

NO WORD YET OF DECISIVE RESULT IN POLAND; GERMAN ARMY CUT OFF FROM ALLY NEAR CRACOW

Official Report From Petrograd Still Conservative—Believed Three Distinct Battles In Progress, Russians Being Engaged Against Separated Parts of Enemy's Army—Germans Underestimated Fighting Qualities of Foe and Are Believed to Be Endeavoring to Send First Line Fighters to Save Day—Russians Besieging Cracow—Another Quiet Day In West—Attack of Germans on Arras Easily Repulsed by Allies—King George on Visit to Front.

London, Nov. 30.—Another day of the crucial battle between the Russians and the Germanic allies in Poland has passed without news of a decisive result. The Berlin official statement tonight says that there is nothing of importance to report from Poland, while the Russian government rests upon its warning against over-optimism.

The facts, as gleaned from various messages of correspondents, appear to be that three semi-independent engagements are progressing between Thorn on the north and Cracow on the south, in which both combatants have achieved local successes, without a distinct victory for either side.

UNDERESTIMATED FIGHTING QUALITIES OF THE FOE.

Some of the British military experts believe that Field Marshal Von Hindenburg's forces have been split into three units, one of which certainly is almost completely enveloped, while the Russians have driven a wedge between the German army and its Austrian ally in the region of Cracow. They declare that the Germans have consistently underestimated the quality of the Muscovite opponents, and have opposed them with a body composed almost wholly of second line troops, but are now rushing heavy reinforcements from the western line to avert a Polish sedan. They express the opinion that the issue depends on whether these arrive in time.

Berlin reports the failure of the Russian attack on the fortifications east of Darkehmen, in East Prussia, with heavy losses, while unofficial messages from Petrograd describe an important Russian gain, and a capture of ten miles of trenches to the northeast of Lodz.

Advices from Holland report that railway traffic, newspapers and posts in the Brussels region are suspended, it is presumed for the purpose of suppressing news of a movement of German troops to the eastward.

BRITISH SHIPS AGAIN BOMBARDING ZEEBRUGGE.

The only development of the day in the western theatre was the renewal of the British naval bombardment of the German base at Zeebrugge.

England was surprised at the announcement that King George had left last night on a visit to the headquarters of the British forces in France, where he is certain of an enthusiastic reception from the soldiers.

This was the fortieth birthday of Winston Spencer Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, and the papers, except a few of those antagonistic to him, pay a tribute to his remarkable career. The seventeenth birthday of the Queen Mother Alexandra will be celebrated tomorrow.

The Dutch papers say that the Germans have imposed an indemnity of \$7,000,000 monthly on Belgium for the duration of the war for the maintenance of the troops, and, in addition, \$75,000,000 as a war levy for violations of neutrality.

Luxemburg reports that the Germans have paid a substantial sum for damages resulting from their occupation of the Grand Duchy.

PEOPLE IN VIENNA SUFFERING GREAT HARDSHIPS.

Venice, via London, Nov. 30.—Unusually bitter cold, accompanied by a heavy snowfall, is said to be causing intense misery to the population of Vienna. The situation is made worse by the exorbitant price of food and the municipality is feeding many thousands of persons. Owing to the high price of flour, the authorities are experimenting with a soup made from potatoes, barley and black meal.

Extraordinarily cold weather is reported from the southern battlefield, especially in Bosnia.

BERLIN CONSIDERS BATTLE IN EAST MOST IMPORTANT.

Berlin, via The Hague to London, Nov. 30.—The East is gradually coming into its own. Those familiar with conditions have recognized for the past three weeks that the centre of importance has been transferred from France to the eastern war theatre.

The departure of Emperor William to the eastern front, the appointment of General Von Hindenburg as a field marshal and the publication of appreciative telegrams to the eastern commanders have directed the attention, even of the uninformed public, to the fact that the events in Poland are of far greater importance than those in Flanders and along the Aisne.

The presence of Emperor William at Field Marshal Von Hindenburg's headquarters is interpreted here as indicating that everything is thought to be going well. The emperor has conferred the Order of Merit on Gen. Mackensen.

There is nothing new to report from the west front and no important news is expected immediately from that vicinity.

King George on Visit to Headquarters in France.

London, Nov. 30.—The official press bureau announced today that King George had gone to France last night to visit the general headquarters of the British expeditionary force. The King was accompanied by his private secretary, Baron Stamfordham and his squerry, Major Wigram.

Starting on Mission of Mercy



CHEERING A HOSPITAL SHIP ON ITS WAY ACROSS THE ENGLISH CHANNEL

GIRL CROSSES NEW BRIDGE ON NARROW BAND OF STEEL

Miss Lena Gibson's Successful Performance of Feat at Which Most Men Would Quail—Slightest Mistake Would Have Plunged her to Certain Death.

Thousands of people while walking on the Suspension Bridge have been impressed with the great risks the working men on the new steel bridge were apparently taking as they worked. To these men, however, walking in perilous places or swinging from hanging stages was in the run of their every day work and they thought nothing of it. The flooring of the new bridge has not yet been put into place and any person crossing from the east to the west side of the Revereing Falls, on the new bridge, has to walk on a steel plate which would be a most dangerous experience for the ordinary person.

However, there is a young lady in St. John endowed with real nerve, for she walked from one shore to the other on the new bridge as described and has the distinction of being the first lady to do so. Her trip through the narrow passage was made on a sheet of steel plate not more than two feet six inches wide but she did not become dizzy headed. It can be readily seen that she possesses nerves of steadiness unequalled by many men, other than those who have been used to such exploits.

The girl who crossed the new bridge as described, is Miss Lena Gibson of 139 Duke street, and although she does not look on it as such a daring exploit, she is being congratulated by those who witnessed her trip.

The walk over the bridge was made on Sunday morning and she was accompanied, at her request, by one of the employees, who has been working on the structure. As stated before the only place to walk is a pathway of steel plating about two feet six inches wide. The difficulty of this is increased by the fact that at each section there are numerous rivets, and also coils of hose used by the bridge builders.

Miss Gibson arrived at the bridge about eleven o'clock Sunday morning and being determined on the walk was accompanied by one of the employees. The employee preceded her and instructed her not to look at the water but keep looking where she was walking, otherwise she might become dizzy and fall.

Miss Gibson, in talking about her walk over the new bridge said that it did not appear so very hard when she first started but she remembered her first step and she said, "I got along fine," she said, "and took particular notice of where I was walking. There was not a very wide space to walk. When I came to the pieces where the bolts came through I had to be careful in picking my steps, as I did when I came to the hose. When I got to the very centre of the bridge I happened to look down. It was awful, for underneath was a whirling lot of water and then I realized the peril of my position. However, I regained my nerve and kept on after the gentleman who was ahead of me. We finally reached the other side of the Falls in safety and I can assure you I was glad, as well as pleased that I was the first woman to cross the new bridge."

When Miss Gibson made the daring walk over the bridge she was, when in the centre of the structure, about one hundred feet above the water, and a mistake would have meant a plunge to certain death.

There was no chance of her company assisting her as there was no room for her to walk at her side, and steady her; all that he could do was to give her the proper instruction before she left one side of the Falls and keep reminding her not to look below.

was brought into Halifax harbor today. There is a suspicion that the steamer has contraband of war on board. She was bound from New York for Copenhagen, when held up by the British cruiser, a prize crew placed aboard and ordered to Halifax. The cargo will be discharged and searched here. She registers 6,226 tons, was chartered by the Gans Steamship Company, and has a big general cargo. It is supposed that she has silk for airships among her cargo. The steamer will be docked tomorrow.

CAPTURED STEAMER IS AT HALIFAX

Norwegian Steamer Arrives in Charge of Prize Crew—Suspected of Carrying Contraband.

Halifax, N. S., Nov. 30.—In charge of a prize crew from one of the British cruisers on duty in the Atlantic, the Norwegian steamer Sandford

FLOATING MINE SEEN NEAR FIRE ISLAND LIGHT

Captain of Tramp Steamer Says He Saw One—Is in Pathway of all Trans-Atlantic Vessels Entering New York.

New York, Nov. 30.—A mine, with five triggers extending from it, is about six miles west of Fire Island Light, according to Captain Davies, of the tramp ship Etonian, in today from London.

Captain Davies said that he passed the mine about ten o'clock this morning, while his ship was bound in.

The spot where the mine is said to be drifting lies in the pathway traveled by all trans-Atlantic vessels leaving and entering New York harbor. How the mine happened to be there, by what means it was set adrift, whether its presence was accidental or by design, were problems to be cleared up this afternoon.

P. E. ISLAND GIVES SOLDIER BOYS SEND-OFF

Big Demonstration For Men Leaving to Join 26th Battalion—\$10 for Each.

Charlottetown, Nov. 30.—Nineteen infantry men and one officer, Lt. Shorren, who leave tomorrow for St. John to join the 26th Infantry Battalion and Lt. Bethune who leave in a few days were tendered a big public demonstration at the armories tonight.

Addresses were delivered by the premier, Mayor Stone and other prominent public men. The premier on behalf of the government presented each man with \$10. There was an immense turnout of citizens.

Stanley, who has been in command of half battery guarding cable at Canso, and Bethune who has been in Sydney Mines, are receiving commissions in the heavy battery which Canada is sending to the front.

GURKHAS WITH THEIR CURVED SWORDS SPREAD TERROR AMONG GERMANS

Inflict Terrible Losses on Enemy in Fighting South of River Lys—Penetrate German Trenches and Engage Enemy at Close Range.

MORE DETAILS OF OPERATIONS OF THE BRITISH TROOPS IN WEST.

Britain's Forces Playing Prominent Part in Beating Back German Attempts to Break Through Allies' Line—Flying Corps Proving More Effective Each Day.

London, Nov. 30.—Details of the operations of the British troops at the front, from November 23 to 25, are given in a report issued today, under date of November 26, from a military observer attached to the British headquarters. The report in part is as follows:

"Since the enemy desisted from his attacks in force the fighting has been resolved into a competition in sniping and small affairs on the outposts all along the line where positions are contested with rifles, hand grenades, bombs, mortars and machine-guns."

"Our aeroplanes have been especially active in the last two days, having dropped one hundred and twenty bombs."

The account refers to several instances in which German attacks were repulsed, particularly on November 23, to the south of the River Lys. There, it is said, the Gurkhas did considerable execution at close quarters. They even penetrated some of the German trenches, where they wielded their peculiar curved swords with great effect.

The report again refers to the efficacy of German discipline. It says that the British soldiers could hear the command "vorwaerts" coming from the woods. It was followed immediately by a rush of Germans. Once, twice, and thrice this was done. Each time the Germans were mowed down. Then the order was given "This time, however, there were loud exclamations of 'Nein, Nein,' and no advance was made."

Repulse of Famous Prussian Guard

The repulse of the famous Prussian Guards is again dwelt upon.

"After the enemy had broken through our front line the situation became most serious," the report continues, "for there were only two field companies of the Royal Engineers available at the moment, as a reserve in this quarter of the field."

On the right front of the German attack, firing through open spaces in the woods, were heavy batteries and field batteries, which dealt havoc among the attackers, both before and after they reached our line. But the Germans continued to come, almost up to our guns. Some bodies were sent to only seventy yards from the guns.

"Realizing that all might be lost unless a firing line of some kind could be established, battery officers managed to form a line of gunners, regimental cooks, and details of various descriptions. These men stood firm, and kept up a steady rifle fire. They checked the assault at the most critical moment, thus enabling other troops to come up to repel it more completely."

Other incidents taken up in the report are the movement of British cavalry by motor cars, thus adding one more novelty to the roles which the cavalry has played during the war; the blowing up of a farm house containing German snipers; the heating of trenches with brazier stoves, and the transport service, whose work in supplying food is commended.

"No little part of our success," says the report in this connection, "is due to the ample quantity and excellent quality of the food."

"It is probably not saying too much to assert that no other soldiers in the field had even been so well fed."

DANISH STEAMER SUNK IN NORTH SEA

Struck Mine—Crew of Fourteen Took to Boats and were Picked Up.

Bulletin—London, Dec. 1. (1.57 a. m.)—The Danish steamer Mary, of Fojberg, was sunk by a mine in the North Sea Sunday. Her crew of fourteen took to two boats, one of which was picked up by the steamer Juno and landed at Grimsby last night. The other boat, containing the Mary's chief officer and six men, is still missing.

The steamer Mary was a vessel of 580 tons. She was built in 1890 and was owned by the Danish Steamship Company.

GEN. HUGHES APPLIES FOR CHEAP RATES ON RAILWAYS FOR OFFICERS

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Nov. 30.—General Sam Hughes is applying to the railway companies for reduced rates for officers of the second contingent so that they can return from the mobilization centres to their homes when they have an opportunity to do so, without too much expense.

SEVEN MILLIONS A MONTH WAR LEVY DEMANDED

German Governor of Brabant Notifies Financiers to This Effect—Must Also Pay 75 Millions for Alleged Violation of Neutrality.

Amsterdam, Nov. 30.—A message from Brussels to the Handelsblad states that the German governor of the province of Brabant, in which Brussels is located, convoked a meeting of financiers and told them that Belgium must pay \$7,000,000 monthly for the maintenance of German troops. In addition to this sum, it is said, Belgium must contribute a war levy of \$75,000,000 as a penalty for violations of neutrality by Belgium and losses ensuing therefrom to Germany.

MINISTER OF MILITIA UNABLE TO COME TO ST. JOHN THIS WEEK.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Nov. 30.—General Sam Hughes is suffering from a heavy cold and will not go to the Maritime Provinces to inspect the troops that are in training until he has recovered. In all probability he will be in St. John at the beginning of next week.