

CHRISTMAS UNMASKED BY HEAVY FIGHTING GREECE TURNED DOWN GERMAN PROPOSAL

BULGARS AND TURKS MUST NOT CROSS FRONTIER GREEK KING INFORMS THE KAISER

Germany Loses Out in Bargaining — What Greece Will Do Should Order Be Violated Next Interesting Development — Storm of Criticism of Government Breaks Loose in England.

London, Dec. 27.—King Constantine has telegraphed to Emperor William, saying that it would be impossible to allow Bulgarian or Turkish troops to cross the Greek frontier, says the Mail's correspondent at Athens, who had interviews with the Greek ministers.

M. Gounoris, Minister of the Interior, candidly confessed according to the correspondent that he did not know what would be done if the Bulgarians or Turks attempted to cross the frontier. Minister of Justice Rhalis, on the other hand, was just as emphatic in declaring that no Turk or Bulgarian would be permitted to set foot on Greek soil.

London, Dec. 27.—Speculation over the development of an attack on the Entente Allies at Saloniki continues. Some papers credit the Central Powers with a plan to bear down on Saloniki from three sides, the Germans forming the centre, with the Turks and Bulgarians on the left and right wings respectively.

From different correspondents come various reports on the situation in the Balkans, some contending that the Bulgarians have accomplished all the territorial gains within their immediate ambitions, and therefore will not move further. Other correspondents represent them as being determined to extend their boundaries to include the important port of Saloniki.

The Balkans. Germany is probably confronted with the problem of reconciling the conflicting ambitions of her two Balkan allies, Turkey and Bulgaria, and the trying to keep the friendship of Greece, whose support she is credited with still hoping to gain.

The latest reported Greek move is the prohibition of the export of food supplies from Greece to the Franco-British army at Saloniki. General Castelnau, chief of the French general staff, has visited King Constantine, the Greek army staff, and the ministers of the Allied countries.

King Peter, of Serbia, has arrived in Italy from Avlona, and will be the guest of King Victor Emmanuel. The king Peter will be entertained in the royal palace at Caserta.

Christmas passed without heavy fighting anywhere on the European fronts. It passed also without a trace, which gave a touch of humanity to Christmas Day a year ago. The United Kingdom, however, witnessed a general abandonment of the truce between the political parties, which was observed during the early months of the war, and which apparently was cemented for the duration of the war when the coalition government was formed.

The past week has seen a steady growth of the newspaper attacks on the government, the general burden of which is the lack of decision, and the mismanagement of the Dardanelles enterprise. While all newspapers disclaim any partisan motives, all the more prominent ones participating in the opposition, belong to the Conservative party, with the exception of the Manchester Guardian.

The newspapers hold Premier Asquith responsible for the conduct of the war. The Northcliffe group, headed by the Times and the Daily Mail, with the support of the Morning Post was joined today by the Observer, which is the foremost Sunday paper, and the Referee, which has a large audience among the masses.

David Lloyd George is the only candidate advanced for succession. He commanded Lord Northcliffe's support some time ago, in his speech charging the government with being "too late" at the most important crisis of the war, and at the same time urged for himself a larger following.

The two latest accounts of the cabinet are the post-Christmas Bill, and the postponement of giving the country any instructions. In the meantime the cabinet is reported to be in the midst of a struggle to relax the entry of 80,000 unskilled laborers is awaited with interest. One hundred and fifty delegates of the engineering society met in London this week to consider terms for settling all differences with the government.

Attempted Landing at Kavala Protested. Berlin, Dec. 26, via wireless to Bay-

MESSAGE OF UNWAVERING FAITH FROM MEN IN THE TRENCHES TO LOVED ONES

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—General Sir Sam Hughes has received the following despatch from Sir Max Aitken:

"From the Canadian in the trenches to the loved ones at home. The message from the Finnish trenches to the homes of Canada at this season of traditional peace and good will is a matter of deeds, rather than of words. Words are used 'tis true,—in private letters—words of encouragement, of love and of hope; but, however, inadequate are the fondest words of these Canadian soldiers to express such love and faith and sacrifice as their deeds disclose. Let Canadian that her sons here on the gased and pitted frontier of war have unshaken faith in the ultimate victory of right over wrong, of life over death.

By their cheerfulness in danger and discomfort, by their devotion to the perilous duties of grey days, and desolate fire-lit night, their loved ones in their beloved country across the sea may read their high confidence in their cause, in their leaders, in their brothers in arms and in the final success, from the front line trench, where the fire of the German machine gun snaps along the grey and sodden parapet. "Your men send you the message of good cheer, hearts undimmed by pain, peril and loneliness, yes, by death beyond, strengthen your hearts. From low digouts in fields scarred by shell fire, from narrow saps behind bullet torn hedges, from scattered farmsteads and uneasy rest camps goes out to you the message of boundless love and of unwavering faith. "Christmas Day, 1915."

On Italian Front. Rome, via London, Dec. 26.—The following official communication from general headquarters was issued today:

"Along the Tyrol-Trentino-Carnia front there has been an intense artillery engagement. The enemy again bombarded inhabited localities, causing some damage. They also rolled enormous boulders on the village of Lopplio, in the valley of the Adige, from overhanging cliffs, without causing serious damage. Our artillery shelled numerous columns of munition stores on the march.

"On the Isonzo front there is nothing to report."

With British on Western Front

London, Dec. 26.—The British statement from army headquarters in France tonight says:

"There has been some mining activity south of the La Bassée Canal where an enemy mine failed to do any damage to our trenches. North of the Somme our artillery was effective against the enemy's positions. East of Albert, and elsewhere along the front, nothing but intermittent minor artillery engagements have occurred."

German Report.

Berlin, via wireless to Bayville, Dec. 26.—The following official statement from general headquarters was issued today:

"On account of continuous rain, there was only slight activity displayed on the great part of the west front. The operations were more active north of Albert, at some points in Champlain and in the Vosges, north of Senneham. "In the eastern theatre German patrolling actions in the Dunauberg (Dvinsk) district were successful. Strong Russian reconnoitering detachments, northwest of Czartorysk and near Brestskany, southeast of Koki, were repulsed."

Enveloping Allies at Kut-EI-Amara, Turka Claim.

Constantinople, via London, Dec. 26.—The official statement from general headquarters issued today says:

THE GOAL DRAWS NEARER INTO SIGHT, HIS MAJESTY SAYS IN NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL TO THE STANDARD.

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—The following message from His Majesty the King to British subjects throughout the Empire, was received by H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught tonight:

"Another Christmas finds all the resources of the Empire still engaged in war, and I desire to convey on my own, and on behalf of the Queen, a heartfelt Christmas greeting and our good wishes for the New Year to all who on sea and land are upholding the honor of the British name. In the officers and men of my navy on whom the security of the Empire depends, I repose in common with all my subjects a trust that is absolute.

"On the officers and men of my armies whether now in France, in the east or in other fields, I rely with an equal faith, confident that their devotion, their valor and their self-sacrifice will, under God's Guidance, lead to victory and an honorable peace. There are many of their comrades now, alas, in hospital, and to these brave men, also, I desire with the Queen to express our deep gratitude and our earnest prayers for their recovery. Officers and men of the navy and of the army, another year is drawing to a close as it began in toil, bloodshed and suffering, but I rejoice to know that the goal to which you are striving draws nearer into sight. May God bless you and all your undertakings.

(Sgd.) "GEORGE, R. I."

MONTENEGRINS DEFEAT AUSTRIANS WITH HEAVY LOSSES ON THE SANJAK

Paris, Dec. 26.—A Montenegrin official statement received here late last night, says:—

"On Dec. 23 our Sanjaka army, in continuance of its offensive, attacked the enemy towards Loponatz. After a severe struggle the enemy was completely repulsed and driven back on Bjelopolje, leaving on the field five hundred dead. We took prisoner one hundred men, including a captain.

"On the other fronts there have been artillery duels and infantry combats."

ENEMY ENTRENCHING.

London, Dec. 26.—The Montenegrins official statement, issued yesterday, reads as follows:—

"There has been little change in the Montenegrin front since December 21. The Austrians are entrenching on the entire front in Sanjak. They have driven away the whole civilian population from the right bank of the Tara.

"The enemy attacked our positions near Berane, but were repulsed with heavy losses, leaving behind a large number of prisoners from the 19th Hungarian Battalion."

SAYS LLOYD GEORGE 500 IN MONTH ONLY MAN TO HEAD A NEW NATIONAL GOV'T

Observer declares he is one of the few who know Devil's Real Name is Inertia.

London, Dec. 26.—"The country is waiting and longing for a great fighting leader," says the Observer in an article denouncing Premier Asquith's leadership, and declaring that David Lloyd George is the "only possible head of a new national government."

"Week after week, month after month, on one question after another, upon great questions and little, whenever there is the least difficulty, there is procrastination," continues the Observer. "What are we thinking of to tolerate these things after seven months of war, when all hope of improvement has finally been quenched?"

"We can only urge Mr. Lloyd George to put his faith in the country, as Chatham did. Mr. Lloyd George is one of the few who know that the devil's real name is inertia. He spent Christmas on the Clyde, putting the nation's fork first; he did not adjourn his job over the holidays. We want decision and action, not irresolution, adjournment and words.

CANADA WILL NOT HAVE TO RESORT TO NEW TAXATION

Hon. Mr. White's Budget of last February will yield more than the \$150,000,000 aimed at and Special Taxes have been fully up to expectations — No changes in tariff likely.

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—It is now clear according to a statement made in official circles that new war taxation will not be necessary and that no tariff changes will be made by parliament which opens on January 12. The budget of February last will yield not only the \$150,000,000 aimed at by Hon. W. T. White, finance minister, but many millions additional.

The special taxation upon banks' trust and loan companies, upon railway and parlor car tickets and telegraph companies is quite up to expectations. The stamp tax upon cheques and drafts and the increased postal tax have given substantial returns.

The tariff increases of five and seven and a half per cent. have not only added greatly to the revenues of the Dominion, but have given an impetus to all Canadian industries.

If the revenue continues to mount until the end of the fiscal year, in March next, no changes for next year will be considered and Canada's income will enable her to pay a substantial part of her war expenditure. On account of the bounding revenue and decreased expenditure it has been possible for the finance department to pay Canada's war expenditure in the Dominion since July last and of make advances from time to time to the shell committee for imperial treasury account.

Between increased revenue and diminished expenditure the financial position of the Dominion on ordinary and capital account is at least \$25,000,000 more favorable than it was this time last year when the revenues were being cut in halves by dislocation of business resulting from the outbreak of war.

FIERCE STORM SWEEPS N. Y.

Nearly All Elements Join Forces in Wrecking Property and Causing Death.

New York, Dec. 26.—One of the wildest storms the east has seen in many years—rain, hail and snow, accompanied by thunder and lightning, and a gale that reached a maximum velocity of 90 miles an hour—descended from the northwest early today, as the aftermath of a Christmas fog. It indirectly caused seven deaths in this vicinity, carried down telegraph wires, damaged shipping, crippled railroad traffic, and caused considerable property damage.

The deaths in the city resulting from the gale all occurred this morning, while the blinding snowstorm was at its height. A fireman was fatally injured while responding to an alarm. A woman was run over by a street car, the motorman of which could not see her on the tracks. Another woman collapsed and died in the streets while battling against the gale on her way to church. Others died from exposure. Scores of persons were more or less seriously injured.

700 MEN FROM FRANCE HAVE RETURNED TO CANADA TO CONVALESCENCE

Ottawa, Dec. 26.—About seven hundred soldiers returned from the fighting lines are now convalescing in Canada. Owing to the slowness of the authorities in some districts in notifying headquarters, the exact figures are not available but it is computed that there are about 450 men in convalescent hospitals and 250 who are being treated at their own homes. These report weekly to the nearest local hospitals as to their condition. The convalescent soldiers are quartered in various points from coast to coast but the greater number are at Toronto, Winnipeg and Montreal. The convalescents are being added to from week to week at the rate of about 150 weekly and they are now examined and reported upon at Liverpool or on the way across the Atlantic so that there will be no delay at the port of landing in Canada. More hospital accommodation is required in the West, E. H. Scammell, who is the official in charge of this work leaves tomorrow for Winnipeg and Regina to arrange for this.

NEW GLASGOW LOSES PROMINENT CITIZEN

New Glasgow, N. S., Dec. 26.—The town of New Glasgow was shocked on Christmas morning to learn of the sudden death of its foremost citizen, Graham Fraser, one of the founders of the New Glasgow's industrial wealth, and a man personally esteemed and respected by all the townspeople.

In early life Mr. Fraser was a blacksmith by trade, and conducted a shop in partnership with G. Forrest McKay. This shop grew and expanded into the Hope Iron Works, then the Nova Scotia Forge Works, and ultimately the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company.

Mr. Fraser was sixty-eight years of age and his death will be learned with deep regret by the industrial world in Canada.

Special to The Standard. Sussex, Dec. 26.—George Spikeman, aged 35 years, died in the town police cells on Christmas eve. The deceased, who was a native of England, came here about ten years ago and while employed as a section man on the I. C. R. about a year ago had the misfortune to be afflicted with blood poisoning and had to have one of his hands amputated at the St. John hospital. Since then he has been out of employment. On Friday night, about eight o'clock, while in the vicinity of the I. C. R. depot he was observed to fall and Town Marshal Ashbell being summoned, conveyed him to the lock-up on a team, presuming that his collapse had been caused by an over indulgence in liquor. On visiting the police cells on Christmas morning Chief Ashbell found Spikeman dead. The body was removed to funeral director Wallace's morgue.

Coroner Wallace empanelled a jury who reviewed the remains, and an inquest will be held tomorrow at two o'clock. It is thought that Spikeman met his death from acute poisoning, probably wood alcohol of some kind, as his tongue and lips were badly swollen also his stomach. He has a brother in Montreal and several relatives in England.