

Capture of Foe's Iron Sources Is Pershing's Task

Smashing of Salient Only Beginning of Offensive Against Foe's Vitals

Allies Turn Tables Loss of Lorraine Would Dislocate Hindenburg's Whole Plan of Defence

By C. W. Gilbert

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13.—The Capital is full of satisfaction over the success of General Pershing at St. Mihiel. The salient is regarded as plainly wiped out. Whether the Germans in it have been pocketed and will be captured, whether the confusion of the Germans has created a "soft spot" which will enable the American commander to advance toward Metz, remains to be seen. But this is the first big American smash at Germans, the French troops cooperating being under the command of the American general. It was aimed at the established position that had been held four years, and it went over them as over a child's fortification of blocks. It is not thought here that this is the big offensive. The purpose of it is supposed to have been preparatory to that drive.

The St. Mihiel salient stuck out into France like the fist of a pugilist. Behind it, in Lorraine, dominated by Metz, are the vitals of Germany, the iron mines which she seized from France. To strike at these the Allies must get by the fist, to the west at Verdun, or to the east up the valley of the Moselle.

A drive toward Metz, either side of the St. Mihiel salient, would have had a badly exposed flank and must have had a limited front. Pershing has battered down the Hindenburg guard. The situation on the West front is now exactly the reverse of what it was at the height of the great German offensive of last summer. The Allies then had two vital spots, the Channel and Paris. Both had to be protected at whatever cost. Germany could strike alternate blows at either one.

Now Germany has two vital spots, the iron mines of Lorraine and the coal mines of which Lille is the center. Foch may strike alternate blows for the coal fields at one end of the line and for the iron fields at the other, and Germany must stand always prepared to defend both with her life.

Pershing's offensive against the St. Mihiel salient shows what will be America's task in France. It will be a major task, no less than the taking of one of the pivots of Germany's defence and vital iron ore regions of Briey and Lorraine. This region is to Germany what Channel ports are to the Allies. The munitions of the German army come from it.

The taking of Metz and the surrounding region would cripple Hindenburg as the taking of the Channel ports would have crippled Foch.

The task is like Metz, one of the greatest strategic points of Europe. At least it can perhaps only be surrounded and placed under bombardment, but not taken from the rear by the Allies.

Peace Is Nearer Than Supposed, Hertling Tells Trade Unionists

Continued from page 1

to sow discord were unavailing, and that the Germans were strong enough to reach a decision in our differences of opinion as regards economic power and political rights, even down to the food question.

The Hour of Danger

Herr von Payer urged the necessity of the Germans holding together in the hour of danger and said that disappointed hopes must be prevented, justified hopes fulfilled and actually existing wrongs redressed. Regarding the Prussian suffrage bill, which he considered of prime importance, he said that "it is no longer Prussian, but eminently a German question," and on its decision depends the confidence which the population places in the Prussian and the imperial government. Further postponement, he said, is not permissible, adding "moreover, it is my belief that the decision of the Prussian government may be regarded as already taken, and if equal suffrage does not issue from the committee of the upper house the government will proceed to dissolution."

Von Payer considered that the present terrible struggle would not end with a peace of the customary character. A mere glance at the state of complete exhaustion of the world excludes such a possibility, he said.

"In former peace negotiations," he said, "the middle and lower classes of the upper house the government will proceed to dissolution."

Russia, he thought, might have remained in capable existence if she had granted tolerable conditions to the enslaved races by a federal constitution.

Won't Give Up Poland

"We cannot hand over Poland to Russia," he added, "nor can we assist in having Finland again placed under the Russian yoke. We cannot consent to their fate the border states which lie on the German frontier and the Baltic to be subjected against their will to Russian imperialism or thrown into the perils of civil war and anarchy."

"In fact, these states, having come to an understanding with us, as those most nearly interested, can only be an advantage to the world, and we can never permit any one to meddle with us in this matter from the standpoint of the present European balance of power, or rather British predominance."

He asserted that Germany had peace in the East and would not submit to the Entente for its approval or alteration of the peace treaties with the Ukraine, Russia and Rumania.

"For the rest, the territorial possessions which existed before the war can everywhere be restored," the speaker added. "A preliminary condition for us and our allies is that all the territory should again be restored which we possessed on August 1, 1914. Germany must, therefore, in the first place receive back her colonies, in which connection the Entente has an exchange on the grounds of expediency need not be excluded."

"We Germans, as soon as peace is concluded, can evacuate the occupied regions. We only wish once things have been got to that stage, restore Belgium. If we and our Allies are once again in possession of what belongs to us and if we first are sure that Belgium on other states will be more favorably placed than we, then Belgium, I think I may say, can be given back without encumbrance and without reserve."

Denies Belgium Sympathy

The Vice-Chancellor said a requisite understanding between Germany and Belgium was easier because their economic interests frequently were parallel, and that Belgium was directly dependent upon Germany as a hinterland. He said he had no reason to doubt that the Flemish question could be solved amicably.

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Jurist's Plea for "Generous Peace" Brings Hot Protest

(Special Dispatch to The Tribune)

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"Mr. Justice Clarke, of the Supreme Court of the United States, at a recent meeting of the American Bar Association, speaking on the subject of a league of nations, urged that 'the German people shall be invited to share in a just, even in a generous peace, and that we must aim at a constructive and healing peace—not an angry and sullen truce that will lead to further war.'"

"Are there no moral distinctions between Germany, the red handed aggressor, and the nations who are giving up their young men to defend themselves? Are the highwaymen, the murderers, the rapists and the torturers to be invited in as members in good standing to any league of nations devoted to the ideal of peace, the substitution of conference for strife, of justice and peace for cruelty and war?"

"The period of one hundred years will be marked during which a second generation can grow to manhood free from the poison of the present German doctrines that 'might makes right,' and that 'the end justifies the means,' and can be brought up under the laws of morality and honor as practised by civilized nations."

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Russians Rebel at Trade Agreement Made With Berlin

People Refuse to Permit Promised Shipments of Cloth and Food

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 12.—German dispatches received in Sweden speak of the commercial agreement between Germany and Soviet Russia in the same general terms as those employed by the Bolshevik press. These dispatches maintain the same degree of secrecy concerning the details as that which M. Joffe, the Bolshevik Ambassador, preserved when he made his flying trip from Berlin to Moscow to complete the agreement.

The masses in Russia were displeased by the arrangement, because they knew it contemplated the sale of goods so badly needed by the Russians, and especially the transfer to Germany of the fabrics which the Soviet government had confiscated in great quantities in Moscow and Petrograd.

The Germans are also apparently dissatisfied with the agreement, because their efforts to ship goods have been so far resisted and they believe Germany will have the same trouble in this case that she encountered in the Ukraine. In other words, they seem to feel that the Bolsheviks do not expect to abide by their treaty.

Russians Hold Up Shipments Less than a month ago Bolshevik troops at Orsha rioted because a trainload of cloth was about to pass across the German lines, asserting that they would advertise the fact throughout Russia if the Germans persisted in taking away Russian fabrics. The situation became so grave that the Germans abandoned their plan to ship the fabrics. Small shipments may slip through, but the large consignments escape the laborers with difficulty, and the circumstances are so widely discussed in meetings that even the close press censorship does not prevent wide publicity.

The Russian public is in the dark as to the gold payments the Soviets agreed to make to Germany. The total amount varies from \$300,000,000 to 5,000,000,000 rubles. The whereabouts of the Russian gold reserve is a mystery and many bankers doubt whether any considerable amount remains to meet the German claims. The State Bank has not made a complete report since the Bolsheviks seized the government, and the statements of the Minister of Finance make so far as described by Russian bankers as "a list of liabilities on one side of the sheet and printing presses on the other."

No authoritative statement is available as to the actual amount of paper money in circulation, but the sum is probably not less than 50,000,000,000 roubles.

When the Bolsheviks evacuated Petrograd last February a train was sent to Nizhni-Novgorod carrying various securities of the State Bank and money. The Bolsheviks boasted that this was the richest train on record. These securities undoubtedly have been scattered widely because of the repeated political uprisings in Nizhni-Novgorod.

Gorky Accepts Post As Press Agent for The Bolsheviks

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 13.—Reports from Petrograd state that Maxim Gorky, the Russian author and revolutionary, has accepted the post of director of Bolshevik propaganda. The Bolsheviks boasted that this was the richest train on record. These securities undoubtedly have been scattered widely because of the repeated political uprisings in Nizhni-Novgorod.

Dispatches received in Copenhagen last month from Russia stated that Maxim Gorky had been ordered arrested by an investigating commission of the Soviet government and that his newspapers had been suppressed permanently.

Rear Admiral A. V. Razvozoff, former commander in chief of the Russian naval forces, has been ordered arrested in Petrograd yesterday, according to a dispatch from Helsingfors.

Japanese Troops And Russians in Siberia Fraternize

(By The Associated Press) VLADIVOSTOK, Thursday, Sept. 5 (delayed).—The Entente Allied authorities here have refused to recognize the Siberian government headed by General Horvath, according to a

dispatch from Helsingfors.

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U. S. Banner Will Float Victoriously Over Metz, Says Foch

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Germans Evacuating Lille, Refugees Say

LONDON, Sept. 13.—Numerous fugitives from the city of Lille are reported by Belgian newspapers to be arriving at Malines and Antwerp, according to a dispatch from Amsterdam to the Central News Agency. Apparently Lille is being evacuated by the Germans.

semi-official announcement made to-day, and have appointed a committee of seven to administer the municipal affairs. All misunderstandings between the Japanese and Russian authorities have been completely removed. The Japanese and Russian troops are fraternizing.

All-American Blow Celebrated in City

Brooklyn Bells Start Corner Rallies—Staten Island Has Flag Raising

News of the first great American offensive on the Western front, with its attendant successes, provoked impromptu celebrations throughout the city yesterday. Most impressive was that in Brooklyn. Shortly before noon Borough President Engelmann ordered the bell in the tower of the Brooklyn Borough Hall tolled for half an hour. Churches scattered throughout the city followed the lead of the Borough Hall and more than a score street corner meetings were held.

Staten Island celebrated with a flag-raising at the fitting-out dock of the Standard shipyard. Preliminary to the flag-raising and the speechmaking, the workmen in the yard paraded from end to end of the yard, singing and cheering. Naval Constructor John Hunter, on duty at the yard, was selected to raise the flag. The ceremonies were held at the suggestion of Charles M. Schwab, Director General of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, who is making strenuous efforts to rush to completion a ship scheduled to be launched September 28.

Mrs. Skeels Indicted, Charged With Murder

LAWRENCE, Mass., Sept. 12.—The Essex County Grand Jury to-day returned an indictment for murder against Mrs. Bonnie May Skeels, of Andover, and Bayonne, N. J., charging her with the murder of Mrs. Florence W. Gay, of Andover. Mrs. Skeels was also indicted for larceny from the Gay estate. She is critically ill with peritonitis at a local hospital.

Pierre P. Garen, prosecutor of Hudson County, N. J., took the first step toward the identification of the body of Albert J. H. Wilkins, brother of Mrs. Skeels, who she nursed during her last illness in July. Mr. Garen had all the facts in his possession concerning Wilkins' death before the county physician of Passaic County, where Wilkins was buried, and it is believed that within a few days the Passaic County physician will request the coroner of that county to exhume the body. The stomach contents will be analyzed for arsenic.

Lloyd George Suffers Attack of Influenza

MANCHESTER, Sept. 13.—Premier David Lloyd George is suffering from influenza and his Lancashire constituency has been excused. His physician, after a visit to the Premier at 8:30 P. M., said the latter's temperature was still high and it was doubtful if he would be able to leave for London on Monday.

Toul an Open Book To West Pointers; Studied at Academy

REPRESENTATIVE Charles Pope Caldwell, of Forest Hills, Queens, said yesterday that the real American forces were first disposed in the Toul sector in France because that particular battlefield was as familiar to every West Pointer as the multiplication tables are to a grammar school pupil.

For two decades, he said, that particular bit of France had been a subject of study at the United States Military Academy, not in anticipation of the situation in which many of the cadets of the last two decades now find themselves, but because its topography lent itself admirably to the study of combat instruction.

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