

AUSTRIA STATES POLICY.

Plans to Establish Closer Relations With Germany.
VIENNA, via London, Dec. 25.—The following official statement was issued outlining the policy of the Austrian government:

"This government has been entrusted with the direction of affairs at a serious time and office has been assumed with a feeling of the greatest responsibility. Its first aim will be the restoration of full constitutional conditions and the creation of necessary conditions for that purpose and for the assembling of Parliament."

"Among its earliest tasks will be the conclusion of a treaty between the two states constituting the monarchy regarding economic relations. Another task will be the establishment of closer economic relations with the German Empire. Both of these will tend toward the political and economic consolidation of Austria."

Other tasks in prospect are social problems which have considerably increased in importance since the war. The development of popular education and new regulations for the economy. The duty of feeding people will be the first care of the ministry."

BATTLE AT KUT-EL-AMARA.

Special Despatches Indicate Great Activity There.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—The following official communication concerning the operations in Mesopotamia was issued:

"During the night British aeroplanes successfully bombed the enemy's river craft west of Kut-el-Amara. Strong reconnaissances were made to the west of the Shumran bend of the Tigris. During the last few days the enemy's positions about Sannayat and Kut and his shipping west of the latter place were heavily bombarded with satisfactory results. The bridge over the Hal River, near its junction with the Tigris, was destroyed by our fire."

Unaware of Peace Talk.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—Out of a group of German prisoners taken on one section of the British front only a non-commissioned officer had heard anything of the German Emperor's peace proposal. This circumstance, coupled with the fact that there have been absolutely no demonstrations from any part of the German trenches, caused much speculation among the British officers as to whether, despite the Emperor's address to his troops, the new peace overtures have been permitted to reach the men actually engaged on the fighting line.

Documents captured within the last few days repeatedly mention the audacity and initiative of the allied armies, and Field Marshal von Hindenburg is quoted as having issued orders that the supremacy of the air must be sharply contested. According to these documents, the German chief of staff has ordered that where the German lines are crossed by hostile aviators German machines must penetrate an equal distance over the allied lines. There have been only a comparatively few hours of good flying weather in the last week, but numerous combats have taken place, twenty being fought in one afternoon on a certain sector.

Strong Tribute to Britain.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Members of the New England Society of the City of New York celebrated at their annual dinner the 29th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims. Francis Lynde Stetson, retiring president of the society, paid a tribute to the part Great Britain is taking in the great war.

"I believe that through the mother's mighty and mortal struggle there will be preserved the principles of liberty and civilization which moved New England in its infancy, and which to-day underlie the very existence of that America that we love and would serve first of all," he said.

Red Dead Home to Pigs.

LONDON, Ont., Dec. 25.—Morley Wess, a well-to-do farmer, living in London Township, near Garton, was mulcted of \$25 and a cost of the court and had a herd of swine valued at several hundred dollars seized by order of County Magistrate C. W. Hawkeshaw, of Lucan, when he was convicted of having fed the animals on dead horses. It was claimed that Wess had prepared the pigs for pork in that manner when his scheme was discovered. The herd will be sold to a soap manufacturer by direction of the court.

To Lecture in States.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Mrs. F. Sheehy Skeffington, widow of the Irish editor who was shot during the Dublin uprising, has reached this country and is practically in retirement at the Hotel Earle, 103 Waverly Place, according to The Evening Sun. She is in an extremely nervous condition and will see no one except intimate friends.

These friends are planning an extensive lecturing campaign for her as soon as she recovers sufficiently to go on the platform.

British Retake El Arish.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—El Arish, ninety miles east of the Suez Canal, was captured last Thursday by the British.

El Arish is a fortified town of Egypt, on the Mediterranean, near the frontier of Palestine. It is a town of less than 20,000, in territory which had been held by the Turks since the time of their invasion of Egypt and unsuccessful attack on the Suez Canal.

Drafts for Front.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—Although battalions are compelled to be broken up on arrival here from Canada, it is notified that reinforcements will only be drafted overseas to units from the same Canadian province as the reinforcements belong to. The above means, for instance, that Quebec battalions will not be kept up to strength by drafts from Ontario units, as has been complained of.

Must Forget Berlin.

OTTAWA, Dec. 25.—Many persons continue sending letters to Berlin, Ont., instead of Kitchener, regardless of the fact that the name of that place and post-office has been officially changed. The Post-office Department has announced that no letters addressed to "Berlin" will be delivered, but will be returned to the senders marked "No such post-office in Ontario."

German U-Boat is Sunk.

PARIS, 25.—The German submarine U-45 has been sunk by destroyers, according to a Nantes despatch. The U-45 recently sank steamers off St. Nazaire.

RUSSIANS ARE ACTIVE

Made Advance Against Teutons in Carpathians.

Heavy Fighting Has Been in Progress in Dobruja in Which the Forces of the Central Powers Secured Slight Advantage but Lost It Again as Battle Progressed.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 25.—An advance for the Russians in the region of Kimpolung in the Carpathians, where height positions were captured, is announced by the War Office official statement.

A violent battle is in progress in Northern Dobruja, where the offensive was assumed by the forces of the Central Powers, which at first carried several heights, but later were driven from a portion of the captured ground. Russian attacks in efforts to gain control of the remaining heights are going on. The Russian official statement said:

"On the left bank of the Danube, north of Buzen, engagements took place with our advanced detachments. Between the Buzen-Rimnik and the Insu-Racovitzeri highroads firing between advanced infantry detachments and artillery duels are proceeding. The enemy, about a regiment strong in infantry and cavalry, is advancing on both sides of heights. The enemy was dislodged from several heights by our counter-attack, and for the domination of the rest the battle is continuing."

"On the Black Sea one of our submarines sank, near the Bosphorus, a steamer and twelve sailing vessels." Field Marshal von Mackensen, responding to a telegram of Emperor William, offering congratulations on the capture of Bucharest, says:

"Bucharest was one goal, but not the final one."

Selecting a Name.
"I think I'll start a magazine to be called Umbrage."
"Why that somewhat unusual name?"
"People are so apt to take it."

Fresh Water Sharks.
The great Lake Nicaragua and the Rio Grande, which connects it with the Caribbean, are inhabited by one of the few fresh water species of shark known in the world.

NEW TERM ANNOUNCEMENT

The New Year Term will open Jan. 2, 1917. Do you want to qualify for an office position? There never was a time when the large city firms needed so many trained bookkeepers, stenographers, etc. as a glance at the "Want-ad" columns of such papers as the Montreal Star, Winnipeg Free Press, Toronto Telegram, etc., will show. We shall have a large enrollment in January; perhaps you had better start in now. Civil Service examinations every November and May. Send for catalogue.

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