

ALLIES BEGIN GENERAL ADVANCE ALONG THE WESTERN BATTLE LINE IN BELGIUM AND FRANCE

ATTACK YIELDS PROGRESS UPON BELGIAN FRONT

Britain Breaks Long Silence With Official Statement Indicating That Long-Discussed Attempt to Make a General Advance Is Under Way—Germans Successful in Alsace.

LONDON, Dec. 15.—The official information bureau today gave out the following statement: "After a period of comparative quiet the fighting in northern France has recommenced."

"A combined attack by the allies was made yesterday on the line from Hellebeke to Wytschaete, in Belgium. Several German trenches and a number of prisoners were captured and substantial progress was made."

This statement is interpreted in some quarters as marking the beginning of the much-discussed attempt to make a general advance. The point of the combined attack mentioned in the statement is to the south of Ypres. It will be noticed, moreover, that the statement refers to fighting in northern France, as well as in Belgium. This is taken to mean that the offensive movement stretches over a considerable area.

It has been known for some time that the British army headquarters has been pushed to the eastward, and it is consequently assumed by British observers that the allies have made more progress than has been chronicled.

French Statement

PARIS, Dec. 15.—The official statement given out by the French war office this afternoon says the French have retained the territory they won recently along the Ypres canal; to the west of Hellebeke; in the Argonne and elsewhere. There has been artillery fighting from the Somme to the Argonne and in Alsace. German infantry gained a foothold near Steinbach. The text of the communication follows:

"Between the sea and the Lys, the English have occupied a little forest to the west of Wytschaete. The ground gained yesterday by our troops along the Ypres canal and to the west of Hellebeke has been retained in spite of a vigorous counter attack on the part of the enemy."

"From the Belgian frontier to the Somme there is nothing to report. From the Somme to the Argonne there has been intermittent cannonading. Excepting in the region of Crouy this artillery fighting has not been spirited. In the Argonne we have made some progress and retained the advances made by us on preceding days."

THREE MONARCHS OF SCANDINAVIA TO DISCUSS WAR

CHRISTIANIA, Dec. 15, via London, 4 p. m.—The meeting of the three kings, Haakon of Norway, Gustav of Sweden and Christian of Denmark, at Malmo, Sweden, December 17, on the initiative of King Gustav will be the first conference of these three Scandinavian monarchs to discuss state affairs since the dissolution of the dualty between Norway and Sweden in 1905. The newspapers of the three kingdoms are expressing the greatest satisfaction at this evidence that the strained relations between the royal families of Norway and Sweden have come to an end with this holding out of the olive branch by King Gustav.

The political object of this meeting is to demonstrate that Scandinavia represents a military and commercial entity ready to resist outside pressure to take sides with any belligerent, and able to defend its neutrality and resist violations of international law. These, the Scandinavian governments allege, are greatly hampering the trade and commercial intercourse with other nations.

GERMAN CRUISER CORMORAN INTERNES FOR WAR AT GUAM

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The German cruiser Cormoran, with twenty-two officers and 255 men, has interned for the war at Guam, according to a dispatch received late today from Captain Maxwell, American naval governor of that island.

AUSTRIANS CLAIM RUSSIAN DEFEATS IN CARPATHIANS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Dispatches from Vienna to the Austro-Hungarian embassy here say:

"Servian descriptions of the withdrawal of the right wing of the Balkan army, which was necessary for the dislocation of strong Servian forces, as a decisive event and the announcement of our losses are immeasurably exaggerated."

"In the Carpathians our victorious troops continue to advance. Yesterday more than 2000 Russians were captured in West Galicia, where the battle continues, and several Russian attacks were broken down by our artillery fire. The garrison of Przemyel captured during the last sortie 700 Russians and eighteen machine guns."

"Representatives of Austro-Hungary and Germany who went to receive the Christmas gifts for the children of dead soldiers, sent on the Jason to Genoa, gave a dinner here and heartily toasted President Wilson, American children and American benefactors for their works of charity."

BILL TO RESTORE RETIRED BRIGADIERS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Senator Chamberlain of Oregon has introduced the following bill which was read twice and referred to the committee on military affairs:

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled, That the president be, and he is hereby authorized to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, any brigadier general of the army on the retired list who has held the rank and command of major general of volunteers and performed the duties incident to that grade in actual warfare, and has been honorably discharged, and who served with credit in the regular or volunteer forces during the civil war prior to April 9, 1865, to the grade of major general in the United States army, and place him on the retired list with the pay of brigadier general on the retired list."

The passage of this bill will restore General William Sooy-Smith of Medford to the retired list and thereby increase his pension.

RUSSIANS REPULSE THE GERMANS

PETROGRAD, via London, Dec. 15, 5:10 p. m.—German frontal attacks on the Russian line to the west of Warsaw under cover of night were successfully repulsed by the Russians, according to trustworthy information reaching Petrograd from the front today. At many points along the front the Russians succeeded in capturing isolated German positions.

German attacks were answered by Russian counter attacks, in which it is said that several hundred prisoners and one field battery were captured by the Russians. During the last three days of fighting eight machine guns, two batteries of field guns

AUSTRIA ADMITS EVACUATION OF SERVIAN CAPITAL

Abandonment of Belgrade Officially Admitted—Berlin Admits Retreat of German Forces Which Attempted to Strike at Warsaw From the North—Warsaw Confident.

VIENNA, Dec. 15, via London, 5:15 p. m.—The abandonment of Belgrade by the Austrians is acknowledged in an official statement given out at army headquarters today. The statement follows:

"In the southern theatre of war the retreat of our right wing involved a change in the military situation which made it advisable for us to abandon Belgrade, which was evacuated without fighting. "Our troops have fought long and fatiguing battles, but are in the best of spirits."

Unofficial statements from Nish, the temporary capital of Serbia, yesterday said that Belgrade had been recaptured by the Servian army after a fierce battle.

Following a siege of four months, the Austrians occupied Belgrade December 2.

Germans in Retreat BERLIN, Dec. 15, via London, Dec. 15, 5:45 p. m.—A retreat of the German forces which attempted to strike at Warsaw from the north was acknowledged in an official communication given out today at army headquarters. The statement follows: "The German column which had advanced from Soldau, East Prussia, by way of Miawa, in the direction of Ciechanow has had to re-occupy its old positions owing to the numerical superiority of the enemy. "Elsewhere in Poland nothing of material importance has happened. Unfavorable weather is influencing out operations."

Warsaw Confident WARSZAWA, Dec. 15, via London, 5:10 p. m.—Notwithstanding the proximity of Warsaw to the battlefield, the business of the city is proceeding as in times of peace. Although the sound of cannonading may be heard at times, Christmas crowds throng the streets. Shop and cafes are decorated gaily and the holiday spirit has dissipated the gloom of war.

In every rank and class of society there is supreme confidence that Warsaw cannot be taken by the Germans.

PRESIDENT OBJECTS TO LITERACY TEST

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—President Wilson announced to callers today his opposition to the literacy test in the immigration bill pending in the senate and said he did not believe the test "tested quality."

The president has not decided whether his opposition to the literacy test would make him decide against the entire bill, or whether other features would overcome his objections.

BULWARK NOT SUNK THROUGH HOSTILE ACT ASSERTS ADMIRALTY

LONDON, Dec. 15, 8:28 p. m.—The official press bureau announced tonight that the sinking of the battleship Bulwark apparently was not due to a hostile act. Investigation has disclosed no evidence of treachery on the part of any persons aboard the vessel or of any action by the enemy.

PRESIDENT SAYS NO INTERFERENCE WITH TREATIES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—President Wilson does not think it feasible to map out a general plan for coordinating the powers of the states and the federal government regarding legislation affecting aliens, but believes that each alleged discrimination must be dealt with on its merits and every effort made to conserve treaty obligations. The president told callers today that he saw no place for federal legislation on the subject.

The California anti-alien laws, he pointed out, specifically provide they shall not interfere with existing treaties of the federal government with other powers.

Discussing the Arizona anti-alien employment law against which protests have been made by Italy and Great Britain, the president said the law did not discriminate between any aliens, but placed all on the same basis.

The president indicated every effort would be made to conserve treaty rights of aliens living in the United States.

AWAIT FURTHER INFORMATION FROM COLONEL GOETHALS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—More information is being awaited before President Wilson decides whether the request of Governor Goethals for destroyers to enforce neutrality at Panama shall be granted. Suggestions of differences between Secretaries Garrison, Daniels and Bryan over the question were met by President Wilson with the statement that there could be no real differences since he would finally decide.

The president discussed the situation with the cabinet and generally considered measures for protecting the neutrality of the canal. Officials described as absurd reports that Colonel Goethals' request would be denied. They declared action was being delayed only pending a fuller discussion of the needs of the situation. There has been some doubt in the minds of officials as to just what sort of a patrol would be necessary.

If belligerent ships are using wireless within the three-mile limit, administration officials think a warning would be adequate. Delays in passing the canal, they think, Colonel Goethals already is preparing to handle. As no question of clearance papers arises at the canal, officials here don't see of what use destroyers can be unless for dispatch purposes. If they are sent, they probably will be given the mission of keeping all colliders of warships from lingering within the three-mile limit.

EXPLOSION IN JAPANESE COLLIERY IMPRISONING MANY

TOKIO, Dec. 15.—An explosion occurred today in a coal mine at Fukuoka as a result of which eight hundred laborers are imprisoned in the workings of the mine. Fukuoka is on the seacoast five miles to the north of Nagasaki.

WILSON TELLS ATTITUDE UPON NEGRO PROBLEM

Object to Know Need of Negro and Sympathetically Aid Him in Every Way Possible—Advance of Race on Sound Lines Advocated—Can't Hate a Man That You Know.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Outlining his attitude toward the negro, President Wilson told the University Commission on southern race questions, made up of representatives of eleven southern colleges, that "our object is to know the needs of the negro and sympathetically help him in every way that is possible for his good and our good."

Interest in Race Dr. C. H. Brough of the University of Arkansas, chairman of the commission, told the president the commission was organized to make an impartial study of the race question from the standpoint of the negro's economic, hygienic, civic and moral betterment. He said that a deep investigation of the subject was being made with the good of the negro always in mind.

"I am glad to express my sincere interest in this work and sympathy with it," said the president in reply to Dr. Brough. "I think that men like yourselves can be trusted to see this great question at every angle. There is not any question, it seems to me, into which more candor needs to be put, or more thorough human good feeling than this. I know myself, as a southern man, how sincerely the heart of the south desires the good of the negro and the advancement of his race on all sound and sensible lines, and everything that can be done in that direction is of the highest value. It is a matter of common understanding."

Quotes Charles Lamb

"There is a charming story told about Charles Lamb. The conversation in his little circle turned upon some men who were not present and Lamb, who you know stuttered, said: 'I hate that fellow.' His friend said: 'Charles, I didn't know you knew him.' Lamb said: 'I don't; I can't hate a fellow I know.'

"I think that is a very profound human fact. You cannot hate a man you know. And our object is to know the negro's needs and sympathetically help him in every way that is possible for his good and for our good. I can only bid you Godspeed in what is a very necessary and great undertaking."

WILSON NEUTRAL UPON WAR SHIPMENTS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Various pending bills for cutting off exports of munitions of war and other articles to Europe have not been brought to the attention of President Wilson, he told callers today. He added he had taken no attitude toward the bills and would not interfere unless consulted by congressional leaders.

VILLA PREPARES TO ATTACK CHIHUAHUA HELD BY CARRANZA

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 15.—General Villa left Chihuahua City today, returning to the south to enter the campaign against Guadalupe, second city in Mexico, which is defended by strong Carranza garrison. The convention troops have occupied La Barea, Jalisco.

MONEY ENOUGH NOW SPENT TO PROTECT NATION

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—A very moderate increase in our regular army, the foundations upon which a large volunteer army could be promptly organized when war comes, and enough guns and ammunition—such are the immediate army needs of the United States, in the opinion of Henry L. Stimson, formerly secretary of war, who addressed today the Merchants' association of New York on the "needs of the army."

"It is not a question of spending a huge amount of new money to adopt the practical things that military opinion advises should be done at once," Mr. Stimson said. "We are already spending today on our army and navy large sums of money, in the case of the army, at least, which, if wisely spent along proper plans, ought to be quite sufficient for adequate military defense."

"Under a wise military policy, the republic of Switzerland, by a yearly expenditure of \$6,500,000 has been preparing and training an army of nearly 300,000 men. We, under a less wise system, have been spending \$90,000,000 a year on an army of only 90,000 men, of whom only 30,000 are available within the United States for mobile service today."

"We are spending nearly \$250,000,000 on our army and navy. Why should we not spend this so as to produce the most efficient result possible, rather than a result which is admittedly insufficient?"

Mr. Stimson assailed the naval policy which would keep the American navy on the defensive in guarding the coast in the event of war.

NURSE ACCUSED OF SHOOTING BREWER

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Dec. 15.—Miss Hedda Brugmeister, a trained nurse, was indicted today, charged with the murder on November 21 of Otto Kohler, millionaire president of the San Antonio Brewing association. Kohler was shot at Miss Brugmeister's home. Miss Brugmeister was found kneeling beside him hysterically and bleeding from a deep gash in her left wrist. She said she fired in self-defense.

STOCKS FLUCTUATE ON FIRST DAY

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The first day of open trading in the full stock list was marked by considerable irregularity. Initial prices for all prominent issues, including international, were higher, but heavy offerings partly for foreign account, caused a speedy reversal, with losses of 2 to 5 1/2 points.

Open trading in all shares listed on the New York stock exchange, subject only to two restrictions, was resumed today for the first time since the exchange was closed on July 30 last.

The big speculative and railroad issues held the world over which were transferred late yesterday afternoon from the restricted to the unrestricted list—subject to minimum prices—opened with an upward swing and

within the first few minutes of trading made gains of 1 1/2 to 4 points over the quotations of July 30. Then came a heavy selling onslaught. Under this pressure most issues declined from substantial fractions to three points under yesterday's closing prices. There was a heavy attendance at the opening to greet the resumption of open trading. The floor was crowded with almost as many members as attended the opening last Saturday, although the spectacular effect of the crowded galleries was lacking. The crowd was concentrated around the posts where United States Steel and Union and Southern Pacific stocks were traded in. The rest of the room seemed almost deserted. The market was very active.

ENTIRE NATION SHIVERS IN GRASP OF COLD WAVE

Two More Days of Freezing Temperature Predicted by Weather Bureau—Fair Weather Except in a Few Localities—Twenty Below in Minnesota—Zero in New York.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Two more days of cold weather for the eastern section of the country was predicted by the weather bureau. The coldest weather of the season thus far prevailed today, generally east of the Mississippi, river and in the northwest. Below zero temperatures were reported from West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and the northwest, while below freezing temperatures were reported from all other states east of the Mississippi as far south as Florida and the east gulf states.

Fair weather prevailed almost everywhere, except for rains in Florida peninsula and on the north Pacific coast, and snow flurries near the Great Lakes and in northern New England.

Cold in Minnesota

DULUTH, Minn., Dec. 15.—Government weather predictions are that the intense cold wave in northern Minnesota of the last thirty-six hours will be broken today. Street thermometers showed from 10 to 14 below zero. At Virginia, Minn., the official thermometer registered 19 degrees below and the wind attained a velocity of seventy-eight miles an hour during the night, driving humanity from the streets. At Mountain Iron, the temperature dropped to 18 below and at Eveleth it was 21 below.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 15.—The first real cold weather of the winter brought zero weather in the mountain districts of Pennsylvania. At Harrisburg the official record was 4 degrees above zero and in the mountain regions the temperature fell to 4 below.

In Philadelphia the weather bureau reported a minimum of 13 degrees above zero and about the same temperature was reported in New Jersey and Delaware.

Sudden Drop in Gotham

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—A cold wave, one of the most sudden experienced in New York in many years, sent the mercury down to 12 degrees early today and forecasts indicated that it might reach zero before night. A strong westerly wind gave an additional sting to the air and drove hundreds of homeless into the public and private shelters last night.

Many steamships and smaller craft were caught in the gale that brought the cold wave from the northwest and lifesaving stations along the Long Island and New Jersey coast were on the lookout today for vessels in distress.

Warmer in Kansas

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 15.—Higher temperatures prevailed generally throughout the southwest today. The wind had veered from the north to the south, the sun was shining and the mercury at many points was rising at the rate of a degree an hour.

JAPAN'S BUDGET CAUSES DISSATISFACTION

TOKIO, Dec. 15, 9:45 p. m.—The budget for 1915 which shows an estimated expenditure of 556,000,000 yen (\$278,000,000) and a decrease of the revenues of \$40,500,000, is now before the house of representatives for consideration.

Considerable opposition to it has developed. There is good reason to believe that unless the house passes the budget it will be dissolved. The right of dissolving the house of representatives is among the prerogatives of the emperor.