

Ottumwa Tri-Weekly Courier

IOWA—Fair and warmer increasing cloudiness; Sun rises, 6:47; sets, 4:41. LOCAL TEMP.—9 p. m., 50; 7 a. m., 30; 2 p. m., 39.

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NUMBER 38

GERMANS CROSS THE YSER RIVER

Gain Foothold on Southern Side of Stream After Severe Fighting

WAY TO COAST IS STILL CLOSED UP

Dixmude Victory of Kaiser May Prove Futile if Britons Hold Out

London, Nov. 13.—The Germans have crossed the Yser river, according to the admission of the latest Paris official communication and although the invaders occupy only a few hundred yards on the left bank of the stubbornly contested river, the allies cannot be indifferent to this gain, and desperate efforts will be made to drive back this slight wedge.

Ypres, extending like a fortress bastion into the lines of the invaders, is still held by the British, and unless the flank attacks on this position are successful, Dixmude is likely to prove a barren gain for the Germans, who still find the way to Dunkirk barred.

The theory that the Germans are making an unprecedented attempt on the coast objective is confirmed by an official just returned to Holland from East Prussia, where, he claims, the severity of the German defeat is due to the fact that so many troops have been detached for the effort against Calais.

Little attention lately has been paid to the operations along the river Aisne but, according to late dispatches fierce fighting, recalling the early days of the siege battle there, has been progressing for some time with no great alteration in the line, but some slight advantage in favor of the allies.

In the coast battle the latest reports indicate that the Germans, after heavy artillery fire, made massed infantry assaults, suffering losses much heavier than the defenders.

From the east come reports that Petrograd is expecting to hear any moment that the great battle before Crauw has been started, while past Kalsz and behind a screen of Coszacks, their infantry and artillery in force are said to be within striking distance of the German frontier.

Bucharest reports two Austrian divisions annihilated along the river Pruth which if true, indicates that the Austrian opposition in Bukovina is at an end and the way opened for the invasion of Transylvania.

In the minor theaters there is little report except the severe defeat administered to General DeWet by his old comrade in arms, General Botha.

Offensive Near Close? Paris, Nov. 13.—The conviction is growing here that the period of the German strategic offensive is drawing to a close and that the war, on both the western and eastern fronts, is about to enter its third phase.

The present violent effort in the Ypres region, while it may have succeeded in bending the allies' line in a few places, has not yet, according to either French or German reports, succeeded in breaking it and it seems impossible that the attempt can be repeated under the same conditions.

Even success at this point might prove merely momentary, like that at St. Mihiel on the Meuse six weeks ago.

But General Joffre, the French commander-in-chief, is fully alive to the importance of this position, and, according to an officer just returned from Ypres, that eventuality has been prepared for. At Ypres and its environs, although the artillery of the Germans is formidable, that of the allies is still more so, and causes fearful carnage in the enemy's trenches.

Both Allies and Germans Claim They are Winning

Paris, Nov. 13.—The French official announcement, given out in Paris this afternoon, says that from the Lys to the sea the fighting has been less violent than on previous days. Several efforts of the Germans to cross the Yser were checked.

Generally speaking, the French positions have been maintained and German attacks around Ypres were repulsed.

The French forces in the north were described as holding positions close to the barbed wire entanglements of the enemy.

Slight progress on other parts of the battle front is reported, as well as the capture of a German detachment by a surprise attack.

Berlin, Nov. 13.—German military headquarters today gave out an official statement as follows: "On the branch of the Yser canal at Nieupert our marines have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and we have taken 700 prisoners. During our attacks on Ypres, which have progressed favorably, another 1,100 prisoners have been taken.

"Fierce French attacks to the west and east of Soissons have been repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy.

"On the East Prussian frontier at Edytukhen and also further south to the east of the outlet of the Mazurian lakes, fresh battles have developed but no decision has yet been reached."

BATTLE ON AISNE IS RENEWED AGAIN

CORRESPONDENT ASSERTS THAT VICTORIES OF THE ALLIES ARE IMPORTANT.

London, Nov. 13.—The correspondent of the Times in France, under date of Tuesday, sends the following regarding the fighting on the Aisne: "The battle of the Aisne, which the official communications now refer to as the center of the allies' line, has been renewed this week with its original intensity from the forest of L'Argonne, past Soissons and Rheims to the Argonne.

"The three main areas of fighting here are the district between the Oise and Craonne, the neighborhood of Rheims and the forest of Argonne. The first named is the most important.

"On the whole the allies have the advantage. The French capture of Quesnoy-en-Santerre was a good deal bigger affair than reported. On the other hand the enemy's accounts of a great victory at Vailly were exaggerated. They obtained a temporary advantage but the allies have more than regained the original positions. It is here that one of the French gunners, who refused to join the retreat until the ammunition was expended, succeeded in killing six hundred Germans with his last twelve shells while the enemy was advancing. The gunner finally retreated with a slight wound while the enemy was only one hundred yards away.

"All along the center the allies are nibbling at the German entrenchments. As in the previous fighting along the Aisne, certain localities seem surely destined to be the scene of continuous fighting. Many hills, quarries and plateaus, which have been the scene of desperate fighting throughout the last few weeks, were the scenes of similar fighting in the war of the Gaul and in the Napoleonic wars.

"Soissons has been hard hit by the artillery, while fighting continues fiercely around Rheims. The German front here runs from Berniercourt to Brimont, Fresnes, Vitry les Reims, Nogent l'Abbesse, Narozy, Moronville and Vaudescourt to Suppe and thence northward to Souain, Perthes Les Hurles, Ville sur Tourbe to Argonne."

AVIATORS OVER ENGLAND

Germans Report That Their Birdmen Have Flown Over Sheerness and Harwich.

Berlin, Nov. 13.—(By wireless)—According to information given out to the press today in official quarters, German aviators have flown over the English seaports of Sheerness and Harwich.

Sheerness is a fortified seaport in Kent at the mouth of the Thames. It is about forty miles from London. Harwich is in Essex and about seventy miles northeast of London.

PRZEMYSYL AGAIN FULLY INVESTED

Vienna Admits That Great Fortress Is Left to Its Own Resources

BERLIN ANNOUNCES VARIOUS VICTORIES

Austrian Armored Train Is Successful in Attack Upon the Russians

Berlin, Nov. 13.—(By wireless)—The only news reaching Berlin of the Russian operations comes from Vienna whence it is reported that the Austrian operations in the northeast are developing without hindrance from the enemy. The Russians have advanced through the region of central Galicia, voluntarily evacuated by the Austrians and have crossed the lower Vistula, occupied Rzeszow and the Lisow district. The fortress of Przemyśl again is invested by the Russians, but Russian forces in the Stry valley were forced to retreat with heavy losses by a surprise attack from an Austrian armored train and Austrian cavalry.

The campaign in northwestern Serbia is proceeding successfully, the Austrian reports declare. The heights of Misar to the south of Shabats were captured November 10, the Austrians forcing the Serbians to abandon their strongly fortified positions. The Austrian line has advanced to the eastward from Losenitz and Kroupani, and continues to move forward. The heights to the eastward of Javkata have been captured. A total of 28 cannon, 18 machine guns and 4,300 men were captured in the operations between November 1 and 11.

Turks Holding Invaders. Included in the information given to the press today from official quarters is the following: "Reports received here from Constantinople set forth that the Turkish army in the Caucasus is attacking the Russians on their second line of defense.

"The Persian, Afghan, Egyptian, Indian and Mohammedan elements in Constantinople have declared the community of their interests. The Sunnites and the Shites (two opposing religious sects) are now for the first time ready for joint action.

"The Vossische Zeitung reports that Roumania has declined a demand made by Russia for the passage of Russian troops through Roumanian territory.

"The London Times has published a statement to the effect that the British government has undertaken local action against certain Irish newspapers for having opposed recruiting in Ireland."

Naval Legend Destroyed. The German press, in deploring the loss of the cruiser Emden, destroyed by the Australian cruiser Sydney off Cocos islands, lays emphasis on the fact that England, to hunt down the Emden, had to call Australian, Japanese, Russian and French warships to her assistance. Thus the German navy, the newspapers declare, has destroyed the legend of British naval supremacy.

While the destruction of the Emden is regretted, it has caused no surprise. The general feeling of pride in her record overbalances any sorrow at her end.

Germans Are United. The Prussian socialist deputy, Herr Hirsch, in an article published in the socialist Monthly Review, lays emphasis on the fact that the socialists voted the Prussian war credits. This proves again, he says, that the hope of German's enemies for internal discord has not been fulfilled. In important national affairs Germany is unanimous, Herr Hirsch declares.

Story of Cruiser Emden's Last Fight With Australian Warship Proves Thrilling Tale

London, Nov. 13.—The correspondent of the Chronicle at Keelung, Cocos Islands, under date of Thursday, November 12, sends the following story of the last fight of the German cruiser Emden:

"A four funneled cruiser arrived at full speed at the entrance of the lagoon at 6 o'clock Monday morning. The suspicions of those ashore were at once aroused, as the cruiser was flying no flag and the four funnels were obviously a dummy made of painted canvas.

"The cruiser immediately lowered a launch and it landed three officers and forty men, all armed and having four Maxim's.

"The Germans, for such they proved to be, rushed to the cable station, turned out the operators, smashed the instruments, grappled unsuccessfully for the cables, and blew up the electrical stores, but a general call had already been sent out by wireless.

"At 9 o'clock the Emden blew her emergency siren for the return of the landing party but did not wait for them.

FLEETS GATHER IN THE PACIFIC

Another Naval Engagement off Chile May Be Fought in the Near Future

MISSING GERMAN WARSHIPS LOCATED

Japanese and English Ships Believed to Be Aiming to Join Each Other

London, Nov. 13.—It is rumored among shipping firms in London that the German cruiser, Karlsruhe has been cornered.

Valparaiso, Chile, Nov. 13.—The German cruisers Leipzig and Dresden steamed into Valparaiso harbor this morning and at once started taking on supplies of provisions.

The German cruisers which participated in the naval engagement November 1 off the coast of Chile, with a British squadron, were the Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Leipzig, Dresden and Nürnberg.

After this engagement the Scharnhorst, the Gneisenau and the Nürnberg put into Valparaiso, going to sea again November 4. No definite news has yet come to hand regarding the whereabouts of the Leipzig and the Bremen since the fight with the British.

A dispatch received two days ago from Lima said a steamer arriving at Taltal, Chile, had reported the presence of four German warships steaming northward along the Chilean coast.

A cablegram from Montevideo last night made reference to the Japanese cruiser squadron in the Pacific, reported to have been seen about 2,000 miles west of Chile some ten days ago, saying this squadron consisted of eight vessels.

The British battleship Canopus and the cruiser Defense were reported a week ago as having passed through the Straits of Magellan, bound west, to join the battle cruiser New Zealand in the Pacific.

A later dispatch from Valparaiso last night said it was reported that a Japanese cruiser had been sighted off Cape Carranza, 250 miles south of Valparaiso. It was on Cape Carranza that a British warship was reported to have gone ashore after the naval engagement, but no trace of the vessel was found.

This morning the long missing German cruisers Leipzig and Dresden arrived at Valparaiso. Nothing definite (Continued on page 7)...

THREE TURK SHIPS SUNK

Claims of Russians Substantiated in Roundabout Way from Constantinople.

London, Nov. 13.—An official dispatch from Constantinople, reaching London by way of Berlin, confirms indirectly the recent Russian statement that a Russian fleet has sunk three Turkish transports in the Black sea.

The Constantinople report admits that there has been no news of these three ships since they left the Turkish capital a week ago. It adds that as the vessels were near Soguldak on the Black sea, the day this place was bombarded, it is possible that they were attacked by the Russian squadron.

"At first the firing of the Emden seemed excellent while that of the Sydney was erratic. This, it afterwards developed, was due to the fact that the Emden's first shot had wrecked the Sydney's range finder. The British gunners soon found the range, however, and shot away two of the Emden's funnels and one mast. Both ships were blazing away with all their guns when they disappeared below the horizon, and the Emden was afire aft.

"Meanwhile the landing party entrenched on the shore of the lagoon determined to fight if the British sent a party ashore. After a time, however, they decided to quit the island. They

U.S. Militia Equipment Held Woefully Short in Warning

Washington, D. C., Nov. 13.—"Should the organized militia be called into United States service, the troops would be sent to mobilization camps without sufficient uniforms to provide each soldier with one suit of outside clothing."

This was the warning sounded by the war department in a circular directed today to national guardsmen by Brigadier General A. L. Mills, chief of the division of militia affairs. The circular said that at the last inspection this year nine states did not have clothing to provide one uniform for each of the 100 Army National Guard men required for each senator and representative. It did not have sufficient clothing to provide one uniform for each enlisted man of the minimum authorized strength. The authorized strength formerly was 58 men for each infantry company which is now to be increased to 65.

A number of other states did not have sufficient arms and equipment for their minimum authorized strength.

MILLIONAIRE IS KILLED BY NURSE

BODY IS FOUND IN BEDROOM OF WOMAN'S HOME—SELF DEFENSE CLAIMED.

San Antonio, Texas, Nov. 13.—Miss Emma Burgemeister, a trained nurse, at whose home Otto Koehler, millionaire president of the San Antonio brewing association, was shot and instantly killed last night and who is under arrest here in connection with the shooting, today was believed to be in no danger from the wound in her wrist, which she is said to have inflicted after the death of Koehler. She is said to have made a statement that the shooting of Koehler was to protect herself and Emma Daschiel, another trained nurse, who resided with her.

The shooting occurred in the apartments maintained by Miss Burgemeister at 532 Hunstock avenue. Mr. Koehler had driven there in his buggy and was admitted by Miss Daschiel. A few moments later three shots were fired and when the neighbors rushed in they found Mr. Koehler dead on the floor of Miss Burgemeister's bedroom. One bullet had broken his neck, another had penetrated the skull just below the left eye and a third had entered the breast. Miss Burgemeister was kneeling beside the body, bleeding profusely from a wound in her left wrist which evidently had been made by a case knife found at her side.

Miss Burgemeister has been placed in Baylor hospital under police guard and Miss Daschiel is being held under surveillance.

KAISER WILLING TO SELL PALACE

Geneva, Nov. 12.—Emperor William is offering his marble palace, the Villa of Achilleon, in Corfu, for sale. It was built in 1890-91 for the Empress Elizabeth of Austria at a cost of \$5,000,000, and has since been improved.

A syndicate of German and Swiss hotel men wished to buy the villa a few years ago but they were outbid by the emperor.

The emperor's decision to sell the place, it is stated, is the result of the uncertain attitude of Greece towards Germany and Austria. It is said he fears confiscation of the palace if Greece joins the allies. A Swiss syndicate has been given an option on the place at a low price.

REMOVING MINES IS DANGEROUS WORK

Tokio, Nov. 13.—An official communication made public today says that subterranean mines which exploded at Tsing Tau while being removed on November 11 killed two officers and eight soldiers and injured one officer and fifty-six soldiers. Four hundred and thirty-six wounded Germans are in the hospital at Tsing Tau.

MEXICANS PLAN FOR BIG FIGHT

ARMIES OF VILLA AND CARRANZA GETTING READY TO GRAPPLE TO ATTACK TAMPICO.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 13.—General Villa has ordered an attack on Tampico. His army is operating from the city of San Luis Potosi, which was occupied without firing a shot. Official dispatches received here today say the people believed Villa with an ovation.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 13.—While no armed clash had been reported today between the forces of Carranza and the Aguas Calientes convention both sides were preparing for hostile operations. As many of the generals are wavering in their allegiance, it is not expected that the exact strength of either faction will develop until the doubtful ones definitely announce their alignment.

From Tampico today came word to the state department that General Luis Caballero, governor of the state of Tamaulipas, had publicly announced his allegiance to Carranza and that the seaport feared an attack from the west. A consular dispatch, however, said Tamaulipas, of which General Gutierrez, now provisional president at the Aguas Calientes convention was formerly governor, will stick by him.

The Gutierrez forces are concentrating in the city of San Luis Potosi and may move eastward to attack Tampico.

Whether Villa will fight the first important battle of the new south of Aguas Calientes depends on the attitude of General Gonzales, division commander, at Queretaro. Gonzales hitherto has been a staunch friend of Carranza and an enemy of Villa.

While there still was a hope that hostilities may be averted by the general themselves reaching an understanding whereby General Carranza would retire, officials expect that if civil war results it will be much more extensive than anything Mexico has seen. Larger forces than ever have been under arms have been organized, as many as 100,000 men being well equipped and almost that many more are available.

To Hold Vera Cruz. Washington, D. C., Nov. 13.—Not until it is determined which of the contending Mexican factions can exercise control of Vera Cruz and execute the guarantees requested by the United States, will American troops be ordered from the southern port. That decision by President Wilson and his advisers stood today as the American attitude toward a tangled Mexican situation which threatens a renewal of civil strife.

SERBS REPORTED IN FULL RETREAT

London, Nov. 13.—A dispatch to Reuters' Telegram company from Vienna via Amsterdam says: "An official telegram from the southern war theatre states that the attacks on block houses and strongly fortified positions, together with the pursuit of the enemy, continued on the whole front Wednesday. The line east of Nakucani and Novoselo, on the Save river, was reached by the Austrian troops."

"The Serbians are in full retreat on Kotizeteva and Valievo, where, according to reports from Austrian aviators, ammunition and provisions cars block all the ways of communication. "Four guns, fourteen munition cars and numerous prisoners were captured."

BRITISH ARMY INCREASED

Bill Authorizing Another Million Soldiers Introduced in the House of Commons.

London, Nov. 13.—A supplementary estimate to provide for another million men required by the British government during the year ending March 31, was introduced in the house of commons today. This brings the total army, not including the territorials, to 2,186,400 officers and men.

OBJECTIONS ARE HEARD BY BOARD

Supervisors Take Up the Deferred Hearing on Muelc Cases

ASSESSMENT LEVY MADE BY ASSESSOR

Objections Are Made By Owners of Properties That Were Taxed

The Wapello county board of supervisors this morning took up the matter of the objections of certain owners to the levying of a muelc tax against their properties.

The assessments were made by the assessor during the early part of the summer against sixteen different properties in the city of Ottumwa as being liable to the muelc tax. These owners immediately protested the levying of the assessment and the matter was presented to the board. It was carried over from the July session each month until taken up this morning. The first session was devoted more or less to the matter of whether or not the matter should be carried out or dropped. If decided to continue then witnesses will probably be called and a thorough investigation made of the matter, necessitating a session on several days.

The levying of the muelc tax was urged by a committee which called upon the city commissioners early in the summer and demanded that body that the assessor be instructed to assess properties in which the illegal sale of liquor took place under the muelc law. The properties involved in the hearing are among those alleged to have been used for sale of liquor.

The contention in the matter seems to resolve itself down to the one point, which may be left for the board to decide and that is whether or not the assessor had the authority to make these muelc tax assessments against the properties involved. The session on this matter was adjourned at noon today until Saturday morning and which time it is expected a definite decision will be made. During the interval the county attorney will investigate further as to the law points involved in the matter.

The present session of the board has been unusually busy one. During the greater part of the year the work is easily completed in a few days although special gatherings may be called at intervals during the month. This time, however, the work has been much heavier. This has been caused to a great extent by the fact that the large number of votes cast at the last general election on November 3 were first to be canvassed and the allowing of claims has taken a great deal of time also, as there has been an unusually large number owing to the election expenses. This will allow the work has not been entirely completed yet but will be before the session is adjourned sine die.

SOBER RUSSIANS "SEEING THINGS"

London, Nov. 13.—The Petrograd correspondent of the Daily Mail, in announcing that Petrograd has been made a dry city for the duration of the war and that no wine, beer or spirits will be allowed to be sold, gives a legend permeating the Russian army of a "white general" who rides through the ranks on a white horse, "if he looks a man full in the face," the legend of "the man in white," a charmed life. Those whom he passes with eyes averted are marked for death. During the last two weeks the "white general" has not been seen in the Russian ranks. The soldiers say he is busy in the German and Austrian armies walking with his eyes to the ground.

SLAIN WOMAN IS FOUND IN RIVER

Murphysboro, Ill., Nov. 13.—No clue to the identity of the woman whose body was found in the Big Muddy river near here yesterday nor to her murderer was available this morning.

The coroner's autopsy last night revealed that the woman had been the victim of an illegal operation. A red handkerchief drawn tight around her neck indicated she had been strangled to death before being thrown into the river.

HONOR IS PAID TO HOOKER'S MEMORY

Boston, Mass., Nov. 13.—The centenary of the birth of Major General Hooker, whose daring exploits in the Union army in the Civil war won him the sobriquet of "Fighting Joe," was observed today by the Hooker Association of Massachusetts. The program included a military parade and a public meeting at which the speakers included Major General Leonard Wood, U. S. A., and Curtis Guild, former ambassador to Russia.