE W. Street, Wilming- aring down pains hich every woman e cause of these King Lydia E. Pink- ound, that good ficine. Thousands died to its virtues. has been making ne backache, ner- and inflammation, nents, irregularly eial advice write in Medicine Co. n, Mass. ated! is to deliver er every . Apply HAW, ial Station dbent well-dressed Man 'oman er's pure wool rics 'er's Neckwear rtex Underwear and other high Hats 4 Market St. MITHS & Cleator e and Feely E 2482 mple Bldg. re. Cold weather ook to your re- work a spe- "New Idea" mace TES GIVEN c Work rned Soldier do work. All orders mpt attention WIRING, RE- & SUPPLIES at 271 Colborne UTTLER Contractor OY NTED Learn ating iness Wages to tart Foreman, er Office