

BAKER SEES HUN RETREAT IN WEST

Secretary of War Predicts Another 'Strategic' Retirement by Germans

ITALY'S PRESENT DANGER

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25. While predicting another strategic retreat by the Germans on the west front, Secretary of War Baker's weekly war review today admits that Italy is passing through a difficult moment.

No indication is given as to what the Allied war chiefs may do to relieve the gigantic pressure of Hun hordes sweeping over the plains of Italy in an obvious effort to register a great military coup. Baker's report apparently was prepared before the Austro-German thrust assumed its present critical proportions. It outlines as the foremost developments of the week the British and French advances on the west front.

Anticipating "important developments soon," the report states that any strategic retirement by the Germans in the West would now be under conditions less favorable than heretofore.

The allied superiority is increasingly apparent, the statement advises. There is a steady rise in the enemy casualties.

Russia, Baker adds, is apparently consolidating her resistance, and he believes the Germans will probably not try to do more than strengthen their Riga holdings now.

THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT

The statement follows:
"Renewed activity prevails in all theaters of war. Important developments would appear to be impending.

"Along the western, eastern and Italian fronts, in Macedonia, Rumania, Mesopotamia and even in East Africa, significant operations are in progress.

"It is evident that the Allied drives along the western front are broadening in scope and intensity. The whole front, from the Houthulet forest through the Passchendaele ridge, southward to Lens and on to the Aisne, is becoming the scene of increasingly heavy Allied pressure, which the enemy is withstanding with difficulty.

"Side by side the French and British are pushing on through the Flemish lowlands toward Roulers.

"The enemy, believing he might find a rift in the otherwise impregnable Allied line at the point of junction between the Franco-British forces, directed repeated heavy counterattacks in this segment. These were repulsed.

"While the British attacks during the last week have been carried out with imposing effectiveness, it is apparent that the British command is maneuvering in order to gain important tactical advantages at a minimum cost.

"The casualties to the enemy are rising steadily.

"Slowly the Allies are enlarging their gains in Flanders, driving into the heart of German resistance in the west.

FRENCH VICTORIES

"The German armies fight on stubbornly. If any further evidence of Allied superiority is needed it seems to be supplied by the decisive success won by the French during the last week.

"This offensive was launched on a six-mile war front near the west end of the Chemin des Dames at dawn of October 23.

"General Petain so well masked his preparations that the enemy was taken by surprise as to the exact terrain chosen for the attack and was overwhelmed before being able to organize a concentrated resistance.

"The German lines were penetrated to a depth of well over two miles at one point.

"This first attack was immediately followed by a second assault in this same sector, crowned with full success.

"In three days' fighting the French have taken 12,000 prisoners, 120 guns of large caliber and a great quantity of other booty not yet enumerated.

"The possession of the captured fort of Malmouy, the key to the entire ridge and the villages beyond, now makes it possible for the French to entangle the German positions along the Chemin-des-Dames, as well as to fire directly through the valley toward the fortress of Laon.

"General Petain showed himself a past master of strategy in being able to attain such a decisive victory in so brief a period.

"As time has apparently come for another 'strategic retreat' of the enemy, it is evident that the Germans must again retire to a new entrenched and carefully prepared line if they intend to resist further in the west.

"It must be admitted that the German 'retreat' executed as a result of the battles of the Somme last year was carried through with consummate skill. The enemy retired, destroying all cover and taking up positions of marked tactical and strategic strength.

"But the battle of the Somme had but one wedge. Today we have the wedge of Flanders and that of the Aisne is being outlined.

"The bad weather continues to be the enemy's best protection. He is relying upon this factor to impede the Allied advance, and by shrouding the battle area in slush, rain and fog give him a respite until he can prepare himself to meet a fresh onslaught.

ON THE ITALIAN FRONT

"News from the Italian front proved that the Austrians were able to bring sufficient pressure to bear in Berlin in order to secure German assistance.

"As the result of the concentration of an imposing array of artillery and massed battalions, the Austro-German forces have succeeded in penetrating the recently won Italian positions in the Tolmino sector.

"The broken, steep, mountainous char-

acter of the terrain makes it difficult to hold entrenchments when once certain strategic objectives have been attained. These the Austrians have apparently captured in this sector, which may result in the abandonment by the Italians of the Bainsizza plateau, which they won after so valiant a struggle only a few weeks ago.

"Italy is passing through a difficult moment. We must remember, however, that in May, 1916, the Austrians attempted a similar onslaught. Then they had little to show for their efforts, and above all the far superior fighting vigor of their armies to rely upon. At that time the Austrians won decided successes during the initial days of the fighting and pressed on to the edge of the Italian plain, only to be stopped and driven back.

"In the east German naval operations in the vicinity of the islands at the mouth of the Finnish Gulf were not carried through, with serious losses both in men and material.

RUSSIAN RESISTANCE INCREASES

"The Russian resistance apparently is consolidating.

"The Germans, using the islands as a base, have now gained a foothold on the adjacent mainland.

"The first landing on the Verder peninsula at the northern end of the Gulf of Riga was successfully carried out. A further attempt at another point failed.

"It is not probable that the Germans will undertake for the time being more than a strengthening of the positions now held in the Riga sector.

"The retirement of the advanced enemy lines to a depth of fifteen miles in the region of the Dvina is reported.

"Enlargement of the magnitude are noted along the Rumanian and Macedonian fronts, where artillery duels and raids are increasing in frequency. These, however, are not of more than local importance.

"In Mesopotamia, the British are continuing and consolidating their advance, driving enemy detachments out of important tactical points on the flank, thus strengthening their whole line of defense.

"Rumors of an important move by the Turks, re-enforced by certain picked German and Austrian units, under the command of General Falkenhayn, which have repeatedly been reported throughout the Near East, have as yet failed to materialize.

"The training of our troops in France progresses steadily and favorably. Certain units have taken their places in the front-line trenches under actual battle conditions.

CIVIDALE E GORIZIA PRESE DAL NEMICO

Francia ed Inghilterra Inviano Truppe ed Artiglieria in Aiuto delle Armate Italiane

ROMA, 29 ottobre.

Le notizie che pervengono dalla fronte italiana in questo momento di trepidazione non nascondono la gravità della situazione, ma tuttavia non sono tali da perturbare l'opinione pubblica che si mantiene serena e fiduciosa nell'abilità del generale Cadorna e nel valore delle sue truppe che sapranno alla fine respingere la formidabile offensiva austro-tedesca ed impedire una larga invasione del territorio italiano.

La presente offensiva contro la fronte italiana mette in serio pericolo la causa degli alleati, poiché è chiaro che i tedeschi tentano effettuare un audace piano che mira ad invadere l'Italia nella parte settentrionale per poscia attaccare la Francia alle spalle.

Un telegramma da Londra assicura che la critica situazione alla fronte italiana ha ricevuto e riceve la pronta considerazione da parte dei governi francese ed inglese i quali hanno già disposto per immediati aiuti specialmente di artiglierie.

In Parigi ha avuto luogo, ieri, una riunione del gabinetto, presieduta dal Presidente Poincaré, per determinare la cooperazione degli alleati alla fronte italiana. Stando alle ultime notizie, sembra che alcune unità della seconda armata italiana si siano arretrate o ritirate senza combattere permettendo alle forze austro-tedesche di poter rompere l'ala sinistra delle forze italiane che si trovavano nelle posizioni sulle Alpi Giulie ed invadere l'Italia, tanto che il nemico sarebbe riuscito ad occupare Cividale, la cittadina che si trova a nove miglia a nord di Udine.

Un comunicato ufficiale pubblicato ieri dal Ministero della Guerra italiano dice quanto appresso:

La mancanza di resistenza da parte di alcune unità della seconda Armata, le quali codardamente si sono ritirate senza combattere o si sono arretrate al nemico, ha permesso alle forze austro-tedesche d'irrompere sulla nostra ala sinistra sulla fronte delle Alpi Giulie.

I valorosi sforzi delle altre truppe non sono stati bastevoli ad impedire al nemico di avanzare nel sacro suolo della Patria. Non ora abbandoniamo le nostre linee in accordo ai piani precedentemente preparati. Tutti i magazzini e depositi di munizioni dei posti evacuati sono stati distrutti.

Il ricordo di molte memorabili battaglie combattute con successo dai nostri bravi soldati durante due anni e mezzo di guerra, è sufficiente ad assicurare il comando in capo che l'Esercito, al quale sono affidati l'onore e la salvezza della Patria, saprà compiere tutto il suo dovere.

Quantunque la situazione sulla fronte austro-italiana sia molto grave, pure le strombazzate perdite che, secondo i comunicati ufficiali di Berlino, le truppe austro-tedesche avrebbe inflitto all'Italia, vengono considerate esageratissime. Prigionieri vi saranno stati, come pure sarà avvenuta la cattura di cannoni, ma non secondo la cifra che la Germania annunzia.

Sull'Italia si può fidare per grandi combattimenti, perché fortemente organizzata e per l'alto spirito patriottico del popolo italiano, e sarebbe stata capace di schiacciare l'Austria se avesse avuto in tempo carbone, munizioni e materiale da guerra che insistente domanda agli alleati. Se l'Italia riceverà subito bastante quantità di cannoni, non vi è dubbio che sarà

REGISTERED BOTH HERE AND UPSTATE, CHARGE

V. A. Brennan, Aid to Scranton Candidate, Said to Have Violated Law

SCRANTON, Oct. 29.

Victor A. Brennan, right bower of Alex Connell, candidate for Mayor of Scranton, is accused in the Scranton Times of violation of the personal registration law.

Brennan, the Times says, according to the records in the office of the Registration Commissioners of Philadelphia, appeared before the registrars in the Thirty-eighth Division of the Twentieth Ward, of that city, controlled by David Lane, on September 11 last, and registered, giving his place of residence as No. 1325 North Ninth street, Philadelphia. He swore that he lived there for nine years.

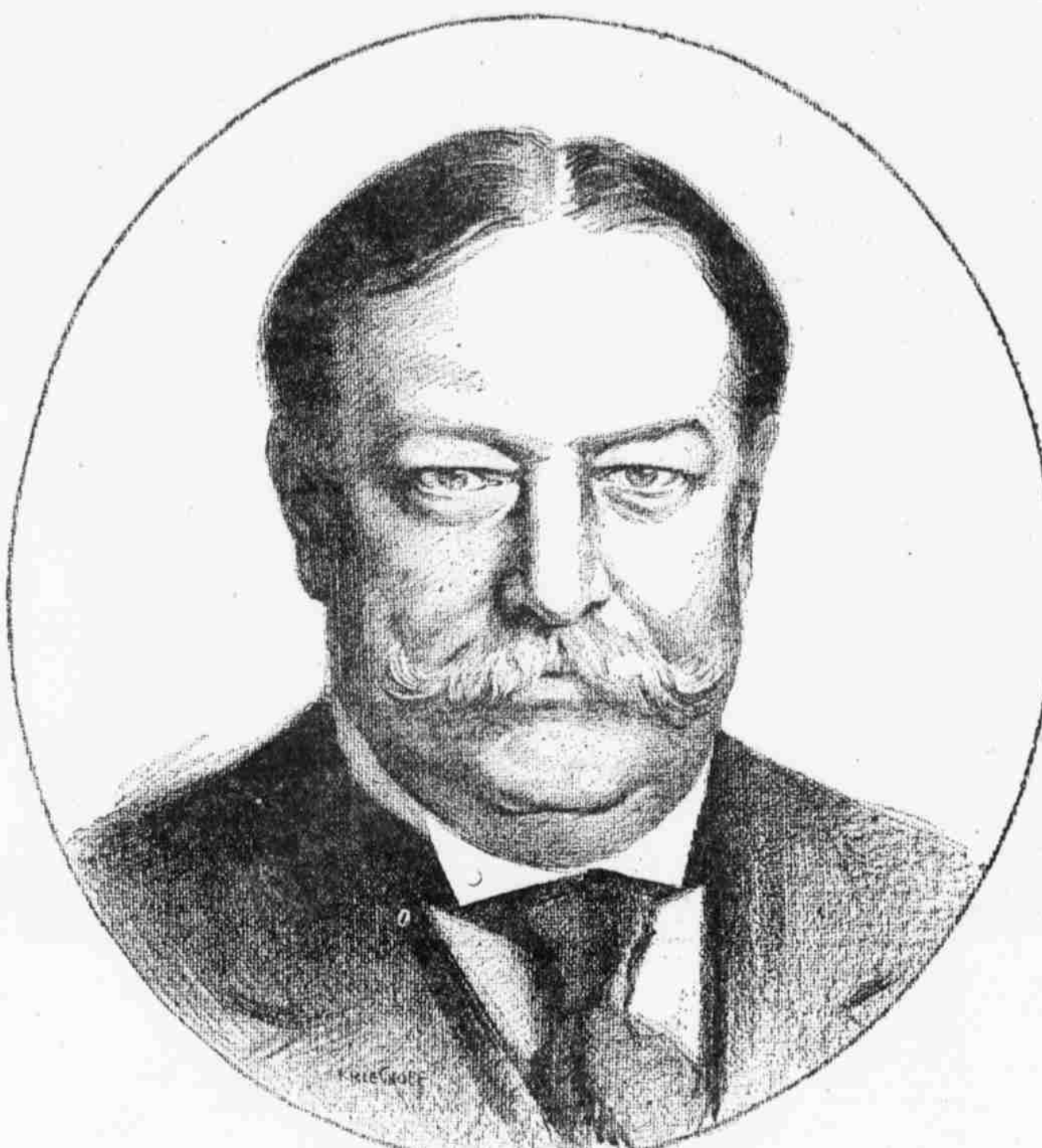
Four days later, the Times says, Brennan went to the registration booth in the Second District of the Thirteenth Ward, of Scranton, and registered, giving his home address at 1212 Marion street, Scranton.

He swore on this occasion that he had been a resident of the district for nine months. Brennan, according to the Times, voted from this address at the primary, September 19, being given a Republican ballot and a nonpartisan ballot. He did not vote in Philadelphia at the primary. Brennan, a traveling salesman, is out of the city today. He is expected back Wednesday.

The Times says Brennan signed the voting check-list in the Philadelphia division and that his signature is identical with the signature found in the voting check-list of the voters in Scranton, where Brennan registered and voted last month.

In an affidavit sworn by John A. McGreevy, a registrar in the Thirty-eighth division of the Twentieth Ward of Philadelphia, and printed in the Times, it is shown that Brennan, on September 11, personally appeared before the board of registration and was registered; also that Brennan has been living in the district and registered for a number of years. He did not register in 1916, which tallies with his declaration before the Scranton board that his last place of registration was Philadelphia and the time 1915.

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WILLIAM H. TAFT, former President of the United States, has joined the staff of the Public Ledger as Contributing Editor, the connection becoming effective on November 1.

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