

and these two have now been recaptured by the French. This is the third great defeat which the Germans have suffered in the west. The first was at the Marne, in 1914, when the German armies were thrown back and Paris was saved; the second was at Ypres, when they failed to break through to Calais.

The battle of the Somme still continues, with the British and French lines making slight gains. Though the loss of men has been heavy here, the Allied forces have met with no serious reverse. Wet weather is hampering the movements of the armies, and the campaign is probably over for this year.

On the Italian front the situation is practically unchanged, and here also military operations have been brought to a standstill by the weather.

The Serbs, with the assistance of the French and Russians, have won an important victory in Macedonia, by which they have come into possession of Monastir, the most important city in southern Serbia. The Germans and Bulgars who held the city were compelled to leave it on the nineteenth of November, and retired to the mountainous region farther north, where they are being attacked by the French and Russians from the south, the Serbs from the east, and the Italians from the west.

The Teutonic forces have swept over western Roumania, as they swept over Belgium, Poland and Serbia. If the Roumanians and the Russians who have come to their assistance can check and turn back this invasion, it will be a victory as important as the battle of the Marne. If not, Roumania will share the fate of Serbia and Belgium.

The part of Poland occupied by the troops of the Central Powers has, by joint proclamation of the German and Austrian Emperors, been made an independent kingdom, which means independent of Russia. The new kingdom is expected to raise an army of its own and fight for the Germans. As to that part of ancient Poland which was under German rule before the war, that is to remain German, of course; and if the Poles do not show their gratitude by giving sufficient help to the Teutonic cause the proclamation is to be rescinded.

The death of the Emperor Francis Joseph, which took place on the twenty-first of November, is one of the notable events of the month. He was quietly succeeded by his grandnephew, the Archduke Charles Francis Joseph, who becomes Emperor Charles I. of Austria and King Charles IV. of Hungary. The wife of the new sovereign, now the Empress Zita, was born in Italy, and her two brothers are serving in the Belgian army.

The Greek revolutionists have declared war against Bulgaria, but the royalists are in sympathy with the Central Powers, and causing much trouble to the Allies at Salonika.

The revolution against the Turks in Arabia, led by the Grand Shereef of Mecca, has so far succeeded that the new government set up by the Arabs claims recognition as the independent kingdom of Arabia. (Shereef is a title of nobility given to certain descendants of Mohammed, and the word is not related to our word sheriff).

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Both British and Portuguese forces have recently won small, but important, victories in German East Africa.

The deportation of Belgians for forced labor in Germany is one of the latest horrors of the war. Thousands of Belgian workmen are being thus reduced to slavery. The only excuse is that the movement is in the interest of Germany. It will permit the release of German workmen for active military service.

Baron Shaughnessy has formally taken his seat in the House of Lords, having made a special visit to England for that purpose. Speaking of Canadian affairs, Lord Shaughnessy says it is essential to the development of Canadian trade that both English and French be made compulsory subjects in Canadian schools.

Just as the Mexican delegates were entering into an agreement with the United States for the removal of their troops from Mexico because they were no longer needed, Villa's forces have captured the city of Chihuahua (Chihuahua), and are threatening the border town of Juarez.