WEATHER.
Fair, continued warmer tonight and tomorrow.
Temperature for twenty-four hours ending 2 p.m. today: Highest, 81, at 2 p.m. today; lowest, 64, at 6:30 a.m. today.
Full report on page 19.

Closing New York Stocks, Page 19.

The Evening Star.

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No. 27,216. WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1918—TWENTY-FOUR PAGES. TWO CENTS.

MOVIES, SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES ARE TO BE REOPENED

District Commissioners Rescind Closing Order Due to Epidemic of Influenza.

CHURCHES ARE ALLOWED TO REOPEN THURSDAY

Schools and Movies and Other Gatherings, Included in Order, May Open Again Next Monday.

The District Commissioners today rescinded their orders closing the churches and other places of public gatherings and amusements because of the influenza epidemic.

It was directed that the churches may be reopened Thursday, October 31, thus enabling the Catholic and Episcopal churches to celebrate All Saints' day, one of the more important days in the church calendar, which falls on Friday.

Schools and Movies, Monday.

Theaters, motion picture houses and public and private schools will open under the order Monday, November 4. The order also lifts the ban placed against public meetings of all kinds, which would include lodge meetings and other fraternal gatherings, and public gatherings of all kinds.

The order was issued shortly after 11 o'clock this morning, after a meeting of the District Commissioners, when a letter from Health Officer Fowler, written Monday morning, recommending to the Commissioners that the ban be raised was considered. The closing order has been in force since October 3, when it was issued as a safeguard against the spread of the influenza epidemic.

Commissioners' Order.

The order of the Commissioners follows:

"Ordered: That the operation of the Commissioners' order of October 3, 1918, closing theaters, moving picture houses and dance halls in the District of Columbia for an indefinite time be terminated on Monday, November 4, 1918.

"That the operation of the Commissioners' order of October 4, 1918, requesting the clergy of Washington to omit all church services until further action by the Commissioners, be terminated on Thursday, October 31, 1918."

Demand for Reopening of Churches

Immediately following the order closing the churches and other places of public gathering, those against whom they were directed complied promptly in the interest of public safety. However, after the churches had been closed two weeks, effort was made from time to time by the clergy and churchmen to have the ban removed, but without success. The last effort of the clergy was made Saturday, when a delegation representing the Ministerial Association, as well as representatives of the Catholic clergy, called on Health Officer Fowler, presenting from their viewpoint the necessity of opening the churches, believing, they said, that the danger of the contagion had passed.

Dr. Fowler did not entertain the same views as the clergy, saying that he would not recommend to the Commissioners that the ban on the churches be removed. Later the Commissioners sustained Health Officer Fowler and refused to change the order. Yesterday a letter protesting against the further closing of the churches was received by the Commissioners from Mgr. Thomas of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, in which the prelate expressed his doubt as to the authority of the Commissioners to close the churches.

Dr. Fowler said after the order lifting the ban had been made public by the Commissioners that conditions were such now that he felt assured by the fall in the death rate and the reduction in the number of new cases of the disease that it was safe to open the churches this week and the opening of the theaters, schools and other public gathering places Monday.

Deaths and New Cases of Influenza Indicate Decrease in District

Reports of twenty-six deaths were made to the health department at noon today, covering the twenty-four-hour period ending at that hour. This is a decrease of two deaths as compared with the previous twenty-four-hour period, when the deaths totaled twenty-eight. This small decrease is in comformity with the expectations of the health officials, who look for small decreases in the mortality list for several days before the big falling off is recorded.

A total of 286 new cases of influenza was reported for the twenty-four-hour period ending at noon today. This is an increase of 127 cases over yesterday, when the number of new cases was 159.

The official record of deaths to date shows 1,453 since the epidemic started in September.

The sum of $902 has been contributed for relief of needy sufferers from influenza, as reported by Patrick T. Moran, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce committee on influenza relief work. Additional drug stores have volunteered to supply free prescriptions to those unable to pay for them.

Dr. H. S. Mustard of the United States public health service stated that the influenza situation in the District was such that in a few days the local physicians would be able to handle it.

A steady decrease is shown in the number of new cases, with the number of deaths fluctuating as follows:

October 25—676 new cases; 22 deaths.
October 26—426 new cases; 34 deaths.
October 27—325 new cases; 26 deaths.
October 28—285 new cases; 28 deaths.

There are now 212 patients in the emergency influenza hospital, thirteen having been admitted in the last twenty-four hours. Eighteen patients were dismissed from the hospital and two died since 6 o'clock yesterday evening.

UGLY SLANDERS OF D. C. PATRIOTISM

No Other American Community Makes Greater War Sacrifices in Blood or Treasure, in Men Sent to the Trenches or Money to Back Them.

FAIR PLAY FOR CAPITAL

(Editorial Correspondence of The Star.)

THEODORE W. NOYES.

The last summer has been full of bitter days for the people of Washington; gloriously bitter in the cheerful endurance of necessary patriotic war sacrifices with other good Americans; humiliatingly bitter through discriminating, slurring, hurtful legislation, unnecessarily imposed or threatened, and through the slanderous vilification of Washingtonians which has accompanied it.

No other American community has responded, the record shows, more heartily and more completely than Washington to the call for patriotic war sacrifices, to be offered on the nation's altar, whether in blood or treasure, whether in men sent to the trenches or in money to back, sustain and strengthen them until the war is won.

On the other hand no other American community was ever so undeservedly and infamously slandered by baseless allegations of lack of patriotism.

Washington Clerks No Slackers.

Civilian workers for the government, in peace or war, constitute a numerous, intelligent and highly valued element of the city's population. They have long been petitioners for an equitable increase of their salary scale, which for years has been confessedly inadequate and at a standstill, while notable increases have been made in all other branches of labor, especially organized labor. Their distress and need have been accentuated by war conditions and the resulting higher and higher cost of living. In response to their reasonable and respectful petition their legislature on one occasion voted to increase their hours of work without increasing correspondingly their compensation.

They had been working, in addition to a scheduled normal seven-hour day, as much of overtime without pay in the war service as the national necessities demanded.

By vote of Congress (nullified, however, in the end by the President's veto) the normal day was compulsorily increased from seven to eight hours, and no extra overtime pay was allowed. **Washington workers asked for bread and received a stone; and when they remonstrated against this substitution they were denounced as "slackers" by the House leader of this campaign against them.**

Washington workers were thus subjected in congressional intent at least to the industrial minimum eight-hour day, without the usual industrial protection against overtime labor, through an extraordinary scale of overtime pay. They were put on the same footing as organized labor elsewhere, so far as disadvantages were concerned; and denied organized labor's counteracting benefits.

Washington departmental labor that works overtime without pay and patriotically without complaint, that does not strike, or threaten to strike or think of striking in war time may not even petition for equity, or remonstrate against gross injustice without becoming "slackers," to be put in the national pillory and to be derided and spit upon as unpatriotic.

Undeserved Slur on Local Patriotism.

Similarly the property owners and landlords of the city are universally and undeservedly slandered as unpatriotic in the discussion of anti-profiteering legislation.

These property owners and taxpayers were slurred for years in the House as underassessed and undertaxed, as mendicants subsisting unpatriotically on the nation's bounty. This slander was dissipated the moment a fair tribunal, the joint congressional fiscal committee, examined thoroughly into the facts.

So it will be with the recent slanders upon the property owners, the landlords and the whole community as rent profiteers or the accomplices of such profiteers, sympathizing with and protecting them.

Rental profiteers, like food and fuel profiteers, are a tiny fraction of the population, who practice extortion upon the remainder, the great bulk of the community. Nine-tenths of Washington, as of every other large American city, is sore all over from the exactions of the high cost of war living. We are indignant and resentful. The profiteer, whether at the expense of the government or the individual, whether he operates in munitions or ships, in food, fuel or rents, is today's "black beast."

Universal Slander.

Chairman Ben Johnson has extended the stigma, stain and slander of rentals profiteering, as principal or accomplice, from a few landlords to Washington landlords in general, from the landlord class to the community in general, and from all Washingtonians who protest against his grossly unfair legislative principles and methods even to senators and representatives who venture to propose a fairer, wiser form of fair-rents legislation than that which he has devised.

When he slanders senators, who can fight back, the enormity of his offense is at once perceived. Why is not the offense greater when his defamation is applied **with absolute impunity to a community which the Constitution ties hand and foot and turns over helpless to injury and insult** on the part of any strong and influential national legislator who is willing to debase himself by abuse of the far-reaching power in respect to the Capital-community with which he is intrusted by the Constitution?

Mr. Johnson denounces the property owners and landlords of Washington as the most unpatriotic people in the whole world. He poses as peculiarly the protector of the boys in the trenches and of the civilian war workers.

Washington's Unsurpassed War-Record.

Mr. Johnson's Washington constituency has sent more boys to the trenches to give their lives to win the war than Mr. Johnson's Kentucky constituency.

His National Capital constituency has furnished more civilian war workers than his Kentucky constituency.

His Washington constituency has put up more money to sustain the boys in the trenches, and to win the war, in donations through the Red Cross and otherwise, in Liberty loans and in war taxes, than his Kentucky constituency.

The District of Columbia challenges comparison in all these items and indicia of patriotic devotion and sacrifice with the home constituency of any member of the House of Representatives whatsoever.

There is no reflection in this comment and this challenge upon the patriotic spirit, labors and devotion of Mr. Johnson's Kentucky constituency, or of any other constituency represented in the House. They are all true American communities, and have responded grandly to the call to arms and to sacrifice of blood and treasure upon the nation's altar.

This challenge is designed to call attention, sharply and vividly, to the fact that the non-voting, unrepresented capital constituency of each representative has responded as nobly to the nation's call as his own home constituency. And the earnest hope of Washingtonians is that when representatives realize the truth, they will, without exception, render due honor to their Washington constituency, which they have too often been misled by slander into underrating and despising.

PRESIDENT LASHES PRIDE OF THE G. O. P.

Appeal for Democrats Dispels Apathy, Means Bitter Fight for Congress.

DEMOCRATS ALSO REGRET

Second only to the concern over the war is the interest of the public in the unprecedented political situation which has been precipitated by the appeal of President Wilson for the election of a democratic Congress.

Apparently, judging from the tenor of comment heard in various quarters and reflected in a section of the public press, the antagonism of one division of the public sentiment has been aroused not so much by the President's demand that he be given a democratic Congress, as by his inferential condemnation of all republicans in the country as being disloyal to the war aims of the United States, and therefore unfit to have majority representation in the legislative councils.

As such interpreted wholesale condemnation of a large section of the population of the country because of party affiliation does not accord with the record of that party's action in the legislative branch, resentment is voiced.

Expressions of regret are heard on every side, and are not confined to republicans, either, that the President should have deemed it expedient from a political viewpoint absolutely to shatter and dispel the political harmony which existed in Congress over the war legislation, and which to a degree was reflected throughout the country.

Appeal Dispels Apathy.

The two great parties were giving evidence of dividing along normal political lines in the coming elections without undue heat or partisan spirit and indeed with what amounted almost to apathy. There was no apparent keen interest in the campaign among the people and certainly very little expressed in the public press.

It seemed that the voters would go to the polls, if it should be convenient, and vote their everyday political convictions and for personal choice of candidates. In some states there was bi-partisan agreement upon candidates, one man being indorsed by both political parties.

It was out of this calm political sky that the President's appeal came as a bolt from the blue. The result has been an immediate sharp division of the people along party lines, a division effected in the greatest bitterness and with hot resentment. The republicans have been stung to action as by a whip lash in the face, it is declared. Every republican of national prominence, including two former occupants of the presidential chair, have vigorously retorted against the President's appeal, taking violent issue with the ground upon which it was based.

And it is the ground upon which it was based that has caused the most vigorous resentment—the inferential charge that the republican party is less patriotic than the democratic party and less likely to wage the war to a finish or to conclude a satisfactory peace.

Refer to One-Man Control.

Occasional references are heard to another phase of the last analysis of the appeal—that the President desires a Senate which he can control and bend to his views, in the ratification of a peace treaty, rather than a Senate which will express the views of all the people. Even in that, the republicans take exception to the inference that a republican viewpoint would be less patriotic, less American than the President's.

What the probable effect of the appeal will be on the voting is a subject of wide discussion and speculation. Some democrats have voiced the apprehension that the President's action was unfortunate and will react to the disadvantage of the party. Most of the republican sentiment seems to be that it will arouse the republican voters from the twilight doze of political harmony and bring them out into the white glare of partisan action. The republicans had complained of having no issue up to a week ago. They do not find themselves lacking in that particular now, it is declared.

R. H. ANGELL IS CHOSEN VIRGINIA FUEL CHIEF

Fuel Administrator Garfield today announced the appointment of R. H. Angell of Roanoke to be federal fuel administrator for Virginia, in the place of H. F. Byrd. Mr. Byrd has entered the military service. Mr. Angell is a well known banker and business man of Roanoke and local fuel administrator there.

AUSTRIA ABOLISHES PRESS CENSORSHIP

BERN, Switzerland, Monday, October 28.—The new Austrian government has abolished censorship of the press, a report from Vienna says.

AUSTRIAN NOTE RECEIVED.

The new Auustrian note asking for armistice and peace terms was received today at the Swedish legation. The text is said to be identical with that cabled from Basel yesterday.

FIRST HEREDITARY PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN REPUBLIC?

'HURRY ARMISTICE!' FOES CRY IN UNISON

"Notes" to U. S. From Germany, Austria and Turkey All Seek to End Fighting.

HUNS AIM TO SAVE ARMY

"Hurry up with that armistice!" is the cry of Turkey, Austria-Hungary and Germany, according to all the latest "notes" now in hand or in course of transmission. The text of the Austrian note has been cabled and today came an outline of Turkey's reported appeal for an independent peace.

The two northern nations are prolific in promises of reform along the lines laid down by President Wilson. Turkey's promises were not set forth in detail; Turkey wants peace, however, the report says, and wants it regardless of whatever obligations are laid upon her allies.

Austria-Hungary's professions of willingness to adopt changes which strike at the very keystone of the dual empire's construction; Germany's marvelous shedding of leopard's spots almost overnight and frantic assurances of coming democratizing, all bear witness to the seeming imperative demand of the two neighboring belligerents for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

Huns Aim to Save Armies.

In military circles here this is construed to be incited by Germany's necessity of an armistice in order to enable her to move her armies, guns and munitions back from the territory where they are now threatened by the allied advance to positions of better security behind last lines of defense.

It is thought that the Germans are willing to promise anything to achieve this object, and this accounts for the complaisance with which they are regarding Austria-Hungary's defection from the alliance. The one big object of the German high command is believed now to be to save their armies from further harm and plant them on German territory, where they can be resuscitated and reinforced for subsequent emergencies.

The supreme war council, now or soon to be meeting in Versailles, is well aware of these considerations, which are visualized even on this side of the water, and there is no fear among military men here that any of the peace offensives of the Germans will avail to enable them to accomplish the desired objective. So the German, Austrian and Turkish proposals of peace are received in official circles here with equanimity, military men and diplomats alike resting content in the assurance that the supreme war council of the allies will make the terms of the armistice such that peace negotiations of the future can be safeguarded.

No Break in Alliance Seen.

Though the Austrian note, according to the unofficial text, goes farther than have any of the German peace proposals in that it asks the President to begin immediately negotiations for peace and an armistice without awaiting further exchange with Germany, many officials saw practically no signs of the expected break in the alliance of the central powers.

In fact, it is believed that the Vienna and Berlin governments are working in harmony and with a full knowledge of the other's actions. The belief was based largely on the fact that the actions of Austria have not thus far caused any visible resentment in Berlin.

The statement of the Austrian government that it adhered to the point of view expressed by President Wilson in his last communication upon the rights of the peoples of the dual monarchy, and of the Czecho-Slovaks and Jugo-Slavs in particular—one of the greatest concessions Austria-Hungary could make—was considered as reflecting the chaotic conditions in the empire. Emperor Charles, it was said, doubtless realizes that conditions cannot long remain as they now are, and, accordingly, is exerting even more strenuous efforts than his ally to obtain a peace not too onerous or too humiliating.

Absence of Guarantees Noted.

In regard to this Austrian assertion, it was pointed out that nothing is said about guaranteeing the complete independence of those peoples. It was thought in some quarters today that the President will demand that such guarantees be offered before consenting to transmit the Austrian proposal to the allies.

No indication had been received early today as to when the official

(Continued on Second Page.)

INDEPENDENT TURK PLEA FOR PEACE REPORTED

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, October 29.—Turkey has independently presented peace proposals to the entente nations, according to a report from Constantinople forwarded by the correspondent at Copenhagen of the Exchange Telegraph Company. The negotiations are expected to end soon, it is added.

HUNGARY IS MADE A SEPARATE STATE

Count Karolyi Takes Action in Opposition to Emperor Charles' Wish.

By the Associated Press.

COPENHAGEN, October 29.—Archduke Joseph has issued a proclamation stating that Emperor Charles has charged him with the task of securing the complete independence of Hungary, a dispatch from Budapest says.

The proclamation adds that peace will be aspired to at once and Hungary will join a league of nations, her integrity and unity being the first aim.

COPENHAGEN, October 29.—An independent and anti-dynastic state has been formed in Hungary under the leadership of Count Michael Karolyi in agreement with the Czechs and south Slavonians, according to Vienna reports received by the Politiken.

In a speech at Budapest Karolyi declared he had presented his program to Emperor Charles, who refused to accept it. Karolyi thereupon put into effect his plan for an independent state.

Long Favored Independence.

Count Michael Karolyi is president of the Hungarian independent party, and has long been an opponent of the government party of Count Tisza. He has been in favor of Hungarian independence and submitted a motion in the Hungarian house of lords October 20 for the disunion of Hungary from Austria.

In addition to being anti-German, Count Karolyi has appealed to Austria-Hungary to make peace since December, 1915. On several occasions he has demanded in the Hungarian parliament that Hungary make peace.

Last February Count Karolyi was accused of high treason by his cousin. The Hungarian ministry has never taken action on the charges against him.

Shortly before the outbreak of the war Count Karolyi was lecturing in the United States. He sailed for Europe late in July and was detained at Bordeaux for several months, finally being allowed to return home.

Not Supported by All Factions.

Diplomatic dispatches received here today, based on advices from Budapest, say Count Karolyi has failed in his attempt to establish an independent government in Hungary, with representatives of all the people, because the Slav and Rumanian representatives refused to join him.

It is assumed that the Karolyi government referred to in Vienna reports through Copenhagen was set up without the support of the Slavs and Rumanians.

According to the Budapest dispatches, the situation there is extremely serious.

Peace treaties between the different nationalities of Austria and Hungary and the entente powers are considered unavoidable.

What is reported as a "gigantic movement" has broken out. Its nature is yet only partly known, but it is said to be evident that the Magyar national council has proclaimed its dictatorship and that Count Karolyi, as president of this body, has been given the mission of making this decision known to Emperor Charles.

The young Magyars are forming a military organization, and the people in the streets of Budapest are demanding the renunciation of the political alliance with Germany.

LIBERTY MOTOR IS SENSATION OF YEAR

American-Made De Haviland Airplane Playing Big Part in War.

SOME SALIENT FIGURES

BY DAVID LAWRENCE.

(Copyright, 1918, by N. Y. Evening Post, Inc.)

Now that all the aircraft investigations have ceased and all the official and unofficial reports have been or shortly will have been made public, it is possible to describe the present status of the American aircraft program, not its alleged failures of six month ago, but its results today.

First, it may be a surprising statement to make, but it is nevertheless supported by an examination of records from the western front as well as production charts in the United States, that the liberty motor and the De Haviland airplane are the sensation of the year. When the history of the war comes to be written it will be found that the engine and battleplane made by the United States came in the nick of time, and should the war be prolonged another year the contribution from American aircraft will rank high among our military achievements

Foolish Predictions Failed.

Early predictions which foolishly promised tens of thousands of battle planes have, of course, not been borne out. All thinking about airplanes must be considered in the light of knowledge that on July 1 of this year there were not more than 10,000 machines of all kinds on both sides of the western front, and the allied supremacy in the air is now being maintained with a proportion of that number which, for military reasons, cannot be disclosed, but it is not above 10,000.

Some idea of America's contribution can be obtained when it is known that the United tates has built to date more than 27,000 airplane engines of all types, of which more than 11,000 were liberty motors.

More than 11,000 airplanes of all kinds have been built, of which at least 3,000 are battleplanes, or the equivalent of one-third of the total number of such types on the western front.

What "Wasted" Money Did.

Furthermore, with the $640,000,000, which it has been repeatedly charged was "largely wasted," the entire program of aircraft has been carried on, and only $456,000,000 has been spent to date of that sum. Indeed, the remainder has been contracted for, and will mean more engines and planes, just as of a new appropriation of $760,000,000 only $29,000,000 has been spent and the rest obligated; but for those sums will come in the future, if the war is prolonged, more than 50,000 liberty motors and ever so many planes.

Some idea of the remarkable production of America can be obtained when it is considered that America built more engines this year than England built from the time she entered the war until the end of 1917, and the same is true of France. The United States has built more planes this year than England did altogether from 1914 to the end of 1916.

Liberty Motor in Demand.

Liberty motors have proved so wonderful on the western front that England and France have ordered all that can be produced and given them. Our factories today are turning out liberty motors at the rate of 4,000 a month. The liberty is called for because of the variety of its uses. It was used by the British and American naval aviators in bombing submarine bases. It is used in the De Haviland battleplane which helped clean the St. Mihiel sector and drive Germans out of the Argonne forest.

Every statement made above can be backed up by official records, both of the production in this country and the performances of the liberty engine and the De Haviland battleplane on the western front.

Praise for John D. Ryan.

America's program was slow in getting started, but it was shaped right, and the results today are a direct result of the fact that John D. Ryan, director of aircraft production, refused to be swerved by hostile criticism from carrying out the original plans of our aircraft program, though he added a remarkable executive ability and knowledge of organization and a painstaking study of the problem himself to the situation and brought order out of what might have been chaos as a consequence of the criticism. Mr Ryan's achievement is

(Continued on Ninth Page.)

LAST AUSTRIAN LINE ON PIAVE SMASHED BY ALLIED FORCES

15,000 Prisoners Taken by Diaz's Armies---Americans Soon to Join Fray.

FRENCH ON WEST FRONT RAPIDLY ENCIRCLE GUISE

By the Associated Press.

Allied troops maintained their progress east of the Piave and have taken more than 15,000 prisoners. The Italian, British and French seriously threaten the important railroad points of Conegliano and Oderzo and two of the three railway lines supporting the Austro-Hungarians on the Piave front.

While the allies have thrown forces across the Piave on a front of about thirty miles, the heaviest fighting has been along a stretch of seven miles between Conegliano and Oderzo, where the Italians and British have advanced more than three miles, making a formidable wedge in the Austrian positions east of the river and between two of their main communication lines. The allies are within two miles of both Conegliano and Oderzo. The allied advance in the north would tend to force the Austrians to evacuate the lowlands of the lower Piave.

Will Force Offensive.

Apparently the allied thrusts in the mountain zone between the Piave and the Brenta were feints, for the purpose of attracting the attention of the enemy from the more formidable movement across the Piave. Troops and supplies are being rushed to the Piave front and it is evidently purposed to force the offensive to the utmost.

On Western Front.

East of the Oise, on the French front, the army of Gen. Debeney rapidly is encircling Guise. On the south they are in the suburbs of the town, and have captured German first-line trenches, besides enemy barracks and a hospital. Farther south the French are marching northeastward, between Guise and Marle, and threaten to outflank both points by smashing all the way through the Hunding position.

Since the beginning of his advance between the Oise and the Serre, Gen. Debeney has moved forward more than five miles on a front of about sixteen miles. Along the Serre the enemy evidently continues to withdraw toward Marle, as the French war office says French patrols are in contact with the Germans on this sector.

Yankee Lines Shelled.

Eastward along the Aisne to the Argonne French pressure is maintained. German guns began to bombard the American lines in the Verdun region early Tuesday. The American artillery responded. Apparently the Germans hoped to check any further American effort to continue their advance by deluging the American lines with high explosives at the hour when attacks usually are launched.

Field Marshal Haig reports only artillery and patrol activity on the front of his armies. In Belgium operations are only of a local character.

AUSTRIAN POSITIONS OVERRUN AFTER ALLIES CROSS THE PIAVE

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE ALLIED FORCES ON THE PIAVE, Monday, October 28, 8 p.m.—The last lines of the Austro-Hungarian resistance on the central positions along the Piave river were broken today by the British, French and Italian forces.

The Austrians were dealt a smashing blow. It resulted in the allies making new advances, pushing forward as far as Vayolla, which was taken by the victorious Italians notwithstanding desperate resistance.

Fifteen thousand prisoners had been taken by the British, Italians and French up to late today in the advance across the Piave, which for the third time in one year is the scene of a desperate battle. This time, however, the tables are turned against the Austrians, who are steadily being pressed back from the eastern bank of the river.

Austrians Desperately Resist.

The battle now has been going on for five days and has been marked by the desperate resistance of the Austrians. They have directed their artillery fire against pontoon bridges thrown across the Piave and their bombing airplanes also have caused trouble for the allies. The allies not only have had to battle against the swift river current, but also to contend with the renewal of the pontoons and foot bridges damaged by the Austrians.

Once across the river the allies have had to overcome strong Austrian trench positions and machine gun posts.

Austrian prisoners declare that they know nothing of the political situation at home and the efforts of their government to arrange an armistice. The Austrian army post office is said to have stopped the delivery of mail some time ago.

Allies Eager to Advance.

Although facing a heavy cannonade and strong machine gun fire, the allied troops succeeded in effecting a crossing of the Piave. The British, Italian and French soldiers are in the best of spirits and eager to continue the advance.

All the roads leading to the mountains or the Piave are crowded with heavy masses of troops, guns and other war material proceeding to the front in orderly fashion. Whenever a staff automobile rushes by at sixty miles an hour, it is a common joke among the soldiers to exclaim:

"They are trying to beat us to Vienna."

Official Reports Conservative.

The present battle of the Piave began officially October 19, but heavy fighting did not develop until October 24, the anniversary of Caperetto and the beginning of the retreat to the Piave. The Italian official statements on the fighting have been reserved in their comments owing to weather conditions, which threatened a rise in the Piave.

Thanks to the fair weather of the last two days, the river has been left several miles behind in the region southeast of Montello. Movements across the river in force are increasing steadily and in the best order, notwithstanding the constant shelling from the Austrian artillery.

"We used to say that all roads led to Rome," said an Italian general, speaking of the new advance, "but now it appears that all roads lead toward the land of the barbarians."

Traffic Well Organized.

Traffic has been so well organized that there has been scarcely any interruption. The vast network of roads leading to the plains of the Piave are filled with soldiers and trucks carrying war material. Whenever a bomb or shell drops on the roadways the debris is quickly removed and the road once again is free.

Gangs of Austrian prisoners captured in the drive already are at work digging graves for the burial of the dead.

King Victor at Front.

King Victor Emmanuel saw the allied soldiers make the difficult crossing of the Piave river. He was dressed, as usual, in a uniform made of the same material as that of the private soldiers.

The king was under the fire of the Austrian guns, and was at various points where gas shells and shrapnel were falling. He spent much time near where there was a heavy bombardment to prevent the allied passage of the river.

People living in the war zone are tonight surrounding the bulletin boards. It is evident that the offensive is popular, as has been warmly desired so many months, especially by the thousands of refugees who were driven from their homes last fall by the advancing Austrians.

Progress Toward Oderzo.

LONDON, Monday, October 28.—Progress toward Oderzo, on the east side of the Piave river, is indicated in the official statement on operations by British troops in the Italian offensive, issued at the war office tonight. The statement follows:

The attack of the 10th Army continued today, and is progressing most satisfactorily. On the right the 11th Italian Corps has reached the line of Roncadelle, Ormelle, Tempic, Borgo, Biancha and Rai.

In the center the 14th British Corps is in touch with the Italians in the neighborhood of Rai and has reached the line of Chonoto and Chamizan and is one kilometer south of Borgo Milanotti.

On the left the 18th Italian Corps, which deployed last night in the rear of the 14th British Corps, has attacked in a northerly direction and is making good progress.

Reports of further captures of guns and men come from all corps.

FRENCH CLOSING IN ON GUISE; PROGRESS ON PERON RIVER

By the Associated Press.

PARIS, October 29.—Gen. Debeney's 1st Army continues to close in on Guise, and has captured German first-line trenches and the barracks and hospital south of the chateau in the town of Guise, according to the war statement today.

South of Guise the French have passed beyond the Louvry farm. They also continue to make progress on the right bank of the Peron river.

PARIS, October 28.—Still further progress has been made by the French northwest of Guise, and they have moved forward to the east of the Peron river beyond Pargny wood, the war office announces tonight. French aviators have been exceedingly