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FIFTEEN THOUSAND AUSTRIANS CAUGHT IN ONE DAY BY RUSSIANS

Brilliant Cavalry Exploit is Ended in Victory—Germans Fighting to Relieve the Situation at Cracow Which is Very Critical

(By Special Wire to the Courier)
LONDON, Dec. 15.—The Daily News correspondent at Petrograd telegraphs:
"There is a significant slackening of German energy along the central position on the north bank of the Bura River, concurrently with the abandonment of its entire plan by the exterminated army operating through Mlava toward the north bank of the Vistula. It has retreated inside of East Prussia and is probably being redistributed, partly toward the defence of the Mazurian Lakes and mainly westward and southward to co-operate in the supreme German effort in the difficult country inside the Galician border.

"Enormous forces are massed on both sides of a definite position among the slopes and along the winding courses of streams between the Carpathians and Cracow. There also are movements on a considerable scale, within the three chief Carpathian passes leading toward the valley of the San.

"The colonel commanding the cavalry vanguard, when the Russians captured Bochnia and Wieliczka, southeast of Cracow, tells how horse-

men, spread over a length of three miles, charged across the Rava River, their mounts crashing breast high through ice, against a heavy fire from the strong Austrian position on the high west bank. The cavalry clambered up the other side and, swerving southward, got behind the defences and fifteen thousand Austrians surrendered at the end of the day.

AUSTRIANS GIVEN JOB.
LONDON, Dec. 15.—The Times correspondent at Petrograd says:
"The German general staff continues to impose most of the difficult tasks on the Austrian, whom they have ordered not to permit the Russians to pass Cracow into Silesia and are obliged to attempt an operation for the development of the Tzar's forces south of Przemysl, involving the task of crossing the snow covered Carpathians. The movement of the Austrian columns westward toward the smaller passes of the Carpathians is evidently intended to compel the Russians to desist from further operations near Cracow.

"Creeping out from the Carpathians simultaneously at several points situated a considerable distance from each other, the Austrian front extends approximately 120 miles."

French Official Notice

(By Special Wire to the Courier)
PARIS, Dec. 15.—The official statement given out by the French war office this afternoon says the French have retained the territory they won recently along the Ypres canal to the west of Hollebecke; in the Argonne, and elsewhere. There has been artillery fighting from the Somme to the Argonne and in Alsace. German infantry gained a foothold near Steinbach. The text of the communication follows:

"Between the sea and the Lys the English have occupied a little forest to the west of Wyteschaete. The ground gained yesterday by our troops along the Ypres canal and to the west of Holebecke has been retained in spite of a vigorous counter-

attack on the part of the enemy.
"From the Belgian frontier to the Somme there is nothing to report.
"From the Somme to the Argonne there has been intermittent cannonading. Excepting in the region of Crouy this artillery fighting has not been spirited. In the Argonne we have made some progress and retained the advances made by us on preceding days.

"In Alsace there has been much activity on the part of the enemy's artillery with the exception of before Steinbach, where an attack by German infantrymen, coming from Uffholtz, was successful in gaining a foothold. We have everywhere retained the positions won previously by us."

CITY COUNCIL TO PETITION --RE GAS QUESTION-- TO THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT

Nuisance Has Become Such That Request Will be Made to Have the Brewster Act Enforced-- The Petition.

The momentous gas question was once again brought up, when Alderman Pitcher rose, towards the close of the business of the council last night to introduce a petition, which will put Brantford free to move a city-by-law for the disfranchisement of the Dominion Gas Company in the city.

It was practically the last resource and would, if looked upon favorably by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario, mean an end to the present situation, tense as it is with sulphuretted hydrogen. Mayor Spence said he had written three times to the company recently, and had received no answer. In common decency he thought he was entitled to a reply.

Ald. Pitcher said once again a representative had called upon him and spread the same old tale. He had told him right then that he could play horse no longer and that the city was sick of it. Saying curtly, Good-day, the aldermanic visitor had left the office after endeavoring to impress him with the gas company's usual assurances.

He therefore presented the following petition, which he would have sent to Toronto for the Lieutenant-Governor's approval: To His Honor

The Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario in Council: The Petition of the Corporation of the City of Brantford respectfully sheweth:

1. That your petitioner is a municipal corporation.
2. That in or about the month of December, 1913, The Brantford Gas Company, Limited, a company having the franchise for the sale and distribution of gas within the limits of the City of Brantford, commenced the

distribution and sale throughout the City of Brantford of a supply of natural gas procured by it from that portion of Western Ontario known as the Tilbury gas fields, and has continuously since that time sold and distributed said gas throughout the City of Brantford.

3. That said gas is saturated with sulphuretted hydrogen, which is dangerous to and destructive of the public health and of property, and that the citizens of Brantford have suffered greatly both in loss of health and property by reason thereof.

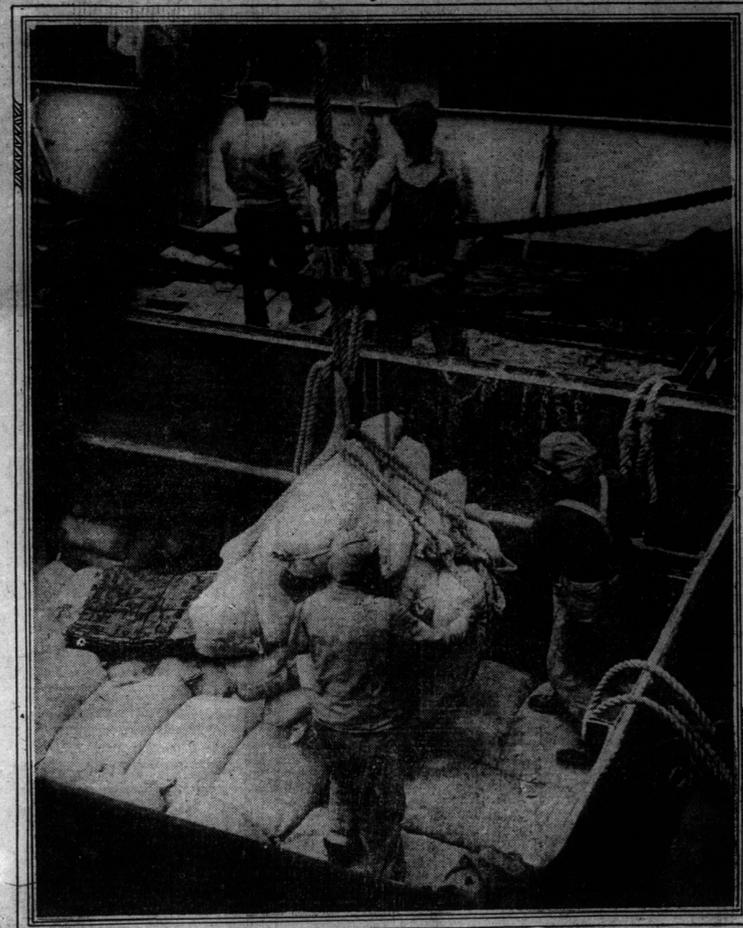
4. That your petitioner took proceedings under the provisions of The Public Health Act in the premises and said company was convicted and fined.

5. That your petitioner has used every reasonable means at its disposal during the past year, and has exercised great patience which said company operating a valuable public franchise within its limits in the endeavor to induce the company to supply gas free from sulphuretted hydrogen, and your petitioner's efforts have failed of any result.

6. That said company has represented that a plant was being installed in the gas fields for the purification of the gas supply which would be in operation last summer, but the gas being furnished recently and up to the day of the date hereof to the people of Brantford is as bad, if not worse, than at any time during the past year.

7. That your petitioner desires to pass a By-law under the provisions of Section 663 of The Public Utilities Act in the form hereto attached. And your petitioner, as in duty bound, that Your Honor may be pleased to approve of such By-law. And your petitioner, in duty bound, will ever pray, etc.

AMERICAN FOOD FOR THE STARVING BELGIANS.



LOADING FOOD GOING TO THE BELGIANS. The appeal of the starving Belgians for food was met by the American people with a hasty response. Shiploads of gifts and clothing have been sent to the unfortunate in the heart of the war zone, and, despite the awful conditions, the accompanying picture shows the loading of a vessel with some of the good that the American people in their goodness have provided for the stricken people.

BELGRADE IS WON BACK BY SERVIANS

Progress of the War is Most Encouraging To-day—General Advance of the Allies Believed Imminent by the Germans.

(By Special Wire to the Courier)
LONDON, Dec. 15.—Belgrade, the fortified capital of Serbia, which the Austrians, after a long and terrible bombardment, occupied two weeks ago, is again in the possession of the Servians.

A despatch from Nish, the temporary capital of the country, received in London early this morning, makes the announcement that Serbian troops have re-entered the city, thus crowning their recent surprising victory against the Austrian invaders of their territory. The telegram from Nish is brief, and says merely that the present time it has not been followed by an admission from any Austrian source.

Austrian arms have been figuring prominently of late in the war, the Austrian progress across the Carpathians, from the passes of which they have been clearing the Russians, having been one of the positive factors

in the fighting of the last few days in the eastern arena.
North of the Vistula along the Miawa front the struggle seems to be favoring the Russians, but neither side claims a decisive victory anywhere along the eastern front. The final engagement still remains to be fought out between Lodz and the Vistula.

Military observers in London, commenting upon Russia's failure to clear Poland of German troops, dwell upon the fact that even Russia's vast resources in men may continue to prove unavailing unless existing methods of communications are improved. On two occasions Russian forces approaching the German frontier have been driven back by reason of the remarkable system of German railroads, which enables Germany to move her troops expeditiously, and it has been suggested that Russia should begin at once the construction of new transverse lines in Poland, and the improvement of existing lines. Temporary lines, it is argued, could be laid at the rate of ten or twelve miles a day.

While it seems clear that Germany is operating her main force in Poland, there is still no outward indication of a general advance on the part of the allies in the west. That Gen. Joffre, the French commander in chief is feeling out the situation, seems apparent, but so long as artillery duels continue to constitute most of the fighting, only slow progress has been expected, as it is a military maxim that guns alone cannot bring a decision. Germany has shifted so many of her troops to the eastern arena that the allies must clearly outnumber them in France and Flanders. This condition, taken with the fact of French and British reinforcements, is leading Berlin, according to reports, to expect pronounced activity on the part of the allies at any moment.

The German Socialists, denounced their leader, Dr. Liebknecht, for voting against the war credit.

AUSTRIA IS HUMBLING BY LITTLE SERVA

(By Special Wire to the Courier)
VIENNA, via London, Dec. 15, 6.02 a.m.—It is officially denied that Austria-Hungary has attempted to conclude a separate peace with Serbia.

There have been several reports regarding possible peace negotiations between Austria and Russia, but the above official denial is the first intimation here that there have been similar reports regarding Serbia. It is probable that following the recently reported success of the Servians, such a rumor became current in Europe.

HAS GENERAL ALLIED ADVANCE YET STARTED?

(By Special Wire to the Courier)
LONDON, Dec. 15—2.25 p.m.—The statement issued to-day by the British official information bureau, concerning the combined attack by the allies yesterday against the German line, was interpreted in some quarters as marking the beginning of the much discussed attempt to make a general advance. The point of the combined attack mentioned in the statement is to the south of Ypres. It will be noticed, moreover, that the statement refers to fighting in Northern France, and it is consequently assumed by those in authority to be the work of incendiaries, for not a living soul was supposed to be around the forsaken grounds in the bitterly cold weather which existed. Tramps cannot be held accountable, for there is no possible shelter for them on the old stands.

Shortly after 5.30 the fire brigade was called, and even then it was to be seen that the entire Agricultural Park was lighted up, as it were, by a huge bonfire, which seemed to be placed in the centre. At breakneck speed they raced to the scene, to discover that the grandstand was a roaring mass of

"GERMANY DOOMED" AMERICAN OPINION IS EXPRESSED TO-DAY

New York Times' Leading Editorial—Special Should Satisfy Canadians—Will Germans Await for Their Sedan Which is Inevitable?

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—In a leading editorial to-day, The New York Times says:
"Germany is doomed to sure defeat. Bankrupt in statesmanship, over-matched in arms, under the moral condemnation of the civilized world, befriended only by the Austrian and the Turk, two backward-looking and dying nations, desperately battling against the hosts of three great powers to which help and reinforcement from states now neutral will certainly come should the decision be long-deferred, she pours out the blood of her heroic subjects and wastes her diminishing substance in a hopeless struggle, that postpones, but cannot alter the fatal decree. Yet the doom of the German Empire may become the deliverance of the German people if they will betimes, but seize and hold their own. Leipzig began and Waterloo achieved the emancipation of the French people from the bloody, selfish and starry domination of the Corsican ogre. St. Helena made it secure. Sedan sent the little Napoleon sprawling and the statesmen of France instantly afterwards proclaimed the republic. Will the Germans blindly insist on having their Waterloo, their Sedan—their St. Helena, too? A million Germans

have been sacrificed, a million German homes are desolate. Must other millions die and yet other millions mourn before the people of Germany take in the court of reason and human liberty their appeal from the imperial and military caste that rushes them to their ruin?
They have their full justification in the incompetence and failure of their rulers. German diplomacy and German militarism have broken down.
"The world cannot, will not, let Germany win in this war. With her dominating all Europe peace and security would vanish from the earth. A few months ago the world only dimly comprehended Germany, now it knows her thoroughly. So if England, France and Russia cannot prevail against her, Italy with her two millions, the sturdy Hollanders, the Swiss, hard men in a fight; the Danes, the Greeks, and the men of the Balkans will come to their aid and make sure that the work is finished, once for all. For their own peace and safety the nations must demolish that towering structure of militarism in the centre of Europe that has become the world's danger spot, its greatest menace. The only possible ending of the war is through the defeat of Germany."

Brilliant Work

(By Special Wire to the Courier)
LONDON, Dec. 15, 1.35 p.m.—The official information bureau to-day gave out the following statement:
"A combined attack by the Allies was made yesterday on the line from Hollebecke to Wyteschaete, in Belgium. Several German trenches and a number of prisoners were captured, and substantial progress was made."

FRENCH CRITIC IS UNABLE TO SEE WHY GERMANS CONTINUE THEIR FUTILE ATTACKS AROUND YPRES

(By Special Wire to the Courier)
PARIS, Dec. 15.—Apparently there is no great activity in the various war zones, except in Serbia, where the Austrians have met an overwhelming defeat, and around Cracow, where the Russians are steadily rounding up the enemy.
Lieut.-Col Rousset, writing in The Liberté, confesses his inability to find any military reason for the desultory German attacks which are invariably repulsed with the greatest ease around Ypres.

Even if they succeeded in making an opening here," says Lieut.-Col Rousset, "they would be caught by floods on one side and by the great French force on the Lys on the other side. Their efforts to dislodge us in the Vosges are, on the contrary, very comprehensible. Our positions there constitute a serious danger for the enemy in the plains of Alsace. Our steady progress, which already has brought us to the vicinity of Colmar Muelhausen, is filling the Germans with anxiety and is causing them to write in unavailing efforts to get some elbow room.
As for the significant victory of the Servians, Lieut.-Col Rousset compares it with the victory of Leonidas at Thermopylae and says:
"it shows that to-day, just 5,400 years ago, the right defended valiantly the world's danger spot, its greatest bound ultimately to triumph. The Servian victory may be more than a fortunate episode. It probably will compel the Austrians to try to save their Bosnian territory by concentrating their efforts in its defence."

GRAND STANDS WENT UP IN --AT AGRICULTURAL PARK-- FIERCE BLAZE ON MONDAY

Fire of Mysterious Origin at the Ball Park Destroys Stands—Firemen Could Do Little to Stop Conflagration.

The grandstand of the Brantford Baseball Club was wiped out last night by a fire which crept over the grounds. It had got a surprisingly good hold before the brigade was called, and fanned by a strong westerly wind it blazed furiously for nearly two hours. When it was finally subdued it was found that the grandstand and an ancient oak tree had perished. The origin of the conflagration is unknown, and it is suspected by those in authority to be the work of incendiaries, for not a living soul was supposed to be around the forsaken grounds in the bitterly cold weather which existed. Tramps cannot be held accountable, for there is no possible shelter for them on the old stands.

Shortly after 5.30 the fire brigade was called, and even then it was to be seen that the entire Agricultural Park was lighted up, as it were, by a huge bonfire, which seemed to be placed in the centre. At breakneck speed they raced to the scene, to discover that the grandstand was a roaring mass of flames, which brooked no stopping. As it was, the firemen were only able to lay two lines of hose, and these appeared for some time to have no apparent effect. The brigade therefore confined itself to preventing the spread of the conflagration and played on the flames from the side. This they successfully accomplished, and worked in toward the heart of the burning mass. In an hour the blaze had been got under control, and after satisfying himself that nothing further would come of the fire, the Chief with the main part of the fighting apparatus left, but a man was left to play water upon the smouldering ruins for some time later. As it now stands, the framework is completely burnt out in the centre, with the bleachers intact. The damage is estimated variously between \$5,000 and \$4,000.
Driven by the wind, sparks from the blaze fell in all parts of the city, but fortunately no further fires resulted.

8 ONLY MORE SHOPPING DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS



I suppose the poor little tots in the torrid zone hev tew hang their stockings on the ice chest.