WEATHER FORECAST.
Rain to-day; somewhat warmer; to-morrow fair and cooler.
Highest temperature yesterday, 61; lowest, 55.
Detailed weather reports on last page.

The Sun.

IT SHINES FOR ALL

VOL. LXXXV.—NO. 295. NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1918.—Copyright, 1918, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association. PRICE TWO CENTS.

ITALIANS CONTINUE COUNTER OFFENSIVE ON PIAVE FRONT; FIVE AUSTRIAN ATTACKS REPULSED; ENEMY LOSSES 120,000; AMERICAN TROOPS WIN MORE GROUND IN BELLEAU WOOD

KENLON TELLS BOARD LOW PAY IS CITY MENACE

Fire Chief Startles Estimate Body With Figures on Resignations.

HYLAN SEES MONEY LACK

"Sun's" Suggestion to Use Salary Accruals Is Under Consideration.

"It is not a question of saving $100 a man, more or less. It is a question of protecting the city of New York from what I assure you is a real peril."

Thus Fire Chief Kenlon, addressing the Board of Estimate yesterday in behalf of more pay for his depleted force to keep experienced men from resigning and to attract new men into the department, revealed to the rather startled board the plain truth of the salary problem.

Chief Kenlon, Fire Commissioner Drennan and Joseph J. O'Reilly, editor of the *Chief*, who spoke for both the firemen and patrolmen in support of their request for a ten per cent. increase, starting July 1, found the members of the Estimate Board willing to listen to argument. Alfred E. Smith, President of the Board of Aldermen, was, for one, so impressed by the Fire Chief's blunt recital of the facts that he said:

"The absolute necessity of meeting this situation is shown by Chief Kenlon's explanation. We can't let the fire fighting force of the city break down. That would be calamitous."

All Suggest Using Accruals.

All three speakers, in answer to questions from Mayor Hylan and others of the Estimate Board as to where the money could be found to raise the wages of patrolmen and firemen, suggested the possible source which THE SUN pointed out yesterday morning.

They said that salary accruals in the police and fire departments—meaning savings from the money appropriated for the pay of men who have gone to war or resigned and whose places have not been filled—ought to be used for this purpose. Police Commissioner Enright has said his accruals ought to be between $400,000 and $500,000 by the end of this year. Commissioner Drennan said yesterday the total accruals in his department would be about $700,000, of which, as Comptroller Craig indicated, a good deal has been converted to the purchase of supplies.

"But why purchase supplies with it?" said Chief Kenlon after the meeting. "Why shouldn't the money saved on the salaries of men who have gone away be used in this emergency to raise the salaries of the men who have given up half their days off in order to get the department's work done?"

Further Inquiry Necessary.

The Estimate Board decided that further investigation was necessary. So the application for the 10 per cent. increase was referred to the committee on finance and budget, which was directed to find out just what salary accruals in both departments amount to now, what may be expected for the rest of the year, and whether this money could be used as was proposed at yesterday's meeting. This committee consists of all the Board of Estimate members, with Comptroller Craig as chairman. It will meet in the office of the Comptroller on Monday. Before that time officers of insurance companies will assure the committee that Chief Kenlon's statement of the menace confronting the city was not exaggerated.

Mr. O'Reilly began yesterday's hearing by telling the Board of Estimate that taxpayers and real estate organizations had been canvassed and found to favor the salary increase. He also expressed his regret that Mr. Munsey, who went to the meeting ready to speak in support of the petition, had been called away by an unavoidable business engagement before this part of the calendar was reached.

"Mr. Munsey, as you know, has taken a special interest in this matter," Mr. O'Reilly added.

Drennan Favors Pay Increase.

Fire Commissioner Drennan said:

"I am in favor of the men getting a livable salary. They do not have that now and can do better outside the department."

"I wish," said Mayor Hylan, who presided, "that these advocates of salary increases would consider the question of where the money is coming from."

"We can issue only $2,000,000 of special revenue bonds a year," remarked Comptroller Craig, "and of that $1,000,000 is exhausted."

The Mayor continued: "We are all in favor of giving city employees getting $1,800 a year or less some increase, but where is the money coming from? I wish the people who advocate increases would tell us, particularly the business men. We can't hold up the tax and rent payers and take it out of their pockets. I wish we could be told where we can get it honestly so that we could give consideration to the proposal."

Mr. O'Reilly reminded his Honor of Police Commissioner Enright's estimated saving of between $400,000 and $500,000 in his appropriation for salaries.

"Yes," Mayor Hylan said, "the Commissioner is doing good work in that direction."

Saying that all city employees should be considered, Borough President Dowling added: "It is up to us to get the

Continued on Fourth Page.

KAISER'S LAND PLOT BARED ON FLORIDA COAST

Germans' 150,000 Acre Base May Be Used by U. S. for Shipbuilding.

BIG SUPPLY OF TIMBER

Site Acquired by Patient Intrigue Seized With Palatial Headquarters.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, June 21.—German money that went to finance what is believed to have been a plot to establish a German base of some kind on the Gulf coast is likely now to be used to build American ships with which to defeat the Kaiser. This plan, involving the use of 150,000 acres of the finest timber land in Florida and one of the finest harbors on the Gulf for a wooden ship yard of large proportions, has been laid before Chairman Hurley by A. Mitchell Palmer, alien property custodian, who some months ago took possession of the German American Lumber Company, located at Milville, Fla., and found therein a nest of German intrigue with direct connections with the Wilhelmstrasse.

Two of the former presidents of the German American Lumber Company have been interned at Fort Oglethorpe as dangerous aliens. Evidence in the possession of the Department of Justice shows that while ostensibly posing as German merchants and business men they were in reality German secret service agents.

In fact, the records of the company and other information now in the hands of the Government would seem to show that the German American Lumber Company was more or less of a camouflage, and that what purported to be a German commercial scheme may have been a plan for acquiring some kind of a German base on the Gulf coast.

Kaiser's Aid Owned Stock.

All of the stock of the company about which this scheme centred is owned in Germany, most of it by a man said to be Prince Schomberg, whose principality is situated near Bremen. The Prince is a close friend of the Kaiser, and all of the operations were directed from Germany.

The German American Lumber Company is a $2,500,000 corporation, owning 150,000 acres of timber land, two sawmills, eighty miles of railroad and two Florida towns. Its history goes back to 1897. As pieced together from the records now in the hands of the Government, this history shows that Julius Schreyer, of the Kaiser's clique, began a series of mysterious trips about the Gulf coast when the Isthmian Canal project was receiving much attention. After two years thus spent Schreyer appeared at St. Andrew's Bay, 150 miles east of Pensacola, then totally undeveloped, and began buying all the land within miles.

The land gradually was acquired in such a way that its possessors virtually controlled the bay. An American was president during the time the land was being purchased, but as soon as this was completed all the Americans were ousted and then several Germans appeared, each serving a three year term as president. The first of these was one Edward Lutz, who came from Hayti, presumably under orders, and who it now appears was a secret service agent with a number at the Wilhelmstrasse. Following him came Theodore Poppe and then H. G. Kulenkampff. Under their direction the company fought against any exploitation of the bay for commercial purposes, opposed the building of a railroad which would have opened up the tract and also the building of roads.

Lived in Princely Style.

A house was built on a bayou and loaded with fine linen and silver from Berlin and there the German directors and their staff lived in princely style.

The books of the company show that no effort was made to do anything but a perfunctory lumber business. The accounts were kept carelessly, its officers never discounted a bill, never demanded any interest from the banks on their deposits, but made enough sales to pay them a salary of $50,000 a year.

As soon as the trading with the enemy act was passed last fall Department of Justice agents swooped down upon the company and seized papers of all kinds. Simultaneously some of its officers and ex-officers were picked up around the country and interned.

German propaganda stuff was found in every corner of the house. Apparently it had been a huge distributing centre under the direction of the Germans in charge. Also on the books now in possession of the Government appear mysterious payments made to the officers for "expenses" amounting sometimes to $50,000 at a crack.

Inasmuch as it owns 300,000,000 feet of timber and one of the finest shipbuilding sites in the country, Mr. Palmer and the directors thought that the best use that could be made of this project of the Kaiser, whatever it was, would be to build wooden ships with which to defeat him. This plan is now before the Shipping Board.

Baron Rhondda Improved.

LONDON, June 21.—Although the report on the condition of Baron Rhondda, the British Food Minister, said he had passed a good night and showed general improvement, it is feared he will be unable to resume his labors for some time. Baron Rhondda is at his home in Wales.

Prussian Deputy Urges Government's Overthrow

AMSTERDAM, June 21.—The *Rheinische Westfaelische Zeitung* of Essen says that Herr Hofer, Independent Socialist, said in the Prussian lower house Thursday:

"Ten thousand Red Guards were mercilessly mowed down at Taganrog by German troops, and then you say we are at peace with Russia. I am persuaded that Russia will spring at our throats when the time comes. It is base to kill an enemy after he is blinded by poison gas. The people must overthrow a Government which is incapable of attaining a speedy peace by understanding."

President Lohmann reprimanded Deputy Hofer.

WAR PLANES TO FLY TO FRANCE

Prediction of Ocean Flights Next Summer Made by Gen. Brancker.

TEST MAY BE MADE SOON

British Expert Believes Trip Can Be Done in Forty Hours.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, June 21.—American airplanes, destined for the European battle areas, will make the transatlantic flight from here under their own power next summer. A test flight across the ocean may be made within a few months.

This was the prediction made to-day by Major-Gen. William Brancker, the British Air Ministry's Controller of Equipment and a recognized authority on military aeronautics.

Gen. Brancker ventured his prediction in a talk on the general subject of military aviation here and abroad. It was made carefully and deliberately as becoming an official whose position in Great Britain is similar to the one held by John D. Ryan for the American Government. The experience which this British General has had in guiding his country's air programme to practical results lends added weight to his prediction.

No Spectacular Plan.

Gen. Brancker made it clear that there was no idea of a spectacular transatlantic flight involved. The plan is based on the practical proposition of getting American airplanes of the heavier type to the battle zones without losing time and without taking up the valuable space required to ship them overseas.

In brief, the plan is for a four passenger high powered machine to make the flight between the two continents at approximately eighty-five miles an hour. This would mean about forty hours for the entire trip. The routes suggested are from Newfoundland direct to the coast of Ireland or to the Azores and from there to France. It is calculated that 750 horsepower, which could be obtained by a combination of engines must be developed to assure the overseas flight.

Gen. Brancker's prophecy attracted immediate attention at the War Department. Secretary Baker characterized the plan as "very daring" and made it clear that the War Department would cooperate in every way to facilitate and stimulate the success of the enterprise.

Must Be Carried Out.

"An enterprise which must be carried out as soon as possible," Major-Gen. Brancker said in his talk, "is the flight across the Atlantic. Once this has been established America's output of big bombing machines can proceed to Europe by air and so save the shipping that is so invaluable for other purposes.

"This may seem like a wild statement, but we must remember that in 1914 the flight of the English Channel was considered a wonderful and dangerous performance. There is really no reason why a considerable number of big airplanes and seaplanes should not cross the Atlantic during next summer and the earlier that a pioneer proves the flight not only to be possible but comparatively safe the better can the wonderful resources of America be employed toward winning the war."

In his general discussion of military aeronautics here and abroad Gen. Brancker brought out many points concerning which there has been little authoritative comment. He showed how manufacturers in England at the beginning of the war shared the same optimism of Americans a few months ago that they could construct airplane engines as easily as motor engines, and emphasized the fact that this was an entirely mistaken theory.

Standardization Question.

On the much discussed question of standardization in airplane construction the General was inclined to feel that quality instead of quantity should be given precedence. "Quality is better than quantity," he said. "This applies also to the personnel. Quality instead of quantity should have precedence."

He indicated clearly that standardization which could not keep pace with

Continued on Third Page.

ENEMY FAILS TO MAKE STAND AS TROOPS CHARGE

American Lines North of Chateau Thierry Greatly Improved by Gain.

RAINBOW MEN HONORED

Division Cited for Work Done in Lorraine Trenches, Held for 100 Days.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, June 21.—The American forces northwest of Chateau Thierry further straightened their line this morning by a series of small but brilliantly executed attacks on the north side of Belleau Wood.

The American troops rushed the desired positions held by the enemy without the customary artillery preparation. The Germans for the most part took a few shots and then retired. One enemy post held its ground and was quickly annihilated.

American Positions Strengthened.

To the east of Belleau Wood a thin line of American skirmishers advanced, firing as they went, and obtained their objectives without difficulty. All the operations were carried out as planned. As a result the American positions have been strengthened and we are better able to withstand an assault when it comes.

American artillery last midnight poured an avalanche of projectiles into the wood to the east of Chateau Thierry, where aerial photographs had showed there was a host of German troops and much enemy material. The enemy undoubtedly was severely punished.

The American fire reached the highest concentration in a ten minute period, when 1,200 shells of all calibres fell on one small area. Later the American gunners concentrated their fire on the town of Brasles, where many of the enemy were assembled and which was the scene of recent captures of prisoners by our patrols. Aerial observations to-day show the extreme accuracy of our fire, but of course the exact effect is not known.

Rainbow Division Cited.

American troops forming the rainbow division, on the completion of a hundred days consecutive service on the front line in Lorraine, to-day received a document which will be kept by them as a valued souvenir of the war. It is a citation by the French General testifying to the good work of the division.

The citation renders homage to "the fine military qualities which the division has constantly exhibited and to the services it has rendered in this sector," and adds:

"The spirit, method and discipline shown by the officers and men proved they can at the first call take a glorious place in the line of battle."

The substance of the citation follows:

The General commanding the army corps desires to do homage to the fine military qualities which the Rainbow Division of the United States Infantry continuously has exhibited and to the services it has rendered on this sector; its offensive ardor, sense for utilization and organization of terrain as well as for liaison with the French army. The spirit, method and discipline shown by the officers and men proved they can at the first call take a glorious place in the line of battle.

We are united in faithful memory with the living and dead of the division. Those who after having nobly sacrificed their lives on the soil of the East now rest there guarded over piously by France. May our units side by side, valiantly triumph for justice and right.

BERLIN, June 21.—The section of today's official communication dealing with the operations against the American forces says:

"Local French attacks southwest of Noyon and by Americans northwest of Chateau Thierry broke down. The French and Americans suffered heavy losses and some prisoners remained in our hands."

SINN FEIN LEADER SENT TO PARLIAMENT

Arthur Griffith Defeats Nationalist Candidate.

LONDON, June 21.—Arthur Griffith, the Sinn Fein leader who recently was arrested in the Sinn Fein roundup in Ireland, has been elected to the House of Commons from East Cavan. He defeated David O'Hanlon, the Nationalist candidate, by a vote of 3,793 to 2,581.

The seat for East Cavan was previously held by Samuel Young, Nationalist, the then oldest member of the House of Commons, who died on April 18 at the age of 96.

The Sinn Fein quickly seized the opportunity to name a candidate for the seat, nominating Griffith, one of its most prominent leaders, while the Nationalists put O'Hanlon in nomination. An effort was made by the Sinn Fein during the excitement over the conscription issue last month to induce the Nationalists to withdraw their candidate, but without success, and the election was fought out between the two parties.

TEUTON ALLIES NEAR QUARREL ON FOOD ISSUE

Austria Asserts Berlin Is Attempting to Dodge Pledge to Help.

LABOR COUNCIL ANGRY

Frantic Appeals Are Being Made to Germany for Something to Eat.

LONDON, June 21.—Dr. von Seydler, the Austrian Premier, left Vienna at midday to-day for Austrian headquarters to submit the resignation of his Cabinet to Emperor Charles, says a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Zurich.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN *from the London Times.*

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THE HAGUE, June 21.—The reduction of the bread ration has caused intense excitement throughout Austria. All of the newspapers, without distinction of party, are adopting the strongest attitude against the measure and are demanding its speedy abrogation. They also demand that Germany and Hungary should be requested to furnish temporary assistance.

The Vienna Labor Council met Tuesday. The meeting was to have been of the most decisive character, grave resolutions having been prepared. The executive body of the German Social Democrats of Austria addressed an urgent appeal to the workmen and working women, asking them to await the decision and to refrain from all excesses and interruptions of work.

At the same time they announced that the executive body had resolved to enter the strongest protest against the reduction of the bread ration and to repudiate all responsibility for this measure. In the meantime a quarrel appears to be brewing between the Germans and the Austrians respecting the obligations of the former to supply grain to their hapless ally.

Additional particulars regarding the meeting of the Labor Council show that the workers demanded the calling of the Parliament. It was strongly impressed upon them that they must behave quietly in the streets and avoid incidents likely to disturb the peace.

Renews Demands for Peace.

The council renewed its demands for the most speedy peace without annexations or indemnities and the creation of a league of nations. The workers desire that the hostile Governments be invited to negotiate for peace upon this basis. These demands were communicated by a deputation of Socialist Democratic workmen to the Foreign Minister.

Meanwhile measures were taken to make the potatoes, meat, fat and other provisions available during the reduction of the bread ration, and thus to satisfy the demands of the population.

The city is undisturbed excepting in some of the suburbs where rowdies caused serious disorders. The Labor Council, it is stated, passed resolutions affirming that a really permanent improvement in food conditions was impossible while the war lasts. Without underestimating the great hindrances which are at present obstructing all peace, the council renewed its demand for the speediest possible universal peace.

It is interesting to note that this report as circulated by the Vienna semi-official news agency corresponds with that furnished by Wolff's Agency in Berlin.

After Tuesday's Vienna corporation meeting it was officially announced that Germany had bound herself by State treaty to undertake to provision Austria with flour both for the civil and military populations, without regard to whether this is done from contributions received from the Ukraine or from Rumania or from the German food reserves proper.

Flour Deliveries Fall Short.

At first the deliveries were made smoothly, but last week they had fallen behind the quantity agreed. At the present time 2,000 trucks of flour, of which 1,000 were for the civilian population, have not been delivered. At the same time there occurred stagnation in the grain deliveries. Urgent telegrams were sent to the German military command

Continued on Second Page.

Soldiers Tell of Joy as Fund Smokes Come

"TALK about happiness! It certainly was ours when we lighted up and puffed away at real tobacco once more. All the boys of the company ask us to thank you."

So write Sergeant J. A. McKeown and Herbert Asbury, New York boys, describing the thrills that came when SUN Tobacco Fund smokes were received somewhere in France. Turn to page 4 and see what else they have to say.

WARNING! THE SUN TOBACCO FUND has no connection with any other fund, organization or publication. It employs no agents or solicitors.

SAW SPIES IN U. S. GARB FAR BEHIND GERMAN LINES

Buffalo Man, Who Stunned Sentry and Escaped After Being Teutons' Prisoner Nine Days, Tells Strange Story.

BY RAYMOND G. CARROLL.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN *and Public Ledger.*

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WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, June 21.—Private James A. Donahue of Buffalo turned up Tuesday among his comrades of an American unit holding the line west of Chateau Thierry after nine days absence. He told the most amazing story of his capture by the Germans and subsequent escape, and made this statement:

"One evening I was helping the Germans cut brush when three men in American uniforms walked up to the German officer and talked with him. Then seven men in French uniforms walked up and talked with the same officer. They also turned and walked back to their lines. I figured at the time that I was eight or nine kilometers behind the fighting ground."

The examining officer of the American intelligence section then asked: "What did these men, German spies in American and French uniforms, do when they reported? Did they salute or did they merely come up to the German officer, talk to him and then go away?"

Donahue replied: "They would just come up and talk and get some orders and then hurry away. They did not salute."

Donahue asserts he stunned his sentry with a pick handle he found on the ground and got away. He appears to be suffering from lack of food and was almost incoherent when he rejoined our troops near Belleau. He said he had been brutally booted and starved by the Germans. His statements are being carefully investigated.

A German officer prisoner we have taken says Germany is now using her criminals in the ranks upon the west front and that these released criminals form 20 per cent. of the storming battalions, 10 per cent. of the infantry and 5 per cent. of the artillery.

Another severe criticism against the Germans is that certain aviators, slightly wounded in aerial fights, have died mysteriously within twenty-four hours afterward under circumstances which indicate the Germans are using poison bullets for air fights. The charge is supported by one of the hospital surgeons.

I have talked with British, French and American aviators, and they insist the German aviators have been going to foul tactics ever since they began to lose their planes in large numbers, commencing this spring.

SEES TRAP IN AUSTRIA'S WAIL

Lord Cecil Believes Hunger Situation Is Falsely Stressed.

SCENTS AN OLD TRICK

Does Not Think Press Would Be Permitted to Tell of Real Calamity.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

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LONDON, June 21.—The Austrian economic situation is not as bad as the enemy would have us believe, is the gist of a statement made to-day by Lord Robert Cecil, spokesman for the British Foreign Office, to the correspondent of THE SUN. He added:

"Undoubtedly there are a great deal of agitation and considerable unrest in Austria at present, although personally I believe it is greatly exaggerated. It has been obvious that the Germans and Austrians have made a habit of always advertising the fact when economic conditions in their respective countries have been bad, their idea being, evidently, to lull the enemy to sleep. Thus they thought they would take us unprepared.

"To a certain degree this has not been without effect in Great Britain. At the time of the last campaign of this nature there was more pacifist talk in England than ever before. The condition of Austria may be bad—we have good reason to know that it is bad—but the mere fact that their newspapers, which are much more under control than ours, give so much publicity to the fact and also that matter of such a nature could be published only with the full consent of the Government gives me very strong reason to doubt their veracity.

"The German peace offensive has not made any great advance yet, as the enemy is still devoting all his attention to battle.

"The imperial conference being held in London is most valuable from many British viewpoints and also from those of the Allies.

"Later they will discuss economic conditions. It is very essential that we should all discuss that subject. If we ever need any league of nations it must be based upon economic weapons. We shall never get any results from such a league without economic pressure."

BRITISH LOSSES OF WEEK.

Total of 36,620 Believed to Represent Accumulation.

LONDON, June 21.—British casualties reported during the week ended to-day aggregated 36,620. The losses were divided as follows:

Killed or died of wounds—Officers, 235; men, 4,247.

Wounded or missing—Officers, 1,414; men, 30,724.

It is several weeks since the British army has been engaged in any prolonged fighting on a large scale. The bulk of the casualties now being reported, which still are running between 30,000 and 40,000 weekly, evidently represent accumulations of names from the intensive operations in which the British were engaged during the heavy German attacks of this spring on the British front.

Boston Symphony Ousts Aliens.

BOSTON, June 21.—Eighteen Germans have been dropped recently from membership in the Boston Symphony Orchestra, according to W. H. Brennan, an official of the organization. It is announced that in the future no enemy alien will be permitted to take part in the concerts of the orchestra, whose former leader, Dr. Karl Muck, has been interned.

AUSTRIAN DRIVE PASSES CRISIS

Battle Limited to Hemming In of Enemy to Two Salients.

BRITISH MOW DOWN FOE

800 Dead Found in Fifteen Shell Holes—Close Formation Fatal.

By WARD PRICE.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN *from the London Times.*

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE ITALIAN ARMY, June 21.—The critical stage of the Austrian offensive seems definitely passed. In the last forty-eight hours the battle has been limited to the successful hemming in of the enemy in the two salients he made across the Piave River at Montello and San Dona. This work yielded the Italians 1,500 prisoners, among them an Austrian division commander, Major-Gen. von Kronstat, who died in a hospital.

"The artillerymen are good men and brave enough, but they lack great military knowledge," is the expert British estimate of the fighting form of the Austrian army as shown by its first encounter with the British expeditionary forces in Italy.

"Our soldiers are full of delight at the hard knock they have given the enemy," the expert said. "There are 800 dead in front of one of our divisions. They have been lying in fifteen single shell holes."

Had Ideal Targets.

The British machine guns had ideal targets as the Austrians came forward in close formation. The gunners hoisted their pieces to the top of the parapets so as to make the most of their chances as the Austrians advanced with determination, but fell into confusion when they reached our lines.

Two of their four attacking divisions did not even know that they had English troops to face. Strangest of all, the Austrian staff seems to have believed that the whole British front was held by a single brigade, through which they might simply romp forward.

The explanation of this costly error of theirs is that weeks ago when one of our brigades was in line on the right flank they lost a prisoner patrol. The enemy thus identified that particular brigade rightly. But when the brigade was taken out of the line for rest it was later brought back and was placed at the other end of the line. The result was that the Austrian intelligence staff, having detected the presence of the same brigade at both ends of the line, concluded rashly that it held the whole front.

On the extreme right of the British line the enemy did manage to rush fifteen yards of our position, but the Colonel of the battalion concerned, seeing them clamoring up toward his battalion headquarters, got together a mingled body of orderlies, officers' servants and cooks and led a counter attack which drove the Austrians back to the front line trenches again.

From these, later in the day, a counter attack by the Yorkshire battalion finally ejected them.

Czecho-Slav Force Engaged.

THURSDAY, June 20 (Delayed).—During the fighting of the last three days several units of the Czecho-Slav force cooperating with the Italian army have been engaged. They have taken a creditable part in the attacks which resulted in considerable gains on the lower part of the San Dona salient, northeast of Venice, where 500 prisoners were captured.

The Austrians have now gained five

Continued on Second Page.

Enemy Checked Everywhere, but Still Presses on Montello Plateau.

INVADERS BOASTFUL

They Assert Italian Attacks Fail and Say They Captured 3,200 More.

FIGHTING IS DESPERATE

American Aviators Go Into Service Directly Upon Reaching Front.

PARIS, June 21.—The Austrian losses in their offensive on the Italian front exceed 120,000 men, according to a despatch to *La Liberte* from Rome, quoting the correspondent of the *Corriere d'Italia*.

ROME, June 21.—Italian forces yesterday continued their counter offensive on the Piave River front in the region of Fagare and Zenson and gained further ground from the Austro-Hungarians, the Italian War Office announced to-day.

"For the first time," the statement says, "our airmen and those of our allies had as their companions daring American pilots, who as soon as they arrived at the front wished to participate in the battle."

Austro-Hungarian pressure continued strongly on the Montello yesterday, the War Office announces, but everywhere the invaders were checked, and the Italians counter attacking regained ground.

Food Carried by Airplanes.

The Austro-Hungarians launched five heavy attacks on the Italian lines at Losson, to the west of San Dona di Piave. Exhausted by their exceptionally heavy losses the attackers were forced to retire in the face of the Italian resistance.

Austrian airplanes were compelled to carry provisions to the Austrian troops that succeeded in crossing the Piave River and were in danger of starving owing to the flood which carried away their pontoon bridges between Zenson and Musile, according to a despatch received here by the *Giornale d'Italia*.

In spite of the difficulties that he is encountering, Gen. Wurm, the enemy commander, is attempting to press on, but all his efforts are vain in the face of the resistance presented by the Italian soldiery.

Half the Ground Rewon.

A semi-official note issued to-night concerning the Austrian offensive says:

"The Italian counter offensive is absolutely superior to the enemy offensive. Yesterday in the Montello region and on the Treviso-San Dona di Piave road and toward the Zenson bend the Italians retook by a good half the ground won by the enemy in his grand attack on the preceding day.

"Statements of prisoners and the number of dead counted on the field show that the Austrians lost heavily in the day's fighting.

"The attack on Losson was carried out by a fresh brigade, composed of the Fifteenth and Thirty-second Bersaglieri Corps and special detachments. The Italian counter preparation caught the enemy while assembling and threw him into disorder. Nevertheless his attack was delivered, and thanks to the artillery support, a strong portion got a footing on the eastern edge of Losson, but later was enveloped by a rapid and brisk counter attack. Eighty men were captured and the remainder were killed or wounded.

"At Cortellazzo the check was equally costly for the Austrians. Bluejackets and Bersaglieri succeeded by a surprise attack in breaking into the third line, sowing death and terror among the defenders and capturing 200 prisoners. The dash enabled the Italians to widen their positions.

Montello Main Objective.

"The Austrian plan becomes plainer and plainer," says a semi-official note issued to-day. "The plan is to obtain, no matter at what price, command of the Montello, whence they can hurl forward the divisions accumulated on the left bank of the Piave.

"Along the Montebelluna-Susegana railroad the battle raged all of yesterday afternoon and night. A short section of the track which the Austrians captured was covered with the bodies of their dead.

"Attacks follow one another methodically, but slowly, on account of the difficult terrain and the continually changing lines which prevent both sides from using their artillery to the full effect. The fine weather is favorable to aviation operations, and the Italian airplanes continue to destroy bridges and to direct their machine guns at a low altitude on the enemy troops.

"A lull, that probably is only momentary, continues in the mountain zone.

"At present more than forty enemy divisions are engaged in the battle line and of these thirty already have suffered heavily."

Report of War Office.

The statement issued by the Italian War Office says:

On the Montello yesterday the pressure of the enemy continued strongly, but everywhere he was held by our troops who, counter attacking, regained ground. Advances attempted by the enemy toward the west and south animated the struggle, particu-