

War News.

Messages Received Previous to 9 A. M.

OFFICIAL.

LONDON, Dec. 11.

To Governor, St. John's.
From France and Italy there is nothing special to report.

The enemy has occupied Bucharest, and the Roumanian army has withdrawn virtually intact.

The Allies have declared a blockade of Greek ports.

LONG.

DENOUNCE CONSTANTINE.

PARIS, Dec. 11.

A despatch to La Liberté from Canca, Crete, says the inhabitants of the city held a largely attended meeting and passed a resolution declaring the enthronement of King Constantine, and denouncing him as a traitor to his country, for having turned the arms of Greece against the sons of the liberators of the nation and guarantors of its independence. The monarch also was denounced for having, it was declared, diplomatically tried to impose a policy contrary to the country's traditions and interests and aspirations of peace. Troops present, the despatch adds, tore the crowns from their uniforms and sang patriotic songs.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH JOFFRE?

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.

Private advices from Paris received here to-day, telling of the secret proceedings of the French Chamber of Deputies during the last week, confirm previous reports that General Petain, the defender of Verdun, is to succeed General Joffre in the supreme command of all the Allied forces on the western front, as a first result of the radical changes in organization which are to follow the concentration of the management of the war in a small council as has been done in England. General Petain is little known outside of the French army. He was a colonel at the outbreak of the war.

WILL ATTEMPT TO BREAK GERMAN LINES.

BERLIN, Dec. 11.

A correspondent of the Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung with the German army in France is quoted by the Overseas News Agency as saying that new attempts to break through the German line must be expected. British officers who have been taken prisoners, says the correspondent, unanimously declare that the chief command will continue attacks until they do break through. The French say the conquest of the line between the areas of Bapaume and Peronne before Christmas was promised them and the realization is a matter of honor with General Joffre.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 11.

The Telegraph reports that the Entente Allies made important air-raids on various parts of Belgium. The newspaper says a dozen airplanes reached Zebruggen, where anti-aircraft guns replied to them vigorously. An airplane also attacked the military works at Brussels, Oudenarde and Louvaine. Train traffic has been impeded as a result of the raids.

PREMIER BRIAND BUSY.

PARIS, Dec. 11.

Premier Briand was busy all day Sunday seeing not only politicians but prominent business men and manufacturers in view of the new combination, to facilitate which, all Ministers and Under-Secretaries will hand in their resignations. In the meantime, according to the Matin, the re-organization of the high command in the army, being an essentially administrative question, will not be settled until after the new Government makes its bow in the Chamber on Tuesday and is endorsed by a vote of confidence. In addition to forming a war council of five ministers, on the model of that in England, continues the Matin, Premier Briand has decided in the interest of

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economic organization of the country to throw the old administrative machine into the melting pot, and oblige all Ministerial Departments hitherto congealed in superannuated methods to get in line with the rest of the country which is freely spending its blood and gold.

GREECE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 11.

The London correspondent of the Tribune cables under Sunday's date as follows: "Trouble is brewing in Greece and an outbreak is expected at any moment. The exact conditions are obscured by constantly conflicting reports from every side. Officials here are extremely sceptical of reports from Greek and Teutonic sources that the situation has improved. Rumors of the secret mobilization of Greek troops were given added weight by Berlin despatches. The Vossische Zeitung declares to-day that as soon as the Entente authorities announced the blockade of Greek ports Constantine began making preparations to meet it. The Greek army is well equipped for service, the newspaper adds. That an Entente ultimatum would be presented to Greece to-day was the report of Reuters' Athens correspondent under date of yesterday. The nature of the proposed document was not disclosed. The Entente is watching every move Constantine makes. It is known that the Central Powers promised him their support if he casts his lot with them, and it is feared by the Allies' authorities that the temptations may prove too great."

ALLIED ADVANCE.

SALONIKA, Dec. 10.

Via London, Dec. 11.—An advance by the Entente forces on one sector of the front northeast of Monastir is announced in the Serbian official statement issued to-day as follows: "Yesterday there was artillery firing and local infantry fighting west of Suhodel. The Allies drove the enemy back several hundred yards."

GERMAN AEROPLANES BROUGHT DOWN.

PARIS, Dec. 11.

Four German aeroplanes were brought down yesterday, two of them in Verdun front and two in Champagne. The war office announces intermittent cannonading occurred south of the Somme last night.

SUCCESS OF ROUMANIANS.

LONDON, Dec. 11.

The stand that was made by the retreating Roumanian army east of Ploesti in eastern Wallachia, resulted in the driving back of the Teutonic forces a distance of several kilometres, according to a Petrograd despatch. In the course of the Roumanian attack two hostile squadrons are said to have been annihilated.

NEW MINISTERS TAKE OFFICE.

LONDON, Dec. 11.

Andrew Bonar Law and the other members of the ministry who are not required to seek re-election on the assumption of office and also the Lords, who are co-operating with the new Administration, went to the Palace at noon, and kissed the hands of the King and received their seals of office. The members of the Cabinet, who must be elected unless the Commons passed a bill making this unnecessary, and Ministers who are members of neither House for whom seats must be found, are taking over their offices and will conduct them as though all official formalities had been complied with. These members, however, will not be able to appear before the House of Commons tomorrow and it is expected the session will be a formal one. The statement concerning the Government policy to be made by Lloyd George or Bonar Law in the Commons and Curzon in the Lords, probably will be postponed until Thursday, when a vote of credit is moved. A strong policy in regard to the control of shipping, mines, food and man power is looked for.

LOYD GEORGE ASKS FOR SUPPORT.

LONDON, Dec. 11.

Lloyd George has issued the following to all members of the Commons: "The King has entrusted me with the task of forming a Government. I have carried out his command. I had hoped to make a statement to the House on Tuesday, I now find it to be impossible. On Tuesday, Mr. Bonar Law, as leader in the House, will move an adjournment till Thursday. The one predominant task before the Government is the vigorous prosecution

tion of the war to a triumphant conclusion. I feel confident the Government can rely on your support as long as they devote their energies effectively to that end."

SUCCESSFUL BRITISH RAIDS.

LONDON, Dec. 11.

The official bulletin from British headquarters in France to-night reads: Last night we carried out successful raids east of Neuville St. Vaast and southeast of Arras, destroying machine gun emplacements and taking prisoners. An attempt enemy raid east of La Bouteillerie failed, and hostile working parties were dispersed by our fire. During the past twenty-four hours artillery and trench mortars on both sides were active in Loos, Arras and Ypres area, and in the section north of the Ancre. South of that river there has been some hostile shelling at Mouquet farm on the most extreme right of our front.

TRYING TO REACH SOLUTION OF GREEK PROBLEM.

LONDON, Dec. 11.

The Foreign Office announced to-day that the British Government was consulting with the Allies in an effort to reach a very radical solution of the Greek problem.

GERMANY'S REPLY TO SWISS NOTE.

PARIS, Dec. 11.

Germany's reply to the Swiss note regarding the deportation in Belgium has been received, according to information from Bern. It is most politely worded, but, nevertheless, makes it clearly understood that Switzerland has no ground for interfering with events in Belgium, unless her own interests are affected.

CIVILIAN PRISONERS TO BE EXCHANGED.

LONDON, Dec. 11.

After protracted negotiations through the medium of the United States, arrangements have been made for the exchange of German and British civilian prisoners who are over 45 years old. About 4,000 Germans are interned in the United Kingdom and 7,000 British civilians are interned in Germany. Whether the prisoners will reach their respective homes depends upon the success of the Admiralty in finding a neutral steamer on which to make the exchange. Preparations are being made to break up the camps for Germans on the Isle of Man and those established for British civilian prisoners in Germany. Only 2,200 of the Germans interned in the United Kingdom expressed a desire to return to Germany.

FREIGHT CARS FOR FRANCE.

PARIS, Dec. 11.

The British Government, it is understood here, has engaged to send immediately to France ten thousand additional freight cars taken from British railroad companies, while ten thousand additional cars are to be sent over during the first months in 1917 with a certain number of locomotives. This is to be done, it is understood, because Great Britain's military operations in France have been requiring use of 20,000 French freight cars.

MORE STEAMERS SUNK.

LONDON, Dec. 11.

Lloyds announce that the British steamer Nora, is believed to have been sunk. The steamer Strathabryn, 3,331 tons sunk by a mine, went down in eight minutes; all on board were saved. Paris.—The French steamer Saint Phillippe has been sunk, according to a despatch to the Havre Agency from Havre. The despatch adds that two of the crew were killed while the vessel was being shelled. The captain and five members of the crew have just arrived at Havre.

SHIPPING WARNED.

MIAMI, Florida, Dec. 11.

The British cruisers in the West Indian waters are sending out frequent warnings to allied merchantmen urging them to watch for an armed German steamer believed to be in the South Atlantic. Wireless messages picked up here to-day from cruisers, described the enemy craft as having two funnels and a straight stern.

WAR INSURANCE INCREASE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 11.

The Marine Underwriters received word to-day that, war risk insurance in London had advanced from 5 to 10 per cent. for Trans-Atlantic and Cape of Good Hope services and made due announcement that as a German commerce raider was at large New York rates would probably follow the London lead.

SHOULD CALL IN ALL SILVER CURRENCY.

MONTREAL, Dec. 11.

Professor Stephen Leacock, of McGill University, has just laid before the Government a scheme by which he claims the nation will make anything from five to six million dollars in the next six months. His idea is

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that the Government should call in all silver currency and replace it by all silver currency and replace it by nickel.

LOYD GEORGE INDISPOSED.

LONDON, Dec. 11.

Premier Lloyd George is ill. He was unable to go to Buckingham Palace to-day with the members of his cabinet to receive the seals of office from King George.

An official announcement was made that the Premier was suffering from a severe chill and that on the advice of his physicians he was remaining indoors to-day.

It is announced to-night that the condition of Lloyd George is improving, and that he expects to be out in a day or two. Herbert Asquith is suffering from influenza, and will be unable to leave his house for a few days.

"The Devil's Coaches."

General Anzeiger (Dusseldorf): Two mysterious monsters were crawling towards them over the craters. Stunned as if an earthquake had burst around them, they all rubbed their eyes, which were fascinated by the fabulous creatures. Their imaginations were still excited by the effect of the bombardment. It was no wonder, then, that imagination got the better of those sorely tired men, who knew well enough that the enemy would use

every means to destroy our steel wall of fragile human bodies. These men leaped out of the armored sides of the iron caterpillar. Shells whistled over our heads, and the sound of machine-guns filled the air. The mysterious creature had yielded its secret, and the men came back to their senses; their vigor and tenacity returned when the English infantry rolled up in waves behind the "devil's coaches."

WHAT CAUSES YOUR DISTRESS

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word was passed along the line like wildfire. Suddenly tongues of flame leaped out of the armored sides of the iron caterpillar. Shells whistled over our heads, and the sound of machine-guns filled the air. The mysterious creature had yielded its secret, and the men came back to their senses; their vigor and tenacity returned when the English infantry rolled up in waves behind the "devil's coaches."

Asquith Goes.

The Roumanian fiasco has—among other results—unhorsed Mr. Asquith. So striking an example of what may be lost for lack of a bold and decisive leadership could hardly have failed to arouse in Britain a passionate demand for more dash and daring on the quarter-deck. This does not mean that Mr. Asquith was not an absolutely indispensable man earlier in the war. When it was a question of harmonizing the widely different elements of the House of Commons and inducing them to pull hard in a single harness, no man could have turned the trick as well as Asquith. He is by far the greatest Parliamentarian of his day. What he has done during his two-and-a-half years of war has been nothing short of miraculous. But the passing of Asquith marks and is made possible by the practical passing—for the moment—of Parliamentarianism.

Britain is in no mood to-day to be checked and hindered by politicians

and their petty squabbles. The situation abroad is too serious. We are engaged in a great war, in which our national life is at stake; and, if Parliament will not march, the nation will very soon march without—or over—Parliament. Hence the presence of a master-hand at the shepherding and guidance of Parliament is no longer necessary. What is wanted is a master-hand at the arming, preparation and proper use of armies. One Wellington would be worth a hundred Asquiths. If we cannot win a Wellington, we can get a combination of men of the Palmerston-Pitt type—men, who will fight the enemy wherever he needs to be fought, and carry British opinion heartily with them in so doing.—Montreal Daily Star

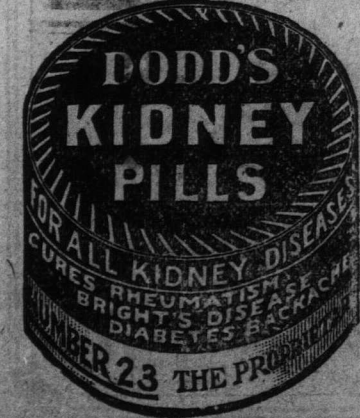
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