

AUSTRIA ADMITS SEVERE DEFEAT; BELGRADE REPORTED RE-OCCUPIED BY THE SERVIANS

Austrians Unable to Stand Up Before Servian Onslaught, Retire All Along Front with Heavy Losses—Poland Fast Becoming Second Belgium—Five Hundred Towns Ravaged—Brother Against Brother in Opposing Armies—Main Issue in East Still Unsettled, and No Important Changes in Western War Theatre.

London, Dec. 14.—The most striking feature of the day's official news is the candid admission by the Austrian government of the defeat of the Austrian army in Serbia and apparently of the abandonment of its third attempt at the invasion of the territory of its small Slav neighbor.

While attributing the failure to the enemy's superior force, the Austrian war office announces plainly an extended retirement and many losses.

"New measures will consequently be taken to repel the enemy," says the Austrian statement. Apparently that means that the Austrian army directed against Serbia will assume a defensive line. Against its repulse Austria balances the occupation of Belgrade as an asset to the good.

An unofficial despatch to Reuter's Telegram Company, from Nish, Serbia, however, reports that "the Servians, after a fierce battle, have re-occupied Belgrade."

The progress of the war in Northern Hungary is less definite. Sunday's German wireless report, with candor equal to that of the Austrian bulletin, spoke of the "severe resistance," which the German and Austrian arms are encountering in South Poland and in Galicia, and added that it was evident that the Austrian forts in the Carpathians are not numerically strong enough to clear the Russians out of Hungarian territory.

But the Austrians claim that they are driving down the northern slopes of the Carpathians the Russian invaders, who were last week in occupation of several towns south of that mountain range.

Poland is fast becoming another Belgium in point of suffering, while the opposing armies drive each other back and forth, occupying and re-occupying cities and villages, and inflicting upon the inhabitants bombardments similar to those that have been inflicted upon the people of Belgium and Northern France.

ONE OF MOST TRAGIC INCIDENTS OF THE WAR

More than five hundred Polish towns have been ruined, according to various accounts from the correspondents. Both armies accuse the other of looting and cruelty. The flight of the civilians from Lodz was one of the most tragic episodes of the war, while one correspondent pictures the fate of Kalisz as a repetition of Louvain, with the slaughter of four hundred civilians and the sack of the city.

A distressing feature of the fighting in Poland is the blood-kinded pitted against each other. There are several hundred thousand Poles in the Russian ranks, and several hundred thousand more in the ranks of the Germans and Austrians.

The Germans claim a distinct gain in their position in Northern Poland, although they are not believed to be as near to Warsaw as the report last week indicated. On the other hand the Russians announce a strategic re-alignment of their forces in that field which strengthens their position.

In a late report tonight the Austrians announced that they have reoccupied the important point of Dukla, to the north of the Carpathians on a line south of Przemyśl and Cracow, but nearer to the former, with the capture of nine thousand prisoners.

The main issue in the eastern theatre of the war—whether the German and Austrian armies by the operations in Northern and Central Poland and the Austrian advance across the Carpathians

will shake the Russian grip from the Phymyal and Cracow fortresses—remains unchanged.

MUDDY ROADS IMPEDE ALLIES PROGRES.

The day has shown no important development in the western theatre. The French War Office reports artillery engagements in which they had the better of the Germans and small advances at various points, particularly in the neighborhood of Verdun and St. Mihiel, in accordance with Gen. Joffre's famous scheme of "nibbling at them."

But the German bulletins deny these claims.

The troops in France and Belgium are suffering a plague of mud and damp, which causes them greater discomfort than did the cold wave at the end of November, with its positive hardships of frozen feet and hands, and effectively vetoes any movements on a big scale. Life in the trenches of the Allies is easier than before, since they have been reinforced, so that they do not have to spend more than two days on the firing line, whereas, last month, they were without rest or an opportunity to remove their clothing for a week or more at a time.

The Turkish army has not yet asserted itself, nor has it engaged in any great battle. Enver Pasha has taken command of the Caucasian army, and Talaat Bey has succeeded him as minister of war. A report comes from Turkey of growing hostilities to both foreign and native Christians in that country which may lead to attacks upon them.

RATIFIES LONDON CONVENTION ON SAFETY AT SEA

Madrid, via Paris, Dec. 15.—The Senate today ratified the London Convention relative to safety at sea. The International Convention for Safety at Sea, which was framed at London, was largely the result of the Titanic disaster. One of its principal clauses calls for sufficient lifeboats aboard ships to handle all persons on board.

GOVERNORS OF M'GILL SUBSCRIBE \$150,000

Montreal, Dec. 14.—The governors of the Montreal General Hospital, through their generosity, have saved that institution from the financial disaster threatening by subscribing the \$150,000 needed to tide the hospital over its difficulties. This sum will meet the anticipated deficits in the next two years. Announcement to this effect was made at a meeting of the governors in the Windsor Hotel this afternoon.

SEARCHING FOR GERMAN WIRELESS

British Government Fits Up Station on Suffolk Coast to Find Whereabouts of German Plant.

London, Dec. 3.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—At Cromer, on the Norfolk coast, the British government has fitted up on a gentleman's estate a wireless station which for weeks past has been trying to check up the whereabouts of a German sending station, believed to be not more than sixty miles away. Often after midnight this apparatus attempts to interfere with the British station's sending.

The enemy's outfit is thought to be concealed cleverly somewhere on land not far from Cromer, and a reward for its unmasking has been offered. The strictest of routine is prescribed for the operators at the British wireless station, regulations which doubtless are enforced at all such government wireless plants. Soldiers not only guard the grounds day and night but escort the operators to and from their posts to prevent any possible leakage of government messages. To preclude the possibility of spies co-operating, the shifts of men working together are changed daily, and no two men occupy the same quarters more than one night.

MUST ACCEPT PRICE SET BY GOVERNMENT

Contract to Amount of \$900,000 for Motor Trucks and Wagons to be Awarded to Firms Whose Models are Approved if they Agree to Government's Terms.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 14.—It is understood that the government is ready to award contracts to the amount of \$900,000 for motor trucks, wagons, etc., provided that the firms whose trucks and wagons have been approved, will come down to the government's price. The motor trucks that have been selected are understood to be the Kelly, Packard and White. The first can be got at 25 per cent. below catalogue price and the other two must agree to do the same in order to get their share of the contract, it is said. The plan is to buy the parts from these American companies and do the assembling in Canada.

PETROGRAD'S WATER SUPPLY IS CUT OFF

By Ice Blocking Conduits of River Neva—Factories Closed, and Anxiety in City over Danger of Fire Breaking Out.

London, Dec. 15.—A despatch to Reuter's Telegram Company from Petrograd says the city is without water, owing to the blocking of the Neva river conduits by ice. Factories are shutting down, and the tea shops and bath houses also are closing. The people are fearful that should a fire break out large damage will result. This is the first time the conduits have been stopped by ice since 1893.

BESPEAKS THE STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE OF AN IMPERIAL PEOPLE

London, Dec. 14 (Gazette cable)—The statement issued by Sir Robert Borden, telling what Canada has done to render effective help to the Motherland, occupies a prominent place in every British newspaper today. The Daily Mail, in its leading article, after quoting part of the Canadian Prime Minister's figures, adds: "That is all. No bombast or excitement: just a bare record of what Canada has done, is doing, and means to keep on doing in this hour of Great Britain's peril. In that restraint and that matter-of-fact consciousness there speaks the strength and the confidence of an imperial people."

EXPLOSION OF NATURAL GAS KILLS SEVEN AND WRECKS BUILDING

Windows for Blocks Smashed by Explosion—Eight Seriously Injured—Walls of Building Blown Out—Several Children Among Dead—Victims Horribly Mangled.

Cleveland, Dec. 14.—A natural gas explosion in a two story apartment house at 11616 Madison Ave, tonight killed seven persons, seriously injured eight, and wrecked the two story building. Windows for a block around were broken, and persons in a drug store across the street were thrown off their feet and injured by broken glass. The exact cause of the explosion has not been ascertained. A strong odor of escaping gas had been noticed in the vicinity. A photograph studio occupied the first floor of the apartment and it is supposed the escaping gas became ignited there.

MUTINY AMONG BAVARIANS AT ANTWERP

Barracks Closed to Outsiders—Aviators Drop Bombs Into Freidburg.

Amsterdam, Dec. 14, via London, 4.30 p. m.—A despatch to the Handelsblad from Antwerp says reports are current in Antwerp of a mutiny on the part of the Bavarian troops garrisoning the city. While the story is not confirmed, it is a fact that the Bavarian barracks have been closed to outsiders.

Berlin, Dec. 14.—The Zeitung Am Mittag publishes a despatch today saying that hostile aviators flew over the city of Freidburg, in the Grand Duchy of Baden, at 3 p. m. of December 13, throwing bombs from their machines. One bomb hit a house and did considerable damage. Two others fell in Columbia Park among a crowd of promenaders, and two girls were injured.

CANADIANS ON THE WAY TO EGYPT?

Letter from Member of Montreal Regiment Says Word Given Out They Are to Leave this Week.

Montreal, Dec. 14.—That the Canadian contingent, or at least a portion of it, is probably bound for Egypt is the information contained in a communication received in Montreal today from a member of the Fourteenth Battalion First Royal Montreal Regiment. He says: "Just got word we are to leave for Egypt this week. Some excitement I can tell you."

WHITE KNOCKS MURPHY OUT.

Kenosha, Wis., Dec. 14.—Charles White, Chicago lightweight, knocked out Jimmie Murphy, also of Chicago, in the second round of a scheduled ten round exhibition here tonight. White followed a left hook with a right to his opponent's jaw.

AUSTRIANS HELD BELGRADE LESS THAN TWO WEEKS

Reoccupied by Servians After Terrific Struggle—For Three Months Besieged by Enemy—Austrian Official Report Admits Germany's Ally Forced to Give Ground Before Serbs who Inflicted Heavy Losses.

London, Dec. 15.—The Servians after a fierce battle, have reoccupied Belgrade, according to a Nish despatch to Reuters Telegram Company.

The Austrians occupied Belgrade December 2, after having besieged it since July 29, bombarding from batteries near Semlin and from Monitors on the Danube. A large portion of the city was said to have been destroyed by the fire of the Austrians.

When war was declared the Servian government moved from Belgrade to Kragujevatz, and later went farther south to Nish, where it remains at present.

AUSTRIAN RETREAT ADMITTED IN VIENNA.

London, Dec. 14.—Reuters Amsterdam correspondent says the Austrians admit defeat at the hands of the Servians, in an official communication issued at Vienna today. This communication follows: "Our offensive movement, directed in a southeasterly direction from the River Drina, encountered southeast of Valjevo a greatly superior force of the enemy. "Our advance had not merely to be stopped, but we were compelled also to make more extended retirements of our troops, which for many weeks have fought obstinately and brilliantly, but with many losses. "Against this we may place the occupation of Belgrade. New measures will consequently be taken which will serve to repel the enemy."

ST. JOHN LADY AMONG NURSES IN WAR ZONE

Miss C. M. Hare Attached to No. 2 Stationary Hospital Located at Le Touquet, Near Boulogne.

Ottawa, Dec. 14.—A letter received tonight from a member of No. 2 Stationary Hospital, under Lt. Col. Shillington, of Ottawa, the first unit of the entire Canadian contingent to reach France, gives a full list of the officers and nurses attached to the hospital. Owing to re-organization of the whole force just before leaving Valenciennes, the cable report of the departure of the unit for France led to some confusion in the number of the hospital and names of some of the officers not tallying with the official list prepared by the Militia Department before the contingent sailed from Canada. There are nine officers, thirty-five nurses and ninety-two officers and men in the unit, which is at Le Touquet, near Boulogne. The officers are as follows: Lt. Col. A. T. Shillington, officer commanding, and chief surgeon, Ottawa. Major H. C. S. Elliott, Coburg, Ont. Major F. McKelvey Bell, Ottawa. Captain R. S. Pentecost, Toronto. Captain Charles A. Young, acting adjutant, Ottawa. Captain James H. Wood, registrar, Toronto. Captain S. M. Fisher, London, Ont. Captain J. S. Walker, quartermaster, Charlottetown, P. E. I. Captain W. J. Bentley, dental surgeon, Sarnia, Ont. Sergt. Major H. E. Law, Kingston, Ont. Major Ethel B. Ridley, Belleville, Ont. Following are the nursing sisters from the Maritime Provinces: R. A. M. Grant, Pictou, N. S. H. Graham, New Glasgow, N. S. C. M. Hare, St. John, N. B. R. McLean, Souris, P. E. I.

MURDER OF G.T.P. AGENT UNSOLVED

Police Holding Man at Montreal Who Admits He Was at Whitby Jct., on Night of Murder.

Whitby, Ont., Dec. 14.—The mystery surrounding the murder of William Stone, the Grand Trunk telegraph operator here, is still unsolved. The funeral service of the victim was held this afternoon.

Montreal, Dec. 14.—While John Kennedy is being held until Friday on a nominal charge of trespassing on the Grand Trunk Railway property, the detectives are trying to trace his movements just prior to the murder of William Stone, the G. T. R. telegraph agent who was murdered at Whitby, Ont., early Friday morning, and between that tragic event and Kennedy's arrival in Montreal on Saturday. Though Kennedy is said to have admitted having been at Whitby Junction on Friday, the murder has not yet been mentioned to him by the authorities.

PICKED UP TWO AVIATORS IN NORTH SEA

British Airmen Rescued After Motor Became Disabled and They Dropped to Sea.

London, Dec. 14.—A telegram to Reuter's Telegram Company from Flushing says that the Dutch steamer Oranje Nassau has picked up two aviators in the North Sea. The aviators proved to be a British officer and his mechanic, who had been compelled to descend upon the sea on account of the motor of their seaplane becoming disabled. "At first they refused to leave their craft until they were assured they would not be interned in Holland, with the vessel was bound. It was reported that the aviators had been flying over Belgium, where they dropped five bombs."

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GERMANY LOSES SIXTEEN GRAIN SHIPS

London, Dec. 15, (3.09 a. m.)—The Daily Chronicle's Amsterdam correspondent says that sixteen vessels containing grain, which the Germans sent from Antwerp, have been detained by the Dutch at Hansweert, Holland, at the mouth of the River Scheldt.