

FRENCH RENEWED ADVANCE, AND MADE GREAT PROGRESS

Paris cable: The French forces on the Aisne to-day continued their successful advance, capturing several important villages as well as two thousand additional prisoners. Montky Mountain, east of Vauxaillon, the village and forest of Pinon, the village of Fargny-Filain, on the extreme east of the line, and numerous fortified farms and other points of vantage are now in French hands.

The number of prisoners taken since the drive began now exceeds 12,000, of whom 200 are officers, and 120 cannon have been captured.

An Associated Press despatch from the front says: "The French victory of Tuesday northeast of Solons is still being extended. Montky Mountain, east of Vauxaillon village, and the greater part of the forest of Pinon have been occupied. The French now have Laon in sight, eight miles away, and face the Aisne Canal.

THE OFFICIAL REPORT.

The text of the official statement reads:

"Our troops carried out this morning a general advance beyond their positions reached last evening, extending to the Oise-Aisne Canal. The village and forest of Pinon are in our hands, as well as the village of Pargny-Filain. South of Filain, where our patrols penetrated, we occupied the farms of St. Martin and La Chapelle Ste. Berthe.

"The enemy under our pressure was compelled to abandon important material, including a score of cannon, of which several were large howitzers. The total number of cannon captured by us since Oct. 23 is about 120, to which may be added several hundred minenwerfer and machine guns.

"In the course of the day we took more than 2,000 prisoners. The number of prisoners taken since the opening of the operations exceeds 12,000, of whom more than 200 are officers.

"On the right bank of the Meuse the Germans followed up their bombardment, indicated this morning, of our positions in the Chaume wood with an attack which our fire arrested."

GERMAN FORCES STUNNED BY THE FRENCH VICTORY

Paris cable: The sweeping nature of the French victory yesterday north of the Aisne is indicated by the official announcement from the War Office to-night, which reports the capture of prisoners exceeding 8,000, heavy guns exceeding 70, 30 minenwerfers, and 80 machine guns.

Several squadrons of tanks participated, and did excellent work in company with the advancing infantry. It was by means of these most modern war implements that the Follain farm was captured.

Most of the prisoners taken were caught in quarries. One group, composed of 400 men, was led out to surrender by a German soldier who spoke French, and who assured his comrades that they need not fear bad treatment from their captors, despite the assertions currently made to them by their officers that the French massacred prisoners. Another batch of prisoners fell into the hands of the French just as they alighted from motor trucks, in which they had been hurried to the battlefield as reinforcements.

The losses of the Germans were extremely heavy, as was testified to by the heaps of dead found beneath the ruins of quarries, which crumbled under the French bombardment. The French casualties were rather below normal.

MOMENTARILY STUNNED.

Comparative quiet has succeeded yesterday's battle. The Germans, astonished by the rapidity and the extent of the French success, seemed momentarily stunned, but it is probable that they are engaged in moving their artillery to the rear.

Prisoners arriving in dribbles to-day appear to have suffered great privations from lack of supplies during the French artillery preparation. The French aviation service is greatly praised for its work. During the attack it rendered immense service for the French commander, working under the most unfavorable conditions for flying, namely, mists, heavy clouds and strong winds. The airmen flew over the infantry when they were making the attack, and when they saw the German infantry assembling for a counter-attack they advanced toward the enemy at an altitude of less than one hundred yards, showered machine gun bullets upon him and brought about a dispersal of the assemblage.

Several French machines flew over the Laon railroad depot and attacked arriving troop trains. Some of the machines accompanying the infantry columns kept so low that they were obliged to shorten the antennae of their wireless apparatus. All the aeroplanes participating in the battle were riddled with bullets. One of them fell blazing among the French troops; the pilot was uninjured, and ran to the nearest battalion commander with highly valuable information.

USED 16-INCH GUNS.

A London Reuter despatch says: Despatches from French Army Headquarters marked that the advance yesterday was marked by the great number of pitfalls which the Germans had prepared over the ground attacked. Underground quarries capable of sheltering hundreds of men were frequent, slopes and ravines being honeycombed with them. These offered complete protection to the German troops from bombardment except in the case of the guns of largest calibre, and for this reason the French brought into play sixteen-inch guns.

The French artillery preparation for the attack was begun on the 6th of October, and increased gradually up to the inferno of Monday night, when every gun on the French front at this section pounded away without a let-up. The roofs and exits of the German underground shelters were shelled by the heaviest of guns, with a view of smashing open the roofs and blocking the exits. Whenever the French scouting aeroplanes reported an opening in the ground a flood of shells immediately followed. The great Mont Parnasse quarry, capable of sheltering a whole brigade, was pierced by the French shells. Fort Malmaison was battered out of recognition.

There are indications now that the whole German line on the western plateau must soon give way. At least six divisions were ordered yesterday to hold on to the positions at any cost, as they were of great value.

The struggle is now being waged for the possession of a long ridge which bars the approach to Laon from the south. It is the strongest

natural fortress in Northern France, and a cornerstone of the Hindenburg line. On the relief map it resembles a huge club, the end expanding into a jumble of many fortified positions. Everywhere along this barrier the German face the French across a very narrow space, in places only twenty yards wide, and the battle will now be fought out over this narrow ridge. French capture of this barrier would render German occupancy of the Ailette Valley, and perhaps considerably beyond, impossible.

FRENCH REPORT.

Paris cable: Wednesday night's War Office statement said: "North of the Aisne the German artillery was particularly active in the section of La Royere-les-No-Malmaison on our new front, which extends from Mont des Singes (Monkey Hill), which we have occupied in its entirety, to Chavignon. The enemy attempted no infantry action.

"Patrols sent out by us in the region of Chavignon and Vaudesson have brought back a great number of prisoners.

"It is confirmed that tanks (chairs d'assaut) played an important role in yesterday's attack.

"The number of prisoners taken since yesterday exceeds 8,000. Of the material left in our hands, which we will not be able to inventory before several days, it has been possible up to the present to count only 70 cannon, 30 minenwerfers and 80 machine guns.

"In Champagne, in the region of the Monts, we successfully carried out two surprise attacks, the first north-east of Prunay, the second at Mont Haut, and brought back about 15 prisoners. On the right bank of the Meuse there were spirited artillery actions in the region of Samagneux, Vacherauville, Chaume Wood and west of Douaumont."

BRITISH REPORTS.

London cable: The report from Field Marshal Haig in Flanders Wednesday night reads:

"We captured a few prisoners during the night in the course of patrol encounters south-west of Havrincourt.

"On the battlefield the hostile artillery was active this afternoon against our positions in the Houthefst forest. Our artillery carried out counter-battery work and a destructive bombardment at different points. In the St. Mihiel sector a large explosion was caused behind the enemy's lines by our artillery fire.

"The weather was stormy."

The afternoon report said: "Yesterday evening the enemy again attacked our positions in Houthefst Forest. An attempt made against the point of junction of the British and French armies was completely repulsed.

"Since our attacks on the morning of October 22 the enemy has delivered seven counter-attacks against our new line without achieving material results at any point.

"A successful raid was carried out by Gloucester troops last night south-east of Gavrelle. A number of the enemy were killed, several of his dug-outs were blown up and a few prisoners and machine guns were brought back by us."

IRISH OUTLOOK CAUSES WORRY

No Middle Way to Rule the Country.

Must Be Either Force Or Conciliation.

Dublin cable: The Sinn Fein conference opened to-day under the presidency of Arthur Griffiths, founder of the organization. There were 700 delegates present, including many young priests. The secretary reported that more than 1,000 clubs had been organized, with a membership of a quarter of a million.

London, Oct. 25.—When information concerning the exposure of Irish

intrigue in America has been circulated throughout the revolting element of Erin it is bound to produce further discord, unlimited recriminations and accusations and other effects seriously hindering what good has been done by the Irish convention.

Everything points to the fact that the present session of Parliament will soon face real difficulties in seeking a proper course of action. Britain's entire press devotes columns to-day to the attempt to set forth reasonable views on the mooted question. There is virtual agreement that the Government now faces the alternative of statesmanlike conciliation or the application of the strong-arm methods.

It is remarkable that even some of the bitterest opponents of conciliation earnestly seek for methods which will accomplish results without provoking hostilities against the convention.

All recognize the danger in giving any more leeway to elements which advocated armed force, but they cannot see any possible good in jailing De Valera or giving the Sinn Feiners another chance of making themselves martyrs.

There are no two ways of going about the Irish question, the press virtually agrees. The Government must adopt either conciliation or force, as two cannot reasonably be combined. Inasmuch as the Government had adopted the policy of conciliation dating from the time it took up the convention plan, it is possible that this may be continued, successfully or otherwise.

It is almost with a sense of despair that editorial writers attack the question and they truly reflect the official mental attitude.

The Evening Standard to-night says: "We believe the whole failure of English rule in Ireland is comprised in the failure to make such rule intelligible to Irishmen. They simply don't understand the sudden transitions as during and after last year's rebellion, from tolerance of lawlessness to the direct rigors of martial law, and from dull ferocity of repression to sentimental talk about heart union. They continually see cold-blooded hypocrisy; there is nothing but bewilderment of thought."

NATION'S THANKS TO FIGHTING MEN

British Commons to Place Them On Record

For Gallant Work in Three Years of War.

A London Reuter despatch says:

—In the House of Commons to-day, Premier Lloyd George gave notice that on Oct. 29 he would move the following resolution:

"That the thanks of this House be given to the officers, petty officers and men of the navy for their faithful work upon the seas during more than three years of ceaseless danger and stress while guarding our shores and protecting from the attacks of a barbarous foe the commerce upon which the victory of the allied cause depends. (Cheers.)

"That the thanks of this House be given to the officers and non-commissioned officers and men of the British army in the field and also to the women of the medical and other services, auxiliary thereto, for their courage and endurance in defending the right through sufferings and hardships unparalleled in the history of war, and for their loyal readiness to continue the work to which they have set their hand until the liberty of the world is secured.

"That the thanks of this House be accorded to the gallant troops from the Dominions overseas (cheers) from India and the Crown Colonies, which have travelled many thousands of miles to share with their comrades of the British Isles the sacrifices and triumphs of the battlefields and to take their full share in the struggle for human freedom.

"That the thanks of this House be accorded to the officers and men of the mercantile marine (cheers) for the devotion to duty in which they have continued to carry the vital supplies of the Allies through the seas infested with deadly peril.

"And this House does acknowledge with grateful admiration the valor and devotion of those who have offered their lives in the service of their country and tender its sympathy to their relations and friends in the sorrow they have sustained." (Cheers.)

BEYOND PRAISE,

Says Gen. Smuts of Conduct of Whole Empire.

London cable (via Reuter's Ottawa agency) — Lieut.-General Jan Smuts and Sir John Jellicoe, speaking at a great meeting in connection with the war aims of the campaign, at Sheffield, were accorded a magnificent ovation. The drill hall was packed with six thousand people, and thousands were unable to gain admission.

General Smuts, who, on arising, was received with the utmost enthusiasm, said: "The attitude of the nation and of every other nation belonging to the empire has been beyond praise. Reward will come in due time. The people of this country have stood the strain, and I am certain their nerves will prove even stronger than their steel. If, united, we should after the war reap the fruits of victory, it will mean little if after the war we are going to indulge in a class war, or economic chaos. Patience and courage will serve all the great industrial troubles which loom ahead."

BRITISH FLIERS MAKE REPRISALS

Heavy Damage in German Towns and War Plants.

Tons of Bombs Dropped—One Destroys Train.

London cable: An official statement on aerial operations issued to-night reads:

"Last night factories and railway communications in the vicinity of Saarbruecken were attacked by our aeroplane squadrons with excellent results. Over three and a half tons of explosives were dropped on the Burbach works, just west of Saarbruecken by naval machines. The damage caused was considerable; many fires were observed.

"Three thousand three hundred and thirty-five pounds of explosives were dropped on railway stations, junctions, good sidings in and around Saarbruecken by another squadron. Many direct hits were obtained, resulting in numerous explosions. One train proceeding to Saarbruecken received a direct hit from a big bomb and was destroyed. A total of five tons of explosives was dropped by us.

"The enemy's anti-aircraft defences were strong. At first the weather conditions were good, but later became very bad, with rain, low clouds and a strong wind, rendering the return of our machines most difficult.

"On Wednesday there was a slight improvement in the weather on the British front, though driving clouds and a very strong west wind made observation and fighting over the enemy's lines difficult. One hundred and fifty-four bombs were dropped during the day on the enemy's billets; 12 heavy bombs on an aerodrome near Courtrai, and 71 others on German troops on trenches and in the open.

"At times the fighting was severe. Four hostile machines were downed by our aeroplanes; one was shot down by our infantry and three other machines were brought down out of control. Six of our machines are missing.

An Amsterdam despatch says that civilians are reported to be evacuating Menin, which is about eleven miles southeast of Ypres, and some six miles from where the fighting front is now located. The town is one of the general objectives of the British drive, and on the main line railway from Lille to Ostend. A civilian evacuation would seem to indicate that the German army of fighting immediately around the city, or a plan to retreat.

U. S. SHIP HAD VERY HOT TIME

Rescued by U. S. Destroyer After Long Fight

With a U-Boat That Outranged Her.

A cable from a French seaport says: Escaping from a German submarine, after a bitter fight, lasting nearly four hours, and with seven of her crew wounded, two of them seriously, an American steamer arrived here this morning from an American port. The timely intervention of an American torpedo boat alone saved the ship from being sent to the bottom.

A few hours after the vessel had entered the danger zone a lookout sighted a submarine on the port bow, but before he had time to report its presence the submarine fired a shot which missed the stern of the ship by but a few yards. The captain immediately sent out a wireless call for assistance, as the position of the submarine was such that escape was nearly impossible.

The gun crews of the submarine and the steamer then began to exchange shots. The chief gunner of the steamer opened fire at a range of 9,000 yards, but all the shots fell short. The submarine kept manoeuvring to keep out of range of the steamer's guns, at the same time maintaining a running fire in an effort to disable them. The merchant ship, after altering her course, started at full speed in an attempt to escape. The stubbornness of the battle is indicated by the fact that the submarine fired 234 shots at the steamer, which responded with more than 260 shots.

After the fight had continued for about two hours and several shots had struck the ship, wounding four men, one shell hit the vessel and exploded in the engine room, putting the engines out of commission and rendering the ship helpless. The German commander then approached nearer and the submarine continued to rain shells upon the disabled craft.

The sea was running high at the time, and there seemed little hope of saving the ship, when a low streak of black smoke was sighted on the horizon. It later proved to be an American torpedo-boat destroyer coming at full speed, running right into the danger and at times nearly disappearing from view. The destroyer had heard the calls for aid sent out by the steamer and travelled at a speed as high as thirty knots to come to her assistance. The destroyer immediately made for the submarine, which dived and disappeared beneath the surface. The American warship circled about the spot, dropping a few depth charges, but no more signs of the U-boat were seen.

While waiting for the steamer's assistance, the destroyer kept sending messages such as "Hold on," "Stick to us," and "We are coming."

however, had been disabled soon after the fight began, and the messages never were received, so that the arrival of the American destroyer was quite unexpected. The submarine apparently was aware of the destroyer's presence, because she submerged before the destroyer could get within range.

The steamer was not hit below the water line, but her cargo caught fire during the engagement. The amount of damage has not been ascertained.

The Wagon Wheel Paradox.

A very interesting paradox is the one concerning an ordinary wagon wheel, which is solid and rigid, yet, when fastened on its axle on a wagon, when the wagon moves part of the circumference of the wheel which is in contact with the ground is for an instant at absolute rest, while the point directly perpendicular to it is flying along at a high rate of speed. The two points horizontal with the centre of the wheel are travelling pretty fast, but only half as fast as the topmost point, and as the upgoing horizontal point increases in speed the downgoing one slows up until it is at rest for a moment when in contact with ground. Yet the wheel is one solid piece and there are only two points going at the same rate of speed at the same time. Yet if the wheel is taken off the axle and rolled down an incline every point of the circumference moves at the same rate of speed.

EMPHASIZED BY FRENCH VICTORY

Five Main Points Bearing On War Brought Out

And All Point to Disaster to the Hun.

Paris cable: It would be hard to exaggerate the enthusiasm aroused throughout the length and breadth of France by yesterday's splendid achievements of the French army on the Aisne front, falling on the anniversary of the recapture of Fort Douaumont by Gen. Petain.

The blow apparently fell with all the force of a surprise, for it is understood that the German general staff held the opinion that after his incomplete success in the spring offensive, the French leader would not find it advisable to resume offensive operations before the end of the year, and this opinion was shared by a great many Frenchmen.

The military commentators emphasize the great importance of the capture of Fort Douaumont, the key to the whole ridge extending to Craonne. The French from their new positions are able to enfilade the German positions not only along the Chemin-des-Dames line, but at Anzely-Chateau, and to direct their fire directly along the valley Laon.

According to Marcel Hutin, of the Echo de Paris, yesterday's victory brings out five main points:

First—That the enemy nowhere on the western front has been able to take the initiative since February, 1916.

Second—The enemy continues in a state of inferiority.

Third—He has been obliged repeatedly to withdraw his lines between St. Quentin and the Ailette.

Fourth—He has been beaten in Flanders and obliged to give ground.

Fifth—He will be forced to resign himself to another "strategic" movement rearward if he wishes to escape disaster.

M. Hutin, in this connection, says French aviators have reported seeing in the Laon region trees sawed through and villages demolished.

The writer concludes that he is convinced the victory just gained is but a prelude to decisive actions which will be carried out with the clock-work regularity characteristic of Gen. Petain's methods.

FRENCH DRIVE SPOILS HUN PLAN

Copenhagen cable: The Germans, under pressure of the French victory on the Aisne, may endeavor to effect a general retirement to a new Hindenburg line well in the rear of their present positions. Various hints from German experts, recognizing the menace, particularly to the exposed salient south-southwest of Laon, were preparing a new fortified line somewhere between Laon and their former front, to which they expected to effect an orderly retirement akin to their spring withdrawal, as soon as the menace became pressing.

The French attack seems to have anticipated this strategy, and the German hammering of a victorious opponent, is likely to be quite a different operation from that planned.

ESCAPED HUNS STILL FREE.

Atlanta, Ga., cable: Department of Justice agents to-night had been unable to find a trace of Lieut. Hans Berg and nine other German prisoners who escaped from the detention camp at Fort McPherson. Tuesday night through a tunnel they dug from their sleeping quarters. Several false trails were run down during the day.

NORWAY CAN SUBSIST.

A Christiania cable says: The Food Minister to-day declared that the food situation in Norway was about the same as last year, and that by economizing and utilizing what she had Norway could get along. Fish would supply enough fats, and the day would not come when Norwegians had no butter on the table.

The papers take a contrary view, saying that without imports from America Norway will face starvation before the winter is over.

ITALIAN LINE UPON ISONZO WAS PIERCED

Defence Barrage Was Rendered Useless by a Heavy Mist.

HUGE FOE CLAIMS

Enemy Says 10,000 Captured and Great Amount of Booty.

A London cable says: The Austro-German forces which yesterday began an offensive on the Isonzo front broke through the Italian lines and brought the battle on to the slopes of the right (west) bank of the Isonzo, says to-day's official statement. Powerful Austro-German attacks also were made on the Bainsizza plateau, and on the west slopes of Monte San Gabriele, but these were checked by the Italians, who took a few hundred prisoners.

The enemy attacked on the southern slopes of Monte Rombon and on the northern edge of the Bainsizza plateau. In the former region he was resisted in the narrow of Saga, but further south he broke through the Italian advanced lines, being favored by a thick mist which rendered useless the Italian barrage.

The text of the Italian statement says:

"Yesterday morning, after an interval of a few hours, the enemy resumed the violent bombardment all along the front, with a specially destructive fire on that portion between the southern slopes of Monte Rombon and the northern edge of the Bainsizza plateau, where afterwards a strong infantry attack was launched.

"The Narrows of Saga resisted the hostile blow, but further south, favored by a thick mist which rendered useless our barrage fire, the enemy succeeded in breaking through our advanced lines on the left bank of the Isonzo.

"Take advantage of his bridgehead of Santa Maria and Santa Lucia he then brought the battle on to the slopes of the right bank of the river.

"At the same time, powerful attacks were made to the west of Volnik, on the Bainsizza plateau, and on the western slopes of Monte San Gabriele, but they were kept in check by our troops, which in the course of successive counter-attacks captured a few hundred prisoners.

"On the Carso a violent enemy bombardment was effectively countered by our batteries."

THE BERLIN CLAIMS.

Heavy captures in prisoners and booty have been made by the Austro-German forces, according to the German official report. The total prisoners, it is claimed, exceed 10,000, including divisional and brigade staffs. In the first rush of the attacking forces, strong Italian positions barring the way to the valleys of the Ritsch basin and Tolmino were overrun. Steep mountain slopes were scaled, and an Italian point of support which crowned the heights was stormed. The Italians fought desperately and hard battling was necessary to break their resistance at many points.

The text of the German communication follows:

"Italian front: In military comradeship the German and Austro-Hungarian troops yesterday attacked side by side in battle against their former allies. Advancing to the assault on a front of over thirty kilometres, after short but intense artillery preparation, our tried divisions broke through the Italian Isonzo front in the Flitsch basin and at Tolmino.

"Strong enemy positions, barring the valleys, were over-run in the first thrust, notwithstanding stubborn defence. Our troops scaled steep mountain slopes and stormed an enemy point of support which crowned the heights. Rain rendered difficult an advance in the rugged mountain land, but its effects everywhere were overcome.

"Desperate resistance by the Italians had to be broken down many times in fierce hand-to-hand engagements. The fight is proceeding.

"Up to this evening more than 10,000 prisoners, including divisional and brigade staffs, and rich booty in guns and war materials had been announced."

CADORNA EXPECTED IT.

Washington despatch: The great Austro-German drive against the Italian front, now in full swing, was fully expected by General Cadorna. For several weeks past he has been placing his army in readiness and selecting with great care proper defensive positions for the Italian troops. Official cablegrams received here to-day declare that, in addition to the heavy reinforcements which the Austrians have received from the troops withdrawn from the Russian front, many German divisions have appeared on the long line from Tolmino to the Carso, so that there are now twenty full divisions with a great amount of artillery in the German trenches.

Italian headquarters recognize in this great enemy force a confirmation of the reports that have been leaking out from Germany and Austria of the conclusion reached by the German general staff that the real issue of the war is to be fought out on the Isonzo and Tyrol fronts. It was also learned that the German general staff has freely conceded the high strategy and military ability shown by the Italian commander-in-chief, Gen. Cadorna, in his choice of positions.

Many days of extremely bad weather, which finally gave way to cold and clear, made possible the beginning of the Austro-German offensive.