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FIERCE FIGHTING ON THE ALLIES LEFT WING

THE GERMANS FAIL TO GET THROUGH

Hope Seems Lost for Swift Offensive--Aisne Contest Will Finish as Battle of Seven Rivers---Lull Apparently Due to Weakening of Enemy---American Correspondent Describes the Fierce Fighting Along the River Aisne---The Germans Get a Set Back.

(J. L. Garvin in N.Y. Herald.)

London, Oct. 4.—Behind the screen of official reticence has been swaying and thundering for the last ten days the biggest and ablest fighting the world has ever known. The decisive and satisfactory result up to the present is that at last the German hope for the success of their swift offensive in France has been shattered forever.

The Germans, after another week of desperate urging by the leaders and hopeless efforts by the men to escape from the conditions of a parallel battle, made a furious and concentrated attack at point after point, but they failed to break anywhere the meshes of steel which the Allies are contriving.

That isn't enough, but it is good for a start, and even better than might be thought at first sight.

What began as a battle of the Aisne will be known before it is finished as a battle of seven rivers. To the east the Moselle and the Meuse run northward, one through Metz, the other past Verdun and the whole northern barrier chain of forts. Across the center flows the Aisne.

The western end of the line is trenches by the Oise, flowing down toward Paris, and by the Somme, which turns to reach the Channel. Northward, near Arras and Douai, comes the Scarpe. This joins the Scheldt, which itself runs from Cambrai and Valenciennes to Ghent and Antwerp. Toward the North Sea the ground falls gradually to the low country of Flanders, which everybody knows the Germans dread, since it is too near the sea and gives to them none of the military opportunities they prefer.

All along the western edge of this battle region, which runs from near Paris to Arras, is an uninterrupted chain of fertile uplands and easy rolling heights.

An unparalleled struggle rages for possession of these heights, the key to the battle, and all that the Germans have been able to do so far is to hinder the French from obtaining such a complete and continuous command of these western positions as would mean that the enemy would be thoroughly contained on two sides and either have to retreat altogether into Belgium or extend the parallel battle still farther to the north into the open flats of Flanders.

Sheer fighting force may enable the invaders for some little time longer to stave off the evil day of another general retreat. The permanent advantages of extending the fight for positions ought to be all on the side of the Allies and another incontestable victory, practically clearing the enemy from the soil of France, ought to be cumulative as the irresistible result of General Joffre's slow but sure operations.

Never were unwelcome conclusions clearer to a thwarted belligerent than are these to the Kaiser's great general staff, never did commander make more stubborn and formidable efforts to break through the toils than have been attempted for the last ten days by General Von Kluck.

For a week attempts of the enemy to break our line reached the crescendo of energy. Night after night he came to the attack in a persevering but hopeless attempt to prove that the German fighting temper is stronger than the British and the

French.

All these charges were shattered with deadly loss to the assailants. Since then the weakening of the enemy's lines in the center for the benefit of the forces on the right.

It does not augur well for the Germanly wasteful of ammunition than men that they seem to be almost life. Our men have fairly fought the Germans to a standstill. When the British move at all, they advance. The truth is that from the unparalleled ordeal of the last six weeks our army had emerged harder, keener, cooler and more cheerful than ever.

It is steadily increasing in numbers and even the enemy can no longer affect to deny it is a formidable military instrument, dangerous out of all proportion to its numbers.

The experience of our Allies in the center has been similar to our own. Up to last Sunday they were assailed with increasing fury all along the line, but they more than held their own in foot-to-foot bayonet fighting. The Germans took at last to steel, but they did not gain by the change.

The bloody character of the night and day combats may be conceived when I mention that the rival trenches were only three hundred yards or so apart. Villages and vantage points were taken again and again by the Turcos. The Prussian Guard was cut up, and not for the first time, and it was even better cause to remember the name of "Rheims."

There seems no doubt that all these attacks across the valley of the Aisne were ordered by a German higher in command than the staff in the field—in disregard of loss of life and as the last effort to break the allied center.

Last week the Germans stormed the heights of the Meuse, where they were most accessible by the easier road from Metz. They captured one fort, Cap des Romaines, and took the little town of St. Mihiel, with its convenient group of bridge heads. Then the enemy got across the Meuse itself no doubt believing signal success to be at last within its grasp. They

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PRENTICE BOYS HELD ENTERTAINMENT

Upwards of one hundred attended the entertainment held last evening in the Temperance Hall at Gibson under the auspices of Gibson Lodge, No. 37, Protestant Association of Prentice Boys. Light refreshments were served and an interesting programme was carried out as follows:—Address—Rev. Harry H. Ferguson, pastor of the Gibson Baptist church. Vocal duet—Misses Florence and Helen Lint.

Monologue—Mr. Charles Titus. Reading—Miss Louise Allen. Vocal Solo—Miss Mary Richards. Vocal Solo—Mr. Robert Currie. Reading—Mr. Taylor. Sketch—Messrs. Charles Titus and Thomas Titus. Vocal Solo—Mr. Fred Titus.

It is the intention of the Gibson Prentice Boys to hold a bazaar in the near future in aid of the local branch of the Canadian Patriotic Fund.

German Army Under General Von Kluck Has Been Reinforced and is Making a Determined Stand ---Has Withdrawn Troops From the German Centre to Strengthen the Flanks

Russian Troops Have Inflicted a Very Serious Defeat on the German Forces on the Northeastern Frontier---German Losses Said to be in the Vicinity of Seventy Thousand---Half a Million Men Were Engaged on Both Sides---Antwerp Holding Out Well Against the Enemy---Germans Believed to be Paving the Way For a Retreat

WAR SUMMARY

Sharp battle in progress around Arras. German attacks repulsed elsewhere and French take offensive in several places.

Near Soissons the French have gained ground and captured some German trenches.

Czar calls out Reserves and orders mobilization of mounted troops in Eastern provinces.

Antwerp garrison repulses Germans at Nethe River.

Battle at Augustowo, Russian Poland, ends in victory. Servians claim they have repulsed Austrian attacks along the river Drina.

Japanese, rejecting Chinese proposition, seize German-owned railway to Tsinan.

British Press Bureau gives out a casualty list of the battle of the Aisne including 727 privates and non-commissioned officers.

Reported Italian occupation of Avlona, a port of Albania, if true will probably involve Italy in the war.

President Poincare, Premier Viviani and Minister of war Millerand go to the French battle front.

French war critics surprised that Germans drew reinforcements from the center for battle at Roze.

London, Oct. 5.—General Von Kluck, reinforced with troops from the German centre, continues to make a determined stand against the attempt of the Allies to outflank him.

The French, who yesterday officially reported that all the German attacks in this region had been repulsed and that the Allies had resumed the offensive, followed this today by the announcement that while to the north of the Oise the battle which commenced seriously about Sept. 25, continues with great violence, no decisive result has yet been reached and that at certain points the French troops have had to yield ground.

The Germans in their report issued last night say that the battle is proceeding successfully for them.

LONDON AND

PARIS OPTIMISTIC.

Both in London and Paris there is great confidence, although some surprise is displayed at the success of the Germans in preventing the outflanking movement. There is a feeling, however, that the Germans cannot extend their line much further north without weakening it at some point.

Along the rest of the line, the French communication says, there has been no change, so that the progress in the region of Soissons and in Woivre, reported on Sunday night, either has satisfied them for the moment or they have been checked by the Germans. Of the fighting here, as on their right wing, the German report says it is proceeding favorably for the German arms.

Naturally, progress by either side must be extremely slow, for after every advance, no matter how slight, the troops making it must entrench themselves for protection against the

shells from the enemy's guns posted in strong positions from one end of the line to the other.

RUSSIANS ROUT GERMANS.

The defeat of the German army which invaded Russia from East Prussia appears from Russian accounts to have been even more decisive than previously stated. According to the Russian ambassador at Rome, the Germans, who, he says, were completely defeated and routed, have suffered a loss of seventy thousand men and have been forced to abandon everything.

The Russians are now moving forward with the object of again invading East Prussia. This victory, if it is as complete as reported, is of the greatest importance to the Russians as it will prevent the Germans from undertaking any operations from land and sea, which would have compelled Russia to turn at least a part of its attention in this direction.

General Rennenkampf apparently drove a wedge between the two German forces which were advancing on Drusenki and Ossowetz and brought about the battle of Augustowo, which resulted in a Russian victory. If the Germans have not already retired from the left bank of the Niemen River at Drusenki, their defeat at Augustowo must compel them to do so. The moral effect of another invasion of East Prussia will also be of importance.

From the Silesian and Galician battlefields nothing has come through today, and probably the main armies have not come together there. A big battle cannot much longer be delayed, particularly on the Silesian frontier, both armies are moving forward and will meet in Russian Poland.

ASIATIC CHOLERA IN VIENNA.

Before the Russian advance in Galicia the peasants are fleeing the country and it is reported twenty thousand of them reached Bohemia. The sanitary department of Vienna reports that four cases of Asiatic cholera have occurred among the troops returning from Galicia, but that all have been isolated.

Of Antwerp, the official report says that the situation in the fortified positions remains unchanged.

Fighting, too, continues in the Near East, and the Anglo-French fleet has succeeded in destroying Lusia, an outer defence of the Austrian seaport of Cattaro.

While the Servians and Montenegrins are attacking the outer fortifications of Sarajevo, Belgrade, which has been so often under fire, has not been bombarded for several days, probably as a result of the re-occupation of Semlin by the Servians.

Skirmishes have occurred on the Anglo-German frontier in East Africa due to German raids into British territory for the purpose of cutting the Uganda railway. All these raids have, according to the British official report, been repulsed.

While the usual life in England is not seriously upset by the war, the regulations in many respects are becoming more stringent. An instance of this is to be found in the action of the authorities, who, in order to keep the army provided with warm clothing, have commandeered large quantities of woollens in Leicester, a step which is likely to be followed elsewhere.

Rome, via Paris, Oct. 5.—The Russian embassy here tonight made public an official communication received from the Russian headquarters staff, saying:

"The defeat of the Germans is complete. Their retreat is changing into a rout that is so disorderly and precipitate that they are forced to abandon everything."

"Two Russian armies are proceeding, one from the west and another from the south, toward Allenstein in East Prussia, fifty miles south-east of Elbing."

"The German losses have not yet been officially ascertained, but it is estimated that they had 70,000 men disabled."

London, Oct. 5.—A Reuter despatch from Petrograd says:

"Side by side with the official account of the German defeat on the Russo-Prussian frontier, details are published of the Russians crossing the Carpathians, which, as one writer says, destroys the legend that the eastern Carpathians are impregnable."

"Before attaining Uzok Pass the Russians successively captured, thanks to a wide flanking movement, three well masked positions which were strongly defended by guns. Each time the Russian charged the enemy fled, and the Russians followed up the wustrian retreat with shrapnel and quick-fire, inflicting heavy losses."

"During the Russian retreat through the Mazur Lake District, in East Prussia, a Russian battery was surrounded on three sides by the enemy's quick fires. The infantry was on the other side of the lake."

and the Russian ammunition was exhausted. In order to avert capture, the commander ordered the battery to gallop over the declivity into the lake. His order was obeyed, and he himself was among the drowned.

"During an assault on the fortress of Ossowetz, a German column got into a bog. The Russians shelled the bog and the single road crossing it. The Germans, in trying to extricate themselves, sank deeper into the mire, and hundreds were killed or wounded. Of the whole column there were only about forty survivors."

BRUSSELS MAY BE SACKED

Belgium, Oct. 5.—The news from Brussels is very disquieting. All communication with Ninova is impossible. The Belgians have blown up bridges and blocked the line with wrecked trains so as to compel the Germans to retreat through Namur. This renders Brussels useless to them.

All the German wounded are said to have been removed from the Belgian capital. The fire department extension ladders of the various communes have been commandeered on the pretense that they furnish good posts for observation. Houses in the suburbs, the Hotel de L'Esperance and the southern railway station are reported to have already given to the flames.

Provocative acts apparently deliberate on the part of the soldiers, are said to be growing more and more common, and the populace, already excited by the arrest of Burgomaster Max, is being stung to reprisals.

The report which I heard may be exaggerations of terror, but sufficient substance remains to cause alarm and I hope so to fix the attention of the civilized powers so as to render the sacking of Brussels impossible.

London, Oct. 5.—An official investigation is being made regarding the movements of a number of vessels which left American ports carrying coal, presumably bound for ports which have not been reached. While there is no disposition on the part of the British government to question the efforts of the American government to prevent the coaling of German warships by vessels from American ports, it is explained that every effort is being exerted to forestall a repetition of the coaling of the German cruiser Karlsruhe.

HOW THE LEIPZIG WAS COALED.

San Francisco, Oct. 5.—The German cruiser Leipzig was coaled and supplied near Magdalena from the cargo of the German freighter Mazatlan, which left here Aug. 13, according to a story told today by G. D. Smith, wireless operator of the Mazatlan, to Rear Admiral Pond, superintendent of the Twelfth United States naval district.

Smith said that the Leipzig took mail and supplies direct from the Mazatlan, but took on board the coal after it had been transferred from the Mazatlan to another vessel. Smith is a British subject. He was ordered to communicate with the Leipzig off the coast of Lower California, he said.

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