

1,000 PERISH IN MINNESOTA FIRES

GERMAN FORCES ABANDON GOBAIN AND LAON MASSIFS; FAMOUS PLATEAU CAPTURED

Teutons in Speedy Retreat Have Reached Brumhild Line—Allied Advance Slows Down Near Douai.

(By Associated Press.)

German forces have abandoned the whole massifs of St. Gobain and Laon.

When the Germans began to fall back out of the bag into which they were slowly being caught by the rapid advance of the allies on each side, they went with such speed that the change in the battle line in that section of the front during a few hours was astonishing. Not until the French reached the St. Quentin-La Fere railroad did they encounter any real resistance.

Italian Troops Participate.

Italian troops participated in the advance and are now engaged on the hills north of the Ailette river. At this particular point, the German lines have been pushed back or have been withdrawn so that a sharp angle has been created.

North of Douai there appears to have been a slowing down of the allied advance during the last couple of days.

This may indicate that the Germans have reached what is known as the Hundring or Brumhild line. This position, while somewhat less formidable so far as known than the Hindenburg system, is strong enough to restrict pursuit by the allies for some time.

WIN PLATEAU.

Paris, Oct. 14.—Still another victory has been added to the long trail of glory blazed by the allied armies.

The Laon plateau at last has been won, crowning the Cambrai-St. Quentin and Champagne offensives. The maneuvers so skillfully maneuvered by Marshal Foch and carried out by General Haig and General Petain enabled this to be accomplished without the loss inseparable from a separate attack.

This has laid low the foundation built up since 1914.

It was on the Laon plateau that the German line was pivoted. It was to turn it that the offensives of 1916 and 1918 were carried out.

VIOLENT ARTILLERY ACTION.

With the American Forces Northwest of Verdun, Oct. 14.—Violent artillery actions were in progress today along the Verdun front, but the enemy laid down batteries last night that were preparatory to counter-attacks.

The most determined efforts of the enemy were on the left between St. Juvin and St. Georges. The Germans advanced in open order and fought with a steadiness that indicated fresh troops. Within an hour, however, the American artillery supporting the infantry had brought the little offensive to a halt.

REPULSE ATTACKS.

Washington, Oct. 14.—Repulse of strong repeated enemy attacks on the newly won American positions on both sides of the Meuse and continued participation of Americans in successful British operations south of La Cateau and French in Champagne is reported in General Pershing's communique for Sunday.

CAPTURE NISH.

London, Oct. 14.—After capturing Nish on Saturday Serbian forces took possession of enemy positions north of the town. French cavalry has occupied the Belea Palanka.

STATE OF SEIGE.

Lisbon, Portugal, Oct. 14.—The Portuguese government has declared a state of seige for all Portuguese territory. The Portuguese president has taken direct command of the forces. Tranquility reigns in the country. At Penasiel, a town 19 miles northeast of Oporto, there has been a small show of insubordination. A military force promptly reduced the rioters to obedience.

CIVILIANS LIBERATED.

Paris, Oct. 14.—Sunday 6,500 civilians were liberated when the French troops entered Laon. The statement issued at the war office says the French have passed far beyond the town on the whole front between the Oise and the Ailette.

ATTACK ON WIDE FRONT.

With the Americans in Flanders, Oct. 14.—British, Belgian and French forces attacked at dawn this morning on a wide front in Flanders, driving in a general direction toward Ghent and Courtrai, from Commines to the northward. The troops of the three nations went over the top after a "crash" bombardment only. There was no preliminary bombardment. It undoubtedly tactically surprised the enemy.

In the British army were some of Great Britain's best troops, and in the French forces were famous French organizations. By the fury with which the attack was launched, it is evident the fighting armies are not paying the slightest attention to the peace offensive. They launched their attack this morning with unparalleled vigor. The blow in Flanders may prove Marshal Foch's masterpiece. If the allied progress is continued, the Germans through a wide stretch of territory, including possibly the important German submarine bases and the Lille territory, will either have to get out or face a second Sedan.

FLU SLOWS UP SELECTION OF FIGHTING MEN

Call for 2,800 Men to Begin Entraining Next Monday Hampered by Grip.

Spanish influenza is slowing up selective service work all over the state. Examinations have been suspended by medical boards in Burlington, Grand Forks, Cass and other counties. Wells county today advises the adjutant general that the sheriff, auditor and chief clerk of its local board are laid up with the influenza, and Williams county wires in from Williston for permission to defer its physical examinations. The call principally affected is that for October 21-25, when 2,800 men are to entrain for Fort Winfield Scott, Calif. Examinations for the agricultural college vocational training class of 320, originally scheduled for October 15, but postponed ten days because of the influenza, had been practically completed in every county before epidemic conditions became general.

ALL PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS HERE ARE OFF

Dr. C. E. Stackhouse, chief medical examiner of the Burlington county draft board, today announced that all physical examinations of select service men in Burlington county have been canceled until further notice. This order applies immediately and will affect registrants summoned for examination tomorrow, who are now instructed not to report until given further notice. These steps are taken because of the epidemic of Spanish influenza.

NINE CARS PILE INTO THE DITCH

Small Freight Wreck East of Town Calls Out Wrecker.

Nine cars went in the ditch a mile east of Burlington at 8 o'clock Monday morning when a wheel broke in a string of empties westbound on the Northern Pacific. No one was injured, but the right-of-way was badly piled up, and the wrecker, summoned from Mandan, had to do some quick work to let No. 3 through at noon.

President Wilson Has Official Text of Germany's Peace Note; Conference Called at White House

WILSON'S NOTE TO GERMANY AND HUN'S REPLY

MR. WILSON'S NOTE.

President Wilson's reply to the German peace offer made public last Wednesday, signed by Secretary Lansing and transmitted through the Swiss legation, follows:

Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge, on behalf of the president, your note of October 6, enclosing the communication from the German government to the president, and I am instructed by the president to request you to make the following communication to the Imperial German chancellor:

"Before making reply to the request of the imperial German government, and in order that the reply shall be candid and straightforward as momentous interests involved require, the president of the United States deems it necessary to assure himself of the exact meaning of the note of the imperial chancellor.

"Does the imperial chancellor mean that the imperial German government accepts the terms laid down by the president in his address to the congress of the United States on the 8th day of January last, and in subsequent addresses, and that its objects in entering into discussions would be only to agree upon the practical details of their application?

"The president feels bound to say with regard to the suggestion of an armistice that he would not feel at liberty to propose a cessation of arms to the governments with which the government of the United States is associated against the central powers, so long as the armies of those powers are upon their soil.

"The good faith of any discussion would manifestly depend upon the consent of the central powers immediately to withdraw their forces everywhere from invaded territory.

"The president also feels that he is justified in asking whether the imperial chancellor is speaking merely for the constituted authorities of the empire who have so far conducted the war. He deems the answer to these questions vital from every point of view.

"Accept, sir, the renewed assurance of my high consideration.

"ROBERT LANSING."

GERMANY'S ANSWER.

The German government's answer to President Wilson's note of inquiry as to the scope and authority for the latest peace move and specifying the only conditions under which the allies would agree to an armistice, as announced in London and received in the United States last night follows:

"In reply to the questions of the president of the United States of America the German government hereby declares:

"The German government has accepted the terms laid down by President Wilson in his address of January 8th and in his subsequent addresses on the foundation of a permanent peace of justice.

"Consequently, its object in entering into discussions would be only to agree upon practical details of the application of these terms.

"The German government believes that the governments of the powers associated with the government of the United States also take the position taken by President Wilson in his address.

"The German government, in accordance with the Austro-Hungarian government for the purpose of bringing about an armistice, declares itself ready to comply with the propositions of the president in regard to evacuation.

"The German government suggests that the president may occasion the meeting of a mixed commission for making the necessary arrangements concerning the evacuation.

"The present German government, which has undertaken the responsibility for this step towards a peace, has been formed by conferences and in a great deal with the great majority of the reichstag.

"The chancellor, supported in all of his actions by the will of this majority, speaks in the name of the German government and of the German people.

"Berlin, Oct. 12, 1918.

"SOLFF,

"State Secretary of Foreign Office."

FIVE DEATHS IN 48 HOURS BRING EPIDEMIC HOME

Spanish Influenza Now Seems to Have Bismarck Thoroughly in Its Grip.

EVERY PRECAUTION URGED

People Ordered to Keep Off the Streets—Funeral Arrangements for Victims.

23 DEATHS.

Fargo, Oct. 14.—With 100 new cases of Spanish influenza reported in Fargo within the last 48 hours, eight deaths have occurred making 23 deaths in ten days. The number of cases here is estimated at 2,000.

The opening of the N. D. A. C. has been indefinitely postponed it was announced today.

Five deaths within 48 hours, three in local hospitals, one at Camp Dodge and one at Marmarth, brought the stern facts of the influenza epidemic home to Bismarck today.

Mrs. Frank Millhollan died at a local hospital at 3 o'clock this morning after an illness which began Friday, and which developed Sunday morning into pneumonia. Ray Jones, son of Mrs. J. W. Moran of the Sunnybrook dairy farm, southeast of the city, died at a local hospital Sunday from pneumonia, growing out of influenza. Mrs. Ella McKendry of Mandan died in a Bismarck hospital Saturday; Dennis Doyle, former train dispatcher on the Soo line, died Saturday at Camp Lodge, and William J. Empting, a former Soo line engineer, died at Marmarth on Saturday. All were victims of the epidemic.

Henry W. Richholt left Saturday evening for Camp Custer, Mich., in response to a message advising that his son Frank was in a very serious condition as a result of the epidemic, and Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Henry Hollist and daughter Esther will leave this evening for Ann Arbor, Mich., to attend the funeral of her brother, Private Harry Goodhue, aged 25, who died at Camp Custer on Saturday after suffering three days from influenza. The

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Washington, Oct. 14.—Germany's reply to President Wilson reached the Swiss legation in official form by cable this morning. It was in German text, a translation of which was identical with that received by wireless Saturday night. Instead of taking the note direct to the White House, Fredrick Oederlin, Swiss charge, communicated with the state department. He was asked to present it to Secretary Lansing at 11:15 o'clock. In the meantime, the president had called Secretary Lansing and Mr. Baker to the White House for a conference.

Great events were moving swiftly today behind the veil of diplomatic secrecy toward the formulation of President Wilson's next move in reply to the German peace negotiations.

There was still no official intimation to guide the public mind, but the impression there could be no armistice without guarantees which in themselves would constitute an unconditional surrender gained strength everywhere.

Senator Ashurst of Arizona, after conferring with President Wilson, said: "The president will take no action that will weaken in the smallest degree the successes of the American and allied armies in the field. On the contrary what he will do will rather strengthen the military situation."

This is the first statement made public by any one who has conferred with President Wilson.

Col. House in Conference.

Col. House joined in the conference. The only information officially that has come regarding the probable course of the president is that he is sure to act quickly and positively. Everywhere in Washington the confident belief prevailed that whatever might be the form of that action, it would not contemplate a cessation of hostilities nor a form of peace negotiations with Germany amounting to less than unconditional surrender.

If the opinion of the man in the street is reflected by editorial comment, the people in the country have already made up their mind that there should be no temporizing with an enemy whose word is worth only what the victorious allied armies make it.

Secretary Daniels joined the White House conference. The advisers were together for nearly two hours, the Col. House and the cabinet officers walked over to the state, war and navy building.

UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER.

Washington, Oct. 14.—Discussion of Germany's peace reply was opened in the senate today by Senator New of Indiana, who declared nothing short of unconditional surrender be entertained or considered.

TURKEY'S NOTE ARRIVES.

Washington, Oct. 14.—Turkey's long delayed note asking like Germany and Austria that President Wilson take in hand the restoration of peace was received today at the state department.

OPPOSE ARMISTICE.

London, Oct. 14.—While certain developments are taking place, the Central News says it has learned Great Britain will oppose granting any armistice to Germany unless absolute guarantees, both military and naval, are forthcoming.

OPINIONS OF THEIR OWN.

Washington, Oct. 14.—An official dispatch from Rome says that while the Italian public knows the allied governments adhere to President Wilson's expressed program of peace, they have opinions of their own on clearing up points of international purpose.

RESIGNATION INEVITABLE.

London, Oct. 14.—The resignation of Prince Max of Baden as imperial chancellor is probable. Advices from Holland quote the

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LARGE SECTION OF NORTHERN FOREST SWEEPED BY ONE OF MOST DISASTROUS BLAZES IN HISTORY

Dangerous Pockets Reported North and Northeast of Duluth—Relief Work Starts Under State Authorities.

Duluth, Minn., Oct. 14.—A large section of northern Minnesota today was a smoldering ruin with hundreds of bodies of men, women and children strewn about the country side as a result of forest fires which swept this region Saturday and Sunday. Latest estimates place the death lists at 1,000. Hundreds are more or less seriously burned; thousands are destitute and homeless, and the property loss will reach many millions. A dozen cities were destroyed. The worst blazes were at Moose Lake, Turtle River and Cloquet. At Moose Lake it is estimated at least 400 perished in the flames. Although countless small fires were burning throughout the district today, and the more serious blazes died down during the night, a revival of the 70-mile gale of Saturday would add further horrors and add to the horror.

Begin Relief Work.

Relief work begun Saturday under Adjutant General Rhinow and Governor Burnquist is progressing rapidly. The heaviest loss reports come from Moose Lake, where relief parties are finding scores of bodies heaped in piles, burned to a crisp. There is every indication, General Rhinow said today, that the loss of life in the vicinity of Moose Lake, Turtle River and Lawler will be greater than first estimated. During the night most of the bodies strewn along the roads were brought to Moose Lake. Late yesterday one company of men reached Lawler, a small village northeast of Moose Lake. Four buildings mark all that is left of the town. Today there is little wind, and it is hoped all fires will be under control by nightfall.

Dangerous fire pockets are reported north and northeast of Duluth.

A dangerous fire is reported in the vicinity of Schultz Lake, a summer resort 25 miles northeast of here. All means of communication have been destroyed. People familiar with the district say there is little chance of loss of life.

Residences Obliterated.

Charred ruins marked the ravages of the fire which swept into Duluth, destroying homes in Woodland, Lakeside and Lester Park, within the city limits. Back of Duluth the villages of Adolph, Munger, Five Corners, Barney, Grand Lake, Maple Grove and Twig, which were thriving communities Saturday morning, are almost obliterated today. Further west Carlton, Cloquet, Brookston, Breavor, are recognizable only by sign posts. Pike Lake and Pine Hill are no more, while to the south the Moose Lake district is still a smoldering ruin.

Thousand Homeless.

From these points thousands of homeless persons have arrived here, and points further south, while many seriously burned have been removed to hospitals in St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Over virtually every foot of the fire swept district the devastation was complete. The few farm buildings left standing over approximately ten thousand square miles in Minnesota are the only things left from the catastrophe.

One Hundred Buildings Destroyed.

Persons who have visited the burned over district declared today there is no way to place the monetary estimate on the loss. The fire loss to Duluth is placed at approximately \$750,000. Nearly 100 buildings have been destroyed by the flames.

FORTY-TWO BODIES IN FIRE.

Aitkin, Minn., Oct. 14.—The bodies of 42 fire victims found in and near Aitkin are in local morgues, and official reports from searchers indicated a score or more bodies are still to be brought here.

SHIPPING STOPPED.

Duluth, Oct. 14.—Late shipping from the head of the lakes is impeded or entirely stopped by billows of smoke from the smoldering forests, added to a dense fog that obscures large objects a few rods apart. Government sirens ashore are directing the course of vessels trying to make shore.

ONE HUNDRED BODIES IN MORGUE.

Moose Lake, Minn., Oct. 14.—More than 100 bodies of fire victims are in morgues here today, and relief workers estimate 100 more will come in before night.

SHIP COFFINS TO DISTRICT.

St. Paul, Oct. 14.—State officials believing the death list in the forest fire zone will total between 800 and 1,000, today arranged for an additional shipment of coffins to Moose Lake. Every state relief organization is mobilizing its forces. Reports today indicated many cities were collecting subscriptions for the destitute. Official information confirms the report that Grand Rapids, Minn., is safe.

TWENTY-ONE TOWNS WIPED OUT.

Duluth, Minn., Oct. 14.—Twenty-one towns have been destroyed with a known death list of 228 by the forest fires which swept this region Saturday and Sunday.

GOV. BURNQUIST ON SCENE.

Moose Lake, Oct. 14.—Shortly after daybreak searching parties pierced the charred district north, east and south in search of bodies.

Before noon, automobiles began to return to Moose Lake and almost every machine brought back charred victims.

A special train brought Governor Burnquist and Mrs. Burnquist to Moose Lake this forenoon. Temporary hospitals have been established. One in a school building which escaped the flames was filled. Thirty small children mostly blistered and burned were crying for their parents who had not been located. On other cots were mothers of dead children. One called for her several children. Nurses hesitated to tell her all were found burned to death in a mudhole.

FIRE WELL IN HAND.

St. Paul, Oct. 14.—A dispatch received at the state capitol early this morning from Adjutant General Reinhold at Moose Lake stated that the fire situation was well in hand. No spread of the fire is feared and it is anticipated the area will be cleared of bodies by tonight.

RECOVERING BODIES.

Island of Islay, Scotland (Sunday). Oct. 13.—Work of recovering bodies from the wrecked ship Otranto was resumed today.

MUST SIGN UP FOR 3 BILLION IN SIX DAYS

Washington, Oct. 14.—Unaffected by proposals of peace by Germany the American people set themselves today to subscribe at least three billion in the next six days to the Fourth Liberty loan. Reports to the treasury today from each of the 2 federal districts showed total subscriptions to date amount to only \$2,500,000,000. Subscriptions for which the ten percent cash payment had not been made and unreported subscriptions were estimated as swelling the total to three billion. This left three billion to be raised by the end of the campaign Saturday night to make the loan a success. More than half a billion must be subscribed daily.

FRENCH SUCCEED IN ISOLATING INFLUENZA GERM

Paris, Oct. 14.—Two French scientists have succeeded in isolating the infectious agent which caused Spanish influenza, according to a Pinas dispatch.