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GERMANS AGAIN FAIL IS RUSSIAN REPORT

Long Battle of the Four Rivers Believed Ended and New Movements Under Way.

London.—Complete failure of the German campaign of the Four Rivers which has constituted a long series of battles on the Bzura, Rawka, Pilica and Nida, with heavy losses, is reported in dispatches received from Petrograd. They contradict the Berlin contention, that the German advance is progressing.

Austrian reports of a repulse of the Russians in Galicia are also contradicted by the Petrograd dispatches.

A Petrograd dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company says:

"In the opinion of experts here, the battle of the four rivers, as the long series of engagements on the Bzura, Rawka, Pilica and Nida is popularly known, may be considered ended.

"Not only have the Germans and Austrians failed to advance on the Russian north and south line, roughly lying from the Vistula to Warsaw, Kielce and Pincow, but everywhere have been repulsed with heavy losses and the attacks now proceeding may be construed as an effort to gain time, pending new operations.

"By the occupation of Kremenz, Zeteten, Sereth and Radautz, in Bukovina on the Roumanian frontier, Russia not only holds the strategic railway line connecting Bukovina with western Galicia and Hungary, but is within 100 miles of Hungary over easy passes of the wooded Carpathians."

BRITISH BATTLESHIP SUNK

Formidable Destroyed in the English Channel by Mine or Torpedo.

London.—The battleship Formidable, one of the older vessels of the British navy, was destroyed either by a mine or a German submarine. The place where the battleship sunk is not given, except that it was in the English channel.

Of the crew of 750 men, only 201 are known to have been rescued.

Survivors who were landed at Brixham relate that the warship was struck about the magazine. The explosion was terrific, but the magazine was not reached. Had this also blown up, the ship would have foundered without there being time to save anybody.

As the water rushed in the men on the Formidable hurried to the deck. They found that the vessel already had a heavy list to starboard.

A launch and a pinnace succeeded in getting away. Almost all the cars were broken in trying to prevent the small boats from being dashed to pieces against the side of the ship by the tremendous seas running. Captain Loxley and his signalman were still on the bridge when the battleship keeled over and went to the bottom.

Tone of British Press is Calm.

London.—Comment in the British press on the situation created by the American protest against interference with American shipping continues to absorb attention. Its tone on the whole is free from irritation, but there is a strong disposition to argue the question.

WESTERN GAINS CONTINUE SMALL

Paris.—The following official communication was issued:

"According to the latest advices received here there has been no alteration in the situation.

"The weather continues exceedingly bad on almost the whole front.

"From the Oise to the Meuse, on the plateau of Touvent, our heavy artillery has demolished several fortifications from which the enemy was harassing our sappers.

"Spirited artillery duels have taken place to the west and the east of Craonne. Near Perthes-les-Hurlus we have progressed about 300 meters. Near Beausejour there has been infantry fighting in which we have inflicted serious losses on the enemy.

"In Upper Alsace our former gains in the region of Thann have been maintained. We have bombarded a German train in the railway station of Altkirch and caused some damage on the railway between Carspach and Dierspach to the southwest of Altkirch.

"In general the perceptible abatement which can be noted in our active offensive should be attributed to the incessant rains which soak the ground and make operations everywhere almost impossible.

700 Men Resume Work.

Everett, Wash.—Two lumber mills, employing a total of 700 men, resumed work, and a third, employing 200 more will start up January 15, it was announced.

IMMIGRATION BILL PASSES SENATE

Measure, With Literacy Test, Wins by Majority of 50 to 7.

Washington.—The immigration bill, containing the restrictive literacy test for admission of aliens which has been the obstacle in immigration reform legislation for the greater part of two national administrations, passed the senate by a vote of 50 to 7.

The overwhelming majority was recorded despite the fact that President Wilson had indicated he would veto the measure, as did President Taft, if it should come to him with the educational test included.

The vote in the senate indicated that the bill could be repassed by more than the required two-thirds majority should the president reject the measure. Senators who voted against the bill were: Brandegee, McCumber, Martine, O'Gorman, Ramsdell, Reed and Walsh.

The bill passed the house on February 4 last by a vote of 241 to 126.

Although the senate amended the house bill in several particulars, the literacy test was unaltered, save for an additional exemption to Belgian subjects which was adopted after prolonged debate.

House leaders were confident senate amendments would be accepted.

Features of Immigration Bill.

In general persons over 16 shall be required to be able to read English or some language or dialect, including Yiddish.

Exception to literacy test is made of Belgian farmers who come to the United States within one year after the end of the present European war. Persons fleeing from religious persecution also excepted.

Admissible alien may send for wife or grandfather over 55, or for father, mother, grandmother or unmarried or widowed daughter, though such relative may be illiterate.

Polygamists excluded.

Persons of African race or negro blood excluded.

Excluded list extended to take in vagrants, the tuberculous and persons who teach or advocate unlawful destruction of property.

Filipinos Unready to Rule, Says Taft.

Ex-President Taft told the senate committee working on the administration bill for Philippine independence that the people of the islands, in his opinion, would be unfitted for self-government for the next 30 years—probably for the next half century.

Mr. Taft declared that in his opinion Japan had no desire to take the Philippines.

"I twice visited Japan and conferred with the authorities on that very point," he continued, "and it's my opinion that their experiences in Formosa have been quite enough in that direction.

"I believe Mr. Roosevelt still feels that way, as I do," he said. "Of course I am not in Mr. Roosevelt's confidence but I judge that is his position."

War Tax Revenues Grow.

The so-called war revenue tax began to figure in marked fashion in government revenues during December for the first time. Customs receipts fell off during that month nearly \$7,000,000, compared with December, 1913, but ordinary internal revenue increased for the same period nearly \$5,000,000.

How much of that came from the emergency tax is not shown in the treasury statement, but probably it was a large part. Total receipts for December amounted to \$51,429,362, compared with \$54,282,256 in 1913. Ordinary disbursements amounted to \$56,994,982.

AMERICAN VESSELS FREED

Three Ships Held in English Ports Are Released.

Washington.—The first result of the "United States" protest to Great Britain against interference with shipping was seen when the state department announced receipt of a dispatch from Consul General Skinner at London telling of the release of three American ships detained in English ports to which they had been diverted by British warships.

While the British government has only begun consideration of the United States note, the release of the ships was generally regarded as a result of the protest. It gave officials further hope that the differences between the United States and England over shipping would be speedily and amicably adjusted.

May Exchange Prisoners.

Rome.—In addition to the cordial replies of Emperor William and King George, promising their assistance in arranging for an exchange of prisoners who are incapable of further fighting, Pope Benedict has received other satisfactory answers from belligerent powers to his request for such exchange.

GENERAL VON STEIN



General von Stein, who is in charge of the commissary department of the German army.

GERMAN OFFICERS ACCUSED

Four Are Arrested in New York Harbor Charged With Fraud.

New York.—Accused of using fraudulent passports, four German army officers were arrested and taken from the steamer Bergensfjord bound for Norway.

The men were arraigned together with Carl Houde and John Aucher of Brooklyn before Commissioner Houghton, charged with attempting to defraud the federal government by fraudulent use of passports.

The men taken from the ship gave their names as Arthur Wilhelm Sacke, a reservist and lieutenant in the German army, now living at Pelham manor, New York; Walter Miller, August Meyer and Harmon Germer, the three latter from Chile.

The arrests followed a campaign against fake passports growing out of the Carl Lody case in which he was shot as a spy in the tower of London. The state department has issued stringent passport regulations since then.

Oregon May Have Women Legislators.

Salem, Or.—Miss Marion Towne, of Jackson county, will not be the only woman member of the next general assembly if the plans of Governor West, announced here, do not go astray. He said that he would appoint Miss Kathryn Clark, who conducts a hotel at Glendale, state senator of Douglas county to succeed George Neuner, recently named district attorney.

ASYLUM INMATE ADMITS MURDERS

Salem, Or.—A lock of his own hair, taken from the hand of one of his victims, who had fought desperately for her life, and that of her child, held before John G. H. Sierks, a feeble-minded inmate of the state insane asylum, caused him to confess to the killing of Mrs. Daisy Wehrman and her little boy in their cabin, near Scappoose, the night of September 4, 1911.

Thus, the authorities say, is John Arthur Pender, convicted of the crime and sentenced to be hanged, proved guiltless. He will, it is believed, be freed by executive order in a few days.

Credit for solving this most heinous and most mysterious of Oregon crimes belongs to George A. Thacher, a criminologist of Portland.

There seems to be no doubt of the truth of Sierks' confession. While feeble-minded, he is capable of reasoning and seemed to understand thoroughly what was meant when he was asked to stand and take an oath to what he said. He signed the confession with a bold hand and seemed much relieved thereafter.

THE MARKETS.

Portland.

Wheat—Club, \$1.29; bluestem \$1.31; red Russian, \$1.22; forty-fold, \$1.30; red five, \$1.24.

Hay—Eastern Oregon timothy, \$16; grain hay, \$11; alfalfa, \$13; valley timothy, \$12.

Butter—Creamery, 32c. Eggs—Ranch, 34c; candled, 35c.

Hops—1914 crop, 12c; 1913 crop, nominal.

Wool—Valley, 18c; eastern Oregon, 20c.

Seattle.

Wheat—Bluestem, \$1.30; club \$1.29; red Russian, \$1.23; turkey red, \$1.25; forty-fold, \$1.29; five, \$1.24.

Barley, \$27.50 per ton. Hay—Timothy, \$15 per ton; alfalfa, \$13 per ton. Butter—Creamery, 35c. Eggs—39c.

That Mousetrap

If a man preach a better sermon, write a better book, make a better mousetrap than his neighbor, the world will make a pathway to his door, though he live in a forest.

Ralph Waldo Emerson—Nix.

RALPH WALDO EMERSON was a great man. We all admit that. But there were a good many things that he might have said and would have said if he had happened to think of them.

That mousetrap crack-out-of-the-box caught a lot of literary mice intent on orphic cheese.

One thing, trivial, of course, and not worth mentioning—and that is why I write it down—is that the mousetrap guff isn't true. No one will make a path to your door nowadays, no matter how good your mousetraps are, unless you advertise them widely and extensively and arrange to have a free lunch at the mousetrap-factory with automobiles to meet all visitors at the railroad-station. Good mousetrap factories have concrete walks and luring flowerbeds along the way, where hollyhocks grow lush and lusty.

The men who have made the best mousetraps the world has ever seen have usually languished in garrets or were forgotten in their sylvan dales, the tall uncut, showing not a footprint, surrounded them on every side. Mousetraps should be widely and wisely publicized, all of which Emerson knows, being wise, as he smiles serenely from his reserved seat in the Valhalla Ad-Club.

Elbert Hubbard

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