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PROBS—RAIN OR SLEET

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ITALY MAY YET BE FORCED TO ABANDON NEUTRAL ATTITUDE; ALLIES ON OFFENSIVE IN THE WEST

ITALY TO BE FORCED INTO THE CONFLICT?

Austria Rushes Troops to Italian Border — Nearly 200,000 Men Stationed Along Boundary — Anti-Italian Manifestations in Several Places and Hungarian Soldiers Spit in Faces of Italian Workmen — Italy Sends Reinforcements to Libya.

Milan, via Rome, Dec. 6.—(Delayed in transmission)—Advises received from the Austrian frontier and published today in the *Eco* are that the statement of Premier Salandra in the Italian parliament Thursday had an immediate echo in Austrian military circles.

Friday night, the correspondent says the railway lines poured troops all along the Italian border and also into Pola, the Austrian arsenal on the peninsula of Istria. It is estimated that 200,000 men were stationed along the Italian border and 100,000 at Pola.

"At the same time," the correspondent continues, "anti-Italian manifestations took place at various points. At Pragerhof Hungarian soldiers spat in the faces of Italian workmen. Officers who witnessed these attacks did not interfere. At Steirbruck other soldiers ill-treated disabled Italian workmen who were making their headquarters in the station."

Rome, Dec. 7, (8.15 p. m.)—Eight battalions of Italian troops have been ordered to Libya, to reinforce the troops there and according to the announcement, "to be ready for any aggression."

ESTIMATE THE FRENCH LOSSES IN DEAD UP TO NOVEMBER 10 AT 100,000

Paris, Nov. 26 (correspondence of the *Ass's* Press)—The French war office does not issue lists of losses in the war. A correspondent by inquiry in various quarters, estimates that the French losses in dead up to November 10, something under 100,000 men. The number of wounded and sick soldiers being cared for in French hospitals on November 15, appears to have been about 400,000. The Swiss government's bureau for the exchange of prisoners of war has the names of 90,000 French prisoners in Germany. Taking these figures together, the total losses of the French army would be about 800,000 men.

The French military authorities, through their agents and spies are well informed as to the situation of the German army. The French esti-

mate the number of German killed in battle on this frontier as considerably exceeding 100,000 because the German tactics have been more continually on the offensive, with correspondingly heavier losses than the defensive. The French military administration does not share in the popular view that the German losses have been enormously in excess of those of the French.

Neither is any credence given to the reports of bad provisioning of the German army and of soldiers famished and driven by overwork to exhaustion. French commanders have no illusions on these subjects. They find German prisoners delirant and confident and there is no indication of starvation except under conditions where they have been cut off from the main bodies of German troops.

RANCHER KILLS PRISONER AND JUROR AT TRIAL

Opened Fire on Man on Trial and Kills Him—One Bullet Goes Astray and Hits Juror.

Cashmere, Wash., Dec. 7.—C. D. Franklin, former superintendent of Sunday schools of Leavenworth, Wash., was shot and killed here today by Harry E. Carr, a rancher of Leavenworth. Franklin was charged with having committed an offence against Carr's ten year old daughter and was awaiting trial. At the time of the killing Franklin was on trial on charges of a similar offence against another girl and one of Carr's bullets missed Franklin and killed a juror.

Carr entered the court room and opened fire on Franklin with an automatic pistol. A bullet struck J. C. Parsons, one of the jury, killing him instantly. Two bullets pierced Franklin, who died in fifteen minutes. He leaves a widow and five children. Carr surrendered to the sheriff.

CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE ELECTED IN DUNDAS COUNTY

Winchester Springs, Ont., Dec. 7.—Irwin Hilliard, barrister of Morrisburg, Conservative, was today elected member of the Ontario Legislature from the County of Dundas by a majority of 76 over John Campbell, of Ormond, Liberal.

This seat was formerly held by the late Sir James Whitney and the majority of the Conservatives is greatly decreased.

PRES. WILSON TO DELIVER MESSAGE TO CONGRESS TODAY

U. S. Congress Reconvened Yesterday—No Definite Plans for Legislative Programme Until President Has Read Annual Message.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Congress reconvened today after the fall recess. Members had reunions in the Senate and House, and after the introduction of bills and resolutions and passage of formal measures incident to the opening of a new session, both Houses adjourned to await the delivery tomorrow of the President's annual message.

While members discussed informally the legislative programme for the final session of the sixty-third Congress, which will end March 4 next, no definite plans were made for party conferences. These will not be considered until the President has been heard from. The message will be delivered personally by President Wilson before a joint session in the Chamber of the House at 12.30 o'clock.

The opening sessions in the House and Senate were marked with a spirit of good nature, despite the recent campaign which resulted in great Republican gains in the House, and slight Democratic gains in the Senate for the next Congress.

Representative Underwood, majority floor leader in the House, tonight declared there surely would be a vote on the proposed Hobson resolution for submission to the States of a constitutional amendment for national prohibition.

READERS OF BRITISH PAPERS GIVE \$95,000.

London, Dec. 7, (8.30 p. m.)—Although the American commission for relief in Belgium made no appeal for subscriptions in Great Britain more than \$95,000 has been received from

British and French Now Hold All But Few of Positions on Left of the Yser, and Pushing Forward Near La Bassée in Northern France — German Menace of Coast Ended for Present at Least, and Allies Claim to Have Begun Vigorous Offensive all Along Front — Russians, After Losing Lodz, Straighten Out Their Line and Will Contest Every Foot of Enemy's Advance in East.

London, Dec. 7.—After a long battle fought with great stubbornness, the Germans have succeeded in occupying Lodz, Poland, which is an unfortified city. According to the Berlin report, the Russians suffered severe losses and are in retreat.

This success of the Germans, largely because of what preceded it, is considered by military experts a really remarkable achievement. Less than a fortnight ago the army to which this victory has fallen was surrounded by Russians and cut its way out only at the last moment, losing great numbers of men and many guns. Yet it was able within a few days to reorganize, take the offensive, and defeat the Russians defending Lodz.

This was made possible by the network of strategic railways on the German side of the frontier, over which reinforcements can be sent where they are most needed. The Russians, on the other hand, vigorously attacked on both wings, were unable to send fresh men to stiffen their centre to meet the German wedge and were compelled to fall back.

MORE FIGHTING BEFORE CAMPAIGN IS OVER.

There will be undoubtedly much more fighting before the campaign in this district is concluded. Lodz was won only after hand-to-hand fighting in the suburbs of the city, and the whole Russian line, from north to south, is now straightened out and will contest every foot of ground with the invaders.

In the meantime taking advantage of the pre-occupation of the Germans in the east, the allied French, Belgian and British forces have begun an offensive movement in the west. They are now virtually in possession of the left bank of the Yser Canal, and in Northern France, particularly in the neighborhood of La Bassée, where the Germans hold a very strong position, the Allies are beginning with a heavy cannonade to feel their way eastward.

The same process is being followed along the whole front. The French official communication speaks of "the superiority of our offensive," and the "marked advantage" of the French artillery over that of the Germans.

The advance, slight as it is in the northwest, has ended for the present, at least, in the opinion of many of the German menaces of the coast ports. "It is thought that so long as the Germans are compelled to keep up the strength of their army in the east they will be unable to assume the offensive in the west. There is a report, however, that the Germans have kept the pick of their western army in the Aisne Valley whence, at an opportune moment, they can hurl it against the French lines and make another effort to get through to Paris.

SERBIAN KING AGAIN AT HEAD OF ARMY AND AUSTRIAN ADVANCE IS STOPPED.

King Peter of Serbia, who has been ill for many months, has assumed command of the Serbian army and, according to a Nish report, has checked the advance of the Austrians, inflicting heavy losses on them.

The Austrian reply to this is "that the occupation of Belgrade necessitates the re-grouping of our troops."

The political news of the day was the authoritative announcement from Sofia that it was not considered possible anything would intervene to make it necessary for Bulgaria to change her policy of strict neutrality until next spring.

Berlin, Dec. 7, (by wireless to London, 7.20 p. m.)—It was announced officially today that the German government in releasing Rear Admiral Reginald Need, the retired British officer, on whose behalf President Wilson made representations through Ambassador Gerard, did not ask England for any equivalent concessions.

MONCTON CHILD SMOTHERED TO DEATH IN FIRE

Moncton, N. B., Dec. 7.—Annie, the four year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Steeves was smothered to death in a fire which occurred in their home on Seventh street this city this afternoon. The mother was absent at the time and two young children, one four and the other two, were alone. The fire had made considerable headway when discovered. A neighbor rushed in and carried out the two children. The eldest was dead and the youngest almost smothered by smoke, but later revived.

British newspaper readers. With this sum the relief commission has purchased 1,600 tons of food supplies and has chartered the steamship *Borgny*, which will sail for Rotterdam in a few days.

DOUBLE RESCUE IN GALE OFF PT. JUDITH R.I.

Crew from Life Saving station Went to Rescue Shipwrecked Men and Nearly Perished Themselves.

Point Judith, R. I., Dec. 7.—A double rescue was enacted in a seventy-two mile northeast gale today, when the crew of the Point Judith Life Saving Station, who had snatched two shipwrecked men from death on the Point Judith Breakwater, were in turn, rescued by the torpedo boat destroyer *Morris*.

In trying to make the harbor of refuge inside of the breakwater, a little oyster boat brought up on the end of the wall and quickly went to bits. The two men of her crew managed to reach the top of the rocks, where they were in danger of being washed into the sea.

After a terrific struggle the surf boat of life savers reached the men and got them aboard. Exhausted by their efforts the crew was unable to force the boat through the heavy seas to shore. Their plight became apparent on shore, and an appeal for help was sent to the Newport Naval Station.

The destroyer *Morris*, by skillful seamanship, dropped alongside the surf boat, and the men were taken aboard without mishap. The storm was so violent that the *Morris* took shelter in Sand Hill Cove for six miles.

PARLIAMENT MAY MEET FIRST THURSDAY IN FEB.

Not Likely to Convene Middle of January as Was Anticipated.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Dec. 7.—Relieved somewhat from the strain of the preparations for war the members of the cabinet will now be able to deliver addresses throughout the country in order to inform the people directly as to the policy and purpose of the government regarding the great struggle which is going on in Europe. Between now and Christmas therefore, most of the ministers will take the platform. Already the premier has delivered two speeches, one in Toronto and the other in Montreal. He will go to Halifax in a few days and will speak at more than one point in the Maritime Provinces.

Hon. W. T. White, Minister of Finance, speaks in Peterborough tomorrow night, and Hon. J. D. Hazen in St. John on Thursday night. Hon. Robert Rogers is expected in St. John also on Thursday, but he is exceedingly busy at present and it is doubtful if he will be able to get away. Parliament will not meet as early as the middle of January which had been anticipated and the probable date is now thought to be the first Thursday of February.

MONTREAL BANK CASHIER ARRESTED IN DETROIT FOR EMBEZZLING

Police Find \$1,883 in Suit Case — Could Not Explain why he Took the Money.

Detroit, Dec. 7.—William Walter Browning, cashier of the Bank of Montreal, was arrested at a local hotel this afternoon on a charge of embezzling \$2,000 of the bank's funds a week ago.

Browning was registered under the name of J. W. Wayne. One thousand, eight hundred and eighty-three dollars was found in his suit case. According to the police Browning said he could not explain why he took the money. Browning is 33 years old.

CONEY ISLAND HIT BY STORM; DAMAGE \$200,000

Coasts of New York Visited by One of Worst Storms in Years — Villages Flooded, Summer Resorts Devastated and Shores of Staten Island Strewn with Wreckage of Small Craft.

TRANS-ATLANTIC LINERS UNABLE TO MAKE PORT FIGHT STORM OUTSIDE HARBOR.

Tide in New York Harbor Highest in 13 Years—Sea Wall at Seabright Battered Down—Virginia Coast Also Feels Effect of Storm.

New York, Dec. 7.—Huge seas, backed by a mighty tide and a howling northeast gale, battered the coasts of New York today, smashing houses, wrecking boats, flooding villages, devastating summer resorts and forcing trans-Atlantic and coastwise steamers to remain outside Sandy Hook and fight the storm.

At Sandy Hook the wind attained a velocity of sixty-eight miles an hour, driving in a record-breaking tide and making it impossible for pilots to board incoming vessels. In New York harbor the tide was the highest in thirteen years, and the waves drove the New Jersey ferry boats to cover and strewn the shore of Staten Island with the wrecks of the scores of small craft. In New York City the wind blew at forty-eight miles an hour, diminishing to twenty-six miles tonight, with a forecast of a shift in the gale toward more rain or snow.

The worst damage in this vicinity was suffered at Coney Island where the loss within the past twenty-four hours is estimated at \$200,000. Two or three fine houses at Sea Gate were wrecked despite the flight of a small army of workmen to build defences with hundreds of sandbags. The waves threw them aside, rolled in and tore the houses apart. Fifteen buildings along Coney Island had been damaged tonight including big bathing pavilions and summer cottages.

At Brighton Beach the board walk was demolished and the waves surged around the Brighton Beach Hotel and wrecked several small buildings nearby.

Waves broke more than twenty-five feet over the high tide mark at Rock away Beach, causing heavy damages to bungalows and the board walk.

At Seaside eight bungalows were carried away. Two hotels at Arverne were damaged, while Point Lookout

Seabright Battered Down. Lashed by the gale, the ocean battered down the sea wall at Seabright, N. J., during the night, and placed the town in imminent peril of destruction on the next high tide. Its streets were flooded, communication by rail was cut off, breakers were rolling over the chief thoroughfare and undermining the foundations of the principal villages.

New York Bay and harbor was practically cleared of all craft by the gale. One fireboat was sunk at the pier. On the New Jersey shore of the Hudson a new high water mark was set.

Virginia Coast Swept by Storm. Norfolk, Va., Dec. 7.—The heaviest storm that has swept the Virginia coast in recent years was abating tonight, leaving beaches strewn with debris. Summer resorts suffered heavy damage. At Ocean View a large part of the bulkhead was swept away and the breakwater at Buckrook Beach was partly wrecked. Many cottages were undermined.

Only minor damage thus far has been reported to shipping.

PORTUGAL TO SEND TROOPS TO WEST AFRICA

Germany Has Armed Great Numbers of Natives of Portuguese Africa—Sentiment in Portugal Favors Helping British.

Lisbon, Nov. 28.—(Corrs. Ass'd Press)—The government is preparing to send four thousand more troops to Angola, Portuguese West Africa. Two thousand men were sent in September, five hundred marines in October and another five hundred marines are being fitted out for departure this month.

It appears that Germany has armed great numbers of Portuguese Africa natives, which are commanded by German officers and provided with artillery. The prevailing view in Portugal appears to be that the most useful part Portugal can take in the great war is in the Portuguese African colonies, and in aiding the British to carry the war into the German colonies which are contiguous to the Portuguese.

SANTA CLAUS SHIP ARRIVES AT GENOA

Genoa, Italy, Dec. 7 (via Rome)—The United States naval collier *Jason*, arrived here today and is awaiting arrangements to disembark the Christmas presents she has brought for the children of the warring countries.

BELGIAN QUEEN THANKS WOMEN OF AMERICA

Gratified for What Women on This Continent are Doing for Her Subjects.

New York, Dec. 7.—Messages of gratitude to the women of America from Elizabeth, Queen of Belgium, and the Duchess of Vendome, sister of King Albert of Belgium, written at the headquarters of the Belgian army on the firing line, were received here today by the Women's section of the American commission for relief in Belgium. The messages, written during the course of one of the recent battles, were cabled here by Herbert C. Hoover, chairman of the American commission at London, who has just returned to England after a week's visit to Belgium.

Queen Elizabeth's message reads as follows:

"It gives me great pleasure to accept the invitation which has been transmitted to me to become patroness of the Women's Section of the American Commission for Relief of Belgium. I wish to extend to the women of America the deep gratitude of the women of Belgium for the work which they are doing for my people. The food which your country is daily providing to our women and children comes like a ray of sunlight in the darkest hour of Belgium's history. The Belgian women have fought a brave fight, and are still fighting, for the common cause of human liberty, so dear to every American woman's heart.

(Signed) "Elizabeth."

The message from the Duchess was of similar import.