

AUSTRIAN DRIVE IN GALICIA WEAKENS

Russians Advancing From the Vistula Occupy Several Villages.

MANY PRISONERS TAKEN

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. PETROGRAD, May 22.—The official statement issued by the Russian General Staff to-night covers all sections of the eastern front and there are indications that the Czar's troops are checking the great advance movement of the Teuton armies in Galicia. The statement follows:

On the 20th and during the morning of the 21st of May the attacks of the enemy on the Galician front were somewhat weaker. In several districts the enemy is assuming the defensive, while he is using his artillery more sparingly.

On the left bank of the lower San the Russians are advancing from the Vistula. After a fight they occupied the villages of Krawnie, Bourji, Pinyaw and Mamerale and repulsed the counter attack of the enemy.

In the direction of Niako, on the right bank of the San, the Russians occupied Ignatze, on the Lubawka River.

The situation in the region of Peremysl is unchanged. The fierce attacks of the enemy continue. They succeeded in capturing a portion of the trenches held by one Russian regiment. The Russians in counter-attack captured 1,000 prisoners.

On the remaining section of the Galician front the attacks of the enemy, who have suffered great losses, is assuming a more partial character. The chief efforts of the enemy on May 21 were concentrated in the district between the Tismenitsa River and Stryl.

The Russians captured several hundred prisoners in the region of Sionko, and in the village of Gacawow two detachments of the enemy surrendered.

There was no important fighting in the other districts.

The Russians continue to press the Germans on the left bank of the Widawenta River in the Shavl region.

On the Narew front the enemy performed partial attacks, experimenting in the use of poisonous gases. The enemy remains passive on the left bank of the Vistula.

The enemy, defeated at Opatow, has been reinforced by troops transported to the Vistula from Galicia.

CHECK AUSTRIAN RIGHT.

Russians, However, Admit That Austrians Hold Strong Position.

LONDON, May 22.—There are indications that the Russians have checked both the right and left wings of the Austro-German army in Galicia, but the issue is still in doubt along a front of sixty miles, which constitutes the centre of the 250-mile fighting line. This is an important point along the River San around Peremysl and to the north of it.

The severe check administered to the extreme Austro-German left around Opatow has already been mentioned and now comes the report that between Peremysl and the marshes of the Dniester River, south of the city, the Russians are holding the Teutonic allies.

The Russians admit officially that in the centre the Austro-Germans have consolidated their positions on the eastern bank of the San, where their overwhelming force of artillery enables them to withstand all attacks by the Russians. The Russians declare, however, that the Germans can go no further. They have not the transport to supply the ammunition needed by them in the operation and the railroads of the country have been destroyed, with all their bridges.

A despatch from Bucharest announces that the army under command of Archduke Eugene, in the Bukowina, is retreating toward the Carpathians. That means the Austrians have abandoned Kolomea and practically every strategic point in the crown lands.

TURKS IN FLIGHT.

Russians Occupy Two Towns in Caucasus.

PETROGRAD, via London, May 22.—The following official statement is made regarding progress in the Caucasus:

Attempts of the Turks to assume the offensive along the coast of the Black Sea have been repulsed. In the region there has been rifle-firing between outposts, and our troops have occupied Sarayvan and Bash Kalch. The Turks fled toward Bydlis and the south.

SWAPS ATMOSPHERE FOR CELL.

Author Seeking Former on Hotel Roof Rudely Interrupted.

Wooling the muse on the roof of the Hotel Manhattan resulted in Harold McFadden, 39, of 45 West Ninety-seventh street, a confessed amateur short story writer, spending last night in a cell in default of \$500 bail.

McFadden, who told Magistrate Marsh in the night court that he had written twelve fiction stories, but had been unable to sell them because they were not evolved under the proper inspiration, decided last night that his Ninety-seventh street environment was wrong. So he climbed four flights in the Hotel Manhattan, squeezed through an open window onto a fire escape and went down to the roof of the three-story extension.

Thomas McGrane, a porter in the hotel, discovered him there, sitting wearily in a corner. Harold explained his need, but McGrane handed him over to House Detective Cullen. Detectives Deitch and Pico of the second branch arrested him.

SAY ALLIES ALSO USE POISONED GAS

The Germans Make Charge Against Troops in Argonne and Near Lille.

REPULSE RUSSIAN DRIVES

BERLIN, via wireless to Sayville, L. I., May 22.—The charge that southwest of Lille and in the Argonne the Allies are using asphyxiating gases is made in the German official statement to-day. The report is as follows:

English and French attacks are reported southwest of Neuve Chapelle, where some colored Englishmen were taken prisoners, and in the Lorette Heights. In some places the fighting still continues.

Southwest of Lille and in the Argonne the enemy used mines charged with poisonous gases.

West of Windau, near Schawing, there were cavalry engagements yesterday. On the Dubrowa River, at Savelle, Russian night attacks were repulsed and 200 Russians were captured.

In the southeastern theatre of war there were no important engagements.

TEUTONS GAIN SLOWLY.

Offensive in Galicia Is Advancing, Says Vienna.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. VIENNA, via Amsterdam, May 22.—The following official statement was made public by the general staff to-night:

Fighting is still proceeding in central Galicia and the ground gained by the allied (Teuton) army is being held against the Russian counter attacks made daily. The ground is being gained by a slowly advancing offensive movement generally.

Calm prevails on the Pruth line. Near Bojan, east of Czernowitz, the attempt of the enemy to reach the southern bank of the river failed and he suffered heavy losses.

In the mountain region of Kielec the enemy is again retiring in a northerly direction after a stubborn fight.

DENY GERMAN FORCE CASH FROM SIELCKEN

Wealthy American's Representatives Say He Is Not Being Detained.

Reports that Herman Sielcken of Crossman & Sielcken, who has been in Germany for more than a year, was being forcibly detained in that country by the German Government and was being assessed enormous sums of money to aid the Teutonic allies in their struggle were denied yesterday at the offices of the firm.

Representatives of Mr. Sielcken said that they had received letters from him stating that he had made several trips into Switzerland and that if money was being extorted from him by the Germans he would have had chances to make his escape on those excursions.

It was added that it was not strange that Mr. Sielcken should wish to remain in Germany, as his wife is a German woman and all of her family reside there. Mr. Sielcken has a big estate in Germany on which he has one of the most wonderful rose gardens in the world.

Reports that Mr. Sielcken had drawn heavy drafts on the firm here of late were also denied. It was said that Crossman & Sielcken had not received a request for funds from Mr. Sielcken since last August.

The only levies which the German Government could make on Mr. Sielcken, according to representatives of his firm, were on the real estate he holds there. This, they said, might be subject to a war tax like the properties of any alien living in Germany.

SCHOOL LUNCHEES DISCUSSED.

Rabbi Goldstein and President Churchill Hold Different Views.

Whether penny lunches should be adopted in the public schools as a permanent undertaking was the subject of a spirited discussion between Thomas W. Churchill, president of the Board of Education, and Rabbi Sydney E. Goldstein of the Free Synagogue at the banquet of the Principals Club at the Hotel Astor last evening.

"If there is one evil we should not allow to creep into our public schools, and which shows every evidence of getting there, it is that of charity," said Rabbi Goldstein. "We should establish a service of social welfare in the schools and not have the children's home life looked into by teachers who are in many cases absolutely unfit for the work."

"I don't agree with Dr. Goldstein," said Mr. Churchill. "In the face of the poverty that reigned in New York last winter all philosophy had to be thrown to the winds and the hungry children fed. When it was a case of their having but one meal a day and many of them coming to school without shoes or stockings, the authorities had to take a hand."

Other speakers were Dr. John H. Finley, State Commissioner of Education; Dr. Richard Burton, president of the Drama League; Miss Lillian Wald of the Henry Street Settlement, and Job Hedges. About 100 principals were present.

BRITISH WITHSTOOD THREE WEEKS FIRE

Held Firm at Ypres Against Artillery Attacks Says "Eyewitness."

HEAVY GERMAN LOSSES

LONDON, May 22.—The failure of German forces to drive the British troops from Ypres after a furious bombardment and attack enduring for three weeks is told in an official "Eyewitness" statement dated May 18 and issued to-day. High tribute is paid to the bravery of the British soldiers who have successfully withstood this attack. During the period the British were forced to evacuate a few trenches. The account follows:

The artillery action on both sides was renewed early on the 13th between the Ypres-St. Julien road and the Ypres-Menin road. On the extreme right, immediately north of the highway, our troops held firm in spite of everything. Further north they were compelled to fall back to the supporting line at the same time the Germans were launching strong infantry attacks, supported by heavy artillery, against the British position north of Wielje.

Here the line was temporarily broken, but counter attacks were undertaken without delay and the Germans were compelled to relinquish the ground they had gained. The Germans suffered enormous losses in this fighting.

"While the foregoing operations were in progress our line between Verlorenhoek and the Ypres-Roulers Railway was subjected to a heavier bombing than it had previously experienced, but the enemy's infantry did not try to push forward in large numbers.

British Gain Trenches.

"Counter attacks north of Hooge and in the neighborhood of Verlorenhoek put us in possession of trenches that we had been compelled earlier to abandon. As our men crept up behind a rise awaiting the signal to attack, a party of Germans was seen to bolt hastily toward the rear. Some one raised a shout, 'They're off' and our whole line raced forward. All the German infantry, including those in the supporting line and the reserve trenches, broke and fled, meantime suffering from our artillery and machine gun fire. We took numerous prisoners.

"Our position near Verlorenhoek was again subjected to tremendous artillery and machine gun fire during the night and our line was reestablished beyond the original trenches, which were destroyed by shelling.

"Throughout the battle our men were often exposed for hours to murderous

artillery fire, but they remained perfectly steady and their morale was not shaken.

"The following case is not exceptional: An officer who had been wounded in the thigh by a fragment of shell refused to be carried to the rear, but lay upon open ground giving orders and directing operations while the battle raged around him. When the men in this vicinity were compelled to retire four of his men tried to rescue the wounded officer. Three of them were shot down in an attempt and the fourth was just about to lift the officer from the ground when the latter ordered him to rejoin his regiment. The officer did not recover.

"Throughout the three weeks of the battle of Ypres the enemy consistently held to the plan of driving us back from Ypres by means of simultaneous pressure against our northern and southern salients. The attacks were supported by masked heavy artillery. The assaults uniformly failed, with enormous losses for the enemy.

"Upon a few occasions where our first line trenches were evacuated the enemy succeeded in occupying portions of our

line and our general front had to be contracted. The German infantry was sacrificed, with the usual disregard for human life, being used as a screen for their artillery and machine guns.

At this point "Eyewitness" turned his attention to the great battle in the sector of La Bassée, in northern France, where the British were again subjected to a heavy offensive on the part of the Kaiser's legions. He says:

"On May 15 the first attack occurred from our trenches in front of Richebourg. As our men left their trenches about 11:30 at night the whole sky was illuminated by innumerable flares or 'star bombs' hurled heavenward from the artillery.

"On the extreme left our advance was checked after our men had reached the German works. Many were shot as they were clambering over the parapets. A second attempt, made a little later, met with the same fate. On our right the assaulting troops gained the enemy's first line trenches, but, owing to the failure of the advance further to the north, the attack could not be pushed beyond the first line of German works.

Later our centre and right established themselves in the German second line, our gain amounting to a frontage of 500 yards and a depth of 800 yards.

"Four hours later another assault, carried out immediately north of Postubert, caught the German trenches for a distance of 300 yards toward Postubert, driving out the defenders with hand grenades.

"When the fighting was purely infantry action our men proved their superiority again and again. On many occasions the German infantry, in spite of their courage, showed a marked lack of training and discipline as well as cohesion. It would seem now that it is the enemy's policy to make up his deficiency by strengthening with an elaborate series of intrenchments his first line and by multiplying the number of machine guns placed to bring a cross-fire to bear upon every portion of our front. The importance attached to these weapons is shown by the fact that officers are now employed to man them.

"Throughout the 17th our guns hampered reinforcements which were being sent to the enemy's first line on the front, south of Neuve Chapelle. The result of the day's operations was as follows: The enemy's line was broken

in two places over a front of two miles. At one point we penetrated right through a whole series of intrenchments. During the night the Germans counter attacked and forced us to evacuate some of the most exposed advanced positions, but all of our other gains were maintained.

"Pressing beyond the enemy's third line works we rushed his supporting points in the direction of Ruedumarais, taking 100 prisoners, including three officers, and destroying four field guns, two howitzers and many machine guns. The Germans were completely taken by surprise. The first intimation some of them had as they sat around their campfires was the command of our officers to throw up their hands.

Two Wedges in German Line.

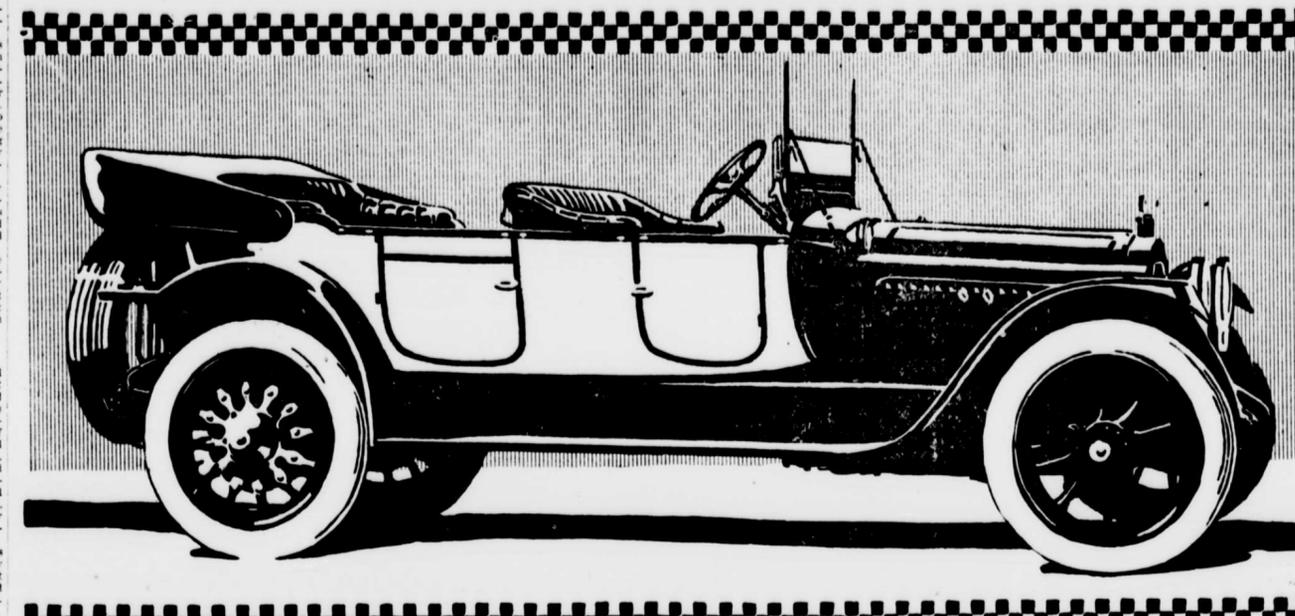
"The positions thus gained formed a couple of formidable wedges into the German line 1,000 yards apart. The intervening space was strongly fortified by works, including two lines of breastworks. Against these we made no further progress. To the right we cleared the first line of German trenches for a distance of 300 yards toward Postubert, driving out the defenders with hand grenades.

"The Seaonard Air Line announces the inauguration May 26 of the Palmings, a new steel train in daily service from New York to Key West, Fla., and Havana. The train will be operated on a fast schedule, reaching the principal points in Florida on the afternoon or evening after leaving New York. Havana passengers will be out only two nights from New York.

It is announced that the train will have steel equipment, including drawing room sleepers, coaches, free reclining chair cars and a dining and baggage car.

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