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SATURDAY MORNING DECEMBER 22 1917—SIXTEEN PAGES. VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,555 TWO CENTS

Italians Make Gains in Strong Offensive Movement Against Bolsheviki is Gaining

GROUND TAKEN FROM TEUTONS ON THE BRENTA

Italians Win Considerable Success on Section of Northern Front.

WAS A RE-OCCUPATION

Gains Are Held, Despite Strong Austro-German Bombardment.

Rome, Dec. 21.—A considerable portion of the ground gained by the enemy on Tuesday, in the region of Monte Asolone, on the northern front, east of the Brenta River, has been retaken by the Italians, the war office announces.

The positions regained by the Italans were held despite the most violent fire from the enemy artillery.

"Yesterday in the region of the Monte Asolone front east of the Brenta our troops, advancing energetically, altho opposed with stubbornness by the enemy, succeeded in depriving the enemy of a considerable portion of the gains which he obtained Tuesday. The enemy concentrated a most violent fire on the positions retaken, but without being able to face our resistance.

"A strong attempt at counter-attack delivered at Monte Pertica was immediately dispersed. On the Asiago plateau the activity of our troops brought us prisoners.

"In the Camonica Valley, east of the Astico, and on the Monte Tomba and Montello front the perishing fire by both artilleries was more lively and more frequent."

Says Italians Failed.

Berlin, Dec. 21.—Via London—Seven Italian attacks against the recently captured Austro-German positions in the region of Monte Asolone yesterday were repulsed, the war office reports. Italian efforts to advance at other points on the northern front also are said to have failed. The statement reads:

"The Italians seven times attacked the heights won in the last few days by the Austro-German forces west of Monte Asolone. They also attacked Monte Pertica three times. All their assaults broke down with heavy losses. An enemy attack on Monte Solarolo was unsuccessful.

"Last night and early this morning vigorous artillery engagements continued in the battle of sectors."

OTTAWA PLANS TO STOP IMPORTS OF LIQUOR

Dominion Government Considers Imposing Drastic Restrictions on Drink.

By a Staff Reporter.

Ottawa, Dec. 21.—Drastic restrictions amounting to practical prohibition of the liquor traffic were under consideration by the government tonight, and an announcement is promised at noon tomorrow. The details could not be secured tonight, but it is understood that what is in view contemplates prohibiting after a time the import of liquor. Already the use of grain in making it has been prohibited.

DETROIT JURY FINDS KALTSCHMIDT GUILTY

Verdict Covers All Three Counts of Indictment of Conspiracy—Respa Acquitted.

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 21.—Albert Kaltschmidt was convicted on all three counts of an indictment charging conspiracy against United States district court early this morning. Four of the five others who have been on trial with him also were found guilty on one or more counts in the indictment. Franz Respa was acquitted.

One of the three counts against the defendants charged a conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States in "setting on foot in the United States a military enterprise against Canada." Judge Arthur Tuttle in his charge to the jury devoted much time to defining what constituted such a conspiracy. He pointed out "that one or more of the parties accused must do an act to effect the object of the conspiracy," and added that if the act was committed by one party to a conspiracy all other persons who participated in it could be found guilty.

The partial destruction of the Peabody Overall Company's plant at Walkerville, Ont., and an alleged attempt to destroy the Windsor armories were cited by the government as a military enterprise, "because they had to do with Canadian military affairs." The other two counts in the indictment allege conspiracy to blow up the St. Clair River tunnel at Fort Huron and the plant of the Detroit Screw Works.

The trial has been in progress since December 4.

ITALIAN OFFENSIVE MEETS WITH SUCCESS

Determined Attacks by Troops of Gen. Diaz Drive Enemy From Positions in Region of Mount Asolone.

London, Dec. 21.—The Italians on the northern line between the Brenta and Piave Rivers have ceased for the time being at least their defensive warfare against the attacks of the Austro-Germans, and assumed the offensive, with signal successes on several sectors.

Attacking the positions which the enemy earlier in the week captured near Monte Asolone, General Diaz's troops have regained a considerable portion of the terrain and held it, notwithstanding the terrific artillery fire that was turned upon them.

The German war office, in endeavoring to belittle the success of the offensive, which it declares was repulsed, shows that the effort of the Italians was a determined one, the troops to the west of Monte Asolone delivering seven attacks against the enemy front. Admission is made in the German communication that the Italians also have taken the initiative in the fighting on Monte Pertica and Monte Solarolo, but it is declared that their attacks on these sectors, as on Monte Asolone, were without success.

ENEMY TRIPLES STRENGTH ON NORTH ITALIAN FRONT

Seven German Divisions, Besides Strong and Numerous Austrian Units, Face Allies on Upper Piave and in Mountains.

With the French Armies in Northern Italy, Thursday, Dec. 20.—A careful compilation of the strength and disposition of the tremendous Austro-German forces which, originally concentrated for the Italian offensive, probably have been augmented by troops from the Russian front, has just been completed by the French military authorities. The summary shows that between the middle of November and the middle of December the bulk of the enemy forces has been steadily shifted from the lower Piave line to the sector between Vidor, on the upper Piave, and the Asiago Plateau—the part that is held by the French—until the forces which now are trying to batter their way into the northern Italian plains have been nearly tripled, and this army is all the stronger because of the fact that it included fully seven German divisions known to be engaged against the allies.

This formidable strength of the invader accounts for the scattered gains that have been recorded during the last fortnight, culminating in the capture on Tuesday of Monte Asolone. These positions are only a few miles from the plain proper and therefore, as in the case of Col Delerberatta, captured a few days previously, their acquisition is valuable. Positions flanking other mountains still are held stubbornly by the Italians, altho the enemy is able to enfilade movements to and from otherwise strategic heights.

In gradually relinquishing a few points and in falling back on this sector upon a new line, the Italians are again strongly and strategically located. They have made the enemy pay dearly for each yard of ground gained, and have put up a determined defence that augurs well for the future, especially since the French are successfully holding every foot of their line and have strong reserve forces behind their battle front. The Italian troops by the end of October had increased forces on the Asiago sector and by the middle of November the sector from Asiago to Stelvio had been vastly strengthened.

ANTI-CONSCRIPTION MAJORITY INCREASES

Majority in Australian Referendum Against Conscription Now Quarter of Million.

London, Dec. 21.—(By Reuter's Ottawa Agency).—A cable from Melbourne states that half the votes have been counted in Australia.

The present situation is that conscription has secured a half million votes, but seven hundred thousand ballots have been registered against it.

Small Chance of Success.

Sydney, Australia, Dec. 21.—Unless the soldier vote on the various fronts which has not yet been counted offsets the vote in Australia the government's conscription scheme has been defeated in a referendum by a majority of about 150,000. This is believed to be hardly likely, however, an account of the heavy vote against conscription in New South Wales, which gave a majority of 115,000 against the poll.

Those opposed to conscription were surprised by the result in Victoria, which reversed last year's favorable vote by giving a majority of 156,000 against conscription this year.

Big Anti-Conscription Vote.

Melbourne, Australia, Dec. 21.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency).—Partial returns of the referendum give 552,000 majority against conscription out of 658,000, which is a quarter of the total electorate. The returns are chiefly from anti-conscription strongholds and the soldiers' vote is not included.

Conscription Anyway.

London, Dec. 21.—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency).—A despatch from Melbourne declares that Premier Hughes in an address at a recent meeting in favor of conscription stated that if the measure were defeated at the polls parliament, he believed, would make the men of Australia do their duty.

JUST MINOR OPERATIONS

Patrol Encounters and Raiding Activities Alone Reported by Haig.

London, Dec. 21.—The war office communication issued this evening says:

"This morning a raid was attempted by the enemy northeast of Messines. It was repulsed by our rifle and machine gun fire. We captured a few prisoners during the day in patrol encounters on different parts of the front.

"Apart from hostile artillery activity east of Ypres there is nothing further of special interest to report."

PEOPLE OF ARGENTINA WANT WAR DECLARED

People of South American Republic Greatly Incensed by Revealed German Treachery.

Buenos Aires, Dec. 21.—As the result of the publication of the telegram sent by Count von Luxburg, the former German minister, to the Berlin foreign office, it has again been necessary to call out mounted patrols to disperse crowds of people who demanded a rupture of relations with Germany.

The mob, which was shouting, "Long live the republic," was dispersed after a fight with the mounted police. Heavy guards have been placed over the property owned by Germans in the city, and mounted men also are guarding the office of the newspaper Launion, for which Count von Luxburg obtained a subsidy.

The general belief is that the publication of the documents will lead to new demands for the severance of relations with Germany, congress having already refused to sanction the budget application for continuing the Argentine legation in Berlin, which was insisted on by the organs.

Street indications are that the public are not satisfied.

SOLDIERS ARRIVE LATE.

First Section of Train Gets Here Long After Midnight.

The first section of a trainload of returned soldiers arrived at the Union Station shortly after 1 o'clock this morning, and were met by hundreds of their relatives. The station had been crowded both in the main corridors and downstairs from early evening by anxious friends, who could not be given any definite information as to who were coming or when they would arrive.

The soldiers were some of those who arrived recently at New York, and came by G. T. R. via Buffalo. The second section was expected to arrive at 3.30 this morning.

THREE AVIATORS KILLED.

Fort Worth, Tex., Dec. 21.—Three British aviators in training here were killed this morning when two machines collided in the air. Two of the men were in one machine.

Four Canadian soldiers sitting outside a Y. M. C. A. house in France.

ASTONISHING SUCCESS OF CO-OPERATIVE CO.

Increase in Sales During Four Years' Operation Show Farmers Possess Executive Ability.

During the first season's operations, four years ago, the total sales of the United Farmers' Co-operative Company amounted to just $950. The statement for eleven months of 1917 shows sales totaling over $1,000,000 The volume of business this year rebounds to the credit of the executive officers of the institution, and the fact takes on the semblance of a romance when one is told that it has been done on a paid-up capital of only $6,000.

Farmers Buy Stock.

In making this remarkable statement in the Labor Temple yesterday, R. W. E. Burnaby, who was later on in the day's proceedings elected president of the company for 1918, appealed effectively for a further list of subscribers to the stock of the organization. He reminded his hearers that "where a man's treasure is, there will his heart be also," and showed the assembly clearly that the progress of the company must depend upon the support given it by the individual stockholders and the local farmers' clubs of the province. During the three days' convention nearly $7000 stock was sold and paid for, and a considerable further amount pledged by delegates.

At the conclusion of his address on "The Progress of the Company," Mr. Burnaby spoke in praise of the editorial support which had been given the convention proceedings by the press of Toronto, instancing two dailies which had given front page space to accounts of speeches and photograph of President Halbert of the U. F. O. A motion to this effect was carried unanimously, and the secretary was requested to advise the various city editors of this action in writing. The retiring president of the company then called on J. Beverley Robinson, farm editor of The Toronto World, to reply on behalf of the press.

Press Not Antagonistic.

Mr. Robinson told the gathering of his own experience in endeavoring to secure publicity for other organizations in which he was interested. He reminded the farmers that newspapers carried large staffs, and that many individual members of a newspaper staff might be unacquainted with the point of view of the farmer, and therefore uninterested in his communications. In order, therefore, to secure publicity for their views, it would be advisable to appoint a committee of individuals with some knowledge of the press. This committee could do useful work in the farmer's cause by personally communicating information to the proper editorial department in the several newspaper offices. They might thus find that the interests of the farmers and the press were identical and capable of harmonizing.

The balance of the day's proceedings was occupied by the presentation of the president's address by B. C. Tucker, amendments to by-laws by Elmer Lick, financial statement by A. J. Reynolds, nomination and election of directors, and a dissertation by Gordon Waldron on "Commercial Law and Business Methods."

Messrs. Sarels, O'Brien and Robinson were appointed scrutineers for the election of directors, the result of which was as follows: 1, B. C. Tucker, Harold, 172 votes; 2, R. H Halbert, Melancthon, 171 votes; 3, R. W. E. Burnaby, Jefferson, 168 votes; 4, E. C. Drury, Barrie, 145 votes; 5, A. A. Powers, Orono, 126 votes; 6, Elmer Lick, Oshawa, 108 votes; 7, E A. VanAllen, Aultsville, 103 votes; 8, C. W. Gurney, Paris, 92 votes; 9, Wm. McCrae, Guelph, 84 votes. The directors then elected Mr. Burnaby as president and Mr. Powers as vice-president.

UKRAINE JOINS COSSACK CHIEF TO FIGHT REDS

Governing Body Forms Definite Alliance With General Kaledines.

ODESSA CAPTURED

Anarchists Lose Heavily in Fighting at Rostov—Rising in Caucasus.

London, Dec. 21.—The Rada, the governing body of the Ukraine, apparently is maintaining its determined stand toward the Bolsheviki government. It is reported that it has converted its sympathies with the movement of General Kaldines, the Cossack leader, into a definite alliance. Advices received from Russia are to the effect that the Bolsheviki commissioners, after receiving the Rada's ratification of the Bolsheviki ultimatum, sent another one giving the Ukraine a further 48 hours in which to reconsider its refusal to acquiesce in the demands of the Bolsheviki government.

Another report received here says that Odessa now has definitely gone over to the side of the Ukraine. According to details of the capture of Rostov-on-oDn, printed in Petrograd, there were six days of fighting before the Cossacks entered the town last Saturday. The Red Guards lost 800 men killed, and 1000 wounded in the fightings. The Cossacks gave short thrift to the Red Guards, whom they hate. The Bolsheviki chiefs fled from the town on board warships. The cruiser Kolkvida (Kolchida?) grounded in the river and was destroyed by the Cossack artillery.

There has been no important fighting at Nakhitchevan, province of the Don, where the Bolsheviki troops have fraternized with the Cossacks. A clash has occurred between the Bolsheviki and Ukrainians at Bolgrad, Bessarabia. The town is on fire.

The Terek and Kuban Cossacks are reported to be experiencing trouble in their own territories, the hill tribes of the northern Caucacus having risen.

It is also said that some of the Cossacks in the Don territory are dissatisfied with their leaders and are being won over by the propaganda of the extremists.

Combating reports in circulation that the Bolsheviki commissioners have refused to convene the constituent assembly, Moses Uritzky, commissioner for elections to the assembly, has issued a manifesto in which he gives assurances that the assembly will be summoned again as soon as the four hundred deputies have registered themselves at his bureau.

It is said that a great quantity of valuable property has been taken from houses of the rich in Petrograd by the mobs that have been searching for liquor. Among the buildings sacked is the palace of Grand Duchess Marie Pavlovna, widow of Grand Duke Vladimir. Special despatches say that the plundered people are absolutely without redress.

The Bolsheviki in the south refuse to recognize Ukraine, consequently fighting is ordered to begin at Kiev, and already there has been considerable blood shed at Odessa. The Black Sea fleet is apparently in a state of bewilderment not knowing whether to take orders from the Petrograd Government, the Kiev Bolsheviki, or the Ukrainian Rada Numbers of small warships proceeding up the Don recently, to help the Bolsheviki at Rostov, are now stated to have withdrawn, leaving the town in the hands of the Cossacks. A Cossack army is reported to be advancing on Voronetz, 300 miles south of Rostov, and 300 miles south of Moscow.

RUMANIANS LEND AID TO RUSS REVOLTERS

Join Forces With Ukrainians, Who Are Withstanding Bolsheviki in the Southwest.

London, Dec. 21.—The Rumanians on the southwestern Russian front have joined the Ukrainians, and Lieut.-Gen. D. G. Stcheratchoff, commander of the Russian forces in Rumania, has been appointed commander-in-chief of the whole Ukrainian front, according to a report received in Petrograd and transmitted by the Exchange Telegraph Co. The Bolsheviki and Ukrainian troops are reported to be advancing on each other, being three versts apart.

A Petrograd despatch to The Daily News says that the staff of the Russian army on the Rumanian front has joined the Ukrainians, which report is declared to be more probable than that the Rumanians have taken such action. The Daily News report confirms the appointment of General Stcheratchoff as the Rumanian commander.

DETERMINED TO HOLD RUSS REINS OF POWER

Bolsheviki Will Ignore Elected Constituent Assembly in Which They Are in Minority.

Stockholm, Dec. 21.—The Bolsheviki are preparing a rump convention all their own to replace the constituent assembly where they are in a minority, according to word received here today from Petrograd.

The Swedish Maximalist leader, Dr. Hoglund, wired here today the substance of an interview which he had with M. Uritsky, a prominent Bolsheviki, in Petrograd.

Uritsky, he said, denied that the final result of the Russian constituent assembly elections had become known. He declared the assembly would be opened within five or six days, and predicted the likelihood of the democratic parties therein splitting with the left, or Bolsheviki wing.

WILL ISSUE CALL SOON TO MEN OF FIRST DRAFT

Notices to Be Sent Out to at Least Fifteen Thousand Registered Eligibles.

Ottawa, Dec. 21.—Men called to the colors on January 3, as the first draft under the Military Service Act will receive their notices within the next few days. Instructions have been issued by the Military Service Council to the registrars in all military districts other than district No. 6 (Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island) to issue notice immediately to the men now available for service. Men will report for duty to the depot battalions as directed by the notice.

As many men as the district headquarters can handle will be summoned for the third of January and the balance day by day in such numbers as convenience may dictate. The number thus called up will be considerably in excess of fifteen thousand. Under existing conditions the publication of the exact number of troops about to be trained in Canada for service overseas, or of the strength and composition, by stations, of units and detachments, is not regarded as advisable from a military point of view.

KAISER VETOES TERMS NAMED BY BOLSHEVIKI

Petrograd Hears of German Rejection of Peace Conditions Demanded.

ARMISTICE PROCEEDS

Enemy Believes in Power to Exact Enormous Concessions.

London, Dec. 21.—It is reported unofficially that the Germans have rejected the Russian peace terms, the Petrograd correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company wires under date of Thursday.

The decision, if accurately reported, does not mean resumption of hostilities on the Russian front at once, as complete stoppage of all fighting for a month has already been agreed upon by terms of the armistice.

If the Germans have refused to agree to the Bolsheviki terms, it was believed here they did so in full consciousness of their strength with which to extort enormous concessions from the Russians. The original Bolsheviki requests were for German withdrawals from occupied islands in Riga Bay and relinquishment of other Russian territory held by the Teutons.

Dr. Richard von Kuehlmann, the German foreign secretary, with an important staff of officials, left Berlin yesterday for Brest-Litovsk amid scenes of enthusiasm, the crowd singing the national anthem and raising shouts of "Bring us a strong peace."

It is said that the peace negotiations will be under the presidency of Ibrahim Kakki Pasha, the Turkish ambassador to Berlin and Danish diplomatic corps.

While the peace delegates are assembling the activity at Petrograd of a number of German and Austrian officers apparently is causing heartburnings. Circulars have been spread alleging that the council of soldiers' and workmen's delegates is in negotiation with the officers.

QUEBEC WOULD RETIRE FROM CONFEDERATION

Resolution Introduced in Legislature Offers to Leave Dominion.

Quebec, Dec. 21.—The willingness of Quebec to retire from the confederation of Canadian provinces is expressed in a motion introduced in the legislative assembly today by J. N. Francoeur, M.L.A. for Lotbiniere. The motion will be debated on Jan. 8.

The motion introduced by Mr. Francoeur is as follows: "That this house is of the opinion that the Province of Quebec would be disposed to accept the rupture of the federation pact of 1867 if, in the opinion of the other provinces, it is believed that the said province is an obstacle to the union and the progress and development of Canada."

IMPERIAL OIL LIMITED HAS SECURED CHARTER

W. J. Hanna is Provisional Director of Fifty Million Dollar Montreal Corporation.

Ottawa, Dec. 21.—The incorporation of "Imperial Oil, Limited," with a capital stock of $50,000,000, and headquarters in Montreal, will be announced in tomorrow's Canada Gazette. The new company will take over the business of refining and marketing petroleum now carried on in Canada and Newfoundland by the Imperial Oil Company, Limited. The powers granted to the company include the right to operate ranches or farms for live stock, and to deal in animal and agricultural products. The provisional directors are Walter C. Teagle, C. O. Stillman, G. W. Mayer, G. H. Smith, oil operators, and Hon. W. J. Hanna.

Other companies incorporated include R. W. Marshalls, Limited, of Montreal, capital $40,000; Bond and Share Company, Limited, Montreal, capital $2,000,000; Regal Cutlery Co., Ltd., Toronto, capital $50,000; Electric Smelting Co. of Brantford, Ltd., capital $45,000; Beaver Trading and Transportation Co., Ltd., Toronto, capital $3,000,000; Douglas, Bremner & Co., Ltd., Montreal, capital $50,000; Dominion Loose Leaf Co., Ltd., Ottawa, capital $50,000; British Explosives, Ltd., Ottawa, capital $50,000; Bellrose Securities Co., Ltd., Toronto, $2,500,000; O'Connors, Ltd., Montreal, capital $100,000; Bell Novelty and Fancy Goods Co. of Winnipeg, capital $50,000.

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