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VOLUME XXXVI—No. 13,183

FRENCH START BIG NEW OFFENSIVE ON MEUSE TORPEDO BOAT GRILSE, WITH SIX MEN MISSING, REACHES PORT German Attempt Against Lassigny Fails Disastrously

FRENCH ATTACK ENEMY IN REGION OF VERDUN

German War Office Reports Allied Advance on Both Banks of Meuse in Offensive—Paris is Silent.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. London, Dec. 14.—A despatch from Berlin received tonight says: French troops took the offensive in the Verdun region this evening, says tonight's supplementary war office statement, advancing on both banks of the Meuse. No mention of an offensive undertaken by infantry is contained in either today's or tonight's French official bulletins.

The bulletins issued by the French war office tonight reads: "Somewhat spirited artillery actions took place south of the Somme on both banks of the Meuse and on the heights south of Bonhomme. Calm prevailed on the rest of the front."

FOE ONSET TO WIN LASSIGNY RUNS IN TRAP

Forty Thousand German Infantry Suffer Decimation Under French Fire.

TO IMPRESS FRANCE Move Synchronizes With Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg's Peace Proposals.

Paris, Dec. 14.—A German attack on Lassigny, that part of the front nearest to Paris, was made Monday in great force, says Le Liberté's correspondent with the French armies. It appears to have been concerted to coincide with Von Bethmann-Hollweg's note, probably with a view to impressing the French by a local success. The Germans brought together about 40,000 men from the best divisions, adds the correspondent, and concentrated corresponding quantities of artillery. The attack was preceded by an intense bombardment lasting for hours.

USUAL BIG GUN DUEL PROCEEDS ON CARSO

Austrian Shells Cause Fire in Gorizia—Weather Bad in Trentino. Rome, Dec. 14, via London.—The following communication was issued today: "On the Trentino front bad weather has limited the activity of the artillery to duels in the Pasaden area and on the Asiago Plateau."

ALLIES AWAIT FURTHER LIGHT ON PROPOSALS

Central Powers' Peace Offer Not to Be Rejected Offhand.

NOTES AT WASHINGTON Wilson Thinks Way for Mediation May Possibly Be Opened Up.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Arrival of both the German and Austrian peace notes and broad intimations of the entente allies' embassies, that the proposals of the central powers would not be flatly rejected without examination, were the outstanding developments here today in the peace movement.

FOE'S PEACE PROPOSAL WILL SOLIDIFY BRITAIN

Viscount French Says Kaiser Will Prove Best Recruiting Agent.

Cardiff, Wales, Dec. 14.—Field Marshal Viscount French, speaking here today, said: "Germany's so-called peace proposal will only serve, like the zeppelin raids, to draw this nation closer together. The Kaiser will thus prove our best recruiting agent, and his latest piece of arrogant insolence will only prompt us to additional efforts."

ALLIES' PLEDGE REMAINS FIRM LAW DECLARES

Adequate Reparation for Past and Security for Future Insisted On.

BIG CREDIT IS PASSED Additional Million Men of All Ranks for Service in Army.

London, Dec. 14.—The allies require that there shall be adequate reparation for the past and adequate security for the future. That is still the policy and still the determination of his majesty's government.

GRILSE REACHES PORT SIX MEN ARE MISSING

W. J. Trembee of Toronto Among Lost During Terrific Storm Which Battered Canadian Torpedo Boat Grilse Reaches Shelburne, N.S., Under Own Steam.

Halifax, Friday, Dec. 15.—With six of her crew drowned, two more injured, wireless dismantled, her hosts carried away, and leaking badly from the terrible pounding which she had received in 48 hours of gales and high seas off the Nova Scotia coast, H. M. C. S. Grilse, the torpedo boat which was reported as lost with all hands arrived in Shelburne harbor under her own steam, at 3:50 o'clock tonight.

The following were lost aboard: R. Wilkinson, Wellington-on-Tyne; England; H. S. Clemens, wireless operator, Hamilton, Ont.; W. J. Trembee, chief petty officer, Toronto; G. Ashwin, leading seaman, London, Eng.; A. J. Harris, able seaman, Meigs, Ireland; H. M. Macauliffe, signalman, Halifax, N. S.

The following were injured: C. McLean Pry, sub-lieutenant, Ottawa, seriously injured about the head; P. Chandler, seaman, West Hartlepool, England, leg broken and badly injured. In his report to naval headquarters, Halifax, Lieut. Wingate said that the ship was "cushion water" forward and that the mess deck was flooded. No further details have been received.

EXCHANGE PROBLEM REQUIRES SOLUTION

McKenna Points Out Real Difficulty in Financing of War.

KEEP WITHIN BOUNDS Britain's Daily Expenditure About Five and One-Half Million Pounds.

London, Dec. 14.—That the extent to which England is able to convert her sterling wealth into dollars is the real measure of her ability to continue to meet the war's demand was the gist of a brief but pointed speech in the house of commons tonight by Reginald McKenna, the former chancellor of the exchequer, supporting and supplementing Mr. Bonar Law's presentation of Great Britain's financial position.

FURTHER CREDITS ASKED OF BANKS

White to Confer With Bankers Today on Financial Situation.

NEW ORDERS COMING Fresh Domestic Loans to Be Floated, But Not Immediately.

By a Staff Reporter. Ottawa, Dec. 14.—Canadian bankers have been summoned to Ottawa by Sir Thomas White, minister of finance, for an exchange of views upon the present financial situation in Great Britain and Canada. They will meet here tomorrow.

RUSSIA SCORNS HUNS' TRICKERY PLOTS EXPOSED

Illusory Peace Offered by Germany Will Not Affect War.

TO IMPRESS NEUTRALS Propaganda Carried on in Neutral Countries, Particularly U. S.

Petrograd, Dec. 14.—The peace proposal of the central powers is regarded by the Russian Government as "an attempt to court public opinion and encourage the people of Germany by appearing to put the responsibility for the continuation of the war upon the entente allies."

GERMANS CHEER PEACE PROPOSAL

Soldiers Break Into Joyful Demonstration on Receiving Announcement.

DOUBT SHOWN LATER Attitude of Entente Powers Towards Proposal Considered Uncertain.

German Great Headquarters in the West, Wednesday, Dec. 13, via Berlin to London, Dec. 14.—The German peace note was read at noon on Tuesday to all the reserves and to the troops resting behind the front. Its contents were made known to the soldiers at the front or on the way to or from the front by means of loudspeakers on improvised bulletin boards.

RUSSIAN CAVALRY ATTACKS INVADERS

Czar's Troops Fight Fierce Action in Region of Buzeu, Rumania.

Special Cable to The Toronto World. London, Dec. 14.—It is expected here that a Russo-Rumanian counter-thrust against the Teutonic and allied forces is about to take place on the Moldavian plain. The Germans on the Russo-Rumanian right wing continued their attacks in the direction of Buzeu, and they were met by Russian cavalry and Rumanian infantry detachments southwest of this point. The Cossacks advanced westward against the enemy and they fought a stubborn battle.

LLOYD GEORGE HAS A SLIGHT RELAPSE

Premier Ordered to Remain in Bed a Few Days More.

London, Dec. 14.—The condition of Premier David Lloyd George has taken a slight turn for the worse. He suffered considerably from a severe chill contracted early in the week, and his physicians have ordered him to remain in bed a few days more. Friends of the premier expressed the hope that he will be able to appear in the house of commons next Tuesday, as planned.

TOTAL PROHIBITION TO RULE IN FRANCE

Premier Briand Will Suppress Consumption of Alcohol During War.

NOT WINES OR BEER Matter is Grave Question in Regard to National Defence.

Paris, Dec. 14.—Total prohibition throughout France of the consumption of such alcoholic beverages as whiskey, brandies and liquors has been decided on by the government. This is shown by the text in the Journal Officiel today of Premier Briand's declaration yesterday before the chamber of deputies on the subject. The premier said: "The government will ask you to give it the faculty to take such measures as it deems necessary in regard to the national defence which the laws are too slow to regulate. A particularly grave question which can be regulated only in war time, on the solution of which depends the life of the country and its salvation, is the total suppression of the consumption of alcohol."

BRITISH RAID TRENCHES NEAR MONCHY-AU-BOIS

Artillery Causes German Dump to Go Up in Smoke About Pys.

London, Dec. 14.—The war office tonight issued the following communication: "Last night enemy trenches were entered by us in the neighborhood of Monchy-au-Bois, south of Arras. A number of casualties were inflicted on the enemy. Dugouts filled with his troops were bombed. A raid was attempted against our trenches in the neighborhood of Hulluch, but the enemy failed to enter them. Prisoners were left in our hands."

BRITISH SHIP BURNHOPE SUNK ON HIGH SEAS

Several Members of Crew Injured—Captain Dies After Landing.

London, Dec. 14.—The British ship Burnhope, a vessel of 1,541 tons, has been sunk. The crew, of which several members were injured, has been landed. The captain of the vessel died after reaching shore. The British steamer Bretwalda, 4,937 tons, was seen.

McCURDY OFF TO ENGLAND

By a Staff Reporter. Ottawa, Dec. 14.—F. B. McCurdy, M.P., parliamentary secretary of the militia department, left today for England to discuss with the authorities there matters of military importance, but the chief object of the visit to the Old Country is to get in touch with conditions there. He sails from Halifax.

RAILWAY BOARD ORDERS COAL CARS PROVIDED

Important Principle Laid Down Will Assist West to Get Supply.

By a Staff Reporter. Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 14.—In an order of the railway board issued today the new and important principle is laid down that the railways' responsibility for carrying coal to the consumers of the west must move their own originating lines of railway, but also to points on other lines. The order declares that cars must be supplied for delivery to points on other lines to the full extent that cars are available. In all cases where transfer at the junction point results in the line on which the traffic originates obtaining the long haul the duty is thrown upon that line to supply the cars. It is believed that the effect of the order, which upsets previous judgments given by the board in the past, will tend to relieve the existing coal system in the west, which is described in the finding of the board as "acute."

WAR SUMMARY THE DAYS' EVENTS REVIEWED

FROM Berlin a report based on a paragraph in the German official communication, was despatched, saying that French troops took the offensive in the Verdun region last evening, advancing on both banks of the Meuse. The French night official communication, a mere bulletin for brevity, however, only says that on both banks of the Meuse, and on the heights south of Bonhomme. The German version of the engagement may, therefore, be a delusion owing to loss of nerve, or it may be based on a French raid; or again, it may be reporting the beginning of an actual large scale offensive. French and German activity in the region east of Champagne has been suggestive of soon coming large operations.

It was announced some time ago that the allies would keep up their offensive during the winter. In spite of this many persons have written and spoken as if winter fighting in France is impossible, forgetting the launching of an offensive at Verdun by the Germans last mid-February. On the French front many places have sufficiently solid terrain in the cold weather to permit the movement of large armies, not only for siege warfare, but for ordinary manoeuvre battles. Because in this winter fighting in the west has hitherto been at a standstill, it is not a guarantee that it will not become an active factor. The allies were unready in the past 28 months to wage offensive warfare, and they did not undertake Somme battles every day. The Germans also needed the winters in the past to make ready for spring campaigns. They need this winter more than ever to pull themselves together. For these reasons it was decided by the allies actively to continue the campaign in the cold months

Only One Neutral Bars Out Defensively Armed Vessels

London, Dec. 14.—Lord Robert Cecil, minister of blockade, in reply to a question in the house of commons concerning armed merchantmen, said that only one neutral maritime government "at present refuses to admit defensively armed ships into its ports and even that government does not impugn the legality of arming merchant ships for defence."

DINEEN'S MEN'S FURS

Caps, collars, gannetts and fur-lined robes, make up the main part of Dineen's department of men's furs. Fur-lined coats, 50 inches long, shell of black beaver cloth, lined with muskrat. Persian lamb or Otter collar, price from \$55 upwards. Heavy storm proof and cold proof fur coats for chauffeurs from \$35 upwards. W. & D. Dineen Company Limited, 140 Yonge St.

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No Offer of Peace is Made To Belgium by the Enemy

London, Dec. 14.—The Belgian legation in London today publishes a denial of the story printed in The Morning Telegraph yesterday of a peace offer to Belgium by the central powers.

Horse Meat in Germany Has Become Real Luxury

Berlin, Dec. 14, via London.—Owing to the steady advance in the price of horse-meat, a maximum price of 23c a pound for the best cuts, liver and sausage, has been fixed by the authorities.

(Continued on Page 2, Columns 1 and 2)