

FIERCE THRUST NETS GERMANS SLIGHT GAINS

Direct Attack Made Against Front When Advertised Drive Will Begin

Rome, Tuesday, Dec. 18. — The Italian war office to-day issued the following statement on military operations:

"Yesterday, the seventh day of the battle between the Brenta and the Piave, the enemy concentrated his efforts almost exclusively on the Monte Solarolo salient. At 11 o'clock in the morning after several hours of the most violent fire extending from the Col Dell Orso to Forte di Salton, columns of infantry from the northeast and the north were launched against our position.

The former, which advanced from the southeastern slope of Monte Spinocci, was caught by our artillery and a most effective and concentrated fire from French batteries. It was forced to stop and give the at-

tack before getting in contact with our line. The latter, consisting of a whole division of German troops, preceded by assault detachments, made a direct and decided thrust against Monte Solarolo and the northern slopes at the head of the Calcino Valley. Our troops put up a most stubborn resistance and the enemy after a desperate struggle, being badly cut up by our fire and worn out by our counterattacks, was obliged to suspend action and return to his own lines. We captured prisoners and some machine guns. In the Col Della Beretta region a thrust on the part of enemy infantry was crushed promptly by our fire. On the remainder of the front, the fighting activity was very moderate."

On the western front the Germans have not yet given strong indications of where their altered drive is to begin. The German guns continue to bombard various sectors along the front from the North Sea to the Swiss border, including the Ypres and Champagne areas, and enemy raiding parties are harassing the British and French soldiers. Enemy raids have been repulsed by the British in the Arras area and northeast of Ypres, while the French have repulsed an attack at Renneville, northeast of Verdun. Germany's present strength on the western front is estimated to approximate the maximum reached last July when it was 155 divisions. The allies, however, are believed to have a superiority in numbers. British shipping losses for the past week total 17, a decrease of four compared with the previous week. The number of ships of more than 1,600 tons lost remained stationary, the reduction being in vessels under 1,600 tons.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Give to Smoke Fund and Join the Red Cross

Captain Howard L. Calder Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars, to-day turned over to the Telegraph Smoke Fund \$10 from the proceeds of the military ball held recently. The remainder of the receipts go to a smoke fund for Harrisburg and Dauphin county soldiers and sailors, a list of whose addresses the post has and whom it is supplying with tobacco. In addition, the post has forwarded a Christmas package to each member of the organization in the service and to many other Harrisburg soldiers.

At a meeting last night the post voted \$1 from the treasury to give to the Red Cross fund and it was reported that each member has taken out Red Cross memberships for himself and every member of his family.

HUNS PROPOSE PEACE OFFER TO THE ALLIES

[Continued from First Page.]

sack leader, according to a dispatch reaching London, from Petrograd, had proposed to the British that civil strife come to an end by declaring the independence of the Don territory and providing against Maximalist intervention there.

Peace Move Assumes Important Aspect, Is Opinion of London

London, Tuesday, Dec. 18.—Peace negotiations between Russia and the central powers, an armistice having been reached, are assuming an aspect of importance. Dr. Von Kuehlmann, the German foreign secretary, and Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, both said to be on their way to Brest-Litovsk, being accompanied by advisory suites from various government departments. It is also indicated from Berlin that the main committee of the Reichstag will be summoned to meet in special session in connection with these negotiations, and some German newspapers interpret this as showing the will of the people's representatives is about to assert itself. Another result of the armistice is that Ensign Krylenko, the Bolshevik commander-in-chief, has been able to move divisions from the northern front against General Kaledin, who is reported to be gaining new successes. There is no direct confirmation of the report that former Premier Kerensky is in the vicinity of Petrograd with an army. Meanwhile the Bolshevik administration is adopting drastic methods in these negotiations, including the reinstatement of the death penalty. A dispatch from Tammerfors, Finland, says the Russian troops are preparing to evacuate Finland, their transportation already having been arranged.

TROOPS LACKED AMPLE FOOD ON U. S. TRANSPORTS

15,000 Soldiers Suffered For Days on Ships Off France

Washington, Dec. 20.—That 15,000 American soldiers were held aboard transports for almost three weeks without ample food and water at the port of debarkation in France was asserted yesterday by Representative Clarence B. Miller, of Minnesota.

Mr. Miller's revelations have aroused the deepest interest at the War and Navy Departments. Inquiries were addressed to him by officers when he visited the Navy Department on business yesterday morning. His colleagues in the House pressed him for additional details, but Mr. Miller replied that he would reserve them until formal resolution in congress at a date the House soon after the holiday recess. Mr. Miller said he saw the transports with the troops aboard at the port. Rations were very low, and only the most energetic action by Army officers with General Pershing prevented actual starvation.

Mr. Miller has personal knowledge that the men were aboard the ship for a week, and he was assured by officers they could not be taken off for at least two weeks. The reason for this was the necessity for the French government to withdraw its rolling stock from the lines, it meant also the loss of the American troop headquarters, when French troops were rushed to Italy to stem the tide of the Austro-Germans.

"Who was to blame?" he was asked. "Not one man, nor one bureau, here is the error," Mr. Miller replied. "It is the system under which we are trying to handle so great a problem. This was one of several instances of similar errors, but was the most serious I observed. It meant not only personal discomfort and possible suffering by the troops, but the loss of time to the United States and the Allies by that delay in their training, which means ultimately their actual service in the line. It meant also the loss of the use of those transports—the best we have—for that period when they might have been carrying other troops or supplies in the port. "Our duty, however, is to take nothing for granted," he continued. "It is up to us to be sure that facilities will be available for our troops when they get there. We cannot afford to leave anything to chance mishap. "It is times we are beginning to think in millions, one, two, three, five million men. We've got to provide for such a force. It will not be to try to meet new conditions as they rise and improve them by providing for the maximum force. "We have got to handle our own problems. We must not depend upon the French and I imply no criticism in that. We must build our own storage warehouses, our own buildings at the debarkation port, and we must have our own tracks, over which to operate our own cars and locomotives. We must see that when troops depart from American shores the service every detail of their care and handling is provided in advance."

Smallpox Appears Among Laborers

Dr. Samuel G. Dixon, State Health Commissioner, received a report to-day that a case of smallpox had been found among the laborers engaged by a firm of contractors who are erecting buildings for a mining town at Indianola, Allegheny county, and that as many as thirty of the men was found to be suffering with smallpox. The sufferer from the disease is confined to one of the new houses the camp building and the remaining men from Ohio are confined in two bunk houses.

Still another case was reported from Sharon in Mercer county. A colored man was admitted to the office and the latter called the attention of Dr. P. P. Fisher, the Health Department's county medical inspector, to the case. The patient is smallpox and the patient was put in the contagious disease hospital. He reported having come from a boarding house at Fears' several days previous. The boarding house has been put under quarantine and all residents vaccinated.

Commissions for judges and all other officers who will assume office on the first Monday of January, including several hundred justices of the peace, will be mailed from the department by the Secretary of State Commonwealth on December 26, according to an announcement to-day. This will be done to avoid the congestion of the mail before Christmas. The commissions will be sent to recorders of the various counties.

Governor Brumbaugh to-day announced the appointment of the following superintendents of volunteer state police: Cumberland, Edward Brindle, Carlisle; Potter, James G. Covey, Coudersport; Lawrence, Charles S. Buell, New Castle; Columbia, George Wagner, Bloomsburg; Blair, J. L. Minnick, Altoona.

Governor Martin G. Brumbaugh will spend Christmas in Harrisburg, according to present plans. While sitting at the meeting of the State Bar Association to-day, President General Brown received word of the death of his brother, Alexander Brown, at Boston. Mr. Brown, who was formerly a member of Philadelphia, was 50 years of age and engaged in business at Boston. He was a descendant of Governors Findlay and Shick.

Heads of various departments of the state government got together at the office of Governor Brumbaugh this afternoon at an informal conference to discuss the various requirements. Some of the departments and commissions claim to be overcrowded and that others have surplus personnel who need. In addition estimates were presented for requirements for the next five or six years. The matter of reappointing roof work will be taken up by the Board of Public Grounds and Buildings.

HARRISBURG JURORS EXCUS'D President Judge George Kunkel today excused all jurors for the special session of court to try the Hardscrabble appeal case, until January 2, because of the illness of Judge S. J. M. McCarrell, who is hearing the suits.

GUARDIAN APPOINTED Isiah S. Daniel was appointed guardian to-day of Leo, Joseph and Elva Troutman, minor children of Emma R. Troutman.

Woolen Uniforms Now Provided, Says Baker

Washington, Dec. 20.—Woolen uniforms for all troops have been provided, and are either at the camps and cantonments or enroute there. Secretary Baker said yesterday, explaining steps the War Department has taken to meet the unsatisfactory health conditions at the training posts pictured in reports of Surgeon General Gorgas.

The Secretary announced that all except one of the recommendations of the medical department had been complied with immediately, and pointed out that the reports upon which action was taken were received for the most part two weeks or more ago.

General Gorgas' one proposal that remains to be acted upon, Mr. Baker said, is that regarding the establishment of observation camps, in which shall be gathered all new drafts of recruits for a period of two weeks before the men pass into their company organizations at the training camps. The Surgeon General believes that during this two weeks' segregation period, and with the recruits under close medical observation, it would be possible to prevent the communication of epidemic diseases to the troops in training.

Philadelphia Wants Soldier Boys Home For Christmas Season

Philadelphia, Dec. 20.—Philadelphia, through its representatives in Congress, appealed yesterday to the War Department to rescind the order that would hold 10,000 of the city's soldiers of the National Army at Camp Meade, Md., away from their families over Christmas. Congressmen Vare and Costello, ex-Representative J. Washington Logue, Mayor Smith and many others pledged themselves to exert every effort that the men upon whom will fall the burden of defending world-wide democracy may be given a holiday in the homes of their families.

Realizing the soldiers called to Admiral, Md., are under rigid military discipline and are at all times subject to the routine of army life, the Congressional representatives, as well as Mayor Smith, believe the Government can confer no greater tribute of thanks to the mothers, sisters and sweethearts of these men than to allow them to have one of the two midwinter holidays away from camp.

Secretary Daniels Appears to Testify in Inquiry

Washington, Dec. 19.—Secretary Daniels and Paymaster General McGowan of the Navy, were the first witnesses summoned to appear before the House Naval Subcommittee, which is investigating the Navy's war activities. Chairman Oliver, of the subcommittee, announced that part of the testimony would be public but those at which subjects considered Navy secretaries would be held in executive session. "The purpose of the investigation," he said, is to learn what the Navy has done and give it a clean bill of health if the facts warrant.

More Luxburg Messages Will Appear Today

Washington, Dec. 20.—Some two score more of telegrams which passed between Count Von Luxburg, German minister to Argentina, and the German Foreign Office will be made public to-day by the State Department by agreement with the Argentine government, which also will publish them simultaneously at Buenos Aires. Exposure of Count Von Luxburg's "stink without trace" telegram by Secretary Lansing was what caused a rupture of diplomatic relations between Argentina and Germany.

First Lightless Night Observed This Evening

Washington, Dec. 20.—The first week-day "lightless night" will be observed throughout the country to-night in strict compliance with the rules of the fuel administration. Reports received here from public utilities companies supplying electric current for display lighting and advertising express complete willingness to co-operate to relieve the heavy drain on the nation's coal supply. Failure to observe the new regulations, it has been announced, will result in penalties for the offender.

Cuticura Soap and Ointment for Skin Troubles Soap 25c. Ointment 25 and 50c.

Xmas Chocolates BEAUTIFULLY BOXED GORGAS 16 N. 3rd St. Penna. Station.

One of the Most Appreciated Christmas Gifts For Any One Who Loves Flowers Is A Box of Flowering Bulbs... WALTER S. SCHELL Quality Seeds and Bulbs 1307-1309 Market Street—Open Evenings.



BOOKS The Ever Satisfying Holiday Gift... Christmas Cards From Cotterel's... Solve Your Christmas Problems With Christmas Cards

Fountain Pens ARE WELCOME GIFTS. Practical and Useful... Fine Stationery... \$2.50 to \$8.00

David. W. Cotterel 9 NORTH MARKET SQUARE

CHRISTMAS TREES The Only Genuine Balsam Fir TREES in the city. The kind That Don't Drop... ROPING LAUREL, LYCOPodium, AND GROUND PINE... HOLMES SEED COMPANY 106 and 108 S. Second St.

STORE NOW OPEN EVENINGS Until 9 O'CLOCK

"A Heart and a Dollar Is All You Need" It is the imperative duty of every loyal American to join the Red Cross — An official booth at this store. Everbody Come to Toyland a Wonderful Stock of Toys In the Bargain Basement... GIFTIES FOR WEE FOLKS... WOMEN'S and MISSES' COATS and SUITS... MEN! MEN! MEN! SUBSTANTIAL CLOTHES AT LOW PRICES... Practical Gifts In The Bargain Basement... Christmas Stationery... Vacuum Cleaners and Sweeper Combs... Nickel Plated Canseroles.