

# GERMANS HAVE SACRIFICED THOUSANDS OF LIVES IN VAIN ATTEMPTS ON EASTERN FRONT

Russians Have Successfully Checked German Advance in the Centre and Are Now Pressing Home the Advantage Gained—Austrians Have Been Flung Back Over the Carpathian Mountains—Crossing of Bzura River, To West of Warsaw, Has Proved Very Costly Undertaking to Germans, Thousands of Lives Being Sacrificed—Invaders Have Now Been Driven Back Again—Allies Continue to Make Slow Progress in Western Theatre of War—American Note of Protest Continues to be Centre of Discussion, But Belief is Held that an Amicable Understanding Will Soon be Reached.

London, Dec. 30, 12.45 p.m.—The soldiers of Emperor Nicholas still hold the main German armies in check, and continue to press their advantage, according to despatches reaching London. At the same time they are harassing the Austrians who have been flung back over the Carpathian mountains.

In the western arena of the war the Allies continue to claim slow progress, but the offensive, started about the middle of December, has noticeably slackened.

Even some of the British newspapers call attention to the marked decrease in the vigor of the French, British and Belgian thrusts at the German line, but they add that the reason for this quiet soon will be disclosed.

The Bzura river, to the west of Warsaw, has now become the Yser of the east; on its banks the Germans have been sacrificing thousands of men as they did in Belgium on the Yser. The crossing which they forced at great cost has now been nullified, according to despatches from Petrograd, the Russians have driven the invaders back to the west bank of the river.

The American note of protest concerning interference with American shipping and commerce is the subject of the leading editorial articles in all London papers and it continues to attract much attention in the diplomatic field. Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey returned to London today after a Christmas week end and gave the matter immediate consideration. The press unanimously calls attention to the friendliness of the note, in spite of its firmness, and expresses the belief that ground for an understanding with the United States soon will be reached.

Austria's defeat at the hands of Serbia apparently has been followed by renewed activity on the part of Montenegro, whose troops have carried the fighting to Austrian soil in Herzegovina, and are now undertaking a vigorous offensive movement. The Vienna war office states that the Montenegrin attacks thus far have been repulsed easily.

Russia's claim to a victory over the Turks in the Caucasus is disputed by reports which reached Berlin from Constantinople, saying that the Turks have won "another success" and are pursuing the retreating Russians. It is also said at Constantinople that another British attempt to land troops in Arabia failed.

### Control of Belgium

Washington, Dec. 30.—There is no disposition on the part of Germany to hurry its request for the cancellation of exequaturs held by neutral consuls in Belgian territory under German military rule, according to state department officials. The German note was sent by mail to the Washington government which will consider the subject at length before making a decision.

It is generally understood that the United States will avoid any action which might be considered a political recognition of the German possession of Belgium. While officials did not comment on the contents of the German communication, they intimated that it contained no evidence of any desire to place the American government or neutral nations in an embarrassing position.

It is pointed out that a situation somewhat similar to that in Belgium might be raised by Great Britain with respect to neutral consuls in Egypt, lately made a British protectorate. Neutral consuls hitherto have been accredited to the Turkish government as well as to the Egyptian authorities but unless Great Britain raises the question there will be no change in the status of American consuls.

### Heavy Guns Damaged

Liege, Dec. 30.—Four heavy German guns arrived here in a damaged condition from Zebrugges. They were put out of commission by the fire of the English ships.

## SHRAPNEL ORDER PLACED IN CANADA

Value of Business to Date is Estimated at Over Twenty-Two Millions.

Montreal, Dec. 30.—An additional order for approximately 1,000,000 18-pound shrapnel shells has been received from the imperial government through the militia department at Ottawa. The order just to hand brings the total number of shells to be manufactured in Canada to 1,800,000, and the value of the business is estimated between \$20,000,000 and \$23,000,000 by Col. A. Bertram, who is chairman of the shell committee here.

## PARIS BELIEVES SPRING CAMPAIGN NOW INEVITABLE

Significant Change in Public Opinion Regarding Probable Duration of the War.

### GERMANY'S ORGANIZATION

Thousands of Men Being Rushed Into Shape for Firing Line When Weather Improves.

Paris, Dec. 30.—A very significant change has come over public opinion in France as to the probable duration of the war. Less than two months ago it was unwise to hint at a spring campaign. Now it is recognized on every hand as inevitable. Two things have contributed to awaken public feeling. The first is the vast number of reserves Germany is organizing to push forward into the fighting line when the weather improves. The second is the remarkable campaign which M. Pichon, former foreign minister, waged for a time almost single handed in favor of an active Japanese intervention on the continent of Europe.

Perhaps a third consideration enters into the new calculations, the determined resistance of the entrenched Germans opposed to the allies.

Hopes of seeing Russians entering Berlin by the end of the year have not been justified. In fact, the land campaign on both fronts is behind the schedule that French optimists formed after the battle of the Meuse. Still it is well ahead of the western side at least of what any one with military knowledge could have anticipated during the early weeks of August.

## ARCHBISHOP MAKES FERVENT PLEA FOR ARMY RECRUITING

Very Life of the Empire May Depend Upon Response Says the Head of Anglican Church.

### APPEAL TO HOUSEHOLDS

None Will be Acting Worthily Who Refuse to Make Some Sacrifice.

London, Dec. 30.—The Archbishop of Canterbury, in a New Year's letter to the laity and clergy, seeks to give impetus to recruiting by a fervent appeal to all men qualified to bear arms.

"The very life of the empire," says the letter, "may depend upon the response given to the call for men. I think we can say deliberately that no household or home will be acting worthily if in timidity or self-love it keeps back any of those who can loyally bear a man's part in behalf of the land we love."

## MEN FROM VANCOUVER ORDERED TO REINFORCE PRINCESS PAT'S REGT.

Men Who Have Had Previous Service Will Compose Draft From the Coast City.

Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 30.—One hundred and twenty-seven officers and men of the Sixtieth overseas battalion, now in training here, have been ordered to the front to reinforce the Princess Patricia's regiment.

A letter has been received from a sister of Captain Henry Toke Munn in which she states that the ship which conveyed Capt. Munn and his party to the Arctic returned in November and reports that they had left him comfortably settled for the winter and his ship returns again to North Baffin's Land on the first of July next, and therefore Captain Munn will not know anything of the happenings in the world most probably until next July.

The ships captain reports that Captain Munn had great hopes of a large catch of fur bearing animals and hopes to do well by his trip. Captain Munn's sister in her letter continues that if her brother had been at home he certainly would have been at the war and might possibly have been among the killed by this time, and that he was absolutely ignorant of the war.

## EXPLORER REMAINS IN BAFFIN'S LAND

First Division.

Aston Villa 2, Blackburn Rovers 1. Sheffield Wed. 2, Tottenham Spurs 1. Newcastle Utd. 2, Sunderland 5. Burnley 0, W. Bromwich Alb. 2. Everton 1, Bradford City 1. Bradford L., Oldham Athletic 1. Bolton Wanderers 0, Liverpool 1. Middlesbrough 1, Notts County 0.

## WOMEN AND CHILDREN TAKEN PRISONERS AND PLACED IN BARRACKS

Say They are Not Badly Treated But Complain of Lack of Warm Clothing.

Paris, Dec. 30.—All the women and children of Marcheville and neighboring parishes, in the department of the Meuse, near Verdun, were taken prisoners October 20. Letters received here show that they are being held in barracks at Amberg, Bavaria.

The women and children prisoners number 880, according to information contained in letters received. They say they are not badly treated, but they complain of the cold as they were not allowed to take warm clothing with them.

## Roumania Likely To Enter War On Side Of Triple Entente

Paris, Dec. 28.—The only obstacle to Roumania joining the forces of the triple entente, according to the Figaro, was the lack of guarantees from Bulgaria regarding that country's neutrality. The Figaro learns, from a good source, that these guarantees have now been obtained as a result of the joint action of the triple entente powers at Sofia with the further undertaking that in the event of Bulgaria deciding to intervene in the war it would be against the enemies of the entente.

## The Charm of the Gray Room

One hears of green rooms, of brown rooms, of yellow rooms—even of black rooms these days—but rarely does one come across a gray room. Yet the gray background is exceedingly soft and pleasing when well managed. If you possess some fine mahogany furniture and are considering a re-papering problem for your drawing room, try having the walls covered with soft, light gray, and place on the floor a deep-toned blue velvet rug. The woodwork of the room should be white and the window draperies and portieres of gray rep in the tone of the wallpaper. Window seats or a chair cushioned to match the deep blue rug, a chair or two done in blue and gray-toned tapestry, a vase and handkerchiefs of white plaster; some watercolors and a framed etching or two—and your room will be a perfect background for desk, table and other pieces of the fine old mahogany. Such a room, recently visited by the writer, had a rare charm that made itself felt the moment one entered its quiet, tasteful environment.

## TELLS OF ATTEMPT TO SUPPLY PETROL TO ONE OF ENEMY'S SUBMARINES

Winnipeg, Dec. 27.—A Scottish lady, residing in Winnipeg, has just received a letter from Edinburgh, dated December 11, included in which were the following particulars of an attempt to supply a German submarine flotilla with petrol: "A steamer flying a neutral flag left Lethbridge this week with a cargo of petrol. The suspicions of the port authorities were aroused and they communicated by wireless with the admiral in command of the British squadron of the Firth of Forth. The admiral wired back: 'Let her start, and then send a destroyer in pursuit, which overhauled the supposed Dutch boat, took possession of her, mounted a gun on her and sailed off. The oil boat had not proceeded very far before a German submarine came up from the depths, expecting to be replenished with petrol; instead she got a shot at short range that sent her to the bottom, very few of her crew being saved.'

## GERMANS' LATEST EXCUSE FOR VIOLATING RULES OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION

Berne, Switzerland, Dec. 28.—Col. Feyler, in the Journal de Geneve, estimates the losses of the German army, not including those of the last few weeks, at 1,200,000. Germany's latest excuse for disregarding the Geneva convention is not releasing captured red cross men is that she has so many prisoners that she may require them in case of an outbreak of disease. It is understood that neutral governments, especially that of the United States, have made representation to Germany on her answer has not been given.

## MAUBEUGE FAVORED BY GERMANS BECAUSE OF KINDNESS SHOWN PRINCE

Bologne, France, via London, Dec. 26.—Because a young French red cross nurse took a particular interest in an 18 year old German lieutenant who was brought unconscious into the hospital at Maubeuge and died three days later, the little manufacturing city of Maubeuge has been highly favored by its German conquerors and is enjoying a greater degree of freedom than any of the other French border towns in German hands.

The wounded German proved to be the Prince of Saxe-Meinungen, nephew of the Emperor. He had suffered a fractured skull in an encounter with a French chasseur and died without regaining consciousness.

At the suggestion of the little nurse the local authorities rendered the prince funeral honors due his rank, photographed the body and coffin, and sent the photographs, together with the personal belongings of the prince and a detailed account of his illness to his family at Meiningen. This occurred while the town was still under French control. The young man's father, the Duke of Saxe-Meinungen, acknowledged the courtesy in a letter expressing the deepest appreciation and later when the Germans entered Maubeuge, he proved his gratitude by directing the troops occupying the fortress town to treat the inhabitants with the utmost consideration. The nurse was given a safe conduct through the German lines and has just arrived at Bologne.

The chasseur who was responsible for the death of the prince, was known as the smallest soldier in the Maubeuge garrison, but in the battle against the prince's crack cavalry regiment he acquitted himself with distinction. Besides placing the prince hors de combat, he wounded and captured the prince's orderly, two troopers and a non-commissioned officer; thereby earning special mention in the official report of the engagement. A few days later he was himself taken prisoner by the German reinforcements which occupied Maubeuge.

## BELGIAN BOY SCOUT SHOWED GALLANTRY ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE

Northern France, Dec. 26.—The youngest cavalier of the Belgian order of Leopold and the first boy scout to be decorated for gallantry on the field of battle is Joseph Lysin. King Albert recently pinned the cross on his breast in the presence of his ministers and military staff, and in giving him the accolade, said: "I have the honor to decorate you with the order of Leopold. You are the youngest Belgian hero. I congratulate you and all the scouts who have done such service for their country."

Joseph, who is 18 years old, was working in a shop in Brussels when the war broke out. Already an enthusiastic member of the Belgian boy scouts, he at once volunteered for duty at which the military authorities might wish to set him, and was soon in the thick of things. In the words of the officer, under whom he served, he became l'enfant du regiment, posing as a priest. It is difficult to get him to talk of his experiences, but one of his earliest feats was the tracking down and arrest of two spies.

## SINGULAR FATALITY AT EDMONTON THURSDAY

Edmonton, Dec. 26.—Richard Ryan, a man of about 40 years, was killed on Thursday when a crate of plate glass, in front of the New Adams block, overbalanced and fell upon him. He was taken to the general hospital where it was found he had several ribs and pelvis fractured and concussion of the brain. Death followed shortly after from hemorrhage of the lungs. He is a married man with a wife and three children, living in Saskatoon. His Edmonton address is not known.

# Death of Senator Kirchhoffer Came As Great Surprise

Prominent Western Statesman Had Only Been Ailing for Few Days.

## TRIBUTE FROM BRANDON PEOPLE

Prominent Men All Agree That Canada Has Lost a Great Worker.

## SKETCH OF CAREER

Born in Ireland and Came to Canada in 1864—A Great Sportsman.

The death of Hon. Senator John Kirchhoffer in Ottawa Tuesday, and news of which was received here at an early hour Wednesday came as a great surprise to Brandon people. Despite the fact that he was in his sixty-seventh year, and that he had been ailing for some years, it was not until a few days ago, while at Ottawa, that he took a turn for the worse and expired rather suddenly last night. Death took place at his residence on Somerset street, Mrs. Kirchhoffer being present as he passed away. The late senator was appointed to the upper house in 1897, and was chairman of the divorce committee. Locally he was a very highly respected and esteemed pioneer, having been connected with western life in an intimate manner for something like a quarter of a century. To Brandon men his death came as a great surprise and on every hand the leading men of the city pay tribute to him as a typical whole-hearted westerner, a keen sportsman, and a man whose place will indeed be difficult to fill.

Some of the Tributes. The tributes to the late senator are legion, but a few of the more prominent men now in the city give their eulogies in brief but concise terms.

Mayor Hughes, an old personal friend of the late senator, was grieved to learn of the unexpected demise. He said: "I have known the late senator since he came to this country, in fact I made him senator," said his worship, with a smile. "He was an Irishman with a big heart, a friend to everybody and one who did much to build up the middle west. He was one of the men who has formed the backbone of the country for over a quarter of a century, and among many other of his old time personal friends greatly deplore his death. The Senator's district has lost probably its greatest benefactor."

Mr. Chas. Whitehead: "Senator Kirchhoffer was one of Canada's big men. He was one of the finest men I have known. I was intimately acquainted with him in the early days and always found him genial, big hearted and a firm believer in the glorious future of Western Canada. He did a great deal for this city and the west in general. He was a fine shot, and was always ready to lend a hand in the advancement of every branch of clean, legitimate sport. His sudden death comes as a severe blow to all, more especially those of us who trod the pioneer pathways with him."

Mr. Alex. Shewan, president of the Brandon Board of Trade and a prominent business man added his tribute to the late senator. He had known the senator for the past quarter of a century as a most admirable citizen and a man who commanded the respect of every person with whom he came in contact. His whole heartedness and amiable disposition were rarely equalled. From a business standpoint the faith exhibited by the late senator in the early days of the west was an inspiration to other men engaged in various walks of life. Holding very large western interests, the late senator was a continual visitor here and his deep interest in the country's development was more than once commented upon by Board of Trade members.

Ex-Mayor H. L. Adolph, another old time resident, said: "I have known the late Senator Kirchhoffer for 30 years, and I regard his death as a great loss to Canada. He was always a most genial and kindly man, and never lost an opportunity to do all he could for Brandon, for Manitoba and for Canada as a whole."

Sheriff Wm. Henderson: "I feel we have all lost a good friend and a hale, hearty, well-met fellow. He was one of the most sympathetic and charitable men that has lived in this country."

Mr. A. M. Matheson, crown prosecutor and a member of the firm of Henderson and Matheson, after expressing surprise at receipt of the news, said: "He was looked upon as a man who was the best posted on western conditions, because of his close connection with this part of the country since the early eighties."



SENATOR KIRCHHOFFER, whose death at Ottawa last night has occasioned deep regret here.

of the city and district will have the same feelings as those which came to me when I learned of the death of Senator Kirchhoffer this morning. A feeling of profound sympathy for Mrs. Kirchhoffer and regrets that one of the pioneers of Manitoba had been called home. The late Senator was a splendid type of man who throughout the early years of settlement in this and the Souris district looked forward with a faith which saw success. I have known him since 1882 when he was pioneering at Plum Creek, now Souris, and he was then, as now, not only highly esteemed there but all throughout the Province. I am sincerely sorry to hear of his death."

Lieut.-Col. F. J. Clark said: "I was very sorry indeed to hear of the death of Senator Kirchhoffer. I first met Mr. Kirchhoffer in 1882 when we opposed one another in a cricket match, Brandon vs. Plum Creek, and ever since that time I have always felt in him a sincere friend. Either on the cricket field, out shooting, in business or at home, Senator Kirchhoffer was always a true sport."

## GIVES BIG DONATION TO AMERICAN AMBULANCE HOSPITAL IN PARIS

Two More Ships Also Dispatched Yesterday for Relief of the Suffering Belgians.

New York, Dec. 26.—Mm. J. Vanderbilt sent a cheque for \$25,000 to J. P. Morgan and company yesterday, to be applied to this fund for the maintenance of the American Ambulance Hospital in Paris. This is the largest individual gift yet made in New York for the relief of suffering Europe. There have been several gifts of \$10,000 to the Belgian fund and other similar funds for European relief work.

The American Ambulance Fund, with Mr. Vanderbilt's gift, is now \$249,910.

The commission for relief in Belgium dispatched yesterday two more ships laden with supplies for the Belgians. One sailed from New York and the other from Philadelphia. The New York ship was the St. Kentgreen, which carries 240,000 bushels of wheat. The Philadelphia ship was the Ferrona, with 250,000 bushels of wheat.