

METAL PRICES
NEW YORK, June 18.—Metal quotations for today
are: Silver 99 3/4; lead 7.725@7.80; spelter 7.65@
7.70; copper 23 1/2.

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FRIGHTFUL LOSSES INFLICTED ON AUSTRIAN MASSED FORCES

Italians Holding Line Against a Million Troops

LONDON, June 18.—The Austrians, according to the Evening Standard, now occupy the west bank of the Piave from the Conegliano railway to the Zenson bend, a distance of a mile and a half. They have thrown fourteen bridges across the river. These, however, are under the Italian fire.

Holding their lines intact along virtually all the ninety miles of battle front from the Adriatic to the Asiago plateau, the Italian and Allied armies appear to have given the enemy a serious setback. Approximately 1,000,000 Austrians have been hurled against the Italian front but have gained little except along the Piave river, where their progress is seemingly too slow to be threatening to the Allied positions.

Losses which are described as frightful have been inflicted upon the Austrians in the areas where the principal fighting has taken place. In the mountainous country where the British have been holding their positions solidly thousands of the enemy have perished, while they have paid heavily for every foot they have advanced along the Piave river front.

In the Montello area on the upper Piave the Austrians seem to have gained a foothold on the west bank of the river. North of Zenson Loop and at Capo Sile, lower down, they have also moved westward but their greatest gain does not exceed two or three miles. It seems that, so far in the battle, the Austrians have gained the most ground at Capo Sile, a village situated west of the Piave river and surrounded by lower marshy land which in itself does not lend itself readily to a rapid advance by the Austrians.

VITAL SECTOR UNBROKEN.

The vital mountain sector along the upper reaches of the Brenta has not been broken. On the contrary the British claim to have defeated the foe.

As long as this front holds firmly, according to military experts, the stability of the Italian line is assured unless a serious breach should be made along the Piave river east of Treviso and Monte Belluna.

COUNTER OFFENSIVE HINTED AT.

There are hints of a counter-offensive in reports from Italy. The success of the Italians two weeks ago in the mountainous country to the west of Lake Garda and the evident concern of the Austrian command over an advance there, may indicate that if the Italians strike back it may be along this part of the front. A success there would isolate the Austrian forces fighting east of Lake Garda and turn the right flank of the Austrians.

While the attempt to break through to the plains of Italy has occupied the center of the stage, events of importance may be taking place in the Somme battlefield. Heavy artillery fire by the Germans in the Ancre valley and northward to Serre is reported by the British. It is on this part of the front that a German attack has been expected by the allies and the bombardment may be a preliminary of the enemy's offensive in France.

AUSTRIANS MASS LARGE FORCES.

WITH THE ITALIAN ARMY, June 18.—The "hunger offensive" as the Austrians describe it, is being carried on with the greatest severity on the Piave front where it is apparent the Austrians have massed large bodies of troops. In the mountainous regions to the north the fighting for the present is limited to local attacks and counter-attacks.

The enemy is making desperate efforts to retain the positions he obtained during the initial stage of the offensive on the western bank of the Piave at the points where he still has a footing across the river. These operations are costing him heavily.

Fierce Fighting in Progress.

Fierce fighting is taking place in the Nervueva zone where the river emerges from the Alps to the plain and in the region of Fagare, midway between the Alps and the sea. There is no question that the spirit of the Italian troops is excellent. Nevertheless the general situation is regarded as serious, in view of the fact that the Austrians, as it is stated, have brought into action all their available forces in the hope of breaking through the Italian lines and scoring such a decisive victory as to put Italy out of the war.

Emperor Charles' Letter.

On Austrian prisoners have been found copies of a speech delivered by Emperor Charles shortly after the offensive was begun.

"Before you is the enemy," said the emperor. "There glory awaits you, and also honor, good food, abundant spoils, final peace. With the help of God make the supreme sacrifice for your king, for liberty, and for your beautiful fatherland."

One of the prisoners, an officer, said he had always maintained it was a mistake to press the Italians too hard.

FAMOUS SURGEON HELPING IN WAR



Dr. C. H. Mayo.

Dr. C. H. Mayo, famous surgeon of Rochester, Minn., is devoting all his time and talents to the war these days. He is attached to the surgeon general's office in Washington and has been a member of the general medical board, Council of National Defense, ever since the board was organized. This is the newest photo of the famous surgeon.

ians, French and British now total 5,000.

Austrians Capture 12,000 Prisoners.

The latest report from Vienna makes claim of no marked gains except the capture of Capo Sile on the west bank of the Piave south of Fossalta. The number of prisoners is now reported as 12,000.

Emperor Charles is reported to be in the southern Trentino directing the offensive and dispatches from Switzerland say thousands of troops are being sent into the Trentino. Further Austrian efforts undoubtedly may be expected.

French Repulse Germans.

Activity on the front in France continues of a minor character. German efforts to drive the French from their new gains around Heutefraye north-west of Soissons, were repulsed by the French, who increased their captures to 370 prisoners. Small raids have been carried out by the Germans against British positions in Picardy and Flanders.

American positions northwest of Chateau Thierry are being bombarded heavily with gas shells and there are indications that the enemy may again try to drive the Americans from Belleau wood and other territory recently gained. The enemy artillery fire also has increased along the Marne east of Chateau Thierry, but there has been no infantry activity. On the Luneville front enemy raiders have captured a few American prisoners while in the Vosges. In Alsace American gunners broke up a German raid.

German Artillery Active.

LONDON, June 18.—The German artillery was more active than usual last night along the Ancre river, south of Albert and west of Serre, according to the statement issued by the war office today.

French Take Prisoners.

PARIS, June 18.—In a local operation south of the Aisne last night the French took 100 prisoners. It is announced officially. Between the Ourcq and the Marne prisoners were taken in patrol encounters.

PARIS, June 18.—Eighty thousand

German were killed, wounded or men under his command might reach safety. It was June 2 that Lieutenant Bissell with a party of ten machine gunners was thrown in to help stem the German advance.

The party was ordered into Chateau

Thierry where they crossed to the north bank of the Marne and set up their guns in the streets behind whatever protection they could gather, using boxes, tables and stones. The town was drenched with shells but the Americans held out until the Germans finally rushed the town and some of the enemy crossed a bridge to the southern side of the river to one side of Bissell's position. The bridge was then blown up.

Meanwhile American and French machine gunners on the southern bank of the Marne began a fire that swept the second bridge. Lieutenant Bissell's only avenue of escape. The lieutenant saw the position. He left his men in a place of comparative safety, went out to the north end of the bridge and facing a hail of machine gun bullets, got into a position where the gunners on the south side of the river could see him.

Bullets sang around him until the Americans and French on the other side saw that it was an American who dared to show himself. When the firing ceased, Lieutenant Bissell returned to the place where he had left his men and rushed them across the bridge. All except one reached safety. What happened to him is unknown.

WITH THE AMERICAN FORCES

ON THE MARNE, Monday, June 17.—Second Lieutenant John T. Bissell of Pittsburgh has been recommended for the French Legion of Honor for distinguished gallantry displayed recently at Chateau Thierry.

The story of his conduct offers a thrilling example of an officer's disregard for his own life in order that the safety of his command might reach safety. It was June 2 that Lieutenant Bissell with a party of ten machine gunners was thrown in to help stem the German advance.

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YANKEE BOYS ARE NERVY

Outnumbered Four to One, They Fight Their Way Back.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—A story of a fierce fight between thirteen Americans and a German ambush patrol of forty, in which most of the Americans fought their way back to their own lines, is told in a dispatch today from General Pershing, continuing yesterday's communique.

O'LEARY NOW FACING CHARGES

Sinn Fein Leader Brought Back to New York for Treason Against U. S.

NEW YORK, June 18.—Jeremiah O'Leary, Sinn Fein leader who was arrested in Washington state last week after fleeing from trial here on charges of having violated the espionage act, arrived here today from the west in custody of federal officers.

Since his disappearance from New York on May 7, O'Leary has been indicted with two German subjects and four other Americans for complicity in alleged plots to commit espionage in behalf of Germany and treason against the United States.

O'Leary was taken to the court room where his brother is on trial and arraigned on a charge of being a fugitive from justice.

AUSTRIANS ARE POURING IN MEN

Trains Crowded With Troops and Ordinary Traffic Is Suspended.

ROME, Monday, June 17.—In their attacks between Zenson and Fossalta, along the Piave, the Austrians have been stopped everywhere, says an official statement issued tonight by the Italian war office. In the mountain region and around Montello there have been no infantry attacks by the enemy. The allied troops have taken several hundred additional prisoners and some machine guns.

The statement reads: "On the mountainous front and around Montello the enemy did not renew his infantry attacks. During the day a successful thrust was carried out by our troops. We occupied several positions, capturing machine guns and some hundreds of prisoners."

"Important actions developed south of Montello and along the Piave in the zone between Zenson and Fossalta but the enemy everywhere was stopped by our counter-attacks. Several hundred prisoners were left in our hands."

RUSSIAN SOVIETS TAKE DRASTIC STEP

LONDON, June 18.—The central executive committee of the Russian soviets took a drastic step Friday in deciding to expel those of its members representing the Social-Revolutionists, the Right, the Center and the Mensheviks, according to a Russian wireless message received here.

STEAMER RATES TO BE INCREASED

WASHINGTON, June 18.—Permission to increase steamship passenger rates between Seattle and San Francisco to make them three cents a mile and equal the rail charges, was asked of the interstate commerce commission today by the Pacific Steamship company. It asked that fares between San Francisco and Seattle be fixed at \$30.

PROOFS OF WAR FRAUDS

Thousands of Letters and Documents Seized by Raiders.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—Several thousand letters and documents containing proofs of elaborate system of obtaining government contracts on the illegal contingent fee basis were received today by the department of justice from its agents who conducted raids on hundreds of contractors' business offices late yesterday.

TAKE PROMPT ACTION Elaborate System of Illegal Commissions Disclosed.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—Several thousand letters and documents containing proofs of elaborate system of obtaining government contracts on the illegal contingent fee basis were received today by the department of justice from its agents who conducted raids on hundreds of contractors' business offices late yesterday.

The commissions paid on these contracts, it was disclosed, ranged from 5 to 20 per cent and the aggregate fees probably ran into millions of dollars. Evidence was discovered of hundreds of contracts made under these arrangements heretofore unsuspected by the department of justice.

Manufacturers were threatened in many cases with being deprived of contracts if they refused to negotiate with these agents on a commission plan. Some agents represented that they had special influence over members of congress.

In addition to these documents other information came to the department from manufacturers who had been solicited by contract commission agents located in Washington. The manufacturers offered their assistance in stamping out the illegal system.

An immediate result of the disclosures was a letter sent by Attorney-General Gregory to heads of all government departments making war contracts proposing that all future contracts should contain a clause pledging the manufacturer not to employ any third party in negotiations with the government.

Summary Action Required.

"A situation which has arisen in the matter of government contracts seems to me to require summary action," said the attorney-general. "Owing to the tremendous increase in government business and the speed with which it must be executed, some manufacturers because of ignorance, or misinformation, are obtaining government contracts through brokers or contingent fee operators. It follows that the system requires a contractor, in making his estimate, to load his bid with the contingent fee item. The courts have universally condemned the contingent fee contract. The methods employed by the contingent fee operator are often insidious and reprehensible and, in view of the fact that the average fee is 5 per cent, the resulting cost to the government is very great."

"As a means of breaking up this practice I have prepared the following form of covenant which the president requests shall be inserted in all government contracts: 'That the contractor expressly warrants that he has employed no third persons to solicit or obtain this contract in his behalf, or cause attempt to obtain any compensation in any way contingent in whole, or in part upon such procurement; and money that he has promised, or agreed to pay, to any third persons in consideration of such procurement, or in compensation for services in connection therewith, any brokerage, commission or percentage upon the amount receivable by him thereunder; and that he has not, in estimating the contract price included any sum by reason of any such brokerage, commission or percentage and that all monies payable to him hereunder are free from obligation to any other persons from further sums that become due, due to brokerage, commission, percentage so paid or agreed to be paid.'"

"An additional protection it is re-

U-BOAT AND MEN GO DOWN

American Submersible Destroys German Submarine and Crew.

AN ATLANTIC PORT, June 18.—A German submarine and its entire crew was destroyed by an American submersible off the Virginia coast several days ago, according to a report brought here today by passengers aboard an American steamship.

Officers of the vessel claimed to have been told the story of the submarine combat by members of the victorious American undersea boat's crew.

The American liner had put in to the mouth of Chesapeake bay for shelter in response to submarine warnings and there anchored near an American submarine tender alongside which was taking on provisions and fuel, officers of the vessel stated. An interchange of wireless messages followed in which the submarine crew is reported to have told of its victory.

The U-boat was sighted while the American craft was patrolling with only her periscope visible, according to the story the American skipper is alleged to have told. When within range a torpedo was released and 20 seconds later microphones recorded a terrific explosion. He was quoted as saying: "Rising to the surface the American submarine circled about on the lookout for survivors, but oil coming to the surface was the only trace left of the raiding vessel, narrators of the story said they had been told."

AN ATLANTIC PORT, June 18.—Members of the crew of an American steamship arriving here today reported an engagement with a German submarine off the Virginia coast yesterday in which the ship's naval gunners made a clean hit and either sunk the undersea craft or disabled her. The American vessel was not damaged.

SIBERIA IS CUT OFF.

MOSCOW, Thursday, June 16.—(By The Associated Press)—The Czechoslovak movement against the Bolshevik government not only has cut off communication with Siberia by way of the Siberian railway, but also has stopped traffic on the river Volga, according to a report from Nijni Novgorod.

It is in artillery and airplanes Austria is using all her available reserves," says the official note. "Not less than 7500 cannon of all calibers have been brought into action. Three Austro-Hungarian armies under the command of Field Marshal Borojevich are engaged in fighting desperately with enormous military means. Ordered to advance at any cost without thought of blood sacrifices, the Austro-Hungarian regiments readily obey. Thousands of corps strew the battlefield overlooking the mountainous Italian sector and accumulate along the Piave but the objectives which the enemy was to reach are yet far away."

U. S. FORCE ON GERMAN GROUND

Thirty-second Division, Composed of Michigan and Wisconsin Troops, Fighting in Alsace.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—The war department authorized formally today the announcement of the fact that the 32nd division (national guard) is now fighting in Alsace on German territory. Since the division has been in action its presence has been identified by the Germans permitting the fact to be disclosed.

The 32nd division is composed of Michigan and Wisconsin troops which left this country commanded by Major-General William G. Haan, under whom it was trained at Camp MacArthur, Tex.

YANKEES EMBARRASS GERMAN STRATEGISTS

WASHINGTON, June 18.—A dispatch to the state department today says that the Berliner Tageblatt, in its issue of June 16th, quoted a German general as saying that the American military activity was very embarrassing to German military strategy and military writers as it did not coincide with the German program for influencing opinion at home.

AUSTRIA HURLING IN MEN

Ninety-two Divisions Fighting on Italian Front.

MILLION TROOPS Three-fourths of Whole Austrian Army Pour Into Italy.

PARIS, June 18.—Ninety-two Austrian divisions, consisting of eighty divisions of infantry and twelve of cavalry, have been hurled into the greatest battle that Italy has yet fought, according to an official announcement at Rome received here through the Havas agency. Seventy-one of these divisions have already been identified.

The forces engaged comprise three-fourths of the whole Austrian army and the choicest troops under command of Field Marshal Borojevich. (The number of men in an Austrian division is not exactly known but the number of divisions engaged would indicate that approximately 1,000,000 Austrian soldiers have been thrown into the battle.)

Papers found on officers show that after forcing the passage of the Piave, the first day's objective was the Treviso-Montebelluna railroad. In two days of fighting the enemy columns had succeeded only in realizing the minimum assigned for the first day, according to the official note issued at Rome.

But one single allied aviator has been lost during the Austrian offensive, while 44 enemy machines have been brought down.

"In artillery and airplanes Austria is using all her available reserves," says the official note. "Not less than 7500 cannon of all calibers have been brought into action. Three Austro-Hungarian armies under the command of Field Marshal Borojevich are engaged in fighting desperately with enormous military means. Ordered to advance at any cost without thought of blood sacrifices, the Austro-Hungarian regiments readily obey. Thousands of corps strew the battlefield overlooking the mountainous Italian sector and accumulate along the Piave but the objectives which the enemy was to reach are yet far away."

"This will synchronize the action of the officials of your department with that of the contractor if prohibited by the law from transferring his contract, or order, or any interest therein, to any other party."

"The government will prepare a record of all contracts now being executed against the manufacturers who had these agreements. Neither can commission agents be prosecuted for accepting fees although in many cases it is demonstrated that they worked with others in a conspiracy to violate the law forbidding contingent fees and subletting of contracts and consequently are liable to prosecution under conspiracy laws."

Bitter Fighting in Progress. ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS, Monday, June 17.—(By The Associated Press)—Bitter fighting is in progress along the Piave river. The Austrians are sustaining large losses from the concentrated fire of Italian batteries. Reported counter-attacks are being made by Italian infantry, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

Bloody Repulse of Enemy. ROME, June 17.—"Enemy attempts to cross the river between Maserada and Candella (northwest of Treviso) were bloodily repulsed. On the lower Piave other counter-offensive actions in the course of the day resulted advantageously for us."