IMPORTANTE VITTORIA DEI SOLDATI ITALIANI

Gli Austro-Tedeschi Attaccano Sulla Fronte Nordica e Sono Respinti

ATTIVITA' AEREA

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ROMA, 12 febbraio.

Dalle notizie giunte dalla fronte di battaglia, conmate dai comunicati del Comando Supremo Italiano, si apprende che durante la giornata di ieri l'altro le truppe austro-tedesche lanciarono contro le linee italiane, sulle fronte nordica, poderosi e violenti attacchi di artiglieria e fanteria. Tali attachi apparivano come forieri di una generale offensiva e si estendevano dal limite orientale dell'altipiano di Asiago al fiume Brenta, sopra una fronte di quattro miglia, ove gli italiani riportarono gli strategici successi il 28 e 29 gennaio scorso, con i quali ricatturarono Monte di Val Bella e Col del Rosso e respinsero il nemico in entrambi i lati della Valle Frenzela.

I ripetuti sforzi compiuti dalle forze austro-tedesche, ieri l'altro, per ricuperare dette posizioni, fallirono completamente di fronte alla valorosa resistenza degli italiani, che costrinsero il nemico a ritirarsi, non senza aver subito gravissime perdite.

Il primo attacco, preceduto da violenti fuochi concentrati, fu operato dagli austro-tedeschi contro le posizioni italiane ad est e ad ovest della Valle Frenzela, la via scelta dai teutoni per l'abortita avanzata nella pianura veneta, ma s'infranse sotto il fuoco delle batterie italiane piazzate sulle alture dominanti di Monte Val Bella e Col del Rosso.

Altri attacchi, condotti dal nemico con eguale violenza e sempre sostenuti da intenso fuoco di artiglieria, s'infransero egualmente, come pure fallirono completamente varii tentativi di attacco da parte di un distaccamento austriaco, che voleva occupare alcuni elementi di trincee avanzate che gli italiani avevano creduto opportuno di abbandonare.

L'attivita' aerea fu abbastanza intensa durante la lotta delle fanterie e gli aviatori italiani riuscirono ad abbattere due macchine nemiche.

Ecco il testo del comunicato ufficiale pubblicato, ieri, dal Ministero della Guerra in Roma:

Durante la giornata di ieri violentissimi fuochi concentrati ed attacchi da parte della fanteria furono ripetutamente operati dal nemico ad est e ad ovest della Valle Frenzela.

Tentativi ostili operati contro le nostre nuove posizioni di Monte di Val Bella e Col del Rosso furono prontamente frustrati dall'efficacissimo fuoco delle nostre batterie.

Piu' ad est, sulle pendici meridionali di Sasso Rosso, un distaccamento austriaco fece varii tentativi per raggiungere, protetto dal fuoco dell'artiglieria, alcune trince avanzate, di fronte alle nostre linee, che noi avevamo abbandonato, ma non vi riuscì a causa del nostro micidiale fuoco di sbarramento.

Due aeroplani nemici furono abbatuti da uno dei nostri aviatori.

Il Ministro delle Armi e Munizioni On. Dalbello, ha dichiarato che l'efficenza della industrie di guerra in Italia o' trenta volte maggiore di quelle che si aveva due anni e mezzo or sono. Nel solo mese di novembre furono fabbricati trecento cannoni per rimpiazzare quelli caduti nelle mani del nemico, nello scorso ottobre. Per avere una idea dello sviluppo delle industrie di guerra basta dire che al momento dell'entrata in guerra l'Italia aveva 125 fabbriche, non completamente equipoggiate, le quali impiegavano 125,000 operai; oggi l'Italia ha 3550 fabbriche, che presto raggiungeranno il numero di 4000, le quali impiegano 700,000 operai di cui 140,000 sono donne e 45,000 ragazzi.

Nel discorso pronunziato ieri, innanzi ad una commissione mista di senatori e rappregentanti, il Presidente Wilson ha insistito nell'affermare che una futura pace dovra' dare giustizia ai popoli e che assolutamente essa non puo' essere basata sopra quanto recentemente hanno esposto il cancelliere tedesco, von Hertling, ed il presidente del consiglio dei ministri austriaci, conte Czernin.

Perche' siano possibili negoziati di pace, il presidente Wilson ha dichiarato, occorre che ogni parte della finale decisione sia basata sopra elementi essenziali di giustizia per ciascun caso particolare e sopra principi che siano ritenuti adatti per addivenire ad una pace permanente. Che i popoli e le province non dovranno essere barattate da sovranita' a sovranita' come se si trattasse di beni mobili a pegni in una partita di grande importanza, ma che ciascun assestamento territoriale, coinvolto nella presente guerra, s'a fatto nell'interesse ed a beneficio delle popolazioni cui concerne, e non come parte di patto a compromesso preteso tra Stati rivali. Tutte le aspirazioni nazionali dovranno essere ben definite ed in accordo alla massima soddisfazione delle popolazioni, senza che siano introdotti vecchi a nuovi elementi di discordia ed antagonismi che potrebbera in avvenire turbare la pace di Europa e conseguentemente di tutto il mondo.

Una pace generale eretta sopra tali fondamenta puo' essere discussa.

"LONG LIVE THE KING"

A Human Story of Child-Desire, Court Intrigue and Love, the Latest Novel

By MARY ROBERTS RINEHART

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CHAPTER XXXI—Continued

"THIS priest—he might be difficult."

"Not to a young couple, come to him, perhaps, in peasant costume. They are glad to marry, these fathers. There is much irregularity. I fancy," she added, still with her carefully detached manner, "that a marriage could be easily arranged."

But, before long, she had dropped her pretense of aloofness, and was taking the lead. Hedwig, weary with the struggle, and now trembling with nervousness, put herself in her hands, listening while she planned, agreed eagerly to everything. Something of grim amusement came into Olga Loschek's face after a time. By doing this thing she would lose everything. It would be impossible to conceal her connivance. No one, knowing Hedwig, would for a moment imagine the plan here. Or Nikky's, either, for that matter.

She, then, would lose everything, even Karl, who was already lost to her. But—and her face grew set and her eyes hard—she would let those plotters in their grisly catacombs do their own filthy work. Her hands would be clean of that. Hence her amusement that at this late day she, Olga Loschek, should be saving her own soul.

So it was arranged, to the last detail. For it must be done at once. Hedwig, a trifle terrified, would have postponed it a day or so, but the Countess was insistent. Only she knew how the very hours counted, had them numbered, indeed, and watched them flying by with a sinking heart.

She made a few plans herself, in those moments when Hedwig relapsed into rapturous if somewhat frightened dreams. She had some money and her jewels. She would go to England, and there live quietly until things settled down. Then, perhaps, she would go some day to Karl, and with this madness for Hedwig dead, of her marriage, perhaps——! She planned no further.

If she gave a fleeting thought to the palace, to the Crown Prince and his impending fate, she dismissed it quickly. She had no affection for Annunciata, and as to the boy, let them look out for him. Let Mettlich guard his treasure, or lose it to his peril. The passage under the gate was not of her discovery or informing.

CHAPTER XXXII

Nikky and Hedwig

NIKKY had gone back to his lodging, where his servant was packing his things. For Nikky was now of His Majesty's household, and must exchange his shabby old rooms for the cold magnificence of the palace.

Toto had climbed to the chair beside him, and was inspecting his pockets, one by one. Toto was rather a problem, in the morning. But then everything was a problem now. He decided to leave the dog with the landlady and to hope for a chance to talk the authorities over. Nikky himself considered that a small boy without a dog was as incomplete as, for instance, a buttonhole without a button.

He was very downhearted. To the Crown Prince, each day, he gave the best that was in him, played and rode, invented delightful nonsense to bring the boy's quick laughter, carried pocketfuls of hopes, to the secret revolt of his soldierly soul, was boyish and tender, frivolous or thoughtful, as the occasion seemed to warrant.

And always he was watchful, his revolver always ready and in touch, his eyes keen, his body, even when it seemed most relaxed, always tense to spring. For Nikky knew the temper of the people, knew it as did Mathilde gossiping in the market, and even better; knew that a crisis was approaching, and that on this small boy in his charge hung that crisis.

The guard at the palace had been trebled, but even in that lay weakness.

"Too many strange faces," the Chancellor had said to him, shaking his head. "Too many servants in livery, and flunkies whom no one knows. How can we prevent men, in such livery, from impersonating our own agents? One, two, a half-dozen, they could gain access to the palace, could commit a mischief under our very eyes."

So Nikky trusted in his own right arm and in nothing else. At night the palace guard was smaller, and could be watched. There were no servants about to complicate the situation. But in the daytime, and especially now with the procession of milliners and dressmakers, messengers and dealers, it was more difficult. Nikky watched these people, as he happened on them, with suspicion and hatred. Hatred not only of what they might be, but hatred of what they were, of the thing they typified, Hedwig's approaching marriage.

The very size of the palace, its unused rooms, its long and rambling corridors, its rambling wings and ancient turrets, was against its safety.

Since the demonstration against Karl, the riding-school hour had been given up. There were no drives in the park. The illness of the King furnished sufficient excuse, but the truth was that the royal family was virtually besieged, by it knew not what.

Two police agents had been found dead the morning after Karl's departure, on the outskirts of the city, lying together in a freshly plowed field. They bore marks of struggle, and each had been stabbed through the veins of the neck, as though they had been first subdued and then scientifically destroyed.

Nikky, summoned to the Chancellor's house that morning, had been told the facts, and had stood rather still and tense while Mettlich recounted them.

"Our very precautions are our danger," said the Chancellor. "And the King——" He stopped and sat, tapping his fingers on the arm of his chair.

"And the King, sir?"

"Almost at the end. A day or two."

On that day came fresh news, alarming enough. More copies of the seditious paper were in circulation in the city and the surrounding country, passing from hand to hand. The town was searched for the press which had printed them, but it was not located. Which was not surprising, since it had been lowered through a trap into a subcellar of the house on the Road of the Good Children, and the trapdoor covered with rubbish.

Karl, with Hedwig in his thoughts, had returned to mobilize his army not far from the border for the spring maneuvers, and at a meeting of the King's Council the matter of a mobilization in Livonia was seriously considered.

Fat Friese favored it, and made an impassioned speech, with sweat thick on his heavy face.

"I am not cowardly," he finished. "I fear nothing for myself or for those belonging to me. But the duty of this Council is to preserve the throne for the Crown Prince at any cost. And if we cannot trust the army, in what can we trust?"

"In God," said the Chancellor grimly.

In the end nothing was done. Mobilization might precipitate the crisis, and there was always the fear that the army in parts was itself disloyal.

It was Marschall, always nervous and now pallid with terror, who suggested abandoning the marriage between Hedwig and Karl.

"Until this matter came up," he said, avoiding Mettlich's eyes, "there was danger, but of a small party only, the revolutionary one. One which, by increased effort on the part of the secret police, might have been suppressed. It is this new measure which is fatal. The people detest it. They cannot forget, if we can, the many scores of hatred we still owe to Karnia. We have, by our own act, alienated the better class of citizens. Why not abandon this marriage, which, gentlemen, I believe will be fatal. It has not yet been announced. We may still withdraw with honor."

He looked around the table with anxious, haunted eyes, opened wide so that the pupils appeared small and staring in their setting of blood-shot white. The Chancellor glanced around, also.

"It is not always easy to let the people of a country know what is good for them and for it. To retreat now is to show our weakness, to make an enemy again of King Karl, and to gain us nothing, not even safety. As well abdicate and turn the country over to the Terrorists! And, in this crisis, let me remind you of something you persistently forget. Whatever the views of the solid citizens may be as to this marriage—and once it is effected, they will accept it without doubt—the Crown Prince is now and will remain the idol of the country. It is on his popularity we must depend. We must capitalize it. Mobs are sentimental. Whatever the Terrorists may think, this I know: that when the bell announces His Majesty's death, when Ferdinand William Otto steps out on the balcony, a small and lonely child, they will rally to him. That figure on the balcony will be more potent than a thousand demagogues haranguing in the public streets."

(CONTINUED TOMORROW)

TALK ON RUSSIAN AFFAIRS

The Red Guard of Petrograd and the revolt of the Black Sea fleet will be described by William T. Ellis today at a luncheon talk of the Poor Richard Club, 219 South Camac street.

Mr. Ellis has just returned from a five-months' trip through Russia and leaves next Saturday for the battle-front in France.

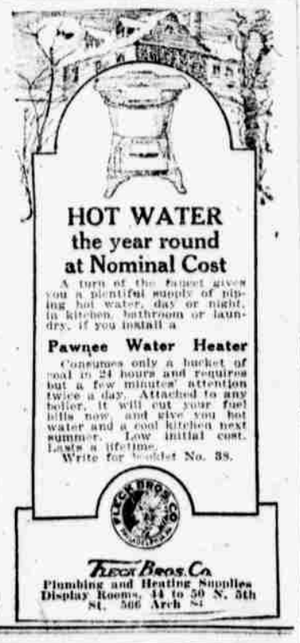
EQUAL SUFFRAGE UPHELD

National Democratic Executive Committee Votes for It, 5 to 2

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Indorsement of the Federal amendment for woman suffrage was voted by the executive committee of the National Democratic Committee here after a referendum to the committeemen representing the forty-eight States.

In the executive committee the vote was 5 to 2. Of the forty-eight State members of the national committee twenty-eight had voted for the amendment, fourteen had voted against it, and six had not been recorded.

Those supporting the resolution were Vance C. McCormick, chairman; Homer S. Cummings, Connecticut, vice chairman; A. Mitchell Palmer, Pennsylvania; Senator A. A. Jones, New Mexico, and Isadore B. Dockweiler, California. Those opposing were Representative Carter Glass, Virginia, and Representative Cordell Hull, Tennessee.



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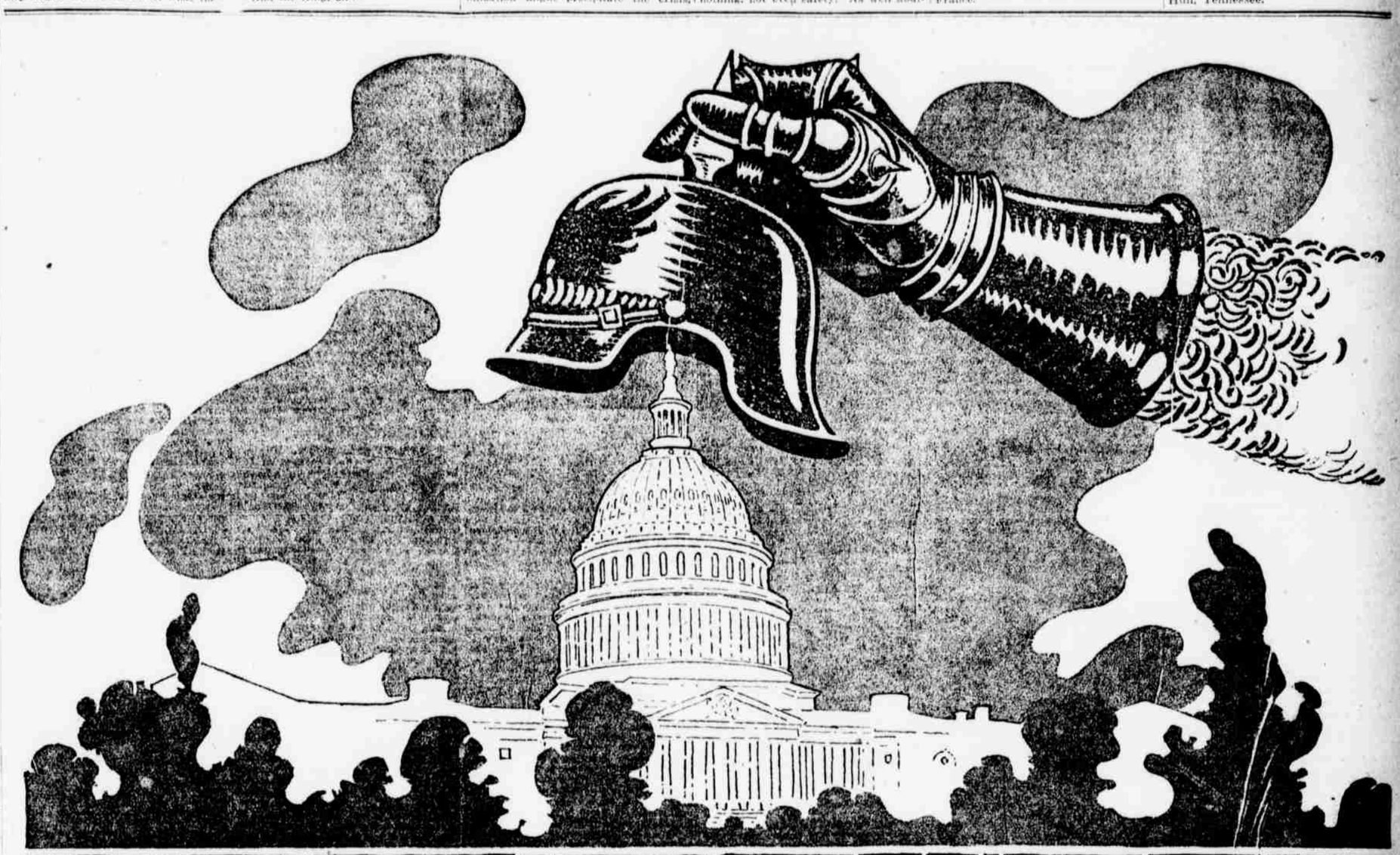

The Sinister Shadow That Hovers Over Washington

—the vast system of spying, intrigue and propaganda that spreads over this country "like a pall of poison-gas"—

—the peril that lies in wait, ready to spring at the first sign of Democracy's weakness or hesitation—

—undisclosed facts about the real rulers of Germany, a company of unknown men, housed in a gloomy building on the Wilhelmstrasse, whose orders even the Kaiser must obey—

"Face to Face With Kaiserism"

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SECOND GREAT BOOK

strips the mask from Prussian propaganda, lays bare the inner workings of the spy system, and warns America of dangers too serious to be longer overlooked.

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