

GENERAL SITUATION IN EUROPE LIKE A SIEGE SAYS HILAIRE BELLOC

Great Critic, Says Success Is Far Away for Either Side in Huge Conflict.

WARSAW IS IMPORTANT

All Russian Poland Railways Center. That's German Advance Is Slow and Doesn't Justify Berlin's Joy.

By Hilaire Belloc, Former Military Writer of Europe.

London, Dec. 19.—The war situation at this moment of writing is as follows:

"About three weeks ago there was a very serious menace of a Russian advance upon Cracow, which after investing the fortress, would have had ample remaining forces for the invasion of Silesia, immediately behind it. Silesia is the Prussian province, full of factories and wealth, and also containing the landed property of many who have influence with the Prussian government. The Russian invasion of Silesia, therefore, would have had a capital effect—perhaps a disastrous one—upon the rest of the campaign in Germany.

Further possession of this point threatened Vienna just as it did Berlin. In order to relieve the pressure on Cracow, a German general who already had won much distinction in the present war—that is, Von Hindenburg—massed troops behind the frontier by rail, leaving only enough men in front of Cracow to hold the Prussian line. He brought his troops around by the strategic railway which runs parallel with the Russo-German frontier to the north to the neighborhood of Thorn, between the Vistula and the Warta, and struck suddenly for Warsaw.

Warsaw is Railroad Center.

The importance of getting to Warsaw was that all the main railways in Russian Poland concentrate upon this capital and anyone in possession of Warsaw and its bridges cuts the communication of any Russian army operating in middle and northern Poland.

The second battle of Warsaw already has lasted a month. During the last fortnight there have been developed a curiously undecided state of affairs. The Russian line extends 40 miles roughly coincident with the line of the river Bzura. The extreme right was upon the Vistula, the left part in front of Lodz and then further round down the south front to Piotrkow.

The right, resting on the Vistula, which most immediately defends Warsaw, was only a week ago 40 miles from that town. The extreme left front at Lodz suffered a continual increasing pressure on the part of the Germans, who, with consequences I will speak of in a moment, have been withdrawing men from the west.

Russians Evacuated Lodz.

This pressure compelled the Russians to evacuate the great manufacturing city of Lodz and the line behind it.

German pressure on the arrival of further reinforcements from the west continued day after day and upon Wednesday last, December 17th, the Russian right fell back 10 miles, and though still defending Warsaw, is now only 20 miles in front of that city.

Ever since then, that is, during Thursday, Friday and Saturday, there have been at a standstill on this line. The slow, if continuous, German advance naturally has been made the most of in Berlin, where the press, though not the official notices, speak of it as though it is already decisive. But an impartial student of war should note that there cannot even be the beginning of a decision in Poland until Warsaw is occupied, for Warsaw is the point upon which all northern communication concentrates.

Operations About Cracow. Meanwhile, in the southern Polish field, in front of Cracow, to relieve which all the heavy German work in the north has been undertaken, the Austrians and certain German contingents helping, also succeeded in slowly pushing back the invaders who threatened the fortress itself, and held it behind them.

Less than a fortnight ago the Russians held the main passes over the Carpathians, in particular, commanding the Dukla pass, the most important, and the Austrians are north of the mountains. Russian cavalry was at the last only a moment in Wrzesnia, only three miles from the outer fortifications of Cracow. The main Russian position is now 20 miles back of and east from this foremost advance, and in general the slow, steady, marked Russian retreat from before Cracow is almost as striking as the slow but marked German advance in front of Warsaw.

If it is asked how these partial and as yet inconclusive successes of the German allies in the eastern field have been won, the answer is that they have in every case been won by large additions of Austrians and German forces in Poland at the expense of the lines elsewhere. Men have been transferred from the Belgian frontier and from the Serbian field to the Polish field.

Rob Peter to Pay Paul. This transference has not been attended without consequences of its own on the lines from which the men have been taken. Thus, no less than seven German army corps have been taken and quite certainly five have been taken from the west to help Von Hindenburg in the east. The immediate effect of this has been the cracking of the long lines of German trenches between the Vosges and the North Sea. The allies spent the last ten days taking point after point on this long line. The total advance in any one case does not mean more than a few hundred yards, but the fluctuation in the line and the approach to the breaking point is critical.

If it is decisive, precisely in small advances like these, the continuance of them would mean for the Germans (a) necessary withdrawal of men back again from the east to the west, and (2) the eastern battle is not decided.

What Happened to Austria. In the case of the Austrians, the effects of this policy of withdrawing men from one field for another are still more marked. They planned an invasion of Serbia with between seven and eight army corps. The Serbians had retreated before the Austrian invasion to the first mountain ridge south of the Danube, the ridge of Maljen, and had left Belgrade and one of the principal towns, Valjevo, at the mercy of the Austrians.

At this moment the violent Hungarian campaign of the Russians, open-

GERMAN KAISER SHOWS CARES OF WAR



Recent Photograph of Emperor William Shows Face With Care Worn Expression. He is Wearing an Iron Cross of the First Order.



EXPERT REVIEW OF THE WAR BY J.W.T. MASON

New York, Dec. 19.—Serbia's successful counter offensive against Austria and the situation in Hungary which led up to it, not only are the most important war developments of the week, but are also among the most significant occurrences in the east since hostilities began. Serbia's military recuperation, which caused so much mystery at its commencement, is now seen to have resulted from the Russian campaign in Hungary. Little attention has been paid to Slav movements across the Carpathian mountains, except among the Hungarians themselves, who apparently were greatly alarmed by the Russian raiders. Appeals were made by the Hungarians for protection of their territory, but the plans of the German and Austrian general staffs had not been drawn with this subsidiary objective in view. Calls for assistance from Budapest seem to have been disregarded until a revolutionary spirit began to develop. Count Tisza, the Hungarian premier, is reported to have threatened in parliament that unless troops were sent against the Russians in Hungary, the Hungarian army no longer would act with Germany and Austria, but would return home to defend Hungarian soil.

Russia Has Liberated Serbia.

This spirit of rebellion apparently forced a withdrawal of Austrian troops from Serbia for the defense of Hungary. The Austrians remaining in Serbia were weak to continue the campaign against the Serbs and were routed with large losses.

At the same time the Russians were driven out of Hungary and Hungarian fears have been quieted at the cost of the disaster in Serbia. Though the attack has seen the Slavs retreat to the north of the Carpathians, Russia has accomplished the purpose of her Hungarian demonstration by liberating Serbia.

The Russian troops which had been sent into Hungary weakened the Slav armies in central Poland at the same time. The events of the week reveal this as one of the reasons why the Germans have progressed so near to Warsaw. The bear sacrificed her own defenses to rescue her cub and Marshal von Hindenburg seized the opportunity to drive his wedge into the bear's flank.

The position occupied by von Hindenburg is so strong that Berlin was electrified by an announcement during the week that the eastern campaign had reached a final decision favorable to Germany. Nothing in the military situation warrants such extreme optimism. It is probable the German claim is for the purpose of offsetting the effect of Serbia's victory throughout the Balkans and in Constantinople.

Berlin Is Too Confident.

Berlin's rejoicing at the end of the week was in striking contrast to early irritation. Twice in the course of the week Berlin's reports officially rebuked the Austrians. On the first occasion an Austrian announcement that 10,000 prisoners had been captured was called "meaningless" because the period during which the prisoners were taken was not mentioned; while later Austria's prediction of Serbia's defeat was characterized as false.

Germany's obvious anger over the Serbian situation was changed to delight at the success of the naval raid on the Yorkshire coast.

Although not accomplishing any result of military importance, the Germans were able to humiliate the British navy by making a successful journey of nearly 700 miles through waters guarded by the Union Jack. The escape of the raiders is all the more exasperating to Great Britain because three battle cruisers were in the attacking squadron. These capital ships are a part of Germany's first line sea strength and had they been destroyed the victory would have been of prime importance. Fog favored the Germans, but splendid seamanship also contributed to make this the most daring exploit of the war.

In France and Belgium the allies have made substantial progress during the week. Along a front of 70 miles, from Dixmude to Albert, the battle line has been moved forward by distances varying from several hundred yards to nearly five miles. There have been no such consistent gains since the allies gained the battle of the Aisne.

Surgeons to Meet Next in Spokane. North Pacific Association at Closing Annual Session Holds Election of Officers.

Spokane will be the next meeting place of the North Pacific Surgical association which closed its annual sessions here yesterday. Dr. H. B. Luhn of Spokane was elected president of the society and with Dr. O'Shea, also of Spokane, who will be the secretary for the coming year, will have charge of the arrangements for the 1915 sessions of the association.

Yesterday afternoon's session was featured by a paper read by Dr. Youn of Tacoma on the "Modern Treatment of Fractures." He discussed the repairing of fractured bones by the use of steel plates and screws instead of the outward pressure of splints now commonly used. He showed how such treatment was far superior to the old method in which the binding pressure of the splints was detrimental to the nutrition of the bone itself as well as harmful to the surrounding flesh.

Friday evening the members of the association were entertained at a banquet at the Arlington club. Various other informal entertainments as well as four business sessions during the two days, filled the time. Dr. Andrew C. Smith, retiring president, gave an interesting lecture yesterday.

MONEY IS AVAILABLE, WHY THE DELAY IN GETTING IT NOW?

Position of Secretary Lane Not Exactly Plain Regarding Promised \$450,000.

MESSAGE RECEIVED HERE

Why Does the Appropriation Have to Go Back to Congress, Is the Question Asked?

Secretary of the Interior Lane has authority to allot \$450,000 for some reclamation project in Oregon. The money is available. When he was in Oregon last year he said that the government would balance the state's appropriation of \$450,000 for the Tumalo project, but in Oregon, consistent with policy of cooperation between government and state.

Yesterday he said in Washington to Congressman Sinnott of Oregon that he would recommend the appropriation of \$450,000 for an irrigation project in Oregon by the coming congress. Congressman Sinnott telegraphed C. C. Chapman, manager of the Commercial club as follows:

Would Recommend It. Secretary Lane told Senator Chapman and myself that he would recommend to the house committee

appropriation of \$450,000 or more if necessary, to be expended on some Oregon project now under investigation by engineers of the interior department and recommended by them without conditioning such appropriation upon the appropriation of a like sum by the state of Oregon.

Just what did Secretary Lane mean, was the question asked by those close to the reclamation projects of Oregon, after the telegram came. Why does the appropriation have to go back to congress? The message indicated that the secretary of the interior recognized that the government should make as large or larger appropriations for reclamation as the state. Mr. Chapman said that the secretary of the interior thereby conceded substantially what had been asked by Oregon.

He Has the Money Now.

But the secretary of the interior has the money now, and it is pointed out, does not need to go to congress for it. After January 1 it will revert to the general fund and to be made available must be re-allotted. After next summer, according to the new law, the power to make appropriations of government money to meet appropriations by states will be withdrawn.

Effort will be made to learn why Oregon should not receive the \$450,000 allotted and promised, it is said. If appropriation is necessary and the recommendation of the secretary of the interior is acted upon favorably, effort will then be made to have \$450,000 now available advanced so that work can proceed, the government to be reimbursed when the act of appropriation becomes effective.

Public Is Thanked.

The Woman's auxiliary of the German Red Cross society, residing in the sum of \$1500 raised for relief work at the bazaar at the German house, has issued a statement thanking the public for its hearty response. The society will omit its regular meeting next Tuesday.

CHRISTMAS NOT FORGOTTEN BY FIGHTING RACES

(Continued From Page One)

because there is something of a holy war in their fighting. It is the Greek against the Roman church. The sorrow of war comes closest to England along the east coast, where 500 homes were stricken by the killing or injuring of members of the family during the bombardments this week by the German warships.

A shortage in the supply of turkeys has resulted in the price advancing to 30 cents a pound. The supply from the continent has, of course, been cut off by the war. The usual supply of German toys is also missing.

Christmas Funds Large.

Numerous war relief funds have been raised and the various English Christmas funds, already amounting to \$25,000,000. But the work still goes on. Actors and actresses are giving free performances for the wounded in the hospitals and benefit performances for the Christmas fund.

The only city now in a state of siege in the war area is Przemysl. There the officers have a luxurious casino in the center of town, and luxurious quarters in each great fort. As they have ample food, fuel and supplies for six months, it is safe to say even the beleaguered city will duly celebrate Christmas, despite the Russians who are beating at the doors.

Gift Ship's Cargo Arrives in Berlin and Is Welcomed

(Special to The Journal.) Berlin, Dec. 19, via London, Dec. 19.—The American Christmas gifts for the children of fallen German soldiers arrived today from the U. S. S. Jason, the Chicago Herald's Yule ship. They were accompanied from Naples by representatives of the German foreign office. The gifts were landed at Genoa and were forwarded from there by rail.

A reception was given this afternoon by the municipality of Berlin for the formal presentation of the gifts.

It was attended by the lord mayor, leading city functionaries, Baron Adam von Soltmannstein representing the foreign office; Prince Hatzfeld, president of the German Red Cross, which undertakes the distribution of the gifts; James W. Gerard, the American ambassador, his wife and other members of the embassy, and the Empress' two chief ladies-in-waiting.

The crown prince's three eldest sons, dressed in sailor suits, were also present and attracted much attention. Five hundred girls and boys with American German flags were stationed on the broad stairway of the town hall and awaited the arrival of the official party and a picked choir of children sang Christmas carols around a Christmas tree.

The lord mayor, in the course of his speech of welcome, said:

"This noble deed will be kept in our memory for a long time as a pledge to us that our worldly quarrels are overpowered by the gospel, 'peace on earth, good will toward men.'"

The Norddeutsche Zeitung, commenting editorially on the arrival of the gifts:

"We extend the capital's heart's welcome to this demonstration free from any political design and an expression of pure love of humanity, whose value the German people know how to appreciate even in the stress of war time."

"The Christmas festival has not lost its charms to the souls of Germans by reason of the war forced upon us."

A large part of the carload of clothing, food and gifts that was the north-

west's contribution to the Christmas ship was supplied by Portland's generous citizens, who responded to the call made by The Journal, which acted in conjunction with the Chicago Herald.

The remainder was furnished by Seattle, Spokane and Tacoma, through the activities of the O. V. R. & N. and its agents. This road, along with others, forwarded the cars without charge to Brooklyn, N. Y., where the United States collector Jason, known for this voyage as the "Christmas Ship," carried the precious cargo to the children of the warring nations. The Jason sailed November 13, and touched first at England.

GUN TOTER IS FINED \$10

Herbert McDonald and J. F. Shall were each fined \$10 in the municipal court yesterday, the first for carrying a revolver, and the second on an after-hour vagrancy charge. The arrest of these two led to the identification of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ahrendt of 889 Thurman street by City Detectives Coleman and Snow Thursday, and their subsequent holding to the grand jury on charges of house larceny and forgery. McDonald said he had procured the revolver at the Parenti residence.

Driver Charged With Intoxication.

Charged with the operation of an automobile while intoxicated, F. L. Whitcomb, a merchant, was arrested on the Hawthorne bridge by Motorcycle Patrolman Coulter yesterday afternoon after his machine had collided with a bakery wagon on Grand avenue. The driver of the wagon telephoned the number of the automobile to police headquarters, and the officer was sent out to pick him up. Whitcomb is held under \$10 bail.

King George of England employs 1000 servants.

SMASH

Go The Holiday Prices

Christmas Presents for Everyone

Don't Let Ready Money Bother You. Liberal Credit to All Who Desire It.

Everything in Xmas goods positively reduced for final cleanup. Don't fail to attend this greatest of all removal sales, and take advantage of these wonderful bargains. Our last chance to dispose of holiday goods in our present location, as we move within a short time to Fifth and Oak Streets.

20% Off ALL MUSIC CABINETS

We've cut the price on each and every Music Cabinet in our store. Your opportunity to buy Mahogany, Oak or Circassian Wood Cabinets in new designs at 20% less than our regular low price.

UP FROM \$7.20

NINE SAMPLES LADIES' WRITING DESKS Half Price

\$12.50 Polished Quartered Oak Desk	\$ 6.75
\$14.50 Fumed Oak Open Desk	7.25
\$15.00 Mahogany Desk as is	7.50
\$15.50 Mahogany Desk	7.75
\$17.50 Birdseye Desk as is	8.75
\$20.50 Polished Golden Oak Desk	10.25
\$21.50 Mahogany Desk	10.75
\$22.00 Mahogany Desk	11.00
\$29.50 Birdseye Desk	14.75

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LISTED BELOW ARE A NUMBER OF CHRISTMAS NOVELTIES at Half Price AT EDWARDS

90c Tabourette, golden oak finish	45c
\$2.75 Mahogany Tabourette	\$1.35
\$3.00 Footstools, golden oak finish	\$1.50
\$3.50 Oak Magazine Stands	\$1.75
\$5.50 Waste Paper Baskets, oak, mahogany or birdseye maple	\$2.75
\$6.50 Oak Magazine Stands	\$3.25
\$7.50 Indian Stools	\$3.75
\$7.00 Umbrella Stands	\$3.50
\$8.50 Fern Stands	\$4.25
\$10.00 Fern Stands	\$5.00
All Plate Racks reduced	ONE-HALF

Many Other Articles Going at Half Price.

DOLL CARTS REDUCED

\$1.40 Doll Cart	\$1.15
\$1.95 Doll Cart	\$1.50
\$2.65 Doll Cart	\$2.20
\$3.75 Doll Cart	\$3.15

FOUR CHOICE PATTERNS 100-PIECE DECORATED DINNER SETS Regular \$15.90 Removal Price \$11.90

Two Hundred sets of these fine Semi-Porcelain Sets to go at about two-thirds the regular price. They are beautiful new patterns and just the thing she will most appreciate—\$1.00 weekly payments.

CHILD'S Desk and Chair ADD ONE TO YOUR ACCOUNT \$3.50

Only a few of them left. They are made just like cut of solid oak in golden finish—a gift that is very practical and one which will please any child.

A GOOD PLACE TO TRADE

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