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FAIR AND MILD

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The Italians and Their Allies Are Holding Austrians Remarkably Well

AUSTRIAN EMPEROR STAKES FATE OF EMPIRE ON HIS GREAT DRIVE

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

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

Special Cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard. (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. 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 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 the dictation of the German military and with the greatest reluctance, the Austrians prepared an attack upon a gigantic scale, concentrating thousands of guns and every available man, hoping thereby to overwhelm Italy with one blow.

Apparently the general staff elected to make their main effort along the Piave, although an advance through the mountains would have meant the turning of the Italian river positions. About sixty divisions—roughly about 700,000—were brought up to storm the defenses.

Against the British defending Asiago plateau and the French entrenched in the Grappa region the enemy hit powerful blows, but this secondary effort resulted in something approaching complete failure. The main drive in the region of the lower Piave from Zenson to the sea, a front of about fifteen miles, was a direct move to reach Venice. After penetrating to a depth of three miles in several places, the drive was halted by the brilliant resistance of the Italian troops.

Austrian Pincers

The Austrian pincers is trying to close, but the task is proving a difficult one. In the mountain regions the gallant defense of the British and French make any advance practically impossible. In the lowlands, not enough success in attacking Austria's efforts to make her offensive worth while. The shifting weight of the attack to the region above Venice makes it look as though the enemy were trying to cut that city off and flood the Venetian plain.

Just as the French and British countered quickly—a policy by the way which Foch followed in the recent Montdidier-Noyon battle—the Italians reacted before the Austrians got fairly started, so that instead of reaching his objectives, the enemy found a strong force waiting him. Apparently the Italians held the first lines lightly with heavy reserves in support. These reserves fell upon the attackers before they could bring their artillery to bear.

As I write the enemy holds only a few positions south of the Piave. He has made no gains in the mountains. Whether Ludendorff will send assistance to aid in the stiffening of the Austrian army, as was done last fall, remains to be seen. It is certain that the Germans cannot afford to allow their ally to suffer a reverse.

\$1,000,000 FIRE SWEEPS THROUGH PEMBROKE, ONT.

Many Business Houses, Hotels and Other Places Are Burned.

TWO WOMEN ARE REPORTED DEAD

Roman Catholic Cathedral and Presbyterian Church Saved.

Pembroke, Ont., June 18.—A disastrous conflagration broke out here shortly after six o'clock this evening and before it was got under control, a large portion of the commercial district of the town, on Pembroke street, had been razed to the ground. The official state that the final figures of the damage done may reach \$1,000,000. The fire is presumed to have started in a chimney in the residence of O. Landraut, liverman, whose stables were totally destroyed by the flames. No loss of life has as yet been reported, but it is rumored that one woman expired in one of the houses in the burned area and that another woman was killed by a street car.

Leading Stores.

The block swept by the flames contained many of Pembroke's leading business houses, and offices. In addition, there were a great number of flats and apartments occupied as residences in the devastated region.

The following is a list of the places so far known to have been ruined and completely destroyed:—W. W. Chambers, grocery and confectionery; Singer Sewing Machine Company's office; Prime barber shop and pool room; Kehoe, Slatery & Company, haberdashery; W. H. Jones, grocer and provisions; Leacy & Shields, Pembroke's biggest departmental store; the Royal Bank; Landraut's livery stable; Thos. Pink & Co., garage; Geroux's Hotel; Pembroke House; Jewell and Brunette, haberdashery; French's barber shop; Brenner & Co., and a number of private residences, some of them over the stores. All the aforementioned places are now but heaps of smoking ruins.

The offices of Police Magistrate Stewart and T. J. Galligan, barrister; of the Knights of Columbus recreation and club rooms, which were situated over the large store of Leacy & Shields, were destroyed.

The Presbyterian church, the large Roman Catholic Cathedral, and the convent adjoining, with the Bishop's palace, are situated right in the centre of the area, which was swept by the flames, but miraculously enough these edifices were saved.

A TOWN TREASURER SUICIDE ON GRAVE

Canton, Mass., Official Had Been in Ill Health.

Boston, June 18.—Robert Bird, town treasurer and tax collector of Canton, is dead as the result of a bullet fired into his head by himself while standing on his father's grave. He had been in ill-health.

His accounts are being investigated but no irregularities have been found.

DR. MARIA ARCHBISHOP

Rome, June 18.—The Right Reverend Pietro Di Maria, recently appointed by the Holy See as apostolic delegate to Canada and Newfoundland to succeed Monsignor Belleguino Stagni, has been created titular archbishop of Iconium.

TWO MILLS BURNED

Charlottetown, June 18.—George Boss of Bridgetown has lost his shingle mill and rotary mill by fire. The loss is heavy.

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 military 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 Dominion Ministers Are Law

What Messrs. Borden, Hughes and Others Recommend Has Great Weight With British Cabinet—An Evolution.

London, June 18.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency)—The Times, in an editorial on the decision of the government to hold regular meetings of some of the more important ministers outside the war cabinet, for purposes of inter-departmental settlement, says it presents no constitutional novelty.

"There is no change in the incidence, responsibility, or relations of the government with parliament, except in the internal arrangement. The business of this home affairs committee is more important for what it suggests than for what it is. Its establishment may hasten the inevitable movement towards a true division of local and imperial business. The supreme fact of the moment in the evolution of the British commonwealth is that Borden, Hughes, and their colleagues overseas, including those of India, are definitely engaged on equal terms, the British ministers exercising executive authority over the affairs concerning all.

300,000 TEUTONS REMAIN IN RUSSIA

Washington, June 18.—Germany and Austria, official telegrams based on German press despatches say, have recognized the new Ukrainian government, organized by General Skoropauski, as Hetman, or dictator, in succession to the Rada. Skoropauski is a descendant of an old hetman of a Cossack republic.

The hetman, the despatches say, received the official notice of recognition by pledging his aim to rule Ukraine in close relationship with the Central powers.

Washington, June 18.—Half of the Russian prisoners of war now returning home from Germany have tuberculosis, according to a report to the state department today from Volodga.

Moscow, Wednesday, June 5. (By The Associated Press)—German and Austrian troops now occupying territory of the former Russian Empire number about 300,000. This excludes Finland. The advanced enemy line begins at Narva, on the Bay of Narva

HURRICANE COMING IN FRANCE---BONAR LAW

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, Chancellor 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 present appropriation, would amount to £7,342,000,000 and announced that he would postpone until tomorrow his statement 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 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.

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AUSTRIANS FIGHT LOSING BATTLE

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

Rome, June 18.—The battle on the mountainous sectors of the Italian front has died down but is fiercer from the mountains to the sea along the Piave River, according to the statement issued by the war office today. The text of the statement reads: "The violence of the battle has somewhat decreased along the mountain front but is increasing along the Piave River.

"The third army withstood the powerful efforts of the enemy yesterday. In front of Maserada and at Candelo (on the Piave River) renewed attempts to establish new openings on the right bank of the river were sanguinarily repulsed.

"From Fossalta to Cape Sile the struggle raged without pause.

"On the northern edge of the Montello we strengthened our occupa-

tion on the river as far as Casa Serena. "In the afternoon the enemy from the northern salient on the mount delivered two attacks. The first was arrested to the east of a line north-east of Glavera. The second was stopped immediately south of the Soara-San-Andre railway.

"Enemy Repulsed.

"In the Grappa region we repulsed enemy attacks and carried out successful raids, taking about 100 prisoners. "At the end of the Brenta Valley and east of the Frenzella Valley enemy thrusts were promptly arrested.

"On the eastern margin of the Asiago plateau our troops wrested from the enemy Ravea Pizzo and the heights south-east of Sasso, capturing the about 300 prisoners.

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A. E. WALL DEAD

Amherst, June 18.—A. E. Wall, Chairman of the Board of Nova Scotia Censors, died here this afternoon, following an operation for appendicitis. Mr. Wall had occupied his position on the censor board for several years. He was elected to represent Digby in the house of assembly at a bye-election in 1910, was again returned at the general election in 1911. He resigned in September of the same year, when he was defeated by Clarence Jameson. He was a native of Westmorland, N. B. Liberal in politics, and a Baptist by church affiliation.

WEIR IN PEERAGE

London, June 18.—The Peerage of the United Kingdom has been conferred on Sir William Weir, Secretary of State for Air Forces, according to an official announcement here tonight.

FISH MEETING TOMORROW.

Ottawa, June 18.—The question of transporting fresh fish from the Atlantic seaboard to points in Ontario and Quebec will be considered at a meeting called by the Naval Department

MANIFESTATIONS MADE IN VIENNA

Paris, June 18.—Socialist manifestations took place in Vienna yesterday, according to a despatch received by the Havas Agency from Basel, Switzerland.

Washington, June 18.—The internal situation in Austria daily becomes more acute. An official despatch from France says a re-organization of the ministry is planned in spite of their attempts of the German deputies to go over to the opposition if the Seydler ministry resigns. Several members of the cabinet already have threatened to give up offices, the despatch says, unless the government convenes the Reichstag in response to the demands of the Czechs.

In reply to accusations of the Germans that they are trying to betray the dual monarchy for the benefit of the Entente Allies, the Slavs and Poles have announced that they will continue to fight for the realization of their national aspirations at whatever cost.

OLD INJURY CAUSES DEATH OF BRAKEMAN

Robert E. White of Truro Dies in Moncton Hospital.

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, June 18.—Robert E. White, a well known C. G. R. brakeman, died this morning in the city hospital, aged thirty years. Diseased was injured in a railway accident over a year ago and had never fully recovered from the injuries. He had been in the hospital undergoing treatment two weeks. He is survived by his wife and four children. He was the son of Stephen White of Truro.