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WEATHER—FAIR

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## WILSON STILL HOPES TO SHORTEN THE WAR; ITALIAN BATTLESHIP SUNK BY A HUN MINE; ENEMY AGENTS DESTROY MUNITION PLANT?

### BRITISH PROGRESS IN WEST; FRENCH TAKE HUN TRENCHES; ITALIAN BATTLESHIP LOST

Germans Continue to Advance in Roumania and Capture Town of Laburtea — Fighting near Riga Subsides.

Attempt of Teutons to Use Poison Gas Hope on Russian Lines Fails—Enemy Repulsed in Vicinity of Kalnzema —British Add to Toll of Prisoners.

While Berlin asserts that infantry engagements are in progress north of the River Ancre, in France, the British official communication dismisses the situation in that area by merely reporting the capture of an additional small number of prisoners, apparently as the result of a patrol raid. Berlin credits the British with two attacks in this sector, and adds that the fighting there continues.

The British have been successful in raids north of Arras, and the French have captured prisoners in a sortie in the Vosges.

In the Oltuz Valley, in Moldavia, the Austro-Germans continue to advance against the Russians and Roumanians, while in the Suchitza Valley they repulsed attacks by the Russians. Roumanian troops attacked the Austro-Germans in the Kassina Valley and drove them back more than a mile, Petrograd states.

The forces of Field Marshal Von Mackensen, while apparently inactive around Fokshani, are reported to be progressing between Braila and Galatz. The Russians have been pushed back further towards the Sereth, and the town of Laburtea has been taken.

Around Riga, on the northern end of the eastern front, the fighting apparently has died down to isolated attacks.

Neither Petrograd nor Berlin, in their latest communications, records any great activity in this region.

At sea the Entente Allies have suffered additional losses. The sinking of the battleship Regina Margherita, of 13,000 tons, on December 11, with the loss of 675 men, is announced officially in Rome. Two hundred and seventy of the crew escaped. A Turkish official report of January 11 says a British cruiser of the Juno type, measuring 5,600 tons, was sunk by Turkish gunfire during an attack on the island of Kastelorizo in the eastern Mediterranean. This report may refer to the British battleship Cornwallis, or the British seaplane carrier Ben My Chree, reported as lost by the British admiralty on Thursday.

#### 204 PRISONERS TAKEN AT ANCRE.

London, Jan. 12.—The British official communication issued tonight says:

During the past twenty-four hours twenty-eight additional prisoners have been taken north of the Ancre, making the total for the successful operations in that area, reported in yesterday's communication 204.

"We entered enemy trenches last night at two points north of Arras, and secured prisoners. Our casualties were slight.

"There has been considerable activity during the day at various points along our line between Rancourt and Hebuterne. We bombarded the enemy's trenches north of Ransart and north of Givenchy with good results."

#### FRENCH ENTER ENEMY TRENCHES.

Paris, Jan. 12.—The war office communication issued tonight says: "In the Vosges, following a concentrated fire by our artillery, a reconnoitering party penetrated German trenches, subdued the defenders and brought back prisoners. On the rest of the front the usual cannonading is reported."

The Belgian communication:

"Slight artillery activity is reported in the region of Steenstraete. Violent fighting by means of grenades has taken place near Hetasas."

#### HUNS SHELL HOSPITAL AT ANDRAMI.

Rome, Jan. 12, via London, 12 p. m.—(Admiralty, per Wireless Press).—The following official communication was issued today: "On the Trentino front there were only limited artillery actions. Enemy batteries shelled one of our field hospitals at Andrami, in the Upper Cordevole, although it was visibly marked with the Red Cross. There were no losses."

"There has been an increase in the artillery activity along the Julian front. Our batteries caused a fire to break out on the reverse slopes of Monte Falis (Carso), and also dispersed enemy troops moving along the roads of Ranziano, in the valley of Frigido, and at San Giovanni, northwest of Guineo."

"During Thursday night an enemy air squadron dropped a considerable number of bombs in the neighborhood of Aquileja (southwest of Monfalcone). Three men were wounded and some material damage was done. One enemy seaplane was brought down by our anti-aircraft batteries. The aviators were made prisoners. At the same time two of our airplanes bombarded the aviation ground at Prospecto, and the seaplane base in the harbor of Trieste. Escaping from the heavy fire of the enemy anti-aircraft batteries, they both returned safely."

Roumanians Gain at Kasino River.

Petrograd, Jan. 12, via London.—The Oltuz Valley, on the northern Roumanian front, the Russians have been pressed back further by the Teutonic forces, the war office announces. In the region near the Kasino river the Roumanians took the offensive and drove back their opponents more than one mile.

The announcement follows: "During our reconnoitering operations in the vicinity of the Putna Valley one of our airplanes met two enemy machines and engaged one of them, compelling it to descend."

"South of the River Oltuz the enemy attacked our detachments and pressed them back a short distance. The enemy attacked the Roumanians west of Mincestar-Kachinul, on the

### PRESIDENT WILSON MAY TRY AGAIN TO RECONCILE CONFLICTING OPINIONS OF ENTENTE AND TEUTON ENEMIES

#### Sir Thomas White Appeals For the Canadian War Loan

Ottawa, Jan. 12.—The following statement has been issued to the Canadian press by the Minister of Finance:

"I wish to call the attention of the press of Canada to the war savings certificates which are about to be issued by the Dominion government."

"The issuing of these certificates in small denominations will, it is expected, result in two distinct benefits: First, it will place at the disposal of the government a considerable sum of

money from small investors to assist in providing for Canada's war outlay, and, secondly, it will act as an incentive to thrift and greater individual saving, the benefit of which will be of permanent national advantage."

"I trust that in connection with the campaign the newspapers will support this issue, as they have supported all war activities, emphasizing in their columns the patriotic and personal duty of every citizen to do his share in providing the country with funds necessary to carry on the war."

Washington's Preliminary View is that Door is Not Yet Closed.

#### CABINET CONSIDERS

##### THE ALLIES' REPLY.

First Step Will Probably be to Send Entente Note to American Diplomats in Teutonic Countries.

Washington, Jan. 12.—The attitude of President Wilson toward the replies of the warring nations to his suggestion that an opportunity be given for comparing peace terms remained undetermined tonight. Preliminary discussion of the question was begun at today's cabinet meeting, and at conference between the president and Secretary of State Lansing and between the president and Colonel E. M. House, who spent the day at the White House.

Informally, officials expressed the opinion that the problem facing the president is how to reconcile the conflicting attitudes of the Central Powers and the Entente Allies on the question of comparing terms. The Central Powers, having offered to discuss peace at a conference of representatives of the belligerents, and the Entente Powers, though virtually declining to agree to a conference, having given their broad terms publicly by the text of the Entente reply had been handed to the foreign office for its information. So far, it is understood, the note has not been transmitted to American diplomats in the Teutonic countries, although it is generally assumed that this will be the first step actually taken by the United States. Secretary Lansing broke his silence on the subject today only to say definitely that no action had yet been taken.

It was generally agreed everywhere that the nature of the terms cannot be accepted and make an early peace unlikely. The preliminary view of the administration, however, still is that the door to discussion was not entirely closed.

Extreme reticence was observed to day at the White House and state department. It was said so many delicate points are involved that very careful study will be given to the problem before any decision is reached.

What the Temps Says.

Paris, Jan. 12.—"Our aims in the war thus defined," says the Temps in a leader of the Entente reply to President Wilson, "imply the liberation of Europe and of Germany herself from the Prussian yoke. When that shall have been accomplished we may talk of peace. Then indeed, and then only, will be possible the organization in Europe that the Socialist parties of all the Allied countries are not alone desiring, but which was not to be realized so long as in Central Europe there arose a power erected on the violation of national liberty and intent upon other annexations in the same way."

"The Entente governments have touched the key to the problem. It remains for them to solve it by arms, utilizing fully their resources and co-ordinating effective forces."

Convincing and Explicit.

Rome, Jan. 12.—Commenting on the answer of the Entente Allies to President Wilson, the Messaggero says it is most convincing, and that, although deferential to President Wil-

### HOSPITAL CARS MAKE FIRST TRIP

Have Just Carried a Group of Seriously Wounded Soldiers from Halifax to Toronto.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Jan. 12.—The first pair of hospital cars made in Canada have just had their first trip carrying from Halifax to Toronto a group of seriously disabled soldiers who arrived last week from overseas. A whole train of such cars, produced by the government railway department for the military hospitals commission, is now ready.

As the old year drew to a close, notice was posted up in the car shops at Moncton asking any men to give in their names who were willing to sacrifice both their Sunday rest and their New Year holiday in order to complete the train at the earliest possible moment. Every man in the shops volunteered.

Germans in considerable force attacked our troops situated east of the village of Kalnzema. The attack was repulsed by our fire and a counter-attack.

"South of the village of Zubitno, between Vladimir-Volynski and Lutsk (Volhynia) ten versts south of Kiseilin, the enemy directed from his trenches on to our flank a hose similar to a fire hose, after which we heard a pronounced hissing noise and the whistle of escaping gas. At first there appeared a yellowish green and afterwards a white cloud of gas which, however, failed to reach our trenches owing to the wind blowing along our front. This release of gas lasted two minutes and was not repeated."

The statement says there is nothing of importance to report from the Caucasus front.

Germans Admit Losses.

Berlin, Jan. 12, via Sayville.—The Turkish headquarters statement of January 11 regarding operations on the Tigris front reads:

"After 48 hours artillery preparation the British attacked our positions in the vicinity of Imam Muhammad, east of Kut-el-Amara. The enemy succeeded in obtaining a footing in some advanced trenches, but was everywhere ejected by a counter-attack."

"In the vicinity of Hamadan (Persian front), we carried out a successful surprise attack upon hostile outposts, captured a number of prisoners and two machine guns. The enemy lost about 100 men."

Berlin Report on Western Fighting.

Berlin, Jan. 12, via Sayville.—The fighting north of the Ancre river on the French front, which began this morning, is still in progress, says a war office statement tonight which reads:

"It is officially reported that engagements are in progress north of the Ancre."

### BATTLESHIP STRIKES MINE AND IS LOST

Regina Margherita Sinks and 675 Men are Lost—275 of Crew Saved.

Rome, via Paris, Jan. 12.—It is officially announced that the Italian battleship Regina Margherita struck a mine and sank, December 11. Six hundred and seventy-five men on board perished. Two hundred and seventy were saved.

The battleship Regina Margherita was laid down in 1898 and completed in May, 1904. She was a vessel of 13,427 tons, 429 feet long and had a draught of 27 feet. Her usual complement was 730 men. The battleship carried four 12-inch, four 8-inch, twelve 6-inch guns, twenty 12-pounders, two 1-pounders, two maxims and four torpedoes.

The Regina Margherita was a sister ship of the Benedetto Brin, which was badly damaged by an explosion on board in 1915 in which a large number of her crew, including Rear-Admiral De Cervin, was killed.

Berlin, Jan. 12, via Sayville.—The Anzieger of Basel reports from Rome that the Italian battleship Regina Margherita, says the semi-official Overseas News Agency.

"It is confirmed that she was sunk off Avlona, Albania, by a mine or a torpedo. Six hundred out of 830 sailors perished."

PARIS MAY  
BE FLOODED  
BY THE SEINE

Rains Have Raised Level of the Water and Navigation Has Been Suspended.

Paris, Jan. 12.—Navigation on the Seine has been suspended because of the rising water, which threatens to overflow the low lying suburbs.

Since the floods of 1910 the banks of the river in the central part of the city have been raised to protect the districts which then were flooded.

The weather has been unsettled and rainy in the region of the upper tributaries of the Seine.

BRITISH SCHOONER SUNK.

London, Jan. 12.—Lloyd's announces that the British steamer Excellent, 1,944 tons, is believed to have been sunk.

### EXPLOSION IN DUPONT PLANT KILLS AND INJURES WORKMEN AND DESTROYS MUCH POWDER

Entire Plant of Famous Powder Company Wrecked by Explosion of Unknown Origin—Hun Agents Busy Again?

Wrecked Establishment Covered Several Acres of Ground and was One of Largest in Uppitted States—Had Been Turning Out Munitions for Entente Allies.

New York, Jan. 12.—Four hundred thousand pounds of powder was destroyed by fire and explosion at the Haskell, N. J., plant of the Dupont Powder Company at 8.30 o'clock tonight. Officials of the company declared, after checking up the members of the night shift at the works that only two men were missing. Twelve others were cut by flying debris, but none of them were seriously hurt. No estimate of the loss was obtainable.

The explosions were of terrific force and were felt for many miles in all directions. The detonations were followed almost immediately by a fire which could be seen as far as Yonkers, and distant points in New Jersey. The Haskell plant covers several acres and is one of the company's largest.

The general manager of the Haskell plant, who was reached by telephone soon after the explosion, said the entire plant probably had been destroyed. In the plant and the village were several hundred buildings. The concussion blew a tremendous hole in the side of a mountain near which the plant was built.

New York, Jan. 12.—There were two distinct explosions, the force of which was terrific. Buildings were shaken and windows shattered far out on Long Island and up the Hudson river to Poughkeepsie.

Buildings in the plant and many in the village, which was built in a semi-circle around the works, were shattered by the force of the concussion. No estimate was available of the number of men at work when the disaster occurred, but as soon as the terror caused by the explosions had subsided somewhat the company's officials began rounding up their men to check up the casualties. It is feared that two lost their lives.

### TREPOFF'S FALL DUE TO HIS RADICALISM

LETTERS ADDRESSED TO BERLIN, ONT., WILL REACH KITCHENER

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Jan. 12.—The following formal notice appears in this week's Canadian Gazette: Notice is hereby given that the postmaster general has authorized the cancellation of the registration in regard to letters addressed to Berlin, Ont., published in the issue of the Canada Gazette of 23rd Dec. 1916.

The meaning is that under the regulation of December letters addressed to "Berlin" were going to the dead letter office, but this was occasioning much inconvenience to business men of Kitchener. Therefore the regular arrangement is reverted to and letters addressed to "Berlin" are being re-addressed to "Kitchener."

son, quite explicit. The newspaper adds that the Central Empires knew that a German peace would be declined, but they needed a refusal of their proposal to avoid disaster at home.

The Giornale D'Italia considers the answer a historic document which is destined to produce an enormous effect.

The call to the colors of more troops says the Popola Romano positively shows the decision reached in the recent Allied war council held here for a more vigorous prosecution of the war.

London, Jan. 12.—The Weekly Nation, discussing briefly the Entente reply to President Wilson, remarks that this is the first time that all the Entente Allies have formally committed themselves to the approval of a league for ensuring peace. It considers the expulsion of the Turks from Europe a drastic penalty, but "the people of the United States, who have taken a special and honorable interest in the wrongs of Armenia, will hardly think it excessive."

Referring to the address of Ambassador Gerard in Berlin the Nation thinks the incident has been much exaggerated, but that it is, "nevertheless, disquieting, because it suggests that in the ambassador's mind there is a chance that the present relatively moderate government of Germany may fall, and this figures as a real possibility."

DR. GEIKIE DEAD.

Toronto, Jan. 12.—The death occurred here this morning of Doctor Walter Hayne Geikie, in his 87th year. He was for twenty-five years dean of Victoria, and later of Trinity Medical College. Dr. Geikie was a brother of Sir Archibald Geikie, the famous geologist.