

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

The News

VOL. LIV.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1915

NO. 36.

MILITARY OBSERVERS AT FRONT REPORT THAT ALLIES ARE STEADILY, IF SLOWLY, ADVANCING AGAINST ENEMY

ALLIES STRONGLY ON THE OFFENSIVE SAYS MILITARY OBSERVER

Germans Still Attacking at Various Points But With Less Force

Small British Expeditionary Force Has Now Swelled Into Great Army—Outlook Bright All Along the Line—German Soldiers Beginning to Realize That They Are Not Marching on Calais and Paris.

London, Jan. 7, 6:30 p. m.—The New Year has opened up on a more favorable situation for the Allies than any they had known since the commencement of the campaign, says a report made by a military observer attached to the British army headquarters at the front. The report, made public today by the official information bureau, is dated Jan. 4, and supplements similar narratives given out at intervals during the progress of the war.

"So far as the British are concerned," says the report, "the small expeditionary force of four divisions which took the field in August has now been swelled into a great army, which is steadily increasing in numbers, has become inured to war, and can look back on a record of hard fighting such as British troops seldom have sustained in the past. The struggle of the last four months has entered upon its fourth phase.

ALLIES ON THE OFFENSIVE.

A slow, but none the less marked change which has taken place has resulted in definitely passing the initiative into the hands of the Allies. This is not shown so much by material results obtained, although at some points of the allied front ground has been gained and in some places very marked progress has been made, resulting in the capture of guns and strongly entrenched positions; but our advantage lies in the fact that it is now the Allies who for the past few weeks have assumed and maintained the offensive role, while the enemy has been acting on the defensive.

"The fact that the enemy is acting on the defensive does not mean that he has given up attacking altogether, but his attacks have been in the nature of counter-attacks, undertaken either in order to regain ground previously lost, or to relieve pressure on some other part of the German line.

"It is only by announcing the total casualties of these attacks by both sides that a clear idea can be obtained. Really marked progress has been achieved by the Allies.

"The German defence is an active one. It is founded on the axiom of war that the weaker the force is, and the more hardy it is pressed, the more persistently should it attack. But it remains true that such action is none the less essentially defensive, even though here and there one of their counter-attacks may succeed in regaining possession of a trench or in driving back a small section of our front.

NO LONGER ON CALAIS.

"If we retain the initiative it will mean that the German soldier gradually will become increasingly conscious that he is no longer marching on Calais or Paris; that instead of passing forward, his sole aim is merely to maintain what already has been won and that even his limited object has not been attained. Hitherto he has continually been told that reinforcements are about to arrive, and that an advance in force is imminent, while reports of startling victories on land and sea are disseminated broadcast. But such fabrications can no longer carry conviction when the troops realize that instead of attacking they are stationary or even retreating, and the morale of the enemy must inevitably be affected.

"The more thoroughly they are now deceived as to the true position, the greater will be the disillusionment, if they realize that ultimate victory is unattainable, while upon such an army as that of the Germans, which has been taught to exult the cult of the offensive almost into a fetish, the mere consciousness of being reduced to acting on the defensive must have a most discouraging effect."

THE PROCESS OF ATTRITION.

After referring to the ultimate consequences of repeated small successes, the British observer adds: "It must not, however, be thought that this is other than very slow and laborious progress, or that the final result is within immediate reach.

"Yet every capture by the Allies of a trench represents a lost ground for which the enemy expended much blood and treasure, and is a step forward in the process of attrition, which eventually will bring the war to an end."

"The co-operation between the Allies has been, as always, intimate and continuous. Our attack on the left bank of the Somme, for example, has been a considerable sickness in the German ranks. He says that for some time past there has been a good deal of typhoid, and that some German units have even been withdrawn temporarily on this account.

French Eye-Witness Tells of Fighting Near Arras

Paris, Jan. 7, 11:30 p. m.—The following statement from an eye-witness of the events which took place recently in the rear theatre from Arras to Rethelms was made public tonight by the official press bureau:

"It was in the region of Arras, and especially in the vicinity of Carency, that the fighting occurred. On December 25, in the evening, our trenches had reached the first houses of the village. On the 26th we already had been progressing to the south of Carency and to the north of Souche. On the 27th, between the southern section of Carency and the Woods of Pethou, we took 800 metres (about 2,600 feet) of the enemy's trenches and decided a trench to the east and another one to the south of these positions.

"The Germans after a spirited defence made a counter-attack, but our infantry remained and maintained their first line within 100 metres of the German position. Our artillery prevented the enemy from proceeding with their retreating work.

"We also made progress at Loos, where we advanced 200 metres December 31.

Group of Officers of Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry Regiment



"Princess Patricia's" are now in French or Belgian and any day now will be in the thick of the fighting. Various rumors that they have already been engaged have, at the time of writing failed of confirmation.

BELIEVE FORMIDABLE WAS DESTROYED BY GERMAN SUBMARINES

Marquis of Crewe Makes Statement to That Effect—Earl of Selbourne Declares Sending of Sir Christopher Cradock's Squadron to Pacific Was a Blunder.

London, Jan. 7, 7:30 p. m.—The Marquis of Crewe announced in the house of lords today that it was the definite opinion of the British admiralty that the battleship Formidable had been sunk by two torpedoes discharged by a submarine.

The Earl of Selbourne, former first lord of the admiralty, in an address in the house of lords, had described the dispatch of Sir Christopher Cradock's squadron to the Pacific as a blunder, as "a clear idea can be obtained. Really marked progress has been achieved by the Allies."

"The German defence is an active one. It is founded on the axiom of war that the weaker the force is, and the more hardy it is pressed, the more persistently should it attack. But it remains true that such action is none the less essentially defensive, even though here and there one of their counter-attacks may succeed in regaining possession of a trench or in driving back a small section of our front."

Italy and Holland on Close Terms With Britain

Washington, Jan. 7.—Arrangements between Great Britain, Italy and the Netherlands have been completed whereby commerce to the latter two countries from the United States is expected to undergo a minimum of molestation. The steps taken by Great Britain and announced in statements from both the British embassy and state department, to remedy some of the complaints made by the United States in its recent note to Great Britain and the plans encouraged administration officials in the hope that commerce with the Scandinavian countries and other neutral nations also would be improved.

Official Statements

FRENCH.

Paris, Jan. 7, 10:45 p. m.—The following official communication was issued by the war office tonight:

"Reports were received this evening of violent German attacks in the region of Laasigny in the Argonne, at the crossing of the roads from Le Four De Paris to Varennes and that from La Hautechevoches, in the region of Verdun, and on the ridge which dominates Stenbach. All these attacks have been repulsed."

RUSSIAN.

Petrograd, Jan. 7.—The following statement from the Russian general staff was issued tonight:

"On the left bank of the Vistula, on January 6th there was an almost general lull along the front of Sochaczew-Bolnowo, where only desultory fighting took place.

"The Germans, with a view to approaching our positions, are endeavoring to apply the processes of siege warfare in certain places.

"In the region of the village of Sochaczew the Germans who, on the night of the 6th captured part of our trenches, were forced out of them in the morning by bayonet attacks. In the course of this fighting we captured five quick-firing and a number of prisoners.

"In Galicia the situation is without important change.

"In Bukovina we continue our offensive."

PRISONERS OF WAR TO CLEAR QUEBEC'S EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

Ottawa, Jan. 7.—The province of Quebec has allotted 1,000 acres for the new model farm at Nottaway, 180 miles east of Cochrane. The land is to be cleared by interned alien enemies.

RUSSIAN VICTORY HAS GREAT RESULTS

Brings About a Complete Change in the Situation in the Near East—The Turks in a Bad Way is Belief in London—Germans Held Up Before Warsaw.

London, Jan. 7, 10:40 p. m.—A complete change in the situation in the near east may be brought about by the Russian victory over the Turks in the Caucasus. If the Turkish defeat is as sweeping as has been officially reported—the virtual destruction of two and the repulse of a third Turkish army corps—the Turkish menace against the Russians in Trans-Caucasia has been removed, and the loss of so many of their best trained officers and men, it is believed here, will compel the Turks to give up any ambitions they had of invading their enemy's territory and concentrate on the defence of their own country.

Military men, however, are taking even greater interest in the Russian invasion of Hungary through Usok Pass, in the Carpathians, and their rapid advance on Transylvania through Bukovina simultaneously with their movement toward Cecow. These combined operations are the most gigantic undertaken in the war.

In the meantime the Russians are held by the Austro-Germans in western Galicia, and Field Marshal von Hindenburg, the German commander-in-chief in northern Poland, can move but slowly, because of the mud, in his offensive operations against Warsaw.

A despatch from Petrograd says that aviators have observed German artillery at the frontier railway stations, which cannot be moved on account of the softness of the roads.

It has been suggested that the Germans intended to use the Vistula for the transport of their guns, but with the Russians in possession of the northern bank this obviously would be impossible. Although the fighting has been intense at many points on the western frontier, there is little or no change in Flanders, where the fields and roads are under several feet of water. In that territory only artillery has been able to work, but in northern France, between Lille and Arras, there has been some hard fighting in which trenches have changed hands more than once.

Hard fighting, too, continues in Alsace, where the French claim to have advanced a little toward Altdorf. They have apparently got no further along the German coast from Stenbach.

The British admiralty is now convinced that the battleship Formidable was destroyed by a German submarine, and has accordingly announced in the house of lords, the Earl of Crewe divulged the information that the apart from the loss of the cruisers Aboukir, Cressy and Hogue, that no ship should go to the assistance of another for fear that she, too, might be torpedoed, had been carried out. The captain of the Formidable, although he knew his ship was doomed, signalled the other ships not to stand by.

WILL NOT TOUCH THEM.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Secretary Bryan today stated that the British ambassador today that arrangements were being completed for the shipment, without molestation, of naval stores from the United States to the Netherlands and Italy.

GERMANS FORBID IT.

Berlin, via London, Jan. 7, 9:30 p. m.—The German army authorities have issued a general order prohibiting in future the use of the field from transmitting wireless telegrams to the enemy, as they did at the war of 1914.

The Austrian official statement is featureless, the bulletin only mentioning the efforts of the Russians to continue their advance in the Carpathians, and that artillery fighting is in progress on the front to the north and the south of the Vistula river.

COUNT BERNSTORFF'S CHARGE PROVED TO BE FALSE IN EVERY WAY

Secretary Bryan Secures Information Which Causes Him to Reject German Request That United States Investigate Charges of Export of Dum-dum Bullets to Allies.

Washington, Jan. 7.—The letter of Secretary of State Bryan to Count Bernstorff, German ambassador to the United States, refusing the latter's request that the United States investigate charges of export of dum-dum bullets for use of the allies, is in part as follows:

"Your excellency states that the British government has ordered from the Winchester Repeating Arms Company 20,000 'hot gun' model 1897, and 50,000,000 'bullet' cartridges for use in such guns. This department saw a published statement of the Winchester company, the correctness of which the company has confirmed to the department by telegraph. In this statement the company categorically denies that it has received an order for such guns and cartridges from, or made any sales of such material to, the British government or to any other government engaged in the present war.

"Your excellency further calls attention to the accuracy of the accuracy of which is not to be doubted, that 8,000,000 cartridges fitted with muskroom bullets, have been delivered since October of this year by the Union Metallic Cartridge Company for the armament of the British army.

"In reply, I have the honor to refer to the letter of Dec. 10, 1914, of the Remington Arms-Union Metallic Cartridge Company, of New York, to your excellency, called forth by certain newspaper reports of statements alleged to have been made by you in regard to the sale by that company of soft-nosed bullets.

"From this letter, a copy of which was sent to this department by the company, it appears that instead of 8,000,000 cartridges having been sold, only a little more than 117,000 were manufactured and 109,000 were sold. The letter further asserts that the cartridges were made to supply a demand for a better sporting cartridge with a soft-nosed bullet than had been manufactured heretofore, and that such cartridges cannot be used in the military rifle of any foreign power. The company adds that its statement can be substantiated, and that it is ready to give you any evidence that you may require on these points.

"The department is now in receipt from the company of a complete detailed list of the persons to whom these cartridges were sold. From this list it appears that the cartridges were sold to firms in lots of thirty to 3,000, and one lot each of 3,000, 4,000 and 5,000. Of these only 960 cartridges went to British North America, and 100 to British East Africa."

"SURPLUS" BE A DEFICIT

Close Examination of Pro-accounts

People's Gift to Imperialism Under the Head of Capitalist Items Dealt With in Surging System of Book-Keeping

than the year ending 1913. Printing cost between \$2,000 and \$3,000 less this year than last. If all the printing accounts are in and not carried on accepted drafts as is believed to be the system with the greater part of the printing of the government today.

The capital expenditure last year was \$638,500. This year it was \$716,896, including the potato gift money, \$30,000. Taking that out, the expenditure would be \$10,000 less than that of the year ending October, 1913.

Bonus on Timber Licenses.

The bonus on timber licenses which were due on Aug. 1, were paid to the amount of \$161,988, and went into the crown land sinking fund which would be the \$235,388 from the same source this year before. There must be some of these bonuses still unpaid, as \$417,000 is hardly the half of the amount that was to come to the province from the renewal of the timber licenses; still, here was a fund of between \$400,000 and \$500,000 as a sinking fund which would set up a lot of provincial bonds when the money market was not favorable for investment. The provincial secretary seems to have taken advantage of the fact that there was such sinking fund, for one item reads: "Bond sold to crown land sinking fund, \$384,000."

The Valley Railway.

The public is not taken into the confidence of the administration with respect to the Valley Railway, but the government is no statement as to how many bonds have been guaranteed or what the province is liable for in the way of principal and interest. There is any information regarding the amount of money in the hands of the Prudential Trust Company nor what chance there is of the money being released in the near future for the purpose of completing the railway from Rothsay to Gagetown and from Centreville to Grand Falls.

Executive government, which cost \$84,736 in 1906 the first year this government was in power, cost \$48,344 in 1913-14, or an increase of nearly \$11,000. Contingencies which in 1908 cost \$15,908, last year amounted to \$21,873, or about \$6,000 more than when this economical administration began its labors.

Some point has been made concerning the increase in the territorial revenue from \$201,454 to \$216,000, but the government newspapers are careful not to explain that the stampage was increased from \$125 to \$129 per thousand this year and this would mean an increased revenue of \$61,000 if the cut was as large as in 1913-14. There is no trouble in increasing this revenue if the stampage is increased, but it is only a cut that the increase is due to this cause and not to any greater care in the collection of stampage.

One fact stands out clearly, that while the revenues have fallen off in many directions there does not appear to have been any attempt to reduce the large expenditures where it was possible to make a saving. The officials are still as numerous as ever and some of them are as useless as ever. The increase in the expenditure of the money necessary for the gift to the imperial government. This transaction was never intended to give any form of a large profit at the expense of the people of New Brunswick, and yet those experiments in the test of potatoes and their shipment say that \$200,000 was a common sum to pay for 100,000 bushels, even if it cost, as stated, \$16,000 to ship them from St. John to London.

capture, but not so neutral goods on an enemy's ship, or an enemy's goods on a neutral ship, subject to certain qualifications by the law of contraband.

Pillage Prohibited.

No poison or poisoned weapons shall be used, and neither must be given if and when asked for. The pillage of a captured town is prohibited.

Spies cannot be punished without a trial. Soldiers in uniform who are obtaining information, and spies are not regarded as spies, and if captured are treated as prisoners of war.

Formal notice must be given by the commander of an attacking force to the non-combatants may leave. Civilians captured in possession of arms or soldiers not in uniform may be shot after being court-martialed.

Vessels employed exclusively in coastal fisheries, or small boats employed in local trade, together with their appliances, rigging, tackle, and cargo, are exempt from capture.

All countries engaged in the present war have agreed to the above rules, and it is the duty of the neutral nations to see that they are observed.

PORTION OF THE STR. NAVARRA'S CARGO SALVED

Yarmouth, N. S., Jan. 8.—Five cargoes of hay and boulders have been landed at Yarmouth from the steamer Navarra, about 80 tons of hay and 100 boulders in all. A portion of the hay was placed on board the Glenmorang, which is to sail direct for Yarmouth as soon as the 800 boulders are saved.

"The position of the ship is unaltered, and surveys say she may be floated if no storms arise."