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FRANCE FORCED TO FIGHT

Premier Viviani Points Out That His Country Did Not Seek War and is Now Fighting as an Emancipator

Paris, Dec. 22.—Premier Viviani, stating the views of the Government concerning the war to the Chamber of Deputies to-day, said: "France is acting in accord with the Allies, and will not sheathe her arms until after taking vengeance for outraged right; until she has united for all time to the French Fatherland the provinces ravished from her by force, and restored heroic Belgium to fullness of her material life and her political independence, and until Prussian militarism has been crushed, to the end that it be possible to reconstruct on the basis of justice a Europe regenerated."

Not of France's Seeking. "If," he continued, "this contest is the most gigantic ever recorded in history it is not because of the French people hurling themselves into warfare to conquer territory or to win enlargement of their material life or political advantages but because they are struggling to determine the fate of the world."

"Nothing greater has ever appeared before the vision of man against the barbarity and despotism; against the system of provocations and methodical menaces which Germany called peace; against the system of murder and pillage, which she called war; against the insolent hegemony of a military caste which loosed the scourge."

France's High Mission. "France, the emancipator; France, vengeful at the side of her Allies arose and advanced to the fray. That is the stake and it is greater than our lives. "Let us continue then to have but one united soul and to-morrow, in peace and victory, we shall recall with pride these days of tragedy, for they will have made of us more valorous and better men."

French Senators Calmly Confident

Paris, Dec. 22.—With battles raging over ten of the Northeastern Provinces the French Parliament met in extraordinary session here to-day. The chief object of the present session is to adopt war measures and to discuss the future financial policy of the Government.

Throughout the session, which is expected to be brief, the proposals of the Government will be adopted without opposition. Fresh confidence was inspired by the gathering of Senators and Deputies in this city, for it seemed to emphasize the fact that while the German invaders are still on French soil, the dangers which confronted Paris at the outbreak of the war, have now all been eliminated.

Among the members of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies there was a feeling of quiet confidence. Predictions were made on all sides that from now on the Germans will be driven towards German soil, notwithstanding that their retirement may be stubborn and the advance of the Allies slow.

New Orleans Police Foil German Plot

Prevent Fire Scoundrels From Placing an Infernal Machine on Steamer Rochambeau.

New Orleans, Dec. 22.—The New Orleans police to-night said they had frustrated a plot to blow up the French steamer Rochambeau, by the arrest of five German.

One of the five, the police said, admitted they had constructed a bomb with a clock attachment, set for six days and a half from to-day, which they intended to ship by parcel post, consigned to the Rochambeau, which was expected to sail from New York on Saturday.

Warships Give Infantry a Rest Allies Capture German Trenches Fierce Fights Waged In Poland

London, Dec. 22.—Heavy fighting is taking place on both the eastern and western fronts, but without producing any material change in the positions of the opposing armies.

In France and Belgium the Allies' offensive is being pressed, and while some ground has been gained at widely separated points, other attacks have been repulsed by the Germans from their strongly entrenched positions.

In the north arena the artillery and warships yesterday took up the battle, giving the infantry a rest, but lower down the line from the Oise to the Meuse fierce fighting took place in many districts.

Progress Slow. While the progress of the Allies is extremely slow, it is believed by military experts here and in France, that the gains which the General Staff have been able to report are disturbing the German system of fortifications at vital points, which will, if they successfully continue, compel the retirement of the Germans from their present lines.

In the East most of the Germans north of the Vistula have retired across the East Prussian frontier before the onrush of the Russian forces, but south of the river between Bzura and Pilica the Germans continue to advance.

Another Battle Imminent. It is announced tonight that in a fierce battle they have succeeded in crossing branches of the Bzura and Runwka rivers at many places. This

should bring the main armies very close together, and a few days will tell whether the German advance will be definitely checked, or whether the Germans are again to threaten Warsaw.

Fighting also continues in Galicia, but here, as along the East Prussian front, the Russians seem to have been successful in holding back the Austro-German troops.

The Germans, who are extremely strong along the whole eastern frontier, are reported to be moving troops back to the west to meet the Allies' offensive, but it is not considered likely that this movement will reach large proportions until some decisive result has been attained in the contest against the Russians.

Attacked on Two Sides. The Turks, like their Allies, are being attacked on two sides. The Russians claim to have inflicted a severe defeat on them in the district of Vin, while the Allies' fleets are bombarding the Kilidbair in the Dardanelles where a French destroyer shelled their troops on the mainland opposite the Island Tenedos.

The first real view of the extent of the South African rebellion is given by the Minister of Justice, who says that four thousand rebels are now in prison, and that twelve hundred have been sent to their homes on parole.

There are still a few roaming about the country but they are without leaders and are surrendering upon the appearance of the Union forces.

Roumania Make Reparation To The Bulgarians

Restores to Former Owners the Province of Dobruja Lost in the Balkan War.

Petrograd, Dec. 22.—The Bulgarian Minister announced to-day that an agreement had been reached between Roumania and Bulgaria, under which Roumania will restore to Bulgaria the province of Dobruja and most of the other territory, which she acquired from Bulgaria as the result of the second Balkan war.

This agreement has been reached without pressure from either Germany or the Allies, said an official connected with the Bulgarian Ministry. She shall continue to be neutral, and he believed that Roumania, altho' she has no cause to fear us, will also remain neutral.

Some Unwounded, Yet Are Killed By Shell Fire

Mere Shock or Explosion of These Missiles Sufficient to Cause Death or Grave Injury.

London, Dec. 20.—The extraordinary effects of shell fire upon those who are forced to undergo it, are being discussed at length in the British medical journals.

An English surgeon now attached to a Paris hospital states the cases of four men who show absolutely no trace of bodily wounds, but who are now under his care.

Two of them were struck deaf and dumb by shell explosions; neither of them has anything wrong with his organs of speech or hearing, but is simply suffering from shock. A third is blind, caused by nervous shock. There is nothing the matter with his eyes and complete recovery is promised after a brief period of quiet and rest.

The fourth man's experience left his mind a blank. Field surgeons contributed accounts of the manner in which death comes from shell fire. In some cases men are found stiff in death in life-like attitudes, so that the stiffness characteristic of a corpse must have come at the very moment of death.

OUT TO-MORROW

The Christmas Number of The Mail and Advocate will contain Twenty-four pages of well-illustrated, seasonable and readable matter. Get a copy it will only cost you One Cent.

Violent German Attacks Repulsed

Allies Gain Foothold to the South of Varennes.

(French Official Bulletin.) Paris, Dec. 22.—To the northwest of Puaillenne, south of Noyon, the enemy executed, last night, very violent counter attacks, which were all repulsed.

To the south of Varennes we gained foothold last night in the Bourevilles. Our attacks continued to-day, and we appear to have made progress in the vicinity of Bourevilles and to the west of Vanquise.

Patriotic Fund At Ottawa \$2,000,000

Ottawa, Dec. 17.—The patriotic fund now in the hands of the Minister of Finance totals \$2,000,000.

It was augmented today by \$750,000 from the Montreal branch of the fund. Over a quarter of a million has been spent to date in relief.

WEATHER REPORT

Toronto (noon)—West to north-west winds, decreasing tonight; local snow flurries, but generally fair and much colder today and on Thursday.

SWEEPING SERBIAN VICTORY

Serbian Capture 280 Austrian Officers and 42,000 Soldiers and Vast Stores of Guns and Ammunition

London, Dec. 23.—The Morning Post correspondent at Petrograd telegraphs that there is great rejoicing in Russia over the Serbian rout of Austrian armies which is more complete than was supposed.

According to figures received here from perfectly trustworthy sources, the Serbians took 280 officers and more than 42,000 men as prisoners. They captured three standards; 226 guns; 362 ammunition cars; 70 maxims with 2,000 carts of a supply train; 2,000 horses; thirty-two field kitchens; thirty-four field bakeries; three military bands; enormous numbers of rifles and quantities of military stores and every species of war material.

'Harmony' Loading

S.S. Harmony is now loading with fish, oil, etc., at C. F. Bennett & Co's for London. She sails about the end of the week.

German Officers Fear The Issue Of Present War

Letter Found on a Body Shows the Impossible Task That German Faces.

Paris, Dec. 19.—The Temps publishes extracts from a letter found on the body of a German, who wrote it while defending the Aisne quarries, and was afterwards killed.

"If the French had not been so tired, hardly any of us would have escaped. It was lucky we found these impregnable quarries, which the French idiots allowed us to prepare in time of peace.

"Let us hope that the Russian campaign is going better than this. We were told the French were rotten, but it is untrue. They frequently attack with the bayonet.

"What about your attacks in Flanders? Do you think they are gaining success. We are not told the truth here, but the enemy aeroplanes throw Italian and Swiss papers which tell of horrible slaughter and failure.

"Unless we advance, what will happen? The French have an object in delay, for their forces constantly increase. But with us it is different. Anyway their prisoners all show the utmost confidence in a final French victory. From them we learn that France is solidly united against us. Moreover, their preparations are not muddled, as we were told.

"Without our superiority in artillery, the number of mitrailleuses, and the length of our preparations, I dare not think what might have happened. Despite the desperate efforts of our bravest corps, we are definitely stopped.

"Gott mit Uns," we will do our duty till the end."

Has New Bullet To Use Against The Zeppelins

Bullet Head Contains Phosphorus Which Ignites and Causes Explosion on Airship Struck.

London, Dec. 23.—Dr. Charles Dawson, who discovered the famous Pitt-down Skull, has offered to the British War Office a new bullet for protection against Zeppelins.

The head of the bullet has a cavity which contains phosphorus, some of which is allowed to project beyond the apex of the bullet. When the rifle is fired, the phosphorus is ignited by the discharge and as soon as the bullet hits the envelope or gas bag of a Zeppelin the gas is ignited and the contents explodes.

Stormy Weather Drove Steamer 'Meigle' Back

Ice Prevented Her From Getting Further Down the Straits Than to Currant Island.

The S.S. Meigle, Capt. Goobie, arrived at Bay of Islands at 3.30 p.m. yesterday. The Captain wired as follows to the Reid Newfoundland Co.—

"Reached as far north as Ferrole and landed freight, passengers and mail, could not enter Brig Bay nor Currant Island owing to ice. Crossed to Blanc Sablon, but found the place filled with ice, and returned to Port Saunders. Met heavy westerly gales with snowstorms, and intense frost during the whole trip."

Germans Invade Portuguese Colony In West of Africa

Lebon, Dec. 23.—The Germans have again invaded Angola, Portuguese West Africa. The fact was announced in the Chamber of Deputies.

The Germans made a fresh attack on a military post at Nutil in the Province of Angol; the Commander of the Post had only a small force at his disposal and retreated in order to oblige out the Germans.

Further details of the affair are not obtainable.

'Thunderer' Yarn 'Made In Germany'

British Dreadnought Still Afloat and on the Job.

London, Dec. 23.—Evidence of the falsity of the German claim that the British ship Thunderer was sunk, on Nov. 7th, is furnished in a letter received by Mrs. W. A. Pirneger, from her brother, Robert Dunkley, of the crew of the Thunderer.

The letter, which was dated, H.M.S. Thunderer, Nov. 29th, says nothing about the ship ever having been struck.

Business Brisk

Business was brisk along Water St. yesterday. The Christmas trade is fair but not to be compared with other years.

WARSAW NOT FOR GERMANS

And Russian Minister of War Says German Stories of Victories in Poland Are Merely "Pipe Yarns"

New York, Dec. 23.—The New York World has received the following Petrograd despatch from General Soukhomineff, Russian Minister of War.

All information given by the Germans about their so-called brilliant victory in Poland is sheer invention. The partial displacement of our armies recently effected between the Vistula and Warthe Rivers have no bearing upon a check that might have been inflicted upon us by the enemy in course of a battle extending over an enormous front.

Such occurrences in either direction are inevitable. Retreat at one point is compensated for by advance at some other.

Thus, in the direction of Warsaw, the enemy is exhausting himself in vain attacks on our Bzura positions and is uselessly sacrificing a considerable number of troops.

The right bank of the Vistula has been entirely cleared up. The enemy, after a serious defeat in the region of the Mlawa was thrown back upon his own territory.

In South Poland and in Eastern Galicia the German offensive has been stopped absolutely. All the efforts of the garrison of Przemysl to force the blockade have been victoriously defeated.

Under these circumstances there can be no question of allowing Warsaw to fall into the hands of the enemy.

SPIRIT OF CHRIST ALLEVIATES WAR

Says Chancellor Lloyd-George After Being a Witness of the Activities of the Red Cross at the Front

London, Dec. 19.—Chancellor Lloyd George has contributed a message to the Christmas number of the Methodist Times, issued here, in which he says:

"I recently visited one of the battle-fields of France. I saw in a village being shelled by German guns a prisoner of war just brought into the French lines. He was in a motor car under guard. He was wounded and looked to be ill and in pain.

"The French General with whom I had gone to the front, went up to the wounded Prussian and told him he need not worry; he would be taken straight to the hospital and looked after as if he were one of our own men. The Prussian replied: 'We treated your wounded exactly the same way.'

"It was a curious rivalry in these conditions for you could hear the 'wizzle' of the German shells, and the shuddering crack with which they exploded, dealing death and destruction in the French trenches close by. We were in sight of a powerful French battery which was preparing to send its deadly messengers into the Prussian ranks.

"A little further on I marvelled that this exhibition of good will among men who were sworn foes should be possible amid such surroundings, until my eye happened to wander down a lane where I saw a long row of waggons, each marked with a great Red Cross. Then I knew who had taught these men the lesson of humanity that will gradually, surely overthrow the reign of hate. Christ had not died in vain."

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The Christmas Number of The Mail and Advocate will contain Twenty-four pages of well-illustrated, seasonable and readable matter. Get a copy it will only cost you One Cent.

It was reported last evening that an maiden lady named Dunn had been murdered on Monday at North Sydney.

It was stated that the victim was formerly a resident of this city.

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CAMBRIC.

A glance at this very useful material will convince any customer that the value offered is exceptional;

per yard, 5c.

Another Shipment of our Famous AMERICAN GINGHAM, per yard, 10c.

BRIGHT EYE.

For knitting Embroidery and Crochet,

per ball, 6c.

MENDING WOOL.

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5c.

CELLULOID

COLLARS.

Boys' Eton shape, made in England of English material.

8c.

STOCKINETTE.

Heavy Worsted for Winter Stockings, 3 sizes; per yard,

15c., 17c., 18c.

HANDKERCHIEFS

Men's White Pocket Handkerchiefs, Irish Linen finish.

each, 10c.

WATCHES.

Nickel Case, stem wind and set.

85c.

WINTER CAPS.

For Boys and Men, made of good heavy Tweed, fur backfold, latest style.

Each, 40c.

COSTUME CLOTH.

Shrunk and unspotable, 42 ins. wide; full range of colors.

per yard, 30c.

An Excellent Assortment of GAMES, TOYS, BOOKS, CHRISTMAS CARDS, STATIONERY and FANCY GOODS for Christmas.

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