

War News.

Messages Received
Previous to 9 A. M.

AUSTRO-GERMAN SUCCESS REPORTED.

BERLIN, Dec. 23. (Via British Admiralty, per Wireless Press.)—The capture by Austro-German forces of Col del Rosso, and the adjoining heights on the Asiago Plateau, in Northern Italy, together with the taking of more than six thousand prisoners was announced to-day by the army headquarters. The statement reads: The Austrian official of Monday, as received here, supplements the German statement of that date, beginning the capture of Col del Rosso, by reporting the capture also of Mont Val Bella. It states likewise that a colonel and several Italian staff officers were captured.

BERLIN STATEMENT.

BERLIN, via London, Dec. 25. Italian counter attacks upon positions taken in the Austro-German attack of Sunday were repulsed yesterday as was an Italian drive at Monte Parlos. The army headquarters announced to-day. More than 9,000 prisoners were taken in Col del Rosso fighting, says the official statement.

ITALIANS RETAKE POSITIONS.

ROME, Dec. 25. In a desperate battle which lasted all day yesterday, the Italians fought their way back to positions from which they were forced the previous day on the Asiago Plateau under Austro-German attacks, according to to-day's war office statement. Some guns and numerous machine guns, which had been abandoned by the Italians in their retreat, were recaptured when the old positions were re-occupied. The text of the statement follows: On the Asiago Plateau the battle which continued fiercely and sanguinarily the whole day yesterday, diminished in intensity only at nightfall. Our counter attacks—made several hours before dawn—succeeded, in spite of the difficult terrain and the very low temperature, in arresting the enemy and carrying the fighting on to positions from which we had moved the previous day. The enemy defended the ground gained with great stubbornness, countering our attacks and concentrating in front of his line a formidable fire from batteries. During the vicissitudes of the fierce struggle, some batteries and many machine guns which had been left in destroyed lines were rescued. An enemy column advancing from Berlico toward the heights to the west of Malga Costalunga was destroyed by our fire. A battalion suc-

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ceeded in wresting from the enemy, and holding for some time the summit of Monte Valtella, while other detachments having ascended the slopes of Col del Rosso engaged the enemy under the summit of the mountain in heavy hand-to-hand fighting. During the action hundreds of our guns of all calibres unceasingly bombarded the enemy troops, dispersing concentrations behind the line and stopping the advance of the supports. We took a number of prisoners.

BRITISH ON ITALIAN FRONT.

LONDON, Dec. 25.

The first statement of the British war office dealing with the Italian front where the British troops now occupy positions, was issued last night. The text reads: Since a portion of the Italian front was taken over by British troops there has been no change in the situation on the British front. There has been active counter battery work. Our airmen have given good account of themselves, but has been hampered by bad weather during the last few days. Some snow has fallen and the cold is intense, especially in the mountains. The health and spirits of the troops are excellent.

ON THE WESTERN FRONT.

LONDON, Dec. 25.

To-day's official statement, issued by the British war office, on the Franco-Belgian front operations reads: We took a few prisoners in a night patrol encounter, south of Cambrai. There was considerable reciprocal artillery fire last night east of La Bassée and east of Ypres. Monday night the war office statement regarding the same theatre said a hostile raiding party was driven off south of Ypres. There was considerable hostile artillery fire in the afternoon in the region of Ephy and south of Boelcapelle.

MANNHEIM BOMBED.

LONDON, Dec. 25.

The city of Mannheim, in Germany, on the Rhine, was bombed by a British air squadron early Monday. The official statement says: Covering operations of Army aviators during Sun-

day, and in Monday's early hours, ten bombs were dropped. Several fires were started. All but one of our machines returned.

MESSAGE TO TROOPS.

OTTAWA, Dec. 25.

The Prime Minister sent to General Currie and to General Turner the following Christmas message: "To officers, non-commissioned officers and men of Canada's forces—It is again my great privilege to convey to you from the Government and people of Canada, greetings and gratitude, which during this season are deep in the heart of every citizen at this Christmas time. We recall in loving and solemn memory many thousands of your gallant comrades who have passed into their perfect peace. They died that Canada might live. They gave up their lives that we might have peace here on earth, but their spirit yet lives to inspire the nation which they can never forget. You who are completing their unfinished task look to us for support and cheer. The men and women of Canada have already shown you that your trust is not in vain."

BEST WISHES TO CANADA.

OTTAWA, Dec. 25.

The following message has been received by the Governor-General from Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig commanding the British troops in France: General Headquarters, Dec. 23rd: "All ranks under my command join with me in sending heartiest good wishes to the Dominion of Canada for Christmas and the coming year. (Signed) Douglas Haig."

CANADIAN CASUALTIES.

OTTAWA, Dec. 25.

To-night's list of forty casualties contains twelve Canadian soldiers killed in action, one accidentally killed, one died of wounds, two presumed to have died, seven wounded and missing, one missing, one prisoner of war and balance wounded or ill.

BACK TO REPORT.

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Dec. 25.

On a British steamer arriving here to-day was William B. Thomson, head of the American Red Cross Mission to Russia, who is returning to the United States to make a report of the condition in that country with reference to the work of his organization.

THE KAISER'S SPEECH.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 25.

In a speech to the second army, Saturday, Emperor William said: "It has been a year full of events for the German army and the fatherland. Powerful blows have been delivered and your comrades in the east have been able to bring about great decisions with centralized direction. In order that we should be able to deliver these offensive blows one portion of the army had to remain on the defensive. Hard as this was for the German soldier, such a defensive battle, however, as has been fought in 1917 is without parallel. A fraction of the German army accepted the heavy task of covering its comrades in the east unconditionally and it held the entire Anglo-French army. The enemy had collected unheard of technical means, numerous ammunition and guns in order to make his entry into Brussels over your front, as he proudly announced. The enemy has achieved nothing. The most gigantic feat ever accomplished by an army and one without parallel in history was accomplished by the German army. I don't boast. It is fact and nothing else. The admiration you have earned shall be your reward and at the same time your pride. Nothing can in any way place in the shade or surpass what you have accomplished, however great and overwhelming it may be. The year 1917 with its great battles has proved that the German people have in the Lord of Creation above an unconditional and avowed ally on whom it can absolutely rely. Without Him all would have been in vain. Yesterday I saw and spoke to your comrades near Verdun. There passing through all minds like the ozone of the morning breeze was the thought you are no longer alone. The great success against our adversaries of recent past, great days of the battle in Flanders and before Cambrai, where the first crushing offensive blow delivered upon the arrogant British showed that despite

three years of war and suffering our troops still retained their fighting prowess. We don't know what is still in store for us, but you have seen how in this last of the four years of war God's hand has visibly rewarded, punished treachery and rewarded heroic persistence. From this we can gain firm confidence that the Lord will be with us in the future also. If the enemy doesn't want peace then we must bring peace to the world by battering in with iron fist and swinging sword the doors of those who will not have peace."

ALLENBY'S TROOPS ADVANCE.

LONDON, Dec. 25.

General Allenby's troops in Palestine continue their advance on the plain of Sharon, north of Jaffa and have occupied four more towns.

SERRAIL REPLACED.

PARIS, Dec. 24.

General Serrail, according to official announcement, will be replaced as head of the allied army at Saloniki by General Guillaumel.

WANT PEOPLE'S PEACE.

PARIS, Dec. 24.

Leon Trotzky, the Bolshevik Foreign Minister, according to a note issued by the Havas Agency, called on Joseph W. Cullen, French Ambassador to Russia, and explained that the Bolsheviks wished to keep to the principle of a democratic peace, leaving to the peoples the right to dispose of themselves. The Ambassador having asked him what he would do if Germany refused such a peace, Trotzky answered that then the Maximists might be led to wage a revolutionary war.

NO LETTING UP.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.

Germany's newest peace propaganda viewed as a forerunner to an offensive in the west unless the German offer is accepted by the Allies and the United States, should not for a moment induce us to slacken our preparations for war, says Secretary of War Baker in his weekly review of the military situation. The review points out that the fighting morale of Italy may be relied upon, no matter how intensive the German peace campaign becomes.

PEACE MOVE AT HAND.

ROME, Dec. 24.

The report that a new German peace move is at hand is supported by apparently reliable information which has reached high quarters here.

CANADA AND PROHIBITION.

OTTAWA, Dec. 24 (Official.)

The announcement has been made by Sir Robert Borden of the prohibition of the importation of intoxicating liquors into Canada. The Prime Minister's announcement reads: On December 17th the people gave to the Government an unmistakable mandate for the vigorous prosecution of the war, and for the employment of all the country's energies and resources necessary to achieve victory. It is essential and indeed vital for the efficient conduct of the war that wasteful or unnecessary expenditure should be prohibited and that all articles capable of being utilized as food should be conserved. It is beyond question that the use of liquor adversely affects the realization of this purpose. The subject has been under consideration by the war committee of the cabinet and the following conclusions have been reached: First, any liquor or beverage containing more than two and a half per cent of alcohol shall be regarded as intoxicating liquor; second, the importation of intoxicating liquor into Canada is prohibited on and after December 24th, 1917, unless it shall have been actually purchased on or before that date for importation into Canada, and then not later than the 31st day of January, 1918—(this regulation shall not apply to importations for medicinal, sacramental, manufacturing or chemical purposes) third, the transportation of liquor into any part of Canada wherein the sale of intoxicating liquor is illegal will be prohibited on and after a date to be determined upon after further investigation and consideration of the actual conditions of industry as above mentioned; the prohibition of importation becomes effective on Monday, Dec. 24th; the regulations to carry into effect the other provisions above mentioned are being prepared, and as

soon as approved they will be enacted under the provisions of the War Measures Act. The foregoing provision will remain in force during the war and for twelve months after the conclusion of peace.

AFTER GERMANY'S NAVY.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.

Use of aeroplanes in major attacks on Germany's navy was recommended in a letter made public here to-day from Rear-Admiral Bradley A. Fiske to Allan R. Hawley, President of the Aero Club of America. The letter says it is not a foolish notion of fanatics in aeronautics but is sound idea based on principles of strategy that all Germany's naval eggs are in one basket. Rear-Admiral Fiske declares, and these eggs are virtually essential to her existence as a nation. It is my profound conviction that we can smash these eggs by torpedo plane and air bomb attacks, if we can prepare and deliver them on a scale sufficiently great.

Reuters Message.

THE CONSCRIPTION ISSUE.

MELBOURNE, Australia, Dec. 24. (Via Reuters' Ottawa Agency.)—Among the majorities against conscription in the latest returns which, without the soldiers' vote show a total majority of 175,000 against its adoption are: New South Wales, 141,000; Victoria, 12,000; Queensland, 30,000; South Australia, 21,000. Among the majorities for conscription are: West Australia, 28,000; Tasmania, 350. The impending defeat of conscription causes an embarrassing situation. Premier Hughes will now advise the Governor-General to summon Hon. Mr. Tudor, or a member of

his own party, to form a new government, by which Hughes would be absolved of his pledges, or he may ask for a dissolution. It is believed that the majority against conscription is largely due to the solid vote of the Labor Unions, smarting under the recent strike defeat, the strong campaign of Archbishop Mannix influencing the Catholics, and also the fact that the industrial classes failed to appreciate the large issues involved.

EXPRESS WIN-THE-WAR VIEWS.

LONDON, Dec. 24.

(Via Reuters' Ottawa Agency.)—Reuters is informed that all Australian anti-conscription leaders have expressed strong win-the-war views. Prominent labor leaders are fighting at the front, and others have sons there, including Senator Tudor, the anti-conscriptionist leader, and for-

mer Minister of Defence. Australia is maintaining larger forces than all the other Dominions together. All parties are unanimous for the retention of the German Pacific Colonies and for no slackening of war efforts.

MOSLEMS GRIEVED.

BOMBAY, India, Dec. 24.

(Via Reuters' Ottawa Agency.)—The Bombay Times has received a letter from an Indian statesman of high position, pointing out that the heart of Moslem India is grieved to find that the principal Islamic State is warring against the British Empire, and suggesting that Indian Moslems should jointly urge on Turkey the desirability of peace.

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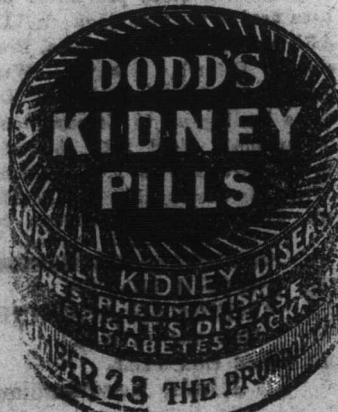
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