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RUSSIANS ANNOUNCE A VICTORY

Inflicted a Serious Defeat on the Germans, Turning Their Right Wing—Captured Artillery and Supplies

Petrograd, Dec. 9.—An official communication given out by the General Staff says "Engagements which have developed in the region of Plesnys and Czechanow, east of the East Prussian border and Mlawa have not yet terminated.

In the fighting which took place in the region of Piotrkow we were only partially successful. The battle which commenced December 5th, S.E. of Cracow in the region of Wieliczka on the river Deriaty has developed in our favor.

Courageous Act.

After having courageously forced the passage of the Dounaetz River in the vicinity of Novy Sandov, our reinforcement assumed the offensive and inflicted a serious defeat on the German troops which had formed in the valley of Leszczyna.

The German right wing, which was pursued, was turned. The 24th German corps transported here from Belgium opened this combat with an auto battery in its advance guard which was partly disabled and partly put to flight without striking blows.

Put Artillery out of Action.

Following this we successfully put out of action several pieces of heavy artillery, silenced five field batteries and captured several cannons.

German prisoners affirm that their units sustained enormous losses, some of the companies being reduced to forty men.

We are pursuing the offensive. On the morning of Dec. 7th, the Turkish cruiser Breslau was discovered in the vicinity of Sebastopol. Our cruisers and hydroplanes started in pursuit, but before an attack could be made the Breslau disappeared out to sea.

Victory Won By Servians Overwhelming

Austrians, Overwhelmed, had to Retreat in Disorder, Losing Many Guns and Men.

Nish, Dec. 8th.—The Servian victory of Dec. 5 on the north-eastern front is further emphasized in a Servian official statement to-day which concludes as follows:

"The enemy was overwhelmed and had to retire in disorder. In the pursuit we took six officers and 1810 men prisoners and captured two howitzers and nine other guns, many rifles and some telegraphic material.

Twenty Nations Of West Lodge Formal Protest

American Peoples Express Disapproval of Effects of Belligerent Operations on Trade.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Twenty nations of the Western hemisphere yesterday expressed their disapproval of the effect of the operations of European belligerents in the waters of the two Americas and appointed a commission of diplomats to formulate practical steps contemplating a more vigorous assertion of the rights of neutrals.

ALLIES MAKE GAINS IN WEST

(French Official Bulletin.) Paris, Dec. 8.—In Belgium the Germans have bombarded Oost-Dunkirk, located two and a half miles west of Neuport.

Along Battle Line of 300 Miles Germany and Russia Still War For The Possession Of Poland

Victory on Part of this Great Front Appears to have Fallen to the Germans, but the Russians Still Press on Cracow From the South—Violent German Attack in Belgium is Repulsed—Contradictory Reports From Austro-Servian Field—Kaiser Reported Sick

London, Dec. 8.—The great battle for the possession of Poland continues. The front extends along three hundred miles. Victory over part of it at least appears to have fallen to the Germans, while the Russians are pressing upon Cracow to the South.

That Lodz is in the hands of the Germans seems undoubted, and the Russian official report just issued is apparently preparing the public for the news by referring to the difficulty in defending that city, which gives the Russian front an abnormal contour.

Fearful Slaughter and Intense Suffering.

The details of this mighty battle have yet to be written. General facts that there has been a fearful slaughter and intense suffering from cold, comprised about the total information received.

The Germans claim they are pursuing the Russians south and southeast of Lodz. Several correspondents were with the Russian army when the battle broke out, but nothing has been heard from them for several days. Evidently they are under the hand of strict censorship.

British military experts insist that three quarters of the best material of the German army have been held in the Western Theatre of war throughout the campaign, and that the troops opposed to the Russians consist mostly of the second line organizations.

Violent German Attack.

The French official report tonight announces that the Germans have made a violent attack on the Allies at Steloy, south of Ypres, which was repulsed. This may mean the renewal of the German attempt to batter through the Allied lines, which was predicted from their movements in Belgium.

Elsewhere in the Western theatre there have been only local engagements. Austrian-Servian reports continue to claim successes for their respective sides. Serbia reports a victory on the northeast front, with nearly two thousand prisoners. Vienna says the Austrian advance to the South of Belgrade is progressing.

Apart from the field battles, the illness of the German Emperor at Berlin from bronchial catarrh with fever, is the most interesting news today. The Emperor's prolonged activity and recent reports, have caused the public to watch with particular interest any developments regarding his health.

Lost Its Urgency.

Petrograd, Dec. 8.—Official by General Staff of the Russian Army—Considering the abandonment of Lodz, reports say that during the fighting of the second half of the month of November, Lodz acquired a great military importance, but German offensive on the Lodz-Lowicz line having failed, the defence of Lodz lost its urgency.

The defence of this large city presents many difficulties from a military point of view. It gives our front an abnormal contour, which is embarrassing our communications with the rear.

It may, therefore, be expected with the settling of a lull on the left bank of the Vistula, the Russian lines in the region of Lodz will be reformed.

AVIATOR EARL AND COMPANION SHOT BY ENEMY

London, Dec. 9.—Earl Annesley, and his companion Lieut. Beaver, who disappeared early last month after starting on an aeroplane flight to the Continent, have been killed by the Germans.

Countess Annesley was notified to-day that the men were shot November 5th, while flying over Ostend.

Allies Drive German Staff From Roulers

The Bombardment of This Place Marks Distinct, Important Advance by the Allies.

London, Dec. 9.—The Correspondent of The Daily Express, telegraphing from the Belgian frontier, says: The German Divisional Headquarters was removed from Roulers when shells began to fall in the town after British had recaptured Passchendaele, eleven miles northeast of Ypres. This indicates a distinct and important advance by the Allies.

SEVEN PLANS OF GERMANS HAVE FAILED

Notable Instances Were Failure to Capture Paris, Dunkirk, Calais and Ypres, or to Pierce Allies' Lines

Bordeaux, via Paris, Dec. 8.—The Bulletin Des Armees after reviewing at great length the military operations since the outbreak of the war, sums up the French situation on December 1st as follows:

In numbers, the French army to-day is equal to what it was on August 2, all the units having maintained their full strength. The quality of the troops has improved infinitely. Our men fight to-day like veterans. They are all deeply imbued with their superiority, and have absolute faith that they will be victorious. The higher command, renewed on account of necessary dismissals, has not committed during the past three months, any of those faults noted and punished in August.

Larger Supplies.

Our supplies of artillery and ammunition have been largely increased. The heavy artillery which we lacked has been organized, and is working well.

The British army has been strongly reinforced during November, and is numerically stronger than at the beginning of the campaign. The Indian divisions have finished their apprenticeships in the European war.

"The Belgian army has re-formed in six divisions, and is ready and resolute to reconquer its native soil.

"The German plan has met with seven far-reaching reverses, namely: The failure of the dash on Nancy, the failure of the march on Paris, the failure of the attempt to roll up our left flank in August, the failure of the same movement in November, the failure to pierce our centre in September, the failure of the attack on Dunkirk and Calais by the coast, and the failure of the attack on Ypres.

"In this barren effort Germany has exhausted her reserves. The troops she brings into the line to-day are badly officered and badly trained.

GEN. BEYERS MEETS FATE

Was Shot While Attempting to Lead Rebel Force Across Vaal River—Search-in for the Body

Johannesburg, Dec. 9.—Brigadier General Beyers, one of the leaders of the rebellion has been shot. It is officially announced, and is believed to be dead.

Pretoria, Dec. 9.—The circumstances which led the Government to announce that General Christian Beyers had been killed were made public here today.

It appears that, during a sharp engagement on the banks of the Vaal, Beyers, with some others, endeavored to cross the river. They were fired on and Beyers was seen to fall from his horse. His body drifted down the stream and then disappeared under the water. Search is being made for the body. General Beyers was the only important rebel leader still at large.

'It's a Short, Short March To Calais' Sing The Germans

But, Just the Same, that Short Bit of Road is too Hard for Them to Pass.

London, Dec. 8.—The British marching song 'It's a Long Way to Tipperary', has now a rival on the other side of the trenches in Belgium.

Refugees tell of a new song heard in cafes and other places where German officers and soldiers gather which, in English, runs: 'It's a Short, Short March to Calais.'

The refugees say the Germans are becoming adepts at singing it.

Austrian Cruelty In Galicia, Wholesale Murders Reported

Thousands of the People Are Starving and Homeless—Austrian Officials Act With Unrestrained Cruelty—10,000 Arrests and 1000 Executions Reported Throughout the Province—Notable Instances of Barbarity

Lemberg, Galicia, Dec. 7.—A committee appointed to investigate conditions in Galicia reports that there have been wholesale murders, executions and excesses of every description in Galicia. Thousands of starving, homeless families give evidence of these depredations. The Russian population, the committee says, suffered most severely, less from natural consequences of war than from the cruelty of Austrian officials, who always suspected the loyalty of the Galician populace and have acted with marked severity since the beginning of the war.

Hanged or Shot Two Hundred and Sixty-Eight Men.

The committee established the fact that in seven counties two hundred and sixty-eight men have been shot or hanged, including two priests. Throughout Galicia it is estimated that ten thousand arrests have been made and one thousand executions have taken place. In five counties the committee states its members counted four thousand and fifty burned homes. In the county in which Przemysl is located there are three thousand six hundred and twenty families with three thousand eight hundred children under five years of age, who are homeless.

Whole Families Imprisoned

Whole families, including babies, children and decrepit old men, in one instance a deaf mute, have been thrown into prison. Near Przemysl the committee reports, every village has been burned. In the neighborhood of Jasiao, one hundred and sixty persons in a deserted hamlet were found to have been hanged.

Most of these outrages are said by the committee to have been committed by the Hungarians. **Girl Crucified.** It is stated that Cossacks who were pursuing a detachment of Hungarian soldiers found the body of one Russian girl who had been crucified. It is also alleged that in one field hospital five persons horribly mutilated were received. The committee reports that all these facts have been authenticated.

The report said the Russian troops had been aroused to a high pitch of fury against the enemy. The members of the committee made their investigation under the direction of its president, Count Bobinskiy, Governor-General of Galicia.

Colombia Not Taking Chances With Wireless

Minister of Foreign Affairs Orders High Power Station at Cartagena To Be Dismantled

Bogota, Colombia, Dec. 8.—The Minister of Foreign Affairs to-day ordered the removal of a high power wireless station at Cartagena.

Cartagena is a seaport town of the South American republic of Colombia and is situated on the Southern Coast line of the Caribbean sea near the entrance of the Gulf of Darien and three hundred miles eastward of Colon at the Atlantic end of the Panama Canal.

Oil Tanker Here For Bunker Coal

Saronian is New London Ship of Over Four Thousand Tons.

The s.s. Saxonian, Captain Leech, eighteen days from Sunderland, bound to New York, arrived this morning short of coal.

Fierce Storm Off Gt. Britain Cruiser Ashore

H.M.S. Venus runs on the Rocks—Steamship Ashore—Norwegian Vessel Founders.

London, Dec. 5.—In a violent storm off the English coast to-day, the British cruiser Venus and the steamship Anthony were driven ashore. The Norwegian steamer Waterloo foundered last night.

H.M.S. Venus is a cruiser of 5600 tons, launched in 1898, and carrying a complement of 412 men.

S.S. Waal sails tomorrow for Portland, Maine.

LODZ LOSS NOT A BIG REVERSE

Does Not Give Germans Any Important Railways Which Are All Held by the Russians

London, Dec. 8.—It is unofficially admitted in Petrograd that the Germans have taken Lodz after a bombardment which set portions of the city on fire. It is denied, however, that the loss of Lodz is a severe reverse, since the city does not control the main line of railways from Petrozow to Warsaw but is on a branch line.

The Russians are holding the junction point of Koluzki and until the Germans are able to occupy Koluzki they cannot take advantage of the railroad system.

There is no longer any misapprehension in Petrograd as to the seriousness of the situation in Poland, but army officials assert that the Russians have anticipated the German plans and are developing a further surprise. There will be much more fighting before the campaign in this district is concluded.

Lodz was won only after hand to hand fighting in the suburbs of the city and the whole Russian line from North to South is now straightened out and will contest every foot of the ground with the invaders.

PARTY LEADERS WILL ADDRESS BIG MEETING

One of the most important of patriotic meetings held in this city since war began will be that at the British Hall tomorrow night, under the auspices of the Society of United Fishermen.

The speakers are to be Rt. Hon. Sir E. P. Morris and Pres. W. F. Coaker, M.H.A.

London Hears German Fleet Is Now Abroad

Rumors Persist in British Capital that Kaisers Ships are out of Hiding.

London, Dec. 5.—Reports persist here that the German fleet has started out from its home port for a battle in the North Sea and that the Zeppelin fleet is ready to aid it in attacking the British warships or in all probability the English coast.

Fire Patrol Hold Annual Meeting

Number of Fires This Year Much Less Than Last Year

The annual meeting of the Fire Patrol Board was held Monday at the office of the Agriculture and Mines.

Hon. S. D. Blandford, Minister of Agriculture and Mines, acted as Chairman.

There were also present Messrs. L. R. Cooper (Secretary) and W. J. Scott, of Grand Falls, representing the Harnsworth Co. A. E. Harris, of Bishop's Falls, the Albert E. Reed Co. T. Howe, Chief Fire Ranger and R. Horwood, Esq.

The reports showed that \$4,730.25 were subscribed by voluntary contributors, outside the \$4,000.00 contributed by the Government.

The number of fires this year was considerably less this year than last year.

WEATHER REPORT

Toronto (noon)—Fresh northerly winds; fair and colder today and on Thursday.