

millions south of Valenciennes. They gained ground to a depth of more than 5,000 yards on an extended front, capturing many important villages and several thousand prisoners, together with numerous guns, and driving a wedge into the enemy positions at what probably is the most vital point of the line the Germans are holding.

The fighting was desperate. The German machine gunners holding it to the last. Large numbers of the enemy were killed.

The advance continues and the menace to the Germans to the north and south of the front attacked is hourly growing. Further streets are expected.

North of the third and fourth miles the British first army continued its attacks and reached positions well to the northeast of Valenciennes, which is gradually being squeezed out. It is probable that the Germans have already evacuated that town.

The British are approaching Lensuency and are only about three miles from the gates of that place, according to latest reports.

A concentration at Prelux for a pincer attack was observed from the air. Transport, ammunition trains and masses of men became mixed up on the roads. When the concentration was sufficiently large and the enemy traffic appeared to be at the greatest state of confusion, the British gunners opened up their weapons and pumped in steel as rapidly as possible. Within a few minutes the ground was strewn with dead men and horses, equipment, wagons, lorries and limbers.

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## HOW GERMANY MAY BE BOUND

However, by any terms except the surrender of the submarines themselves, appears more difficult. Occupation of Helgoland might serve to bottle up both the submarines and the German high seas fleet as far as the North Sea outlets are concerned, but there is another gateway via the Kiel canal and the Skagerrak, passing between neutral waters.

Ashore on the western front, which dominates the situation elsewhere, it is regarded as obvious that occupation of the Metz-Thionville "mutterstallung," as the Germans call that great fortress, would be essential. It is regarded as probable that American troops would take over the fortress until final disposition of Alsace-Lorraine were determined at peace conferences.

It is believed the Allied chiefs will propose a definite plan for the rearward movement of the German forces under which the enemy's armies would successively retire from Belgium and France. The plan marked out, it is thought, would provide for exposure of the German forces to flanking operations that

would cut them to pieces, should any treachery be revealed.

### ON ITALIAN FRONT.

Other obvious requirements would be, it is thought, surrender by Austria to the Italians of fortresses in the Alps that guard the Austrian border and the road to Vienna; probable evacuation of the whole east coast of the Adriatic and the occupation of such bases as would bottle up the Austrian naval power completely in that sea.

To safeguard Rumania and enforce conditions in Russia, it was said, the road to the Black Sea must be cleared, which would require surrender by the Turks of the fortresses of the Dardanelles. Surrender also of Russian battleships and destroyers in the Black Sea, seized by the Germans, would be demanded, it was thought, and possibly the surrender of Turkish war craft as well.

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## EPIDEMIC CASES OFF 25 PER CENT

ment, while Grand Rapids, Saginaw and Flint recorded increases.

Charlevoix has quarantined the city and stationed officers on all roads. Petooskey reports six more deaths. Boyne City, Pellston and other Northwestern points report increases. The state medical officer who cleared up Petooskey conditions has gone to Boyne City.

For the first time since the epidemic of influenza began spreading through Army camps, the weekly health report of the surgeon-general, issued at Washington today, shows a decrease in both hospital admission rates and in deaths. The report for the week ended Oct. 13, given out today, shows a decrease in the death rate from 206 per thousand to 190, and in the admission rate for disease from 4,760 to 3,814.

The report says the crest of the epidemic has now been definitely passed, the numbers of influenza cases dropping one-half and the number of pneumonia cases decreasing from 17,882 to 11,013. The epidemic is also reported checked in a number of Middle Western and Southern states.

There were only three deaths and 37 new cases at Camp Custer today. One was the wife of Lieut. Krieger. Fifty-two men were returned to duty, leaving 6,207 cases in the hospital.

No basis for reports that the germs were circulated by enemy agents has been found after a thorough Government investigation. Officials are convinced the disease was brought to America through natural channels.

Conditions in Ohio continue serious with 125,000 persons ill. The malady is breaking in Illinois and partial lifting of the quarantine is

planned. Although 5,330 new cases were reported in New York city, conditions were reported improved.

Destruction of flies has proved an aid in checking the epidemic at the Michigan Agricultural College, said Dr. W. L. Chandler, of the department of entomology. The flies were killed by placing a formaldehyde solution where they could drink it. Dr. Olin gave assurance that conditions at the college are not so serious as reported throughout the state. Two deaths, Ray Jones, Muskegon, and George E. Adams, Coldwater, were reported yesterday.

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## PILOT DROPPED IN PHONE CASE

corporation counsel, Allan H. Frazer, will represent the city.

On the other side of that table will be the skilled attorneys of the telephone company, who know just exactly what they want and how to present their desires in the best light.

The attorneys, for whose services the city already has paid \$20,000, and who still are retained to look after the telephone case, have not been consulted.

### MAYOR IS GOING.

"Are you and Mr. Frazer going to represent the city in this telephone case?" the Mayor was asked.

"Sure," he replied.

"What do you know about its legal phases?"

"Oh, Mr. Frazer will take care of that."

"What does he know about the case? He has been corporation counsel only a few months."

"Oh, he worked on it with the special counsel."

"When did he work on it?"

"Well, he worked a little on it."

"When?"

"When it was on."

"Why were not the lawyers consulted who have been handling this case?"

"I don't know anything about the legal ends of this matter. You better ask Mr. Frazer."

### FRAZER HAS RECORDS

Mr. Frazer was asked.

"Why, that's easy," he said. "We don't need the special counsel in this case because we have all they know about it in their record."

"But that record deals with 1914, '15 and '16, does it not?"

"Yes."

"And this case will be on a plea made on figures for 1918?"

"Yes."

"Is it not possible that they, after years of study on telephone statistics in an involved rate case, are better qualified to present these figures to the Postal Department than you who just have come into the case?"

"Very likely they are."

"Why, then, are they not called?"

"Why, I had them go over the record and mark the important parts for me."

"Will not the telephone company

have all its skilled talent on job to present its side?"

### MAY CALL RESERVES.

"I don't know whom the company will have. You see, if this gets that kind of a case I'll ask for adjournment and bring on the special counsel and the expert accountants and make a regular rate out of it. This, I feel, is just a preliminary hearing of the whole matter. They want to know whether there if our telephone service going to pieces as has been represented to them, and they want know about the rates charged."

"Then the city's special counsel will not be used in this case?"

"Not unless they are needed."

"The Government has asked the city's side. Don't you think that the city should go prepare the best degree possible?"

"I can handle it all right."

### "BUT NOT PHONES."

"The Government has taken the service, hasn't it?"

"No, not yet."

"It hasn't."

"No. It has taken over only telegraph lines."

"Then if the Government has taken over the local service, are you called before the Postal department authorities to decide what rate shall be charged?"

"Oh, because it has been said our service is going to pieces at a higher rate is paid, and if it is as though that were true the department will step in and take the lines to prevent it."

"The Government, then, has taken over the lines?"

"No, not yet."

Mr. Welch, general manager of the telephone company, was asked.

"When was your business taken over by the Federal Government he was asked.

"August first," he replied.

## THE WEATHER.

For Detroit and vicinity: Today night and Friday, cloudy; rain; cooler Friday; moderate fresh south to southwest winds.

For Lower Michigan: Rain today night; Friday, fair in west in east portion; cooler.

Highest temperature this day the last 45 years, 74, in 1893; lowest, 37, in 1876.

One year ago today: Highest temperature, 53; lowest, 49; moderate cloudy weather with trace of snow.

The sun sets Thursday at 6:00 m. and rises Friday at 6:00 a. m. Temperatures: 6 a. m., 66; 7:37; 9 a. m., 58; 9 a. m., 59; 10:59; 11 a. m., 61; 12, noon, 61.

### DEATH NOTICES

LA PAGE—Oct. 23, at residence, 1401 1/2 St. Napoleon, beloved husband of Adelle La Page, dear father of Richard, Mrs. H. Labutte, Mrs. Stutake, Loretta and Marie La Page. Funeral Friday from above residence 11 o'clock.

WINGERT—Oct. 23, at residence, 1401 1/2 St. east, William, beloved husband of Susan Wingert, dear father of Mrs. H. Chapoton, Mrs. S. Rader, Mrs. J. J. Mrs. L. Dybala, Mrs. F. Pau, Mrs. William Krauser and E. Wingert. Please omit flowers. Friday at 9 o'clock from above residence.