

BRITISH RETIRE SUCCESSFULLY TO NEW LINE IN SERBIA BEFORE SUPERIOR NUMBERS OF ENEMY

WILL CONSIDER NATION-WIDE RAILWAY STRIKE

Leaders of Unions Gather in Chicago to Discuss General Strike of American Roads

Chicago, Dec. 9.—Leaders of organized labor unions of the railroads arrived here today, preparatory to holding a secret conference tomorrow to consider whether a general strike on all the railroads of the country shall be called next spring, unless the transportation lines grant increases in wages for overtime and an eight hour day.

FRENCH MILITARY CRITIC SEES FAILURE IN DARDANELLES

99 Out of 100 Chances Allied Army Will be Thrown into Sea Within Few Months Unless They Evacuate Peninsula Sooner

Paris, Dec. 9.—An Allied army of 500,000 or more will easily be available for operations in the Balkans in the spring, according to General De Lacroix, military critic of the Temps, in a review in that newspaper of the military situation in the Balkans.

CONCERNING PASSPORTS FOR PERSONS GOING TO GREAT BRITAIN

Ottawa, Dec. 9.—A probable explanation of the reason so many Canadians who had booked passage for England were turned back at New York yesterday is contained in a statement issued by the department of external affairs tonight.

RUSSIAN TROOPS SCORE IMPORTANT VICTORY

Bulgarians in Overwhelming Numbers and Supported by German Artillery and Infantry Delivering Fierce Blows—British Succeed in Reaching Second Defence Line.

London, Dec. 9.—A Renter despatch from Petrograd says: "A telegram from Tcheran says that the Russian troops have gained a victory in the direction of Hamadan, defeating a force consisting of 600 cavalry, infantry and insurgent Turkish mercenaries, of which a large number were killed or wounded.

Petrograd, Dec. 9, via London, Dec. 10.—The following official communication has been received here from Tcheran:

"Russian troops have occupied Suljan Bulak Pass, where insurgent German and German mercenaries had been fortifying themselves for the past two weeks, under the command of German and Turkish officers.

London, Dec. 9.—The speech in the Reichstag of the Imperial Chancellor, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, reviewing the military, political and economic progress of events, and his reply to a Socialist interpellation declining to initiate peace negotiations, were the feature of the day's news throughout Europe.

Following closely Premier Asquith's somewhat similar reply to a question in the House of Commons by Philip Snowden, Socialist, the chancellor's speech has completely dashed any hope the peace advocates may have held on an early termination of the war.

As far as the Entente Allies countries are concerned, seemingly the only change desired is one which would insure a more vigorous prosecution of the war, but this, like peace, will have to await events, for the whole campaign is entering a new phase.

British Retire to New Line. Having arrived too late to prevent the invasion of Serbia, the British and French forces in the southeastern part of Serbia are now retiring before the onslaughts of the Bulgarians, who, supported by German artillery and infantry, have been attacking both the British and the French, and compelling them to give up advanced positions.

According to reports from Saloniki the retirement is being carried out in an orderly manner, but how far it is to continue is a matter of much speculation. Opinion is divided as to whether it would not be better to abandon the entire expedition, or retain Saloniki as a base.

Besides battles in the Balkans, the British are watching with deep interest the operations in Mesopotamia, where a fight is now taking place for Kut-el-Amara, and in Arabia, the Turks in the latter region having commenced another advance on Aden. They made a similar attempt on Aden last July, but were driven back. As Aden and its vicinity, as well as the shores of the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, leading from the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, are well fortified, it is not believed an advance is seriously intended here.

HOCKING CASE BASIS OF TEST IN PRIZE COURT

Orders Requisitioning Trans-Atlantic Company's Steamers Cancelled—Test Cases Will be Heard in London.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Great Britain advised the United States today, that in response to the state department's protest in the case of the steamship Hocking, and other vessels of the American Trans-Atlantic Company, orders requisitioning the Hocking and Genesee would be cancelled, and test cases would be tried promptly in a prize court, to dispose of the charges that they are partly German owned.

Two of the steamers seized by British cruisers, the Winnebago and the Kankakee, will be released under bond. The Hocking and Genesee cases will be made the basis of the test. To accelerate disposition of the issue, these cases will be transferred from Halifax and St. Lucia to London, thus avoiding delay by appeals from subordinate courts.

Notice of Great Britain's intention came to Secretary of State Lansing through Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador here, and Ambassador Page at London.

The Trans-Atlantic Company has filed with the state department affidavits from its stockholders, in an effort to prove that every share is owned by citizens of the United States.

The Note on Ancona Case. Washington, Dec. 9.—The note the United States has sent to Austria-Hungary on the sinking of the Italian liner Ancona, was based, it was learned tonight, primarily upon the virtual admission of the Austro-Hungarian admiral, in its official statement, that the ship was torpedoed before all the passengers had been removed to a place of safety.

London, Dec. 9.—Sir Edward Grey, the secretary of foreign affairs, and Field Marshal Earl Kitchener went to Paris yesterday to confer with the French government, which was officially announced this afternoon.

Paris, Dec. 9.—The Havas correspondent at Athens reports that Premier Skoufoulis today received the Italian and Russian ministers. It is supposed these ministers visited the premier for the purpose of indicating to the Greek government that Italy and Russia adhere to the demands of Great Britain and France for guarantee of freedom of action for the expeditionary forces which landed at Saloniki.

Port Durazzo Bombed by Austrian Squadron. Paris, Dec. 9.—An official Montenegro communication, dated December 9, was given out here today by the counsel-general of Montenegro. "On December 6 nine vessels of an Austrian squadron, coming from Cattaro, bombarded Port Durazzo and the Italian radio telegraphic station. Several Montenegrin and Albanian vessels and one Italian sailing vessel were sunk.

French Battalion Annihilated. Sofia, Dec. 7, via London, Dec. 9.—The annihilation of a French battalion by a Bulgarian bayonet attack during a battle in Southern Serbia is announced in an official statement issued today by the Bulgarian army headquarters. Substantial progress in the operations against the French as far south as Demir-Kapu on the Vardar river, is reported in the statement.

ALLIED LINE FIERCELY ATTACKED IN MACEDONIA

Bulgarians Officered by Germans Delivering Hard Blows, but so far Unsuccessful—Problem of Attitude of Athens Gov't More Acute as Allies' Lines Contract on Greek Frontier.

London, Dec. 10.—Bulgarians, officered by Germans, are fiercely attacking the Allies in Macedonia, according to the Times Salonki correspondent, who regards the situation as grave. The correspondent says that a series of fierce assaults, by day and night, have been directed against the Allies' right wing from Demir-Kapu to Kosturbo. These assaults, the despatch adds, have so far been successfully beaten off, but the enemy is being continually reinforced, and apparently intends to renew the attack, with the object of gaining Strumitza station, towards which the German cavalry has been making reconnaissance.

Bulgars Heavily Re-enforced. London, Dec. 9.—A despatch to Reuters Telegram Company from British Headquarters in Macedonia, sent under date of December 8, says: "The Bulgarian attacks during the past two or three days have been more serious than were originally reported. The Bulgarians show constantly increasing strength, and seem to be well supplied with artillery, which keeps up a constant fire.

London Press ON PEACE TALK IN REICHSTAG. Because Germans Realize Risks of Prolonging War Talking so Noisily About Peace.

Measure to Continue Government Beyond Five Year Period and Postpone Election Until After War.

London, Dec. 9.—A bill to continue the present parliament beyond the five year period and postpone a general election during the war was introduced in the House of Commons today by Sir John Simon, secretary of state for home affairs. The bill makes the life of the present parliament six instead of five years, extending it to January 31, 1917, and treats the year 1916 for the purposes of the active parliament as if it followed immediately on 1915.

London, Dec. 10.—Owing to the fact that the reports of the German imperial chancellor's address in the Reichstag had only been partly received when the London morning newspapers went to press, there is no general comment on it this morning. Those newspapers who do print editorials, however, adopt a sarcastic tone at the chancellor's expense.

FRANCE ADDS \$12,400,000 TO GOLD RESERVES DURING PAST WEEK. Paris, Dec. 9.—Gold to the amount of 62,000,000 francs (\$12,400,000) has been added to the reserves of the Bank of France in the last week. The total added since the issuance of the new loan is 104,000,000 francs. At this rate the gold reserve will reach five billion franc in another ten days.

EVACUATE HOSPITALS AT GHEVGELLI. Rhodes Scholar from McMaster University. Toronto, Dec. 9.—Ralph Evans Freeman, son of Rev. Dr. Freeman, now of Leicester, England, and formerly of Toronto, has been selected by McMaster University as Rhodes scholar for 1916.

HOPEWELL, VA. ALMOST WIPED OUT BY FIRE

Powder Mill Only Building in Town of 25,000 Left Untouched—Work of German Plotters?

Petersburg, Va., Dec. 9.—Hopewell, Virginia, the boom town of 25,000, founded by the Dupont Powder Company, virtually was destroyed by fire late today. At nine p.m. the flames still were uncontrolled, but it was said there was little left to burn in the town, and the company's powder mill, some distance away, was not believed to be in danger. The blaze started in a restaurant.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 9.—Richmond sent a complete fire company with apparatus by special train at 5:30 p.m. The appeal to Richmond for help said that the whole town was afire, with the exception of the powder plant, which is located outside the town. At 2:30 p.m. the Western Union Telegraph operator wired good bye, that the fire was driving him from his post. The Norfolk and Western Railway, he added, had loaded its office movables upon a train which was moving out. State troops were ordered to Hopewell late this afternoon, where it was reported that rioting had broken out.

Lost About \$3,000,000. Petersburg, Va., Dec. 9.—The financial loss is estimated roughly at \$3,000,000 and thousands of homeless families tonight were taken to Richmond and Petersburg on special trains. Six companies of state troops were sent to prevent rioting and looting among the frantic laborers and their families. One negro, caught looting, was lynched. No other life was lost as a result of the fire, according to reports reaching here.

Despite the place of origin of the fire, there were persistent reports tonight that it had been started by an incendiary, who might have been the accomplice of an employee of the Dupont factory arrested last night.

Officials of the powder company refused to discuss the incendiary theory or the arrest, but it was said the man in custody had aroused the suspicion of the private police force, which for months has kept a close patrol about the plant.

PARLIAMENT MEETS JAN. 12. Ottawa, Dec. 9.—The next session of the present parliament will convene on January 12, it was announced today. It is also officially announced that Mr. Albert Sorensen, M. P., the deputy speaker, will succeed Speaker Sproule, who has been appointed senator.

GRENFELL GOING TO FRANCE TO TAKE CHARGE OF HARVARD UNIT. New York, Dec. 9.—Dr. Wilfrid T. Grenfell, famous for his work among the Labrador fisher-folk, has accepted an invitation to take charge of a division of a hospital unit that has been sent to France by Harvard University. He will leave this country about December 14, and will return in the spring to resume his work in Labrador.

Announcement of the foregoing was made officially today by the Grenfell Association of America, which also announced that recently while in Boston, the American College of Surgeons had conferred upon the doctor an honorary fellowship.

SESSION OF PROVINCIAL GOVT. AT FREDERICTON

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, Dec. 9.—The provincial government was in session here tonight and the usual routine business was conducted. Tomorrow the New Brunswick branch of the Dominion Alliance will present their prohibition bill to the government.