

BERLIN IN GRIP OF A GENERAL STRIKE

General Strike in Berlin Now Threatens to Become Serious

Franco-British Successes on the West Front Continue Unabated

French Commission Officially Reports Upon German Atrocities

Imperial Castle Now Guarded by Police and Soldiers

GERMAN PEOPLE DELUDED

Quarter of a Million Laborers in Germany's Capital Unite in Voicing Their Disapproval of the Plight to Which Prussian Militarism and Teuton Kulture Have Led the Nation; Streets Closely Guarded Against Eventuality of a General Uprising of Populace

By Courier Leased Wire.

Copenhagen, April 17.—Via London, April 18.—The number of strikers in Berlin is placed in even the semi-official report at 125,000 and is distributed, according to The Tageblatt, through machine works, some electrical establishments and part of the munition plants.

Heavy Guards.

Reports in all the Berlin newspapers which have arrived here agree that the demonstrators were usually orderly although roughs resorted to occasional window breaking in the Unter den Linden, the Friedrich and Leipsic Strasses and other central thoroughfares.

Great crowds gathered in the neighborhood of the castle during the day and the temper of the crowd, particularly the women, is described as very bitter. The strikers denounced the farmers, wholesalers and the government in equal measure for responsibility for the food situation.

Labor representatives interviewed Lord Mayor Wermuth and the Prussian food commissioner, Michaelis, yesterday. They were given an assurance in regard to food which it is hoped will induce the workmen to abandon the strike.

Want Peace

Copenhagen, April 17.—via London, April 18.—The Vorwaerts, alone of the big Berlin papers, ventured this morning to comment editorially on the strike. It said that the demonstration was based, not only on the food situation and the demand that internal reforms be no longer delayed, but also on the deep longing of the people for peace.

While claiming that the peace sentiment has a decisive role in the movement, The Vorwaerts argues that the strike cannot be regarded as anti-governmental since the Austrian and German declarations justify the hope that the policy of the Central Powers is now on a path which will soon lead to peace.

Encourage Foes.

The paper laments the fact that the demonstration will have exactly the opposite effect probably from that desired by encouraging Germany's opponents to continue the war and diminishing the output of munitions. It also regrets that among other excesses a crowd gathered in front of the vacant British embassy, yelling and cat-calling.

ATROCITIES OF TEUTONS IN FRANCE NOW FULLY REVEALED

Official Report of Government Commission Recounts a List of Brutalities Committed to Inspire Terror

By Courier Leased Wire.

Paris, April 18.—A government commission which was appointed to investigate German atrocities has just completed its enquiry in the evacuated regions north and south and prepared a report which appears in the Official Journal to-day.

"Everything in this spectacle of devastation which we have had before our eyes discloses a method of such implacable and striking uniformity that it is impossible not to see in it the execution of a rigorously prepared plan," says the commission in the opening of its report.

The report then recounts atrocities committed by the Germans when they entered some of the villages in August, 1914, and which are now made public for the first time. At Noyon, it says, one of the residents, M. Devaux, selected as a hostage, was shot by a soldier as he was about to look for a handkerchief.

At the beginning of October, the report affirms, inhabitants of Vadpiller were arrested on the pretext that they were communicating with

NAVAL BATTLE RAGING?

Heavy Firing Reported Off Atlantic Coast To-day

By Courier Leased Wire.

Boston, April 18.—Three coast guard stations, at Race Point, Peaked Hill Bar, and High Head, reported that they heard heavy guns being fired at 9:41 a.m. to-day, north of the stations, in quick succession. The stations are off Provincetown.

Stations 32 and 67 reported that at 9:15 a.m. they heard north from the stations about 15 guns and fifteen minute interval 15 more were heard fired in quick succession.

The firing came apparently from a point just outside of Massachusetts Bay, at the end of Cape Cod. The reports to the navy yard did not state that any vessels had been sighted. Naval officials here explained that the firing probably indicated that a naval engagement was in progress. Provincetown, Mass., April 18.—Heavy firing was heard off the tip of Cape Cod to-day. The regularity of the shots led to the suggestion that it might have been an exchange of salutes by naval vessels, although it was stated that naval vessels on active war duty are not permitted to reveal their positions thus.

As a result of injuries received in December of last year, when he was gored by his prize-winning bull, T. Sims Sloate, fifty-six years old, a farmer of Gosfield, is dead.

WESTERN BATTLEFRONT IS EXTENDED OVER TWELVE MILES

Latest French Offensive Drives Enemy From First and Second Line Positions in Champagne and Near Rheims

By Courier Leased Wire.

Paris, April 18.—Midnight—The great western battle front was extended for another twelve miles to-day when the French drove the Germans from all of their first line positions and part of their second line from Rheims to the Champagne front.

The invaders were exceptionally well placed along a series of wooded heights, varying in height from 600 to 800 feet and running north along the main road from Rheims to St. Hilaire le Grand. The Germans were well aware that an attack was coming and had made full preparation for it.

As soon as the result of the battle between Soissons and Rheims was known, the order was given to attack. Punctually at 4:45 the French infantry "went over" well supported by a powerful mass of artillery. They swept forward in magnificent style and in two hours the first line of Moronvillers the impetus of the attackers carried them clean through the first line into the second line system, which centred at Monchant.

Paris, April 18.—The latest

SENATE PASSED CREDIT

Seven Billion Dollar War Revenue Bill Before Congress To-day

By Courier Leased Wire.

Washington, April 18.—The largest single war credit in the history of the United States will be at the disposal of the administration as soon as the House approves Senate amendments to the \$7,000,000,000 war revenue bill. This may be to-day. The measure passed the Senate last night by unanimous vote.

The bill will be rushed to President Wilson for his signature as soon as the House approves it. Washington, April 18.—The administration bill to raise a big army mainly by selective conscription, was ready to be reported to the Senate to-day by the military committee and all the force of the Administration will be employed to urge its early passage in both Houses.

The strongest objection to the conscription feature comes from House Democrats, who favor a volunteer system. To these the Administration is prepared to point out that the army general staff plan already provides for absorbing 700,000 volunteers into the regular army and National Guard for the period of the war.

CHAVONNE TAKEN BY FRENCH

Important Progress Made Last Night East of Soissons

By Courier Leased Wire.

Paris, April 18.—Important progress was made last night by the French in their attack east of Soissons. The war office announces the capture of Chavonne and Chivy. The French pushed on north of these points, reaching the vicinity of Bray-en-Laonnais.

The Germans made three desperate counter-attacks in the Champagne last night. They were checked by the French, who inflicted heavy losses on the attacking troops. Since Monday the French have captured upwards of 14,000 unarmoured Germans. In the Champagne large numbers of machine guns and trench mortars have been captured and also twelve cannon, including three of large calibre.

BIG FIRE AT SIMCOE

(From Our Own Correspondent) Simcoe, April 18.—The east wing of the Canning Factory of the Dominion Canners Company took fire at 3 o'clock this afternoon from the explosion of a can of benzol. No one was injured. The third story is now in flames with the firemen putting out a great fight in an effort to save the storage sheds to the east, which contain a great amount of raw material.

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BRITISH GAIN NEAR ST. QUENTIN

Village of Villers-Gaillain Captured From the Enemy

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, April 18.—The British forces have made further progress north of St. Quentin and have captured the village of Villers-Gaillain, according to an official statement given out by the war office to-day.

Three men were instantly killed and nine injured in the fall of an elevator at the Goodyear Rubber Co. plant at Akron, Ohio.

Thousands of acres of growing wheat in Oklahoma and Kansas, threatened by a continued drought, have been saved by heavy rains.

Weather Bulletin Toronto, April 18.—From Ontario eastward of the past day has been fair and mild, while in western provinces it continues cold and overcast and snow falls have occurred in many localities.

Forecasts Moderate winds, mostly fair and warmer to-day and on Thursday, showers in a few localities.



"Zimmie"