

Piave Battle Continues Without Pause.

Italians Counter Attacking With Success. River Overflows and Destroys Enemy Bridges. Grave Internal Conditions in Austria.

BATTLE CONTINUING BITTERLY.

ROME, June 20.

From the Montello to the sea the Piave River is continuing bitterly without pause, the Italian war office announces to-day. Last night the Italians forced the invaders to withdraw from north of the Monte Bellina railway. More than 1,200 Austrian prisoners were taken and numerous machine guns were captured. The Austrians yesterday afternoon, says the report, launched a fresh attack on the Piave with strong forces and succeeded at first in gaining some ground in front of Zenson. Later our reserves were brought up and forced the enemy to retire. French troops on the Asiago Plateau stormed enemy positions at Bertigo and Pennar. The Italian troops succeeded in capturing Oestlunga, the statement adds.

COUNTER ATTACKING.

LONDON, June 20. By counter attacking all along the Piave, the Italians have gained further ground on the Montello Plateau, in the northern sector of the river front, and have also made headway southeast of this ridge, says the Evening Standard to-day.

AUSTRIAN DIFFICULTIES.

ITALIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS, June 19. (By the Associated Press.)—For forty-eight hours the Piave River overflowing its banks has destroyed several pontoon bridges constructed by the Austrians at Intestadua and also at Sandonna at Piave. This has increased the difficulty of the Austrians in their rear communications, affecting the transportation of artillery, ammunition, food and fresh troops. It is stated that the Austrians fighting south of the Piave River, continue to implore help and also that two of their divisions have been greatly reduced by losses.

A HUNGER OFFENSIVE.

ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS, June 19.—That Austria's drive against Italy is positively a hunger offensive, has been proved by new orders and addresses found upon prisoners. These were signed by officers ranging from Field Marshal von Hotzenzendorf down to regimental commanders. One which was issued by the commander of the famous regiment bearing the name of Archduke Charles, says: "Soldiers, remember the spoils we got last fall from the Italians—the sheep, coats, stores and warehouses full of good clothes and groceries, stores full of wine, canned goods, flour and sugar. Think of your family, think of the white bread you may win for all." The correspondent has visited groups of hundreds of prisoners, all of whom are thin and weak. They said they had little food for the past month and spoke with horror of the winter months they had passed. A sample of their black bread showed that it was made of rye, straw and potatoes. Many of the prisoners have strong well spiked shoes, but these

they claim they made themselves or bought. Their clothes are falling apart, having been patched frequently. Most of them have mere rags for shirts. The majority of the prisoners have money, but it is either in paper bills or iron coin. The most of them wear medals for valor, some of them having two or three of them, but these decorations are of "base metal" and some are of gold or silver. One is stamped with a likeness of Empress Zita and encircled with laurel wreaths and is made of a zinc composition. The prisoners part readily with these medals, saying they have no pride in them, for a few pennies of Italian money. Most of the captured men are young and light haired and generally have bad teeth. The Italian soldiers tell humorous stories of captured effecting by persuading the Austrians they will be well fed. One Italian commanding officer who had been wounded and picked up by a group of Austrians who intended to make him prisoner, explained how foolish they were. He said, come with me and you will get meat, wine and real bread. Thereupon the whole party went over to the Italian lines. It is said that at the beginning of the offensive the Austrians in the front line each received three rations of meat, no food for the rest of the attack until they reached the Italian stores. They were so hungry that they ate all of them the first day. During his tour the correspondent talked with an Austrian prisoner, a member of a manufacturing firm with offices in the great centres, including New York. "I have been fighting for forty months," said this man; "first on the Russian front where I had an easy time and now here where the Italians are making things too hot for us. There is no food for the people of Austria and next to none for the army. I had but few pieces of bread and potatoes before the fight and since the fight began I had had none. The army can't last for more than a couple of months. There are no good officers left. We have plenty of ammunition but no one to use it properly." The Italian losses were comparatively small, while those of the known Austrian losses will have to be added to the many Austrian dead which still encumber the wooded mountain sides. It is still too early to predict that the Austrians will not come back with a further effort, but it is clear that in their so far futile push they under-estimated the Italians both as regards their morale and general fighting efficiency. A sample of the comparative destructiveness of the Allied and Austrian fire was observed by the correspondent in the Asiago region where the French troops had fired more than 10,000 shells while the Austrians discharged large numbers. The Austrian outposts were covered with dead bodies whereas the French had suffered hardly any damage.

ITALIAN CONTROL OF THE AIR.

ITALIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS, June 20. (By the Associated Press.)—The Italians have won complete control of the air along the Piave where the most determined fighting of the present Austrian offensive is in progress. This afternoon not a single Austrian machine was aloft on the front. In general the situation of the Austrians along the Piave appears far from satisfactory to them. Prisoners taken by the Italians all declared the Austrian army has little food. Some of the prisoners have not eaten for forty-eight hours.

ITALIANS CONGRATULATED.

LONDON, June 20. (Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)—Premier Lloyd George has telegraphed Premier Orlando of Italy as follows: "The Imperial War Cabinet, representative of all the peoples and nations of the British Empire, desire to congratulate the Italian Army on the splendid defence they have made in the great battle now in progress. The Imperial War Cabinet has watched with pride and admiration the unwavering courage with which the brave soldiers of Italy, in company with the Franco-British troops, repelled the offensive conducted with the whole strength of the Austro-Hungarian army. This great success has been a deep source of encouragement to the Allies. In the coming most fatal hour of the whole war it is a good augury that an alliance of free nations will ere long free the world once and for all of the military domination which threatened it so long."

THE AUSTRIAN CLAIM.

VIENNA, June 20. The Austrian troops under Field

Marshal Von Boroevic have held all the ground they gained from the Italians on the west bank of the Piave, to-day's official War Office report states, and in addition have driven the Italians back westward south of the railway that leads to Treviso. The new advance was made with the aid of an infantry division under General Baron Scharitzer. The Italians attacked again southwest of Asiago on the mountain front, the statement adds, but met with the same poor success as on previous occasions. The battle in the Montello region increased in violence yesterday equalling that of the great battles on the Carso front. The statement says the Italians drove forward six times and employed reserves indiscriminately, but all their efforts were in vain.

AUSTRIA'S RATIONS.

AMSTERDAM, June 20. For at least six weeks, says the Vienna Neue Freie Presse, the people of Austria will have to exist on little more than salads and vegetables.

STRIKE IN VIENNA.

LONDON, June 20. More than 100,000 persons have gone on strike in the Vulcan arsenal and the Warschowski airplane works in Vienna, according to a despatch from Zurich to the Exchange Telegraph Co. The despatch adds that riots have occurred at Favoriten, Margarethen, Ottakering and Brigittenau, suburbs of Vienna.

SUCCESSFUL RAIDS.

LONDON, June 20. (Official.)—Two successful raids were carried out last night in the neighborhood of Lieze by French troops who captured several prisoners. The British took a few prisoners northeast of Metz. This morning we advanced our line slightly northwest of Metz and captured a few prisoners and a trench mortar and machine gun. Two counter attacks on our new positions were beaten off. The hostile artillery was active with gas shells to-day in the vicinity of Ayette, south of Arras.

FRENCH OFFICIAL.

PARIS, June 20. (Official.)—There was intermittent artillery action between Mont Didier and the Oise and south of the Aisne. In the eastern theatre both armies were active along the whole front. Two enemy planes were downed and one balloon north of Dieppe.

AERIAL OPERATIONS.

LONDON, June 20. The official statement on aerial operations to-night says: Low clouds and rain interfered with flying on June 19th and the enemy aircraft showed little activity. Five German planes were destroyed during the day and two more were driven down out of control. One of our is missing.

BERLIN REPORT.

BERLIN, June 20. The evening statement issued by the War Office says: North of Albert, to the southwest of Noyon and to the southwest of Chateau Thierry small attacks by the enemy failed with heavy losses.

RUSSIA MUST BE RESCUED.

PARIS, June 20. (Via Havas Agency.)—Maklakoff, the Russian Ambassador to France, reiterated, in an interview printed in the Petit Journal, his appeal to the Allies for intervention in Russia, saying that such action is absolutely necessary. The future of Russia, says Maklakoff, depends on victory for the Entente Allies, which will mean the salvation of humanity. Allied intervention is necessary to allow disarmed and betrayed Russia to resist the

German. To help the Bolsheviki will be to be playing the German propaganda game. The Allies must help the population of the districts where the Bolsheviki and the Germans are not masters of the situation.

TRANSPORT TORPEDOED.

PARIS, June 20. The transport Santa Anna, proceeding from Bizerta for Malta, was torpedoed and sunk on the night of May 10-11, according to the Havas Agency. There were aboard 2,150 soldiers and native workmen, of whom 1,512 were saved. The date May 10-11 is being investigated.

AMERICAN DASH.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY ON THE MARNE, June 20.—The American troops in this sector attacked the German line northwest of Chateau Thierry during the night and made an advance of five-eighths of a mile, driving the Germans back from a small pocket on the northern side of the Belleau Wood. The Americans occupied the German positions without resistance from the enemy, the Germans having withdrawn when the short and sharp preliminary artillery bombardment indicated that an infantry attack would follow.

NAVAL SQUADRON ATTACKED.

LONDON, June 20. German airplanes attacked a British naval squadron north of Heligoland on June 19th, the British Admiralty announced to-day. The German machines made no hits and one seaplane was destroyed.

GOMPERS RE-ELECTED.

ST. PAUL, Minn., June 20. Samuel Gompers was re-elected President of the American Federation of Labor by acclamation at the annual convention here this afternoon.

HOME FOR CORRESPONDENTS.

LONDON, June 20. (Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)—Lord Beaverbrook opened the center in Norfolk Street for the Dominion's allied and neutral correspondents, affording closer touch with each other, and the ministry of information. He said he hoped they would familiarize themselves with what Britain was doing and study the national determination which was equally vital with the spirit of the fighting men for victory.

NO THOUGHT OF PEACE.

LONDON, June 20. (Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)—Premier Hughes, of Australia, at a luncheon of the British Empire League, commiserated Russia on the tragic spectacle of her treatment by Germany. The shillshoets of Bolshevik, he said, would see it through, the faint whisperings of a few pacifists were drowned in the mighty and determined shout of a patriotic people. Premier Hughes paid a special tribute to the Americans who did not dream of peace and were stepping in to the forefront of the battle. Germany was trying her hardest to grasp a quick and elusive victory, but nothing would break the strength of the Allies whose minds should be purged of all thoughts of peace.

THE ALLIED TRADE.

LONDON, June 20. (Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency.)—Premier Massey, of New Zealand, at a luncheon of the British Empire Producers, emphasized the paramount importance of the maintenance of German colonies and also the necessity of post war prohibition of the commercial, financial, social and political activities of enemy aliens within the Empire. He urged the adoption of an imperial fiscal preference, including a preference for British ships between Empire ports, and added that there should be generous treatment of allied trade.

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RALPH D. PAINE TELLS MORGAN GUESTS NAVAL MEN STILL HOPE FOR REAL FIGHT WITH GERMANS.

Stories of American, British and French sea fighters in action were told to a company of guests of J. P. Morgan, including a large number of officers in the three navies, by Ralph D. Paine, the novelist, who has visited the warships under Government authorization to prepare a book called "The Fighting Fleet."

"People talk of the inactivity of the grand fleet," he said, "but the grand fleet is continually active. It is not afraid of submarines; it has gone to sea again and again to answer alarms that the German high seas fleet was coming out, and in every officer and man in the fleet there is confidence that some day they will actually catch the Germans. I asked Admiral Beatty what would happen if the Germans did come out, and he answered cheerfully, 'We're here—what, what?'"

Mr. Paine told of one of these occasions when the fleet left its base in the north of Scotland between midnight and dawn in response to a report that the Germans were abroad. "They came through a channel," he said, "which navigators had said before the war could not be traversed at night; but in the war all the fleets have learned to do the impossible. On this occasion the newly arrived American battleships had received the place of honor in the van just behind the British flagships. The fleets cruised twenty hours in a high gale, but found no Germans."

"One of the British battleships had sent up an observer in a kite balloon just before the fleet sailed, and had no time to bring him down. So for twenty hours he was towed by the battleship at the end of his long cable in a wind so high that his observation car was usually sticking out horizontally behind the balloon."

"I visited also the submarine base where American submarines are undergoing intensive training for stalking German U-boats, under the direction of Captain Nasmyth, who commanded a British submarine that performed remarkable exploits in the Dardanelles and the Sea of Marmora, sinking a Turkish battleship and several transports. He is now training Americans in the very difficult work of submarine stalking."

"The submarine has no friends; other vessels shoot whenever they see a periscope without stopping to find out whether it belongs to friend or enemy, so the work is somewhat hazardous. The submarine men are resigned to a good deal of it. I met one officer who said that he didn't mind it when two destroyers of his own fleet had attacked his boat, one ramming it and the other dropping a depth bomb. But he did think it was a little too much when the Admiral commended them for their energy. Among the crews of the larger ships there is a feeling that the submarine has spoiled this war."

Mr. Paine told of a German mine-laying submarine which had settled in the bottom of a British harbor to discharge its mines, when on the shell of which presently assumed the form of a message in the international Morse code.

"Unless you come to the surface and surrender at once," said the message, "we will drop a depth bomb." Unable to see how the message could have been sent to him, the commander hesitated, but there came another tapping. "The bomb is being put into position." Then the German came to the surface almost under a British trawler, which, though taken by surprise, opened fire and forced the sub-

marine to surrender; after which there came up from the depths of the harbor a diver who had been at work on a sunken wreck, had discovered the submarine, and tapped the message on her hull with his hammer, on the chance that there would be some sort of British ship at hand to take care of her when she reached the surface.

There was a lightship in the North Sea, Mr. Paine said, which was left untouched by tacit agreement, since it was of considerable use to both sides—the British finding it useful in their navigation and the German submarines employing it as a guide to turn their course from north to west when coming out. The British discovered that the submarines followed a regular course, so one night without warning they moved the lightship half a mile and put it just below a shoal. The next day two German submarines were found grounded on the shoal near the light.

Of the American sailors in Ireland, he said that while a very larger percentage of them were of Irish blood and had gone over with a sentimental sympathy for Ireland, this had vanished because of the treatment accorded them by the population. "From the pulpit of the Cork Cathedral," he said, "the American sailors were denounced as vultures who had come to corrupt the young men and debauch the young women."

They were attacked, jeered, and everything hated; they found the streets full of young Irishmen who refused to volunteer, who marched in parades with Sinn Féin banners and defied England to conscript them. It was due only to the strong discipline maintained that there was no serious disturbances, for the American sailors more than once attempted to obtain leave in large bodies to go over to Cork and get even with their enemies. The behaviour of American sailors has not been excellent; 5,600 men from the battleships went ashore for the Christmas holidays at Edinburgh and only three were brought back drunk.

Mr. Paine saw the crew of a German submarine whose commander destroyed her after surrendering, brought in to port by the American destroyer Fanning.

"They came swarming out of an open hatch," he said, "as if violently propelled from below, like so many jacks-in-the-box. Never was a large, populous German submarine emptied so rapidly. And as they madly erupted on deck, every Hun flung his hands above his head with the most passionate sincerity and held them upraised while he bawled: 'Kamerad! Kamerad! Kamerad!'"

"A gunner's mate on the forward deck of the Fanning grinned and exclaimed with pardonable emphasis: 'Kamerad, hell! What kind of a word is that to use in war? Somebody ought to tip these poor boobies off. We are sure-enough enemies. They believe as if they expected us to shoot

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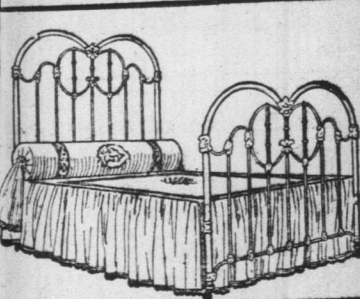
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