

THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

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To-Day's Cables

British Armed Motor Cars in Dobrudja

Do Great Execution in this Region—Berlin Admits British Success in Macedonia

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The latest official communication from Berlin reports advances for the Teutonic Allies against the Russians and Roumanians in Wallachia and says the invaders are now beyond Rimnicu and Sarat, advancing along the railroad toward Fokchany. Three thousand more prisoners and twenty-two machine guns have been captured by the invaders, the number taken in the Rimnicu, Sarat manoeuvre bring the number up to 10,220. Although Berlin War Office reports the Teutonic Allies in Dobrudja are keeping up their pressure against the Russians and Roumanians and have forced the Russians from the fortified height positions east of Matchin, on the east bank of the Danube, opposite Braila, Petrograd announces that the invaders south of the Danube have been repulsed with heavy losses, except in the village of Rakel, which has been occupied by them. British armed motor cars, says Petrograd, did great execution in this fighting. Considerable fighting has again

taken place on the Verdun sector around Le Morte Homme and on the eastern slopes of Hill 304, where the Germans made an attack, but were repulsed and where later the French began a bombardment on German positions. Elsewhere along the French front there have been reciprocal bombardments and attacks by small patrol parties, interspersed with fights in the air. Aerial raids by French, British and German aviators and encounters in the air side is reported to have lost machines. In the Austro-Italian theatre the weather has cleared and artillery duels have been renewed with vigor, especially on the Carso front. In Macedonia, except for a British attack against the Bulgarians north east of Lake Dolran, which Berlin reports were successful, comparative quiet still prevails. South of Brody, in Galicia, the Germans brought their howitzers into play against the Russian positions at various points, and damaged their trenches.

WASHINGTON TO REMAIN SILENT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—A policy of absolute silence regarding peace negotiations has been adopted by President Wilson. Secretary of State Lansing stated officially to-day that all steps henceforth will be regarded as confidential and no comment will be made on any development and that rumours will not be discussed in any way.

FINE NEW SCHOONER

The fine new schooner "Douglas Haig," built at Monroe, T.B., by Josiah Framton for the firm of Monroe & Co. of St. John's and 120 tons burden, arrived here last evening lumber laden from Smith's Sound. She is a two topmast schooner of very handsome lines and built of the best material and shows what can be done in this Colony to-day in the matter of shipbuilding and in marine architecture. On the run up from Monroe the vessel proved herself a swift sailer and splendid going craft and captain and crew speak enthusiastically of her. She will be used as a foreign carrier in the fish trade and we congratulate the owners and the builder for making such a splendid addition to our local fleet.

THE KYLE'S PASSENGERS

The S.S. Kyle arrived at Port aux Basques this morning, bringing C. Blanchard, P. F. James, A. Grey, C. M. Warren, R. Rose, F. A. Haslett, E. Maddock, H. A. Saunders, Mrs. M. W. Furlong and four children, L. Duchesne, W. A. McKay, J. Kresner, J. Cashin, W. H. Hynes, P. Camp, H. Burchell Mrs. Rossiter and Mrs. Gibbons.

Schoolmistress, endeavouring to impress upon the class the meaning of the word "cuticle": "Now, Polly Johnson, tell me what it is with which my face and hands are covered?" Back came the answer with startling promptitude: "Freckles, miss!" Tommy: "I say, mother!" Mater: "What is it?" Tommy: "What's the height of the ridiculous?" Mater: "Well, your father is about five feet, I believe."

PROSPERO SAILS

The Prospero sailed north at 2 p.m. with a full freight and two passengers:— Messrs. L. Scammell, T. Peckford, R. Robertson, L. Fifield, A. Elliott, R. Bowering, W. Best, T. Cull, J. Moore, H. Hunt, T. French, R. Fowlow, R. Gillett, D. Wheeler, G. Newman, J. C. Butler, B. Norris, W. Norris, W. Snow, J. Primmer, F. Knight, J. Kearley, E. Fontaine, K. Short, A. Hobb, P. Newell Misses Bowers, Vincent, Snow and Haggitt; Mrs. Miller, Best and Hunt, and 30 steerage. The S.S. Susu left Gander Bay at 2.20 this a.m. and is due here tomorrow.

GOOD STORIES BY THE CHILDREN OF EGYPT

Mr. A. E. P. Weigall tells some good stories by the children of Egypt in the "Cornhill Magazine":—"The Egyptian is generally inclined to be very literal in the interpretation of his instructions, and several amusing anecdotes are told in this regard. "An English official died suddenly at a lonely outpost in the Sudan, and the Egyptian officer on whom the charge of affairs had devolved wired, acquainting the authorities with the sad news. Very wisely the Englishman at headquarters, who had heard stories of persons being buried alive, telegraphed back, saying, 'make certain that he is really dead before burial.' The reply of the Egyptian officer was received a few hours later. It read: 'Have made certain with a revolver.' "An Egyptian clerk at a railway station in the far south was much disinclined to act on any occasion without precise instructions. One day the officer, at the depot received a telegram from him which read: 'Station-master is being devoured by lion on platform. Please wire instructions.' On another occasion this same clerk telegraphed down the line to the nearest English official the following stratagem message: 'Station attacked by lions, tigers, bears and wolves.' The Englishman replied: 'Your message ridiculous. Wire precisely what you mean.' To this the clerk, after some hesitation, humbly answered, 'Delete tigers and bears.' Every Chinese implement has its deity; there is a god of knives, another of spades, another of hatchets, another of swords; every kind of animal has its deity.

STATE PURCHASE OF DRINK TRADE IMMINENT

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The purchase of the Drink Trade in Great Britain by the State is believed to be imminent, says the "Daily Express" to-day. The matter has been closely considered by the Liquor Control Board during the past fortnight, continued the paper, and several members of the Board have long advocated the purchase, and the change in the Government has brought a renewal of their argument. The "Express" quotes Sir Thomas Whittaker, member of Parliament, as saying that Lloyd-George is known to favour the step, while several of the Unionist Ministers are understood to agree with him. Sir Thomas says he believes a bill calling for the purchase would pass the Commons without difficulty. Sir Thomas Whittaker was Chairman of the Committee which advocated the purchase in 1915, when the cost of the plant was estimated at between £250,000,000 and £300,000,000. Since then however the Government has interfered drastically with the production of spirit, and the "Daily Express" asserts that further great restrictions in the manufacture and sale of alcoholics are certain in the immediate future whether or not the purchase plan is put into effect.

NEW UNDER-SECRETARY

PARIS, Dec. 29.—René Besnard has been appointed Under Secretary of State in the War Ministry. He was Under Secretary of State for Aviation in the last Administration, but resigned owing to hostile criticism.

SMALL BRITISH STEAMER SUNK

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Lloyd reports the British steamer Bargany, 872 tons gross, sunk, and some of the crew landed.

TIMES' MILITARY CORRESPONDENT REVIEWS WAR

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The "Times" military correspondent to-day is for greater effort in the war. He contends that although the French are still strong, their reserves are less numerous than could be wished. Russia, he adds, will bring new armies into the field in 1917, but their usefulness depends on their being provided with heavy guns, airplanes and mechanical transports, while Russia's poor railway systems and other causes point to the necessity of not exaggerating what Russia can do. Italy, says the correspondent, cannot easily increase her forces appreciably. After admitting that Britain has done a big share in the work at sea, financed and equipped the Entente Allies, the correspondent continues, "There are a number of changes to be effected before we can say we are winning the war. Germany met us in the Autumn with twenty-seven new divisions and thereby secured a strategic reserve which enabled her to conduct a campaign in Roumania without disaster in the west. We must not only counter dispositions of this character in time, but must be before in future. The reserves of manhood in the British Isles and the Dominions are ample for thirty divisions, to expand munition works, and to meet all legitimate demands of the navy, home defense and air services. Nearly four million men of military age are still in civil life. The limit of age liability is still far below the German standard age, and no answer has yet been made to the German Auxiliary Service Act. We have a larger reserve of manhood than Germany, and the annual contingents of youths in France and England together are greater than the annual contingents in Germany. It is no longer possible to think of winning the war by half measures. The new premier should state to the country the measures necessary for victory, and stand or fall by them with the courage we know him to possess.

GOOD WORK OF BRITISH ARMoured CARS

PETROGRAD, Dec. 29.—War Office announces invaders south of Danube has been repulsed with heavy losses, except village of Rakel which has been occupied by them. British armed motor cars, says Petrograd, did great execution in this fighting. Considerable fighting has again taken place on the Verdun sector around Lemarte Homme, and on the eastern slopes. Hill 304 where Germans made attack but were repulsed, and where later the French began a bombardment.

CHAPLAIN WRITES.

"Our camp faces the river," writes a Presbyterian chaplain with the Arabian Expeditionary Force in Arabia, "and the landward perimeter runs well into the desert. It is defended by barbed wire and is patrolled by a pretty strong guard at night. This suggests to the Arab a perfectly fascinating enterprise — to evade the sentries, creep through the barbed wire, make his way into the tents where men are sleeping, and steal off with such valuables as he can lay hands on. He knows the perils to be faced. The sentry will fire at sight. If caught, he will be shot at dawn. If no mercy will be shown to him, he will show none. If anyone stirs in a tent where he is working, he does not hesitate a moment to use the knife. One man was stabbed in this way the night before last, and his life now hangs by a thread. Last night a section of the perimeter was lit up by a succession of pistol star lights, and we heard a good many rifle shots. This morning we learn that one marauder was killed, while seven others made good their escape in the darkness. They were detected before they reached the wire, crawling on hands and knees across the irregular open ground, under cover of night. The man who was shot had a pair of 'hose tops, which had been taken from one of our soldiers, bound round his knees to protect them when crawling. He had also a very ugly knife and a business-like short club. What these is intended for is obvious enough. It was a stern lesson to the raiders, but it may have to be repeated a few times before it is thoroughly learned."

An Inhuman Outrage by German Submarine Steamer Sunk Without Warning and Survivors Murdered in Cold Blood

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The Admiralty has given the Associated Press the following statement concerning the sinking of the British steamer Westminster, which was reported last December 18th:—"The degree of savagery which the Germans have attained on their submarine policy appears to have reached a climax in the sinking of the Westminster which took place on the 14. When 180 miles from land Westminster was attacked by a German submarine and without warning was struck by two torpedoes in quick succession, which killed four men. The Westminster sank in four minutes. This ruthless disregard for the rules of international law was followed by a deliberate attempt to murder the survivors. Officers claim that while effecting escape in boats they were shelled by a submarine at a range of 3,000 yards. Master and Chief Engineer were killed outright and their boat sunk. Second and Third Engineers were not picked up, and it is presumed they were drowned. The captain of the submarine must have been satisfied with the effectiveness of his torpedo, yet he proceeded to carry out in cold blood an act of murder which could not possibly be justified by any urgency of war, and can only be regarded in the eyes of the world as a further proof of the degradation of German honor and morality."

KILLED IN PULP MILLS

A few days ago Mr. Jones, manager of the Seamen's Institute, was apprised by wire that one of the Newfoundlanders who went from here to Iroquois Falls, Ont., and was working in the Abitibi Power & Pulp Co.'s Mills, had been killed accidentally in the chipper. The name of the unfortunate man is R. Brown, who is married and whose wife resides on Carter's Hill, this city. It is likely the body will be brought here for interment.

ANOTHER ACCIDENT CASE

Mr. Eli Whiteway had a message from St. Joseph's last evening, stating that Henry Power of that place had accidentally hurt his leg and was coming here by train to go to hospital.

SEAPLANES DESTROY BRIDGE

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Wednesday a squadron of seaplanes attacked and destroyed Chicaldar Bridge, 18 miles east of Adana, Asia Minor.

Last Night's Cables

THE ENEMY LOSE HEAVILY

PETROGRAD, Dec. 29.—Stubborn resistance is being offered by the Russians and their allies to the efforts of Teutonic forces to expel them from their position in Dobrudja which still remains in their hands. Attacks yesterday were repulsed with great losses to the Teutonic Allies. To-day's report from the War Office says: Attacks by the enemy south of the Danube were repulsed with great losses to him. West of Vizir and Salvinco the British armored motor cars took part in beating back attacks. The gallant commander of the British armored car detachment was wounded during the battle on Tuesday when repulsing the enemy attacks. Nevertheless, on Wednesday he again directed the operations. This detachment put the enemy to flight. The enemy made an attack along the front at Dobrudja against the positions occupied by our advance guards, he was repulsed everywhere by our fire except in the village of Rakel, which has been occupied by him.

RUSSIA'S STATEMENT APPRECIATED

LONDON, Dec. 29.—An official order issued by Emperor Nicholas stating the time has not arrived for peace negotiations, takes a leading place to-day in both news and editorial sections of the evening newspapers. Some of them suggest that other members of the Entente should follow the lead of Russia and state their terms. The Standard says we cordially welcome this frank exposition of war aims from one considerable member of the Alliance. It would do no harm and it might do some good if the other Allies made it clear once and for all.

GREECE RESENTS BLOCKADE

ATHENS, Dec. 29.—The Government is addressing a second note to the Entente Powers pointing out the growing popular resentment against their blockade. The note refers to Greece's previous communication urging mutual considerations with a view to clearing the situation and says unless some such action is taken shortly Greece may be forced to seek advice of the nation respecting the course to be followed.

HUN PIRATE DECORATED

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 29.—Announcement made in Berlin newspapers says the Order of Merit was conferred upon Captain Valenine, Commander of the German sub, for sinking 128 ships total tonnage of 282,000. Included among the boats are the French gunboat troop transport, and four steamers loaded with war material, and French submarine conveying fourteen coal steamers.

A GERMAN OPINION

BERLIN, Dec. 28.—Germany's answer to Wilson and the promptness with which it was made have caused a good impression generally in the press, and only anti-American newspapers show a tendency to dissent and express the view that interference of any kind by America is intolerable. Mrs. Flatbush—How do you manage to keep a cook so long? Mrs. Bensonhurst—Oh, I get her to stay until my husband can raise some money to pay her.

SUBSTITUTE FOR GOLD

A substitute for gold is obtained by combining 84 parts of copper with six parts of antimony and adding a little magnesium carbonate to increase the weight. It is said that this alloy can be drawn, wrought, and soldered very much like gold, and that it also receives and retains a golden polish. It is worth something like 25 cents a pound.

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

British Offensive on the Somme

Impossible Until Ground is Frozen or Dries in the Spring—Have Taken Over Part French Front

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Continuation of the British offensive along the Somme and transferred their attention to Verdun with the results which you know. We may be able to resume in March. We found ground in Neuve Chapelle in fairly good shape in March, 1915, although it had been very bad during the winter. Unfortunately, "I told you some time ago," he said, "our offensive would not close during the winter but it must be apparent from daily reports that there has been real battle in that sector since Oct. In first place we under estimated the effect of shelling on terrain country over which an advance will have to be made. The thickly sprinkled shell holes are filled with water also never having held the same line in any other winter we under estimated the effect of fog in the Valley of the Somme. There have been frequent frosts but not severe enough to harden the ground. But sufficient to form fog, making artillery observations and fire practically useless, also preventing the drying of the ground. The

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SAYS KING CONSTANTINE IS STILL AT IT

LONDON, Dec. 29.—A telegram received from Salonika by Anglo-Hellenic League to the effect that the Greek division which was surrendered to Bulgarians at Kavala have been ordered by King Constantine to leave Goerlitz, Germany, where it has been interned, for Macedonia to fight against the Entente Allies. Such a move on part of King Constantine would be tantamount to an act of war against the Entente Allies, and the recent despatches from Athens represented the differences between Greece and the Entente Allies being composed of inaccuracy. And unconfirmed despatch to the Anglo-Hellenic League opens the question at the time of occupation of Eastern Macedonia, part Kavala garrison of Greek troops surrendered to Germans and Bulgarians. Others were removed by Entente warships, and those who surrendered to Germans and Bulgarians were transported to Goerlitz for internment. Their number was given as 400 officers and 6000 men.

CZAR NICHOLAS ON RUSSIAN WAR AIMS

PETROGRAD, Dec. 29.—Endorsing an order issued by Emperor Nicholas Dec. 24 to the Russian army, the new daily newspaper, Volia, says the Emperor stated that Russia's war aims are matters whose realization are vital for Russia are unanimously approved by her Allies. We hope France and England will follow Russia's example and will formulate publicly without delay the special ends which they seek from the world. The war novel, Vremya, says the words of the Emperor reflect the faithful sentiment and will of the whole people.

HUNS REPLY TO WILSON

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The morning papers generally regard Germany's reply to Wilson's note as no reply at all, but a renewal effort to trap the Entente Powers into a conference at the opportune moment for the latter with a view to averting what is consistently maintained here as inevitable the defeat of the Central Powers. The Daily Telegraph thinks the reply marks a new and significant step in the game of desperation forced upon the Central Powers by their well justified dread of what the immediate future holds for them.