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THE WEATHER
Unsettled, Probably Showers. Local temp—7 p. m. 69; 7 a. m. 63

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TEN PAGES

SIEGE OF ANTWERP IS CONTINUED

WOUNDED MEN DROWNED WHEN BRIDGE COLLAPSED

Six Hundred Believed to Have Perished When Engineer of Train Made Mistake on the Way to Paris.

NO PUBLIC REPORT MADE OF THE HORROR

The Dead Were Burned on the River Bank and the Awful Incident Was Kept Secret by Authorities.

[By William G. Shepherd, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

PARIS, Sept 23 (By mail to New York)—When a train carrying wounded and German prisoners from Meaux to Paris plunged through a weakened bridge across the Marne on September 20, there is every reason to believe that nearly six hundred wounded men were drowned.

The utmost secrecy has surrounded the affair. Nothing more awful has happened in the European war than this accident. I have been able to obtain the following main facts:

The train consisted of eighteen cars, each carrying fifty wounded men. Many of these men had lain on battlefields, without attention of any sort from one to two days, and were congratulating themselves on the fact that they had been rescued and were on the way back to the comfortable big hospitals in Paris.

On the rear of the train, as it departed from Meaux in the

early evening, was attached a car full of German prisoners.

Before reaching the Marne, the engineer, who had never before operated an engine on the line, was given orders to stop at a red light which he would find. A switchman, who misunderstood his instructions, sent the train on the wrong track and the light which was the stopping signal was not seen by the engineer. Instead, he saw ahead of him another red light which had been placed at a gap in the bridge over the river. He ran up to this light, and to his horror, the bridge beams began breaking under the engine. Then the coupling broke behind him. The engine had reached a solid part of the bridge, but the other cars, with the exception of the rear car, which contained the Germans had piled into the river with their load of wounded men.

Soldiers were summoned from both sides of the river.

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What the War Moves Mean

By J. W. T. Mason, Former European Manager of the United Press.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] NEW YORK, Oct. 9. (11 a. m.)—A shift in the center of the fighting from the Aisne to points further north may come at any time. It is not probable that there will be any concerted abandonment of their more southerly positions by the Germans; but from now on, a growing intensity of the conflict in northern France and Belgium ought gradually to force the Aisne battle grounds into a subordinate place. Both sides probably are making heavy withdrawals from the southern front for disposition toward the northwest.

The British official report today, refers cautiously to deserted German trenches along the southern battle line. While the report discounts sensational conclusions being drawn, it is legitimate to assume that official expectation exists of the gradual abandonment of the battle of the Aisne. Since the number of men on both sides is limited, it seems in fact, impossible that there can be an indefinite continuation of the titanic struggle along the Aisne, while another huge conflict is impending a hundred miles further north.

That the immediate strategy of the campaign is now shifting toward Belgium, seems very probable. The Germans undoubtedly have won the first successes there during the past few days. The objective of the allies at Arras was to follow their own main railway line to the east and attempt

to make a breach in the battle front protecting the German communications along the Belgian boundary. The Germans, however, appeared in sudden force at Lille and have driven the allies further to the west—that is, away from the German communications. The allies, however, in fact, have been run almost to the extreme western part of Belgium instead of establishing a battle line encroaching upon the German positions in central Belgium. It is now necessary for the allies to reinforce their northern army very heavily. The Germans seem to have a marvelous ability for balancing their strength so as to discount the enemy's superior numbers. They somehow have managed to show a greater force than the allies along the Belgian border and thus have gained initial advantages, permitting them partly to destroy at least one of the allies' railway lines.

A full now is possible while both sides continue concentrating for battle grounds in northern France and Belgium. As Von Boehn reinforced Von Kluck during the attempt to break the southwestern corner of the German battle square, so must the latter eventually come to Von Boehn's assistance as the latter's northwest corner in turn is being threatened. How to do this, while protecting himself against a sporadic renewal of the Aisne assaults, is becoming a matter of paramount strategy of Von Kluck.

FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] PARIS, Oct. 9.—The allied lines are pressing slowly forward. Fierce fighting, almost continuous in character, continues on the southwest side of the line, where the German under General Von Boehn and Von Kluck turns sharply northward. This and the statement that all along the battle front the situation continues satisfactory, was the substance of General Gallieni's information as announced to the press today. Continuous fighting apparently is confined to the two wings. The French forces are endeavoring by a concerted move to pierce the German line above Camp Des Remains.

On the west the line extends almost to the Holland frontier, if cavalry outposts are included.

3:00 O'CLOCK STATEMENT.

PARIS, Oct. 9.—No change in the general situation was officially announced in the three o'clock communique issued at Bordeaux and telegraphed here this afternoon. It was stated that the disposition of troops remains almost without change. Cavalry fighting continues on the left and in the Woerwaer region an artillery duel is in progress.

The text of the communique was as follows: "In general the situation is without change."

"On the left, cavalry forces on both sides are in continuous attack north of Lille. The line of battle extends from Lens to Arras to Bray, to Chaulnes, Roye and Laasgity."

"Engagements of minor importance are occurring on the center."

"In the Woerwaer region an artillery conflict is in progress along the entire front. The situation is unchanged in the Voorges and Aisne."

"In Soesie, advance of the Montenegro troops continues, forces now being within attacking distance."

SUCCESS FOR THE ALLIES.

[By Wm. Phillip Simms, United Press Staff Correspondent.] PARIS, Oct. 9.—Belief that the pendulum of success in the battle of the Aisne is now swinging forward favorably to the allies, was universal here today. The war office communique was most laconic. It showed positions in the center of the long drawn battle line practically unchanged. But it carried confirmation of the reports that the allies are now able to hold this line in the center, and at the same time have sufficient forces vigorously to assault both the German wings.

A retrograde movement, a crumpling in of the lines at either end would mean retreat by the center. Military experts here are confident that this is impending. Pressing back of German forces in the neighborhood of Verdun is regarded as practically significant. The French artillery is proving itself more than a match for the German guns in this connection. Cavalry reconnaissance in force on the far western end of the line has resulted in severe losses inflicted on the German cavalry lines north of Lille.

Investigation Postponed.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—Postponement of the proposed investigation of senatorial primary expenditures in Illinois and Pennsylvania until after election at least was decided upon today by the senate elections committee. Chairman Kern said it was impossible to secure senators to conduct the proposed probe before election.

GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] BERLIN, (via The Hague), Oct. 9.—Complete investment of Antwerp, forecasting the early fall of the fortress and overwhelming repulse of French attacks on the left wing in France was the digest of war operations as given out by the war office today. German forces have crossed the river Nethe far in advance of forts Waelhelm and Wavre.

In the eastern battlefield German and Austrian forces have completely stopped the Russian offensive, inflicting enormous losses. Conjunction of Austrian and German armies at Ivanogrod have greatly endangered the Russian center by a flanking movement.

BELGIUM

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] GHEENT (Via Ostend) Oct. 9.—With great scars torn in her rows of beautiful buildings, a constant cannonade both from the German siege guns and bombs dropped from aircraft, Antwerp still holds out. A Belgian officer arriving here today said that yesterday at 10 o'clock in the morning, the first of the German shells began striking the great cathedral, one of the most beautiful gothic structures extant. The German siege howitzers' aim is deadly in its effect on the inner forts, he said. The attacking forces are using their smaller artillery for bombardment of the city, reserving the great 42 centimeter guns for reduction of the forts.

Already Antwerp is scarred and blackened, this officer asserted. Yesterday forenoon a Zeppelin dropped a bomb on the law courts. The airship was subjected to a terrific fire of projectiles and is believed to have been hit, although it returned safely to the German lines. The burgomaster of Antwerp sent word here today:

"We will fight to the last."

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] GHEENT, Oct. 9. (Via Ostend.)—Antwerp still withstands assault. All night long the German bombardment of the encircling forts continued. Specially mounted guns, apparently assigned to the work, drop an occasional shell into the city itself, the range having been accurately obtained by scores of German aircraft.

Refugees who are arriving here say that the mass of Belgian troops heretofore concentrated in the city has been removed. King Albert does not desire to bottle up the remaining first line forces and has left the city, it is reported, leaving only a sufficient number completely to man the forts.

The king left Antwerp at the head of his troops, it is reported here. The censor does not permit transmission of the action in which the Belgian troops are being concentrated but it is reported unofficially that King Albert and his staff have arrived at Zele, a Belgian town on the Holland frontier, near Sas Van Gent, twenty-five miles west of Antwerp.

German air craft are constantly hovering over Antwerp and the bombardment of the city from the air is continuous. A score or more of fires have been started by these aerial bombs, many of which are filled with petrol which ignites when fulminate is set off by contact. The Antwerp fire department, manned by volunteers, has been in continuous service for two days. Some part of the city is burning always.

THE SIEGE OF ANTWERP.

LONDON, Oct. 9.—Optimistic belief that Antwerp's splendid resistance would continue despite the terrific assault on her forts, was unanimous among military experts today. The Antwerp forts have a tremendous advantage over the attacking forces in that every inch of the territory within sweep of the Belgian guns has been plotted and the ranges accurately mapped out. The Germans must attack in tremendous force so as literally to smother the Belgians, while the defenses require only a sufficient number of men to man the guns. No sorties are now being attempted by the Belgians and the Germans are apparently satisfied for the present to envelop the forts in a hail of artillery shells of every description from the great 42 centimeter siege guns down to the quick fire. The morale of the Belgian troops is reported excellent. They are confident of withstanding attack indefinitely.

News Agency despatches today say that a big force of Germans who attempted to pierce the allied line south of Antwerp were decoyed into an un-

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ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] LONDON, Oct. 9.—Since the beginning of the war, British airmen have flown 87,000 miles—a distance greater than four times the circuit of the earth—according to a picturesque eyewitness story of the campaign made public by the official press bureau today.

The "Review" of the allied operations covers the last week in September and up to October 2.

"On September 30," the report says, "one of our airmen succeeded in dropping nine bombs on the German positions opposite the French left center. Some of these bombs dropped on rolling stock, held by the enemy near Laon."

"The mileage of our airmen since the beginning of the war has been conservatively estimated at 87,000 miles—an average of 2,000 miles daily. The total time spent in the air by our aviators will reach 1,400 hours."

"Some of the enemy's trenches have been found empty at night, but this is not significant, as our advance has frequently disclosed that the Germans evacuate such trenches to prevent their comrades at the rear from firing on them, under the mistaken impression that they are the enemy."

"One of our battalion commanders criticizes the enemy's infantry as follows:

"The German officers are skilled in leading their troops forward under cover, and in closed bodies, but once the troops are deployed in open order, destroying direct leadership office, the men in the ranks won't face heavy fire. Their supports either waver when the front line is checked, or crowd forward huddling together, losing their open formation and forming a magnificent target for our fire. As an illustration, in one attack which we sustained over fairly open ground, made by a force about equal to ours, we lost only ten killed and sixty wounded, while over 400 of the enemy surrendered after fifty had been killed."

"Fighting behind entrenchments at the start, the Germans endeavor to gain ground by advancing at dusk or dawn and then digging themselves in, hoping eventually to get near enough to carry our trenches in one rush. They have never succeeded in doing this."

"On the whole their night attacks have been half hearted."

Signing Omnibus Bill.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—Plans were made today for considerable ceremony attending the signing by President Wilson of the Clayton omnibus anti-trust bill, which was sent to the white house today following approval of the conferees report last night by the house by a vote of 224 to 54. Twenty-two republicans and six progressives voted for the bill. Federal Judge Clayton of Alabama, author of the bill may come here to see the president affix his name to the bill. Clayton will probably get one of the pens used in signing.

RUSSIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] PETROGRAD, Oct. 9.—The Russian center, mobilized at Warsaw has started forward on the first lap of its march to Berlin. War office advices today said that this army, including the pick of the czar's army, is now entering action in the territory around Wloclawek, around the Vistula and thirty miles from Thorn. Russian forces in Poland have now advanced to within 95 miles of Posen, it is asserted. Fighting continues, but the Russian advance is steady and overwhelming.

PRZEMYSL REPORTED FALLEN.

ROME, Oct. 9.—Unofficial diplomatic advices received here carry the report that Przemysl has fallen before the Russian attack. The Russian embassy has no official confirmation. Przemysl has been the object of the Russian attack in Galicia for more than two weeks. A steadily augmented force of the czar's soldiers has been reported as besieging the garrison.

If the report of the fall of the fortress is true, the Russian forces will have established a practically clear road across Galicia and to the Carpathians—this is a road clear of any formal fortifications. The Austro-German army has been active south-west of Przemysl.

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THE RATTLE OF BATTLE AMONG FIELDS OF PLENTY

Farms of France Have Been Devastated by War and the Natives Fled to the City For Safety.

CARAVANS OF REFUGEES AND WOUNDED

Word Picture of the Return of Farmers to Their Ruined Homes Where Two Battles Have Been Fought.

[By William Phillip Simms, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

PARIS, Oct. 1.—(By mail to New York.)—I am just back from the front where the fighting is actually going on and from the battle fields where French and English and German soldiers have added new and lustrous pages to history.

It was not the actual front which impressed me most, the bloody front where rapid firers purred and Lebel's spat and shrapnel spilled their singing sprays of death. It was rather the wake of the armies when the women and children and crippled old men sat and blinked and stared dazedly, benumbed, not appreciating as yet the fullness of the catastrophic thing which had just passed over them.

Coming out of Soissons, I met a caravan of wounded, walking southward toward Chateau Thierry and Meaux. There were men of all arms and all the fighting ages—men from Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Senegal; there were French, English and Hindus, all with the first blood-ruined bandages applied to arms, heads and limbs, hobbling slowly down the muddy road under a cold, soaking drizzle. They were the only slightly wounded, evacuating the firing lines upon their own legs. And they were pitiful.

But south of Meaux, bound northward to the plains of the Marne, I passed another caravan more pitiful still. It was a caravan of old men, women, children, girls and babies bound home after driven to Paris by the southwest sweep of the great war. They were from farms, the battle fields of the gigantic armies and most of them were compelled to walk, there being rickety carts and wagons enough for only a few of the sick, the too old or too young to march.

One woman I saw was barefooted. She had trudged her shoes off her feet. It was raining—this was the same day I saw the column of wounded evacuating Soissons—and the roads were deep in mud because for weeks artillery, auto trucks, army trains and convoys of army supplies, plus the wheels of various other war machines had cut into them deeply. This woman was pushing a baby carriage in which were two children and some household effects. Her skirts dragged the mud as she leaned forward, pushing the buggy and she was bespattered to the waist. Bare headed, under the drizzle she struggled on, a feverish light in her eyes and twin spots glowing on her cheeks. A soaked, brownish cape failed to keep her from pen-

etrating through to the skin. I spoke to her and learned her husband was "in the east" somewhere on the firing line. She had not heard from him. Yes, she was very uneasy. Suddenly I asked her what she thought of the war.

"It's glorious, isn't it?" she replied in her champagne country dialect. "We are pushing the Germans back out of our country. If our men continue to fight as they are fighting now we shall win soon. Don't you think so—with the English to help?"

It was an unlooked for reply. I had expected something else—a tirade against everything and everybody, the wall of a tired, worn out woman, another of the war's wounded.

This caravan was only one of many. They flow from their villages and farms as the Germans advance, hamlets and neighbors going together. Their horses and good vehicles were often seized, leaving only oxen and unfit horses to draw the two wheel carts and squeaking wagons filled with hay and women and babies indiscriminately mixed.

At night they camped by the roadside, whether it rained or the stars came out. The only food they had was that with which they began the last stage of the journey—Paris—home. They had no meat and their bread was stale, and wet and soggy. They slept in their clothes, some of them under the carts and wagons to keep out of the worst of the downpour.

These are the real sufferers of the war. They left farms which looked like great gardens; fruit trees laden with ripe fruit; fields of wheat ready for the harvest; stockyards fat with cattle and sheep and chickens and porkers.

These return to battlefields. Stone fences are razed by artillery, wheat is trampled and ruined, graves of thousands fallen dot the grain fields and dead horses, swollen to twice normal size lie here and there. Fruit trees are cut by shells and perhaps the homes themselves are only forlorn and smoking ruins. The cattle and sheep, the poultry and the hogs are all gone to feed the soldiers, friend and enemy alike—for these fields to the north and the east of Paris have been fought over twice by the most formidable forces of any time. First the Germans pushing the allies back against the walls of Paris, then the allies fighting the Germans and the Austrians back to the frontiers.

And all the time the soldiers, whether they willed it or not, were tread-

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The War at a Glance

Summarized by John Edwin Nevin, United Press Staff Correspondent.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

RUSSIA—Center advancing toward Berlin from Warsaw approaching Thorn. Przemysl reported to have fallen.

ENGLAND—British forces victorious in fierce fighting around Lille. Press bureau statement emphasizes wonderful value of British air scouting and holds German infantry ineffective in open order formation.

GERMANY—Antwerp's fall expected momentarily; outer forts under domination of siege guns. Russian army in Galicia and Poland held in

check by Austro-German forces. FRANCE—Prolongation of fighting line continuing. Fighting fiercest at Camp De Romain. Forces pressing forward forcing retreats at several points by Germans.

BELGIUM—With capital moved to Ostend, King Albert has removed from Antwerp most of the massed Belgian forces, leaving only sufficient men to garrison forts and man the guns. King near Holland frontier. Antwerp still holding out with morale of the Belgian troops good and every indication the city can hold out indefinitely.