

# GALLANT FIGHTING CHRISTMAS DAY SAVED KUT-EL-AMARA FORTS TO BRITISH; CABINET CRISIS DAILY DRAWS NEARER

## EIGHTY LOST ON FRENCH STEAMER, WITHOUT WARNING

### Austrian Submarines Get Two Fine Craft in Mediterranean

### \$2,000,000 CARGO SENT TO BOTTOM

Paris, Dec. 27.—The French steamer Ville De La Ciotat, with passengers on board, was torpedoed without warning and sunk in the Mediterranean by a submarine on December 24th, the ministry of marine announced today. Most of the passengers and members of the crew had been rescued. The steamer was carrying a cargo of 2,000,000 francs worth of goods, including 100,000 tons of flour, 100,000 tons of sugar, and 100,000 tons of other provisions. The ship was carrying 800 passengers and crew. The cause of the disaster is being investigated.

London, Dec. 27.—Eighty of the passengers and crew of the Ville De La Ciotat were rescued. The ship was carrying a cargo of 2,000,000 francs worth of goods, including 100,000 tons of flour, 100,000 tons of sugar, and 100,000 tons of other provisions. The ship was carrying 800 passengers and crew. The cause of the disaster is being investigated.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Seventy-nine persons were drowned in the destruction of the French liner Ville De La Ciotat, the state department reported today. The ship was carrying a cargo of 2,000,000 francs worth of goods, including 100,000 tons of flour, 100,000 tons of sugar, and 100,000 tons of other provisions. The ship was carrying 800 passengers and crew. The cause of the disaster is being investigated.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The steamer Solveig, owned by the American Transatlantic Company, has been condemned by the French prize court. The owners will appeal.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The steamer Solveig, owned by the American Transatlantic Company, has been condemned by the French prize court. The owners will appeal.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The steamer Solveig, owned by the American Transatlantic Company, has been condemned by the French prize court. The owners will appeal.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The steamer Solveig, owned by the American Transatlantic Company, has been condemned by the French prize court. The owners will appeal.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The steamer Solveig, owned by the American Transatlantic Company, has been condemned by the French prize court. The owners will appeal.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The steamer Solveig, owned by the American Transatlantic Company, has been condemned by the French prize court. The owners will appeal.

## CHRISTMAS FIGHTING ON THE RIVER TIGRIS

### Turks Enter One of Kut El-Amara Forts But Are Driven Out and Forced Back

### 104th Pioneers Assisted in Successful Counter-Attack in Which Enemy Lost 700—Another Victory Over Arab Tribesmen on Borders of Egypt.

London, Dec. 27.—The Turks, in an attack on the British forces in Mesopotamia, succeeded in entering the northern bastions of one of the forts at Kut-El-Amara, but were driven out, an official statement issued this evening says. The official statement follows: "On the 24th Gen. Townshend reported that the enemy had fired heavy throughout the previous night, but had not attacked. Later, he sent a further report as follows: "From 10 a.m. until past midday the position was heavily shelled. The enemy, having breached the fort, effected an entrance, but were driven out. Two hundred dead were left inside the fort. "The fort is a work on the right flank of his landward position, on the north side of the Kut peninsula. "On the 25th Gen. Townshend sent a further report, in which he says that at midnight on the 24th, and on the 25th fierce fighting for the possession of the fort took place. The enemy effected a lodgement in the northern bastion and were ejected, but came on again and occupied the bastion. The garrison of Oxford Light Infantry and the 104th held on to the entrenchment, and were reinforced by the Norfolk regiment and the 104th Pioneers. The enemy vacated the bastion early Christmas morning, and retired into trenches, four hundred to nine hundred yards in the rear, although the attack had been made from trenches only about one hundred yards from the breach. "The rest of Christmas day passed quietly. The fort and garrison, in excellent spirits, re-occupied the bastion. The enemy's casualties are estimated at about 700, our own at 190 killed and wounded. "A whole division appears to have been engaged in the attack. Presumably the 200 enemy dead mentioned in the above report of the 24th are not included in the above."

London, Dec. 27.—The main Arab forces, which had been operating near Matruh, were attacked on Christmas day and dispersed by the British, who suffered small losses, it was officially announced tonight. The official statement says: "With reference to the Turkish official communication of the 27th the war office states that from the 14th to the 24th there was no fighting between our troops and the Arabs on the western front of Egypt. "On the 25th the principal Arab force, which was located some eight miles from Mersa Matrû (Matruh), was attacked and dispersed, with trifling loss to our troops. "The foregoing evidently alludes to the Turkish official statement, received today from Constantinople, by way of Berlin, which was sent by wireless, and bore the Constantinople date of Dec. 26. "Were These Cruisers Damaged? "Constantinople, via London, Dec. 27.—The following official communication concerning the fighting on the Gallipoli peninsula was issued today: "Dardanelles front: On the night of Friday our artillery forced a torpedo boat which had bombarded the landing place at Avburun, to withdraw. Near Seddul Bahr, the enemy fired a considerable number of bombs and aerial torpedoes. Our artillery destroyed enemy bomb mortars and caused important damage in the first and second line enemy trenches. "An enemy cruiser, which had repeatedly bombarded Altechete and its surroundings, was hit four times. Our batteries in the narrows effectively bombarded the landing places of the Seddul Bahr troops, the concentration places near Moro Liman, enemy trenches near Keresedere, reserves, west of Eski Hisarlik, and a howitzer battery, causing visible damage, and sank two armored boats. "Near Moro Liman, Saturday, one of our water planes made successful reconnoitering flights over Tenedos, the Isle of Mavro and enemy positions near Seddul Bahr, and hit with a bomb a torpedo boat south of Seddul Bahr."

London, Dec. 27.—The main Arab forces, which had been operating near Matruh, were attacked on Christmas day and dispersed by the British, who suffered small losses, it was officially announced tonight. The official statement says: "With reference to the Turkish official communication of the 27th the war office states that from the 14th to the 24th there was no fighting between our troops and the Arabs on the western front of Egypt. "On the 25th the principal Arab force, which was located some eight miles from Mersa Matrû (Matruh), was attacked and dispersed, with trifling loss to our troops. "The foregoing evidently alludes to the Turkish official statement, received today from Constantinople, by way of Berlin, which was sent by wireless, and bore the Constantinople date of Dec. 26. "Were These Cruisers Damaged? "Constantinople, via London, Dec. 27.—The following official communication concerning the fighting on the Gallipoli peninsula was issued today: "Dardanelles front: On the night of Friday our artillery forced a torpedo boat which had bombarded the landing place at Avburun, to withdraw. Near Seddul Bahr, the enemy fired a considerable number of bombs and aerial torpedoes. Our artillery destroyed enemy bomb mortars and caused important damage in the first and second line enemy trenches. "An enemy cruiser, which had repeatedly bombarded Altechete and its surroundings, was hit four times. Our batteries in the narrows effectively bombarded the landing places of the Seddul Bahr troops, the concentration places near Moro Liman, enemy trenches near Keresedere, reserves, west of Eski Hisarlik, and a howitzer battery, causing visible damage, and sank two armored boats. "Near Moro Liman, Saturday, one of our water planes made successful reconnoitering flights over Tenedos, the Isle of Mavro and enemy positions near Seddul Bahr, and hit with a bomb a torpedo boat south of Seddul Bahr."

## BULGARIA PREPARES TO SETTLE DOWN SERBIA PERMANENTLY

Berlin, Dec. 27, via wireless to Sayville—Senussi tribesmen, advancing along the Egyptian coast, near the Tripolitanian border, have driven the British out of Matruh, to which they retired late in November after a strong Arab force had compelled their retreat, according to a Turkish official report received here today from Constantinople. The statement, which was dated Dec. 26, is as follows: "Several detachments of Senussi continued successfully attacks against the British in Egypt. They have cleared the Siwah district completely of British. (The Siwah district is an oasis in the Libyan desert, about twenty miles wide and a mile long, some 300 miles southwest of Alexandria.) "One detachment, advancing along the coast, attacked the town of Matruh, 240 kilometers (about 150 miles) east of Solum. In the engagement the British commander and 800 soldiers were killed and the rest fled eastward. "The Mohammedans took near Solum and Matruh from the British two field cannons and two large quantities of artillery ammunition and ten automobiles, of which three were armored."

Paris, Dec. 27.—A despatch to the Temps from Salon says: "Sofia newspapers announce that Bulgaria has decided, pending a return to normal conditions, that all property belonging to the state, church and schools in occupied Serbia regions, shall be administered by the Bulgarian government. At the same time, 'minister of public property' will, by circular, indicate to the presidents of municipalities and prefects and administrators of the former kingdom of Serbia the manner of handing public property and property without owner."

Paris, Dec. 27.—The main Arab forces, which had been operating near Matruh, were attacked on Christmas day and dispersed by the British, who suffered small losses, it was officially announced tonight. The official statement says: "With reference to the Turkish official communication of the 27th the war office states that from the 14th to the 24th there was no fighting between our troops and the Arabs on the western front of Egypt. "On the 25th the principal Arab force, which was located some eight miles from Mersa Matrû (Matruh), was attacked and dispersed, with trifling loss to our troops. "The foregoing evidently alludes to the Turkish official statement, received today from Constantinople, by way of Berlin, which was sent by wireless, and bore the Constantinople date of Dec. 26. "Were These Cruisers Damaged? "Constantinople, via London, Dec. 27.—The following official communication concerning the fighting on the Gallipoli peninsula was issued today: "Dardanelles front: On the night of Friday our artillery forced a torpedo boat which had bombarded the landing place at Avburun, to withdraw. Near Seddul Bahr, the enemy fired a considerable number of bombs and aerial torpedoes. Our artillery destroyed enemy bomb mortars and caused important damage in the first and second line enemy trenches. "An enemy cruiser, which had repeatedly bombarded Altechete and its surroundings, was hit four times. Our batteries in the narrows effectively bombarded the landing places of the Seddul Bahr troops, the concentration places near Moro Liman, enemy trenches near Keresedere, reserves, west of Eski Hisarlik, and a howitzer battery, causing visible damage, and sank two armored boats. "Near Moro Liman, Saturday, one of our water planes made successful reconnoitering flights over Tenedos, the Isle of Mavro and enemy positions near Seddul Bahr, and hit with a bomb a torpedo boat south of Seddul Bahr."

Paris, Dec. 27.—The main Arab forces, which had been operating near Matruh, were attacked on Christmas day and dispersed by the British, who suffered small losses, it was officially announced tonight. The official statement says: "With reference to the Turkish official communication of the 27th the war office states that from the 14th to the 24th there was no fighting between our troops and the Arabs on the western front of Egypt. "On the 25th the principal Arab force, which was located some eight miles from Mersa Matrû (Matruh), was attacked and dispersed, with trifling loss to our troops. "The foregoing evidently alludes to the Turkish official statement, received today from Constantinople, by way of Berlin, which was sent by wireless, and bore the Constantinople date of Dec. 26. "Were These Cruisers Damaged? "Constantinople, via London, Dec. 27.—The following official communication concerning the fighting on the Gallipoli peninsula was issued today: "Dardanelles front: On the night of Friday our artillery forced a torpedo boat which had bombarded the landing place at Avburun, to withdraw. Near Seddul Bahr, the enemy fired a considerable number of bombs and aerial torpedoes. Our artillery destroyed enemy bomb mortars and caused important damage in the first and second line enemy trenches. "An enemy cruiser, which had repeatedly bombarded Altechete and its surroundings, was hit four times. Our batteries in the narrows effectively bombarded the landing places of the Seddul Bahr troops, the concentration places near Moro Liman, enemy trenches near Keresedere, reserves, west of Eski Hisarlik, and a howitzer battery, causing visible damage, and sank two armored boats. "Near Moro Liman, Saturday, one of our water planes made successful reconnoitering flights over Tenedos, the Isle of Mavro and enemy positions near Seddul Bahr, and hit with a bomb a torpedo boat south of Seddul Bahr."

Paris, Dec. 27.—The main Arab forces, which had been operating near Matruh, were attacked on Christmas day and dispersed by the British, who suffered small losses, it was officially announced tonight. The official statement says: "With reference to the Turkish official communication of the 27th the war office states that from the 14th to the 24th there was no fighting between our troops and the Arabs on the western front of Egypt. "On the 25th the principal Arab force, which was located some eight miles from Mersa Matrû (Matruh), was attacked and dispersed, with trifling loss to our troops. "The foregoing evidently alludes to the Turkish official statement, received today from Constantinople, by way of Berlin, which was sent by wireless, and bore the Constantinople date of Dec. 26. "Were These Cruisers Damaged? "Constantinople, via London, Dec. 27.—The following official communication concerning the fighting on the Gallipoli peninsula was issued today: "Dardanelles front: On the night of Friday our artillery forced a torpedo boat which had bombarded the landing place at Avburun, to withdraw. Near Seddul Bahr, the enemy fired a considerable number of bombs and aerial torpedoes. Our artillery destroyed enemy bomb mortars and caused important damage in the first and second line enemy trenches. "An enemy cruiser, which had repeatedly bombarded Altechete and its surroundings, was hit four times. Our batteries in the narrows effectively bombarded the landing places of the Seddul Bahr troops, the concentration places near Moro Liman, enemy trenches near Keresedere, reserves, west of Eski Hisarlik, and a howitzer battery, causing visible damage, and sank two armored boats. "Near Moro Liman, Saturday, one of our water planes made successful reconnoitering flights over Tenedos, the Isle of Mavro and enemy positions near Seddul Bahr, and hit with a bomb a torpedo boat south of Seddul Bahr."

Paris, Dec. 27.—The main Arab forces, which had been operating near Matruh, were attacked on Christmas day and dispersed by the British, who suffered small losses, it was officially announced tonight. The official statement says: "With reference to the Turkish official communication of the 27th the war office states that from the 14th to the 24th there was no fighting between our troops and the Arabs on the western front of Egypt. "On the 25th the principal Arab force, which was located some eight miles from Mersa Matrû (Matruh), was attacked and dispersed, with trifling loss to our troops. "The foregoing evidently alludes to the Turkish official statement, received today from Constantinople, by way of Berlin, which was sent by wireless, and bore the Constantinople date of Dec. 26. "Were These Cruisers Damaged? "Constantinople, via London, Dec. 27.—The following official communication concerning the fighting on the Gallipoli peninsula was issued today: "Dardanelles front: On the night of Friday our artillery forced a torpedo boat which had bombarded the landing place at Avburun, to withdraw. Near Seddul Bahr, the enemy fired a considerable number of bombs and aerial torpedoes. Our artillery destroyed enemy bomb mortars and caused important damage in the first and second line enemy trenches. "An enemy cruiser, which had repeatedly bombarded Altechete and its surroundings, was hit four times. Our batteries in the narrows effectively bombarded the landing places of the Seddul Bahr troops, the concentration places near Moro Liman, enemy trenches near Keresedere, reserves, west of Eski Hisarlik, and a howitzer battery, causing visible damage, and sank two armored boats. "Near Moro Liman, Saturday, one of our water planes made successful reconnoitering flights over Tenedos, the Isle of Mavro and enemy positions near Seddul Bahr, and hit with a bomb a torpedo boat south of Seddul Bahr."

Paris, Dec. 27.—The main Arab forces, which had been operating near Matruh, were attacked on Christmas day and dispersed by the British, who suffered small losses, it was officially announced tonight. The official statement says: "With reference to the Turkish official communication of the 27th the war office states that from the 14th to the 24th there was no fighting between our troops and the Arabs on the western front of Egypt. "On the 25th the principal Arab force, which was located some eight miles from Mersa Matrû (Matruh), was attacked and dispersed, with trifling loss to our troops. "The foregoing evidently alludes to the Turkish official statement, received today from Constantinople, by way of Berlin, which was sent by wireless, and bore the Constantinople date of Dec. 26. "Were These Cruisers Damaged? "Constantinople, via London, Dec. 27.—The following official communication concerning the fighting on the Gallipoli peninsula was issued today: "Dardanelles front: On the night of Friday our artillery forced a torpedo boat which had bombarded the landing place at Avburun, to withdraw. Near Seddul Bahr, the enemy fired a considerable number of bombs and aerial torpedoes. Our artillery destroyed enemy bomb mortars and caused important damage in the first and second line enemy trenches. "An enemy cruiser, which had repeatedly bombarded Altechete and its surroundings, was hit four times. Our batteries in the narrows effectively bombarded the landing places of the Seddul Bahr troops, the concentration places near Moro Liman, enemy trenches near Keresedere, reserves, west of Eski Hisarlik, and a howitzer battery, causing visible damage, and sank two armored boats. "Near Moro Liman, Saturday, one of our water planes made successful reconnoitering flights over Tenedos, the Isle of Mavro and enemy positions near Seddul Bahr, and hit with a bomb a torpedo boat south of Seddul Bahr."

## War Summary

### Fighting Mostly in Persia and Mesopotamia

### Cabinet Rumors Aroused in London Over Churchill's Return from Front

London, Dec. 27.—The departure of the Indian army from France for another field of action was the most important feature of the day's news, so far as the British public is concerned. Whether the new field of action is Egypt or Mesopotamia is not announced; in both these theaters there are presumably already considerable bodies of Indian troops. It is assumed that the places of the Indians in France have been filled by drafts from the new armies raised on the soil of the United Kingdom. In connection with tonight's announcement, it is worth noting the larger and more important share the youthful Prince of Wales is taking in the business of the empire. The British public, both home and colonial, will read with a peculiar sense of national pride the king's words to the Indian veterans: "Before you leave France, I send my dear and gallant son, the Prince of Wales, who has shared with my armies the dangers and hardships of the campaign, to thank you in my name."

### TURKISH FALSEHOODS

The Turkish official communication, sent out today, which contained claims to successes in the Egyptian theatre, called forth an official denial from the British press bureau, which states that there has been no fighting between the British and the Arabs, except a British attack on the principal Arab force near Mersa Matrû, which "was dispersed with trifling loss to our troops" according to the British version. The Turkish version says that the Turks took the offensive and killed three hundred British, but the quantity of British troops is not mentioned.

The news from the other war fronts continues to show no important developments. The Russians are winning successes against weaker enemy forces in Russia; in the British in South Persia have had some severe fighting with the Turks, without materially altering the situation; the Allies at Saloniki continue their steady and successful operations with the utmost satisfaction; on the west front there is little to record, except minor artillery and bombing operations.

The resumption of German submarine activity is evidenced by the sinking of half a dozen ships in the past twenty-four hours, with the loss of eighty lives in the case of the French steamer Ville De La Ciotat, while two host boats are missing in the case of the Belgian steamer Ministre Bernart.

### CABINET MEETING

Although today was a holiday in England, the members of the British cabinet returning hastily from the scenes of their Christmas festivities for an important meeting, at which were discussed the Derby scheme and other matters, which must be thrashed out when parliament reconvenes. The parliamentary situation continues full of uneasy rumors, and some changes in the cabinet are being widely talked of. There is a possibility that Sir Edward Grey's health may compel him to leave the cabinet, although he attended today's meeting. The sudden return of Winston Spencer Churchill to England, likewise, is the bases of many rumors. David Lloyd George, the minister of munitions, received a great ovation from the holiday crowds at Downing street, for the cabinet meeting.

### BRAND WHITLOCK PRAISES WORK OF AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR RELIEF

New York, Dec. 27.—Brand Whitlock, United States minister to Belgium, will sail tomorrow on the Holland-American liner Rotterdam to resume his duties abroad. Mr. Whitlock was the guest at lunch today of Alexander Hemphill, treasurer of the Commission for Relief in Belgium. He praised the work of the commission, declaring that if it should be interrupted for one week, the suffering of the Belgian people would become a calamity. "A violent artillery action has occurred along the whole front. We effectively shelled various German batteries in the outskirts of Schoor and Women. The enemy infantry, who had collected in the trenches, were dispersed by our fire near Women and the Ferryman's House. "Army of the East: The situation on our front is without change. "Extritionary corps of the Dardanelles: Outside of the usual cannonading there was no event of importance in the course of the last twenty-four hours to report."

### ITALIANS TAKE PRISONERS

Rome, via London, Dec. 27.—The Italian official statement, issued today, reads as follows: "In the Giudicaria Valley our artillery opened fire yesterday on the positions in the neighborhood of Colonia, on which enemy batteries had been reported, and by a well directed fire caused several heavy explosions and an outbreak of flames. "The activity of small detachments of

## INDIAN ARMY CORPS TO FIGHT ELSEWHERE

### King George Sends Prince of Wales with Flattering Message On Eve of Their Departure From France

### Mine Warfare Goes On Along Western Front with Allies Holding Advantage—Italians Win Minor Victories Over Austrians.

London, Dec. 27.—A British Indian army corps has left France for another field of operations, it was officially announced tonight. At the parade of the Indian army corps before it left France, the following message from their king and emperor was delivered to the men by the Prince of Wales: "More than a year ago I summoned you from India to fight for the safety of my empire and the honor of my pledged word on the battlefields of Belgium and France. The confidence which I then expressed in your sense of duty, your courage and your chivalry you since have nobly justified. "I now require your services in another field of action, but before you leave France I send my dear gallant son, the Prince of Wales, who has shared with my armies the dangers and hardships of the campaign, to thank you in my name for your services; and to express to you my satisfaction. "British Indian comrades-in-arms, yours has been fellowship in trials, hardships, courage and endurance, often against great odds, in deeds nobly done in days of ever-memorable conflict. In the warfare waged under new conditions, and in peculiarly trying circumstances, you have worthily upheld the honor of the empire, and the great traditions of my army in India. "I have followed your fortunes with the deepest interest, and watched your gallant actions with pride and satisfaction, and I mourn with you the loss of many gallant officers and men. Let it be your consolation, as their pride, that they freely gave their lives in a just cause for the honor of the sovereign and the safety of my empire. They died gallant soldiers and I shall ever hold their sacrifice in grateful remembrance. "You leave France with my best wishes for your success, and with my assured confidence that your proved valor and experience will contribute to further victories in the new fields of action to which you go. "I pray God to bless and guard you and bring you back safely, when final victory is won, each to his own home, there to be welcomed with honor among his own people."

### FORTIFYING LINES IN MACEDONIA

London, Dec. 28.—A despatch to the Times from Saloniki says: "The Bulgarians have withdrawn four miles from the Greek frontier, between Gievigli and Doiran, and are busy fortifying a strong line of natural positions. On our side the work of fortification is being facilitated by the fine weather, and energetically advanced."

### Enemy Mine Does No Damage

London, Dec. 27.—A British official statement issued tonight reads: "The enemy this morning sprung a mine opposite our line southeast of Hohensollern redoubt. We have consolidated the edge of the crater. "Our artillery bombarded the hostile trenches south of the Lille-Armentieres railway with good effect. The enemy replied vigorously, but caused little damage. "Elsewhere there is normal artillery activity only to report."

### French Artillery Gives Good Results

Paris, Dec. 27.—The following official communication was issued by the war office tonight: "In Belgium a fire, carried out against the enemy positions between the great dune and the sea, gave good results. Parapets were destroyed in several places, and a blockhouse on the first German line was blown up. "In Artois last evening we exploded a mine to the northwest of Hill 140. The enemy was prevented by us from occupying the crater. "Between the Somme and the Oise our artillery dispersed an enemy detachment to the northeast of Hill 140. Batteries damaged a German fortified work to the north of Moussy. "In Champagne, near Hill 198, after a bombardment, the enemy directed against our lines an attack which was easily repulsed. "In the Vosges, to the north of the Linge, our artillery succeeded in destroying a battery casemate, and machine gun shelters. We likewise successfully bombarded enemy trenches at Schratmannele. "The Belgian official communication reads: "A violent artillery action has occurred along the whole front. We effectively shelled various German batteries in the outskirts of Schoor and Women. The enemy infantry, who had collected in the trenches, were dispersed by our fire near Women and the Ferryman's House. "Army of the East: The situation on our front is without change. "Extritionary corps of the Dardanelles: Outside of the usual cannonading there was no event of importance in the course of the last twenty-four hours to report."

## W. J. BRYAN NOT TO GO TO EUROPE AS HENRY FORD RETURNS

New York, Dec. 27.—Reports that William Jennings Bryan had contemplated joining Henry Ford in Europe were confirmed today; but because Mr. Ford himself is returning to this country, Mr. Bryan will not go to Europe. It was learned here today that he had booked passage for himself and Mrs. Bryan on the steamer Rotterdam sailing tomorrow. But today he telegraphed that because of Mr. Ford's return he (Bryan) had indefinitely postponed his trip to Europe.

### Another Pilgrim III

London, Dec. 27.—The Copenhagen correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company reports that Governor L. B. Hanna, of North Dakota, has arrived at Copenhagen, severely ill of influenza and has gone to a hospital. "William J. Bryan has cabled that he will meet the Ford party at The Hague," the correspondent adds. "Mr. Ford is reported to have told friends he expects to build a peace palace at Copenhagen."

## BRITISH CABINET EVIDENTLY SPLIT OVER COMPULSION

### Fear General Election or Change in Leadership At Present Crisis

### TWO HOURS' MEETING WITHOUT DECISION

### Press Divided, As Is Cabinet, Over Application "In Strictest Sense" of Lord Derby's Scheme to Call on Unmarried Men.

London, Dec. 28.—That the proceedings of the British cabinet have not been going smoothly is seen in the fact that after a two hours' sitting yesterday (Monday) the council was obliged to adjourn until today, no decision having been reached, an issue discussed having revealed grave differences of opinion. The Times' parliamentary correspondent asserts that the position is undeniably delicate, and may become critical today, unless handled with firmness and decision. The Daily Mail asserts that Andrew Bonar Law, secretary for the colonies, and Lord Kitchener, the war minister, have not yet made their position clear, while A. A. Balfour, secretary of the admiralty, resolutely opposes compulsion, in which he is supported by a majority of the cabinet. The Morning Post, equally with the Times and the Daily Mail—all conscientious papers—sees the possibility of several cabinet resignations, or the other alternative, a general election. The Morning Telegraph and the Chronicle, anti-compulsion organs, are also apprehensive of a crisis of a general election. The Chronicle editorially protests against "infringers and wire pullers who contemplate the desperate and mad expedient of a general election—a gambler's plunge, which might entail disastrous consequences," and points out how by merely withholding its assent to the Parliament and Registration bills, the house of lords can make elections unavoidable next month since, in the absence of the Parliament bill, which prohibits its life for eight months, the present parliament would expire by the expiration of time at the end of January. No Paraffin With Lincoln. Concerning the people who make a comparison with America during the civil war, the Chronicle argues that Lincoln's action is not a precedent, because conditions were different. Lincoln was distracted by wholesale desertion, while recruiting was stimulated by extravagant bounties. The Chronicle adds: "Our voluntary army in one year exceeded in number all the men recruited by the federal government in the four years of the war, and that without drafts to force them or bounties to bribe them."

The Times asserts that the cabinet differences on the question of unattested single men point to the existence of fundamental divergencies regarding the method of prosecuting the war. "There are certain elements," says the Times, "which cannot work together indefinitely, and the cabinet seems to have reached the point when it must make a vital decision between one set of opinions and another."

London, Dec. 28.—Winston Spencer Churchill returned to France yesterday to rejoin his regiment. Russian Upper House More Liberal. London, Dec. 28.—The morning newspapers today print batches of belated Petrograd despatches, the telegraph service having been suspended since the beginning of December except for official communications and brief agency despatches; as a result some thousands of despatches had accumulated in Petrograd. According to the Times correspondent there have been no special military developments, but much interest has been shown in domestic politics. Dissatisfaction has been evinced over the further postponement of the meeting of the Duma, the postponement ostensibly being due to delays in the budget estimates. There also has been much dissatisfaction over the reactionary proceedings of so-called monarchist congresses held in Petrograd and Nizhni-Novgorod. On the other hand the correspondent says, in the upper house may be traced a perceptible movement in the direction of the more liberal parties.

## MAIN DESTROYED 100,000 DAMAGE

### Whole Block from Market Firemen Given Hard Fight Engines—Adjoining Buildings—100,000 Insurance Carried

roared above the rooftops the spears stood aglance. At this stage the fire assumed its threatening aspect. The wind was blowing toward the east and the flames being rolled over the T. McAvity's property. Fire brands were being blown up King street, there were many who feared that a fire was inevitable.

McAvity's, in L. L. Sharpe & Son's, in other stores further up the street, after salvage men were busy. In the jewelry store valuables were rescued, after as much as possible had been crammed into the vault.

McAvity's Narrow Escape. McAvity & Sons Ltd., had a very poor escape. The flames licked the side of the building. The window cases were burned and merchandise stored on the top floor was being blistered and blown by the heat. It was a problem to throw fire from entering the building. Asbestos mats were suggested and applied a volunteer corps of clerks and clerks set to the task. Fully half a ton of asbestos was carried to the threatened floor. The sheets were tacked up in face of the fire. The roof could be cut outside but by grim determination fighters went out. The asbestos kept the flames, and then the big streams of water were brought in as reinforcement.

later, however, poured through the Avity building, probably inflicting damage to the extent of \$8,000. Some loss was sustained also by the bank, but members of the firm saved themselves last night as feeling that the flames had been headed off in time. They also said that the department would be open for business as usual this morning, and that delay in the wholesale department did not hamper their Christmas trade. The building of the Western Union group at the corner and that occupied by Cowie & Edwards were in danger. The latter building was watered time and time again, but even the bricks were white with the water.

The Western Union, it is said the were on the point of cutting the wires. Their entire system was threatened. Had the wind been blowing in the other direction, one in the employ of the company said last night, the entire graph system would have been paralyzed. As it was, one of the streams wild for a brief period and water dripped into the cellar where the storage crates were piled up. The water in the cellar was flooded but fortunately batteries remained intact.

The N. B. Telephone Co. headquarters shipman did not suffer from the fire but it is believed that the building was damaged by the cutting of wires which was quite necessary. It is believed probably that several of the King street stores have suffered in this respect.

and Insurance. Mr. Harrison, in conversation with the Telegraph, estimated the loss roughly at \$150,000, adding that the insurance probably amount to \$800,000. At the hour it was announced that the building in Market square had actually collapsed and great damage throughout the block was effected by water and smoke.

On the insurance on the W. H. Thorne building, \$6,000 in the Acadia and \$2,500 in the London Mutual was held by J. M. Pen. White & Gallop, the fire under Atlas \$4,000 and the New York Underwriters \$8,000. Jarvis & Whittaker in all \$11,000, shared with the following companies, Queen, \$800; pictures furniture and other goods, \$7,000; British Crown Stock Company, \$2,500; stock. E. H. Fairweather had \$5,000 on the new King street building, and \$100 on the smaller building containing paint department, neither of which seriously damaged. The Sun carried \$100.

Officers On The Job. The 69th Battalion rendered valuable assistance. The second alarm called by one of the regiment. At second call a "fall in" was sounded a bugler at the army and the men of the battalion promptly responded. They were marched to the fire under command of Lieutenant Hart and they did indispensable work, mainly in keeping the crowds back from the scene. The most of the men were from the company, but all the companies were represented.

Among the soldiers was one who had served several years in the Montreal department and he rendered good service, particularly in lifting up his men good advantage. Lieutenant-Colonel Aereau, commander of the battalion, Major Halle, second in command, were also on the scene.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The steamer Solveig, owned by the American Transatlantic Company, has been condemned by the French prize court. The owners will appeal.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The steamer Solveig, owned by the American Transatlantic Company, has been condemned by the French prize court. The owners will appeal.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The steamer Solveig, owned by the American Transatlantic Company, has been condemned by the French prize court. The owners will appeal.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The steamer Solveig, owned by the American Transatlantic Company, has been condemned by the French prize court. The owners will appeal.

Washington, Dec. 27.—The steamer Solveig, owned by the American Transatlantic Company, has been condemned by the French prize court. The owners will appeal.