

HUN DRIVE ANTICIPATED IN WEST

Belgium Insists on Guarantee Absolute Independence Great German Offensive Believed Impending

Resumption of Hostilities Presages Developments of Considerable Magnitude--Germany Threatens Russia Unless Baltic Provinces are Ceded

On the western front in France and Belgium, and on the Italian front, where the contending armies of the chief belligerents in the world-war have displayed little activity for some time, official reports announce a resumption of hostilities of unusual activity for winter months.

ACTIVITY INCREASING

Intensity of the artillery fire has increased all along the western front and raiding parties and air fighting have been resumed under more favorable conditions.

CANNOT BREAK THROUGH

London, Jan. 24.—(via Reuter's Ottawa agency)—Reuter's headquarters correspondent, discussing the threatened impending German offensive says:

"It is taken for granted that at the utmost the most violent onslaught against any part of our front can hope to attain would be to push us back a little.

BRILLIANT FRENCH RAID

With the French Army in France, Wednesday, Jan. 23.—(By the Associated Press)—The French on Monday executed a brilliant raid of the German lines eastward from Vienne-le-Chateau, near Four de Paris, along a front of 3,000 yards and reaching a depth of 500 yards.

All of the participants in the raid declared that the gunners work was magnificent not only as regards destruction but in the manner in which it completely silenced the enemy artillery.

By Courier Leased Wire

Petrograd, Wednesday, Jan. 23.—Russia must give up Courland and all the Baltic provinces or the Germans will resume military operations and occupy Reval within a week.

WEATHER BULLETIN

Toronto, Jan. 24.—An area of low pressure which covered Manitoba and the northwest states yesterday has moved southeastward to the great lakes and is there causing a light snow fall.

Forecast. Moderately cold with light snow. Friday—Southerly winds and a little milder.

PIRACY FAILING

Rome, Jan. 24.—The weekly report of Italian shipping losses gives the sinking of only one small sailing vessel. One steamship was attacked unsuccessfully.

Paris, Jan. 24.—The sinking of two French vessels of more than 1600 tons and one of lesser size, is shown in the weekly report of French shipping losses. Four vessels were attacked unsuccessfully.

G.W.V.A. WANT COAL

The Soldiers' Home is practically "as bad as any of 'em," its coal bins being empty. The soldiers from the G.W.V.A. are out on the coal canvass this morning.

U. S. to Loan Ireland a Hundred Million, is Word Dublin Hears

By Courier Leased Wire

London, Jan. 24.—The Telegraph's Dublin correspondent states that a report from Washington that the United States is prepared to loan Ireland £20,000,000 to obtain the fullest measure of home rule, and American capitalists are ready to invest a like sum in Ireland if the question is settled, is prominently displayed in all Irish papers, and has caused the liveliest interest.

Dublin reports regarding the Irish convention continue hopeful. Dispatches to the Chronicle contain mysterious references to "certain eventualities following the convention," which might induce John E. Redmond to regard his retirement from leadership as obligatory, and makes an earnest plea in Redmond's behalf, saying: "If he is driven from his position wherein he would feel obliged to resign because of any action, or failure on the part of those who get support from him, the cause of Ireland, as far as the war is concerned, would go down with him, and all consequences would have to be faced as if there had been a betrayal of Ireland, for so the world would read what would appear a betrayal of Redmond."

MILITARY PARTY SUPPRESSES DISCONTENT OF HUN MASSES

Brest-Litovsk Negotiations and Wilson's Peace Formula Have Effect on German People; Prepare Ground For Bolsheviki Tendency

By Courier Leased Wire

London, Jan. 23.—The impressions conveyed in today's news despatches from Switzerland and Holland regarding the internal situation in Germany on the eve of Chancellor von Hertling's expected address before the Reichstag are one of discontent among the masses, suppressed by the triumphant hand of the military party.

Efforts of the German censorship to prevent public knowledge of the Austrian strikes and peace demands succeeded for a time, but the news leaked through gradually and Austrian events seem now to be widely known by German workers. The Austrian hopes that the latter would follow their lead, however, has not materialized, while German newspapers which ventured to hold out a hand to the Austrian proletariat have been sternly repressed.

The Dutch Catholic journal Tyd prints an article received through an indirect channel from its correspondent in Germany in which he says that "events at Brest-Litovsk and President Wilson's new peace formula, which in wide circles is considered a suitable basis for the regulation of society of the future, have prepared the ground for the Bolsheviki tendency."

"It is recognized in educated circles," says the writer, "that the wooden horse has been brought in at Brest-Litovsk and there is anxiety lest the German attitude in the negotiations may lead to a division among the people. The masses turn away from the veiled annexationist just of power formulated by General Hoffman."

Continuing the writer speaks of the rebellious temper of the factory population in the industrial centres and adds: "No wonder fear is expressed here and there that the people are dis-

gusted with the proposed suffrage reform, furious with the pan-Germans, exhausted in body and fortune, and deprived of the hope of the restoration of national and individual happiness, will itself take the settlement of its lot into its own hands if any great military setback is suffered. The failure of the separate peace with Russia would also give the signal for an invaluable reaction at a moment when the nervous strain is well nigh unbearable."

An incident in the Saxon lower house on Monday, The Tyd correspondent says, is indicative of the popular sentiment. The king of Saxony recently sent a telegram to the Fatherland Party, advocating "a safety peace."

This was sharply censured by the Socialists of the Chamber. The Socialist vice-president, Fraesdorf, said that the king was badly informed and badly advised by his ministers and declared that the people took quite a different standpoint from the Fatherland Party.

It is in such an atmosphere, if reports quoted are accurate, that Chancellor von Hertling meets the Reichstag to speak to his own countrymen and the world. His newspaper supporters say that the chancellor is in nowise shaken by the recent political crisis, but on the contrary he has the emperor's full confidence. Important conferences are reported to have been held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at which Field Marshal von Hindenburg, General Ludendorff, Chancellor von Hertling and Dr. Richard von Kuehlmann, secretary for foreign affairs, participated with the emperor.

Kept in Darkness

The Hague, Jan. 24.—The German press, especially The Munichener Post, complain that the German people are not kept informed of important changes or events, pointing out that only through the Wolff Agency reports of von Hindenburg's and von Ludendorff's visits to the capital, or the Kaiser's journeys do the people know new decisions are being taken.

BELGIUM CONSENTS ONLY TO PEACE ON GUARANTEE OF INDEPENDENCE

Undisputed Rights of Nation Must be Safeguarded is Tenor of Governments Reply to Pope's Peace Note--Personal Note From King Albert

By Courier Leased Wire

Havre, Jan. 23.—King Albert, in enclosing the Belgian's Government's reply to the Pope's peace proposals, wrote a personal letter as follows:

"Very Holy Father: I have taken note, with lively sympathy and interest of the message your holiness was good enough to send to the heads of the belligerent countries, the first of August, and have hastened to submit it to my government, which has studied it with most serious and deferential attention. The result of that study has been recorded in a note which I am happy to communicate to your holiness.

"In associating myself with the wishes of the Holy See that a just and durable peace may promptly put an end to the evils from which humanity and particularly the Belgian people, so rudely tried, are suffering, I beg your holiness to believe in my faithful and respectful attachment.

(Signed) "ALBERT."

This letter was dated, December 27, 1917.

The note of the Belgian Government says:

"The Royal Government as soon as it received the message of your Holiness to the heads of the belligerents, hastened to reply that it would study with the greatest deference the propositions the documents exposed in such elevating language.

"At the same time it desired particularly to express its lively and profound gratitude for the particular interest the Holy Father manifested in the Belgian nation and of which the document was new and precious proof.

"At the outset of his message, the Holy Father took pains to declare he had forced himself to maintain the belligerents, which renders more significant the judgment of his Holiness when he concluded in favor of the total evacuation of Belgium and the re-establishment of its full independence and also recognized the right of Belgium for reparation for damages and the cost of the war."

"Already in his consistorial allocution of January 22, 1917, the Holy Father had proclaimed before the world that he reproved injustice and he condemned to give the Belgian Government the assurance that in formulating that reprobation it was the invasion of Belgium he had directly in view."

"The honest people of all countries will rejoice with the Belgian Government that the injustice of which Belgium was the victim and the necessity for reparation have been proclaimed and that the highest moral authority of Christendom remains watchful amidst the passion and conflicts of men. It was because of the gratitude felt on this account, which was augmented by the numerous charitable acts of the Holy Father in favor of so many Belgians, victims of the violence of the enemy, that the Royal Government has examined into the possibility of contributing in the measure depending upon it towards the realization of the double desire which inspires the pontifical message: "To hasten the end of the present war and render a return of similar catastrophe impossible by the adoption of guarantees destined to assure the supremacy of right over force."

"At the beginning of September the royal government informed his holiness that it must reserve decision regarding its action on the propositions contained in the message until the powers at war with Belgium had clearly made known their war aims. It added that in any case Belgium would make no pronouncement on general peace conditions and the re-organization of international relations, excepting in full accord with the powers guaranteeing its independence that have done honor to their obligations toward her and whose arms fight with hers for the cause of right.

"Nothing has modified the situation that existed at the moment the royal government made known that point of view to his holiness. However, Belgium seizes eagerly the occasion furnished it by his holiness to repeat before the civilized world what it wrote nearly a year ago to President Wilson:

"Before the German ultimatum Belgium aspired only to live on good terms with all its neighbors. She practised with scrupulous loyalty toward each of them the duties imposed by this neutrality.

"How was she recompensed by Germany for her confidence? She showed in her? If there is a country that has the right to say it took up arms to defend its existence, it assuredly is Belgium. She desires the unhindered sufferings of its population, but she would have kept only a peace that would assure her at the same time equitable reparation and security and guarantees for the future."

"The integrity of Belgium, the territory of the mother country and colonies, political, economic and military independence without condition or restriction, reparation for damage suffered and the guarantees against a renewal of the aggression of 1914 such remain the indispensable conditions of a just peace so far as concerns Belgium."

"Any settlement that would not recognize them would shake the very foundations of justice, since it would forever more be established that in international domains that violation of right creates a claim for its author and may become a source of profit.

"Since the royal government a year ago formulated its conditions, it permits itself to recall that in Reichstag voted resolutions, called peace resolutions. The chancellors and ministers of foreign affairs have followed each other in the German Empire and more recently in the Central Empire and have published notes replying to the message of his holiness, but never a word has been pronounced and never a line written clearly recognizing the indisputable rights of Belgium that his holiness has not ceased to recognize and pro-

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rifle With vesight?

valuable gift of vision is indelible have headaches, burn—you need light glasses—and at once.

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oke Havana Cigars 25 cents Bouquet Cigar straight

OD SALE Wood Lengths R CORD VERED

-CAB

SAY & CO. Machine 45

MALE PILLS Restore pre-employment

ADIAN NORTH REGULATIONS

restored soldiers who had been honorably discharged

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