

GERMANS HARD PRESSED IN EAST AND WEST; LEFT WING BEFORE WARSAW IN GRAVE DANGER

Allies Pressing Enemy in West and German System of Fortification In Danger of Being Demoralized—Small Advances But Every Foot of Ground Gained Brings Hour of German Retirement Nearer—Heavy Fighting Yesterday With Allied Fleet Playing an Important Role—Russians Checking Austro-Germans In Galicia—Allies' Warships Active in the Dardanelles.

London, Dec. 22.—Heavy fighting is taking place on both eastern and western fronts, but without producing any material change in the positions of the opposing armies.

In France and Belgium, the Allies' offensive is being pressed and while some ground has been gained at widely separated points, other attacks have been repulsed by the Germans from their strongly entrenched positions. In the northern arena the artillery and warships yesterday took up the battle, giving the infantry a rest, but lower down the line and from the Oise to the Meuse fierce fighting took place in many districts.

While the progress of the Allies is extremely slow, it is the belief of military experts here and in France that the gains which the general staff has been able to report are disturbing the German system of fortifications at vital points, and will, if successfully continued, compel a retirement by the Germans from their present lines.

MAIN ARMIES IN EAST GETTING NEARER EACH OTHER.

In the east most of the Germans north of the Vistula have retired across the East Prussian frontier before the onrush of the Russian forces, but south of that river, between the Bzura and the Pilica, the Germans continue their advance and announce tonight that in a fierce battle they have succeeded in crossing branches of the Bzura and Rawka rivers at many places.

This should bring the main armies very close together, and a few days will tell whether the German advance is to be definitely checked or whether the Germans are again to threaten Warsaw.

Fighting also continues in Galicia, but here, as along the East Prussian frontier, the Russians seem to have been successful in holding back the Austro-German forces. The Germans, who are extremely strong along the whole eastern frontier, are reported to be moving troops back to the west to meet the Allies' offensive, but it is not considered likely that this movement will reach large proportions until some decisive result has been attained in the contest against the Russians.

The Turks, like their allies, are being attacked on two sides. The Russians claim to have inflicted a severe defeat on them in the district of Van, while the allied fleets have been bombarding Kilid Bahr, in the Dardanelles, and a French destroyer has shelled their troops on the mainland opposite the island of Tenedos.

The first real view of the extent of the South African rebellion is given by the Minister of Justice, who says that four thousand rebels are now in prison, and that twelve hundred have been sent to their homes on parole. There are still a few roaming about the country, but they are without leaders, and are surrendering upon the appearance of Union forces.

The German Headquarters' Reports.

General Mackensen's Headquarters, Russian Poland, Saturday, Dec. 19 (via Berlin, The Hague and London, Dec. 23).—The Russians, in retreat before the army of Gen. Mackensen, are making an effort to effect a stand on the strong natural line between the Bzura and Rawka rivers. This line had previously been fortified and the Russians are now trying to hold it.

The Germans, however, have already broken through, and it is thought that the Russians will be obliged to fall back still further, although they are attempting to check the German advance by a counter-offensive.

The Associated Press correspondent met four thousand prisoners this afternoon east of Lovicz under a small escort, and was informed by the commanding general that he regarded the situation for the Germans as excellent. He expressed the opinion, however, that heavy fighting would be necessary before the Russians would be obliged to retire behind the Vistula.

Lodz has suffered little through the bombardment, but the unemployed workmen are destitute.

I.C.R. TO OPERATE VALLEY RY., BEGINNING WITH NEW YEAR

Arrangements Completed at Conference Between Premier Clarke and Mr. Gutelius—Seven Days Christmas Leave for Half of Artillery Column—Elaborate Programme of Elementary Agricultural Education in Schools Next Year.

Special to The Standard
Fredericton, Dec. 22.—At a conference held here today by Premier Clarke and F. P. Gutelius, General Manager of the I. C. R., arrangements were completed for the operation of the St. John Valley Railway as a part of the I. C. R. with the commencement of the new year.

About 150 people, holiday shoppers, arrived in Fredericton at noon today on the Valley Railway train, being operated by the construction contractors and the new road is proving a big boom for holiday trade.

Fifty per cent. of the strength of the field batteries mobilized here are

to have seven days' leave for Christmas and some of the volunteers will travel as far as Pictou and Antigonish, N. S., to eat their Christmas dinners.

J. B. Daggott, secretary of agriculture, made his report today to Hon. J. A. Murray, head of the department, as to the New Brunswick office in London. His recommendations will be placed before the government for consideration before any announcements are made.

Hon. Mr. Murray also had a conference today with R. P. Steeves, director of elementary agricultural education and, as previously intimated, there will be a more elaborate programme for this work in 1915 than has heretofore been outlined.

NEARLY THOUSAND AUSTRIANS KILLED IN TRAIN COLLISION

London, Dec. 23, 1914 a. m.—Nearly one thousand Austrian soldiers are reported to have been killed or injured in a collision of two troop trains near Kalisz, Russian Poland, according to the Daily Telegraph's Petrograd correspondent. The trains are reported to have met while going at full speed, owing to the accidental opening of a switch. Many of the cars were reduced to matchwood by the impact, and the passengers crushed into a shapeless mass.

CHILE ISSUES DECREE TO THE BELLIGERENTS

Concerns Amount of Coal Ships of Warring Nations May Take Aboard.

AN AMENDMENT TO HAGUE CONVENTION.

Supply Restricted to Amount Sufficient to Take Ship to Nearest Coaling Port of Neighboring Nation.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Eduardo Suarez Mujica, the Chilean Ambassador, today transmitted to Secretary Bryan a copy of the "Supreme Decree," issued by the Chilean government, restricting the amount of coal which belligerent warships and merchant craft can obtain in Chilean ports.

The decree, which becomes effective January first next, is an amendment to the articles of The Hague convention, a privilege granted to individual powers in respect to coaling, and represents the suggestion of Chile to Pan-American nations generally as a means of excluding belligerent warships from this hemisphere.

Great Britain already has formally advised Chile that she will abide by the regulations of the decree, the text of which was announced by the State Department today as follows:

"1.—That hereafter the supplies of coal which may be furnished to warships of the belligerent nations at Chilean ports shall be reduced to the quantity necessary to enable them to reach the nearest coaling port of the neighboring nation.

"2.—That in the event of the violation by a merchant ship of any of the rules bearing upon the observance of neutrality, adopted by the government of the republic, no fuel shall be supplied in Chilean ports to any vessel of the company to which the ship so offending may belong.

"3.—That the vessels interned by order of the government by reason of violation of neutrality, and also those whose owners state their intention to maintain them in Chilean ports until the end of the war, shall be concentrated in such Chilean ports as in each case the administrative authorities may determine.

"4.—That the quantity of coal that may be supplied in ports of the republic to merchant vessels be limited to the capacity of their ordinary bunkers, unless they desire to sail direct to European ports, in which case they may be supplied with the quantity of coal necessary for the voyage, provided always that the company to which they belong furnish a sufficient guarantee in the opinion of the government that the fuel shall be used exclusively in effecting such voyage.

"The foregoing dispositions shall apply throughout the territory of the republic, reckoning from the first day of January next."

SWORD OF FRANCE WILL REMAIN UNSHEATHED UNTIL EUROPE IS LIBERATED

French Parliament Meets in Special Session in Paris—Premier Viviani Voices Confidence of French Nation and Determination to Avenge Outraged Right and Re-unite Fatherland for All Time—Not for Conquest of Territory, but to Determine Fate of the World—Every Sacrifice Possible Will be Made.

Paris, Dec. 22.—With battles raging over ten of the northeastern provinces, the French parliament met in extraordinary session here today. The chief object of the present session is to adopt war measures and to discuss the future financial policy of the government throughout the session, which is expected to be brief, the proposals of the government will be adopted without opposition.

Fresh confidence was inspired by the gathering of the Senators and Deputies in this city, for it seemed to emphasize the fact that while the German invasion of the French soil the dangers which confronted Paris at the outbreak of the war, have now been all but eliminated.

Among the members of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies there was a feeling of quiet confidence. Predictions were made on all sides that from now on the Germans will be driven toward German soil, notwithstanding that their retirement may be stubborn and the allies advance slow.

The Chamber of Deputies, long before the hour set for the meeting, was a scene of animation. The extraordinary war session has aroused a very great degree of interest, rivalling that which was manifested in the session of August 4, held immediately after the declaration of war.

The plan of some of the members to ask for a secret session has been abandoned. A considerable number of the Deputies have pledged themselves not to stir up debates, but on the contrary, to observe a high patriotic attitude while listening to the govern-

ment's declarations and to vote the necessary credits.

The full text of the declaration of the government as read in Parliament by Premier Viviani is as follows:

Combat Without Mercy Until Europe is Liberated

"Gentlemen: There is at this time but one single policy; a combat without mercy until such time as we accomplish the definite liberation of Europe, won by a victory insuring peace. This is the cry which was wrung from all lips when, during the session of the Chamber of Deputies of August 4, there became evident, as has been so well described by the President of the Republic, that sacred unity which in the pages of future history will be the honor of France.

"This is the cry that is being repeated by all Frenchmen, but only after they have put an end to the disorders which too often take possession of our minds, and which a blind error may mistake for differences that could not be composed. It is the cry that is being heard from the glorious trenches, where France has thrown all her youth and all her virility. In front of this rousing evidence, unexpected by Germany, of national sentiment, Germany was troubled in the intoxication of her dream of victory.

"On the first day of the conflict, Germany denied the right; she had recourse to force; she disdained history, and to violate the neutrality of Belgium and invade France she invoked the remarkable law of self-interest.

(Continued on page 3)

BERLIN ADMITS ADVANCE OF ALLIES IN THE WEST

Berlin, Dec. 22. (By wireless to Sayville.)—Among the items given out for publication today by the official press bureau were the following:

"The order of Gen. Joffre for an offensive movement has confirmed the belief held here for some days that the allies in the west were about to attack the German lines. Thus far, however, their attempts everywhere have failed, and the situation seems little changed.

"An army headquarters' report concerning the operations in the east makes mention of the continuation of an attack, but whether this is being made against the Russian rear guard, or the Russian main army, cannot be stated.

"The situation in West Galicia is clearer. The Russians there are holding the east bank of the Dunajec river to Tuchow, and another line extends southeastward and past Krosno. Heavy fighting is proceeding on both these lines, and also in the Lupkow Pass.

NEW NAVAL BASE FOR RUSSIA ON ALAND ISLES, BERLIN REPORTS SAY

London, Dec. 22.—Berlin reports say that Russia is planning to establish a naval base on the Aland Islands. The Gulf of Finland is now frozen over in parts, but the Aland ports remain free from ice.

"While the States bordering the Baltic have objected violently to the construction of fortifications on the islands, it is understood that a num-

German Column Driven Across East Prussian Frontier Spreading to Left and Right to Gain Entrenched Position in Lake Mazur Region for Protection Against Russian Advance—Second Attempt of Austrians to Break Through Russian Line Frustrated.

Petrograd, Dec. 22.—The heavy German column which has been driven across the East Prussian front from Mlawa, Russian Poland, by the Russians, is spreading out to the east and west, according to reports received here from the front. The purpose of the German movement is to debouch to the right of the entrenched Lake Mazur position and to reinforce the troops in the vicinity of Thorn for protection against the continued Russian advance on the Thorn-Allenstein-Insterburg railroad, which is the main strategic line paralleling the North Polish frontier.

The Russian successes here not only threaten the right of the German Lake Mazur position but also the left wing of the army operating before Warsaw.

The Bouras Gazette calls attention to the shifting of the weight of German troops from Belgium to the Polish front, but the newspaper is of the opinion that this action means no lightening of the task of the Allies since the withdrawals of Germans from the western battle-front are from parts of the line where elaborate entrenchments proved sufficient to withhold the French and British forces.

It is stated that the heavy draft on the seasoned German troops of the first line is being filled out with the pick of the reservists and that new levies are being sent to the Polish fronts.

A second attempt made by the Austrians to pierce the Russian lines facing the Carpathian mountains at Sanok and Lisko failed yesterday in spite of a fierce night attack on the Russian trenches near Lisko.

The garrison of the Austrian fortress of Przemysl, seemingly informed of the movement of the Austrian Carpathian army, made a sortie coincident with the Austrian attacks though separated by thirty miles from Lisko. It is assumed that an Austrian officer, an aviator shot down at Bircha, 14 miles southwest of Przemysl, was carrying messages between the two Austrian forces.

The Austrian operations are rendered difficult by the fact that valleys, north and south of this region, cut the troops into separate columns and make a massed front impossible.

The chief scene of the recent operations is about the mouth of Mesoloboretz Pass, which is traversed by a double track railroad from Homano with the nearest railroad to the west fifty miles away. The nearest pass to the east is about the same distance and is held by the Russians.

HALF MILLION CALMUCKS TO JOIN RUSSIAN ARMY; VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Are Born Horsemen—Contribute \$200,000 in Money and 1,500 Horses in Acknowledgment of Czar's Granting of Their Request for Permission to Become Part of Russian Army.

Petrograd, Dec. 22.—Half a million Calmucks, members of a Nomadic, pastoral race which has always been free from obligation to furnish any soldiers, for the Russian army, have just been added to the Russian forces.

A deputation from the Calmucks recently arrived in Petrograd with a request that they be allowed to serve in the ranks during the present war, and offering to supply five hundred thousand mounted troops, if necessary. "Our tribes have volunteered practically en masse," declared the leader of the deputation.

The Emperor's reply grants them a military organization and privileges similar to those enjoyed by the Cossacks.

The Calmucks are born horsemen, and their horses are among the finest in the world, closely resembling the true Arab breeds. The number of Calmuck subjects in Russia is given as about five million. They are Mohammedans.

In acknowledgment of the Russian Emperor's granting of their petition, the delegation announced that it was empowered to deliver to the Imperial treasury a gift of \$200,000 in money and 1,500 horses.

TURKS EXPEL JEWS FROM JAFFA AT BAYONET POINT; WOMEN AND CHILDREN SUBJECTED TO BRUTALITY

Chicago, Dec. 22.—The expulsion of Jews from Jaffa was accompanied by many acts of barbarism and robbery, according to a special cablegram from Cairo, Egypt, to the Chicago Daily News today. The story says that six hundred refugees from Jaffa have just arrived at Alexandria on the Italian steamer Vicenzo Florio and add:

"Thursday afternoon Bedouin police raided the Ghetto (at Jaffa), arrested 1,600 persons and drove them to the point of the bayonet to the quay. Here the Florio was forced to receive as many of them as could be crowded aboard. Scenes attending this operation were heartrending. It was after nightfall and harbor police and boatmen stole all the watches and money the refugees were carrying to the ship. They tore rings from the fingers and even earrings from the ears of women and girls, and the harbor rang with shrieks and frantic pleas. Children were separated from parents and husbands from wives.

"Several of the men, resenting the brutality to their wives, were thrown overboard by boatmen, and drowned before the eyes of the women.

"The old hotel Metropole, at Alexandria, and other hotels have been hired for the refugees by several wealthy Jews of all nationalities. Many of the refugees are nearly mad with apprehension for the fate of thousands of relatives and friends for whom

GERMAN AVIATOR FLEW OVER DOVER, BERLIN PRESS BUREAU SAYS

Berlin, Dec. 22 (By wireless to Sayville).—"The German navy aviator Lt. Stephen Von Prondzynski flew over Dover, threw bombs and reconnoitered the position of the British fleet."