CZECHS LOOSEN HAPSBURG YOKE

Provisional Prime Minister Issues Declaration of Independence From Austria

WILL FORM REPUBLIC

President Wilson Likely to Demand Complete Freedom for Submerged Groups

Washington, Oct. 19.

Remolding of Austria-Hungary, with autonomy and Austrian confederation promised, comes too late.

Representatives of the submerged groups said today that the old monarchy of the Hapsburgs must and will be destroyed. As proof of its destined disintegration they pointed to the Czecho-Slovak "declaration of independence" just issued here, wherein the provisional government proclaims a Czecho-Slovak republic and refuses to remain a part of Austria longer.

The chief features of this declaration, which is signed by Prof. Thomas G. Masaryk, prime minister and minister of finance of the provisional government, as well as other provisional officers, are as follows:

The Czecho-Slovak State shall be a republic.

It will guarantee complete freedom in every phase of life, and provides that the Church shall be separated from the State.

There shall be universal suffrage; women shall be placed on an equal footing with men; proportional representation shall protect the rights of the minority.

The Government shall be parliamentary in form and shall recognize the principles of initiative and referendum.

The standing army will be replaced by militia.

The nation will assume its part of the Austro-Hungarian pre-war debt, but the debts for this war "shall be left to those who incurred them."

All treaties shall be entered into openly and frankly without secret diplomacy.

Allied successes, it is held, assure the fruition of this plan.

Czecho-Slovak leaders say the beginning of the end has come for Austria-Hungary.

Duplicity was seen in Emperor Charles's announcement that he would form a confederation of Austrian nationalities, a proposal which is quite at variance with President Wilson's principle of complete freedom for subject nationalities, which Austria's last note professed to accept.

The complete text follows:

"At this grave moment, when the Hohenzollerns are offering peace in order to stop the victorious advance of the Allied armies and to prevent the dismemberment of Austria-Hungary and Turkey, and when the Hapsburgs are promising the federalization of the empire and autonomy to the dissatisfied nationalities committed to their rule, we, the Czecho-Slovak National Council, recognized by the Allied and American Governments as the provisional government of the Czecho-Slovak State and nation, in complete acord with the declaration of the Czech Deputies made in Prague on January 6, 1918, and realizing that federalization, and, still more, autonomy, mean nothing under a Hapsburg dynasty, do hereby make and declare this our declaration of independence.

Betrayed by Hapsburgs

"We do this because of our belief that no people should be forced to live under a sovereignty they do not recognize, and because of our knowledge and firm conviction that our nation cannot freely develop in a Hapsburg mock federation, which is only a new form of the denationalizing oppression under which we have suffered for the past 300 years. We consider freedom to be the first prerequisite for federalization and believe that the free nations of central and eastern Europe may easily federate should they find it necessary.

"We make this declaration on the basis of our historic and natural right. We have been an independent State since the seventh century, and in 1526, as an independent State, consisting of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, we joined with Austria and Hungary in a defensive union against the Turkish danger. We have never voluntarily surrendered our rights as an independent State in this confederation. The Hapsburgs broke their compact with our nation by illegally transgressing our rights and violating the constitution of our State, which they had pledged themselves to uphold, and we therefore refuse longer to remain a part of Austria-Hungary in any form.

"We claim the right of Bohemia to be reunited with her Slovak brethren of Slovakia, once part of our national State, later torn from our national body and fifty years ago incorporated in the Hungarian State of the Magyars, who, by their unspeakable violence and ruthless oppression of their subject races, have lost all moral and human right to rule anybody but themselves.

Dual Monarchy Indicted

"The world knows the history of our struggle against Hapsburg oppression, intensified and systematized by the Austro-Hungarian dualistic compromise of 1867. This dualism is only a shameless organization of brute force and exploitation of the majority by the minority; it is a political conspiracy of the Germans and Magyars against our own as well as the other Slav and the Latin nations of the monarchy. The world knows the justice of our claims, which the Hapsburgs themselves dared not deny. Francis Joseph, in the most solemn manner, repeatedly recognized the sovereign rights of our nation. The Germans and Magyars opposed this recognition, and Austria-Hungary, bowing before the pan-Germans, became a colony of Germany, and as her vanguard to the east provoked the last Balkan conflict as well as the present world war, which was begun by the Hapsburgs alone, without the consent of the representatives of the people.

"We cannot and will not continue to live under the direct or indirect rule of the violators of Belgium, France and Serbia, the would-be murderers of Russia and Rumania, the murderers of tens of thousands of civilians and soldiers of our blood, and the accomplices in numberless, unspeakable crimes committed in this war against humanity by the two degenerate and irresponsible dynasties. We will not remain a part of a State which has no justification for existence, and which, refusing to accept the fundamental principles of modern world organization, remains only an artificial and immoral political structure, hindering every movement toward democratic and social progress. The Hapsburg dynasty, weighed down by a huge inheritance of error and crime, is a perpetual menace to the peace of the world, and we deem it our duty toward humanity and civilization to aid in bringing about its downfall and destruction.

"We reject the sacrilegious assertion that the power of the Hapsburg and Hohenzollern dynasties is of divine [illegible], we refuse to recognize the divine [illegible] Our nation elected the [illegible] Bohemia of [illegible] Hapsburgs [illegible] Hapsburg dynasty unworthy of leading our nation, and deny all of their claims to rule in the Czecho-Slovak land, which we here and now declare shall henceforth be a free and independent people and nation.

"We accept and shall adhere to the ideals of modern democracy, as they have been the ideals of our nation for centuries. We accept the American principles as laid down by President Wilson; the principles of liberated mankind—of the actual equality of nations—and of governments deriving all their just power from the consent of the governed. We, the nation of Comenius, cannot but accept these principles expressed in the American Declaration of Independence, the principles of Lincoln, and of the declaration of the rights of man and of the citizen. For these principles our nation shed its blood in the memorable Hussite Wars 500 years ago, for these same principles, besides her Allies, our nation is shedding its blood today in Russia, Italy and France.

"We shall outline only the main principles of the Constitution of the Czecho-Slovak nation; the final decision as to the Constitution itself falls to the legally chosen representatives of the liberated and united people.

Universal Suffrage Recognized

"The Czecho-Slovak State shall be a republic. In constant endeavor for progress it will guarantee complete freedom of conscience, religion and science, literature and art, speech, the press and the right of assembly and petition. The Church shall be separated from the State. Our democracy shall rest on universal suffrage; women shall be placed on an equal footing with men politically, socially and culturally. The rights of the minority shall be safeguarded by proportional representation; national minorities shall enjoy equal rights. The Government shall be parliamentary in form and shall recognize the principles of initiative and referendum. The standing army will be replaced by militia.

"The Czecho-Slovak nation will carry out far-reaching social and economic reforms; the large estates will be redeemed for home colonization, patents of nobility will be abolished. Our nation will assume its part of the Austro-Hungarian pre-war public debt—the debts for this war we leave to those who incurred them.

"In its foreign policy the Czecho-Slovak nation will accept its full share of responsibility in the reorganization of eastern Europe. It accepts fully the democratic and social principle of nationality and subscribes to the doctrine that all covenants and treaties shall be entered into openly and frankly without secret diplomacy.

"Our Constitution shall provide an efficient, rational and just government, which will exclude all special privileges and prohibit class legislation.

"Democracy has defeated theocratic autocracy. Militarism is overcome—democracy is victorious—on the basis of democracy mankind will be reorganized. The forces of darkness have served the victory of light—the longed-for age of humanity is dawning.

"We believe in democracy—we believe in liberty—and liberty evermore.

"Given in Paris, on the eighteenth of October, 1918.

"PROF. THOMAS G. MASARYK,
"Prime Minister and Minister of [illegible]
"GENERAL DR. MILAN R. STEFANIK,
"Minister of National Defense.
"DR. EDWARD BENES,
"Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Interior."

CZECHS ARE REPORTED IN CONTROL OF PRAGUE

Copenhagen, Oct. 19.—The Czechs are masters in Prague, according to a Berlin dispatch to the Berlingske Tidende. Czech money is in circulation, and the Czech flag waves over Hradschin Castle.

The Hradschin is the Kremlin of old Prague. The castle is the famous structure in which the Thirty Years' War was precipitated.

London, Oct. 19.—The version of the manifesto of Emperor Charles as received here contains the following concerning the reconstruction of the empire:

"This reconstruction, which in no way affects the integrity of the countries under the Holy Crown of Hungary, will guarantee the independence of each individual national State. It will also effectively protect common interests and will bring them to bear wherever a community is a condition of vital importance for individual States.

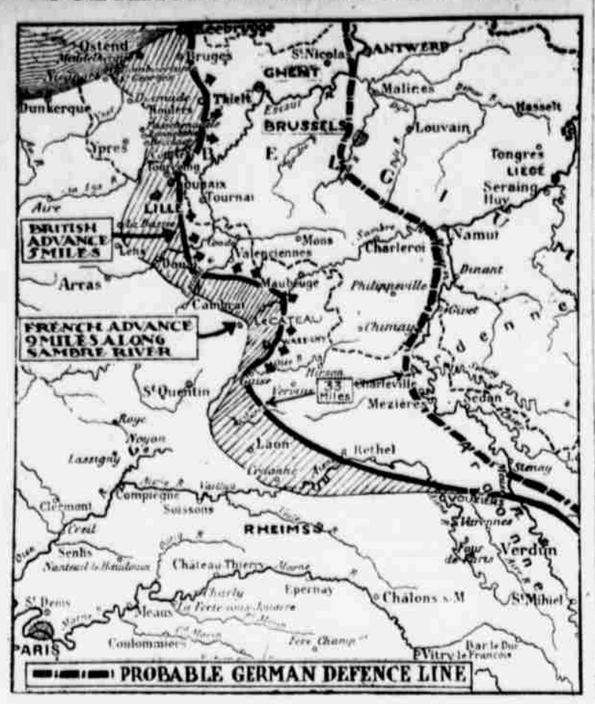
"A union of all our forces will be especially necessary for a just and rightful solution of the great tasks resulting from the reaction of the war. Until legislation for this reconstruction is completed existing institutions will remain in force unaltered. In order to safeguard the general interests of the country the Government is charged to prepare everything for the reconstruction of Austria."

The manifesto appeals to the people to "co-operate in the great task with the national councils formed from the ranks of each nationality, whose task it will be to assert the interests of the people to each other and toward my Government."

"May our fatherland," the manifesto concludes, "through unanimity of the nations it embraces, emerge from the storms of this war fortified by a federation of free peoples, God's blessings upon our task, so that the great work of peace we are going to build may lead to the happiness of all my peoples."

The manifest of the Emperor was given in part in a Vienna dispatch yesterday. Other dispatches indicate Austria to be divided into four States—German-Austrian, Czecho-Slovak, Illyrian and Ruthenian. Special treatment is promised Trieste. Gallicia is not to be joined to the Polish State.

FOE RETREATS ON WHOLE FRONT



Will of Austrians Must Be Supreme

Continued from Page One

points in his address of February 12, entirely ignores the declarations made in the Mount Vernon address on the Fourth of July last.

By the United Press

London, Oct. 19.

Intervention by the ruling classes in Germany restored the Kaiser after he had actually abdicated and interfered with the sending of a reply to President Wilson's last note, the Chronicle today declared it has reason to believe. According to this newspaper's belief, the Kaiser abdicated for several hours and probably even signed his abdication. An agreement of an armistice under Wilson's terms was reached and was actually under way when the ruling caste intervened, caused cancellation of the note and restored the Kaiser.

(In connection with this report it was noted that there were many rumors early this week of a reply already being en route, then neutral news centers received accounts of the arrival in Berlin of Hindenburg and other military leaders, and at the same time riots were reported in the German capital.)

A hundred window panes in the imperial palace in Berlin were smashed by a rioting mob during a peace demonstration Wednesday, according to reports received here today. The police were routed, the advices said. Thereupon the crowd rushed to the palace and did considerable damage before being dispersed.

BERLIN'S REPLY TO U. S. MAY BE SENT TODAY

By the Associated Press

London, Oct. 19.

Information received here from neutral sources today regarding Germany's reply to President Wilson's note is conflicting.

A dispatch from Amsterdam says the reply will be forwarded this afternoon, according to advices received at the Dutch capital; and the Politiken, of Copenhagen, while not confirming the Dutch information, says the reply "will deny the President's accusations of German cruelties and declare the submarine warfare cannot be stopped as long as there is no agreement as to an armistice. The reply will not reject the President's demands, but will make further negotiations possible. The German war cabinet met at 6 o'clock last evening to decide the definite form of the German answer."

A dispatch from Berne, Switzerland, dated yesterday and received here today, says:

"The German reply to President Wilson will not be completed and dispatched for several days, according to the latest Berlin advice. It is expected that the Reichstag will be summoned to meet on Tuesday.

"The Grand Admiral of the fleet and the chief of the naval staff have arrived in Berlin for consultation over the answer.

"It is believed that the reply will be neither a full acceptance nor a refusal, but worded so that the door will be left open for further negotiations.

"The Berlin reports show the holding of a peace demonstration by thousands of workmen. On the other hand, the patriotic and economic associations, including the great German manufacturing associations, have adopted resolutions urging the organization of a stubborn defense."

There was another panic on the Berlin Bourse Thursday, according to advices from Zurich. Maritime securities are reported to have dropped 25 per cent and chemical products issues from 10 to 20 per cent.

Wilson Puzzles U. S. Politicians

Continued from Page One

make up this Federal republic—all this to come out of a conference of unregenerate human beings recently fighting each other and thinking habitually only in terms of competition—is a dream.

How Far Is It "Possible"

It is not that. It has not as much substance as a dream. He did not get free trade, nor even an extremely low tariff out of his Congress in this country controlled by his own party and in his own personal grasp. Hence the words of the practioner of expediency "so far as possible."

How far is it possible. Complete removal of tariffs all at once would mean chaos. It would raise questions of tremendous importance about standards of living in the Orient and in the occident. It would frighten organized labor with the threat of competition with the workmen of Japan and China; and Mr. Wilson is building a social democracy in this country in consultation with the representatives of organized labor.

About all that may be expected out of the peace conference is the immediate an duniversal application of the most-favored-nation clause in commercial treaties and perhaps an agreement gradually to reduce tariffs until a certain minimum is reached; something like the agreement gradually to decrease armament which is now counted upon surely. All the steps toward a world peace organization will be halting and tentative of necessity, and especially this one of removing economic barriers.

Foe Beginning to Quit Brussels

Continued from Page One

opposition in the Lille salient and to the northward. In most places difficulty is found in keeping contact with the enemy's main forces, owing to the rapidity of the retreat.

Between the Sensee Canal and the Lys River the retreat forced on the enemy by the Allied successes continues. British troops, pressing forward despite considerable opposition from the enemy's rear guards, have realized a further advance of over five miles.

The troops of the British First Army under command of General Horne, have reached the general line of Marquette-en-Ostrevant, Masny, Bersee, Fretin, Salnghin and Ascq. North of Ascq the troops of General Plumer's Second Army are east of Roubaix and Tourcoing.

Tourcoing and Roubaix, which have been captured by the British, are intact. There are 60,000 inhabitants in Tourcoing and 65,000 at Roubaix, according to an official Belgian communication. The municipal administrations have been taken over and there is a sufficient food supply for fifteen days. Several stations, bridges and ammunition depots had been mined.

South of the Lys the country is intact, but the retreating Germans took with them a great number of men below the age of forty.

The Germans yesterday offered vigorous resistance on the front of Bruges, Oostcamp, Wynghene, Thielt and Oostrosebehe. The resistance was broke east of Oostcamp, between Wynghene and Thielt and Oostrosebeke.

The Belgians, British and French are continuing their Flanders drive after capturing Zeebrugge, Bruges, Thielt and other important points and clearing the coast.

By the Associated Press

Paris, Oct 19.—The French continue successfully their advance south of Wassigny and east of Guise, according to the War Office statement today. They have reached the Sambre Canal on a front of nearly nine mile south of Hannappes.

Along the canal the French hold the towns of Hannappes, Tupigny and Noyales. Since October 17 in this region the French First Army has taken more than 3000 prisoners and twenty guns.

East of Rethel the Germans have been driven from the territory between the Ardennes Canal and the Aisne, west of Attigny. The town of Ambly-Haut has been captured in addition to prisoners.

On both sides of Vouziers in Champagne the French have crossed the Aisne on a three-mile front and taken a footing on the heights to the east. The village of Vondry and several farms organized as supporting points, were captured and several hundred prisoners taken. Further east the fighting which has been going on since Thursday, has developed to French advantage. The French succeeded in making progress in the wooded degion between Olizy and GGrand Pre.

By the United Press

Paris, Oct. 19.—The German defenses southeast of Bruges are reported to have been broken. The Belgians, marching on Eecloo, are approaching Aelter. (Eecloo is fourteen miles east of Bruges, ten miles northwest of Ghent and seven miles northeast of Aeltre.)

The Allies also are pushing rapidly toward Deynze (seven miles southwest of Ghent) and Ghent. The enemy is reported to be massing hurriedly in front of Valenciennes.

The population of Bruges is expectantly awaiting the triumphal entry of King Albert.

By the Associated Press

With the Allied Armies in France and Belgium, Oct. 19.

British and American troops southeast of Le Cateau captured 1200 prisoners and 120 guns yesterday and have advanced about four miles since the attack began. The British are now more than three miles southeast of Lille. On the Belgian coast, British warships are shelling the retreating Germans.

Tanks manned by Americans trained in England led the assault against the German forces entrenched on the eastern side of the Selle River. They were faced by German marine divisions, which put up a hard fight. According to latest reports the Allies are still gaining ground against the desperate resistance of the enemy. At one point the Germans delivered a counter-attack and momentarily gained ground, but the tanks passed over and beyond the high ground where the Germans were making their stand, and quickly drove the enemy out of his trenches. American engineers, working under heavy machine-gun fire, placed bridges across the river and the American and British infantry swept across. The tanks helped to keep down the enemy fire until the engineers had finished their work, and then went over with the infantry.

Drive On and We Win, Cries Loan Leader

Continued from Page One

will exceed its quota of $10,500,000 by $2,000,000, and possibly more.

The Franklin National Bank has exceeded its quota of $12,240,000.

The Fourth Street National Bank has exceeded its allotment of $16,700,000.

Group 21 of the industrial committee has exceeded its quota of $5,700,000 by more than $500,000.

Ninth National Bank has subscribed $1,000,000 additional, making a total of $3,000,000.

Eighth National Bank has subscribed $1,500,000 additional, making a total of $3,000,000.

Penn Steel Export Company has subscribed $110,000 and Samuel F. Houston $100,000 through the Third National Bank.

Girard Trust Figures

The Girard Trust Company subscriptions exceed $17,000,000, and will probably be increased considerably by tonight.

The Bank of North America subscriptions total approximately $7,800,000.

The First National Bank subscriptions total approximately $11,000,000, and are still going strong.

The Central National Bank of Philadelphia has subscribed for $7,000,000 of the Loan for itself and its customers.

The Fidelity Trust Company has reached its quota of $14,370,000.

The Central Trust and Savings Company has subscribed $1,316,000.

The big stores of the city have gone "over the top" with subscriptions aggregating $14,658,050. This is $3,558,050 in excess of their quota.

The following increased subscriptions were reported today:

Belmont Iron Company, $165,000 additional, making a total of $330,000.

William Cramp & Sons, to date, $5,069,000.

Hog Island, to date, $2,500,000.

Shipbuilding Group, Industrial Committee, to date, $10,000,000.

"The last call is being given today for subscriptions. It is for the public to 'hurry up and double up.'"

Throughout the Philadelphia district a final movement is on to force the subscriptions beyond the $516,809,000 quota set by the Government. The district is observing "Pershing Day," designated by Governor Brumbaugh for all to make their last supreme sacrifice to support the men who are giving their all "over there."

The appeal has gone out for every bond holder to double the amount of his original subscription. The banks, trust companies, business firms and industrial leaders are doing it. The public must do it if the campaign is to succeed, the loan committee emphasizes.

So that every person may have an opportunity to enter additional subscriptions, every bank and trust company in Philadelphia will remain open until 10 o'clock tonight. Doubling of original subscriptions is made easy by these financial institutions, which will lend money for one year at the coupon rate of interest.

Government employes at the United States Customs House entered a 100 per cent subscription of $75,000. This represents a 50 per cent increase over the amount raised for the third loan.

Two wards in Philadelphia—the Eighth and the Twenty-third—have received honor flags for meeting their quotas. The flag presented to the Eighth Ward bears four stars, signifying that the quota has been tripled; the Twenty-third Ward flag has two stars.

There are more than eighty towns in the Third Federal Reserve district that have raised their quotas. Many of them have received honor flags with one or more stars.

Main Line Over Top

The Main Line went well "over the top." These towns received flags: Berwyn, Devon, Cynwyd, Villanova and Rosemont, Stoke Poges, Merion, Swarthmore, Brookwood and Rydal.

More impetus to the dashing campaign in Philadelphia is being given by a flood of big "Crisis Club" subscriptions. Hundreds of the large subscriptions made have not been received at headquarters as yet, because many of the Liberty Loan workers have not found time to report. Every man who has joined the "Crisis Club" has been pressed into service as a canvasser, and today the best business and professional brains of the city are at work helping to put over the loan. Samuel F. Houston, president of the Guarantee Trust and Safe Deposit Company, became a member and worker of the club today when he entered a $250,000 subscription.

Among the others who joined the organization were: Mrs. Sydney E. Hutchinson, who subscribed $100,000; Mrs. Henry P. Borie, $100,000; Joseph G. Hitner, $10,000; Alfred S. Hitner $10,000, and W. Perry Hitner, $10,000.

"Buy more bonds without any cash," is their appeal. "The great majority of the large subscriptions are made on credit, and the smallest subscriptions can and should be made that way."

If the quota is to be put over by tonight, there must be many more "million-dollar buyers" and thousands of subscribers to bonds of small denomination.

$1,000,000 OFFER BY RODMAN WANAMAKER

New York, Oct. 19.—Rodman Wanamaker has sent a telegram to Benjamin Strong, governor of the Federal Reserve of the Second District, expressing his willingness to be "one of a hundred New Yorkers each individually to take an additional $1,000,000 of the fourth Liberty Loan."

"It has been given to us to do our part in this way," the telegram continued, "to show to the world that there is a great Almighty who cares for us—if we do right. Might is not right, as was told on Calvary. Right is right. We will back up more American heroes with every power we have in sight—or ever expect to have. Millions of men, billions of dollars, trillions of food and over a hundred millions of hearts—on to victory. We will fight until every drop of blood is covered by Liberty Bonds."

John Wanamaker yesterday subscribed for $1,000,000 Liberty Loan bonds, making a total of $4,500,000 he has taken in two days.

FEVER STRIKES 60,000 GREEKS

Red Cross Rushes Aid to Refugees on Mytilene Island

By the United Press

Rome, Oct. 19.—The American Red Cross is rushing aid to the island of Mytilene, where 60,000 Greek refugees from Asia Minor are stricken with fever. The expedition is under command of Captain Wilkins, of Baltimore, and Captain Stevens, of Cambridge. Large quantities of food, medicine and clothing are being taken to the island.

Bethlehem Experiences Worst Day

Bethlehem, Pa., Oct. 19.—Bethlehem yesterday had its worst day in the influenza epidemic, when 164 new cases were reported with six deaths. There have been 1796 cases in the city.

Official War Reports

BELGIAN

Havre, Oct. 18 (Delayed.).

The main feature of the day was the vigorous resistance of the enemy on the front of Bruges, Oostcamp, Wynghene, Thielt and Oostroosebeke. We have nevertheless broken that resistance east of Oostcamp, between Wynghene and Thielt, and east of Oostroosebeke.

Southwest of Bruges the Belgian army realized an important advance. At several points it crossed the canal running from Bruges to Ostend and is progressing northward. Belgian infantry has occupied Ostend and has reached the outskirts of Bruges. (Bruges has since been captured.)

The Second British Army is also progressing south of the Lys and at several points has crossed the railway running from Courtrai to Mouscron. In the evening it occupied the towns of Roubaix and Tourcoing.

Southward of the Lys the country is intact and very well cultivated, and very many inhabitants are there. The Germans, however, took with them a great number of men below the age of forty.

Tourcoing and Roubaix are intact. There are 60,000 inhabitants at Tourcoing and 65,000 at Roubaix. The municipal administrations have been taken over, and there is a sufficient food supply for fifteen days. Several stations, bridges and ammunition depots had been mined.

BRITISH

London, Oct. 19.

We made progress yesterday evening northeast of Bohain, capturing the village of Mazinghien and completing the capture of Bazuel.

North of the Sensee Canal the advance continues. We have driven the German rearguards from Emerchicourt and Pecquencourt and are in contact with the enemy east of Vred and Cattelet.

Further north our advance detachments have crossed the Marcq River between Salnghin and Chereng and are approaching the latter village.

FRENCH

Paris, Oct. 19.

During the night the troops of the First Army pursued their victorious advance and threw back in disorder the enemy troops who attempted at all costs to maintain their position on the west bank of the Oise. Up to the present the French have reached the canal from east of the forest of Andigny to the north of Hauteville, Hannappes, Tupigny and Noyales are in our hands as well as other places bordering on the canal. In the course of the fighting in this region since October 17 we have taken more than 3000 prisoners. We also have captured twenty guns, a large number of machine guns and important war material, including an entire train loaded with munitions.

On the front of the Aisne we have cleared out the enemy from the region between the canal and the Aisne west of Attigny. We have taken possession of Ambly-Haut and have captured prisoners.

Yanks Force Enemy From Bantheville

Continued from Page One

a renewal of airplane activity with many scraps between patrols, as the result of which we netted a number of boches. But the feature of the day's aerial activity was the work of our bombing planes. They went over in an armada of 140 planes, eighty in one lot and sixty in another. They filled the air in a great whirring cloud. Shortly after they pased the front line violent and large explosions occurred in Clery-le-Grande, Aincreville and other places. Our losses were slight.

The giving way of the boche in a withdrawal of four kilometers in the center of our front has a large significance, giving us a great wedge into the Kriemhild positions. It should be remembered that only Thursday both of these positions were ordered to hold at all costs.

The whole German line from the sea to the Meuse pivots on the sector where the best troops of the German command has been thrown against the First American Army to save the Germans' all-important lines of communication. While the least sensational in accomplishment, the task assigned to General Pershing's men may be called the most important on the whole front. The Germans are paying a tremendous price to hold here as well as they have. We are able to pay a bigger price to put him back. It is a tough job, but we are winning slowly, but nevertheless surely.

Oct. 17.—There were evidences late today that the Germans were withdrawing their main forces from the region of Landers-et-St. Georges, the center of the sector of the First American Army, leaving behind a screen of machinegun nests. Our patrols, advancing toward night into the Bois-de-Bantheville, did not come into contact with the enemy.

Urge Holding at All Costs

As yet it is too early to make any prediction as to just what this means. Suffice it to say that where our troops met the fiercest kind of resistance at the lower edge of the Bois de Bantheville yesterday there was none today.

Fresh German documents falling into our hands continue to urge upon the German trops the necessity of holding at all costs the front before the Americans.

The Germans have been hastily constructing a semblance of a defense line running, on the average, two and one-half miles back of the present line, and have yet another hurriedly prepared position running through Buzancy. We don't know now what the enemy's plans are. We know it has cost him terribly in the last two weeks to hold on to the Kriemhild positions east of the Argonne. The effect of the American artillery fire, which was incessantly heavy, is said, to have been terrific.

The Germans have made every effort to hold us back, and against their sturdy opposition we have been able to move but slowly. It should not yet be said that the evidences of their retirement mean certainly that they have given up holding the present line, following the success of the Americans yesterday in capturing the Cote de Chantillon, the key position of the Kriemhild Stellung, east of the Argonne, and our taking of Grandpre.

The Americans in this sector have occupied themselves consolidating and mopping up the positions won yesterday. The Germans have kept up a harassing artillery fire, including shells from one 380 millimeter gun. I heard five of these shells drop today. Three were "duds."

The Germans are using a great deal of gas against our troops. The wet weather makes mustard gas especially disagreeable these days, because not only does the heavy atmosphere cause it to stick to the hollows where the shells are thrown, but the mustard gas burns through wet clothes much more easily than through dry.

Although heavy fighting has, of course, inflicted its casualties on the First American army, the ordinary health of the Americans is excellent in view of the long continued cold weather.

All prisoners are full of the subject of peace. They are sure the war is about to end. Strange as it may seem, they appear anxious to fight hard now, because only a few more days are left, they say. They are absorbed in the purpose of stopping the war before the Allied soldiers get into German soil.

A wireless report spread along the front today that the Kaiser had abdicated, but no confirmation of this report from Dutch sources has been received so far.

During the last two days I have made an effort to learn the effect of the peace discussion upon the German army from captured documents and letters. In any statement this effect is hard to deal with in generalities, because in nearly every case the individual opinion of Germans, which, of course, reflects every shade of opinion, differ.

But there is one result of the peace discussion. That is that the moral effect of the German fighting man has been sustained in that he feels happy because he believes he has only a few more days to go. Therefore, should peace not come right away, this improvement may be only temporary.

If one tries to understand the feeling in the ranks of the German army one must realize that every German soldier is kept informed of the progress of negotiations. Copies of the German notes and President Wilson's replies are posted at all German headquarters, and the German soldiers are as well or better informed than the American soldiers upon the situation as their superiors see it.

Virtually all the German soldiers believe the war is certain to end very soon, and look upon the cessation of hostilities as being just ahead.

Army orders from grand headquarters and exhortations from officials in immediate command to their fighting units urge the soldiers to fight their best now. A tremendous effort is being made to prevent the peace discussion from injuring the fighting qualities of the German troops, and so far as the American front is concerned, it has been successfully done.

The Germans have been told that to quit now would not make peace. This appeare varied ofttimes with the plea that to fight best in the last round would keep the French, American and British armies off the sacred soil of Germany. This makes a strong appeal to the German fighters, who, bearing in mind what they have done in French-occupied territory, have a horror of the Allied soldiers getting onto the soil of the Fatherland.

AUSTRIANS ARE EXCLUSIVE

Captured by U. S. Want Separate Prison Cage From Germans

By EDWIN L. JAMES

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co.

With the American Army in France, Oct. 19.—A group of Austrian prisoners, captured by the Americans, insisted on being put in a separate cage from German prisoners, asserting that President Wilson had said he was going to make a separate reply to Austria on the peace note, which showed that Americans no longer considered Austrians to be in the same boat with Germans.

Anyhow they insisted that they were not the same sort.

U. S. MEN WIN 6-HOUR FIGHT FOR HILL 288

Two Regiments of Rainbow Division Cover Themselves With Glory—First Five Desperate Attempts Unsuccessful

By EDWIN L. JAMES

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger

Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co.

With the American Army in France, Oct. 19.

One American division which has been in the line more days than any other is the Forty-second, or Rainbow Division, one of the infantry regiments of which is the 165th, the old Sixty-ninth New York. This crack division fought on the Marne, fought in the St. Mihiel battle and has been in the thick of the fighting between the Argonne and the Meuse, holding the center of the sector of the First American Army in the vicinity of Landers at Saint Georges, a high key position to the Kriemhild-Stellung north of Verdun. As usual, the division has given an excellent account of itself. Incidentally it is occupying now the Twenty-fourth Division headquarters that it has had since coming to France.

The biggest thing the Rainbow has done in this sector was the accomplishment of one of the most difficult jobs assigned to any American division—the taking of Hill 288 at the northern end of the Bois Romagne, near Landers, at St. Georges. Generally in warfare the name of some city or town goes down in history as marking a great fight. But in fact more often there is some isolated point which represents far more in effort and importance than the name of some town.

For instance, America is thrilled at mention of the name of Chateau-Thierry. Yet the actual capture of that town was not one-hundredth part so difficult as the taking of unnamed hills north of the Ourcq. So taking of many villages by the Americans in this sector has given names to fights nothing like so sanguinary as the conflict for possession of a bald top hill, which for lack of other name is call 288, because that is how many meters high it happens to be.

When the Forty-second Division was ordered to take this hill it started against it frontally. To make that part of the story short it did not get the hill; it did not even get to the hill; but it did find out that in the woods stretching all around its sides the Germans had line after line of barbed wire, trench after trench, hundreds of machine guns, and in the scrubble on the crest some 77s with gunners who knew how to shoot them point-blank.

I pass over the next four violent attempts to take that hill and come to one rainy morning just before light, when the 166th Regiment, from Ohio, with a New York regiment on the right, started out on the sixth trial. Our 75s started dropping shells on top of the hill with a line range, while the New York lads over to the east used machine guns and snipers to keen the foe at least partly occupied.

Charge From All Sides

While this was going on the Iowa troops were filtering through the woods about the hill until they had surrounded it. This was completed just as daylight came, bringing a cold rain from a leaden sky. With water dripping from their tin hats, but keeping their powder dry, the men of the 166th started up that hill from all sides.

Let us tell it here that on the hill were 1800 Germans of a Guard division, more than 230 machine guns and 77s. The Ohio boys had not started before they struck wire and back wire and Germans in trenches with rifles and machine guns.

No one wishes to talk to those Iowans about poor German morale. As they cut through the wires the Germans went at them with bayonets, while others sent snipers and machine-gun bullets. On the slippery hillside, with the Germans upstairs, took place hundreds of hand-to-hand fights. Our boys got the machine guns into play, and they tell me that machine-gun duels took place at twenty yards and less.

Five lines of wire had to be cut. It cost Americans to go through each one, and it cost Germans to try to hold each line. Our lads being well up the hill by this time, our artillery was called off.

Many lads who did the bravest of fighting did not come back to tell of it. But those who came back tell of a sergeant who, when his lieutenant was shot down, led on platoons, and of one platoon who did not even have a corporal to lead it and was led by a private, who assumed command until he was killed in a fight with a German captain, who a moment later was killed by the bunkie of the dead American.

Fight Lasts Six Hours

All the time the two 77s were pumping shells into the Americans, but just as often they were hitting Germans, until the gunners quit.

The fighting kept up six hours, until the Americans got through the last wire, past the last trench, and there on the tortured top of that hill they took 107 Germans. The rest of 1800 had been killed or wounded. Our losses were considerable, something more than half of the German losses—but we got the hill and they lost it.

I speak of Iowa, New York and Alabama boys, and so on, but here it should be stated that the workings of the war machine are fast obliterating that identity. Replacements are sent into these old regiments regardless of the State of their nativity. From these seasoned regiments many men are promoted and sent to command platoons in raw regiments. Some are sent back home to train troops, and then there is the inevitable war toll of killed and wounded. I may illustrate what I mean by saying that of more than 3000 men who came to France as the 165th regiment there are now something like 800 of the original personnel, but the new men borrow the spirit of the old ones and the regiment will fight at the drop of the hat if any one suggests it.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE — WEST PHILADELPHIA

$36 A MONTH WITH GARAGE
CHEAPER THAN RENT

New homes, ready for occupancy. Marlborough Road, 66th and Market Streets. Trains every 2 minutes on the Elevated. Bright, airy rooms, stone fireplace in living room, electric outlets for fan and vacuum cleaner.

One 5-Cent Fare, No Change of Cars : 14 Minutes to City Hall

Parquetry floors, hot-water heat, tiled bathroom with built-in shower. Come out today and see the biggest value in a substantial home that has been offered in Philadelphia. Take Market Street Elevated to Millbourne Station—65th Street—then walk one block south.

BEN L. CARROLL BUILDER, ON PREMISES, OR 63D AND ARCH STREETS.

Barbed Wire Trousers

A sure means of escape from the miles of entanglements laid down by the HUN!

One of a series of fanciful inventions, originated by Heath Robinson—the famous British cartoonist—and illustrated in his inimitable style in the

PUBLIC LEDGER