WEATHER
Fair and continued cool to-day and to-morrow. Gentle to moderate shifting winds.
Full Report on Page 8

New York Tribune

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VOL. LXXVII No. 25,865 [Copyright 1917—The Tribune Ass'n] SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1917—SIX PARTS—FIFTY-SIX PAGES FIVE CENTS In New York City

Russians Halt Retreat; Repel German Fleet

Slav Forces Intrenching, Berlin Announcement Admits

Petrograd Safe, Say Teuton Experts

Hindenburg Said to Believe Further Advance Is Too Perilous Now

LONDON, Sept. 8.—The Russian retreat from Riga toward Petrograd has slackened almost to a halt. Petrograd reports to-day that there is no change in the Riga region, while Berlin announces that the Russians are "hastily entrenching" on a line that runs from Kokenhausen, on the Dvina and about fifty-five miles southeast of Riga, up through Bending, twelve miles west of Venden, and thus to the coast of the Gulf of Aiga, practically straightening the front upward from the fortress of Dvinsk.

Although this indicates a stiffening resistance, which dispatches from Petrograd also confirm, the presence of artillery with the German advance cavalry patrols, which are now reconnoitring the new positions, suggests that there are to be further adjustments in the Russian line to German advantage. However, from German sources come reports that the Germans does not intend to push on to Petrograd.

Not to Strike at Petrograd

The Berlin correspondent of the Copenhagen "Politiken" quotes a "high authority" to the effect that the Germans will not strike for the Russian capital this year, and other Berlin dispatches say that the operations practically ended with the capture of the naval bases of Riga and Dunamunde, at the mouth of the Dvina.

The German explanation is that the fruits of the offensive, which include 316 guns and a strategically important strip of territory, are sufficient, without extending the present lines of communication, but Petrograd hints that the Germans do not dare to advance much further through boggy country in doubtful weather with the strong fortress of Dvinsk on their right. Here the Russian army is said to be in better condition that anywhere else on the whole front, and prepared to battle vigorously to retain the Dvina stronghold. But the growing activity of enemy airmen in the region of Jacobstadt, midway between Riga and Dvinsk, suggests that the Germans mean to crowd the Russians down the banks of the Dvina and, if they can, take Dvinsk by a flank attack. Jacobstadt was heavily bombed by enemy air squadrons yesterday. A physician was killed, and other members of a hospital unit were wounded.

For the moment, however, the Teutons seem principally occupied in celebrating their victory. The Kaiser has reached Riga, where General von Alten had been appointed governor of the fortress, and has distributed decorations to those who particularly distinguished themselves in the recent drive.

Plan to Use Riga

That Riga is to be extensively used by the Germans as a naval base to broaden their control of the Baltic and possibly to harass Petrograd seems clear from the daily increase of naval activity in the gulf. Petrograd reports that yesterday twenty-three German 'planes made a bombing and scouting flight over the Arensburg, Tzerel and Kuwasta region, on the great islands of Oesel and Dago, at the mouth of the Gulf of Riga, which the Russians still hold. Russian aviators went up to meet them and brought down one of the enemy machines in flames. Five other hostile 'planes attacked the Russian torpedo boat patrols, but were beaten off. This Russian scouting fleet discovered German submarines and what appeared to be mine-sweeping trawlers in the Irbensk Sound.

Fire was promptly opened by the Russian shore batteries, and the enemy vessels were compelled to submerge or withdraw after a short engagement.

German Fleet Held Off

If the Germans manage to establish their naval supremacy in the Gulf of Riga they would control the entrance to the waterways leading up to Petrograd. The German fleet of cruisers has been active just outside the Gulf of Riga, but has not yet found an opportunity to penetrate past the Russian coast defences at its mouth.

Petrograd says there has been no fighting on the rest of the front, but Berlin describes lively fighting activity between the Pruth and the Moldava and in the Oituz Valley, at the two extremes of the Rumanian front. This, many of the Petrograd authorities have insisted, is the real danger point on the Russian front.

German Experts Say Riga's Capture Ends Advance on That Front

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 8.—Leading German military circles consider that, with the capture of the important naval bases of Riga and Duenamuende, operations on the Riga front have virtually been ended, says a Berlin despatch to the "National Tidende." It is considered too late in the year to advance further, as this would require the building of new roads, and the establishment of depots.

On this account, the dispatch says, it is unlikely that Field Marshal von Hindenburg will permit the troops to continue the advance, with Petrograd as the objective.

The Berlin correspondent of the "Politiken" also learns that a halting of the German operations in the Riga vicinity is probable. The informant of the newspaper's correspondent is "a personage in intimate touch with leading military circles," presumably Colonel von Haeften, member of the General Staff, in charge of neutral correspondents, who early in the summer informed the same correspondent that an offensive against Russia was improbable.

Other developments in the Russian situation on Page 5.

TRYING TO SMOTHER THE ODOR OF THE SCORCHED SAUERKRAUT

Russia Exiles Virubova, Friend Of Ex-Empress

"Female Rasputin" Says Her Memoirs Will Startle the World

PETROGRAD, Sept. 8.—The first exiles among the adherents of the old imperial régime to-day were sent under a strong escort to the Swedish frontier, where they will be released. Extraordinary precautions were taken to guard the exiles, and access to the railroad station where they board a train was forbidden.

At the head of the party, with a Sister of Mercy, was the famous Mlle. Virubova, for twelve years the bosom friend and confidant of the former Empress, and who has been called "the female Rasputin of the revolution." With her were the intriguer, Manseevich-Manuilov, and the Asiatic, Badmayeff, to whom the former Emperor Nicholas gave a diploma as a "doctor of Tibetan medicine" in recognition of his success in curing all imaginable diseases of the courtiers with a certain cordial.

On the eve of her departure Mlle. Virubova was interviewed in her apartment by The Associated Press in the presence of a detective. She is a strikingly handsome, somewhat stout, black-haired woman, resembling the portraits of Catherine the Great. She limps and uses a crutch, as the result of a railroad accident.

Says Guards Caused Scar.

There is a scar on her forehead, which she asserted was inflicted by the guards at the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul, from which she was recently released.

Mlle. Virubova, who is personally fascinating, but apparently not a clever woman, gave a striking outline of the last years of the court of Emperor Nicholas, declaring that the memoirs which she intends to write will startle the world.

"My life story is this," she said. "I am a daughter of M. Taneyeff, a former secretary of the Emperor. I was married at eighteen to a naval officer who fought in the battle of Tsushima. He went mad, and I then divorced him. Afterward came Alix (thus Mirubova referred to the former Empress). After I came to know her I was her only friend and her champion against the malice of the court.

"Our friendship was purely personal. Untrue, therefore, are all the stories of my vicious influence in politics. The proof of this is that a commission of extraordinary inquiry, instituted while I was a prisoner in the fortress, declared me wholly innocent.

Blames Jealous Aristocrats

"The originators of the unexampled outcry against me were not the revolutionaries, but the court aristocrats and the grand dukes, especially Dmitri Paulovitch. These were jealous of Alix's favor, and for more than a decade waged a relentless war against me, the exception being the Grand Duke Paul, whose wife is my kinswoman.

"The truth about Nicholas is that he has a good character and a quicker and better mind than the good-for-nothing grand dukes. His fault is his incorrigible weakness, which is partly congenital and partly the result of the crushing training by the Mother Dowager and his tutors, who were instructed to suppress every manifestation of initiative."

Petain Again Batters German Line at Verdun

French Forces, on Front of Nearly Two Miles, Carry Teuton Positions and Capture 500 Men—Hurricane Artillery Fire Precedes Attack—Fighting Still Continues

LONDON, Sept. 8.—General Petain to-day delivered another of his smashing blows on the Verdun front, continuing his campaign of pressing the forces of the Crown Prince back to the lines from which the Germans launched their drive for the citadel last year. The attack on a front of approximately a mile and two-thirds between Beaumont and Bezonvaux, on the east bank of the River Meuse, carried the French deeply into the German lines, giving them positions north of the Fosse wood, all the Chaume wood, the crest of a line dominating the Caurieres wood, and more than five hundred prisoners.

Berlin to-night declares that the French assault failed northwest of Bezonvaux and in the Fosse wood, but admits that the Pollus were successful in the Chaume woods, southeast of Beaumont and due east of Mormont farm, where, says the official bulletin, "fighting still continues." This is the usual German formula for confessing the loss of positions.

General Petain's renewed drive was preceded by a hurricane of battery fire, which had been growing for several days and last night at dusk reached the intensity of drumfire. The bombardment then paused for a moment while the French moved swiftly forward in an attack north of Hill 344, which was evidently a feint to conceal the point where the main assault was intended. This preliminary attack developed as an incursion in strength into the enemy lines well to the west of Beaumont, and as soon as the thrusting force had returned to its own lines with prisoners the violent cannonade was renewed, continuing throughout the night.

At 6 o'clock this morning the real French assault was launched, and in fighting through the day attained considerable success. Perhaps Petain meant to capture Beaumont. If so, he failed, though he increased the French menace to that town. However, there are evidences in the active patrol engagements on the west bank of the Meuse from Avocourt wood to the Forges brook to indicate that the French commander has only begun a general movement to solidify the important gains already made in the Verdun area.

In Flanders there are signs in the extreme violence of the cannonade and the lively patrol fighting that the British are only waiting for the ground to dry out a little before beginning major operations once more in the Ypres salient. Indeed, it looked as though an attack in conjunction with the French operations on the Verdun front were intended to-day, but heavy fogs rolling in from the sea coast blinded the artillery and fliers and kept the infantry in their trenches.

Special Features of To-day's

Sunday Tribune

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PART IV

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PART V

The Tribune Review
—a distinctive summary of the week's important world news.

PART VI

THE GRAPHIC, a 12-page section of timely illustrations, including Hill's "Among Us Mortals"—The Excursion Boat.

Pershing Holds Back Men Till Fully Trained

No Sacrifice of Lives to Spur People at Home, Is Decision

Politics Is Thrust Aside for Patriotism

Troops in France Progress Under Tutoring of Veteran French

By Heywood Broun

(Accredited to the Pershing Army in France for The New York Tribune and Syndicate)
[Copyright, 1917, The Tribune Association]

CONTROLE AMERICAIN, AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY ARMY, Sept. 8.—The American army is not ready for the trenches, and under no political considerations will it be sent to the front until the men are prepared to the last detail.

The cry from some quarters that American blood must be shed to arouse the country to the fullest extent will have no weight with the military leaders. Only military considerations will weigh in deciding when the men are to go forward. Particular attention will be paid from now on to conditioning the soldiers. They have worked hard in mastering the many military tasks, some of which combine monotony with difficulty. Care is being taken to keep the men from going stale, for they are working under a nervous strain as well as physical.

Like Football Gladiators

They are in the position of football men on the gridiron waiting for the whistle to blow. Everybody knows that this waiting period is more nerve-wracking than the actual performance, and with our green troops the period of waiting must of necessity be protracted.

The advice of the British experts here is proving useful. An English major is instructing the American officers in the use of organized recreation as a guard against overtraining. He says that the British find that the best things to freshen up men worn by trench fighting are football, 'cross-country running and boxing. It is probable that competitive athletics between the units here will be developed.

The presence of the British has also brought a healthy touch of blunt criticism to the camp. I heard an English instructor tell some American officers to-day: "That's rotten." The French are always careful to phrase unfavorable criticism in pleasant words, and there have been times accordingly when the sting was not felt. A little of both methods bids fair to be a useful combination.

"Blue Devils" Leaving

The French instruction division is leaving the American forces. The extensive training required in the future will be carried out by American officers who have had the advantage of the French instruction. The departure of the chasseurs causes genuine regret, for in addition to a profound respect for their military ability, the American officers and men have a warm personal feeling for the troops who taught them the first rudiments of the modern art of war.

In all the camps there were ceremonies for the soldiers who are leaving drills and practice attacks and sham battles—to go back to whatever task may be set for them. "When you see us later on some time," said an American officer, "we hope to make you proud of your pupils." As the sturdy Frenchmen marched away, their cries of "Bonne chance!" were answered heartily with "Good luck!"

Pershing Needs Forecaster

Good Job Open for Prophet With Troops Abroad

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8.—If any one can find a competent weather prophet General Pershing will be glad to place him among the fighting forces in France, according to word received at the War Department.

General George O. Squier, chief of the Signal Corps, told of Pershing's need for a meteorological expert in testifying before the House Appropriations Committee.

"General Pershing has decided he must have some one to forecast the weather, and the Signal Corps must develop that man. He must also have the special equipment which the French and British armies use for weather forecasting."

Passengers Lift Car From Body of Girl

Passengers on a Madison Street car, of the storage battery type, alighted and lifted the car from the bodies of two little girls who were run down while crossing Cherry Street yesterday afternoon. One of the girls, Eva Cohen, two and a half years old, was killed, and her fourteen-year-old sister Sarah was probably fatally injured.

The older girl was leading her sister across the street to their home at 460 Cherry Street when the accident occurred. Both became wedged under the car, and a call was sent in for the wrecking crew to extricate them. Before the crew arrived, however, the passengers and passersby lifted the car.

Sarah was taken to the Gouverneur Hospital, suffering from a possible fracture of the skull and internal injuries.

Sweden Linked With Berlin In Plot Against Argentina

Sweden for Three Years A Medium for Germany

LONDON, Sept. 8.—Intense interest has been aroused in diplomatic and political circles here by the Washington dispatches announcing that the State Department has proof that Sweden has been acting as intermediary for transferring German messages from the Ger- Chargé d'Affaires at Buenos Ayres by way of the Stockholm Foreign Office to Berlin.

The Associated Press learns that the Foreign Office at Stockholm has been acting as a telegraph office for the German government, and for the last three years has regularly or continuously transmitted cables in German cipher under the guise of Swedish government messages.

Cipher dispatches bearing the signature of the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs and addressed to the Swedish legations in certain foreign countries have been handed by the Swedish Legation to the German Legation in the country to which the messages were addressed, the messages being in reality in German code. In the same way the German ministers in various foreign countries have been in free telegraphic communication with Berlin by handing their cipher messages to the Swedish Minister, who signed and dispatched them as Swedish government messages direct to the Foreign Office at Stockholm, whence they have been sent to Berlin.

In the spring of 1915 the British government, learning of the employment of Swedish telegraphic facilities in German interests, brought this information to the notice of the Swedish government, with the intimation that, unless definite assurance could be given that this practice had ceased, it would be necessary to place restrictions on Swedish telegrams in cipher, so far as the use of British-controlled cables was concerned.

Sir Eyre Crowe, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, by Sir Edward Grey's direction, spoke to the Swedish Minister in this sense on May 11. After some delay and a reminder of the importance of the question, the Swedish Minister, on behalf of his government, gave formal assurance that no cipher messages of the kind would in the future be allowed to pass through Swedish official channels.

Similar assurances were given at Stockholm. On July 2, 1915, the British Minister reported that the Swedish government had promised not to send or receive telegrams on the German account, and on August 10 he again placed the situation before the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs. The latter admitted that there might at one time have been grounds for complaint, but added: "Nothing of the kind has happened for some months, and it will not occur again."

Lansing Reveals Aid Given by Envoy in Sea Murder Scheme

Allies May Take Drastic Action

Messages Advised Sinking Ships Without Leaving Trace

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8.—Copies of three brief dispatches made public by the State Department to-day revealed another case of sinister German diplomacy, this time directed against Argentina and involving the Swedish Foreign Office in an apparent grave breach of neutrality and diplomatic propriety.

So sinister is their purport that it is regarded here as virtually certain that Argentina will enter the war against Germany, and probable that the Allies will use drastic measures against Sweden.

The cable dispatches made public were from Count Luxburg, German chargé d'affaires at Buenos Ayres, to the Berlin Foreign Office, advising warlike acts against the Argentine Republic.

These cable dispatches, Secretary Lansing stated, were sent by the Swedish Legation in Buenos Ayres in the guise of neutral messages to the Swedish Foreign Office for delivery to the Berlin Foreign Office.

Whether the Swedish government completed the unneutral acts of its Minister to Argentina by delivering the cable dispatches to Berlin is a point not established by Mr. Lansing's disclosures, but copies of the messages were transmitted to Mr. Ekengren, Swedish Minister to the United States, and to Mr. Naon, the Argentine Ambassador, and an explanation by Stockholm either to the United States or to Argentina is awaited.

Murder of Survivors Urged

One of the sensational features is the disclosure that the German chargé d'affaires recommended to the Berlin government the sinking of Argentine merchantmen "without a trace being left," a phrase which is interpreted to mean the murder of any survivors of such outrages.

In making public the telegrams incriminating the German and Swedish governments, Mr. Lansing said:

"The Department of State has secured certain telegrams from Count Luxburg, the German chargé d'affaires at Buenos Ayres, to the Foreign Office at Berlin, which, I regret to say, were dispatched from Buenos Ayres by the Swedish Legation as their own official messages, addressed to the Stockholm Foreign Office."

The Secretary then gave out copies of the English translation of the German text of the messages sent by the German envoy. The first one, showing that as early as May 19 last Count Luxburg was advising the murder of seamen on Aregntine ships, follows:

May 19, 1917. No. 32. This government has now released German and Austrian ships in which hitherto a guard had been placed. In consequence of the settlement of the Monte (Protegido) case, there has been a great change in public feeling. Government will in future only clear Argentine ships as far as Las Palmas. I beg that the small steamers Oran and Guazo, 31st January (meaning which sailed 31st), 300 tons, which are (now) nearing Bordeaux with a view to change the flag, may be spared if possible, or else sunk without a trace being left (spurlos versenkt). LUXBURG.

Defiance of Argentina Advised

Defiance of Argentina, should the republic demand cessation of the sinking of its merchantmen, was recommended by Luxburg in the second cablegram forwarded to Stockholm by the Swedish Legation. Here is the message:

July 3, 1917. No. 59. I learn from a reliable source that the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is a notorious ass and an Anglophile, declared in a secret session of the Senate that Argentina would demand from Berlin a promise not to sink more Argentine ships. If not agreed to relations would be broken off. I recommend refusal, and, if necessary, calling in the mediation of Spain.—Luxburg.

The murder of survivors of torpedoed Argentine ships was urged by Luxburg in the following cablegram sent as an official Swedish communication and passed as such by Argentina and the Allied cable censors:

July 9, 1917. No. 64. Without showing any tendency to make concessions postpone reply to Argentine note until further reports. A change of ministry is probable. As regards Argentine steamers, I recommend either compelling them to turn back, sinking them without leaving any traces or letting them through. They are all quite small.—Luxburg.

Secretary Lansing declined to disclose the manner in which the incriminating telegrams came into the possession of the American government. It is known, however, that additional details will be forthcoming from the State Department in the event that the explanation offered by the Swedish government does not accord with the information in the possession of the United States.

Mr. Lansing's revelation created a sensation in official Washington second

Government Raids Designed to Put End to I. W. W.

Names of 200 Leaders Were Known—Many Indictments Expected

By Theodore Knappen

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 8.—The simultaneous I. W. W. raids throughout the country were designed to secure evidence against about two hundred leaders and organizers whose names had previously been furnished to the Department of Justice instead of indictments being sought in the particular districts in which the different persons are domiciled.

It is planned to have all returned at Chicago. Papers obtained in the searches of I. W. W. offices and halls supply abundant evidence of the existence of what is legally a conspiracy in violation of the laws of the United States, and also of acts performed under the conspiracy.

Officials here express confidence that indictments will be obtained and that convictions will rapidly follow.

The three general charges lying against the two hundred are, first, interrupting and interfering with interstate commerce; second, obstructing by force the operation of the government and laws of the United States and, third, hindering the successful prosecution of the United States of the war against Germany. The last charge is based on the espionage law.

The government expects not only to convict individuals, but as a direct result of such convictions destroy the whole organization of the I. W. W.

U. S. Officials Confer On Closing the Mails To Enemies Within

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8.—Closing the mails to disloyal citizens is under consideration by the Postoffice Department and the Department of Justice as another step in the government's campaign to wipe out disloyalty and sedition.

The subject was discussed to-day by William H. Lamar, solicitor of the Portoffice Department, and William C. Fitts, Assistant Attorney General, under whose direction the nation-wide seizure of I. W. W. papers was made last Wednesday.

The two officials will confer further before a decision is reached. Attorney General Gregory also has conferred with Postoffice authorities on the contemplated step.

Should it be decided to close the mails to disloyal citizens and others suspected of disloyalty, the action would not be confined to passage of printed matter through the mails, but would include correspondence of all sorts.

Activity in other phases of the campaign to suppress anti-war movements continued to-day unabated. Investigation of the mass of documents taken by government agents in raids upon I. W. W. offices has resulted, it was said, in many interesting disclosures for presentation to Federal grand juries.

Raids on the I. W. W. Already Bearing Fruit

CHICAGO, Sept. 8.—District Attorney Clyne announced to-day that a box of powder, supposedly some kind of explosive, was found in the raids on the I. W. W. headquarters in Cleveland last Wednesday. The powder has been sent to this city for analysis.

The District Attorney and the aids sent him direct from Washington and other parts of the country are in conference in a secret meeting place to-day going over the evidence obtained in the recent raids.

The Department of Justice declared to-day that it believed the Federal raids upon the anti-war publicity organs were already bearing fruit in a general toning down of seditious printed propaganda.

Representatives Who Opposed War Ask Finish Fight

Johnson, of South Dakota, Declares House Pacifists Back U. S. to End

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8.—Of the fifty members of the House of Representatives who voted against war forty-seven are loyally supporting every war move this government makes, now that the die is cast, Representative Johnson, of South Dakota, declared to-day.

"You have heard, perhaps, from one or two or three who are continually objecting to something," said Mr. Johnson, "but you have not heard from the forty-seven who have absolutely supported this government since the time of the enactment of the war proclamation, and it is about time that some of us who have supported the government should let the people who are sending us this literature know that this body is harmonious and united, and that as long as we are here the men who voted against the entry of the United States are going to support the government in every way.

"Of the forty-seven of us who take this attitude you have heard from us only by our consistent support of the conscription act, by our support of the bond act, by our support of the appropriation bills, and you ought to know, in addition to that, that we expect to support the war until the expiration of our terms.

"I am moved to make these remarks because this morning I received in the mail some of this literature from a certain 'People's Council,' and it is time some of us who opposed the entry of the United States into this war answered these treasonable attacks and did not put it up to you, who favored the war, to make the reply.

"This combination of supposed citizens says that the Entente Allies cannot secure a victory over Germany even with our aid. That the money power wishes the continuation of the war, not for victory but for profit, and to load the people of the world with bonded debt. That the Entente Allies, and particularly England, are working desperately to secure peace, while keeping her people convinced that they are victorious. That Americans should call on Congress to confine our war with Germany to its legal purpose and to seek peace for America by the settlement of our differences with Germany without reference to other issues. That the only possible peace is a peace by compromise. That a great part of America's financial and industrial circles are working to continue the war, in opposition to England's efforts for peace. That this country is dominated by the ablest and most powerful of political financiers, Thomas F. Ryan, and that it is not yet certain whether he will fall in with England's wishes or whether he will and can compel a long continuance of the war.

"I mention such statements only to call to the attention of the gentlemen who send out literature of that kind, if the density of their skulls will permit me to give them information, that that kind of propaganda will have no influence on the people of this country or the members of this body.

"The time for debate ceased with the declaration of war. Before that time we could and did disagree. Now we are either for or against the United States."

Germanamericanism

(From the Staats-Zeitung, September 7)

The Department of State declares plainly that it is tired of peace talk; people should speak rather of the war. The Department of State certainly follows in this respect the other belligerents—the Germans, who, instead of talking peace capture Riga, prepare anew for a longer war. And France, through her Premier, declares that without the return of Alsace-Lorraine there is no possibility of peace. The speeches, to be sure, are quite peaceful—the acts, however, are sufficiently belligerent to bring about a war of at least a year's duration.