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German-Turko Attempt On the Suez Canal Much Discussed

Central Powers Are Expected to Make an Effort to Gain a Decision Somewhere—While Allies Are Content to Devote Winter For Preparations For Warfare in Spring—Ford Peace Party Gets Warm Welcome in Norway

LONDON, Dec. 20.—During the relaxation of all offensive campaigns except the Italian pressure on the Austrians which followed the expulsion of the Serb Army from its own country, European interest is now focused upon the probabilities of new, but as yet undeveloped, upheavals.

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 months to preparations for warfare in the spring.

There is much discussion in Great Britain of the reported German attempt upon 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 the invasion of Egypt. The majority of British writers who know Egypt, declare such a project to be hopeless. The "Observer" to-day, considers a German attempt to invade England as a desperate gamble, but one of the foremost authorities say it is possible that the extensive movements of troops in Belgium may mean preparations for embarking at Zebrugge and in the Scheldt river. Officers returning from the Western Front express the belief that fighting there on a big scale is impossible, be-

cause the country is muddier and altogether worse than last year. Activity on the Gallipoli Peninsula and some small Italian gains are the only important military operations reported to-day.

Germany has lost the small cruiser Bremen and a torpedo-boat in the Baltic Sea through submarine attack. It is presumed that the submarine was one of the British undersea squadrons which recently has shown so much enterprise in these waters.

The Turks claim to have sunk a British monitor in the Tigris river.

Henry Ford's peace party arrived at Christiania this morning and was welcomed informally by professors and clergymen and the American Minister, despite the fact that the party has no official status. Norwegian hospitality and the warm friendship of the Norwegians towards Americans assures the peace party an interesting sojourn during their three days stay in that country.

WOODROW'S WEDDING

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—President Wilson and Mrs. Edith Bolling Galt were married here at 8.30 o'clock last night with a simple ceremony, spoken at the bride's home in the presence of less than thirty guests, virtually all of whom were relatives. They left soon after for a two weeks' honeymoon at Hotspring, Virginia.

KILLED IN ACTION

LONDON, Dec. 18.—Major General von Stockhausen of the German army has been killed in action, according to a despatch from Amsterdam to the Central News Agency.

SALONIKI NOW THE MAIN CENTRE OF THE BALKAN CAMPAIGN

Central Powers Object to Allies Fortifying Saloniki and Threaten to Expell the Entente Troops—Greek Premier Has Stated in no Case Will Bulgar Troops be Allowed to Cross Greek Frontier

LONDON, Dec. 19.—Germany has threatened to expell the Entente Allies from Salonika, according to the Times Athens correspondent.

Replying to Greek diplomatic representations, which had as their aim the prevention of entry of Austro-German troops in Greece, says the correspondent, the German minister declared that fortifications which the Entente Allies are constructing at Salonika would compel Germany to take action to drive out the Allied forces.

Premier Skouloudis rejoined that in no case would Greece allow Bulgarian troops to set foot on Greek soil.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—A threat that the German Minister at Athens is said to have made to the effect that Germany would be compelled to take action to drive the Allies out of Sal-

onika, if fortifications of that base continued, brings the Balkan developments a step nearer to the crisis.

How soon the Austro-Germans cross the Greek frontier will apparently depend upon how soon they are able to collect sufficient troops. Despatches to the Daily Mail from Athens estimate the total available German forces as 200,000, who, however, are fatigued by continuous mountain marching.

According to the Athens Embros, the Ministerial organ, the Greek Government will address a fresh protest to the Entente Powers against fortifying Salonika.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—A despatch to Reuters from Salonika says: "The Allies' front remains stationary. The Bulgars show no disposition to invade Greek territory. There are no signs of Austro-German activity. The prevailing opinion is that the Bulgars will hesitate to enter Greece, while the Austro-Germans are unprepared for an offensive, if indeed they contemplate such a move.

According to local newspapers, the despatch states German, Austrian, Bulgar and Turkish Consuls at Salonika are preparing to leave for Monastir.

OFFICIAL BRITISH

LONDON, Dec. 18.—General Headquarters in France report a small enemy bombing night attack near Loos, which was easily repulsed. Elsewhere in Belgium, Artois and Champagne heavy bombardments.

Russia reports the enemy offensive checked near Lake Drivistky, north of Dubno and on the Str.

LONDON, Dec. 19 (official).—During the retreat of the Serbian army the Austrians and Bulgars armed the Mussulmans in New Serbia, and incited them against the peaceful population. Numerous massacres ensued and unprecedented cruelties and crimes were committed.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—A British official statement on Friday afternoon said that a French torpedo-boat had brought down a German hydro-aeroplane off Nieuport, taking the occupants prisoners.

All is quiet on the Western front.

FRENCH

PARIS, Dec. 19 (official).—Between the Somme and the Oise there was intense bombardment of German trenches in the region of Frise.

One of our patrols surprised an enemy patrol in the bend of the Oise and captured it.

PARIS, Dec. 19.—French artillery is bombarded with excellent positions south east of St. Mihiel, at Apremont Salient. Forty bombs were dropped on buildings and stations at Sablonville just south of the German fortress of Metz.

TURKISH

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 19 (official).—Anglo-French squadrons and Allied land batteries yesterday bombarded the Turkish positions at Avl Burnu and Alji on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

In Mesopotamia the Turkish troops are said to be destroying fence works of every description in front of a British main position, near Kut-el-Arma.

"QUEBEC" IN DANGER

HAVANA, Dec. 19.—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 the request on the ground that the ship was in danger of being blown up by conspirators. The Cuban Government furnished a guard patrol of boats around the cruiser.

VARIOUS BALKAN REPORTS

One Says German Troops Are Moving Towards Other Fronts—Another Claims the Austro-Germans Aided by Bulgars Will Attack Allies in Greece

PARIS, Dec. 18.—The Salonika correspondent of the Temps, writing under date Thursday, concerning the fighting along the Serbo-Greek front, says that the situation is stationary. The French and British troops have settled north of Salonika, and entrenching is being carried out vigorously. Their number is estimated at 100,000.

It is confirmed that the Greek and Bulgarian Governments are in accord to create a neutral zone a mile and a quarter wide, on each side of the boundary line, so as to avoid incidents between pickets of the armies.

Information is still contradictory as to what the German army, which invaded Serbia, is now doing. According to reports, which are probably true, the German forces are leaving Serbia for other front, Russian, Roumanian and, in part, French, but according to other information the Austro-Germans are preparing to attack the Allies in Greece with the support of Bulgarians, whose halt at the frontier, is only temporary.

RECRUITS ARE CALLED FOR JAN. 10

War Office Announces That Four Groups of Derby's Recruits Will Begin Their Service on January 10th—Derby Not Least Pessimistic About Future

LONDON, Dec. 19.—The British public were surprised to-day by the appearance of a Royal Proclamation in public places calling out four classes of Derby recruits.

It is inferred from this that the Derby campaign was successful. The classes called out are groups 2, 3, 4, and 5.

The announcement placarded by the War Office states that their service will begin on January 10th.

These groups are composed of unmarried men from 19 to 22 years of age.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—Lord Derby and Ben Tillett, Secretary of the Dock Workers' Union, representing opposite poles of social and political life, appeared on the same platform at the Music Hall meeting here to-day, when Tillett described his recent visit to the British front.

Earl Derby, who presided, said in introducing the speaker: "When it comes to the question of the number of men who have enlisted, I must not anticipate in what way would be said on 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 victory for the Allied forces. I am not in the least pessimistic about the future."

OFFICIAL ITALIAN.

ROME, via London, Dec. 18 (official).—At the confluence of the Tora Estico Valleys our troops by a methodical advance succeeded in occupying the Moore Peak, dominating the upper course of the Estico.

RUSSIAN.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 19 (official).—North-east of the Dvinsk region, near the villages of Minschel and Sarkani, our artillery made fortunate hits on a column of the enemy's infantry, dispersing it.

SERBIAN.

SCUTARI, Albania, Dec. 19.—The following Serbian official statement was issued yesterday:—

"The Austrian-Bulgarian official statement recounting the capture of an enormous number of prisoners and a great quantity of war booty, contain exaggerations. The Serbian army did not leave a single thing. Anything that could not be saved was completely destroyed.

It may be pointed out that the Bulgars, in including civilians in their lists of prisoners, are but following the example of the Austro-Germans. We feel sure the press has already grasped the real state of affairs and suspected the truth.

MASSES OF GERMANS PASS THROUGH RHINE

GENEVA, Dec. 19.—Masses of German troops passed through Rhine towns towards the Western front recently, according to news that has reached here since the re-opening of the frontier between Constance and Lindau.

The frontier is still closed at Basle.

PITIFUL CONDITIONS IN BERLIN

Shops Plundered by Women Who Were Charged by Mounted Police—Authorities Fear Uprising—Discontent Among the People Increases Daily

LONDON, Dec. 20.—Telegraphing from Amsterdam, a correspondent of Reuters Telegram Co. says:

"Life in the poorer quarters of the German capital is described as pitiful by a German-born wife of a British laborer, residing at Berlin, who, after sixteen months interment, has arrived at Flushing, Holland on her way to England.

According to the correspondent of the Telegraf, the German authorities are in great fear of a revolt, owing to discontent among the people. Several riots occurred in which shops were plundered and mounted police charged the crowds which were composed mainly of women. Misery among the working classes is considerable and is increasing daily.

This woman's story is somewhat confirmed, says the Reuter despatch, by a letter from the Berlin correspondent at Handelsblad, who declares that shops were literally stormed by large crowds, who were after their daily allowance of butter, which was only one quarter of a pound per family. Provision shops are guarded by the police to prevent disturbances.

Jounaris Wins Greek Election

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The returns from the parliamentary election held in Greece on Sunday give the party of M. Jounaris, Minister of the Interior, a great majority, according to the Athens correspondent of the Matin, who says he learns from a reliable source, that a complete agreement has been reached by the Army Staffs as measures requested by the latter for the security of the Entente troops and the freedom of their movements.

WHITE STAR LINE AGREES TO PAY \$644,000

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—The White Star Line has agreed to pay \$644,000 in settlement of all claims arising out of the sinking of the Titanic in April, 1912, when more than 1,500 were drowned, attorneys for the line announced to-day.

FRENCH AVIATORS AGAIN ATTACK METZ

BERLIN, Dec. 19.—French aviators launched another attack against the German fortress of Metz last night, but the only result was damage to property.

SIR JOHN FRENCH BIDS HIS GALLANT TROOPS FAREWELL ON SATURDAY

Has Firmest Conviction in Success of Allies Cause—Says "Success so Far Attained is Due to the Indomitable Spirit and Dogged Tenacity Which Knows no Defeat"—From the Bottom of his Heart French Thanks His Gallant Men

LONDON, Dec. 19.—Field Marshal 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, non-commissioned officers and men with whom I have been so closely associated during the last sixteen months my heart-felt sorrow at 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 of such a glorious ending, and shall watch their splendid, heroic, final goal with intense, but in most confident hope. The success so far attained

THE TURKS REPLACE BULGARS

PARIS, Dec. 20.—The Salonika correspondent of the Petit Parisienne, in a despatch concerning hostilities in the Serbian theatre of war, says the Germans have begun again to concentrate forces apparently with the object of fresh operations.

The Bulgarian Army is seriously threatened by Turkish forces.

Turkey has been instructed, and weakened and will be replaced in has agreed in principle, to give aid undertaking to Greece to evacuate Greek soil, as soon as the Entente Allies are defeated, but it remains to be seen whether Greece will permit the Turks to enter her territory, after refusing to have the Bulgarians.

2ND NOTE HAS BEEN FORWARDED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The American note to Austria-Hungary regarding the sinking of the Italian steamship Ancona, is understood to have been cabled to-night to Ambassador Penfield for presentation to the Vienna Foreign Office. Secretary of State Lansing and other officials of the State Department declined to include any information concerning the communication. From other reliable sources, however, came the strong intimation that the final draft note which had been completed by Secretary of State Lansing during the day had been put in code and started on its way over the cables.

Latest News From France

LONDON, Dec. 20. (official)—To-night, early this morning, the enemy discharged gas against our line north east of Ypres, accompanied by heavy bombardment. Except a few places where they were driven back before reaching our lines they were prevented from leaving their trenches by our fire. Our protective measures against gas proved effective, our lines everywhere are intact. Except for artillery activity on both sides, there has been no further development during the day.

Hostile artillery is unusually active east of Ypres, also against our trenches west-south of Messines. The enemy blew up two mines in front of our trenches east of Armentieres early this morning. Hostile infantry attempted to occupy craters but were driven off by our rifle fire.

An enemy aeroplane was brought down by our to-day, east of Armentieres.

has been due to the indomitable spirit and dogged tenacity which knows no defeat, and the heroic 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 sixteen months of incessant fighting. The Regulars and Territorials of the old army and the new army, have ever shown these magnificent qualities in an equal degree. From my heart I thank them all. At this sad moment of parting, my heart goes out to those who have received life-long injury from wounds, and I think with sorrow that great and glorious host, my beloved comrades, who have made the greatest sacrifice of all, by laying down their lives for their country. In saying goodbye 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 good wishes for that glorious future which I feel to be assured.—Signed: J. F. French, Field Marshal, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in France.

LADIES, ATTENTION!

A GIFT TO YOUR GENTLEMAN FRIENDS
A GREAT BIG XMAS OFFER.

FOR the next Ten Days we will give to every Purchaser of a tin V.C. Smoking Mixture, price \$1.25, a handsome covered Tobacco Pouch, price 50c. The regular price of these two articles being \$1.75. Our price for Ten Days only \$1.50.

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