

FRENCH DANGEROUSLY NEAR GERMAN BORDER, ENEMY RUSHING REINFORCEMENTS TO HOLD THEM BACK

Important Offensive Movement By French Developing Near Soissons—Railways Upon Which Germans Depend for Supplies Threatened by Allies—Heavy Fighting on the Nida Where Austrians are Putting up Desperate Struggle to Hold Russians Back From Cracow—Five Days Battle in Progress at Kara Urgan.

London, Jan. 12.—The French attacks to the north of Soissons, on the Aisne and near Perthes, east of Rheims, are developing into a serious offensive. The gains which the French have made at these points, if followed up, would have a two-fold importance. They threaten the railways which the Germans are using to supply their troops in the fighting line, and are a serious menace to the German forces which hold positions to the north of Rheims.

The French have found it impossible to take these positions, from which the Germans are bombarding Rheims by frontal attacks, but advances on either side would envelop them and force a retirement, thus giving the Cathedral City much desired relief from the German shells, from which it has suffered so much.

FRENCH THREATEN TO CROSS INTO GERMAN TERRITORY

In the Argonne and on the heights of the Meuse, the Germans are on the offensive, and claim to have made further progress. It is reported that the Germans have sent heavy reinforcements to this district to prevent the French from breaking through their lines, which are very close to their own border, and not far from Metz.

Fresh German troops despatched to Alsace, combined with the wintry weather, have stopped the French advance in that region. Along the rest of the front the artillery is doing most of the work. Only isolated attacks are being attempted, the state of the weather and the ground making the movements of any large bodies of troops out of the question.

Similar conditions prevail in the east, and while they have not completely stopped the fighting, they have called a halt over the greater part of the field of operations. In restricted areas, along the River Rawka, near Bolimow, however, there has been fierce fighting, but according to Petrograd correspondents, the Germans have been unable to make any serious advance. Severe fighting also is taking place on the Nida river, where the Austrians are opposing the Russian attempts to penetrate to Cracow.

The Germans are keeping the Mazurian Lakes open with ice-breakers to block the Russian advance in East Prussia, where the Russian troops hold positions around the lakes, and have been waiting for the lakes to freeze over before resuming their offensive.

The Turks deny that they have been defeated by the Russians in the Caucasus, and as an offset to this denial, Petrograd has the report that Noury Bey, Chief of the Staff of the Third Ottoman Army Corps, who was sent by the Sultan to investigate the report of the defeat, has been captured by Cossacks.

DEATH STRUGGLE.

The Turks have been offering stubborn resistance to the Russians at Kara Urgan, where a battle has been in progress for five days. The position at this place is more favorable for the Turks, who have not the deep snow of the mountains to contend with, and are in closer touch with their base. It is a death struggle for them, for so long as the Russian fleet commands the Black Sea the Turks cannot get reinforcements from Europe, the overland route being a long and difficult one. They have an army corps at Bagdad, but this is needed to oppose the advance of the British Indian army from the east.

Bohemia Threatens to Join Allies Unless More Protection is Given by Austria.

Geneva, Switzerland, Jan. 12.—Via Paris, 4.30 p. m.—Information has reached here from Prague, by way of Innsbruck, to the effect that a petition signed by influential Bohemians has been forwarded to Emperor Francis Joseph, demanding that more energetic measures be taken to protect Bohemia from possible Russian invasion. The petition states that this action must be taken "for the salvation of our country," and makes the threat that the signers will join with Austria's enemy unless the request is granted. Leading men of Prague, including some Bohemian members of the Austrian Chamber of Deputies, have signed the petition.

No confirmation of this report has been received here from any other source.

Turks Deny Defeat in Caucasus.

London, Jan. 12.—According to an

American despatch to Reuters Telegram Company, Constantinople

despatch dated January 10, by way of Berlin, give the Turkish version of the battle at Sari Kamyah as follows: "Main headquarters repudiate the reports of the Russian press concerning the alleged great defeat of the Turkish army. A telegram from the Turkish commander of the Caucasian army, dated January 9, states with regard to the military operations of the last two weeks:

"On the main front our troops have captured dominating positions beyond the frontier. The operations near Ohi and Ardahan have been delayed by deep snows and severe frosts. The Russian assertion that the commander of a Turkish division has been taken prisoner is not true, but a Russian detachment attacked a transport of wounded in a Russian village, capturing the severely wounded commander of a Turkish brigade, and killing others of the wounded."

BELIEVED ONLY FEW UNITS OF PATRICIA'S WERE IN ACTION

London, Jan. 12 (Gazette cable)—A curious sidelight on the report that the Princess Patricia's Light Infantry were in action is that although the death of Captain Newton was published in the London papers on Monday morning, the official intimation only reached the Canadian Record Office on the evening of the same day. There is reason to believe that only a few units of different companies were engaged, but the circumstantial reports published have resulted in several calls being paid to the Record Office by wives and other relatives of officers and men of the Patricia's.

CAPT NEWTON KILLED FIRST DAY IN TRENCH

London, Jan. 12, 3.29 a. m.—The first officer of the Canadian contingent to be killed in action was Captain D. O. C. Newton, of Montreal. He went into the trenches last Saturday with Princess Patricia's Light Infantry and was killed in a sharp engagement the same day.

DENMARK IS PLEASED WITH BRITAIN'S REPLY

Leading Swedish Newspaper, However, Claims Earl Grey's Figures are Misleading.

Copenhagen, via London, Jan. 12—

Great Britain's reply to the American note bearing the search of neutral vessels is considered by the press and people of Denmark as a cordial and frank statement, but it is contended that the increase of imports from the United States is due to the fact that supplies from Germany and Russia have been cut off, and Danish merchants have been compelled to turn to America, the only large exporting nation not engaged in the war.

The belief is expressed that this increase in the importation of supplies from America will continue after the war, produce being brought here direct instead of through other countries, as heretofore.

Swedish Press Dissatisfied.

Stockholm, via London, Jan. 12.—The Dagblad, the leading Swedish conservative newspaper, expresses great dissatisfaction over Great Britain's reply to the American government's note concerning delays to commerce, declaring that it indicates a determination to adhere to what it terms the harassing policy of interfering with and restricting the legitimate commerce of neutrals.

The Dagblad maintains that the figures quoted by Sir Edward Grey in support of the contention that neutral countries are importing large quantities of contraband from the United States for re-export to Germany are misleading, and concludes by declaring that the Swedish people will never submit to Great Britain's assumption that she had the right to dictate just how much of any particular goods Sweden requires for her own consumption, or how much of such goods she will be permitted to import.

SAYS RED CROSS IN STATES PRO-GERMAN AGENCY

Startling Charges by Dr. Brown-Londona of France—Messages for British Soldiers Went to Germans.

Toronto, Jan. 12.—Dr. L. E. Brown-Londona, of Paris, France, who is in Toronto preliminary to making an appeal for hospitals of Northern France, in an interview tonight, made the startling charge that the Red Cross Society in the United States is neither more or less than a pro-German agency. He said that although given the nominal connection with the United States through the name of President Wilson as honorary president of the organization, the Red Cross Society has for its president Jacob Schiff, a German Jewish banker, and on account of certain revelations in connection with the sailing of the Red Cross ship from America last fall, it has been identified as strongly sympathetic with the German people.

"In the first place," said Dr. Brown-Londona, "the officials of the Red Cross Society in the United States wasted \$7,000 in chartering a special ship to carry hospital supplies, which British, Holland and French lines of boats offered to carry, charges free."

"Then," he continued, "after the ship had left port, a protest from Great Britain and France over the predominantly German personnel of the crew resulted in her return to New York. The crew was re-organized, and those who left the ship took with them as their personal effects all the chloroform, iodoforn and iodine that was contained in the car-

Japanese Cruisers on Lookout off Peru

Watching for German Converted Cruiser Prince Eitel Friedrich—British Cruiser of the Suffolk Class Appears off Havana.

Lima, Peru, Jan. 12.—Japanese cruisers continue to be active along the coast of Peru, seeking the German converted cruiser Prince Eitel Friedrich.

The latest reports received here set forth that the Japanese armored cruiser Asama went into the port of Payta, Peru, yesterday to obtain provisions and left the same afternoon. There is reason to believe that the British steamer Oriona, on her way back to Liverpool from the Pacific coast of South America, was being sought by the German boat. In any event, it is apparent that Japanese cruisers are endeavoring to come up with the Eitel Friedrich.

Havana, Jan. 12.—The unknown cruiser which appeared off this port yesterday, is tonight lying about four miles off Morra Castle. She has not communicated directly with the port and displays no colors, but has been identified by her appearance as a light armored cruiser of the Suffolk class.

The cruiser has signalled various incoming and outgoing vessels, asking for name and nationality, but gave no response to their salutes. It is conjectured that she is watching for the German steamer President, which left here December 2 for Porto Rico, and which is due to return to this port.

Starvation Facing Turkish Capital?

Chicago Man Back from Turkey—Says Constantinople is Reduced to Sore Straits for Food—All Available Supplies Confiscated for Army—Turkey Agrees to Italy's Demands in Connection with Hodieda Incident.

New York, Jan. 12.—The closing of the Dardanelles and the shutting off of Turkey from outside commerce has resulted in the people of Constantinople being reduced almost to the verge of starvation, according to Geo. Tomayan, of Chicago, for the past eight months in charge of an immense orphan asylum at Constantinople, who arrived here today on the Greek steamship Athos, from Piraeus.

"When I left Constantinople less than a month ago the city was reduced to sore straits for food, all available supplies having been confiscated by military authorities. Suffering among the people was intense and the struggle for food by the poor was pitiful in the extreme."

London, Jan. 12.—Special despatches

from Rome today say that Turkey has agreed to the demands of Italy in connection with the Hodieda incident. According to these advices, Turkey has ordered the release of the British Vice-consul, Richardson, who was arrested in the Italian consulate at Hodieda, and has promised to punish the soldiers who broke into the consulate, as well as to salute the Italian flag when it is again hoisted over the building.

Investigation of the circumstances attending the invasion of the Italian consul is still in progress, and the incident will remain open until this inquiry has been completed. In view of the concessions Turkey is reported to have made, however, satisfactory adjustment is expected.

PANAMA PUTS STAMP TAX ON LIQUORS

To Make Up for Loss Through European War—Tax on Tobacco and Cable Messages.

Panama, Jan. 12.—In order to replace the revenues lost through the European war the Panama government has introduced in the national assembly a bill providing for a stamp tax on liquors, tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, checks and documents of all kinds. The bill places a tax of one cent a word on all commercial cable messages, sent and received, and half a cent a word on press messages.

The bill also provides for severe penalties for failure to comply with the law, allowing half the fine to the informer. It is proposed to raise \$250,000 through this means, and also to tax prize winning lottery tickets.

And these articles were not replaced, and no trace of them has ever been found. When the ship resumed its journey it carried officials and crew about evenly divided between Germans and Americans. It took 27 days for some of the cargo to be delivered in Northern France and Belgium, to which countries the supply of hospital materials was destined.

LORD BERESFORD DISCUSSES LOSS OF FORMIDABLE

Heavy Ships Sent Into Waters Infested with Submarines Without Protection of Torpedoe Boat Destroyers.

London, Jan. 13.—Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, retired, in a letter to the press today, discusses the loss of the battleship Formidable, which was destroyed recently in the English Channel by a German submarine.

"The ship was lost," says Lord Charles, "under conditions whose repetition, after the losses of the Aboukir, Cressy and Hogue, we thought impossible. In both cases heavy ships were sent into waters infested with submarines without the protection of torpedoe boat destroyers, which are the natural defence against the submarines. The efficacy of the destroyer is shown by the fact that submarines are unable to injure the British squadron off the Belgian coast. It is unparadoxical that officers and men should be thus gratuitously exposed to conditions under which they are sent to the bottom without a shot being fired."

PRESIDENT OF E. B. EDDY COMPANY DIES SUDDENLY

Toronto, Jan. 12.—W. H. Rowley, 65 years of age, president of the E. B. Eddy Company of Hull, and ex-president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, died suddenly in the Alexandria tea room, of the King Edward Hotel shortly after six o'clock tonight. Rupture of an aneurism was the cause of death.

NEW GERMAN AERIAL FIGHTING BASE NEAR GHENT

Four Zeppelins of Latest Type and Number of Smaller Aircraft Assembled—Smallpox, Cholera and Typhoid Raging in Vienna.

ANOTHER AUSTRIAN ATTACK ON THE SERBIAN ARMY IS PLANNED.

Berlin Report Claims Military Supply Stations at Dunkirk Were Completely Destroyed During Recent Attack by German Airships.

Amsterdam, via London, Jan. 13.—Major Morath, military correspondent of the Berliner Tageblatt, says:

"A new offensive against Serbia is announced. We must desire it on political grounds, but it should not be undertaken at the expense of the forces in Galicia. If progress cannot be made in the Balkans without diminishing the main army, it would be prudent first of all to await successes in Poland."

Petrograd, via London, Jan. 12 (9.55 p.m.)—Houry Bey, chief of the general staff of the Third Ottoman army corps, who was sent by the Sultan to the Caucasus to investigate the cause of the defeat of the Turks by the Russians at Sari Kamyah, has been captured by Cossacks at Kara Urgan, according to the Tiflis correspondent of the Bourse Gazette.

New German Aerial Fighting Base Geneva, Switzerland, Jan. 12 (via London)—Word has reached here from Friedrichshafen, where the Zeppelin works are located, that the Germans have established a base for their aerial fighting craft near Ghent in Belgium.

Four Zeppelins of the latest type and a number of aeroplanes have been assembled at the new aviation

grounds. It is from this point that the Zeppelins made their recent trip over Calais.

Venice, via London, Jan. 12.—Private reports from Vienna, and statements appearing in the Austrian papers, show that conditions in the Austrian capital are daily becoming more serious. Smallpox, cholera and typhoid fever are prevalent, forty-five cases of smallpox being officially reported in Vienna during the first nine days of January. Many cases of contagion also are reported from various centres of lower and upper Austria, Styria, Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and Galicia.

London, Jan. 12.—A wireless despatch from Berlin says that the military establishments in and near Dunkirk were completely destroyed by the German airship flotilla which attacked that city on Sunday. The Dunkirk lighting plant also was destroyed. The despatch says this information is contained in a message from Rotterdam.

Dunkirk, on the coast of France, is the British continental military base. Troops and supplies arriving from England are landed at this port, where extensive military supply stations have been established.

MINISTER OF TRADE PUTS LITTLE FAITH IN THE REPORT

That Canadian Flour Being Shipped Through New York to Copenhagen and Thence Probably to Germany.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Jan. 12.—When asked about the report that Canadian flour was being shipped by western millers through New York to Copenhagen, probably to be exported again to Germany, Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, was not disposed to take a serious view of the matter. Britain had made an arrangement with the Scandinavian countries against the forwarding of imported supplies to Germany and that arrangement he regarded as a very effective one. It would have to be shown in any case, that this flour was really destined for Germany, and the British authorities could best attend to that. It is understood that the suggestion that the government should put an embargo on the export of wheat and flour except to Britain or the allies is not likely to be adopted. It would be a rather serious step to take while this country had a surplus for export. Shipments of flour from Canada to Europe through the United States must go in bond, and such shipments are not believed to total any great amount.

EXAMINING BOARD TO INSPECT THE 2ND CONTINGENT

Appointed by Gen. Hughes Will Visit Every Corps and Examine Officers, Men and Equipment.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Jan. 12.—An examining board to visit every corps included in the second contingent and make a thorough examination of the officers, men, equipment and supplies has been appointed by General Sam Hughes. Col. John Hughes, of Clarke, Ont.; Lieut.-Col. Mewburn, of Hamilton, and in all probability Lieut.-Col. George P. Murphy, of Ottawa, will comprise the board.

Besides this, the two inspectors general Lessard and Steel will also make an inspection in order that no doubt will be entertained as to the fitness of the troops and equipment. General Steel will inspect the eastern troops, which are under the charge of General Lessard, while the latter will inspect the western troops.

LONGEST FUNERAL CORTEGE EVER SEEN IN PRESTON, ONT.

Representative Gathering at Obsequies of Geo. A. Clare, M. P. of Preston, Ont.

Galt, Ont., Jan. 12.—The funeral of the late George A. Clare, M. P. of Preston, was the largest in the history of that town. Among the many mourners present were the Hon. Mr. Carruthers, representing the Federal government and Sir Adam Beck, a cousin of the deceased. All the various municipalities in the county were represented as well as the Liberal and Conservative associations.

NOMINATIONS FEB. 1 IN JACQUES CARTIER AND TERREBONNE, P.Q.

Five Bye-elections Scheduled for Same Date—Four Conservatives and One Liberal Probable.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Jan. 12.—The writs have been issued for the bye-elections in Jacques Cartier and Terrebonne. The nominations will be on February 1st, the same as in Westmoreland, London and Prince Albert.

While no official statement has been made there is reason to believe that there is a definite understanding between the parties that the five bye-elections will be uncontested, a Liberal being elected in Westmoreland and Conservatives in the other four ridings.