

## TRouble OVER RUSS ASSEMBLY

Delegates Ignore the Bolshevik Government

Which May Refuse to Allow It to Meet.

(By Arno Dosh Meurot.)  
Petrograd cable says: The opening of the Constituent Assembly on Jan. 18 hangs on the formality which the delegates consider all important, of whether they shall register with Commissioner Ouzitsky, who was appointed by the Government. Only 124 have thus far registered, while 603 are known to the National Commission of Elections appointed under Kerensky. The Government insists that 400 register before the assembly will be allowed to open.

It is evident that the Social Revolutionists of the Center and Right who control the assembly, intend to refuse to register, as they consider that act would be recognition of the Bolshevik Government. The delegates insist that all power must pass into the assembly, while the Government makes a new distinction as the result of considerable negotiations. The Bolsheviks will yield power if the assembly does not interfere with the whole of Russia, but insist that the assembly must not interfere with the interior affairs of the Russian Government, which is formed by the commissioners of the people.

The delicacy of the point thus made was shown by the Commissioner of Agriculture, who is a Social Revolutionist of the Left. "The Assembly must first decide," he said, "the form of the federation of Russian states shall take, then questions of peace, land, etc. Only after the form of federation has been decided upon can there enter the question of the arrest of certain members of the Assembly, such as Akenside, who was arrested for insurrection within Great Russia."

Here is the snag that affects the balance of power within the Assembly. It leaves the power of arrest of the Assembly in the hands of the Bolsheviks until the Assembly is committed on the other important questions. This snag is more grave than the formality of registration.

The Russian masses, who undoubtedly are in control and are backed by the army and the Baltic and Black Sea fleets, as well as the Red Guards and workers of all the cities, consider the Assembly as a reactionary bourgeois assembly. As Premier Kerensky is Premier, here the Russian masses are turning to the third all-Russian Soviet. The Russian masses, who undoubtedly are in control and are backed by the army and the Baltic and Black Sea fleets, as well as the Red Guards and workers of all the cities, consider the Assembly as a reactionary bourgeois assembly. As Premier Kerensky is Premier, here the Russian masses are turning to the third all-Russian Soviet. The Russian masses, who undoubtedly are in control and are backed by the army and the Baltic and Black Sea fleets, as well as the Red Guards and workers of all the cities, consider the Assembly as a reactionary bourgeois assembly. As Premier Kerensky is Premier, here the Russian masses are turning to the third all-Russian Soviet.

The Soviet is busy passing resolutions, and is issuing appeals to the army, and with the object of getting a victory over the Whites. The plan is to let those who are tired of war go home and those remaining to form a new force. The results are more favorable than expected.

## HOW THEY WON MILITARY CROSS

Died of Daring of a Number of Canadians.

For Which They Have Been Decorated.

London cable: Official particulars are now available of the deeds for which several Canadians have been awarded the Military Cross.

Lieut. Kenneth Flint Corbett, Royal Artillery, was awarded the Military Cross for his gallant and skilful command of the situation, and although himself knocked down, directed the removal of the wounded amidst bombs exploding all round.

Lieut. Warner Elmo Cusler, when his platoon was practically surrounded, directed the platoon to fight and after the platoon was exhausted directed the platoon to fight, carrying all the wounded.

Lieut. Thomas Youdal made two daylight reconnaissances into houses in No. 10's Land, discovering machine gun emplacements, tunnels and dugouts.

Lieut. Robert Pattison Foster, when the car on an ammunition train exploded, uncoupled the car, had the train moved into safe distance, and replaced the car, enabling the train to proceed.

Lieut. James Patrick Gillies, Royal Artillery, with a salvo of shells struck a level crossing upon which men were working, remained throughout under fire, getting the wounded to the ambulance.

Capt. Ralph Richard Layte led an attack upon a village in the darkness without previous preparation and gallantly continued the attack, although wounded.

Lieut. Charles Francis Mandel led two platoons and shot two of the enemy, forcing two others to surrender.

der, and afterwards leading a second attack.

Lieut. John McLennan, Royal Artillery, in the open, under heavy fire, delivered ammunition till badly wounded.

Lieut. Clarence Medley, Royal Artillery, when three tractors were derailed, worked three and a half hours under heavy fire getting the tractors away before daylight.

Lieut. George Clarence Rogers, Flying Corps, nephew of Hon. Robert Rogers, flew long distances under heavy fire, returning in nearly every case with his machine riddled.

Lieut. Ralph Skelton, Royal Artillery, formerly of Montreal, laid out lines of fire with the greatest accuracy and disregard of danger.

Lieut. Jonathan G. Sharp, Flying Corps, when on patrol his machine was brought down, pinning the pilot underneath. Lieut. Sharp, thrown clear, pulled the pilot out, and both swam the canal, reaching our lines safely.

Lieut. Dixon Wagner, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, formerly of the Canadian, consolidated advanced posts under heavy fire.

## BRITISH FLIERS BOMBING TURKS

London cable: The following official report in regard to military operations in Palestine was made public here today:

"Despite adverse weather conditions, our air service within the past few days has executed bombing raids on the enemy airfield at Jenin, 30 miles southeast of Haifa, and on the Amman station on the Hedjaz railway, 47 miles northeast of Jerusalem. In each case many hits on the objectives were observed. Two of our machines are missing.

"In the sector about Jerusalem there has been considerable patrol activity, notably around Birah, 9 miles north of Haifa; Mar Saba, 7 1/2 miles southeast; Jenin, 5 1/2 miles north-northeast; and Mukhnas, seven miles north-northeast. At the last mentioned locality our troops successfully raided an enemy post, clearing a village and returning with prisoners.

"Simultaneous activity prevailed in the coastal sector."

## HUN MUNITIONS PLANTS CLOSED

For Lack of Coal—Switzerland Also Hit.

Police Broke Up Meeting of Socialists.

A Lausanne Switzerland cable: The Gazette says it learns that the German munition factories at Karlsruhe have been forced to close owing to lack of coal, and that 9,000 men and women are out of work. Seven other large towns are affected in a similar manner.

The German Government's consignments of coal to Switzerland, under the diplomatic arrangement, the newspaper adds, are decreasing monthly, the German Government seemingly being unable to spare coal.

DISPERSED BY POLICE.

An Amsterdam cable: Evidences of the strained situation as regards war aims continues to appear in the German newspapers. The Leipzig Volks Zeitung says a meeting of the annexationist fatherland party at Jena was broken up by the Independent Socialists, who, after passing a vote for "a general peace by understanding," threw out the members of the Fatherland party.

Another meeting of the Fatherland party at Mannheim was frustrated by the Independent Socialists, the Kolnische Volks Zeitung says, after hours of pandemonium. The meeting, which was attended by about 3,000 persons, was dispersed by the police amid the cheers of the Socialists.

PAUL COMBY HELD.

Another Arrest in Caillaux Case in France.

Paris cable says: Paul Comby was arrested last night in connection with the Government's investigation of the activities of former Premier Caillaux. He is a lawyer, and was one of the guests of M. Caillaux at a luncheon given to Signor Cavallini, an Italian, Comby also is said to have accompanied Deputy Loustalot, whose immunity has been suspended in connection with the Caillaux affair, to Switzerland to see Abbas Hillel, the former Khedive of Egypt.

The Chamber of Deputies sustained the Government's action in the Caillaux case late yesterday by a majority of 274 out of the 464 members present.

## BRITISH AGAIN IN REPRISAL RAID

A London cable: An official statement on aerial operations says:

"Following upon the very successful daylight raid over Germany on Monday, another raid was carried out the same night, the objective of which was the steel works at Thionville, midway between Luxembourg and Metz, where a ton of bombs was dropped. A further half-ton of bombs was dropped on two large railway junctions in the neighborhood of Metz.

"The anti-aircraft guns' fire and searchlight batteries were considerable around the objectives. All our machines returned."

## WEARY OF WAR BUT OBDDURATE

German People Believe Continuation Necessity.

Food Very Scarce, but Not a Famine.

New York report says: While the people of Germany are living under a rationing system which provides much less food than was obtainable before the war, conditions in that country are not in the least approach a famine, according to Miss Lillian Goldman, of this city, formerly connected with the American Embassy in Berlin, who left the German capital about two months ago. After the United States went into the war Miss Goldman went into the service of the Dutch Embassy in Berlin and remained there until she left Germany.

Although Germany is not starving, Miss Goldman said, three and a half years of war have created a shortage in necessities that is felt throughout the Empire, and officials have averted starvation only by the establishment of drastic conservation measures.

"The people of Germany," Miss Goldman continued, "are weary of war, but they believe a continuation of the struggle is necessary. The Government exercises, and has exercised for years, a percentage over the people which places them in the same position as a child who has never been away from home, and who has had his actions planned for him. I do not think the people as a whole are against the Government. I think they regard it as necessary to their own life.

"It is a mistake to assume that the German newspapers do not print the news of the world. President Wilson's war addresses were published in Berlin papers, although they probably lost some of their effect in translation, just as speeches by German officials have in translation into English.

"I do not know what the people of Germany think of the ruthless submarine policy," Miss Goldman added. "I never heard the policy discussed, but I am under the impression that the people are leaving war policies to the Government, with the idea that anything is justifiable if it will help Germany win the war.

"I am sure that when the German people come to understand the determination of America to win the war, a profound impression will be created, which may lead them to demand an end of the war. Clearer understanding they must have. They must be made to see one country's relation to the world as a whole, in the same light as democratic people look upon it."

## HEADS U. S. ENGINEERS

New York Report: A. N. Talbot, of Urbana, Ill., was elected President of the American Society of Civil Engineers at the 68th annual meeting of the organization held here today. The retiring President, George H. Pagan, said in an address that the membership of the organization is now in the army, and the number is rapidly increasing. The members today were taken over one of the new divisions of the subway and entertained in a luncheon in a tunnel under the East River.

## TEUTONS FAIL TO RECOVER

Strong Counter-Attacks Checked by Italians

In the Region of Monte Asolone.

Rome cable: The Austrians made a counter-attack yesterday in an effort to recover the positions gained by the Italians in the region of Monte Asolone, on the northern front, on Monday. Today's official statement says the enemy was repulsed.

On Monday the Austrians made another counter-attack east of Capo Sile, on the lower Piave front, where the Italians had just made a successful assault, enlarging their bridgehead. This effort was also frustrated by the Italians.

Italian troops again attacked the Teutonic lines south of Monte Fontana Secca, on the mountain front.

The text of Wednesday's statement reads: "In the region of Monte Asolone yesterday morning the fighting on our lines was lively, owing to the strong concentration of fire and attempted enemy counter-attacks, which were constantly repulsed; our lines fortunately having been notified during the preceding night, in the afternoon the situation became normal again.

"There were reconnaissances and lively artillery activity in the eastern sector of Asiago Plateau, and in the upper part of the salient of Monte Solarolo.

"On Monday night, to the east of Capo Sile a fresh counter-attack was launched against our positions, but was repulsed, and yesterday the artillery activity on both sides was considerable along the whole coastal region.

"There was considerable aerial activity along the entire front. British aviators brought down three enemy aeroplanes and our aviators brought down a fourth. Our anti-aircraft batteries accounted for a fifth."

## FISH CONFERENCE

Washington, Report—Canada's fisheries mission, headed by Chief Justice Hays, called today on Secretary Redfish and other members of the American mission and discussed plans for their conference, which will consider conservation of fish foods in waters adjacent to the two countries. Depletion of lobsters, haddock and salmon will receive special attention.

## CANADIAN CORPS SURPRISED HUNS

Raids Caught the Germans Off Their Guard

And Did Good Work Against Them.

Canadian Headquarters in France, report says: After its week comparative rest, the Canadian corps is giving the enemy a real taste of its merits. On Sunday night, just after dark, a raiding party entered the Hun trenches just north of Lens and captured nearly half its own strength without suffering a single casualty. The attack, which was not preceded by any artillery preparation or barrage, but only supported with a standing barrage on the adjacent trenches by Stokes guns, was splendidly carried out. The enemy was taken completely unawares, and his resistance was easily overcome. Eleven prisoners were captured.

On the same night, at almost the same hour, another raiding party, operating opposite Mericourt, crept right up to the enemy wire and lay in ambush for a hostile working party. When an enemy party of eight or nine strong came through the wire our men opened fire with machine guns and rifles. The surprise was complete. The enemy made a hasty retreat, leaving two dead and one mortally wounded behind him. Later in the evening another of our patrols, working in Lens itself, unloaded its whole supply of 18 bombs amongst the enemy, who were standing in their trenches. The effect of the bombs could not be seen, but it is believed casualties were inflicted, as the enemy confusion was noticeable.

On Monday morning an enemy reconnoitering patrol, endeavoring to reach our wire, was detected by one of our posts and repulsed by rifle and machine gun fire.

The result of the raids has been to show that part of the opposing line is held by the 10th I. R. of the 22nd Division, a unit well known to the Canadians who have beaten them twice before in memorable engagements.

Another German machine which flew over the position later, dropped a bomb from a higher altitude at a hangar. The bomb missed its mark, but dug a great hole in the adjoining field. At a certain place nearby an enemy squadron descended within 300 feet of the earth, and sprayed an anti-aircraft machine-gun position with a hail of bullets, but did not hit any of the gunners, all of whom were French.

The Americans at the most advanced aviation camp have found a novel mounting for the machine guns used for defense against enemy aeroplanes. When the guns for the newly dug pits arrived it was discovered that only field carriages had been provided. These were unsuitable for aircraft defence work, so swivels were constructed from old motor truck springs. These improvised mounts are said to be as good as any used.

## GERMANS DRIVE IS POSTPONED

Threatened Attack Stopped by Troubles at Home

And Will Find Trouble When It Comes.

(By Lincoln Byre.)  
A Paris cable: It would appear that Germany's so much vaunted offensive against the French front has been put off for the time being. It was first thought the enemy would make his final attempt at the French lines this morning, but military circles here think the internal situation of the central Empires prevents them making any move yet. Military writers point out that the beginning of the new year has seen greater artillery activity than usual, and that raids on both sides are more frequent. Aviation is also extremely busy finding out new German gun emplacements and reporting any enemy troop movements.

As to where the offensive will be launched it is pointed out here that great activity prevails behind the enemy's lines in the German Crown Prince's sector, that is the Champagne district from Rheims to the Argonne Forest. In this sector prisoners taken by the French report that all arrangements are complete, but the French troops have also taken precautions, and when the attack does begin the Central Empires will see that, notwithstanding the Russian defection, the Entente has still the upper hand in men, artillery, munitions and aeroplanes. It is admitted, however, that the Germans may gain local successes and drive allied armies back a little, but it won't spell victory for the Teutons, but instead prepare a counter-blow which will mean Germany's defeat and death.

## SURPRISE BLOW BY THE ITALIANS

Took Several Hundred Prisoners at Monte Asolone

In Fight Reported On Tuesday Night.

Italian Army Headquarters in Northern Italy cable: The Italians delivered an unexpected hammer-blow last night against the enemy's positions on the heights just to the east of the Brenia river. Heavy losses were inflicted upon the enemy and several hundred prisoners were taken, including an Austrian colonel and seven other officers. The Italians likewise captured a large amount of war material.

The Italian official report reads: "In the Monte Asolone region fighting took place yesterday afternoon. Our troops, effectively supported by artillery, advanced gallantly to rectify their line from north of Cateria if

## LEPRES TO THE HEAD OF THE COSSILA VALLEY

In spite of the enemy's bitter resistance and very lively reaction, considerable advances were gained and very heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy. We captured eight officers, including one lieutenant-colonel, and 243 men of other ranks.

"In the Monte Solarolo salient storming parties, making an effective demonstrative action, penetrated the enemy trenches.

"To the east of Capo Sile, by means of a surprise action carried out with admirable spirit, we extended our bridgehead, wresting some trenches from the enemy and repulsing sanguinarily his repeated counter-attacks. Two officers, 43 men of other ranks, two trench mortars and a few machine guns were captured.

"On the remainder of the front there were artillery actions, which were more severe astride the Brenia Valley. Patrol encounters, resulting in our favor, occurred in the valley of Ponte della Fraila.

"Four enemy aeroplanes were brought down by our airmen. Our artillery accounted for a fifth machine. Two other aeroplanes were downed by British aviators. In the afternoon aeroplanes effectively bombed enemy forces in movement along the lower Piave."

## GERMANS BOMB U. S. AIR CAMP

But Enemy's Aim Was Invariably Poor.

Flew Low, but Missed All Objectives.

With the American Army in France, report: Enemy air raiders are showing an increased interest in the American aviation centres, especially those nearest the lines. During one of the most recent incursions the German aeroplanes descended within 200 feet of the ground, endeavoring to make sure that several bombs which they dropped should hit their targets, which in most cases were buildings in which men were billeted. Luckily the German aim, even at such close range, was poor, for no Americans were killed.

Another German machine which flew over the position later, dropped a bomb from a higher altitude at a hangar. The bomb missed its mark, but dug a great hole in the adjoining field. At a certain place nearby an enemy squadron descended within 300 feet of the earth, and sprayed an anti-aircraft machine-gun position with a hail of bullets, but did not hit any of the gunners, all of whom were French.

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## DEPTH CHARGES BAD FOR SUBS.

Germans Admit Danger is Very Serious.

Large Area Covered in the Ally Search.

London cable says: German newspapers, in referring to the Anglo-American measures against submarines, indicate that the employment of the depth charge has been greatly increased and perfected since the American destroyers arrived in European waters.

In the old days the destroyer was content to drop two or three depth charges in the vicinity where the submarine was last seen, but now, according to the German accounts, it is not unusual to find the destroyers persisting in the business of dropping depth bombs until as many as forty have been exploded, thus covering a large area where the submarine is likely to be hiding.

The Germans admit that this is a very unpleasant business to the operators of the U-boats. Thus the Nord Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung contains the following account of the experiences of a U-boat man in the water patrolled by the American destroyers:

"One of our submarines shot a heavily laden steamer of 5,000 tons out of a convoy. A violent enemy counter-attack followed. The destroyer left the convoy and followed the submarine, and in the course of a few minutes dropped 35 water bombs around the spot where the U-boat was supposed to be submerged. Luckily, they failed to hit her, and our U-boat escaped unscathed.

"The same submarine was previously followed by two aeroplanes from mid-day until evening and pelted with 23 bombs, but escaped."

The same newspaper contains an account of a submarine cruiser which had a narrow escape from destruction in the explosion of a munition ship which she torpedoed from too close a range. "The steamer," runs the account, "blow up with a terrific detonation, wrapped in a column of flame, and the next second the flames disappeared and the steamer was gone."

The force of the explosion upset the submarine's steering apparatus and did other damage, but the crew finally succeeded in effecting repairs.

## BIG DROP IN U-BOAT LOSSES

Six Over 1,600 Tons, Two Under, Sunk in Week.

Vessels Hit, Not Sunk, Almost All at Work.

A London cable: Another marked decrease in the sinkings of British merchantmen by mine or submarine in the past week is noted in the report of the Admiralty issued tonight. In this period only six merchantmen of 1,600 tons or over were sunk, and in addition, two merchantmen under 1,500 tons and two fishing vessels.

In the previous week the Admiralty reported the loss by mine or submarine of eighteen merchantmen of 1,600 tons or over, three merchantmen under that tonnage, and four fishing vessels. The report of Jan. 2 gave the sinkings as twenty-one, eighteen being 1,600 tons or over.

Of all the British vessels damaged by enemy action between January and October, 1917, it had been impossible to save four only, according to a statement made by Thomas J. MacNamara, financial secretary of the Admiralty, in the House of Commons today. Of the remainder repairs to more than half have been actually completed.

Mr. MacNamara explained that the vessels reported weekly as unsuccessfully attacked were not damaged. The vessels damaged by attack were not included in the weekly returns until they became total losses.

## STRANGE DEATH

Of Russian Agent in New York, Unexplained.

A New York report says: Nicholas Iseguine, who, according to the Russian Consulate here, has been in the United States on a special mission for the Russian Government, was found in his apartment here today with a bullet wound in his breast. He was taken to a hospital where it was said there was slight chance of his recovery.

Russian consular official declared, however, they did not know the nature of Iseguine's mission in this country. A note found in Iseguine's apartment said, "Death comes perfectly voluntarily." The Russian valet, William Miller, told the police that at noon today his employer sent him to the Russian Consulate with a letter addressed to Consul-General Cushman. Upon delivering this message, Miller said, he returned to the apartment accompanied by an attorney.

The letter found in Iseguine's rooms, and ostensibly written by him, said:

"Death comes perfectly voluntarily. A number of personal reasons, and no one in New York of the smallest degree, is responsible for the course I have taken. I leave all my personal property to my valet, excepting such things as the Russian Consul-General may see fit to send to my family. I request that the Russian Consul-General be notified immediately."

DEMON AIRMAN.

Italian Aviator's Marvelous Work in Duel.

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy cable says: Two of the air fights yesterday were particularly moving. Lieut. St. Caroli, a noted shot, attacked a German machine at 12,000 feet. He crippled the machine at the third shot and put six shots in the head of the aviator and seven into the head of the pilot, the machine and its occupants tumbling down in a dizzying spiral.

Later, Capt. Zobali brought down another machine, which fell just within the enemy line. Twenty Italians in the front trenches seeing the fall of the machine, sprang across the line and destroyed the aeroplane and captured the aviator and pilot, returning uninjured with their prisoners.

NEWSPAPERS EXEMPTED.

Detroit, Report—Michigan newspapers will not be obliged to cease publication as at first seemed apparent by the fuel conservation order. W. K. Prudden, State Fuel Administrator, sent the following telegram to the press this afternoon:

"While conditions of fuel are such that every pound of coal must be preserved, yet I realize the usefulness and public necessity of the press of Michigan, and publishers of newspapers are hereby exempted from order of January 15th.

PLAGUE IN CHINA.

Fengchen, Shansi Province, China—The hottest pest the pneumonia-type plague prevalent here and in other parts of Shansi Province, is at present flourishing on the Huang-Ho, west of Ningwu, and the villages surrounding it. The natives are dying by scores in the streets. Appeals for help are being sent broadcast by the American doctors recently sent into the province to investigate the plague conditions.

MAY TAKE PACKING PLANTS.

Chicago, Report—The immediate taking over of all the packing plants in the United States will be urged upon President Wilson by a delegation representing every craft in the industry and headed by John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, which departed for Washington tonight.

Alpha and Omega.

In three places, in the book of Revelation, Alpha, the first letter of the Greek alphabet, and Omega, the last, are referred to in the phrase "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Both Christ and Revelation employed the letters of the alphabet as numerals."

Rubbing a man the wrong way is very often simply a case of rubbing it in.