

TEUTONS AGAINST BOLSHEVIKI

Seek to Intrigue With Members of Constituent Assembly Strive to Discredit Maximalists Before Country

Overtures to De Facto Government Having Failed, Teutons Seek to Place Upon Bolsheviki Responsibility For Collapse of Peace Plans--Intriguing Now With Foes of Bolsheviki

By Courier Leased Wire.

London, Jan. 5--Pending the resumption of conferences at Brest-Litovsk to-day no fresh developments are reported from Russia regarding the peace negotiations. Special dispatches from Petrograd reports attempts by the German delegates at Petrograd to make some sort of a clandestine agreement with the members of the Constituent Assembly.

The correspondent of the Daily News says that the Germans are trying through a neutral diplomat to get into communication with members of the Assembly. Their object is obvious, he adds, as the parties opposed to the Bolsheviki are quite ready to profit by the Bolsheviki refusal to make peace and to tell the people that the Bolsheviki promised them peace, but gave them war.

ASSEMBLY LIKELY EASIER CATSPAW.

The version of the correspondent of The Daily Mail is that the Germans have putting pressure, direct or indirect, upon the government in connection with the summoning of a Constituent Assembly, as the Germans have been making it pretty obvious that they are unwilling to recognize the Bolsheviki as representatives of a majority of the people or even as temporary trustees of the sovereign power. The Daily News dispatch expresses fear that Germany will find the Constituent Assembly more amicable than the Bolsheviki in regard to the making of peace and quotes Foreign Minister Trotzky as saying that the bourgeois are prepared to give away half the country if they can obtain control of the government of the other half. Regarding the attitude of the Ukraine towards the Germans, The Daily News says that the Rada is willing to strike a bargain with the Germans. The Petrograd correspondent of The Times, who is now in London writes that the Ukrainians are determined to send a mission to Brest-Litovsk, not to negotiate a separate peace, but to ascertain Germany's intentions towards little Russia. The Germans are willing, he says, to recognize the Rada on the basis that the Ukraine supply Germany with food stuffs and recognize German economic interests in the Ukraine. Neither of these points, the correspondent adds are to Little Russian taste, but if the Allies fail to help the Ukrainians or adopt a peace compromise with the Bolsheviki, the Rada may have to yield and the Cossacks too.

Fighting in South. Newspapers in Petrograd continue to report fighting in the south, where, according to the correspondent of The Times, civil war is raging fast and furious. In several places there are reported to have been scenes of fierce fighting. These include Ekaterinopol, where it is said fighting already has lasted five days. However, as communication south and east from Petrograd is precarious at the best, the reports convey little information. The Austro-German delegations in Petrograd profess to have information that the allies have decided to break relations with Russia. Perhaps this is the reason why the officials of the British embassy have taken pains to assure Trotzky that the departure of Sir George Buchanan is purely on account of ill health and that he would have left last March had not the persuasions of former Foreign Minister Terestchenko, Trotzky was told that the other members of the embassy have no intention of

leaving Petrograd at present. F. O. Lindley, councillor of the embassy, remains in charge of the embassy. Amidst the whirl of events involving the fate of the nation, the Bolsheviki Government has found time to decree that Russia shall adopt phonetic spelling on January 14. Three vowels and one consonant were eliminated from the

WEATHER BULLETIN Toronto, Jan. 5--The Atlantic storm is dispersing over the Maritime provinces, and a disturbance now in Texas is likely to move across the middle states. The weather continues cold in Ontario and Quebec, and is becoming colder again in the western provinces. Easterly winds, mostly fair and moderately cold to-day and on Sunday; light local snow falls.

AUSTRIANS, WEARY OF WAR AND NEAR STARVATION HAVE LITTLE SPIRIT TO RESIST FRANCO-ITALIANS

AUSTRALIAN PREMIER TO FORM NEW CABINET

"Nationalist Party Will Retain Hughes at Its Head, And Commission Him to Form a New Ministry"

By Courier Leased Wire. Melbourne, Jan. 4--The Nationalist party, having decided that in its opinion, it was to the best interests of the country and the Empire that Premier Hughes be retained as leader of the party, it is expected the Premier will be commissioned to form a new Ministry. There probably will be only few changes. The decision of the party was reached at a meeting to-day at which the Premier indicated that, in fulfillment of its pledge to retire if the referendum should go against conscription, the Ministry probably would resign in the immediate future.

Men of Fifty and Boys of Eighteen Fought Side by Side in the Enemy Ranks at Monte Tomba; Ragged and Unkempt, Prisoners Complain of Being Kept in Fight by Germany

By Courier Leased Wire. Italian army headquarters in northern Italy, Friday, Jan. 4--(By The Associated Press)--The officer commanding the 1400 Austrian prisoners captured in the recent French success on Monte Tomba, gave the correspondent an opportunity to-day of going among them and talking freely with officers and men on war conditions and what the enemy still could do in carrying on the struggle.

A more miserable lot of human beings would be difficult to imagine. The officers were in even worse condition than the men. Their clothing was ragged and the tinselled ornamentation on the uniforms was gangrened with rust. The officers were unkempt and had not been shaved for a week. Their red hands looked like pieces of raw beefsteak. None had overcoats as all were wearing light trench uniforms when the French swept around them. Yet, despite this misery, they put on a surprisingly bold front and anyone thinking they are crushed, is closing his eyes to facts.

The correspondent met the prisoners on a road leading to the town where they are being rounded up, preparatory to being set to work or sent to a prison camp. Small detachments were stretched along the road for some distance, each group being guarded by French soldiers. One detachment carried spades and picks instead of guns.

All ages were seen among the prisoners. There was a boy of 13 and a man of 50 with a grey beard. A coating of trench mud made them look worse than they really were, for they had stout boots, leggings and overcoats. Some had shawls and blankets. Their headgear consisted of battered helmets and caps with heavy hoods.

They tramped along sullenly to large courtyards, where food was being distributed. Each man got a small tin of meat and a large chunk of bread. The correspondent tasted the bread and found it better in quality than he had been getting in first class restaurants. The prisoners ate like ravenous animals and said it was the best food they had had in weeks. The correspondent was told by the prisoners that the method of the French attack was an entirely new experience for them as they seldom had undergone such murderous artillery fire. Most of the men were Moravians, Dalmatians and Galicians. The sudden French charge after the artillery fire bowled them over before they had a chance to offer resistance. Concerning the war, they all expressed themselves as heartily sick of it and said that the Germans were keeping the others in the fight.

As the officers came from their quarters it was seen they were chiefly Hungarian, with some Moravians and Dalmatians and one Galician. They were very cold and their first request was for warm food. "We have not had warm food for days," said their spokesman, a stocky young Dalmatian officer. "And our own French soldiers did not have warm food for nine days after they arrived here," said the commandant. He explained that fuel was almost impossible to get, and without coal and wood hot food was out of the question. The commandant told the officers that if they had a soldier-barber he would be permitted to come and shave them and clean their boots and uniforms. Asked about the war, the officers gave America's entry into it as an instance that all the world was against the Central Powers. One officer said the food supply was running low, but it was better off in Hungary than Austria. They thought, however, that Austria-Hungary could hang on. Asked about the rugged condition of their uniforms, one officer said: "Yes we are ragged and look like rumps, but what does that count in fighting?"

The officers were very anxious to know when they would be removed to prison camps in France and seemed gratified to learn that they probably would go through Paris within two weeks. After taking turns in getting warm around the camp fire, the officers returned to their quarters. A German artillery officer, who was captured with the Austrians, was given quarters by himself, but the commandant said that another German would soon arrive to keep

MEN CALLED TO COLORS WERE ALL ON HAND THIS MORNING

Draftees Reported in Good Time at the Armories Where Two Hundred and Fifty Troops are Now Quartered

Courier Leased Wire. Approximately two hundred and fifty troops are now quartered at the armories, and once more the streets of Brantford resound to the tramp of armed men. Early this morning, the first of the draftees to be summoned to the colors under the Military Service Act began to appear at the armories, and by half past eight when Captain Fogarty, company commander of "A" company was in readiness to receive them, the stream of recruits was rapidly growing larger. So eager were some of the men not to contravene the summons to report that they put in an appearance at the armories last night, and ascended the routine through which they would be required to pass to-day. Immediately the men reported, their names were taken, and in groups of from ten to twenty were marched to the old post office on Dalhousie street, where the quartermaster's headquarters are established, and here they were fitted out and marched back to the armories. All necessary arrangements have been made for the care of the men, and the tubercle building on Evans Avenue, although not in complete readiness for the care of the 700 men who will be quartered here during the winter, was in such a state of preparedness as to efficiently accommodate the 250 men who reported to-day. At one o'clock the mid-day meal was served, and generally may be classified as plain but substantial--ideal soldiers' fare--and no man left the building hungry. The menu as announced by the chief cook this morning, comprised beef stew, mashed potatoes, peas, parsnips, bread and butter and coffee. To-night the men will sit down to a bill of fare including soup, bread and butter, cheese, jam and tea. The meals will vary on successive days, and tomorrow there will probably be roast beef or meat pie.

SEED POTATOES FOR FARMERS

Government Plans to Place Ontario in Front Ranks As Producer FREE DISTRIBUTION

Provincial Farms in North to be Utilized in Growing Proper Varieties

Potato growing by the Ontario government on a large scale on the provincial farms at Fort William and Burwash, New Liskeard and Montetah, to secure high class seed for distribution among Northern farmers as a foundation for great seed-potato industry. Distribution in the North at cost, less freight of high-class standard seed potatoes from New Brunswick. Distribution to 1,000 farmers in older Ontario of seed grown in New Brunswick, Northern Ontario and older Ontario, for experimental purposes. Co-ordination of all experimental work with staff of inspectors to ensure production only of disease-free seed potatoes. These are the salient features of a comprehensive policy about to be put into effect under the direction of the Department of Agriculture, to bring the Province of Ontario into the front rank as a potato producer. The policy was drafted yesterday at a meeting of the new Advisory Potato Council of Ontario, and steps have already been taken to secure from New Brunswick several carloads of high-class seed for distribution among growers. The steps taken by the council are closely related to the work done by the recent conference of potato experts and growers in recommending the establishment for Ontario of two standard potatoes, "Irish Cobbler" and "Green Mountain," with an adequate system of grading. In carrying out these recommendations the Advisory Council will devote its efforts to the production and distribution of Irish Cobbler and Green Mountain seed only. Their work, according to Mr. Justus Miller, Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture, will take two general directions--the development in Northern Ontario of a good seed-producing industry and educational propaganda to promote the use in older Ontario of Northern-grown seed. The development of a seed potato industry in the north is held to be essential not only for the value of such an industry to the north, but because northern seed is necessary to potato growers in older Ontario. A party of more age experts connected with the Department of Agriculture and the O. A. C. began to inquire into reasons for Ontario's disappointing production. They had the assistance of Dominion pathologists, and the conclusion was arrived at that the climate of Lower Ontario was not adapted to seed raising, that replanting of potatoes grown locally meant a gradual diminution in vitality and loss in production. On the other hand Northern Ontario presented ideal conditions for seed potato growing, and the experts then began to lay plans to make the north the seed granary for older Ontario and to carry out at the same time the long-delayed standardization of Ontario potatoes.

BANQUET FOR G.W.V.A.

Over one hundred and fifty war veterans made merry last night in an evening's program of pleasure, including a theatre party at the Brant Theatre, followed by a sumptuous supper provided by the Women's Patriotic League in the G.W.V.A. Home.

The banquet was beyond doubt the most important feature of the entertainment and the assembly rooms at the "Home" were crowded to capacity by the returned men who sat around daintily decorated tables, well laden with tributes from the members of the W.P.L. The supper was one long to be remembered and was one of the best fraternal gatherings that the soldiers have had since their return from overseas.

H.C.I. NEEDS COAL. On Monday the Collegiate Institute in common with the Public schools of the city, will be re-opened. Principal Bart stated to The Courier this morning that the coal situation was anything but encouraging insofar as that institution of learning is concerned. Under ordinary wear conditions, there are three or four weeks supply of fuel on hand, but the present conditions are not conducive to extending the time limit of coal bins, and students may only be assured of keeping warm for the next ten days or two weeks, unless the existing shortage is relieved.

THE MERCHANTS CORNER

W. L. Douglas, had a small shoe manufacturing plant and he was struggling hard to make both ends meet--then a bright idea struck him. He started to advertise. That was many years ago, and he is still plugging at it. Advertising productivity and quality of product made W. L. Douglas known wherever shoes are worn--and incidentally made Douglas a several times millionaire. That it pays to advertise during the summer has been amply proved by the Union Light and Power Co. of St. Louis, Mo. In the months of June, July and August the Company in 1917, gained 1000 customers per month net, a great business over gains during summers when they did not advertise.



"Zimmie"

Harvey... Digntly... Sailors' Fund... Motor... Baggage... Service... Garage... DEAD... Mrs. ...