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RUSSIA CLAIMS POLISH VICTORY; GERMANS DENY

Berlin Claims Progress Despite Petrograd Assertion of Decisive Result—French Making Progress in Alsace—Fighting Drags On in Belgium With Small Victories for Each

LONDON, Dec. 29, 11:53 a. m.—British observers of the progress of the war point this morning to the admission in the Austrian official announcements that Russia is once more master of the passes in the Carpathian mountains and that the troops along the entire Austrian front from the Biala river to a point north-east of the Dukla Pass seem to be falling back.

This means the withdrawal of virtually all the forces which swept across the mountains to form the extreme right in the concerted Austro-German attack on the Russian armies and it makes another surprising reversal of form on the part of the Austrian soldiers whose battle fortunes since the outbreak of hostilities have been conspicuously erratic. Elsewhere in the eastern arena of the war little change had been recorded while on the western front the slow and tedious trench warfare goes on unimproved with only slight gains on either side.

GERMANS DENY CLAIMS

Russian announcements of defeats of the Germans are disputed today by the Berlin war office, which states that the attacks of the invading armies in Poland have made progress, and that strong Russian assaults have been repelled. No mention is made, however, of the situation in Galicia where the Russians are described as having inflicted a severe defeat on the Austro-German forces.

The French campaign for re-possession of its lost province of Alsace, one of the first objectives of the armies of the republic after the outbreak of the war, apparently is making progress. The unofficial reports last night that the allies were shelling Muelhausen are supplemented today by the statement of the French war office that the town of Steinbach, upper Alsace, has been investigated.

FIGHTING DRAGS ON

In France and Belgium the fighting drags on, with small victories for each side. The German official announcement tells of the capture of a French trench in a burned forest west of Apremont. The French statement admits the temporary loss of this trench, but adds that it was retaken later after three counter attacks. Both Paris and Berlin mention minor gains with violent fighting at various points. The French statement says that the allies have captured the Belgian town of St. Georges, around which heavy encounters have been in progress for some time.

RUSSIA CLAIMS SUCCESS

The Petrograd war office states that the Germans who have been pressing forward in Poland have been repulsed with heavy losses. In Galicia the Austrians are reported to have suffered a complete reversal and to be retreating hastily. Their defeat apparently breaks up the maneuver aiming at a combined Austro-German attack on the southern forces of the Russians, which, if successful, might have imperiled the Russian left wing. Berlin, however, views the situation in the east with optimism, intimating that important developments in Poland may be expected shortly.

Fighting in the west has been interrupted by a violent storm. Notwithstanding this hindrance, further progress has been made by the allies, according to the French office.

BATTLESHIP OREGON UPON TRIAL TRIP

SEATTLE, Wn., Dec. 29.—The battleship Oregon which has been overhauled in preparation for her place at the head of the naval parade through the Panama Canal, steamed from the Puget Sound navy yard for a two day's trial cruise to Cape Flattery and return. The Oregon will go into commission next Saturday.

101 ARRESTED AT TERRA HAUTE

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 29.—Five more men, including E. E. Talbot, city controller of Terre Haute, and George Ehrenhardt, a member of the Terre Haute board of public works, were arrested at Terre Haute today by federal authorities on an indictment returned December 23 charging conspiracy to corrupt the election of November 3 last. The arrests today bring the total made since the dragnet was set Christmas night, to 101.

Hilton Redmond, an attorney, and son of Circuit judge Eli H. Redmond, who was arrested and released on \$10,000 bond Saturday, surrendered to the federal authorities and the fourth man taken into custody was Frank Kizer, a saloonkeeper, who was released on \$2000 bond.

Frank Lockwood, a politician, was arrested this afternoon. He gave bond.

WARSHIP SENT TO NEW ORLEANS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Secretary Daniels today ordered the battleship Rhode Island from Vera Cruz, Mexico, to New Orleans to participate on January 8 in the celebration of the centennial of the battle of New Orleans. Other ships will be ordered there in time to take part in the exercises. The battleship Delaware at Norfolk, Va., has been ordered to Vera Cruz to relieve the Rhode Island.

10-YEAR TERM FOR CHINA'S PRESIDENT

PEKING, Dec. 29.—There was promulgated in Peking today a new election law for the republic containing certain amendments. The most notable clause of these regulations is that which fixes the term of office of the president of China to ten years. This term, however, may continue indefinitely if the senate, by a two-thirds vote, considers that the actual political situation makes such extension desirable.

SEATTLE NEWSPAPER SUSPENDS PUBLICATION

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 29.—The Evening Sun, which went into the hands of a receiver two weeks ago, and which continued publication while trying to sell its assets, announced its suspension today in an editorial assigning lack of advertising patronage as the cause of failure. Publication of the Sun was begun February 1, 1913.

JAP CRUISER PUTS INTO PORT OF CALLAO

LIMA, Peru, Dec. 29.—The Japanese armored cruiser Azuma and Idzumi, which sailed from Callao several days ago, put in at Puerto Pizarro, near the northern boundary of Peru. On Sunday they left that port, sailing in a northeasterly direction.

HOW FRENCH CAPTURED TRENCH

ARRAS, northern France, Sunday, December 27, 6 p. m., via Paris, December 29, 11:55 a. m.—That portion of the French army which is holding the lines near Arras today attacked the Germans on a front twelve miles long. They carried half a mile of German trenches near Lens by assault, and tonight they are holding these positions in force.

The way for this attack was prepared by violent artillery and machine gun fire, which swept the German positions from a point to the north of Lens to the suburbs south of Arras. The German batteries everywhere replied heavily to this French fire.

While the Germans were thus engaged

CZAR'S WARSHIP NOT AMERICAN, BLUFFED TURK

Captain Oman of Cruiser North Carolina at Beirut Cables That Russian Cruiser and Not One of Uncle Sam's, Threatened to Bombard Tripoli If Crews Were Imprisoned.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Captain Oman, commanding the armored cruiser North Carolina at Beirut, Syria, informed the navy department today that it was a Russian cruiser and not an American vessel which recently threatened to bombard Tripoli.

Captain Oman's explanation was made in response to a request from Secretary Daniels.

Captain Oman reported that no American merchant vessel has been south of Alexandria, Syria, since December 9. An Athens dispatch published last week said the crew of an American steamer had been attacked at Tripoli, south of Alexandria, when foreign consuls had threatened to bombard the town.

Captain Oman's dispatch, filed at Beirut yesterday, was as follows:

"On December 25 the Russian cruiser Askold sent boats with armed men on a reconnaissance near Tripoli, Syria, at the village of Bonias. Before arrival at the beach the boats grounded in shoal water and the crews of the boats were jeered by the populace. At the threat of the Turkish authorities to imprison the boats' crews, they were informed that the Russian cruiser would bombard the village in such an event, and consequently no one was made prisoner. No shots were fired.

"The Russian boats' crews left the vicinity when the boats were floated. Since December 9 no American merchantman has been south of Alexandria, Syria. The reconnaissance of Beirut, Syria, is frequently made by British, French and Russian cruisers. Everything is quiet at Beirut.

MEXICAN JUDGE SENT INTO EXILE

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 29.—Judge Ramon Prieta, a Mexican author and jurist, returned here today from Mexico City, after having been arrested and threatened with execution on his journey north. He finally was released by order of Mexico City officials and after being escorted to the international bridge here, was told that he was exiled from Mexico. Prieta recently wrote a book on present-day Mexican history which is held accountable by his experience.

YOUNG PHIL ARMOUR TO WED JANUARY 8

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Philip D. Armour, son of Mrs. P. A. Valentine, and a grandson of the late Philip Danforth Armour of Chicago, obtained a marriage license today to wed Miss Gwendolin Condon of this city. The wedding will take place on January 8 at the Church of Heavenly Rest here. Mr. Armour is 29 years of age. His bride-to-be, who is the daughter of Thomas G. Condon of Newburgh, N. Y., is 21.

HOW FRENCH CAPTURED TRENCH

gaged along the entire line of this part of their defense works, the French opposite Lens arose from their trenches and charged the German trenches, which were from 100 to 200 yards distant. A fierce bayonet encounter brought victory to the French. The Germans were routed, the French took some prisoners and occupied the German diggings. It was all over in twenty minutes. The artillery fire on both sides died down and silence fell on the field of battle. But vigilance was in no sense relaxed. At intervals of two rods in the trenches keen eyes peering into periscopes watched the edges of the German trenches, the observers themselves being well protected below the level of the earth.

SOLDIERS MADE DEAF BY ROAR OF GREAT GUNS

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The announcement that the British government is to appoint an emergency committee to consider measures for the prevention of gun-deafness among soldiers and sailors calls attention to an added terror of war which has been much discussed recently in military and medical circles.

"The enemy may not deprive you of life or limb," writes a medical correspondent, "but it is fairly certain that your own artillery will slowly but surely make you deaf."

Several officers who recently returned on furlough from the French front were called up for examination and found to have suffered more than a fifty per cent impairment in hearing owing to the incessant ear-splitting reports of their own guns. The exact physiological reason was usually found in a rupture of the drum membrane, with occasionally a shattering or concussion of the auditory labyrinth.

Both the French and American navies have made special provision for the prevention of gun-deafness.

NEUTRAL NATIONS LOSE 19 SHIPS

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Dec. 18.—(Correspondence).—Total losses to Scandinavia shipping through mine disasters were as follows, up to mid-December:

Sweden, eight ships and 60 lives; Denmark, six vessels and six lives; Norway, five vessels and six lives. To this total must also be added Holland with three vessels and 15 lives. The total financial loss for the 22 ships and their cargo will reach nearly \$10,000,000.00

DIPLOMATIC CRISIS DEPRESSES MARKET

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—The situation growing out of Washington's protest to England over the detention of this country's commerce imparted some heaviness to today's market. Most of the leaders were under yesterday's best on a small overture. Reading, Union Pacific, Amalgamated and several other active issues fell back a point or more with fractional recessions in other parts of the list. Baltimore and Ohio and Mexican Petroleum, the latter with a one point gain, were the only notable exceptions to the dropping tendency which was accompanied by a small output of stocks. United States Steel was relatively firmer than other leaders. A moderate rally followed.

BRYAN ASKS PROBE OF POACHER'S MURDER

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The shooting of two American hunters by Canadian soldiers on the Niagara river near Fort Erie yesterday, is viewed by President Wilson with deep distress. He told callers today he had received no formal report on the incident.

Secretary Bryan instructed the American vice consul at Fort Erie to take possession of the body of the man killed and to do everything possible for the wounded man. The state department has reported the incident to Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador here.

DECAPITATED BODY FOUND AT ALBANY

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 29.—The body of an unidentified man with the head severed was found by hunters in the woods near Altamont today. In the clothing was a card bearing on one side the inscription "August Breise, Holstein, Iowa, U. S. A." and on the other the name "Richard Lawrence." The latter was written in German script. An inspection seal on a suitcase nearby indicated that the owner had been in Liverpool last September.

TEPIC TROOPS QUIT CARRANZA TO JOIN VILLA

Garrison of Seven Thousand Desert First Chief—Villa Gives Guarantees to Foreigners—Declares Nation Needs Prudence—Take Advantage of President's Sincerity

ON BOARD U. S. S. SAN DIEGO, en route to San Diego, Cal., Dec. 29. (by wireless).—Seven thousand troops of General Venustiano Carranza's forces have declared today for General Francisco Villa, at Tepic, in the state of that name, on the west coast of Mexico. Foreigners at San Blas and Tepic have taken refuge aboard the United States supply ship Glacier. Rear Admiral Howard, in command of the Pacific fleet, on receipt of the news ordered the gunboat Annapolis by wireless to San Blas, but no trouble is expected.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 27, via El Paso, Texas, Dec. 29.—When the matter of frequent executions and the lack of personal guarantees was brought to the attention of General Villa today he made the following statement:

"Many foreigners have lately asked me for personal guarantees. I am disposed to make every effort to give these. Many of the requests have been telegraphed.

"Regarding the present chief executive of the nation, I regret to say that conspirators are endeavoring to take advantage of his sincerity and honesty. What I will have to do is to treat this element with severity.

"The country needs prudence at the present time. It also needs energetic measures. As soon as these matters are attended to I will proceed to direct the campaign for the capture of Tampico."

General Villa signed the statement.

WILSON IN FAVOR OF FILIPINO INDEPENDENCE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—President Wilson told callers today that his support of the Jones bill for ultimate Philippine independence would not be altered by the recent disturbances in the islands. He declared accounts of the uprising had undoubtedly been exaggerated.

The president intimated he believed the reports due to efforts to defeat the cause of Philippine independence.

PRESIDENT'S PROTEST NOT YET RECEIVED

LONDON, Dec. 29, 5:32 p. m.—The note of the Washington government to Great Britain, protesting against the detention of American cargoes by British warships, has not as yet reached the British foreign office, although a synopsis of it has been published in London with the permission which has shown no disposition to conceal the American grievances in this direction.

New Views of Crater Lake

Some of the finest views of Crater Lake ever taken were secured this past summer by Frank H. Kiser, whose artistic photographs of Crater Lake have made him famous.

Mr. Kiser selected those he considered best and sent them to the Mail Tribune for the 1915 New Year's issue. They fill a page and show not only the lake, but the recently completed inn, as well as a section of the \$750,000 boulevard being constructed around the rim of the lake, destined to be the most scenic drive in the world.

Crater Lake is but one of many features superbly illustrated in the New Year's Annual, which is designed to attract the tourist. The giant forest trees, Mill Creek falls and other scenic beauties, the paved Pacific highway and the new grade over the Siskiyou, the orchards, power development, irrigation progress and prospects are among the subjects pictured and written about.

Order extra copies at once or it will be too late.

BORDER WARFARE THING OF PAST

DOUGLAS, Arizona, Dec. 29.—Seven horses taken Saturday night from the picket line of the United States cavalry were returned today by Colonel Gomez, commanding the Carranza garrison of Agua Prieta, who stated that the horses, as well as some of his own animals had been driven away by a party of Villa sympathizers who had raided the American side.

As a result of the agreements said to have been negotiated by General Hugh L. Scott, between General Benjamin Hill and Governor Maytorena, Carranza officials at Agua Prieta expect the Sonora war to be fought out in the interior of the states. Ives Lelivier, Carranza representative here, said today it would be necessary to leave only small garrisons at Agua Prieta and Naco, as Maytorena had agreed not to attack border points again. General Hill therefore is expected to take the greater part of his forces into the interior and give battle to Maytorena. If Maytorena retires to Nogales, Hill, Lelivier asserted, would not attempt to take the town.

QUEZON ASSAILS PHILIPPINE REBELS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Philippine disturbances were discussed today in the house. Resident Commissioner Quezon, assailing reports of an outbreak, declared such disturbances as had occurred were of no importance and that there was no revolt in the islands.

Representative Miller of Minnesota, who opposes Philippine independence, agreed with Mr. Quezon in minimizing reports of a revolution but declared that "nevertheless we should not close our eyes to these disturbances." He denounced the deported Filipino, Ricarte, who is charged with conducting anti-American propaganda from Hong Kong.

BASEBALL PITCHER SHOOTS MOUNTAINEER

VENTURA, Cal., Dec. 29.—Herbert Lathrop, mountaineer, hunter and guide of the Ojai district, died today as a result of being shot Monday by Floyd Perritt, a pitcher on the Los Angeles team of the Pacific Coast Baseball League, who was hunting mountain lions. Lathrop's body was taken twelve miles to Nordhoff on horseback, over a narrow mountain trail.

Perritt mistook Lathrop for a mountain lion, and fired a high-powered rifle bullet into his abdomen. Perritt was on a hillside, Lathrop, wearing a gray sweater, was on the opposite side of the canon building a fence.

EXPORTS EXCEED IMPORTS BY OVER \$88,000,000

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Secretary Redfield told President Wilson and the cabinet today that exports from the United States during December, until December 26, exceeded the imports by \$88,000,000.

MERCHANTS REJECT FREIGHT RATE FIGHT

The proposition of H. C. Beach, a rate attorney of San Francisco, to the Medford Merchants' association, seeking to secure a reduction in freight rates, was rejected Tuesday at a meeting of the committee named at a special meeting Monday night. Mr. Beach agreed to pay all expenses of the case and asked in return for \$10,000 to be deducted from the first half of the savings accruing from securing lower freight rates, provided a suit instituted won. Otherwise there would be no expense. It was agreed that Medford was entitled to lower freight rates, but that the fee asked was too high. Mr. Beach's fee was entirely contingent upon securing lower rates. The special committee named was composed of J. C. Mann, C. M. Kidd, C. S. Butterfield, E. C. Gaddis, A. Hubbard, E. F. Schmidt and L. B. Brow.

WILSON INSISTS ON SQUARE DEAL FOR COMMERCE

President Demands Better Treatment From Great Britain for American Shippers—Declares Large Damages Must Be Paid for Unlawful Detention of American Cargoes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—President Wilson, referring today to the American note to Great Britain, insisting on better treatment for American commerce, declared that large damages eventually would have to be paid by England for unlawful detention of American cargoes.

SHIPPERS DISHONEST

The president coupled a confirmation of this morning's publication of the sending of the note and of its contents with the statement that the government could deal confidently with the subject, only if supported by absolutely honest manifests. He said the great embarrassment to the government in dealing with the whole matter was that some shippers had concealed contraband in the cargoes of non-contraband articles, for example, under a cargo of cotton. So long as there were instances of that kind, the president said, suspicion was cast on every shipment and all cargoes were liable to doubt and suspicion.

The president pointed out that many protests previously had been sent in specific cases and that if the contention of the American government were correct, as he was firmly convinced it was, plans for indemnification ultimately would have to be met by Great Britain.

NO DEBATE POSSIBLE

Supplementary to previous protests the new note, President Wilson explained, represented fully the position of the United States, saying that so far as the theory was concerned, there really was no debate on the point raised because England herself in previous wars had taken exactly the American position.

The president was asked if the communication sent to Great Britain was the result of the recent gathering of Pan-American diplomats here. He said it was not, but that the position of the United States would apply to any neutral country and that the contentions advanced were not peculiar to this country.

BASED UPON LAW

The president added that the note of protest was based on the generally accepted principle of international law.

Foreign diplomats, especially those from neutral countries, discussed the note today, and members of congress, who had protested to the state department on behalf of merchants and shippers of copper, flour, wheat and other products in which trade had been restricted, expressed satisfaction with the attitude of the government.

Some administration officials expressed the view that when Great Britain realized the tone of public opinion on the subject in the United States, her attitude would be modified and American industry hitherto halted, would go forward.