

THE WEATHER

Washington, Sept. 16. — Generally cloudy tonight and Tuesday with probably rain; cooler Tuesday.

TEMPERATURE AT EACH HOUR table with columns for time and temperature.

Evening Public Ledger

THE EVENING TELEGRAPH

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VOL. V.—NO. 2 Philadelphia, Monday, September 16, 1918. PRICE TWO CENTS

U. S. WILL REJECT AUSTRIA'S PEACE OFFER; AMERICANS HURRY TO GET BACK ON 8-MILE LINE

WASHINGTON REGARDS "FEELER" AS ONE STEP IN "DESPERATE MOVE"

Broadside of Propaganda Would Not Surprise Officials

NEW PROPOSAL IS VERY ADROIT

Answer of Administration Will Require Great Skill to Prevent Misunderstanding

GERMANY MUST BE VANQUISHED FIRST

No Thought of Ending War Until Teutons Have Been Crushed

U. S. REPLY IMPORTANT

Prompt Refusal by This Country Will Stifle Agitators in Allied Countries

Force to Make Right Law of the World, Says Wilson

There is therefore but one response possible for us: Force, force to the utmost, force without stint or limit, the righteous and triumphant force which shall make right the law of the world and cast every selfish dominion down to the dust.

By CLINTON W. GILBERT

Washington, Sept. 16.

Newspaper correspondents were told today, unofficially, but still on the best authority, that they "would be safe in assuming that the Administration would reject the Austrian peace proposals."

Another circumstance that indicated the official point of view was the announcement by the State Department that in the opinion of European diplomats, who had met together recently in anticipation of the Austrian move, this country and allied countries must expect within the next few days "desperate German peace propaganda."

Proposal Very Adroit It is known here that the Austrian note is considered adroit and as requiring skill on the part of the Administration in answering it.

The Allies and this country have got to leave their own people with the feeling there is something to fight for when they reject the enemy overtures. They will have also to do their best to prevent Germany and Austria from being able to convince their people that they are fighting a defensive war for their national existence, as a result of their Allied unwillingness to meet around a table to talk peace.

May Answer Note When the Austrian note arrives—it has not yet been received, but is expected through neutral channels—it will probably be promptly answered.

American Opinion United There is evident here in Washington a strong desire to keep American opinion united on the subject of peace, and it is plain that it is now, more than at any time in the past, fully united. The American determination is to whip Germany first. General March's statement on Saturday that this country meant to "go through with the war," as already pointed out in this correspondence, was a reply to the Austro-German propaganda. So it may be assumed was his earlier announcement that we should win the war next year.

The Administration wants the country to think not of peace, but of victory, at any rate of no peace less in substance than one that could be enforced by American arms. A diligent effort is evidently being made to repel the German peace propaganda.

Rejection Will Be Prompt To the success of that effort nothing will contribute more than a prompt and convincing rejection of Austria's latest bid for a conference. And so a prompt and convincing rejection of it may be expected. And the reason why no time is likely to be lost is that the influenza epidemic is now in full force.

Text of Austrian Note Inviting a Peace Parley

Amsterdam, Sept. 16. The Austro-Hungarian Government has invited all the belligerent Governments to enter into a confidential and unbinding discussion at some neutral place of the basic principles for the conclusion of peace, the discussion not to interrupt military operations.

An objective and conscientious examination of the situation of all the belligerent States no longer leaves doubt that all peoples, on whatever side they may be fighting, long for a speedy end to the bloody struggle. Despite this natural and comprehensive desire for peace, it has not so far been possible to create those preliminary conditions calculated to bring the peace efforts nearer to realization and bridge the gap which at present still separates the belligerents from one another.

A more effective means must therefore be considered whereby the responsible factors of all the countries can be offered an opportunity to investigate the present possibilities of an understanding.

The first step which Austria-Hungary, in accord with her allies, undertook, on December 12, 1916, for the bringing about of peace did not lead to the end hoped for. The grounds for this lay assuredly in the situation at that time. In order to maintain in their peoples the war spirit, which was steadily declining, the Allied Governments had by the most severe means suppressed even any discussion of the peace idea. And so it came about that the ground for a peace understanding was not properly prepared. The natural transition from the wildest war agitation to a condition of conciliation was lacking.

Discussion Believed Possible "It would, however, be wrong to believe that the peace step we then took was entirely without result. Its fruits consist of something which is not to be overlooked—that the peace question has not since vanished from the order of the day. The discussions which have been carried on before the tribunal of public opinion have disclosed proof of the not slight differences which today still separate the warring Powers in their conception of peace conditions.

"Nevertheless, an atmosphere has been created which no longer excludes the discussion of the peace problem."

CENSUS OF IRISH RESIDENTS BEGINS

Adherents of "Provisional Government" Are Being Registered Here

ENVOY EXPLAINS AIM

The "provisional government of Ireland" today is registering its adherents of both sexes in this city for census purposes and to inform them of Irish citizenship of their rights under the draft laws.

Dr. Patrick McCartan, envoy of the "provisional government," said this morning that the registration was not designed to keep Irishmen out of the American army, but to prevent them from being "impressed or coerced" into British military service.

The registration is taking place at 726 Spruce street, the headquarters of the Irish-American Club. Doctor McCartan, an ambassador of the "Irish Republic," rented a room at the club for the census, which is expected to continue for a week.

surely may be deduced from the utterances of responsible statesmen that the desire to reach an understanding—and not to decide the war exclusively by force of arms is also gradually beginning to penetrate into Allied States, save for some exceptions in the case of blinded war agitators, which certainly are not to be estimated lightly.

"The Austro-Hungarian Government is aware that after the deep-reaching convulsions which have been caused in the life of the peoples by the devastating effects of the world war it will not be possible to re-establish order in the tottering world at a single stroke. The path that leads to the restoration of peaceful relations between the peoples is cut by hatred and embitterment. It is toilsome and wearisome, yet it is our duty to tread this path—the path of negotiation—and if there are still such responsible factors as desire to overcome the opponent by military means and to force the will to victory upon him, there can, nevertheless, no longer be doubt, that this aim, even assuming that it is attainable, would first necessitate a further sanguinary and protracted struggle.

Ruin Seen Ahead "But even a later victorious peace will no longer be able to make good consequences which will be fatal to all the States and peoples of Europe. The only peace which could righteously adjust the still divergent conceptions of the opponents would be a peace desired by all the peoples. With this consciousness, and in its unwavering endeavor to work in the interests of peace, the Austro-Hungarian Government now again comes forward with a suggestion with the object of bringing about a direct discussion between the enemy Powers.

"The earnest will to peace of wide classes of the population of all the States who are jointly suffering through the war—the indispensible rapprochement in individual controversial questions—as well as the more conciliatory atmosphere that is general, seems to the Austro-Hungarian Government to give a certain guarantee that a fresh step in the interests of peace, which also takes account of past experiences in this domain, might at the present moment offer the possibility of success.

"The Austro-Hungarian Government has therefore resolved to point out to all the belligerents, friend and foe, a path considered practicable by it."

20,000 INSURGENT MINERS STRIKE

Lower Anthracite Men Defy Order of Union to Continue Work

CUTS OFF 200,000 TONS

Pottsville, Pa., Sept. 16. In the face of the orders and importunities of the mine workers' union officials, about 20,000 mine workers in Ninth District went on strike this morning because the Government has not granted them the increase in wages that they demanded.

Clergymen, businessmen and others pleaded with the men yesterday, patriotically remain at work. President Matthews, of the United Mine Workers, labored until late last night trying to keep the men in line. The strike cuts off a daily production of about 200,000 tons.

GERMAN PEACE OFFER TO BELGIUM OMITTS WORD OF REPARATION

By the Associated Press London, Sept. 16.

It is learned that Germany has made a peace offer to Belgium. The terms of this proposal are as follows: That Belgium shall remain neutral until the end of the war.

That thereafter the entire economic and political independence of Belgium shall be reconstituted. That the pre-war commercial treaties between Germany and Belgium shall again be put into operation after the war for an indefinite period.

That Belgium shall use her good offices to secure the return of the German colonies. That the Flemish question shall be considered and the Flemish minority which aided the German invaders shall not be penalized.

The proposal contains no word respecting reparation or indemnities, no admission that Germany wronged Belgium.

AUSTRIA AIMING TO SPLIT ALLIES, BALFOUR'S VIEW

Proposal Cannot Produce Peace, Says British Statesmen

GERMANS POOR ACTORS

Fundamental Questions Must Be Settled Before Discussion Takes Place

By the United Press London, Sept. 16. Foreign Secretary Balfour, speaking at the Hotel Savoy today, declared his belief that the Austrian proposal cannot produce peace nor divide the Allies.

"There is something almost cynical in the Austrian proposal, coming within a few hours after the speech of Vice-Chancellor von Payer," Balfour said.

"I cannot believe it is the enemy's desire to arrive at an understanding which we can possibly accept. It is an attempt to weaken the forces which are proving too strong for them in the field. I am sure it is not their desire, but I am just as sure it cannot divide the Allies.

"When the Germans try to dress themselves in President Wilson's clothes or try to play a part they think Wilson wants them to play they are clumsy actors."

Balfour agreed with the Austrian note's assertion that the whole of civilization is at stake and that prolongation of hostilities is risking the sacrifice of a great deal that is dear to everybody interested.

He asserted that certain fundamental questions must be settled before discussion can take place.

"Until these are settled, what is the use of irresponsible talk."

"Until Germany is prepared to view the problems confronting us all in a very different spirit than at present, and to drop the present line-up, no negotiations are possible."

"The four analyzed Von Payer's speech at length, comparing the latter's statements regarding Belgium, Alsace-Lorraine, German colonies and the Austrian proposal with the Allied aims, in view of the Austrian proposal, showing how futile conversations are."

"I cannot honestly see in the Austrian proposal the slightest hope that the goal of peace is really attainable," the secretary declared.

"It seems almost incredible that anything good can come from the Austrian proposal."

BRIDGEPORT STRIKE ENDS

Men Vote to Return as Body. Assure Wilson of Loyalty

By the Associated Press Bridgeport, Conn., Sept. 16.—The strike of machinists and toolmakers in large Bridgeport munition factories was ended today, many men returning to work independently, while the large body of strikers in mass meeting, after hearing the letter of President Wilson to their voters, voted to return to work.

The meeting also sent a reply to President Wilson, which had been drafted by the strike committee. This reply confirmed the loyalty of the strikers to the Government, and promised to rejoin at once and do their part in keeping up the flow of munitions.

The strikers, in their reply, told the President that they would take up their arms and their work with the Taft-Walsh war labor board, and asked his influence to get them an early hearing.

U. S. FORCES GERMAN RETREAT AT BORDER; FRENCH TAKE VAILLY

Germans Stand at Bay Before American Troops

Prepare to Resist Pershing's Advance on Hindenburg Line—New Divisions Rushed Up—Counter-Attack Quickly Stopped

By EDWIN L. JAMES

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. The First American Army today is consolidating for defense its newly won line across the base of the St. Mihiel salient, while on a line slightly north of them the Germans are establishing themselves in the Hindenburg line. Our patrols are pushing out beyond our line, harassing the Germans and pushing, in instances, beyond their line.

The operation of reducing the salient is complete. The Germans have stopped their retreat and turned at bay. They appear to have decided to hold along the Hindenburg line. Reinforcements have been brought up in numbers, and special efforts have been made to take away the air supremacy from the First American Army.

Three counter-attacks have been launched against our line north of Thiaucourt, with disastrous results for the Germans. For this effort they threw into the line the 122d Division, the result of whose three repeated efforts was to leave 600 prisoners in our hands. These attacks happened to fall upon two divisions which already had won the reputation of being among our best, and I hear that our boys met the Germans with joy, and assuaged their disappointment over the boches not putting up a real fight in the salient.

Both Sides Busy Fixing Lines We are utilizing natural and artificial positions to make strong our line should the German drive back at us. Ours runs roughly from Combrès to Hannonville, to Hovoville, to Xammes, to Jaunay, and Norray, the patrols being generally slightly in advance of those positions. There stretches No-Man's-Land in width varying from three to six kilometers between the lines.

Frank W. Calvert, an official of the Scott Paper Company, Chester; his wife Margaret and their five-year-old daughter Marjorie were found dead in bed today in their home, 231 Kenyon avenue, Swarthmore, from gas fumes. Calvert had not been to his office since Thursday and an investigation disclosed the three bodies, which were scarcely recognizable.

PHILA. MAN DIES HERO IN FRANCE

Letter Tells of His Death. Parents Confident He Lives

FOUR FROM HERE HURT

Roll of Honor of City and Vicinity for Today

KILLED PRIVATE WILLIAM MARKLE, 6667 Germantown avenue. PREVIOUSLY REPORTED KILLED NOW REPORTED WOUNDED PRIVATE MAX HOBBS, 1815 South Fifth street.

WOUNDED PRIVATE JOHN R. CHORD, 1401 Walnut street. PRIVATE CLARA SHATTON, 4180 Ledy avenue. PRIVATE ELLEN FALLON, 1109 North Sixth street.

WOUNDED PRIVATE W. W. CHORSE, no local address. PRIVATE ROBERT A. BORN, of Dorchester, Mass., wounded. PRIVATE CLAYTON SMITH, of Media, Pa., wounded. PRIVATE HENRY BROWN, of Chester, Pa., wounded.

WOUNDED PRIVATE WILSON LAZAR, of Drexelton, Pa., wounded. PRIVATE WILLIAM G. HAGERMAN, of Norwood, Pa., wounded. PRIVATE JOHN ATKINSON, of Drexelton, Pa., wounded. PRIVATE WILLIAM PITTET, of Drexelton, Pa., wounded.

PRISONERS IN GERMANY LIEUTENANT ROBERT BONNER, no local address. PRIVATE CHARLES A. BUNTING, 649 North Third-fifth street. September 16, 1918.

The complete list of casualties announced today by the War Department is printed on page 5.

While only two Philadelphians are reported in the official casualty lists issued today by the War Department in Washington, another soldier from this city has been killed in action, according to a letter received here from a man in the same regiment.

The parents of the Philadelphia soldier to have given his life refuse to believe the report of his death until they receive official notification from the Government.

Three soldiers, whose homes are near this city, have been killed in action; three others have been wounded and another has been missing.

The two Philadelphia soldiers reported in the official lists are both wounded, although one is listed as missing. Word received here in letters dated later than when he was supposed to have been missing were sent from a base hospital behind the lines.

One of Pershing's Divisions Captures 72 Cannon

AVIATORS BOMB MOSELLE SPANS

Allied Artillery Shells Metz—Teutons Heavily Bombard Our Lines

AUSTRIAN CAPTIVES DENOUNCE GERMANS

Mangin's Troops Press on in Move to Flank Chemin-des-Dames.

TAKE MONT-DES-SINGES

British Gain in Flanders and on Arras-Cambrai Road

London, Sept. 16. The Americans pressed forward today for important gains on an eight-mile front between Jaunay and the Moselle on the German border. The Germans in that region are in retreat.

American artillery is bombarding Metz. Allied airmen are bombing the Moselle bridges between the American lines and Metz, as well as German concentration points far in the rear.

The French continue to outflank Chemin-des-Dames and have captured Mont des Singes, south of the Ailette, and Vailly, on the Aisne. The British have made fresh gains in Flanders and north of the Arras-Cambrai road.

By the United Press With the Americans on the Metz Front, Sept. 16.—The American positions on the eight-mile front between Jaunay (on the Moselle) and the Moselle were remarkably improved today, the Germans either retreating in that region, Jaunay is two miles south of Thiaucourt. The Moselle River cuts into France from the German border directly east of Jaunay.

A certain American division captured an entire artillery park near Jaunay, taking seventy-two cannon and making its total artillery for the drive. The Americans are under heavy bombardment, but continue to improve their positions. Their morale is of the highest and they are anxious to press on, while the boche morale is correspondingly lower. Prisoners say they have no hope of winning the war. The Austrians are bitter for the drive. The Germans, saying they were left to shift for themselves and that repeated requests for more ammunition were ignored.

Aerial activity is steadily increasing. Several tons of bombs were dropped on Courcelles, Ebrange, Zaarbrücken, Rouly and Etel. American day bombers attacked the Moselle bridges at Corny six miles southwest of Metz and Arnville two miles south of Corny. Several bombs were made with the four tons of explosives used.

In view of the Austrian peace proposal, the tempo des boches in this region is extremely interesting. Villagers within the salient say that as the enemy moved out, the soldier declared they did not know exactly where they were going, but were "headed for home, which is all that matters."

By the Associated Press Paris, Sept. 16. The French have progressed between the Oise and the Aisne and captured Mont des Singes, the War Office today announced. (Mont Singes is south of the Ailette and east of Vauxaillon). The town of Vailly, on the north of the Aisne, is a north of Chemin-des-Dames, also has been captured by the French. (Vailly is eleven miles south of Laon, the chief objective of the boche in this region.) The capture of these two strongholds marks an extension of the flanking movement against Chemin-des-Dames. Many des Sin is a north of Chemin-des-Dames and Vailly south of that barrier to Laon. American troops are assisting the French in the drive toward Laon.)

By the Associated Press With the American Army in Germany, Sept. 16.—Activity of the German man artillery increased somewhat during the forenoon today. No infantry attacks, however, were made. Intense aerial activity marked the operations early today.

The Germans sent a message to the American front in France. He is expected to remain a few days before returning to the United States.

BAKER ARRIVES IN LONDON

War Secretary Stops Off Few Days on Way Home

By the United Press London, Sept. 16.—Secretary Baker arrived in London today, following his tour of the American front in France. He is expected to remain a few days before returning to the United States.

Unofficial reports show that two other soldiers from this city have been wounded, and that two are prisoners in Germany.

The casualties in the American army are reported to be as follows: Killed, three; wounded, 12; missing, 1.