



THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

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THE WEATHER— For Nebraska— Generally fair today and Monday. Hourly Temperatures: 5 a. m. 63°; 6 a. m. 63°; 7 a. m. 63°; 8 a. m. 63°; 9 a. m. 63°; 10 a. m. 63°; 11 a. m. 63°; 12 m. 63°.

ALLIES REACH AISNE RIVER; AMERICANS ENTER FISMES

GERMANS UNABLE TO MAKE STAND ON BANKS OF VESLE

Bulk of Crown Prince's Broken Forces Now Rests on Chemin-Des-Dames; Ludendorff Placed on Defensive by Crushing Counter Stroke Delivered by General Foch.

By ARTHUR DRAPER. London, Aug. 3.—(Special to the New York Tribune and The Omaha Bee.)—Close at the heels of the crown prince's army Foch's men have come to the southern slopes of the heights north of the Aisne along which Ludendorff determined upon setting up his line of defense following the retreat which began a fortnight back.

Having been forced to abandon Soissons, the key to the Marne triangle, the crown prince had no alternative but to fall back on the Aisne plateau. The Vesle, which offered no opposition to the Germans when they flowed down from the Aisne heights last May, provided no defense when the tide turned against them and tonight the bulk of the crown prince's broken, humiliated army rests at Chemin des Dames, the scene of such violent fighting during the last two years.

French Have Revenge. The French, like the Italians on the Piave, had their revenge. Foch's counter stroke has reaped big rewards. The best Ludendorff had offered ended in disastrous failure. French, British, Americans, Italians have humbled the heir to the Hohenzollern dynasty as never before and the failure of Verdun has been capped by the disaster of the Marne.

It is a happy turn of the wheel which brings Foch's fighters to the Aisne on the eve of the fifth year of the war and finds Ludendorff's great army completely on the defensive. The tides are running strongly in the allies' favor at the moment, but it is wise to guard against overconfidence lest disappointment follow.

Line Shifting Constantly. Any attempt to describe the line would be futile, for it shifts constantly and before this is read towns through which it now runs will be far behind the allied troops. To the east of Soissons the French are advancing along the south bank of the Aisne, the German bridge at Oissy long since having been destroyed. To the west of Soissons, Pommerehne in the French hands, Braisne on the Vesle is occupied by the allies, while to the east the French cavalry has crossed the Vesle at Champigny and Jonomy.

All the bridges over the Vesle have been destroyed by the retreating enemy and north of the river many villages are burning. The large town of Fismes is burning tonight. Since Thursday the crown prince has been giving way rapidly, an almost certain sign that he has finished building his defenses to the north of the river. The allies are taking few prisoners and practically no guns, which shows that everything has been removed north of the river.

In the neighborhood of Rheims the Germans are back in their original line. Enemy's Coup Fails. Sir Douglas Haig voices the general military opinion when he states in his special order to his troops that "the enemy has made his effort to obtain a decision on the western front and he has failed."

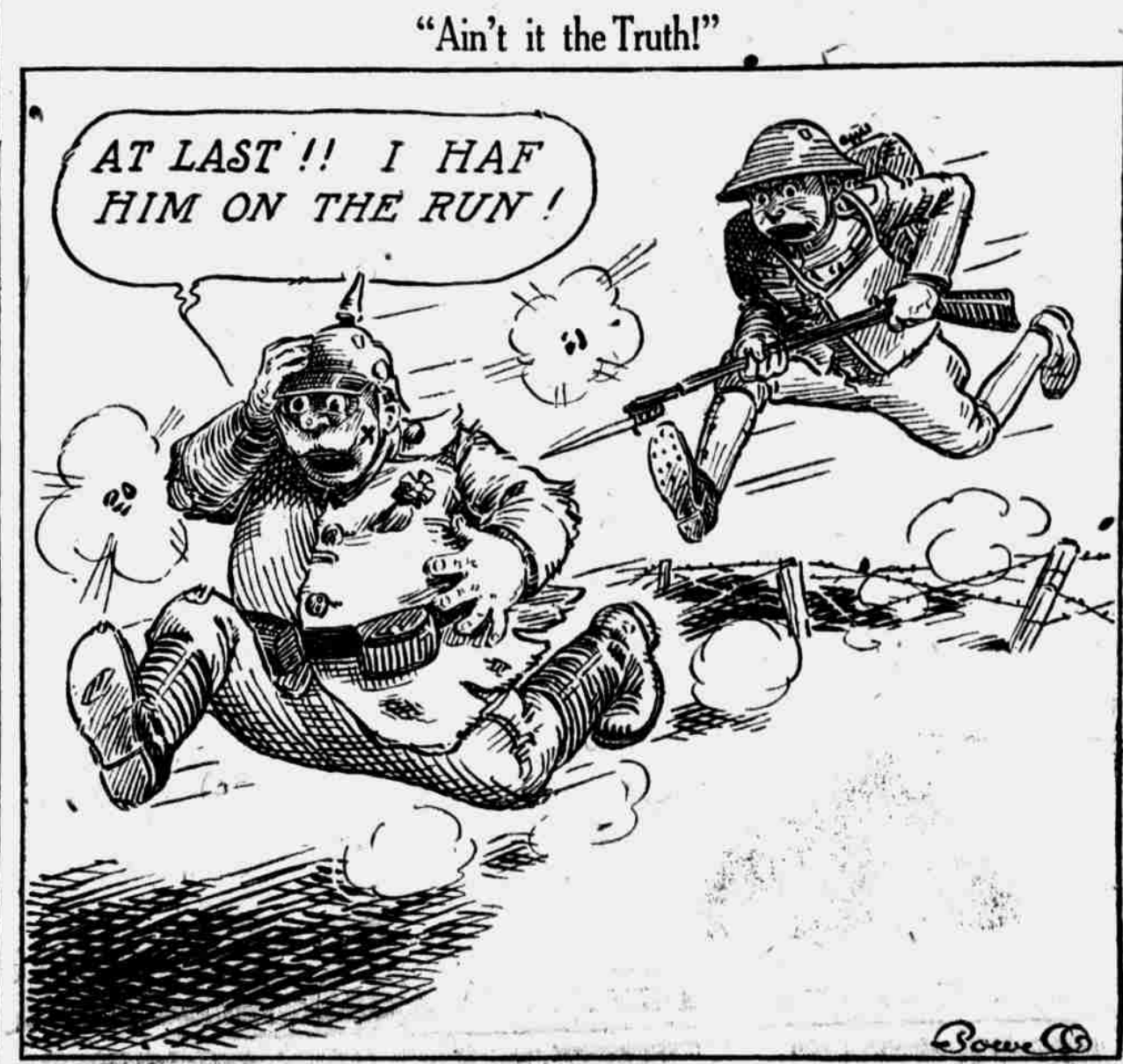
Americans have reason to feel proud in reading his next sentence. The steady stream of American troops arriving in France has already restored the balance. Henceforth there should be a steady improvement in the allied general position, though there are almost certain to be many disappointments and temporary setbacks, for the enemy is a wonderfully strong defensive fighter as he has shown at the Somme, the Marne and in the early days in Russia.

Many believe Ludendorff will try for a spectacular coup at an early date in an effort to recuperate his losses and prestige, but such a move will necessarily be limited in scale. On land and at sea allied prospects grow brighter with every day, although the civilian as well as the soldier and the sailor recognize that there is much hard fighting still ahead.

Ashton Named to Succeed Metcalfe on State Council. Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 3.—(Special.)—Fred W. Ashton has accepted an appointment as member of the State Council of Defense, succeeding Richard L. Metcalfe. Mr. Metcalfe's resignation was to take effect as soon as his successor accepted and qualified.

Gen. Edward Davis Dead. Honolulu, T. H., Aug. 3.—Brigadier General Edward Davis, U. S. A., retired, died here yesterday, aged 74. General Davis was a veteran of the civil war.

ROADS LITTERED WITH HUN BODIES AS PURSUERS FOLLOW FLEEING FOE



FREIGHT HOUSE OF BURLINGTON FIRE DAMAGED

Unclaimed Shipments in Large Quantity Destroyed by Blaze in Lower Jackson Street.

Thousands of dollars' worth of freight was destroyed and more valuable shipments were endangered from fire in the "over and short" department at the south end of the Burlington freight house, Seventh and Jackson streets, shortly after midnight last night.

Brick walls and the fireproof iron roof of the building resisted the flames and only the freight piled up in long rows was harmed. The blaze started in a pile of grease near the small receiving office at the extreme south end of the building.

The "over and short" department consists of miscellaneous freight of all descriptions unclaimed by consignees or owners. Household furniture, dry goods and packing cases of unknown value were destroyed or damaged. Several thousand cases of near-beer stacked up just north of where the progress of the flames was stayed were only slightly damaged.

Pay Last of Spanish War Debt; Hardly a Ripple at Treasury

Washington, Aug. 3.—The last of the Spanish war debt was paid off today by the redemption of \$4,000,000 worth of bonds, part of a block of \$198,000,000 issued June 13, 1898, seven weeks after war was declared. So great are the nation's expenditures that this payment created hardly a noticeable reduction in the treasury's \$1,500,000,000 working balance.

Two Policemen and Bandit Shot in Running Battle

Cleveland, O., Aug. 3.—Two city policemen were shot, one being perhaps fatally wounded, one bandit killed or fatally wounded and two other bandits injured in a gun fight today, following the theft of \$22,864, the payroll of the H. J. Walker company airplane plant. The money was recovered when the bandits' car was wrecked in its flight.

Chancellor Avery Commissioned Major in American Army



Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 3.—Chancellor Samuel Avery of the University of Nebraska has been commissioned a major in the national army, it was learned here today, when he requested the university's board of regents to grant him a leave of absence for the duration of the war.

German Campaign Leaders Openly Admit Failure of Their Strategic Plans

Copenhagen, Aug. 3.—Field Marshal von Hindenburg and General Ludendorff received the German correspondent, according to advices reaching here, and openly admitted their strategic plans had failed. They asserted, however, that the situation and that the territories given to the enemy were disposed of according to plans.

If the battles were on German territory they explained they would be pained to give up villages, but the progress of the enemy, they declared, was without importance and would not affect the results of the world war.

Von Hindenburg said that the German soldiers would become just as easily accustomed to the Americans as they did to the black soldiers.

AUTO THEFTS IN OMAHA WORK OF ORGANIZED BAND

Machines Taken Here by the Agents of Trust Which Operates All Over Missouri Valley.

Investigations by insurance actuaries, adjusters and detectives employed by agencies which write automobile hazards by theft, all lead to the conclusion there is a syndicate engaged in the disposal of stolen machines.

The ramifications of this syndicate is nation wide and every large city in the land, including Omaha, has a clearing house through which stolen machines are disposed.

The volume of business transacted by the automobile thief trust will run into the millions and that it is a comparatively safe enterprise is proven by the fact that the fountain head of the system has not yet been discovered.

Army Surgeon General Asks Enrollment of 1,000 Nurses Weekly

Washington, Aug. 3.—An urgent call to the American Red Cross to enroll 1,000 nurses a week for the next two months for immediate duty with the army nurse corps was issued today by Surgeon-General Gorgas.

With the American armies overseas entering more and more into the fighting, the surgeon general said, the need for additional nurses becomes imperative.

Discontinue Residence Telephone Installations

St. Louis, Aug. 3.—Installation of telephones in residences, which would require the stringing of an aerial wire, was discontinued here today under order from Postmaster-General Burleson, commandingeer the available supply of No. 17 copper-clad wire. The order is expected to have similar effect throughout the nation.

CONQUERING ARMIES ADVANCE SWIFTLY ON FRONT OF 45 MILES

Germans Unlikely to Make Stand on Plateau Between Streams As Railroad from Chermois to North Is Dominated by Guns; Fifty Towns Covered by Extension of Allied Lines on Saturday.

By Associated Press. With the American Army on the Aisne-Marne front, Aug. 3, 10 p. m.—American troops today entered the southern part of Fismes, the great German base in the center of the Aisne-Marne salient, while other forces of the allies hold the southern banks of the Aisne and Vesle rivers from Soissons to Fismes. Eastward it is almost a straight line through Courville, Brancourt, Courcelles and Champigny. The advance of the whole army was along a front of almost 45 miles.

SALIENT IN ALLIED LINE ELIMINATED

Germans Retiring Toward Aisne With No Certainty of Finding Bulwark Against Armies in Pursuit.

The great salient between Soissons and Rheims, on the Aisne-Marne front, in which terrific fighting has been going on for two weeks, has been virtually cut out by the allied forces.

French cavalry patrols now are operating along the railroad running between these two cities, constituting the two pivotal points of the previous German advance. American troops hold the outskirts of Fismes, the great supply base of the German army, which the enemy strove with utmost strength and determination to hold; allied advance guards have reached the southern bank of the Aisne and the force of the combined thrusts of French, British and Americans appears great enough now to drive the Germans back even beyond the Aisne to the heights of the Chemin Des Dames, where powerful defenses must then be faced.

Increase Speed of Advance

Both east and west the allies on Saturday increased the speed of their advance, a distance of more than six miles forward being gained at certain points. The line now has been so straightened as to escape the danger which previously threatened the southern bend from Soissons of being enveloped.

Notwithstanding the difficulties confronting them, the allies are bringing up their guns almost as fast as the Germans are withdrawing theirs and all the roads over which the Germans are retreating are being subjected to the heaviest bombardments.

Coincidentally the British have regained important ground west of the Aisne river, where the enemy also is retreating.

The allies now hold the line of the Vesle river from Rheims at least as far as Braisne. Beyond this town the situation is somewhat obscure, but it is known that the allies are on the hills overlooking the Vesle valley to the west and the northwest. At Venizel the allies hold the south bank of the Aisne and their lines extend westward through Soissons to Pommiers.

There is no certainty that the Germans will find the Aisne a bulwark. Advices from Paris indicate that the Germans' lines north of the river are in a dangerous situation. The retirement may go on until the enemy is eliminated from the Aisne-Marne front.

Elimination of Music From Chicago Restaurants Proposed

Chicago, Aug. 3.—The elimination of music from hotels and restaurants, the substitution of paper napkins for linen, the application of the "serve self" plan to retail stores and the elimination of traveling salesmen are the objects of a new department of the State Council of Defense created today. This department, which is under the direction of Louis M. Stumer, will be known as the "commerical economy administration for the systematic promotion of thrift, economy and conservation in business."

To the east of Soissons the extension of the line northward along the Aisne as well as the extension of the general line makes it probable in the opinion of military experts that the Germans will hesitate before concentrating themselves for a stand along the plateau to the east between the Aisne and the Vesle, as the branch railroad from Sarmoise to the north now is dominated by the allied guns.

Fifty Hamlets Occupied. The broad field covered by the advance today includes at least 50 small towns and villages.

Before evacuating Saponay, the Germans endeavored in vain to remove locomotives and railway cars. The French and American heavy guns previously had severed the railway running north from Saponay and the Germans were unable to make repairs owing to the continued shelling.

Saponay and the district extending to Fere-en-Tardenois form an important railway center, of which the Germans made much use until the allied guns cut the line. When the French entered Saponay Friday they found two locomotives which the Germans had attempted to destroy when they discovered that the railroad had been severed, and the railroad yards also had been damaged by German explosives.

Tardenois Laid Waste

Friday was the first day Fere-en-Tardenois was no under the German artillery since the Germans evacuated the village. The French and Americans already have started to restore the shell-swept village. A group of American engineers worked with the French repairing the roads and streets.

Previous to evacuating Fere-en-Tardenois, the Germans virtually destroyed everything which could be made use of, including mirrors, beds and furniture. There was not a single house which had not been shelled or dynamited. Practically the only things intact are the weathercock on the church steeple and the cobblestones of the streets.

The trees in the village square were twisted as if by a cyclone by the farewell shells of the Germans.

Loot Order Standing

A large sign in German at the entrance of the church reads: "Remove hats upon entering." Down the street a German sign stretched across the roadway reads: "Captured arms and loot must be stored here." The (Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

French Armored Cars Prove of Great Value in Infantry Advance

On the French Front in France, Aug. 3.—(Havas Agency.)—The French armored car has taken an important part in recent operations. They are in constant touch with the commander of operations and cooperate with the aviation service, the artillery and the infantry by ingenious signals. Carrier pigeons keep headquarters informed as to their progress.

The machines fight in large formation, forming batteries and groups. Batteries of light cars are easily concealable in shell holes and clumps of bushes. They have been particularly useful in the present operations in destroying machine gun nests and blockhouses and paralyzing counter offensives. They also have operated against enemy artillery. No one is required to serve in cars. They are manned by volunteers.