

STEAM ROLLER IS RIGHT WORD FOR HAIG'S DRIVE

Major-Gen. Maurice's Review of War Week is Optimistic.

GERMAN YARNS

Not as Many British Engaged as Huns Claim Are Lost.

A London cable says: Major-General Frederick B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the War Office, in his weekly talk to-day with the Associated Press, after an optimistic review of the past week's work on the British front in Flanders, said:

"We have every right to be confident when we see what our men have done. But the fighting is hard and we do not think that the present series of battles in Flanders is going to end the war. There is a great deal more hard fighting before us. I would say that the importance of getting the American troops here as quickly as possible and in the greatest possible numbers has not been diminished."

"The word 'steam-roller,' which was so often used in the early days of the war in connection with the Russian army, is exactly the right word to characterize the British advance in Flanders. It is an advance not rapid, but insistent, irresistible. It goes up hill very slowly, but now it is doing down hill, and battles are following each other more and more rapidly."

"I want to say a word about the work which has been done behind our lines in preparing for these battles. I do not wish to minimize the U-boat threat, but I can truthfully say that nothing the U-boats have done has delayed for a single hour our work in France; it has not delayed a single round of ammunition or a ration for the soldiers. The British army was never better fed or supplied than to-day."

"The daily imports of British war material into France last January averaged 11.4 tons per hour; in September they had increased to 24.5. The number of broad-gauged trains run daily in the war zone with British war material numbered 179 in March; 259 in September. The weekly tonnage on narrow-gauge lines in March was 26,000; in September 173,000. The weekly average of war materials on the canals in the British war zone was 34,000 tons in March; 62,000 tons in September."

Commenting on the German report that the British had lost half a million men in the present series of battles, General Maurice said:

"The figures are grotesque. We have not had that many men engaged. As I have already told you, our casualties have been very light, and the German casualties are known to have been 75 per cent. greater than ours."

REICHSTAG ROW IS FOR EFFECT

To Make Peace Appeal in Time More Forceful.

Crisis Over Helfferich is Postponed.

A London cable: The Evening Standard says: "In diplomatic circles the Deutsche Tages Zeitung's forecast of a new peace offer of the Central powers on the basis of the status quo with no indemnities is accepted as accurate. Germany has been endeavoring to create an atmosphere in which an offer of reasonable peace would be hailed with rapture by her pacifist friends in all countries. The reason for staging the present quarrel between the Pan-Germans and non-annexationists is, in the main, a comedy for the benefit of the allies."

"Those who understand German mentality hold that German Government is under no illusion as to its position, but encourages an intransigent attitude on the part of the Pan-Germans in order to make more effective the real appeal of pacifism abroad. When it comes we shall not doubt be warned by our pacifists in proper time against throwing the Empire once more in the hands of the thorough-going. Wisdom lies in disregarding all these manoeuvres."

THE CRISIS POSTPONED.

Germany's new Ministerial crisis caused by Government encouragement of the new agitation of the Fatherland Pan-German party among the army and officialdom seems temporarily at least smoothed over. To-day's despatches differ vastly from yesterday's, wherein the immediate resignation of Helfferich, and later the resignation of Michaelis was forecast. The Amsterdam correspondent of the Times telegraphs under Tuesday's date: "Telegrams from Germany say the crisis has been postponed. The Norwaerts regards the desire as natural to avoid domestic conflicts during the war. The Vossische says the Chancellor and War Minister have given all explanations reasonably to be expected, thereby clearing up the essential cause of the incident. The Lokal Anzeiger says that only the Social-Democrats are still dissatisfied, but they cannot prevent the refusal to vote a vote of confidence. Saturday's outburst are ascribable to a misunderstanding. The Germania thinks the Reichstag's conflict with the Government begins to be a vast scheme whereby the German cause abroad is not served. A Berlin telegram to the Koelnische says the Chancellor and army authority achieved a remarkable and rapid settlement of the conflict. The sum required for information and service of the army is agreed to and the conflict with Helfferich adjusted. The Social-Democrats alone voted against it. The Government may be said to have won a victory. Saturday's events might have been avoided. The Reichstag can now finish its business at one or two sittings and adjourn till November."

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PERSHING'S PRAISE.

U. S. General Congratulates British Troops.

British Headquarters in France, cable says: The recent operations in Flanders have brought many congratulatory messages to the British troops. Field Marshal Haig has issued an order of the day containing a number of despatches received on October 5, and replies sent to them. Gen. John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force in France, telegraphed:

"Permit me to extend sincere congratulations to you and your magnificent army on the recent important gains in front of Ypres. They give a striking answer of the weak-kneed peace propaganda."

Field Marshal Haig sent this answer: "I wish to thank you very heartily in behalf of the British army under my command for your most kind telegram. We look forward to the day when the American armies join us on the western front, and we are quite confident that the allies, so reinforced, will fight the war to an early and decisive issue."

POOREST APPLE CROP ON RECORD

Yields From 10 to Less Than 40 Per Cent.

Other Fruits as Well Are Very Poor.

A Toronto report: The September report of Dominion Fruit Commissioner Johnson shows that this year's apple crop in Ontario is the smallest on record since the Province really began to grow apples in a commercial way.

In no one district will there be a 40 per cent. crop, and the one section in which this figure is even approached is in the valleys of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa, where fruit-growing is, at best, a very minor line of activity. In Prince Edward county, one of the heavier producing districts, a 30 per cent. crop is counted on; in the Georgian Bay district and along the front of Durham county, also important apple sections of the Province, the yield is not expected to exceed 10 per cent. September sunshine has given a fine color to the fruit, but worm holes and fungus will force the bulk of the crop below No. 1 grade. Reliance for domestic needs must be largely placed on Nova Scotia, which has a moderate crop of well-colored and generally clean apples, according to Commissioner Johnson's report.

The situation is all the more unfortunate by reason of the fact that other fruits as well as apples are short. Peaches in the Niagara district are only a 50 per cent. crop, and the crop is still lighter in Western Ontario. Pears in the Niagara district are also only half a crop, and the best report outside of Niagara points to a 25 per cent. yield. Plums have given equally light yields, and the supply of grapes will be greatly shortened, owing to the failure to mature as a result of adverse conditions in spring and early summer. Tomatoes, which may also be considered as a fruit crop, were held back by cold, wet weather early in the season and yields have been shortened by early autumn frosts.

Taking everything together, 1917 will rank as the poorest year to date in the history of Ontario fruit growing. Prices have been high, but not nearly high enough to offset reduction in production.

ALLY SHIP LOSS DURING A WEEK

France and Italy Got Off Very Easily.

Neutral Norway Had First Clear Week.

Paris cable: Three French steamers of more than 1,000 tons were sunk by mines or submarines during the week ending Oct. 7. Two vessels of less than 1,000 tons were lost and eight ships were attacked without success. Six fishing boats were sunk.

ITALIAN RECORD. Rome cable: In all cases last week two Italian steamers of more than 1,500 tons were sunk by mines or submarines. One sailing vessel of more than 100 tons also was lost. One steamer and one sailing vessel were attacked without success.

NORWAY'S CLEAR WEEK.

London cable: Not one Norwegian ship was sunk last week by German submarines, for the first time in more than a year, according to a despatch to the Morning Post from Christiania. The Tidens Tegn, of Christiania, prints a diagram purporting to show that Norwegian sinkings have decreased as the efficiency of the Allies in dealing with submarines has increased.

BOMB PLOTTERS NABBED IN N.Y.

Three Held for Conspiracies Last Year

Which Cost \$5,000,000 in Ships and Cargoes.

A New York report: Three men, charged with conspiring to blow up ships in New York harbor in 1916, were arrested here last night by members of the "bomb squad." The prisoners are Eugene Riester, 32 years old, a restaurant proprietor; Jos. Zeffert, 37 years old, a printer, and Walter Uhde, 30 years old, a lithographer. Uhde never has been naturalized. The others were American citizens.

The conspiracy in which the three men were involved, according to the police, was responsible for the destruction by bombs and fires of \$5,000,000 worth of ships and cargoes. "The chief conspirators," said Captain Tunney, of the bomb squad, "were Dr. Karl Schimmel, who escaped to Buenos Aires and later made his way to Rotterdam. Captain Franz von Rintelen, already convicted of conspiracy; Captain Otto Wolpert, superintendent of the Atlas Line pier, who is now under \$25,000 bail; Captain Sernberg, an aide of von Rintelen, who escaped; Walter T. Scheele, a chemist, and the three men under arrest."

HAD A BATTLE IN THE BALTIC

Mosquito Fleets of Russia and Germany Clash.

German Airmen Are Also Very Active.

A Petrograd cable: The Germans are still continuing preparations for an attack on the Russian Baltic fleet. In the Gulf of Riga Wednesday eleven enemy motor boats appeared, but were dispersed by the coast batteries. "On the Baltic Sea Monday," says to-day's official report, "Russian scouting cutters encountered in the Irbie Channel ten enemy cutters and trawlers and attacked them. One enemy trawler was sunk. The enemy retired southwards. "On Monday fourteen enemy aeroplanes approached Cerel (on the island of Oesel). Some of them fired mines on our transports at Ajchod. Yesterday eight enemy aeroplanes attacked without result the batteries at Cerel and the village of Mendo, six miles to the northeast. "On Monday our machines dropped twenty bombs on Rodenrois station and on the Riga station. We brought down an enemy aeroplane in the Riga region. In the neighborhood of Buagacz French aviators brought down an enemy machine in flames."

NEW BARRAGE IS APPALLING

British Shells Do Not Make Holes in Ground

But Spread Death Over a Wide Area.

A London cable: The British barrage is now many thousands feet deep, and the correspondent obtained a first-hand account of its efficacy to-day from a close observer of the three preceding days. He said: "Its death-dealing capacity is beyond anything seen before in this war. The German losses have been very heavy, especially from our big shells. New shells are invented just as new aeroplanes are. Earlier in the war certain types of shells made enormous holes in the ground, and this same type does so still. "But there are big shells now that seem to touch the earth for the mere purpose of exploding with a terrible lateral force over a wide area and wreaking havoc among the enemy."

This military commentator, discussing the persistent reports of the German retirement to new lines, said: "The German high command is well aware that it requires at least six or seven divisions more to hold its present line than it would if they withdrew to the straight line running to Zebrugg. But the high command knows the difficulty of retreating now that we have them everywhere under observation. It is not like it was on the Somme last winter, where they could withdraw under cover of the Dapaums ridge. There must soon be a crisis for the Germans."

GERMAN PLANS PROVE FAILURE

A London cable: Reuters' correspondent at French headquarters telegraphed to-day:

"Two interesting points emerged from the latest battle of Flanders. First, the enemy system of echelonment proved a failure. Second, the substitution of prepared lines of shell cutters for battered trench lines is almost valueless, because after a heavy shelling the craters are little good as shelters. Prisoners admit that the higher command realize that during heavy fire the men cannot be trusted to hold them. At the moment of attack the men are either not at their posts or are in a frame of mind which makes surrender the wiser course than fighting."

FACE STARVATION.

British Captives in Asia Minor in Bad Plight.

London cable: Attention is drawn by Thomas Seccombe, the eminent scholar and critic, to the melancholy position of British prisoners of war in Asia Minor.

"Unless," he declares, "these men be exchanged before the severity of the approaching winter overtakes them, few, if any, can survive. Even good treatment, according to Turkish standards, would involve nothing less than slow and very painful death to men already weakened by Mesopotamian starvation, tolls forced marches, insubstantial food and the inevitable rigors of that ferocious climate."

Enquiries made by the Daily News shows that with the exception of 800 men exchanged directly after the fall of Kut, no exchange of prisoners yet has taken place between Great Britain and Turkey. There are nearly 9,000 British and Indian troops of all ranks in the hands of the Turks, of whom some 150 are in Constantinople, the others being at various camps in Asia Minor.

BERLIN SHIVERS.

Fire Illegal and the Mercury Drops.

A Berlin cable: he coal distribution authorities some days ago, when the weather was sunny and warm, decreed that before Oct. 15 no fires should be lighted anywhere, in private or public, or even in governmental buildings.

On Saturday the weather began to grow exceedingly chilly, and has continued so ever since, and women are decorating themselves with furs. Rain adds to the general discomfort. The suburb of Schoenburg asked the coal authorities to withdraw the order, but so far this has not been done. The weather prophets are certain that the sun will soon shine again as brightly as the season permits.

NEW RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT REBUILDING

Already Busy Trying to Get Trade and Military Matters Settled.

OFF TO FRONT

Kerensky and His Aides to Meet Troops—Confer With Allies.

A Petrograd cable: The new Government has begun the task of rebuilding the breaches in the country's economic and military lines created by the political uncertainty since the Bolshevik uprising in July.

Premier Kerensky and his principal lieutenants have left for the front, where they will spend several days in placing before the soldiers the purchasing of the coalition Ministry. The foreign Ministry will also confer with the Allied military agents at the front, and explain to them Russia's needs, and devise schemes of co-operation, which he will probably present before the Allied war council at Paris.

The re-constructed Government yesterday issued a declaration which says:

"Fresh troubles have broken out in the bosom of our country in consequence of the Korniloff movement. Although this movement is being rapidly suppressed, it still menaces the very existence of the republic by the disturbances it provokes."

"The wind of anarchy is blowing through the land, and the thrust of a foreign foe is increasing in force."

"The Government is profoundly conscious that a universal peace will alone allow of Russia's marshalling all the creative forces, and adds:

"The Government will pursue an active foreign policy in the spirit of the Democratic principles proclaimed by the Russian revolution, and will strive for the conclusion of a universal peace."

The government, in its declaration regarding its participation in the forthcoming Allied conference, says that while discussing questions connected with the common war, the Russian representatives will reach an understanding with the Allies on the basis of a revolutionary government at its inception.

"The government," it adds, "will extend its whole strength in support of the common cause of the Allies, to defend the country, to oppose every attempt at the conquest of territory of other nations, and every attempt to impose the will of others on Russia."

In restoring the fighting power of the Russian army, it is declared, the government will follow the democratic principles already promulgated by the War Minister.

NO MOVE TO MOSCOW.

Petrograd cable: With the announcement of the new Cabinet comes the statement, emanating from a government source, that preparations for the removal of the government to Moscow have been stopped, as there is no prospect that such removal will be necessary in the near future. No reason for the abandonment of the evacuation plan is forthcoming, but it is generally assumed that the improvement in the political outlook is the cause. Fears for the safety of the city of Petrograd as a result of the capture by the Germans of Riga have subsided.

BRITAIN FIRM BEHIND ALL FRENCH DEMAND

No Peace, Says Lloyd George, Till Alsace-Lorraine Restored.

H. H. ASQUITH

Scores Tricky Talk of German Leaders, and is Confident.

A London cable: Premier Lloyd George, addressing a delegation of insurance committees, who called to-day to urge a readjustment of health insurance and the establishment of a Ministry of Health, declared that all the nation's thoughts and energies were taken up by the terrible demands made in defence of liberty and freedom. He wished he could see the end, but the task which the nation had taken in hand must be accomplished. He could not think of any statement more calculated to prolong the war than the assertion of the German Foreign Secretary, Von Kuehlmann, that Germany would never contemplate the making of concessions to France respecting Alsace-Lorraine.

However long the war lasted, said the Prime Minister, Great Britain intended to stand by her gallant ally, France, until she redeemed her oppressed children from the degradation of a foreign yoke. This meant that the country must husband its resources, and when demands were put forward for improvements here and there, his answer was: "Concentrate upon victory."

For the moment, every claim upon the exchequer must be considered in the light of the terrible possibilities of the war, and when the war was over, in a freer, happier atmosphere, the country could begin to rebuild, reconstruct and regenerate.

DOUBTS GERMAN SINCERITY.

Addressing a war-aims meeting at Liverpool to-night, H. H. Asquith, former Premier, referred to recent declarations by German statesmen and writers, and said that his previously expressed skepticism regarding the Reichstag's peace resolution was justified by the event, for the German parties had been squabbling ever since with infinite acrimony concerning its orthodox interpretation, and confusion had become worse confounded with the publication of the Chancellor's reply to the Papal note.

Doubtless, said Mr. Asquith, in both Germany and Austria there was a widespread and genuine desire for peace, and in the Reichstag itself, slender as were its powers and divided its counsels, there were indications of a growing spirit of revolt against the Government methods.

"But," continued Mr. Asquith, "the dominant fact with which we have to deal is neither German public opinion nor the German Parliament, but the German Government. Does that Government mean business? Is its desire for peace sincere? Dependent upon it, the world will never find the way to peace through a morass of equivocations and ambiguities. Plain questions and concrete cases are studiously avoided. We are left in the darkness of a rhetorical twilight and we are asked to lay down our arms without other safeguard than that we shall be offering a unique exhibition of the three virtues Faith, Hope and Charity."

CLUMSY GERMAN MANOEUVRE.

Admitting that nobody pretends that it would be right for either side to formulate an ultimatum, defined and exhaustive, which must be accepted chapter for chapter and as an indispensable condition, and that many things must be left for action and adjustment by negotiation, Mr. Asquith declared that at the same time the allies must be resolute and definite in their assertion of the means whereby peace must be attained.

He referred to the speech of the German Foreign Secretary, Dr. von Kuehlmann, respecting Alsace-Lorraine, and said:

"German diplomacy is not celebrated for definiteness, but even in its analysis it will be difficult to find a manoeuvre than this maladroit attempt to sow discord between ourselves and our French allies. Von Kuehlmann relegates the Belgian question to a secondary position."

"I have formerly asked whether Germany was ready to restore Belgium in the only real sense acceptable to the allies, but I have received no answer, and von Kuehlmann, who can be boastfully definite and precise concerning Alsace-Lorraine, reserves regarding Belgium an unbroken, but significant silence."

GENERAL SITUATION.

Concluding with an allusion to the general situation, Mr. Asquith said: "It is to be a contest of endurance we have no reason to lose heart or hope. During the last fortnight our unconquerable troops have been doing great things both in Flanders and Mesopotamia. There is still need of economy and good organization in the necessary commodities, but not the slightest danger of our being starved into submission."

"Take the allies as a whole, including America, whose contribution to the common stock becomes every month a factor in the growing quietude—survey the relative powers of endurance of the two sides; measure them by any standard, naval, military or economic and after you have made allowance for every dubious or haz-

contingency, even for the temporary paralysis of Russia as an offensive force, can there be doubt that the material, no less than the moral, preponderance rests manifestly and increasingly with our cause?"

GERMAN WASTAGE.

How Enemy Troops Are Being Wiped Out.

A London cable: Reuters' correspondent at British headquarters in France, telegraphs to-day:

"The following interesting reports are given as an example of how enemy troops are being wiped out:

"Case of the 234th Prussian Division: This latter was raised in January and sent to the west front in April, to the northwest of St. Quentin. They were immediately heavily attacked by the British. These lads of the 1918 class were badly shaken by a whirlwind bombardment, which inflicted heavy casualties, while one regiment lost many prisoners. The division appeared in September on the Ypres front, being thrown in to counter-attack us on Sept. 20, being repulsed. Again, on Sept. 26, some elements of the same division were completely shattered. The result is that the division exists only in name. Several of the officers who were not trusted by the non-com's have been retired. This is interesting, because it is a reminder that the old German officer class has almost entirely been wiped out."

PLENTY OF OIL

For British Navy Fuel, Assured by Standard Oil.

A Washington report: An ample supply of fuel oil for the British navy was assured to-day at a conference between their Government representatives, Standard Oil officials, and members of the Shipping Board, oil reserves in Great Britain have run so low, the conference disclosed, that many British warships have been forced to remain inactive.

To remedy this situation the Shipping Board will rush construction of 58 oil tankers recently commandeered in ship-building yards, and is ordering building at least 40 more. The problem, it was brought out to-day, is entirely one of tonnage, as there is an abundance of oil on this side of the Atlantic.

The British representatives proposed that the Shipping Board requisition Standard Oil ships to carry supplies to their navy, but Standard Oil officials showed that that would create a shortage in the United States. The British representatives and officials of the Standard Oil will continue conferences this week in New York, where a definite estimate of the actual British needs will be worked out.

A BULGAR WIN.

Sofia Claims Ally Defeat in Macedonia.

A London cable: Allied troops made a strong attack Tuesday south of Dobran, north of Saloniki, according to the Bulgarian official statement issued to-day. The attacks, begun after violent artillery fire for twenty-four hours, were broken up at two points by the Bulgarian artillery. The Entente losses are reported to have been heavy, while the Bulgarians suffered only slightly. Allied troops who gained a temporary footing in one of the Bulgarian advanced trenches, the statement claims, were either killed or captured.

The reported Allied attacks south of Dobran probably were not a success. The official statement from Berlin on Wednesday said that southwest of Lake Doiran, "the Bulgarians repulsed several British detachments which attacked after lengthy artillery preparation." There has been no British statement on this fighting.

ALSACE-LORRAINE

Alone Bar to Peace, Says Von Kuehlmann.

Amsterdam cable: In addressing the Reichstag Foreign Secretary, von Kuehlmann said, according to Berlin despatch, that as far as he was able to view the world situation there was no impediment to peace, no question which could not be solved by negotiations, except for the French demand for Alsace-Lorraine.

Chancellor Michaelis is quoted as saying: "As long as our enemies confront us with demands which appear unacceptable to every single German, as long as our opponents wish to interfere with our frontier posts, as long as they demand that we shall yield a piece of German soil, as long as they pursue the idea of driving a wedge between the German people and its Emperor, so long shall we with folded arms refuse the hand of peace. "We can wait. Time is working for us. Until our enemies perceive that they must reduce their claims, so long must the cannon speak and the U-boats do their work. Our peace will yet come."

HUN RAILWAYS SHORT OF FUEL.

London, Cable: The German state railways are faced with a great shortage of fuel and drastic limitation of traffic has begun, according to reports reaching here. The railways propose to levy heavy excess fares on express trains so as to discourage all except unavoidable business journeys. A large number of fast trains have been eliminated from the winter time tables. The Wurttemberg railways will charge heavy excess fares for traffic on Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

There can be too much of a good thing. A full house has emptied many a man's pocket.