

PEACE PROPOSALS FROM THE CENTRAL POWERS TO THE ENTENTE

Submarine Campaign is Failing, Says Lloyd George

AUSTRIANS MAINTAIN PRESSURE

Italians Offer Desperate Resistance Upon Northern Front ENEMY LOSSES HEAVY

Rome, Tuesday, Dec. 18.—The Italian war office to-day issued the following statement on military operations: "Yesterday, the seventh day of the battle between the Brenna and the Piave, the enemy concentrated his efforts almost exclusively on the Monte Solario salient. At 11 o'clock in the morning, after several hours of the most violent fire, extending from the Col Dell Orso to Ponte di Salton, columns of infantry from the northeast and the northwest were launched against our position.

The former, which advanced from the southeastern slope of Monte Solario, was caught by our a battery and a most effective and concentrated fire from French batteries. It was forced to stop and give up the attempt before getting in contact with our line.

The latter, consisting of a whole division of German troops, preceded by assault detachments, made a direct and decided thrust against Monte Solario and the northern slope at the head of the Lelino valley. Our troops put up a most stubborn resistance and the enemy, after a desperate struggle, being badly cut up by our fire and worn out by our counter-attacks, was obliged to suspend action and return to his own lines. We captured prisoners and some machine guns.

Berlin, Tuesday, Dec. 18.—Via London.—The text of the official statement issued by the German war office to-day reads: "Western theatre: "The artillery activity was moderate owing to the storm and blizzard. In Flanders and west of Cambrai, there was a slight increase in firing toward evening. Reconnoitering detachments of the British front, southwest of Pinon on the east bank of the Meuse and southwest of Thann (Alsace) brought in British and French prisoners.

"Eastern theatre: "There is nothing new to report. "Macedonian front: "There was firing at times in the Cerna bend and between the Vardar and Lake Doiran.

FRENCH OFFICIAL By Courier Leased Wire Paris, Dec. 20.—The official statement issued to-day by the French war office says: "There was moderate artillery activity along the front last night. There were no infantry actions."

WEATHER BULLETIN Toronto, Dec. 20.—The weather has been mild from the Great Lakes eastward, with some light falls of rain in Ontario and snow in Quebec, while it has become somewhat colder in Manitoba. Forecasts: Fresh southwest winds, cloudy with rain to-day and on Friday.

Peace Proposals Coming From Teutons, Russia Hears; Asked to Help Negotiations by Sounding the Allies; Ukraine Defies Bolsheviki

Petrograd, Wednesday, Dec. 19.—According to press reports Russia has been informed by the Central Powers that they intend to make peace proposals to the Allies. This report is published in The Evening Post, which says the representatives of the Central Powers at the first preliminary peace conference with the Russians, held yesterday, announced that their governments intended on principle to put the question of peace before all the powers, and that they had asked their allies to do likewise. Russia was requested to take similar steps. It is stated the Russians are endeavoring by all means to sound the Allies.

Petrograd, Dec. 19.—The Rada, the governing body of the Ukraine, has sent a negative answer to the ultimatum of the Council of People's Commissaries, the Bolsheviki Government. The Ukrainian Rada and the Bolsheviki Government in Petrograd have been at odds since the successful revolution of the Maximalist early in November. The ultimatum referred to probably is the demand made by the Bolsheviki that the Rada permits troops to go through the Ukraine to aid in putting down the Kaledines' revolt.

In its official announcement concerning the counter-revolution and since that time the Bolsheviki government has claimed that the Ukraine was aiding the Cossacks and the Constitutional Democrats.

The Ukraine, which means a frontier, is part of the old kingdom of Poland. It is made up of the governments of Poltava, Kiev, Odessa, Kharkov, Ekaterinoslav and Kherson. These governments have a combined area of about 120,000 square miles, and a population of about 25,000,000. London, Dec. 18.—The Bolsheviki government, according to Petrograd advices, has sent an ultimatum to the Ukrainian Rada. It demands that within 48 hours a decision be made whether the Ukraine will cease to assist General Kaledines by sending troops while forbidding passage to Bolsheviki government troops, and also whether it will stop disarming troops in the Ukraine. In case of refusal, the Rada will be considered at war with the Congress of Workmen's Soldiers' Delegates.

EX-PREMIER OF CHINA CHIEF OF WAR BUREAU

Peking, Dec. 20.—Tuan Chi-Jui, former Premier, is appointed chief of the Chinese European war bureau by a Presidential mandate issued to-day. General Tuan Chi-Kule has been appointed Minister of War in place of Wang Shi-Chen.

THREE ITALIAN VESSELS LOST IN PAST WEEK

Rome, Dec. 19.—The weekly report of shipping losses shows that two sailing vessels of more than 100 tons and one of less than that size were sunk. One steamship was damaged by a mine, but reached port.

WHITE'S MAJORITY 2,147. Ottawa, Dec. 20.—Official figures for the constituency of Leeds received here to-day show that Sir Thomas White, Minister of Finance, had a majority of 2,147. Previous unofficial figures gave the majority as 1,280.

BRITISH CASUALTIES. London, Tuesday, Dec. 18.—British casualties reported in the week ending to-day, totalled 17,976 officers and men as follows: Officers—Killed or died of wounds, 231; men, 3,181. Officers—Wounded or missing, 1,089; men, 13,425.

TRUE PATRIOT. By Courier Leased Wire Geneva, Switzerland, Tuesday, Dec. 18.—General Leman, known as the hero of Liege, for his defence of that city at the time the Germans were going through Belgium in the first months of the war, was expected to arrive in Switzerland yesterday, the German Government finally having agreed to his internment in this country. New difficulties arose, however, and the General was arrested at the frontier. It may be recalled that General Leman, although seriously ill, declined last year to accept a German offer of permission to come to Switzerland because it was made on the ground of his ill health and age. The General said he did not wish to admit he was unfit to fight for his country.

TWO MORE SEATS FOR UNION GOVT. Indications That Two Alberta Ridings Have Returned Union Men By Courier Leased Wire Winnipeg, Dec. 20.—The complete returns from the four constituencies in Western Canada, which have been in doubt, would seem to indicate that Battle River and Bow River (Alberta) have elected the Unionist candidates, while Victoria (Alberta) and Skeena (British Columbia) have elected the Opposition candidates.

On this basis, and without the soldiers' vote, the standing in Western Canada, and the Ontario boundary, is as follows: Government—Opposition—Yukon... 1-1 Manitoba... 13-1 Saskatchewan... 16-1 Alberta... 11-1 B. Columbia... 12-1 52-3

PORTUGUESE FORCES BEAT OFF HUN RAID Enemy Repulsed in Attempt on Positions Southeast of Laventile By Courier Leased Wire London, Dec. 20.—Portuguese troops near Laventile, north of Arras, last night repulsed an attempted German raid, according to an official statement issued to-day from British headquarters in France and Belgium. The German artillery was active in the Ypres sector. The statement reads: "A raid attempted by the enemy last night southeast of Laventile, was repulsed by Portuguese troops. Except for hostile artillery activity in the neighborhood of Paschen-daple, there is nothing further to report."

FIRE TRUCK WILL BE A REAL ONE Veritable Flame Fighting Tank for Brantford Fire Department The shipping bill for the new combination chemical, hose and motor pump truck that is to be added in the course of a few days to the equipment of the fire department, was received by Chief D. J. Lewis this morning, indicating that the truck itself may be daily expected.

The contract for the purchase of the truck, was given by the fire and light committee to the Seagrave Company, Columbus, Ohio, about five months ago, at an approximate cost of slightly over \$13,000. The truck is most complete in every detail, and in spite of the heavy original cost, will provide a real source of saving to the city. The truck is equipped with a chemical hose, there will also be 1,000 feet of two and a half inch fire hose and two extension ladders, each twenty-two feet long.

The pump, the distinctive feature of the truck, is operated on a centrifugal system and is guaranteed to pump 800 imperial gallons of water per minute. It is operated by the same engine that propels the truck to the fire. The engine is a six cylinder motor, capable of producing 120 horse power under block pressure. The pump is equipped to throw four streams, and the greatest advantage of the truck and pump will be the saving it will accomplish. Hitherto, immediately an alarm was received at the fire hall, the water-works department was notified, and the pressure at the water-works pumping station increased from the regular domestic pressure of eighty pounds to 110-120 pounds. This necessitated a heavy pressure on all the water mains, service pipes, and house-plumbing through-

Bolsheviki Rule Once More Menaced by Counter Agitations; State of Siege in Petrograd; Cossacks Have Defeated Maximalists at Rostov-on-Don

A state of siege has been proclaimed in Petrograd and the Ukrainian Rada has refused to obey an ultimatum presented by the Bolsheviki Government. Disorders in the capital, due, it is said, to the looting of wine cellars and shops made necessary the proclamation of a state of siege. Relations between the Ukraine and the Bolsheviki Government have not been cordial. The Ukraine has refused to permit Maximalist troops to cross its territory to attack General Kaledines and several days ago Bolsheviki troops attacked the Rada as it was sitting in Odessa and were defeated by Ukrainian troops. The Bolsheviki Government has accused the Ukrainian Rada of being friendly to the Constitutional Democrats and the Cossacks, the main factors behind the counter-revolution.

Rostov-on-the-Don, recently reported captured by the Bolsheviki, is now said to have been occupied Monday by the Cossacks of General Kaledines, who, according to another recent rumor had been arrested by his own officers. The Cossack leader, according to a despatch reaching London from Petrograd, has proposed to the Bolsheviki that civil strife come to an end by declaring the independence of the Don territory and providing against Maximalist intervention there.

Petrograd, Wednesday, Dec. 19.—The Bolsheviki newspapers are complaining that the presence of the allied military missions in the Ukraine is encouraging General Kaledines, leader of the counter-revolution against the Maximalist Government. Answering this complaint on behalf of the American military mission of which he is chief, Lieut.-Col. Judson says that all American officers are in Petrograd.

Petrograd, Dec. 19.—Cossack forces opposing the Bolsheviki have occupied Tcheljabinsk, a junction on the trans-Siberian railroad, according to a report received by The Daily Telegraph. The Bolsheviki Government two weeks ago reported that Tcheljabinsk was being besieged by troops under General Dutov, headman of the Ural Cossacks, and one of the leaders of the counter-revolution. The town is 330 miles northeast of Orenburg and 125 miles west of the Siberian border. The trans-Siberian railroad is joined here from the north by a railroad line running through Perm and Ekaterinburg.

When the new truck arrives the firemen will be able to dispose of a hose cart, another fire hose, a set of double hose and the equipment of the cart. There will now remain but one team of horses, where, before the mechanical equipment was secured, there were seven horses. This in itself ensures a vast saving, considering the price of feed with oats at ninety cents a bushel, and at \$12 to \$14 per ton, and straw correspondingly advanced in price, and shoeing also highly expensive.

The purchase of the truck was made almost necessary through the demands of the underwriters, who pointed out that in practically every city on the continent of the size of Brantford, the fire department possessed more modern equipment, including a pump.

Wherever the firemen are called to a blaze nearby a stream or a well, it will be only necessary to lower a line of hose into the water, start the pump, and immediately four streams of hose will be available with a strong pressure, and independent of the city waterworks system. The truck is finished in brass and is a handsome item of equipment of which the city may well be proud. It will weigh in the neighborhood of eight or ten tons, and will be of much the same dimensions as the present truck, perhaps a little longer. To fires in the central or business sections of the city, both trucks will be sent, but the pump only will respond to alarms from the residential or outlying districts. When the contract for the purchase of the truck was decided upon by the Fire and Light Committee, that committee were agreed that the staff of the department would have to be increased by about three men to look after the extra work of coupling, connecting and operating the pump, but if these men are added, the city will still be effecting a saving on the purchase.

ENGLAND IS WINNING IN WAR ON SUBS

Margin of Losses at Sea are Narrowing, Declares Lloyd George

SINKINGS ARE FEWER Russ Collapse Responsible For Failure of Allied Hopes

London, Dec. 20.—Complete restoration of the territories taken by the enemy, together with compensation, was demanded by Premier Lloyd George in explaining the war aims of the government.

Speaking in the House of Commons to-day, David Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, said that the margin of losses at sea was narrowing. The sinkings by submarines, he declared, was decreasing, while shipbuilding was increasing. The Premier said the sinking of submarines was increasing. Although the merchant tonnage was down by twenty per cent, he added, the loss had been only six per cent of imports over that of last year. Regarding the military situation, Mr. Lloyd George said it was idle to pretend that the hopes formed had been realized. This disappointment, he attributed to the Russian collapse.

Maritime Co-operation. By Courier Leased Wire Paris, Tuesday, Dec. 18.—Close co-operation in utilizing means of Maritime transport has been realized by the allies, says an official note issued here to-day, such as the statement made at the time the inter-allied conference concluded its sessions here. It was announced at that time that the allies had decided to create an organization for co-ordination of maritime activities and to-day's statement says this council has been created, consisting of representatives of the United States, France, Great Britain and Italy.

The council will draw up schedules for the division of tonnage in accordance with the needs of each country for food supplies and war purposes. A board will be created in each country to decide on utilization of the tonnage placed at the disposal of that nation. The French board will be composed of Etienne Clementel, Minister of Communications; Louis Loucheur, Minister of Munitions; Victor Boret, Minister of Provisions; M. Milgramin, Under Secretary for Provisions; M. Jeanneney, Under Secretary for War; M. Lemery, Under Secretary for Mercantile Marine; M. Sergent, Under Secretary for Finance; and representatives of the army, navy, chiefs of staffs and chambers of commerce.

Children of Tender Age Are Poisoned Through Eating Bad Food By Courier Leased Wire Geneva, Tuesday, Dec. 18.—Living proofs of terrible economic conditions in Austria were furnished yesterday by the arrival at Buchs, on the frontier, of 576 pale and suffering children between the ages of 7 and 9. They are from Vienna and other Austrian towns. The children had not tasted milk for months. They had received bad bread in insufficient amounts, stomach diseases resulting. Their clothing was most tattered. They will be distributed among various places in Switzerland until their health is restored.

AUSTRIA IS ON THE VERGE OF STARVATION

Children of Tender Age Are Poisoned Through Eating Bad Food

A meeting of the Police Commissioners, the last for 1917, was held at the Court House this afternoon, in the chambers of His Honor Judge Hardy.

SERB MISSION TO U.S.

An Atlantic Port, Dec. 20.—A Serbian diplomatic mission to the United States arrived here to-day on a French steamship. It is headed by Dr. M. R. Vesitch, who represented Serbia at the inter-allied conference at Paris. Its members include a number of Serbian army officers. The mission plans to go direct to Washington.

NOON-DAY CLUB

The final meeting of the Noon-Day Club of the Y.M.C.A. for the year 1917, was held to-day at noon. The program consisted of Bible study and was in charge of the Rev. J. W. Gordon.

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