

WESTERN FRONT SCENE OF GREATEST BATTLE OF WAR

Haig's Forces Smashing Germans at Two Widely Separated Points---One Million Allied Soldiers Locked in Death Grips With Ludendorff's Main Army.

BRITISH WITHIN THREE MILES OF CAMBRAI AND STILL PRESSING ON French and Americans Successfully Attacking in the Argonne Region---Bag of Prisoners Likely To Reach 25,000, of Which British and French Have Taken 17,000 and Americans 8,000---Decision of Whole War Likely To Depend on Conflict Now Raging Along Entire Front.

(BY ARTHUR S. DRAPER) Special cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard) London, Sept. 27---With two giant trip-hammers, Foch is pounding the German lines today, at two widely separated points. Never before have the Germans suffered such tremendous blows as those which are falling upon their Somme defences and their Champagne-Argonne lines. Twenty-four hours after Gouraud and Pershing's attack along the forty-two mile front, Haig struck his blow for Cambrai. All previous efforts are overshadowed by the two titanic struggles that are raging at the present moment. Close to a million Allied soldiers are engaged in a violent struggle with Ludendorff's battered and war-weary men. Strategic objectives of great moment are involved, but above everything else, the German forces, the individual German soldiers and civilian population are undergoing the severest test of body and mind in the whole war. Unofficial figures place the number of prisoners captured by the French and the Americans as over 16,000, the haul being about evenly divided. Haig's bag should raise the number well above 25,000. The French and Americans are now opposite the enemy's main positions. Haig is hitting between Havincourt and Etain on the Somme front, some twelve miles along Canal du Nord. Whereas last November, General Byng attacked Cambrai from the southwest, Monday's push is from the west, breaking the Wotan line the first of the month, permitted Haig to strike from this quarter. The Canal has been crossed at a number of points. The famous Bourlon road and Bourlon Wood are almost in the centre of the attack. The flooded area, southwest of Donal, which prevented the drive against this place also served to protect General Byng's left flank. In addition to the Canal du Nord the Germans have defensive lines running almost straight from the western outskirts of Donal to Cambrai. The capture of Cambrai means the collapse of the whole Hindenburg line, while both the British and French-American attacks serve to lengthen the German line, something that Ludendorff doesn't relish at all stages. The Germans, unable to manoeuvre along their front, where Haig and their forces met, were forced to withstand the whole fury of his attack. The elastic defences such as were employed in the Champagne district would have uncovered Cambrai. Where Joffre First Fought. Three years ago, Joffre launched his first offensive in the country where General Gouraud advanced to victory today. Compared with the present, blow Joffre's push now seems puny almost feeble. Before Joffre struck his artillery roared for hours. Though the battle lasted from September 25 to October 3, and 25,000 prisoners and 150 guns were taken, the French waves broke against the powerful enemy defences and his victory was far from complete. On Thursday Gouraud struck Arrive and Argonne, a distance of 22 miles. The Germans had expected the attack and they withdrew their defences just as Gouraud did in July when Ludendorff made his last bid for Paris. The eleven hour French bombardment had destroyed many actually prepared German defenses

PARIS PRESS IS DIVIDED ON BULGAR MOVE

Some Papers Believe Proposal Is Sincere, Others Think It a Mere Feeler. BULGAR REPUBLIC IS NOW HINTED AT General Opinion Is That Ferdinand, Seeing He Is Beaten, Is Preparing To Bow To the Inevitable.

Paris, Sept. 27---Bulgaria's request for an armistice and an eventual peace was prominently displayed in the Paris afternoon newspapers and aroused widespread interest and discussion. General Franchet D'Esperey's report was received this morning at the Ministry of War, where Premier Clemenceau and several other cabinet ministers were gathered. It was received there another notable evidence of Entente success. The communication of the French commander-in-chief in Macedonia was speedily given publication and soon became the absorbing topic in all public meeting places. The evening newspapers treat the Bulgarian request as foreseen in view of the present tendency of the military operations. Le Liberte says: "Czar Ferdinand resigns himself to the inevitable and seeks to stop the victorious Allied troops en route to Sofia. Ferdinand's move is a natural result of the German defeat on the western front, whereby Field Marshal Foch's strategy has imposed Allied mastery on all the fields of battle." Paris, Sept. 27---Unofficial comment was divided on whether the Bulgarian request was a sincere proposition for peace or merely a delaying of the Entente powers of what might be done. It was a step which some regarded as supplementing the recent Austro-Hungarian proposals and carrying it a little further. Involved with the subject was the dynastic question of King Ferdinand and his family remaining on the throne. Some indications had reached the world from Bulgaria of a movement of considerable proportions for a republic. It was even predicted that one might hear of the proclamation of a republic in Bulgaria almost any day. One of the chief purposes of the republican movement in Bulgaria has been to renounce the war policy of the autocratic monarchs so as to be in a position to say to the Entente allies that the republicans in Bulgaria shared the same democratic aspirations as the Allies. Official comment almost dwells upon the important effect Bulgaria's secession from the Central Powers would have in severing the lines of communications between Germany and Austria in the north and Turkey in the south. It would tend to isolate the Turkish empire and put an end to the German dream of a route from Berlin to Bagdad. It is foreseen for those reasons that the inevitable consequences of Bulgaria abandoning the conflict would be to compel Turkey to take the same course. RESTING COMFORTABLY. Claude Mitchell, who had his arm injured while working on a pile driver at Back Bay and was brought to the General Public Hospital on Thursday was reported to be resting comfortably last night.

MUST BE NO BARGAINING OVER PEACE

Impartial Justice To All Is Its Only Price Says Wilson. GERMANY MUST REDEEM HERSELF BEFORE WORLD President of United States, Speaking in New York, Reiterates His Position on Question---No "Terms" Involved.

New York, Sept. 27---The price of peace will be impartial justice to all nations, the instrumentality indispensable to peace, it is a league of nations formed, not before or after, but at the peace conference; and Germany, as a member, will have to redeem her character not by what happens at the peace table, but what follows. This was President Wilson's answer given tonight before an audience of fourth Liberty loan workers here, to the recent peace talk from the Central Powers although he did not refer specifically to the utterances of any leaders. Not a Question Of Terms. Peace was not a question, declared the president, of "coming to terms," for "we cannot come to terms" with them, as "they have made it impossible." Peace must be guaranteed, for "there will be parties to the peace whose promises have proved untrue." The president emphasized that the justice to be obtained by the league must involve no discrimination toward any people. "This he set forth explicitly in a set of five principles which he enumerated: "The practical programme" of America's peace terms, and for the maintenance of which, "the United States is prepared to assume its full share of responsibility."

Impartial Justice. These principles were, he said: "First---The impartial justice between those to whom we wish to be just and those to whom we do not wish to be just. It must be a justice that plays no favorites and knows no standard but the equal rights of the several peoples concerned. "Second---No special or separate aim of any single nation or any group of nations can be made the basis of any part of the settlement which is not consistent with the common interest of all. "Third---There can be no leagues or alliances or special covenants and understandings within the general and common family of the league of nations. No Selfish Combinations. "Fourth---And more specifically, there can be no special, selfish economic combinations within the league and no employment of any form of economic boycott or exclusion except as the power of economic penalty by exclusion from the markets of the world may be vested in the league of nations itself as a means of discipline and control. "Fifth---All international agreements and treaties of every kind must be made known in their entirety to the rest of the world." Mr. Wilson restated the issues of the war as follows: The Issues of the War. "Shall the military power of any nation or group of nations be suffered to determine the fortunes of peoples over whom they have no right to rule except the right of force? "Shall strong nations be free to wrong weak nations and make them subject to their purpose and interest? "Shall peoples be ruled and dominated, even in their own internal affairs, by arbitrary and irresponsible force or by their own will and choice? "Shall there be a common standard (Continued on Page Two)

BULGARIAN PEACE PROPOSAL OFFICIALLY REACHES ENGLAND; THE ALLIES WILL CONSIDER IT

WHAT IS THRIFT? Before you can practice virtue you must know what it is. When we speak of thrifty people we are apt to picture them living on cheap food, in cheap quarters, wearing shabby clothes, having little or no pleasures, and saving every cent possible. But that is not thrift---far from it. Thrift is a greater virtue than the mere saving of money. The prudent man looks ahead and gets ready. The frugal man lives carefully and saves persistently. The economical man spends judiciously, buys wisely, and wastes nothing. The industrious man works hard and saves hard; the miser hoards; but the man of thrift earns largely, spends wisely, plans carefully, manages economically and saves consistently. Thrift is all of prudence, economy, frugality and industry---and "thou shalt have it." Thrift is that instinct of the dog that buries the bone he doesn't want for tomorrow's wants; the instinct of the squirrel that knows nutting is out of season in winter; the conviction of the patriot who knows victory will be hastened by it.

Right Hon. A. J. Balfour and Hon. A. Bonar Law In Conference With Premier Lloyd George In Regard To New Development.

GENERAL OPINION IS THAT BULGAR WISH FOR PEACE IS THE "BEGINNING OF THE END"

Czar Ferdinand, Realizing That His Army Has Been Shattered Beyond Repair Is Now Anxious To End Hostilities---If Peace Proposals Are Not Successful Revolution in Bulgaria May Follow With Republic As Ultimate Form of Government.

Bulletin---London, Sept. 27---(Canadian Press despatch from Reuter's Ltd.)---The Right Hon. Arthur James Balfour and Andrew Bonar Law are conferring with Premier Lloyd George in regard to the Bulgarian armistice proposal.

(BY ARTHUR S. DRAPER.) (Special cable to New York Tribune and St. John Standard) London, Sept. 27---The enemy's home front is broken and we have reached the "beginning of the end" of the long struggle between democracy and autocracy.

A direct official request for an armistice was received today by the British government from Bulgaria. At headquarters, General D'Esperey received the Bulgarian plenipotentiaries who asked for an armistice. The commander of the Allied forces informed the Bulgarians that he would forward their proposal to his government. The Allied governments are now considering the request which has been sent to each of them. Seems Like Official Order. This application bears all the earmarks of a definite official request from one belligerent to others. There is no suggestion that it was made simply on the initiative of Premier Malisoff as had been suggested in earlier reports coming out of Germany.

Will Isolate Turkey. If the armistice is granted it will be possible for the Allies to impose such terms on Bulgaria that Turkey will be completely isolated. In the second Balkan war in which Bulgaria took the field against Rumania, Greece, Montenegro and Serbia, a five days' suspension of arms was agreed upon and arranged by the military representatives as soon as the peace delegates met at Bucharest. As deliberations had not been completed by that time, the armistice was renewed for three days. In the Franco-Prussian war, a week's discussion intervened between the application for the granting of an armistice. Lord Robert Cecil's Statement. Lord Robert Cecil told The Standard's correspondent this evening: "It is true that a request for an armistice has been made. This is not merely a rumor such as we have often heard but it is an official request which will be dealt with officially. "It is an event of very great importance. The effect on the situation will depend on whether anything comes of it and that question will likely be decided quickly. "An armistice may be dealt with by the commander in the field, or referred back to his government. There is a great chance that this may be a trick but, however it may be dealt with, I hope we do not get caught. A nation may ask for an armistice and simply end the fighting unconditionally, or it may offer conditions, or it may demand to know on what conditions it would be granted. "Premier Malisoff's suggestion may not bring separate peace with Bulgaria but he has taken the step which must certainly lead to revolution. "Malisoff, who frequently showed dislike for Germany and was reputed to be naturally friendly with the Entente, becomes head of the most powerful force opposed to King Ferdinand and his German dupes. Even before General D'Esperey began his drive, which turned the Bulgarian retreat into a debacle of restive elements, Bulgaria began quietly to campaign for peace. Malisoff became premier in succession to Radoslavoff at the time when Ferdinand considered it necessary to placate discontent in Sofia. He came into power in June just before the downfall of Czern and Kuehlmann. Radoslavoff, who had been premier since 1913, had worked to make Bulgaria a permanent member of the political league of Central Europe. He had played Russia against Austro-Germany and vice versa. Then came the treaty of Bucharest under which Bulgaria received only part of Dobruja, the rest remaining under common dominion pending Bulgaria's agreement to Germany's financial demands and Turkey's claims for restoration of territory ceded by her in 1913. The "Crafty" Ferdinand. Malisoff, who controlled the newspapers, immediately voiced the national discontent to this arrangement and Ferdinand tried to stifle the cry by calling him into the government as successor to Radoslavoff, who was responsible for the treaty. But Ferdinand does not enjoy the title of "crafty" for nothing. He is up to his neck in debt to Germany and nothing suited him better than to have Berlin appreciate the amount of discontent in his country. Malisoff was his tool just as much as Radoslavoff. The Allies have already dashed the Bulgarians' hopes in Macedonia and their troops have entered his country. His army is shot to pieces and war for him contains nothing but disaster. When we read Malisoff has suggested an armistice despite the opposition of the cabinet, the news should be taken with a grain of salt. But that he was acting independently of his allies is unquestionably true. Ferdinand was treacherous towards the Allies in 1913 and he is still the same Ferdinand. (Continued on Page Two)

"BR'ER" HAWKE CONTRADICTED BY ALLIANCE

Evangelical Alliance of Moncton Brands As Untrue Statement By Transcript's Editor---Retraction Asked For.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Sept. 27---The Evangelical Alliance at a special meeting this morning passed a resolution giving an unqualified denial to a statement made by John T. Hawke, in reference to the Alliance at a recent meeting of the School Board. Mr. Hawke stated he knew for an absolute fact that at a recent meeting of the Evangelical Alliance members had stated that the School Board was paying for heating St. Bernard's Church. The Evangelical Alliance denounced Mr. Hawke's statement as absolutely false, and await his retraction. Geo. F. Jowett, of Inkerman, Ont., has been engaged as physical director of the local Y.M.C.A. in place of J. C. Farthing, who recently went to the Y.M.C.A. in Regina. The new instructor is expected to arrive in Moncton in a week's time. R. M. Steeves, of Dover, received word today that his son, Machine Gunner Arthur Steeves, had been wounded in the thigh in the recent Canadian drive.

EIGHT CARS DITCHED ON C. G. R., NO ONE HURT

Traffic Blocked For Four Hours By Run-Off Between Dorchester and Sackville.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, Sept. 27---Traffic was blocked for four hours on the C.G.R. this afternoon between Dorchester and Sackville, as a result of a freight wreck at Vimy Ridge. Eight cars of the west bound fast freight were derailed by the train crew escaped injured. A broken rail was the cause of the wreck. The Ocean Limited for Halifax was delayed two hours and the local express for St. John four hours. The wreck occurred at 1.50 this afternoon.