

War News Restricted

Slight Gains Reported By Germany. Antwerp Being Bombarded.

From the Battle Front (via Paris), October 5, 11:36 p. m.—The allied armies, after having permitted their adversaries, as they thought, to exhaust themselves by continued attacks, to-day assumed the most vigorous offensive. The British and French encountered such a strong resistance, however, that their most advanced detachments on the northwest were compelled to fall back.

Only at this part of the long battle did the opposing troops actually come into close contact.

Forced to Give Ground.
Paris, Oct. 5, 11:11 p. m.—The following official announcement was issued to-night by the French War Office:

"The general situation is stationary. On our left wing the action still continues.

"In the region of the Argonne and on the heights of the Meuse we have repulsed night and day attacks. "Grand Duke Nicholas has addressed to the Ministry of War, a telegram announcing the victory of Augustowo. Gen. Joffre has sent, in his name and in the name of the French army, his warmest congratulations to the commander-in-chief of the friendly and allied army on the battle won, which is a guarantee of future successes."

The official statement given earlier to-day says:

"On our left wing to the north of the Oise the battle continues with great violence. The result remains indecisive. We have been obliged at certain points to yield ground."

Von Kluck Still Prevents Attempts of Allied Armies to Outflank Him.

London, Oct. 5, 9:57 p. m.—Gen. Von Kluck, re-enforced with troops from the German center, continues to make a determined stand against the attempt of the allies to outflank him.

The French, who yesterday officially reported that German attacks in this region have been repulsed and that the allies had resumed the offensive, announced to-day that the battle to the north of the Oise, which commenced seriously about Sept. 25, continues with great violence, with no decisive result, and that at certain points the troops have had to yield ground.

Germans Optimistic.
The Germans, in their reports issued last night, say the battle is proceeding successfully for them.

Both in London and in Paris there is the greatest 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 farther north without weakening it at some point.

Further communication says, there has been no change. Therefore the progress in the region of Soissons and in Woevre, reported 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, the German report says it is proceeding favorably for the German arms.

Progress Slow.

Progress on 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.

The defeat of the German army which invaded Russia from East Prussia appears, from Russian accounts, to have been more decisive than previously stated. "According to the Russian ambassador at Rome, the Germans were routed completely with a loss of 70,000 men, and have

been forced to abandon everything.

Russians Advancing.
The Russians now are 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 land and sea operations which would have compelled Russia to turn at least a part of its attention in this direction.

Gen. Rennenkampf apparently has driven a wedge between the two German forces, which were advancing upon Druskenki and Osowetz, and brought about the battle of Augustowo, which resulted in a Russian victory. If the Germans have not retired from the left bank of the Niemen river at Druskenki, their defeat at Augustowo must compel them to do so. The moral effect of another invasion of East Prussia will also be of importance. No news has been received to-day from the Silesian and Galician battle fields, and probably the main armies have not come together there. A big battle cannot be delayed much longer however, as on the Silesian frontier both armies are moving forward and will meet in Russian Poland.

Peasants Fleeing.
Before the Russian advance in Galicia, the peasants are fleeing the country, and it is reported that 20,000 of them have 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.

Fighting continues also in the near east, and the Anglo-French fleet has succeeded in destroying Lusitania, an outer defense of the Austrian seaport of Cattaro.

Fight in Africa.

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

While the routine 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, 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.

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

Says Positions Remain Same.
Paris, Oct. 8, 11:38 p. m.—The official communication issued by the French War Office tonight says:

"On the whole, the situation is stationary, the positions occupied remaining the same, notwithstanding several violent engagements, notably in the region of Roye."

Germans Claim Slow Gains.

Washington, Oct. 8.—The German embassy today received the following message: "We are gaining ground slowly but surely, and the situation continues favorable. The battle front of the right wing has been extended until it is north of Arras, where our vanguard came in touch with the enemy's cavalry."

J. P. VENTRESS INDICTED FOR EMBEZZLEMENT.

Baton Rouge, Oct. 7.—Indictments against J. Posey Ventress, ex-clerk of the State Land Office, charging embezzlement on six counts, were returned by the grand jury in the land office probe this afternoon. No true bill was returned against Fred J. Grace, registrar, but the grand jury made a special report to the court, which scathingly condemned Grace for the lax management of his office.

The true bills against Ventress charge him with embezzling sums of money paid to him for land redemption certificates, as follows:

July 10, 1912, from John F. Tobin, \$57.96; October, 1911, from J. O.

Modisette, \$3.68; July, 1912, from Albert Guilbault, \$5.28; September 26, 1912, from Harvey E. Ellis, \$4.82; February 11, 1914, from Payne Breaux, \$30.10; January 8, 1914, from L. A. Dueros, \$20.15.

Warrant for Ventress.

A few minutes after the grand jury had reported its findings a warrant was issued for the arrest of Ventress. The young man was in the sheriff's office awaiting to learn his fate. Horace Williams, \$1000, and Sheriff Womack left immediately in a automobile with Ventress to hunt for Capt. O. B. Steele. Capt. Steele signed the bond and Ventress was released.

It was 5:30 o'clock before the grand jury made its report, but it was generally noised around the streets at 9 o'clock last night what its findings would be, and this morning the matter was the subject of widespread comment. The only particular in which the street rumors differed from the actual report of findings was in the matter of the number of counts returned against Ventress. Early this afternoon Grace was receiving congratulations of his friends, and it is reported that last night he was assured by friends that he would not be indicted.

The only report which the grand jury made on the case against Grace was "not a true bill for extortion in office." The report had reference to charges of a \$1.50 fee, which the registrar is alleged to have been in the habit of charging for cancellation, in express violation of Act No. 315 of 1910.

A special report of the grand jury relating to the general management of the land office, said: "In presenting indictments we wish in addition to make a special report to the court."

"We wish to severely condemn the careless manner in which the affairs of the State land office are conducted. We have carefully read and considered the report of the supervisor of public accounts, and have ascertained that all of the facts stated and conditions disclosed in this report are

correct. The indictments which we have found in this matter speak for themselves. However, while we have been unable to place any criminal responsibility against the registrar himself, we desire to appraise to court of the haphazard, unbusiness-like way in which the affairs of this office are conducted, and to say that, in our opinion, the negligence there shown is almost, if not entirely criminal. We are inclined to the opinion that had the registrar properly attended to the affairs of this office the offenses which we believe to have been committed would not have been possible. We cannot too strongly condemn the system and method of business adopted by the registrar, all of which will appear by reference to the report of the supervisor of public accounts, which we hereto attach."

Attached to the report was the report on the audit of the land office accounts made by W. F. McFarland, supervisor of public accounts, to Gov. Hall, which formed the basis of the grand jury's investigations. Although the report was received in the executive office three weeks ago it became public property for the

first time to-day. Assessor Started Probe. Contrary to general belief, Mr. McFarland stated in the document that the probe of the land office was not started on information furnished by C. E. Bauer of Baton Rouge, a former employee of Mr. Grace. A complaint made by J. S. Martin, assessor of Lafayette parish, to the supervisor as early as July 15 was the first indication which Mr. McFarland had that all was not right in the land office.

report says, he had sent Registrar Grace a check for \$4.38 in January to redeem property in the name of Rene Durio, and, although the check had come back to him with the endorsement of Fred J. Grace, no redemption certificate had been issued, and he could get no satisfaction from the land office.

It was not until July 18, after the supervisor had begun his investigation into the specific case, that he obtained additional information regarding alleged irregularities from Bauer.

The supervisor's report shows that in all there were seventy-five cases, involving \$904.85, where money was paid into the State land office for redemption certificates which was not paid into the State treasury until after the discrepancy had been checked up by the supervisor's force.

"This, however," says the report, "does not represent the total amount made good by the registrar in redemption matters."

All Errors Corrected. "Just after the investigation started he and his force went to work very diligently to correct all errors

and omissions made in the process of the different parishes, and paid to the State treasury various amounts to cover pending applications. By the time, therefore, that my assistants reached the records in many of these cases everything appeared to be regular, so no comment was made on them."

Mr. McFarland severely criticized Registrar Grace for the lax bookkeeping which he said prevailed in the office.

Short on Fees.

The McFarland report also states the auditor found Mr. Grace short in the fees due the State. Commencing on this phase of the supervisors' findings, the report says:

"In reference to this shortage of fees due the State, I desire to say that on the night of August 6 I told Mr. Grace that the examination of his office had proceeded enough for me to know that he had not accounted for all of the fees due to the State. I told him further that my preliminary report, to be filed next day,

would not speak of fees, but I refer to redemptions only, but when I did check up the fees I am sure he would be expected to be good all for which he had not previously settled.

"On August 10, 1914, before I made further examination along particular line, he paid into the treasury the sum of \$124 on account of past due fees for several quarters."

Speaking of fees charged by Grace in the United States surveyor general's branch of the office, McFarland said:

"From May 28, 1912, to August 31, 1914, fees had been collected that department of the office, amounting to \$3,325.83, all of which had been deposited to the account of Fred J. Grace. Fees amounting to \$338.35 had been charged for work in this department which had not been paid to the registrar up to August 31, 1914."

"In view of the record on the office on this very matter, it is impossible to think that the registrar was justified in making use of this nature."

"With the attorney general's opinion as my guide, it would seem the collection of these fees in personal account of Mr. Grace without authorization in law."

Grace Silent. When asked to-night if he had comment to make on the finding of the grand jury in the land office probe, Fred J. Grace replied: "I have nothing to say."

J. Posey Ventress said: "It is certainly a surprise to me; I cannot realize it."

Statement of the

St. Tammany Banking Co. & Savings Bank

Branch at MANDEVILLE, LA.

of COVINGTON, LA.

As furnished to the State Bank Examiner at the close of business September 22, 1914

RESOURCES:

Demand loans	\$40,419.13
Loans secured by mortgage	41,663.91
Other loans and discounts	75,983.11
Overdrafts secured and unsecured	1,616.53
Other bonds, securities, etc.	17,153.50
Banking house, furniture and fixtures	58,280.62
Other real estate	8,296.00
Due from banks and bankers	15,124.24
Checks and other cash items	2,886.47
Gold coin	127.50
Silver, nickel and copper coin	1,203.97
National bank notes and all U. S. Government issues	12,300.00
Suspense	1,937.48
	\$276,992.46

LIABILITIES:

Capital stock	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus	1,000.00
Undivided profits less expenses	641.63
Dividends unpaid	10.00
Individual savings deposits	70,703.49
Individual deposits	103,161.83
Time certificates of deposits	51,397.51
Cashier's checks outstanding	78.00
Total deposits	225,340.83
	\$276,992.46

State of Louisiana, Parish of St. Tammany.

I, Harvey E. Ellis, President, and I. E. V. Richard, Cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 30th day of September, 1914.

Karl J. Kohnke, Notary Public.

The Situation Alarming

to the Cotton Interests of the State was the cry that forced the people to devise ways and means of overcoming the condition created by the war in Europe. All the United States is coming to the rescue of the cotton farmer.

Women Will Wear Cotton in Preference to Other Goods

The women of Covington will not be behind others of the State, and we have prepared to meet their demands and to assist them in their worthy cause by putting in a stock of the latest and most choice cotton goods, to encourage them in carrying out their plan for increasing the manufactures of cotton and relieving the market depression. We will be pleased to have ladies call and examine stock. No trouble to show goods, whether you buy or not.

PAUL J. LACROIX