

CONGRESS DEBATING UPON AMENDMENT FOR NATIONAL PROHIBITION

DRYS LED BY HOBSON; WETS BY UNDERWOOD

Hobson Declares Six Million Petition for Amendment and That Liquor is an Interstate Nuisance—Underwood Contends That Prohibition is Not a Moral Issue.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Under a special rule, which was adopted without a rollcall, the house began just after noon today an eight-hour debate on the Hobson resolution to submit to the states a constitutional amendment for national prohibition. An aye and nay vote will be reached tonight.

The passage of the rule was preceded by a statement by Democratic Leader Underwood and scattering debate on both sides. Mr. Underwood made it clear that the democratic leadership in the house was in favor of meeting the issue with a vote.

Underwood's Statement
"This is not a temperance question," he said. "It never has been. Prohibition has not produced temperance in the lands where it has been tried. I regard this question as an attack on the fundamental principles of our government. If it is allowed to go on, without being met it will mislead many of the people. If allowed to proceed without being combated, the day may come when it may be a serious menace to the principles of government which you and I believe in. When the time comes to face a great question there is but one way to face it. That is in the open. You cannot push it aside.

"If you are right you should have the courage of your convictions and stand for the right. Therefore I say to the members who like myself are opposed to this resolution, it is not only your right, but your duty to give this question in the open and face the reasons why we believe it should not be written into the fundamental law of the land."

Hobson Leads Debate
The debate on the rule had been a running desultory fire, but with consideration of the resolution itself, the real heavy artillery was unlimbered.

Mr. Hobson led off with an earnest and dramatic demand for its passage. He declared a state had a right to be "dry," that the liquor business was an "inter-state nuisance," and that there had never been a serious conflict between federal and state laws for protection of the morals of the people. He portrayed the devastating effect of liquor, a "habit forming drug, whose shackled victims," he said today numbered five million people.

"It shortens life and blights the off-spring," he said, "and brings hundreds of thousands of people to drunkards' graves each year. It blights the lives of people before they are born."

Speeches for Amendment
Representative Hobson referred to the graphic charts portraying the evils of the liquor traffic and after speaking only ten minutes himself, began to yield time to other members who spoke in support of his resolution.

Representatives Decker, Tribble, Langley, Logue and Bell (California)

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WHEAT SELLS FOR \$1.29 AT PORTLAND

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 22.—Portland's grain market shot skyward again today, all bids on spot and future transactions being from a half to two cents higher than yesterday.

In the wheat market, 10,000 bushels of February bluestem sold at \$1.29 per bushel. On December 11, February bluestem sold at \$1.23. Other sales included 5000 bushels of February club at \$1.27 and 5000 bushels of January Red Russian at \$1.20.

BATTLE GROWS MORE FURIOUS ON BELGIAN LINE

French Claim Germans Now on Defensive Everywhere—No Marked Changes in Position, Though Allies Claim They Captured Mile of Entrenched Positions.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—The battle in France and Belgium has become more violent, both the Germans and the allies making furious attacks. Although it was said in an official French account of recent fighting that the Germans were now on the defensive everywhere, today's French war office statement refers to German attacks at four points. The German statement in turn describes several attacks by the allies.

So far as can be learned from these statements, there have been no marked changes in position, although the French assert that in one instance they captured nearly a mile of entrenched German positions. References to trenches taken and retaken, to violent bayonet engagements and to heavy losses inflicted show the desperate nature of the struggle.

Fighting in Poland
Concerning the situation in Poland, there was little information. The German war office said that fierce fighting was in progress there and that at some points German troops had crossed the Bzura river on their way toward Warsaw.

In the opinion of the French military authorities, the Germans are beginning to lose their grip on France and Belgium. An official summary of the successes achieved by the allies in their offensive movement recounts progress at many points which "seems to have disturbed the enemy." It is asserted that the Germans are now fearful of attacks and are everywhere on the defensive. The latest communications from Berlin, however, tell of spirited offensive movements, with resulting gains, and make it appear that the German armies are firmly holding the conquered ground.

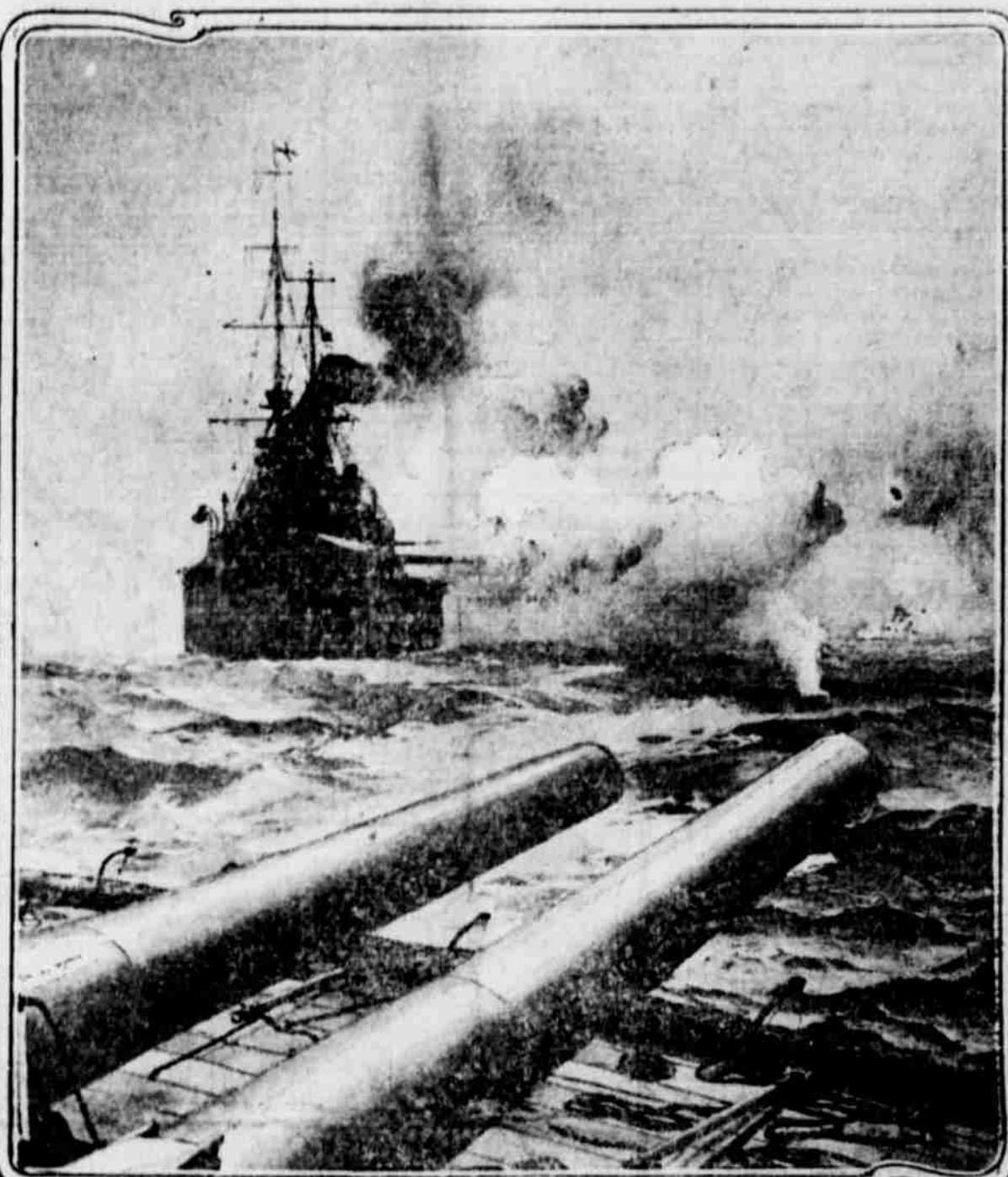
Conflict of Statements
There is a similar conflict of statements concerning the campaign in the east. The Russian war office challenges recent accounts of a great German victory in Poland by denying "malevolent reports" of the last few days. While it is admitted at Petrograd that the recent retirement of the Russian forces to new positions was not entirely voluntary, the claim is made that the armies are now in safer and stronger positions.

CITIES POSSESS SOVEREIGN RIGHT IN LAW MAKING

SALEM, Or., Dec. 22.—Cities possess absolute sovereign powers in the enactment of all municipal legislation and can enact both civil and criminal laws pertaining to municipal affairs without the slightest interference by the legislature, according to a decision rendered today by the Oregon supreme court in the case of Peter Kalich vs. F. C. Knapp.

Knapp brought the action to recover damages for injuries sustained in a collision with an automobile driven by the defendant in Portland, contending that the defendant was driving at an unlawful rate of speed. To prove negligence in that respect, the plaintiff offered some ordinances of the city of Portland limiting the speed of vehicles. State Circuit Judge Henry E. McGinn sustained an objection to the introduction of these ordinances on the ground that they had been superseded by an act of the legislature known as the Oregon motor vehicle law. Last June Supreme Court Justice McNary reversed this decision and on a rehearing today majority members of the court upheld the reversal.

AN INCIDENT DURING NAVAL ACTION OFF HELIGOLAND.



THE LION TURNED SLOWLY AND MAJESTICALLY ROUND AND FIRED HER BROADSIDE—ONCE

The naval battle off the Bight of Heligoland, which was the first really decisive naval engagement between the British fleet and the German. A naval man present wrote: "It was a fine sight to see the Lion demolish one cruiser. We could see her (the cruiser's) shots falling short, but still the Lion did not fire. For fully ten minutes the cruiser belted a way without getting a single hit. Then the Lion, who was leading the line, hoisted 'open fire,' turned slowly and majestically round, and fired her broadside once. It was quite sufficient. Up went a cloud of smoke and steam from 'the target,' and when it cleared off her aft funnel was at a rakish angle and a huge rent appeared the length of her side. After a few more salvos she was rapidly sinking by the stern. Shortly afterward she had hauled down her ensign, and as we were steaming up to stand by and rescue her survivors she hoisted it again and opened fire. It was a dirty trick, but they got their deserts. Once again the Lion turned and this time fired but five shots from her huge turrets. Amidst a shower of splinters, smoke and fire she disappeared."

RUSSIANS FORCE GERMANS ACROSS PRUSSIAN BORDER

CZAR'S SUCCESSES THREATEN BOTH WINGS OF ARMY IN POLAND

PETROGRAD, via London, Dec. 22.—The heavy German column which has been driven across the east Prussian frontier from Mlawka, Russian Poland, by the Russians, is spreading out to the east and west, according to reports received here from the front. The purpose of the German movement is to debouch to the right of the entrenched Mazur lake position and to reinforce the troops in the vicinity of Thorn for protection against the continued Russian advance on the Thorn-Allenstein-Insterburg railroad, which is the main strategic line paralleling the North Poland frontier.

The Russian successes here not only threaten the right of the German Mazur lake position, but also threaten the left wing of the army operating before Warsaw.

Shift of Troops to Belgium
The Boerse Gazette calls attention to the shifting of the weight of German troops from Belgium to the Polish front, but the newspaper is of the opinion that this action means no lightening of the task of the allies, since the withdrawals of Germans from the western battle front are from parts of the line where elaborate entrenchments provide sufficient to withhold the French and British forces.

levies are being sent to the Polish front.

Przemysl Sortie Made
The garrison of the Austrian fortress of Przemysl, seemingly informed of the movements of the Austrian Carpathian army, made a sortie coincident with the Austrian attacks, though separated by thirty-five miles from Lisko. It is assumed that an Austrian officer, an aviator, shot

SAFETY AT SEA NULLIFIED BY SENATE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—President Wilson said today he was still considering whether the safety at sea convention was nullified by the senate's reservation of the right to fix higher standards for safety than were contained in the convention. Until he has reached a decision it is expected no steps toward reconsidering the ratification will be taken by the senate.

NO CUT IN WAGES FOR STEEL TRUST

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—There will be no general reduction in wages by the United States Steel corporation at the present time, according to an announcement made today by Judge Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the corporation, after a meeting of the corporation's finance committee. There will, however, be some readjustments in the pay of "skilled labor and piece-work" on a lower basis.

RUMANIA GIVES UP LAND TAKEN FROM BULGARIA

Agreement Reached Without Pressure From Either Germany or Allies—Balkan Nations to Remain Neutral—Neither Greece Nor Serbia Intend to Revise Treaty.

PETROGRAD, via London, Dec. 22.—The Bulgarian minister announced today that an agreement had been reached between Rumania and Bulgaria under which Rumania will restore to Bulgaria the province of Dobrudja and most of the other territory which she acquired from Bulgaria as a result of the second Balkan war.

Seek Permanent Peace
It has been asserted here that the fear of Bulgaria alone had prevented Rumania from invading Austria and entering the war on the side of the allies.

"If Greece would return Kalava and the Macedonian territory she annexed during the second Balkan war and Serbia would restore to the Macedonian provinces she occupied, despite her agreement of 1912, the Balkan union could be reconstructed," said the Bulgarian official. "Under those circumstances a lasting peace would be established in the Balkans. But unfortunately neither Greece nor Serbia has shown an intention to revise the treaty of Bucharest."

Servia Acts Independently
"Servia guides her own national interest," meaning that Servia was not ready to return the Macedonia provinces.

"A reconstructed Balkan union would favor neither the allies nor Germany, nor would it have any aggressive intentions. Rumania's Transylvanian aspirations, Greece's claims to Turkish islands, Servia's difficulties with Austria, bring about such a conflict of interests that it would be impossible to throw the union, as a whole, one way or the other. Our relations with Turkey will remain friendly."

ALLIES ATTACKS REPULSED STATES BERLIN STATEMENT

BERLIN, Dec. 22. (by wireless).—The German official report given out this afternoon reads as follows: "At Neuport and in the region around Ypres, the situation yesterday was generally quiet."

"In order to re-capture the positions lost by them December 29 at St. Hubert and Givenchy, the English forces, reinforced by French territorialists, made desperate attacks during the day of yesterday and last night, all of which however, were repulsed. In the region around Richebourg the enemy succeeded in obtaining a firm foothold in his old position."

"French attacks yesterday in the neighborhood of Albert, to the north-east of Compiègne at Souain and at Perthes were repulsed with heavy losses to the French.

CARRANZA IN FLIGHT AFTER ARMY'S DEFEAT

Former President Leaves for Isthmus of Tehuantepec—Zapata Reports Upon Capture of Puebla—Mexico City Commercial Interests Co-operating With Government.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—General Carranza and his party, en route from Vera Cruz to the isthmus of Tehuantepec, narrowly escaped death when a wild locomotive was sent crashing into his train by hostile troops, according to private advices received here late today.

The advices further state that Carranza's trip to the isthmus was checked by opposition troops which captured Soledad. Carranza probably will go to Merida in southern Mexico.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Diplomatic dispatches today report the departure of General Carranza from Vera Cruz for the isthmus of Tehuantepec. "Factions opposed to Carranza were inclined to regard it as a flight after the defeat of his army at Puebla, but Carranza officials pointed out that some time ago he had announced his intention of visiting the isthmus."

Capture of Puebla
"In the attack and capture of Puebla more than 20,000 of my forces were engaged against a large force of Carranza troops," it said. "The remainder of the enemy's forces, taking advantage of night and the tired condition of my men, retreated in the direction of Orizaba. A column 10,000 strong pursued them."

The Mexican city chamber of commerce, according to another dispatch, is co-operating with Villareal, minister of finance, to unify the note issues. New bills will be engraved and printed in the United States.

Heavy fighting is reported near Torreon, but dispatches to the Carranza agency gave no indication of a result.

Bitterness Dying Out
The state department issued this statement: "A dispatch just received from San Luis Potosi states that the governor of San Luis Potosi has announced that an agreement has been reached with the military authorities at Saltillo and Monterey by which those capitals will remain neutral and suspend all movements of troops, also all passenger trains from the City of Mexico to Laredo. It is reported that this action would appear to indicate that there is no much disposition to carry on hostilities in the territory in question and that there is not much bitter feeling."

THAW TO MAKE NEW CONTEST TO ESTABLISH SANITY

MANCHESTER, N. H., Dec. 22.—Harry K. Thaw soon will make another fight to establish his sanity, on the opinion of several acquaintances. The opportunity, it is expected, will be afforded when Thaw is returned to New York state to answer the indictment charging conspiracy to escape from the insane asylum at Matteawan.

The plans of the fugitive's counsel are closely guarded, but it was intimated today that the efforts of the New York authorities to prove Thaw was competent to commit an illegal act might be forested by the defense to a point where the evidence could be used to prove that he was absolutely sane.

Last Day to Register

It is important that citizens should register. Under our present charter it is required for every election. Under the new charter, this unnecessary bother is done away with.

Tomorrow afternoon is the last registration day. The board will meet at the City Hall from 1 to 7 o'clock. Register.