

THE EUROPEAN WAR A YEAR AGO THIS WEEK

Dec. 20, 1914.

Von Hindenburg advanced further toward Warsaw.

Russians crossed the Bzura burning the bridges.

Serbs and Montenegrins again invaded Bosnia.

Turks made gains near Lake Urumiah.

Allied fleets bombarded interior forts of the Dardanelles.

Russians drove Turks toward Van.

Belgian provinces agreed to pay tax to Germany.

Dec. 21, 1914.

Allies extended offensive operations in west, gaining in center.

Russians won over Turks in Armenia, capturing equipment.

Allied aviators dropped bombs in Brussels and made night attack near Ostend.

Chile protested against violations of her neutrality by German navy.

Germans driven across border of North Poland.

Dec. 22, 1914.

Germans claimed to have stopped allies in west.

Germans accused of shelling hospital in Ypres.

Russian army threatened railway to Thorn and Germans reformed to protect it.

Von Hindenburg's left threatened by new invasion of Germany.

Germans crossed branches of Bzura and Raska rivers.

Austrians defeated in the Carpathians.

Arabs menaced Christians in Hodeida and French consul was seized.

Allied fleets bombarded German positions on Belgian coast.

French destroyer shelled Turks.

Allied fleets shelled Kill Bahr.

Many Austrian soldiers killed in troop train accident.

Dec. 23, 1914.

Allies made slight gains in west.

Austrians defeated in southern Galicia.

Portuguese retreated before the Germans in Angola, Africa.

Turkish army left Damascus and marched on Suez canal.

Russian destroyers in Black sea bombarded Turkish villages.

King of Belgians sent message of thanks to Americans.

Dec. 24, 1914.

British using new howitzers in west: French artillery demolishes German trenches.

French cruiser damaged by Austrian torpedo.

French submarine sunk by Austrian shore batteries.

German aviator dropped bomb in Dover.

Germany denied French charge of hiring neutral ships to lay mines in Mediterranean.

Dec. 25, 1914.

Unofficial Christmas along much of the western front, the allies and Germans in some instances exchanging gifts and visits.

French shelled the outer forts of Metz.

Civilians of East Prussia began movement toward interior of province.

Russo-Turkish operations were stopped by intense cold.

Two German aviators flew up the Thames.

Dec. 26, 1914.

British made naval and air attack on German fleet without important results.

Zeppelin dropped bombs in Nancy. German aeroplanes made raid in Russian Poland and French aviators attacked Metz.

Fighting in Flanders was halted by dense fog.

Russians made gains in the south.

French attacked Austrian naval base at Pola in the Adriatic.

Germany notified neutral nations their consuls in Belgium would not be recognized further.

Unqualifiedly False.

"Skinner boasts that he never lets anybody get ahead of him—that he takes nobody's dust." "Skinner's a falsifier; he takes everybody's dust because he can lay his hands on it."—Boston Transcript.

Driven to Desperation.

"I am so tired of being conventional and customary and correct," stated H. H. Harsh, "that one of these days I shall stop right in front of a church and in a firm voice ejaculate 'Drat!'"—Kansas City Star.

His Opinion of Brown.

Smart Young Man—"What do you think of Brown?" Indignant Old Gentleman—"Brown, sir! He is one of those people that pat you on the back before your face, and hit you in the eye behind your back!"—Tit-Bits.

True Happiness.

To watch the corn grow and the blossom set, to draw hard breath over plowshare and spade, to read, to think, to love, to hope, to pray—these are the things to make man happy.—Kuekin.

MADERO KILLED BY HIS OWN FRIENDS

De La Barra Tells Story After Long Silence.

DEFENDS HUERTA CABINET

Got First News Of Tragedy When Huerta Told Him They Had Been Slain By Bandits Who Attempted To Free Them.

Paris.—Francisco de la Barra, former provisional president of Mexico, and minister of foreign affairs at the time of the death of President Madero and Vice-President Pino Suarez, told the circumstances attending that tragic event—the first statement he had made on this or any other Mexican subject during the long period of turbulence and disorder in that country.

Senor de la Barra came here as Mexican ambassador after retiring from the provisional presidency and later in the shift of administration in Mexico he gave up his diplomatic position and devoted his attention to private affairs.

"Personally I would have preferred to have continued silent," said Senor de la Barra, "and to have allowed to pass the calumnious attacks which have appeared in some books and papers, believing that they have fallen by their own weight. On the other hand, not wishing a legend put in circulation for obvious political reasons, to take form as a reality, and also because I do not wish my silence to be misinterpreted, I consider that it is my duty to make this declaration:

His Story Of Tragedy.

"I declare in the most solemn and precise manner that the death of Mr. Madero and Pino Suarez was not brought about as a result of a council of the cabinet and that the first information I had of this tragic occurrence without any antecedent circumstance permitting me to foresee such an event was given to me by General Huerta at midnight on Saturday, February 22, 1913.

"On Friday, February 21, at noon, at a cabinet council, I interrogated the Minister of Justice and the Minister of War, asking if they had any official knowledge of the detention of Mr. Madero and Pino Suarez. Their replies were negative and I thereupon urged the strict necessity of conforming with the most scrupulous regard to the requirements of the law. I added that in case the examination of the documents, to be submitted to the Secretary of Justice, led that official to the conclusion there was legal justification for a detention, then these papers should be sent to the competent authorities for action. Some of the cabinet ministers spoke in similar terms and it was finally unanimously agreed that the Minister of Justice, after receiving the documents, should proceed in accordance with the law.

Slain By "Friends."

"Following this, General Huerta told us that, owing to the lack of security in the apartments at the National Palace, occupied by Mr. Madero and Pino Suarez, he was going to give orders for their removal from the palace to the penitentiary, where there would be additional security. After a renewed ratification of the decision of the cabinet, in regard to acting strictly within the law, we finished this meeting at 1 o'clock on Friday afternoon. I have in my hands several letters from the other cabinet ministers giving confirmation to the foregoing statements.

"I did not return to the National Palace until midnight, Saturday, February 22, when I was called there by telephone from a member of General Huerta's staff, who said he desired to inform me and the other ministers that a very grave event had occurred. General Huerta then told me that Mr. Madero and Pino Suarez had been killed in a fight while they were being removed to the penitentiary. He stated that as the automobile bearing them and the escort were proceeding toward the penitentiary, two armed bandits opened fire with the apparent purpose of freeing Madero and Pino Suarez, and that in the affray which ensued, both had been killed, also two other men and a fifth man who was wounded and taken prisoner.

WANTS LABOR RECOGNIZED.

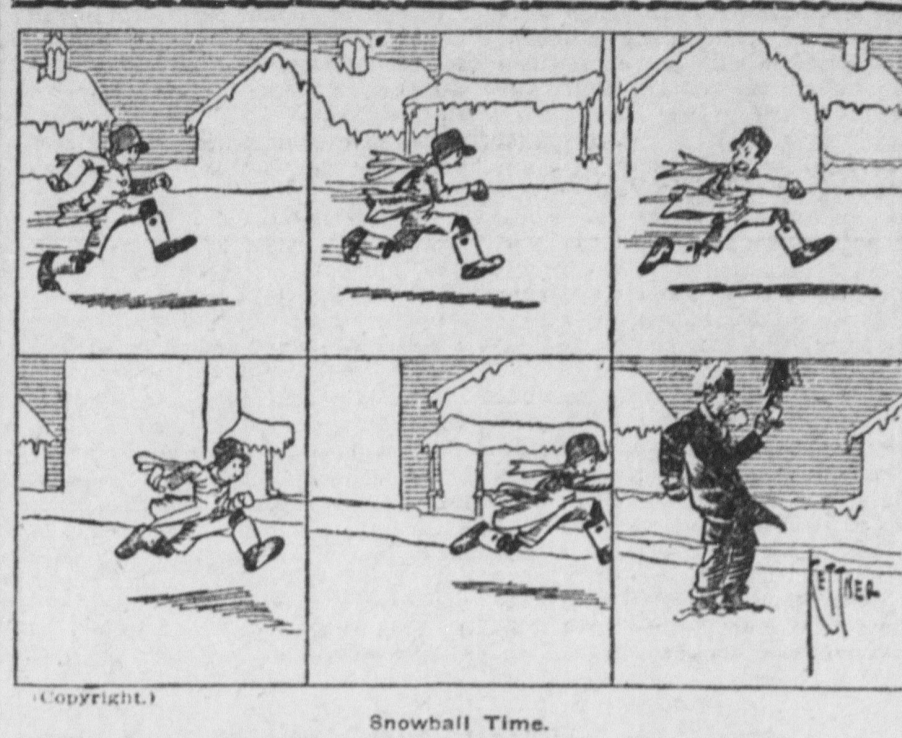
Gompers Asks President For Place On Defense Commission.

Washington.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, told President Wilson that organized labor was ready to give its support to the defense of the nation and should be allowed a voice in making preparations.

Mr. Gompers asked the President to appoint a representative of labor to the commission he may name to confer with army and navy officers on the mobilization of the nation's resources. Since the war started, Mr. Gompers said, belligerent nations had included representatives of labor in every important activity.

The President said he would consider the suggestion carefully.

TODAY'S MOVIE



NEW PROGRAM FOR COAST DEFENSE FARM RECORDS ARE BROKEN

Plans As Outlined By The War Department.

16-INCH GUNS IN ALL FORTS MORE EXPECTED THIS YEAR

Scheme Also Calls For Semi-Mobile Howitzers, Anti-Aircraft Guns and Big Ammunition Supply—Fort at Cape Henry.

Washington.—A new program for the improvement of coast defenses and the mobile artillery of the United States to their maximum military efficiency at a cost of \$100,000,000 has been completed by the War Department.

The plan was developed after a thorough survey of the present defenses. The program has been laid before the Appropriations Committee of the House for use in the preparation of the fortifications appropriation bill. The program calls for as its chief features:

The exclusive use of the 16-inch guns in all new coast defenses, development of a semi-mobile 16-inch Howitzer to be transported by railroad or by motor tractors, and to be the greatest arm of modern times, and the accumulation of reserve ammunition that will allow each gun in the coast defenses as many rounds as may be fired during the life of the gun.

For Mounting 12-inch Guns.

The immediate mounting of sixty-four 12-inch guns, now held as a reserve, on new carriages that will give them an increased range that will allow them to stand off any modern battleship has been decided on. These guns are to be mounted at once to guard first-class cities while the 16-inch gun plan is being carried out.

The plan contemplates an expenditure of more than \$50,000,000 over a period of four or five years. Of this amount about \$71,000,000 would be spent on defenses in the United States proper, \$11,000,000 on defenses in the insular possessions and nearly \$14,000,000 on defenses for the Panama Canal.

A material factor in the increased money demand is the new plan to build up an ammunition reserve. Heretofore the coast defenses have been provided with ammunition on the theoretical basis of two hours continuous firing, and about \$40,000,000 of the total expenditures on the program will go to furnishing the guns all the ammunition they can shoot. This increase is explained by the increased volume of fire at the command of modern warships.

The War Department is now at work developing three new artillery arms which are embraced in the new plan. They are the semi-mobile 16 inch howitzers and approximately 11-inch howitzers for use of the mobile artillery and the anti-aircraft guns.

The 16-inch howitzers are designed to be shipped by railroad or by motor truck and to be fired from specially built emplacements or from special railroad cars. Where railroad lines run along the sea coast it is planned to run from the main track a series of curved spurs from which the big guns could fire at any seaward angle in line with the track. In this the tremendous recoil of the big guns could be taken up not only by recoil springs, but by allowing the car to roll backward under the force of the explosion. The War Department is now experimenting along these lines.

A new fortification is planned at Cape Henry to guard the entrance to Chesapeake Bay and it will be started at once, according to the program. It will mount four 16-inch guns and eight 16-inch mortars.

Yield Last Year in U. S. Estimated at \$9,873,000,000.

Secretary Of Agriculture Houston Recommends Legislation To Improve Handling and Storage Conditions.

Washington.—Secretary Houston's annual report places an estimate of \$9,873,000,000 on the value of American farm crops and animal products for last year, a valuation without precedent. This, however, probably will be eclipsed by the present year's showing.

This valuation is an increase of about \$83,000,000 over the value of 1913, hitherto the highest ever recorded. The increase occurred in the face of a decline in cotton from 12.5 cents a pound for the 1913 crop to an average of 7.3 cents for 1914. The total value of the 1913 cotton crop, estimated at \$846,000,000, was \$283,000,000 more than the 1914 crop, although the latter was 14 per cent. greater in quantity.

"The total agricultural exports in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915, practically the first year of the war," says the report, "were \$1,470,000,000, which is an increase of \$266,000,000, or 32 per cent. over those of the preceding year and of \$423,000,000, or nearly 42 per cent. over the average of the five years 1910-14."

What is needed more, perhaps, than anything else, the Secretary says, is an increase in meat animals. To that end the department has extended its activities as far as its funds would permit. Elimination of common live stock diseases, from which losses are said to be enormous, would result in a material increase of the meat supply.

"It has been conservatively estimated," the report continues, "on the basis of data for 30 years, that the annual direct losses from animal diseases are approximately \$212,000,000. The indirect losses, which also are great, cannot be estimated at all. The direct loss ascribed to each disease is as follows:

"Hog cholera, \$75,000,000; Texas fever and cattle ticks, \$40,000,000; tuberculosis, \$25,000,000; contagious abortion, \$20,000,000; blackleg, \$5,000,000; anthrax, \$1,500,000; scabies of sheep and cattle, \$4,600,000; glanders, \$5,800,000; other live stock diseases, \$22,000,000; parasitic, \$5,000,000; poultry diseases, \$8,750,000."

The potash situation, the report states, continues serious. There is practically no potash available for fertilizer and indications are that the supply for that purpose will not be increased materially next year.

Recommendations for legislation made by Secretary Houston to Congress include the following:

Legislation designed to promote better handling and storage of farm products and trading on the basis of fixed grades and standards, including a permissive warehouse act, a cotton standards act, a grain grades act and provision for a market news service.

A land mortgage banking act intended to inject business methods into handling farm finance and to place farm securities upon the market in a responsible way.

Authority to grant water power permits within the national forests for fixed periods.

DU PONTS CUT BIG MELON.

Dividends Amounting To \$18,000,000 Distributed.

Wilmington, Del.—Stockholders of the Du Pont Powder Company received Wednesday the 20 per cent. dividend on the new common stock of the powder company. This dividend represented a distribution of about \$18,000,000, of which more than \$13,000,000 was paid to residents of Wilmington and its suburbs. Bankers, merchants, clerks, laborers, stenographers and even office boys were among those who received checks.

BURNED TO DEATH IN AIR.

Captain Smith's Aeroplane Suddenly Burst Into Flames.

London.—Captain Smith of the Royal Flying Corps was burned to death while flying an aeroplane at Farnborough. When in the air the aeroplane suddenly burst into flames. The pilot tried to reach the ground, but succumbed just before landing.

ALLIES HAVE AN OPEN ROAD

Greece Consents to Retirement From Serbia to Saloniki.

TEUTONS' MOVE IS AWAITED

Complications Expected If They Attempt To Pursue Enemy Across Border — Snow On Gallipoli.

London.—The British and French troops have successfully carried out their retirement from Serbia across the Greek frontier, and by an arrangement with the Greek Government a clear road has been left for them to fall back on Saloniki, which is being organized as a base.

The German official report claims that "approximately two English divisions were annihilated during the retirement." Accounts from Athens and Saloniki say the retreat was carried out in an orderly manner and without heavy losses. By the destruction of railway bridges and roads and by stubborn rear-guard actions, in one of which two companies of the Inniskilling regiment sacrificed themselves to save their comrades, the Bulgarians were kept at a fairly safe distance.

The question now arises whether the Bulgarians and Austro-Germans intend to follow the British and French troops into Greece, and what action the Greek Government will take should they do so. The impression gained from dispatches emanating from Athens is that neither the Bulgarians nor the Turks, who also are reported to have arrived near the frontier, would be welcomed in Greece and that, therefore, if it has been decided to follow the Entente Allies the task will be undertaken by Austrians and Germans.

However, with the railway destroyed it may be some days before Greece is called upon to take action, and by that time the Anglo-French force should be safe in the defenses of Saloniki, and under the guns of their ships.

The remains of the Serbian army are still resisting the Austrians and Bulgarians in Albania, while the Austrians are making very slow progress in their efforts to overwhelm Montenegro, where heavy fighting continues.

Only small actions have taken place on the eastern and western fronts. On the Gallipoli Peninsula a fall of snow is impending the operations, although the Entente allied ships keep things lively for the Turks, whose attempt at an offensive last week seems to have failed.

A British official report says that the Turkish attacks at Kut-el-Amara, where British reinforcements are arriving, have been repulsed. The attacks were made from all sides, but the British position was so strong that the Turks were unable to make any impression on it.

Macedonia Free Of Allies.

Berlin.—The French and British have been entirely expelled from Macedonian territory, it is officially announced by German Army headquarters, the advancing army under General Todoroff occupying Doiran and Givgell.

It is declared that two British divisions were nearly wiped out during the advance.

GREECE MAKES TERMS.

Give Bulgars and Teutons Passage, Let Allies Fortify Saloniki.

Paris.—The Allies have concluded a military agreement with the Greek Government containing the following provisions:

First—The Greek troops shall temporarily withdraw to allow free passage to an invading Bulgarian or Austro-German army.

Second—The Allies are authorized to remain at Saloniki and fortify themselves there.

Third—Greece undertakes to reduce her contingent so occupying the forts and batteries at the entrance to the Gulf of Saloniki.

Greece has already begun the execution of the first proviso. A dispatch to the Temps from Saloniki states that the Government has ordered the fifth Greek Army Corps to withdraw from Saloniki.

A dispatch from Athens states that the reports that Bulgarian troops have entered Greek territory is officially denied there.

HOLDS 200 TONS OF GOLD.

New York Assay Office Has Accumulations From Europe.

New York.—Two hundred tons of gold, worth \$102,000,000 and occupying the space of three cords of wood, are stored in the United States Assay office here. The gold is in 16,346 bars.

It represents the accumulations of British sovereigns and other foreign coins brought to the United States within about six weeks in an effort to maintain the financial balance between European nations and the United States.

The bars have been melted down to 216.6 fine, this being finer than the gold used in the United States mints.

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