

FRENCH WOULD OUTLAW GERMANS FOREVER—SPECIAL CABLE DISPATCHES FROM WAR ZONES

IS IN LEAGUE?
VER, PARIS VOW
Majority of Writers Would
Treat Germany as an
Outcast

CONDEMN GREY'S PLEA
All Except Pacifists Favor
Organization for Protection
Against Teutons

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Paris, June 25.
The article published by Viscount Grey, formerly Foreign Secretary of Great Britain, on the necessity for the constitution of a league of nations was received badly by the press here, where the idea of anything in which will include Germany or anything German is scorned by the Allies, except by a mere handful of the more extreme Socialists.

Not that Frenchmen as a nation have any rooted objections to a society of nations as such. On the contrary, there are no people in the world who are more anxious than the French to live in peace with their neighbors and give an opportunity for the free development of science, industry and social evolution of every nation in close co-operation with all others.

But they are convinced in their bones that it is impossible to regard as anything but a betrayal the idea of endeavoring to persuade Germany to enter into a mutual arrangement as the proposed society of nations involves Germany as by her own act she has declared herself an outcast and pariah among nations, the French argue, and must in the nature of things remain so.

League With Germany—Never
That a league of nations for mutual protection against Germany and to crush Germany until she is powerless to do further harm for all time is not only feasible but eminently desirable in the interest of all other peoples, every Frenchman agrees, but a league with Germany—never they say.

What head of a State, says Premier Clemenceau's paper, L'Homme Libre, would ever consent to put his name to the foot of a treaty with that of the criminal and lying Hohenzollern?

Can such a possibility be imagined as the loyal President Wilson accepting the hand of the Hohenzollern to open with which to sign a pact of the reconciliation of their peoples? Never!

A parliamentary committee was created some twelve months ago under the presidency of Leon Bourgeois to consider the conditions under which a society of nations might be realized. It is significant that, although the committee finished its work six months ago and transmitted its report to M. Clemenceau, as head of the Government, on January 17, the report has not yet been laid before the Chamber.

Efforts have been made more than once by Socialist members to obtain the publication of the report, but so far, and although M. Clemenceau himself made half a promise on one occasion, the report is still held back.

So far as can be gathered there is virtually no support for the proposal here, except among professional pacifists.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Viscount Grey's pamphlet is very freely handled by the majority of the newspapers here. The Journal des Debats, in an article which it entitles "Reveries of a Country Gentleman," dismisses his arguments as the impossible and childish ideas of a man who, he suggests, is unable to realize the practical things of public life.

Temps Condemnatory
The Temps, more moderate, is equally condemnatory of the principle enunciated by the British statesman. It says:

"So long as Germany remains what she is she excludes herself by her own act from any society of nations which she cannot herself control after the Prussian manner. To try to convince her by argument of the necessity, say, of giving up the religion of force and extinguishing the spirit of war is illusory."

"A society of free nations, inevitably allied against the powers of prey, is a reality which may be foreseen with confidence as a normal stage in evolution, but to try to create a league in which would be found alike freemen and servile, victims and executioners, those who have suffered and those who have not sinned their crimes, would be a blindness."

The pacifist Pays alone pleads for the acceptance of Viscount Grey's ideas and avers that he and Leon Bourgeois are not in the places occupied by Lloyd George and Clemenceau, and that the latter do not echo the words of the American President.

ITALIANS DEFEAT FOE
ON WEST FRONT, TOO
Two Attacks at Mont de Bligny
Hurdled Back, Enemy Losing
Heavily

By G. H. PERRIS
Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Paris, June 25.
With the French armies, June 25.
It is not only in Italy that the Italians are showing their quality. They have recently taken over from the French and British contingents an important sector of the western front lying midway between the Marne and Rheims.

From the Ardre Valley one mounts a long slope past the village of Bligny, with wheat fields spreading on either hand, and reaches a moorland, partially covered with fir woods, which is the outstanding spur of the mountain of Bligny and forms the western buttress of the Rheims salient.

It will be remembered how the Germans, coming down the Ardre Valley with the intention of cutting behind this salient and reaching the Marne, took their village and the hill near it, only to be swept back by the Cheshires and Devonshires and their gallant French neighbors.

Smaller efforts of the same kind had been made against their Italian neighbors.

After Saturday midnight a full French division, with two battalions in support, attacked Mont de Bligny and pushed it rushing to the position. They were immediately driven out by a counter-attack and lost heavily to the Allies.

ITALY REPEATS
MARNE LESSON

Diaz Forces Show Same Renewed Strength That Marked French

NEW LAND OF PROMISE

By AUSTIN WEST
Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Milan, June 25.
Fragmentary details only have reached here at present about the Austrian defeat. Preparations for retreat beyond the Piave were discovered by Italian raiders in the enemy lines in the early hours of Sunday morning. Instantly the Italian artillery began a furious bombardment against the passages across the river.

At dawn General Diaz ordered a series of infantry attacks along the whole line, and they were pressed with irresistible energy. By 11 o'clock Italian regiments had smashed the enemy front at Montello, recaptured the entire ridge and driven the now bewildered foe down the slopes.

By the water's edge, there and at other spots where the fleeing troops were massed in waiting to get across hastily improvised bridges, Allied aviation squadrons, including the pioneer American corps, raked and melted their dense formations incessantly and mercilessly with a fiery hail of machine-guns. The fugitives were blocked with dead and wounded and the crimson waters of the Piave were covered thickly with thousands of bodies.

After a short but violent bombardment had destroyed the town of Nervesca it was recaptured during the afternoon in a brilliant bayonet charge. Besides recovering all the guns lost last week, the Italians seized there a large number of Austrian cannon intact with their munition stores.

Great public rejoicings here greeted tonight's announcement of the disorderly, disastrous retreat of the Austrian army across the Piave from the Montello heights right away down to the Venetian Gulf.

Although, as I remarked in my Friday dispatch, a debacle of the kind would not occasion surprise, so rapid a realization in tomorrow's expected, especially in view of the great reaction it was bound to provoke at this juncture of the already deeply disturbed internal conditions of the dual monarchy. These glad tidings, enhanced by simultaneous news of the Italian success on the French front before Montdidier, fifty miles in tomorrow's solemn anniversary of the Franco-Italian victories at Solferino and San Martino.

By the renewed strength that has followed swiftly her momentary weakness, Italy, with her allies, has sought Austria on the banks of the Piave the same lesson which the Franco-Italian armies taught Germany on the banks of the Marne, and the Latin eagles have soared to victory from that Venetian plain which Field Marshal Boroevic pointed out so surely to the imperial legation as the new land of promise.

ITALIANS CAPTURE 45,000

Unofficial Reports Give That Number of Prisoners

Special Dispatch to Evening Public Ledger
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London, June 25.—The Daily Chronicle was informed by the Italian embassy that up to noon Monday 45,000 Austrians had been taken prisoners by the Italians in the Piave retreat.

But the Italian embassy's information that 45,000 Austrians had been captured is as yet unconfirmed by any official Italian dispatch. An agency message from Rome mentions the same figure as the number of prisoners taken, and possibly the Italian embassy got its information from that source, which apparently is unofficial.

GERMANS HOLD UP REFUGEES

Estonians, Fleeing to Russia, Perish Along Frontiers

By ARTHUR RANSOME
Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Moscow, June 25.—Although letters received in Moscow from Estonians show that they would rather come to Russia than remain under German rule, the general flood of refugees pours toward the frontiers. This flood is held up on the frontiers by the Germans, who fear the infection of Bolshevism.

Near Bryza there are 40,000 refugees, most of them camping in the forests and many dying of hunger, and there is much typhoid and dysentery.

SHELL-TORN FOREST ON PEAK OF MONTE GAPPA



This mountain stronghold held by the Italians is the bulwark for their defensive against a possible Austrian offensive in the mountains, on the northern end of the battleline

URGE ALLIED DRIVE ON AUSTRIA THROUGH ITALY OR THE BALKANS

American Army Opinion Favors Crushing Blow as Means of Saving Russia and Getting at Germany

By CLINTON W. GILBERT
Special Correspondent Evening Public Ledger

Washington, June 25.
Military opinion here is that the floods which prevented Austria from supporting the men she threw across the Piave also will hamper Italy in undertaking a great counter-offensive. The floods which contributed to Austria's defeat probably will in the end save Austria.

None the less, the moral effect of what Italy has done will be tremendous. Hungary Austria has been tremulous. She does not get food and fuel. On the contrary, she has lost a large number of men, great military stores and many cannon. Starvation and lack of food will be felt more gravely in the hour of defeat. The internal condition of Austria will be made worse.

The parallel between Russia and Austria, the weak partner of the Entente and the weak partner of the Teutonic allies, holds to the point of the next move. When the forced Russian offensive failed, Germany attacked the heart of Russia until the country cried for and got peace.

Military men say now, that the forced Austria offensive has failed. Austria should be attacked and the war carried into her territory until that weak and tottering monarchy is put out of action.

There is a strong sentiment in the United States Army in favor of attacking Austria. With this sentiment General March may or may not be in accord. General Foch's view, and he will be likely to control, is not publicly known. But below the highest rank the strategy of striking Austria finds general favor, for the very same reason that Germany a year ago elected to strike at and knock out Russia.

Opinion is not agreed as to the best way of attacking Austria. Obstacles lie in the way of each plan of attack in the shape of long and difficult communications and the lack of shipping. Moreover, every one wants to feel secure about the West front—to know that the English, French and American forces there will be able to hold before attacking elsewhere.

The West front is, as it always has been, a line of defense. The West front strategy and psychology are primarily defensive. The nations fighting there mean to win if they could, but first of all to protect their own homes, their lines of communication, their capacity for joint action, their Paris and their Channel ports.

Until this country enters the war with 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 men this war will be a defensive war. When, as a whole, the Allies and this country resume the offensive, then it must have been decided whether or not a blow struck into the vital or along the flank of Austria would be the most effective.

ITALIANS USE SEAPLANE FLEET TO BOMB AUSTRIANS ON PIAVE

Tawny, Swollen River Gives Chance to Use Naval Craft. Death Rains From Air Upon Foe Attempting Crossing

By WARD PRICE
Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger
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Italian Headquarters, June 25.—I had the fortune to be flying over the Austrian lines on the Piave with an Italian bombing squadron during the hour which, if reports be true, may prove to have been the historical turning point of this great battle.

Day after day, during the last week of warfare, this squadron from Venice has harried without mercy Austrian divisions, converging on those foot bridges over the Piave which the enemy had hoped were going to be the wooden threshold of a great victory.

The country around the lower Piave mouth was covered with water, but naval seaplanes were hovering in the sky above there. They were a gay-looking lot as they slid out of their sheds onto a long lane of water. Ten fast single-seaters were the escort, hardly necessary, it seemed, for the Austrian airmen rarely venture near the lines, and in their midst flew twenty bombing airplanes.

We landed on a small island and circled for height. For a while the whole circus droned around and around in circles. Then we turned across the flooded Piave delta toward the enemy line.

Foundations Wonderful
I had been up and down that region often enough in boats, but I never realized how thoroughly the Italians had done their foundations last November. The whole land, laboriously re-deemed, has been drowned again and the foundations of the earth are being carried everywhere gives it the appearance of a tilted geological map. Only here and there emerge little fortified fractions of dry land, brightly against the green clumps of trees.

An enemy observation balloon behind his line was sinking fast into its nest. Three of its kind went down in flames yesterday and would wait for no attack from these Italian hornets.

Barrage of Aerial Rosebuds
By now the enemy's aerial barrage had sprung up back ahead of us—a nose-ay of sooty rosebuds in the sky.

The enemy wriggled everywhere, some persevering a long way and some straggling to an almost stop. The foot bridges over the Piave were plain enough, but what they marked had been hit so often by the Allied bombs?

I could see nothing moving as we cruised around, nor make out a single gun emplacement. I suppose it needs a trained eye to find these things. I knew, however, what the pilot was looking for. It was clusters of trenches and huts close to the Piave, in which he sheltered some Austrian reserves.

He raised his hand to show that we were over the place. A jerk of the red bomb lever, then another. I bent over the side to follow them with my eyes, but could not see them. A second later I looked over again and

accompany us with a shell or two on the way toward the water.

Italy's Pentostons in Piave
At 200 feet he flattened out, and we flew back toward Venice. The pilot was dotted with Italian pentostons mounting long gray naval guns. The pilot pointed to one and planned toward it. The crew waved a welcome and at a score or two of feet above their deck the engine burst into a roar again and we skimmed on.

In this way we visited a lot of lonely gunners of the maresu, who have been marooned for months part in their anchored hulks and are delighted to see anything that moves. Meanwhile, one had lost sight of the other seaplanes of our company. They had scattered about their several affairs, and it was only after landing that we heard that one was hit in the patrol tank by the enemy's barrage and had to make a forced and risky landing on the narrow canal.

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