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THURSDAY MORNING JANUARY 3 1918—FOURTEEN PAGES

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America Gives Pledge to Send Great Army to Assist Allies on European War Fronts

MAURICE SAYS
GERMANS MAY
DEAL BIG BLOW
Steady Flow of Enemy Reinforcements West Makes This Probable.

LOSSES ARE LIKELY
British Official Warns Public
Reverses Are Not Improbable.

London, Jan. 2.—The probability of the Germans now taking a vigorous offensive attitude on the western front was pointed out by Major-General F. D. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the war office, in his weekly talk to the Associated Press today.

There were two factors that contributed to this probability, the general said, the first being the steady flow of German reinforcements from the eastern front, and the second fact that the American forces were not yet ready to take any considerable part in the operations.

The public should be prepared, Gen. Maurice said, for some losses of both ground and men if the Germans attempt really determined offensive preparations. They would not, however, be able to inflict any such losses on the allies as the latter had inflicted on the Germans during the past year, he declared.

Numerous Enemy Raids. "The enemy in the past fortnight has been attempting numerous raids, mostly on a small scale," began Gen. Maurice. "At Cambrai, however, he tried a larger operation with the object of getting control of a ridge on the British flank, when he hoped he could strangle the supplies to a British salient and force its withdrawal. His attack, however, ended in an almost complete failure, for although he gained a few hundred yards of our front trenches he failed to set foot on the ridge anywhere."

"These attempts to take the offensive," continued the general, "are a sign of a new distribution of the belief among the Germans that they are steadily bringing troops from Russia with the aim of re-establishing their superiority over the Anglo-French forces. Nevertheless there is a steady flow of German troops westward."

"The Germans are still a long way from having superior numbers on this front, but the fact that they are already so altered that it is doubtful whether the allied commanders would feel justified in undertaking offensive operations on a large scale. The enemy's constantly improving numerical position will, on the other hand, lead inevitably to offensive operations by the Germans, but I can see no reason to believe that he will be able to inflict anything like such losses on us as we inflicted upon him during the past year."

Excellent Defensive Position. "Owing to our work of the past year we are in an excellent defensive position, holding practically all the high ground. On the other hand, we are everywhere on new ground, where we must prepare new defensive systems. We must be prepared to lose ground if the enemy makes a determined attack with the usual artillery preparation, followed by an energetic infantry assault, for our own experience has taught us that such a loss is possible under those circumstances."

FIGHTING AT IRKUTSK
"EXTERMINATES" BRITISH
French Residents Share Same End, According to Hardly-Credited Cable Advices.

We Need Wisdom

To hope for the best and prepare for the worst is always prudent advice, but it may be accepted in a more optimistic spirit at this time than for many months past. The future of the world depends upon the fate of the cause for which the entente alliance and their friend have staked all their resources. One link in the chain has been broken, but even this has an element of hope in it, because the collapse of Russia as a military force was due to the intriguing of Germany, which was the result of and inspired by Germany's own desperate plight.

ACT UNCONSTITUTIONAL
QUEBEC PROTEST STATES

Provincial Executive Stigmatizes as Illegal Federal Ban on Loan Flotations for Other Than War Purposes-- Says Order Contravenes Provincial Rights.

Quebec, Jan. 2.—Sir Lomer Gouin, as attorney-general of the Province of Quebec, has had passed an order-in-council which will be published in the Quebec official gazette this week, in which the executive council of this province strongly protests against the order-in-council recently passed by the Dominion Government and aimed at prohibiting, for the time being, all undertakings regarded as essential to the country's full participation in the war, by requiring that all provincial, municipal and private flotations be first approved by the federal authorities, and informs the government of Canada that it is the intention of the Quebec Government to consider the regulations as illegal, unconstitutional and nowise binding upon the Province of Quebec.

"That in the opinion of the honorable the attorney-general, these regulations are beyond the powers of the federal parliament, which could neither adopt them directly, nor delegate the power to enact them to the Government of Canada."

GERMANY'S DEMANDS
ANGER BOLSHEVIKI

Enemy Virtually Insists on Retention of Occupied Russ Territory--Peace Negotiations Likely to Be Broken Off.

Petrograd, Jan. 2.—The chances of a separate peace between Russia and the central powers being effected seem remote, because of what are regarded as Germany's unreasonable demands. Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, and his associates take the stand that the Blic provinces are in reality under military pressure while they continue to be occupied by Germany.

Foreign Minister Back to Berlin. London, Jan. 2.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Amsterdam says: "Dr. Richard von Kuehlmann, the German foreign secretary, returned to Brest-Litovsk yesterday after a consultation with Emperor William. Dr. von Kuehlmann while in Berlin also had a conference with the Socialist leaders, Hugo Haase, Philipp Scheidemann and Friedrich Ebert, who expressed the dissatisfaction of the Socialists over his intention indirectly to annex Russian territory now occupied by the Germans."

Russ Delegates Report. Petrograd, Thursday, Jan. 1.—The Russian peace delegation returned to Petrograd today and reported that a joint session of the central executive committee of soldiers' and workmen's delegates and the Petrograd council of soldiers' and workmen's deputies was held today and reported that the progress of the negotiations with the Austro-Germans at Brest-Litovsk, M. Kameneff, a member of the Russian delegation and the German deputy, which he characterized as showing the positive annexation plans of the central powers, and he declared they were unacceptable in their present form. He added that the terms had not been discussed.

TOLL OF SHIPS
SUNK IN WEEK
IS TWENTY-ONE

Number of Sinkings is Nine More Than That of Last Week.

FIGHTS WITH U-BOATS

Active War on Subs. is Continued With Satisfactory Results.

London, Jan. 2.—Eighteen British merchantmen of 1600 tons or over have been sunk by mine or submarine during the past week, according to the admiralty statement tonight. Three merchantmen under 1600 tons were also sunk. This is a material increase over the previous week, when the sinkings numbered twelve, of which eleven were more than 1600 tons.

The admiralty summary follows: Arrivals, 2111; sailings, 2074. British merchantmen, 1600 tons or over, sunk, 18, including 2 previously; under 1600 tons, 3; fishing vessels, none.

Vessels unsuccessfully attacked, 8. Situation Satisfactory. Although the sinkings of ships of large tonnage in the past week have been rather heavy, the total for December is characterized as satisfactory, being only slightly larger than for November, which established a low record.

The tonnage sunk during December was well below that of any month previous to September. Against this, however, the sinkings of submarines were greater in December than in any previous month since the war began. Naval men declare that more submarines were sunk in December than the German shipyards were able to launch; so the German submarine navy may now be said to have begun actually to shrink—a process which the allies hope to accelerate rapidly.

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 4.)

INFRINGES PROVINCIAL
AUTONOMY, GOUIN SAYS

Quebec Premier Says Federal Order-in-Council Trespases on Constitutional Rights.

Quebec, Jan. 2.—Sir Lomer Gouin tonight declared that the federal order-in-council prohibiting the issue of securities unless authorized by the minister of finance was an infringement of provincial autonomy.

"We have the exclusive right of legislating or of appointing of bodies incorporated here," he said.

The attention of the Quebec premier was drawn to an Ottawa despatch stating that Quebec was the only province that protested against the federal order.

"It makes no difference to us," he commented, "if the federal order ever they like; all we want is to protect our constitution."

GERMANY TO RETAIN
CONQUERED TERRITORY

Leading Hun Papers Boast Peace Formula Given Russians Means Nothing.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Extracts from many of the leading German papers received here by cable today, contain boasts that the peace formula given the Russians by Kuehlmann and Czernin mean nothing and have no binding force upon Germany. They agree that Germany never will give up certain of the lands she has conquered, but some of the editors suggest that what cannot be taken by violence may be taken by agreement. Sneering references are made to the "democratic peace" demanded by the Russians with the explanation that the Germans only used the phrase in a polite manner.

SWEPT UP 4600 ENEMY MINES.

London, Jan. 2.—During the past year 1000 trawlers, which are used as mine-sweepers around the British Isles, have swept an average of 3600 square miles daily. During the year they swept up 4600 German mines.

AMERICA PROMISES HUGE FORCE TO OFFSET RUSSIA'S DEFECTION



This is a picture of Miss Symona Boniface, who acted as New York's woman Santa Claus this Christmas. She is head of the Santa Claus Association of New York City, which answers the letters of children mailed to Santa Claus, letters which formerly went to the Dead Letter Office. As far as possible the wish of each writer is granted, the work being done as a charity.

DEFEAT ENEMY EFFORT TO CROSS PIAVE RIVER

Italian Artillery Disperses Ten Vessels Loaded With Austrian Troops--British Successfully Attack Hostile Advanced Posts.

Rome, Jan. 2.—Another attempt to cross the Piave River has been defeated by the Italians, the war office announces. Half a score of vessels loaded with troops were dispersed at Intestaduna, where the crossing was attempted.

British patrols have been active in attacking hostile advanced posts with considerable success. The text of the statement reads: "The usual artillery actions took place. Italian and English batteries brought down three enemy airplanes. Two others fell as the result of aerial battles with Italian and French aviators. During the night enemy aviators dropped a few bombs on Mestre and Treviso. No damage was done, nor were there any casualties. Enemy aviators also bombed Bassano, where one person was killed and five persons were wounded. Slight damage was done."

"Our squadrons bombed aviation camps at Lacomina and Aviano, causing extensive fires. Enemy movements at the railway station of St. Sina de Livenza and enemy barracks have been bombed effectively by an Italian force which attempted to approach the right bank of the Piave at Intestaduna were dispersed by our fire."

COSSACK ARMY OF KALEDINES STRENGTHENED

Thousands of Officers of Regular Army Desert Bolshevik Forces.

RUMANIANS ACTIVE

Occupy Bessarabian Town and Execute Several Bolshevik Leaders.

London, Jan. 2.—The spirit of civil war is active in the Cossack territory and the entire population of the Don Valley has been mobilized, according to a Petrograd despatch to The Times. Thousands of officers of the regular army have joined General Kaledines, who is now said to have more than twenty thousand commissioned officers.

Cossack troops have occupied the town of Alexandrovsk without opposition, and the Bolshevik garrison was disarmed, according to reports received here from Petrograd regarding the civil war in Russia. It is not stated which Alexandrovsk was captured. (There are several towns and villages in Russia named Alexandrovsk, but the nearest to the Cossack territory are those in Ekaterinoslav and in Stavropol.)

Other Bolshevik regiments are said to have been disarmed by the Orenburg Cossack leader, Kazatin, who returns to the army after the Bolsheviks swore never to fight against the Ukrainians and Cossacks. The Cossack commander at Rostov reports that the Bolsheviks have liberated a number of prisoners of war and armed them.

MAY NOT TAKE MUSEUM.

London, Jan. 2.—In consequence of strong protests the British war cabinet will reconsider its proposal to take over the British Museum building for the use of the air board.

United States Gives Allies Pledge to Rush Men Across Atlantic-- Britain and France Will Help Provide Transportation and Equipment.

Washington, Jan. 2.—An engagement by the United States to send a great army against the Germans in time to offset the defection of Russia was disclosed today thru the publication by Secretary of State Lansing of a review of the work and recommendations of the American mission which recently participated in the allied war conferences at Paris.

American fighting men are to cross the Atlantic as rapidly as they can be mustered and trained. France and Great Britain on their part undertake not only to join in providing ships to carry them, but to see that any deficiencies in arms and equipment are made up on the other side.

This was one of the great decisions reached at the conference thru which the co-belligerents planned to pool their fighting resources and move as a unit toward driving the Germans and their allies out of conquered territory and crushing the Teutonic world domination scheme. There is to be coordinated effort not only in fighting on land and sea, but in production at home and in the vast shipbuilding projects upon which depends the vital problem of maintaining uninterrupted transportation in spite of submarines.

Machinery in Motion. Even before Col. House and his assistants on the American mission reached home, the machinery to speed up war preparations here had been set in motion. In today's announcement is seen the explanation of the reorganization of the war control embodied in the formation of the new war council of general officers, of renewed efforts to speed up the shipping program and possibly of the decision to take over all the nation's railroads without waiting for action by congress. Most of the things being done cannot be discussed publicly, of course, but it can be stated that the government means to make good the pledges given to their allies.

The summary of the military conferences attended by Gen. Bliss shows that an agreement to "pool resources for the mutual advantages of all" was entered into. The summary contains the following significant paragraph: "The contributions of the United States to this pooling arrangement was agreed upon. The contributions likewise of the countries associated."

ENEMY DREADS UNITED STATES WAR ACTIVITIES

Captured Official Army Order Reveals Apprehensions of Germans.

FEAR AIR MENACE

Enemy Higher Command is Anxious to Strengthen Airplane Forces.

London, Jan. 2.—As showing that the pretended disregard for the entry of the United States into the war is feigned, the Reuters correspondent at British headquarters quotes an official German army order as follows: "The recent entry of America into the war compels our higher command to form a considerable number of new aircraft units. The order instructs the officers to promote to the utmost the numbers of transfers of officers to the flying corps for necessary training."

STRONG FOR NEUTRALITY

Swiss Fire on German Steamer Which Ventures Into Territorial Waters.

Geneva, Jan. 2.—Swiss troops on duty on the shores of Lake Constance yesterday fired upon the newly-launched German lake steamer Kaiser Wilhelm, which entered Swiss territorial waters. The vessel was placed in many places by rifle fire and withdrew rapidly. No lives were lost. The incident is regarded as marking Switzerland's determination to protect her neutrality.

TWO HUNDRED BOMBS DROPPED ON GERMANS

Courtrai Ammunition Depot and Ingelmunster Airdrome Receive Attention.

London, Jan. 2.—More than 200 bombs were dropped Tuesday on various targets, including a large ammunition depot near Courtrai and the Ingelmunster airdrome, according to an official statement tonight on the aerial operations.

"In air fighting," continues the statement, "two hostile machines were brought down and two others driven down out of control. Another was shot down inside our lines by anti-aircraft guns. One of our machines is missing."

CANADA'S BIG FIRE LOSSES. Ottawa, Jan. 2.—According to figures compiled by the commission of conservation fire losses in Canada during 1917 totaled \$23,251,604. The number of fires reported totaled 14,092, but over \$15,500,000 of damage resulted from 78 fires. Fatalities due to fires for the year numbered 159, apart from the Halifax disaster.

DINEEN'S COONSKIN COATS. There is nothing like a coonskin coat to keep a man warm in cold winter winds, and there is nothing like a Dineen's coonskin coat for value. Very inviting price reductions for the January clearing sale. Come in and make your selection early while the selection offers the widest choice. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street.