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CLEARING.

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The Italians Hold Their Positions And Turn Vigorously on the Foe

THE ARMY OF ITALY LAUNCHES A STRONG COUNTER OFFENSIVE

Italian Troops in Conjunction With Their French and British Allies Open Onslaught on Austro-Hungarian Hordes and Partial Successes, Rectifying the Lines At Several Points Along the Front—More Than 4,500 Austrian Prisoners Captured.

Emperor of Austria on the Field of Battle—Enemy Disregarding Losses Continue Their Endeavors To Cross Piave River, But Italians Bravely Hold Positions—Activity on British Front—Austrians Claim 12,000 Prisoners.

Rome, June 17—Italian troops in conjunction with their French and British allies began a counter offensive against the Austro-Hungarian forces, which had launched an attack on the Italian mountain front. The Italian and allied troops, according to an announcement made today by the war office were able to gain partial successes and to rectify their lines at several points along the front.

The statement says the Austrians, disregarding their losses, continued their endeavors to cross the Piave river, but that the Italians are bravely holding their positions.

More than 4,500 Austrians have been made prisoners by the Italians, British and French.

The text of the Italian statement reads: "On the Asiago Plateau and on Monte Grappa the enemy, who had on the fifteenth of June suffered heavy losses limited his action yesterday to hindering with intense fire the counter-offensive push of our own and Allied troops, who, however, were able at several points to gain partial successes and to rectify our line.

"Along the Piave the battle went on with extreme violence. The enemy, heedless of his losses, continued his powerful pressure in order to extend his occupation of the Montello and open the way to the plains. Our troops have strongly engaged the enemy on the line of Ciano, the Montello crest and St. Andrea.

"The Italians are bravely holding the positions on the river from St. Andrea to Fossalata and are effectively opposing the enemy's advance in the area in front of San Dona Di Piave.

"Prisoners taken from the beginning of the fighting amount to more than 120 officers and 4,500 men of other ranks, including 716 captured by the British troops and 261 by the French. The aviation service has continued to take a very important part in the fighting, notwithstanding the unfavorable flying conditions. Forty-four enemy machines have been brought down during the last two days."

Emperor Present.

Amsterdam, June 17.—Emperor Charles is with his troops on the Italian front, according to a Vienna despatch to the Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant. No German troops are participating in the offensive, the despatch adds.

British Statement.

London, June 17.—The Austrians are re-organizing their positions along the British line of the Italian front after their "severe defeat," according to an official statement issued tonight on the operations of the British with the Italians.

The statement says: "There is little change on the British front. The artillery battle has died down and the enemy is re-organizing after his severe defeat.

"Captured maps show that his objectives were very ambitious; they included the capture of San and Ciano Di Ponte. The number of prisoners has increased to 716, including 12 officers. The total amount of captured material actually brought in was four mountain guns, 48 machine guns and seven flamethrowers.

Considering the severity of the bombardment, and the intensity of the fighting our casualties were very light.

"On June 15 and 16 the royal air force dropped over 300 bombs and fired over 25,000 rounds of machine gun ammunition on troops and transport attempting to cross the Piave."

SCOTIA STEEL MAKES SOME CONCESSIONS

Makes Substantial Wage Concessions To Strikers and the Strike Is Over.

MEN ARE LIKELY TO RETURN SHORTLY

Big Corporation, However, Declines To Recognize Union Officially.

Special to The Standard.

New Glasgow, June 17.—The Board of Trade has at the request of the Federation of Labor been acting as intermediary in the strike situation since Saturday night. The members succeeded in getting substantial wage concessions from the Nova Scotia Steel Company. These included a minimum of \$3.00 and a slice for nearly every employee except those under contract who are quite satisfied with what they now receive. The company, however, is standing firm on the "recognition" issue. A mass meeting was held at the Academy of Music at 2 p. m., today. Another meeting was held this evening and it was voted to return to work.

It is considered probable that had the strike continued long the government would have decided to operate the industries affected. Some of the newspapers and public men place the entire blame for the strike on the strikers. It must be remembered that those formerly in control of the Nova Scotia Steel Company permitted control to go outside of this country, and that probably by exercising more diplomacy the strike could have been avoided.

It is sufficient to say that the United States Steel Company which employs more than twenty times as many as the Scotia and has many more intricate problems to handle has little if any serious trouble with its army of help.

OCEAN LIMITED DELAYED EIGHT HOURS BY WRECK

Special to The Standard.

Moncton, June 18.—The Ocean Limited from Montreal yesterday afternoon was blocked eight hours by a freight wreck at Mont. Joli, Quebec.

The delayed train reached Moncton shortly after midnight. According to report no one was hurt in the freight wreck.

A River Glider man who was arrested here for drunkenness Saturday night was dealt with yesterday under the Prohibition Act. He was fined fifty dollars for carrying liquor, five for being drunk, and 2500 costs.

A boy named Gerald Leger was sentenced to two years in the reform school at St. John yesterday for stealing a rifle from the N. B. Wire Fence Co.

Two boys arrested by the C. G. R. police last week for stealing a ride on a freight train and breaking the seals on cars were given two months in jail with the option of paying a fifteen dollar fine.

OLD MAN STRANDED

Moncton, June 17.—Asking protection for the night at the Young street police station, a man who gave his name as Charles McCarthy, and claimed to come from Chester, N. S., was sent by Captain Kavanaugh to the Municipal assistance and refuge. The man is between 80 and 85 years of age. He could not give any further information about himself.

Italian Danger Lies In the Alpine Flank Toward the North

Special Cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard. (By Hilaire Belloc).

London, June 17.—In the last dispatches the positions on the Italian front were just the reverse of what was the principal peril on that front as at first indicated. The Italian front follows the Piave river through the plain and then, bends around through the foothills of the Alps, making a flank facing north. This flank facing north has just behind it the main Italian communications by road and railway. It is therefore certain that an Austrian success in this sector, where British troops mingle with Italians, would lead to the greatest results.

It was here that the chief pressure was exercised by the enemy on the Asiago plateau and both sides of the Brenta plateau, but it was here during the first two days of the battle that the enemy had the least success. His principal advance was in the plain across the Piave. Here he seized several bridge heads on the western bank, one at the main railway crossing ten miles above the river at St. Dona, one at the middle railway crossing called Ponte Di Piave, which also carries a main road, and one just under the foothills at Nerviza. But if the necessary retirement from these points are served by well covered lines of communications and so long as the front holds there is no fear of disaster. It is on the other side of the mountain front that the danger point lies because even a slow orderly retirement here would soon reach lines of communication.

The two important features of the first day's fighting are the presence of German troops and the great vigor of the allied counter attacks. The identification of the position of the German troops, which has not yet been revealed, will materially help us to judge where the enemy expects to drive through. As to allied counter attacks, it is noticeable that their chief success has been in the mountain regions which most threaten the front and where a failure would have the most serious results.

Canada Food Board Wants Harvesters

Ottawa, June 17.—Chairman H. B. Thomson, of the Canadian Food Board, issued the following statement to the Canadian Press today:—"Almost on the eve of National Registration, the Canada Food Board places the need for additional farm labor for the harvest of 1918 crop is before the people who are required to sign the registration cards. Before signing these cards the people of Canada should be thoroughly aware of what the answers they give to these questions mean."

The question on these cards requiring of most thoughtful answering is number 12 which reads as follows:—"Your circumstances permit you to serve, in the present national crisis, by changing your present occupation to some other for which you are qualified, if the conditions be satisfactory?"

"The work of harvesting this year's crops is emergency service. Canada has handled other emergencies well, notably—Recruiting of expeditionary forces, Red Cross, Patriotic Funds. There is no reason why we should not be ready to help the farmers in harvesting the crops. Are you willing to do your bit at home to save off starvation among our kinsmen and our Allies in Europe?"

"The Germans are forty-five miles from Paris. The Naval blockade of Germany and Austria has been rendered only partially effective by the collapse of Russia. The Allies are depending on this country for food which is the lowest in the history of the country by reason of the various other extraordinary demands imposed by the war. The problem, therefore, of saving the 1918 crop is before the people now employed in non-agricultural industries, chiefly in towns and cities, and those who are not really employed at productive work at all.

"Let each able-bodied Canadian plan, therefore, arrange his or her personal affairs so as to be free to help with the harvest when called upon, or take the place of another who is willing and more able to go. Think it over."

WRECK OF ALCOHOL WELL STRIPPED

Fishermen Have More Flour Than Food Board Allows, But They Don't Care.

Special to The Standard.

Yarmouth, N. S., June 17.—Word from the wreck of the Alcor says that the hull has been stripped of everything movable. The tide dropped low enough today to allow the after hatch to be reached and when this was reached the balance of the cargo floated out and was seized at once.

Pillsbury's best flour will now be a staple on this shore for some months and it is doubtful if the "Fifteen days supply" clause of the food control laws will be observed. Many say they did not report to the customs.

They worked hard at the Cobequid wreck and saved a lot of goods which were duly handed to the customs, but strange to say those who complied with the law have not received a cent for their pains. With this wreck the fishermen are working on the theory "once bitten twice shy."

NO RECURRENCE OF HEAVY FIGHTING ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Counter Attacks Against French in Newly Won Positions Between Oise and the Aisne Repulsed—Germans Gassing the Americans—Austrians No Longer Able To Ford the Piave River.

Hard Fighting Is Still in Progress Along the Italian Front With Austrians Bringing the Strongest Kind of Pressure To Bear Against the Allied Armies.

There still has been no return to the heavy fighting of last week on the battle fronts in France, although several engagements of greater importance than the usual raiding operations have taken place. Counter attacks against the French in their newly won positions between the Oise and the Aisne delivered by the Germans Monday were repulsed. The French captured 370 prisoners and twenty-five machine guns in the fighting.

Northwest of Chateau Thierry, especially in the Belleau Wood, the Germans are treating the Americans to large waves of gas and shells. Their efforts have gone unrewarded, however, so far as breaking the line is concerned. Some patrols east of Chateau Thierry again have crossed the Marne, attacked the Germans and returned to their base.

In Persia the Turks are reported to have captured Tabriz, after Teheran, the largest city in Persia.

The Italians Attack.

Not alone are the Italians and their British and French comrades in arms holding in check the Austrian offensive along the greater part of the hundred mile battle front from the region southeast of Trent to the Adriatic Sea, but they themselves have turned aggressors on some of the more important sectors, especially in the mountain regions.

Counter attacks in the hill country on the north at several points have resulted in the occupation by the Allies of ground won from them in the initial onslaught and the rectification of their lines, while a stiffening of the front along the Piave River has rendered impossible for the time being, at least, further fording of the stream by the enemy.

Hard Fighting.

Hard fighting still is in progress, however, with the Austrians bringing the strongest kind of pressure to bear against the Allied armies on both the northern and eastern parts of the battlefield in an endeavor to reach the lines and gain access in force to the plains.

The strokes of the enemy are particularly violent on the Montello Plateau, the highest bit of ground along the middle reaches of the Piave, the capture of which would give him command of the roads leading through Treviso to Venice and a fair way westward through the province of Treviso. The Italians are inflicting heavy casualties on the troops of the

Emperor Charles which crossed the river at this point.

Violent Encounters.

To the south from St. Andrea to Fossalata, respectively the northern and southern flanks of the famous Zenson Loop where last year the Austrians effected a crossing of the Piave, only later to be driven back with sanguinary losses, and from Fossalata to San Dona Di Piave the fighting also is of a violent character, with the Italians holding the line. Between Candelo and the Zenson Loop where the Austrians crossed the Piave in Saturday's fighting, the Italians have driven them back to the river bank and are endeavoring to push them across the stream.

Thus far the Italians, British and French troops have made prisoner of more than 4,500 Austrians, while the Austrian war office asserts that 12,000 have been taken by the Austrians.

Karl At Front.

Although the fighting has died down considerably in the mountain region it is expected soon again to be resumed with increased violence. Emperor Charles is reported to be at the front and thousands of reinforcements for the armies are said to be moving southward.

The Allied commanders are anticipating vicious fighting, believing that owing to the turmoil and political unrest in the Dual Monarchy the Austrians must make a good showing in order to temper the feeling against the war.

THUGS MURDER A MAN BY MISTAKE

Montreal, June 17.—Vengeance on one whom they supposed to be an agent of the Dominion police, is thought to have been the motive for a fatal assault committed near Drummondville, presumably by four gangsters, on the person of Alberic Pellerin, a farmer, who died Monday afternoon at his home in St. Cyrille as the result of his injuries—thus adding still another murder to the already long list.

According to information received by the provincial police, Pellerin was travelling toward his home on a lonely road near Drummondville, when in the darkness four men jumped from the roadside; one struck him on the head with a blunt instrument, which smashed in his forehead, fracturing his skull. The man, although he had money, was not robbed, and was left on the roadside for dead, where he was later found in an unconscious condition by someone driving by.

Raved of Automobile.

The victim never regained complete consciousness, but in his delirium he spoke of an automobile, which leads the police to believe that he had been overtaken on the road. Shortly before his death, he regained consciousness sufficiently to tell his relatives that he had been attacked by four men.

Detective Roux, of the Provincial force, has been sent out on the case, and from investigations so far conducted, it is suspected that the four men mistook Pellerin for a Dominion police officer. Pellerin died on Monday, and although an inquest was held by Coroner Larue, of the district, and was adjourned, the Provincial police authorities under Chief Lorrain were not notified until yesterday, thus allowing the murderers full four days' start. Pellerin was well known in St. Cyrille, and had no known enemies.