

## Germans Worsted In First Great Battle

FIGHTING YESTERDAY LASTED ENTIRE DAY AND CONSTITUTED FIRST CONSIDERABLE CONFLICT OF THE WAR—TWO HUNDRED OF KAISER'S MEN LAY DEAD ON 50 YARDS SQUARE.

PEASANTS REPORT THAT GERMANY IS WAGING A WAR OF EXTERMINATION—TROOPS ARE FIRING ON PRIESTS AND WOUNDING PEOPLE INDISCRIMINATELY.

BRUSSELS, via London, 7:45, Aug. 13.—The fighting yesterday between Belgian and German armies in the vicinity of Diest lasted the entire day and constituted the first considerable battle of the war.

It will be known as the battle of Haelen. Shells were still falling at half past seven in the evening on the roads around Diest.

The battle centered along the Belgian province of Limbourg extending to Diest in north of the province of Brabant after passing around Zeelhem.

At seven last evening all the country between the three towns mentioned had been cleared of German troops except the dead and wounded who were thickly strewn around the fire zone.

Upwards of 200 dead soldiers were counted in a space of 50 yards square.

A church, a brewery and some houses in Hazelen and two bridges over the Zemer were destroyed by the Belgian engineers.

Great quantities of booty were collected on the battle field and this has been stacked in front of the town hall of Tien. Many horses were also captured.

The strength of the German column was about 5,000 men. At Tirlemont the Belgian lancers lost 25 men including Capt. Knapen and Lieut. VanDerburgh, who were fighting against 2,000 German Uhlans.

The lancers were held by machine guns but the Belgian infantry stopped the Germans. The peasants report that the Germans are waging a war of extermination. They allege that the troops are firing on priests and are killing and wounding people indiscriminately. Whole villages are being wiped out by the invaders.

## BELGIAN ARMY AROUND LIEGE REMAINS INTACT

GERMANS THROWN BACK AFTER FIERCE ENGAGEMENT WITH KING ALBERT'S TROOPS—NO IMPORTANT CHANGES IN LORRAINE.

Paris, Aug. 13.—An official communication published here today says a battalion of Belgian cavalry supported by a brigade of infantry and by artillery engaged on the hills near the fortress of Dieuz, 18 miles northeast of Louvain, a division of German cavalry also supported by infantry and artillery.

The fighting was extremely fierce and resulted in the Germans being thrown back toward Hasfelt and St. Trone.

The minister says: "The Belgian army and the forts around Liege are intact and are prepared to resist all attacks."

"There has been no important change in Lorraine and there is no truth in the report that the 16th regiment of French infantry was taken prisoner by Germans at Briey, in the department of Meurthe Et-Moselle."

At the end of his communication the French minister says: "France is satisfied by the attitude of America."

## Good Prize Is Captured

GERMAN STEAMER WORTH \$250,000 TAKEN BY THE BRITISH.

NEW YORK, Aug. 13.—News of the taking of the German tank steamer, "Leud," a prize probably worth a quarter of a million dollars by a prize crew from the British steamer Suffolk and of the arrest of upwards of 100 German reservists in Bermuda as prisoners of war was confirmed by Capt. R. L. Daniels of the Royal Mail steam packet, Caribbean, which arrived from Bermuda. Similar confirmation was brought by Bermudians of the Quebec Steamship company.

Guns on British Steamer. NEW YORK, Aug. 13.—The British steamer Francisco which arrived today from Hull has two guns mounted on deck at. Capt. Runtun explained that the vessels are to carry guns. Twenty-five vessels have been equipped.

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## Counties Contract On Road Change

COMMISSIONERS SETTLE PROPOSITION PENDING SEVERAL YEARS.

TO SHARE THE EXPENSE IN CONSTRUCTION OF HIGHWAY.

The commissioners of Marion and Monongalia counties met at Smithtown, on White Day creek, yesterday and closed a deal which has been hanging fire during the past four or five years. White Day creek is the boundary line between the two counties, and about a mile above Smithtown the road crosses the stream into Marion county. It runs along the bank for nearly half a mile, and again crosses the creek back into Monongalia county. The half-mile road is in Marion county.

By the terms of the contract closed yesterday, the road is to follow the Monongalia side of the creek, thus eliminating two fords, both long, deep and rough. Marion county is to pay \$533 towards the cost of making the change, and Monongalia county will foot the balance of the bill. It is estimated that this will be less than \$500. Monongalia county will have the maintenance of the road.

The road as it is now located in Marion county, is subject to washouts, and frequently in the winter it is blocked with ice. It is used as a mail route, and frequently the carrier has been unable to serve the patrons because the road was blocked. To improve the road on its present location was impracticable. It would have been necessary to build two costly bridges, and even then, the location was such that the swollen stream was always a menace.

The new location is high above the water, and the two crossings of the creek are eliminated.

JUDGE MASON GOES TO RICHMOND

Judge John W. Mason, chairman of the Virginia debt commission, leaves today for Richmond to attend a meeting of the commission to be held tomorrow. The attorney general and the other counsel for West Virginia will commence Monday to present evidence to Master Littlefield in support of West Virginia's claims for credits upon the debt.

## French Deny German Report

In the North sea, which the British government says may be strewn with mines, the main squadron of British battleships are still out, but their position is not publicly known. Neither is the location of the main German fleet.

The French foreign minister denies the German report of capture by Germans of a French infantry regiment at Briey, Meurthe-Et-Moselle.

## TOO MANY CENSORS SPOIL THE NEWS.

There isn't a newspaper in the land that wouldn't be glad to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth regarding the war in Europe. There is enough tragic humor in that simple truth to make a censor smile. He sees to it that the whole truth shall not be told. And rumor, sometimes too persistent to be safely ignored, sees to it at times that the truth is somewhat garbled.

Readers of the West Virginian familiar with its efficient news service, should bear in mind something of the news gatherer's handicaps in these unprecedented times. For instance, a dispatch from Germany is first censored by the German censor. Then it goes to Amsterdam, where it gets in Dutch with the censor there; thence to London, where the British censor puts the English on it before shooting it across the Atlantic.

A story with lots of ginger in it at the beginning may be as weak as milk and water before it reaches the printer.

## WAR BULLETINS

### Germans Repulsed.

ST. PETERSBURG, via London, 5:10, Aug. 13.—The following official communication has been issued: "On August 10 and 11 the enemy made careful reconnaissance on the frontier of settlement of Kovno Suwalk. A German detachment of four battalions, three squadrons of cavalry and 18 cannon attacked Eyetkuheba but was repulsed."

### Japanese Steamer Damaged.

SHANGHI, Aug. 13.—The Japanese steamer Shikou Maru was seriously damaged today by a cannon shot fired by the British fort at Hong Kong while the vessel was entering the harbor.

The Shikou Maru paid no heed to harbor regulations. Shots were fired over bows but she did not stop and the third shell then struck her amidship.

### Declaration Made Public.

PARIS, Aug. 13.—The official declaration of war by France against Austria Hungary was made public here today.

### State of War Exists.

LONDON, Aug. 13.—It is officially announced that state of war has existed between Great Britain and Austria Hungary since midnight.

### To Shoot Every Tenth Person.

ST. PETERSBURG, via London, Aug. 13.—According to a semi-official dispatch the German troops before Kalisz Russian Poland, has issued a proclamation stating that every tenth inhabitant of Kalisz will be shot in the event of further resistance.

### Canadians Mobilizing.

WINNIPEG, Aug. 13.—Four infantry regiments of Winnipeg, 2,000 strong were called to mobilize at Quebec by an order received from Ottawa today. They will leave Monday night accompanied by a local battery.

### Germans Shoot Mayor.

LONDON, 5:30 p. m., Aug. 13.—A telegram from Paris to Central News says German troops today shot the mayor of Igney, a village near Luneville on the Franco-German frontier.

## Russian Force Routs Austrians

CAVALRY PURSUES TROOPS ACROSS BUG RIVER AND BLEW UP TWO BRIDGES—TOWN OF SOKAL IS TAKEN.

By Associated Press.] ST. PETERSBURG, by way of London, Aug. 13.—A Russian force has taken the town of Sokal Austrian Galicia by assault inflicting heavy casualties on Austrian garrison. The garrison consisted of two infantry battalions a regiment of lancers and a regiment of Hussars. After dislodging them the Russian cavalry pursued the Austrians across the river Bug, and blew up two bridges and a viaduct. Several houses in Sokal which is 45 miles northeast of Limberg were set on fire by the Russian troops because civilians had fired from them on the advancing force.

## To Ask Intervention Of Neutral Powers

## GERMANS WILL TAKE CARE OF AMERICANS

READY TO SHARE THEIR HOMES WITH OUR CITIZENS WHO ARE STRANDED IN THE KAISER'S DOMAIN.

BERLIN, Aug. 13.—A meeting of 500 Americans in German capital was informed last evening that many German families were ready to take stranded Americans in their homes without pay.

The first on the list of those to make the offer was Adolf Wermuth, the lord mayor, who declared he would take three Americans. The banks also are ready to grant credit to Americans. The president of the German bank declared he would grant \$1,250,000 against adequate security.

## Belgian Cavalry On Offensive

NO REASON TO FEAR A GERMAN MOVEMENT ON BRUSSELS.

ALL ROADS LEADING TO THE CAPITAL ARE BEING GUARDED.

BRUSSELS, via London, Aug. 13.—Another official communication said "The Belgian cavalry division today took up the offensive against the Germans who were defeated in yesterday's battle of Haelen with the object it is believed of taking up the dead and wounded."

"No Germans surprise was expected and there are no reasons to fear any German cavalry movement on Brussels from the south. All roads leading to the capital are being guarded by the Belgian army and the civic guards."

## Hospital Facilities Inadequate

CHURCHES, SCHOOLS AND HOTELS ARE OCCUPIED TO CAPACITY.

LONDON, Aug. 13.—A dispatch from Basel, Switzerland, says: "Following a terrible battle at Muelhausen the hospital facilities grew absolutely inadequate to care for the almost incredible number of wounded. Not only hospitals but schools, churches and hotels are occupied to capacity. Even then it has been found necessary to charter special trains to convey the wounded to St. Ludwig and other towns. The latest estimate placed the German losses at from 8,000 to 10,000."

## Opera Star Is Dead In France

PARIS, Aug. 13.—Pol Plancon, the opera singer, died yesterday. He had been ill since June.

Plancon was a bass singer and made his Paris debut in the part of Mephistophiles in "Faust" in 1883. He came to the Metropolitan opera house in 1893, where he sang with Melba, Calve, Eames, Nordica and Jean and Edouard de Reszke. Plancon sang for many years at Covent Garden, London. He was 55 years old.

Rainbow Reaches Vancouver. VANCOUVER, B. C., Aug. 13.—The Canadian cruiser Rainbow, reached Vancouver at a. m. today and also the British man of war, Shearwater. The Argentine is expected in later today.

## GERMAN TROOPS VIOLATE THE GENEVA AND HAGUE CONVENTION—LONG LIST OF CASES MADE OUT.

ALLEGED THAT KAISER'S TROOPS KILL WOUNDED, ABUSE THE WHITE FLAG AND SLAY CIVILIANS.

BRUSSELS, via Paris, 10:25 p. m., Aug. 13.—It is stated here today that the intervention of the neutral powers is to be asked for by the Belgian foreign minister through their diplomatic representative in the Belgian capital in reference to alleged repeated violations by German troops in Belgium of the Geneva and Hague convention.

In Davignon the Belgian foreign minister has drawn a long list of cases declared to be fully attested to, of the killing of the wounded, the abuse of the white flag, killing of civilians and seizure of private and of public funds.

## Killed Himself While Wife Lay In Hospital

ASKED HUSBAND TO QUIT DRINKING AND TRAGEDY FOLLOVED.

KANSAS CITY, Aug. 13.—Mrs. Thille Rolfe lay in the room adjoining the operating table in a hospital here today while nurses hurried preparations for an operation for appendicitis. John Rolfe, her husband, a wealthy farmer of Randall, Kansas, drove up in his motor car.

"I want to see my wife," he told the head nurse and an attendant led him to his wife's room.

"Oh John why don't you quit drinking?" she said as he entered. Then the door closed.

Five minutes later five shots were heard. Doctors and nurses ran into the room and found three bullets had penetrated Mrs. Rolfe's body. Rolfe lay on the floor, a revolver in his hand and two wounds in his head. It is said he will die.

## GERMAN SOIL CLEARED OF ALL FRENCH TROOPS

TO INVESTIGATE FOOD PRICES

PRESIDENT WILSON DIRECTS McREYNOLDS TO MAKE INQUIRY.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 13.—President Wilson today directed Attorney General McReynolds to investigate recent increases in prices of food stuff and take up the question whether any person responsible be prosecuted.

The president also instructed Secretary Redfield to have his agents begin similar investigation.

## Today's Events In War Zone

Developments in war zone which appeared chiefly confined to Belgian territory are made scarce owing to the strict censorship over news.

Positions occupied by the main branch of the Belgian and British forces are not permitted to be disclosed even approximately so that their plan of campaign can not be assumed.

As to the German forces, indications from various sources point to the concentration of the main body with its right wing in Belgium and the left wing in the Duchy of Luxembourg. The Germans are said to have gathered 256 army corps along the eastern frontier facing Belgium and France.

## SUCCESS OF BELGIAN TROOPS IS CONFIRMED

OFFICIAL STATEMENT GIVEN OUT SAYS THAT GERMAN CASUALTIES YESTERDAY WERE EXTREMELY HEAVY.

THREE-FIFTHS OF SOLDIERS ENGAGED WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED—BELGIAN LOSS WAS RELATIVELY SMALL.

BRUSSELS, via London, Aug. 13.—An official statement issued today confirmed yesterday's success of Belgian troops over Germans at Haelen. It says the German casualties were heavy, three-fifths of their troops in the encounter being killed or wounded, while Belgian casualties are reported relatively small.

### PROHIBITION TICKET.

The Prohibitionists of Marion county have nominated the following ticket:

House of Delegates—D. L. Whitener, of Monongah; Zaddock Layman, of Fairmont; T. M. Wise, of Manington.

County clerk—J. E. Swiger, of Fairmont.

Circuit clerk—Charles Messenger, of Worthington.

County commissioner, Weaden C. Koon, of Monongah.

County superintendent of schools, Otis E. Martin, of Fairmont.



Western Pennsylvania—Unsettled tonight and Friday, probably showers. Warmer tonight in south portion. Cooler Friday in north. West Virginia—Fair and warmer tonight; Friday slightly cloudy.