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RAIN OR SNOW.

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Important Battles Are Probably Pending In Flanders and Italy

THE BRITISH ALARM HUNS BY CROSSING THE PIAVE RIVER

Patrols Force Passage of Stream at Various Points—Heavy Artillery Fire on Italian Front Between Frenzela Valley and Brenta Valley—British and French Repeatedly Shell Austro-Germans.

Germans Repulsed With Loss Near Ypres—Hun Raid on French Trenches North of Hill 304 in Meuse Valley Beaten Back by French Army—Heavy Artillery Fighting in France and Flanders.

The British patrols have again crossed the Piave River, the war office announces. They forced a passage at various points, causing alarm in the enemy lines.

The text of today's communication follows:

"There have been reciprocal bursts of fire between Praso and Cimego in the Guidicaria Valley and more intense activity on the part of medium calibre enemy guns in the Zugna region of the Lagarina Valley. On the Asiago Plateau gun batteries made effective shots against enemy transports and troops on the march behind the lines.

Persistent Shelling.

"There also has been activity by reconnoitering detachments. North of Costantiga Austrian parties were driven back and followed up by our patrols, which made a few prisoners. Violent concentrations of fire by our batteries against enemy positions between the Frenzela Valley and the Brenta Valley have been answered by persistent shelling of our lines. Enemy positions and the rear areas between Vidor and Ponte Fritoli have been repeatedly shelled with excellent results by French and British batteries.

"At some points British patrols have forced the Piave and caused alarm in the enemy's lines. On the plain there has been moderate artillery activity. "In Albania, on the Osun river, a large enemy detachment, which on Sunday attacked our Albanian bands, was driven back by our regular troops who had promptly arrived on the scene."

British Defeat Huns.

London, Jan. 7.—"A raid attempted early this morning southeast of Ypres," says the report from British headquarters in France, "was repulsed with loss by our rifle and machine gun fire.

"The hostile artillery was active this afternoon in the neighborhood of Passchendaele."

French Statement.

Paris, Jan. 7.—Heavy artillery fire occurred during last night near Bezonvaux and Chambrettes, northeast of Verdun, the war office announcement said today. A German raid on French trenches north of Hill 304, on the opposite bank of the Meuse, was repulsed. The text of the statement reads: "In the Champagne, our own and the enemy's artillery was active in the region of Monthaut. "On the left bank of the Meuse our troops repulsed an attempted German raid upon our trenches north of Hill 304. On the right bank the artillery fighting attained keen intensity during the course of the night in the region of Bezonvaux and Chambrettes. In the sector north of St. Mihiel a French patrol took prisoners. Nothing else of importance took place on the remainder of the front.

"During the day of January 5th four German aeroplanes were brought down by our pilots and a fifth by our special guns."

German Statement.

Berlin, via London, Jan. 7.—(British Admiralty per wireless press)—The official statement from Great Headquarters describes heavy artillery fighting in Flanders and France, but infantry operations were of a minor character.

EDWARD B. SMITH.

Philadelphia, Jan. 7.—Edward B. Smith, for many years one of Philadelphia's leading financiers, died of pneumonia today. He was 57 years old.

DESTROYER TORPEDOED BY ENEMY

British Vessel Sunk in Mediterranean and Ten Lives Lost.

ALL OFFICERS ARE RESCUED

British Captured 114,544 Prisoners During Year 1917.

TOTAL OF 781 GUNS CAPTURED

Losses Included 28,379 Prisoners and Total of 166 Guns.

London, Jan. 7.—The British torpedo boat destroyer was torpedeed and sunk in the Mediterranean Sea, according to an Admiralty announcement issued tonight. All the officers of the destroyer were saved, but ten members of the crew were lost.

British Captures.

London, Jan. 7.—The war office has issued a summary of the British captures and losses in the war during 1917. The total captures on all fronts numbered 114,544 prisoners and 781 guns. The losses numbered 28,379 prisoners and 166 guns. The items include:

Western Theatre—73,131 prisoners; 531 guns captured and 27,200 prisoners and 166 guns lost.

Palestine—17,646 prisoners and 168 guns captured.

Mesopotamia—15,944 prisoners and 124 guns captured.

No guns were lost in any theatre except the western.

SOLDIER WILL BE B. C. CANDIDATE

Sergt. Major Robinson Has Fought in Three Wars—Woman Also in Field.

Vancouver, Jan. 7.—Sergeant Major "Jimmy" Robinson, D.C.M., has announced himself as an independent candidate for the legislature at the by-election in Vancouver. Mrs. Halph Smith is also in the field as an independent candidate. The government and opposition have taken no formal action as yet regarding their representation.

Sergeant Major Robinson has had long military experience. He enlisted as a private in the British army in 1877, served in the Zulu war and the first Boer war and with various Canadian regiments in peace time. He went overseas early in the present war, won his D.C.M., was mentioned twice in despatches and was finally invalided home.

Hon. J. A. Calder, minister of immigration and colonization, and Hon. T. A. Crerar, minister of agriculture, arrived in Ottawa today and attended a cabinet council this afternoon.

240,000 VOTES CAST OVERSEAS

Naval and Military Vote in America About 40,000.

Ottawa, Jan. 7.—Two hundred and forty thousand military and naval votes were cast overseas in the general elections; in North America the naval and military vote totalled approximately forty thousand. Allocation of the overseas vote is now well in hand. Votes cast on the European continent are allocated and counted at the office of the Canadian commissioner in Paris; those in Great Britain at the office of the high commissioner in London.

Allocation of the North American military vote begins in Ottawa this week, possibly on Wednesday.

THE BRITISH DEFEAT HUNS IN FLANDERS WITH BIG LOSSES

THE SELECTIVE DRAFT UPHELD IN THE U. S.

Supreme Court in Unanimous Opinion Upholds Law as Constitutional.

NO ACTION ON THE CONSPIRACY CASES

Cases of Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman Come Up Later.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Every contention raised against the selective draft act was swept aside by the Supreme Court in a unanimous opinion delivered by Chief Justice White, upholding the law as constitutional. Authority to enact the statute and to send men to fight the enemy wherever he may be found, the court held, lies in the clauses of the constitution giving congress the power to declare war and to raise and support armies. "As the mind cannot conceive an army without the men to compose it," said the chief justice, "on the face of the constitution the objection that it does not give power to provide for such men would seem to be too frivolous for further notice."

No action was taken by the court in the several pending cases involving charges of conspiracy to prevent the carrying out of the purposes of the law. It is understood that these cases, which include the appeals of Alexander Berkman, Emma Goldman, Louis Kramer and Morris Becker, convicted in New York, later may be made the subject of a separate opinion.

HOLY SEE AGAINST RECENT AIR RAIDS

Pope Raises His Voice Against Attacks on Undefended Cities and on Churches.

Rome, Jan. 7.—In thanking the Roman aristocracy for their Christmas and New Year's greetings, Pope Benedict expressed his appreciation that the nobility had endorsed "our words with which we recently invited the people of the earth to return to God with the view of hastening the end of the frightful misfortune which has afflicted the world for more than three years."

"We must return to Christ," His Holiness added, "in order once more to enjoy the benefits of civilization." The Pontiff said the road whereby which to return to Christ was that of justice and love. He expressed appreciation that the nobility had joined with the Holy See in condemning the recent air raids which were against the rights of man. The Pope raised his voice against the form of warfare which is used against undefended cities and which causes victims among non-combatants besides damaging churches and art treasures, thus increasing national hatred.

FIFTY APPEALS IN WINNIPEG

Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 7.—About fifty appeals from Mr. Justice Prudhomme's tribunal will be carried to Ottawa, it was learned this morning. The cases are being taken to the highest court provided for under the military service act by E. T. Aylmer, the special military representative who was appointed by Lieut.-Col. Bell. Many of the appeals are in connection with decisions given by Tribunal No. 71, which were upheld by Judge Prudhomme. The latter tribunal, which is composed of Henri Royal and ex-Alderman Cusson of St. Boniface, refused exemption in only eight cases out of over 200 which were heard.

Although Infantry Operations in Major War Theatres Are of Minor Character Signs Are Not Wanting That Big Battles Are in the Process of Making in Flanders, France and Italy.

At Various Points in Three Great War Zones Intensive Artillery Duels Are Going on Night and Day—They Are Particularly Severe in Region of Ypres, in Cambrai Sector and Along Moselle River on Verdun Front.

Although infantry operations in the major war theatres are of a minor character, signs are not wanting that big battles are in the process of making in Flanders, France and Italy. At various points in these war zones intensive artillery duels are going on day and night. They are particularly severe in the region of Ypres and the Cambrai sector, where the British are facing the Germans, along the Aisne, on the Verdun sector and along the Moselle River, where the forces of the German Crown Prince and Grand Duke Albrecht of Wurtemberg are opposing the French and in the Italian highlands from the region of Lake Garda eastward to the Piave River, where the Austro-German troops are aligned against the Italians, French and British.

BULO PASHA TO BE TRIED NEXT MONTH

Brother Publishes Long Letter in Endeavor to Show that Accused is Innocent Man.

Paris, Jan. 7.—Now that the preliminary investigation has been finished in the case of Bulo Pasha, who is accused of having been at the head of an organization for German propaganda in France and his appearance before a court martial has been set for February 4th, his brother, Mgr. Bulo, has published a long letter which apparently forestalls the line of defence which may be taken. Mgr. Bulo says his brother has been accused only by two Germans—Herr Haddit, in Switzerland, and Adolph Pavenstedt, former head of a New York banking house, who gave testimony in New York regarding Bulo Pasha which involved the former German ambassador at Washington, Count Von Bernstorff. The letter says the German press denies the existence of the telegrams reported to have been sent from the United States, on the strength of which Bulo Pasha was arrested.

The sum of 1,000,000 francs paid by the ex-Khedive of Egypt to Bulo Pasha, the letter says, was in liquidation of a debt.

"Several years before the war," Mgr. Bulo writes, "I placed with the Behrens, Antwerp bankers, 10,000,000 francs which I drew in New York. When the Germans entered Antwerp I asked a neutral banker to prevent the seizure of this sum by the Germans. It thus passed from Antwerp to Hamburg, thence to the Deutsche Bank, thence to the Pavenstedt Bank." Mgr. Bulo concludes by saying that his brother established the reputation in Switzerland, Spain and America of being an ardent patriot.

Washington, Jan. 7.—The food administration has arranged to control during 1918 the supply of binder twine, so important to farmers, particularly those of the granger states. Reasonable prices—though not so low as former ones—are expected.

WANT QUICK SETTLEMENT OF R. R. PLAN

Railroad Counsel Urges U. S. Government to Act at Early Date and Not Undermine Financial Foundations of Country.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Quick settlement of exactly what compensation the government is to give the railroads so as not to undermine the financial foundations of the country are urged today by Alfred P. Thom, general counsel for the railroad executives advisory committee, before the Senate Interstate Commerce committee. He declared that in every case possible the question should be settled by agreement made between the government and the roads. Congress, he contended, has no power to fix a basis. The railroads, he added, have no intention of acting obstructively.

"We realize," he said, "that this is a time when all the interests of the country must make such sacrifices as can be legitimately asked of it to aid in the prosecution of the war. We believe that the only fair or legal means is to find out what the value of these properties was at the time they were taken over." Mr. Thom declared Congress should consider that the railroad plans now being considered represent a far greater value than during the three years suggested by the president.

SERIOUS FIRE AT WOMAN'S COLLEGE

Williston Hall and Valuable Scientific Papers at Mount Holyoke Destroyed.

Boston, Jan. 7.—Fire has destroyed Williston Hall, including the department of science and many valuable scientific papers, at Mount Holyoke Women's College, South Hadley. The students were absent on their Christmas vacation and no person was injured. The financial loss is estimated at \$200,000.

MACKENZIE KING MAY SUCCEED SIR WILFRID

Reported That Laurier Will Press Resignation as Leader.

CHIEF CONFERS WITH LEADERS

Those Present Refuse to Consider Contemplated Resignation.

Montreal, Jan. 7.—It was rumored here that the conservative Sir Wilfrid Laurier in this city at noon today that he was going to press his resignation as leader of the opposition, but tonight it is understood that those prominent Liberals with whom the chief held conversation this afternoon and evening refused to consider Sir Wilfrid's resignation at the present time.

That Sir Wilfrid may shortly drop out of the leadership seems to be generally understood, and it is said his favorite choice as his successor is Hon. Mackenzie King. According to the Montreal Gazette (Conservative), Sir Wilfrid's Quebec lieutenant, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, also is in favor of the leadership going to Hon. Mr. King.

Sir Wilfrid's chief conferees here are: Hon. Sydney Fisher, Sir Lomer Gouin, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, Hon. Senator Dandurand, Senator J. P. B. Casgrain, E. M. Macdonald, ex-M. P. for Picton, and H. Logan, Liberal candidate in Cumberland, N. S. Sir Wilfrid Laurier arrived at noon and will remain here tomorrow. The opposition leader was accompanied from Ottawa by Hon. Charles Murphy. Among those who met Sir Wilfrid at Bonaventure station were Sir Lomer Gouin, Senators Beiguin and Boyer, M. P. L. J. Gauthier, M. P. Severin LeTourneau, M. L. A. LaPointe, M. P. P. A. Seguin, M. P. and Joseph Archambault, M. P.

PARLIAMENT MAY MEET EARLY

Cabinet Council Held at Ottawa Yesterday.

Ottawa, Jan. 7.—The hope is expressed generally by the cabinet ministers in the city that it may be possible to have parliament convene early in March, and its deliberations confined to a three months' period in order that prorogation may come before the hot weather.

COCHRANE'S HEALTH MUCH IMPROVED

Chairman of C. N. R. Commission Taking Treatment in New York.

New York, Jan. 7.—At the Hotel Belmont, where Hon. Frank Cochrane, chairman of the C.N.R. commission is stopping while undergoing treatment by an eminent specialist, it was said tonight that Mr. Cochrane's health is "very much improved," and that his condition is not considered serious.