

HEAVY FIGHTING IN FRANCE SOON

The St. John Standard

VOL. IX., NO. 256.

EIGHT PAGES

MONDAY MORNING, JANUARY 21, 1918.

FAIR AND COLD.

PRICE: TWO CENTS.

CRUISER BRESLAU SUNK!

BRITISH WIN NAVAL BATTLE, DEFEATING 2 SCOURGES OF THE SEA

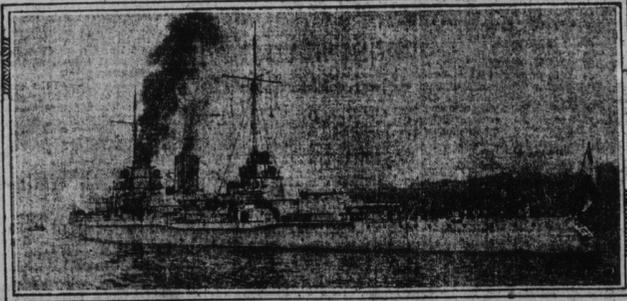
Celebrated Turkish Cruiser Midullu, Formerly the German Warship Breslau, Sent to the Bottom of the Ocean and the Turkish Cruiser Sultan Yawuz Selim, Formerly the Kaiser's Crack Cruiser Goeben, Beached as Result of Encounter with British Naval Forces at the Entrance to the Dardanelles—Famous Vessels Had Sunk Many of Allies' Craft.

Two Small British War Vessels Sunk—Hun Cruisers in Mediterranean at Outbreak of War and Fled to Dardanelles—Since Then Their Activities in Various Waters Had Brought Them Fame for Intrepidity Second Not Even to German Sea Wolves Like Dresden, Sea Adler and Karlsruhe—Both Vessels Had Fought Russian Craft Occasionally, Bombed Land Batteries and Earned Remarkable Career.

London, Jan. 20.—In a naval action between British and Turkish forces at the entrance to the Dardanelles, the Turkish cruiser Midullu, formerly the German cruiser Breslau, was sunk and the Sultan Yawuz Selim, formerly the German cruiser Goeben, was beached. This announcement was made by the Admiralty tonight.

The official statement says: "The Goeben and Breslau—Turkish names Sultan Selim and Midullu—with destroyers were in action with the British forces at the entrance to the Dardanelles this Sunday morning. The Breslau was sunk. The Goeben escaped, but has been beached, evidently badly damaged, at Nagara Point, in the Narrows of the straits.

"The Goeben is now being attacked by naval aircraft. "Our losses reported are the monitor Raglan and a small monitor, the M-28."



THE GOEBEN.

The German cruisers Breslau and Goeben were in the Mediterranean Sea at the outbreak of the war and fled into the Dardanelles, seeking safety from the British and French warships that sought their destruction. Since then their activities in the Dardanelles, at the Black Sea entrance to the Bosphorus and in the Black Sea along the Turkish Asiatic, the Russian and the Rumanian coasts, have brought them fame for intrepidity second not even to the German sea wolves, like the Dresden, Sea Adler and the Karlsruhe.

Reaching Constantinople in the middle of August, 1914, the British government immediately protested against the German warships being accorded refuge, and Turkey promised that they would be interned and placed out of commission until the end of the war. Later, however, it was announced that Turkey had purchased the cruisers and given them the new names of Midullu and Sultan Yawuz Selim.

In Many Fights.

Then followed frequent reports of the activity of the warships in the Black Sea, bombarding enemy land positions and engaging or being engaged by ships of the Russian Black Sea fleet. Although the Turkish and German war statements frequently announced victories for the re-christened Germans, the Russian admiralty on numerous occasions told of how Russian warships had sent them scurrying from the Black Sea into the Bosphorus, damaged, on fire and showing the wounds the Russian shells had given them.

Shortly afterwards, however, the Midullu and her sister ship

again would appear and the game of hide and seek between them and the Russians would go on until another battle took place, the Turks in the meantime always having been successful in sinking numerous cargo boats, ranging from the smallest fishing craft to goodly sized steamers.

The latest account of the Sultan Yawuz Selim was in July of last year, when the British Admiralty reported that British airmen had dropped bombs on the vessel during an air attack on the Turkish fleet off Constantinople in the Golden Horn. Direct hits were observed on the Sultan Yawuz Selim and other vessels, aboard which explosions occurred and fires broke out. The Admiralty

report said the former German cruiser was the center of the attack and that it was safe to presume she would be out of action for several months as a result of her injuries.

A True Prediction.

The prediction proved true as the Sultan Yawuz Selim since then has not been mentioned in any of the reports as being engaged. The last account of the Midullu was in June, 1917, when the Turkish war office reported that vessel in a successful engagement together with other Turkish units in the Black Sea against Russian land positions and small war craft.

Considerable criticism of British and French naval commanders has at times been expressed over their failure to prevent the Go-

BIG BATTLES PROBABLY IN PREPARATION

Military Operations Increasing All Along Line on Western Front.

HEAVY ARTILLERY ENGAGEMENTS

The Infantry Operations Increase Near Lens and Elsewhere.

AERIAL ACTIVITY PRESAGES FIGHTING

Violent Artillery Duels Along Piave River on Italian Front.

On the western front in France and Belgium the military operations apparently are increasing all along the line, as compared with those in the past few weeks, when little or no fighting, except artillery duels and minor raids was carried out.

Extensive allied warships have bombarded Germany's submarine base at Ostend, on the northern Belgian coast, while around Ypres, between Lens and St. Quentin, on the Chemin Des Dames on the St. Mihiel sector and north of the Rhine-Marne canal there has been a notable increase in the operations by the infantry. The probabilities are with the return of good weather the expected big battles may take place.

One indication of the probable early commencement of fighting is the resumption of aerial activity on a large scale, especially on the French front. Saturday the French airmen had a good day operating against the Teutons, sending down eight enemy machines in fights in the air.

On the Italian front the fighting again has turned to the artillery with the opposing sides, the infantry keeping to their trenches except for small patrol engagements. All along the northern front the artillery duels are of a violent character and at several points along the Piave River a like condition prevails.

British Statement.

London, Jan. 20.—The report from General Haig's headquarters in France tonight says: "Last night an enemy raid southeast of Graticourt was repulsed. Early this morning we raised the enemy's trenches east of Hargicourt capturing prisoners.

"The hostile artillery was active today northeast of Ypres and in the vicinity of Neuve Chapelle and Lens. There was much successful air-bombing of the enemy troops and dumps yesterday. Eight hostile machines were brought down. Four of ours are missing."

French Statement.

Paris, Jan. 20.—The official communication issued by the war office tonight, reads:

(Continued on Page 2)

RUSSIAN ASSEMBLY DISSOLVED AMIDST TURMOIL AND RIOT

GENERAL DUFF, KUT-EL-AMARA LEADER, DEAD

London, Jan. 20.—General Sir Beauchamp Duff, commander-in-chief of the British forces in India from 1913 to 1916, was found dead in his bed in a west end club this morning.

General Duff, who had had a long and distinguished army career, winning honors in active campaigning and filling numerous responsible executive positions, including that of assistant military secretary for Indian affairs at the war office and the posts of adjutant general and chief of staff in India before becoming commander-in-chief there, was in his 63rd year. In August, 1916, he was succeeded in the Indian command by General Townshend's forces to the Turks.

The report of this commission, presented in June last, mentioned many army officers and civilian officials as sharing responsibility for the result of the expedition, the list being headed by Baron Hardinge, the former viceroy of India, and General Duff, the commander-in-chief at the time.

COMMISSION NAMED FOR HALIFAX

Cabinet Appoints T. S. Rogers, William B. Wallace and F. L. Fowke.

WILL HAVE WIDE RELIEF POWERS

Ottawa, Jan. 20.—The cabinet council on Saturday appointed T. S. Rogers, K. C., Halifax; William B. Wallace, Judge of the County Court, Halifax, and F. L. Fowke, ex-M. P., Oshawa, commissioners, under the name of the Halifax Relief Committee, to administer relief to the sufferers from the recent appalling disaster to that city. Mr. Rogers will be the chairman of the commission which has been given power "to take over and receive all unexpended moneys and undistributed contributions from any source and in any manner for the relief of the sufferers, or restoration of the property destroyed or damaged by the explosion, and to extend and distribute the same equitably for the general purpose for which they were supplied."

Will Investigate. The order-in-council making the appointments states that, on the recommendation of the prime minister, the commission is also authorized to acquire and report, with the least possible delay, in regard to following matters:

(Continued on Page 2)

Attempt to Assassinate Former Minister of the Interior Tsertelli in Constituent Body, Wherein Bolsheviks Find Themselves in Hopeless Minority—Street Fighting in Petrograd, and Many Persons Wounded and Others Killed in Moscow—Panic Follows Attempt on Life of Ex-Minister.

Constituent Assembly Votes to Call Entente Conference to Consider War Aims—Members of Workingmen's and Soldiers' Delegates Declare for Peace—Teutonic and Russian Delegates at Brest-Litovsk Peace Conference Again at Sixes and Sevens, Huns Refusing to Quit Russia.

The Russian constituent assembly was short lived. Convening Friday in the Tauride Palace in Petrograd during street fighting, it was dissolved early Saturday morning by the Bolsheviks after a vote had shown conclusively that the government headed by Lenin and Trotsky was greatly in the minority.

Thus, for the moment at least, has passed away at its inception the executive body through which it had been hoped order would be brought out of the anomalous situation that has existed in Russia since the revolution which resulted in the imperial family and the bureaucrats being thrown out of power.

Likewise the delegates to the peace conference at Brest-Litovsk again are at sixes and sevens and the pour parlers have ended. As on the other occasions when they ceased, the stumbling block is the German demands and their refusal to withdraw their troops from the occupied portions of Russia.

Evidently the German censors are keeping a strict watch over the German newspapers in their expressions of opinion on the serious internal political situation, for even the most meagre reports concerning the doings of the militaristic and anti-militaristic parties were missing Sunday. The latest accounts of the controversy, coming by way of Amsterdam and forwarded by the semi-official Wolff Bureau, were to the effect that the military party had gained a victory over their opponents with regard to the settlement of questions regarding annexations in the east.

Fresh troubles are reported to have broken out throughout Austria.

The Assembly Dissolves.

Petrograd, Jan. 19.—(Saturday)—The constituent assembly has been dissolved by the Bolshevik authorities. It is announced officially today. Sailors guards closed the assembly at four o'clock this morning. The official statement says: "When the constituent assembly voted against the declaration made by the president of the central executive committee after an hour's deliberation, the Bolsheviks left the hall and were followed by the social revolutionists of the Left on the assembly showing its unwillingness to approve of the manner in which the peace party parlers were being conducted. At four o'clock this morning the constituent assembly was dissolved by sailors.

"Today a decree dissolving the assembly will be published."

The first hint the newspaper men received that extreme measures were contemplated was at six o'clock this morning when they were informed that the Tauride Palace, where the assembly began its session yesterday would be closed to the members of the assembly, to the newspaper men and to every one else today.

Fighting in Moscow.

Meanwhile the all-Russian men's congress has passed by a vote of 273 to 61, a resolution supporting the constituent assembly and calling upon the people's commissioners to agree with the majority with a view to the formation of a government responsible to the assembly.

From Moscow it is reported that many persons were wounded and others killed as the result of the Red Guard firing on demonstrators there in favor of the constituent assembly. (Continued on page 4)

(Continued on page 4)

BIG STRIKE IN AUSTRIA

One Hundred Thousand Men Quit Work in Vienna and Noustadt, Closing War Factories.

London, Jan. 20.—A general strike is on throughout Austria, according to an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Paris today which reports 100,000 men quitting work in Vienna and Noustadt, closing down all the war factories. The strikers are described as openly anti-German and the movement is both political and economic and especially aimed at securing peace.

Public demonstrations, it is added, have been held in many places at which hostility towards Berlin for trying to force the Austrians to continue the war was voiced.

WELLMAN OUT

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 19.—A special to the Post Dispatch from Cincinnati says that Carl Wellman, pitcher for the St. Louis Americans, will not play this season. Wellman is quoted as saying his health is so poor that he dare not risk the strain of frequent pitching.