

# KAISER LEADS ARMY TO VICTORY FRENCH RETREAT BEFORE GERMANS JOFFRE'S LINES CUT BY FLOODS

## Allied Forces Yield Trenches Near Nieuport and Kaiser's Lines Advance in the Vicinity of Soissons

### CZAR MASSING ARMY OF 1,000,000 MEN

London.—The latest official reports from the Russian General Staff disclose a new operation on the part of the Russian Army which may have far-reaching results.

Starting on their New Year the Russian cavalry commenced a forward movement in Northern Poland on the right bank of the lower Vistula River, and have reached the Skwa River, about forty miles east of the German fortress of Thorn, West Prussia, driving a small force of German cavalry and infantry before them.

It is believed that Grand Duke Nicholas, Commander in Chief of the Russian forces, intends to use an entirely new army, consisting, according to dispatches, of from 800,000 to 1,000,000 men, in this region, operating in conjunction with an army which is advancing in East Prussia.

This new army would place the German troops at Mlawa in a vise and at the same time threaten the rear of the Germans in front of Warsaw.

The French have been obliged to retire east of Soissons, but have begun a new offensive movement and have taken the town of St. Paul, northeast of that city. No fear is entertained in Paris that the Germans will succeed in breaking through the allied lines, even though they succeed in capturing Soissons itself. The Allies advanced on the road from Arras to Lille and in the Argonne, as well as in Flanders.

London.—Under the weight of a fierce German attack the French have been obliged to fall back near Crouy, a small city across the Aisne, a few miles northwest of Soissons. Heavy fighting continues all along the center of the western battle line, from the Argonne to the Oise, with the usual reports of alternate gains and losses. In Belgium, the French tell of directing an effective fire on the enemy's earthworks near Nieuport and Ypres, while Berlin says the Allies were forced to abandon their trenches in a suburb of Nieuport. In the Vosges fogs and snow delay the campaign.

The Kaiser's troops captured two of the Allies' positions and took 1,700 prisoners and several guns.

### 5,000 DEAD LEFT BEHIND BY FRENCH AT SOISSONS

Berlin (by wireless via Saville).—The official report issued by the German main army headquarters includes the following:

"In three days' fight (around Soissons) we have taken about 5,200 prisoners, with fourteen cannon, six machine guns and some revolver guns. The French had heavy losses, from four to five thousand French killed being found upon the battlefield."

### AUSTRIA CHANGES FOREIGN MINISTERS

London.—The announcement from Berlin, and published also in the Vienna Fremdenblatt, that Count von Berchtold, the Austro-Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, has resigned and has been succeeded by Baron Stephan Burian, a Hungarian, has caused a sensation in diplomatic circles in Europe.

Count von Berchtold, who directed Austro-Hungarian foreign relations for years, and had been credited with drafting the ultimatum to Serbia, which was the prime cause of the present war, had on a number of occasions, both before and after the Balkan wars, asked Emperor Francis Joseph to relieve him of office. But the continued unsettled conditions which followed the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina made this impossible.

### JAPS VOLUNTEER TO FIGHT IN EUROPE.

Tokio, Japan.—The promoters in Japan of what has been called the "volunteer movement" have announced their intention of dispatching an army corps to Europe and are appealing to both Japanese and foreigners for funds.

The manifesto says that as Lafayette helped the United States and Garibaldi helped France, so the Japanese wish to assist Great Britain, Russia and France, to terminate the misery of war and restore peace to the world.

### EMDEN SEA FIGHT MADE GERMAN PRINCE INSANE.

Vancouver.—That Prince Franz Josef of Hohenzollern, a relative of the German Emperor, has become demented as a result of his experiences on board the Emden in her fight with the Australian cruiser Sydney is asserted in a letter received here by the Rev. T. Pitt, Secretary of the Seamen's Institute, whose brother is a Lieutenant on the Sydney.

Lieut. Pitt wrote that while the young Prince was engaged in firing a torpedo a shell from the Sydney entered the torpedo room and killed the men in it, the Prince alone escaping. When rescued Prince Franz was in a dazed condition.

Later the Prince's mind gave way completely, so that it was necessary to place him under restraint. He was taken to Port Said with the other prisoners of war.

### SERVIAN DEMANDS GROWING.

Mere Outlet on Adriatic Will Not Satisfy Militant Serbs.

Rome.—Contrary to statements in the newspapers of London, Paris, and Berlin that an understanding has practically been reached about a Servian outlet to the Adriatic Sea, it is stated in Servian official quarters here that this will not now satisfy Servia. What she now claims, it is stated, are the Servian regions possessed by Austria, including Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Dalmatia.

## War at a Glance

MONDAY.

Petrograd announces that Russian forces have stormed and taken Kirilbaba Pass, leading from Bukovina into Transylvania.

A dispatch from Tiflis to Petrograd states that the Russian Army in the Caucasus has completely annihilated the Eleventh Turkish Army Corps.

"Generally speaking, the position in the east is unchanged," according to an official announcement at Berlin.

Developments of only minor consequence are mentioned in reports from the western front. An official statement at Berlin states that the Allies' losses along this front in the past four weeks amount to 20,000 killed and about 17,800 wounded, and that their attacks during this period have brought them "no success worthy of mention." The German losses during the four weeks, it is asserted, were not one-quarter as great as those of the Allies.

Refugees from Palestine reaching Alexandria on the United States cruiser Tennessee report that the Turks have collected great numbers of camels south of Palestine, evidently with a view to invading Egypt.

Constantinople reports the sinking of the French submarine Saphir as it tried to enter the Dardanelles, saying some of the crew had been rescued.

Berlin transmitted an estimate of British losses in Flanders for two weeks. It said 150 officers and 6,200 men perished.

The fury of the battle along the Aisne seems to have spent itself and the Germans, for the present at least, are making no effort to extend the gains they won over the French.

Further German successes are reported in today's official statement from the Berlin War Office, but they are of minor importance.

Toward the northern end of the line, south of the Lys, the Germans re-occupied trenches previously captured by the Allies, as is admitted in the French statement, and in the Argonne small engagements are said to have resulted to their advantage.

The French assert that they won definite advantages in artillery fighting and compelled the Germans to evacuate trenches near Clemery.

Both sides announce that the fighting at Soissons is over after several days of violent combats.

The Russian General Staff is convinced that the Germans west and southwest of Warsaw have determined on a general offensive movement.

Farther south German troops have reinforced the Austrians for a drive at the Russians designed to relieve Bukovina and Northern Hungary from danger of further invasion.

The Turks are reported to have decided to attempt an invasion of Egypt. British forces have again invaded German territory in Africa, capturing Swakopman.

### SATURDAY.

A fresh movement by the Russians against East Prussia is revealed in an official announcement at Petrograd. It is said a new army of 800,000 to 1,000,000 men is engaged in this operation.

Berlin announces that German attacks west of the Vistula river, in Poland, are making slow progress.

Petrograd reports that the battle between Russian and Turkish armies at Kara-Urgan, in Turkish Armenia, continues.

Turkish troops which recently invaded Persia are reported advancing to the interior. To Persia's demand that these troops be withdrawn from her territory, the Porte has replied that the Turks will retire as soon as the Russians definitely move out of the territory.

Attacks and counter-attacks, with varying results but no material change in the situation, are reported from the western front.

Promoters of a "volunteer movement" in Japan announce their intention to send an army corps to Europe to aid Great Britain, Russia and France.

### FRIDAY.

Furious fighting has been resumed in Russian Poland, according to a dispatch from Petrograd. The dispatch states that Russian forces in the north, pushing toward East Prussia, have captured a number of villages, but says that in the center the Germans, by violent attacks, have gained considerable ground.

In the presence of Emperor William, German troops drove the French from the heights of Vregny, northeast of Soissons, in a spirited battle on Wednesday, according to an official announcement at Berlin. An announcement at Paris admits that the French have been obliged to yield at this point.

A flood in the River Aisne, threatening to break the French communications by destroying temporary bridges thrown across the stream, has caused French forces in the district between Crouy and Misay to fall back to the south bank of the river, according to an announcement at Paris.

THURSDAY.

A renewal of the Russian offensive on the East Prussian frontier is reported in an official announcement at Petrograd, which speaks of the advance of a Russian vanguard column east of Rosog, East Prussia.

Turkish troops are reported to have occupied the Persian city of Tabriz.

A dispatch from Amsterdam states that all ordinary passenger traffic has been stopped over most of the railroads in Germany to expedite the movements of troops and munitions.

Russia has arranged to borrow \$12,000,000 from a group of New York bankers.

### WEDNESDAY.

Turkish and Russian armies are engaged at Kara Urgan in a battle which is regarded as a death struggle for the Turks.

Germans, after an all-night bombardment of French positions northeast of Soissons, delivered a strong attack yesterday. An official announcement issued at Paris last night said the result of the attack was not yet known.

The battle for the possession of the heights south of Cernay, in Upper Alsace, now held by the Germans, has been renewed, according to an official announcement at Berlin.

From Petrograd it is reported that the German cruiser Bremen has arrived at Wilhelmshaven, badly damaged by a mine.

Turkey is said, in dispatches from Rome, to have agreed to the demands of Italy in connection with the Hodaida incident.

Albanian insurgents are reported to have placed guns in position for use against Durazzo, the Albanian port recently occupied by Italian forces.

Repulse of an attempt by the Russians in Northern Poland is announced by Berlin.

### TUESDAY.

Mall advices from Madrid report receipt of word that French troops in Morocco have been forced by hostile native forces to abandon the last of their fortified posts in the interior, and that their position was critical.

Italian troops, sent to fortify the Italian islands in the Aegean Archipelago, are reported to have arrived at Piraeus.

Vienna issues an announcement that the French dreadnaught Courbet sank after being damaged by an Austrian submarine in the Austrian Channel in the attack previously reported in Vienna dispatches as having occurred on December 21.

Berlin reports that unfavorable weather continues in the eastern war theatre, but says the Germans are making progress slowly west of the Vistula river.

Roumania's entrance into the war at an early date, to co-operate with the countries allied against Germany, Austria and Turkey, is confidently expected at London.

### JAP ARMY CORPS FOR EUROPE.

"Volunteer Movement" Appeals For Funds To Finance Plan.

Tokio, Japan.—The promoters in Japan of what has been called the volunteer movement have issued a manifesto in which they announced their intention of dispatching an army corps to Europe. To this end they are appealing to both Japanese and foreigners for funds. The manifesto says that as Lafayette helped the United States and Garibaldi helped France, so the Japanese wish to assist the Allies, Great Britain, Russia and France, to terminate the misery of war and restore peace to the world.

### KING ALBERT DIGS TRENCHES.

He and Staff Relieve Tired Soldiers For a Time.

London.—"King Albert spent several hours Sunday with a pick and shovel, digging trenches like a common soldier," writes a Belgian from the front to his family in the refugee camp here. "It happened in this way: While inspecting with some staff officers the King saw a group of us digging, looking very tired. He inquired how long we had been working. Being told, he sent us away for a rest while he proposed to his staff that he and they take our places."

### MRS. GOLDSBOROUGH JOINS.

Becomes Maryland Chairman Of Made-In-U.S. League.

Washington, D. C.—Mrs. Phillips Lee Goldsborough, wife of the Governor of Maryland, in a telegram to the Woman's National Made in U.S.A. League, made public here, has accepted the honorary chairmanship of the organization for the State. The action of Mrs. Goldsborough follows closely upon that of Mrs. James H. Preston in accepting a similar post in the organization for the city of Baltimore.

### CONSTANTINOPLE FEARS.

Outer Forts Of Dardanelles Damaged By Allied Fleet.

Rome.—Advices from Constantinople indicate that the bombardment by the allied fleet of the Dardanelles forts has already greatly damaged some of the outer forts. The fear is said to be growing that the fleet eventually will force a passage and that the Allies will be able to capture Constantinople. If that happens, grave fears have been expressed by officials fully cognizant of the situation that a massacre of foreigners will be hard to prevent.

## APPEAL AGAINST LOWER COAL RATES

### Anthracite Roads Start Stiff Fight on Reduction.

### LOSS NEARLY \$45,000,000

Coal Field Fatalities Fell Off 238 in 1914—Ask Receiver For Fire Insurance Co.—New Allegheny Court Clerk.

Appeals from the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission's decision ordering a reduction of 25 to 40 cents a ton on anthracite shipped from the mines to Philadelphia, were filed in the Court of Common Pleas, of Dauphin County, by the five carriers concerned. They are: The Pennsylvania Railroad, the Philadelphia & Reading, the Lehigh Valley, the Jersey Central and the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western. The Pennsylvania and the Reading are the only two hard coal roads which enter Philadelphia, but anthracite is shipped from the mines to Philadelphia also over the other three lines and they have the haul from the mines to the connecting points.

The reduced rates originally ordered by the commission were to have become effective last Tuesday, but the commission postponed the date to this Tuesday. It is expected that the carriers will ask an injunction preventing the reduced rates from becoming effective pending the outcome of the appeal.

That the railroads will make a hard fight is indicated in a statement issued by the Pennsylvania Railroad, which said the effect of the proposed reduction would be to diminish the net revenues of that company by approximately \$1,500,000 a year, and those of the Reading by \$2,000,000, and of the other companies by several hundred thousand dollars.

In further explanation of the railroads' side of the rate controversy, the Pennsylvania Railroad's statement said:

"The application to the freight rates on all other conditions of the principle applied by the commission is determining the Philadelphia rate on anthracite would produce commercial chaos and reduce the net revenues of the carriers by an amount far greater than the gain under the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission in the five per cent. rate case and the recent adjustment in passenger rates."

"The reductions in the rates ordered will force the reduction of a large number of other anthracite rates, both State and Interstate, to points other than Philadelphia."

### Ask Receiver For Fire Ins. Co.

The Attorney General, in behalf of the State Insurance Commissioner, petitioned the Dauphin county court for a rule on the Prudential Fire Insurance Company of Wilkes-Barre, to show cause why a receiver should not be appointed. The department alleges that the company is insolvent and its further operation will work hardship to stockholders and policyholders. The court fixed January 27 for argument. Dr. O. K. Grier is named as president and John E. Holt as treasurer of the company.

### Coal Field Fatalities.

Figures compiled at the State Department of Mines show that there were 401 fatal accidents in the bituminous field last year, against 611 in 1913, and 556 in the anthracite field, against 624 the previous year. The production of anthracite last year was about the same as in 1913, but bituminous mined was 34,000,000 less than in the preceding year.

### May Be Brumbaugh's Secretary.

The name of Alfred R. Houck, of Lebanon, chief of the State Bureau of Statistics, is being mentioned as a possible private secretary to Governor-elect Brumbaugh. Mr. Houck was formerly postmaster of Lebanon. He is a son of Secretary of Internal Affairs Henry Houck.

### New Allegheny Court Clerk.

Governor Tener appointed William R. Bailey as clerk of the Courts of Allegheny County, to take effect upon his confirmation by the Senate. He is to succeed Congressman-elect W. H. Coleman, resigned.

### ITEMS OF INTEREST.

There are 432,000 acres of forest in Corsica.

Whaling is active off the British Columbia Coast.

Norway buys apples and prunes from the United States.

Corsica's big industry is the manufacture of chestnut extract.

Orders for 100,000 tunics for the Russian army have been placed with Leeds firms.

In Bavaria, Germany, a number of towns have decided to introduce unemployed insurance.

Queensland is estimated to have 40,000,000 acres of forests as yet unexplored and unreserved.

## KEYSTONE STATE IN SHORT ORDER

### Latest News Happenings Gathered From Here and There.

### TOLD IN SHORT PARAGRAPHS

Girl Admits Being Twice a Bigamist. Coal Co.'s Right To Mine Under School Upheld—False Teeth Strangle Woman.

Arrested at Washington on charges of bigamy and perjury, Mrs. Ida Mae Barker-Wright-Kerne-Amos, aged 22 years, a well-known young woman and member of a well-to-do family, created a sensation by calmly admitting that she has had three husbands and no divorces. She added that the suicide of her third husband, George H. Amos, on Christmas, during their honeymoon, was the direct result of his discovery of her numerous marriages. Seated in a cell, in the county jail, the girl, who is an attractive blonde and looks younger than she is, told in detail of her matrimonial experiences and remarked that ill fortune had always followed her in her marriages.

In an opinion handed down by Judge E. C. Newcomb, the Scranton School Board loses its case to enjoin the Clearview Coal Company from mining under Number Forty School, North Scranton. The injunction was asked by two city tax-payers, backed by the school board and the State. The school district requested the court not only to order mining under the school property to cease until such time as proper support was provided, but that mining within a distance of 375 feet of the school premises should be stopped.

Ralph Mensinger, aged 16, one of eight boys arrested by County Detective D. T. McKeelvey and James McDermott, special Lehigh Valley Railroad detective on the charge of breaking into the Onida store and school house, confessed that he was implicated with George Van Blargen, also of Onida, in the attempted dynamiting and robbery of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company pay train on October 14.

Robert and William Fisher, brothers of Llewellyn, were imprisoned in a fiery furnace by an explosion of gas at the Pine Dale Colliery. Robert died in the Pottsville Hospital, while his brother is in a critical condition. The gas was accidentally ignited, and although the brothers dropped to the floor to escape the flames, fire played over their prostrate bodies until the flesh was blackened.

William Myers, formerly proprietor of the National Hotel at Dover, York county, was arrested on information made by Deputy State Fire Marshal William W. Wunder, of Reading, charged with setting fire to the hotel. He was held under \$1,000 bail for a hearing. The fire occurred on August 16 last, a day before the license was transferred to another proprietor.

John E. Reese, ex-assistant cashier of the First National Bank, of Nanticoke, pleaded guilty in Federal Court at Sunbury to embezzling \$12,500 from the institution by means of using false credit slips in the savings department, and then destroying them. He was sentenced to serve three years in the Eastern Penitentiary, and pay a fine of \$1,000.

The town of Gordon, influenced by Billy Sunday's arguments, will go dry, if a petition presented to the Schuylkill County Court is granted. The petition, signed by prominent residents, declares that Gordon is a railroad town and that it is important that this class of men be sober. It also sets out that the sentiment of the town favors the closing of its four saloons.

A Hanover shoe company announced that the working hours of its male employees had been reduced from 57 1/4 to 54 hours per week, effective at once, without reducing the wage. About a year ago the hours of the female operatives were reduced from 57 1/4 to 50 hours with the same pay. No persons under sixteen years of age are employed.

Choking on a set of false teeth which lodged in her windpipe when she bent over to pick up her purse from the floor of a street car, Mrs. Thomas J. Middleton, of Scranton, died before she could be removed to a hospital. The falling plate completely locked her jaws so that ordinary first aid was of no avail.

Fires under four furnaces at the Ivy Rock steel plant of Alan Wood Iron & Steel Company, Norristown, were lighted and work for about two hundred men will be furnished after weeks of suspension.

The rear portion of the new \$20,000 public school building in course of erection at Mokiton, collapsed, the damage amounting to several thousand dollars. Interior decorators were at work at the time.

Ex-State Senator Webster Grim, of Doylestown, was re-elected president of the Board of Trustees, of Allentown College for Women, at its annual meeting Wednesday.

## PITH OF THE WAR NEWS

The German official report characterizes as a "brilliant feat for our troops" the capture from the French of the heights of Vregny, which was achieved under the eyes of the Kaiser himself.

Turkish control of Persian railroads and highways leading to the Russian frontier seems to have been established by the capture two days ago of Tabriz. It develops that this city fell only after a fierce artillery battle, the Russian garrison retiring in the face of superior numbers.

Unofficial dispatches say the Turkish troops who recently invaded Persia are now advancing to the interior of the country.

The Germans have removed their sick and wounded from Lodz and Piotrkow into Prussia and have changed their ammunition bases.

Lord Worsley, Lieutenant in the British Royal Horse Guards, who was reported some time ago as a prisoner of the Germans, is now known to be dead. He was killed in action in Flanders. Lord Worsley was the eldest son of the Earl of Yarborough.