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Enemy Massing In Asiago Section

Further Signs of Resumption of Offensive on Italian Front — Only Big Gun Work on British Line — French Bag Eight German Airplanes

Italian Army Headquarters in Northern Italy, Tuesday, Dec. 4—(By the Associated Press)—Great forces of men and guns have been massed by the Austrians and Germans in the Asiago section, according to reports reaching here tonight, and resumption of the offensive is expected. The reports indicate that the enemy is employing ten divisions of troops.

Berlin, Dec. 5, via London—That Austro-German forces captured some hill positions in the Sette Comuni, on the mountainous front in northern Italy, the German war office announced today. The statement reads:—

"Troops of Field Marshal Conrad Von Hotzendorf have taken from the Italians some of the hill positions in the Sette Comuni."

With the Airmen.

London, Dec. 5—The text of the official communication dealing with aviation issued last night follows:

"Villages in the occupation of the enemy on the Cambrai battlefront were attacked with bombs and by machine gun fire from the air. Our airplanes cooperated with the infantry in local fighting east of Ypres.

"During the night 291 bombs were dropped on villages west of Cambrai. Some of the pilots made three consecutive trips.

"In air fighting two hostile machines were driven down out of control. Two of our machines are missing."

French Report.

Paris, Dec. 5—Eight German airplanes were brought down on Monday by French aviators. Active artillery fighting is in progress on the Verdun front east of the Meuse. The statement follows:

"Enemy raids in the sector of Craonne and north of Sapigneul were without result. We penetrated a German trench east of Rheims and brought back prisoners. The artillery was engaged in rather spirited actions on the right bank of the Meuse. Elsewhere the night was calm.

"Enemy aviators last night bombarded the region north of Nancy. Three persons were wounded. On Monday two German airplanes were brought down by our pilots and six others were compelled to land within the enemy lines."

Only Big Guns on West.

London, Dec. 5—"In addition to the customary artillery activity on both sides on the battle fronts," says today's war office announcement, "there is nothing of particular interest to report."

ANOTHER BIG OFFENSIVE IS FORESHADOWED

Bombardment Indicates New Enemy Drive on Italian Front

WORKING FROM THE NORTH

Cannonading of Extensive Volume —Young Canadian and American Aviators Among Forces Sent by Allies to Aid of Italians

With the French Armies in Italy, Dec. 4—(By the Associated Press)—Among the troops and units that have arrived in Italy with the British and French armies is a large group of aviators, who are impatiently waiting to get into action. The British have sent a large contingent of fliers, half of whom are young Canadians and Americans, who have been doing scout work in Flanders and Northern France.

The squadron expects to be given work at the front soon. The Canadians and Americans nightly entertain their comrades and crowds of curious Italians by holding song festivals at their hotel.

One effect of the arrival of the French and British in Italy has been the rapid drop back to normal of Franco-Italian exchange, which went up when the Austro-German offensive was in the full flush of its success. At that time 100 francs bought 160 Italian lire, but with the arrival of the troops the same number of francs now buy 138 lire, and exchange daily is approaching par.

An exceptionally heavy artillery bombardment from the enemy positions around Asiago last night and through the early hours today appears to foreshadow the long expected resumption of the heavy enemy offensive from the north. The cannonade was of extreme violence, the enemy using heavy as well as middle calibre guns.

The first violent eruption began early last night. There was a lull toward midnight and then it was resumed with added intensity at 3 o'clock this morning, lasting until 9. Heavy shells were rained on the whole range of Italian positions, and were concentrated particularly on the locations supposed to shield Italian batteries. The violence of the artillery action left little doubt that it was a prelude to infantry advances in force, whereby Field Marshal Von Hoetzendorf, who is directing the Austrian forces in this sector, hopes to realize his project of pressing down the Astico Valley leading to Vicenza and the open plain.

The latest reports show that the intense bombardment continues. The indications are that this is something more than a demonstration or feint, and signals a new and strong offensive.

TWO THOUSAND POLICE THREATEN TO RESIGN IF PAY NOT RAISED

Philadelphia, Dec. 5—About 2,000 police, members of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, voted yesterday to resign in a body on Dec. 31 unless the city council increases the salaries of the men to $1,400 a year. The membership of the association represents about two-thirds of the police force of the city. The men declare they have other grievances but the wage question is the principal one.

ACTED WITHOUT ORDERS

Washington, Dec. 5—It was officially declared today at the state department that both Lieutenant Colonel Judson, head of the American military mission in Russia, and Major M. C. Kerth, temporary military attache at the American embassy, acted without instructions from the United States government in presenting communications to the Bolsheviki government on the attitude of the United States in the effort to effect separate peace, and armistice with Germany.

SAYS FOOD IS NOT DEARER HERE THAN IN OTHER PLACES

Ottawa, Dec. 4—Why are Canadian bacon, and bread made from Canadian wheat, cheaper in Great Britain than in Canada? was a question that was answered by Hon. W. J. Hanna, food controller, in an address delivered before a meeting of the Maycourt Club, a social and charitable organization here, at the Chateau Laurier tonight.

"Bacon is not cheaper in Great Britain," declared the food controller. "Bacon costs more in England than in Canada, by the amount of the cost of transportation from this country to Great Britain."

Mr. Hanna quoted average prices of the chief commodities in Canada, Great Britain and the United States to show that the assertion that food costs consumers more in Canada is absolutely wrong.

WALL STREET NOTES

(J. M. Robinson & Sons' Private Wire Telegram)

Food Administrator Hoover curbs trading in provisions on the Chicago Board of Trade. Contracts limited to six months.

Berlin announces that all Central Power allies have joined in Russian truce parley.

Int'l. Harv. of N. J. declared regular quarterly dividend of 1 1-4 and an extra of two a share on the common. Reg. dividend pay Jan.; 15 record, Dec. 24; extra payable Dec. 22; record, Dec. 14.

May Reinstate Ouimet.

New York, Dec. 5—Golfing circles are interested in a report that the United States Golf Association may reinstate Francis Ouimet, the former champion, to full amateur standing on patriotic grounds. Ouimet is now serving with the colors.

The mother who votes against union government votes to make it harder for her son in the trenches, for that is what delay in sending reinforcements really means. The Laurier policy is a policy of delay.

ANOTHER OUTRAGE UPON ARMENIANS BY TURKS

Washington, Dec. 4—Socialist organizations of the Central Powers have been called upon by the International Socialist Bureau to intervene in behalf of the few remaining Armenian women and children the Turks have left in the Monia-Alep district. A Stockholm despatch today said the bureau has learned it is the intention of the Turkish government to deport these people into the deserts of Mesopotamia. The bureau declares that this is equivalent to the condemnation to death of hundreds of women and children.

POLITICAL MATTERS

Statement Is Made By Sir Lomer Gouin

Mackenzie King Sends Protest To Minister of Militia—Declaration by Hon. G. P. Graham—Liberals Say Unfair Tactics Used and Arrests May Follow

Quebec, Dec. 5—Speaking at a Liberal meeting last evening, Sir Lomer Gouin said:

"I have been charged with sedition because I said there was no power on earth capable of imposing upon the Canadian people the law of conscription without the people's consent. I have said that because I had in mind a maxim which is the unalterable and essential foundation of the British liberties, a maxim, according to which no one can force upon the people a levy of blood or of its money against its will.

"What I said, what I say, I will say it in the metropolis, I would say it in Toronto, in Winnipeg, everywhere. And the Canadian people, from Vancouver to Halifax, will say it by a mammoth majority on December 17 next."

MacKenzie King Protests.

Toronto, Dec. 5—Alleging that "a body of men wearing the king's uniform, who came from outside the riding," interrupted speakers last night at a political meeting in Newmarket, North York, in which he is the Laurier-Liberal candidate, Hon. W. L. MacKenzie King, has written a letter of protest to Major-General Mewburn, minister of militia and defence.

Hon. G. P. Graham.

Toronto, Dec. 5—Hon. G. P. Graham addressed a large gathering of Laurier supporters in St. Paul's Hall here last night in the interests of A. J. Young, independent Liberal candidate in North Toronto and bearer of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's designation.

Mr. Graham took up the question of the military service act and declared that it was introduced with the object of treating Quebec kindly in the matter of taking her men.

"I voted for the military service act," he said, "and my vote counted as much as Sir George Foster. Mr. Young's vote will count as much for it in the next parliament. The votes of the members and not the will of any one man or clique of men count in parliament.

"The military service act could not be repealed, or stopped or even delayed, except by act of parliament," he went on. "When you are told that a man cannot be a follower of Laurier and support the military service act, that statement is made through ignorance. When you ask me how can men support Laurier and the military service act, I am the answer."

Talk of Arrests.

London, Ont., Dec. 5—It was said last night that arrests will be made in East Middlesex and North Perth as a result of the failure of the enumerators to return the lists as required by law to the Liberal candidates. Liberal workers are furious over what they allege is a deliberate hold-up, and say that with only four days in which names can be checked little can be done. They say that many names have been left out. Other irregularities also are being charged, and the matter will be taken to the courts.

MAN POWER ONE OF THE BIG QUESTIONS BEFORE CONFERENCE

London, Dec. 5—Consideration of the question of man power for the prosecution of the war was one of the important matters taken up by the inter-allied conference in Paris. This became known today, when the official summary of the results of the conference was made public.

In the permanent committee which will handle this problem the United States will be represented, it having been decided by the conference that the United States should appoint delegates to participate in the deliberations of the committee.

WALL STREET NOON REPORT.

New York, Dec. 5—Prices moved in the customary erratic manner during the first hour, strong stocks reacting, while a few backward issues hardened. The market continued under the influence of the president's message, however, general unsettlement developing later. All gains were lost and leaders touched levels variably under yesterday's quotations. United States Steel fell two points to 87, and other industrials were equally heavy. Rails lost one to three points, with specialties.

MR. HANNA TO THE BAKERS

Ottawa, Dec. 5—Hon. W. J. Hanna, food controller, has sent a message to the bakers' convention in Toronto, urging the necessity of considering by what means the consumption of wheat in this country might be reduced. He points out that the United States today has not a bushel of wheat available for export, if allowance be made for domestic requirements on the basis of normal consumption; that Canada's exportable supply of wheat does not exceed 110,000,000, while the Allies will require from North America, the Argentine Republic and Australia at least 450,000,000.

Police Chiefs and War

Washington, Dec. 5—Secretaries McAdoo and Baker, of the treasury and war departments respectively, addressed the police chiefs of more than 165 cities assembled here today for the twenty-fourth annual convention of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and told them how they might do their part in helping to win the war.

WE EXPECT HIS TAIL TO WIGGLE.

—Columbus Despatch.

War Declaration in House At Washington Today

Washington, Dec. 5—The resolution for war against Austria-Hungary was introduced today in the house of representatives by Chairman Flood of the foreign affairs committee in the form and language approved by President Wilson.

It provides a declaration that because of Austria-Hungary's warlike act against the United States in support of her ally, Germany, a state of war exists at and after noon today. It also pledges the full resources of the United States to bring the war to a successful conclusion.

The official text of the war resolution follows:—

"Whereas, the imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian government has shown its hostility to the government and the people of the United States, by severing diplomatic relations, and has formally adhered to the ruthless policy of submarine warfare adopted by its ally, the imperial German government, with which the United States is at war, and has given to its ally every support and aid on both land and sea in the prosecution of war against the government and people of the United States of America, therefore be it

"Resolved, by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of Amrica in congress assembled, that a state of war be, and is hereby declared to exist and to have existed since noon of the fifth day of December, 1917, between the United States of America and the imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian government, and that the president be and he is hereby authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States, and the resources of the government to carry on war against the imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian government, and to bring the conflict to a successful termination all the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the congress of the United States."

TAKING THE SOLDIER VOTE

Men In Line At Polling Booths In France Waiting Turn—Much Interest Manifested

(By W. A. Willison, Canadian Press Correspondent.)

With the Canadian Armies in Flanders, Dec. 5—For the moment the political interest almost overshadows everything else in the Canadian corps, though an exception is made for the desperate fighting that is going on in front of Cambrai. Queues of twelve and fourteen men were to be seen yesterday in front of some of the central polling booths for the greater part of the day, and in some instances the lines increased to scores when a particular unit or detachment marched up to vote. Five thousand men in one division have already cast ballots.

Pre-election developments in Canada are being closely followed, though there is a striking dearth of Canadian newspapers to give intimate detailed news of the views of the candidates and the feeling of the constituencies. What is published in the papers concerning the general political news of Canada causes widespread interest.

While the army is voting it is subscribing with splendid spirit to the Victory war loan. Investments in these war securities are already reported. Owing to the system which makes subscriptions payable to the chief paymaster in London it is impossible to estimate how much has been subscribed to date, but the men who have fought so nobly for Canada are now giving largely of their army pay to help further in the great struggle for victory.

One instance is recorded of $500 being collected from four men in five minutes, while in another case two officers and seven men of a Canadian unit of the outside corps area subscribed $2,000.

Incidentally Drummondville must abandon its claim to possessing the youngest bondholder. An optimistic army father bought a bond for his son two hours before the child's birth.

Phelix and Pherdinand

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meterological service

Synopsis—Pressure is high over the greater portion of the continent and decidedly cold weather prevails in the western provinces. Some light local snowfalls have occurred in Ontario and Quebec.

Lower Lakes and Georgian Bay—Moderate to fresh northwest winds, mostly cloudy with local snow flurries and becoming much colder; Thursday, moderate winds, fair and quite cold.

Ottawa Valley and Upper and Lower Lawrence—Easterly winds, local snow flurries, becoming much colder; Thursday, northwest winds, fair and quite cold.

Gulf and North Shore—Cloudy and cold, local snow tonight; Thursday, fresh westerly winds, fair and becoming colder.

Cloudy and Colder.

Maritime—Moderate winds, cloudy with light local snowfalls; Thursday, fresh to strong west and northwest winds, cloudy and becoming colder.

Lake Superior—Moderate to fresh northwest winds, fair and decidedly cold tonight and on Thursday.

Manitoba—Fair and decidedly cold today and on Thursday.

Saskatchewan and Alberta—Fair and cold.

New England—Generally fair and continued cold tonight and Thursday, general northwest winds.

PRESS COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

New York, Dec. 5—The newspapers throughout the United States unstintedly praise President Wilson's reiteration of America's war policy, and endorse unequivocally his request for a declaration of war against Austria-Hungary.

In London.

London, Dec. 5—President Wilson's message to congress has the fullest possible prominence in the morning newspapers, but it reached London too late for much comment. The Daily News receives warmly the president's declaration that peace should be based on generosity and justice to the exclusion of selfish claims.

The Times says there are no half tones in the president's message.

None of the editorials dwell especially on the request for a declaration of war against Austria-Hungary, but brief references imply that it is regarded as logical and desirable.

DENIAL FROM VATICAN

Rome, Tuesday, Dec. 4—Cardinal Gasparri, papal secretary of state, today denied that Pope Benedict had addressed a communication to President Wilson, to Secretary of State Lansing or to any government setting forth that there were extenuating circumstances regarding the last Vatican peace note.

The Holy See, however, is much occupied by the Russian situation, the cardinal said, and expects to make a statement relative to the recent publication of the Russian diplomatic documents when the correct text had been secured.

Cardinal Gasparri said the Vatican also was watching anxiously the changes in the government of Russia. The elimination of the imperial party had left the Holy See free to communicate direct with Russian Roman Catholics. Heretofore documents intended for a bishop had to go through the hands of the officials of Russia's legation to the Vatican.

The possibility of Orthodox Catholics in Russia finally recognizing the Roman Pope instead of the former Russian emperor as head of the church is being considered in Vatican circles.

SAYS RUSSIA, WITH NEW ARMIES, WILL BE WITH US IN SPRING

London Paper's Correspondent in Petrograd Declares Nation Will Right Itself if Allowed Latitude by "Puzzled Allies"

London, Dec. 5—The situation in Russia is unique in history, according to the Petrograd correspondent of the Morning Post, writing on Saturday, but it is not yet advisable to attempt to raise the curtain upon "the mysteries of the tragic-comic drama."

The correspondent insists that "Russia will right herself if generously allowed the necessary latitude by the puzzled Allies, and next spring it will put new armies in the field to fight the invader with the success that marked the Russian efforts earlier in the war."

In the meantime, he adds, "the situation is extremely curious. Some force which is above or beyond all the contending parties is putting the spokes into the wheels of all of them."

The correspondent instances the various interferences with the administration, without, however, elucidating his suggestions.

Russia and China.

Petrograd, Saturday, Dec. 1—A secret telegram, purporting to have been sent by the Russian foreign minister to the diplomatic representatives in Paris, London, and Tokio, in August, 1917, and relative to negotiations for China's entry into the war is made public by the Bolsheviki foreign minister. It refers to the suggestion that the Allies facilitate such a step by offering the postponement of the payment of Boxer indemnities during the war, and for five years longer, without prejudice. Russia declared herself agreeable, but it is recited that the agreement was not completed.

"Lately," the telegram continues, "the question of postponement has again arisen. We consider that owing to the fundamental change in the circumstances that we are not bound by our former statement. Nevertheless, wishing to do a friendly service and taking into account the proportionate percentage and so forth, we agree to give up ten per cent of our 28 per cent if the powers decide to compensate China on the conditions proposd by Japan".

London, Dec. 5—The military revolutionary committee in Petrograd, according to a Reuter despatch from the Russian capital, has ordered the internment at Kronstadt of all those who signed the manifesto issued on Sunday in the name of the provisional government. The signers, however, all have left Petrograd and their whereabouts have not been discovered.

London, Dec. 5—General Korniloff, former commander-in-chief, who escaped from the Bolsheviki at Mohilev, according to a Petrograd despatch to the Daily Mail, was accompanied by 400 Caucasian troops. He was at Orsha, north of Mohilev, on Monday.

THE FARMER'S SONS AND THE M. S. ACT

Toronto, Dec. 5—Pursuant to the recent declaration of Hon. S. C. Mewburn, minister of militia, that he would procure the discharge of any person who had applied for exemption on the grounds that he was bonafide engaged in agriculture where claims had been in his opinion improperly allowed, the minister has appointed W. R. P. Parker of Toronto as his representative to investigate all claims of this kind in conjunction with the representative of the minister of agriculture.

DANGER OF TIE-UP ON OUR RAILWAYS IS NOT YET PAST

Montreal, Dec. 5—The danger of a tie-up on the Canadian railways this winter, and of freight congestion and fuel shortage such as was experienced in parts of Canada last winter, is by no means past yet, according to W. M. Neal, general secretary of the Canadian railways war board, though the fuel famines and other features of traffic congestion last winter are not likely to be experienced this winter. Much depends, however, on weather conditions and the labor supply, Mr. Neal says.

PAY HONOR TO SOLDIER

Last evening members of the Knights of the Round Table and King's Guards of Portland Methodist church assembled in their hall in Portland street to bid farewell to Gunner Allan Kirk, of No. 9 Siege Battery, who is expected to leave the city in the near future. They proceeded in a body to the Imperial Theatre, where seats had been reserved for them, and after the performance returned to their rooms, where luncheon was served. After full justice had been done to the good things, Frank W. Merrill, president of the Knights, proposed a toast to the guest of honor. The latter responded and both classes gave him three rousing cheers. He has been a member of the Knights of the Round Table and the Senior Epworth League for some years and always took an active interest in these organizations.

Gunner Kirk makes the fifteenth member of the Knights to join the Canadian forces. He has two brothers, who were also members, now fighting in France. Of the fifteen who have enlisted from the Knights two have made the supreme sacrifice. During the evening an impromptu programme was carried out

HEARTILY FOR UNION TO WIN IN DOMINION

London Times and Pall Mall Gazette See Issue Much Broader Than Mere Canadian Question

London, Dec. 4—The Times declares that the most rigid regard for dominion constitutional rights cannot argue that the present election is only a Canadian question. "Let the soldiers and nurses consider the effect in Germany if Borden is defeated. It is said the opposition are trying to seduce them by promises if Laurier wins or staying on the firing line if he doesn't. Promises of that kind, if they are being made, are more an insult than seduction, and in any case it is most doubtful if they could be kept."

The Pall Mall Gazette says, editorially, that nobody can say that public opinion in Great Britain is prone to officious interference in affairs of the dominions, but the Canadian election has raised issues as wide as the empire itself. Canada is now faced with the same situation that compelled assent to conscription in Britain. We do not entertain any doubt what the popular decision will be in the dominion which has, from the first hour of the hostilities, realized the significance of a German victory to itself, to the empire and to humanity."

WILL MEAN ARREST OF MANY AUSTRIANS IN UNITED STATES

War Declaration Will Put Nearly Million Under Restriction

Washington, Dec. 4—Scores of Austro-Hungarian subjects suspected of being enemy agents in this country will be arrested within a few hours after declaration of war against Austria. Many of these men have been under surveillance for months, but have not been taken into custody because of lack of definite evidence against them.

Nearly a million Austrian subjects in the United States will be affected by a declaration of war, for they would immediately become amenable to the president's order requiring enemy aliens to register with public authorities, forbidding them to travel without special permit, and barring them from water-fronts, ware houses and terminals.

Department of justice officials were pleased today over the president's recommendation for legislation to extend enemy alien restrictions to women, some of whom are suspected of being clever aids to the German espionage system, and to authorize more drastic punishment for active alien enemies, such as penitentiary imprisonment and hard labor.

SUGGESTS LESS ATTENTION TO FRUIT; MORE TO THE ACTUAL NECESSITIES OF LIFE

Montreal, Dec. 5—At the annual meeting of the Pomological and Fruit Growers' Society of the province of Quebec at MacDonald College, yesterday, the president, Prof. W. Lochhead of MacDonald College, urged that, in the present great scarcity of food throughout the world, especially in wheat products and fats, the fruit growers should give attention to the production of the necessities of life, such as pork, hogs, and perhaps less attention

In reply, Prof. F. C. Sheppherst, Mass., said fruit growers should not abandon fruit production at this time, as fruits of all kinds from a health point of view are being of great use as

What a shame the rest of us if men in khaki Canada by their deeds.