

CONTRADICTORY REPORTS OF BATTLE NEAR LODZ; NO CHANGE IN WESTERN WAR THEATRE

Impossible to Keep in Touch With Fighting In Poland—Unofficial Report Says Battle Ended With Success for Russians, and Berlin Claims Advance of Kaiser's Army Progresses—German March on Warsaw Has Failed In Object of Diverting Russians From Advance on Cracow and Through Carpathians—Reports From Battle in West Show No Change In Situation.

London, Dec. 4.—In a despatch from Petrograd the correspondent of the Central News says: "The battle of Lodz has ended in success for the Russians, according to the Bourse Gazette, which adds that great numbers of German prisoners, cannon and machine guns are being brought into Lodz."

London, Dec. 4.—There is still lacking reliable news of the progress of the battle in Poland, which continues to monopolize interest. An unofficial despatch from Petrograd says the battle of Lodz has ended in success to the Russians, but this statement is opposed to that of the Berlin official report, which says the German offensive of Poland is taking its normal course. The fact is that the fighting in this region has developed into such a jumble that it is almost impossible to follow it. The most important factor from the allies' point of view is that the German advance on Warsaw seemingly has not succeeded in its object, nor has it had the effect of diverting the Russians from their forward movement through the Carpathians, and on to the plains of Hungary, or against the fortress of Cracow, around which they are drawing a closer ring of men and artillery.

With the case of Przemyel, which has held out so long against the Russian attacks, before them, military men do not look for the early fall of Cracow, and are rather inclined to believe that the armies of Emperor Nicholas will endeavor to keep the large Austrian force inside the fortress, and enter Silesia from the southeast. However, much depends on the battle which is being fought with such intensity further north, between the Rivers Vistula and Warta, and in which all agree the losses on both sides have been very heavy. There is an inclination to believe that had there been any probability of an early success for the Germans in this field Emperor William, who has returned to Berlin, would have remained to witness the victory of his troops.

NORTH GERMAN LLOYD STEAMER LAID MINES ON HIGH SEAS?

Interned at Norwegian Port, and Was Especially Fitted For Mine Laying.

London, Dec. 4.—The North German Lloyd steamer Berlin, which was recently interned at Trondhjem, Norway, had, according to a statement issued by the British admiralty tonight, probably been engaged in extensive mine-laying operations. When the Berlin put into Trondhjem, the admiralty says, she was most empty of coal, and her crew had considerably reduced, due, presumably, to fast steaming. Continuing, the report says: "She has especially been fitted for mine laying, but so far as known she now has no mines on board, the probability being that these have been sunk on the high seas under cover of darkness. From past experience it is known that the track of merchant shipping, neutral as well as British, is a favored locality for this operation. "German floating mines are constantly being sighted. On many occasions these mines have proved to be still dangerous. Merchant vessels should, therefore, be warned of the grave danger to which they are exposed. They must bear in mind that watery depths, owing to their great depth, heretofore have been regarded as comparatively safe, must now be navigated with caution."

FRENCH ARMY FEEL SURE OF SUCCESS

Bordeaux, via Paris, Dec. 5.—The Bulletin Des Armees, after reviewing at great length the military operations since the outbreak of the war, sums up the French situation on December 1st, as follows: "The French army to day is equal to what it was on August 2, all the units having maintained their full strength. The quality of the troops has improved infinitely. Our men today fight like veterans. They are all deeply imbued with their superiority, and have absolute faith that they will be victorious. The higher command, renewed on account of necessary dismissals, has not committed during the past three months any of these faults noted and punished in August. "Our supplies of artillery and ammunition have been largely increased. The heavy artillery which we lacked has been organized, and is working well. "Our brigades into the line today are reinforced during November, and is numerically stronger than at the beginning of the campaign. The Indian divisions have finished their apprenticeships in the European war. "The Belgian army has re-formed in six divisions, and is ready and resolute to re-conquer its native soil. "The German plan has met with seven far-reaching reverses, namely: The failure of the dash on Nancy; the failure of the march on Paris; the failure of the attempt to roll up our left flank in August; the failure of the same movement in November; the failure to pierce our centre in September; the failure of the attack on Dunkirk and Calais by the coast, and the failure of the attack on Ypres. "In this barren effort Germany has exhausted her reserves. The troops she brings into the line today are badly officered and badly trained. "Russia, more and more, is establishing her superiority both over Germany and Austria. The standstill to which the German armies have been brought, is fatally doomed to be transformed into a retreat."

C. W. ROBINSON OUSTS DUGAL

Carvell-Pugsley Good Government Party Has New Leader—Would Not Stand for F. B. Carvell.

Fredericton, Nov. 4.—The friends of the Carvell-Pugsley style of good government in convention here today would not stand for F. B. Carvell as provincial leader for a forlorn opposition and the member of the Carleton County dark lantern brigade departed for his home up river on the afternoon train. The purist ideas of Carvell, Pugsley and their followers were given out to the meeting and finally it was decided to give the position of standard bearer to Hon. Clifford W. Robinson of Moncton. The selection of C. W. Robinson was only made after a careful search among the delegates and the choice showed the weakness of the opposition forces. Mr. Dugal, who acted as mouth-piece for E. S. Carter and F. B. Carvell in the matter of bringing the famous Dugal charges before the legislature, was relegated to the back-ground, although there was some talk of placing him at the head of the Carvell-Pugsley good government party. The delegates left for their homes tonight.

IN FAVOR OF EXECUTING DE WET

London, Dec. 6.—Telegraphing from Johannesburg, Reuters correspondent says: "Pale and haggard, but calmly smoking his pipe, General De Wet, the rebel leader, arrived here today, guarded by soldiers with fixed bayonets. He was taken through the streets, which were lined with the excited populace, and placed in the fort, a prisoner, pending a probable court martial. "Whether he will be hanged as a traitor cannot yet be predicted. That some factions favor this, however, is indicated by the tone of the national press, which urges government action against him. "Those beyond the scenes who stimulated De Wet and other rebels to action. These co-traitors, it is added, should be brought to the shadow of the gallows."

DECLINE IN REVENUE OF DOMINION FOR PAST EIGHT MONTHS

Ottawa, Dec. 4.—A decline of \$24,000,000 in the revenue of the Dominion for the eight months of the present fiscal year is shown in the November financial statement published today. The total revenue up till the end of last month, since April 1st, the commencement of the present fiscal year is \$90,468,002 compared with \$114,640,235 in the same time last year. The November receipts for 1914 are \$9,496,536, as against \$13,536,381 in November 1913. The big decline has been in the customs revenue. Postal receipts have maintained a good average. From the consolidated account \$73,708,627 was spent in the eight months of this year, compared with \$66,678,969 for last year. On capital account the outlay has totalled \$28,231,323, a decrease of eight millions. The Dominion debt on December 1st stood at \$354,843,247, an increase of \$12,167,843 for November alone.

CHARLEY WHITE WINS.

St. Louis, Dec. 4.—Charley White, of Chicago, had the better of Frankie Callahan, of New York, in their

SAY GERMANS LOST TWO THIRDS OF ARMY IN FIGHTING IN POLAND

London, Dec. 5.—Experts estimate that the Germans lost two-thirds of their army in Poland in the recent fighting in the region between the Warta and Vistula rivers, says a despatch from Petrograd to the Morning Post. Prince Oscar and Prince Joachim, sons of the German emperor, are reported to have escaped only by taking flight in an aeroplane. The message refers to the delay in the arrival of Russian reinforcements, which enabled the Germans to break through the surrounding ring, and adds: "As it was, a large number of Germans got out of the trap, and the subsequent fighting has been a curious tactical spectacle, with the Russians and Germans in alternate strips covering a considerable area. The Germans have alternated furious attacks with retreat fighting, and the information vouchsafed is insufficient to show how final success can be attained."

AUSTRIAN GOVT CONFISCATES OIL SUPPLY KITCHENER INTERVIEW IS DENIED

Venice, via London, Dec. 4.—The Austrian government has confiscated the entire production of oil in Austria-Hungary. Refiners have been forbidden to supply oil to the trade. The stocks in the hands of dealers will be exhausted within ten days, it is said.

REP. GARDNER'S PLAN FOR INVESTIGATION MEETS OPPOSITION

Representatives Fitzgerald and Sherley Tell Wilson of Opposition to Commission Inquiry Into States Preparedness for War.

Washington, Dec. 4.—Opposition to Representative Gardner's resolution for an investigation by a commission into the preparedness of the United States for war was expressed to President Wilson today by Representatives Fitzgerald and Sherley, the ranking members of the House Appropriations Committee. Both told the president they were preparing to speak on the subject in the House. "I am against any spectacular investigation into this subject," said Mr. Fitzgerald. Mr. Sherley told the president that statements attributed to Mr. Gardner that the defenses of New York were antiquated were incorrect. He declared that the fortifications of the United States were in excellent shape and added that he had been informed by competent army officers that the defenses at New York could destroy any attacking fleet. The president will go into the question further Monday, when he will see Mr. Gardner and Senator Tillman, chairman of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee.

SUBMARINES MENACE TO COMMERCE

Sinking of Two Steamers Off Havre Recently Demonstrates Possibilities as Commerce Destroyers.

Bordeaux, via Paris, Dec. 5.—The German submarine U-31, which sank the steamers Malchite and Primo off Havre recently, demonstrated, says a statement issued by the Ministry of Marine, the important possibilities of submarines as commerce destroyers. Actively pursued by a French torpedo flotilla, after the sinking of the Malchite, November 23, says the statement, the U-31 was sighted November 25, but got away after she had fired three torpedoes, without result, at the French ships. The next day the submarine set fire to the Primo. Again she was caught up with, November 28, near Cape Antifer, but escaped to the northward, after an unsuccessful attempt to torpedo her pursuers.

MIKE GIBBONS GETS DECISION OVER MOHA.

Hudson, Wis., Dec. 4.—Mike Gibbons was given the decision over Bob Moha of Milwaukee, here tonight after Moha had been disqualified for fouling the St. Paul fighter twice in the second round of their scheduled ten round bout. The men are middleweights.

PLIGHT OF BELGIANS WITHOUT PARALLEL

Millions Depend on Help We Send Them—Pathetic Sights as Hungry People are Provided With Relief Sent From America—Mothers with Babies in Arms Stand at Canteens Waiting for Rations—Breaking off of Communications Makes Work of Distribution More Difficult—More Help Needed.

London, Dec. 4 (8.45 p.m.)—Herbert Clark Hoover, chairman of the American commission for relief in Belgium, returned to London today after a week's trip of inspection in Belgium. Mr. Hoover reported that the distribution of foodstuffs sent in care of the American commission is well under way, but stated that the condition of famine which threatened the population of Belgium is still desperate, and that on account of the attitude of the belligerents, the Belgians must still appeal to the people of the United States for relief. "It is difficult to state the position of the civil population of Belgium without appearing hysterical," said Mr. Hoover in his statement. "I do not know that history presents any parallel of a population of seven million people surrounded by a ring of steel and utterly unable, by any conceivable effort of their own, to save themselves. "From the nature of things, it is impossible for the commission even to possess an opinion on the rights and wrongs which have created this situation. The Germans state flatly that the people of Belgium are normally dependent on the importation of foodstuffs for five-sixths of their subsistence, that the Germans have not the slightest objection to the Belgians or any one else, importing foodstuffs into Belgium, that it is not the Germans who have blocked the overseas supply, and that there is no obligation upon them to feed the civil population which could, through the normal course of trade, obtain subsistence. The Allies, on the other hand, contend that a free port for the importation of foodstuffs into Belgium would practically amount to an entree for food supplies for the Germans. It is enough for us that there are seven million people ground between two gigantic millstones. "We are meeting with no obstruction from the military authorities of Belgium in the prosecution of our work. Not one loaf of bread or one spoonful of salt that we have introduced have been taken by the military. The most stringent orders have been given that we shall have no interference, and our members meet with respect and assistance in all quarters. "There are considerable quantities of vegetables available in certain districts. In some localities there is still a supply of cereals for two or three weeks, but in certain other localities there has been no available food over a fortnight. Every soul will be dependent upon us for bread within thirty days. "The clock has absolutely stopped in Belgium. An industrial country which was dependent on the overseas before, is now walled up with seventy per cent of the people idle. There are no telegraphs, telephone, railways or post offices, except for military purposes. The Belgians, of a military necessity, are not allowed to pass from their own towns and consequently there is no communication throughout the country, except by personal visits of our own members. "Transportation by rail is possible in only a few directions, and then must await military necessity. The wonderful canal system is blocked in many places by the destruction of bridges and some canals have been allowed to run dry. Therefore, it is conforts part of our business to get these cleared and to stimulate the subsidiary transport services of the country, not only for the transportation of our food but to permit the transportation of coal from the Belgium mines—a sore necessity this winter. "No Disorders Among People. "There are no courts, and the prisoners have been emptied, but the gendarmerie has remained at their posts, and are themselves both policemen and judges. The people are most law-abiding. The central and provincial governments have disappeared. The city and communal governments, however, still exist, and through them the distribution of food is being arranged. The Belgians are applying themselves with the most extraordinary devotion to the perfection of this organization, and if we lacked any other inspiration for exertion in our part of the labor to save these people, sufficient lies in this devoted work of the rich and the poor, a veritable democracy of fame which is working night and day to perform their part.

How Food is Distributed.

"The detail of the method is that after investigation by the communal authorities food tickets are issued indicating the number and amount of rations the holder is entitled to, and twice daily this ticket is presented by the holder to the food canteen for its quota, and is duly punched. The ration consists of bread, soup, containing potatoes together with a little coffee and salt. "All these who can afford to pay are compelled to pay the communal authorities at the rate of four cents per ration. The destitute are given tickets free. The communal authorities contribute to the relief committee one cent per diem per capita on the total tickets issued in their district, they obtaining this revenue from the tickets sold or by public subscription in the districts through the National Committee, under our supervision. These funds ultimately become available to us for the purchase of food. Furthermore, the same ration of bread and salt per diem is sold through the bakeries to agreed lists of the more well-to-do population, and as this bread is disposed of by a positive subscription, it has some further increase. Taking it altogether, about one half of the foods which we send to Belgium are paid for, so when the tickets are paid for, two abloquids of food, then enable us to buy on more, cargo. "Separate Kitchens for Adults and Children. "As a type of organization, that of Brussels is simply a large example of those in each locality. In that city there are fourteen communal kitchens and 137 canteens for adults and there are sixteen kitchens and thirty-four canteens for children under three years of age. For adults, a separate food is prepared in the communal kitchens, and is distributed to the canteens twice daily. The kitchens and canteens for babies are maintained as a separate organization in each commune. "In order to guarantee that children are properly fed, and that they are not subjected to the rigorous rations issued to adults, parents are compelled to produce all children to communal doctors, who are on constant duty in charge of the canteens. Five different kinds of tickets are issued, the mothers calling for different types of rations. The tickets for the first six months of a child's life are practically for milk alone. Various grades of tickets gradually evolve into the introduction of more solid foods, until children three years old and over fall on the general canteen. In order to provide milk, the communes have taken over dairies. "The amount and character of the destitution may perhaps be appreciated from the present conditions in Brussels. Of the population of about 550,000 remaining in the city, an average of 218,000 were on the adult canteens, and 31,000 babies were on the baby canteens last week, or more than one-third of the total population. There is probably no more pitiable sight ever presented than the long lines of mothers with children in arms, waiting their turn at these canteens. In the industrial districts, where the people naturally would have less stores on hand than in the capital, a much larger population is now on the communal canteens, in some instances over sixty per cent. of the whole number. "Brussels consumed three thousand sacks of flour per diem. There were just nine hundred and twenty-one sacks of flour in the city when our first shipment of foodstuffs arrived. When I left Brussels yesterday morning there were fifteen thousand sacks in the city, or about five days' supply. We have about two or three days' supply in Liege, and similar supplies in other centres, such as Louvain, Charleroi, Namur and Luxemburg."

DIFFICULT TO REACH PEOPLE IN RURAL DISTRICT.

"So far, our efforts have necessarily been devoted to provisioning the larger centres. It requires organization and patience to be able to penetrate the outlying towns and villages. It will be difficult for the people of the United States to comprehend the difficulties which we meet with, in purely executive matters, in the elaboration of this work. "The clock has absolutely stopped in Belgium. An industrial country which was dependent on the overseas before, is now walled up with seventy per cent of the people idle. There are no telegraphs, telephone, railways or post offices, except for military purposes. The Belgians, of a military necessity, are not allowed to pass from their own towns and consequently there is no communication throughout the country, except by personal visits of our own members. "Transportation by rail is possible in only a few directions, and then must await military necessity. The wonderful canal system is blocked in many places by the destruction of bridges and some canals have been allowed to run dry. Therefore, it is conforts part of our business to get these cleared and to stimulate the subsidiary transport services of the country, not only for the transportation of our food but to permit the transportation of coal from the Belgium mines—a sore necessity this winter. "No Disorders Among People. "There are no courts, and the prisoners have been emptied, but the gendarmerie has remained at their posts, and are themselves both policemen and judges. The people are most law-abiding. The central and provincial governments have disappeared. The