

FRENCH ARMY WITHIN 30 MILES OF THE RHINE

Allies' Progress in Upper Alsace Is Most Significant News of Day—Swampy Ground Checks Belgian Advance—Germans Still Attacking in Poland.

LONDON, January 5, 12:30 p. m.—The right wing of the French army is today less than thirty miles from the river Rhine, holding the Alsatian village of Steinbach, and the heights to the southwest of the village, after one of the most stubborn localized fights of the war. At no other point of the western front has there been any noteworthy change. The news consequently dwells chiefly today on the bad weather conditions. In Poland there has been little shift in the relative positions of the invading and defending armies. The Germans continue to deliver their furious and intermittent attacks on the Buzna-Rawka line. To the south the Russians have swept forward to Suzawa, near the Rumanian frontier. In the Caucasus the Turkish invaders and the Russians are apparently still fighting out their battle in the region of Sari Kamysch, both sides claiming a victory.

French Progress Significant The French progress in upper Alsace is probably the most significant news from the western front in a number of weeks and by some observers here it is taken to indicate future attempts on the part of the allies to break through in this region, maintaining meanwhile a base on Belfort. For the moment the swampy condition of the ground in West Flanders precludes a general advance movement in this locality. Furthermore General Joffre's feeling tactics at other points have resulted in no gains and it consequently would not be a surprise if the heaviest fighting during the next fortnight centered on the eastern slopes of the Vosges mountains. It is down these hills that the French Alpine chassateurs, backed by the famous 75-millimetre guns, swept to victory yesterday at Steinbach after some of the most sanguinary fighting of the campaign. Only a little farther advance to the south-east, British commentators point out today, will give the allies possession of the village of Cernay. They now hold the heights to the west of this town, and its fall would throw open the way to Muelhausen.

In the Caucasus Whether the Turks are exaggerating their successes or not, they are doing some hard fighting in the Caucasus, judging from the dispatches reaching London. Even telegrams from Petrograd admit that this situation is becoming one of first importance. There is no sign as yet, however, of Russia's moving troops from her western to her southern frontier.

BOYCOTT COSTS HATTERS' UNION \$250,000 CASH

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The supreme court today affirmed \$250,000 judgment awarded by the New York federal courts to D. E. Loewe & Co., Danbury, Conn., hatters, against some 186 members of the United Hatters' union, under the Sherman anti-trust law, as damages resulting from a boycott.

During a strike at Loewe's hat factory in 1912 the United Satters of North America were charged with having boycotted the Loewe hats. The manufacturers alleged that large losses resulted. The hat company began suit in 1903 against 186 members of the union. Judgment for \$252,130 was awarded to the company and affirmed by the circuit court of appeals.

Justice Holmes announced the court's unanimous decision. He held that the defendants, as members of a labor union, were liable under the Sherman anti-trust law, for the acts of the officials of the union.

PANAMA CANAL GUNS PLENTY BIG ENOUGH SAYS COL. GOETHALS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Governor Goethals of the Panama canal zone told the house appropriations substitute committee on fortifications today that while guns and ammunition at the canal were ample now, it was necessary to have provision for duplications.

"Could foreign warships outrange the guns of the canal fortifications?" asked Chairman Fitzgerald. "No," replied the governor. "Our guns are of equal range, so far as our information goes."

Governor Goethals did not believe the government would be justified in installing larger guns.

WAR IS COSTING INSURANCE FIRMS HEAVY PENALTIES

PARIS, Jan. 5.—One of the American life insurance companies has paid out about \$400,000 on policies held by soldiers who were killed in the war. The last policies issued which cover the war risk were dated July 25.

A captain of artillery who paid his first premium on a \$5000 policy July 25, was killed in one of the early engagements.

Annuities and claims in case of death from natural causes are being paid promptly by American companies, while others, in accord with the provisions of the moratorium, are paying no annuities in excess of \$240 per year, and no death claims.

There were six German and Austrian life insurance companies doing business in France before the war. They come under the measures taken against Germans doing business in France, and their reserves deposited with the national consignment department will be used for the benefit of policyholders other than those of German or Austrian nationality.

HALE'S PROPERTY SEIZED BY SHERIFF

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Jan. 5.—Southern California property valued at \$450,000 and belonging to Nathan W. Hale, former representative in congress, was in the hands of the sheriff today under a writ of attachment in connection with a judgment affirmed some time ago by the supreme court of Tennessee. The judgment was the outcome of a stock transaction involving securities of the Great Southern Agency, an insurance company which went into the hands of a receiver.

John W. Preston, United States district attorney of San Francisco took out the writ, acting, he said, in a private capacity. Among the property seized was Hale's home in Pasadena, valued at \$60,000. Hale said he had been elected a director of the insurance company without his knowledge and that he knew nothing about the litigation which resulted in the issuance of the attachment.

ALBANIAN REVOLT GROWS EXTENSIVE

ROME, Jan. 5, 1:15 p. m.—The revolution in Albania is extending. Assertion is made here that it is being fomented by Austrian and Turkish elements with the object of forcing Serbia and Montenegro to employ troops along the Albanian frontiers. Another object, it is said, is to engage Italy more deeply in Albania, thus distracting her attention from the main conflict.

Rome newspapers urge the government not to fall into the trap, as it is called, and to reserve all the energies of the country for the conservation of Italy's supreme interests as involved in the European war.

AUSTRIAN ARMY SURROUNDED BY RUSSIAN HORDE

Unofficial Dispatches Claim Capture of Eight Hungarian Towns—Several Divisions Reported Hemmed In—Vienna Asserts Austrian Success—Germans Losing in Alsace.

LONDON, Jan. 5.—Further Russian successes in operations against the Austrians are described in unofficial dispatches from Petrograd. According to these advices, the Russian troops which were said several days ago to have penetrated the passes of the Carpathian mountains and begun an invasion of Hungary in force have captured eight Hungarian towns and surrounded several divisions of Austrian troops in the mountains. There was no official confirmation of these statements, however, and the latest official announcement from Vienna asserts that the Austrian forces in Galicia have captured strong positions and are preparing for further operations.

Although it is admitted in Petrograd that the Germans occupied Russian positions at Holimow, on the battle front before Warsaw, the Russian war office states that the invaders later were driven back again, abandoning six machine guns.

The German defenders of Alsace are still losing ground before the French advance. Today's official statements from Berlin, as well as Paris, speak of fighting to the east of Steinbach, showing that the French have pushed beyond this recently captured village. The Paris announcement gives the first intimation of another French advance into Alsace near Orbey, 14 miles west of Colmar, capital of Upper Alsace.

The French surprised a movement of the German battery ascending toward the summit of the mountain by road and taking a short cut, accomplished what seemed to be the impossible.

The French battalion arrived five minutes before the Germans appeared in an open space and had just time to put into position their mountain guns. Five minutes more and all was over. Too late the Germans attempted to retire and the battery was annihilated.

When the French finally succeeded in slipping around the enemy's right along the Steinbach brook, there commenced a fierce combat for the possession of Steinbach itself. The church and the cemetery twice were taken and twice were lost. Since hand-to-hand fighting was now going on night and day and from door to door, the Germans, unable longer to use their artillery, resorted to incendiary bombs and set fire to a number of barns and houses occupied by the French.

The Germans held on till the morning of January 4, when the last courageous resistance of the defenders was worn out by the persistent and impetuous charges of the chassateurs and the whole town was occupied.

KAISER REPLIES TO AUSTRIAN MESSAGE

BERLIN, Jan. 5.—Emperor William, replying to a congratulatory message from Arch Duke Frederick of Austria, telegraphed as follows: "My best wishes to your imperial highness and your brave Austro-Hungarian troops, who in the past year have shown an unchanging spirit of comradeship toward their German allies. With our combined forces we continue the fight, and with our eyes toward God we will win; a decisive success for our just cause will not be wanting." (Signed) "WILLIAM."

IMMIGRATION BILL GIVEN A HEARING

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—President Wilson probably will give a hearing to opponents and supporters of the immigration bill, which passed Monday, before deciding whether to sign or veto the measure. Louis N. Hammerling, president of the American Association of Foreign Language Newspapers, and Rev. C. L. Orbach of New York, laid a request for a hearing before the president today.

OHIO COMPENSATION LAW IS SUSTAINED

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The supreme court today upheld as constitutional the Ohio workmen's compensation law.

The Maryland automobile license law was upheld as constitutional today by the supreme court.

A Business Man On the Charter To the Public:

In violation of my lifelong habit of keeping out of the public print, I desire to call the attention of Medford's citizens to one feature of the new charter that seems to have been generally overlooked in its discussion, which is of prime importance. I refer to the provisions for bookkeeping and reports to the public.

Any member of the present council will tell you how hard it was for them to get on paper a statement of how the city's finances stood, when they took office. It was not the fault of the city recorder's office, nor of the preceding council, but of our worthless charter. A system that has been worked out in the east, at an expense of \$325,000, and found nearly ideal, has been incorporated into the new charter. It means absolute honesty and full publicity in the handling of our money in running the city's affairs. It means that every dollar's worth of property bought for the city must be strictly accounted for. That means economy.

In my judgment this one feature of the new charter will be worth thousands of dollars to Medford. Isn't the fact that among the many cities that have adopted this kind of charter, not one has failed to show a marked improvement and better and cheaper government, reason enough why we should adopt this charter? A. C. HUBBARD.

FRENCH VICTORS IN FIERCE FIGHT FOR ALSATIAN TOWN

THANN, Alsace, Jan. 4, via Paris, Jan. 5, 11:35 a. m.—A race of three miles up the steep slope of Engelburg, through thickets and up rocky steps, between a battalion of French light infantry with mountain guns, and a German battery, determined the result of the stubborn fight for the Alsatian town of Steinbach.

The French surprised a movement of the German battery ascending toward the summit of the mountain by road and taking a short cut, accomplished what seemed to be the impossible.

The French battalion arrived five minutes before the Germans appeared in an open space and had just time to put into position their mountain guns. Five minutes more and all was over. Too late the Germans attempted to retire and the battery was annihilated.

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WHEAT REACHES \$1.36 AT CHICAGO

CHICAGO, Jan. 5.—Directly as a consequence as wheat in Chicago today sold at \$1.36 1/4 a bushel, the highest price in more than forty years. Moreover, the chief speculative option, May delivery, rose to \$1.37 3/4 a bushel, an advance of more than 10 cents a bushel since a week ago, and 6 cents above last night's figures. The market closed unsettled, but not far from the top level of the day.

PORTLAND, Or., Jan. 5.—As a result of the unprecedented demand for wheat, the lid flew off in the flour market here today and prices jumped 20 cents per barrel on all grades. The rise brought flour quotations to the highest point recorded in fifteen years. Patents sold today at \$6.40 per barrel, straights at \$5.90 and \$6.10, and exports at \$5.30.

TEN LIVES LOST IN MEXICAN FLOODS

NOGALES, Ariz., Jan. 5.—Ten lives were lost in the floods which swept portions of Northwestern Mexico ten days ago. Reports received from the valley of the Mayo river, in Sonora, today said that the towns of San Pedro, San Ygnacio and Etchojoa had been destroyed. Hautatabampo and Old Navajo suffered considerably. Only 25 per cent of the wheat crop in the valley can be harvested.

OBREGON CLAIMS CAPTURE OF PUEBLA

VERA CRUZ, Jan. 5, 1 p. m.—General Obregon reported to Carranza at headquarters that he had captured the city of Puebla, capital of the state of that name, at 11:30 a. m. today. All Vera Cruz is celebrating.

WILSON NAMES MEDIATORS TO END OHIO COAL STRIKE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Secretary Wilson of the department of labor today appointed Daniel J. Keefe, former commissioner general of immigration, and Hywel Davies, a Kentucky coal operator, as federal conciliators, to attempt to settle the eastern Ohio coal strike. The request for intervention of the department of labor was made by the Wheeling, W. Va., chamber of commerce.

CLEVELAND, O., Jan. 5.—That the 15,000 coal miners in eastern Ohio who have been on strike since the first of April last will be given an opportunity to resume work soon under the "open shop" olive at a wage contract which calls for 44.61 cents a ton—the offer rejected by the miners' organization as a result of an adjourned meeting of the Coal Operators' association, was the belief expressed by several operators before they went into session today.

Sentiment expressed by individual operators indicated that the organization probably would decide to disregard negotiations with the union.

COTTON GINNERS FILE IN BANKRUPTCY

NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—The American Round Bale Press company, a New York corporation with \$6,000,000 authorized capital, filed today a voluntary petition in bankruptcy in which its liabilities were given as \$964,000 and its assets as fifty-nine cotton gin plants in the south, and presses, value not stated.

Paul Jones, a lawyer of this city was appointed receiver under \$59,000 bond.

Attorneys for the receiver attributed the failure to the European war. "The business of the company had been prostrated by paralysis in the cotton trade, resulting from the European war," their statement read.

WANTS RHODE ISLAND WOMEN GIVEN BALLOT

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Jan. 5.—The extension to Rhode Island women of the right to vote for president was advocated by Governor Beekman in his inaugural address today. "In the interest of plain justice and of sound political principles," he said, "I recommend the passage of an act by the present general assembly granting presidential suffrage to women."

SNOW COVERS COLORADO AND MOUNTAIN STATES

DENVER, Colo., Jan. 5.—Snow, driven by a high north wind, fell in Denver today and over a large part of Colorado early today. The storm was general over Colorado, with a lighter fall of snow in Wyoming and parts of Utah and New Mexico.

NO PROTEST BY GERMANY UPON WAR SHIPMENTS

Kaiser's Government Through Berlin Foreign Office Makes Position Plain—Expect Exports to Continue—Bartholdt Declares It Immoral to Furnish War Munitions.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Chairman Flood of the house foreign affairs committee today told proponents of legislation to prohibit exports of war materials, that the German government through the Berlin foreign office had made it plain that it did not expect the United States to stop such exports.

Chairman Flood made his statement to Representative Bartholdt, who at a public hearing today was making a general argument for his resolution to stop exports.

"Suppose," he asked Bartholdt, "that you understood that the German government, through the Berlin foreign office, had said that it did not expect this government to pass this legislation. Would you support it?"

Representative Bartholdt asserted that he knew nothing of the attitude of the German government and that he and his associates opposed the exportation of arms on the grounds of "international immorality."

Chairman Flood repeated the statement in his question and added: "I said that they realize, and so state, that they don't expect this government to pass this legislation."

"The state department," said Flood to Representative Bartholdt, "has investigated your charge that dum-dum bullets were being shipped from this country to the allies. They have found that not more than 700 of these bullets have left the country and that none of them would fit modern military service rifles."

Representative Bartholdt said he had heard that the neutrality of the United States had been violated by the shipment of Canadian troops over American territory in Maine, on their way to the war zone.

"I have never heard of that," said Chairman Flood.

Representative Bartholdt said that he knew of the incident only as a matter of gossip.

"The shipment of war supplies to belligerent nations," said Chairman Flood, "has been recognized for 100 years as a right of our citizens by the law of nations. When this war began that right was recognized. England, through her foresight and the expenditure of her treasure, had gained control of the seas. It would be to her disadvantage to change this situation now. Would it not be an unneutral act?"

Representative Bartholdt said that only "equality toward law" could morally justify the exercise of the right to ship arms to belligerents.

KATY LIMITED ENGINE WRECKED IN TEXAS

DALLAS, Texas, Jan. 5.—The engine of the Katy limited No. 9, southbound from St. Louis, on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railway, overturned near Bells, Texas, today, injuring the fireman and engineer. None of the coaches left the rails, according to the report at the railway's general headquarters here, and no passengers were injured.

UNCLE SAM TO CERTIFY CARGOES AS TO CONTENTS

Government Urges Co-operation Between Exporters, Shippers and Authorities—Believed Action Will Solve Difficulties Regarding Seizure of Ships and Stop Searching.

LONDON, Jan. 5.—The British government was informed today of the decision of the Washington authorities to certify American cargoes as to their exact contents before they leave American ports. It is felt here action of this nature will assist materially in solving the difficulties which led to the presentation of the note from Washington concerning British interference.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The decision of the United States government to certify cargoes as to their exact contents before leaving American ports was believed by officials and diplomats alike today to offer a means of solving one of the points now under dispute in the shipping controversy between Great Britain and the United States.

The circular which had been formulated by Secretaries Bryan and Redfield and Acting Secretary of the Treasury Peters for issuance today urges co-operation between American exporters, shippers and the government in regard to the manifests of neutral ships used to carry American cargoes.

Exporters were to be urged to accompany their products with affidavits telling exactly the contents of their shipments, and treasury officials were to be instructed to certify that the manifests contain the articles mentioned. Treasury officials, however, will not rule on the subject of whether a product is contraband or not.

SCOTT AND VILLA MEET TO ADJUST BORDER TROUBLES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Administration officials today awaited with interest the outcome of a conference to be held probably on the international bridge at El Paso between Brigadier General Scott, chief of staff of the United States army, and General Villa, commander-in-chief of the forces of the Guterrez government in Mexico, the object being to reach an agreement if possible to prevent further firing into American territory by Mexican factions fighting along the border.

Both Generals Scott and Villa were on their way today to El Paso, the meeting between the two having been arranged by telegraph.

General Scott had been at Naco for the past fortnight in an effort to bring about an agreement between General Maytorena, commanding the Guterrez force, attacking the Mexican town of that name, and General Hill of the Carranza garrison. Although Hill had agreed to withdraw to Agua Prieta, Maytorena has delayed entering into any final agreement, awaiting, it is stated, the arrival there of General Cabral with his force of 8000 troops to take charge of the situation.

It is understood that the conference with Villa was sought not only on account of the delay at Naco, but in order that if an agreement were reached it might apply to the entire border line.

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