

UNFAVORABLE WEATHER PREVENTS ADVANCE ON EXTENSIVE SCALE

French Official Report, However, Shows Allies Have Made Progress Along Yser Canal Despite Stubborn Resistance from Enemy—Struggle for Supremacy Continues in Poland, with Decisive Result Apparently Long Distance Away.

NEXT DECISIVE STEP ON VISTULA PLAINS, BERLIN SAYS

Berlin (via The Hague to London, Dec. 14)—Despatches from the southwestern war zone report that a violent artillery duel was in progress Sunday in Upper Alsace, rising apparently from an attempt by the French to advance in the direction of Altkirch.

The firing lasted from eleven o'clock in the morning until late in the afternoon. The result of the fighting has not been reported. The correspondent of the Zeitung Am Mittag with the Austrian general headquarters telegraphs that the battle in Poland, following the capture of Lodz, now is waging along a stationary front in that region. In West Galicia, the correspondent says, there have been tangible results to the Austro-German offensive, their success being shown in the withdrawal of Russian columns from the Carpathians to serve as reinforcements where they are most needed. The correspondent adds that the indication is that the next decisive step is due to take place in the Vistula plains.

Progress along the Ypres Canal is noted in the latest French official war bulletin, although the weather conditions are unfavorable to any extensive movement by the opposing forces on the battlefield in Belgium and France. The Germans have replied to the attacks of the Allies, and violent fighting is reported during the past twenty-four hours.

An interesting feature of the French official communication is the statement that the railway station of Commercy, in the Department of Meuse, has been bombarded by the German batteries from a great distance. Commercy lies about seven miles to the south of St. Mihiel.

A Reuter despatch from Nish says that the Serbians, after a fierce battle, have re-occupied Belgrade. The Serbian capital was taken by the Austrians on December 2, after a siege of several months. If this report proves true the Serbians are apparently

sweeping all before them, as the Austrians admit defeat at the hands of the Serbians to the east of Valjevo, where they were compelled to make an extended retreat.

On the other hand, Vienna announces the gain of considerable ground in a northern direction in Western Galicia, where the Austrians have re-taken the town of Dukla. Austrian forces advancing through the Carpathians have captured nine thousand prisoners, and a number of machine guns.

The great armies of Germany and Russia are still contending, with all their strength, in Poland for supremacy, but it is not expected that any one engagement or series of engagements will give a decisive result, either for the one side or the other.

A Berlin wireless despatch says the Austrian newspapers declare that when peace negotiations begin the United States will have a right to act as intermediary.

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

FRANCE

Paris, Dec. 14.—The French official statement of the day in Paris this afternoon reports comparative quiet in Flanders, and artillery exchanges of relatively minor importance elsewhere. In the Meuse, German batteries are said to be moving to the north. In the Woivre district the French captured a trench and repulsed two counter attacks.

The advance of the French line into Alsace has brought it to a point north of Altkirch, and about ten miles to the east of the frontier. The text of the communication follows:

Tonight's official communication issued by the War Office, says:

"In Belgium several attacks by the French troops have resulted in progress along the Ypres Canal and to the west of Hollebeke. Several violent counter attacks have all been repulsed by our troops.

"The railway station of Commercy (Department of Meuse) was bombarded yesterday by batteries firing from a very great distance, but insignificant damage was done.

"In Alsace an offensive movement, resumed by the enemy to the northwest of Cerny, has been repulsed.

"On the rest of the front there is nothing to report."

RUSSIA

Petrograd, Dec. 14.—The general staff of the Russian army has given out the following communication under date of Sunday, December 13:

"There has been no engagement of importance on any of the fronts. In the region of Mlawe we continue to force back the German troops, who are in retreat.

"On the left wing of the river Vistula there has been no change. In the region of Mount Dukla, Austrian columns are coming down the northern slope of the Carpathians."

GERMANY

Berlin, Dec. 14.—The official press bureau gives out the following:

"The week-end finds no change of importance recorded in the west, and in the east only the evacuation of Lodz by the Russians, although there is reason to believe that the German attack has been gaining ground.

"Southward of Gracow the Austrians are still repulsing all attacks, and further to the south have succeeded in clearing a number of the Carpathian passes of the enemy.

"The position of the German allies in Poland is generally considered favorable, an especially favorable point being the fact that the Russians appear to have assumed the defensive everywhere, without the power or energy to assume an aggressive advance in any section.

"There have been no developments, so far as advances disclose, in the Serbian operations.

"The German and Austrian bulletins issued Sunday combine to show that both armies are making progress against the Russians. While the German statement omits to say whether the capture

CAN GET ALONG WITHOUT THE SUBMARINES

Washington Officials Seem to be of Opinion Col. Goethals Has Ample Powers to Enforce Neutrality in Panama Zone.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Col. Goethals' reiterated request for destroyers for use in enforcing neutrality laws in the Panama Canal zone, was the subject of conferences today between Secretary of War Garrison, Counselor Lansing, of the State Department, and Rear Admiral Piske, chief of the navy's bureau of operations. No decision resulted, and it was indicated tonight that, because of the delicacy of the question involved and the scant information furnished by Col. Goethals, it might be several days before any action was taken.

Secretary Garrison early in the day received a cablegram from Col. Goethals in reply to his request for details concerning the call for destroyers. This message was not made public, on account of its confidential nature, but Mr. Garrison said in Col. Goethals' judgment misuse of radio communication with its canal waters and the necessity of preventing misuse of the zone as a base of supply for belligerents, require the presence of swift-moving warships.

Before any step is determined upon, it is understood that officials of the administration will go deeply into the question of the power and obligations of the government in controlling activities in the waters near the canal zone.

At present the officials appear to believe that the governor of the Panama Canal already has at his command ample power to enforce the neutrality laws and all of the regulations for the use of the canal. The fortifications at the terminals are sufficiently advanced to give military command to all of the waters within the three mile limit, and beyond that point the United States government can exercise no control. There is an ample military force in barracks in the zone to maintain order and to deal with any vessel after it has passed through the entrance locks of the canal.

Regarding the alleged use of wireless outfits by British colliers within the canal waters, the officials are trying to ascertain the extent to which this has been done. So far only one instance is said to have occurred, and it is suggested that a warning against the repetition of the offense will be sufficient, without invoking a display of force.

DROWNING AT ALBERT

Timothy O'Connor of Harvey Bank Victim of Tragedy on Sunday.

Special to The Standard. Albert, Dec. 14.—The body of Timothy J. O'Connor, a young man near McEllen's Wharf at Riverside this morning. Shortly after the arrival of the steamer Harbinger from St. John the mate picked a body floating in the water near the stern of the steamer. Upon investigation it was found to be the body of Mr. O'Connor or Harvey Corner. It is supposed that he fell overboard from the steamer brought the body to the surface.

The deceased attended mass at Riverside yesterday with his family and had dinner with his nephew, Irving O'Connor, near the church. He remained during the afternoon, and shortly before six o'clock started for home. It was presumed that instead of taking the usual road he started walking the trestle. It is not known whether he fell off the wharf or the trestle along the river.

Deceased was a Justice of the Peace for Albert and Commissioner for Alberta and one of the most popular officials in Albert county, a good friend and neighbor. He was a son of the late Roderick O'Connor of New Ireland. He leaves a widow and two sons to mourn their sad loss. The date of the funeral will be announced later.

COMMANDER OF BRITISH FORCES IN N. CHINA DECORATED BY MIKADO

Tokio, Dec. 15.—Brig. General Nathaniel W. Barnardiston, commander of the British forces in North China, and who headed the British contingent operating against the German fortress at Tsing Tau, was tendered a state luncheon today. Emperor Yoshihito decorated Gen. Barnardiston and also congratulated him for the work of his troops before Tsing Tau.

Gen. Barnardiston will sail for San Francisco December 19 in company with the Japanese Red Cross, who are to proceed to England.

GERMAN INVASION IN POLAND HAS FAILED

Reached High Water Mark on Saturday — Failed to Break Russian Wall and Further Inroad Ended for Present at Least.

London, Dec. 15 (3.19 a.m.)—A Petrograd despatch to the Times says:

"The German invasion reached its high water mark last Saturday. Having failed to undermine and overthrow the Russian wall, the invasion has now ceased to present a further inroad in Poland, and interest is stimulated in the

next move of the Russian staff, which a few days ago intimated that the Russian armies were ready to retire to more favorable positions behind Warsaw.

"Now that the Russian army has splendidly responded to the situation, this will not be necessary, and the next move will be a maneuver to the German flank."

MAN IN THE OVERALLS IS DOING HIS SHARE

Thanks of Admiralty Expressed to Workmen in Yards Where Britain's Battleships are Built.

Newcastle, Eng. (Via London, Dec. 14).—The men in overalls, just as much as those who go forth to fight for their country in khaki or blue, stand between this land and a group of savage, relentless and ruthless militarists," said the Right Hon. Thomas James MacNan, financial secretary to the Admiralty, in addressing tonight the first of a series of meetings at which he has been delegated to express the thanks of the Admiralty to the shipyard and engineering works employees engaged on government contracts.

"Without your work," Mr. MacNan added, "the valor of the soldiers would avail nothing."

By their patriotic response to the heavy and continuous strain imposed upon them since the war, Mr. MacNan declared the workmen had assisted materially in increasing the strength and the readiness of the fleet. He exhorted them to continue their efforts in the assurance that in so doing they were best serving their country.

After reading the contents of the letter, Mr. Bonar Law, in a speech, said:

"Before the war, party passions were inflamed to such an extent that I saw no possible outlet which would not be disastrous to the country. In a moment the whole situation was changed."

"In our country there is no single instance since parliamentary government was introduced where the government engaged in conducting a war has not been hampered and harassed by the action of the opposition. That was true in the wars of Marlborough. It was still more emphatically true in the struggle against Napoleon, and it was true in the last war in which this country was engaged."

"I think it is quite possible that we have made the mistake, not of criticizing the government too much, but of criticizing it too little; but if a mistake had to be made, I prefer that it were made in that direction."

Mr. Bonar Law said that after four months, since the beginning of the war, he could look forward to the future with hope and complete confidence.

"Germany," he said, "has failed. They have not crushed France. They cannot crush France, and already the Russian armies are on their frontiers. We have a terrible struggle in front of us, but the final result is not in doubt. The greatest honor which can come upon us as a party will be that when the war is over we can truthfully say that we 'nothing common did, or mean, upon that memorable scene.'"

ANOTHER WAR PRIZE TAKEN

Tokio, Dec. 15.—It is reported here that the German armed merchantman Oxford has been captured by the British in the Indian Ocean, and that the German converted cruiser Cormoran has entered the harbor of Guam, in the Ladrone Archipelago.

PREVENTED HIM FROM CORNERING THE WHEAT MARKET, NEED NOT PAY

Chicago, Dec. 14.—Joseph L. Litter need not pay \$280,933 in notes given the Interior and Monarch Elevator Company to pay for grain during Litter's attempt to corner the wheat market in 1898, according to a verdict tonight of the jury which heard the elevator company's suit to recover.

Litter's sole defense was that the late Frank H. Peavey and the late C. A. Pillsbury, both of Minneapolis, representing the company had agreed to keep this alleged agreement prevented Litter from effecting the corner and caused him a loss of about twelve million dollars, according to the testimony.

JOHNNY EVERS IS IMPROVING.

New York, Dec. 14.—The condition of Captain Johnny Evers, of the Boston Braves, who is suffering from pneumonia, is steadily improving. This was announced tonight at the local hotel where Evers has been ill for a week, at one time being in a critical state.

UNIONISTS WERE FOR STANDING BY FRANCE

London, Dec. 14.—A letter sent by A. Bonar Law and the Marquis of Lansdowne, Unionist leaders in the House of Commons and the House of Lords, respectively, to Prime Minister Asquith on Sunday, August 2, when the decision of the government whether to participate in the war or not was doubtful, was read by Mr. Bonar Law at a meeting of the Unionist chairman and agents today. The letter was as follows:

"Lord Lansdowne and I feel it our duty to inform you that in our opinion, as well as in that of all our colleagues, whom we have been able to consult, that it would be fatal to the honor and the security of the United Kingdom to hesitate in supporting France and Russia at the present juncture, and we offer our unhesitating support to the government in any measures they may consider necessary for that object."

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PRE-HOLIDAY SALE BLACK VELVET HATS AT MARR'S

This is positively your last chance to secure these elegant \$3.00 Hats At 98c. Each They come in three models, in Hatter's Plush Tops with velvet brims and in all plush

Sent by Mail

to any address, postage paid, on receipt of price. Cash must accompany all orders

MARR MILLINERY CO.

1-3-5 Charlotte St.

TRAIN HITS SLEIGH KILLING OCCUPANTS

London, Ont., Dec. 14.—Fred Whitling, aged 18, of 382 Trafalgar street, was instantly killed and James Smith, colored, aged 16, of 1225 Trafalgar street, is in a dying condition, as the result of being struck by the Grand Trunk "Pacific Express," Buffalo to Chicago, at the Egerton street crossing of the company at 6.30 tonight. The boys were in a sleigh and the horse was instantly killed and the vehicle demolished.

NO XMAS LEAVE, BUT RULES WILL BE RELAXED

London, Dec. 14.—Keen disappointment is being expressed by members of the Canadian contingent whose homes are in Britain at the fact that Christmas leave is being refused. It is understood, however, that at the command of the King, every relaxation is to be allowed in the camps at Christmas.

All possible facilities were given to the Hebrew members of the Canadian contingent this week end to attend the special services in connection with their religious feast of Hanukkah.

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MANY PROMINENT SPEAKERS TO ATTEND

A very large attendance from all over the Maritime Provinces is confidently looked for at the Maritime Forward Conference to be held in Amherst, Thursday, December 17th. All intending to be present at this important gathering are urged to arrive in Amherst on the evening of the 16th so that they will be able to attend the entire sittings of the Conference which opens at 10 a. m. sharp. Half-fare rates on the railways within a radius of eighty miles from Amherst. Over eighty miles, delegates and others attending must secure Standard Certificates. With an excellent program, the Conference promises to be attractive, formative, and educational in its character.

The Prime Minister of Canada and the three Premiers of the Maritime Provinces will be present as well as a large number of men prominent in the public, commercial, manufacturing, agricultural and general business life of the Maritime Provinces.

The Conference is open to all citizens interested in Maritime development.

About 200 availed themselves of the leave granted, and a large proportion of these attended the parade service to Hammersmith Synagogue on Sunday.

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Petrograd, De...region have in...Gen. Mackenzon...eral offensive can...Paris, Dec. 14...trans western...Ypres through Ar...attacks of French...fighting. The All...but it is admitte...

The German...of the Allies. On...tire German regim...After it had take...forwards, succeed...evident today that...re region, where...mans holding St...

Fighting has be...the region for sever...French are declar...a point where the...cation with Metz f...seriously threaten...tacks upon Ashas h...and the lines in Al...being strengthened.

The greatest en...aroused by the ann...one communes in A...Paris, Dec. 14—T...which are grinding...tive, which is victo...stop at will, is the...Temps, in declarin...day truce among th...suggested in the U...is impractic