

# DISASTER THREATENS ENEMY

## STRUGGLE RAGES FROM SOMME TO SOUTH ARRAS

**Allied Offensive in Picardy Extending—British Make Progress at Several Points—French Troops Smash Forward to Gony and Pont St. Mard On River Ailette.**

London, Aug. 23.—A battle is being fought on the line between Lihons, south of the Somme, to the Cojeuil river, southwest of Arras, a front of more than twenty-five miles, according to the official statement issued at the war office today. The British troops are making progress at a number of points, the statement says, and adds that two enemy attacks east of Beaucourt were repulsed during the night.

On the Lys front, the statement says, the British line was slightly advanced east of Le Touret, northwest of Neuf Berquin and east of Outtersteen.

This combat, which began with the British attack against the enemy positions east of the Ancre river on Wednesday, now has spread into one of the greatest battles of the allied offensive in Picardy. It is officially reported from London that the British are making progress at some points and that German attacks east of Beaucourt, at about the middle of the battle front, were repulsed.

The British apparently still are on the aggressive along the whole line.

## TANKER DIOMED SANK BY U-BOAT

**One Hundred and Four Members of Crew Come in on British Tank Vessel.**

## SAN DIEGO TORPEDOED

**Commander of Submarine Boasts That He Sank Vessel. Also Sank Jennings.**

An Atlantic port, Aug. 23.—The tanker Diomed, an American vessel, owned by the Botha line, plying between north and south Atlantic ports, has been sunk by the German submarines operating off the Atlantic coast. This word was brought here today by 104 members of the crew of the vessel who arrived today on board another British tank vessel.

According to the survivors who were picked up in open lifeboats the Diomed was sunk 300 miles off Nantucket. Most of the crew of the Diomed were Chinese.

## THOMPSON SCORNS REQUEST OF SECURITY LEAGUE

**He Declares Political Bias of Members Show They Were Members of McCormick's Committee**

Chicago, Aug. 23.—Mayor Thompson scorns the request of the National Security league that he explain his war views in connection with his campaign for the United States senate. Asked to appear before representatives of the league he replied:

"The political bias of these gentlemen is shown by the fact that they have all been advertised as members of Medill McCormick's campaign committee of millionaires. Irrespective of the identity of these men and the sinister interests they represent, they have no right to set themselves up a tribunal to question any American citizen. It is an insult to the people of Illinois to insinuate they are not capable of making a choice for themselves."

## TROPICAL DISTURBANCE REPORTED BY MOBILE

Mobile, Ala., Aug. 23.—A tropical disturbance has been located in the Caribbean sea, according to reports from Washington, received by the Mobile weather bureau office. The message, dated 8 o'clock last night, says:

"Tropical disturbance passed into the eastern Caribbean sea, south of Barbados, noon Thursday, probably going west-northwest."

## HEALTH CONDITIONS IN U. S. ARMY EXCELLENT

Washington, Aug. 23.—Health conditions among troops in the United States were very satisfactory during the week ending Aug. 18, the war department last night announced. The death rate was 2.1 per cent., a decrease over the previous week. Total deaths numbered 119.

## MINERS DEMAND SIX HOUR WORKING DAY

London, (N. Y. A.)—The Welsh miners are agitating for a shortening of their working day. They are now demanding a six-hour day by legislation.

## EXTENDING TO 50-MILE LINE, BATTLE IN PICARDY BECOMES GREATEST IN WAR

**British Plunging Deep Into Vital Positions Held by Germans as Protection to Right Flank—Mopping Up Process Goes On—Boches Taken Prisoners by Thousands—Enemy Towns Are Bombed.**

(Associated Press.)

Along the front in northern Picardy a battle, which seems to be one of the greatest of the war has developed. Disaster is reported to be threatening the whole German army on this front, and the Germans are throwing great masses of men into the struggle in the hope of checking the tide of battle, which dispatches from British headquarters say is setting against them.

From the north end of the battle line at Boiry Boquerolle, Boyelles and Gomecourt come tidings of a British advance. Meaulte, near Albert, has been wrested from the Germans. Happy Valle, south of Meaulte and north of Bray, also has been taken by the British, it is reported. South of the Somme the towns of Chuignolles and Herleville are said to have been captured from the enemy.

### Widest Fronts of War.

London, Aug. 23.—A battle is raging today in France on one of the widest fronts of the war. It extends for about fifty miles north from Soissons. Everywhere, according to news received here this afternoon from the battle front, the battle has been going successfully for the entente allies.

The British Third army has gained more than a mile on a front of more than seven miles. The British Fourth

army has gained more than two miles on a front of seven miles.

The Fourth army has taken more than 1,500 prisoners today. The Third army captured more than 500 Germans in the town of Gomecourt alone.

Six Towns Captured. London, Aug. 23.—Boiry Boquerolle, Boyelles, Hamelincourt and Gomecourt are now held by the British Third army, according to a report. The British are pushing their attack toward the

southeast from Gomecourt in the direction of Bapaume.

Allies Bombard Towns. London, Aug. 23.—Five important towns in Germany and five hostile air-dromes were heavily bombed by British aerial squadrons on the night of Aug. 21-22, according to an official statement issued today by the British air ministry. Military objectives at Frankfurt and Cologne, the statement adds, were heavily attacked and good results were observed.

## CZECHO-SLOVAKS HANGED BY RUSSIAN RED GUARDS

**Allied Troops Forced to Withdraw After Heavy Fighting. Japs Aided.**

Amsterdam, Aug. 23.—Russian red guards, after the capture of Simbirsk, on the Volga, according to a Moscow dispatch to the Hamburg Nachrichten publicly hanged in the market place 100 Czecho-Slovak prisoners. The hangings, it is declared, were a reprisal for "atrocities" committed in the town during its occupation by the Czechs.

Cossacks Bore the Brunt. London, Aug. 23.—Allied troops on the Ussuri river front north of Vladivostok, outnumbered by the enemy, have been forced to withdraw after heavy fighting, says a dispatch to the Daily Mail from Harbin, dated Wednesday.

British and French troops were engaged in the battle, but the brunt of the fighting fell on the Cossack and

## EMPEROR AUGUSTA VICTORIA IS ILL

**Kaiser Hurries to Her Side at Castle Wilhelmshohe at Cassel in Hesse.**

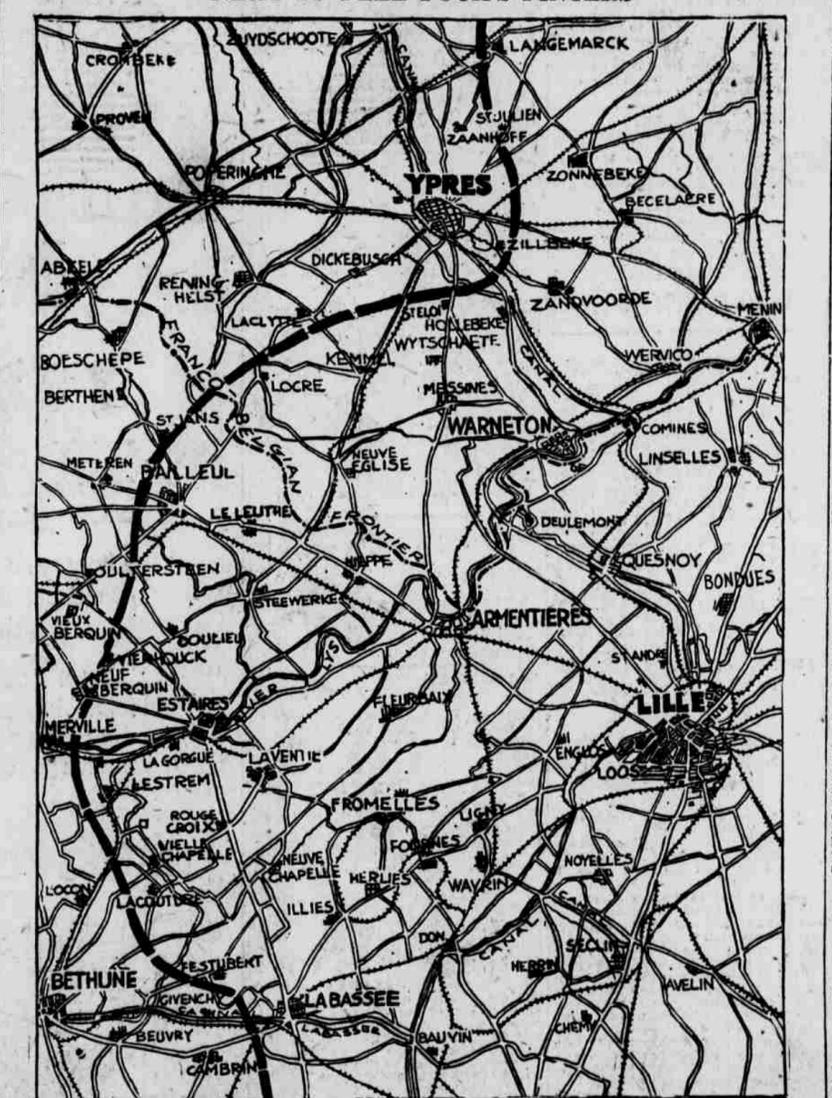
London, Aug. 23.—Empress Augusta Victoria, of Germany, is ill. According to the Berliner Lokal Anzeiger, the empress has broken down under the strain of the war and from the relief work she has been doing. The Kaiser is hurrying to her side at Castle Wilhelmshohe, at Cassel, in Hesse. Castle Wilhelmshohe is where Emperor Napoleon was taken after his capture at Sedan in 1870.

## FAIR, SAYS BILLY 'POSSUM

The coming ins said to the going outs: "We have beat you good and fair, for when it comes to running for office, you are weighed and found wanting there." Then the going outs said to the coming ins, as they giggled with ghoulish glee: "Just wait eight years from now and you'll be hearing from me."

The weather? Fair with not much change in temperature tonight and Saturday.

## NEXT TO FEEL FOCH'S PINCERS



Haig's drive north of the Ancre opens the way for a squeezing movement against the famous Lys railways within the salient. The heavy line is the present battle front.

## BOCHES IN FULL RETREAT BETWEEN MATZ AND AISNE

**Germans Reported to Be Evacuating Noyon, to Which Pivot Position French Have Advanced Within One Mile—Gen. Mangin in Rapid Progress North of Soissons.**

London, Aug. 23.—(11 a.m.)—The Germans are in full retreat between the Matz and the Aisne rivers on a front of thirty-one miles, according to the Reuter correspondent at the front. In his flight the enemy is abandoning much material, the correspondent wired.

The above cable is believed to refer to the territory between the Oise and Aisne rivers instead of the Matz and the Aisne. The Germans already have been driven from the ground between the Aisne and the Matz.

### Evacuating Noyon.

Paris, Aug. 23.—(Noon.)—The Germans are evacuating Noyon, according to the Echo de Paris. Fifty-two French villages have been liberated in the past four days by the armies of Gen. Mangin and Gen. Humbert, the newspaper further declared.

### French in Big Advance.

London, Aug. 23.—(12:55 p.m.)—Gen. Mangin's advance north of Soissons has been so rapid the French war office has been unable to keep definite track of all the movements, the International News Service learned today. In the past twelve hours, advices reaching London this afternoon say, the French have made a big advance of their line along the Ailette river.

French troops have reached Pont L'Eveque, which is just one mile south of Noyon, the big German base and pivot point.

During the night the British troops were busy in straightening their new line. They continued to make progress, despite strong enemy resistance, according to word reaching London this afternoon.

### Over Six Miles Gained.

London, Aug. 23.—(10:18 a.m.)—According to Reuter's correspondent at the front, Gen. Mangin's troops advanced six and one-quarter miles at certain points north of Soissons yesterday.

## CROWN PRINCE TO HOLD VESLE LINE

**Fears Further Retirement Will Lengthen Front and Expose Him to Difficult Situation.**

**ENEMY HAS BRIDGEHEADS East Saint Tribaud and Fringe, but They Are at Mercy of American Forces.**

With the American Army on the Aisne-Vesle front, Aug. 23.—There is much evidence to strengthen the belief that the German crown prince is making the utmost preparation to prevent being forced far back from the Vesle line. Such a retirement would lengthen his front and also impose upon him the difficult situation of rectifying the line north of Rheims as the Aisne passes Berry-au-Bac, which was always a vulnerable enemy position. It exposes the crown prince to a debouching place for allied attacks in the Champagne and against Laon, which are of the highest strategic importance to the enemy.

Hindenburg evidences comprehension of the Vesle front by leaving thirty-four divisions at the disposal of the army holding between Braine and Jochery. This army is believed to be commanded by the crown prince generally, as Gens. Von Wichura, Von Mudra, Von Kathan, Von Schmettow and Fritz Von Below have been relieved of command since the Marne fiasco.

It has been reported from Rome that the crown prince had been "re-lieved" of his command for six months.

The Americans have established the fact that the Fourth Prussian guards and the crack Twenty-ninth and Seventeenth divisions are still opposing them, although echeloned depth machine gun allotments have been oubled to make possible a lengthier defense with minimum losses in case of attack.

The Germans are still holding two bridgeheads of the Vesle, and east of St. Tribaud and Fringe railway yards south of Chateau-le-Diable, but both are at the mercy of the Americans whenever they wish to take them. The enemy has constructed steel machine gun "pill boxes" but the Americans had higher ground which enables them to blast them from the earth's surface with artillery at will.

## OFFICERS' TRAINING CAMP DECLARED OFF

**Lack of Regular Army Officers Reason for This Change of Program.**

Nashville, Aug. 23.—(Special.)—Owing to the inability to secure regular army officers for instruction purposes the proposed officers' training camp for commissioned officers of the National Guard of Tennessee has been called off, according to an announcement by Adj.-Gen. Buckner today. The annual encampment, however, will be held according to schedule at Fountain City, near Knoxville.

## TRIAL OF MINISTER FOR MURDER TO OPEN

Russellville, Ala., Aug. 23.—The trial of Rev. T. Terry, well known minister, charged with the murder of Dr. Thomas Hughes, a prominent physician of this place, is expected to begin in circuit court here today.

Great interest has been manifested in the case both on account of the prominence of the principals in the tragedy and the mystery surrounding it.

## AGE LIMIT BILL IN CENTER OF STAGE

**Consideration of Manpower Measure Resumed, With Hope of Early Passage.**

## WORK OR FIGHT CLAUSE

**This, Among Other Amendments, Causes Some Differences of Opinion.**

Washington, Aug. 23.—When the senate and house today again took up the new manpower bill extending draft ages from 18 to 45 years, supporters of the bill still expressed the hope that it would be passed by both houses by tomorrow night, despite the efforts to amend it, which provoked a protracted debate yesterday.

The house met an hour earlier than the senate, at the suggestion of Chairman Dyer of the house military affairs committee, who stated he believed the house would dispose of the bill today. There were members of the senate, however, who said they were not all sanguine that the bill could be finally passed without a conference to aid the senate and house to agree as to how it should be amended, in which event its passage might be delayed until after next week.

Others expressed the view that a compromise might be reached in conference on the McKenzie amendment specifying that boys of 18 and 19 should be called after those between 20 and 45 are drafted, and the Reed-Thomas "work or fight" amendment, in sufficient time to permit a vote on the bill in both the senate and house by tomorrow night.

Besides the McKenzie and the Reed-Thomas amendments, there are also to be disposed of the four amendments offered in the senate yesterday by Senator Cummins, one of which proposes to write into the bill a provision that the men subject to the draft be divided into two classes for registration, boys of 18 to be only required to register when the president deems that the older classes have been exhausted and the 18-year-olds are necessary for active service.

The other Cummins amendments are to make the Reed-Thomas "work or fight" amendment applicable to strikers unwilling to submit their grievances to arbitration; to insure the retention in civil employment of a sufficient number of men to produce, maintain and transport an adequate output of war supplies and to forbid those subject to the draft to seek employment in Canada or Mexico without official permission.

These amendments may also be the subject of a conference, but the real question of how soon and in what form the bill shall be passed by the senate and house, members state, hinges upon the McKenzie and Reed-Thomas amendments, which are not part of the administration program.