

## ALLIES ON OFFENSIVE ALONG WHOLE FRONT; GERMANS ARE FORCED BACK IN THE EAST

### British and French, Now Superior in Numbers and Artillery, Successful in Advance at all Points—Counter Attacks By Enemy Broken, and Allies Pushing Forward in Flanders Where They are in Possession of Hallebeke—Germans Massing Forces at Courtrai and Another Drive at Allies' Line is Expected—All Serbia, Except Small Area, Cleared of Austrian Invaders—Montenegrins Cut off Part of Austrian Right Wing Which Retreated into Bosnia.

London, Dec. 15.—The offensive movement of the French and British has become general, and is being pushed with strong forces, particularly in Flanders, the Argonne, the Woevre and Alsace. While the French claim to have been successful at all points, except at Steinbach, in Alsace, the German official report says that the Allies' attacks have been unsuccessful at several places.

On the whole, however, it would appear that the Allies, who now have a superiority in numbers, as well as in artillery, have succeeded in making some progress and have withstood vigorous counter attacks delivered by the Germans.

The fact that the Allies are in possession of Hallebeke, in Flanders, and that heavy fighting was going on again today shows that they have made an appreciable advance during the past two days, as last week they were being attacked by the invaders two miles to the west of St. Eloy, which is on the Ypres-Armentieres road.

In the Argonne region, the French simply say, "we have made progress and maintained our advance of the preceding days."

### GERMANS MASSING FORCES AT COURTRAI.

The force which has been checked at Steinbach is the left wing of the army, which for some time has been fighting its way toward Meulhausen, and which has cleared a considerable part of Alsace of the Germans.

It is evident that while the Germans are prepared to offer stubborn resistance to attempted advances in the regions mentioned in the official communications, they expect the main attack of the Allies to be made in another direction, or are themselves preparing for an offensive, for they have gathered considerable forces at Courtrai, from which point they could be quickly transferred either to Flanders or southward across the French frontier.

The only news from the east this evening is the admission of the German staff that the German column which advanced through Miawa towards Warsaw "has re-occupied its old positions, owing to the superiority of the enemy." This, in a measure, confirms the Russian accounts of a victory on this part of the battlefield.

The Austrians have succeeded in again crossing the Carpathians, and, according to their account, are driving the Russian left back toward the San river. This Austrian army, assisted by German reinforcements, has undertaken the rather difficult task of forcing the Russians to withdraw from in front of Cracow, and also of relieving Przemysl. The Austrians apparently have met with at least partial success in the former project.

Their army in Serbia, however, has not recovered from the surprise which the Servians gave it. Just when they were thought to be beaten the Servians turned on the invaders and drove them westward and northward, out of Serbian territory. The only part of Serbia remaining in Austrian hands comprises a small territory, including the towns of Shabat and Lonitza.

The little Montenegrin army is also doing its share, and, according to a Cetinje report, has succeeded in cutting off part of the Austrian right wing, which retreated into Bosnia. It is now announced in behalf of Serbia that the previous retreats were due to lack of ammunition, and that the stores had been replenished by captures from the Austrians.

Headquarters in Vienna, dealing with the situation, asserts that the retirement of the right wing made it advisable to abandon Belgrade, which was evacuated without fighting.

### BAVARIAN SOLDIERS AT ANTWERP DECORATE BELGIAN QUEEN'S PICTURE

Eighty Men Who Mutinied in Barracks are to be Court-Martialed.

Asterdam, Dec. 15, via London (4.05 p.m.)—A message from Antwerp says that eighty soldiers who participated in the recent mutiny among the Bavarian troops garrisoned that city are to be court-martialed. It is stated that the mutineers broke furniture and many windows in the barracks, attracting a great crowd which the police were forced to hold back. The soldiers displayed Bavarian flags, and decorated the portrait of Queen Elizabeth of Belgium, who is a Bavarian by birth.

### UNITED IRISH LEAGUE ENDORSES REDMOND

Promise of Assistance in Arms and Men When War is Over.

New York, Dec. 15.—Resolutions endorsing the platform of John Redmond leader of the Irish Nationalist party, in his attitude in the recent Home Rule agitation in Ireland, and promising the support of the Irish in this country were adopted at the Metropolitan District Convention of the United Irish League of America, held here tonight. Delegates representing eighty branches of the league attended the meeting. In the resolutions passed, praise was extended to Redmond for his part in forming the Irish Nationalist Volunteers. Active support, both men and arms was promised Redmond by the members of the convention when the present European war is over and Ireland once more turns attention to her internal affairs.

### BRITAIN READY TO FOREGO RIGHT OF SEARCH

If Shipmasters Will Satisfy British Consuls at American Port of Departure as to Neutral Character of Cargo.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, advised the State Department today that his government was willing to forego the exercise of the right of search of vessels carrying cargo from American ports, if the shipmasters would confer with the British consuls at the ports of departure, and satisfy them as to the neutral character of their cargoes.

Unless this is done, cargo ships will be subject to the ordinary rules of warfare, and may be searched on the high seas, or taken to the nearest British port for the purpose, if it is impracticable to get out the whole cargo otherwise. Owing to the large dimensions and variegated cargoes of modern ships, the Ambassador pointed out, it has been found impracticable in many cases to conduct searches at sea, consequently many merchant vessels are diverted far out of their course into British ports for examination.

The Ambassador and Secretary Bryan discussed this subject at length. There is no authority to require an American ship captain to apply to a foreign consul in this country for permission to take away cargo, but on the other hand, the State Department, recognizing that the British government is entirely within its rights in exercising the right of search, has listened favorably to the suggestion that costly and vexatious interference with commerce might be greatly reduced by the adoption of the arrangement proposed.

### FIRST PRIZE COURT OF CANADA CONVENED

Case Involving Seizure of German Ship at Quebec After Declaration of War.

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—For the first time in the history of the Dominion of Canada, a Prize Court, an Imperial tribunal exercising jurisdiction in time of war, was convened in Ottawa today, with Mr. Justice Cassels, of the Exchequer Court, sitting as president. The case before the court was one involving the seizure of the ship "Bellus," by His Majesty's Customs officers in the Port of Quebec after the declaration of war between Great Britain and the German Empire. The ship's papers disclosed that she was a German ship, constructed of iron, and of the net capacity of 850.67 tons. She was built in 1875, and her home port is Hamburg. The registered owners are J. Wimmer & Company.

An appearance was entered on September 16, Mr. E. L. Newcombe, Deputy Minister of Justice, issued a writ claiming condemnation of the ship and the goods laden therein as "good and lawful prize, and as droplets of the Admiralty."

An appearance was entered to the writ by Dr. Orlando De Mello De Rego of Lisbon, Portugal, claiming to be the owner of the "Bellus," by sale on July 3, 1914. After evidence had been given by the Customs' Collector at Quebec, E. N. Chénic, Conrad Bollen, Master of the ship, was called in behalf of the Portuguese claimant, and stated that the vessel had been sold thirty days before the outbreak of war. How-

### PREP'RING FOR XMAS IN BERLIN

Celebration on Less Elaborate Scale this Year, Much of Money Going to Poor.

### HUNGARY CLEAR OF RUSSIANS REPORT SAYS.

Alleged Austrian Success in West Galicia Due to Fact That Russian Reinforcements Arrived Too Late from Carpathians.

Berlin, Dec. 15, via London, Dec. 15.—A despatch received here from Vienna says that Ensign Nicholas De Sverbeev, son of the late Russian Ambassador to Germany, has fallen in battle in Poland. The Tageblatt's correspondent with the Austrian headquarters reports that the Austrians in the Carpathian mountains are pressing forward by forced marches, despite ice and snow, in pursuit of the retreating Russians.

The correspondent adds that Hungary may be regarded as cleared completely of Russians. The success of the Austrians in Hungary and West Galicia, he says, was due to the fact that the Russians weakened their forces in the Carpathians to strengthen their lines in West Galicia against the Austro-German assault. The reinforcements were too late, however, to prevent an Austrian victory at Ilimanava.

The battle on General Dank's lines and to the northward, according to the correspondent, is now at a standstill. Both sides are well entrenched and by mutual agreement neither fires upon the men of the other carrying straw to make their winter quarters comfortable. There were many frost-bites and frozen limbs during the first part of the winter, but the soldiers have now learned to take precautions. The health of the Austrians is better than in times of peace. Cholera is practically extinct.

Berlin is preparing for Christmas, but the celebration this year apparently will be on a more modest scale than in previous years. The city squares are filled with Christmas trees, but the vendors say the demand for expensive ones is weak. Much Christmas money is going for charitable purposes. The American Kitchen, which is under the auspices of the American Association of Commerce and Trade, is preparing for an extensive distribution of practical gifts among Berlin's poor. The American residents are participating generously in the many collections that are being taken up for the soldiers in the field. Large quantities of presents already are going to the front.

### BARON PACHA RENOUNCES ENGLISH DECORATIONS

An Austrian, and at One Time British Inspector General of the Sudan.

Amsterdam, Dec. 15.—The Vossische Zeitung of Berlin says that Baron Rudolf Carl Slatin Pacha, who has been made a Privy Councillor by the Austrian Emperor, has renounced his English appointments and decorations. Slatin Pacha was born in Austria in 1857, and in 1878 went to the Sudan, where he was appointed by Gen. Gordon of Darfur. Later he became British Inspector General of the Sudan. A Berlin despatch last August said he had resigned his post in consequence of Great Britain's declaration of war against Austria. He was an honorary Major General in the British army, and a Lieutenant General in the Egyptian army. In Great Britain he has received numerous decorations, including those of Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George, the Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order and Companion of the Bath.

Slatin Pacha was created a Baron of the Austrian Empire in 1906. ever, it was brought out that the transfer of the ship had not been completed before seizure, and the president of the court decided that the claim be dismissed, with costs, and that the "Bellus" and cargo be detained during the duration of the war.

### WASHINGTON TO FILICE BATTLE NEAR LOWICZ AND RUSSIANS CLAIM SOME PROGRESS

Wilson and Cabinet Decide to Accede to Col. Goethals' Request—Not Settled What Class of Ships Will be Sent.

Washington, Dec. 13.—President Wilson and his cabinet decided today to send American warships to the canal zone to guard against violation of neutrality there by belligerent ships.

Just how many ships, and whether destroyers or cruisers or battleships shall be sent, will be determined after a full report has been received from Col. Goethals, military governor of the canal zone, and Captain Rodman, naval officer at the canal.

If the canal zone is being used as a base of supplies, Col. Goethals will be instructed to use his land forces to prevent such violations. Should it develop that the wireless is being used within these territorial waters, the navy department will ask for an explanation from its naval officers, as the question of wireless regulation was placed by order of President Wilson, on August 5, in the hands of the navy department for enforcement, and Col. Goethals, according to War Department officials, has no authority over the wireless situation whatsoever.

"Whatever is necessary to be done," said Secretary Daniels tonight, "to carry out the executive order of the President will be done. A telegram from the radio officer at the canal zone shows that he is watching things closely. He says: 'For communication with British cruisers from west coast, I have dismantled radio of one British collier, at Balboa, canal zone.'"

"Destroyers or other ships will be sent to the canal zone at any moment, when needed to prevent the use of radio for any unneutral act of ships of any belligerent nation."

### FRANCE MAY RESUME FORMER RELATIONS WITH VATICAN

Reported Strong Movement is Afoot Headed by Leading Frenchmen—Britain's Action Will Strengthen Moral Influence of Allies, Italian Press Says.

London, Dec. 15.—Although the London press has had practically nothing to say on the appointment of Sir Henry Howard as Envoy Extraordinary to the Vatican, the Italian press comments on the resumption of diplomatic relations between England and the Holy See, after a lapse of four centuries, as an event of prime importance. The conviction generally expressed in the leading Italian organs is that the action of the British government, besides fostering the patriotism of the large Roman Catholic population in the empire, will tend to strengthen the moral and material influence of the allies.

Since the rupture between the Porte and the allies, the Turkish government, which hitherto has used the French ambassador at Constantinople as its intermediary with the Pope, has requested the Pontiff to receive a direct representative, this move being intended as a blow against the French Missions in the East. It is not expected that the Pope will grant the request. On the other hand, there is a strong movement afoot, supported by M. Hanotaux and other leading Frenchmen, to re-establish direct relations between France and Rome.

### SMALL HOPES FOR THE RECOVERY OF SENATOR JAFFREY

Toronto, Dec. 15.—Senator Robert Jaffrey, prominent financier and president of the Globe, is reported very low tonight and little hope is held out for his recovery.

### Another Engagement Begun on Monday Morning, Russian Staff Reports Germans Concentrating Large Forces on Left Bank of Vistula—Austria Admits Evacuation of Belgrade.

Petrograd, via London, Dec. 15.—The following official communication has been received from General Headquarters at the front: "In the Miawa region our action continues, and the success gained by our troops has been maintained. "On the left bank of the Vistula large forces of the enemy are concentrating. In the area adjacent to the river, near Ilow, the presence of several new bodies of the enemy which have just reached our front has been disclosed.

"Since the morning of December 14 there has been fierce fighting between Lowicz, the Vistula and the left bank of the Bzura, and both sides have been alternately on the offensive and defensive. Our troops, however, have been able to make some progress. "The fighting in the other regions along the whole stretch of the front has been less intense. A marked weakening of the enemy between Czestochowa and Cracow is reported, and in that region the Germans are completing their movements by railway towards the passes of the Carpathians. "In Western Galicia the battle is developing."

### AUSTRIA ADMITS LOSS OF BELGRADE

Vienna, Dec. 15.—The abandonment of Belgrade by the Austrians is acknowledged in an official statement given out at army headquarters today. The statement follows: "In the southern theatre of war the retirement of our right wing involved a change in the military situation which made it advisable for us to abandon Belgrade, which was evacuated without fighting. "Our troops have fought long and fatiguing battles, but are in the best of spirits."

### ANOTHER GERMAN WARSHIP OUT OF COMMISSION

Converted Cruiser Cormorant, With 22 Officers and 355 Men, Voluntarily Interned at Guam, American Possession in Pacific.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Voluntary internment today of the German cruiser Cormorant and her twenty-two officers and 355 men at Guam, an American Pacific Ocean insular possession, brought what promised to be troublesome questions, involving the observance of American neutrality in this case to a prompt and final adjustment. As soon as it was learned at the Navy Department that the Cormorant had put into Guam short of coal, food and water, there was immediate discussion of the extent to which the warship could replenish her supplies in an American port.

In view of Guam's remoteness from any German port, the decision to intern was expected, but in the meantime, Captain Maxwell, governor of the far-away naval station, was instructed to observe strict neutrality in all his dealings with the German commander. Little is known of the Cormorant here, except that she is a converted cruiser of five thousand tons displacement, acquired by Germany from Russia. Information as to how Germany acquired the vessel from her present enemy is not obtainable. It is supposed the ship has been employed by the Germans as a destroyer of commerce in the Pacific. At first, this vessel was believed here to be the unprotected cruiser Cormorant, a vessel of only 1,000 tons displacement, but Captain Maxwell's later message announcing the decision of the craft to intern corrected that impression. This is the second German warship to intern in American waters since the outbreak of the war. The other, the Geier, interned at Honolulu some time ago. The officers and men of the vessel will have to remain interned until the close of the war, unless the Allies consent to their parole.

### FORMER HEAD OF "TYPOS" LOSES LIBEL SUIT

Action for \$100,000 Against National Association of Manufacturers Dismissed by Court.

New York, Dec. 15.—The \$100,000 libel suit instituted by James Lynch, former president of the International Typographical Union of North America against John Kirby and other directors of the National Association of Manufacturers for passing resolutions charging the Union with responsibility for the dynamite explosion which killed a score of employees in the Los Angeles Times building in 1910, was dismissed by Justice Guy in the Supreme Court today.

In sustaining the demurrer of the directors, Justice Guy stated that no officers of the Union were specifically mentioned in the resolutions, and held that "where a libel is against a whole class, no single individual can maintain a civil action for libel against its author."

### DUBLIN CORPORATION WANT ABERDEEN TO WITHDRAW RESIGNATION

Alderman Blames Ireland's Political Opponents for His Withdrawal from Vice-Royalty.

London, Dec. 15 (Gazette Cable).—That Ireland's political enemies are responsible for bounding Lord Aberdeen out of the Vice-Royalty was the statement made by one of the aldermen of the Dublin Corporation. The charge was taken up by another alderman, of Sinn Fein affiliations, who declared that until the Irish constitution was assured to the fullest extent, they would never offer their sympathy to any British governor. A resolution of regret at Lord Aberdeen's resignation, expressing the hope that he would withdraw it, was passed, with only two dissentients.