

MYSTERY SURROUNDS A RECENT VICTORY IN THE EAST; ALLIES CONTINUE ADVANCE IN THE WEST

Berlin Celebrates "Decisive Defeat of Russians", but Reports of the Battle Throw Little Light on the Situation — Hope of Allies' Early Invasion of Germany Must be Dismissed for Present — Admiralty Denies Sinking of British Destroyer During German Raid on English Coast — "Avenge Scarborough" the Slogan in England.

London, Dec. 18.—Although there seems to be no doubt that the Russians are retreating and that for the present any anticipations the Allies may have held of an early invasion of Germany must be dismissed, considerable mystery surrounds the reported decisive victory by the Germans which Berlin celebrated last night.

Vienna gives a few details of the fighting in the east. The claim is made that the Russians have been driven out of their positions north of the Carpathians from Krosno to Zaklozyn, which would indicate that part of the southern line of railway in Galicia again is in the hands of the Austrians, and that Piotrkow and another Central Poland town have been stormed, but silence is maintained as regards North Poland, where the German victory is said to have been achieved.

The German official report dismisses this battle with the statement that "in Poland we are still pursuing the enemy, who continues to give way."

Amsterdam despatches serve to heighten the confusion over the situation by quoting Berlin papers received there today as expressing disappointment at the fact that no names of battlefields are mentioned, that no tangible results of the fighting are disclosed and that no lists are given of the number of captured guns and prisoners. Some disappointment is expressed here at the silence of the Russians and advice from Petrograd are eagerly awaited.

The Allies' offensive in the west continues to progress very slowly, according to the Paris communication, although the gains claimed to have been made during the past week are taken together, a considerable advance is indicated in Flanders and in the vicinity of Arras, where the Allies seemingly are making their greatest efforts in the belief that penetration of the German lines

would compel a general German retreat. It is still, however, a matter of siege warfare in Belgium and France. Berlin says many of the attacks of the Allies are being repulsed with heavy casualties which are added to when the Germans mine trenches which the Allies are compelled to evacuate.

The Admiralty denies the German report that the German ships which raided the east coast of England on Wednesday sank two British destroyers, saying no British ships were lost.

In reply to a request from the corporations of Hartlepool and West Hartlepool to make an investigation of the raid, the Admiralty has replied that this will not be necessary as the government is in possession of all the facts.

The corners of the three towns which were bombarded are still busy holding inquests over the bodies of victims, the numbers of which continue to grow as injured persons succumb to their wounds. As a result of the bombardment the Kingdom has been flooded with posters, saying, "Avenge Scarborough, up and at 'em now."

THE DIPLOMATIC PHASE OF AMERICAN RELIEF WORK AMONG THE BELGIANS

London, Dec. 18.—The members of the American commission for relief in Belgium were entertained today by American business men at the Luncheon Club. In introducing Herbert C. Hoover, the chairman, Ambassador Page, gave high praise to the work of the commission. He said it was the only existing link between the great belligerent nations and the farmer of the Mississippi Valley.

Mr. Hoover spoke of the organization and work of the commission and the plight of the Belgian people which called it into being. He said that close harmony existed between the commission and the Belgian government in Belgium. Mr. Hoover described the financial plan mapped out by the commission under which every cent collected in America is expended for the actual purchase of food without any deductions for the cost of delivery and distribution. The result is that there has already been provided food of an aggregate value of between \$7,000,000 and \$10,000,000.

The response of the American people to the appeal in behalf of the Belgians was even greater than their contributions for the sufferers from the San Francisco earthquake. Mr. Hoover continued. The commission now has on the way or under charter, thirty-two ships, which will provide an adequate supply of food until February 15, Mr. Hoover said.

"I wish to say a few words upon the diplomatic situation in connection with this work. I make this statement in view of the discussion which is now raging around these points. The first thing I wish to make clear, with emphasis, is that the Germans are not interfering with the distribution of this foodstuff. Not one mouthful has gone down a German throat as yet.

Mr. Hoover said.

"When we were asked to undertake this work the first question which arose in our minds was, why don't the Germans provision the people of Belgium? We were told that under international law it was the duty of an occupying army to feed the civil population. We were told further by certain independent elements in England that in supporting foodstuffs into Belgium we were relieving the Germans of their moral and legal duties, that we were performing unnecessary labor and that above all we were in effect supplying England's enemy with foodstuffs, by thus relaxing the demands which otherwise would have fallen upon the stores of the Germans.

Furthermore we were told that it would be necessary for the occupying army to increase its force in order to put down violence on the part of a starving population, and that therefore, Germany's forces would be occupied otherwise than on the firing lines.

These are largely the views of the English soldiers. The German soldier on the other hand states that the Belgians hitherto have imported two-thirds of their food supplies, that the British navy, and that therefore the moral responsibility for the starvation of this population rests with the Allies. It is stated furthermore that the people of Belgium by their hostility seriously discomforted the German plans, and that their continued forces of occupation, that the Belgians refused to operate the public services of their country, therefore compelling the Germans to carry on these services with soldiers.

"For this reason it is argued" the civil population is still assisting the Allies, and since the Allies have these benefits, they are morally obligated to support the population. Furthermore, it is said, that while the German food supply is adequate to carry on the war to its end, if that country had to take upon its back the additional load of feeding seven million persons their stores might be depleted seriously; and their national integrity is at stake they do not propose to do it.

BERLIN FEELS SAFE FROM INVASION

Consider Russians Crushed in East and German Territory Freed of Possible Menace for Long Time.

Berlin, Dec. 18.—The official news bureau today gave out the following report:

"The coincidence of the expedition to the English coast and the victory in the East continues to cause general rejoicing. Although the headquarters report is chary of details there is general expectation that the Russian defeat will prove to have been complete. From details already available, however, it seems safe to say that the victory has freed Germany from any possible menace of invasion from the east for a long period. The Austrians appear to have done their work quite as thoroughly. The political effect of the victory also is likely to be advantageous as regards certain powers whose attitude might depend on the course of the events of the war.

"While nearly the whole press is disposed to consider Field Marshal von Hindenburg's victory in the light of an utter crushing of the Russians, the military critic of the Vorwärts speaks in a more moderate tone.

"The talk of a destructive defeat of the Russians is for the present a senseless and misleading exaggeration," says this critic. "An army of a million men like the Russian army, which has, indeed, in the last four weeks suffered severe losses, but which always has been able to fill the gaps with recruits, does not let itself be destroyed under present conditions save a front of several hundred kilometres, (a kilometre is about two-thirds of a mile)."

"Vienna's report indicates that the Russians still are maintaining the aggressive in the Carpathians, but declares that they are retreating elsewhere."

BRITISH CRUISER CAPTURES COLLIER WITH FORTY OF EMDEN'S CREW

Paris, Dec. 18.—The Ministry of Marine announced today that the British auxiliary cruiser Empress of Japan had captured the collier Oxford, having on board three officers and forty men from the German cruiser Emden sunk November 10, by the Australian cruiser Sydney. These are the forty men who escaped to Coos Island and subsequently settled away in a commercial schooner.

People already, in certain districts which we have not been able to penetrate. Attempts have been made by the starving populations to seize German military stores and the resultant loss of life has been serious.

"Another observation which I wish to make is that in this time of intense national hatreds, discussion of the right or wrong of a problem of this kind becomes, as time goes on, only the more acute. Each side aligns itself with greater obstinacy. In the meantime the Belgians starve. It is enough for America that seven millions of humanity are in the hopper, passing between two gigantic millstones. The Belgians are not a people who dragged the world into war by the ambition of their soldiers or their sailors. They, like our own people, have sought to conquer only by the ways of peace, industry and intellect. They have fought a hard fight. I have not yet met a man in Belgium who regrets in the least having made the struggle. At this moment, surrounded by a ring of steel, 1,500,000 persons are in the bread line, and no household in Belgium has bread to eat except it comes through us. The natural philanthropy of our American people, our wealth and our abundance—these are the arguments which we put forward."

WASHINGTON WILL MAKE NO PROTEST TO GERMANY

Suggestion that United States Make Representations Concerning Raid on English Coast Meets With No Response in Official Circles at American Capital.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Determined that the United States shall continue uninvolved in the controversy which has arisen between the European belligerents over alleged violations of The Hague convention, President Wilson and Secretary Bryan will make no representations to Germany concerning the bombardment of the east coast of England by German warships.

Suggestions from the British press, that the United States should take the initiative in protesting to Germany for the alleged infraction of an article of The Hague convention which prohibits the bombardment of "undefended towns," has met with no response from the Washington government. No formal communication on the subject has come from Great Britain, but the suggestions in the press developed an informal discussion among high officials here as to the course to be pursued by the Washington government, after which the President and Secretary Bryan renewed their determination not to interfere.

GR. BRITAIN WILL STAND BY FRANCO-MOROCCAN TREATY

Has Recognized French Protectorate and Declared Adhesion to Agreement Made in 1912.

London, Dec. 18.—Great Britain has recognized the French protectorate over Morocco and declared her adhesion to the Franco-Moroccan Treaty of March, 1912.

The Franco-Moroccan treaty of 1912 instituted a French protectorate over Morocco, with a French military general, who exercised civil and military powers under the sovereignty of the Sultan, at its head. The treaty proclaimed the religious freedom of the people and gave France the right for the maintenance of order to enter into military occupation of any points.

Previously, France and Germany had signed a convention whereby Germany's commercial and industrial interests were not to be impeded, and Germany undertook not to hinder the establishment of the protectorate.

PROTEST SENDING OF SPECIAL ENVOY TO THE VATICAN

London, Dec. 18.—The publication of the correspondence between the Protestant Alliance and the Foreign Office shows that the former body lodged a protest immediately upon the announcement of the appointment of Sir Henry Howard as special envoy to the Vatican. The Alliance, in a lengthy letter, apprehends a danger that the opening of an accredited channel of communication with the Papacy may involve this country in the entanglement of Papal politics and intrigues.

It quotes Cardinal Manning's remarkable statement, in which he held that the only solution of the question of the temporal power of the Pope would be found in a European war, when the Papacy would be re-instated as a sovereign power.

By this last act of compromise, the Alliance contends, the government has ignored all the wonderful teachings of England's past history.

In reply, the foreign office points out that before the appointment was made, the Italian government was made acquainted with Great Britain's intention, and also that such missions, either temporary or permanent, do not run counter to the Italian Law of Guarantees, which defines the rights and privileges of the Vatican.

FREIGHT RATES DECISION IS HANDED DOWN

Interstate Commerce Commission Grants Five P. C. Increase to Eastern Roads in United States.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Further increases in freight rates, were granted today to the eastern railroads by the Interstate Commerce Commission, in a decision from which Chairman Harlan and Commissioner Clements dissented vigorously.

With the exception of lake and rail traffic, coal, coke, iron ore and certain other traffic, upon which the commission has heretofore fixed rates adjudicated "reasonable," all the railroad systems operating between the Atlantic seaboard and the Mississippi, north of the Potomac and Ohio rivers were allowed the flat five per cent. increase for which they have been asking during the last four years.

The roads hoped to get increases which would add to the annual revenue, some \$50,000,000. The commission's decision is expected to give them additional revenue approximately \$30,000,000.

In administration circles, the outcome of the case was welcomed as a development of vast importance which would hasten and support the expected general business revival.

President Wilson issued no formal statement, but White House officials said he was greatly pleased over the decision, and expected it to have an immediate effect upon the country's economic situation.

WAR NEWS AS THEY GET IT IN GERMANY

People of Kaiserland Hear Canada Has Been Annexed by Germany and Great Rejoicing Follows.

London, Ont., Dec. 18.—According to a letter received today by London from a friend who has just left Germany, the people of the Kaiser's empire were thrown into ecstasies over the announcement in the German press to the effect that Canada had been annexed by Germany.

GEN. HUGHES INSPECTS NOVA SCOTIA TROOPS

Halifax, Dec. 18.—Major General Hughes arrived in Halifax this morning. He later visited the Armouries and addressed the members of the Nova Scotia Battalion of the second contingent.

The general was accompanied by Col. Rutherford, Col. Murphy, Major Powell and Major Gibson. He went to the gallery and addressed the troops complimenting them on their fine appearance and also congratulated all, and assured them that they would make a splendid showing when they went to the front.

This afternoon Premier Borden and Major General Hughes reviewed 2,000 troops on the Common.

Gen. Hughes left for Sydney tonight.

ENEMY'S ATTACKS ALL REPULSED, PETROGRAD OFFICIAL REPORT SAYS

Complete Lull Along Whole Front on Left Bank of Vistula Follows Unsuccessful Attacks of Austro-Germans — Rearrangement of Positions of Army to Meet Reinforced Enemy — Offensive Checked in West Galicia.

Petrograd, Dec. 18.—The following statement from the general staff of the Russian army was made public tonight:

"On the left bank of the Vistula an almost complete lull on nearly all of the front has replaced the attacks made by the enemy in the course of the past few days. All of these attacks were repulsed."

"In connection with the advance of part of our troops towards the Bzura river (Russiand Poland) and in view of the fact that the Austrians are continually receiving reinforcements in the Carpathians, we have thought fit to re-arrange the positions of some of our armies.

"We checked the offensive of the enemy yesterday in Western Galicia. On the front between Sanok and Lisko we have succeeded in our offensive. In this region we have captured three thousand prisoners, several guns and quick-firers."

London, Dec. 19.—The Daily Mail's Petrograd correspondent says:

"Russian reinforcements are pouring to the front in Poland and the issue in the fighting west of Warsaw depends upon which side can fling the largest weight in numbers into the battle line."

PREMIER BORDEN BY-ELECTION IN CARLETON CO. JANUARY 7TH

Addresses Canadian Club—Emphasized Splendid Response Canada is Making to Empire's Call.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 18.—The part that Canada has played and is playing in the Empire's struggle was told at the School for the Blind tonight by Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister, who delivered an address under the auspices of the Canadian Club of Halifax.

Sir Robert reviewed the work which had been accomplished by the government since the outbreak of the war, emphasized the splendid response which had been made in the Dominion to the call to arms, and demonstrated the unity of spirit that actuated all Canadians and in fact the whole Empire. So far as we in Canada were concerned, we were peace-loving, travelling in the paths of peace.

With the German people, whose admirable qualities we acknowledged, and who had stood in the forefront of civilization, Canada's quarrel was not lasting. It was the military oligarchy of Prussia that must be crushed and until that end was accomplished Canada would not cease.

The Prime Minister said that he was in a position to give assurance that the success of the allied arms up to the present time was all and more than all that had been anticipated by Great Britain and France.

Protest against censorship in France. An energetic protest against the press censorship was made at a meeting today of deputies and senators who are journalists. The meeting drafted a formal statement of objections to the censorship, which is to be handed to the Minister of Justice, Aristide Briand, as president of the Council of State.

A committee of journalists was formed, headed by Georges Clemenceau, former premier. Associated with him are Stephen Pinchon, former minister of foreign affairs; Jean Duryu and Admiral Bienaimé.

Special to The Standard
Woodstock, N. B., Dec. 18.—The thirty-seventh annual session of the Teachers' Institute for the counties of Carleton and Victoria closed this afternoon. Much business of importance was transacted. The next year's session will be in Grand Falls.

The officers were elected as follows: P. C. Squires, president; Miss Bess Fraser, vice-president; Walter S. Daley, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. M. I. F. Carvell, assistant secretary; additional members of the executive, A. D. Jonah, Miss Mildred Wallace, Dow White.

The proclamation for the by-election in Carleton county reached here today. The date has been fixed for January 7th, 1915, with nomination day on December 31st next. The members of the government party have already held their nomination convention and have selected as a candidate B. F. Smith, whose nomination is equivalent to his election.

Up to tonight there has been no move made by the opposition party towards calling a convention for the nomination of a candidate and those who know their weakness in this county, which is not generally known throughout the province, expect Mr. Smith's election by acclamation.

Nelson, B. C., Dec. 18.—Announcement was made by Hon. W. J. Bowser at a large Conservative smoker last night that the government proposed at the coming session of the provincial legislature to pass legislation providing for a limited moratorium. It will apply only to over real estate payment for it is not the government's intention to interfere with ordinary contracts.