

# MOVEMENT BY RUSSIANS FORERUNNER OF ROUMANIA'S ENTRY ON SIDE OF ALLIES?

## Plan of Czar's Army to Reconquer Bukowina for Roumanians Who Will Join Forces With Russians in March Through Bulgaria and Transylvania While Other Allies Deal Blows on Different Fronts at the Same Time.

### TEUTON ARMIES WITHDRAWN ON WHOLE FRONT IN MACEDONIA

#### Fear of Russian Advance in Bessarabia Causes Retreat—Allies Landing Troops at Orfano, Greek Port 60 Miles from Saloniki.

London, Dec. 30.—The Germans and Austrians have begun a general withdrawal along the entire front in Macedonia, according to a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Rome, quoting a message from Saloniki to this effect. The reported withdrawal is attributed to the Russian advance in Bessarabia, the message states.

London, Dec. 30.—Two new landings by the Allies in the Near East are reported today. The British have transported some troops from Saloniki to Orfano, a small Greek port 60 miles west of Saloniki, with the intention of checking any possibility of a Russian advance from this quarter. The second landing was made by the French on the Greek island of Castelion, off the west coast of Asia Minor, not far from the important port of Adana.

An Albanian detachment has occupied the island of Adana, the object of landing. A railway runs north of Adana and the presence there of a strong Allied force would menace communications of any hostile force operating against Egypt or the lower Taurus region.

These movements indicate that the Allies positions around Saloniki are now considered secure, and indications are that the campaign around Saloniki will develop into a long drawn out warfare, as on other fronts. Rome reports that the Central Powers have begun a general withdrawal from the entire Macedonian front, owing to the serious Russian campaign in Bessarabia, but this lacks confirmation. In the Entente capitals, however, there is a general opinion that the Russian campaign in Bessarabia, which has been undertaken in the face of unfavorable weather conditions, is likely to have an important bearing on the whole war situation. According to one version Russia's new move is the forerunner of the impending Roumanian entry into the war on the side of the Entente.

#### Roumania Coming In?

The Pall Mall's Russian correspondent writes: "Russian joint operations with Roumania are on the point of beginning. Roumanians will fight with us, although not for us. Her siding with the Entente is not the result of French or English subsidies, but an endeavor to realize the Roumanian dream of sovereignty over Bukowina and Transylvania. As preparation for Roumania's entry into the war, Russia's aim is to reconquer Bukowina for the benefit of her new ally. This task can be accomplished in a few weeks."

#### British Surprise Attack

Berlin, via Saville, Dec. 30.—Heavy fighting continues in the Vosges. Announcement is made by the war office that positions near Hartmannsweilerkopf have been reconquered by the Germans. A British surprise attack near Lille failed. The text of the statement follows:

"British attempts during the night of December 29 to enter our positions northwest of Lille by surprise failed. A German enterprise at night at the southeast of Albert succeeded and several dozen British were captured."

"The Germans reconquered positions near Hartmannsweilerkopf. On the whole front artillery and aeroplane were active. The enemy's aircraft attacked the towns and railroad stations of Werwick and Menin (Belgium). No military damage was inflicted, but seven civilians were wounded and one child was killed. A British aeroplane was shot down in a fight northeast of Cambrai."

### Method of Carrying Out Conscription Plan Decided On

#### Make Derby Scheme Statutory and Only for Duration of War—Government Con- fident Bill Will Pass.

London, Dec. 30.—An audience which Premier Asquith had with the king yesterday gave rise to reports of actual cabinet restrictions. It is stated, however, on the best of authority, that this was not the case, and that Premier Asquith saw the king with reference to the general situation and the New Year's honours. The draft committee of the cabinet, which is said to include Sir John Simon, engaged in preparing the proposed bill, it is reported have rejected two or three drafts already, but has now virtually settled on the method, which will be to make the Derby scheme statutory and only for the duration of the war. The men who have not attended will be ordered to enroll themselves within a given period of a fortnight or three weeks. It is said that the government is confident of the ability to pass the bill through all stages in a fortnight, that is, within a few days before parliament would be a natural death, but for the bill to pass on this day.

#### Artillery Duet in West Keeps Up

Paris, Dec. 30.—The following official communication was issued by the war office today:

"The activity on the front has been very active during the course of the day, especially in the regions of Hartmannsweilerkopf, Metzeral and the Linze. One of our shells caused in the wood to the northeast of Muhlbach, valley of the Fecht, five successive and powerful detonations. In the region of Rehtelsen a German attack with grenades was easily repulsed."

"The Belgian official communication reads: 'The activity on the front held by the Belgian army was less pronounced today than during the preceding days. Artillery duels took place chiefly in the environs of Dixmude and further to the south.'

#### Army of the Orient: On December 29 our aeroplanes bombarded the parks and encampments of the Bulgarians at Petrik, east of Lake Dolran. There is nothing to report on this side of the Greek frontier.

#### Expeditionary Corps of the Dardanelles: Great activity of both artillery took place on Dec. 28 and 29. The enemy has directed his fire principally against the trenches at Seddul Bahr. The morning of the 29th a French cruiser violently bombarded the Turkish batteries on the Asian coast. In the afternoon a hostile aeroplane, which attempted to fly over our lines, was driven off by Allied aeroplanes."

#### German Airships Over Saloniki Put to Flight

London, Dec. 30.—A despatch to Reuters' Telegraph Company from Saloniki says:

"Three Zeppelin aeroplanes flew over the town and harbor this morning. They were heavily bombarded by warships, but owing to their great altitude apparently were untouched. Three French aeroplanes went in pursuit."

#### Norwegian Steamer Hits Mine

London, Dec. 30.—The Norwegian steamer Rigel, of 1,912 tons, from Charleston, for Gothenburg, with a cargo of oil cakes, has been sunk by a mine. The crew was saved.

#### Crew Saved

The Hague, via London, Dec. 30.—The Dutch steamer Ellewoutsdijk has been sunk in the North Sea. Her crew was picked up.

The Ellewoutsdijk was a vessel of 2,229 tons, and was built in 1896. She was owned in Rotterdam. Shipping records show that the steamer sailed from Portland, Maine, Dec. 7, and arrived at Rotterdam, Dec. 26.

### CAPTURE OF DURAZZO BY THE ITALIAN FORCES REPORTED

#### One of Principal Ports on Albanian Coast— Two Enemy Torpedo Boats Sunk by Allied Warship in Short Engagement.

Geneva, via London, Dec. 30.—It is reported here on good authority that Italian troops have occupied the Albanian seaport of Durazzo.

This report is apparently corroborated by the fact that the German consul at Durazzo, the members of his staff and fifty other Germans passed through Italian lines in Switzerland, yesterday on their way to Berlin.

Durazzo and Avlona are the principal Albanian ports. Avlona was occupied by the Italians several months ago, before they entered the war. Durazzo is a peninsula in the Adriatic Sea, forty miles south of the Montenegrin border. It has been the scene of previous reports of Italian activity there, principally in connection with the landing of supplies for the Serbian army.

Rome, via London, Dec. 30.—The following official communication was issued today:

"The activity on the front held by the Italian army was less pronounced today than during the preceding days. Artillery duels took place chiefly in the environs of Dixmude and further to the south."

#### Put Stop to Enemy Activities in Adriatic

Rome, Dec. 30.—News of the sinking of the Austrian torpedo boat destroyers Triglav and Lika have been received in official circles here with much satisfaction, in view of the recent activity of Austrian warships in the Adriatic, and also because the sunken vessels belong to the type of Austria's most modern destroyers.

For over six weeks the Austrian fleet has centered its efforts to prevent Italy and her allies from crossing the Adriatic to aid the Albanians and Serbians, and several times has attempted to attack craft in Albanian ports, especially Durazzo.

Vienna, via London, Dec. 30.—The official statement, issued today from general headquarters follows:

"Russian theatre: The battles in East Galicia are increasing in extent and violence. The enemy yesterday directed attacks not only against the Bessarabian front but also against our positions to the east of the Lower Middle Stripa. His advance failed, due mostly to the fire of our batteries. Where the storming columns endeavored to penetrate our positions they collapsed under the fire of our artillery or machine guns."

"When attacked at the bridgehead of Burkanow the enemy lost 900 dead or wounded. Three officers and 870 men surrendered. The total number of prisoners taken yesterday in East Galicia was 1,200."

"On the Ikwa-Putlowka front there were local artillery battles. On Kormyn brook a tributary of the Stry, the Austro-Hungarian troops repulsed several Russian attacks."

"Italian theatre: On the Tyrolean front attempted attacks on Torbole and Carbonio mountain were stopped by our fire. On the ridges north of Tonal Pass, the Italians under cover of a Red Cross flag, attempted to construct wire entanglements but were fired on. On the Doberdo plateau vigorous bomb throwing contests lasted until night."

"Southeastern theatre: There is nothing to report."

"In the harbor of Durazzo one steamer and one sailing vessel were sunk. The fire of several coast batteries was silenced, during which two destroyers struck mines. The Lika was sunk, and the Triglav was damaged. The greater part of the crew was saved."

"The Triglav was taken into tow, but after some hours had to be sunk, as superior numbers of hostile destroyers and cruisers menaced the retreat of our whole flotilla, which returned to its base."

"Among the hostile ships only a British cruiser of the class of the Bristol or Palomote, and a French destroyer of the class of the Bouclier, were clearly identified."

"The national situation arising out of the government's proposals with regard to the compulsory enlistment of single men was very fully discussed. It was agreed that the importance of the issue involved is so serious that any decision on behalf of the trade union and labor movement could only be reached by a national conference of representatives of the entire movement."

This recommendation subsequently was discussed with the parliamentary labor party, and received its full concurrence. One reason for the recommendation, the official report on the conference says, was "the very pronounced views expressed by a resolution at the Trades Union Congress last

September." That resolution strongly opposed conscription in any form.

### PREMIER SUFFERING FROM LA GRIPPE

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Dec. 30.—The Premier will in all likelihood be confined to his house for the rest of the week. He is suffering from a severe attack of La Grippe and is under the doctor's care.

### GIGANTIC STRUGGLE IN EAST OF VAST IMPORTANCE

#### Both Sides Aiming at Accomplishment of Big Task and Military Critics Believe Next Few Days Will See Whole Aspect of Eastern Front Changed.

Petrograd, via London, Dec. 30.—The German and Russian official bulletins regarding the operations north of the Pripiet river laconically declare that the battles are proceeding. The importance of the engagements seems to be considered by the Russian military critics as great.

The general staff commentaries lay stress on the difference between these struggles and the last notable collisions between the Russians and Teutons, before the period of calm. The battles of Zartorysk, Nova Alexinec and elsewhere between the Pripiet river and the Carpathians were sporadic and designed only to correct positions on different parts of the line before the cessation of strategic movements on account of the approach of winter.

It is agreed now that a struggle is proceeding on the entire southwest line, and that apparently it is equally ardent everywhere. It is intimated that both sides are aiming at the accomplishment of exceedingly important tasks. The Russians and Teutons are equally alert, each side here and there taking the initiative.

The expectation here is that the outcome of this gigantic, but still obscure, struggle will be a transformation of the military positions in the Russian theatre of war. While it is pointed out that Germany has not

lost interest in the northern half of this theatre, it is intimated that her activity there is designed to inspire the belief that she has not removed her troops from there.

It is unanimously agreed among the military observers that the aspect of the eastern front will be changed within three or four days.

Russian Report.

Petrograd, via London, Dec. 31.—The following official communication was issued today:

"Eastern (Russian) theatre: An enemy attempt to approach with armored motor cars our trenches on the Bansk road was easily frustrated by our fire."

"On the whole of the Riga front there has been artillery duels and rifle firing. The fire was particularly intense near the bridgehead of Uskull. Successful operations of our artillery are reported from various points."

"On the rest of the front as far as the Pripiet region there has been the usual artillery and rifle firing."

"The fighting continues on the front south of the Pripiet."

"Caucasian front: On the coast region of the Black Sea and southwest of Mount Tormun, our fire stopped Turkish working parties constructing fortifications."

### FORCE GERMAN PEOPLE TO GIVE UP THEIR GOLD

#### President of Reichsbank Tells of Success in Making Customers of Private Banks Remove Gold from Safety Deposit Vaults.

Berlin, via London, Dec. 30.—At a meeting of the Reichsbank central committee today, Rudolf Havenstein, president of the bank, discussed the most recent measure to increase the gold stock of the institution by having the general credit banks compel customers to withdraw boarded gold from lock boxes in safe deposit vaults.

Herr Havenstein said the measure promised gratifying results, and that the daily deposits of gold in the Reichsbank for a whole week had been as great as previously. Referring to the large increase in the note circulation of the bank, Herr Havenstein said this was due to the heavy currency demands in foreign regions occupied by the German armies.

### GOING TO ENGLAND TO ASSIST IN WORK OF PAYING THE SOLDIERS

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Dec. 30.—About 150 clerks from the paymaster-general's office in Canada are to be sent to England shortly to assist in the work of paying the soldiers. Nearly \$30,000,000 has been paid out by the paymaster's branch in England, and at the front by a staff of a little over one thousand, and so far the only irregularities have aggregated less than \$5,000. There have been only three cases of loss. So states Col. R. W. Ward,

### SERVICE ON VALLEY RY. WILL NOT BE STOPPED

#### I. C. R. Will Continue Operating Line During Winter Months and Adjustment of Accounts Made at Later Date.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Dec. 30.—Negotiations are proceeding between the Dominion government and the government of New Brunswick with respect to the operation of the St. John Valley Railway, which is owned by the province.

At the present time the St. John Valley Railway is being operated by the Intercolonial, and the consideration is 40 per cent. of the gross receipts, but it has proved to be a considerable loss to the I. C. R. during the past year, and two months ago Hon. Frank Cochrane, minister of railways, notified the New Brunswick government that beginning with the new year a new arrangement would have to be made regarding the division of the receipts. The Intercolonial, he stated, would require a larger share of the receipts if it were to undertake longer the operation of the road.

No conclusion has been arrived at and no definite decision is likely to be reached until Hon. Frank Cochrane returns from England, where he has gone to see his sons. However, it has been agreed that the I. C. R. will continue the operation of the St. John Valley Railway during the winter months, and the adjustment of the accounts can take place at a later date.

who has been paymaster in London for the overseas force since the first contingent left Canada. He is now in Ottawa on a month's leave of absence. He speaks of the splendid spirit of the men at the front and their assurance of victory. He emphasizes the efficiency of the British fleet in coping with and destroying the submarine menace.