

ITALIAN FORCES DRAW NEAR TO ENEMY ON THE ISONZO FRONT

Austrian Reports Prepare Public for Retirement from Gorizia—Serbian Army 250,000 Strong in Albania Well Armed and Likely Return Soon to Renew the Struggle—Russians May Go Through Roumania to Attack Bulgarians—Greek Reply Not Yet Received by Entente Powers.

London, Nov. 30.—With the retreat of the greater part of the Serbian army across the Albanian frontier, the slowness of the operations against Montenegro and in southern Serbia owing to the wintry weather and the absence of any major operations on the western and eastern fronts, interest in the military side of the war is now transferred to the Austro-Italian frontier, where King Victor Emmanuel's troops are carrying on an energetic offensive against the Austrians.

The fighting on this front has been the most sustained and the fiercest battle of the whole war. For weeks the Italians have been attacking the Austrian bridge-heads and mountain positions along the Isonzo river, and are slowly but surely drawing their nets around Tolmino, Gorizia and Dobrodo. Their attacks have been repeated time after time against positions which had been most carefully prepared, and while the Austrians report that most of these assaults have been repulsed, their accounts are considered here to have been so worded as to prepare the public for the retirement from Gorizia, at least.

Serbian Army In tact. This, for the time being, is Italy's contribution to the Balkan operations of the Allies, for it keeps a large force of Austrians busy and makes it necessary for them continually to bring up reinforcements which could be usefully employed against the Montenegrins and Serbians. The Serbians, unless followed into Albania, will, in time, probably reappear as a reinvigorated army, for it is said that 250,000 of them, including soldiers and citizens, have taken refuge there, and that they have saved all their mountain batteries and a portion of their field guns. Also included in this number are all the youths who can fill the gaps when equipment reaches them from the Adriatic.

German papers state that Field Marshal Von Mackensen's army, with Bulgarians and Turks, is to be directed against the Anglo-French forces in the south, but doubtless many of them are going down the Danube to meet the Russian menace. The public is expected to be very busy, in view of the movements of the Serbian army, which the Emperor recently reviewed in Bessarabia, but apparently the negotiations with Roumania for the use of the Danube have not been completed. A Budapest report goes so far as to say that Roumania has refused her permission to the Russians to use the river through Roumanian territory, which would be the more convenient route for an attack on western Bulgaria.

There also seems to be some hitch in the Allied negotiations with Greece, for nothing is yet forthcoming as to the latter country's reply to the latest demands for guarantees of safety and facilities for the Entente's armies operating near the Greek frontier. The Greek reply was expected yesterday and the delay in its receipt leads to the supposition that the Greek cabinet is not prepared to go as far as the Entente Powers desire.

Artillery, grenade throwers, mines, sappers and sirmen continue their activity on the western front, and British monitors are also making things lively for the Germans along the Belgian coast. The Russians, by a counter-attack in the region of Hloukat, have driven Field Marshal Von Hindenburg's men a little further from the Dvina river. These, however, are only incidents, doubtless undertaken to test the strength of the opposing forces.

Quarter Million Serbian Refugees in Albania. London, Nov. 30.—The number of Serbians who have taken refuge in Albania is estimated by the Athens correspondent of the Star at 250,000 including soldiers and civilians. The army is said to have retained all its mountain batteries and some of the field guns. A large number of Serbian boys between the ages of 15 and 17 accompanied the army and will be trained to fill the gaps in the ranks.

Only 3,000 Serbs Against Invading Hordes? Paris, Nov. 30.—The unavailing efforts of the Serbians to prevent the Bulgarians from advancing on Monastir are described in a despatch received from the Saloniki correspondent of the Havas Agency. He says that the battle along the Carassou river, north of Monastir, began on Friday morning and continued for 24 hours. It centered around a bridge at a crossing on the route to Monastir. The Serbians were compelled to retire and made unsuccessful efforts to blow up this bridge before falling back.

The Bulgarians continued their advance and yesterday the correspondent says, fighting occurred in the heights near Monastir. Col. Vassilich, commander of the Serbian forces at Monastir, who once captured the city from the Turks, is said to have announced his purpose to carry on the fighting even in the streets of the town. The Serbian forces there consist of only 3,000 men.

LAST MINUTE NEWS FROM WAR ZONE

French Minister Believes Greeks Will Join Allies—Central Powers to Send Greece Warning.

London, Dec. 1.—Denys Cochlin, minister without portfolio in the French cabinet, while in Rome expressed the belief that Greece ultimately would take up arms on the side of the Entente Powers, according to the Morning Post's correspondent at Rome.

Kaiser Only on Friendly Visit to Vienna. Vienna, Nov. 30, via London.—It is declared in authoritative circles here that Emperor William's visit to Vienna was without particular political purpose.

Coal Shortage at Trieste, Rome, Nov. 30.—A dispatch from Rome to the Stefani News Agency says there is a shortage of coal at Trieste, and that the price of illuminating gas has risen considerably. The population of the city was decreased largely, and there is suffering on account of lack of work.

Bad Weather on Western Front. Paris, Nov. 30.—The following official communication was issued by the war office tonight: "The day has been one of rain, mist and snow in Champagne. Beyond the usual cannonade nothing has been reported on the entire front, other than sporadic firing in the night in the region of Loos and in Alsace, where effective firing by our artillery shattered enemy trenches to the north of Muehlbach, in the valley of the Peck."

Berlin, Nov. 30, by wireless to Tuckerton.—Among the items given out today for publication by the Overseas News Agency was the following: "The Russian reports concerning the concentration of Russian troops near the Roumanian frontier have been much exaggerated. The number of troops assembled there is very much smaller than has been stated by the press. In addition they are nearly all recruits out for practice."

Use of Danube Refused to Russia. Budapest, Nov. 30, via London.—Press despatches from Bucharest say that the Roumanian government has forbidden use of the Danube to the Russian government, and that, in an energetic note, has made the demand that Russia respect her neutrality. The note states that Roumania will defend her neutrality, if necessary.

London, Nov. 30.—According to telegrams from Bucharest, Roumania has notified Russia of her earnest desire to remain neutral, says a Copenhagen despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company. "Consequently, Russian ships will not be permitted to enter the Danube which, it is emphasized, has been mined."

Paris, Nov. 30.—"Bad weather continues on the French front in Serbia, making operations impossible," says a despatch to the Havas News Agency from Saloniki dated Monday, November 29. "The question of supplying the troops with provisions has been preoccupying the belligerents for the past three days."

"A French reconnoitering party brought back word that the Bulgarians had reached Mrzan, on the right bank of the Cerna river. "No attack on Monastir was made by the Bulgarians yesterday."

"News from a reliable source says that 20,000 Turkish troops will be sent to the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. "The Austrians have shipped some 305 mortars to Bulgaria for the defence of districts where the Germans have installed hydro-aeroplane hangars."

Austrian Report. Vienna, Nov. 30, via London.—The communication of the Austro-Hungarian war office issued today says: "There is nothing new to report from the Russian frontier."

"On the Italian front it becomes clearer that the Italians will, at all costs, force a victory near Gorizia, if it is at all possible to do so. Yesterday their attacks were directed against the entire front, from Tolmino to the sea, and with special severity against both our bridge-heads and the northern part of the plateau of Dobrodo."

The attacks against our mountain positions north of Tolmino collapsed. The bridge-head of Tolmino was kept under an incessant fire the whole of the afternoon. Three strong attacks against the northern sector, and several weaker ones against the southern

WEALTH OF BRITAIN NOT TOUCHED YET

German Newspaper Yarns Refuted by Bonar Law.

WAR NOT GOING TO BE WON IN THE EAST.

Moving Slowly but Inexorably Towards Victory, but Must Expect to Have Bad News From Time to Time.

London, Nov. 30.—Andrew Bonar Law, Secretary for the Colonies, presiding tonight at the St. Andrew's Day banquet, declared that he was more hopeful as to the outcome of the war than he had for months past. In reply to the statements in German newspapers that he had said Great Britain was on the point of bankruptcy, Mr. Law said the country was a long way from it, but that he did not pretend that it could go on indefinitely on the present scale. But the wealth of Great Britain, he added, had not even been touched as yet, and she could bear the strain for a longer period than her enemies.

Speaking of the great armies which Great Britain had raised, Mr. Law said the number of men killed or wounded, up to the present, which was three-fold greater than the entire expeditionary force at the outbreak of the war.

Referring to the conditions of affairs in the Near East, the colonial secretary said that it was no better than could be gathered from the newspapers. "If you look at the specially good news for many months to come. And we may have bad news long before we have good, but that does not alter my opinion. This war is not going to be won or lost in the East."

"If you look at the tendency, as a whole, I am convinced we are moving slowly but inexorably towards victory."

He expressed the opinion that there was nothing further to fear, either in the western or eastern theatre of the war, adding that the Allies were able not only to fire shell for shell, but to do so for the enemies also. A similar condition will soon prevail at the Russian front, and it firmly believes that the danger of invasion will not arise again in that quarter.

"Economic conditions in Germany produced by the silent pressure of the British navy, are beginning to tell most strongly in our favor, and the German people are ceasing to be grasped."

"All the heroism which has been shown, all the blood that has been sacrificed, will have been in vain unless we get the result that never again, for generations to come, will it be within the power of any man or any group of men to turn the world into the charnel house it has become."

VIENNA REPORT ON ANCONA AFFAIR NOT READY YET

Extension of Time Asked as Difficulty Encountered in Getting Submarine Commander's Statement.

Washington, Nov. 30.—The Austro-Hungarian government was informed Ambassador Penfield at Vienna that it desires more time to compile a formal statement regarding the sinking of the Italian steamship Ancona. Advice to the State Department today say the Austrian authorities had encountered difficulties in obtaining a statement from the commander of the submarine.

France Calls Out 400,000 More Men for the Armies

Class of 1917 Called to Colors by Vote Passed Yesterday in Chamber of Deputies—Means Sending All Boys of 18 Into the Trenches—Must be Trained and Ready for Spring When Allies Intend to Strike Decisive Blow for Victory.

New York, Nov. 30.—A news agency despatch from Paris says: "The class of 1917, now called to the colors by a vote which passed the Chamber of Deputies today, the calling of the class of 1917 sends all boys of 18 into the trenches. It means an addition of 250,000 men to the French fighting forces."

"The Socialists in the chamber put up a separate fight against the bill."

OVER DOUBLE AMOUNT OF LOAN WAS SUBSCRIBED

Canada Has Given World Fine Proof of Financial Strength and Determination to See Fight to Successful Finish, Minister of Finance Says.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Nov. 30.—Hon. W. T. White issued the following statement today: "The war loan subscription lists have closed. While it is impossible to make an accurate statement until the returns are complete, the Minister of Finance is able to announce that the total subscriptions will considerably exceed one hundred million dollars, that is to say the loan has been subscribed more than twice over. The number of individual applications will reach at least twenty-five thousand and probably more. All sections of Canada have participated, and the issue has been popular in the truest and widest sense of the term. A noteworthy feature has been the remarkable number of small subscriptions. As soon as full returns have been received and particulars tabulated the government will be in a position to consider the question of allotment."

No Derangement of Business. The Minister of Finance further said: "There will be no financial disturbance or derangement of business by reason of the war loan. All the monies received on account of subscriptions will be left on deposit until required for the credit of the Minister of Finance with the several banks from which they are withdrawn by the depositors. The instalment payments are spread over six months and the total amount raised by the loan will be spent in Canada in raising, equipping and sending forward Canadian troops. It is not generally known that eighty per cent at least of all the Canadian war expenditure to date has been spent in Canada. The successful flotation of the war loan will enable the Minister of Finance to assist to a still greater extent the temporary financing of the shell committee for the imperial treasury."

"I desire," he added, "to express the deep appreciation of the government of the magnificent response by the people of Canada to the war loan issue. The result, splendid in itself, will go out to the whole world as an unmistakable evidence of Canada's financial strength, and of her steadfast determination to prosecute this war waged in a righteous cause to a triumphant conclusion. To all those who by their participation and co-operation have contributed to the success of the loan."

By the city council that neutrals, before being given residence permits in France, present favorable recommendations from their own country is objected to by the Journal Des Debats, which, in its comment on the measure, refers especially to American cases. There are a great many Americans in France, says the newspaper, who are absolutely inoffensive, and whose presence is very useful to the ends of commerce and industry, and many of whom are devoting their efforts to well placed charity. For France to compel them to submit to such complicated formalities, it argues, would be going too far.

The resolution regarding neutrals is one of a series adopted in an effort to reach a satisfactory solution of the question of foreigners living in France.

Paris, Nov. 30.—A resolution adopted by the chamber yesterday, which called for the calling of the class of 1917, was defeated 405 to 115.

After several speakers had criticized some conditions of the army, Gen. Gallien, the minister of war, addressing the chamber, said that he was in perfect accord with Gen. Joffre, commander-in-chief of the French forces, and demanded the calling of the class of 1917.

This was a simple measure of prudence, he said. The class would not necessarily be sent immediately to the front, he added, but it must be thoroughly instructed, and care taken that all eventualities be provided against. He insisted that the class be put at his disposition at the earliest possible moment, in order that it may be ready in the spring of 1916, the time when, said he, "in concert with our allies, our reinforcements and our armaments, will permit us to make the decisive effort."

By a rising vote the chamber passed the bill authorizing the minister of war to call to the colors the 1917 class, without specifying any date. Deputy Rafin-Dugens, while explaining his vote, asserted that several of the chiefs had disregarded human life. He was called to order, and his remarks were formally noted, M. Deschanel, the president, saying, that he could not allow the army to be insulted in the chamber.

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PEACE ONLY WHEN KAISER OUSTED BY DEMOCRACY

Viscount Haldane Says Best Element in Germany Temporarily Led Astray by False Leaders.

London, Dec. 1.—Viscount Haldane, former lord high chancellor, discussing the possibilities of peace, during a meeting in King's Hall last night, declared that peace was more to be desired than any other thing at the present moment.

Nevertheless, the speaker predicted that no peace negotiations would be considered by Great Britain or her allies until Emperor William and the German war party had been thrown out of the saddle by the German democracy.

"The Allies of a century ago," said Viscount Haldane, "were quite ready to make peace with France, but not with Napoleon. So, also, today, until we can deal with the real German people, whom we can trust, and whom we know as sane contributors of many good things to the world's civilization, but who have temporarily yielded their place to false leaders, we do not care to talk peace."

CHURCH UNION LIKELY TO LOSE IN KINGSTON

Kingston, Ont., Nov. 30.—The vote in three of Kingston's four Presbyterian churches stands: For union 356; against union 438. Zion church will give a majority for union, but it looks as if the non-unionists would carry the city by a small majority. The vote in St. Andrew's church was: For union 42; against 291.