

## BELGRADE EVACUATED BY THE SERVIANS; A MOTHER BATTLE IMMINENT IN THE WEST

### SERVIAN CAPITAL FALLS BEFORE AUSTRILIANS

Under Attack For Four Months But Enemy unable to Capture it—Advance of New Austrian Army Through Northern Serbia Made Positions of Defenders Hazardous and City Was Evacuated—Other Austrian Successes In Serbia Are Reported,

Vienna, via London, Dec. 2.—Austrian troops today occupied Belgrade, Serbia.

The occupation of the city was announced in a telegram to Emperor Francis Joseph from General Frank, commander of the Fifth Army Corps. The message follows:

"On the occasion of the sixty-sixth anniversary of your reign, permit me to lay at your feet the information that Belgrade was today occupied by the Fifth Army Corps."

The city of Belgrade, which was the capital of Serbia until the seat of government was removed shortly after the outbreak of the war, has been under attack by the Austrians much of the time for the last four months. Early in August Austrian troops reached the city, but were unable to hold it.

The advance of a new Austrian army through Northern Serbia during the last fortnight made the positions of the Serbian troops in Belgrade a hazardous one, and early today it was reported from Sofia, Bulgaria, that the city had been evacuated.

received today by the Havas Agency from Nish contain the admission that the Austrians have won further victories in Serbia. After a number of rear guard actions during the last few days, the Serbian troops were forced to fall back, on December 1, from the region around Ouzdize and Kocieritch. The retreat, it is said, was made in good order.

Heavy fighting has occurred near Souvabor, where the Austrians concentrated large forces, and succeeded in capturing two important points.

The fighting along the Kolubara river is said to have been attended with some success for the Serbians. In an engagement near Lazarevats on November 28 the Serbians are reported to have taken positions of the enemy, capturing 27 officers and about 2,000 men.

London, Dec. 3, 2.35 a. m.—In a despatch dealing with the evacuation of Belgrade and its occupation by the Austrians the Daily Telegraph's Athens correspondent says:

"As the result of a Serbian concentration on a new defensive line Belgrade became isolated and, being ill prepared to stand a siege, was evacuated by the garrison Monday night."

Other Austrian Successes Reported.

Paris, Dec. 2.—Semi-official advices

### RAILROAD LOST MILLIONS BY "DEALS"

Inquiry Into Affairs of Pere Marquette Road Being Held by Interstate Commerce Commission.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 2.—Financial deals which are alleged to have cost the road several million dollars, and bonds representing almost as much money which are said to have dropped out of sight, were mentioned in testimony given today at the inquiry into the affairs of the Pere Marquette Railroad which is being conducted here by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Auditor Clarence S. Sikes, of the Pere Marquette road, who was on the stand all day yesterday and again today, was questioned at length concerning transactions which, stockholders allege, helped to plunge the road into bankruptcy.

Sikes declared that \$2,500,000 worth of bonds and discounts, supposed to have been issued during the last four-year period, have not been accounted for. He also testified that prior to 1908 the railroad sold bonds and notes aggregating a face value of \$2,000,000 to J. P. Morgan & Company, but that only \$7,500,000 was realized because the securities were sold at a discount.

The Morgan firm refused to accept the bonds, without additional securities, he charged, and the Pere Marquette was forced to put up securities amounting to \$1,600,000 to obtain the cash. When the railroad was unable to meet its indebtedness to Morgan that firm sold the bonds and notes for \$6,000,000, Sikes said, and the Pere Marquette was obliged to stand the \$2,000,000 deficit.

Sikes probably will conclude his testimony tomorrow. Interesting developments are expected when the inquiry attempts to ascertain the physical condition of the road.

### TORONTO GETS WORD TO MOBILIZE MORE MEN.

Toronto, Dec. 2.—News today was officially received at military headquarters directing the mobilization of an extra unit, a third battery of field artillery. This will comprise approximately one hundred and fifty men. Preparations are already under way to house and accommodate at least three thousand additional men.

### WILL KEEP OUT ARMY HORSES FROM STATES

Owing to Danger of Foot and Mouth Disease Spreading in Canada Remounts Will Not be Brought Across Border for Shipment Here.

### CANADA'S PRISONERS OF WAR WILL BE KEPT WORKING DURING WINTER

Majority of Them Will be Set to Work Clearing Land for Agricultural Purposes.

Ottawa, Dec. 2.—Gen. Sir William Otter, who has charge of internment of the alien enemies in Canada, has arranged for employment during the winter months for the majority of them in clearing land for agricultural purposes. Those in Quebec will shortly be removed to the Abitibi district, while in Ontario they will be put in the Algonquin Park, and at the Peawanua training grounds. It is stated the men are willing to accept any kind of work during the winter, with employment conditions stringent as they are in Canada at present.

Conflict Still Rages on Eastern Frontier And Decisive Result Not Expected For Some Days—Germans Claim They Have Taken Over 80,000 Prisoners—German Attempt to Pierce Russian Lines Has Failed—Fighting Continues in Flanders, and Germans Forced to Evacuate Several Villages on Yser Canal—Allies Expected to Take Offensive in West to Prevent Germans Withdrawing Troops For Operations in the East.

London, Dec. 2, 10.05 p. m.—Belgrade which until the outbreak of the war was the capital of Serbia, was today occupied by Austrian troops, the Serbians having previously evacuated the city.

Thus, on the 66th anniversary of the reign of Emperor Francis Joseph, who again is reported seriously ill, and four months after the outbreak of the war, his generals report one of the most important successes they have obtained.

Belgrade was frequently under bombardment early in the war, and but for the general European war which compelled Austria to send her troops against Russia, must have fallen an easy prey to Serbia's big neighbor.

Apparently Austria miscalculated the nature of the Serbians' opposition, and only after Bosnia was invaded did she send a sufficient force against the Serbians to drive them back. Now they are being forced backward and are eagerly looking for the advance of the Russians into Hungary to afford them relief.

Russia has been sending Cossack raiding parties through the Carpathian mountains, with the object of diverting Austria's attention, but the dual Monarchy seemingly is determined to finish with Serbia first.

GERMANS CLAIM CAPTURE OF 80,000 OF ENEMY.

This, however, is only a small affair compared with what is going on in North Poland. There the German army, which with the aid of reinforcements, succeeded in escaping from the ring that the Russians had forced around it, has formed a new front, and at some points has resumed the offensive. The Germans assert that in this series of manoeuvres, by which they were able to check the Russians, they made eighty thousand prisoners.

On the other hand, the Russians, in a statement issued through Rome, say that their captures greatly exceed this number. All agree that a losses have been very heavy and that the battle is still proceeding. It will probably be some days before a decisive result is reached.

For the moment the allies are somewhat disappointed that the realization of a great Russian victory is denied them. They take some consolation in the fact that the German attempt to pierce the Russian lines has failed, and that, suffering from heavy losses, the Germans are compelled to weaken their armies elsewhere.

The Russian report tonight says that the fight has lost some of its violence, and indicates some progress for the Russian troops south of Lodz. It is unofficially reported that the Russians are "nearly in Cracow."

While there is every indication that another big battle is imminent in the west, there is no evidence that it has actually begun. There has been fighting in Flanders, but this doubtless is the result of an attempt by the Allies to take some advanced position. There are also reports that the Germans have evacuated several villages on the Yser Canal, and are concentrating on new positions.

The British have taken over command of the Yser region and, like the French, have been strongly reinforced. It is believed that on the first sign of a German movement in any considerable force to the East the Allies will take the offensive in the West.

### KING GEORGE, PRES. POINCAIRE AND JOFFRE VISIT TROOPS AT FRONT

Paris, Dec. 2.—President Poincare, accompanied by Premier Viviani and Gen. Joffre met King George yesterday morning at the British headquarters. After a long conversation, the King and the President departed in an open automobile for a tour behind the British lines. They received a great ovation, being cheered enthusiastically by the troops and the inhabitants of the villages through which they passed.

The day was passed with the British troops. In the evening King George gave a dinner at the headquarters to the President, the Premier, Gen. French, the Prince of Wales, Gen. Durgabo and Colonel Hughson and Peniston.

General Joffre was compelled to return to his own headquarters before the dinner.

President Poincare and Premier Viviani left for Paris during the night, arriving here this morning.

### YEAR'S WAR WILL HONORS FOR CANADIAN MEAN A HALF BILLION TO U.S.

Washington, Dec. 2.—That one year of the war in Europe will add \$500,000,000 to the foreign commerce of the United States is the estimate of Edward E. Pratt, Chief of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Mr. Pratt has just completed a study of the reports of American consuls and commercial representatives abroad of agents of his bureau in this country, and of the new orders for American manufactures and products, reported in commercial periodicals.

London, Dec. 2.—Captain John Edmund Valentine Isaac, a native of Vancouver, who is now serving with the Rifle Brigade, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Order for skillfully guiding his unit to a critical point on October 24, which resulted in the checking of the enemy.

Captain Isaac was wounded at the time when he performed this feat.

### ENGLAND HAS FIVE AND HALF MILLION MORE MEN AVAILABLE

London, Nov. 24. (Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—The total male population of England and Wales available for military purposes is estimated at 5,600,000 in the annual report of the Registrar General of birth, deaths and marriages.

The Registrar's compilation gives the following figures:

Age	Number
20-24	1,502,652
25-29	1,455,788
30-34	1,375,872
35-39	1,261,432

### SHOWING GREAT INTEREST IN NAVAL COLLEGE

Many inquiries being received concerning course at Halifax, and large class expected to take matriculation.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Dec. 2.—The Naval Service Department is receiving numerous inquiries about the course at the naval college at Halifax and the keener interest resulting from the war will be reflected in a large class at the examinations for entrance next May.

The people of Halifax and of the Maritime Provinces generally have felt deeply the loss of the four young midshipmen who went down with the British cruiser "Good Hope," and in whom they felt great pride. The naval service department has had a number of communications expressing high opinions of the ability and character of the young men. The class to which they belonged left the naval college last spring and all have acquitted themselves well.

### ITALIAN PARLIAMENT MEETS TODAY

Premier Will Make Statement Concerning Government's Policy, and Explain Reasons For "Armed and Watchful Neutrality."

Rome, Dec. 2.—The Italian parliament will re-assemble tomorrow, and its deliberations are awaited with anxiety, as this is considered the gravest moment for Italy since its unification. Four hundred and fifty deputies and three hundred senators are already in Rome to attend the session.

Premier Salandra, in presenting the new cabinet, will make a statement concerning the government's policy. An especially interesting passage will deal with the attitude of Italy with reference to the present war, and the premier will explain the reasons that actuated the government in maintaining "armed and watchful neutrality," the object of which was to guarantee the supreme interest of Italy whenever threatened.

The statement will contain an announcement of the military and naval preparations, for which almost \$200,000,000 have been appropriated.

### RUSSIANS BREAKING DOWN THE AUSTRILIANS' DEFENCE AT CRACOW

Defenders Driven Back In Disorder From Positions Outside Fortress—German Offensive In Region of Lowicz a Disastrous Failure and They Suffer Heavy Losses.

Petrograd, via London, Dec. 2.—The army messenger, in a review of the fighting during the period from November 28 to 30, says:

"On the Russo-Prussian frontier the Germans have maintained their fortified positions and have been making attacks of little importance. These operations were without success, and our army corps have kept their dispositions."

"The German offensive in the region of Lowicz was repulsed by advanced guards and cavalry, who inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. The same fate befell the German offensive at Dombrovo and Shtusoff."

"On the Thorn-Cracow front the German guard which attempted the offensive suffered a serious defeat in the Trzbitz-Bogomiloff district. Our troops took a large number of prisoners, assumed the offensive and captured several important points. Counter attacks by the enemy were repulsed."

"The Austrian troops defending the approaches to Cracow have been defeated, and are falling back in disorder in the region of the fortress."

"On the Galician front we are advancing with ever increasing success."

### REPUBLICS OF SOUTH AMERICA FEAR TROUBLE

Afraid Germany's Alleged Violation of Neutrality May Lead Others to Send Their Warships Within Three Mile Limit—Republics Will Get Together to Draft Note to the Nations-at-War.

Washington, Dec. 2.—Grave controversies between nations of South America and belligerent countries of Europe led today to the calling of a conference for next Tuesday or the governing board of the Pan-American Union.

Before this board, which consists of the diplomatic representatives of twenty American republics with the Secretary of State of the United States, as Chairman-ex-officio, will come the various suggestions which have been made by Argentina, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and Ecuador to secure a strict observance by those nations of neutrality obligations. Although this controversy, according to latest reports, is being adjusted, the menacing situation in Chile has emphasized the dangers to South American republics of the continued presence of foreign warships off their coasts.

Much interest was aroused among Washington diplomats when the purpose of the meeting became generally known. The knowledge that the nations of this hemisphere would endeavor informally to reach an understanding, so that they could speak with one voice to the belligerents of Europe on such questions as wireless regulation, coal and the restoration of trade, was received with marked attention by the European diplomats who are following the movement closely.

Evidence of the seriousness of the situation in South America, due to the presence of belligerent warships on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts was contained in a despatch received tonight by M. Mujica, the Chilean Ambassador, from the Minister of Foreign Affairs at Santiago. The fear is expressed by the Chilean officials that the neutrality of Chile may influence the other belligerents to disregard the territorial jurisdiction of Chile and perhaps cause them to send their warships within the three mile limit to stop German operations.

The Chilean government made it plain that it did not prefer one scheme of action to another, but urged that whatever steps are taken should have the earnest united support of all the American republics. Originally Great Britain and France asked the United States to exercise its good offices with Colombia and Ecuador to secure a strict observance by those nations of neutrality obligations. Although this controversy, according to latest reports, is being adjusted, the menacing situation in Chile has emphasized the dangers to South American republics of the continued presence of foreign warships off their coasts.

### GAVE PORT OFFICIALS THE SLIP

Hamburg - American Liner Leaves Havana During Night Without Lights or Papers—Mission Suspected.

Havana, Dec. 2.—The Hamburg-American line steamer President, which formerly plied among the West Indian Islands but which has been lying in Havana harbor since September 25, slipped out of port last night without lights or papers.

The destination of the President is unknown, but it is suspected that

she intends to communicate with some German cruiser, although she is known to have on board a very small amount of coal and provisions.

### ST. ANDREW'S DAY CELEBRATED AT SALISBURY PLAINS

London, Dec. 2.—St. Andrew's Day was celebrated in the Canadian camps at Salisbury Plain with great enthusiasm. The haggis was borne aloft, preceded by the pipers, and concerts and a banquet was held.

The area over which the Canadian contingent is spread is widening, as four thousand men have moved into the new huts at Balford, while other battalions have taken possession of the huts at Larkhill, both of which places are near the railway.

Mr. J. B. Daggett, Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, for New Brunswick, visited the Canadian camps today.