

CRACOW REPORTED IN FLAMES AFTER AN ONSLAUGHT BY THE RUSSIANS

FORTRESS KEY TO INVASION OF RICH PROVINCE

Conflicting Stories From Eastern Battle Line—Germans Reported to Have Rejoined Austrians in Defense at Cracow—Kaiser Still Trying to Break Through Allies' Lines.

LONDON, Nov. 17, 1:22 p. m.—Germany's remarkably persistent offensive in blizzard-swept Flanders and stability after her hasty defense along her eastern frontier, were issues, the outcome of which still was undecided today in the great European war.

Cracow an Enigma The actual situation in Cracow is becoming one of the many enigmas of the war. One report has the Russians actually investing the town, which is declared to be in flames, while several reports have reached London that the Germans have left the defense of Cracow to the Austrians, who, in their turn, are expected to surrender rather than have the city bombarded.

A Hopeless Task How valiantly the German soldiers have been meeting death in what to date has been a hopeless task is recounted by the British army's official eyewitness at the front, Colonel Swinton, who, describing the recent fighting around Ypres, said: "Their dogged perseverance claims our whole-hearted admiration."

This tribute was not qualified, as heretofore, by the query whether discipline or sheer bravery prompted the men so to die, for the troops referred to were the guard corps, the pick of the German army, which has, according to Colonel Swinton, "retained the contempt for death" which it showed in the Franco-Prussian war.

Berlin is interpreting the retreat of the German forces from Warsaw as a strategic masterpiece, much the same as the allied governments hailed General Joffre's retirement in the early stages of the German invasion of France, but the German people, according to travelers reaching here, are expressing widespread chagrin at the retreat.

It will be recalled that similar criticism was voiced when the French and English armies continued to fall back. That this was strategically a proper move subsequently was proved and according to those who recently have been at the German capital, the German army in the east must similarly justify its action if its retreat from Warsaw is not to go down in history as a defeat.

BRITISH WAR LOAN BONDS SELL FAST

LONDON, Nov. 17, 5:43 p. m.—Five hundred million dollars of the new British war loan of \$1,125,000,000 already has been taken by one firm, it was announced today in the house of commons by David Lloyd-George, chancellor of the exchequer.

FOOD DEMAND FROM EUROPE AIDS BUSINESS

Most Serious Effects of European War Upon America Passed—Mills and Factories Busy With Orders From Warring Nations—Abnormal Trade in Needed Articles Resulting

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—Officials of the various government departments which touch the country's business activities feel confident that the most serious effects of the European war on American business have passed. The restoration of the credit balance with Europe has greatly eased the situation, the increasing demand from Europe for American food supplies and also the sudden development of an abnormal trade in articles needed by the huge armies now in the field aiding to that end.

Half Billion Spent No accurate figures on the contracts of the latter character are obtainable, but orders for horses, mules, army clothing, harness and the like have flooded factories and stockmen in some districts. It is said that including ammunition orders, this business reaches the huge total of more than \$500,000,000. In several lines factories are straining to highest capacity to meet the demands.

Other factors which aided in clearing up the situation are the opening of the federal bank system, upon which business experts look as the backbone of the country's resources, the opening of the Panama canal which has already increased freight traffic to the west coast of South America, and the entry of more than eight foreign-built ships into American registry under the emergency law passed at the last session of congress.

Scarcity of Carriers Of the shipping situation, officials said today there was a growing scarcity of carriers for American export commerce because the bulk of that traffic was increasing so steadily. Freight rates have risen remarkably and it is shipping companies were now selecting their cargoes with the greatest care, averting all articles of even a semi-contraband nature.

Huge shipments of grain are awaiting transportation at many ports. It appears probable this condition will result in renewed activity in behalf of the administration federal merchant marine bill, when congress reassembles, although the new complexion of the house of representatives where the democrats control by a narrow margin, makes the result doubtful. There was vigorous opposition to the bill last session by many democrats.

GERMAN CRUISER DISARMS RATHER THAN RISK FOE

CHRISTIANIA, Norway, Nov. 17, via London, 4:30 p. m.—It was officially announced here today that the disarmament of the German cruiser Berlin, which has put in at Trondhjem, a seaport of Norway, has been commenced.

The Berlin, with a crew of 450 men, arrived at Trondhjem yesterday. Her commander was given the choice of putting to sea within twenty-four hours or of submitting to disarmament. He chose the latter, apparently preferring to have his ship disarmed rather than risk going out to sea.

The Berlin appeared off Trondhjem, which is on the northwest coast of Norway, and well outside of the North sea yesterday. It was then reported that she was endeavoring to escape from the North sea to act as a commerce raider in the Atlantic, very much as the cruiser Emden did in the Indian ocean.

BELGIANS ENJOYING A WELL EARNED MEAL.



BELGIAN ARTILLERYMEN HAVING A MEAL FROM A CAPTURED GERMAN KITCHEN. These Belgian soldiers are just partaking of a hot meal from a travelling kitchen captured from the Germans. The stew is being ladled into small tin cans. All the men belong to the artillery; they are wearing the red cap with the small tassel in front. The man in the center has blue-gray trousers with broad white bands. The flasks are cloth-covered, with aluminum fittings. The Belgian ration carried by the men is contained in a little aluminum box.

RUSSIA SEIZES SINGER SEWING MACHINE FACTORY

PEROGRA, Nov. 17, via London, 4 p. m.—The huge factory in Russia of the Singer Sewing Machine company has been taken over by the government and will be devoted to the manufacture of small arms. The factory of the American Phonograph company has also been requisitioned for the same purpose, while smelting concerns operated by American companies now are being used to make steel billets for military purposes.

CABINET CAUSE OF RIOT AT RIO JANEIRO

RIO JANEIRO, Nov. 17.—Some public dissatisfaction with the new cabinet named and installed by President Wenceslau Braz, who was inaugurated Sunday, has led to street rioting here. The disturbances thus far do not appear to be serious, but the government has taken strict measures to enforce the order.

40,000 AUSTRIANS BURIED IN ONE GRAVE FOUR MILES LONG

AMSTERDAM, via London, Nov. 17, 8 a. m.—The Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant quotes a letter from a Gallican priest stating that forty thousand Austrians have been buried in one day in a grave six and one half feet wide and a little more than four miles long. The bodies, the letter says were laid in three layers. These men were killed, it is stated, during a battle lasting only a few hours.

SECRET TREATY DENIED BY SWISS

BERNE, Switzerland, via Paris, Nov. 17, 10:26 a. m.—Repeated statements appearing in the Italian press that Switzerland had entered into a secret convention with Austria and Germany, binding herself to support with her army an invasion of northern Italy and to permit an Austro-German force to pass through Switzerland in the event of Italy abandoning her neutrality in favor of the triple entente, has brought forth a strong protest from the Swiss government. The existence of any such convention is denied and it is declared that the reports are an insult to Switzerland and her army.

CARRANZA MAKES PEACE PACT WITH NEW PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17.—Secretary Bryan today announced receipt of a message from American Consul Silliman at Mexico City saying the newspapers there had published a text of a telegram from General Gutierrez, approving the conditions set by General Carranza for his own retirement.

WEST COAST OF CANADA IN FEAR OF NAVAL RAID

VICTORIA, B. C., Nov. 17.—The maritime department of Canada, which last week closed to navigation certain passages north of Vancouver island, as a war precaution, has issued the following additional notices to mariners: "It may become necessary to extinguish all or certain lights on the coast of British Columbia without further notice."

FLOODS FORCE GERMANS FROM YPRESTRENCHES

Cannonading Resumed With Greater Intensity Than Ever—On the Aisne, French Drive Back Enemy—Progress Reported by Allies All Along Battle Front, Especially in South.

PARIS, Nov. 17, 2:40 p. m.—There was given out in Paris this afternoon the following official communication: "From Neuport to Dixmude and in the region of Ypres the cannonading has been resumed with greater violence than in the preceding days. On the canal to the south of Dismude the action of our artillery checked the work that the Germans were endeavoring to carry out to keep down the inundations. The enemy was compelled to evacuate a portion of his trenches which had been filled by the waters."

Two Attacks Fail Two attacks of German infantry, one to the south of Bisschoote, and the other to the south of Ypres, resulted in failure. On our side we have made progress between Bisschoote and the canal. "Between Armentieres and La Bassee there has been an artillery duel conducted with great spirit.

On the Aisne certain German detachments which endeavored to cross the river in the vicinity of Vailly were either driven back or destroyed. "On our positions on the right bank of the Aisne, upstream, from Vailly there has been violent cannonading. This applies also to the Rheims region and several shells have fallen on the city of Rheims.

Progress in South "In the Argonne there have not been any infantry engagements. We blew up with mines a certain number of German trenches. On the heights of the Meuse, to the south of Verdun, we have made advances at several points.

"In the region of St. Mihiel we have taken possession of the first houses of the village of Chauvencourt. "These houses served as barracks for the St. Mihiel garrison. This village of Chauvencourt is the only point of support still held by the Germans on the left bank of the River Meuse in this locality.

"On the rest of the front there has been nothing of importance to report."

ADVANTAGES OF MAKING DISTRICT FOR IRRIGATION

Contract System and Irrigation District Contrasted—District Most Practical for Rogue River Valley to Insure Entire Area Being Watered—Bonds Have Good Market.

In a valley situated as the Rogue river valley is, where any irrigation system involves the expenditure of a large amount of money, a system must be installed either by a concern abundantly able to make the investment, or upon some co-operative plan of the land owners.

In all instances under like circumstances, where the system has been installed by capital and without co-operation of the land owners, it has usually been accomplished by the contract system. Under this plan water rights are either sold upon contract to the land owners, or rented to them for a long term of years. In either instances capital is unwilling to make the investment unless the contract is guaranteed, by a lien upon the land.

This lien is in the nature of a mortgage; it charges the land with certain payments until the water right is paid for or in case of rentals it charges the land with the amount of the rentals for the entire period. It also charges the land with the cost of maintenance, and in cases where water rights are purchased, interest upon the purchase price.

Contracts Often Desirable This plan is not particularly objectionable as it is often the only way to get water over a large district. These contracts, like so many mortgages, are then sold and disposed of, and provide the money for the building of the plant and the profit to those engaged in construction, and to the owners of the water rights. Under this system if payments are not men when due the collection is enforced against the land. If it becomes necessary to sell the land for this purpose the purchaser takes it subject to the lien created by the contract, and steps into the shoes of the former owner, and the land continues to be charged with the payment of the balance to become due under the contract.

The other plan is for the creation of an irrigation district, whereby all of the lands to be irrigated are created into a corporation under the direction of the county court. When it finds a water system suitable for the irrigation of the lands within the district, it acquires that system and it issues its bonds against the lands in the district to pay for the water rights and for the installation of the plant. The results accomplished are practically the same under the district system as under the contract system where water rights are purchased out-right, with the exception that under the law providing for such bond issues the terms of payment are easier than they usually are under the contract system, and extend for a longer period of time. Likewise the debt is plastered against all of the land within the district which is subject to the district.

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SIGNS OF STRAIN SHOWN BY TROOPS

PARIS, Nov. 17, 7 a. m.—The Germans, in the opinion of officers at the front, are beginning to show signs of the terrific strain they have undergone for a month in Flanders, and these officers expect that General Joffre's plan of holding the line and permitting the Germans to wear themselves out in vain but costly assaults will soon bear fruit. A staff officer, writing from the battle line, even goes so far as to predict that within another month the allies will be in a position to drive the enemy from the French soil.

MILITARY FUNERAL FOR LORD ROBERTS

LONDON, Nov. 17, 1:32 p. m.—In deference to the public wish, the body of the late Earl Roberts will be laid at rest in St. Paul's cathedral. He will be given a public funeral of military character.

Portland Livestock Market

PORTLAND, Or., Nov. 17.—Cattle—Receipts 83; steady. Hogs—Receipts 923; 10 cents higher. Prime light, \$7.35@7.50; medium, \$7.15@7.25; smooth heavy, \$6.85@7.05; rough heavy, \$6.50@6.75. Sheep—Receipts 230. Lambs, 25 cents higher, others steady. Spring lambs, \$5.75@6.50.