

FRANCE FEARS THAT GERMANY MAY INVADE SWITZERLAND

Allied Forces Prepare to Launch the Greatest Offensive of the War

VIOLATION OF SWISS NEUTRALITY

France Fears That This Outrage May Now be Meditated by Germany

Paris, Jan. 3.—France fears a dash by the German armies across neutral Switzerland, in a desperate attempt to turn the French and Italian lines and relieve the pressure of the allied forces on the two fronts.

For months the possibility of an invasion of Swiss territory has been talked of in Paris as a possibility. Today, in the opinion of an influential section of the French press, it has become a possibility.

Germany has called to the colors another class of recruits which will reinforce her active armies by more than half a million men. With her military forces now at their maximum, she is preparing for her supreme efforts of the war.

Enemy Desperate One of the things France is certain that under Field Marshal Von Hindenburg Germany is mustering all her resources for a desperate stroke.

Having already shown her contempt of treaty rights in her dealings with one country, Belgium, it is unlikely that Germany will hesitate at a similar violation in the case of Switzerland, French writers say.

This view is expressed in La Victoire yesterday by Gustave Herve, the famous French publicist, who devotes his leading article to the subject.

England must take over a still greater portion of the line now held by the French, M. Herve declares, in order to free a sufficient body of French troops to permit the formation of an "army of manoeuvre," a mobile force, which will be ready to reinforce any part of the west front line menaced by the German attack.

More Mobilized M. Herve also points out that Germany has mobilized the classes of 1919, giving her 600,000 additional men, while her civil mobilization will liberate a force variously estimated at 500,000 to 2,000,000. This force, while it will be used chiefly for service at the rear, will free a corresponding number of troops for the purposes of the first line.

At what point, will they strike? M. Herve asks.

Von Hindenburg's pet objective is Russia, the article continues, but a grand offensive on this front is out of the question until April, owing to the weather conditions.

Saloniki also is a tempting objective to German eyes, but there is only one railway line along which the Teuton forces could operate.

THE WOMAN IN THE CASE AT THE BRITISH WAR OFFICE

Report Submitted Upon Army Scandal Which Has Caused Much Comment

London, Jan. 3.—An army scandal involving the exercise of influence over high officers by a prominent society woman, is described in the report of a Court of Inquiry issued today.

The late Sir Arthur Basil Markham, Liberal member of Parliament for the Mansfield Division of Nottingham, who died last August, demanded an inquiry in the House of Commons into this matter, and was seconded by Irish members who declared that a young Irish officer's honor was involved.

Completely Exonerated. According to a statement in the House of Commons before recess he was completely exonerated; his Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Delme-Radcliffe, was removed from his command, and General Sir John Cowan was censured, but returned because of his good work.

Probably before this time, and certainly later, says the report, "Mrs. Cornwallis-West began to take an ordinary interest in Mr. Barrett, to which he consistently failed to respond."

Gen. Cowan Censured Barrett was severely censured by his commander without the opportunity of stating his case. Soon after he was transferred to another battalion on the demand of Mrs. Cornwallis-West.

The Court of Inquiry, which consisted of Field Marshal Sir William Nicholson, formerly Chief of General Staff, Maj-General Lord Chelmsford, Justice Sir James Richard Atkin and the Right Hon. Donald Maclean, M.P. for Peebles and Selkirk, reported regarding Mrs. Cornwallis-West: "We have no doubt that her injudicious boasting of the power she wielded at the War Office—which was confirmed to an appreciable extent by the wording of some of Sir John Cowan's letters—was calculated to bring him and the administration at the War Office into disrepute."

It appeared in the evidence that this lady holds positions of some importance in the county of Denbighshire in various associations of a public character for assisting war work. In our opinion it is to be regretted that she should hold such positions."

NO FURTHER SALE. By Courier Leased Wire. Geneva, Switzerland, Jan. 4.—via Paris 5.10 a.m.—The Austrian government has asked Switzerland to represent Austro-Hungarian interests in the occupied portion of Romania. The political department has accordingly instructed the Swiss charge d'affaires at Jassy to take charge of the interests of Austro-Hungarians.

TO REPRESENT AUSTRIA. By Courier Leased Wire. Toronto, Jan. 4.—The temperature has become much lower in the western provinces but continues quite moderate from Ontario eastward. Light snow falls have occurred in the Ottawa Valley and the Maritime provinces.

Forecast: Fair and mild. Friday—light snow or sleet.

Weather Bulletin Toronto, Jan. 4.—The temperature has become much lower in the western provinces but continues quite moderate from Ontario eastward. Light snow falls have occurred in the Ottawa Valley and the Maritime provinces.

GREATEST BATTLE OF WAR COMING

Allied Forces Prepare For Irresistible Drive as Answer to Germany

London, Jan. 4.—(New York Times cable)—While peace talk is flying back and forth over the wires, both belligerents are girding themselves for the greatest fighting yet.

General Haig's report, reducing to the simplest terms the battle of the Somme, is a preparation of the public mind for what is to come with fightable weather.

Feverish competition in invention and contribution in this field have placed air supremacy first on one side and then on the other. For some months it has been a matter of fact that the Teutons were one of the counts in the indictment against the Asquith Administration.

Italy Fights On Rome, Jan. 4.—(New York Times cable)—Notwithstanding the terrible winter weather, the fighting continues unabated throughout the Italian front, even with the terrible avalanches and hurricanes.

To give an approximate idea of what is done it will be sufficient to say that one army corps in the Alps requires 200,000 boards, whereof 100,000 were carried up by hand; 200,000 blankets, the same amount of woolen underclothes, 80,000 cloaks, 60,000 fur chest protectors and 10,000 fur sleeping bags.

NORWAY OBJECTS TO COAL EMBARGO. By Courier Leased Wire. Copenhagen despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company says that most of the Norwegian papers have attacked the British minister in Christiania in connection with the embargo on coal proclaimed by Great Britain.

Protests That She Has Not Violated Her Agreement. By Courier Leased Wire. London, Jan. 4.—The capture of Matchin is regarded here as ending the defense of Dobruja. The Russians held the Matchin bridgehead in order to protect Braila from the rear.

Success For the Russians. By Courier Leased Wire. Petrograd, Jan. 4.—via London 2.30 p.m.—(British Admiralty re Wires)—The capture by Russian forces on the Romanian front of 600 prisoners, three cannon and 160 machine guns, together with some mine throwers and bomb mortars, is announced in a today's war office statement.

TUSCANIA LATE. By Courier Leased Wire. New York, Jan. 4.—The Tuscania, of the Anchor Line, arrived here yesterday afternoon from Glasgow and Liverpool only one day late, due to a westerly gale a week ago that compelled the liner to lay to all day.

22 DROWNED IN COLLISION. By Courier Leased Wire. London, Jan. 4.—A Central News despatch from Amsterdam says that 22 women and children were drowned through the sinking of a ferry boat in a collision on the Moselle near Belfort.

French Ship Torpedoed. London, Jan. 4.—The French Steamer Leon, of 653 tons gross, has been torpedoed. The crew was landed.

POPE TO INTERVENE ONLY AT REQUEST OF BELGIERENTS

Attitude of the Pontiff Explained—Wilson's Note is Criticized Further

By Courier Leased Wire. London, Jan. 4.—(New York Sun cable)—The attitude of the Pope toward the recent efforts for peace, including the overtures of the Central powers and President Wilson's suggestions, may be explained as follows, according to a statement of Cardinal Gasparri, the papal secretary of state, to a Catholic journalist.

Therefore the Pope has determined not to intervene unless his mediation or good offices or collaboration toward an exchange of views, as a prelude to a discussion of peace conditions, is solicited by both groups of belligerents. His decision, needless to say, is not based on the fact that he is disinterested himself, but on the contrary on the conviction that to attempt the role of peacemaker would be worse than useless unless the governments of the nations at war spontaneously reach the conclusion that direct negotiations are impossible.

Criticism. Further criticism of President Wilson's note are printed in some of the morning papers in connection with Spain's refusal of the overtures from Washington, and the impending reply of the Entente. The Times says editorially: "This wise and dignified action of the Spanish government and the significant attitude of Holland and the principal republics of South America show that the independent neutrals are not all prepared to follow President Wilson's ill-considered lead."

"His counsel was asked in every matter," says The Reich, "and nobody was ashamed to receive from his hand what they wanted to get. But the main thing is not Rasputin himself, but the conditions which made his career possible and allowed such a man to play such an exceptional part. His role was such, in short, that it made it necessary for every resolution recently passed in the duma to contain the phrase: 'dark forces.'"

The objects for which the war is being fought, says the Morning Post, "seem nothing to him. He takes the impartial view that both sides claim to be right and both profess to be fighting for the same objects. The validity of these claims and professions he does not trouble to consider."

Referring to Spain's reply, The Post says: "The government of Spain may be supposed to understand better the realities of the situation, since it is not only less remote from the struggle, but inspired by principles which are probably somewhat nearer to reality."

Citing its Washington advices, there is a strong feeling in the United States in support of President Wilson. The Post sees a danger that this sentiment may drive the President into action injurious to the interests of the Allies.

"There is danger of an attempt," it says, "to interfere with the means the Allies are using to attain their end. Such an attempt might lead to a most unhappy situation. For neutrals to renounce the custom of supplying belligerent nations with munitions in the ordinary course of trade would be a breach of neutrality, and would in fact be an act of war in disguise. It is therefore important that neutrals should realize not only the possible but the logical consequences of such action."

The paper expresses the hope that the Allies are as anxious for peace as President Wilson, but cannot tolerate intervention at a moment when intervention means victory for Germany.

SEASONABLE BARGAINS AT CROMPTON'S. For Friday and Saturday—100 pairs of first quality Flannellet sheets. Perfect goods, no holes, no tears, no dirt—but clean—just as you would have them and the prices according to size, from \$1.40 to \$1.98. You can't afford to miss them if in need. Also towel sale at Staple Department.

BELGIANS TELL OF DEPORTATIONS

Number Invalided Home From Prison Camp In a Dying Condition

ATROCITIES Committed by the Huns in Their Treatment of Prisoners

The Hague, Jan. 4.—via London 12.15 p.m.—The first report received directly from Belgians deported to Germany, who have been invalidated from the camp at Soltau, Prussia, has been given to the Associated Press. Those persons were returned from Germany because they were in almost a dying condition.

A number of them who were interviewed while separated from each other agreed in their stories of conditions prevailing in the Soltau camp.

Seventy of the Belgians were sent home in a crowded cattle truck attached to a freight train. It took three days and three nights for the journey, which usually is made by express trains in six hours. They arrived home in an enfeebled condition, coughing the greater number of them, bearing evidence of having contracted tuberculosis.

MUNICIPAL RAILWAY Had a Good Year and Will Nearly Meet Expenses

Mr. W. R. Turnbull the New Chairman

The inaugural meeting for the year of the Brantford Street Railway Commissioners took place last evening. Mr. Hartman who has been chairman since the inauguration of

MR. W. R. TURNBULL Chairman of Railway Commissioners

The Municipal service expressed the view that the honor should be passed around and Mr. Turnbull was elected to the post.

It is hoped that the report of the year's operations will be in readiness for presentation at the inaugural meeting of the City Council.

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