

NEW YORK EXPERT ANALYZES HEAVY TASK IN POLAND

Capture of Belgium May be Imminent Following Allied Advance to Roulers—British Army Has Straightened Out Battle Line.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—In his review of the war situation the military expert of the New York Times to-day says:

"If the reported capture of Roulers by the Allies should be confirmed, it would indicate the beginning of the campaign for the capture of Belgium. The occupation of this city would form an important step in any strategic plan to force the Germans to retreat from their positions along the Yser."

Both the French and German officials state that the capture of Roulers is a point along the battle line in France; in some cases at the same point. Evidently the fighting has consisted only of minor skirmishes. The British success at Armentieres, close to the Belgian border, will improve their position by tending to straighten out the line.

The further progress of the German forces in Poland, south of Vistula, has carried them within fifteen miles of Warsaw. By this advance the army of General Mackensen is advanced 20 miles beyond the troops next to the south.

The Russians appear to making little opposition to the move. For the defence of Warsaw they have a circle of forts, which they may use as the French used those of Paris. By encouraging the Germans to attack, they extend itself they gain an opportunity to strike a blow on the German flank by way of Novo Georgievsk that may have decisive effects. The immense number of the Russian forces will be a great advantage against the Germans in the other parts of the battle line sufficient forces to check their progress, the Russians can still spare a strong army for any special objective that they may select.

The fortified district of Warsaw and Novo Georgievsk on the Vistula river, twenty miles northwest of Warsaw, forms the central feature of the Russian scheme for the defence of the Province of Poland. These cities with their circle of forts protect the principal military base for the supply of reinforcements of the Russian army. It seems unlikely that they would be surrendered except as a last resort, a crushing defeat of the field armies.

It would seem more likely that the Russians would make use of these fortresses by falling back so as to strengthen their position by the left arm. He finally reached the dead from the loss of blood, and resting comfortably in a hospital. Young Aviator Wins Cross.

Young aviator with three bullet in his chest is one of the heroes. On his breast glitters the St. George, Russia's highest military decoration, conferred only for bravery in the field of battle. He is only nineteen years of age, but has been a member of the army for more than two years. His name is told in the official records, is sent to reconnoitre the enemy's position before dusk. It was in Galicia, territory was unfavorable for a fight at any point. He flew a single machine and went up about 1,300 feet, which height, however, he could not reach the exact positions. He descended to about 500 feet, but covered by the enemy, who immediately began firing volleys at the aviator.

By zig-zagging with lightning the aviator managed to stay at that height until he got the information he had made his notes and was returning to his lines when an exultant shout struck one of the cylinders of the motor, chipping off a piece of the motor and a valve, and tearing away his jacket, inflicting a terrible wound in his chest.

As thought the young officer unless he was killed, he would be killed. He was wounded. He was forced to put his hands at a surgeon. His wounds were more serious than he had and he had to be brought here.

Now waiting for four weeks to the end of which the surgeons advised he may return to the front.

It seems an unreasonable story, but it is related by a special agent, inspecting a manufacturing plant with the watchman as a guide, pointed out a portable fire extinguisher and asked the watchman if it was kept on his job in order. "I've been on this job for couple of years," replied the watchman, "and I often wondered what the devil dose cans was for." Glens Falls "Now and Then."

Immigration into Canada fell off 50 per cent, as compared with last year, the decrease being chiefly in laboring classes.

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move large bodies of troops across the Vistula and deploy them in battle order before losing the protection of their forts.

It is on account of the strength of these Russian fortresses that the German army from Soldau seems to be breaking away from the railroad north of Novo Georgievsk. An advance to the fortress would mean large loss of life and even more important loss of time.

The most important objective of this German army is not to capture the forts of cities but to prevent the reinforcement of the Russian armies west of the Vistula.

By advancing on Pultusk and Rozjan, on the Narew River, the Germans avoid the Russian fortresses and strike directly for the railroads east of Warsaw. If they can carry their raid far enough to capture these railroads they will interrupt the Russian supply service and greatly weaken the campaign of the latter.

The immense numbers of the armies of the present day make them peculiarly dependent upon an efficient supply service. All the resources of the country occupied by the enemy are soon exhausted. The line of communication to the rear forms the dependence of the army for strength and nourishment, just as a limb of the human body depends upon the flow of blood through an artery. If the line of communication is cut the army soon loses its fighting strength. Consequently the Russians must give their first efforts to checking this movement from the north which is beginning to threaten their most important line of communication.

The fighting along the line from Piotrkow to Czenstochowa has for the time a secondary importance. The armies on both sides seem to have slackened their efforts along this part of the line to devote greater energy to the campaigns to the north and south.

The Russians say they have defeated the strong force of Austrians and Germans that has been moving against the southern flank of the Russian line in Galicia. The allied army moved forward in strong force along the railroad that joins Bielez and Nowi Sandec. By this advance, the hope to get behind the Russian left flank and turn them out of their position. The first success lay with the Austro-Germans and resulted in the abandonment by the Russians of their advanced position close to the Carpathian fortifications. If the Russians have gained the upper hand in this fighting it should soon show in a new advance to Cracow.

but, the Servians have confirmed their victory over the Austrians by the occupation of Ushitz and Valicero. By these successes, King Peter's troops have regained most of their territory towards the Bosnian frontier. They have effectively defeated the Austrians advancing from the north.

From Vienna comes additional confirmation of the Servian victory in the official statement that the forces in the southern theatre are being regrouped "with little opposition from the enemy."

The Serbs report the capture of 25,000 prisoners and 115 guns. The reversal of form shown by the Servians is attributed to the fact that practically every man under arms is now serving in his third war. He is a veteran, inured to the hardships of campaigning and the stings of defeats. Neither is he able for long to corrupt his spirit. Rather reverses; tend to stiffen his martial back and make him a twice formidable enemy when the time comes for an about face and charge, or a smashing overwhelming rout. The Servians, retreating for six weeks before the advancing Austrians, were regarded as almost at the end of their military rope, and British commentators were already referring to the possibility of the Austrians over-running the little Balkan kingdom, as the Germans overran Belgium. The Servian fighting qualities were still intact, however, and overcame the greater number, which the Austrians had on their side.

By a mighty effort toward which the unimpaired morale of the troops and the brilliant leadership of the veteran commanders largely contributed.

ONLY MORE SHOPPING DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

GRANDMA SEZ—

We got three little wise men up at our house, just now. A few weeks ago they were little infidels scoffing at Santa, but now they are true believers.

SOME OF THE FINE OLD BUILDINGS OF YPRES AFTER THE BOMBARDMENT.



BUILDINGS IN YPRES SHATTERED BY SHELL FIRE. In the above picture is shown the destruction wrought on some of the fine old buildings of Ypres. The town is now in a most pitiable condition. It has for many weeks borne the brunt of the heaviest fighting yet experienced in the present war, with disastrous results. Formerly it was one of the most beautiful towns in Belgium, boasting of almost perfect architectural beauty.

TWO SUBMARINES OF ENEMY SUNK AT FIRTH OF FORTH

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Dec. 12.—A despatch from Edinburgh to The Daily Mail reports that two German submarine attacks were made on the Firth of Forth Wednesday morning, but that they were repulsed. Two of the enemy's submarines, the despatch says, were destroyed. The admiralty has no confirmation of this reported submarine attack in Scotland. The Firth of Forth facing the North Sea has a British naval base at Dosty off the shore of Fife, immediately to the west of the great Forth bridge. Because of its advantageous situation in regard to British naval operations against Germany, England undoubtedly has a strong fleet gathered there, hence the report of a German submarine attack is no surprise. The Firth of Forth is the estuary of the River Forth—a baylike extension of the river, about fifty miles long, and where widest, nearly fifteen miles across. The principal port on the Firth of Forth, is Leith, the port of Edinburgh.

GERMANY IS SAD OVER NAVAL LOSS

[By Special Wire to the Courier] BERLIN, via London, Dec. 12.—The newspapers discuss the loss of the German cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Leipzig and Nurnberg, off the Falkland Islands in a tone of keenest sorrow, but with complete resignation. They express patriotic pride in the previous achievements of these warships. The Hamburger Nachrichten says: "The ships could have taken refuge in a neutral harbor and been disarmed and their crews imprisoned; but the Germans on them would never have consented to this. They were resolved to risk their lives in achieving deeds for the sacred flag of the fatherland under which they served so long; they were determined to show what the German navy is made of. The heroic death of these courageous men will be unforgettable as long as Germans live on earth and cherish German sentiments."

ENGLISH GUNS HELD

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Dec. 12.—The Daily Chronicle correspondent telegraphs from a point in "Northern France": "Armentieres has been the storm centre in this arena since Sunday. The few buildings that remained intact last week have since been battered by a fresh German bombardment. Of inhabitants have left the town. The English guns received the full fury of the enemy's artillery until Sunday. The Germans appear to have realized then that they could not dislodge them, so they trained their guns on the town itself."

PRICES ON THE LOCAL MARKET

Prices were very steady on the market this morning, and apart from the gradual and ever-rising price of eggs, no discrepancy was noticeable between the prices of this and the previous week. Eggs, continuing their flight, rose from 40c and 45c to 48c and 50c. Quite a number of farmers were asking the latter, and quite a number of prospective purchasers looked askance at the new luxury. Eggs at 50c are no longer a necessity. Butter remained 28, 29 and 30 cents.

GERMANS IN EAST FORCED TO FIGHT AGAINST THE END

[By Special Wire to the Courier] PARIS, Dec. 12.—"On their eastern battle front the situation is critical for the Austro-German allies," says Lieut. Col. Rousset, in The Liberte. "Germany has been compelled to support almost the entire weight of the war in order to make up for the weakness of her allies, as neither Austria nor Turkey amounts to much. It is true, Germany's resources are considerable, but they are not inexhaustible, and to carry on such a formidable struggle in the east and west simultaneously, she is compelled to play a game of shuttlecock with her forces, which must come to an end sooner or later. The fierceness of the struggle in Poland is forcing Germany to withdraw troops from the west. When operations are a little further advanced I think we shall witness startling events. Already, all along the line we are scoring. The Austrians are being beaten hands down by the Servians and Montenegrins. This is admitted in the Austrian official bulletin which says: 'Our troops are taking up more favourable positions.' In plain language, that means the Austrians have been defeated."

TO SAVE CRACOW

[By Special Wire to the Courier] LONDON, Dec. 12.—The Times' Petrograd correspondent telegraphs: "Heavy losses sustained by Field Marshal Von Hindenberg, and greater difficulties of transport retard the enemy as his invading armies go farther from their railways. These considerations have very properly influenced the Russian plan of awaiting the Germans, since the kaiser is determined to repeat the experiment, which already has cost him so dear." The Daily Chronicle's correspondent at Petrograd writes: "The Germans are making a supreme effort to save Cracow. The fall of that city would allow the Russians to wedge their way between the German and Austrian armies and would derange the whole Austro-German scheme of common defence. The fighting around Lodz, and even in northern Poland is a desperate German attempt to draw off a portion of the Russian forces that are threatening Cracow. Furious attacks have been made upon the Russian lines to the south of that city. The Army Messenger says these attacks have utterly failed, and that the enemy has lost heavily in men and material. The Tsar will make a state trip to Moscow, where he will be met by the Tsaritsa and other members of the Imperial Royal family."

THE KIDDIES' CHRISTMAS

Now is Your Chance to Help—Organized Effort to Give Good Cheer to Little Ones Who Might Miss the Joys of Yuletide.

Santa Claus will assuredly have something on the Kiddles' Christmas Tree for a little girl who sent in this letter: "Dear Santa—Will you please bring something to Freddie. He broke his ankle and has been in bed for a long time. Please bring him something. I don't want anything if you will please not forget him. Whose heart would not melt at such an appeal. Of course the committee will see that Freddie and his little sister are well looked after. The Kiddles' Fund was enriched today by a cheque of \$75.00 received from the employees of the Brantford Laundry Company. There have been few public undertakings that the employees of this company have not subscribed to and this contribution will be appreciated by the kiddles. The general plans for the tree are progressing splendidly and citizens are promised an event that will long be a bright spot in their memories. There will be no promiscuous distribution of presents. The age and name of each child is being secured, and Santa Claus will have a present especially selected for each one. As already announced Santa Claus has asked for a number of assistants, so that there will be no unnecessary delay in giving the kiddles their presents. Invitations are being distributed to the children, and parents are urged to see that these invitation cards are brought to the Christmas Tree. That is important. More money is still needed. Have a share in this magnificent movement. A small contribution will make you one of the partners. Previously acknowledged \$269.25 Lillian Thomson 2.00 Iris Club 2.00 A. L. G. 1.00 J. B. G. 2.00 A. M. T. 1.00 Mrs. Hastings Webbing 2.00 Miss S. E. Scire 1.00 E. G. and A. S. 2.00 R. A. P. 1.00 Mrs. M. A. Ivison 1.00 Mrs. M. H. Gandier 1.00 Employees Brantford Laundry 15.00 The United States Government has lifted the embargo which has been on Canadian potatoes since last December.

"DECADENT ENGLAND" IS CLAIM

Bernhardi's Latest Book Shows German Ambitions.

His Comment in the Present Situation is Very Refreshing.

Domination of the world by Germany and the crushing of Britain to a position of vassalage under Germany form the striking teachings of Gen. Von Bernhardi in his latest book copies of which have just reached Canada. The title of this latest book is "Britain as Germany's vassal," and the title gives the keynote to his teaching. In this work the author goes to lengths never before reached in his famous writings, and undoubtedly sets forth what is the real ambition of the German militarist class. The book is remarkable for the author's spirit of prophecy insofar as the intentions and acts of his own country are concerned.

"Decadent England" is a frequent term in the book, and Von Bernhardi declares that England must be made subservient to Germany either by war or by an "alliance," under which she must give up her naval supremacy, quit the triple entente, abandon her allies and disarm by distributing her fleet over the world, meanwhile leaving Germany alone in crushing France and acquiring domination of Europe, North Africa and Asia Minor. In plain language, Gen. Von Bernhardi asserts that Britain must become Germany's vassal either through war or submission.

SAYS U. S. MISTAKEN Von Bernhardi thinks that his country should fight England and that the United States is making a great mistake in its advocacy of peace and arbitration treaties, although he excuses the policy on the ground of tremendous population, inaccessibility and inexhaustible resources, which he believes responsible for hostile states. Without any particular reference to the United States, he says: "From their first appearance in history the Germans have proved themselves to be a civilized nation of the first rank, and one may say, the civilized nation."

"World power or decline is Germany's motto by the will of history. We have no alternative."

GERMANY HEDGED IN Reiterating that Germany occupies a very dangerous situation, he continues: "On nearly every side Germany is hedged in by hostile states, whose united population exceeds that of Germany. These states oppose Germany's foreign policy, and place us ever and again before the choice of fighting or of going without. It is our foremost duty to make of this state of affairs a state of which we may once more regain our political liberty or action before we can embark upon an active world policy."

SETTLE WITH FRANCE "In Europe we can acquire territories only by subjecting their population by force and arousing among the people an undying hostility. They ought to be enabled to live under a German sky and lead a German life."

"We must work in the German way for human progress. When the hour has come, when a great German emigration from Germany sets in, then the Germans who must emigrate should find ready for them new lands in which they can settle and remain Germans. Before long, Germany will resemble an overheated boiler which is ready to burst unless a valve is open to relieve the pressure."

GERMANY PENNED UP Germany's geographical position, Von Bernhardi writes, is unbearable. He says: "We are penned up. We are surrounded by England, France and Russia, three enemies who are closely allied, and whenever we endeavor to increase our power we meet with their united and determined opposition. These three powers have tied down Italy's forces in the Medi-

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