

GREAT ITALIAN OFFENSIVE IS LAUNCHED

Fresh Troubles Rise in Germany || Heavy Fighting Upon French and British Fronts in the West || Russian Situation Grows More Critical; News Very Disquieting

Sweeping Drive Upon Isonzo Front Nets Great Gains

RUSSIA FACED WITH SERIOUS CRISIS AND POSSIBLE UPRISING

Power of the Republic Vested Now in the Army and Anxiety Prevails as to Outcome of Situation

By Courier Leased Wire.

The demoralization of the Russian army and the consequent withdrawal of German forces from the eastern front are having their effect in France. The heavy reinforcements of men and guns which Field Marshal von Hindenburg has been able to throw into the defense of his sorely battered lines have, for the time being at least, caused a deadlock which the most furious efforts of the British and French have failed to break.

These first fruits of the chaos in Russia are the more ominous in the light of the multiplying signs that the Council of Soldiers and Workmen's Delegates seems to have been aroused at last to the perils of the course it has elected to follow, but it is a question if its awakening has not come too late. The soldiers in the ranks evidently have the bit in their teeth and it remains to be seen if there is a hand strong enough to check them from bringing about practical anarchy.

The hopeful side of the picture is drawn by the multiplying signs that the political and economic crisis in Germany is as acute as ever. The extraordinary measures taken by the German censorship to prevent the outside world from learning conditions in the empire have been largely successful, but some facts could not be concealed. Possibly for the first time in history revolution and a German republic have been openly talked about in the Reichstag and, most significant of all, apparently the authorities do not dare to check the growing audacity of the radicals. In fact the pressure of the malcontents has become so great as to force the government to hastily withdraw its refusal to permit radical Socialist delegates to attend the international Socialist conference at Stockholm.

The food situation in Germany also appears to be growing steadily worse and alarm is expressed in various quarters that the available supply will not suffice to feed the nation until the next harvest. The effusive promises with which the administration checked the May Day strike agitation, have proved hollow, and there are complaints that the attempt to substitute meat for bread is seriously diminishing the country's stock of milk animals.

Apart from France the only news of importance in the war regions comes from the Italian front. General Cadorna has opened an offensive on the Isonzo line, but the reports from Vienna and Rome are diametrically opposed as to the initial results. The Italians claim some gains in the direction of Trieste, but it is too early as yet to judge how the operation will develop.

Sugar Sale, 100 lbs. \$8.85.—20 lbs. \$1.79.—10 lbs. 94c.—Crompton Grocery.

FOE GENERAL DEAD. Amsterdam, via London, May 16.—The death at the front of General von Vietinghoff, former governor of Strasbourg, is reported in a despatch from Berlin. General von Vietinghoff died from wounds received in the recent fighting near Soissons.

Weather Bulletin Toronto, May 16.—The eastern disturbance has backed a little since yesterday, and cool, unsettled weather prevails in the Maritime provinces. Local showers have occurred in Alberta, while in Saskatchewan and Manitoba it has continued fair and warm.

Fresh westerly winds, fair and becoming warmer, Thursday, fair and warmer.

Austrians Taken Entirely by Surprise in Early Stages of Advance; Italians Sweep Forward Undeterred by Furious Artillery Fire

By Courier Leased Wire

Rome, May 15.—via Paris, May 16.—Important successes were won by the Italians to-day in inaugurating their drive on the Isonzo front. The following official note in regard to these operations was given out here to-night:

"The offensive action now being developed on the Julian front, which was announced in to-day's statement, was preceded by vast, intense and methodical artillery preparation. Fire was opened on the morning of May 12 along the whole line from Tolmino to the sea. It was maintained with a regularly quickened rhythm until the morning of May 14, when it was intensified to a powerful drum fire.

"During the first part of the bombardment the enemy reacted, but feebly. It seemed as though the Austrians had been taken by surprise, but their reply was more vigorous on May 13 and extremely violent on the morning of the 14th.

"Austrian batteries then opened a heavy curtain fire, pouring thousands of projectiles on the trenches in the Italian line. Undeterred by this tempest of fire, the Italian infantry towards noon leaped over the parapets and dashed resolutely forward towards the objectives previously assigned. These positions were almost all difficult ones and some of them hitherto had been regarded as impregnable, such, for instance, as the heights on the left bank of the Isonzo, from Plava to Salcano Pass. The steep slopes covered with rocks and dotted here and there with thick clumps of brush, constituted a formidable obstacle to an infantry advance. Successive lines of trenches, prepared months ago above deep caverns, well supplied with defensive and offensive material, were defended by seasoned troops and protected by batteries placed so as to flank attackers with their fire.

"LET ENTENTE BEWARE GIVING AUSTRIA TOO LIBERAL TERMS"

Bohemian Political Leader, Exile in London, Warns Allied Powers Against Too Great Willingness to Conclude Separate Peace With Dual Monarchy; Dynastic Austria Always Dangerous to Europe's Peace

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, May 5.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—"Let the Entente allies beware against giving Austro-Hungary too liberal terms in any agreement for a separate peace," declares professor Masaryk, the Bohemian political leader, who was condemned to death by the Austrian Government four months ago, for high treason. He is at present an exile in London, and discussed with a party of correspondents the recent reports that Austria is seeking a separate peace through agents in Switzerland.

"There is no doubt that Austria would be glad to come to some other arrangements," he said. "These peace moves must be a source of great humiliation to many honest Austrians, no matter how much they are forced on her by economic and political conditions. Austria is not playing fair to her partner. What she is doing now to Germany is, speaking plainly, treachery. Austria is trying to get out of the war, and doesn't know how to go about it.

"The difference between Germany and Austria is that the German nation is united, while the majority of the Austrian nation has been against the war all along. This applies especially to the Bohemians. Bohemian regiments repeatedly declined to fight, and did everything in their power to impede the Central Powers and help the enemy. Bohemia has been thoroughly punished for all sent to dangerous fronts, their regiments were diluted with various unpleasant elements, their leaders were thrown into prison.

"The whole of Bohemia is against Austria and against the war. The same applies to the south Slavs, the Poles and the Austro-Romanians. "But Austria's present manoeuvre toward peace ought not to deceive the Entente. She is willing no doubt to sacrifice some territory, but not enough to remove her as a menace to the peace of Europe. The dismemberment of Austria-Hungary is just as essential to permanent peace in Europe as the destruction of military Prussianism.

"Bohemia with the Slovaks should become a separate independent state. The Italian elements in the monarchy should go to Italy; the Roumanian elements to Roumania; the Ruthenians to Russia, the Poles to Poland and the south Slavs to Servia. There would remain the German Austrians and the Magyars in separate states. This is the only possible way of crushing out the 'mittle-Europa' idea. If Poland and Bohemia are free, 'central Europe' cannot exist. I believe also that the dynasty in Austria must go. The question is democracy or dynasty. Dynastic Austria will always be dangerous to the peace of Europe because of close ties with Germany."

CANADIAN BEAVER DOING HIS SHARE



Determination and sharp teeth, or the right animal to use on anything wooden.

BELGIANS BATTLE IN BOATS, OVER FIELDS SUBMERGED BY WATER



MAJOR G. W. BIRKS. Speaking in the city today in the interests of the Y. M. C. A.

LOSSES OF BRITISH REGAINED

Ground Lost About Bullecourt Recaptured With New Positions

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, May 16—12:03 p.m.—The British have recaptured most of the ground they had lost in Bullecourt and have established new posts on the west side of the village, says a despatch to-day from Beuter's, correspondent at British headquarters.

London, May 16—1:45 p.m.—Severe fighting is in progress today north of the Scarpe River on the Arras battle-front, says to-day's official statement on operations in the Franco-Belgian war theatre.

"The text of the statement reads: "Fighting continued yesterday to our advantage in the western portion of Bullecourt. We captured a few prisoners in the course of a small encounter last night on the right of our position in the Hindenburg line east of the village. "Severe fighting is in progress north of the Scarpe."

JEWS FORCED TO QUIT JOFFA

Even Those Subjects of Central Powers Removed From District

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, May 16.—An Amsterdam despatch to The Times says that Deputy Cohn, an independent Socialist, asked Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg in the reichstag if he was prepared to exert influence on the Turkish Government to prevent as far as was still possible, a repetition of the Armenian atrocities in Palestine.

Deputy Cohn said that Djemal Pasha, commander of the Turkish forces in Syria at the end of March had ordered all Jews, including German, Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian subjects, to be removed from Jaffa and its neighborhood. Djemal Pasha said military considerations required this, although Deputy Cohn said his German chief of staff said it was unnecessary. The expelled Jews were reported to have been subjected, under the eyes of the Turkish authorities, to violence and robbery, many being killed. The Turks also did nothing toward feeding the fugitives. Deputy Cohn stated that Germany would incur a great moral responsibility if she took no action.

Space Between Belgian and German Lines Flooded to Great Depths; Night Forays Carried Out in Light Skiffs

By Courier Leased Wire.

With the Belgian Army in Flanders, May 16.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—Boating to battle is one of the novelties of fighting on this part of the western front where the Belgian and German lines are separated by miles of flooded land. Trench raids are almost unheard of here. The only thing approximating them are bombing expeditions carried out from skiffs which are paddled stealthily under cover of darkness to the enemy's lines.

"Just at the edge of the water in front of our trench," said a Belgian officer, "we have two little caches where our two boats lie hidden, and when darkness has come we set out on patrol. Some times with padded oars, some times with punt poles, for in some places the water is quite shallow, we creep toward the German lines. At any moment a star shell may fly 400 yards away, and bullets spurring us the water around you or whistling overhead warn you that you are in No Man's Sea is not always a healthy game.

"But the crowning excitement comes when you meet a German patrol boat. Once when I was out with a seagoat and two men we heard the steady splash of a punt pole in the water coming slowly towards us. We took out the safety pins from our bombs, and waited until they were almost on us, and then we let 'em fly. Look!"—and he rolled up the sleeve of his tunic to show a deep scar near his elbow—"I got this from a bit of one of our own bombs. So close did we get the German came. But not one of them could have escaped, for at least three of our bombs dropped right into the boat, and there were great bits of wood-work drifting about next day.

"The strangest part of it all is that the fellows in the trenches on both sides are frightened to fire for fear of hitting their own men. As a matter of fact, all four of us were slightly hit in the run for home, but the boches did not get home at all. There is only one other way of getting close to the German in floodlands. At intervals there are raised roads running east and west between the wide stretching lakes, unpleasant in this ribbons of land bordered by two lines of broken poplars, connecting us with the enemy, and far out along the roads are Belgian and German hidden advanced posts. There, night and day, men lie in the mud and listen. In case anyone should be fool enough to attempt an attack along that road of death."

TO RESUME WORK

By Courier Leased Wire.

Calgary, May 16.—That work will be resumed at the mines in District No. 18 with an increase on a thirty per cent basis to all men, is now looked on as quite possible. This situation was arrived at by the miners policy committee meeting yesterday with Grant Hall, vice-president of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Mr. Hall held out the promise to the men of a temporary working basis on the thirty per cent increase and also stated that he would have a meeting of the coal operators as soon as these men could be got together for a further conference. Mr. Hall gave the impression that such an arrangement would hold good pending further negotiations, and urged strongly the resumption of work by the miners.

Mr. Hall's interview with the representatives of the mine workers has given a more favorable appearance to the situation, and he has requested the committee to remain in the city until he has arranged a meeting with the operators.

Fireworks, great assortment at Wick's opposite Post Office. Sugar Sale, 100 lbs. \$8.85.—20 lbs. \$1.79.—10 lbs. 94c.—Crompton Grocery.

Days...stering...Williman...Wanted...Learn Business...Wanted...Can Supply You...Wanted...B. Railway...SOUNDING...SONAL...opathic...IRWIN...SAUDER...Zimmie