

Two Austrian Destroyers Sunk in Adriatic Results Of Derby's Scheme On Wednesday London Thinks Russia Beginning Offensive

GREAT RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE AGAINST AUSTRIANS IN BUKOWINA HAS BEGUN

Fighting Centres at Toporoutz But Attack is Being Made Along Extended Front of 40 Miles—Fierce Fighting Also in Vosges—Quiet in Balkans.

By Special Wire to the Courier. London, Dec. 30.—Although Petrograd remains silent on the subject, the public is inclined to believe the Russians are undertaking a great offensive in Bukowina, near the Besraban border. Official Austrian reports telling of attacks by dense masses of Russian troops, indicate that an important battle is under way. The fighting centres at a point near Toporoutz, a small town just within the border of Northern Bukowina, but a simultaneous attack is being made along an extended front, reaching from the Pruth to a position north of the Dniester, a distance of about forty miles. The latest advices state that the Russian assault is being continued, accompanied by an unusually heavy bombardment. Unofficial reports from the extreme northern portion of the eastern front state the Germans have made a serious but futile attack in the region of Lake Babit, while the Russians west of Lake Kanger are threatening Mitau. These opposing attacks create a delicate situation as a successful advance by either would endanger considerable forces of the defeated opponent.

Along the western front, except for mining and aerial engagements on the British lines, the chief fighting seems to be confined to the Vosges where, in the region of Hartmannsweilerkopf, the French claim to have made a successful advance. Berlin officially minimizes this success, but does not deny it wholly. Nothing has happened to change the Macedonian position, but it is generally believed that any advance into Greek territory must be made by the Bulgarians, the opinion being that the Austro-Germans cannot spare enough troops for a serious attempt against Saloniki. Domestic tension in England over the compulsory question has been greatly relieved. Speculation continues concerning the method which is to be adopted to reach eligible unmarried men, a majority agreeing that the Derby plan of attestation will be extended for this purpose.

SINGLE MEN IN BRITAIN CALLED OUT

No Further Extension of Time Given Them by the Premier. IRELAND IS NOT INCLUDED Labor Meeting Soon to Discuss Matter and Will Likely Approve.

London, Dec. 29.—The following explanation of the Cabinet's decision will appear in the newspapers of London this morning, furnished by the Press Association: "It had been generally expected that Premier Asquith's pledge to married men would be carried out in letter and spirit, but the view is held in some quarters that a further chance for single men to enroll would not be inconsistent with the fulfilment of that pledge. "The Premier himself rejected this interpretation of his words and informed the Cabinet that resort to compulsory service was called for in his opinion, not only to carry through an honorable obligation, but also it was needed in the present state of the war to provide a steady flow of reinforcements for the various battlefronts. CABINET REPORTED UNITED "On the question of compulsory service for single men, with relegations to latter groups of men engaged in reserved occupations, there is no difference in principle with the Cabinet. Until the details of the procedure are definitely settled there is no expectation of personal changes in the Administration. It is recognized, however, that to pass at the present stage from the well-defined case of single men and to set up a general obligation to military service on the part of the adult population would introduce difficulties. "In a matter which touches so many ingrained prejudices the Government may be expected to move warily. The Ministers must be prepared for some opposition to their proposals, however limited in form. LEAVE IRELAND FREE. "It is undoubted that the Government will carry a majority of the House of Commons with them for any reasonable scheme, and any like organized obstruction is unthinkable. For the smooth passage of the bill, it is possible the measure will not apply to Ireland. "The case of Ireland is exceptional, since registration there has only been carried out in a partial manner, and there has been no attestation there under the Derby group system. "The Cabinet will do its utmost to

meet all objections and secure a measure of general agreement, which the Premier declares essential. LABOR IS DIVIDED A conference of representatives of the Labor party is being arranged to consider the decision of the Cabinet in regard to compulsory military service. The question is being canvassed eagerly at trades union centres. Advocates and opponents of conscription are equally emphatic. There are many members of the Labor party who are ready to support the doctrine of compulsory service once they are satisfied it is necessary and are assured it will be applied impartially to all classes. Some are still insisting on a further opportunity to unmarried men to offer their services without compulsion, but it is believed the Cabinet has decided against further delay. In view of the expected early activities in the front, it is necessary to take the places of the men now waiting in the home camps in readiness to fill the vacancies at the front. ENGINEERS MEET TO-DAY A meeting of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers will be held to-day to consider the plan of Mr. Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, for relaxation of trades union rules so as to enlarge the number of men performing certain classes of work. The engineers will discuss Mr. Lloyd George's bill amending the munitions act, which will come before Parliament when it reassembles. At a meeting of the joint Labor Recruiting Committee in London this afternoon, the calling of a national conference of trades unions to consider the compulsory situation was urged. It was decided to await an explanation of his position from Arthur Henderson, Chairman of the Labor party.

MR. BORDEN IS TAKEN ILL

Premier Hearst Also Under the Weather, Cancelling Engagements.

Ottawa, Dec. 30.—The Prime Minister and Lady Borden have both fallen victims of the prevailing epidemic of grippe. Sir Robert was confined to his bed yesterday, and probably will not be on his feet for several days. The Premier contracted a heavy cold while on his Christmas visit to New York, a severe form of grippe being very prevalent in the Eastern States. PREMIER HEARST ALSO KINGSTON, Dec. 30.—Owing to being laid up with a severe cold, Premier Hearst was unable to come from Toronto to speak at the commercial travellers' banquet last night. Hon. I. B. Lucas spoke in his stead. See the advertisement of the Australian Cadets on Page 10. It will give you all the information you may desire with regard to the performances, prices of the tickets, etc.

EUROPEAN FOES IMMERSED IN HOPELESS FIGHT

Herr Ballin, German Railway Head, Declares This War Idiotic.

By Special Wire to the Courier. Berlin, via Amsterdam, Dec. 30 (in Montreal Gazette)—Albert Ballin, director-general of the Hamburg-American line, and now, at the special request of the Kaiser, in charge of the German railway system, contributes to the Berlin and Hamburg papers an article in which he says: "Christmas, 1915, found the peoples of Europe still embroiled in the most cruel and idiotic war the world has ever seen. They are immersed in a hopeless struggle, in the sorrowful working of converting their beautiful old hemisphere into a mass of ruins, for the benefit of the world on the other side of the ocean and to the joy of the Yellow race—the men who one day will be called upon to construct peace, but conceive it their noblest duty not only to banish war from our generation, but also to wipe out the European armaments fever for decades to come. "They will also have to seek guarantees that an economic war will not follow this bloody war. The men who negotiate peace for Germany will see to it that we do not become the step-children of our Lord and Master. Herr Ballin's statement that Germany must seek guarantees that an economic war will not follow peace may have been called forth by a speech recently made by Walter Runciman, President of the British Board of Trade, urging the total ruin of German trade. Mr. Runciman declared in the House of Commons on December 24 that Germany is beaten from a commercial standpoint, adding that she must see to it that she does not recover. He said the Board of Trade was taking steps to wrest the control of European oil fields from Germany and to wipe out German trade in England. Mr. Runciman asserted that the economic and commercial war between England and Germany must be fought to the finish even after armed hostilities have ceased. Herr Ballin is one of the closest friends and most trusted advisers of the Kaiser and is recognized as the head of the great overseas industries of Germany.

Von Mackensen is in Bulgaria

Evidently Not in Syria Getting Ready for Expedition Against Egypt.

London, Dec. 30.—A semi-official telegram received in Amsterdam from Sofia, Bulgaria, states that Field Marshal Von Mackensen, the German commander, arrived at Sofia yesterday, according to a despatch to Reuter's Telegraph Company. After visiting the German and Austrian ministers to Bulgaria and King Ferdinand, the field marshal returned to headquarters. It was reported on Dec. 28, in news despatches, that Field Marshal Von Mackensen was directing preparations for a powerful expedition against Egypt.

Berlin Recognizes Carranza

By Special Wire to the Courier. Berlin, Dec. 30.—Germany has extended recognition to the de facto government of Mexico, headed by General Venustiano Carranza.

United States Objects to Seizure of Mail

It is Thought That British Government in Seizing Mail is Endeavoring to Recover Belgian Securities.

Washington, Dec. 30.—It was authoritatively learned last night that the state department is seriously considering the effect upon American rights of the seizure by the British government of American mail taken from steamships to and from this country, and will make representations to the British Government in these cases. It has not yet been determined whether these representations will take the form of an inquiry or of protest, but it is known to be the purpose of the state department to make representations, and if a protest is not made the communication will take the form of an inquiry to afford the British Government an opportunity to explain. Unofficial information has reached Washington to the effect that in making these seizures, the British Government is endeavoring to recover Belgian securities, which the German Government is understood to have sent by mail for delivery in this country to be hypothecated. While details concerning these securities, their extent or character could not be obtained, the statement that such securities were being mailed from Germany, and that the British Government was endeavoring to recover them by intercepting the mails, was obtained from an authoritative source. An equally interesting angle of the British mail seizures was the disclosure, here yesterday, that in quarters close to the German embassy fear is entertained that important diplomatic documents destined for Count Von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador at Washington, from the Berlin foreign office, may have been included in the batch of mail seized. Consul-General Skinner advised the state department from London published to-day that an official mail from two steamships bound from New York for Rotterdam. The British mail seizures are part of the general plan of the allies to isolate Germany from the rest of the world by every possible means.

Two Austrian Destroyers Sunk in a Sea Battle

Enemy Fleet Attempted to Bombard Durazzo, But Were Met Outside Cattaro and Driven Back.

Paris, Dec. 30.—Two Austrian torpedo boat destroyers have been sunk as the result of an encounter with sea forces of the Allies at a point outside of Cattaro, in the Adriatic. The purpose of the Austrian ships was to bombard Durazzo. An Allied squadron went to meet them with the remainder of the Austrian squadron was pursued by the warships of the Allies and compelled to flee towards the Austrian base. This information was contained in an official announcement of the French marine department given out to-day, which reads as follows: "An Austrian naval division, having come out from Cattaro for the purpose of bombarding Durazzo, certain squadrons of the Allies went forth to give battle. The Austrian torpedo boat destroyer Lika encountered a mine and was blown up. The destroyer, Triglav, of the same type, was destroyed by the fire from the ships of the Allies. The remaining warships of the enemy were pursued and fled in the direction of their base. "There have been several previous encounters of lesser importance than the one now reported in connection with Austrian attempts to interrupt transportation of Italian troops to Albania and of supplies for the Serbian forces, which have retorted to that country. Several supply ships have been sunk by Austrian warships. The destroyers Lika and Triglav were sister ships built in 1913. They were 266 feet long, of 787 tons displacement. Each was armed with two 3.9-inch guns, six 11-pounders and two torpedo tubes.

GOVERNMENT'S BILL TO GET NEW RECRUITS

A Day Will Be Fixed to Enlist, After Which Men Will Be Fetched.

London, Dec. 30.—The Daily Express to-day asserts that there is a group of at least three units in the cabinet led by the Earl of Selborne, president of the Board of Agriculture, who are likely to resign because Premier Asquith's plan for a modified form of conscription does not go far enough. These men contend that it is wrong to force all the single men to serve in the army when there is a large proportion of married men who could be spared more easily and that altogether the Premier's plan is a useless compromise, says the paper. The Express therefore anticipates a fair crop of resignations among the supporters of voluntary enlistments and the determined conscriptionists, but says that the resignations will not be serious enough to imperil the existence of the government. The paper also expresses the opinion that the Earl of Derby, director of recruiting will find a place in the reconstructed ministry. According to the Daily Sketch the government has a bill under consideration embodying the following method of securing recruits: When it is decided to call to the colors any attested group under the Derby's plan a day will be fixed for the men in that particular group to present themselves at a military depot. Until that day any unattested bachelors of the age stipulated for the group may volunteer for the army and any so volunteering will escape the stigma of compulsion, but all failing to volunteer on the stipulated day will be fetched.

One Result of Britain's Fine Navy

Berlin, via Amsterdam, Dec. 30. — (In Montreal Gazette)—The Vossische Zeitung in an article commenting on the food prices in Berlin shows that there has been a great increase in the cost of living in the German capital. The article says that the price of bacon has increased ninety-five per cent, while that of pigs has increased eighty per cent, mutton seventy per cent and veal sixty-five per cent.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY NOW AT LOGGERHEADS

Old Enmity Broke Out When Troops Entered Into Belgrade. PARLIAMENT IS DISCUSSING MATTER Count Tisza Claims Trouble Comes From Petty Acts of Juniors.

By Special Wire to the Courier. London, Dec. 30.—The Budapest correspondent of the Post in a letter published to-day states that the old enmity between Austria and Hungary has burst into a fresh flame and that even the pretense of unity, which had existed, has disappeared since the time when the Austrians offered the Hungarians by removing the Hungarian flag from a fortress at Belgrade. The seriousness of the present quarrels, the correspondent says are instigated by the parliamentary agitators of the independence party, which, despite the entreaties of the premier have been airing the Hungarian grievances. Herr Urmanczy, a leader of the independence party, in a recent speech declared that the advantages gained in the war were largely due to German generalship and Hungarian bravery, and added that Austrian generalship and martial spirit had nothing to do with them. If every one had done the same amount of work and shown the same heroism and sacrifice as the Hungarians they would by this time be enjoying peace, Urmanczy said. Although the Hungarians had won the praise of their arch enemies, the Italians, he said, the Austrians had shown no appreciation and they had to face continually the brutal behaviour of Austrian officers. The speaker continued to account some of these instances remarking that the Austrian communications always slighted the acts of Hungarian heroism and that Austrian officers deprecated and insulted the Hungarian troops. Count Tisza, the Hungarian premier, defending the Austrians replied that petty tricks of humiliation had not been committed by any one in the war, but by subalterns and he would see that they were reprimanded.

Mr. Taft Opposes Conscription

Does Not Favor It as Part of Military Policy of the United States.

By Special Wire to the Courier. Raonoko, Va., Dec. 30.—Former President Taft is firmly opposed to conscription as part of the military policy of the United States. He so expressed himself in an address here last night before the Women's Civic Betterment Club on "our world relations." Mr. Taft declared that such a policy is contrary to the spirit of the American people, adding that any political party that attempts to introduce it in time of peace, will soon have a great deal of seizure.

Take Island in Aegean

French Forces Have Captured Turkish Possession as a Naval Base.

By Special Wire to the Courier. Paris, Dec. 30.—French troops have occupied the Turkish Island of Castellorizo (Kasteloryzo) in the Aegean Sea, between the Island of Rhodes and the Gulf of Adalia, according to the morning papers in Paris. The possession of Castellorizo as a naval base is characterized as indispensable. Castellorizo is a small island of Asiatic Turkey, lying off the south coast of Asia Minor. It has an area of eleven square miles and is inhabited mainly by Greeks.

Great Accumulation of Material For Next Drive

By Special Wire to the Courier. New York, Dec. 30.—A cable to The Herald from London says: The three months since the sharp and successful allied offensive of late September have seen a remarkably rapid accumulation of reserve men and munitions on the western front in preparation for the next general advance. The expenditure in shell has been even less than it was during the summer, if conditions may be judged accurately from the official communications and aside from the activity at Hartmanns-Weilerkopf, where comparatively small forces are engaged, the men have been called on for little

DERBY CAMPAIGN RESULTS STATED ON WEDNESDAY

Premier Asquith Will Make Full Announcement Concerning It.

WHOLE NATION WILL APPROVE

Manchester Guardian, However, Says State is Prussianized.

By Special Wire to the Courier. New York, Dec. 30.—The London correspondent of The New York Herald this morning cables the following: "Mr. Asquith, the premier will make a complete statement of the result of the Derby recruiting campaign, in the House of Commons on next Wednesday and I am informed he will follow this with the presentation of a bill which compels the enlistment of those among half a million single men who are physically fit and who have refused to respond under the group system to the call of their king and country. Severe penalties will be imposed upon all single men who do not respond to this final call. APPEAL BY KING. That the sheep may be distinguished from the goats, the King has appealed through Lord Derby to all men who have been attested and by their act have proved their willingness to serve their nation, to wear the khaki armlet, British new badge of courage, to distinguish them from others who, having refused to respond to their country's call willingly, now are to be fetched out by the enforced service of all fit single men, which seems inevitable. This is as far apart as the poles from the general conscription policy demanded by Lord Northcliffe and his parliamentary puppets. Therefore, it would be supported by an overwhelming majority of labor and some Irish Nationalist members of parliament are expected to fall in line. The plotters who sought to oust the government and force a general election have been ignominiously defeated and there seems little doubt now that Mr. McKenna, Mr. Runciman and other anti-conscriptionists who have bitterly fought against the acceptance of anything akin to conscription will finally recognize the fact that the pledge of the prime minister to the married men must be honored, and, therefore, will remain in the cabinet to assist Mr. Asquith in achieving the one object of his life, the complete defeat of Germany. Lord Northcliffe's press shouts "victory" this morning, but the triumph really is with those men who support a solid alliance, to support all those who have been venomously attacked by his newspapers, to prevent chaos supplanting order and to win the war for Great Britain and her allies. A PROTEST. London, Dec. 30.—Although other Liberal organs seem to be at least resigned to the idea of compulsory military service, the Manchester Guardian, which is the most important provincial newspaper declares: "Nothing can be more unsatisfactory, or irrational, than the way in which the government appears to be drifting into a reversal of one of the greatest of national traditions and dividing the nation, hitherto so splendidly united. The Guardian accuses the conscriptionist party of seizing the opportunity presented by the war to give effect to a preconceived policy. This, it says, is being done without relation to the actual needs of war, but merely to bring about the triumph of an idea. "They have long held something not unlike the Prussian view of the state and desire to militarize us as Germany has been militarized."