

WEATHER.

Generally fair tonight and tomorrow; slightly warmer tonight; light variable winds.

No. 29,417.

GERMANS DELIVER VERDUN ATTACKS

Repulsed With Serious Losses, According to Paris War Office Statement.

FRENCH TAKE POSITIONS NORTH OF RIVER SOMME

Capture Strongly Organized Wood, Seizing Numerous Guns and Other War Material.

BRITISH BEAT OFF ATTACKS

Not Only Hold Ground Conquered Saturday, But Make Further Gains, According to London.

PARIS, August 21, 1:10 p.m.—The Germans delivered a violent attack on Fleury, near Verdun, last night, using flaming liquid, but without result, says the war office statement today.

That severe fighting had been resumed at Verdun was indicated yesterday, when the war office announced that the Germans had made a determined effort to recapture the village of Fleury from the French.

French Gain on Somme.

It was announced also that the French had carried a strongly organized wood between Guillemont and Maurepas, taking a large quantity of war material.

Today's war office communication is as follows: "North of the Somme in addition to the important captures of material mentioned yesterday, we took six field guns in the wood which our troops carried yesterday between Maurepas and Guillemont.

"During the night there were violent artillery actions on the Somme front. On the right bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) the Germans yesterday, toward the close of the day, delivered a powerful attack, accompanied by the use of flaming liquids, against Fleury. Our curtain of fire and infantry fire obliged the enemy to stop short, and inflicted serious losses on him."

German Advance halted.

LONDON, August 21, 4:11 p.m.—Strong German detachments drove back British covering patrols northwest of High wood, on the Somme front, this morning, but were stopped when they came under the fire of the British positions west of the wood, says today's war office statement.

The British official communication dealing with the operations in France Sunday says: "About noon Sunday the enemy delivered a strong attack on the new line which we have established for about half a mile from the western corner of High wood, especially High wood, reaching this line at certain points, but was driven out again by our infantry who immediately recaptured the trenches. Subsequently hostile tanks broke down under our artillery fire."

British Near Martinpuich.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN FRANCE, August 21, via London, 1:49 p.m.—Not only have the British held all the gains made in the Saturday attack through the critical second day and night following it, but they have made another important gain. This morning they succeeded in capturing portions of our front, especially High wood, Hamel and Mailly. Elsewhere there was nothing of importance."

Berlin Says Enemy Failed.

BERLIN, August 21, via London, 5:36 p.m.—Attacks on German positions in the Somme and Verdun sectors yesterday resulted in failure, the war office announced today. The statement follows: "North of the Somme several desultory attacks west of Forcucaux (High wood), on the Clerly-Maricourt road, made by strong infantry forces of the enemy from Oulillers and Pozieres, and hand grenades attacks near Maurepas were repulsed."

"On the right bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) enemy forces which were ready to make an attack northwest of Thiaumont were prevented by our artillery fire from carrying out their object. At Thiaumont work itself and near Fleury strong hand grenade attacks were shot down by our infantry and machine gun fire."

"Numerous undertakings attempted by reconnoitering detachments of the enemy were without result. Attacks by German patrols north of Verdun and near Pevigny and Emmerin were successful. In the Argonne lively mining operations were continued. By the explosion of a mine we destroyed a considerable portion of the enemy's position on Courcelles. "Off Ostend (Belgium) a British hydroaeroplane was destroyed by our fire and a French hydroaeroplane was shot down."

"In an aerial engagement a British biplane was brought down southeast of Arras."

ITALY NOW SENDING FORCE TO BALKANS

Disembarking of Troops at Saloniki Reported to Be Already Under Way.

BULGARIAN ARMY MOVING TOWARD PORT OF KAVALA

Reports Indicate That Engagement Continues With Intensity Over Extended Front.

PARIS, August 21, 1:10 p.m.—Italian troops began to disembark at Saloniki yesterday, says a Havas dispatch from that point. On leaving their ships, the dispatch says, the Italians passed through Saloniki to camp, preceded by military bands of the allies and cheered by the populace.

Bulgars Advance on Kavala.

Bulgarian troops are advancing toward the Greek seaport of Kavala, it was announced yesterday. They have seized two Greek forts. At several points along the front new engagements have been fought.

An Athens dispatch says the Bulgarians have thrown back on the Greek army still remaining in the vicinity of Drama and Serres to retire before the Bulgarian advance. The Greek port of Kavala is on the Aegean sea, eighty miles northeast of Saloniki and twenty miles west of the Bulgarian border. It is some distance to the northeast of the eastern extremity of the fighting front, which extends from the Gulf of Orfani to the vicinity of Monastir.

General Engagement Continues.

Reports from Saloniki show that the general engagement which began Friday is continuing with intensity over an extended front from Florina near Monastir, to the River Struma. This represents an irregular line nearly 150 miles long.

Gen. Sarrajl is directing the united operations of the allies, with Gen. Corradini in command. The fighting operations have been long expected as a part of the allies' co-ordinated offensive. The Bulgarians followed the arrival of Gen. Corradini after extended conferences with officials here. The general staff and members of the cabinet.

Consternation at Athens.

ATHENS, August 19, via London, August 21.—The Bulgarian occupation of Florina caused consternation in the capital and consternation of the cabinet. The general staff and members of the cabinet.

Bulgar Report of Fighting.

BERLIN, August 21, by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.—The Bulgarian headquarters statement of August 17, covering events preceding the occupation of Florina and reporting renewal of the fighting in the Doiran lake region, says: "The entire 17th French Cavalry division participated in the previously reported battle of August 15."

Means War With Germany.

Active participation by Italian troops in the Saloniki campaign would mean the withdrawal of the Greek army from the Balkans for war between Germany and Italy. Germany is directing the operations against the allies on this front, and as the official German reports show, has forces there. Some Austrian troops also probably are employed, and possibly Turks, but the major portion of the army is made up of Bulgarians. Recent reports have indicated the withdrawal of the Austrian troops from the Balkans for use on the Russian and Italian fronts.

Retail Credit Men Open Convention.

OMAHA, Neb., August 21.—The National Retail Credit Men's Association opened a three-day session here today with about 300 delegates present. The establishment of clearing houses for retail credit information was one of the important subjects to be discussed. Some delegates favor one central bureau for this purpose, but others want several in different parts of the country.

\$150,000 Fire Loss in Virginia Town

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE STAR. RICHMOND, Va., August 21.—Fire early this morning destroyed the business section of Drakes Branch, seventy miles from Richmond. About a dozen stores and warehouses were burned. The loss is about \$150,000. This is the second time the place has been burned in ten years.

UNFAIR TAXATION OF INTANGIBLES

No Increase of Personal Tax Without Decrease of Realty and Business Taxes.

CITY TOTAL TAX BURDEN ALREADY HEAVY ENOUGH

To Work Equitable Tax Readjustment Decreases of Excessive Realty and Business Taxes Must Be Simultaneous With Increase of Personal Tax Burden.

BY THEODORE W. NOYES. Editorial Correspondence of The Star.

If a tax on intangibles is imposed in Washington, it should be in readjustment and not in increase of the aggregate local tax burden, which the joint congressional committee, after thorough consideration, has declared to be heavy enough, no more than which can equitably be exacted.

In any readjustment of this tax burden the wishes of the unrepresented taxpayers should be given primary consideration. Provided the necessary amount of tax revenue is raised, the form of taxation should be chosen to which the people are accustomed, which, from habit, seem to them the least burdensome, and which for this reason, it may safely be assumed, they prefer.

In substituting a tax on intangibles for some other tax now locally applied, the burden should be shifted to the new tax in a fairer and more effective, causing less friction than the one for which it is substituted. In this connection consideration should be given to the fact that the tax on intangibles inevitably lacks uniform application. It is a tax on valuable property falls the lightest on those who are most expert in avoiding it, and the heaviest on the truthful and the honest.

(1) In the interest of equity and of the small taxpayer, a tax on intangibles, if one is imposed, should be at such a low rate as not to drive away the very large holders of such property, leaving this new tax to fall on men of moderate means who are not able to protect themselves. (2) In the interest of the man of small means, the borrower rather than the lender, double taxation of the same property, as in case of a tax on mortgages, should be avoided.

(3) If a light rate of tax on intangibles must be imposed, the excessive realty tax in the present tax system should be reduced, as those least equitable. (4) The excessive realty tax might be offset, at least partially, by the exemption from taxation (as in New Orleans) of the value of improvements, by the exemption from taxation (as in New Orleans) of the value of improvements, by the exemption from taxation (as in New Orleans) of the value of improvements.

(5) The rate of the tax on the gross earnings of banks and trust companies is much higher than in other cities. It is the rate of the tax on the gross earnings of public utilities, which enjoy (as the banking institutions do) the public. The rate imposed on the public utilities corporations is itself higher than that of any other city. The rate of the tax on the gross earnings of public utilities, which enjoy (as the banking institutions do) the public. The rate imposed on the public utilities corporations is itself higher than that of any other city.

Our Aggregate Tax Burden Cannot Equitably Be Increased.

The greatest benefit which the District derives from the investigations of the joint congressional committee was the resulting careful and thorough comparison of the tax burdens of the various cities, measured by the rigid standard, and the deliberate decision, announced by the committee, that the Washingtonian's city tax burden is, in the aggregate, as large as that imposed in comparable American cities, and that, therefore, no more than this aggregate should equitably be exacted.

What was before the joint committee was the tax burden of Washington, as compared with the tax burdens of the other fifty-seven American cities having over 100,000 population. (Group A) Ten of these cities have a larger realty per capita tax levy and forty-seven a smaller.

Of the group of neighboring cities (Group B)—Baltimore, Richmond, Wilmington, Norfolk, Wheeling, Huntington, Roanoke, Portsmouth and Lynchburg—only Washington has a higher realty tax as Washington. Nor has any one of the southern group (Group C)—New Orleans, Dallas, Houston, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Jacksonville, Charleston, Mobile, Birmingham, Memphis, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Louisville, Columbus, Toledo, Memphis, Dayton, Grand Rapids and Nashville.

The personal taxes are added to realty taxes to constitute the total tax burden of each city. In the aggregate, Washington is one of the heaviest tax-burdened cities, and the heaviest tax-burdened city in the group of neighboring cities.

Another step, adding all other city taxes to those on realty and business taxes, shows that Washington has a larger per capita total tax burden than any one of the thirteen northern-central cities.

These comparisons are summarized in the following table: Per capita comparisons of Washington with four groups of American cities. Group A, fifty-seven other cities over 100,000 in population. Group B, nine neighboring cities over 30,000 in population. Group C, twelve southern cities over 30,000 in population. Group D, thirteen northern-central cities



ALL DRESSED UP AND NOWHERE TO GO.

dened with a maximum of so-called business taxes. The following table compares the per capita realty tax, the per capita total property tax and the per capita municipal receipts from all taxes in eleven typical American cities, including Washington:

Table with columns: City, Realty tax, Total property tax, Municipal receipts. Cities listed include Chicago, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Baltimore, Milwaukee, Newark, Washington, Indianapolis, Louisville, and Comparison with Washington.

Let us trace the factors in the make-up of the tax burdens in this small list of cities and compare them in total tax burden, however measured, the eleven cities find themselves very close together, but there is considerable variation in the weight of different elements of this burden.

Washington's burden is heavily on realty taxes, and heavily on "other taxes" (4.02), on account of the census inclusion of the tax on the gross earnings of public utilities and some other taxes. The realty tax on realty exceeds that of all the other ten cities. When personal tax is added, the total tax burden of Washington is ahead again of all the cities but Chicago.

If we broaden the range of cities to be compared with Washington the lesson taught by the comparison is that Washington bears a very heavy realty tax, a very light personal tax, about the average of the property tax, including realty and personal, and very heavy "business" taxes; making its aggregate of per capita municipal taxes, its total city tax-burden, to exceed most other comparable cities.

Thus compare Washington with the other fifty-seven American cities having over 100,000 population. (Group A) Ten of these cities have a larger realty per capita tax levy and forty-seven a smaller.

Of the group of neighboring cities (Group B)—Baltimore, Richmond, Wilmington, Norfolk, Wheeling, Huntington, Roanoke, Portsmouth and Lynchburg—only Washington has a higher realty tax as Washington. Nor has any one of the southern group (Group C)—New Orleans, Dallas, Houston, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Jacksonville, Charleston, Mobile, Birmingham, Memphis, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Louisville, Columbus, Toledo, Memphis, Dayton, Grand Rapids and Nashville.

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Table with columns: Basis of comparison, Group, Number of cities, Higher, Lower. Rows include Per capita realty tax, Per capita total property tax, Per capita municipal receipts.

The total city tax burdens of six typical American cities are made up of the following factors:

Table with columns: City, Realty, Alty, Other, Total. Cities listed include Washington, Baltimore, Milwaukee, Chicago.

Washington's total city tax burden is declared by the joint congressional committee to be heavy enough, but equitably to be increased. The Senate has now noted the fact disclosed by the above table that Washington's personal tax contributes less toward the total tax than in many other cities.

It is not proposed by alien tax gatherers, by a taxing body in which Washington taxpayers are not represented, to exercise this privilege of capital community every form of tax applied in any other American city.

Why should any legislative body, endeavoring to do equity, increase Washington's personal tax burden to the point where it is no longer a tax, but a contribution to the treasury without at the same time reducing the realty tax and the business taxes to conform to those imposed in these other cities?

Ought not a community to meet its tax obligations by the methods which it prefers? Does not every self-taxing community exercise this privilege? Ought not Congress in taxing the unrepresented District to ascertain its wishes as to the method of taxation which would exist if the capital community were self-governing?

If the District wished to raise its necessary revenue by a single tax on land values should it not on American principles be permitted to do so? Why should it not be permitted to raise this necessary revenue in the way to which it is accustomed, by a tax on realty and business and a light tax on personal property until it asks itself for a readjustment of its perfectly natural taxes and then Congress should no longer be a congressman to think that the objects and rates of taxation of his own city are those which should apply to the nation's city, and to the nation's taxes?

It is impossible for Washington to conform to all at the same rates. It is impossible for Washington to conform to all at the same rates. It is impossible for Washington to conform to all at the same rates.

community itself finds the least burdensome. If, however, Congress will immediately readjust the burden of local taxation it must, in order to be fair, give the relief from excessive and inequitable taxes at the same moment that it adds the new tax upon intangibles. Senator Gallinger pointed out the extraordinary and excessive license taxes imposed in the District, and suggested that they should be reduced or eliminated if the tax on intangibles were to be imposed. In the same connection a reduction of the excessive realty taxes, especially in their application to small property owners, was suggested. And running through the whole Senate debate was the thought, not of an increase of the tax burden of the small property owner and taxpayer, but a readjustment of this burden, which, so far as he is concerned, should cause it to be even more easily borne. But if the promised readjustment is to be carried out in good faith, the readjustment in taxation must be made simultaneously with the increases. If the latter are enacted without a readjustment of the local tax burden and not an increase of it.

All of the facts and figures demonstrate that Washington's total tax burden is more than offset by the heavier tax on realty and business taxes than in comparable cities, and that if revenues from personal taxes (which are now lighter than in comparable American cities) are increased as proposed there should be a corresponding reduction in the average American tax burden. Extension from taxation of a limited amount of realty improvements and by cutting down on the tax on the gross earnings of banks and trust companies.

Usually Americans tax themselves for specific purposes, in the way most easily borne, and in the way most easily understood. The amount of rate and assessment to raise as nearly as possible the exact amount required for the purpose is the method under the law is one-half of the amount that Congress is willing to authorize to raise this amount by a heavy realty tax, under the present law, the most heavy tax that of the average American city, and by a comparatively light personal tax.

This method of assessing the tax on the Washingtonian heavier than that imposed on each of the other American cities containing over 30,000 population and at least as heavy as that of the average American city, approximating Washington in population; and this tax system raises the amount of revenue which will reach the treasury of the local taxpayers under the organic act.

Why change this system to which taxpayers have become accustomed and which raises the needed revenue? Why increase the comparatively light personal tax burden, for instance, unless the necessary revenue is proposed in the excessively high real estate tax burden? Why vote that the local taxpayers prefer that the revenue be raised from realty and tangible personal property taxes instead, on the theory that these taxes are the fairest, the most accurate, the most easily and accurately ascertained, and the most readily collected of any that could be imposed? Why should the Congress, the constitutionally chosen local legislature of Washington, act as sympathetic representatives of these people, whose interests are intrusted exclusively to their legislative protection, and devise and put in operation or pressure and keep in operation means of raising the needed local tax revenue which will pinch the least, which will be the most popular or the least unpopular, and which will create the minimum of friction and discontent? Why, on the contrary, should Congress be tempted to play the oriental (not the American) game of alien, despotic taxation, searching for in order to apply to this defenseless community every conceivable form of general or special tax that has ever been devised anywhere to extort money from helpless taxpayers whose taxation is without representation?

President G. A. Davidson of the exposition and local republican leaders forming the reception committee met Mr. Hughes and party and escorted the visitors to Point Loma. An automobile, which had been hidden in a maze of flowers, was at the nominee's disposal. After the Point Loma trip the entire party will go to the exposition.

Mr. Hughes spent a strenuous day of rest at the exposition grounds. Addressed the city shortly before 10 o'clock from San Francisco, went to church, held a public reception at his hotel, took a hundred-mile motor drive, visiting Pasadena and Long Beach, and held a public reception at his hotel at Long Beach. Mr. Hughes spent half an hour in the hotel which Gov. Johnson was visiting, but did not meet him. The nominee held an informal reception for half an hour there, shaking hands with a crowd that choked the hotel lobby and overflowed into the street.

DAY IN CONGRESS.

Met at noon. Adopted Gallinger resolution of inquiry into authority for retaining George Rublee on Federal trade commission. Senator Thomas addressed Senate on woman suffrage amendment. Began debate on emergency revenue bill. Not in session; meets Tuesday.

RUSSIANS FORGING WAY INTO HUNGARY

Pressing Forward Vigorously Through Two Passes of the Carpathians.

GAINS ON STOKHOD LINE CLAIMED BY PETROGRAD

Capture of Guns and Munitions of War in Galician Engagements Announced.

PETROGRAD, August 21, via London, 2:45 p.m.—The Russians are pressing forward vigorously through two of the Carpathian passes which lead to Hungary. Following the announcement last week of advances in the vicinity of Korosmezo, which is just over the border in Hungary, the war office today reported gains in the pass east of this region, leading south from Kutly.

Points on Boundary Taken.

The capture of Jablonitz and Fereskul, on the Cheremosh river, which forms the boundary between Galicia and Bukovina, is announced. Jablonitz is about twenty miles north of the Hungarian border.

The capture of more than 1,500 men in this region in two days is reported. The announcement follows: "On the River Stokhod in the region of Kovel and Rudka-Cherivche, fighting continues. Our troops made further advances at some points. The total captures in this region Friday and Saturday included 1,500 officers and more than 1,250 soldiers.

We also took one cannon, eighteen machine guns, four bomb mortars, four search lights and a large number of shells, cartridges and rifles. In the region of Substora, on the Stokhod, we captured six officers, 367 men and six machine guns.

Admits Foe Crossed Stokhod.

BERLIN, August 20, via London, August 21.—Today's announcement respecting the eastern front reports that the Russian troops at one point crossed the Stokhod river and that the fighting continues. In the Carpathians the Teutonic troops advanced. The announcement reads: "Front of Field Marshal von Hindenburg. On the Beresina, northeast of Djetjatschi, Russian attempts to cross the river were frustrated. On both banks the Russian troops were fighting, which pushed forward to the western bank is still proceeding. In a successful effort on the night of August 19 we captured six officers, 367 men and six machine guns.

"East of Kovel we ejected the Russians from several advanced trenches. "Front of Archduke Charles Francis: Nothing of importance occurred north of the Carpathians. "In the wooded mountains our troops stopped the Russian advance. The Russian troops were repulsed and repulsed strong enemy counter attacks on Magura."

CHARLES E. HUGHES HOLDS RECEPTION AT SAN DIEGO

Republican Presidential Nominee Is Luncheon Guest and Makes Address at Exposition.

SAN DIEGO, August 21.—Charles E. Hughes, republican nominee for President, arrived in San Diego early today from Los Angeles for a stay of several hours, which will include an automobile trip to nearby points of interest, a public reception and luncheon at the exposition, to be followed by an address at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon at the exposition grounds. Addressed the city shortly before 10 o'clock from San Francisco, went to church, held a public reception at his hotel, took a hundred-mile motor drive, visiting Pasadena and Long Beach, and held a public reception at his hotel at Long Beach. Mr. Hughes spent half an hour in the hotel which Gov. Johnson was visiting, but did not meet him. The nominee held an informal reception for half an hour there, shaking hands with a crowd that choked the hotel lobby and overflowed into the street.

Leaders of the railroad executives declared they were united against the proposed strike, and that they would work out some form of counter proposal that would satisfy the President. The railroad presidents were considering under what circumstances they could accept an eight-hour day and still maintain the principle of arbitration, which is the principle of arbitration. The western men arriving today seemed confident that such a middle course might be reached through sincere effort on both sides, and a compromise that will preserve the public welfare.

Proposed Commission.

One suggestion the railroad presidents were prepared to make at the White House was for legislation to create a board or commission to investigate when trouble threatens between railway employers and employees. The board would be created by act of Congress, and would probably be empowered to examine witnesses to determine the merits of any controversy. Pending its investigation the employees would not be permitted to strike or to take a strike vote. After the board had reached its conclusions from the facts of the case, the board would be empowered to declare a strike, and the board would send to each employee of the railroad interested a statement of the board's findings. These statements would be made available to the board, the employees' position and the board's findings. These statements would be made available to the board, the employees' position and the board's findings.

"Serious, But Not Hopeless." As both sides expressed it, the situation continued "serious but not hopeless." All the western presidents are expected before tomorrow. There will be between sixty and one hundred, depending on whether the President insists on a strike or not. The board would be created by act of Congress, and would probably be empowered to examine witnesses to determine the merits of any controversy. Pending its investigation the employees would not be permitted to strike or to take a strike vote. After the board had reached its conclusions from the facts of the case, the board would be empowered to declare a strike, and the board would send to each employee of the railroad interested a statement of the board's findings. These statements would be made available to the board, the employees' position and the board's findings.

RAILROAD HEADS AGAIN CONFERRING WITH PRESIDENT

Go to White House This Afternoon at Urgent Request of Mr. Wilson.

WESTERN EXECUTIVES IN THE DELEGATION

Final Reply From Chiefs of Railroad Carriers Not Expected Today.

COUNTER PROPOSAL LIKELY

Situation Is Regarded as Being Serious, But Not Hopeless—Belief Grows Settlement Will Be Reached.

Fifty railroad presidents who are now in Washington are again in conference with President Wilson at the White House this afternoon. They went to the White House at 2:30 o'clock at the urgent request of the President, though they had not expected to see him today and probably not tomorrow. The President's invitation came to them shortly after noon when they were discussing the situation with the newly arrived western railroad leaders.

The railroad executives went into the White House conference determined to make no statement unless they were urged to do so by the President.

Cause for Conference.

The cause for calling the conference today, according to White House sentiment, is that the President may have a chance to talk directly to the more recent arrivals, impressing them with his own personality and zeal for a settlement before their minds have been prejudiced against his proposal in conferences with the other railroad officials.

It is not expected that there will be any final reply made by the railroad executives today, but it is expected that the impression gained strength today, however, that some time this week, probably by Wednesday, the railroad officials will have been persuaded to submit to the President's proposal with some modifications.

Other Officials Arrive.

More than a dozen railroad leaders reached Washington today and participated in conferences striving to reach some agreement by which the President's main proposal for an eight-hour basic day may be accepted, and at the same time the principle of arbitration may be preserved and the threatened strike averted.

There were fifty railroad presidents here today. Among the latest arrivals were the chief executives of the Great Northern, son and principal heir of the vast properties of the great railroad builder, the late J. P. Morgan, and E. F. Ripley, the veteran president of the Santa Fe, dean of all the railroad presidents, who is seventy-five years of age.

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Among the railroad executives arriving today were E. F. Kearney, president of the Wabash; C. E. Schell, president of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas; and J. M. McQuinn, secretary of the Santa Fe.