

FIGHTING IN BELGIUM ON CHRISTMAS DAY WAS FIERCEST IN THE PAST MONTH

Large Numbers of Wounded from Both Sides Being Sent Back from Firing Line — Russian Reports German Attempt to Take Warsaw a Failure — England Doubts Germany's Story that No Damage Resulted From Raid on Cuxhaven.

London, Dec. 28.—The battle lines in the east and west have undergone only infinitesimal changes in the past twenty-four hours. The French and German reports agree that the Germans have captured a section of trenches near Hollebeke, south of Ypres. The French assert that the Germans gave up trenches on the first line to the extent of about 800 or 900 yards in the Lens region, further east, while unsuccessful demonstrations have been made from both sides at various points along the extended lines.

The reports of the numbers of wounded both armies are sending back from the lines in Belgium appear to show that the fighting on Christmas in that country was the fiercest of the past month. Correspondents in the rear say that the Belgians, as a result of five days sapping, captured nearly three thousand Germans, with only small losses to themselves.

According to the Russian reports, the German attempts to capture Warsaw have failed, while the Berlin official statement says there is general confidence that the German and Austro-Hungarian forces are making progress along the great front.

GERMAN DENIALS DOUBTED IN ENGLAND.

The English newspapers are enthusiastic over the raid by their cruisers and seaplanes on Cuxhaven. They decline to accept without reservation the German statement that ships at Cuxhaven and the gas works were hit by bombs but that no damage was done, and consider this improbable.

The naval writers dilate and speculate lavishly upon the most remarkable engagement of twentieth century warfare. They conclude that the German ships feared to come forth and give battle to the British cruisers, because of the uncertainty as to whether the British battleships were lurking behind them. The fact that the Zeppelins were driven off is taken by some as evidence that the Zeppelins are really untrustworthy craft. Others think it means that the Germans are hush-banding all their dirigibles for a raid upon England.

It is argued by some of the writers that if Cuxhaven can be attacked, why not Heligoland, Wilhelmshaven, and even the Kiel Canal.

The only damage the British expedition sustained was the loss of several hydro-planes, costing \$45,000, and the only loss of life was Commander Hewlett.

The British people are beginning to lose whatever fear of the Zeppelins they held, perhaps prematurely, but the exploits of the airman on the continent, and the scouting trip of the German flyer over Kent on Christmas, show there is a strong possibility that the Taubes may repeat, over London, the visit with bombs which they paid Paris and Warsaw.

The authorities issued a warning tonight of the danger to people in the streets from guns, which may be used in London against hostile aircraft, and advised the people to take refuge in basements if they should hear the sound of explosives or guns.

A heavy wind storm with rain and snow swept over parts of England and adjacent waters tonight.

How French Strategy Won German Trenches.

Paris, Dec. 28.—Describing the capture of a line of trenches in the north, non-commissioned officer writes one of an unusual piece of strategy. "The evening before there had been a heavy fall of snow," he said, "and the bright moonlight showed up every object with extraordinary clearness against the white background. The 136th Infantry which had planned a raid on the enemy's trenches, only twenty yards away, found its project compromised, but a Corporal was struck by a brilliant idea; every man pulled off his outer clothes and pulled his shirt over his jacket and vest; thus they crept through the snow up to the edge of the German trenches without being seen, and carried the entire line.

London, Dec. 28.—The Times declares that there is excellent reason, despite German denials, for believing that a Farsvaler shed and aircraft were destroyed in the British raid on Cuxhaven. It adds that serious damage also was inflicted on the Zeppelin sheds.

The Daily Sketch publishes the report that Commander Hewlett, who piloted one of the British seaplanes in the raid on Cuxhaven is a prisoner in the hands of the Germans. According to the account in the Sketch, Hewlett's machine was damaged by shell fire, and came down in the sea. When Hewlett was last seen a German torpedo boat was approaching him.

London, Dec. 28.—A Copenhagen despatch to the Daily Mail referring to a report published by the Hamburger Fremdenblatt that four British airmen dropped bombs on the German island of Langsoog, in the North Sea, Christmas Day, killing several civilians, says that an investigation proves that it was not British who dropped the bombs but German airmen who believed that British torpedo boats were lurking off the island in the fog.

TWO DAYS' BATTLE IN THE VOSGES MOUNTAINS

Basel, Switzerland, Dec. 28.—(Via Paris)—A battle lasting from December 24 until December 26, occurred along the whole front of the French and German armies in the Vosges Mountains. The sound of the cannon firing was plainly heard in Switzerland.

French aeroplanes manoeuvred over the town of Muelhausen, in Alsace, returning with sufficient information, it is said, to allow the French artillery to conduct an effective fire on the German positions.

U. S. GOVERNMENT SENDS NOTE TO GREAT BRITAIN

Objecting to Policy of England With Regard to Foreign Trade of United States and Asking for Improvement of Same—Representations Made in Friendly Spirit, Note Declares—Virtually a Statement Intended for all Members of the Triple Entente.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The United States government today despatched a long note to Great Britain, insisting upon an early improvement in the treatment of American commerce by the British fleet. It gave warning that much feeling had been aroused in this country, and that public criticism was general over unwarranted interference with the legitimate foreign trade of the United States.

The document, constituting the strongest representations on this subject made by the United States to any of the belligerents since the outbreak of the war, was called to Ambassador Page, to be formally presented to Sir Edward Grey, the British foreign secretary. Its preparation was begun a month ago by Solicitor General Clegg, and Secretary Bryan, and finally, during the last two weeks, had the personal attention of President Wilson himself, who revised its phrasing with minute care.

As the detailed point of view of the United States, in numerous specific cases of detentions and seizures of cargoes, had been set forth in a series of emphatic protests, most of which have gone unheeded, today's communication was couched in general terms, covering the entire subject of the relations between the United States and Great Britain, as affected by the latter's naval policy, considered highly objectionable by this government.

The note declares, at the outset, that the representations are made in a friendly spirit, but that the United States considers it best to speak in terms of frankness, lest silence be construed as an acquiescence in a policy which, in the eyes of the United States, infringes the rights of American citizens under the laws of nations.

Since France has adopted practically the same policy on contraband as has Great Britain, today's note is virtually a statement intended for all the members of the Triple Entente.

OFFICERS ELECTED BY MASONIC LODGES

Past Master's Jewel for W. D. Turner, Retiring Master of Zion Lodge, Sussex.

Special to The Standard. Sussex, N. B., Dec. 28.—The following officers were installed tonight at Zion Lodge, A. F. and A. M., by Worshipful Brother Past Grand Master George Cogson: Charles H. Perry, W. M.; W. D. Turner, I. P. M.; W. B. McKay, junior warden; Al. John Knox, junior warden; J. T. Kirk, treasurer; A. E. Pearson, secretary; Rev. Canon Scott Neales, chaplain; J. D. McKenna, senior deacon; Charles Nesbitt, junior deacon; W. N. Robinson, senior steward; W. P. Myles, junior steward; Linus Crawford, P. M., D. of C.; James B. Crane, inner guard; Thomas Cogson, tyler.

During the evening a handsome past master's jewel was presented to W. D. Turner, the retiring master. After the installation of officers the members and their friends spent a social evening in cards and dancing.

At Fredericton. Fredericton, Dec. 28.—St. John's Day was observed by the local members of the Masonic Order in the usual way. Installation of the officers of Hiram Lodge, No. 6, F. and A. M., was conducted last evening by Grand Master Bridges. The following are the officers: W. M. H. S. Campbell; P. M., L. H. Bliss; S. W., F. A. Good; J. W., H. B. Colwell; chaplain, Rev. Canon Cowie; treasurer, M. Tennant; secretary, H. B. Wallace; S. D., A. Murray; J. D., C. A. McVey; L. S., Morrison; J. S., H. H. Hagerman; D. of C., Geo. Y. Dibble; Org., E. Cadwallader; I. G., F. S. Creed; tyler, A. B. Brown.

At St. Stephen. Special to The Standard. St. Stephen, Dec. 28.—In Sussex Lodge, St. Stephen, officers were in-

GERMANY ASKS REFUSAL OF AMERICANS TO OBEY ORDER OF SOLDIERS

Were Violating Game Laws in Canadian Waters—Ordered by Canadian Soldiers to Land But Tried to Escape—Shots Fired Over Their Head to Force Them to Come Ashore Killed One and Injured Another—Military Authorities at Buffalo, N. Y., Say Killing Accidental — Gen. Hughes Says Investigation Will be Held.

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Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 28.—One American was instantly killed and another seriously wounded by Canadian troops patrolling the Canadian border at Fort Erie, Ont., opposite this city today. The men were hunting ducks out of season in the Niagara river and in Canadian waters. Provincial Police Officer Thomas Delaney, of Fort Erie, ordered the men to stop shooting. They declined, and Delaney called upon a Corporal and two privates of the Forty-Fourth Battalion of the Canadian militia for assistance.

The Corporal ordered the men to come ashore. Instead they hoisted their boat for the American shore, and were beating a hasty retreat when, at the order of Delaney, the soldiers fired upon them.

One of the men, Walter Smith, was shot through the head, his companion, Charles Dorsch, suffered a serious wound in the shoulder. Both men resided in Buffalo.

No Ground for Complaint if they Defied Authority, Washington Officials Say.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Officials at the State Department, although with official advice tonight concerning the shooting of two Americans in Canadian Niagara waters, near Fort Erie, pointed out that if it were true that the men were shot while defying Canadian authority, there would be no ground for representations by the American government. Representatives Charles B. Smith, of Buffalo, late today laid newspaper accounts of the shooting before Secretary Bryan.

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BR. ISLES STORM-SWEPT LOSS OF LIFE AND GREAT DAMAGE REPORTED

Telegraphic Communication With Europe Cut Off and Many Disasters From the Mines in the North Sea Feared.

London, Dec. 29.—A great gale and snowstorm swept over the larger part of Great Britain and Ireland last night. There was considerable loss of life and much damage done. The telegraphic services on the continent were disorganized, and communication with France was almost severed.

One man was killed and several persons were injured by the collapse of a house wall at Clapham. Elsewhere in London, plate glass windows were blown out, and property was damaged in other ways. Two feet of snow fell in many parts of the country, causing serious flooding of the rivers. Dublin was visited by the heaviest snow fall in many years.

Several disasters, the result of striking mines in the North Sea, are reported. Among those sunk were the steamer Linnaria, whose crew was rescued, and a Glasgow steamer.

The Linnaria, which was of 1,891 tons register, belonged to the Stag Line of North Shields. She was built in 1911.

PREMIER BORDEN REVIEWS TROOPS IN WINNIPEG

"Magnificent Body of Men," Premier's Tribute to 6,000 Soldiers.

Winnipeg, Dec. 28.—Six thousand sturdy men of the west of Canada marched past in review before Sir Robert Borden, Premier of Canada, this afternoon. The march past was an impressive sight, and brought home very strongly to Winnipeg what the west is doing for the Empire. "They are a magnificent body of men," said Sir Robert at the conclusion of the parade.

RELIEF SHIP FROM 'FRISCO THROUGH PANAMA CANAL

Comino First of Relief Fleet from Pacific Coast to Use the Canal.

New York, Dec. 28.—California's relief ship Comino, carrying a cargo of food for the Belgians, is now passing through the Panama Canal, it was announced this afternoon at the headquarters of the commission for relief in Belgium. "The Comino is the first of the relief fleet from the Pacific coast to use the canal. She left San Pedro on December 8, and arrived at Balboa Christmas day.

DOMESTIC TROUBLES LED TO SUICIDE.

Toronto, Dec. 28.—E. L. Besso, rooming at 225 Scarborough Road, committed suicide late this afternoon by shooting himself through the heart with a rifle. Domestic troubles are said to have been the cause.

G. M. BOSWORTH'S WAY OF DEALING WITH INVADERS

Can Reserve Peak 10,000 Feet High in Rockies where Raider Can Think it Over at Leisure.

Montreal, Dec. 28.—The "German scare" reached Vice-President Geo. M. Bosworth, of the C. P. R., in the form of a telegraphic inquiry from the New York Times this afternoon as follows: "We are receiving intimations from widely scattered points in California that there is a movement of Germans in civilian clothing northward, the object being to raid Vancouver and Canadian Pacific Railway communications, to keep Canadians at home. Have you anything to say?"

Mr. Bosworth replied: "We have fine scenery all along the line of the Canadian Pacific, and can reserve a peak ten thousand feet high for the solitary meditations of any German raider who comes across the international boundary. G. M. Bosworth."

During the absence from town of Hugh M. Balkan, W. M. elect, of Victoria Lodge of Milltown, the installation of officers in that lodge was postponed until the January meeting.

MEXICAN LEADERS AT VARIANCE

Political Situation Full of Uncertainties and Lack of Harmony Among Chiefs of the Factions.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Despatches from the Mexican Minister in Mexico City dated here early today, and received here tonight, describe the political situation as full of uncertainties. He referred to the lack of harmony between the several chiefs, some of whom were advocating radical and extreme measures of government, but indicated that nothing alarming had developed, and that good order was being preserved.

stalled this evening by Dr. M. L. Young, P. D. G. M., as follows: Stanley D. Budd, W. M.; J. Wells Fraser, S. W.; W. B. Hawthorne, J. W. J. Robert Polley, S. D.; Edmund Carter, J. D.; Chester Gregory, D. of C.; W. H. Stevens, chaplain; F. M. Murchio, treasurer; P. G. McParlane, secretary; Hazen Linton, S. S.; Robt. Nixon, J. S.; A. A. Mallory, I. G.; H. P. Webber, tyler.

In Ailey Lodge, at Upper Mills, officers were installed on Saturday evening by A. H. Hiltz, P. M., of Victoria Lodge, as follows: Wm. Polley, W. M.; Arthur Powers, S. W.; George Waters, J. W.; Jas. Phinney, chaplain; Henry Hacker, treasurer; J. C. Davis, secretary; Neil D. Smith, S. S.; Chas. D. Foss, J. D.; Wm. D. Babcock, S. S.; J. Sherman Hall, J. S.; Theo. W. Fairhead, D. of C.; E. Chase, I. G.; John A. Hall, tyler.

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