

TWO TURKISH COLUMNS DEFEATED BY RUSSIANS AND ARE IN RETREAT; FRENCH TAKE STEINBACH

Sultan's Forces Which Invaded Russian Caucasus Meet with Disaster—One Army Captured Entire—Franz Joseph's Army in Uzsock Pass Fighting Way Through Violent Snowstorm to Evade Pursuing Russians—Very Little Activity in West—Some Minor Gains Reported.

London, Jan. 5, 11.05 p. m.—Two of the three Turkish columns which last week invaded the Russian Caucasus have met with disaster, and those not killed or captured are in disorderly retreat, pursued by the Russians. The column which took Ardahan two days ago has been driven out of that town, according to the Petrograd official despatches, and is almost surrounded by the Russians, who hold the main roads.

Another column, which crossed the frontier near Sari Kamysh, on the road to Kars, has suffered an even worse defeat, one of the two armies which composed it being captured in its entirety.

The Russians also report another victory over the Austrians in the Uzsock Pass of the Carpathians. Emperor Francis Joseph's army in this region is declared to be in full retreat in a mountain pass, deep in snow, while a violent snow storm rages, and the Russian cavalry is attacking on the flank and rear.

By forcing this pass, the Russians gain control of some of the most valuable oil fields in the Austrian Empire, and thus shut off another of the sources of fuel supplies which the Austro-German armies are said to be so much in need of. This, however, has only been part of the Russian task. While forcing back the Turks and Austrians, the Russian forces are holding the line of the Mazurian Lakes in East Prussia are fighting strenuously to withstand the German offensive in North Poland; are advancing towards Cracow and have crossed Bukovina, which is now virtually in their possession.

WEATHER AN AID TO RUSSIANS.

In North Poland, where Russia is confronted with the most serious task, the weather is proving a useful ally. The Germans, according to their own accounts, are making slow progress with their offensive operations, while the Russians, an unofficial despatch received from Berlin by way of Copenhagen says, are advancing toward Cracow and southern Silesia.

Military men look for bigger events between the Lower Vistula and the East Prussian frontier. The Russians are in possession of the greater part of the intervening territory, and unless engaged, would, when the river freezes fall on the German flank to the south of the river. It is therefore believed here that the Germans are planning a movement from Thorn and East Prussia, which would prevent its possibility, and as the fighting would take place in the open it would afford a contrast to the trench warfare which prevails along the rest of the front.

Except at the two extreme wings on the Belgian coast and in Upper Alsace, where the Allies have gained some ground, the fighting on the western front has been done by sappers, miners and artillery.

From the coast to the Swiss border the troops have either been engaged in shelling the opposite trenches or trying to sap and mine them; only at isolated points, has the infantry been given its opportunity. A few hundred yards have been gained by the Allies among the dunes of Flanders, despite the unfavorable weather.

Great interest attaches to the operations of the French in Upper Alsace. The capture of Steinbach was accomplished after almost superhuman efforts, as the Germans had strongly entrenched themselves. Now the French are attempting to force their way through to Cernay the possession of which would open the door to Mulhausen, which the French occupied for a short time at the beginning of the war.

One of the lessons the war has taught Russia is that the port of Archangel, the only large seaport on the north coast of the Russian Empire, and the most northerly point in the railway system of Europe, can be kept open, if not all winter, at least for the greater part of it, with the aid of ice breakers. Archangel is generally frozen over for months, but it has been kept open thus far, and war supplies are being regularly shipped to Russia, while in return Russia sends out provisions.

The House of Lords will meet tomorrow, and Earl Kitchener, Secretary for War, is expected to make a statement on the progress of the war and British preparations.

SIR GEORGE AND LADY PERLEY AT UNIQUE CEREMONY IN EAST END OF LONDON

London, Jan. 5.—Sir George Perley's first appearance in public since the conferring of the New Year honor of Knighthood upon him was in the scorching East End of London today, when, accompanied by Lady Perley, he was present at a distribution of Canadian foodstuffs to eight hundred poor persons of the Borough of Stepney. The Palladium Music Hall, where the distribution took place, was crowded with the recipients of Canada's bounty, and many others who came to behold a ceremony quite unique in the annals of the Empire. The acting High Commissioner received the congratulations of the chairman, Mr. Glynn Jones, member for the Parliamentary division of Stepney. In reply Sir George clearly set forth Canada's position in relation to England and the Empire. The food sent by the Dominion was sent not for its value, but simply as an earnest of the good will which the Dominion felt in this crisis toward those who lived in the Mother Country. "We are all one to-

gether in this war," said Sir George. "We are not helping the Mother Country. We are in it because the British Empire is at war, and Canada is part of the Empire. I object when any one says that we have sent soldiers to help Britain. We have sent them to help ourselves, and to see that the country handed down by our fathers shall be preserved for those who follow."

Britain's Lesson to the World.

Sir George proceeded to say that the war was one between two kinds of government—militarism and democracy, on one side, against democracy on the other. Britain believed in the latter, with loyalty to the King, but also with government on constitutional lines, giving full liberty to every part of the Empire. "Britain has shown the world," he said, "how to guard an Empire by fair means and fair government, so that when the crisis comes, as it has come today, every portion of the Empire

PRIMATE OF BELGIUM HELD AS PRISONER

Cardinal Mercier Arrested by Germans on Account of Pastoral Letter Read in Churches of Belgium.

Amsterdam, via London, Jan. 5.—A despatch received by the T.M. from Rotterdam says that Cardinal Mercier, Primate of Belgium and Archbishop of Malines, has been arrested by the German authorities and held a prisoner in his own palace at Malines, under a military guard.

The report, which has not been confirmed, says the Cardinal's arrest was the result of a pastoral letter issued by him and read in the churches throughout Belgium Sunday. In this letter the Cardinal is said to have referred to the occupation of Belgium, as follows:

"This power has no legal authority, and consequently you owe it in your heart neither allegiance nor obedience. The only legal authority in Belgium is that appertaining to our King, his government and the representatives of the nation."

THE RIGHT OF SEARCH CANNOT BE WAIVED

Because of Possibility of Shipping of Cargoes at Sea—Would be an Invitation to Smugglers, Prominent British Officials Say.

London, Jan. 5.—Although the foreign office regards with high favor the American government's plan of certifying cargoes loaded under the direction of officials of the Treasury Department and destined for European ports, it was said today that England cannot accept such certification as an absolute guaranty of the nature of the cargo, in case any cause for suspicion arises after a vessel leaves America.

In other words, the right of search cannot be waived, because of the possibility of shifting cargoes at sea, and of the impossibility of having the treasury officer who issues the certificates accompany the ship to her destination to guard against smugglers, who may carry copper or other contraband on small ships to be transferred at sea.

The waiving of the right to search ships bearing contraband cargoes, in the opinion of several prominent British officials, would be an invitation for smugglers to ply their trade, whereas the retention of the right would tend to prevent dishonesty.

This position is precisely the same as that taken by the foreign office concerning the certification of manifests of American cargoes by British consuls at American ports.

The government is constantly in communication with representatives of Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Holland.

A vote of thanks to the Dominion, moved by the Mayor of the Borough of Stepney, was carried amid loud cheers, and was replied to by Agents-General Turner of British Columbia, Pelletier of Quebec; Reid of Ontario, and Turnbull of New Brunswick. Col. Pelletier's assurances of the readiness of the French-Canadians to fight,

PARCEL POST HELPS INCREASE REVENUE

Post Office Department of Dominion Shows Gain in Revenue of \$66,074—Nearly \$2,000,000 from Stamps.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Jan. 5.—Hon. T. Chace Casgrain, Postmaster General, is the only member of the government whose department can boast of an increased revenue in spite of the war and the business depression. The sale of stamps in December brought \$1,726,492, an increase of \$58,492 over December, 1914.

For the nine months of the present fiscal year the revenue has been \$11,189,780, an increase of \$66,074. The parcel post system which was established early last year is responsible for much of the increase in revenue. The sending of Christmas gifts to the 35,000 Canadian boys at Salisbury Plain would also increase the December receipts.

So constant and rapid has been the increase during the past ten years that the revenue for last month was almost three times that of December, 1904, and the revenue for the first nine months of the fiscal year 1914 was only \$4,472,900, as compared with \$11,189,780 for the same period of this year.

TORONTO HAS \$100,000 FIRE

Trenton, Ont., Jan. 5.—At a late hour last night fire consumed the old round house of the Canadian Northern Ontario Railway in Newmarket. The damage is estimated at \$100,000.

CAPTURE OF ALSATION TOWN ONE OF MOST THRILLING EVENTS OF CAMPAIGN IN THE WEST

MR. CARVELL AND SIR JOHN FRENCH.

Here is what Mr. F. B. Carvell, of Carleton County, had to say regarding General Sir John French, the British officer whose deeds have won fame for him, and who is generally regarded as one of the outstanding figures of the present great war:

"The principal cause of the trouble with the Minister and his top heavy militia is the report of a general by the name of French, who came to this country some years ago and in my judgment his visit was one of the greatest misfortunes that has befallen Canada. I told the Minister, publicly and privately that in adopting the ridiculous and unreasonable report made by this gentleman (General French) he had committed a grave mistake. His, General French's ideas are ridiculous."

Mr. Carvell has never apologized for this unwarranted criticism but, on the contrary, his newspapers applaud his "independence" in making it. Here is what the Hartland Observer, owned by Mr. Carvell and Mr. A. R. Foster, says regarding criticism of Mr. Carvell's statement:

"This week's issue of the Woodstock Press is a unique production. The editor seems to be in a mandarin state of hysterics. He quotes a paragraph from Hansard in which F. B. Carvell had the independence to criticize General French, who since—not before—has distinguished himself, and the Press prints it in three places in the paper in as many different sizes of type.

What do the people of New Brunswick think of this kind of insulting references to a great British hero? What do they think of the newspapers which defend the Carvell expressions?"

GEN. HUGHES' SON WOUNDED IN FRANCE

Struck by Piece of Shrapnel Shell While Studying Fighting Conditions on Firing Line—Col. Williams Also Hurt.

Ottawa, Jan. 5.—Word has just been received by General Sam Hughes that his son, Col. Garnet Hughes, who is with the first Canadian contingent, was struck by a piece of shrapnel shell while on the firing line with Colonel Leckie of Vancouver. They were studying the country and the actual fighting conditions. Col. Hughes has a scalp wound several inches in length but was not seriously injured. Col. Victor Williams formerly adjutant general at headquarters, had his arm badly injured by a shell also while over on the firing line for a few days some time ago.

General Sam Hughes is still confined to the hospital here with his injured knee.

REDUCTION IN TRAIN SERVICE TEMPORARY

Montreal, Jan. 5.—In connection with the reduction in the train service owing to a falling off in traffic as a result of the war the C. P. R. announces that instead of continuing the seven days a week service between Montreal, Halifax and St. John a six days service will be given. This means that the Saturday evening C. P. R. train from Montreal to the Maritime Provinces capitals is being taken off, and the Sunday evening train from the eastern cities is also being taken off. Vice-President G. M. Bosworth says the reductions in service are merely temporary, and in effect only during the winter months.

Three Mile Race Up Steep Slope Between German and French Batteries—Five Minute Handicap Gave French Time to Place Guns in Position and Whole Battery of the Enemy Was Annihilated.

Thann, Alsace, Jan. 4, via Paris, Jan. 5. A race of three miles up the steep slope at Engelburg through thickets and up rocky steps, between a battalion of French light infantry with mountain guns and a German battery, determined the result of the stubborn fight for the Alsatian town of Steinbach.

The French surprised a movement of the German battery ascending toward the summit of the mountain by the road and taking a short-cut accomplished what seemed to be the impossible.

The French battalion arrived five minutes before the Germans appeared in an open space, and had just time to put into position their mountain guns. Five minutes more all was over. Too late the Germans attempted to retire and the battery was annihilated.

Possession of this point permitted the French to cross the River Bur, above the town of Thann, and to reinforce the troops operating around Steinbach.

On the morning of December 31 the French occupied all the heights around the town and sent an envoy to the German commandant, demanding the surrender of the place. The German officer replied:

"The German commandant-in-chief considers that our forces are in no wise cut off. The route to Cernay (Sennheim) still is open and retreat always is possible. In any case the Emperor's troops are ready to die; but to surrender, never."

At noon on the same day the French commenced an attack which was continued without intermission. The French successes began with the capture, at the point of the bayonet, of a farm commanding the road entering the town. The French then progressed road by road until the village was reached.

Charges and counter-charges of infantry were made amid the continual booming of the French three-inch guns from all the heights to which the Germans replied with ever-diminishing violence, which indicated a shortage of ammunition.

COMPANY OF FRENCH ANNIHILATES ENEMY GUARDING ROADWAY

The Germans made a stubborn defence with machine guns and cold steel at the outskirts of Steinbach, and the Chasseurs also were met with a murderous fire from the church steeple.

One French company asked permission to charge. Many soldiers fell before they reached the German line, but nothing could stop the rest and the German force guarding the road soon was surrounded and annihilated.

In possession of the road and the farm, the French mounted quick-firing guns on a line of sheds connecting with the village, and sweeping along yard by yard, finally captured the first line of houses.

The struggle was then continued from house to house, the French losing one day the buildings captured on the preceding day, but always returning to the charge with greater violence and making a further advance. Every alley was an ambush and every house a little fortress.

The French finally succeeded in slipping around the enemy's right along the Steinbach brook, and then commenced a fierce combat on the position of Steinbach itself. The church and the cemetery twice were taken and twice were lost. Since hand to hand fighting was now going on night and day and from door to door the Germans, unable longer to use their artillery, resorted to incendiary bombs, and set fire to a number of barns and houses occupied by the French.

THE ENEMY'S LAST STAND

A changing wind, however, obliged the Germans themselves to quit the first line of trenches, being unable to control the fire, and the flames finally reached the ammunition reserves.

The explosion which occurred when the ammunition caught fire made the little town tremble as though from an earthquake.

Still the Germans held on until the morning of January 4, when the last courageous resistance of the defenders was worn out by the persistent and impetuous charges of the Chasseurs and the whole town was occupied. This point, the gateway to Cernay (Sennheim), which commands important routes to the south, to the north and to the east, is no longer tenable for the Germans.

SAYS GERMANY DOES NOT EXPECT U. S. TO LEGISLATE AGAINST EXPORT OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION TO BELLIGERENTS

Washington, Jan. 5.—The German government, according to comments today before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, does not expect legislation in this country to prevent the exportation of arms and ammunition to the European belligerents. Chairman Flood of the committee said he understood that the German government, through its foreign office had taken this position, and Representative Metz of New York, told the committee he recently had talked with "high authorities" in Berlin, who held that the United States was within its rights under international law in permitting trade in war supplies with the belligerents.

Today's session concluded the case presented by the supporters of the Bartholdt resolution. It is probable that opponents of the proposal will be heard later.