

the moment when it is being flung at the Italian front it is not wise to shake it...

ALLIED PLAN'S DANGER.

Col. Reppington on Politicians as Strategists.

By COL. CHARLES REPPINGTON. Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun from the London Times.

Copyright, 1917; all rights reserved. London, Nov. 14.—The creation of an supreme political council for the Allies for the whole western front and the attachment of a military advisory committee are innovations fraught with so many possibilities for good or evil that they deserve to be considered carefully.

The chiefs of our war and general staffs are expressing their opinion in an agreement with them obviously are the proper persons to accompany the Ministers when naval or military matters are under discussion. The legitimate province of these chiefs is war organization and strategical operation.

The right for the Government to select those it considered the best men and to change them if they prove inefficient, subject to the proviso that the men named must possess the confidence of the Allies, is not a matter that should follow their advice in all affairs within the province of technical advisers.

Danger of System. To collect a second set of advisers in any form is to risk the receipt of two sets of advice, in which case the Ministers necessarily are dependent upon their own and land army dependent upon their own means whereby campaigns are won or lost.

Our military effort in this war has been great, but the writer can only repeat the words of the late General Staff came into its own, and again in 1915.

We have only to consider how many divisions have in the field, compared to the 238 divisions which were complete answer to the question why we have not yet won the war.

The suggestion that our disappointed troops be sent to the front as a result of ours, or would not have occurred had a supreme political council and an advisory military committee been appointed to direct our operations.

The writer has no doubt that the Ministers at the present international war conferences should be accompanied by the chiefs of the war and general staffs or their representatives. It would be a slight upon them should it be otherwise and it can be shown that it would put them at a grave and perhaps fatal disadvantage.

The advisory military committee is not likely to be backward, but it has no executive powers. The writer is of the opinion that the false position will arise, that power will be divorced from responsibility, one set of people may offer advice and blame and another set of people will execute and blame the advisers if the same thing happens. Who then will be responsible for anything? Nobody can say.

Opinion Among Commanders. There also are the commanders in the field who are considered the best men with disapproval any attempt to interfere with their plans or arrangements by a body which they will regard as irrelevant to their own duties.

British or other, hitherto have worked intimately with their general staffs and in close community of ideas. Could their opinions be overruled by a body which is known, it would, in the writer's view, not be favorable, but wholly the reverse.

We cannot afford at this moment of our military operations to have the politicians and the soldiers and sailors. That there is trouble ahead unless the status of the advisory military committee is defined clearly and its powers are defined. This should not be difficult. We are all for unity of control and a supreme political council will help to bring about such a unity.

The greater part of the enemy infantry was stopped by the tremendous British artillery barrage, which ploughed through their ranks as they began the advance on Tuesday afternoon. The British had been expecting the counter attack for several days. Captured German officers had freely admitted that the loss of Passchendaele was considered a most serious matter and that every effort would be made to retake it.

A sanguinary struggle followed at close quarters. The Germans battled doggedly, but the British soldiers flung themselves upon the enemy with such ferocity that he was compelled to give ground and finally retired, leaving many dead upon the barren crest.

The enemy attack was prefaced by a terrific bombardment. The German guns opened fire at 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning. The British had been expecting the counter attack for several days. Captured German officers had freely admitted that the loss of Passchendaele was considered a most serious matter and that every effort would be made to retake it.

Successes Gained in Both Palestine and Mesopotamia—Approach Jerusalem. London, Nov. 14.—British forces in both Palestine and Mesopotamia are pressing the Turks steadily backward, the enemy meanwhile suffering enormous losses.

The British have lost a torpedo boat destroyer and a small monitor in the course of operations in the Syrian coast. Thirty-three men are missing.

Gen. P. B. Maurice said today the British front in Palestine now ran along the Wadi el-Nasr, which was the biblical brook Kedron. This position immediately covers Jaffa and the railway junction on the route to Jerusalem.

BRITAIN TO CALL OLDER MEN. Those in Less Essential Trades to Go Into Army.

London, Nov. 14.—Sir A. G. Geddis, Minister of Munitions, in a special today said that everybody was being catalogued with a view to having greater human economy for an ultimate success.

Recruiting for the army, he added, would be carried out on the basis of occupation rather than on age. The list of all men drawn from non-essential trades will be made up heavily from the internal luxury trades, but the older men and married men in less essential trades would have to be incorporated into the army.

Would make them better if I could—but I can't.

1576 FIFTH AVENUE, COR. 47th ST.

Clergy Aroused By Transfer of Sunday

COPENHAGEN, Nov. 14.—The Bavarian Government, in order to effect better utilization of water power and electricity and to save coal has decided to transfer the Sunday holiday to another day in the week. This has stirred up a hornets' nest. The Catholic clergy have protested most indignantly against this procedure and are supported by the Protestants. The Catholic labor unions have held a big meeting of protest. Only the Socialist unions acquiesce.

COMPERS ADVISES LABOR TO PLAY FAIR

"Virtues Not All on Our Side." President of A. F. of L. Tells Men.

BUFFALO, Nov. 14.—While its committee labored over the thirty-seventh annual convention of the American Federation of Labor marked time today and heard a talk from its president, Mr. Gompers said that the labor movement is facing a dark hour.

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FOUNDERS CHARGE LABOR TREACHERY

600 in Convention Assert Leaders of Unions Are "Submarining Government."

LOYAL PLEDGE TO WILSON Inist Working Conditions Should Continue Without Change Until War Ends.

The National Founders Association, composed of nearly 600 iron, steel and brass manufacturers, employing more than 500,000 men in "open shops," sent from its annual convention in the Hotel Astor yesterday a telegram to President Wilson unanimously pledging to you and our country the unwavering loyalty of its members and the resources of its industrial plant.

At the same time the founders in their speeches caustically criticized the Administration's eight hour day programme and its acquiescence in what the president of the association, William H. Harr of Buffalo called the "hostile submarine" policy of labor leaders. Mr. Harr made the charge that under the control of the Secretary of Labor, William B. Wilson, the United States Public Service Reserve, organized to register all workers in the country available for emergency service, is really a "subreptitious scheme to unionize all industry."

In addition to phrasing the loyalty pledge, the telegram to President Wilson said: "We gain that measure of efficiency requisite for the proper equipment of our army and navy we stand squarely on the platform that the processes of labor should not be interrupted by strikes and lockouts. We are in favor of a law which would require all workers to register with the government and to accept the conditions as existing prior to the war should continue for the duration of the war. Any action to the contrary, whether of military or industrial or labor, is a violation of the law and should be severely punished."

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ITALIANS REPULSE ATTACKS ON PIAVE

Anglo-French Forces Concentrating, but Not in Action—Venice Endangered.

MAURICE SOUNDS ALARM Calls the Situation Extremely Critical—Invaders Operating Along Four Fronts.

LONDON, Nov. 14.—Although the Anglo-French forces continue their furious and unremitting pressure along the Piave and also are pressing their attempted encircling movement from the Trentino the Italians apparently are holding them at most points and in some instances have compelled a slight retirement of the foe. Where the Italians have yielded small sections of ground the result of efforts by Gen. Diaz to straighten his line.

Concentration in large numbers, have not done so for several days, according to an announcement today by Gen. E. B. Maurice, chief of staff of the Italian army, at the War Office. Gen. Maurice admitted that the situation is "extremely critical and will remain so for the next few days." If the Italians fail to hold the Piave line, he added, it is almost certain Venice will fall.

However, the line so far may be considered intact, although the stream was crossed again today at Isolera, four miles from its mouth and some twenty miles northwest of Venice. This crossing, like that effected at Zenson, appears of relatively no importance. As a result a small body of the enemy succeeded in gaining the western bank after numerous attempts. In their positions, and those who did not across a precarious position, being hemmed in about a group of houses where they are under constant Italian fire.

Mr. Maurice did not attach vital importance to the fact that the Germans have succeeded in crossing the Piave River at one point, as he said only a small force had crossed. He said the Italians should be able to deal with them adequately.

Grisoners Crossing Only Skirmish. At Grisona the crossing seems to have been more in the nature of a skirmish. Some say small groups of men "altered through" to the swampy ground. The invaders are being held here by the Italians and the latter are not taking any opportunity of making progress. The ground makes movement of artillery in this region practically impossible.

Along the northern reaches of the Piave, above Zenson, where the ground is firm and would afford good footing for the passage of an invading army, the foe has been repulsed in a series of clashes between Quoro and Fesere.

Certain points along the Trentino front and the Asiago plateau are in the hands of the enemy, but the official communiqués indicate that these were abandoned more for strategic reasons than for tactical ones. The latter are in the hands of the enemy, but the official communiqués indicate that these were abandoned more for strategic reasons than for tactical ones.

The railroad unions, Judge Chambers said, now admit that their purpose was not to secure shorter working hours, but a higher rate of overtime. They complained that the railroad workers' wages had been reduced to a level below that of other workers in the industry.

In addition to predicating their demands for higher wages on this basis, they are also pointing to the fact that other workers in war industries have secured great increases in pay, as a result of the government's war program. The railroad workers' wages had been reduced to a level below that of other workers in the industry.

Members of the President's cabinet, who have been following the situation closely, expressed the belief tonight that the railroad workers' strike had so far refused to accord similar treatment to the railroads. They were consequently unable to comply with the demands that the railroads should make.

The railroads, said Judge Chambers, "are hog tied. They are confronted with these demands by their employees, and yet they cannot raise their rates." The railroads, said Judge Chambers, "are hog tied. They are confronted with these demands by their employees, and yet they cannot raise their rates."

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WILSON THREATENS TO SEIZE RAILROADS

Continued from First Page.

under the general commanding section of the national defence act. The point raised by the brotherhoods regarding the rights of the Government to compel the men to remain at work is the crux of the whole labor situation just now.

If the Big Four should decide to go to the limit on this issue it would be a serious matter. The Government may hang upon this issue. The Government may hang upon this issue. The Government may hang upon this issue.

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BRITISH CRISIS OVER NEW ALLIED COUNCIL

Strength Cannot Be Judged. Mr. Lloyd George's statement and the other proceedings occupied only a few minutes, and when the Government leader withdrew, together with a large proportion of the members and those in the cabinet, the crisis was left in suspense until Monday.

It is impossible to judge Mr. Lloyd George's strength in such a crisis by surface manifestations. Throughout his Premiership he has been stronger than any party whenever a test came, retaining in every crisis the support of a considerable number of Parliamentarians who would not desert him because they thought the Premier obtained power through a political cabal, nevertheless did not dare to oppose him openly.

The possible defeat of the Government would force a general election because of the underlying belief that the country is prepared to back Mr. Lloyd George's leadership. The Premier's political combination, all the vindictiveness, hatred and animosity against the Premier which have been pent up for the last year, would be burst forth when the Premier said in Paris has given him new claims upon the confidence and loyalty of the country. No imagination is necessary to give a blow to the confidence of Mr. Lloyd George is driven to resign. It would be unthinkable if it were not that in certain circles it obviously is thought about.

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No Conceivable Alternative. "We shudder to contemplate its effect upon the morale of the Italian people, the French and the British. The fact that the British people are so divided is a matter of which the Premier is justly proud. At the same time, the fact that the British people are so divided is a matter of which the Premier is justly proud.

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will have none of him. Mr. Lloyd George will have none of him. Mr. Lloyd George will have none of him. Mr. Lloyd George will have none of him.

Represent Forward Step. The Mail says Mr. Lloyd George is not on the issue, although the emotional assertions are unfortunate, adding: "Regarding the necessity of unified control and the establishment of a permanent military council to coordinate operations, nobody disputes that Mr. Lloyd George has that right except a little body of fanatics and a little detour of professional soldiers in the House. Unified control has existed in Germany and Austria since the outbreak of the war and is the explanation of many if not of all their successes. It has been accepted by France and Italy, which is greatly important, and it represents a forward step."

The Times editorially supports the programme represented by the establishment of an interallied council closely coordinating the Allies, though criticising some of the extreme statements of the Premier. "The Times adds: 'Least fortunate is the impression the speech gives us as to what the House will do. It is not wise and wasteful. We all favor plain speaking, but disheartening statements must be justified by facts. The facts in this case are not so flattering as the Premier would make them.'"

The Telegraph unqualifiedly indorses Mr. Lloyd George's course throughout, commending the inter-allied staff and saying: "All we know of the nation's temper on the subject of this crisis in Europe is given us as the result of Mr. Lloyd George's speech in Paris. The Premier said in Paris has given him new claims upon the confidence and loyalty of the country. No imagination is necessary to give a blow to the confidence of Mr. Lloyd George is driven to resign. It would be unthinkable if it were not that in certain circles it obviously is thought about."

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