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FORECAST
FAIR AND WARMER

THE MORNING ALBERTAN

CITY EDITION

EN PAGES. CALGARY, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1917 SIXTEENTH YEAR—NO. 206

ITALIANS PREPARING FOR BIG BATTLE

GREAT PROGRESS IS MADE BY THE CANADIAN TROOPS

TEUTONS ARE HELD BACK BY REARGUARD OF ITALIAN ARMY AND FLOODED RIVERS

No Definite Information at Hand From Which It Is Possible to Judge Extent of Advance of Teutons

The drive of the Germans and Austro-Hungarians, begun a week ago against the eastern and northern fronts of the Austro-Italian theater, continues unabated, but with the Italian cavalry fighting rear-guard actions to cover the retreat of the Italians to positions chosen for a stand, and the Teutonic allies being impeded by the flooded condition of the Tagliagmento river.

Udine, the headquarters of the Italian army in eastern Venetia, has been captured by the invaders, who are also pressing the Italians westward and invading Italian territory from the north through passes in the Carni Alps.

The invasion of the province of Venetia from the east, with Udine the apex of the drive, already is about twenty miles, but as yet no definite information is at hand from which it is possible to judge the extent of the advance of the Teutons in the other districts.

If the movement from the north keeps pace with that from the northeast and the east, however, the predicament of Gen. Cadorna's forces necessarily will be a serious one, and it is not beyond the realms of possibility that unless the eastern armies are able to make a stand on the plains of Friula further considerable numbers of Italians will be captured.

Nothing has been vouchsafed in either the Italian, German or Austrian official statements to indicate what the situation is in the Trentino sector, which lies to the west and northwest of the present zone of activity, but it is not improbable that if, as unofficially announced, the Austro-Swiss frontier has been closed, reinforcements, both from Germany and Austria are being hurried up for an offensive of great magnitude in this region. The driving back of the Italians southward in this region might seriously affect the plans of the entente allies to send relief to Gen. Cadorna if the route chosen for the purpose were across the Franco-Italian border and eastward by rail.

In the retreat of the Italians, the British artillery units which early in the spring were sent to the Isonzo front to aid the Italians in their drive toward Trieste saved all their guns, but the men suffered severely from cold, the inclement weather and lack of food.

DISASTROUS FIRE AT BALTIMORE DOES IMMENSE DAMAGE

Of Incendiary Origin, Holocaust Sweeps Docks and Army Supplies; Sailors Try to Escape From Their Vessels and Are Drowned

NOTICED SUSPECTS

Suspicious - looking Men Seen Hurrying From Vicinity After Fire; Loss Will Run Into Millions, Exclusive of Docks Destroyed

Baltimore, Md., Oct. 31.—One of the greatest fires in Baltimore since the conflagration of February, 1904, that destroyed the business section of the city, is raging early this morning on the big piers of the Baltimore and Ohio railway at its extensive terminal at Locust Point on the south side of the harbor.

Piers 8 and 9, stored with vast quantities of munitions and supplies for the American forces in France and their allies, are in flames. Within ten minutes after the flames were discovered the entire structure was ablaze. Fifteen of the crew of a British steamer lying at the pier jumped overboard and it is feared that some of them were drowned. A dozen or more men employed on the pier are missing. On one of the piers were shells in cases, which exploded at intervals. It is reported that the fire was of incendiary origin.

Elevators Threatened

The B. & O. grain elevators are but a short distance from the burned piers, which are the main terminal in this country of the Furness-Withy English line of steamers. Pier 6 was the former North German Lloyd line pier at which all their ships loaded at this port. The two piers which are destroyed cost about $1,000,000 each. United States secret service men are at the scene investigating rumors that suspicious-looking men were seen hurrying from the vicinity a few minutes after the fire was discovered by a policeman. A strong northwest wind swept the flames toward hundreds of small houses to the south of the terminal, occupied by the families of workmen on the piers.

In the P. & O. elevators are large quantities of grain ready for shipment to the allies.

The firemen have so far succeeded in preventing the flames from spreading to the elevators.

Several Millions

Shortly after midnight pier 10, the former immigration pier of the German Steamship Company, was burning but at that time the fire chief believed they could confine the flames to the three piers. Baltimore and Ohio railway officials could not give any estimate of the loss, but it will reach several million dollars.

A British steamer, loaded and ready to sail, was badly damaged.

ITALY WILL NOT WEAKEN

United States Making Preparation For Assistance.

Washington, Oct. 30.—The Italian situation was discussed at length by President Wilson and his advisers at today's cabinet meeting, discussion touching immediate aspects and the extension of assistance by the allies. Furnishing of supplies, especially coal, badly needed for Italy's munition works, is said to be regarded as this country's particular sphere of action.

While the administration shares regret and concern over the initial success of the Teutonic drive, high officials here are said to utterly reject the opinion, advanced in some quarters, that events in Italy can become decisive of the war or even an important turning point. It is felt that setbacks in Italy will act as a spur rather than a discouragement, both upon Italy and the other allies. There is no apprehension that Italy will break down or weaken in adherence to the common cause against Germany.

UNIONISTS SELECT G. W. ALLAN, K.C., FOR SOUTH WINNIPEG

Center Winnipeg Laurierites Will Run Straight "Anti" Candidate; Will Not Support Union

Winnipeg, Oct. 30.—At a representative meeting of fusionists of South Winnipeg, representing both Conservative and Liberal parties, G. W. Allen, K.C., a prominent Conservative, was unanimously chosen as the Union government candidate, Mr. Allen's name will be submitted at a Union convention to be held in the near future, at which electors of the whole constituency will be present.

ON A HIGH HORSE

Winnipeg, Oct. 30.—At a meeting held tonight the Laurier-Liberals of Center Winnipeg affirmed their determination to stand by the platform of the western Liberal convention held here last August.

They decided unanimously against supporting a Union candidate and declined to have anything to do with any Conservative association.

MONTREAL CANDIDATE

Montreal, Oct. 30.—J. H. Rainville, M.P., was the choice of a win-the-war convention tonight as the Union government candidate for Chambly in the federal election.

KEEP MONEY AT HOME

Finance Minister Gives Some Advice to Canadian Investor.

Ottawa, Oct. 30.—The minister of finance issued the following statement today, respecting the Victory loan:

"It has been brought to my attention that large sums of Canadian money are being diverted to the purpose of government and other securities now held outside of Canada. It is, in my view, vitally necessary in the national interests that all funds available for investment should be conserved for the purpose of subscription to Canada's Victory loan, the lists for which will be open on November 12, and close on December 1. I earnestly trust that the Canadian people will at this time refrain from making such purchases and reserve their money for the new issue."

END OF ALL PARTY STRIFE FOLLOWS ITALIAN REVERSE

Catholics and Official Socialists Unite in Very Decisive Statements

BATTLE IMPENDING

No Decisive Action Has Yet Been Fought; the Italians Will Not Be Terrorized

Rome, Oct. 30.—The wiping out of party differences and the strengthening of Italy's morale in the face of the present military effort by the Austro-German allies, are the outstanding features in the statements issued by two of the parties, the Catholic and the official Socialists. No party sentiment must be recognized in this time of trial, these statements declare.

One effect of the participation of German troops in the offensive has been the elimination of the few remaining sympathizers with Germany, together with the arousing of the fighting spirit to a marked degree among Italians in general.

General Cadorna's bulletins are causing the nation to realize that it is facing a severe trial, but the press reflects a spirit of determination on the part of the people that the loss of the fruits of victory won in the past shall be but temporary. The enemy's rapid gains of the past six days are regarded as having been due not to so much superior forces as to the element of surprise.

According to the Gionale d'Italia, no decisive battle has yet been fought though one is expected to develop. Such a battle, it is predicted, will be on a large sale and involve wide movements in the open field, in the old-fashioned style.

The Italian retreat, according to the Messagero is being accomplished in good order with the artillery saved or destroyed and stores and magazines burned.

The Messagero also declares the Germans are making a mistake if they think to terrorize the Italians politically by this effort and "convert the country into another Russia." It asserts that every revolutionary idea to make a lame peace has disappeared and that the whole nation will fight until a just and lasting peace has been won.

Cabinet Completed

This morning Orlando took the oath as premier. The cabinet has been constituted as follows:

Premier and minister of the interior, Vittorio Orlando.

Minister of foreign affairs, Don Sonnino.

Minister of the colonies, Signor Colosimo.

Minister of justice, Signor Sacchi.

Minister of finance, Signor Meda.

Minister of the treasury, Francesco Nitti.

Minister of war, General Alfieri.

Minister of the navy, Vice-Admiral Delbono.

Minister of munitions, General Alfredo Dallolio.

Minister of military aid and war pensions, Signor Dissolad.

Minister of education, Signor Barenini.

Minister of public works, Signor Hari.

Minister of agriculture, Signor Miliani

Minister of commerce and labor, Signor Giaffelli.

Minister of posts, Signor Fara.

Minister of transports, Signor Bianch.

SUPPORT OF MEIGHEN

Liberals of Portage and Lakeside So Decide.

Portage la Prairie, Oct. 30.—The Liberals of the provincial constituencies of Portage and Lakeside, the former represented by E. A. McPherson and the latter by Col. McPherson, in the Manitoba legislature, are prepared to pledge their support to Hon. Arthur Meighen as the representative of the union government if he should be a candidate at the election. This announcement was made this afternoon in a statement, signed by the presidents and secretaries of the two associations, addressed to the supporters of the Liberal party in Portage and Lakeside, "who, it is hoped, will approve of the action and will be able to join," the statement adds.

DRANK WOOD ALCOHOL

New York, Oct. 30.—Six men died here today from wood alcohol poisoning and two others are in hospitals in a critical condition. An investigation by the police disclosed the fact that the victims had succumbed to the effects of the poison after purchasing a quantity of whisky in a saloon.

GERMANY HAS LOST 6,000,000 MEN

Washington, Oct. 30.—Germany lost six million men in the three years of war, according to a declaration made in the reichstag by the Independent Socialist, Ledebour. A report of his speech, reaching Washington through Switzerland, states that, contemplating the prospects of a fourth winter campaign, the Socialist leader said:

"You have not, evidently, gentlemen, an exact conception of what war means. We have had 1,500,000 dead, three or four million wounded, of whom 500,000 are crippled for life, and 2,000,000 absolutely invalided. That makes altogether six million men lost during three years."

It is stated that official information confirmatory of these figures has been in possession of American officials for some time.

BREWSTER UNDECIDED ABOUT GOING INTO UNION GOVERNMENT

Hopes That He Will Be Able to Speak for the Entire British Columbia Government

MAY GO TO OTTAWA

J. A. Calder at Coast and Differences Between Factions Is Being Smoothed Over

Vancouver, Oct. 30.—Premier Brewster returned this morning from the east. Hon. J. W. deB. Farris, who went east with Mr. Brewster, is expected back tonight.

The premier refused to make any statement of his opinion of the union administration at Ottawa.

"I have been requested by delegations of both parties, Liberals and win-the-war Conservatives, to have a discussion with them before making public my views on the question of union government," said the premier. "I intend to meet them and will, therefore, not discuss the matter publicly until these interviews take place. I am hopeful that my statement may be such as will embrace the whole provincial government so that what I may say may be taken as the government's opinion of what attitude British Columbia should take under present conditions."

The premier announced that he did not care to discuss the reports circulated some time ago that he might join the Ottawa cabinet. Pressed upon the point, he admitted that the matter was not, however, a closed issue.

Turning to the more recent suggestion that he might join the senate and act in the cabinet as well, he said that the report of a senate appointment was news to him until he read it in the paper.

"It is not my intention to go into the senate," he commented.

Calder at the Coast

Vancouver, Oct. 30.—Hon. J. A. Calder who arrived from the east this morning, spent the day conferring with delegations and individuals in regard to the campaign he intends for presenting the candidates for the local seats in the next parliament. It is stated that as the result of these conferences the differences between the Conservative organization and the Win-the-War league will be settled, and a mode of procedure for the nominations agreed upon.

Mr. Calder and Hon. Martin Burrell tonight addressed a mass meeting of the electors in the horse show building.

KAISER TO DECIDE

Emperor Will Announce Government's Policy Soon.

Washington, Oct. 30.—Berlin despatches received here by way of Switzerland say that Emperor William, through the head of the civil cabinet, has informed the majority party leader in the Reichstag that he will make a definite decision during the coming week on the subject of the government's policy.

CANADIANS PRESS FORWARD; TAKE ALL THEIR OBJECTIVES

GREAT WORK OF CANADIANS

Canadian Headquarters in France, via London, Oct. 30 (by Canadian Overseas Correspondent).—Satisfactory progress has been made by our forces all along the line. After a check on the right wing, our infantry, fighting desperately, had forced its way up the slopes and seems to have gained a footing in Crest farm itself. On the left, where the advance was made, our troops have passed the intermediate points, and are fighting for possession of Meetcheel, the enemy's last stronghold in front of Passchendaele on the left.

The first wounded are coming in exhausted, but report success, while the prisoners taken testify to the success of our advance.

BULLETIN—The glorious infantry have taken both Crest farm and Meetcheel already. With splendid support, our artillery repulsed two counter-attacks.

In Dashing Manner Take Positions From the Enemy and Conclude Great Day of Progress at Early Hour

Before Sun Was Two Hours High They Had Gained All That They Had Started Out to Acquire

Field Marshal Haig again has sent forward his forces in the Ypres sector on what apparently were intended as line-straightening operations, and again has been successful in gaining the greater portion of his objectives. The attacks were delivered over small fronts where spurs of ridges and other points of vantage were taken. The Canadians, with their usual brilliancy of attack, early in the offensive gained their objectives, including Crest farm. Some of them even penetrated into Passchendaele, and also were close to the village of Goeberg to the north. The German official communication admits that Passchendaele was captured but asserts that later the Canadians were driven out.

On the other fronts, except for spirited artillery fighting in the Aisne and Meuse sectors of France, the operations have been of a minor nature.

STRUCK GERMAN MASSES

Canadians Sent Them Reeling Back to Depth of 1,000 Yards.

London, Oct. 30 (Via Reuter's Ottawa agency).—Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters in France, telegraphing this afternoon, says:

"Our armies have again struck the German masses in Flanders and sent them reeling back in places to a depth of nearly one thousand yards. Luck was with us today in the matter of the weather. The morning had broken keen and dry, being just the weather that the Canadians would have chosen for going over the top. Apparently so successful have they gone over that before the sun was two hours high they gained a great part of their objectives.

"The fighting was on a more limited front than last Friday. It has been chiefly towards the outskirts of Passchendaele. Reports received up to the time of telegraphing indicate that our men have fought their way well along several important tributary spurs on the great ridge system which is gradually being won from the desperately-resisting enemy.

"Shortly after making the first stage of their advance, the Germans launched a big counter-attack from the direction of Moshelmarke. It so chanced that the Canadians had just carried a strongly fortified line of redoubts at the center of which the German attack was directed. The place was liberally furnished with machine guns which were promptly swung into position against the oncoming Germans. The ground was soon strewn with grey-clad corpses. Rifle fire completed the work of the machine gun crews and the counter-attacks were beaten back with heavy punishment."

"Our attack today differed little from its predecessor as regards method. The barrage was very intense. While this was drumming forth its flaming curtain the guns further back were doing fine counter-battery work against known positions of enemy artillery; hence the enemy's retaliation was very severe. Despite the high wind our indomitable airmen were in contact with the enemy on the ground. The ground is still desperately bad, but along the higher places where the principal fighting developed, the surface is reasonably good between the water-filled holes."

(Continued on page two)

RESTITUTION MEANS RETURN OF ALSACE AND LORRAINE

France Will Never Make Concessions as Long as the People Can Hold a Rifle

MINISTER'S POLICY

Foreign Minister Barthou Makes Clear His Position on Assuming the Office

Washington, Oct. 30.—The text of the speech made in the French Chamber of deputies by the new foreign minister, M. Barthou, upon his assumption of office, just received here by cable, discloses that he proclaimed a policy virtually identical with that of his predecessors.

The minister affirmed the solidarity of France with all of her allies, and declared it would be criminal to abandon Russia. He outlined the aims of the war—"restitutions, reparations, guarantees."

"Restitution," he said, "means the pure and simple return of Alsace-Lorraine to France. Invaded 44 years ago, Alsace-Lorraine are in no sense different from the departments invaded three years ago. Alsace and Lorraine, in fact, are invaded departments.

"Could France make concessions to Germany on that point or of any kind? Never, so long as a French hand can hold a rifle. The integrity of the territory we have received from our fathers could not be the object of any kind of concession or conversations."

The minister ended with an eloquent appeal for the union of all parties to conduct the war until victory was attained. The speech was much applauded and was followed by a vote of confidence, but it did not rally the Socialist support. Albert Thomas, the Socialist former minister of munitions, said he did not consider the declarations of the ministry precise enough upon the subject of guarantees.

UNION IN HAMILTON

Another Effort to Get the Parties Together.

Hamilton, Oct. 30.—Plans are rapidly progressing here for the selection of a win-the-war candidate for the two Hamilton ridings and those behind the movement are hopeful for success despite the failure of political parties in this country to get together. The win-the-war executive has called a conference of prospective candidates and political leaders for Saturday afternoon and it is hoped to have a resolution ready for a mass meeting on Monday night. Major General Mewburn, minister of militia, is sure to be endorsed for the east.

Lieut.-Col. MacLaren, conscriptionist-Liberal; T. J. Stewart, Conservative member in the last parliament, and W. R. Rollo, labor member, are contenders in the west.

PACIFIC GRAIN ROUTE ASSURED, SAYS PREMIER

Premier Brewster, of B.C., Makes Important Statement; Recent Shipment Is Only the First

Vancouver, Oct. 30.—That the shipment of 100,000 bushels of wheat now being loaded aboard the Viceroy for Great Britain is but the starting place in one phase of the history of British Columbia and that it will be followed by greater shipments was the statement made by Premier Brewster in an address at a luncheon today in honor of the event.

Premier Brewster said that during his recent trip through the Peace River country he learned that there was at least 750,000 bushels of wheat grown this year in this province awaiting shipment from Vancouver.

H. H. Stevens said he felt that it was the duty of British Columbians to press for more favorable freight rates. He declared that there was discrimination against Vancouver in the matter of freight rates from the prairie provinces.

Brief remarks were also made by Mayor McBeath, Hon. Martin Burrell, W. J. Bowser, and officers of the Viceroy.

ELECTION WRITS WILL PROBABLY BE ISSUED TODAY

An Ottawa Dispatch States Election Will Be Over by Christmas

Ottawa, Oct. 30.—The Ottawa Citizen says this morning:

"Preparations for the federal election

"Preparations for the federal election writs very probably will be issued today.

"A number of members who were here yesterday protested against a mid-winter campaign and got the assurance that it will be all over by Christmas. The date expected is that so frequently forecasted—the 17th of December. Possibly it may be the 19th. The writs will go out to some 230 returning officers."

P.G.E. RY. MAY GET DOMINION SUBSIDY

Vancouver, Oct. 30.—Hope that the Dominion government would give a subsidy of at least $12,000 per mile for the completion of the P.G.E. not only to Prince George, but on to the Peace River was expressed by Premier Brewster this afternoon, following his return from the east where he has been discussing the railway situation with the Ottawa authorities. The premier intimated that the government proposed to go ahead with its suit against the directors of the P.G.E. and Foley, Welch and Stewart.

LIBERALS ENDORSE W. A. BUCHANAN AS UNION CANDIDATE

Lethbridge Liberals Refuse to Accept Buchanan's Resignation and Call on Conservatives to Join Forces

Lethbridge, Oct. 30.—The Liberal executive of the Lethbridge federal riding, met yesterday and refused to accept the regulation of W. A. Buchanan as nominee. They unanimously endorsed his attitude at Ottawa and appointed a committee to meet with the Conservative executive to arrange for a union convention in the near future. Delegates were present from all parts of the riding.

The labor men here decided last night to call a convention for November 7 to nominate a labor candidate for the Lethbridge riding. There will also probably be a Laurier candidate in the field.

CONSTANTINE WAS GERMAN AGENT

London, Oct. 30.—From the text of the telegrams exchanged between Constantine, king of Greece, and Emperor William before the king's abdication, the deciphering of which will be completed shortly by the Greek government, it develops that Constantine, to put it mildly, was a German agent, says a Reuter's dispatch from Athens today.

"The king promptly cabled the emperor all information of a military or parliamentary nature received from Greek diplomats, accredited to the entente powers and from officers at Saloniki," continues the dispatch.

"The organization of bands was directed from Berlin. The emperor ordered the formation of bands of 5,000 men to cut General Sarrail's communications and harass the rear of his forces."

GUN MEN HOLD UP CARD PLAYERS AT BARONS CLUB

Interrupt Game and Get Away With $2,000; Escape In Waiting Car; Provincial Police Start Chase

Barons, Oct. 30.—A hold-up occurred tonight at 11.15 in the Barons club. While several of the members were engaged in a game of cards two masked men entered the front door of the club house with guns, and requested everybody to put up their hands. The clean-up amounted to about $2,000, and the robbers immediately left town in an automobile which had been provided. The provincial police are following up the case closely.

EGGS GO UP IN VICTORIA

Victoria, B.C., Oct. 30.—The retail price of eggs reached 80 cents a dozen here today, the highest price in many years. It is freely predicted by the trade that they will reach the dollar mark before Christmas.

SOLD MEDICATED MEDICINE

Port Arthur, Ont., Oct. 30.—Two Greek candy kitchen men were fined $200 and costs each for selling Dr. Kilbourn's medicated medicine, found to contain a high percentage of alcohol. The Ontario license board prosecuted.

OPEN NEW PATENTS

German Scientific Information Thrown Open to U. S.

Washington, Oct. 30.—The vast store of German scientific information in this country was opened today to American manufacturers in regulations issued by the federal trade commission under which enemy-owned patents and copyrights will be licensed for manufacture by citizens of the United States. When the regulations had been made public, the commission met a group of medical men to consider licensing the manufacture of certain drugs, principally salvarsan, used in virulent blood diseases, and non-toxic substitute for local anesthetics, of which the supply in this country has run dangerously low since the war interrupted commerce.

Approximately 20,000 patented and copyrighted articles are said to be affected by the commission's order.

VACCINE HAD LOCKJAW GERMS

St. Paul, Oct. 30.—Health officers were asked today by manufacturers of vaccine sent here for use in vaccination against smallpox to return it as in certain instances it had been found to contain tetanus germs. The vaccine was accordingly shipped to Washington, where it will be analyzed. How the supposed germs got in the vaccine is unexplained, though it was suggested that the enemies of the country might be responsible.

CONTEST NOTES

"My, but that little old Ford looks good to me."

"The Albertan certainly knows how to put and keep the ginger in the candidates. I'll not be able to sleep at all before Nov. 13—the Ford has me so 'on edge'."

"I didn't do near my best for the last special prize, but watch me get out and hustle for the Ford special."

The above and many other like expressions came from the candidates personally and by letter. The pressure that will be brought upon every available prospective subscriber from now on will bring the very best results.

There remains two weeks to gather in the collections—never mind the number of votes—get the money—the votes will take care of themselves.

R. C. Lee of the Diamond Motor Company, the firm which furnished the Chalmers and Regal cars for the contest, told the contest manager today that he had ordered a special "job" of painting for the prize car, which is usually an extra to a purchaser, but that there would be no extra charge, which gives an added value to the Chalmers of $50. It will be done in pearl grey with black trimmings, making it one of the classiest cars to be seen in the city. Besides, it will be one of the 1918 models—right up to the minute, beter than ever, if such a thing is possible.

A new extra vote schedule goes into force today. For each $25 worth of subscriptions $5,000 extra votes will be issued. These clubs are too good to be overlooked. One might turn the tide from a small prize to an automobile. One can never tell—and the best plan is to take no chances—pile the reserve up as high as possible. Don't take the vote in the paper too seriously.