2,000 THIRD AVE. MEN ON STRIKE

Continued from First Page.

ready to take the car to the barn at 129th street.

Earlier in the evening, as the police had received information that the strike order would be issued, Deputy Police Commissioner Dunham had assumed charge of the policing arrangements.

He was on the ground accompanied by Chief Inspector Schmittberger, who gave special instructions to the police captains and lieutenants in charge of the men. When, however, the police received word of the strike order the police reserves were ordered out to patrol all of Third avenue and to be ready for trouble.

More than 2,000 men jammed themselves into Lyceum Hall, whither they had been summoned by the general invitation issued by the strike leaders. They were in an excited, exuberant mood.

Outside the hall were gathered several thousand more persons, who out of curiosity were awaiting the results of the vote. There was much cheering and disorder. Cars passing the building were greeted with shouts of "Scab!" and an occasional brick. One car was stopped at Eighty-sixth street and the motorman was so frightened that he got off his car. The police, however, prevailed upon him to run his car to the barn at 129th street.

The meeting was called to order by William Collins, one of the organizers of the American Federation of Labor. He spoke briefly and then introduced Hugh Frayne, another organizer. He urged the men to form a union. He said: "You don't need gangsters and gunmen to help you. Just get together, form a union and make yourselves free men instead of slaves."

Criticises F. W. Whitridge.

"President Whitridge of the Third Avenue did not think it worth while to remain here so that he could come to an amicable understanding with his men. He thought so little of the men in his employ that he went away and left them in the lurch."

Chairman Collins, introducing William B. Fitzgerald, the real organizer of the present strike, said: "This strike started in Yonkers and we're going to carry it to the Battery." The remark was greeted with a wild cheer.

Fitzgerald told the men that his dream of fifteen years, namely, to see all the street railway men of New York organized, was now coming true. He read telegrams from union leaders in Boston and Buffalo saying that they would give freely in money and otherwise support the new union in New York.

William D. Mahon, international president, told of conditions in New York as compared with other cities. He said: "The situation in this city is the worst in the country, if not in the world. You are more poorly paid here and it costs more to live here than in any other city." He urged the men to obey the law and to help punish any doers of mischief in connection with the strike.

Strike Resolutions Adopted.

When he was through speaking the resolutions were read and adopted by a standing vote. They expressed the decision of the Third Avenue employees to join the strikers of New Rochelle, Mount Vernon, Yonkers and The Bronx and to suspend work until they were recognized as union men and had received a wage of 30 cents an hour for the first year and 33 cents an hour for every year afterward.

Several cars had been sent out of the barn just before the carmen voted to strike and they were moving slowly northward when the strikers met them. The strikers, knowing the mechanism of the cars, immediately turned switches that caused short circuits or rendered the airbrakes useless. The police reserves interfered and with their clubs drove the strikers back and then ordered the motormen to take the cars to the barns on the northbound tracks.

At this moment Deputy Police Commissioner Dunham and Inspector Schmittberger appeared bound south. They got in between two of the cars moving south. Dunham saw some men piling cobblestones on the tracks and he ordered the chauffeur, William Scherer, to stop while he directed policemen to drive the strikers away.

Then the motorman of the car moving behind saw the automobile and started to apply the brakes, but a striker stepping up pulled a switch that made the airbrake ineffective. It was then that the car smashed into the automobile, smashing the rear end and almost hurling Dunham and Schmittberger to the street. Scherer, however, quickly applied the power and drove his automobile ahead out of the way.

Strikers in Many Fights.

A fight between strikers and policemen occurred on another stalled car. Patrick Rice, a striking motorman, of 166 East Ninety-third street, jumped on the rear platform and tried to pull the conductor to the street. Patrolman Gibson interfered and was knocked down by a blow from Rice's fist. Rice stood over him and was about to hit him again, when Patrolman Rensselaer of the East Sixty-seventh street station struck Rice over the head with his club, cutting his scalp open.

Then the car was run south on the northbound track to East Sixty-seventh street, where Rice was carried to the police station, received the attention of a surgeon and was locked up on a charge of felonious assault.

There were many fights between policemen and strikers. A number of strikers were arrested before the policemen finally got control of the situation and kept the strikers on the move.

At 7:30, up to which time the cars were running at intervals of from ten to twenty minutes, Assistant General Manager Edwin A. Maher, Jr., ordered all the cars into the barns. There they remained until about 9:30 P. M., when with additional detectives and with one uniformed policeman, they started out again. They were travelling, however, on an average of one every fifteen minutes. After the company learned of the strike order, the cars were called in again. Mr. Maher announced that the service would be started again at 5:30 o'clock this morning.

Peace Conference a Failure.

The mass meeting in the Lyceum, where the strike leaders made their first big move in the campaign to tie up the transit facilities of Manhattan, followed a series of important events.

First, a conference of labor leaders and railway officials, called by Borough President Mathewson of The Bronx at the Bronx Borough Hall, was a failure. The conferees could not agree on the first point raised, namely the recognition by the Third avenue company of the right of the carmen to organize.

But before the meeting was called to order, Police Commissioner Woods had issued orders not only for the manning of the Bronx thoroughfares with more police but had stationed reserves along Third avenue.

He also cancelled the vacations of policemen, ordering them back to the city, and directed that the policemen now in the soldiers' training camp at Fort Wadsworth be held in readiness to rush to Manhattan in the event of violence or any further extension of the strike.

How carefully and secretly the labor generals were developing the details of their campaign became evident yesterday morning when about 100 carmen on the Third avenue line failed to report for duty.

Picketing squads of five, under a lieutenant, were at work along Third avenue and had gained the sympathy of those men on their way to work. They also rode on cars, chatting with the conductor or the motorman, as opportunity afforded, and pointing out to them the chances of higher pay through organization. Many of the men on duty promised to join the union at the end of the day's work.

Thus, as the day wore on, George Murphy, superintendent of the Third avenue division, including Third avenue proper and the 125th street crosstown line, found many men were quitting and that others were failing to report for duty.

He succeeded, however, for a time in keeping up his service, for under a working rule a car crew does not quit for the day until the relief is ready for work. Accordingly, many crews were asked to work overtime, and those men who had not yet made up their mind to go on strike accepted the opportunity to make more money.

By 2 P. M. Superintendent Murphy was running cars about every ten minutes instead of every two. There was a noticeable lack of cars on Third avenue and on the 125th street crosstown line. Still Murphy, a veteran of many strikes, smiled cheerfully and announced there was no need yet of calling for strike breakers. He cast his eyes down and up Third avenue, along which were stretched policemen who had been detailed by Chief Inspector Schmittberger's orders in anticipation of trouble.

Army of Pickets Increases.

"As long as we get proper police protection," said the grayheaded superintendent, "you'll see cars running on Third avenue. Don't worry about your old uncle, son. Those pickets don't annoy me in the least.

"Of course some of the men are quitting because they are afraid, but if the police are on the job I have lots of men who have worked for us for years and they're not going to run any risk of losing their jobs now by joining in this strike."

But the busy pickets were so numerous that they formed an argument almost as long as Third avenue. Fitzgerald had taken pains to detail hur reds of the Bronx strikers to Manhattan to carry on the propaganda work. He felt they could be more effective making arguments than idling around in The Bronx and getting mixed up in some row.

Talks by reporters with conductors along the avenue showed that their sentiments were with the strikers and that they intended to join.

"There's too much ammunition lying along Third avenue for me," remarked one conductor. He pointed to the heaps of cobblestones that dotted the avenue where construction work is going on. "I think the best place for me is home. Now's our chance to get higher money and I'm going to grab it, you bet.

"It'll be the easiest thing in the world to tie up this line. It just takes one long spike slipped into the underground trolley and the line is tied up for hours."

There are about 225 cars operating on this division of the Third avenue line and the line employs about 800 men. All the cars in the Third avenue system are red, contrasted with the blue cars of the New York Railways Company's cars.

The other division of the Third avenue, of which Owen McDonald, jolly faced, robust and merry eyed, is the superintendent, operates 375 cars and employs more than 1,000 men.

McDonald Says Men Are Loyal.

The lines under McDonald's supervision comprise the Grand street, the Forty-second and Fifty-ninth street crosstown lines, the belt lines east and west, the Avenue B cars, running from the Federal Building to East Thirty-fourth street, the Broadway cars, running from the Fort Lee ferry via Broadway to the East Thirty-fourth street ferry, and the Amsterdam avenue cars, running from the West Shore ferry via Broadway and Amsterdam avenue to 162d street.

The strike leaders asserted they had won over a number of men on these lines, but they did not boast that they had crippled the service in the least.

"My men are loyal," said Supt. McDonald. "The strikers' scouts have been after them, have handed them appeals, but the men have reported to me. I have stood by my men through thick and thin, and I believe they are going to stick to me now."

Men Have Benefit Fund.

Employees of the Third Avenue have a benefit association to which they pay dues of 50 cents a month and into which the Third Avenue pays a like amount for every man.

The wages which the men receive are the same as the pay of the men on the other parts of the Third Avenue system. They are not unionized.

The pickets yesterday were working from Mozart Hall, 326 East Eighty-sixth street, as their headquarters. Thither all converts were hurried and there they paid $1 and became members of the union. The headquarters were in charge of P. J. O'Brien, fifth international president; Matthew Higgins of Boston and Peter Rooney of Worcester. They said in the course of the afternoon that they had obtained the support of more than one-half of the men working on Third avenue.

While Mayor Mitchel admitted yesterday the seriousness of the strike situation, he believes it unnecessary at the present time to take any other steps than those suggested by Borough President Mathewson of The Bronx.

"I am not sure," he said, "that steps on my part to bring about peace would be welcome just now. But, of course, in this, as in all other cases where such vital interests of the community are affected, I would be glad at any stage to take any steps calculated by both sides to bring about a settlement. Borough President Mathewson has authority from me to issue any invitation for a conference that in his judgment may seem timely."

Peace Conference Arranged.

Mr. Mathewson, in answer to many pleas from residents of The Bronx, communicated in the morning with Edwin A. Maher, vice president and general manager of the Third Avenue Railway, and with Edwin A. Maher, Jr., general manager of the Union Railway, and also with William D. Mahon, international president of the railway men's union; William B. Fitzgerald and with Louis Frigider, attorney for the union men. He asked them to meet him at his office.

All the men agreed to do so. Mr. Maher, who is bearing the brunt of the strike difficulties owing to the absence of Frederick W. Whitridge, head of the Third Avenue, in Europe, said he saw no hope of an agreement because he would not treat with Fitzgerald, who was not an employee of the road and would not recognize the union.

All the men arrived promptly and went into the conference. They were together for more than an hour, and at the end of that time the two Mahers left first. As they went away they said there had been no change in the situation.

Right to Unionize Is Issue.

Mr. Frigider, however, made a statement in which he said the railway officials declined to recognize the right of the men to unionize, but had promised to submit that proposition to the board of directors if the men would stop organizing now and return to work.

"We went into the meeting," said Mr. Frigider, "prepared to make every possible concession in order to arrange a settlement. The one thing we would not concede was that we should not organize.

"When we were together President Mathewson explained that he had no feelings at all to right or wrong on the question of the strike; that he was neutral. He asked us what our position was. We explained that we had three—first, the right to organize, higher wages and an agreement as to working conditions.

"Mr. Maher immediately started in with a history of his connection with the Third Avenue and accused our men of having shown bad faith in the present strike.

"I immediately took issue with him and made him admit that when the Yonkers strike in 1913 was settled there was an agreement that all questions between the men and the company should be submitted to a committee.

"I made him admit that ten days ago or more the men submitted a grievance, but could get no reply from the company. When the men threatened to strike the Mayor tried to get the company to treat with them, and then the business men of Yonkers did the same. Meantime Mr. Whitridge had run away to Europe."

Here Mr. Maher interjected.

"'Mr. Whitridge's being in Europe has nothing to do with this strike. Mr. Whitridge had prepared to go to Europe long before this trouble was mentioned.' I replied that I did not say it had.

"Finally Mr. Mathewson suggested that we union men go into another room and arrange our demands. Mr. Mahon, Mr. Fitzgerald and I did so, and when we returned I made this one proposition:

"'Give us the right to organize and we will forego everything.'

Suggests Truce Until August 28.

"'Well,' said Mr. Maher, 'you have the right to organize.'

"I told him that as a lawyer I knew we had the legal right to organize, but we wanted to be assured that if we did organize hundreds of obstacles would not be put in the way of the men."

"'Well,' said Mr. Maher, "I am willing to submit that question to the board of directors.'

"I asked when and he replied 'August 28.'

"'Nothing doing,' I replied. Then he said he might get his board together in a week or ten days. He added: 'I will be glad to submit your proposition to them provided you stop organizing the men now.'

"We shook our heads emphatically to that and the meeting broke up."

Mr. Mathewson also issued a statement in which, speaking about the conditions demanded by the carmen, he said:

"The question of working conditions is rather an indefinite matter. There is a tendency among the union members and employees to arbitrate that question as well as the one pertaining to wages, but they are disinclined to arbitrate the right to organize. They do not mean that the railroads must maintain a union shop. They are willingto allow 'open shop' principles.

"The conference did not progress further than the question of the right to organize, at which time Mr. Maher of the trolley company stated that he would rely upon the statement which President Whitridge of the Third Avenue system made at the end of the Yonkers trolley strike in 1913.

"He said, in substance, that if any differences arose between the employees and the company and if they were considered to be proper subjects for arbitration, they would be submitted to a committee from the board of directors of that company. But that the men must, meanwhile, refrain from organization of their forces into a union.

"When this statement was made by Mr Maher the union leaders refused to accede to the condition and the conference ended right there. We made no substantial progress."

When Fitzgerald left the peace parley, he said laconically: "We are gaing to get the Third Avenue men out."

Forty Bluecoats on the Cars.

With conditions in The Bronx quieter than yesterday, though the traffic was less satisfactory, and with the strike in Manhattan threatening, Police Commissioner Woods took more measures to insure tranquillity along the car lines. He said he had given consideration to Mr. Maher's assertion that with uniformed men riding on the cars more persons would ride in them. He accordingly detailed forty men to ride on the cars. The experiment was tried all day, but from unofficial sources it was learned that there was no material increase in the number of passengers.

Deputy Commissioner Frank Lord spent the day in The Bronx, supervising police conditions. Under his direction there were squads of policemen at practically every corner and either a bicycle or a motorcycle policeman was detailed to follow cars in which no uniformed policeman was riding.

Gunmen Barred by Police.

Mr. Lord also made it a point to see to it that no gangsters, gunmen or other notorious crooks were allowed to act as strikebreakers. The result was that there were fewer men to operate the cars.

The service was lamentably poor in the morning and became worse in the evening. The public did not seem to mind very much, for they had settled down to the proposition of walking to and from the subway or elevated stations. The usual Saturday night throng that visits the summer resorts at Clason's Point, however, was deprived of the weekly fun, because no cars were running.

There was less violence during the day. The strikers for the most part remained in the meeting halls or were busy proselyting in Manhattan. They seemed to feel that they were winning the strike and that all they needed to do was to keep off the streets and wait. They rejoiced to learn that a number of the starters and inspectors on the Bronx lines had given up the fight and had joined the union.

Two Accidents During Day.

The inexperience of motormen caused two accidents during the day. One resulted in the death of Pauline Cohen, 4 years old, of 443 St. Ann's avenue.

The little girl was playing on the car tracks in front of her home, when a motorman, who gave the name of James Burns of 210 Tenth street, Jersey City, came along in a trolley car. He saw the child, became excited and could not stop his car.

Panicstricken, he left his post and, leaping from his car, started on the run. A passenger in the car, observing the situation, jumped to the controller, but was unable to stop the car until the first truck had passed over the child's body.

Patrolman Freund, who also was riding on the car and who had made a jump for the control box, immediately made a dash from the car and grabbed Burns as he was trying to scale a fence into St. Mary's Park. The conductor also took it on the run and got away.

Mob Shouts "Lynch Him!"

Instantly hundreds of persons gathered about Burns, while others tried to lift the truck of the car and set the child free. She was dead, however. The mob hearing it became wild with anger. They struggled about Burns, shouting "Lynch him!" They threw stones at him. At this juncture Deputy Police Commissioner Lord happened along in his car and, taking in the situation, he hurried to 149th street, where he picked up a number of policemen. With them he sped back and succeeded in rescuing the motorman.

When Burns was taken to the Alexander avenue station he admitted he had given a wrong name and finally said he was James McAvoy of 1985 Daly avenue, The Bronx. He was held in $2,500 bail on a charge of homicide.

McAvoy admitted to Coroner Healy that he had been sent to the Elmira reformatory in 1906 for attempted grand larceny and that in 1908 he had served eight months on Blackwell's Island for petit larceny. He said he had worked as a strike breaker in several strikes. Yesterday was his first day as a motorman here, and he became panic stricken when his car struck the little girl. He was hired by the Bergoff agency.

Magistrate Cornell in the Morrisania Court began yesterday to impose workhouse fines on all men arrested for disorderly conduct in connection with the strike. He sent men up for five and six days.

FRANCE ASKS WORLD AID FOR HER PEOPLE

Note to Neutral Powers Protests Treatment by Teutons in Invaded Districts.

OLD MEN MADE TO WORK

Charges Women Were Forced to Dig Trenches Under Fire of French.

PARIS, July 29.—France sent an official note to the neutral Powers to-day protesting against the action of the German authorities towards the population in the French departments occupied by Teuton forces. It read in part:

"Until a decision by arms has permitted the reconquering of these occupied regions, the sole means of making this effort is by pressing an appeal to the sentiments of justice and humanity of the neutral Powers and the public opinion of all nations.

"I, therefore, ask you, in presenting this note, to ask the Government to give it the most serious attention, as it constitutes the protest of the French Government against the conditions which it brings to the attention of the civilized world, supported by testimony from many sources."

Before Eyes of World.

After reciting the efforts made by the Government through the Spanish Government to stop the German practices in invaded regions, the document adds:

"To-day, all our protests having been in vain, we place the evidence before the eyes of neutral Powers assured of the judgment that universal conscience will pass upon such conditions and that it will be incumbent on the German Government, in case it undertakes to question this evidence, to permit an impartial inquiry.

"To this end the German Government must authorize the neutral Powers to conduct an investigation, notably of the events occurring at Lille, Roubaix and Turcoing and surrounding communes from the 22d to the 29th of April, 1916. If they refuse to authorize an inquiry it will be a recognition of the veracity of the facts denounced."

Forced to Dig Trenches.

The note cites cases of men 70 to 80 years of age made to work, of women forced to labor under the fire of French troops and others compelled to dig trenches. It also makes a charge, based on the testimony of a witness, that in October, 1914, the Germans took from the Department of Pas de Calais a party of inhabitants, that they used them as shields against the fire of the French and that forty were thus killed.

TRIED TO STOP FRYATT'S DEATH

Protests by Britain and U. S. Disregarded in Execution.

LONDON, July 29.—According to a report from Maastricht the question of Capt. Fryatt's execution by the Germans was discussed at Imperial German headquarters in reply to a telegram from the Duke of Wuerttemberg announcing the sentence and asking for its confirmation. This was telegraphed immediately by the War Council, which included Emperor William and Gen. von Falkenhayn and other staff officers, all of whom are said to have been in agreement on the justice of the sentence which condemned Capt. Fryatt to death for attempting to ram a German submarine.

The Foreign Office published to-day the communication it sent to the American Ambassador concerning the case of Capt. Fryatt. The communication, which requests Ambassador Page to obtain full details from Berlin, says:

"His Majesty's Government finds it difficult to believe that a master of a merchant vessel, who, after German submarines had adopted the practice of sinking merchant vessels without warning and without regard for the lives of the passengers or crew, took the step which appeared to afford the only chance of saving not only his vessel but the lives of all on board, can have been shot deliberately in cold blood for this action."

Ambassador Gerard at Berlin reported to Mr. Page that he had brought the case of Fryatt to the attention of the Imperial Foreign Office, in writing, on July 20 and 22, and requested an opportunity to engage counsel. A verbal reply was made on July 26 stating the trial had been fixed for July 27. Mr. Gerard asked for a postponement and received a written reply stating it was impossible to grant a postponement as German submarine witnesses could not be detained further.

ARMED BRITISH SHIP CAUGHT.

German Auxiliary Cruiser Gets the Eskimo Off Skagerrak.

BERLIN (by wireless to Sayville), July 29.—A German auxiliary cruiser early on the morning of July 27, after an engagement with the armed British steamship Eskimo, captured the vessel and brought her into port, according to a statement given out to-day by the German Admiralty.

The encounter took place fifteen miles southeast of Arendal, a Norwegian seaport on the Skagerrak.

FLEE ARTILLERY FIRE.

Fifteen Germans Reported as Deserting Rather Than Go Mad.

LONDON, July 29.—Telegraphing from The Hague, the correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company says he has received the following message from Maastricht, a Dutch town fifty-six miles east of Brussels:

"Fifteen German deserters, including a non-commissioned officer, arrived here (Maastricht) yesterday. They all came from the Somme region. They said it was impossible to live through the Anglo-French artillery fire without going mad, and they preferred desertion to insanity."

WHITE PLAINS MEN IN UNION.

Organize Local, but Do Not Intend to Strike.

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., July 29.—About 100 employees of the Westchester Street Railway to-day completed the organization of a branch to local No. 481, International Association of Railway Men.

The Westchester men have no intention of going on strike, declaring they are satisfied with wages and other conditions. If a general strike occurs they will, it was intimated, go out in sympathy. This would mean a tie up of trolley service in White Plains, Mamaroneck, Tarrytown and sections through to Mount Vernon.

The field occupied by No. 481 covers the Stamford Railway, which extends from New York.

Rumania-Turkey Negotiations Off.

LONDON, July 29.—All negotiations between Rumania and Turkey with regard to the exchange of supplies has been broken off, says a despatch from Bucharest, Rumania, to Reuter's Telegram Company.

WAR MOVES TOLD IN OFFICIAL REPORTS

Artillery Fire Kept Up on Somme Front—Teutons Explode a Mine.

GERMAN BALLOON ON FIRE

Gen. Brusiloff Said to Have Driven Enemy Back on Whole Kovel Front.

LONDON, July 29.—The British official statement from headquarters in France issued to-night reads:

Except for minor local actions and some heavy artillery fire on both sides nothing of importance occurred on the Somme front to-day.

On other parts of the British front there was the usual trench warfare activity. One of our patrols entered the enemy trenches at Pults (shaft 14) and killed several Germans.

The enemy exploded a mine at Neuville-St. Vaast and one at Hairpin Craters without doing us damage or causing any casualties.

Three enemy aeroplanes were destroyed yesterday, and a German kite balloon was seen to fall in flames.

The text of the statement issued this afternoon follows:

Last night the enemy made two more desperate efforts to recapture Delville Wood, but he again was repulsed on each occasion, with heavy loss.

A hand to hand struggle north and northeast of Pozieres and in the neighborhood of Highwood continues without intermission, and we have made progress in all three places despite violent opposition by the enemy.

Since yesterday the artillery fire of both sides has increased in intensity.

There is abundant evidence to show that the losses inflicted by us on the enemy in the last few days have been extremely severe, particularly in Delville Wood, where two or three regiments appear to have been annihilated.

Paris Reports Cannonading.

PARIS, July 29.—The official statement issued by the War Office to-night reads:

There is nothing to report along the whole front with the exception of a fairly lively cannonade on the right bank of the Meuse in the region of the chapel of Sainte Fine.

The official communication issued by the War Office this afternoon follows:

On the Somme front two strong enemy detachments which attempted to reach our lines west of Vermandovillers were repulsed by rifle fire.

On the left bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) a German attack upon our positions on Hill 304 broke down under our fire. On the right bank two German attacks during the night against a redoubt in the ravine south of Fleury involved serious losses to the enemy.

Our troops, continuing their minor operations, carried portions of several trenches north of Chapelle Sainte Fine and in the region of the Thiaumont work, where we captured one machine gun.

The artillery duel is still lively in the sectors of the Fumin and Chenois woods.

The night was calm on the rest of the front.

Aviation: On the morning of July 27 a French aeroplane piloted by Quartermaster de Terline attacked a German machine which was flying over Chalons. The French pilot had just opened fire when the machine gun jammed. The enemy was in full flight. Two of our machines saw De Terline swoop upon his adversary at full speed, crash into him and fall with him to the ground. The French pilot and two German airmen fell within our lines. De Terline had already brought down two enemy machines and had just received the military cross.

In the region of Amiens our pursuing aeroplanes fought thirty-four battles, in the course of which five enemy machines were forced to land in a damaged condition. A sixth German aeroplane was brought down between Chalons and Roye.

On the night of July 28 our bombarding squadrons carried out a number of operations. In all 207 shells were dropped on bivouacs, depots and railway stations on the enemy's front.

Linsingen Standing Ground.

BERLIN, July 29.—The text of the German official statement given out at army headquarters to-day says:

Western Front—In the Somme district there was lively artillery fighting. In the Pozieres sector strong English attacks failed. North of the river Somme attempts made by the enemy to attack were suppressed by our fire.

In the Meuse district there was no infantry activity.

British fire directed on French Comines caused losses among the civilian population, and did material, but no military, damage.

A hostile aeroplane was shot down by full hits from our anti-aircraft guns. It fell near Roclincourt, to the north of Arras.

Eastern Front—Army group of Field Marshal von Hindenburg: German aeroplanes several times successfully attacked a hostile transport train with troop, and also bombarded railroad establishments.

Army group of Prince Leopold of Bavaria: The engagements on the front of Skrobova-Vyzoda (to the east of Gorodische), which yesterday morning was still in progress, have now been decided completely in favor of the Germans.

Army group of Gen. von Linsingen: The Russians extended their attacks yesterday to points in the Stofhod sector and on the front to the northwest of Sokul. The attacks were repulsed. The enemy's losses were very heavy. Minor advances at other places on the Stokhod front also failed.

Northwest of Lutsk the enemy, after several abortive attacks, succeeded in entering our lines near Tristyn, which caused us to give up the lines which we occupied beyond the River Stokhod. West of Lutsk a Russian attack was stopped by our counter attacks. Near Zvinitcze, east of Gorochov, the enemy was flatly repulsed. A Russian aeroplane was shot down south of Feresta in an aerial engagement.

Army group of Gen. Count von Bothmer: Repeated Russian attacks in the district northeast and southeast of Monasterzyska broke down with great enemy losses.

Balkan Theatre—An enemy aeroplane on July 26 was brought down in an air engagement over Lake Doiran.

Russians Cross Stokhod.

PETROGRAD, July 29.—The official statement from general headquarters issued to-day reads:

Our troops have constructed bridges on the Stokhod, in the region of Gulevitchi, and have crossed to the left bank, where they are strengthening the positions they have taken up.

In the Kovel-Rojitche region our troops continue to advance. The enemy is retreating behind the Stokhod. A large number of enemy aeroplanes flew over our position in a direction to the southwest of Lutsk, dropping bombs on the way and firing upon our troops with machine guns.

To the south of the Dniester the enemy was pursued by our troops in the direction of Stanislau and fled to positions previously prepared by him.

Details regarding the booty captured are still so incomplete that it is only possible to give them in a very approximate manner. It, however, has been ascertained so far that the troops under Gen. Brusiloff during July 28 and 29 captured two Generals, over 651 officers and 32,000 men, including a considerable number of Germans. About 100 guns, including 29 heavy howitzers, have been captured. This includes 21 guns taken by Gen. Letchitzky's troops. Eighty-five machine guns were also taken by his troops.

During the three days battle fought by Gen. Sakharoff's troops, 216 officers, 13,569 men, nine guns, 40 machine guns and about 15,000 rifles were captured, but it is just posible that some of these were included in the number above given.

The total number of captures made by Gen. Sakharoff's men from July 16 to 28 are 940 officers, 39,152 men, 49 guns, of which 17 are howitzers; 100 machine guns, 39 mine and bomb throwers, 80 limbers and 76 cartridge wagons; also 48 machine guns mounted on wheels, and six artillery and engineering depots.

Turks Minimize Losses.

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 26, via Berlin and London, July 29 (Delayed).—An official statement given out to-day by the War Office reads:

Owing to Russian attacks in the direction of Balburt and Mamakhatun on our positions in the centre of the southern bank of the Tchoruk River, our troops are maintaining in successive lines the execution of counter attacks, and are retiring in an orderly manner. Our troops on the left wing north of the Tchoruk in the littoral region also voluntarily retired on our order, following the movement against the centre.

Consequently the places of Balburt, Gumuskhaneh and Erzingan fell into the enemy's hands. The advance, which the Russians were able to accomplish only with bloody losses, cannot change the general situation on this front.

The exaggerated Russian official reports about our retreat are without foundation. The Rusians are representing our movement as a flight, but, except for two guns damaged by the enemy's fire, we left nothing. We removed all of the artillery and other material, which proves the order with which the retreat was executed. During this operation, in several counter attacks in many sectors, we made a great number of prisoners.

The loss of Erzingan is regrettable, but as it is an open town it will not influence our general operations.

On the right wing of the sectors of Mush and Bitlis the situation is unchanged. Activity, developed from time to time by the enemy, was stopped by our counter movements. Russian forces, which succeeded in reaching the sector of Rivandouza, were chased back by us in several successful battles.

The left wing of the three armies on the front from southern Persia to the Black Sea was curved back a little. This is mentioned by the Russians as a big success, but our army on the right wing continually advances in southern Persia. The army in the centre dominates completely the sector of Azerbaijan and western regions.

The next operations, which will take place shortly, will prove how very premature the Russians have been in spreading this news of alleged great successes and how much they have deceived themselves in their reports.

Rome Claims Progress.

ROME, July 29.—The text of the statement issued to-day by the War Office follows:

In the Astico Valley on the night of July 27 the enemy again attempted to surprise our positions on Monte Cimone, but was promptly repulsed.

Yesterday the enemy's artillery was active against the villages in the Asiago Basin and against the Sperastriguno and Sugano Valley line, causing some fires.

In the Trevigiuola Valley, notwithstanding the bad weather, we made fresh progress on Monte Colbriccon, toward Ceraman Valley, and repulsed two counter attacks.

On the Isonzo front there were artillery duels, the enemy shelling the towns and villages to the west of Goritza.

On the Carso one of our squadrons bombarded the enemy's camps and parks in the Oppacchiasella region. Hostile aircraft which counter attacked were driven off. One of them was brought down in flames.

The enemy again is reported to be making extensive use of explosive rifle bullets.

Austrians Withdraw.

VIENNA, via London, July 29.—Austrian General Headquarters issued the following official statement to-night:

Between the Turia and the Rovno-Kovel railway, after the repulse of several Russian storming attacks, the defenders of the positions before the Stokhod were withdrawn behind the river.

The Vienna War Office statement of July 29 says:

Russian front—West of Berestechk a Russian night attack was repulsed. Violent attacks by the Russians between Radziviloff and the Styr broke down. On both sides of the Lesznjow road the Russians were repulsed. Russians to the number of 1,000 were taken prisoners.

North of the Prislop ridge the Austro-Hungarians began an advance, crossed the Czarny and gained the opposite heights, where they repulsed Russian counter attacks.

Italian front—Near Panveggio several Italian attacks were repulsed.

Attacks Repulsed, Sofia Report.

SOFIA, July 29.—The official statement issued to-day by the War Office says:

On July 27 along the entire Macedonian front there was weak cannonading and some patrol engagements which resulted favorably to the Bulgarians. On the 25th an enemy battalion provided with machine guns and supported by a battery of mountain artillery and a battery of howitzers attacked our advanced detachments on the Rahovo-Shorsko front. All the attacks were repulsed with enemy losses. Our troops subsequently carried out counter attacks and captured enemy trenches.

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RUSSIANS FORCE TEUTON LINE BACK

Continued from First Page.

Brody was taken without artillery preparation by an irresistible rush of the infantry. The onslaught was so sudden and unexpected that the Austrians had no time to remove their enormous depots of munitions and provisions, which they endeavored to destroy, but a large part of which fell into Russian hands.

The latest computation of prisoners taken during the first half of the summer campaign gives a total of 350,000, according to Russian officers, who estimate also that the total Austro-German losses, including killed and wounded, are close to 800,000. On the basis of these figures Col. Shumsky, military critic of the *Bourse Gazette*, argues that the Austro-German losses since the beginning of the war have been fully half the total of their available forces.

STILL FIGHT FOR WOOD.

Germans, Reenforced, Battle to Regain Delville.

LONDON, July 29.—The importance attached by the Germans to the possession of Delville wood is shown by the desperate character of their constant counter attacks on this wood since it was captured by the British. These counter attacks, according to the British reports, have been repulsed on every occasion with heavy German losses.

In the neighborhood of Pozieres also the British and Germans continue in the closest grips, and the severest hand to hand fighting is going on incessantly. The British, however, maintain their advance toward the remaining portion of the rising ground between Pozieres and Bapaume, still in the hands of the Germans.

Many German infantry units, withdrawn from the Meuse area, have been recognized in the forces opposing the progress of the British. This is the probable reason why the fighting around Verdun, as shown by the French reports, has developed into almost purely artillery engagements. Intermittent minor infantry attacks, however, have occurred there, initiated alternately by either side, in which the French report some success with a gain in ground.

GERMAN EYES ON BALKANS.

Press Sentiment Divided on Battle of the Somme.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

AMSTERDAM, via London, July 29.—The *Lokal Anzeiger*, a semi-official newspaper, claims to have learned authoritatively that the British Government takes a grave view of the battle of the Somme. If it does not produce better results within the next month or six weeks, this newspaper says, the British have decided to abandon their hope of piercing the German lines.

The *Kreuz Zeitung*, the Conservative organ, warns its readers against such statements. It says it will refuse to believe such assertions without the clearest evidence. Some of the other German newspapers write in the same tone as the *Lokal Anzeiger*, predicting evil days for the Allies. Incidentally they refer to "highly probable developments in the Balkans," which, they assert, will merely postpone those evil days. It is stated here that Germany is doing her utmost to avert untoward developments in the Balkans and has sent the Duke of Mecklenburg to Rumania with an autograph letter from the Kaiser.

SAILS TO NURSE BROTHERS.

St. Johns Girl Loses Kin in Battle of Somme.

On the American liner St. Paul, which sailed for Liverpool yesterday was Miss Elsie Herder of St. Johns, Newfoundland, who went to nurse two brothers, Arthur and Frank, seriously wounded in the battle of the Somme. Another brother, Hubert, was killed in the same action.

The three men belonged to a regiment recruited from the neighborhood of St. Johns, and because of the bravery displayed by this command the French Government, according to Miss Herder, renamed part of the battlefield St. Johns Woods.

SAXON EDITORS INTERNED.

German Authorities Also Sequestrate Four Prussian Socialists.

LONDON, July 29.—A message received here to-day by the Wireless Press from Berne, Switzerland, says:

"The German military authorities have established a punitive camp for troublesome Germans. A decree promulgated on Monday consigned to this camp the entire editorial staff of the Leipzig *Volks Zeitung*, a daily newspaper. These journalists are to be interned until the end of the war.

"Another decree interns in the same camp four prominent Socialists who were arrested at Elberfeld, Rhenish Prussia."

GERMANY READY TO HEAR PEACE TALK

Government About to Let Down Bars Against Public Discussion.

BERLIN, Via London, July 29.—There are indications that more freedom in the discussion of the war aims will be granted in the immediate future. The "German National Committee" will begin a great speaking campaign on Tuesday, with a list of speakers including some of the most prominent men in Germany.

At the same time "The Independent Committee for Obtaining an Honorable Peace" will open its activities, and "The Committee on the Guiding Principles for the Way to a Lasting Peace" will convene in Munich.

The *Lokal Anzeiger* says: "Discussion of the peace aims is not yet permitted. We assume that following the proclamations of the German national committee the Government now considers that the time has come to let down the bars on the censorship. We take it to be a self understandable condition that the principal of 'equal rights for all' will be applied here and that what is permitted one will not be forbidden another."

The *Lokal Anzeiger* refers to its campaign for freedom in the discussion of peace conditions and continues: "We do not know yet what the different committees will bring us and therefore await their action and programmes before talking about them. But we know precisely that if the freedom of speech is permitted one association all the others have the same right."

NEW PAPAL PEACE APPEAL.

Encyclical to Be Issued August 1 Is Completed.

PARIS, July 29.—The papal encyclical to be issued August 1 virtually is completed, according to a Rome despatch to the *Journal des Debats*.

The encyclical will contain a new appeal for peace and express regrets that the belligerent nations have refused to listen to former appeals.

The United Press received yesterday from Cardinal Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State, the following message:

"I have presented your telegram to the Holy Father. His Holiness is grateful for your respect and confidence in the Holy See.

"He prays that the Lord of Mercies, moved by the prayers of innocent children imploring peace on this second anniversary of the terrible conflict, shall deign to end speedily this awful carnage.

"CARDINAL GASPARRI."

POISON NEEDLE IN "ROBBERY."

"Victim" Later Helps Police Dig Up "Stolen" $242.

Lawrence Jacobs, 18, of 220 Pulaski street, Brooklyn, had the police excited over a poison needle story yesterday afternoon, but last night he slept in a cell, charged with grand larceny. It is alleged he took $242.96 he had been sent to deposit in the Germania Bank, Bowery and Bond street, by his employer, Joseph Samuel of 64 East Eleventh street.

Soon after Samuel missed Jacobs, the latter walked into the Kingsbridge police station. He had been accosted by four men outside the bank, he said, felt the jab of a needle, became dazed, was thrown into an automobile and awoke in the woods of Van Cortlandt Park. He had cuts that might have been needle marks and at first the police believed him.

After much questioning, however, Jacobs took them to a lonely spot in the park, took five paces from a tree he had marked and dug up the money. The police say he admit