

GERMANS CHECK FRENCH ADVANCE ON METZ ARMIES IN HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTS IN ALSACE RUSSIAN VANGUARD ON-PRUSSIAN FRONTIER

Kaiser's Forces Claim a Victory and the French Admit Being Driven From Trenches Which They Won the Day Before

JOFFRE'S MEN REPEL COUNTER ATTACKS

Paris.—In the desperate fighting which, with few exceptions, is now confined to the eastern end of the battle line in France and Alsace, each of the opposing armies, according to the official reports, has practically offset the advantage gained by the other.

East of Verdun the Germans have made two slight advances, in one retaking the trenches around Apremont, near St. Mihiel, which the French captured, and in the other gaining a small portion of trenches in the Forest of Le Pretre from the column which is threatening Metz.

In the Argonne forest, on the other side of Verdun, the Germans made great efforts to break the French line, without success. Near the village of Fontaine Madame the invaders were driven back twice, and at another point of defence, called Marie Therese, the French were holding their positions after a desperate fight.

Fight Hand to Hand in Alsace.

Probably the most violent engagement of the whole front is now in progress around Thann, in Alsace, although the official reports give scant information. The French army in this region is apparently firmly fixed, as the Germans, operating from the great fortress of Muelhausen nearby as a base, have been fruitlessly attempting to expel them for several weeks. The French, however, are still within a couple of miles of Cerney (Sennheim), which has been their immediate objective in their attempted movement on Muelhausen.

The battle in the Hartmann-Wellerkopf hills, in this region, according to the official reports, is actual hand-to-hand fighting.

News dispatches referring to the situation in Poland set forth that north of the Vistula, in the vicinity of Lipnow, Russian advance guards are within twenty miles of the German frontier.

SUBMARINE OPENS WAR ON BRITISH FOOD SUPPLY

Sinking of Merchant Ship Starts Campaign to "Starve" England.

London.—A thrill of excitement passed through London when it was learned that Germany had struck her first blow in what was accepted as the opening of the Kaiser's campaign against the British merchant marine.

The steamer Durward, a boat of 3,300 tons, was the victim of the opening attack. The Durward was torpedoed by the German submarine U-19. Before sending her to the bottom the submarine ordered the Durward's crew into their small boats and afterward towed them for six hours until they were within sight of the Dutch coast.

The Durward carried a general cargo, among which were forty tons of provisions belonging to the American Relief Commission, according to a dispatch from The Hague.

The London newspapers frankly accept the sinking of the Durward as the beginning of the policy publicly urged by Admiral von Tirpitz, the German Minister of the Navy. Von Tirpitz asserts that Germany can starve England by torpedoing her merchant vessels.

London.—The fighting in both arenas of the war, because of the severe weather conditions, consists largely of artillery duels.

An exception was the region of Ponta-Mousson, where the French assert they made further progress in a foot-to-foot encounter with the Germans.

This is a point to which military men on both sides attach great importance, and it is predicted in news dispatches that the Germans will start at once a heavy offensive, as they did with much success at Soissons, to put a stop to the French advance toward the roads leading to Metz.

Trenches in the Argonne were captured by the Germans in bayonet charges, but the French official report says the ground was retaken in hand-to-hand clashes.

In Poland and Western Galicia the Germans and Austrians continue isolated attacks against the Russian line, which, says the Russian report, have been repulsed with heavy losses to the attacking forces.

The Russians are advancing slowly through the mountains separating Bukovina and Transylvania.

PRISONERS TOO FREE.

Paris Paper Says German Captives Insulted Shopkeeper.

Paris.—The Intransigent asserts that the German officers held prisoners are allowed undue freedom and behave with insolence. It adds that the prisoners are permitted to walk freely in the streets and that some officers entered a shop where were sold postcards showing German "atrocities," insulted the proprietor, and demanded the removal of the cards from the window.

London.—The battle for the trenches in Flanders and France continued almost without cessation from the sea to the Swiss border, without notable advantage for either side. In the mud of Flanders, the floods of the Aisne Valley and the snows of the Argonne and the Vosges the soldiers of Germany and the allied nations keep up a continual fight to hold what they possess, and take something from that held by the enemy.

According to a long official report of the fighting during the past two months, issued by the French War Office, the history of siege operations has largely favored the Allies, who, while they have gained ground on almost every part of the front, have been forced to give way in only one region, that of Soissons.

They are being put to a test, however, similar to that which obliged them to retire south of the Aisne, near Soissons, because the Germans, realizing the danger to their communications with Metz as a result of the French advance near Ponta-Mousson, have sent reinforcements there, and have begun a battle for positions which they lost. The Germans have regained a portion of them, in the forest of Le Pretre.

East of Rheims the French have demolished German field works and wrecked a German ammunition depot. At other points, particularly near St. Mihiel and in Alsace, there have been infantry engagements; but, on the whole, the artillery continues to be the busiest arm.

An attempt by the Germans in Poland to cut off the Russian army advancing toward the border of East Prussia near Thorn is indicated by a report that a force of Germans has appeared northwest of Warsaw and behind the Russians advancing on the line of Dobryzn-Mlawa. It is stated that the Germans are in small force and appear to be merely detachments sent to reconnoiter, but a heavy force is thought to be back of them. They are observed along the road from Plonsk to Gostitza. Plonsk is 40 miles northwest of Warsaw. A dispatch states that the Russian advance in northwest Poland continues to threaten von Hindenburg's communications, and that the field marshal has been compelled to interrupt and alter his dispositions for the remainder of the winter campaign. There is little change in the general situation in Galicia. The Russians hold firmly to strong positions from Tarnow, on the main line of railway from Lemberg to Cracow, along the Dunajec to the Carpathian passes. Dispatches from Petrograd lay stress upon the Russian advance into Transylvania, where it is stated, Austrian resistance is broken.

GOVERNOR OF CRACOW PREPARES FOR SIEGE.

Geneva, via Paris.—Despatches from Budapest state that the Governor of Cracow has ordered the partial evacuation from the city and its suburbs of women, children and men unfit for military service. They have forty-eight hours to leave. The men over military age but who are still active have been formed into a civic guard. The banks have been transferred to Vienna. Provisions of all kinds, it is stated, are scarce in Cracow.

The Austrian War Office has issued an order calling up all of the land-storm men up to and including those aged sixty. The order applies throughout the Austrian Empire.

PITH OF THE WAR NEWS

Artillery duels continue all along the 350-mile battle front in Belgium and France, with the usual varying fortunes.

Germany sent her former Ambassador at Vienna to Rome on a secret mission and Austria sent the present Ambassador at Berlin to Bucharest for the purpose of averting the intervention of Italy and Roumania.

The Germans have halted the French advance designed to cut communications with the important fortress of Metz, in Lorraine, and isolate the German army in the St. Mihiel region.

A hard battle has been raging in Belgium without interruption between Nieupoort and Ostend for three days, despite rain and flooded trenches.

News of the German air raid on England was received with acclaim by the German people. The War Office officially justified the attack on unfortified towns on the ground that the aircraft were fired on from them.

The German Minister of War, Lieutenant General Erich von Falkenhayn, has resigned, and he has been replaced by Major General von Hohenborn. The former War Minister has been made a general, and retains his position as Chief of Staff. The Russian cavalry is in splendid condition and the horses are fit.

NAVAL BATTLE IN NORTH SEA

British Sink One Cruiser and Damage Two Others

RAID ON THE ENGLISH COAST

Big German War Vessels Escape Into Their Own Mine Field, Which British Ships Dare Not Enter.

London.—An attempt by a German cruiser squadron to repeat the attack recently made on Scarborough, the Hartlepool and other British coast towns was frustrated Sunday by the British patrolling squadron, and in a running fight the German armored cruiser Bleucher was sunk and two German battle cruisers were seriously damaged.

The British ships suffered only slight injury. So far as is known only 123 of the Bluecher's crew of 885 were saved.

A battle also occurred between the light cruisers and the destroyers accompanying the big German ships, but the result of this engagement has not yet reached the admiralty.

The British were superior in ships engaged, weight of armament and speed, and the flight of the German ships into the mine and submarine-infested field possibly saved them from further losses.

Bluecher a Fine Ship.

The Bluecher was a cruiser of 15,550 tons displacement, and, although commissioned in 1908, was completely re-equipped last year. She was not classed as a battle cruiser, but was in the next class to those formidable fighters. With her were the Derflinger, Germany's latest battle cruiser, which had just left the builders' hands, and the battle cruisers Seydlitz and Moltke, the latter a sister ship of the Goeben, formerly of the German, but now of the Turkish fleet, which was recently reported damaged by the Russians in the Black Sea.

The British squadron, commanded by Rear Admiral Sir David Beatty, who also was in command at the battle off Heligoland last August, consisted of the battle cruisers Tiger, Lion, Princess Royal, New Zealand and Indomitable. The first three of these cruisers mount eight 13.5-inch guns each, and even the New Zealand and Indomitable carry 12-inch guns which are equal to those of the Derflinger, the only one of the German ships that had better than 11-inch guns.

"NEVER AGAIN"—NOYES.

Watchword of the Allies, Declares Post, Who Arrives in New York.

New York.—Alfred Noyes, English poet and peace advocate, and visiting professor of English at Princeton reached here aboard the Lusitania.

"The watchword of even the most pronounced militarists among the Allies," said Mr. Noyes, "is never again. When the settlement finally comes there will certainly be a grim attempt to establish some sort of collective responsibility among nations so that treaties cannot again be torn up with impunity. The whole thing reduces itself to whether we are going to have international wars in the future."

"A system of international police is rather a distant idea, but I don't see why the principle of international alliances cannot be worked out."

257 OFFICERS IN 13 DAYS.

Casualty List Published in England Shows That Loss in Flanders.

London.—There has been given out in London an officers' casualty list covering the period between December 20 and January 12, which shows that the British army in France in these 13 days lost a total of 257 men. Of these 92 were killed and 133 wounded. Thirty-two were reported missing.

Added to the previous totals the records of the last fortnight give officers killed, 1,286; wounded, 2,415, and missing, 662, or a total casualty list in officers since the beginning of the war of 4,344 men.

JAPS MAY KEEP KIAUCHAU.

Lease To Germans Takes It Out Of China's Realm.

New York.—Dr. Teyokichi Iyenaga, former professor of political science at Chicago and Columbia Universities, declared in an address before the Japan Society here that the retention of Kiauchau by Japan would not be a violation of Chinese integrity inasmuch as Kiauchau had been leased to Germany for 99 years and was, therefore, not a part of China.

RUSSIANS BLOWN UP.

Railway Station Full Of Troops Destroyed By Austrian Shell.

Berlin (by wireless to London).—It is officially announced here that the Russian railway station near Chencyny (about 10 miles southwest of Kielec, Southern Poland), which the Austrians destroyed by a single heavy shell, was filled with Russian troops at the time, all of whom were killed.

WAR SIDELIGHTS



TIME TO EXPAND FOREIGN TRADE

America's Opportunities Discussed at Convention.

EUROPEAN WAR OPENS DOOR

Declares American Products Should Be Exploited To Get Firm Foot-hold in Markets of the World For Future.

St. Louis, Mo.—"One week of the European war did more than 10 years of academic discussion to convince the American people that foreign trade is a vital element in domestic prosperity. No doubt remains that the nation is determined to see its foreign commerce safeguarded and increased. Differences of opinion relate only to method. All parties and all elements are united in patriotic co-operation for the common end."

This statement was made by James A. Farrell, president of the United States Steel Corporation, in an address at the banquet to delegates to the foreign trade convention in session here.

Mr. Farrell said: "What advantage or disadvantage the European war will bring us depends largely upon changes in industrial trade relations that cannot be forecast. Meanwhile the interests of the United States are sufficient to warrant a proper respect for neutral commerce and the United States will, in maintaining its trade at as high level as a just regard for belligerent interests permits, serve the larger and permanent interests of those not engaged in hostilities."

Time For Action Here. "Whatever may be the political outcome of the European war, it is apparent that each of the belligerents will find it essential vigorously to pursue its foreign trade to repair the ravages of its domestic commerce; to provide labor to soldiers returned to peaceful pursuits, and to ameliorate the burden of taxation.

"Diplomacy of the future, as of the past, will be intimately concerned with commercial aggrandizement and it is of vital consequence to America's future position that advantage be taken of the present opportunity to exploit the products of American invention and to establish a firm foothold in the markets of the world, which neither political effort, tariff discrimination nor low prices successfully can assail."

For Certified Cargoes.

John Bassett Moore, former counselor of the State Department, in an address before the convention on Problems of War and Commerce, asserted that the pending negotiations between the United States and Great Britain in regard to the right to visit and search, and British interference with American ships and cargoes could result in nothing better than a makeshift; that the points at issue could be settled only by the abolition of conditional contraband, and the co-operation of neutrals and belligerents in the certification of cargoes.

22 HELD FOR MANSLAUGHTER.

Deputy Sheriffs Arrested As Result Of Roosevelt Riots.

Roosevelt, N. J.—With 22 deputy sheriffs as defendants in a blanket warrant charging manslaughter, investigations are under way by the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations and the prosecutor of Middlesex county into the shooting here of 19 striking employees of the American Agricultural Chemical Company. One man died from his wounds and several others of the strikers are in a serious condition. Twenty-one of the accused deputies pleaded not guilty when arraigned before County Judge Peter F. Daley, in New Brunswick, and were released on bail of \$5,000 each, bonds being furnished by a surety company. They were sent back to guard the company's property.

INSULT TO FLAG STARTS INQUIRY

Washington Asks England to Explain Greenbrier Case.

AMERICAN SHIP NOT A PRIZE

State Department Wants To Know Why It Was Necessary For British To Search Ship Provided With Certificate.

Washington.—Walter Hines Page, the American ambassador to London, has been cabled by the State Department to ask the British government for an explanation of the reported insult to the American flag on the American steamship Greenbrier, the undue detention of the ship and as to all the other charges made by Captain Farley, who with his ship is now at Bremen.

With cotton under certificate of the British consul at New York, she was stopped by a British cruiser, sent under British flag to a British port and detained two days before being allowed to complete her voyage to Bremen.

The detention of the Greenbrier was brought to the attention of the State Department by telegrams from Captain Farley, her commander, now at Bremen. Farley stated that at a point on the North Atlantic, which he fixed by longitude and latitude, the Greenbrier was overhauled on December 30 by a British cruiser. The boarding officer required him to continue on his course conveyed by the cruiser for a day or two while the cargo was being searched for arms.

Then the cruiser placed aboard the Greenbrier some additional British officers who hoisted the British flag, and a prize crew who navigated the ship so that, according to Captain Farley, she was damaged before she was brought into Kirkwall. There the Greenbrier remained for three days, Captain Farley refusing to sail her further except under the American flag. The British authorities finally consented to the raising of the American flag and Captain Farley took his ship to Leith, where a pilot was picked up and the Greenbrier was taken to her destination at Bremen.

The points upon which the State Department wants information are, first, why it was necessary to search the Greenbrier in view of the certificate issued by the British consul at New York, and second, why a neutral merchant vessel was compelled to lower her flag when under no known rule could she be regarded as a prize.

MANNING VOIDS BLEASE ORDER.

Governor's Action, It is Thought, Restores Militia.

Columbia, S. C.—Governor Manning issued an order here declaring "void and of no effect" the action of Governor Blease in disbanding the South Carolina National Guard shortly before he retired. Adjutant-General Moore said he believed the order automatically restored the troops to their former status, and that a reorganization would be unnecessary.

\$2,500,000 TO REPAY FARMERS.

Senate Adopts Bill To Cover Loss On Cattle Killed.

Washington, D. C.—An Urgent Deficiency bill was adopted by the Senate carrying \$2,500,000 to reimburse farmers for cattle slaughtered in the campaign to eradicate the foot-and-mouth disease. In presenting the measure Senator Overman said farmers were complaining at the slowness of the Government in paying for cattle destroyed.

WOMEN SUPPLANT MEN.

Soprano "Helios" Now in City Offices At Washington.

Washington, D. C.—Soprano "Helios" will supplant bass in all city offices, the Commissioners having ousted all men at the private telephone switchboards and appointed women operators.

ARMIES HOLD THEIR POSITIONS

Neither Side Seems Able to Make Important Headway

RUSSIANS ADVANCE IN NORTH

Also Russian Fleet Reported To Be Continuing Their Raids On Turkish Sailing Vessels In Black Sea.

London.—Except in Alsace, where a stubborn battle has been in progress for several days, but which receives only the briefest mention in the official reports, the fighting has been comparatively light on both eastern and western fronts. There have been heavy gun bombardments and a fight for a trench here and there, but no battle such as is considered of a proportion worthy of extended mention in this titanic war.

The siege continues and, according to the opinion of the military experts, it will go on until the ground hardens sufficiently to enable one of the commanders to move a large body of men with a speed that will permit him to surprise his opponent and enable him to find a weak spot in the line.

In the east, along the old front from the lower Vistula to Galicia and in the Carpathians, the two armies remain in about the same positions as they were two months ago, all efforts by the Germans to break down the Russian resistance seemingly have failed, and the Russian attempt to drive the Austro-German forces back to Cracow having met a similar fate.

In the north, however, the new Russian offensive apparently has carried them well toward the German frontier without meeting serious resistance.

The Russian advance into Transylvania is reported to have been checked by the appearance of a large Austrian force in the mountains, while the snow prevents the Muscovites going any farther through the Carpathians, though they hold all the passes in readiness for the day when the weather will permit a resumption of the forward movement.

No mention has been made during the last few days of the fate of the remnants of the Turkish armies which the Russian reports previously said had been defeated in the Caucasus, but it is believed by military men here that the Russians, having use for their men elsewhere, have decided not to push on to Erzerum.

The Russian fleet, according to reports, still is busy in the Black Sea sinking Turkish sailing ships. This is taken as evidence that the reports that the Turkish cruiser Goeben had been put out of action were not exaggerated.

AT 100,000,000 MARK.

The Population of the United States Will Soon Go Beyond It.

Washington, D. C.—At 4 P. M. April 2, the population of the United States will have reached and passed the hundred-million mark, according to C. D. Sloane, geographer of the Census Bureau, who estimates the population at that hour will be 100,000,000. J. S. McCoy, actuary of the Treasury Department, however, calculates the population will be 100,016,000 on February 1.

The disagreement in the estimates arises from the different systems of computation employed by the two statisticians.

In the Census Bureau the direct increase as shown by the difference in population in 1900 and 1910 is taken. By that system the country would contain 106,399,318 persons on July 1, 1915, and more than 168,000,000 on July 1, 1920. The 1900 census showed the population to be 75,994,575, while the 1910 figure was 91,972,266. By the census estimates the population of all United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, would be 110,750,000 July 1, 1915.

Actuary McCoy arrives at his conclusions, upon which Treasury statements of the per capita wealth are based, by including in the calculations what he calls the factor of second differences. His effort is to show the natural increase within the increase as figured by the Census Bureau. By that system he estimates the continental population on January 1 last at 99,875,000; February 1, 100,016,000, and July 1, 100,725,000. On July 1, 1920, Mr. McCoy estimates it will be 109,339,000.

GARY RAIL MILL TO REOPEN.

Working Force Of Plan To Be Increased By 1,500 Men.

Gary, Ind.—The Gary rail mill closed for three months, is to be opened on February 8 and other departments of the Illinois Steel Company's plant will take on more men within a few weeks, according to an announcement made here by the company. The present working force of 3,000 will be increased by 1,500 men.

AGAINST SALE OF ABSINTHE.

Favorable Report On Prohibition To French Deputies.

Paris.—The license committee of the Chamber of Deputies has decided to submit a report favoring the prohibition of the sale of absinthe.