

BRITONS WIN VICTORY ON SEA

Scharnhorst, Leipzig and Gneisenau Are Sunken.

TWO OTHERS BEING PURSUED

Admiral von Spee and His Officers Believed to Have Gone Down Fighting.

VICTORS' LOSSES SMALL

Battle Fought Off Falkland Islands—Two German Colliers Captured.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—A British squadron under command of Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Sturdee, chief of the war staff, engaged a German squadron under Admiral Count Von Spee off the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic yesterday and won a victory that is being acclaimed throughout England.

Three Warships Destroyed. The armored cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau and the protected cruiser Leipzig, three of the German warships which had been menacing British shipping and part of the squadron which sank the British cruisers Good Hope and Monmouth in the Pacific on November 1, were destroyed, while the cruisers Dresden and Nurnberg, the two other vessels which composed the German squadron, made off during the fight and, according to latest accounts, are being pursued.

Victory Officially Announced. The announcement of this engagement and victory, which was the most important naval engagement of the war, with the exception of that off Heligoland last August, were made tonight in a statement by the Admiralty of less than 100 words. It said: "At 7:30 A. M., on December 8, the Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Nurnberg, Leipzig and Dresden were sighted near the Falkland Islands by a British squadron under Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Sturdee. "An action followed, in the course of which the Scharnhorst, flying the flag of Admiral Count Von Spee; the Gneisenau and the Leipzig were sunk. The Dresden and Nurnberg made off during the action and are being pursued. "Two colliers also were captured.

British Casualties Small. The Vice-Admiral reports that the British casualties are very few in number. "Some survivors have been rescued from the Gneisenau and the Leipzig." The statement makes reference to some survivors rescued from the Gneisenau and the Leipzig, but no mention is made of any of the crew of the Scharnhorst, which was the flagship of the German Admiral, being saved, and it is thus presumed that Count Von Spee, his officers and men went down fighting.

The British casualties were light, but beyond the fact that the British squadron was commanded by Vice-Admiral Sturdee, no information is vouchsafed regarding the ships engaged and the newspapers are engaged not to speculate, as "other combinations may be effected."

London Expects Complete Victory. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed in London over the victory, and the general impression is that it will be completed, as the Admiralty would not likely send ships that could not overtake the Dresden and Nurnberg, which are 24-knot and 23-knot vessels, respectively, and probably even slower after their long service. They are at a disadvantage also because of their small coal capacity.

The British squadron which engaged the Germans left England without the knowledge of the general public.

TURKS ROUTED BY INDIAN TROOPS

BRITISH CLEAR HEAD OF PERSIAN GULF OF ENEMY.

Suchi Bey, Commander at Kurna, Surrenders After Determined Attack and Considerable Loss.

LONDON, Dec. 9.—It is officially announced that Suchi Bey, late Governor of Basra, Asiatic Turkey, commander of the Turkish forces at Kurna, yesterday surrendered unconditionally with his troops to the Indian expeditionary force which is operating at the head of the Persian gulf. Kurna subsequently was occupied by the British, who are now in complete control of the country from the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers to the sea and of the richest part of the fertile delta.

The following day reinforcements were sent from Basra under Brigadier-General Charles Irwin Fry and captured Masera, cleared the left bank of the Tigris and took three guns and 100 prisoners, including three officers.

On December 8 the British crossed the river and the next day Suchi Bey surrendered. The British casualties during the whole of these operations amounted to one British officer killed and three wounded, with 40 Indians of the tank and file killed and 120 wounded.

CZAR'S SACRIFICE IS BIG

Receipts Are About \$38,000,000 Less First Month of Temptance. LONDON, Dec. 9.—Telegraphing from Petrograd, Reuter's correspondent says: "How great are the financial sacrifices Russia is making to promote temperance among her people at a time when money is sorely needed for war purposes is disclosed by the latest official statistics concerning the spirit monopoly. These show that the receipts from this source for September were about \$852,000, which is about \$32,285,215 less than for the same month last year.

"UNCLE JOE" MUST DANCE

Promise of Virginia Reel at Fair to Be Exact by Friends. SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 9.—In remembrance of a promise made more than four years ago, the Illinois Society of the Golden State will send a solid gold slipper to "Uncle Joe" Cannon. On May 6, 1910, "Uncle Joe" told a group of Senators and Representatives that if he was living in 1915 he would come to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, and dance the Virginia Reel in the Illinois State Building.

NORTH POLE RULE WANTED

Resolution Before Congress Provides United States Sovereignty. WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Extension of the money of the United States to the frozen lands and seas surrounding the North Pole was proposed in a joint resolution introduced in the House today by Representative Smith, of New York.

BIPLANE TO FLY 25 HOURS

Italian Machine Will Lift 3300 Pounds and Make 75 Miles Hour. MILAN, via Rome, Dec. 9.—A new military biplane which it is estimated can lift 3300 pounds and remain in the air 25 hours, had a successful trial here today.

TURIN MAY CONSERVE FOOD

Government in Italian Province Is Requested to Act. TURIN, via Rome, Dec. 9.—With a view to preserving the reserve of wheat and disposing of a quantity of rice, the exportation of which has been prohibited because of the war, the government has been asked to make compulsory the making of bread with from 10 to 15 per cent of rice flour.

EDISON BURNED OUT; DAMAGE \$7,000,000

Inventor, at 67, to Begin Rebuilding Today.

DELICATE MACHINERY GONE

Wizard Himself Directs Firemen in Their Work.

LABORATORY IS SAVED

Structures Supposed to Have Been Finest Examples of Fireproof Construction—\$800 Temporarily Thrown Out of Work.

WEST ORANGE, N. J., Dec. 9.—Fire destroyed virtually the entire main plant of the Edison Company here tonight, causing damage estimated at nearly \$7,000,000, with insurance that it is estimated will reduce the loss to approximately \$5,000,000.

An entire square block of modern reinforced concrete buildings, which were supposed to be fireproof, was burned out by the flames. The only building saved in the block was the laboratory containing valuable scientific machinery, under the immediate superintendence of the inventor, Thomas A. Edison.

3000 Thrown Out of Work

It is estimated that 3000 men and women will be thrown out of work by the fire. In all about 7000 persons were employed at the plant, but as the storage battery building across the street from the main plant was saved, with other buildings near by, it will be possible to keep something more than half the force employed.

Inventor to Start Over Again

"Although I am more than 67 years old I'll start all over again tomorrow," said Mr. Edison. "I am pretty well burned out tonight, but tomorrow there will be a mobilization here and the debris will be cleared away if it is cooled sufficiently and I will go right to work to reconstruct the plant."

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INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather. TODAY'S—Probably fair; easterly winds. YESTERDAY'S—Minimum temperature, 47.8 degrees; maximum, 48.6 degrees. War. British fleet sinks three German warships in South Atlantic; two others escape and are being pursued. Page 1. British Indian troops win complete victory over Turks at head of Persian Gulf. Page 1. British court condemns former German Consul to death for treason. Page 2. Cold stands sentinel over prisoners of war in Siberia. Page 3. Plans seriously prepared for expected German invasion. Page 2. British say allies have made strategic gains in France. Page 2. Russian power of offensive is spent, Berlin believes. Page 3. Kaiser in reported improving after illness. Page 3. Mexico. American artillery will reply to Mexican gun to death for treason. Page 2. National. Reclamation service urges speedy completion and extension of irrigation projects. Page 3. Secretary Lane says he has authority to end "race riot" in policy and will use it. Page 3. Treasury Department says business has safely weathered storm. Page 12. Admiral Fletcher says United States is prepared to meet any nation except Great Britain on sea. Page 4. Secretary Garrison advises Army be raised to full war strength. Page 4. Taft says chief danger of war for United States lies in disregard by states of Nation's treaty obligations. Page 1. Thomas A. Edison's great plant burned, with damage of \$7,000,000. Page 1. Sports. Big bouts to be staged soon at Milwaukee. Page 12. Farrell may not sell his New York club at \$450,000 figure. Page 12. Matthews expects Nationals to do some trading. Page 12. Pacific Northwest. Governor-elect Withycombe will preside to-day at Commonwealth Conference. Page 7. Fred J. Johnson is elected Mayor of Astoria. Page 7. State fair of 1915 to omit eugenics exhibition. Page 4. Commercial and Marine. California now in market for northern wheat. Page 11. Chicago wheat market depressed by Kaiser's illness. Page 11. Improvement in export and domestic steel situation. Page 17. Protective organization by lumbermen favored at preliminary meeting. Page 15. Portland and Vicinity. County problems discussed by state organization of court officials. Page 13. Drys may ask for emergency clause on prohibition law. Page 15. Commissioner Bigelow changes front on bridge agreement. Page 17. Livestock show visited by 10,000 Harriman Club day. Page 11. New shows at moving-picture theaters are charming. Page 9. Associated Charities' Christmas fund gains \$100 daily. Page 4. Jury out five minutes, finds Tronson guilty of murdering Emma Ulrich. Page 16. Weather report, data and forecast. Page 17.

TROOPS TO ANSWER FIRE OF MEXICANS

Washington Decides to Take Drastic Action.

SHARP WARNING IS GIVEN

White House Explains No "Aggression" Is Intended.

BORDER TO BE RESPECTED

Americans Will Not Enter Foreign Soil or Fire First, but Will Reply at Long Range if Violations Are Repeated.

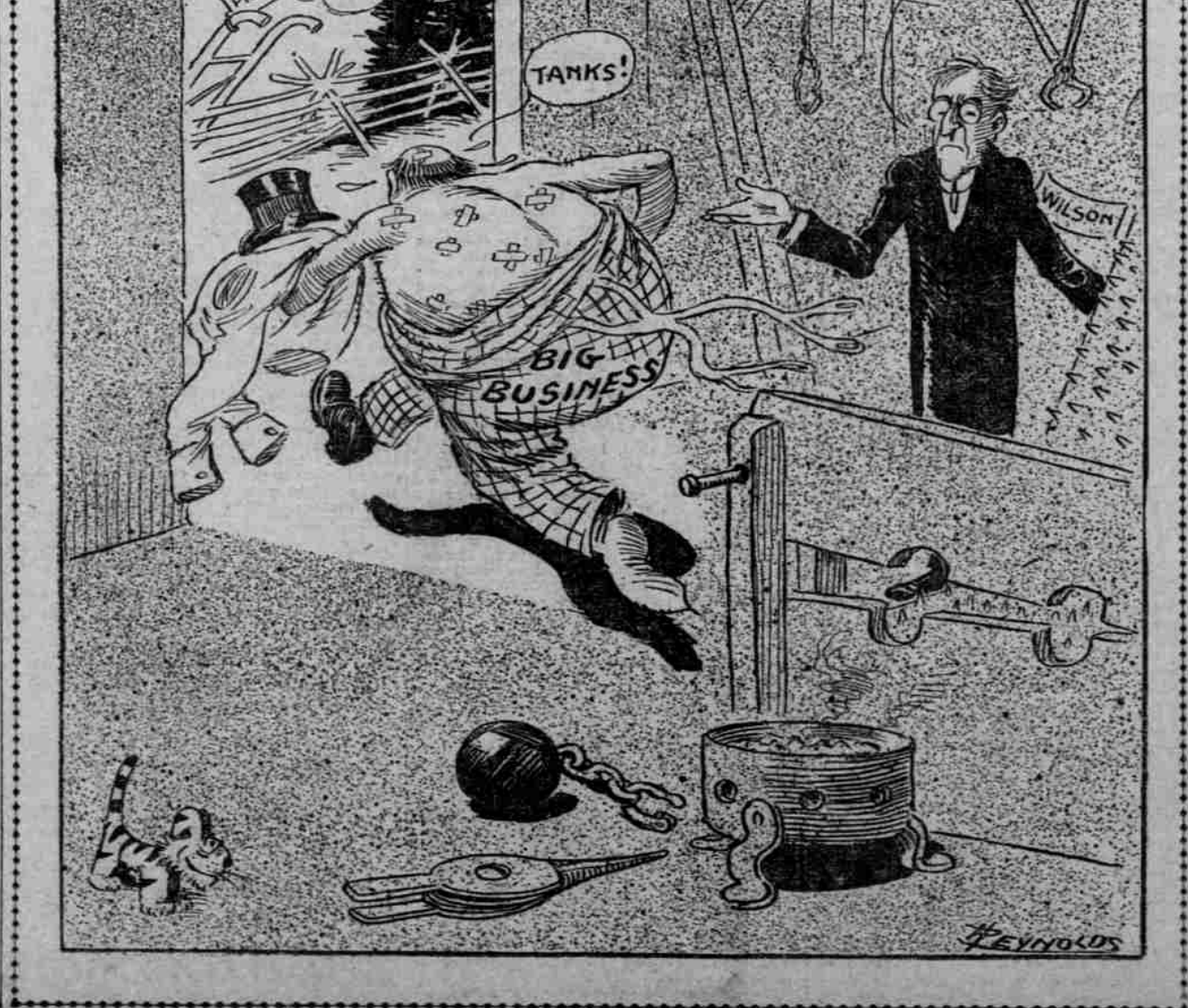
WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—If the contending Mexican forces opposite Naco, Ariz., do not cease firing into American territory, the three batteries of field artillery sent to the international line by President Wilson and Secretary Garrison will be ordered to return the fire. This is the determination of the United States Government, it became known tonight, after a full discussion by President Wilson with his Cabinet yesterday.

FIRE REVEALS GIRL'S BODY

Daughter of Farmer Near Cow Creek Burned Barn Is Missing.

GLENDALE, Or., Dec. 9.—(Special.)—The barn on the farm of H. A. Beamer about six miles up Cow Creek from Glendale was burned this morning about 1:30 o'clock. When the blaze died, out five minutes, a young woman was found where the hayrack had stood.

ON HIS WAY ONCE MORE



Wednesday's War Moves

THE victory off the Falkland Islands, where the British squadron sank the German cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Leipzig, and the success of the Indian troops on the Gulf of Persia, where they compelled the surrender of a Turkish army, have for the moment overshadowed, so far as England is concerned at any rate, the larger events which have taken place on the Continent of Europe.

The battle in the South Atlantic evened up Great Britain's score with Germany for the sinking of her cruisers, the Good Hope and Monmouth, off Chile November 1. The German warships sunk were those which encompassed the defeat of Rear-Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock's men of war. According to the official advice, the British ships have given chase to two other German ships, the Nurnberg and Dresden, which also were engaged in the fight. An official dispatch from Chile says it is reported there that these two vessels were badly damaged.

While this good news for the allies is being received, what is considered in London as a favorable French communication of the operations in Flanders and France has been given out. This is also a somewhat clearer view of what is taking place along the Russo-German frontier.

The withdrawal of German troops from the west to strengthen their armies in the east has enabled the allies to resume the initiative along the front running from the Swiss border to the North Sea, and while they have not made any marked advance they have been able, according to official announcement, to organize and consolidate the positions won in the last few days.

No act of "aggression" is contemplated, as was explained in a statement in the White House today, but officials draw a distinction between aggressive and defensive action. For the 11 troops of cavalry and three batteries of field artillery to cross the Mexican line or open fire first would constitute an act of aggression, but to remain on American soil and return the fire of the Mexicans is, in the opinion of high officials, a measure of defense fully justified under the circumstances, and not an act of war or invasion.

Brigadier-General Hugh Scott, now chief of staff of the Army, when in command at El Paso, Tex., a year ago, placed his artillery in a position along the Rio Grande and delivered the same warning, which was heeded.

Artillery Can Shoot Six Miles

It was explained at the War Department that the range of the artillery ordered to Naco is from five to six miles.

As the result of the Sultan's proclamation of a holy war, a serious situation is threatened against the Italians in Tripoli, and the Turkish Ambassador at Rome has listened to assure the Italian government that the Sublime Porte is trying to avert it.

The latest bulletin issued in Berlin concerning the condition of Emperor William said he had been unable to leave his bed and that his fever had not decreased. It added the Emperor was too weak to give any military instructions.

PEACE RESTS WITH STATES, SAYS TAFT

Local Treaty Violations Declared Menace.

OTHER PERILS MINIMIZED

Ex-President Mentions No Names in Address.

CONGRESS ADVISED TO ACT

No Necessity for Great Excitement Seen, and Nation's Defense Is Declared to Be Reasonably Adequate.

SOMERVILLE, Mass., Dec. 9.—Assumption by Congress of authority to prevent states from violating, by law or lawless violence, United States treaties would do more to prevent the possibility of war between this Nation and another than increasing the Army and Navy, ex-President Taft declared tonight in an address before the Hesperian Club.

"The only real possibility of a war that I can foresee is the wanton, reckless, wicked willingness on the part of a narrow section of the country to gratify racial prejudice and class hatred by flagrant breach of treaty rights in the form of state law, or by lawless violence," he said.

Congress Urged to Take Control. "Congress should at once assume authority for the National Government to see to it that it cannot be dragged into international difficulties through such blind selfishness, and this step would be quite as effective an improving our military defenses. Indeed, I think it would be more effective to prevent the possibility of war."

Excitement Held Unwarranted. While deprecating the "wild hysteria" regarding the country's defense, Mr. Taft admitted that parts of the Army and Navy should be strengthened. He would increase the Army from 25 to 50 per cent; insure the Navy enough men to man the reserve vessels, and provide new artillery, chiefly for coast defenses.

"There is no necessity for great excitement," he said. "What should be done can be done in a short time and with no excessive expenditure. It is said that our coast defenses have no artillery with a range long enough to resist the attacks of some of the naval artillery that could be brought against them. This is true, but I venture to think that an attack on our coast fortifications out of range of the guns we have in them would not be likely to result either in their destruction or surrender, but that is no reason why, with the development of guns of longer range, we cannot have enough of them (not many are needed) and have them within a reasonable time and at a reasonable cost.

Coast Defense Otherwise Complete. "Our coast defenses are otherwise quite complete for resistance to naval attack and, with Congressional provisions for the new guns in one appropriation bill, can make a successful naval attack upon them entirely out of the question. Were we to be called into a war in an emergency we would not have a standing Army of the size of the standing armies of the nations of Europe or Japan. "We do not need it to resist their attack if we have a good Navy and good coast defenses, because the difficulties of transportation of a large army, with a modern navy of the size of the standing armies of the nations of Europe or Japan, is insurmountable."

INCREASED BUSINESS IN LIVESTOCK TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS

To date the Portland Union Stockyards have handled about 6400 cars of livestock since the first of the year, or 400 carloads in excess of the showing for the corresponding period of last year. The increased movement has been most marked in the hog market, while the cattle have just about held their own.

The livestock market is a nearly a barometer of general business conditions than any other industry in this Western state, said O. M. Plummer, secretary-treasurer of the stockyards yesterday. "For if the farmers and livestock men are prosperous it bodes well for the remainder of the state's population. Furthermore prices are good as a rule and we know that they will never again be low on any characteristic of livestock. The main feature of livestock trade is the active condition of the hog market. This is because the Oregon farmers are awakening to the great possibilities of the hog trade. The hog is perhaps the best vehicle for marketing grains and the Oregon farmer, coming to realize this, is outgrowing the habit of shipping his grain-stuff. "Our business is better than ever before and we are more than optimistic of the future."

O'NEIL MAY GET PARDON

Idaho Banker Likely to Receive Freedom as Christmas Gift. BOISE, Idaho, Dec. 9.—(Special.)—E. F. (Earney) O'Neil, convicted Wallace banker, charged with wrecking the State Bank of Commerce of that city, and serving an indeterminate sentence of from two to 10 years in the state penitentiary here, may receive a pardon as a Christmas present. It is reliably reported. Members of the pardon board refuse to discuss the report. The State Board of Parole was in session here today. Warden Snook was asked if the parole board considered O'Neil's case. He replied that O'Neil was not eligible to parole, as he has not served the minimum time of his sentence. This will not make any difference in the event of pardon.