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TEN PAGES

AKES FAIF

and Other Places Are

REPORTED DEAD

and Presbyterian Church

Leading Stores.

Saved.

Burned.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 19, 1918.

The St. John Standard

FAIR AND MILD PRICE TWO CENTS

The Italians and Their Allies Are Holding Austrians Remarkably Well

After Four Days of Fighting Italians Are Holding S1.000.000 FIRE the Austrians Remarkably Well Along Ninety Odd Miles of Front From the Asiago Plateau To SWEEPS THROUGH the Adriatic.

PEMBROKE, ONT Too Early To Draw Conclusions, But Unless Enemy Makes Better Progress Soon His Long Planned Offensive Will End in Most Colossal Many Business Houses, Hotels Reverse of War.

Special Cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard.

TWO WOMEN ARE (By Arthur S. Draper). London, June 18-After four days of fighting the Italians are holding the Austrians remarkably well along ninety odd miles of front from the Asiago plateau to the sea.

Roman Catholic Cathedral It is too early still to draw deductions, but unless the enemy gets started soon, their long planned offensive will end in the most colossal reverse that any assaulting force has experienced in this war. Such a reverse is almost unbelievable and it is as surprising as the Italian, defeat last fall,

Necessarily the news is still vague and indefinite, but

Pembroke, Ont., June 18.—A disas-trous configration broke out here shortly after six o'clock this evening and before it was got under control a large portion of the commercial dis-trict of the town, on Pembroke street had been razed to the ground. The officials state that the final figure of the damage done may reach \$1,000,000. The fire is presumed to have started in a chimney in the resi-dence of O. Laudrault, Liveryman whose stables were totally destroyee by the fimes. No loss of life has a yet been reported, but it is rumore that one woman expired in one of th houses in the burned area and tha another woman was killed by a stree car. the reports at hand, so far are exceedingly fine, reflecting the highest credit on the defenders. To find a parallel for the present apparent reverse it is necessary to recall Brusiloff's collapse and in a smaller way the British failure at Cambrai last year. But neither of these attacks is to be compared with the present magnitude and effort. Political reaction of a startling nature must follow failure of such proportions as this appears to be.

Karl of Austria can ill afford to suffer a reverse however small. Upon this offensive he has staked the fate of his empire. No half success will settle the political difficulties which are embarrassing his reign. A military failure spells political disaster and revolution.

By German Order.

Having undertaken the offensive at MANIFESTATIONS dictation of the German militar the dictation of the German minute ist and with the greatest reluctance the Austrians prepared an attack up on a gigantic scale, concentrating thousands of guns and every available man, hoping thereby to overwheim Italy with one blow.

MADE IN VIENNA

United States Will Soon Have Soldiers Battling in Italy

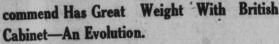
Washington, June 18-Count V. Macchi di Cellere, the Italian ambassador, called on Secretary Baker today, and while no statement was made it is understood that the recently announced decision of the war department to send American troops to Italy was discussed.

Leaders of all the allied governments as well as officials here have felt that no better way of demonstrating to the world that the nations at war with Germany and Austria have been solidified into a single force with the single purpose could be devised than to have each nation represented in the armies on each front. Necessarily, however, the extent of the participation of any country on any front must be governed by questions of transportation and supply.

Italian troops are in France forming a part of the international reserves at General Foch's disposal, while French and British armies now are aiding in stemming the Austrian drive. There is nothing to indicate that it is proposed to send to Italy an American force that would be in itself a very important military factor on a front where men by the millions are engaged, but, on the other hand it will be sufficient to make it obvious both to the Italian army and people that the United States is in the war with its whole heart and prepared to go to any extent to aid the common victory.

There is always a possibility that the Italian front will become a centre of assault against the Teuton forces. Officials here, before the Italian retreat last fall, saw great possibilities in a strategic way in shifting the front of attack to Italy. Sound initiary judgment would dictate the selection of the weaker foe for assault if other conditions left a choice between two possible fronts for action.

Wishes of Dominions Ministers Are Law What Messrs. Borden, Hughes and Others Re-



London, June 18—(Via Reuter's Ot-tawa Agency)—The Times, in an edi-torial on the decision of the govern-ment to hold regular meetings of some of the more important ministers out side the war cabinet, for purposes of inter-departmental settlement, says it presents no constitutional novelty. "There is no change in the inci-dence resuonsibility, or relations of



Chancellor Declares That Present Lull on Western Front Is Only Lull Preceding Mighty Tempest, But He Has Greatest Confidence in Moral Courage of Allied and American Troops.

Those in Command Look To Future Without Alarm-"The Future of the Country and of the World Depends Upon the Next Few Weeks."

London, June 18-Rt. Hon. Andrew Bonar Law, Chanellor of the Exchequer, introduced a vote of credit for 500, 000,000 pounds in the House of Commons today, gave some figures regarding the total war credits, which with the presant appropriation, would amount to £7,342,000,000 and announced that he would postpone until tomorrow his state ment on national expenditure. He then proceeded to give a review of the general situation.

The Austrian Offensive.

"The latest phase of this great struggle," he said, "is the Austrian offensive in Italy. It is part of an intense offensive which has been carried on along the whole battle front. Our enemies are right in thinking that a great success gained on that front would have far-reaching, perhaps decisive, results on the general battle front in France. For that reason the general suspicion that the initiative came from Berlin. rather than from Vienna, I believe to be justified. (Continued on page 2)



Everywhere Their Attacks Have Been Repulsed and They Have Failed To Make New Advances of Importance—Austrians Claim Total of Thirty Thousand Prisoners.

