

NEW DRIVE LAST HOPE OF KAISER

Activity on West Front Prelude to New Move for Peace

LIMIT OF EFFORT NEAR

By LOWELL MELLETT LONDON, Dec. 14.

Germany's forthcoming west-front drive is her first preliminary to another peace offensive.

She hopes to achieve a dent somewhere on the Franco-British line. She wants to claim "invincibility" of her military forces to the German people to steel them to the overwhelming sacrifices which must come when America throws her strength in the battle line.

She wants to "back up" Austria-Hungary to greater sacrifices against that day. She wants to accelerate growth of pacifist and "peace without a victory" sentiment in Allied nations.

Above all, she wants the war to end before America's millions of men and of war machines can be arrayed against her and overwhelmingly turn the tide to a certain German defeat.

This is the view of observers here. It is based on well-defined developments of recent weeks in Germany. The Kaiser and his military chiefs can ill afford to sacrifice the thousands of soldiers who must be thrown to slaughter in a west-front offensive, in the view here of Germany's desperation.

A tremendous increase in German peace propaganda has been noted recently.

Germany today is at the summit of her strength. With every hour from now on it oozes away. At home Chancellor Hertling has apparently cemented political ruptures. On the sea, by speeding up methods, Germany's submarines are still taking a heavy toll of Allied shipping.

In the field Germany claims credit for the strategy of the recent successful drive into Italy, and a great many German troops participated there.

Russia has been definitely put out of the war—more than counterbalancing Turkey's utter collapse.

Through cleverly exerted but nevertheless relentless pressure, Germany is extending metal supplies from her neutral neighbors.

The Kaiser is at the zenith of his power. To save his autocracy he must now in this moment of strength try to save something from the wreck that inevitably is coming, by a peace made while Germany is strong.

He knows President Wilson's pro-letting of the German people, seeking to bring them to their senses and overthrow autocracy, will gain with every day henceforth. He and his leaders know the Berlin-Bagdad scheme is gone with Turkey's smash-up. He knows, with the American and Allied shipbuilding plans and with perfection of anti-submarine devices, the German U-boat is destined to play less and less a part in the war.

He knows his ambitious propaganda seeking to disrupt Italy has failed; that a separate peace with the Russian Bolshevik means nothing.

Above all else he realizes that next spring perhaps America will have a great force of carefully trained men on the fighting line; that American airplanes will likely start with Allied aviators to sweep Germany from the skies.

GERMAN SOCIALISTS POLL HEAVIER VOTE

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 14.—Socialists polled 28 per cent of the total vote cast in the recent municipal elections at Leipzig, according to a report published by the Berlin Vorwarts.

This represents a 5 per cent increase over 1912, when the last previous election was held.

The Independent Socialists (the peace-inclined faction led by Liebknecht, Rase, Ledebour and others, polled nearly 64 per cent of the total Socialist vote.

BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR RUSSO-GERMAN TRUCE

No Peace Conditions Yet Submitted by Berlin, Official Teuton Message Says

BERLIN, Dec. 14.—The German headquarters here announced that negotiations for an armistice to replace the existing truce on the Russian front began yesterday at the headquarters of Prince Leopold of Bavaria.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 14.—An official German telegram says peace conditions have been submitted to the Russian delegates. Up to this time nothing has been discussed except the armistice.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 14.—The Russian army will remain passive as long as inactivity prevails on the part of the Russian army along the remainder of the front, according to a message sent by the Maximilian.

RECRUITS HASTENING TO ALLENTOWN CAMP

Many of Draft Age Take Advantage of Federal Decree

ALLENTOWN, Pa., Dec. 14.—The Federal decree that after December 15 men in the draft register will no longer be able to volunteer has caused many to seek enlistment in the United States ambulance service at Allentown.

Applicants here included Hugh Lewis, son of Albert Lewis, lumber operator of Bear Creek, and Christopher Stegmaler, of the family of Wilkes-Barre brewers and bankers.

They are just over the draft age, but decided to become volunteers. Other volunteers today were Sulo Fejely and J. Melvin Freed, of the faculty of the Allentown High School, and Roscoe Quay, receiving teller of the Lehigh Valley Trust Company.

Major Richard Stee, sanitary officer of the camp, addressed the weekly meeting of the doctors of Allentown and the staff of the Allentown Hospital at the Nurses' College. His subject was sanitation.

Major Stee was the sanitary officer of the great camp at Gettysburg in 1913 at the reunion of the Blue and the Gray fifty years after the battle.

About 225 of the soldiers of the camp living west of the Susquehanna River have received twenty-one-day furloughs and have left to pass Christmas at home.

Seventy per cent of the men in the camp will get leave from December 20 to December 30 for the holidays.

A feature of Christmas in camp will be the dedication of the new athletic but or Christmas Eve, the details of which are in charge of Lieutenant William E. Raken, of Philadelphia.

JAIL HEALTH LAW VIOLATOR

West Chester Man Tore Down Measles Warning Card

WEST CHESTER, Dec. 14.—George T. Brown, of Toughneck, was committed to the Chester County prison here last evening following a hearing before Justice of the Peace S. M. Paxson for a term of thirty days and must also pay a fine and costs of \$27.22 for breaking the quarantine regulations of the State.

A short time ago a young son of Brown developed an attack of measles and the local health officer posted a card upon the door of the house announcing the same. Brown is alleged to have burned this card and also opposed a renewal of the card. His arrest followed at the instance of Dr. Joseph Scattergood, of this place, representative of the State Board of Health for Chester County.

Reading Doctors Increase Fees

READING, Pa., Dec. 14.—The physicians of Reading have decided to increase their fees, and hereafter they will charge \$1 instead of fifty cents for calls at their offices, while for house calls the price is raised from \$1 to \$1.50.

1 DEAD, ANOTHER HURT IN ACID PLANT BLAST

Spectacular Explosion and Fire Cause \$100,000 Loss at du Pont Plant

WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 14.—William Crowe lost his life and Harvey Fulton was badly injured in a spectacular explosion and fire which destroyed the salicylic acid plant of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. at Newark, Del., early today.

Crowe was burned to death and Fulton was hurt while jumping from a second story window. The latter was brought to Wilmington and is at the Physicians and Surgeons' Hospital. He is badly injured, but is expected to recover.

In addition to the wrecking of the plant, two dwellings adjoining it were burned, the occupants escaping in their night clothes. The monetary loss is put at \$100,000.

Both men caught in the burning building were residents of Newark and employees of the plant. Crowe was twenty-two years of age and is survived by a widow and two children. He is thought to have been on the second floor when the fire broke out, which was about 2:50 o'clock, and to have fallen down the elevator shaft, probably being stunned and unable to get out.

His charred body was found after the flames had been quenched.

The fire was caused by the overheating of what is known as a sublimator. An explosion occurred in a room where men were in the plant, but all got out safely except Rowe and Fulton.

Salicylic acid, which was made at the plant, is a commercial product and does not enter into the manufacture of explosives. The plant was started three years ago by Joseph H. Hoesinger, who sold it to the du Ponts about two years ago. While the flames were raging at Newark and fire companies from this city were responding to calls for aid, Wilmington itself suddenly was pitched into total darkness and industrial plants were forced to suspend operations.

Due to a short circuit, which put out of commission the Fifth street plant of the Wilmington and Philadelphia Traction Company, a series of blinding flashes, some of which reached almost across the street, frightened people.

One house on the west side of the mill, occupied by E. Earl Porter and his wife and three children, was destroyed and the family fled in their night clothing. The other houses in the rear of the plant, was occupied by Mrs. Crossan and her family, and they, too, were driven from their beds into the freezing air.

Neither family carried any insurance and the family fled in their night clothing. The other houses in the rear of the plant, was occupied by Mrs. Crossan and her family, and they, too, were driven from their beds into the freezing air.

The dwellings were owned by Mrs. Jacob Thomas and were insured.

AIRMEN BUSY AT SHORE

Class of Eighty Nearly Through With First Course

CAPE MAY, N. J., Dec. 14.—The steel hangers for the Coastal Air Station at Cape May have been completed and nearly all of the barracks, store house and quarters for the aviators are ready for full service.

Neither planes are being operated and the class of eighty students, under the direction of the marine corps, have nearly completed their first course of instruction.

The Government has also leased all the land at Swells Point, north of Yale avenue, in addition to the fifty-eight acres owned, and upon which the Coastal Station is located.

DE MARCO GIRL POSES AS VICTIM OF PLOT

Rider Murder Defendant Says Isaca Lied Through Revenge to Involve Her

MT. HOLLY, N. J., Dec. 14.—Mlle DeMarco, striving to free herself from everything but an accidental connection with the Rider murder for which she is being tried, in her direct examination today unfolded a story that places her in the light of a victim instead of conspirator as charged by Gov. Ina, convicted and condemned to die in the same case. Inca thus far has been the only real witness the State has produced against her.

There were no hitches in Mlle's story. She admitted that on the day of the crime she accompanied Inca, his brother Tony, and Laraine Pucchni from Philadelphia to Atison in an automobile hired by Inca from Frank J. Donne and Frank Vassel. She went on Inca's invitation because she was afraid to refuse him, she said.

When the automobile was reached the Inca and Pucchni left the car after it had been stopped near the schoolhouse. They told her they were going across country to a friend's home. She, Le Donne and Vassel could turn the car around and be prepared to go home when they returned. Inca, on the stand, said that Mlle did not want to get out.

She declared that she had no knowledge of the purpose of the trip or of what had happened until she met Tony Pucchni in the hospital. He told her that he had been with Inca at the time she was arrested.

She stamped Inca's charge against her as a most deliberate and revengeful lie. He testified that she aided in the plans for the crime and that when she talked to Inca, who was at the log on the night before the holdup, she received from the gang the signal that October 5 was to be payday at the boys and the Riders would go over from Hammonston with the money.

Mlle denied absolutely any conversation with Inca except about the illness of her mother, who was in Jefferson Hospital.

Lawyer Palmer for the defense was able to get in a statement that Mlle's story about the case so far as she knew it must be true, as the State had used that story and other information she had given in securing Inca's conviction.

BIG STOCK INCREASE

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 14.—Stockholders of the Pittsburgh Steel Car Company at a meeting to be held today in the temporary offices will vote to increase the capital from \$100,000 to \$2,000,000, all common stock.

The company will manufacture freight, passenger and refrigerator cars, and its plant will have an initial capacity of 100 finished cars a day, with provision made to double this capacity if needed. The home offices will be in Philadelphia.

OAK ORCHARD MAN SAVED

OAK ORCHARD, Del., Dec. 14.—James Phillips, of this place, narrowly missed death when caught in a small, undecked motorboat in Indian Bay in a heavy off-shore storm. He leaped into the boat, which slipped its moorings, and did not have gas enough to breast the storm and get back to the wharf.

Phillips was rescued nearly dead from exposure, by Captain Charles M. Downs at the mouth of the bay. He would have been out to sea and certain death in a few minutes.

STEEL MEN DISCUSS UPWARD REVISION

Federal Trade Commission on Price Schedules

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Representatives of the steel and copper industries today further discussed with officials directing the war industrial program the possibility of an upward revision in the price schedules for those products.

Speakers for the steel interests, headed by Judge E. H. Gary, conferred with Chairman W. J. Harris and members of the Federal Trade Commission. The commission now in the course of investigating steel production costs obtains a mass of facts relating to labor conditions in the steel industry.

At the commission it was announced that every effort is being made by experts to expedite the inquiry in order to have a full report ready to submit to the President possibly by January 1.

The copper men talked with members of the War Industries Board. It is not expected that the copper prices fixed by the President will be changed at an early date. The prices announced more than two months ago were to run for four months. Today's conference was at the invitation of Chairman Willard, of the board, who desired to go into the question of stimulating the output of the mines. Today's conference was at the invitation of Chairman Willard, of the board, who desired to go into the question of stimulating the output of the mines.

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ENGINEER MEESER QUITS

Resignation of Jersey Highway Official Demanded by Goethals

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 14.—In response to a demand from General Goethals, State Engineer of New Jersey, Robert A. Meeser, of Plainfield, submitted his resignation as State Highway Engineer, to take effect April 1.

The State Highway Commission accepted the resignation and Meeser was given a leave of absence until April 1.

William D. Thompson, now Assistant State Highway Engineer, was appointed Acting State Highway Engineer at a salary of \$6000 and Edward E. Reed, of this city, was named as acting assistant.

No specific reasons have been given for requesting the resignation of Meeser, except that his methods were not in harmony with those of General Goethals.

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DRIFTING SNOW CLOSES SHAMOKIN COAL MINES

SHAMOKIN, Pa., Dec. 14.—Anthracite production in the Shamokin region was virtually at a standstill today. From fifteen to eighteen inches of snow drifted in many places to depths of from three to eight feet made operation of breakers impossible. Some collieries were unable to work early this morning but soon to resume work tomorrow.

Trains of anthracite mined today are snowbound on colliery tracks. The railroad companies are being able to move these by tonight.

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The Christmas Store for Men. Gloves \$1.50, \$2.00 and \$2.50. JACOB REED'S SONS. 1424-1426 Chestnut St.

HARMONOLA. This Christmas You Can Give a Harmonola. A musical instrument which gives the best expression to the world's harmonies. Important improvements in the sound reproducer—the soul of a phonograph—give the Harmonola a purity and mellowness of tone to be found in no other musical instrument.

BONWIT TELLER & CO. The Specialty Shop of Originations. CHESTNUT AT 13TH STREET. A Collection of About Fifty MISSES' WINTER SUITS. Formerly 39.50 to 75.00. 25.00 35.00. A number of the season's smartest models, in various materials, assembled from the regular stock. Many trimmed with fur. Sizes 14 to 18.

Hirsch's HATS TRIMMED FREE. 923 MARKET STREET. USEFUL GIFTS FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. Big, Warm, Fur-Trimmed Plush & COATS \$17.50. Fur-Trimmed Suits \$12.75. Velvet Dresses \$12.75. Georgette Waists \$4.98. FUR SETS OF QUALITY \$10-\$15-\$25. Child's Warm Coats \$5. Women's \$12 Suits \$6.75. Women's \$12.75 Coats \$8.75. We Continue Our Sensational Sale of DRESSES \$5. Beautiful Silk and Serge Dresses. Positively Worth up to \$10. Every new material, style and color is here. HIRSCH'S BASEMENT.

Give him an Ingersoll WATERBURY. AFTER all—particularly for soldiers and sailors—there's no gift like a watch—nothing used so constantly, referred to so often, carried so long. Now increased factory production has given dealers enough of the three Ingersoll Waterbury models to make sure that you will get one: Plain dial \$3.50; Radiolite \$4.50; and Wrist \$5.50. Every Ingersoll Waterbury has four jewels at points of greatest friction. They are small-size watches—the size men and boys want now-a-days. They are sturdy and bright and have the endurance a soldier's watch must have. In the Waterbury Radiolite you get the night-and-day feature. The glow is guaranteed for the life of the watch without need of exposure to light. Real radium in the substance on the figures and hands does it. The Waterbury Wrist watch is the Waterbury Radiolite in an unusually high-grade English pigskin strap. For soldiers and civilians. Better see the dealer today. The number we have been able to supply him is limited—but enough so that you can get yours if you go promptly. ROBT. H. INGERSOLL & BRO. New York Boston Chicago San Francisco Montreal. \$5.50. Illustration three-fifths actual size.