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BERLIN ADMITS THAT THE ALLIES HAVE ASSUMED OFFENSIVE IN THE WEST

Fierce Fighting Along The Yser Canal Reported--General Forward Movement--Germans Hope to Invest Warsaw

London, Dec. 8.—Berlin admits that the allies have assumed the offensive in France and Belgium, but does not indicate that the movement has yet grown to formidable proportions.

The reports are in partial agreement with latest official French communications, which however, tend to show that the forward movement of the allies is being attempted at points all along the line.

Berlin is already looking toward the possible investment of Warsaw, as a result of the capture of Lodz. It is reported unofficially in Berlin that 100,000 Russians were captured at Lodz.

In the Balkans, Austria's armies apparently have met with checks in their operations, which recently have been attended with marked success.

FIERCE FIGHTING AGAIN ON YSER

Amsterdam, via London, Dec. 8.—According to telegrams from Sluis, Holland, fierce fighting has been resumed on the Yser. The Germans, according to the same despatches, are taking renewed precautions against the bombardment of Zebrugge by British warships.

Windows and balconies in the houses at the seaside there are being provided with sand bags and machine guns in order to repel to such an attack.

SERVIANS VICTORY

Nish, Servia, Dec. 8.—(via London)—The Servian victory on December 5 on the northeastern front is further emphasized in the Servian official statement today which says:

"The enemy was overwhelmed and had to retire in disorder. In pursuit, we took six officers and 1,810 men prisoners. We captured two batteries and nine other guns, and also abundance, many rifles, and telegraphic material."

GERMANY BUSY MAKING DENIALS

Berlin, Dec. 7.—(By wireless to Sydney, L. 1.—Dec. 8)—An official of the general staff says that a report from Rome stating that the French near Ypres, Belgium, had captured a whole corps of German aviators, is absolutely unfounded. The London report that aviators belonging to the Russian army had bombed the Krupp factory at Essen, also is denied.

The Russian statement contained in the official communication of November 28, that the German attack near Czestochowa had failed with heavy losses, is declared to be untrue. On the contrary, it is said, the 17th Russian army corps, which was met in this attack, was defeated on November 29, and suffered extremely heavy losses. The Russian official declared, left a large number of killed and wounded on the battlefield and were forced to retreat.

It is said that the situation in the western battlefield shows little change; but the allies are said to have made a few attacks, but these have been repulsed. News of decisive results in the west is expected here. The latest reports from headquarters assert that every-thing is proceeding according to plan, and this is taken here to mean operations thus far have been successful. If the investment of Warsaw had resulted from the present operations, the Russians would lose their most important railway communication.

AY MANY RUSSIANS TAKEN AT LODZ

London, Dec. 8.—A Central News despatch from Amsterdam says that according to a message from Berlin, it is reported there that upwards of 100,000 prisoners were taken by the Germans last night. News of the capture of Lodz, Russian Poland, is also reported. The despatch says, aroused extraordinary enthusiasm at Berlin. The houses were decked with German and Austrian flags. No official report has as yet been received concerning the number of prisoners and guns captured.

SAVE CANADA TOUGHT FOR RUSSIA

London, Ont., Dec. 8.—Nine local Russian reservists left for Archangel via Philadelphia and Philadelphia.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service.

Synopsis—The Atlantic disturbance now passing to the southward of Nova Scotia, causing gales and snow in maritime provinces. Light snow has occurred in many portions of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Forecast—Increasing north to northwest winds, generally fair and moderately cold.

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German Prisoners at Halifax Bore Way To Freedom Through Stone Wall, But Caught Again

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 8.—Seven German prisoners of Melville Island cut their way to freedom last night, but liberty from the grey walls of the prison building was short.

They were in custody a few hours after gaining their freedom, and their capture was a great relief to the military authorities. They were recaptured by military doing duty at the outposts, near Bedford and Windsor Junction. They had escaped by boring a hole through a stone wall.

MISS FRANCES HAZEN TO OPEN THE NEW DOCK

Will Cut Large Ribbon Spanning Mouth of Basin

PREMIER TO BE HERE

Hon. Mr. Hazen and Hon. Mr. Rogers Also—Mr. Bosworth to Represent C. P. P.—Elaborate Preparations For the Ceremony

The new government dock at West St. John will be formally opened on Thursday afternoon, when Miss Frances Hazen, daughter of the minister of marine and fisheries, from the prow of the government steamer Curlew, will cut a broad white ribbon which will form a barrier stretching from one side to the other at the mouth of the dock.

There will be some slight changes in the plans for the opening, as already announced. Sir Thomas Shannon, who has received an urgent call to Vancouver, and is sending G. M. Bosworth, vice-president of the C. P. P., in his place. Premier Sir R. L. Borden will be present also to Hon. J. D. Hazen and Hon. Robert Rogers. It was reported that Mr. Rogers might be unable to attend, but the committee has no objections to this effect.

The Plans To welcome the distinguished visitors, the men who have been employed in the construction of the works, about 600 of them, will be invited to the ceremony. The new dock, headed by the Carleton Comet Band, will parade to the station. From the station they will escort the ministers to Hon. Mr. Hazen's residence, and then march down before disembarking.

At one o'clock the visitors will be the guests of the Board of Trade at luncheon in the Union Club. Preparations are being made for sixty covers.

After the luncheon the C. P. P., Curlew and the Maritime Trading Company's tug will be at the wharves to take the party across the harbor leaving the side at three o'clock. The Curlew will lead the way, and when she approaches the new dock Miss Hazen will sever the barrier of ribbon and thus open the dock. This will be the signal for the contractors, who will hand over the docks to the department of marine and fisheries for operation. J. M. Robinson of the Board of Trade will preside and speeches will be made by him, by the members of the cabinet, the representative of the C. P. P., and the city and others.

The special train will leave West St. John at 4:30 to bring the guests back to the city.

As soon as the dock is opened, and the ceremonies are concluded, the C. P. P. will dock one of their new steamers there, and probably another the next day. It is probable that the new dock will be reserved this winter for the shipment of supplies for the imperial authorities, and a large quantity of such supplies is already on hand awaiting shipment.

ASH BARREL AFIRE An ash barrel in an outhouse near Charles Brown's residence in Mecklenburg street caught fire this morning and an alarm was rung in from box 42. The fire was extinguished without the aid of the department.

CARLETON PROPERTY MATTER John Lee, John Spicer and Herbert Ramsay, reported by the police for having erected a wooden fence facing Charlotte street, but it was removed by the city when they raised the street a short time ago.

Commissioner Potts said that the city had previously erected the wall, but was not willing to swear to it. The case was adjourned for a week to give the property owners a chance to arrange with the city for the building of a wall. The place is now declared dangerous, as the street is higher than the lot. The defendants said they were willing to comply with the law, but thought the fence was theirs, as they had bought the property with the fence round it.

THIRTY-FOUR MEN ARE LOST AS BRITISH STEAMER DRIVES ASHORE AND GASOLINE CARGO TAKES FIRE

The Vidra, From Texas Port, Wrecked Near Barrow -- Only Two Men Saved and They Severely Burned

Barrow via London, Dec. 8.—The British steamer Vidra, from Fort Arthur, Texas, with a cargo of gasoline, went ashore near here this morning in a heavy gale. The cargo ignited and of the crew of thirty-six men on board, the Vidra only two were saved, and they were severely burned.

The Vidra left Port Arthur for London on November 13 and passed Norfolk on the 21st. She was reported as passing Tuskar in the Irish Sea, which would indicate that she had changed her destination and was bound for some port on the coast of England.

The Vidra was under command of Captain Brewster. She was built in 1893 at Sunderland, England, was of 4,057 tons and belonged to the Associated Oil Carriers Company of London.

Rifle Company To Join The Fusiliers Plan For Captain Tilley's Men To Enroll as Members of the 62nd

The indications are that in a few days the 62nd Fusiliers' ranks will be increased by some 120 volunteers who now form the membership of the Canadian Rifle Company No. 1, under Captain L. P. D. Tilley.

ENTHUSIASM DIED OUT AS TIME SLIPPED BY

Sale of Sacks Which Contained Flour Sent by Canada to Motherland

London, Dec. 8.—The distribution of empty sacks which had contained the Canadian gift of flour will begin this week. The sacks are being sold as souvenirs at five shillings each, the proceeds being divided between the National Relief and the Belgian Relief funds.

Some applicants expected to get a full sack of flour for their five shillings, and their money was returned to them, but most of them renounced again.

Various uses will be made of the sacks. Several teachers propose to use them in giving their pupils object lessons in patriotism and geography, others will make pillow covers of them for home or hospital use, and still others will use them in various ways.

NOW IS MAGISTRATE L. A. Conlon Takes Oath Of Office as Lancaster Stipendiary

Leonard A. Conlon, recently appointed stipendiary magistrate for the parish of Lancaster, was sworn in this morning. The oath of office was administered by B. L. Gow, the clerk of the peace. It is expected that the Lancaster civil court will be held on Wednesday morning of each week.

SENDER HOME \$2.30 EVERY YEAR FOR VICTORIA HOSPITAL

Frederick, Dec. 8.—Attorney-General Clarke is here on departmental business. At a meeting of the Victoria Hospital trustees yesterday it was announced that an annual donation of \$200 from Henry D. Yoxon of Boston had been received. Mr. Yoxon was formerly of Keewick. He has long been one of the benefactors of the institution.

OFFICERS NOT YET NAMED

Another day has gone and there is still no announcement as to the selection of officers for the 26th Infantry Regiment. There is no definite word, either as to the selection of officers for the artillery, despite announcements in a Halifax paper naming some. The only appointments made thus far are some in the ammunition column already published in The Times.

COMMON COUNCIL

LARGER ARMY; MORE WAR VESSELS FOR JAPAN

Tokio, Dec. 8.—Japan's budget for the coming year shows estimated expenditures of \$36,000,000 yen (\$375,000,000), and a decrease in the revenue of \$40,800,000. The war has caused a decrease of \$8,500,000 in the customs.

King on Field of Battle Where The Britons So Gallantly Fought

Visit To The Fighting Ground Near Ypres

KIND AGT OF PRINCE OF WALES His Majesty's Stirring Words to Brave Troops in Order of The Day Issued by Him -- Airmen on Guard Above Sovereign Throughout Stay at Firing Line

London, Dec. 8.—The official bureau has issued a detailed description, by the eye witness at British headquarters, telling of the king's visit to the troops at the front.

"One day the king went to a commanding point from which a good view of the battle field could be obtained. The air was extraordinarily clear and His Majesty had an excellent view.

"Far away to the right, rose the tall chimneys and factory buildings of Lille and Roubaix. In front stretched a ridge which had been the scene of some of the most desperate fighting and along it the still smoking ruins of villages showed up black and desolate. To the left rose the town of Ypres, amid which the cloth hall and cathedral were easily distinguishable. The extent of the damage done by the Germans could be seen by the roofless nave of the hall and the gaping holes in the tower.

"Even while the king was watching several howitzer shells burst into the town, to the east of the city he saw the woods which were the scene of the fiercest struggles ever waged by British soldiers, in which many of them and their allies fell.

"Further south gleamed the waters of the canal, along the banks of which the British and French alternately disputed every inch of ground with the enemy. To the north, melting in the distance, lay the valley of the Yser where our allies made such a valiant defense and won so much glory."

Another incident is related by the eye witness. He says: "After a parade of the troops, at which the king made a distribution of decorations, the procession returned in a pouring rain to headquarters. On the homeward journey the car containing the Prince of Wales met with a slight accident, but was able to proceed at a comparatively slow speed. On the way it passed a derelict soldier, who was struggling along in the cold and wet, without hat or coat. The prince stopped his car to enquire what had happened. On discovering that the man had been left behind by a supply train he insisted on taking the soldier to headquarters in his car. On arrival there he gave the man his waterproof coat."

Before leaving the front, the king issued the following order of the day: "Officers, non-commissioned officers and men—

"I am very glad to have been able to see my army in the field. I much wished to do so in order to gain a slight experience of the life you are living and I wish I could have spoken to you all to express my admiration of the splendid manner in which you have fought and are still fighting against a powerful and relentless enemy. By your discipline, pluck and endurance and inspired by indomitable regimental spirit you have not only upheld the traditions of the British army, but added fresh lustre to its history. I was much inspired by your soldierly, healthy, cheerful appearance. I cannot share your trials, dangers and successes, but I can assure you of the proud confidence and gratitude of myself and your fellow countrymen. We follow you in our daily thoughts on your certain road to victory."

Throughout the visit, the eye witness says "His Majesty's safety was assured by the flying corps, whose members continuously patrolled above the royal procession, wherever it was.

APPEAL FOR MORE HELP FOR BELGIANS

Winnipeg, Dec. 8.—A. J. H. Dubuc, Belgian consul in Winnipeg, today issued an appeal for \$100,000 to purchase wheat for a fourth shipment of foodstuffs to leave Halifax on December 18 enroute for Belgium. He says that up to date Canadian contributions for Belgian relief have bought foodstuffs worth \$906,865, shipped in three vessels. There are, he says, 800,000 Belgian refugees in England and 400,000 in Holland. In Brussels a relief committee is distributing 600,000 rations of bread and soup daily.

There are about 7,000,000 Belgians still in their native country, at least half of whom are starving. They ask only for bread and salt.

PRESIDENT OF STATES DECLARES HIMSELF ON THE AGITATED MATTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

Powerful Navy But no Large Standing Army--Declares There Has Been no Neglect--Important Legislation

Washington, Dec. 8.—President Wilson in his annual address to congress today, gave his answer to those who contend that the United States is unprepared for national defence.

"Let there be no misconception," he said, "the country has been misinformed. We have not been negligent of national defence. We are not unmindful of the great responsibility resting upon us. We shall learn and act daily.

"From the first, we have had a clear and settled policy with regard to military establishments. We never have had any while we retain our present principles and ideals, we never shall have a large standing army."

Throughout the address, the president's passage of the conservation bills, the bills for ultimate independence of the Philippines, ratification of the London convention for safety of sea, a government-owned merchant marine, charting the perilous waters of the Alaskan coast, and measures for economy in all branches of the government.

"A powerful navy we have always regarded as our proper and natural means of defence, and it has always been of aggression or conquest."

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