

Desperate German Effort to Invade Egypt in Prospect

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MONDAY MORNING DECEMBER 20 1915

VOL. XXXV.—No. 12,822

GERMAN GAS ATTACK AT YPRES FAILS

U.S. Speaks Final Word to Vienna

GAS ATTACK ON BRITISH LINE CHECKED BY HEAVY GUNFIRE

SIR JOHN SAYS ADIEU TO ARMY IN LAST ORDER

Has Firm Conviction Glorious Ending to Efforts Not Far Distant.

IN CONFIDENT HOPE

Success Attained Due to Indomitable Spirit and Dogged Tenacity.

LONDON, Dec. 19, 8.50 p.m.—Field Marshal Sir John French issued the following order of the day yesterday before leaving the army on the western front:

"In relinquishing command of the British army in France I wish to express to the officers, the non-commissioned officers and men with whom I have been so closely associated during the last sixteen months my heartfelt sorrow in parting with them before the campaign in which we have been so long engaged together has been brought to a victorious conclusion.

"I have, however, the firmest conviction that such a glorious ending to this splendid and heroic effort is not far distant, and I shall watch their progress towards this final goal with intense interest, but in the most confident hope. The success so far attained has been due to the indomitable spirit and dogged tenacity which knows no defeat, and the courage so abundantly displayed by the rank and file of the splendid army which it will ever remain the pride and glory of my life to have commanded during over 16 months of incessant fighting.

"The regulars and the territorials of the old army and the new army have ever shown these magnificent qualities in equal degree. From my heart I thank them all.

"At this sad moment of parting my heart goes out to those who have received their wounds, and I shall watch their progress towards this final goal with intense interest, but in the most confident hope. The success so far attained has been due to the indomitable spirit and dogged tenacity which knows no defeat, and the courage so abundantly displayed by the rank and file of the splendid army which it will ever remain the pride and glory of my life to have commanded during over 16 months of incessant fighting.

"In saying good-bye to the British army in France I ask them once again to accept this expression of my deepest gratitude and heartfelt devotion towards them, and my earnest wishes for a glorious future, which I feel to be assured.

"J. D. P. French.
Field Marshal.
Commander-in-Chief British Army in France."

SIR WILFRID'S LABORS ARE TO BE LIGHTENED

Committee Will Frame Policies in View of New Problems.

THREE MAIN OBJECTS

Question of Extension of Parliamentary Term Will Be to Fore.

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 19.—The Liberal conference which will meet here tomorrow at the call of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, has three definite objects. A committee will be appointed to take part of the responsibility he has borne so long as leader of the party. He will remain leader, but the framing of the policies of the party in view of the new problems that have come with the war will be done by the committee instead of by Sir Wilfrid, with only a few of his chief lieutenants. They will of course be included in the committee.

The conference tomorrow will also deal with the question of extension of the parliamentary term. Finally, there will be some discussion of the policy to be adopted on certain new problems that are already assuming importance, namely, the financial policy of the government, immigration, provision for returning soldiers and other matters.

FRENCH CRUISER QUEBEC IN PERIL AT SANTIAGO

Cuban Patrol Boats on Guard to Foil Conspirators' Plans.

HAVANA, Dec. 18.—The French consul at Santiago has requested the Cuban authorities to give protection to the French auxiliary cruiser Quebec, lying in that port. The consul made his request on the ground that the ship was in danger of being blown up by conspirators. The Cuban government has furnished a guard of patrol boats around the cruiser.

TURKS' ARTILLERY BUSY BEFORE KUT-EL-AMARA

Claim Made That Defence Works Are Being Destroyed by Shelling.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 19.—In Mesopotamia, Turkish troops are busy to be destroying defence works of every description in front of the British main position near Kut-el-Amara.

The text of the official statement follows:
"Front—Our troops continue to destroy defence works of all kinds before the enemy's main position near Kut-el-Amara. Our heavy artillery is successfully bombing the trenches and other works of the enemy."

GREEK ELECTION LACKS INTEREST

Abstention of Venizelos and Followers Makes Affair Mere Formality.

MANY DISFRANCHISED

More Than One-Fourth of Voting Population is Under Mobilization.

PARIS, Dec. 19, 10.15 a.m.—Two hundred thousand out of a total of 700,000 voters in Greece are now mobilized and will be unable to take part in the elections tomorrow (Sunday), says a despatch filed at Athens Dec. 15, by the correspondent of the *Marvas* News Agency, who adds: "The Liberal, or Venizelos party, who carried 185 seats out of 316 in the chamber of deputies at the last election, already have the polls almost unanimously, according to the best indications."

"The government, however," continues the correspondent, "is urging all its partisans to vote, representing it to be their duty under the grave circumstances of the moment."

"The campaign has passed in perfect calm, the abstention of the Liberal party being the only point of discussion. The number of votes cast is the only point of interest, and under the peculiar circumstances of the election, predictions on this point are impossible."

BREMEN VICTIM OF BRITISH SUBMARINES

Cruiser and Smaller Craft Were Torpedoed Close to Libau.

LONDON, Dec. 20, 2.30 a.m.—The Daily Mail's Copenhagen correspondent says he learns that the torpedoing of the German cruiser Bremen and the German torpedo boat occurred Friday night close to Libau while the Bremen was returning, with lights out, from an inspection of the entrance to the Finnish gulf. The correspondent adds that the attack was made by two British submarines.

DEATH OF MRS. COBLEY.

Emily Holman, widow of the late Henry Cobley, and mother of Charles Cobley, of the service department, Toronto Works, passed away at the family residence, 20 Weyland avenue, yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Cobley, who was in her 80th year, was for many years a resident of the city.

CHRISTMAS FURS

Every day that passes is another opportunity gone to secure the Christmas presents you have in mind for the people you want to remember. The advantage of purchasing your presents at W. & D. Dineen Co., Limited, lies in the wonderful range of useful gifts for men, women and children that you can secure at this old-established store at very low prices and unquestioned quality. Gifts for women—fur coats, fur sets, fur trimmings, millinery. Gifts for men—fur-lined coats, overcoats, fur caps, cloth overcoats, suits, umbrellas, club bags, suit cases, traveling rugs. Gifts for children—fur coats, fur sets, baby carriage rugs. This is only a partial list. Visit the store today and select a useful and welcome gift.

PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES WEDS QUIETLY

Two Weeks' Honeymoon Will Be Spent at Hot Springs, Virginia.

FEW INVITED GUESTS

Wedding Party Numbered Less Than Thirty—Departure Unostentatious.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—President Wilson and Mrs. Edith Bolling Galt were married at 8.30 o'clock last night and left afterwards to spend their honeymoon at Hot Springs, Va. The president and his bride traveled in a private car attached to a special train.

All arrangements for the wedding ceremony were carried out perfectly, the president arriving at his bride's home at 11 o'clock and the remainder of the wedding party, which numbered less than 30, following soon after. The ceremony was begun at 8.30 o'clock, and was followed by a buffet luncheon.

Elaborate decorations. Mrs. Wilson was married in the traveling gown she wore to the train. It was in a floral bowler that the wedding ceremony was performed. Whatever was lacking in formality and display in other particulars was made up for in decorations of blooms and greenery, which were as elaborate as the dimensions of the Galt residence would permit. Orchids and American beauty roses were profusely used as rambles in June or yellow chrysanthemums in October.

There was no music, and the first (Continued on Page 2, Column 5).

GERMANY WILL STRIVE TO GAIN QUICK DECISION

War Likely to Enter Upon New Phase in Near Future.

DRIVE AGAINST EGYPT?

Britain Inclined to Give More Credence to Persistent Rumors.

LONDON, Dec. 19, 10.45 p.m.—During the relaxation in all the offensive campaigns, except the Italian pressure on the Austrians, which has followed the expulsion of the Serbian army from its own country, European interest is focused upon the probabilities of some new but as yet undeveloped upheaval.

It appears to be taken for granted on all sides that the policy of the central powers will be to attempt to gain a decision somewhere, while their opponents will prefer to devote the winter to preparations for warfare in the spring.

To invade Egypt? There is much discussion in Great Britain of a reported Turkish-German agreement under the *Suez Canal*. Messages received from neutral countries professing to have German sources of information, describe the German field marshal, Von Der Goltz, as equipping at Aleppo an army for an invasion of Egypt. The same correspondents assert that the Germans are collecting droves of camels and donkeys for their transport.

A majority of the English writers who know Egypt declare that such a project would be hopeless. The Greek situation remains unchanged. The Greek government is reported to have formally protested against the entente allies fortifying outside of Saloniki. This protest may be of the same character as the one lodged against the first landing of (Continued on Page 2, Column 5).

TURKS IN GALLIOLI HEAVILY BOMBARDED

Allied Warships and Land Batteries Co-Operated—Tug Sunk, Turks Claim.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 19, via London, 11.15 a.m.—An Anglo-French squadron and allied land batteries yesterday bombarded Turkish positions at Avl Burnu and at Aji, on the Gallipoli peninsula, says the official statement, issued today by the Ottoman war department.

The statement says: "Near Anafarta the British and allied artillery encountered. One or two enemy mines exploded, destroying a British trench. Our patrols have captured in enemy trenches bayonets and ammunition and various other kinds of war material."

"Near Avl Burnu the enemy fired a great many bombs against our right wing. One cruiser and three armored monitors, as well as land batteries, bombarded our positions from different directions. Our artillery successfully replied."

"Near Seddul Bahr our artillery on Dec. 17 sank one of two tugs in the Narrows, which were debarking men and ammunition. The debarkation was interrupted.

"One cruiser and one monitor bombarded the neighborhood of Aji but caused no damage."

INTENSE ARTILLERY ACTION.

PARIS, Dec. 19.—Tonight's official statement on the Dardanelles operation took place on Dec. 18.

HENRI BOURASSA IS LIABLE TO ARREST?

Principal Peterson of McGill Says Law Has Right to Step In.

MONTREAL, Dec. 19.—Principal Peterson of McGill University has written to the Montreal papers, claiming that Henri Bourassa has rendered himself liable to prosecution on two counts, causing disaffection and prejudicing recruiting.

THREE ONTARIO MEN KILLED IN COLLISION

Train Struck Switch Engine Near Fort William—Victims Were Harvesters.

WINNIPEG Man, Dec. 19.—Three harvesters, Adam Holmes, Seaford, Ont., and George Leach and D. H. Leach, both of Bayfield, Ont., were killed last night when the first section of train No. 2, due at 10.42 p.m., struck a switch engine on the main track half a mile west of Fort William. The men killed apparently were riding on the platform of the mail car of the eastbound train. The switch engine was on the track in violation of rules. Engineer Eckes of the switch engine was seriously hurt, also three passengers on No. 2. The engineer on No. 2 and two firemen were slightly injured. Traffic was delayed about three hours. The damage to rolling stock is not serious.

MRS. HOLMES NOTIFIED.

SEAFORD, Ont., Dec. 19.—Mrs. Adam Holmes received word today from Fort William that her husband had been killed in a C.P.R. collision near Fort William while traveling east. Her husband went west on the last harvest excursion, accompanied by his wife, the latter returning about a month ago. Mr. Holmes until a couple of years ago was engaged in farming in McKillop Township and since that time has been living in town. His widow and three young children survive. He was about 35 years of age.

George and David H. Leach, killed in the same wreck, were sons of David Leach, a farmer living near Bayfield. The farmer was 29 years old, and the latter 20. Both had farms at Swift Current, Sask., and were carrying a letter to St. Both were unmarried.

SERBIANS USED AS SHIELDS BY BULGARS

PARIS, Dec. 19.—The Saloniki correspondent of the *Havas* Agency cables: "Bulgarian deserters declare that during the battle at Valonovo the Bulgarians exposed sixty Serbian prisoners of war to French artillery fire. All the prisoners were killed."

TWO GERMAN WARSHIPS WERE TORPEDOED IN BALTIC

Cruiser Bremen and Torpedo Boat Escort Sunk, But Considerable Portion of Crews Was Saved.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 19.—(Via London.)—It has been officially announced in Berlin that the small German cruiser Bremen and a torpedo boat accompanying her have been sunk by a submarine in the eastern Baltic Sea. The announcement stated that a considerable portion of the crews of both vessels was saved.

The Bremen was built in 1903. She had a displacement of 3250 tons, was 340 feet long and 43½ feet beam, and in peace time carried a crew of about 300 men.

It is presumed that the submarine was one of the English under-sea squadron which recently has shown enterprises in those waters.

UNITED STATES TELLS AUSTRIA QUIBBLING MUST END AT ONCE

Note Cabled to Vienna Repeats Strong Demands For Satisfaction, and Declares Straight Answer Must Be Given.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—The new Secretary of State Lansing and other officials of the state department declined to divulge any information concerning the note. From other reliable sources, however, came a strong intimation that the final draft of the note had been completed by Secretary Lansing during the day and had been put in code and started on its way over the cables.

A veil of secrecy has surrounded the communication ever since a White House messenger carried a preliminary draft from President Wilson to Secretary Lansing last night. However, it is known that the secretary spent considerable time last night and today a work developing the ideas the president is believed to have been considerably more lengthy than the first.

Unless there are unforeseen developments, the note should be delivered in Vienna by Wednesday night. It will be made public when Secretary Lansing is advised that it has reached the Austro-Hungarian foreign office. A prompt reply is requested and officials are of the opinion that one will come within ten days.

No More Quibbling. Certain portions of the text of the new note were said tonight to be nearly identical with portions of the first. The demands of the United States, which are reiterated, are for desavowal, punishment of the submarine commander and reparation by the payment of an indemnity for the Americans killed and injured.

Austria-Hungary's rejoinder to the first note contained an implied request for details regarding the American citizens who were killed or injured. The state department, it is said, has been unable to secure any of these names, and even the it has some of them, they probably have not been furnished to the Austro-Hungarian government.

The United States is represented as being determined not to enter into any discussion of such details; this government being primarily concerned with the principles and the violations of law and neutral rights involved. The note, it is understood, will briliantly intimate that the final word of the United States has been spoken. Upon the attitude of the Vienna foreign office depends the continuance of good relations between the two governments.

HEART OF COUNTRY IS RIGHT DERBY'S SIGNIFICANT REMARK

Indication Given That Premier Will Announce Full Success of Recruiting Scheme—Earl Looks for Speedy Victory or Allies.

LONDON, Dec. 19, 4.47 p.m.—Lord Derby, director of recruiting, and Ben Tillett, secretary of the Dockworkers' Union, representing the opposite poles of social and political life, appeared on the same platform in a music hall on the same night, when Tillett described here today, when Tillett described his recent visit to the British front. The Earl of Derby, who presided, said on introducing the speaker: "When it comes to the question of the number of men who have enlisted (Continued on Page 2, Column 5).

I must not anticipate in any way what will be said Tuesday by the prime minister. I think the country will feel when he makes that statement that the heart of the country is right.

"I hope the new year will show a brighter outlook than is discernible at the present moment. Probably the result will come sooner than many expect, but not sooner than they hope—a result which will be a victory for the allied forces. I am not the least pessimistic about the future."

ENLISTMENTS NOW EXCEED 205,000

By a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, Dec. 19.—The recruits during the first fifteen days of December numbered 12,500, and the total since the outbreak of the war is now 205,000. Ontario has contributed 77,000; Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 37,500; Quebec, 24,000; Maritime Provinces, 20,000, and British Columbia, 20,000. This is about one in 39 of the total population.

WOMEN WILL RUN BERLIN STREET CARS

BERLIN, via London, Dec. 19.—Women will begin doing the work of motormen in the Berlin street cars next week, it is announced.

The above announcement is of interest as adding to the rapidly accumulating evidence of Germany's shortage of men for the fighting line.

Asphyxiating Method Rendered Non-Effective by Adequate Protective Measures, Reports Sir Douglas Haig—French Carry Out Two Air Raids on Sablons Station at Metz.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE TORONTO WORLD.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—A German attempt to attack the British line at a point northeast of Ypres and its frustration and the reopening of a heavy artillery fire by the French in Champagne, on the first line of the German front, south of St. Marie-a-Py, were the features of the day's operations in France and Flanders as stated in French and British official communications tonight. The French also carried out a second successful air raid on the Sablons Railway Station at Metz.

British protective measures against gas proved effective in the attempted advance of the Germans, northeast of Ypres this morning and as a result the Germans who were not prevented from leaving their trenches were speedily driven back to cover.

Sir Douglas Haig Reports. The official report of Sir Douglas Haig says:

"Early this morning the enemy discharged gas against our line in the northeast of Ypres, accompanied by a heavy bombardment. Except at a few places, where they were driven back before reaching our trenches, they were prevented from leaving their trenches by our fire. Our protective measures against gas proved effective, and our line is everywhere intact."

"Except for artillery activity on both sides there has been no further development of the day's operations. The hostile artillery was unusually active east of Ypres and also against our trenches west and south of Weisnes."

"The enemy blew up two mines in front of our trenches, east of Arrancourt, early in the afternoon. Hostile infantry attempted to occupy the craters, but were driven off by our rifle fire."

"On the rest of the front there is nothing important to report. An enemy aeroplane was brought down by our fire today, east of Arrancourt."

Saturday night's statement said: "The day generally has been misty and unfruitful for our observations. It has therefore been quieter on the whole. Our artillery assisted by French artillery (Saturday) effectively silenced hostile guns to the north of Ypres."

"A French torpedo boat brought down a German hydro-aeroplane off Nieuport, taking the occupants prisoner."

Allied Artillery Active. The Paris war office reports that the day was marked by intensive activity by the allied artillery at many points on the battle front. French and British batteries stationed in Belgium turned a violent fire on the German positions, from which gas was emitted against the British. The Germans sent aeroplanes over the Poperinghe district, southwest of Ypres, and these dropped about a dozen bombs, killing one woman and wounding a woman and two children.

German pioneers working in the Ypres sector, north of Arras, were discovered by French gunfire, and the Germans dropped about 100 shells into Arras.

French trench mortars destroyed a German work in the neighborhood of Dancourt, on the front between the Somme and the Oise, and French artillery bombarded German machine gun positions and batteries placed east of Barry-au-Bac, between Solesmes and Rheims.

French guns effectively shelled Chauvaucourt, in the region of St. Mihiel, and German artillery which attempted to reply was immediately stopped by the accuracy of French gun fire.

Sablons Station Shelled. Fifty-one 30-calibre and two of 150-calibre shells were dropped by the French squadron of seven aeroplanes on Sablons railway station at Metz. One of the French machines was disabled owing to motor trouble landed safely in the French lines. This was the second air raid on Sablons station, one having been carried out on Friday night by four machines, which dropped forty bombs.

The French have begun an organized bombardment of German works and cantonments in the Apremont sector northeast of St. Mihiel, and report the gaining of excellent results.

May Invade England. The Observer today considers a German attempt to invade England as a desperate gamble one of the foremost possibilities, and that the extensive movement of troops in Belgium may indicate preparations for smothering at Zebruggen and in the Scheidt River.