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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 Rein-
forcements 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 con-
tributed 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 at-
tempt really determined offensive pre-
parations. 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 ob-
ject 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 bel-
lieved ground and means of the
enemy is steadily bringing troops
from Russia with the aim of re-
establishing his 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 command-
ers would feel justified in undertak-
ing offensive operations on a large
scale. The enemy's constantly im-
proving 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 po-
sition, 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 at-
tack with the usual artillery prepara-
tion, followed by an energetic infan-
try assault, for our own experience
has taught us that such a loss is pos-
sible 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 pro-
vincial, municipal and private flota-
tions be first approved by the federal
authorities, and informs the govern-
ment of Canada that it is the inten-
tion of the Quebec Government to
consider the regulations as illegal un-
constitutional and nowise binding
upon the Province of Quebec.

GERMANY'S DEMANDS
ANGER BOLSHEVIKI

Enemy Virtually Insists on Retention of Occu-
pied 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 Baltic provinces are in
reality under military pressure while
they continue to be occupied by Ger-
many.

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 con-
sultation with Emperor William. Dr.
von Kuehlmann while in Berlin also
had a conference with the Socialist
leaders, Hugo Haase, Philipp Scheide-
mann and Friedrich Ebert, who ex-
pressed the dissatisfaction of the So-
cialists over his intention indirectly
to annex Russian territory now occu-
pied 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 deputes
was held today and reported that the
progress of the negotiations with
the Austro-Germans at Brest-Litovsk.
M. Kameneff, a member of the Rus-
sian delegation and the demand for
terms, which he characterized as
showing the positive annexation plans
of the central powers, and he declared
they were unacceptable in their pres-
ent 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 Con-
tinued With Satisfac-
tory 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 sink-
ings 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 Novem-
ber, 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 sub-
marines 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 Con-
stitutional 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.

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
Czerwin mean nothing and have no
binding force upon Germany. They
agree that Germany never will give
up certain of the lands she has con-
quered, but some of the editors sug-
gest 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.

SWEEP 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 sweep up 4600 German mines.

GUILAMAT AT SALONICA.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Gen. Guilamat,
the newly appointed commander of
the allied armies at Salonica, arrived
at his post last Saturday, according
to a cablegram received here today.
His relieved General Sarrail, who is
returning to France.

MAY NOT TAKE MUSEUM.
London, Jan. 2.—In consequence of
strong protests the British war cabi-
net will reconsider its proposal to take
over the British Museum building for
the use of the air board.

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 Associa-
tion 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 pos-
sible 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 de-
feated 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 avi-
ators. 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 per-
sons were wounded. Slight damage was
done.

"Our squadrons bombed aviation
camps at Lacomina and Aviano, caus-
ing extensive fires. Enemy movements
at the railway station of St. Sina
de Livenza and enemy barracks have
been bombed effectively by an Italian
driftlight."

COSSACK ARMY
OF KALEDINES
STRENGTHENED

Thousands of Officers of
Regular Army Desert Bol-
shevik Forces.

RUMANIANS ACTIVE

Occupy Bessarabian Town
and Execute Several Bol-
shevik 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 offi-
cers.

Cossack troops have occupied the
Town of Alexandrovsk without oppo-
sition, 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 Stavro-
pol.)
Other Bolshevik regiments are said
to have been disarmed by the Oren-
burg Cossack leader, Kazatin, who re-
turns to the rear 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.

The Bolshevik authorities, accord-
ing to an Exchange Telegraph des-
patch from Petrograd, have received
information that the situation on the
Rumanian front is very serious. The
relations of the Bolsheviks with Rumanian
officers are said to be becoming
alarming. It is said the Rumanians
have occupied the Bessarabian
town of Iovo and have arrested and
shot several Bolshevik leaders.

Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign
minister, sent a note on the subject to
the Rumanian minister in Petrograd,
who in his reply asked Russian
troops of plundering Rumanian vil-
lages. It is said that Trotsky regard-
ed the reply as unsatisfactory.

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

Washington, Jan. 2.—An engage-
ment 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 publica-
tion by Secretary of State Lansing of
a review of the work and recommen-
dations of the American mission
which recently participated in the al-
lied 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 defi-
ciencies 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 dom-
ination scheme. There is to be co-
ordinated 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 as-
sistants on the American mission
reached home, the machinery to speed
up war preparations here had
been set in motion. In today's an-
nouncement is seen the explanation of
the reorganization in speed of submarine
control embodied in the formation of
the new war council of general offi-
cers, 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 be-
ing 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 con-
ferences 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 Or-
der 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 terri-
torial waters. The vessel was placed
in many places by rifle fire and with-
draw 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 vari-
ous targets, including a large ammu-
nition 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,
992, 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 win-
try winds, and there is nothing like
a Dineen 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.