

WOEVRE REGION SEES ADVANCES BY ALLIED ARMY

French Report Capture of German Trenches—Inroads Into German Triangular Position—Activity in North Confined to Artillery Exchanges—Germans Claim Progress

LONDON, Jan. 7.—The French report announces the capture of a portion of the German first line trenches in the Woevre district in the northwest of Flirey. This advance derives its importance from the fact that it indicates the French are making inroads into the German triangular position, the apex of which rests on the right bank of the river Meuse, at St. Mihiel.

The activity at Flanders and in France still is confined largely to artillery exchanges. In them the French claim the advantage. Mines also have been exploded at two points on the line, with successful results to the French troops.

The enemy at Steinbach has not attacked again, and the French in this region have retained their positions. They claim also an advance toward Altkirch, in Alsace, south of Steinbach and Muelhausen.

German Statement

The German official statement on the progress of the war given out this afternoon claims the Germans in the western part of Argonne were victorious and that heavy fighting is going on to the north of Arras. French attacks in the eastern portion of the Argonne forest and to the west of Sennheim (Germany) in Alsace, the statement says, were repulsed.

In their operations against the Russians the Germans claim to be making progress in spite of the unfavorable weather conditions.

Defeat Not Conceded

Neither Turkey nor Germany has conceded the defeat of Turkish armies in the Caucasus, as claimed officially in Petrograd. As further details of this fighting are received in London, it would appear that this reported Turkish disaster was complete as that suffered by any forces since the outbreak of the war. In spite of this, however, the latest of the communications from Turkey altogether ignores the fighting in the Caucasus and dwells upon the struggle which has spread over the Persian frontier to Erumiah, an important town where the Turks say that, aided

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\$2 A BUSHEL FOR WHEAT PAID FOR CAR AT CHICAGO

CHICAGO, Jan. 7.—Two dollars a bushel for wheat, the dream that only enthusiasts ever expected to come true, was within one-half cent of being a reality today on one grade of wheat if the cost of delivery to Europe might be counted as part of the price. A carload of Durum wheat was sold to go to Italy on a basis that figured delivered at a destination \$1.99 1/2 a bushel.

Such a price breaks all records for Durum wheat. The supply of that variety in the United States is said to be virtually exhausted for this season.

Rapid upturns were witnessed in the speculative market. News that France and Italy had purchased 1,500,000 bushels or more today at the seaboard made the prices of options leap higher than at any time since the beginning of the European war and reach levels that before had not been equaled since the celebrated attempt at a world-wide squeeze by Joseph Leiter.

May wheat, the chief speculative delivery, went to \$1.38 1/2 as against \$1.36 at the finish last night. Among the purchasers of the May option was the Rockefeller Foundation, which wanted to make sure of charity supplies for Belgium, and had been unable to get satisfactory terms on wheat for spot cash.

REAL BARBARISM CHARGE AGAINST GERMAN FORCE

French Commission Makes Detailed Report of Atrocities by Invaders—Pillage, Ravishing, Burning and Murder Ordinary Practices—Newspaper Proof Submitted.

PARIS, Jan. 7.—The commission appointed on September 23 to inquire into accusations that German officers had acted "savagely and inhumanely" against French civilians and soldiers says in its report, made public today by the French cabinet:

Savage Warfare

"We must conclude that there never has been a war between civilized nations of so savagely a nature as that waged on our soil. Pillage, ravishing, burning, murder are ordinary practices of our enemies, and facts collected in many cases prove that the German claims that the killing of civilians was due to firing of the population, are unfounded.

"We found proof the existence in the German army not only of a systematic plan for burning villages but the possession of elaborate material for this purpose, including torches, grenades, fuses, oil sprayers, sticks of inflammable matters and sacks of tablets composed of very inflammable compressed powder."

The commission affirms that it has distinguished carefully between fires caused by bombardments and those said to have been set by hand when no fighting was in progress. It is stated that the object was to intimidate the population, thus spreading terror and panic ahead of the invaders.

Ravishings Frequent

"Ravishings of women and girls were so frequent that the number of cases established was only a small part of those which might have been investigated," the commission says. "The victims of these odious acts generally refused to testify, because it would compromise their future."

The commission supplied with great detail the testimony on which its conclusions are based. Those depositions will be published later as a government document. The members of the commission are Georges Payelle, president of the court of accounts, chairman; Edmund Paillet, councillor of the court of cassation; Armand Mollard, one of the ministers attached to the foreign office, and G. Marringier, councillor of state.

QUEZON IN FAVOR OF COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Military importance of the Philippines and their strategic value to the navy department will be inquired into during consideration of the bill to grant the islands a larger measure of self-government.

Manuel L. Quezon, resident commissioner from the Philippines, urged the passage of the bill with a definite promise of complete independence included. He said the Aguinaldo government established in 1898 before the Spanish-American war had extended its influence and control to all parts of the group.

It should be viewed in some measure, he thought, as proving the capacity of the Filipinos to govern themselves.

ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER OF COMMERCIAL CLUB

The annual meeting of the Commercial club was held at the public library last night, and the report of Secretary F. W. Streets for the year read. A balance of \$544.56 was shown to be in the club treasury. The club is practically free of debt. A committee was appointed composed of Ben Sheldon, Bert Anderson and H. A. Latta to arrange plans for the annual Get Together meeting and banquet of the club.

NO DUM DUM BULLETS SHIPPED FROM AMERICA

Bryan Replies to German Complaint, Refrains From Comment, But Giving Record of Winchester and Remington Works, Showing the Charges Groundless.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Secretary Bryan today informed Count Bernstorff, the German ambassador, that the United States, in maintaining strict neutrality, must refrain from official investigation or commenting upon his charges that dum-dum bullets were being furnished from this country to the allies.

Secretary Bryan told the ambassador, however, that if he could furnish proof that forbidden war materials were being shipped by American firms, President Wilson would use his influence to stop the traffic without involving legal or international questions.

In a letter to Count Bernstorff, Secretary Bryan referred to denials of American manufacturers to his recent charge of dum-dum bullets and riot guns being furnished to the allies. The letter follows:

Respect Neutrality.

"I can assure your excellency that I am not unmindful of the spirit in which you bring to the attention of this government the improper practices which are alleged to have occurred in the conduct of the present war. But while this government may take these statements and charges under consideration, it is, in its efforts to maintain a strict neutrality in the present conflict, obliged to refrain from investigating their truthfulness or making any comment in regard to them.

"Your excellency also states that the British government has ordered from the Winchester Repeating Arms company 20,000 'riot guns,' model 1897, and 50,000,000 'backshot cartridges' for use in such guns. This department saw a published statement of the Winchester company, the correctness of which the company has confirmed to the department by telegraph. In this statement the company categorically denied that it has received an order for such guns and cartridges from or made any sale of such material to the British government, or to any other government engaged in the present war.

Dum-Dum Bullets

"Your excellency further calls attention to 'information, the accuracy of which is not doubted,' that eight million cartridges fitted with 'mush-room bullets' have been delivered since October of this year by the Union Metallic Cartridge company for the armament of the English army.

"In reply I have the honor to refer to the letter of December 10, 1914, of the Remington Arms-Union Metallic Cartridge company of New York to your excellency, called forth by certain newspaper reports of statements alleged to have been made by you in regard to the sale by that company of soft-nosed bullets. From this letter, a copy of which was sent

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BERNSTORFF SPEAKS ON USE OF PASSPORTS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—Count Bernstorff, the German ambassador here, made his first comment today on the alleged misuse of passports by German reservists in the following statement:

"England has violated the Hague convention and the rules of international law by taking unarmed people off vessels, a proceeding against which the German government complained to the neutral governments. In consequence of this proceeding, German citizens were deprived of going home and several may have tried to use false passports for this purpose, because of their desire to defend their country, a motive which every good citizen will understand. If this really has been done, it will have to be proved. In any case, however, German officials in this country had nothing whatever to do with it."

What It Will Mean to the City

To the Editor: It is fortunate that the people of Medford do not have to depend upon theory respecting the advantages of the new charter. I came from Tacoma, Wash. They have one of these new charters. I know what the government of that city was before the new charter was adopted and also after. I simply cannot find language too strong to express the change. The new charter has made all the difference in the world. It makes the difference between decidedly bad and the very best government. As a man who has lived under both kinds of charters, and now a loyal citizen of Medford, I am extremely anxious to see the new charter carry. In fact, I wish anyone would find me a man here who has lived under one of these new charters who is not strong for it for Medford.

BELGIAN CARDINAL UNDER RESTRAINT OF GERMAN GUARD

AMSTERDAM, via London, Jan. 7, 6:22 p. m.—The Amsterdam Tijd, whose report of the arrest of Cardinal Mercier elicited today an official denial from the German military government in Belgium, publishes a dispatch from Bergen-Op-Zoom, Netherlands, purporting to confirm the statements that the cardinal was placed under restraint.

The much discussed paragraphs of the pastoral letter of Cardinal Mercier, contains the following:

"I consider it an obligation of my pastoral charge to define your duties of conscience toward the power which has invaded our soil and which at this moment occupies a greater part of it. That power has no authority in law. In the sanctuary of your soul you owe it neither esteem nor attachment nor obedience. The sole legal power in Belgium is that which is derived from our king, our government and the representatives of the nation. This alone has a right to the affections of our hearts and to our submission.

"Of themselves the acts of those in occupation are without force; but the legal authority ratifies tacitly those acts which are justified in the general interests and from this ratification alone they derive all their judicial worth.

"The occupied provinces of Belgium are not conquered provinces. Belgium is no more a German province than Galicia is a Russian province. Nevertheless the occupied part of our country is confronted by a situation to which it must submit."

LAUNDRYMEN WANT CHINESE EXCLUSION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—More rigid exclusion of Chinese was urged before the house immigration committee today by George W. Hooper and E. M. Sullivan of Boston, and J. A. Barkey of Chicago, all speaking for organized laundrymen.

Hooper said the Chinese were crowding the American laundrymen, and the Japanese were threatening to crowd the Chinese. He said 112,000 wage-earners in American steam laundries were being affected by state legislation and competition of Orientals, and that there were 15,000 Chinese in the laundry business in the United States.

ILLINOIS DEADLOCK OVER WET AND DRY

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Jan. 7.—Threatening to continue the deadlock over the house speakership until next week and to indefinitely postpone the filling of the two senate vacancies from Cook county districts, the wet and dry issues today continued to hold up the work of the Illinois legislature.

There was but one definite development and that was the announced determination of the democrats who are at present in control of the senate, to completely exonerate that body before making a recount of the votes in the contested districts in Cook county.

PRESIDENT PLANS WHIRL ON CIRCLE MARCH 5-MAY 1

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—President Wilson expects his trip to the Panama canal, the San Diego and San Francisco expositions, and his speaking tour afterward, to last from March 5 to May 1. He told callers today he planned to be away from Washington for that period, unless public business necessitates his presence here.

Detailed plans for the formal opening of the canal were considered at a conference today between President Wilson and Senators Overman, Hoke Smith and Gallinger and Representatives Underwood, Mann and Sherley.

Mr. Wilson now has before him a tentative program for the opening, drawn up under the direction of Secretaries Bryan, Garrison and Daniels. An invitation to include the Pacific northwest in the itinerary was extended to the president today by Senators Chamberlain and Lane; Brady and Borah of Idaho, Sutherland and Jones and Poinsett of Washington. He promised to take in those states if possible.

BRITAIN'S REPLY TO SHIPPING NOTE ENTIRELY FRIENDLY

LONDON, Jan. 7, 8:04 a. m.—The reply of Great Britain to the American note regarding interference with American shipping, it is said in official quarters, is wholly conciliatory and shows a disposition on the part of England to do everything within reason to avoid delay to American shipping at a time when freight rates are high and loss of time is costly to shippers.

England wishes to do everything in its power consistent with the proper safeguarding of the interests of the allies to facilitate world trade and stimulate commerce, paralyzed as it is by war conditions. Consequently, it is declared, there is no disposition on the part of England to protest against the purchase of German vessels by Americans where the sales are genuine and the ships are not used so as to avoid what might reasonably be called the consequences of belligerency.

ALL PASSPORTS MUST BE VISED IN LONDON

LONDON, Jan. 7, 1:52 p. m.—All passports issued by the state department at Washington will in the future have to be vised by the American embassy in London, if the traveler passes through London. Furthermore, the bearers of American passports, previous to leaving England for the continent, will have to submit their passports to the consul in London of the country whither they are going for the consular stamp.

Passports issued by Sweden and other neutral countries for Europe also have discovered recently in the hands of persons to whom they were not issued. The result of this is that neutral European countries also are tightening up the regulations governing the issuance of passports as has the United States.

ARIZONA LAW AGAINST ALIENS DECLARED VOID

Federal Court Holds Initiative Measure Violates Guarantee of Life, Liberty and Possession of Property—Carnot Forbid Employers to Hire Aliens.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Jan. 7.—The Arizona anti-alien employment act, adopted by the people of the state at the November elections as an initiative measure, was declared unconstitutional, null and void here today by a special court of three federal judges.

In brief, the court held that the statute violated the guarantees of life, liberty and the possession of property made to all alike, whether aliens or not, under the fourteenth amendment to the United States constitution.

That if the state of Arizona could forbid any employer to hire more than 20 per cent of aliens, it could with equal justice forbid him to hire 1 per cent, or even an individual alien.

This struck at the vitals of the act, which ordered that any employer with a payroll of five or more names must see that at least 80 per cent of those names were of duly qualified electors. Great Britain and Italy protested to the state department that these conditions of employment violated the treaty rights of their citizens.

Employers of foreign labor took up the case and obtained a temporary injunction from Judge W. H. Sawtelle of the United States district court. The writ was made returnable here, and arguments that it should be vacated on the one hand and made permanent on the other were heard yesterday by Judge Sawtelle, Judge Van Fleet of the United States district court and Judge Morrow of the United States circuit court.

Arizona, through the state attorney general, defended the act as necessary to its police powers over dangerous gatherings. Labor troubles in the mining camps gave birth to the act.

MEXICAN NAVY REMAINS NEUTRAL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—The Mexican navy, or part of it at least, has declared for neutrality, according to dispatches to the Gutierrez agency here, which say four gunboats on the Atlantic coast have retired to a quiet cove off Yucatan to await the result of the battle between the factions.

Dispatches to the state department, however, were interpreted as possibly indicating that part of the navy was preparing to move the seat of the Carranza government from Vera Cruz to Progreso. These dispatches said that the Mexican gunboats Bravo and Progreso left Vera Cruz January 5 carrying soldiers, constitutionalists' money, gold and silver bullion, saddles and foodstuffs. The Progreso was said to be bound for Tampico and the Bravo for Progreso.

SUBWAY VICTIMS STILL IN HOSPITAL

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—Seventy-seven victims of yesterday's subway accident, were still in hospitals today recovering from their injuries. Most of them were men; some were women who had been mauled during the stampede from the street. All suffered from the effects of smoke or bruises or cuts. They were the ones who had ached worst in the panic. No one was expected to die.

The death list of what was first believed to be a great disaster, remained at one. How many persons were carried unconscious from the smoke-filled tube to the street probably never will be definitely established.

SIGN UP FOR SUGAR BEETS IS THOMAS' ADVICE

Well-Known Retired Farmer, Who Successfully Farmed in Valley for Many Years Says That Beet Sugar Factory Offers Valley's Greatest Opportunity in Quarter Century.

I. W. Thomas, retired, for many years a practical, hard working and successful Rogue River valley farmer, amassing thereby a comfortable competence, writes as follows regarding the growing of sugar beets in the valley:

The sunset of life don't give me mystical lore or anything of the kind, but I want to say to the people of the Rogue River valley that if they don't give favorable consideration to the matter of signing up for enough sugar beet land to get that proposed factory under way, they will let the greatest opportunity go by them that has ever been presented to this valley in the last quarter of a century.

Pay to Sacrifice

To get this thing to going is so important that I know it will pay anyone to involve some personal sacrifice, even to the extent of raising a crop at a small profit, if too far away from the factory or delivery at price offered, or this reason. Once anything of the kind is proven a success it will start up activity in other lines and before we know it the conditions prevailing five years ago will be restored. There is unquestionably enough land available to produce the amount of beets required to keep the factory busy, and in my opinion with our climate conditions a longer period of operation will be possible each year here than in any section so far made use of for sugar beets. We all know that the root crops make their best growth late in the season here, which will prolong the season also for reducing them in the factory.

Can Grow Good Beets Until we get the ditches to going as they will eventually cover the valley, we will hardly get so heavy a crop as we otherwise could, but I know beyond any doubt, from my personal experience that a very good quality can be produced by proper cultivation, and the main thing is to get the factory going. Just think of the benefit that will result to everybody in the valley from the amount expended in producing such a crop as will result from five thousand acres in beets. Such a large proportion of the total amount "stays at home," and eases up money matters locally. Everybody is busy and the great expense bill which has no nearly swamped some of the best orchardists will be almost wiped out.

Winter Feed for Hogs

With all this, though, the greatest immediate benefit we will get from it will be the cheap winter feed for hogs and cows, the thing in this section where we fall down, derived from the pulp, which the gentlemen who propose building the factory agree to offer back to the farmer or whoever wants it for sixty cents per ton. This will make the very best kind of ensilage or cowfeed, and it will also enable farmers to more than double the number of hogs produced here, and conditions making it desirable for the pigs to come in the fall and their growth being slower than in sections where clover and corn rush their maturity. Cheap winter feed

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FLORIDA TORNADO SPREADS DISASTER

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Jan. 7.—Complete reports today from points in southern Georgia and northern Florida swept by violent winds last night, showed two persons killed, twelve injured and a number of homes and farm buildings wrecked.

Besides the fatalities at Quitman and Abbeville, Ga., several persons were reported hurt at Eastman, Chaucey and Stillmore, Ga. Principal damage in Florida was said to have been confined to Welborn.