

FIGHT ALONG AISNE PROBABLY GREATEST IN HISTORY OF WARS

Expert Declares Passage of River by Frontal Attacks Would Be Most Notable Military Feat.

LONDON, Sept. 30. In an interesting article in the London Daily Express, Lieutenant-Colonel Alsager Pollock, of the British army, gives a minute description of the theatre of the world's greatest battle on the banks of the Aisne. It is only necessary to possess reasonable intelligence and a fairly large map of the country through which the Aisne flows in order to understand how it is that the Allied army, after successfully effecting a crossing, has not only been prevented from prosecuting its advance beyond the river, but has even been temporarily driven back to the left bank, at some points, by counter-attacks, and thus compelled to brave again and again the perils of fording the passage.

Colonel Pollock describes the Aisne as a very sluggish river. From Villeneuve, a mile east of Soissons, to Lamotte, eight miles east of Compiègne, the fallance of nearly fifteen miles, the fallance is only twenty-one feet. The flats between the hills forming the valley are seldom less than one mile in breadth, and the hills themselves rise thence rather abruptly as a rule, to heights of from 200 to 300 feet above the river. The configuration of the hills is very indented, so that on either side, but more especially on the right bank, the guns and also the riflemen of a force disputing the passage can readily be disposed so as to be perfectly sheltered from artillery fire from the opposite bank, while at the same time commanding long reaches of the valley both up and down the stream.

RANGE FINDING DIFFICULT. According to Colonel Pollock, climatic conditions render the finding of an accurate range for heavy guns almost impossible. In the clear atmosphere of South Africa, where he served during the Boer War, the fire of artillery at 8000 yards, or even more, could be quite safely observed, particularly when the sun shone on the target but it is not so on the banks of the Aisne, and the fact is one of much disadvantage to the Allies. Here, then, we have an explanation sufficient in itself to account for the difficulty experienced by the British and French troops in making good their hold on the right bank of the Aisne, in spite of all the valor displayed by them in successfully effecting the crossing of the river.

A POINT OF VANTAGE. But according to Colonel Pollock, on the left bank of the d'Honion, a tributary stream which falls into the Aisne at Vic-sur-Aisne, a convenient spur juts out westward, from behind which an open field of fire extends for about 5000 yards along the right bank of the Aisne, and guns there posted would be quite safe against anything but chance shells from howitzers, which might conceivably drop on their lurking place—assuming this to have been indicated by aviators. There is no commanding position whatever from which direct fire could be brought to bear on guns placed behind the spur in question.

The point that Colonel Pollock makes in this connection is that while the actual passage of the Aisne by well-trained and valorous troops would involve in many places no insurmountable difficulty, the supporting artillery effectually preventing the enemy from offering serious resistance, the conditions become very difficult from the moment when the attackers begin to mount the slopes beyond the river in face of artillery, machine guns, and rifles securely posted where it is impossible to reach them from the opposite bank. Fortunately, he adds, the difficulty confronting a flank attack directly over the Aisne is far less and in his opinion such an attack can be successfully made.

MAY MAKE HISTORIC RECORD. "Meanwhile," Colonel Pollock says in conclusion, "there is also another factor of the problem which has most certainly exercised a weighty influence. Von Kluck's defeated army, we may be quite sure, is not that which brought the pursuit to a standstill. Von Buelow without doubt, moved up his own army to occupy and entrench the most favorable positions on the right bank of the river, in anticipation of Von Kluck's retirement behind it.

"Repeated failures in the actual conditions cannot have been otherwise than costly, and we must therefore prepare ourselves for a very heavy list of casualties, as well as for further delay pending the exercise of strong pressure upon the enemy's right flank.

"If the purely frontal attack succeeds, the passage of the Aisne will be the most remarkable of all recorded in history."

FOUR GARIBALDI FIGHT TO AID FRENCH CAUSE. Noted Italian Physicians Also Enlist With Allies.

BORDEAUX, Sept. 30. Four members of the famous Garibaldi family, of Italy, have enlisted in the French army and all have been nominated as officers. The names shown by the list in the official journal today.

EVERYTHING FAVORS ALLIES. WINSTON CHURCHILL SAYS. But Visit to Front Convinces Him War Will Be Long.

BRITISH CRUISERS GUARD STRAITS OF MAGELLAN

Three Warships Move to Harass Enemy's Shipping. PUNTA ARENAS, CHIL, Sept. 30.—A close watch is being maintained here by German and Austrian ships passing through the straits of Magellan by the British cruisers Goodhope, Monmouth and Glasgow, which arrived here yesterday, under command of Christopher Craddock. The ships left Montevideo between September 9 and 11 ostensibly for this port.

LEMBERG IN CHAOS AS RUSSIANS TAKE GALICIAN CAPITAL

Austrians, Civil and Military, in Pell-mell Panic, Offer Scant Resistance. People's Pathetic Plight.

PETROGRAD, Sept. 30. A graphic story of the fall of Lemberg, Galicia, and the scenes attending the Russian occupation of the city, has just been given to me by an Englishman who has arrived here after witnessing these historic events.

"I am an engineer," said he, "and with a friend of the same calling had business in Lemberg. We were not molested in any way until about a week before the arrival of the Russians, when we were suddenly sent for by the Austrian police, placed under arrest and conveyed to prison. Simultaneously all our money was confiscated.

"We were kept in cells for four or five days, during which time absolutely no food was given us. Fortunately we received a small portion of drinking water each day or the 'hunger strike' would have been as complete as any undergone by suffragettes in the London jails. On the fourth or fifth day we were released, but we were both so weak from lack of food that we could hardly stand.

"Just about the time we were released word was received that the Russians were advancing upon the city, and panic broke out. The entire Austrian administration fled precipitately.

NO DEFENSE ATTEMPTED. "Defense of the city was not attempted at all. The Russians gave the demoralized Austrian military authorities three days in which to surrender and evacuate the place so that the inhabitants would be spared the horrors of a bombardment.

"On the third day a Russian aeroplane made its appearance over the city watching for the Austrians' departure. The Austrians fired upon the aeroplane, but it returned apparently uninjured to the Russian lines.

"Then the invaders made some show of opening a bombardment. I should say it was only a feint; at any rate, no shells seemed to fall in the city. Surely the Russian gunners were not such bad marksmen as all that.

MINOR TERRORS OF WAR; ITS COMEDY AND PATHOS

A distinguished prisoner in Hungary is a Russian general, Eugene Mastinoff. General Mastinoff still looks quite dejected, although he has grown a shade more modest since he was taken prisoner. When brought into the prison camp, he asked, through an interpreter, for the commander. Colonel Alfred von Obauer complied with the request, and, with the courtesy characteristic of officers, presented himself to the Russian general. The caged Russian lion was tactless enough to remain seated, Colonel Obauer then commanded, in a firm but quiet tone: "Attention!" whereupon the general found it advisable to show, by rising stiffly to his height, that he took the lesson in military discipline.

A correspondent of a Vienna paper thus describes a war-prison scene in Hungary, between Estergom (Gran) and Kenyermazo: "You find there next to Frenchmen, with their well-cared-for complexions, Russian officers, with effeminate features and red-faced, weather-beaten Serbian officers. Beside faxen-haired Cossacks there are four fellows with coal-black heads—negroes from the coal mines of Cardiff, who were seized on British merchant ships. Serbian gypsies from Shabatz complete the picture. In the centre of the circle there is a grindstone, on which a Cossack dutifully and humbly sharpens, for one of our infantry soldiers, a bayonet, which is to do service against the northern foe. All around are grouped Serbians and Montenegrins, who look on, with ill-concealed anger, while their hoped-for deliverer serves the son of the Pustia. Now there approaches the group an elegant figure—Captain Geony, of the Royal Yeomanry, whom England's declaration has sent in vain for the British Consul, who is to liberate him. Monsieur Geony, the former trapeze artist of Ronacher's variety show, now French lieutenant of the reserves, performs a trick on a chair with three legs.

An instance of how anxious Irish soldiers are to go to the front was witnessed recently at Chelsea Barracks, where the Irish Guards were quartered. Late one evening some one spread the rumor that the Irish Guards were to be transferred to one of the army depots. That evening was one of the wildest known at Chelsea Barracks. Then came the announcement that the rumor was true.

Immediately the Irish Guards set up the cry, "We want to go to the front. Our place is in France. We won't go to any depot." For more than an hour the yelling kept up. Then the officer made speeches telling the men to be patient that they soon would be off for the scene of fighting. Even after these promises a force of mounted police was established about the barracks to insure peace and quiet.

Corporal J. Bailey in a letter home expresses lively contempt for German marksmanship, as follows: "On the firing line the Germans seem to have more ammunition than is good for them, and they keep firing away at least ten rounds for every one of ours without doing half the damage, or anything like it.

The Daily Mail prints the following: "How he once had a fight with the Kaiser in the old English style and beat him is related by Alfred R. Price, hotel proprietor, Ilfracombe, North Devon. The fight took place in August, 1878. The Kaiser, then 19, was on holiday with his Russian lines.

SERBIANS IN DASH ACROSS SAVE RIVER REOCCUPY SEMLIN. Completely Surprise Austrians in Successful Effort to Stop Shelling of Belgrade. Success in Bosnia.

NISH, Sept. 30. It is officially announced that the Servians have reoccupied Semlin, on the north side of Save River, in Slavonia, from which they were driven a fortnight ago by an overwhelming Austrian army.

100,000 ENGLISH HOMES OPENED TO BELGIANS. Hospitable Offers to Refugees Far Exceed Necessity. LONDON, Sept. 30.—So many offers have been received from hospitable English families who want to shelter Belgian refugees that the Relief Committee today had to send out circular letters stating that no further offers could be considered.

THUNDER OF ARTILLERY NO LONGER BOTHERS TROOPS

Men in Aisne Trenches Sleep Undisturbed by Roar of Guns. PARIS, Sept. 30. "The men believe that they soon will be pursuing the Germans, and already we are getting winter equipment, so I guess the War Office looks for a winter campaign. We are well fed, but the wet, cold weather has caused a good deal of sickness in the ranks. We are better off than the Germans, however, for prisoners report conditions in the German camp as being almost unbearable."

BRITAIN NOT RECRUITING MEN FROM UNITED STATES. Sir Cecil Spring-Rice Denies Enlistments in New York. WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.—Setting at rest a report that the British Consul General in New York was recruiting men for the British army, Sir Cecil A. Spring-Rice, British Ambassador, has issued a denial that any men are being enlisted in this country.

Such action, the envoy declared, would be a violation of neutrality and never had been contemplated. He explained, however, that British Consuls were submitting to medical examination such British subjects as volunteered to return to England and enter the army. This fact, he said, probably gave rise to the report that widespread enlistment was being undertaken.

There doesn't appear to be a man among them who could score a 'bull's eye' once in a hundred shots, and as for making a good show at Bisley, they simply couldn't do it anyhow. German prisoners admit that they are bad shots, and they are amazed at the way we pepper them when they are advancing.

An old lady of London, anxious to follow the European campaign with the aid of a war map which she had purchased, took it back to her stationer, complaining that it did not show the battlefield of Armageddon, about which she had heard so much.

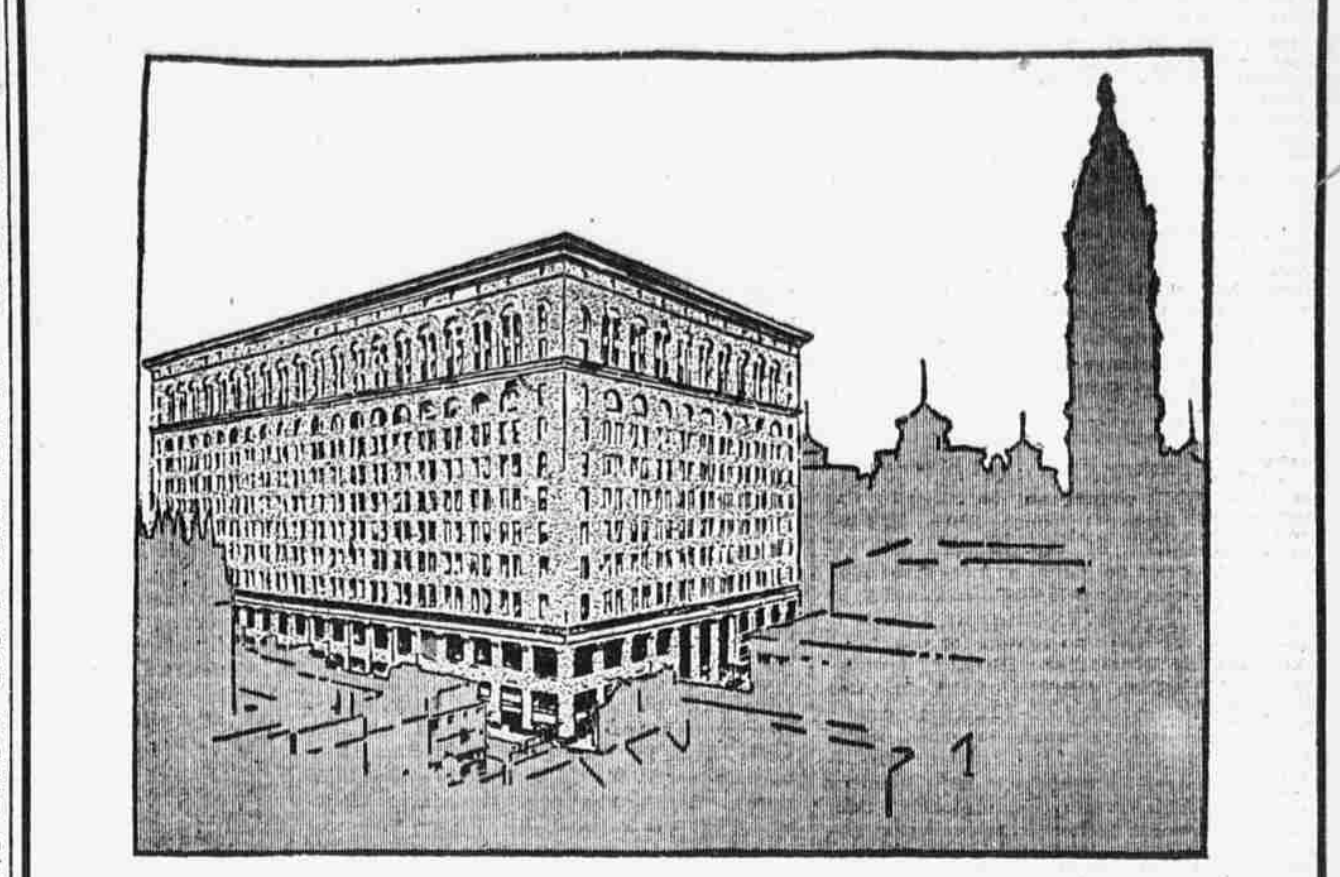
ROSTAND AND HIS WIFE STONED BY PARIS MOBS

Accused of Cowardice Because of Flight From French Capital. PARIS, Sept. 30. The intransigent says that Edmond Rostand, the famous poet and dramatist, his wife and the Countess Scallion, who were induced to leave Paris when the Germans approached on the argument that the enemy would make them hostages, were stoned by a crowd at Chateauroux during an automobile journey to Pierrefeu.

SENATE DEMANDS INQUIRY. Wants to Know Whether England is Interfering With Neutral Ships. WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.—A demand for information whether Great Britain was interfering with shipments of copper from the United States to Rotterdam in neutral bottoms was made on the Secretary of State by unanimous vote of the Senate today.

A resolution requesting the information was introduced by Senator Smoot, of Utah, and passed without discussion.

Store Opens 8.30 A. M. WANAMAKER'S Store Closes 5.30 P. M.



The Grand Organ Plays Tomorrow at 9, 11 and 5:15

THE WANAMAKER STORE

Announces for Tomorrow: Large Stocks Keep Selection Good in the Sale of Bigelow Rugs

Even after a week of the busiest rug selling Philadelphia has ever known since our sale of Whittall rugs last year, sizes are almost as complete as at the start-off. This is proof of the magnitude of the purchase.

And in every size designs are in wide and beautiful variety and will be to the end, for every pattern is pleasing. Best of all,

Prices Are Exactly a Fourth Less Than These Fine Rugs Regularly Sell For

Table listing various rug models and prices, including Bigelow Ardebil, Bigelow Balkan, Bigelow Daghestan, Bigelow Utopia, Bigelow Arlington, Bigelow Bagdad, Bigelow Middlesex, and Bigelow Puritan.

The Sale is in the Rug Store, Fourth Floor, Market

JOHN WANAMAKER