EVENING LEDGER

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NEW TAX LIKE ACT OF SPANISH WAR TIMES

Stamps to Be Placed on Business Instruments and Imposts Levied On Beer and Wines.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—Chairman Underwood, of the House Ways and Means Committee, today began drafting the internal revenue "war tax" bill authorized by the Democratic caucus to comprise a stamp tax similar to that of Spanish-American war times and imports on beer, wines and tobacco to raise $105,000,000 annual revenue needed.

Introduction of the bill Saturday was planned by Mr. Underwood. It probably will be favorably reported Monday and passed, under a special rule severely limiting debate and offering amendments, by the end of the week.

Bitter and prolonged Republican opposition in both the House and Senate, was certain today. The "war tax," Republican leaders declared, is to be made the "paramount issue" of the coming congressional elections.

FREIGHT TAX ABANDONED.

Abandonment of the plan to tax freight three per cent. and raise income taxes left the Democrats in practically unanimous accord today to pass the revenue measure.

The new taxes will go into effect immediately upon passage of the bill, which it is hoped to enact before October 15.

Protests against the proposed tax scheme began to reach the Ways and Means Committee today. Wine producers, especially, claim to be hard hit. Bankers are also objecting to the proposed "occupation" tax upon their surplus and capital.

Collection of the war tax "at the source" of production from manufacturers and the direct levy through stamps upon commercial and legal instruments, telegrams, checks, and long distance telephone messages will yield immediate and certain revenue, according to the Democrats. The stamp tax on documents probably will be two cents.

SUBJECTS OF TAXATION

The Democratic taxation plan is briefly as follows:

Fifty cents a barrel on beer, to raise $2,500,000.

Twelve cents a gallon on dry domestic wines and 20 cents on sweet wines, to raise $8,000,000.

Two cents a gallon on gasoline, to raise $3,000,000.

Special "occupation" taxes on bankers, brokers, theatres, circuses, concert halls, pawnbrokers, billiard and pool tables, bowling alleys, tobacco manufacturers and dealers, etc., to raise $5,000,000.

Stamp taxes on commercial instruments, bonds, stock, checks, telegrams, etc., to raise about $25,000,000.

NAVAL BATTLE IN BALTIC ADMITTED; DETAILS LACKING

Believed Russians and Germans Met in Sharp Conflict.

LONDON, Sept. 16.

Although it is accepted in official circles that a sharp naval battle has been fought in the Baltic, no information concerning the outcome is obtainable here. Dispatches from Petrograd vaguely refer to the presence of the Germans in the Gulf of Finland, and to their bombardment of "unprotected positions," but they are scattered by the censor.

Naval experts here declare that they do not believe the main Russian fleet has been in action. They say whatever fighting has taken place probably has been between the smaller units of the fleet, because the main German fleet would hardly attempt to force the entrance of the Gulf of Finland, which not only has been mined but is well protected from the land with crossfire fortresses. But this would not prevent small German craft attempting a dash in the hope of luring out into the open the Russian fleet which is anchored under the protection of the land fortifications.

All of the reports received from Scandinavian sources tell of heavy firing in the Baltic near the Aland Islands, but up to the present no disabled war craft have been reported at any point. The fact, however, that Berlin officially admits part of its Baltic fleet has been engaged is considered significant here as (censored).

It is now definitely known that the German North Sea fleet is being held close to Wilhelmshaven. Only the light cruisers and the destroyer flotillas are in the neighborhood of Heligoland. This adds strength to the report that the Baltic fleet has been augmented by battle cruisers from the North Sea sent through the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal.

MANY WINDOWS BROKEN WHEN OIL TANK EXPLODES

Flames Extinguished, With Loss Not Determined.

An oil tank on the property of the Pennsylvania Railroad, at 24th and Race streets, exploded shortly before noon today. Hundreds of windows in the vicinity were broken.

The West Philadelphia fire stations extinguished the flames. The loss is not known at this time.

BELGIANS AT WASHINGTON

Commission to Present Complaint to U. S. Officials.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—The Belgian commission arrived here last night and passed today for it and by Secretary Bryan and the President. It is understood [illegible] allowed [illegible] to-morrow.

WEATHER FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity—Fair tonight; Thursday increasing cloudiness; fresh northeast winds.

For details, see page 2.

CARTRIDGES EXPLODE IN $600,000 PITTSBURGH BLAZE

Practically All of City's Fire Fighters Busy for Hours.

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 16.—A fire in the store and warehouse of the Logan Gregg Hardware Company, in Sandusky street, early today caused a loss estimated at more than $600,000, and at 8:30 was still burning.

Practically the entire fire-fighting force of the city worked for hours in a successful effort to keep the blaze from spreading.

Thousands of cartridges exploded and the air was burdened with the smell of burning powder.

$11,000 HOTEL ROBBERY

Jewels and Letter of Credit Stolen From Bolivian Banker in New York.

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.—Detectives of the Police Department began a systematic search today for the recovery of jewelry valued at $5000 and a letter of credit for $6000, said to have been stolen last night from a suite occupied by Carlos Jordan Rosas, a wealthy Bolivian banker, and his wife in the Hotel Seville.

UNION TRACTION MEN IGNORE CITY PLAN FOR BETTER TRANSIT

Stockholders Meeting Refrains From Action On Proposals Looking to Improvement of Service.

The stockholders of the Union Traction Company, at their annual meeting this noon, took no action whatever on the proposed transit agreement between the city and the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company, as the result of protests filed with President Jeremiah J. Sullivan of the company by a committee headed by James C. Balfour and James M. Fogelsanger, representing a majority of the stockholders.

The meeting was held at the Eighth and Dauphin streets offices of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company and preceded the annual meeting of the latter corporation.

After minor routine matters had been disposed of, and just before the election, it was unanimously decided to transact no other business after the report of the tellers had been made. What little opposition there was to this action was stifled, and the few stockholders who favored heeding Director Taylor's threat to push the rapid transit program on a basis that would ignore the Union Traction Company, did not vote.

J. E. Buckman acted as chairman of the meeting and William J. Shields secretary. The annual reports were read and approved, and then amendments were adopted changing the provisions for the transfer of stock and the time for making public the annual statements.

Balfour and Fogelsanger carried large bundles of the protests to the meeting with them. Only 75 stockholders attended, the smallest number in years.

A committee of Union Traction stockholders, headed by Balfour and Fogelsanger, has been seeking protests against the transit program since June 9. They presented the protests in person to Mr. Sullivan in his office.

UNION TRACTION PROTEST.

The protests were against the Union Traction directors becoming in any way a party to the city rapid transit program. A letter, presented to Mr. Sullivan with the protests, said:

"The accompanying package contains protests of the Union Traction stockholders against any action by the directors or any committee thereof officially recognizing or otherwise acting upon the agreement or plan between the city and the Rapid Transit Company for the building of new subways, elevated or surface lines, or for the equipment of the same that may be construed as an indorsement by the Union Traction Company of such a plan or agreement, or to give financial support in any way in the development, construction or equipment of such elevated or surface lines, or that may require further financial support on the part of the Union Traction Company, or the equipment or extension of the lines now operated by the Rapid Transit Company."

The committee refused to give the number of shares they represent, but they said the protest was almost unanimous.

The Union Traction Company, at its meeting, will face a virtual ultimatum, laid down by Director Taylor of the Department of City Transit before the United Business Men's Association in the Bingham Hotel last night. Director Taylor declared that the Union Traction Company must either ratify the plans for improved transit facilities or face the prospect of high-speed lines, city-built and independently operated, competing with existing surface lines.

The Director also accused Balfour and Fogelsanger, of "misrepresenting" facts in a letter sent by them to fellow-stockholders concerning the proposed agreement between the city and the P. R. T. Company. He served notice on the Union Traction Company that unless the stockholders of that company were willing to finance the necessary extensions to the present surface system, and approve the proposed rapid transit program, the city would go ahead with the transit program, leaving them to pocket all losses from competition with the high speed lines.

BUSINESS MEN SUPPORT TAYLOR.

The business men of the city, at the meeting last night, unanimously pledged their support to Director Taylor in his fight for the immediate realization of rapid transit in Philadelphia. With the issue of the Mayor's proposed plan for preliminary work settled by Councils' bosses at the conference yesterday, the Director at the meeting last night obtained the co-operation of the United Business Men's Association in a movement to force Councils to approve the transit plans, which have been shelved in Councils' Transit Committee since last spring.

Director Taylor, after setting out the salient features of his transit plan, discussed the attitude of the Union Traction Company stockholders.

"There will then have two alternatives," he said. "First, they can accept the terms of the program. The other alternative is if the program be not accepted

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MEXICO HAS DUAL FESTIVAL OF REJOICING

Observance of Independence Day Marked by Announcement of American Evacuation of Vera Cruz.

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 16.—The celebration of the 104th anniversary of Mexican independence was marked today by the greatest rejoicing throughout the capital, following the announcement of General Carranza that President Wilson had ordered the withdrawal of American troops from Vera Cruz.

In accordance with the traditions of the celebration of independence day, General Carranza, as the head of the government, appeared on the balcony of the National Palace at midnight to address the throngs gathered in the street. He then announced the receipt of a telegram from Juan Urquidi, secretary of the Constitutionalist junta in Washington, telling of the order issued by the President. The crowd went wild with delight. There were fireworks throughout the city, the Cathedral and all public buildings were illuminated, while the entire city gave itself over to celebrating.

VERA CRUZ, Sept. 16.—Announcement that they were to evacuate Vera Cruz came as welcome news to the troops of General Funston. All are tired of service in the tropics and greeted the announcement with cheers.

The government will be speedily transferred from the American military authorities to the civil officials to be appointed by General Carranza.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—Withdrawal of all American troops from the Mexican boundary, except the usual small border patrol, is planned soon by the Administration, it was stated at the War Department today, in line with the evacuation of Vera Cruz ordered by President Wilson.

Usual garrisons at the Texas, Arizona and New Mexico posts will be maintained, but the great bulk of troops, which have been mobilized on Mexico's northern boundary for about two years, will be redistributed to more northern army posts.

At the Navy Department it was said that orders for all large warships to leave Mexican waters would be issued presently to make complete the return of all American armed forces from Mexico.

Secretary Garrison was busy upon formalities attending the turning over of Vera Cruz to the Constitutionalists. General Carranza will be asked to appoint some one formally to receive the port from General Funston.

CONSIDER NEW SYSTEM OF WRITING SPECIFICATIONS

Builders and Architects In Session Here Would Make Change.

The adoption by builders and architects of a new system and method of writing specifications was considered today at the second session of a meeting of a joint committee from the National Builders' Exchange and the American Institute of Architects. The meeting was held at the Builders' Exchange, 18 South Seventh street.

Twenty representatives, ten from each body, are in attendance. Frank Miles Day, a leading architect of Philadelphia, is presiding. It is expected the committee will end its sessions tonight.

It is the opinion of those attending the meeting that the present method of writing specifications contains many faults which should be corrected. At yesterday's session the joint committee was not able to come to a satisfactory conclusion as to what adjustments should be made.

The joint committee is as follows: Builders, H. W. West, Baltimore, chairman; John Atkinson, F. M. Harris, Philadelphia; H. L. Newman, Louisville; J. K. Bartlett, I. H. Seates, John Trainor, Baltimore; C. G. Norman, New York; William B. King, Washington. Architects, Frank Miles Day, Philadelphia, chairman; F. W. Jones, D. L. Tilton, New York; E. A. Crane, Walter Smedley, D. K. Boyd, Milton B. Medary, Jr., Philadelphia; William G. Nolting, Baltimore; William S. Barker, Boston.

HIT WHILE ASLEEP, HE SAYS

Man Accuses Fellow Watchman of Striking Him With Board.

Residents of Highland Park, a suburb one mile from 69th street station, were aroused by pistol shots this morning and summoned the Darby police. They captured Dominick Farello, a night watchman, who, it is said, with a board, knocked a fellow watchman unconscious and then tried to set fire to the house in which the unconscious man lay.

The injured man is Francesco Batrello, of 518 Front street, Chester. His right lung was punctured and he had numerous cuts on his head and body. When partially revived, Batrello said he was awakened by a blow on the head and saw Farello standing over him with a board, which had a nail in one end.

Farello said two men entered the house while he and Batrello were talking and that he fired his pistol to protect Batrello. The prisoner was held without bail for court by Justice of the Peace Malin, of Drexel Hill.

JAPAN SUPPRESSES PAPERS

Charges Publications With Stirring Animosity Among Nations.

TOKIO, Sept. 16.

In an official statement the Japanese Government explains why it has ordered "The Herald," a German-controlled newspaper, and "The Deutsch Japan Post," a German news agency, to cease publication.

It is charged that both publications for years have sought to create animosity between Japan and certain foreign countries, particularly England and the United States. "The Herald" has been published at Yokohama. The editor of the news agency has been ordered to leave Japan within a week.

CONGRATULATE PEACE MISSION

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—Establishment of permanent peace in revolutionary San Domingo is in a fair way to be accomplished, J. Franklin Fort, former Governor of New Jersey, told President Wilson today. Mr. Fort was a member of a commission appointed by the President to visit the island republic and seek some means of ending the protracted disturbance there. The object, in Mr. Fort's opinion, has been attained and the President congratulated the commission on its work.

KAISER REPORTED IN EAST LEADING FIGHT ON RUSSIANS

Emperor Said to Command Troops Against Invaders.

PARIS, Sept. 16.

The Petit Parisien prints what purports to be a dispatch from Berlin saying that Emperor William has gone East to take supreme command against Russia.

STORM MOVING NORTHWARD

Vessels South of Virginia Endangered by Disturbances.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—The Weather Bureau, in a storm warning issued this morning, announced that disturbances off east coast of Florida were increasing in intensity and moving northward. Conditions were declared to be dangerous for vessels south of Virginia.

GENERAL DE LA REY KILLED

Boer War Strategist Accidentally Shot Near Johannesburg.

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Sept. 16.—General De La Rey, who won fame by his strategy against the British in the Boer war, was accidentally shot dead near Johannesburg on Tuesday. He was 63 years old.

GERMANS RUSH FRESH TROOPS INTO BELGIUM

Fortify Streets of Brussels to Allow Small Garrison to Hold City—Attack by Allies Feared.

ANTWERP, Sept. 16.

The Germans are pushing fresh troops into Belgium from Aix-la-Chapelle, but whether these are intended to strengthen the forces now here or are to be sent to the south to fill the gaps in the German right wing is not yet known.

The Belgian forces again have retired to the protection of the outer ring of the Antwerp fortifications, where they are waiting developments. King Albert and the General Staff held a long conference today, after which troops were massed along the fortifications that command the River Scheldt.

It is believed a new attempt by the Germans to isolate Antwerp from the sea may be planned, but as the dykes have been reopened and the country in that vicinity is covered with water, it is not believed they can hope to carry such a movement to a successful conclusion.

It was stated by the general staff today that during the last 24 hours the Germans have sent upward of 60,000 additional troops into Belgium, indicating a determination on the part of the Germans to hold their lines of communication through Belgium at any cost. Only skirmishing was in progress in Belgium today.

German troops are fortifying Brussels to permit the departure of more reinforcements to France. Rapid-fire guns have been mounted on the Boulevard du Jardin Botanique and at the north and south stations.

Reports received here today say that the Germans anticipate an attack on Brussels by a combined Belgian and British force.

At Etterbeek, near Brussels, it is reported that fighting took place between Prussian and Bavarian soldiers, 30 of whom were killed.

RUSSIANS ESTABLISH RULE IN PROVINCE OF BUKOVINA

Governor Placed at Czernowitz, Says Petrograd Dispatch.

ROME, Sept. 16.

A dispatch to the Tribuna from Petrograd says that Bukovina has been transformed into a Russian province, with a Russian Governor at Czernowitz.

General Barone publishes an article in the Giornale d'Italia, in which he reaches the conclusion that the Germans are in danger of being entrapped in France.

The Italian Government has authorized the exportation to England of 25,000 tons of sugar.

SERVIAN LEADERS ARRESTED

Reported That Austrians in Bosnia Shoot Priests as Spies.

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 16.

A Sarajevo, Bosnia, dispatch to the Cologne Gazette says that a number of Servian leaders have been arrested in Bosnia, including several priests, for their fanatical hatred against the Dual Monarchy (Austro-Hungary).

Some of them have been shot as spies; others are held in military fortresses. Austrian agents in Servia and Montenegro report that almost priests led Bosnian frontiersmen, who are fighting with the Slavs, against Austrian troops.

CRUSH SERVIAN INVADERS, VIENNA ADVICES CLAIM

Driven Back Over Save With Heavy Losses of Men and Guns.

BERLIN, via The Hague, Sept. 16.

Official advices, received from Vienna, say that the Servian army of invasion which had crossed the Save River, was attacked by a strong Austrian force and overwhelmingly defeated.

The Vienna advices say that the Servians are being driven back into Servia and that they have lost many men and guns.

PLAGUE IN SICILY

Precautions Taken to Prevent Spread in Ancient City of Catania.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—Private advices received here today say plague has broken out in the ancient city of Catania, Sicily.

The Italian Government, it is stated, has taken extreme precautions to prevent its spread.

THE EUROPEAN WAR COUNTRY BY COUNTRY

FRANCE: The Germans are reforming in the territory extending between St. Quentin and the Meuse river, having thrown up entrenchments and centralizing five armies in the district. The German Crown Prince has retired from Verdun and joined Von Buelow's army. Heavy fighting is in progress near St. Quentin. French War Office announces that an important battle is pending in which an attempt will be made by the allies to force the invaders from French soil. French and Indian reinforcements have appeared on the firing line.

BELGIUM—Belgian troops have retired to the outer lines of the fortifications at Antwerp. Germans attempted to cut communications to the sea, but the flooding of the territory west of Antwerp by opening the dykes has halted the invaders. Reported that 50,000 additional German soldiers are being rushed into the country.

GERMANY — Officially announced that the army has retired before the allies, but War Office announces the Germans are in a strongly entrenched position and ready to withstand further attack. Detailed reports given by the Government regarding the early fighting in eastern Prussia. Claims made that the Russians were routed with a loss of 100,000 killed, 70,000 prisoners and 500 field guns. Only fragmentary dispatches have been received regarding present campaign. Germany, however, maintains that the campaign progresses favorably against the Russians. The Kaiser, according to reports, is leaving for the Russian frontier.

AUSTRIA: The Russians continue to be victorious. The line from Cracow to Przemsl has been severed and the investment of the latter fortress is in progress. Heavy fighting continues along the San river. Grodek has been taken, the Austrians abandoning 400 light field guns and 20 howitzers. The Russians are pushing their campaign with vigor against Germany. The German staff asserts that the campaign in Galicia will be materially changed in the near future as the Russians will be compelled to dispatch troops into Prussia and abandon the offensive against Austria.

ENGLAND—Reported that Indian cavalry has reached France via the Suez canal and is now reinforcing the British at the front. No news yet received of the outcome of the naval battle reported in the Baltic. The war cost to Great Britain is $4,750,000 a day.

ITALY—Strong pressure is being brought to bear on the Government to join the war against Austria and Germany, and as a result frequent cabinet meetings are being held. Up to the present there has been no change in the original declaration of neutrality.

SERVIA—Vishegrad, in Bosnia, has been captured by the Servians. Troops have joined the Montenegrin forces, and a march is being made against Sarajevo.

The War Summary

The theatre of war in France presents the German army rallying to straighten its lines and concentrate in intrenched positions north of the Aisne River. The allies persist in the attack, General Joffre hurling reinforcements against the invaders. While furious fighting is taking place in the vicinity of St. Quentin, the French War Office announces that the engagements today are simply preliminary to the impending battle in which the allies will endeavor to terminate German occupation of northern France.

The German Crown Prince has withdrawn from the immediate vicinity of Verdun, and is placing his troops on a line between Laisne and Craonne to support the armies of von Buelow and von Hansen. La Fere, Rheims, Laon—in all, 12 cities—have been evacuated by the Germans. The complete battle line extends from St. Quentin to the territory south of Longwy.

Apparently the allies are in excellent condition to push the attack. Large reinforcements of Indian cavalry have appeared today, reaching the firing line from India after a journey through the Suez Canal. French troops are being rushed from Paris to take the place of the fatigued British and French soldiers. All France is confident of victory.

Russia continues its success in Galicia. Lines of communication between Cracow and Przemysl have been cut and the latter fortress invested on three sides. Every effort is being made to push the campaign into Germany. Przemysl is the last obstacle. Germany, however, makes claims that the Russians have met with severe reverses in Eastern Prussia, that Poland is being invaded and that it will be necessary for Russia to withdraw troops to withstand the German invasion of Russia. The fact, however, that the Kaiser is reported to be hastening to the Russian frontier and that optimism prevails in Petrograd somewhat offsets the German claims of Russian reverses.

Servia is vigorously pushing the campaign. Vishegrad, 40 miles south of Sarajevo, has fallen; the troops have passed the Montenegrins and a march against the Bosnian capital is in progress.

In Belgium the campaign presents comparatively no new developments. The Belgians are reported to have withdrawn to the outer line of fortifications at Antwerp, but no heavy fighting is reported.

ALLIED AMIES RUSH FORWARD TO ATTACK GERMAN POSITIONS

Entire Line of Invaders Falls Back North of Ainse River Where They Make Stand—Both Armies Heavily Reinforced—Great Battle Imminent.

Kaiser's Armies Draw Closer Together and Straighten Battle Line—Crown Prince Continues Retreat Toward Centre—Belforte Being Bombarded.

PARIS, Sept. 16.

Having compelled the Germans to evacuate 12 towns by their rapid advance, the allies threw fresh troops to the firing line today for another assault upon the strongly intrenched positions of the invaders north of the Aisne River, where additional forces have been sent to their assistance.

In order to give impetus to his attack, General Joffre pushed heavy reinforcements to the front to support the tired French and English soldiers, who have been marching and fighting for more than a week.

Official dispatches from the front say that all is going well with the allies and that the attempts of the Germans to break down the French lines at points believed to be weak have been repulsed.

Fighting is in progress, ranging from skirmishing to combats of furious character, along a line which reaches from a point east of St. Quentin eastward and southward along the north bank of the River Aisne, through the northern part of the forest of Argonne, north of Verdun, thence southward and eastward on the east of the River Meuse past Metz.

According to information contained in official War Office statements issued here and at Bordeaux, the German line of retirement seems to have switched slightly toward the southeast. Upon their retreat the Germans have been compelled to give up a number of towns, the most important of which are La Fere, Creny, Laon, Braisne, Vitry-les-Rheims, Attigny, Roncourt, Sillery, Rheims, St. Quentin, Rheims and Mezieres, the former headquarters of the German Crown Prince.

As no official word has been received here to support the rumors that General von Kluck, commander of the extreme western wing of the German army, has been captured along with a heavy section of his men, it is now assumed that the report was false.

Today the Germans hold strongly entrenched positions in the low hills to the north of the Aisne River. The armies of General Von Kluck and General Von Buelow are reported to be practically established in intrenched positions well north of the Aisne. The army of the Grand Duke of Wurtemberg holds the line from the River Aisne at Craonne north of Rheims to the new position in the Argonne where the armies of the Crown Prince Frederick Wilhelm and of the Crown Prince of Bavaria, are in complete strength with headquarters still maintained at Montmedy.

The Germans hold the lines of the Meuse and have straightened out their lines so they are now in touch with the strong fortress of Metz and the German reserve lines in Lorraine.

The British-French columns on the extreme left of the French lines are believed to plan a general envelopment movement. It is now evident that the Crown Prince, by abandoning his position between the Aisne and Aire at St. Menehould, checkmated an attempt to break his lines and isolate the major portion of his army.

It is admitted by the military experts that the new positions taken by the Germans are the strongest they have yet held in France. The conditions are cited from the defensive point of view, it is stated, but confidence is expressed that the admitted numerical superiority of the French and British forces will enable them to force the Germans back when the new battle commences.

The German front has narrowed and this will operate to the benefit of the allies. News from the allies' left is anxiously awaited here. There the British and French, who have been heavily reinforced, are attempting operations that may result in still further crumpling up of the German right.

The relief of Fort Tryon is likely to have an important bearing on the fate of the German army. The Germans were investing Fort Tryon and the neighboring forts between Toul and Verdun, with the object of opening a way of retreat on their left.

The failure of this plan means that the French are masters of the valley from Toul to Verdun. Therefore, the armies of the Crown Prince Frederick William and the Duke of Wurtemburg will be unable to cross the Meuse and will have to go further north and attempt to pass by the Stenay Gap.

On the left wing of the allies the centre Anglo-French force is in contact with the retiring invaders on the front from the heights north of the River Aisne eastward to a point north of Rheims.

The forward movement of the allies between the forest of Argonne and the Meuse continues. The pressure of the allies has had the effect of straightening the battle front until it is now almost a straight line to a point east of the Meuse and near Etain.

Beltort, France, is in a state of siege, and, according to the French military authorities, is in a position to resist attack indefinitely.

In the meantime the Fifth and Sixth French armies and the British are bearing with terrific pressure against the right flank of the Germans, crowding northward day by day in a movement which, if it continues time comes, may shortly develop into a great circle encircling. Heavy French forces are pushing up the Meuse, east of the forest of Argonne, delivering stiffer hammer blows upon the German forces of the Crown Prince and Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria.

The allies are also helped by the force which the Belgians and their allies are exerting against the Germans in Belgium. The Germans are being harassed on every side, except the rear, in what appears to be an attempt at the most stupendous and most gigantic hurling movement in the history of warfare.

During the past week's fighting the Germans are believed to have lost at least 25,000 men in killed, wounded and captured, although no official figures have been given out.

GERMAN RETREAT CONTINUES, FRENCH EMBASSY LEARNS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.

Confirmation of the German retreat between the Argonne forest and the River Meuse was reported by the French War Office through the French Embassy here today. The dispatch, sent from Bordeaux, reads:

On our left wing the Germans resisted yesterday to the north of the River Aisne, on a line formed by the forest of Laigne and Craonne.

At the centre their line of resistance was centering north of Rheims and the range of Chemin towards Vauxe, a town at the western border of the Argonne.

The forces of the enemy that were occupying the south of the Argonne have accelerated their movement, retreating between the Argonne and the Meuse. They