

RUSSIANS IN GALICIA DUPLICATE GREAT SERBIAN VICTORY OVER AUSTRIAN ARMY

Germany's Ally Routed and in Retreat—Russians Have Taken 50,000 Prisoners and Large Number of Guns in New Offensive Movement—War News Takes Secondary Place to American Note of Protest—Unofficial London Surprised—Heavy Fighting in Argonne and on Heights of the Meuse—Reports of Results in Western War Theatre are Conflicting.

London, Dec. 29.—The American note of protest against the British treatment of American commerce, and insisting upon an early settlement, came as a complete surprise to the British public, as there has been virtually no intimation that any friction had arisen between the two governments.

The placards posted by the evening papers were given over exclusively to the American note, and the papers gave it the largest headlines they have given any news during the past month. Consequently, the British people regard this as one of the most important occurrences of the whole war. Nothing of the kind, since President Cleveland's Venezuelan message, has produced such a sensation.

The first impression of the public is that the note may create friction, and perhaps some unfriendly feeling, although the newspapers point out that it specifically states that the representatives were made in a friendly spirit. The situation is comparable to that which arose at the time of the South African war, when neutral shippers began to send cargoes intended for the Transvaal republic to the neutral port of Delagoa Bay.

The Washington note had not reached the foreign office this afternoon, but it could not have been dealt with had it arrived, as Sir Edward Grey, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, who has been away for the Christmas holidays, is not returning until tomorrow.

Even the war news was allotted a secondary place to the note in the news columns of the papers, although that coming from the Russian front was highly gratifying to the allies. There has been a slackening of the fighting in Northern Poland between the lower Vistula and Pilica rivers, where the Russians have captured some German trenches, prisoners and guns—an indication, it is believed here, that the German frontal attack on the army guarding Warsaw has been definitely checked.

In Southern Poland the Russians also record some successes, while in Galicia they have apparently inflicted a defeat on the Austrians almost as serious as that which Emperor Francis-Joseph suffered in Serbia.

Since their latest offensive commenced the Russians have taken fifty thousand Austrian prisoners and captured many guns, according to the Russian official reports, and if, as was estimated, Austria had between three and four army corps on its re-entry into Galicia, it must have lost more than a third of the number in killed, wounded and prisoners. The state of the roads, which are several feet deep in mud, has prevented the Russians from making the pursuit as effective as it might have been could the Cossacks have found a firm footing for their horses.

CONFLICTING REPORTS FROM FRANCE AND BELGIUM.

Of the fighting in the west the French and German reports are in direct conflict. The French claim to have occupied the village of St. Georges, which is on the main road between Nieuport and Bruges, and two miles from the former town. On the other hand the German report says: "We have gained some ground near Nieuport."

Heavy fighting is also taking place in the Argonne, and on the heights of the Meuse. The French report apparently refers to later events than those recorded in Berlin, for Paris tells of the re-capture of a trench which the German communication mentions as having been captured by the Germans. The French are investing Steinbach, in Upper Alsace.

News from Germany is coming in very slowly, as cable communication between England and Holland is dislocated by the storm, and the telegraph wires between Holland and Germany have been wrecked in many places.

With the close of the holidays the recruiting boom has re-commenced in England, large numbers enlisting daily.

BERLIN ADMITS SITUATION IS NONE TOO GOOD IN EASTERN WAR AREA

Berlin, Dec. 29, by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.—Among the items given out in the publication today by the German official press bureau were the following:

"The Russians have strengthened their forces opposing the Austrians in Galicia and the latter it is understood, will be compelled to make new dispositions, which will require some time. Local military experts are making attempts to picture Russia's occupation of the line of Kroano-Jaslo as being no real gain for the Russians, but on the contrary, as weakening their position. This view, however, is considered too optimistic, and the fact must be faced that the extreme left wing of the Russians is proving itself superior to its opponents. The present action of the Russians in strengthening their forces there, is due to their realization of what an encircling of their flank in Galicia would signify.

"News of importance is likely to come from the Vosges district at any time since the French have assembled strong forces all along the line of Belfort, Epinal, Toul, Nancy. They still hold all the Vosges passes, and appear to be developing new activity along an extended line against Alsace and Sundgau.

"Major Morant, military expert of the Tageblatt, in an article discussing the English reconnaissance at Cuxhaven declares that the landing of troops on the Helstein, or North Hanover coast would be extremely difficult in winter, but says, even if it were carried out, the invaders would get a warm welcome.

"The German government will permit private traffic on the Belgian railway from January.

"A pastoral letter from all the German Archbishops and Bishops calls the world war a divine judgment for human wickedness. The letter lays emphasis on the statement that Germany was not to blame for the outbreak of the war."

ing as his subject the vital issues we must face in the final outcome of the war.

CANADIAN WAR CONTINGENT ASS'N FUND NOW \$107,200.

London, Dec. 29.—The total amount now contributed to the Canadian War Contingent Association Fund is \$107,200. The association provided a capital Christmas dinner for the patients in the Canadian hospital at Shorncliffe.

Winnipeg, Dec. 29.—Premier Borden and Lady Borden left for Fort William tonight. This afternoon Sir Robert Borden formally opened the Canadian Art exhibit, and addressed the members of the Women's Press Club, talking

ing as his subject the vital issues we must face in the final outcome of the war.

GERMANY NOT DISPOSED TO HURRY REQUEST

Regarding Neutral Consuls in Belgium—Washington Will Take No Action that May be Interpreted as Recognition of German Possession of Belgium.

Washington, Dec. 29.—There is no disposition on the part of Germany to hurry its request for the cancellation of exequaturs held by neutral consuls in Belgian territory under German military rule, according to State Department officials. The German note was sent by mail to the Washington government, which will consider the subject at length before making a decision.

It is generally understood that the United States will avoid any action which might be considered a political recognition of the German possession of Belgium. While officials did not comment on the contents of the German communication, they intimated that it contained no evidence of any desire to place the American government or neutral nations in an embarrassing situation.

It was pointed out today that a situation somewhat similar to that in Belgium might be raised by Great Britain with respect to neutral consuls in Egypt, lately made a British possession. A similar committee hitherto have been accredited to the Turkish government, as well as to the Egyptian authorities, but unless Great Britain raises the question, there will be no change in the status of American consuls.

MEMBER OF CONTINGENT A SUICIDE

Found Dead in London Hotel—Said to be Doctor from Milwaukee—Coroner's Jury Brings Suicide Verdict.

London, Dec. 29.—A verdict of suicide was handed down this evening by a coroner's jury which held an inquest on the body of a man, said to be Ralph K. Danforth, a medical practitioner of 110 Queen Anne street, Milwaukee, who was a member of the Canadian contingent.

According to the testimony the man was found dead in his room in a hotel, with a wound in his throat, which evidently had been self-inflicted. Several empty bottles on a table indicated that he might also have taken poison. A photograph of a woman was in the dead man's lap. In his pockets were only two pence.

No evidence was shown as to why the man committed suicide.

LONDON PRESS COMMENTS ON AMERICAN NOTE

Believed Reply of Foreign Office Concerning Naval Activities Will Throw New Light on the Matter—"Americans Too Fair and Too Sportsmanlike to Expect us to Tie One Arm Behind Our Back When Meeting Powerful Foe," Morning Post Says.

London, Dec. 29.—The note of the Washington government to Great Britain protesting against the detention of American cargoes by British warships has not as yet reached the British foreign office, although a synopsis of it has been published in London, with the permission of the British Press Bureau, which has shown no disposition to conceal the American grievances in this direction.

The American stand has caused little surprise in official circles, as negotiations extending over several months between Ambassador Page and Foreign Secretary Grey have centered about the determination of the ultimate destination of the American cargoes in question, and the present protest summarizes all the grievances of the United States in this connection.

The British foreign office has constantly reiterated its regret at the delay to American ships, and high officials have expressed a desire to expedite the examination of American cargoes as speedily as possible under the existing trying conditions.

The statement that the delaying of cargoes by the British authorities is held responsible for a certain depression in American trade has created some surprise among British officials, who, today voiced the idea that American holding such views must fail to realize the wide and sweeping effect upon American commerce of the disappearance of German merchant shipping from the sea, as well as other effects of the war beyond the control of Great Britain and her allies.

Reply of Foreign Office Will Give Matter Another Complexion

It is generally believed in London that the foreign office will make a detailed statement as to the activities of the navy in detaining suspected cargoes which will put these contraband troubles in a different light. The foreign office has time and again expressed its regret that merchants in no way violating neutrality should suffer delay because their shipments were mixed with copper and other articles declared to be contraband, which frequently have been found hidden under coal or heavy cargoes. But at the same time it takes the position that trans-shipments at sea and

other sharp practices have made careful inspection imperative to the welfare of the Allies.

Frequently, cargoes are so loaded that an inspection makes necessary a complete shifting of virtually everything in the ship.

The statement that this protest of the United States is thoroughly approved by President Wilson has created much comment here, and also has added weight to its effect, although there is some disposition in London to regard it to a certain extent, in the light of a protest necessary to satisfy the insistent demands of Congress.

British officials have expressed surprise at the disposition on the part of certain Americans to blame Great Britain for being one of the causes of the depression in cotton. This is held by them to be due to over-production and not to any action on the part of the British government.

Always a Sore Point With Neutrals. The Morning Post, in an editorial, says:

"The note will receive from the British government the fullest consideration, and will be answered in a spirit not only of justice and equity, but of good-will."

"The editorial adds that the examination of suspected cargoes always has been a sore point with neutrals during wars and continues:

"We shall not attempt to discuss the American complaints until the text of the note is available, but we will ask those Americans who think that England was right in taking part in the war to try to put themselves in England's position. Without securing command of the sea England cannot help her Allies on the continent, and cannot secure herself against invasion. If, then, do our American friends suppose command of the sea should be used as a means of exerting pressure on the enemy? It was used by the United States government as a means of exerting pressure on the Confederacy. The whole coast of the Confederacy from the Potomac to the Mexican border was blockaded and every neutral ship trading with Confederate ports was liable to capture.

AUSTRIAN ARMY Routed IN GALICIA AND RETREATING IN DISORDER

SAW PRISONER LEAVE HOUSE OF VICTIM

Witness in Sydney Murder Case Saw Man Enter But Not Sure of Identity.

North Sydney, Dec. 29.—In the adjourned Dunn inquest which was resumed tonight the most important evidence was given by the colored man, John West, who testified that he saw a man enter Miss Dunn's house and saw him coming out and running down the street. He was not sure of the identity of the man who went into Miss Dunn's, but saw Willis coming out. After he had seen the man go into Miss Dunn's he heard screams proceeding from the house. West gave as his reason for warning the Kelly girl that he was afraid something might happen to her as he had seen the man go in.

The lead pipe West testified Willis seemed to be in the habit of carrying about with him, as he had seen it in his possession.

The reason West had not given the above evidence in the first instance, he urged, was because he was afraid. He was afraid when he heard the screams issuing from Miss Dunn's house. He met the Kelly girl after he had heard the screams.

Willis admitted on being called to the stand that he had been lured in Sydney for drunkenness. His evidence, however, threw no further light upon the dastardly crime.

The inquest will be resumed to-night at 7.30 in the court house.

GARVELL'S "MAN" HOLDS HIS FIRST PUBLIC MEETING

Mr. Simms' Political Preferences Principally Centered in Dark Lantern Brigades.

Special to The Standard. Harland, N. B., Dec. 29.—Although the weather was stormy the opposition gathered a good sized audience tonight to listen to Mr. F. B. Carvell tell why the government candidate for the local house should not be allowed to take his seat unopposed, and incidentally to dwell at some length on the recent Dugal charges and what came of them.

As was expected, he had no endearing love for Mr. Flemming or for Mr. Smith, who is to sit in the legislature to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Flemming's retirement.

Mr. Venitt from Gloucester was present and presented his views as to the claims of the opposition for the support of the people of Carleton county. He also made reference to the Dugal investigation, and of course upheld his competitor in all that he had done.

Mr. Robert L. Simms, who has been dubbed by many "The Party Goat," reviewed the political situation from his viewpoint and promised all kinds of perfect nightmares to the legislature if the people would only trust their interests in his hands. He fairly bubbled over with enthusiasm over the prospects of the opposition, and was radiant with delight at being chosen to represent the party in the coming election. Mr. Simms failed to see any good out of the government had ever done, and their entire policy was a perfect nightmare to him.

What he and his party would do if they assumed power again was not very clear in Mr. Simms' mind, but they would certainly make a big noise if given the chance.

He had a great and friendly feeling for the Conservative leader in New Brunswick, Hon. J. D. Hazen. He was not fighting the Conservatives, but J. K. Flemming and B. F. Smith, who have brought an infamy on the province. He came as a saviour of his country in the time of a great crisis and hoped to sit in parliament and endeavor to redeem the good name of the province.

The Standard's statement that he had a grudge against B. F. Smith, and for that reason would oppose him was false. He had been brought up

Russians Drive Back Enemy Numbering Nearly 175,000, but Unable to Pursue Owing to Nature of Country—German Attacks Only Half-hearted and Show Effects of Punishment of Past Ten Days—Two Strongly Fortified Villages Taken From Germans.

Petrograd, Dec. 29.—The retreat of the Austrian army in Galicia, along the Lisko, Sabor, Bukia, Zmigrod front is described officially here as more and more precipitate and disorderly. The retreating forces are estimated unofficially as numbering about 175,000 men.

The nature of the country favors the Austrians in their retreat. The corridor-like valleys and passes prevent the Russians from pursuing them over parallel roads or harassing their flanks. Only six roads cross the Carpathians, two of which are little more than mountain trails. Owing to the broken character of this region the Russian cavalry is able to do little scouting, while the extreme cold renders aeroplanes useless.

The large number of prisoners taken, amounting in the last nine days to about two hundred officers and fifteen thousand soldiers, together with forty machine guns, is believed here to indicate that the Austrians are not offering a stubborn resistance.

Isolated attacks by Germans in the region south of Skierniewice are reported officially to be continuing unsuccessfully.

Russian military critics describe these attacks as a final effort, stating that the great losses sustained by the invaders in the last week or ten days are beginning to have an appreciable effect.

A period of inactivity apparently has set in along the front before Warsaw, between the Vistula and Pilica rivers. The last three lots, consisting of six hundred men each, of Austrian prisoners taken to Kiev from Southern Galicia, contained numbers of men who are un wounded, but were made unfit for service by frozen feet. Most of the prisoners are between forty and fifty years of age.

The official Army Messenger says that three hundred Slavs from Bosnia and Herzegovina encountered Russian soldiers near Tunoff, Galicia, and threw down their arms, crying "long live the Czar."

GERMANS FALL BACK ON LEFT BANK OF THE BZURA. The following statement received from the Russian general headquarters was issued this evening:

"Today between the lower Vistula and the Pilica only fighting of small importance took place. The Germans left their trenches on the right bank of the Bzura, near the village of Mistrzevice, and fell back on the left bank of the Bzura.

"On the river Rawka our heavy artillery is fighting efficaciously a large number of German batteries of heavy guns.

"In the region of Bolimovo our attacks have alternated with those of the Germans.

"We have dislodged the enemy from a trench near the village of Sumino, which they had taken from us previously, by a counter-attack in which we captured machine guns and prisoners.

"On the centre, between the Pilica and the Upper Vistula, only cannonading was heard. We made progress on the two wings.

"During an attack on a German redoubt to the south of Inowlozd we captured three machine guns.

"Our troops met with success while crossing the lower Nida, in the taking by storm of the villages of Starokorzcin and Senislavice, which was well fortified. During the fighting we captured forty Austrian officers and over 1,700 soldiers and three machine guns.

"In Western Galicia we have made progress, in spite of the almost impassable condition of the country, due to the mud. We have driven the enemy from the front of Stromnik, Sorlice, Jasliaska, taking guns and a large number of machine guns.

"During the first half of December (old style calendar), we captured fifty thousand Austrians."

AMERICAN NATIONS WILL SEND DELEGATES STR. MONTROSE WRECKED OFF GOODWIN SANDS

To Conference With Treasury Department at Washington on Financial and Commercial Problems Arising From War.

Washington, Dec. 29.—All Central and South American nations have been invited by the United States government to send their Ministers of Finance and leading bankers to Washington for a conference with Treasury Department officials and financiers of this country on financial and commercial problems confronting the two Americas as a result of the European war. Acceptances already have been cabled by several of the countries, and the conference probably will be held early in the spring.

A Conservative, but his first vote had been cast for Carvell. S. S. Miller was chairman of the meeting, a position which he filled acceptably.

Torn From Moorings During Gale—Will Likely be Total Wreck. London, Dec. 29 (Gazette cable)—Memories of Dr. Crippen, hanged for the murder of his wife in 1910, are revived by the news that the steamer Montrose, on which the famous criminal was arrested, was wrecked on Goodwin Sands in last night's gale. The steamer, which was supposed to be safely moored in Dover harbor, was blown off in the darkness. It was observed by naval patrolmen, two of whom bravely responded to the call for volunteers to man the drifting vessel. On boarding the steamer the sailors discovered that there were no anchors, and the result was that the Montrose drifted helplessly on to the Goodwin Sands. The two men were swept off by the heavy seas, but were eventually rescued by the Deal Lifeboat.

The Montrose is likely to become a total wreck.

SIR R. L. AND LADY BORDEN LEAVE FOR FT. WILLIAM

Winnipeg, Dec. 29.—Premier Borden and Lady Borden left for Fort William tonight. This afternoon Sir Robert Borden formally opened the Canadian Art exhibit, and addressed the members of the Women's Press Club, talking