

AMERICANS IN FIGHT ON WESTERN FRONT

General Pershing Reports Soldiers From United States in Action on Several Occasions.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Early this week American forces on the French front were in action on several occasions, General Pershing today reported to the war department.

Four were killed on Jan. 21 and 22. Three of these have been previously reported and the fourth, Pershing said today, was Private Fred P. Thompson, of Georgetown, Ill.

Action also was reported between American forces and the Germans on Monday. No details of the conflicts have been forwarded to the war department. Seven deaths from natural causes were reported, among them being: Private William Rossi, Lodi, Cal.; Private Floyd Bolen, Athens, Ohio; Pte. William B. Mohr, Covington, Ky.; Nurse Florence Hinton, Decatur, Ill.; Pte. Howard Hall, Derby, Ohio.

Replies to Wilson

(Continued from page one)

bound by her offer to the entente. She had a free path to pursue separate peace negotiations.

"Since then war aims speeches have

been delivered by Premier Lloyd-George and President Wilson. Lloyd-George showed an alteration in tone.

"He no longer abused us, but he showed an inclination for negotiations. But I cannot go so far as the foreign journals which have read in the speech an earnest desire for peace, or even of friendly feelings toward us.

"In declaring he does not seek the annihilation of Germany and never entertained a desire to destroy us, he even used words of appreciation of Germany's political and cultural position.

"But his other utterances force the conviction that he believes himself entitled to adjudge the Germans guilty of all possible crimes.

"We cannot understand such feelings nor can we find in them any proof of a sincere will.

Says Wilson's Tone Different.

"I acknowledge that President Wilson's tone is now different from what it was before his attempt by means of the American reply to the pope to sow dissension between the German government and the German people.

"He no longer talks of autocratic suppression of the German people by the German government and his former attack upon the Hohenzollerns is not repeated."

Commenting on President Wilson's war aims speech, the German chancellor asserted:

"On the first four points an agreement is obtainable without difficulty.

"On the fifth there will be some difficulty. It chiefly concerns England, but President Wilson's proposals could be taken into consideration respecting the

colonies demanded by Germany.

"The sixth concerns only Russia and the central powers.

"The seventh can only be settled in peace negotiations, but Germany has never demanded the incorporation of Belgian territory by violence.

"On the eighth point, Germany does not wish annexations by violence, but this is a question only to be discussed by France and Germany.

"However, we cannot talk of the cessation of Alsace-Lorraine, 87 per cent of whose population speak German.

"On the ninth and tenth points Germany remains solidly with Austria-Hungary."

"As to the eleventh point," Hertling continued, "let the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister answer President Wilson thereon.

"On the twelfth, so far as it concerns Turkey, we must not forestall her statesmen's attitude as to her integrity. The German empire may well energetically support her.

"As to the fourteenth point, Germany will be ready when all other questions are settled to discuss a league of peoples.

Doubts Russian Sincerity.

"Doubt has often arisen whether the Russians are in earnest in their peace negotiations. All sorts of wireless messages are going throughout the world, with exceedingly strange contents, and these might strengthen this doubt.

"Nevertheless, I hold fast to the hope shortly to arrive at a good conclusion with the Russians at Brest-Litovsk.

"We hope soon to conclude an arrangement with Ukraine which will be mutually satisfactory, especially from an economic viewpoint."

Continuing, Hertling pointed out that Alsace-Lorraine was originally German in 1689 and that it had merely been restored to Germany in 1871.

"There are no differences between us and President Wilson as to freedom of the seas," the German chancellor asserted.

"But it is most important for future freedom of navigation that England relinquish strongly fortified points d'appui on important sailing routes—such as Gibraltar, Malta, Aden, Hong Kong and the Falkland Isles.

"Restriction of military operations," the chancellor continued, discussing President Wilson's demands for limitation of armament, "is open to discussion. The financial position of all European countries after the war will probably work effectively for a satisfactory solution of this matter."

In conclusion, Chancellor von Hertling declared:

"A durable general peace is impossible so long as the lasting integrity of the German empire and the security of its vital interests are not assured."

"The future of the Balkans is of paramount importance to the political interests of Austria-Hungary," Hertling declared. "German interests are also concerned. We will guard them to the utmost."

Reviewing German history, the chancellor said:

"The Austro-German alliance was intended to maintain peace. But the isolation policy of King Edward (of Belgium) made him dream of an unfriendly coalition.

"In reality, the German empire's progressive and growing strength stood in the way of British imperialism. In the French lust for revenge and in Russian aspirations for expansion, British imperialism found ready aid.

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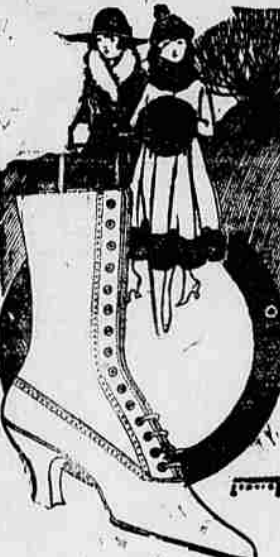
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