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CLEARING AND COLDER.

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GERMANS MAY DELAY BIG DRIVE ON WESTERN FRONT

The Expected Great Struggle in France Likely Postponed

Germany Said to Fear Further Russian Peace Negotiations Will Fail and That Russia Will Resume Hostilities—In That Event the Teutonic Troops Will Have to Be Returned to the Eastern Front.

NO NEWS OF IMPORTANCE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM RUSSIAN CAPITAL

Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey Are Asserted to Have Disagreed with Germany—German Socialists Also Troublesome Factor—Comparative Calm Prevails on All Battlefronts—U. S. War Plans.

The projected big supreme drive by the German army on the western front may be delayed because of the complicated Russian situation. Germany has been constantly moving troops from the eastern front during the Russian armistice, but she may decide to send many of them back, now that there is a prospect of Russia taking the field again should peace negotiations finally be dropped.

Although the peace conference between representatives of the Bolshevik government and the Central Powers was due to reconvene Friday, no news has come through indicating whether the meeting took place. Neither have there been any advances as to whether the difficulties in the way of reaching an agreement have been surmounted or if concessions by either side, making possible further negotiations, are intended. Disappointment with the proposals of the Central Powers does not obtain solely on the side of the Bolsheviks, however, as among the delegates of the Central Powers, as well.

Central Allies Disagree.

Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey are asserted to have disagreed with the dominating attitude of the Germans at the Brest-Litovsk conference, where they posed as conquerors. The attitude of the German Socialists against the demands of the Central Powers, especially those providing for the retention of Poland, Lithuania, Courland and other occupied territory, has forced the imperial chancellor to refer to the situation before the main committee of the Reichstag. The chancellor's statement, however, was merely a platitude and gave no inkling as to what

Germany's future intentions in the provinces were.

Battlefronts Calm.

On the battlefronts the comparative calm of the past few days continues, although the Germans in the Cambrai sector in local attacks have pushed back four British advanced posts for short distances.

The artillery duels along the western front in France and Belgium and also in Italy are still going on, but the infantry is virtually idle except for sporadic engagements. Again there has been considerable fighting in the air on the western front. The German war office asserts that the German aviators during the week have accounted for 23 allied aeroplanes and two captive balloons. French aviators have brought down eight German machines and also carried out bombing operations behind the enemy line.

American Plans.

The American army in France is to be reinforced by the American aviators who became famous as pilots in French escadrilles. Thirty-two men, mostly members of the Lafayette Escadrille, will be the first to be sworn into the American army. Others will follow them as rapidly as possible. The transfer of the aviators from the French to the American colors was brought about through negotiations between the French and American army authorities.

To the band of experienced men shortly will be added the first group of young American pilots and observers to take instructions near the battlefront.

MOTHER COULDN'T SAVE HER SON

Both Imprisoned for Violating Militia Service Laws of the United States.

New York, Jan. 4.—Mrs. Anna Lichferman, sixty years of age, and Nathan Haas, her 27 year old son by a previous marriage, were today found guilty of conspiracy to enable the son to avoid military duty and were given prison sentences by Federal Judge Hand.

Affidavits that Haas was the sole support of his mother was the basis of the charge on which they were convicted. Haas was sent to the federal prison at Atlanta for a year and a day with the additional order that he enlist when his term expires. His mother was sent to the Tombs prison for thirty days. Judge Hand severely censured both prisoners.

ONLY 50 KILLED IN GUATEMALA

San Salvador, Jan. 4.—The latest reports received here show that the first reports of the Guatemala earthquake were exaggerated. The fatalities as a result of the disturbance aggregated fifty, while only 100 persons were injured.

Earth shocks continue, but they are weak. Relief committees are being formed all over the country and a section of the Red Cross will depart shortly for Guatemala, taking medicines, blankets and other necessities.

BRITISH MAKE GAIN OF MILE

General Allenby Advances Further North of Jerusalem.

London, Jan. 4.—An official communication issued by the war office tonight says General Allenby reports a further advance by a part of his line north of Jerusalem over a distance of a mile.

British Statement.

London, Jan. 4.—The British official communication issued this evening says: "As the result of local fighting in the neighborhood of the Canal Du Nord reported this morning, four of our advanced posts were pressed back a short distance. A few of our men are missing.

"Beyond the usual artillery activity by both sides there is nothing further to report."

FLOODS IN SIAM

Washington, Jan. 4.—Floods in Siam, the worst since 1831, are devastating the country. Despatches today from the American legation at Bangkok, says the water has risen to the roofs of houses on which peasants are living. Great crop losses have been caused and cattle are dying by drowning and starvation. A relief committee has been appointed.

WILL CLEAR UP TRAFFIC IN CANADA

Railway War Board Makes a Number of Far-Reaching Decisions.

TRAFFIC EXPERT GIVEN CHARGE

Coal and All Other Much Needed Freight Will Be Rushed.

TO GET 22,000 CARS IN U. S.

That Country Holds Many Freight Cars Belonging to Dominion.

WILL INSIST ON BETTER COAL

Idle Railroad Men Will Not Be Able to Escape Militia Draft.

Montreal, Jan. 4.—The Canadian railway war board met this afternoon and made a number of far-reaching decisions affecting traffic conditions in Canada. The board ordered one of the best known traffic experts in Canada to leave at once for the Niagara frontier. He is to supervise and expedite the movement of coal and other traffic, so that the freight each day is divided up among all the Canadian railways, irrespective of how the cars may have been routed. It was explained that this is a precautionary step to make absolutely certain that the full capacity of the Canadian roads is used so as to prevent any possible congestion on their part. Another order was made by which all the railway ferries plying between Detroit and Windsor will be pooled. This is with a view to cutting down fuel consumption.

Backs Up Railways.

The prestige of the government of Canada is to be requested to back up the Canadian railways, represented by the Canadian railway war board in their effort to get back from the United States the 22,000 freight cars now overdue from the American roads. While the efforts of the board have been successful in increasing the daily returns of Canadian freight cars, the numbers held in the United States continue to increase. The influence of the minister of railways is to be asked, so that direct pressure may be brought to bear upon Secretary McAdoo, in his new capacity, as director-general of the seven hundred and fifty American railways.

Fuel Situation.

The co-operation of the government is to be further requested in regard to the fuel situation as it affects the railway. The railway war board this afternoon addressed the Dominion fuel controller, C. A. Magarsh, requesting that the American mines be required, through the United States fuel controller, to furnish a better quality of coal to Canada. Not only have the prices for coal for Canadian railways risen enormously, but the number of heat units per ton has dropped.

After Idle Men.

There will be no escape from conscription on the part of Canadian railway men who were exempted on the application of the railways, but who may be taking advantage of the situation, to stay at home, instead of turning out to help move trains in the winter weather. At the meeting this afternoon an order was made by which all the railways in Canada are required to report the number of days worked by each man who secured exemption on the application of the railways. The names of such men will be sent to the exemption tribunal with notification that the request for their exemption has been withdrawn.

SIX SOLDIERS MEET DEATH IN A WRECK

Canadian-Pacific Trains Collide Near Dorval Station.

SEVENTH MAN IS MISSING

Twenty Others Injured, But Majority Only Slightly Hurt.

Montreal, Jan. 4.—Six soldiers are known to be dead and a seventh is missing and believed to have been killed as a result of a local train on the Canadian Pacific Railway from Montreal to Pointe Fortune, running into the rear of a Canadian Pacific train bound for Vancouver with a number of soldiers aboard about 6.40 this evening, near Dorval Station.

The killed are—Privates Thomas Kelly, Hunter, Arthur, Mackie, Clarke and Lalonde. The name of the missing soldier has not been ascertained. About twenty-four people were injured in the accident, the majority of them but slightly. Amongst them are Bugler Coates, Privates Irwin, Dickson and A. R. Kelley, who were brought to the Royal Victoria hospital this day. According to Bugler Coates there were 350 men on the train bound for Vancouver. The C.P.R. official statement, said the Pointe Fortune train ran past a signal set against it and struck the rear part of the westbound train containing a number of colonist cars.

In the impact the middle cars of the military train telescoped. Several men were pinned beneath the wreck and it was some time before they could be liberated. Ambulances and doctors were rushed to Westmount station and the killed and injured were brought there on C.P.R. trains. Coroner McMahon will open an inquest tomorrow morning.

RETAIN HUGHES

Melbourne, Jan. 4.—(Via Reuters' Ottawa Agency.)—Nationalist party to two to retain Premier Hughes in the leadership.

QUEBEC FIRE

Knowlton, Que., Jan. 4.—One of the finest summer residences in the Eastern Townships and which belonged to Mr. John Baillie of Montreal, was destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon. The damage is estimated at \$15,000.

PARLIAMENT MAY MEET MARCH 6

Ottawa, Ont., Jan. 4.—During the absence of Hon. C. J. Doherty from the capital, Hon. A. L. Sifton, minister of customs, will be the acting minister of justice; Hon. A. K. McLean, minister without portfolio, Hon. F. B. Carvell, minister of public works, has arrived at the capital. Hon. J. A. Calder and Hon. T. A. Cramer will be here tomorrow it is expected.

Subsequent to the arrival of Sir Robert Borden next week an important series of cabinet meetings will be held to deal with matters of pressing urgency and to outline legislation to be dealt with at the parliamentary session which will commence about the middle of March. It being a new parliament the House will re-assemble on a Wednesday, instead of the customary Thursday to elect a Speaker. Wednesday, March 13, or Wednesday, March 20, are regarded as the most likely dates, although it is possible that arrangements might be made in time for the opening on March 6.

NEW ENGLAND INDUSTRIES MAY CLOSE

Fuel and Water Power Situation in Textile Centres Serious.

FROZEN HARBORS ONE DIFFICULTY

Many Cotton and Woolen Mills May Have to Shut Down.

SHARP DECLINE IN COTTON MARKET

Pennsylvania, the Great Coal State, Makes Protest to Government.

NEEDS MUCH COAL BEING SENT AWAY

Coal Mine Centres with Plenty of Coal Face Coal Famine.

Boston, Jan. 4.—The fuel situation in New England manufacturing centres is so serious that many of the textile mills may have to shut down. The fear that the closing of mills would seriously curtail the consumption of cotton effected the cotton markets today and a general selling movement resulted. The ice-bound harbors prevents the unloading of many barges. The water power is also low.

Pennsylvania Protests.

Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 4.—Pennsylvania, which produces forty-seven per cent of the coal output of the United States today appealed through its federal fuel administrator, William Potter, to the government to save it further suffering due to the scarcity of coal to the consumers. The appeal contained what amounted to a protest against alleged discrimination and a protest against the federal government sending anthracite coal to the south and southwest where it can be had from local fields.

The railroad congestion in and about Philadelphia is the worst in many years. From different parts of the state came reports of fuel shortage. Pottsville, which is built over rich beds of coal, faces a famine while nearby railroad classification yards are crowded with loaded coal cars destined for other points. Industries in a number of cities fringing the anthracite fields are closed down or about to suspend for lack of fuel.

Desperate in New York.

New York, Jan. 4.—Refusal of New Jersey administrators late today to permit truckloads of coal to be brought across the Hudson River to New York on ferry boats, thereby cutting off about seventeen per cent of the city's supply, added another complication to a fuel shortage semi-officially characterized as desperate. Despite concentrated efforts to relieve the situation, the city today experienced its worst distress since the extreme cold weather began a week ago.

Aside from continued widespread suffering in the homes of rich and poor alike so serious was the coal shortage that many large office buildings will close tomorrow, according to Reeve Schley, county fuel administrator, unless supplies reach the city during the night.

FINLAND RECOGNIZED

London, Jan. 4.—The Swedish council of ministers at a session presided over by King Gustaf, has decided to recognize the independence of Finland, according to a Reuter despatch from Stockholm today.

Canadians Slackers Who Fled to States Must Serve in Army

Highly Important Agreement Being Arranged by Great Britain and the United States Concerning British Subjects in the Republic and United States Citizens in All British Lands Will Affect Many Thousands in Both Jurisdictions.

SIR F. E. SMITH, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF GREAT BRITAIN, NOW IN UNITED STATES

Canadians of Age and Fitness in United States Who Decline to Serve in Canadian Contingent Must Serve with Uncle Sam and Americans on British Soil Who Refuse to Join Their Own Army Must Become British Soldiers.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Jan. 4.—Canadian slackers in the United States and United States slackers in Canada cannot much longer hope to escape the drag-net of compulsory military service. A convention is to be entered into between the governments of the two countries by which Canada will be given authority to conscript Americans in Canada for the Canadian army, the United States in return being given the right to conscript Canadians of military age who are living under the Stars and Stripes.

The convention, it is understood, is being negotiated by Sir F. E. Smith, Attorney-General of Great Britain, and its terms will include all British subjects. Sir F. E. Smith (raised to the peerage in the New Year's honors) has been in the United States for some time. In a statement which he authorized he emphasized that the British government would find a way to reach British slackers in the United States.

The number of American subjects of military age in the Dominion is not known, but is not believed to be large. Subsequent to the inauguration of the national service campaign in Canada quite a number of young men, fearing conscription, crossed the border into the United States. They are now liable to be conscripted for service with the United States forces.

A Live Question. Have Many Names. The British and Canadian recruiting missions have the names of all Britishers and Canadians of American draft age, but still lacks the names of those between eighteen and twenty-one, and between thirty and forty-one. If the act of Congress empowering the president to draft Britishers between those ages be passed there will be no immediate way of reaching them except by public notice in the press. However, the mission has considerable information on this subject not possessed by the federal government. This information has been secured from various states which have a war census under which registrants between the ages of eighteen and fifty have been compelled to give complete information concerning themselves. Furthermore, the mission, through its numerous branch recruiting offices in the various parts of the United States, has been able to secure many local lists of Britishers between eighteen and forty-five. A well known Britisher who has spent many years in the United States, and who requested that his name be withheld, said that he did not believe Congress would send to Great Britain of Canada, Britishers or Canadians who would decline to volunteer for military service. However, if they are of American draft age, they will be compelled to go into the American army, if they do not enter the army of Great Britain.

They Must Serve. "No doubt, some people will think it unjust that Britishers between eighteen and twenty-one and thirty and forty-one should be drafted into the American army when there is no compulsion for Americans of those ages, but it must be remembered that in England every man between eighteen and forty-one is conscripted and only exempted for physical unfitness or because he is required for an essential industry. Therefore the Britishers in this country will certainly be no worse off than the Britishers in England."

A separate convention will be made probably by Canada, because the conscription age is different in Canada and only runs from twenty to thirty-four. The draft of Britishers between eighteen and forty-one only applies to Englishmen, Scotchmen and Irishmen.

Proposed Convention. The proposed draft convention between the United States and Great Britain does not give England the power to conscript her own subjects in this country, but it permits the American government to conscript British subjects of war age, that is from eighteen to forty-one, provided they do not voluntarily enlist in the British or Canadian armies. As soon as the draft convention is ratified by Congress—and apparently it has to be thus ratified—notice will be given to all British subjects through the press, etc., that they will have sixty days in which to enlist in the British or Canadian armies, and if they fail to do so they will immediately become subject to draft into the American army. If they desire to claim exemption, they must appear before the British and Canadian recruiting mission, or else take their case to the British ambassador in Washington. If the ambassador exempts them, they will be exempted under the proposed act from conscription in the American army.