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WEATHER—FAIR

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FRENCH MAKE FURTHER GAINS ON MEUSE; BRITISH FORCES RAID GERMAN TRENCHES; FURIOUS STORM DRIVES VESSELS ASHORE

FIERCE STORM CAUSES DEATH AND DISASTER ON SEA AND ON LAND

Halifax Hard Hit—Ocean Terminals Damaged, Steamer Stranded and Tug Lord Roberts Sunk—Several Vessels Ashore Near Parrsboro—Schooner Jennie A. Stubbs, Bound for St. John, Sunk—Buildings Demolished at Yarmouth.

PROBABLY NO LIVES LOST IN MARITIME PROVINCES—TWELVE DROWNED WHEN BARK STRIKES TREACHEROUS BAR OFF BARNEGAT — BOSTON FIVE - MASTED SCHOONER MARCUS L. URANN LOST WITH PART OF HER CREW—ENGLAND HARD HIT BY ANOTHER STORM AND MANY VESSELS IN TROUBLE —SNOW BLOCKADE IN MANY PART OF PROVINCE.

The most severe storm in many years swept over the North Atlantic seaboard on Friday and Saturday entailing very heavy losses to shipping and water front properties. The storm was particularly severe in New York, Boston, Halifax, St. John, Parrsboro, Yarmouth, Chatham, and other points in the Maritime Provinces. Probably the storm was at its worst at Halifax, where considerable damage was done to the new ocean terminals. A freight steamer at Kjalifax went ashore and the St. John towboat Lord Roberts sank at her moorings at the Nova Scotia capital.

In St. John some damage was done along the water front but happily the loss was not heavy.

Up the bay the St. John schooner Jost, a large three-master, went ashore at Spencer's Island but was refloated in a damaged condition. The Coral Reef, a schooner also well known in St. John, stranded near the same locality and is still ashore.

Two Sisters Ashore.

The schooner Two Sisters, from Economy, N. S., for St. John, with a cargo of deals, went ashore outside the Parrsboro lighthouse bar and is still ashore, rolling heavily in the surf, but will likely be floated in a damaged condition.

The schooner R. P. S., from Economy for St. John, was compelled to slip her anchors off Parrsboro, but made port safely. The anchors will likely be recovered.

Jennie A. Stubbs Sunk.

The three-masted schooner Jennie A. Stubbs, coal laden, from New York for St. John, sank in Bliss Harbor, N. B. The crew escaped.

At Yarmouth a building was blown into the harbor and another demolished. The lobster men there lost their traps. The steamer Prince George from Boston had a terrific struggle with the elements and was many hours late reaching port.

The storm was very severe on the North Shore; trains were from 4 to 5 hours late, lighting systems were disabled and on the Miramichi river the smelt fishermen lost nearly all their equipment.

At Chatham two men were marooned on the ice in the river by the storm for nearly three hours, one of them falling into a hole, but escaping.

Quite a number of marine disasters occurred in the United States, the most serious of which was the loss of a Brazilian bark off Barnegat on the New Jersey coast. Twelve of the crew were drowned.

Another storm devastated the English coast and numerous disasters occurred. The big Boston five-masted schooner Marcus L. Urann foundered at sea near the Madeira Islands, part of her crew perishing.

PETROGRAD ROUMANIAN CAPITAL

Berlin, Dec. 17, via Sayville.—The correspondent at Stockholm of the Lokal Anzeiger telegraphs that during the meeting of the last Roumanian council it was resolved that the Roumanian foreign office should be transported to Petrograd, the other ministries for the present being established at Kiev. The Roumanian parliament, it is reported, will meet at Petrograd.

King Ferdinand is said to have declared that he would stay one week in Russia, and then go to England.

London, Dec. 17.—The Boston five-masted schooner Marcus L. Urann, of 1,899 tons, has been abandoned in a waterlogged condition, according to a despatch from St. Michael's, Azores, to Lloyd's. The despatch adds that three of the crew have been landed at St. Michael's. The remainder were drowned.

PEERAGE FOR SIR M. X. AITKEN, N. B. MAN

London, Dec. 17.—The king has conferred a peerage on Sir William Maxwell Aitken and the Right Hon. Charles B. Stuart-Wortley, members of parliament, respectively, for Ashton-Under-Lyne and the Hallam division of Sheffield. Thus two Unionist seats in the house are vacated for members of the new cabinet. Sir William Aitken was formerly official eye-witness with the Canadian troops. He was born in Newcastle, N. B., and was knighted in 1911.

PARLIAMENT MAY OPEN ON JAN. 25

Special to The Standard.
Ottawa, Dec. 17.—The date tentatively decided upon for the opening of parliament is January 25. The question is now largely in the hands of Sir Thomas White who is busy with those matters which affect the budget. In these days the budget is brought down early in the session which is a change from the old practice.

TWELVE LOST IN SHIP WREK OFF BARNEGAT

New York, Dec. 17.—The Brazilian bark Nothits, with 12 men on board, was lost during the snowstorm Friday night off Barnegat, on the New Jersey coast, according to Captain Morroes of the tug Garibaldi, which arrived here late today. The Nothits was in tow of the Garibaldi on her way here from Maranhao, Brazil, to be converted into a steam vessel.

D. A. R. FREIGHT SHED AT WINDSOR BURNED

Windsor, N. S., Dec. 17.—Fire today destroyed the Dominion Atlantic Railway freight shed, and three cars of freight at Windsor, N. S. The loss is estimated at \$20,000.

WAR MUST GO ON SAYS PREMIER

Lloyd George Tomorrow will Give Germany to Understand that Britain will Continue Struggle.

GERMANY DOES NOT WANT WAR TO STOP?

Labor Members Believe War Should Continue—Stephen Walsh Thinks Allies Should Make Position Clear.

London, Dec. 17.—The Weekly Dispatch says:

"Premier Lloyd George next Tuesday probably will roughly define the Entente Allies peace terms, and will leave Germany under no doubt concerning our determination to prosecute the war with the utmost vigor until a victory which will make these terms possible has been secured."

Huns Want More Fight?

London, Dec. 17.—Telegraphing from Copenhagen the correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company quotes the Frankfurter Zeitung as saying: "Germany does not want a cessation of fighting, but merely a conference at which all the belligerents shall openly state their peace proposals. A conference will be held at The Hague about Jan. 15. While the conference is in session all the belligerents will be allowed to continue military operations."

War Must Go On.

London, Dec. 17.—Lloyd's Weekly News publishes specially written statements on the subject of the German peace offer by four representative labor leaders—Stephen Walsh, M. P., representative of the Lancashire miners; James O'Grady, chairman of the general federation of trades unions; C. B. Stanton, M. P., for Merthyr Tydfil, and Lieut. Colonel John Ward, commander of the Navvies Battalion.

All declare that the war must continue until the conditions laid down by Premier Asquith and Lloyd George are achieved, but Walsh, in addition, contends that the Allies should take the opportunity to make their position clear to the world.

London, Dec. 17.—Another fire occurred in Summerside last night, \$12,000 damage was done. George Godkin, jeweler; Percy Enman, druggist; Harry Allen, dentist, were burned out. Bruce McKay & Company's store was slightly damaged.

SUFFRAGETTES GET BUSY ONCE MORE

London, Dec. 17.—Sylvia Pankhurst, the militant suffragette, and a number of sympathizers, endeavored to hold a "demonstration" at the East India dock gates this afternoon to demand peace. A big crowd assembled and mobbed the speakers.

THE SCHOONER TWO SISTERS GOES ASHORE

Schooner Jost, Owned in St. John, Runs Ashore—Coral Leaf Loses Part of Her keel.

Special to The Standard.
Parrsboro, N. S., Dec. 17.—The schooner Jost, owned by R. C. Elkin & Co., of St. John, from Port Williams for Havana with a cargo of potatoes, dragged ashore at Spencer's Island in the gale last night. She floated this morning and was taken to a place where she will be safe, but there has been no opportunity for a thorough examination.

The schooner Two Sisters, Captain George, from Economy for St. John with deals, went ashore last night outside the lighthouse bar and has been pounded heavily. It is feared she is badly damaged. The tern schooner Coral Leaf, Captain Spicer, which lost anchors and chains at Spencer's Island and was towed to Parrsboro after being beached shows that part of her main keel forward and part of her false keel aft have been carried away and that she has received minor damage. She will be taken to Port Greville, have cargo discharged and be repaired. The Coral Leaf was bound from Port Greville to the United Kingdom with 324 thousand feet of deals shipped by J. Newton Pugsley. All these schooners are well known in St. John.

HEAVY ATTACKS ON CROWN PRINCE'S ARMY

Germans Being Forced Back by French in Meuse Sector of Verdun Front—Village of Bezonaux Captured—British Have Also Made Progress and Successfully Raid German Trenches.

C. G. R. SYSTEM CLOSING ITS BEST YEAR

Splendid Management and War Traffic Strong Aids to The People's Railways.

The people of the Maritime Provinces in general will be pleased to know that the Canadian Government Railway system is closing the best calendar year in its history.

It is generally known that the traffic last year showed a large increase, and the minister will be able to present to parliament a statement showing a large surplus, with the prospect of still better things for the current year.

War Traffic Heavy.

Of course the war traffic is abnormal and it may be considered the part of wisdom to devote this surplus to such improvements in the track and additions to the rolling stock as will meet any possible developments of the future. The greatest difficulty for some time past has been in getting locomotives and cars for moving the traffic, but General Manager Gutelius and his staff have been untiring in their efforts to accommodate the patrons of the road. Every locomotive has been worked to its capacity and while there has been some delay to freight there has been no blockade as on many of the company roads on this continent.

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IN ROUMANIA, ARMY OF FIELD MARSHAL VON MACKENSEN CONTINUES TO FORCE BACK KING FERDINAND'S MEN AND THE RUSSIANS —ENORMOUS QUANTITY OF STORES CAPTURED BY TEUTONIC FORCES IN ROUMANIA.

The French are continuing their great offensive in the Meuse sector of the Verdun front, and have made further gains. The British also have made progress, and succeeded in Saturday night's engagements, in raiding enemy trenches near Ransart and southwest of Wyszchete, gaining a foothold in both cases. The German war office admits the loss to the French of the village of Bezonaux and a wood to the west of that place, but asserts that the French thrust further to the northward broke down before the German fire on a height north of Bezonaux.

The new French lines at Vacherauville and Bezonaux and in the Chambrette Farm region have been heavily bombarded by the German guns. North of the Ancre river, in the Somme sector, British detachments attempted to enter German trenches, but were repulsed.

Roumanians Still Retreat.
The Teutonic armies under Field Marshal Von Mackensen in Eastern Wallachia have crossed the Buzeu and Lower Calmatul rivers, and in addition to taking 1,150 prisoners, captured great quantities of rolling stock, with innumerable vehicles of other kinds. The pursuit of the Russian and Roumanian troops in Dobrudja continues, and the Teutonic forces are now close to the forest district in the north, where it is expected the Russo-Roumanian armies will offer a still resistance. Petrograd admits the capture by the Germans and Bulgarian forces of the village of Testnele, in Dobrudja.

Stormed Russians.
Desperate encounters marked the fighting in Volhynia, where the forces of Prince Leopold are declared by the Berlin war office to have stormed Russian positions on a front of 600 yards north of the railroad between Kovel and Lutsk, capturing five officers, 300 men and several machine guns and mine throwers. A thrust by the Russians near Ilusk was repulsed. This result was accomplished only after three desperate attacks, according to Petrograd.

Southwest of Valeputna in the wooded Carpathians, the Russians, after repelling an attack by large German forces at the point of the bayonet, captured a height.

More active artillery bombardments marked the fighting in the Austro-Italian theatre. These and patrol engagements are the only events announced from this sector.

The government of Schleswig, Prussia, has declared civil conscription of school boys, according to a despatch from Copenhagen. The boys will be used for railroad and similar work.

Successful Raid.
London, Dec. 17.—The official report from British headquarters in France issued tonight reads: "Last night a party of our troops successfully raided the enemy's trenches near Ransart, inflicting a number of casualties and bombing his dugouts. We also entered the enemy's trenches southwest of Wyszchete, where we destroyed machine gun emplacements.

"The enemy blew up a camouflaged trench morning east of Ypres."

British Advance.
London, Dec. 16.—The British army on the Tigris front, which assumed the offensive on Wednesday, has made a further advance. An official statement given out here today says the British are now within three-quarters of a mile of the Tigris, opposite Kut El-Amara.

"During Thursday the initial advantage secured by the operations of the previous night was steadily improved," the statement says, "our forces advancing northwards by both banks of the Hal river, and the British outpost being established within three quarters of a mile of the Tigris south of Kut."

Saturday's Summary.
London, Dec. 16.—The official report from British headquarters in France tonight reads: "A small party of the enemy, who last night approached our trenches north of Hill 60 in the Ypres salient in an endeavor to bomb them was caught by our artillery barrage, and no attempt was made to enter our trenches.

"There was some artillery activity during the night north of the Ancre and north of Ypres.

"Today we carried out a bombardment of the enemy's trenches north of Hulluch and east of Neuve Chapelle."

French Statement.
Paris, Dec. 16, 10.35 p. m.—The bulletin on the campaign issued by the war office tonight reads: "On the right bank of the Meuse our troops continued their success. They progressed toward the Caurleres Wood and captured the village of Bezonaux yesterday. At the close of the day a violent German attack directed against our positions on Cote Du Poivre (Peper Hill), was brought up short by our fire.

"We have maintained, in its entirety, our new front. Prisoners continue to be brought back, the number exceeding 9,000, of which 250 are officers. The enumeration of the material which has fallen into our hands has not yet been completed, but the computation shows that up to the present 81 guns have been taken or destroyed. "The usual cannonade has occurred on the rest of the front."

Belgian communication: "The day was calm."

Gen. Nivelle Talks.
Paris, via London, Dec. 17.—Gen. Nivelle, recently appointed commander of the armies of the north and northeast, was present with Gen. Petain, commander of the French forces in the Soissons-Verdun sector, in the successful operations on December 15th north of Verdun, both having collaborated in the preparation. Upon leaving Verdun for his new headquarters Gen. Nivelle, in taking leave of his staff, spoke as follows: "The test is conclusive; our method has proved sound. Once more the second army has just asserted, in the highest degree, its morale and majestic ascendancy over the enemy. Victory is certain; I give you assurance. Germany will fire it to her cost."

German Fire Heavily.
Paris, Dec. 17.—The bulletin issued by the war office tonight reads: "On the right bank of the Meuse the enemy artillery, counter-shelled by us, bombarded our new lines at Vacherauville and Bezonaux, and notably in the sector of the Chambrette Farm. "There was intermittent cannonading on the rest of the front."

Paris, Dec. 17.—Portuguese troops, intended for service with the French troops in France according to a quotation in La Patrie from the Portuguese official journal, will be called the Portuguese expeditionary corps. It will be under the command of Generals Tamagn and Ameda D'Ecra. The latter is a former governor of Angola, and is reputed to be an able strategist.

New York, Dec. 17.—Fourteen teams of the fastest bicycle riders in the world were entered for the mid-night start in the twenty-fourth annual six day race here tonight in Madison Square Garden.