LLIES BATTER FOE'S LINES ON 435-MILE FRONT IN WEST

at and in the neighborhod of the St. Quentin Canal. A number of prisoners were

FRENCH PRESS MIGHTY OFFENSIVE ON BLOODY GROUND NORTH OF VERDUN

By HENRY WOOD

WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES IN THE FIELD, Aug. 21. The greatest battle of the world war is being fought today. From the seacoast to the Swiss frontier-more than 435 miles the Allied forces are fighting a virtually continuous offensive. France's great assault at Verdun, still driving on today, completes the chain of battles which are welded in the forge of war into one gigantic action of unprecedented extent and power.

The great battle started with the Anglo-French offensive in Flanders, extended to the British offensive at Lens, thence to the French attacks around St. Quentin, then to the French offensive at Chemin-des-Dames, Moronvillers and Verdun and concluded with heavy artillery fighting in Lorraine and Alsace down to Switzerland. The western front has never seen such an extensive battle. Nor has the Allies' superiority everywhere been so asserted. With three more months of fighting weather this year Germany's hold on the western front may become precarious before winter.

Perfect and co-ordinated strategy underlies the English and French attacks. They have been so timed as to convert all the fighting into one great battle. Once before the Ailies timed such a blow, but not in the force of that which is pushing with terrific power today. On April 16 the French attacked the southern pivot of the Hindenburg line a week after the English attacked the northern pivot.

Today the French are attacking the southern pivot, where the German lines binge, on their famous Meuse retreat position. The drive comes exactly two weeks after the English attack in Flanders threatened the German northern hold on the

While these two huge offensives developed today the battles around Lens, Arras, St. Quentin, along the Aisne and at Moronvillers continued with unabated ntensity

Germany made her supreme effort in concentration of men and of artiflery in the 1916 assault on Verdun. No offensive had ever reached the intensity of that one. But the French assault of today, in the identical sector, has surpassed it.

GREAT CONCENTRATION OF GUNS

The combined French and German artillery brought into the play of death is probably the greatest concentration of weapons for a single attack the whole war has yet seen. During Sunday night's final artillery preparation by the French, although it was cloudy and the French military rules strictly forbade the slightest glimmer of artificial light, I was able to leave Verdun at midnight and proceed to an observation point a greater distance from the city than Douamont because my way was lighted by the countless thousands of gun flashes.

Giant artiflery kept the night continuously light. It was as though a million lightning flashes blended into one catacylismic shock. The artillery fire gave light enough for the French guns to advance with every pock-mark of No Man's Land visible. A roar of incredible intensity shook the earth.

The Germans brought into action giant 280-millimeter (G-inchi ahrapnel shells High in the air they exploded with a great outburst of flame and their brilliance outshone even the flaming red of the countless other flashes. After each one of these dazzling bursts the whole air seemed filled with long dragon-shaped tails, puncturing the blackest sort of smoke—the exploding shrapnel bits.

Not only was there the greatest concentration of artillery in the war's history at Verdun, but an unprecedented use of gas by the Germans in their efforts to stem the French attack. Enormous quantities of the newest and deadliest German gases were released both throughout the French artiflery preparation and the actual infantry attacks.

The enemy even attempted a sort of gas barrage and special gas fields in efforts to wither the advancing wave of the French troops.

They also rushed up fresh divisions from far to the rear and flung these prodigally into the battle.

The German concentration of artillery, massed to combat the enormous number of French field pieces, was estimated by German prisoners today to equal the maximum artillery concentration for Germany's assault on Verdun in 1916. FIRST LINES QUICKLY TAKEN

The French had taken the German first lines in an amazingly short time after leaping over the parapets. The Germans sent out hurry calls and massed great reserves, but in vain. Later special stosstruppen units (picked storming troops) were assembled for counter-attacks-several at Beaumont alone,

In all the hell of fire in the air one picture stood out vividly. It was an attack brade by a German airplane on a French observation "sausage" balloon. The French observer leaped out of his basket, but his parachute caught on the edge, leaving him suspended hundreds of feet over the earth. The German flier darted back and deluged the air with a hall of machine-gun bullets as French soldiers down below pulled frantically to bring the sausage down. When the balloon was finally brought back to earth the observer was disentangled-absolutely unharmed.

ITALIANS TAKE 10,000 PRISONERS IN DRIVE; AUSTRIANS LOSE HEAVILY

Italy's pr.soners in the greatest of all drives her troops have made in the world war have reached a total of 10,000 today. Capture of well-organized enemy de-fenses" between Corite and Selo (south of Talmina) and near the fortress of Starilokva in the Italian offensive was announced in the War Office statement today. Semiofficial estimates piaced the Austrian losses in dead and wounded at this same

On the three fronts today-the Julian, Carso and Isonzo-General Cadorna's drive was continuing in a fierce combat of men and of guns that resounded over nearly a

hundred miles of front. Italian airmen reported desperate at-

ROME, Aug. 21 | had been sent for re-enforcements from Prussia. The unprecedented fury of the Italian attack is believed to be undermining the morale of the Austrians.

Never has the Austro-Italian front seen

such a bombardment as preceded the pres-ent thrust. The Austro-Hungarians were overwhelmed and stunned by it. So deadly and heavy was the cannonade that as much damage was done in twenty-four hours as in three days of any of the previous bombardments.

General Cadorna's great offensive started peculiarly enough at the very moment when Austrian airmen were carrying out a vigorous campaign for peace. They were dropping thousands of printed messages urging

Italian airmen reported desperate attempts by the enemy to reinforce breaches in the line already achieved by the attackers. Prisoners declared hurry calls Gulf of Trieste.

GERMANS REPULSED IN DESPERATE ASSAULTS ON AISNE AND MEUSE

German picked troops were flung violently but vainly against four points of the French fighting line last night. At three places on the Chemin-des-Dames (Aisne sector) special stosstruppen battled desperately to loosen the French grip, and around Verdun General Petain's fighters repulsed assaults of the most violent natura All French ground was held, the official attement declared today.

"At Cerny plateau the Germans attacked

at three points twice," the official report asserted. They were repulsed and flowed to their trenches with heavy losses. German attempts at Hurtebise likewise

"On the front north of Verdun the German counter-blows. They were delivered apparently with every resource of guns and of men that the German war chiefs could muster nature, notably at Avocourt and Courieres Wood, which were all broken up by the fire of the French troops. We kept all our The battle was continuing throughout today.

parts. Aug. 21.

ps were flung viost four points of the
ast night. At three

gains, which we are now organizing. The
Clermans lost heavily.

"Yesterday more than 5000 unwounded
prisoners and 116 officers were captured.

"German aviators bombarded the French

rear, especially a camp of German prison-ers, who suffered severely from their bombs. "French aviators bombarded stations in French aviators compared stations in Belgium and at Houlers and other points. French fliers dropped bombs over the Ver-dua region and at Brieulles, Fleville and Bantzeville ammunition depot. At the last named place an ammunition depot was set afire

"On August 20 French pilots brought "On August 20 French pilots brought down twenty-one German machines, nearly all of which were utterly destroyed." Semiofficial dispatches today laid empha-sis on the ferocity of the German counter-

British Pledge Pope to Weigh Peace Terms

Continued from Page One

sollerns. He must demand guarantees that will not be regarded a "scraps of paper," and these he believes impossible except from a democracy. He will point the way to peace for the German people but will make it clear it cannot come through the offices of the Kalser's iron autocracy.

The first reply to the Pope's appeal appears to be a general Allied offensive of remendensly increasing violence along all fronts, save Russia.

That peace is ahead is the conviction

here. The Pope has laid the groundwork for peace negotiations. President Wilson will give momentum to the building. Anyear will see the end of the struggle, experts here now believe.

MICHAELIS TO SUPPORT VATICAN'S PROPOSALS

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 21.,
On the eve of the meeting of the Reichstag main committee there was every indication in Berlin that Dr. Georg Michaelis,
the German Chancellor, would speak in support of the peace proposal of Pope Benediet XV. according to dispatches from the
German Capital today.
Information had already been conveyed
to the German Government that the Reichmag majority, which was responsible for
the passage of a peace resolution on July
tayors the terms laid down by the
tir bit, here to the warring powers AMSTERDAM, Aug. 21.

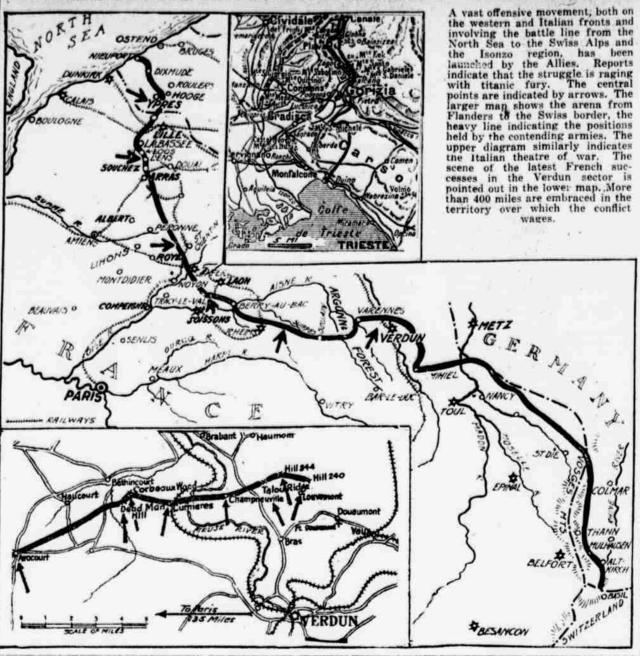
cialist, Clerical and Progressive Democrats as well as Liberals. Two of the leaders. Dr. Mathias Erzberger, of the Clericals, and Dr. Alfred Suedekum, of the Socialists, have already spoken openly in support of There was a meeting of representatives



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WHERE BATTLE WAGES FROM NORTH SEA TO SWISS ALPS



Monday afternoon, which was marked by tense debate on the peace situation

elves this morning before the meeting of

The Reichstag as a whole will not meet

ITALIANS FORCE ISONZO: CAPTURE 7500 AUSTRIANS

ROME, Aug. 21 .- The Dalians in their offensive on the Isonzo front have effected a crossing of the Isonzo above Playa and have taken 7500 prisoners. An official statement issued says;

A battle is proceeding on the Julian Alpa front. Yesterday morning after a bombardment of twenty-four matrix, during which our artillery shelled the enemy positions with ever-increasing intensity, masses of our infantry commenced the advance toward their objectives. To the north of Anhoyo (three miles above Playa, seven and a half miles north of Gorizia, after having brilliantly overcome technical difficulties and the resistance of the enemy, numerous pontoons were thrown

nical difficulties and the resistance of the enemy, numerous pontoons were thrown across the Isonzo and our troops passed over the left bank of the river. From Playa to the sea, after having crossed the first line of the enemy, which had been destroyed completely, our troops brought pressure to bear upon him. Being supported by considerable artillery and a large number of machine runs, the enemy offered desperate resistance.

Altogether 20x atments indefatigably

Altogether 208 airposnes indefatigably participated in the battle, attacking repeatedly with bombs and machine guns the troops assembled to the rear of the enemy's positions. The infamily action vigorously continues, while the artillery continues, while the artillery work of destruction.

The enemy's losses are very serious.

The enemy's losses are very serious. The booty reported up to the present very considerable. Some guns and large number of machine guns are in on hands. * Up to last evening more tha 7500 men and about 100 officers passes. into our collecting stations

Chestnut St. Business Men Rap Lease 'Grab'

ing is held on the proposed agreement in City Hall on September 7, two weeks be-fore the first regular meeting of Councils. The former Director sounced the call to arms himself in his initial statement of attack in which he said:

"Organizations should immediately assem ble and pass strong resolutions and send the same to the newspapers for publication.

The preliminary skirmishes occurred yes

that, while the Liberals were invited to and business men launched bot verbal fire to steem Monday's meeting, they decided to hold a separate conference among them-Mr. Taylor's attack, his statement aroused a

furore of comment from both sides. Mayor Smith at first pleaded ignorance o the 'grab' charge and then issued a state ment doubting the sincerity of the forme Director. Chairman Gaffney, of Councils nance Committee, followed suit. Directo

Daterman was third. John N. McGarvey, chairman o transportation committee of the Allied Business Men's Association of West Philadelphia, which represents twenty-eight business and civic associations of that section of the city, launched a counter-attack in defense of Mr. Taylor, in which he termed launched a counter-attack in "the Smith-Mittee lease worse than the

"When the Mayor attempted to cloud the the by the injection of personalities," he said. I grew suspicious that there was something rotten in Denmark, Consequently we decided to appeal to one of the most capable and expert minds in transit affairs in this city—A. Merritt Taylor—for advice. His exposure of the outrages contemplated is now before the public."

Mr. McGarvey announced that he would call a meeting of the Allied Business Men's Association immediately to start the fight which has been forced on the citizens of hiladelphia by Mayor Smith."

The United Business Men's Association iso has called a meeting for this week. The membership of this body is made up of hundreds of business and improvement organizations throughout the city. As many of the members of these organizations al-ready have voiced a strenuous protest against the Smith-Mitten lease, it is ex-pected that the United association will follow suit.

The opinion was expressed again today that the statements issued yesterday by and attacking Mr. Taylor evaded the issue s usual." Nothing was heard from the Rapid

Transit Company. It was said that the Stotesbury management does not care to be drawn into the controversy or "war" at present. The company's stock fell a little yesterday and not much changed hands. It closed at thirty.

Directors of the company met and approved the July statement of earnings. Com-pared with the same month of last year, the statement disclosed an increase in gross scarnings of \$222,465. Operating expenses increased \$208,600, while the net earnings advanced \$14,465. The company's surplus was \$18,402 greater than for July, 1916. Further delay in the work of completing the Frankford "L" was made certain today "We must win the fight. Will you heip?" the Frankford "L" was made certain to A number of business organizations al-

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18 in, stroke; Bullard Slotter; quantity of Milling Cutters, Drills, Reamers and various Small PATTERN SHOP EQUIPMENT—36-in, Band Saw, 14-in, Pay & Eagan Universal Saw, Barnes Puls Saw, 3-14-in, and 30-in, Fox Trimmers and Boring Machines and Benches. For the Payon of the Payon State of the State will be the entire Patterns. Drawings Prints and Jiss used Holsting Engines, affording an excellent opportunity to any manufacture to continue the manufacture of the same.

Plant Open for Inspection Every Weekday Until Time of Sale DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUES MAILED UPON APPLICATION.

ready have called meetings in preparation the building of platforms on five of the of railsing to Mr. Taylor's support, Frankford "L" stations. Opening the bids was exceedingly routine, for not a bid was o obtain cost quotations on steel, declined o submit estimates on the work.

\$2,000,000 COLLIERY COMPANY CHARTERED

BALTIMORE, Aug. 21.—The Tristate Collieries Company, capital stock \$2,000,-000, today filed incorporation papers with the State Tax Commission here. porators named in the papers are William A. Morgart and Joseph E. Gunther, of Balti-more, and C. Yeager, of Patton, Pa. Among the directors are Edwin E. Marshail and J. H. Blackwell, of Trenton, N. J.: H. C. Yeager, of Patton, Pa., and H. L. Kirby, of New York city.

The company is to take over and con-olidate the Margot Coal property of West Virginia, the Roenling property in Allegany County, Maryland, and the Yeager Yeager coal property in Somerset County Pennsy vania.

nQ.

BE IN SEPT. 1 PARADE

Soldiers and Sailors to Take Part

Soldiers and sailors whose homes are in Philadelphia will march side by side with the 14,000 or more drafted men in the patriotic demonstration which will take place entember 1.

Mayor Smith announced this afternoon that he has obtained the consent of the nilitary authorities to permit soldiers of the Twenty-eighth Division (formarly the Pennsylvania National Guard), who are ow encamped near this city, to participate in the parade. Besides these, there will be 1000 marines and sailors of the Philadelphia Navy Yard in the parade.

Phila Navy Yard in the parade.
Police Captain William Mills who will be
in charge of the traffic during the monster
parade, and George Wentworth Carr. head
of the Home Defense League, held a conference this afternoon with the Mayor, at which plans were outlined.

The Home Defense League will also be

The members will be in the parade. The members will be in iform. The various branches of the uniform. Home Defense League in Chestnut Germantown. West Philadelphia and other parts of the city will also take part. An will be extended to the State Fenc bles to fall in line also.

Invitations to participate in the parade are being sent to civic organizations and also to business men's associations. The present plans are to have the parade begin at about 1 o'clock in the afternoon,

HELD IN AUTO THEFT

Four Men Accused of Removing Tires From Disabled Car

Four men accused of stealing tires from the automobile of Sigmund Meyer, of 322 South Eleventh streets, were each held in \$500 ball for court at the Central Station this afternoon by Magistrate Collins, The prisoners gave their names as Edward and William Firth, Edward Donnelly

end Thomas McHugh, of Forty-first and

'atharine streets,
Meyer's automobile became temporarily disabled and the prisoners, according to were removing the tires when he discovered

Plot Hinted in Powder Explosion CINCINNATI, Aug. 21.-A rigid investigation was being made today into the explosion at King's Mills powder plant yeserday in which four men were killed. plant has been carefully guarded and of-ficials believe the blasts were the result of an inside plot.

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FORMER GUARDSMEN TO EUROPE FACES GAUNT STARVATION SPECTER

Mayor Obtains Permission for Allies' Safety Rests in What U. S. Saves, Declares Food Administrator Hoover

> WASHINGTON, Aug. 21. Europe faces "the grim specter of marration" unless America brings relief, Herbert Hoover warned today.

> In the food administration bulletin today he says safety for Europe rests in what this country saves from her abundance and

In addition to the wheat shortage and the threatened meat famine already announced by Hoover, the builetin says the world's dairy supplies are decreasing rapidly.

Swine—'most efficient machine for production of animal fat"—are dwindling fast in Europe while consumption demand grows. The sugar supply, he says, "has been trenendously reduced" and "there must be conomy in consumption everywhere."

fle urges the American people to eat fish and vegetables of which there is a great abundance.

He promises no reduction in prices.

"We are today in an era of high prices," c says. We must maintain prices at such level as will stimulate production, for we are faced by a starving world and the value of the commodity to the hungry is greater than its price."

"The reverberations of But he adds: Europe's increasing shortage would have thundered twice as loudly during the com-ing year and it can now only be mitigated f we can exert a strong control and this many directions."

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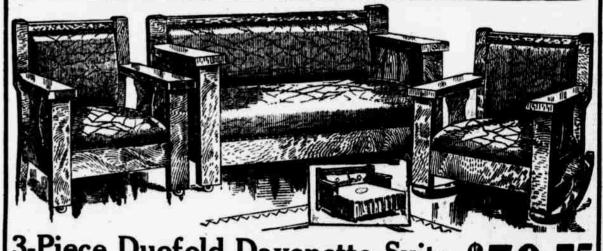


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\$29.75

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ion is guaranteed. August Sale Price