

RUSSIAN INVASION OF PRUSSIA CHECKED

REINFORCEMENT FORCES RETREAT

Russian Explanation of Withdrawal From East Prussia Says Move Is Beginning of Long Operations on This Front.

PARIS, Feb. 12.—An official statement given out at the war office today announced the complete failure of the German offensive in Poland. The statement was as follows:

"The failure of recent attack by Germans in Poland appears to be complete. The losses of the Germans are unprecedented. It is reported that they exceed 40,000 dead. "Cold and the frequent use of dense formations are among the causes given for the losses of the Germans. An eye witness of the battle declares that machine guns mowed down the ranks of the enemy like a steel blade. "When the combat ended the Russians saw hills of dead before them. At night, under the glare of searchlights, the undulating mass of wounded made efforts to extricate themselves. Then towards two o'clock in the morning they moved no more."

PETROGRAD, Feb. 12.—The retirement of the Russian forces from the region of the Mazurian Lakes to the Russian frontier is due, according to the Russian general staff, to new considerations which have become important since the heavy German concentration in East Prussia has changed the complexion of the military situation on the northern battle front.

Since the determined nature of the German operations in the Mazurian lakes district destroys any supposition that this merely is one of the countless demonstrations employed by the Germans to distract attention and divert forces from the main issue in Poland, and since it now is evident that this is the beginning of a series of long and active operations which may definitely settle the struggle on this front, the Russian general staff has decided that the most favorable disposition of Russian forces can be made on Russian territory where in the early part of the war Russia so decisively defeated the German attempts on the banks of the River Nieman.

The semi-circular formation of the Russian forces, which recently extended from the Mazurian Lakes northward to Tilsit, has now therefore changed its position without altering its general shape. One horn of the crescent is now resting in the province of Plock, and the other in the province of Kovno.

It is reported officially that engagements at Vilkoviski, Nyszynets, Ostrolenka and as far south as Sierpoc and the river Skirwa show that the general activity extends over the whole of this wide semi-circle, which marks the present disposition of the Russian forces.

It is now reported in Petrograd that the present German reinforcements in East Prussia, instead of being drawn from other points on this front, are composed largely of four corps of new German recruits officered by men drawn from the western front.

SENATE REFUSES TO PROBE ELECTION FRAUDS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Investigation of charges of corruption in the last senatorial campaigns in Pennsylvania, Illinois and other states was blocked today so far as the 63rd congress is concerned, when the senate committee which provides for the expense of such inquiries decided not to act.

Chairman Williams said the senatorial terms to which the investigation would relate don't begin until the next congress and it was felt that an inquiry by the present congress would be premature.

REINFORCEMENT CZAR FORCED TO RETIRE FROM ENEMY'S LAND

Heavy German Reinforcements Causes Russians to Withdraw—Situation in Carpathians Favorable to Russians—Berlin Admits Czar's Troops Have Invaded Hungary.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The Russian invasion into East Prussia appears, judging from dispatches reaching London, likely to be as short lived as were the previous Russian raids into this same district. Germany's superb equipment and strategic railways in this territory have enabled her within a few days to throw immense bodies of troops against the invaders. In the present case the German soldiers appear to have been rushed into east Prussia from both Poland and interior points.

In the Carpathians the situation looks favorable for the Russians, who are pressing against the Austrian defenses at three of the most important mountain passes, and this in spite of the difficulties interposed by snow-blocked roads. Berlin admits that the Russians have entered Hungarian territory at several points in the Carpathian district, but declares that these positions were most dearly bought in view of the terrible casualties inflicted by Austrian artillery and machine guns of the Russian massed formations.

In Russian Poland the Germans hold the belief that Russia is preparing to fall back to her second line and the Russian trench defenses in that region will be assisted by the flooding of great sections of the intervening country.

The London newspapers profess to believe that German submarine attack on the British steamer Laertes, flying the Dutch flag, will precipitate more stringent measures against German trade, which was promised.

The Daily Mail says it believes the government will announce a complete blockade of the German coast as a result of which all goods to Germany by sea will be liable to seizure.

A wireless dispatch from Berlin reports that an aeroplane, presumably French, has dropped bombs in the harbor of Flushing, which is Dutch territory, but no news of such an occurrence has been received from Holland.

The Balkan states evidently are furthering their endeavors to reach an amicable settlement of their disagreements before entering the conflict. In this adjustment it is presumed that Bulgaria will get material territorial concessions from both Siberia and Rumania.

GERMANS PUT BAN ON DANISH FISHERMEN

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Feb. 12.—Germany has informed the Scandinavian government that no foreign fishing or coasting ships will be permitted until further notice within a certain area off the coast of Schleswig-Holstein or off the German North coast westward of the Elbe and Weiser rivers and the east Frisian islands. Scandinavian coasting vessels plying between ports in the Baltic and between Scandinavia and Holland henceforth will give a wide berth to German territorial waters.

Portland Livestock Market
PORTLAND, Or., Feb. 12.—Cattle—Receipts 34; steady. Hogs—Receipts 1172; steady. Sheep—Strong.

GERMANS TAKE 26,000 PRISONER

Kaiser Arrives on Battlefield to Witness Assault Upon Russians in East Prussia, Who Are Forced to Give Up Positions.

BERLIN, Feb. 12, by wireless.—The following statement was issued today at army headquarters under date of February 12:

"In the western war theater only artillery duels took place. The enemy expended an enormous amount of ammunition against German positions in Champagne, without gaining any success worth mentioning. Near Somme the enemy attempted an infantry attack, but was repulsed. "Eastern theater: The emperor arrived on the battlefield in east Prussian frontier. Our operations here forced the Russians rapidly to give up their positions east of the Mazurian lakes. At some places the fighting is continuing. So far about 26,000 prisoners have been made. More than twenty guns and thirty machine guns have been taken. The amount of war material taken cannot yet be estimated.

"In Poland, on the right bank of the Vistula, the Germans continued the offensive reported yesterday. They took Sieroc and made some hundreds of prisoners. "Who can say at what moment the dark curtain that veils so much of the struggle may be swept aside by uncontrolled forces that will fasten upon the peaceful nations and draw the whole world into the vortex of war? "There are two or three propositions which the highest authorities agree are fundamental to permanent peace. The first, perhaps, is the limitation of armaments and the nationalization of the manufacture of all equipment and supplies used exclusively for military and naval purposes. Another is the prohibition of the exportation of arms and munitions. It is revolting that we should encourage or permit traffic in arms and ammunition by private capital for profit with organized governments. "It is folly to pretend that the mere calling of the proposed conference will end hostilities. But it is little short of an international crime for congress to withhold from the president the authority and the necessary appropriation, he to act as the occasion shall command itself in his expressed desire to initiate such proceeding as may in the presence of God aid in bringing peace to the nations now at war."

AGED COUPLE SLAIN BY ROBBERS

OAKLAND, Cal., Feb. 12.—Jacob Vogel, former president of the Citizens' Bank of Fruitvale, Cal., and a wealthy resident of this section, and his wife, were beaten to death early today by robbers, who forced their way into their home.

The bodies were found by a domestic who returned to the Vogel home, in the suburbs of this city, after a night spent with relatives. The Vogels are believed to have been called to the door by two men who seized them both, bound their hands behind their backs and when they made an outcry, beat them to death with some blunt instrument. The house was ransacked in an effort to find a large sum of money rumored to have been kept secreted by the Vogels. The room in which the murder occurred was a veritable shambles, the aged couple evidently having put up a desperate struggle.

AGED OHIO COUPLE KILLED BY ROBBERS

GIBSONBURG, O., Feb. 12.—Mrs. Joseph Kimbel, aged 79, was murdered and her husband, Joseph Kimbel, 72, was probably fatally beaten by unidentified men at their home near Bradner, Wood county, early today. County authorities have sent bloodhounds to the scene. Kimbel, who was a wealthy farmer, is reported to have kept large sums of money in his house. Investigation showed that the house had been ransacked, but whether anything of value had been taken could not be determined.

PLOT TO DESTROY GRAND TRUNK BRIDGES

PORTLAND, Me., Feb. 12.—A large force of police and watchmen, stationed at the elevators, docks and coal pockets of the Grand Trunk railway, was increased substantially today in consequence of a reported plot to destroy the railroad's property here, and its principal bridges between this city and the Canadian boundary. Word received from the company's general offices at Montreal asserted that the alleged plot was evolved in California and that six men were bound here to carry it out.



Miss Sidl Wirt, charming daughter of the late Edward C. Wirt, of Kansas City, admits she is engaged to marry John D. Spreckels, Jr., a wealthy resident of San Francisco. The story started in the baggage room of a New York hotel where she is stopping when a fine tiger skin, about sixteen feet long, arrived there from San Francisco. It was said that the name of John D. Spreckels, Jr., was on the box containing it. Miss Wirt, in her apartment on the twenty-first floor, sitting in a chair with her tiny feet on the head of the tiger, was asked about this. "Why, yes, that is perfectly true," she said. "But the formal announcement has not yet been made. Of course, it must not be printed yet, as Mr. Spreckels would not like to see it in the newspapers. You see, it is only six months since that affair of his divorce."

WORLD AWAITS AMERICAN ACTION SAYS LA FOLLETTE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—"The balance of the world at peace waits upon this government," Senator La Follette told the senate today, speaking on his resolution to authorize the president to call a conference of all neutral nations to co-operate in restoring peace in Europe.

"Neutral rights demand a clearer definition. Delay is filled with menace," he said. "Who can say at what moment the dark curtain that veils so much of the struggle may be swept aside by uncontrolled forces that will fasten upon the peaceful nations and draw the whole world into the vortex of war? "There are two or three propositions which the highest authorities agree are fundamental to permanent peace. The first, perhaps, is the limitation of armaments and the nationalization of the manufacture of all equipment and supplies used exclusively for military and naval purposes. Another is the prohibition of the exportation of arms and munitions. It is revolting that we should encourage or permit traffic in arms and ammunition by private capital for profit with organized governments. "It is folly to pretend that the mere calling of the proposed conference will end hostilities. But it is little short of an international crime for congress to withhold from the president the authority and the necessary appropriation, he to act as the occasion shall command itself in his expressed desire to initiate such proceeding as may in the presence of God aid in bringing peace to the nations now at war."

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SENATE TO ACT ON PROHIBITION NEXT TUESDAY

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 12.—With a solid alcoholic traffic committee in its favor, the substitute prohibition bill introduced by Representative J. E. Anderson was reported to the senate today and made a special order for 2 p. m. Tuesday.

One important change has been made in the bill by the committee. The words "or family" have been removed from the shipment limitation clause, so that any adult member of a family may send out for such beverages as he desires, provided the limit to each is not violated. Senate leaders expected the bill to pass as amended.

A bill introduced by Senator T. L. Perkins to regulate the nickel motor bus was indefinitely postponed in the senate today, without a vote being raised in its defense, after the committee on municipal affairs had reported unfavorably.

Senator Isaac A. Bingham explained that Portland is the only city affected, and that to local officials should be left the duty of regulation. Accepting an invitation sent by the house this morning the senate sat jointly with that body this afternoon and conducted exercises in commemoration of the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Five minute talks on Lincoln were made by Justice L. T. Harris of the Oregon supreme court and others.

AUSTRALIAN MEAT SOUGHT BY ALLIES

SYDNEY, N. S. W., Feb. 12.—The British government has requested all the Australian states to secure all the meat available for export during the war, as large quantities will be necessary for the needs of the British army. France also will require a considerable supply. The commonwealth parliament has unanimously passed a bill authorizing the measures necessary to this end.

SUBMARINES STOPS NORTH SEA SHIP

LONDON, Feb. 12.—A dispatch to the Evening News from Rotterdam says that the Dutch steamer Duldendijk, flying the Dutch flag, was stopped by a German submarine in the North Sea. She was compelled to show her papers, after which she was permitted to proceed to Rotterdam.

QUAKE, TIDAL WAVE AND CYCLONE SWEEPS ISLANDS OF MANUA

TUTUHIA, American Samoa, Feb. 12, by wireless.—Not only a hurricane, but with it an earthquake and a tidal wave swept the Manua islands of the Samoan group, as reported here two days ago. Fuller details show that three persons were killed, one of whom was beheaded by flying wreckage.

Entire villages disappeared. Those of which traces remained were ruined utterly. All shipping either was destroyed or badly damaged. Three-fourths of the cocoa palms on which the islands depend for nourishment and their commerce in copra were leveled and all the remainder injured. Some plantations were wiped out. It will be a year before any food plants can be brought into bearing again, and three thousand inhabitants are destitute.

The American gunboat Princeton is conveying food, clothing and temporary assistance, but the need for further aid is urgent, as the food supply is so low that starvation will set in before three weeks are out. The South seas have known hurricanes before, but the situation left in the wake of this one is described as unprecedented.

At the height of the storm the fury of the wind was unbelievable. Iron roofs were torn off and blown ten miles. The very soil was torn from the coral rock and the coffins in new made graves were left exposed. At one time the barometer stood at 27.50.

NO CHOLERA REPORTED SAYS PETROGRAD AGENCY

PETROGRAD, via London, Feb. 12.—"No cases of cholera have been reported in Petrograd," is the reply made by the semi-official news agency to the report that cholera is prevalent in the Russian capital.

FRENCH AVIATORS DROP BOMBS AT MUELHAUSEN

PARIS, Feb. 12.—Five French aviators dropped bombs today on the German military aerodrome at Habisheim, an Alsatian town in the outskirts of Muelhausen.

ALLIES' AEROPLANES RAID GERMAN NAVAL BASES

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The official information bureau today issued the following statement: "Thirty-four naval aeroplanes raided Bruges, Zebrugge, Ostend and Blankenberghe (all in Belgium), Claude Graham-White fell. He was rescued. "Great damage is reported to have been done to the Ostend railway station, which, according to present information, has probably been burned to the ground. The railway station at Blankenberghe was damaged and the railway lines were torn up in many places. "Bombs were dropped on the positions at Middlekerke and also on the power stations and the German minesweeping vessels at Zebrugge, but the damage done is unknown. "During the attack the machines encountered heavy banks of snow. "Fight Commander Graham-White fell into the sea off Nieuport and was rescued by a French vessel, although exposed to a heavy gun fire from rifles, anti-aircraft guns, machine guns, etc. "All of the pilots are safe. Two machines were damaged. "The seaplanes and aeroplanes were under the command of Wing Commander Samson, assisted by Wing Commander Longmore and Squadron Commanders Porte, Courtney and Rathorne."

DEADLOCK OVER SHIP BILL STILL TIES UP SENATE

President Rejects House Compromise Ship Bill Evolved by Democratic Leaders—Insists Upon Permanent Character of Project—Republicans Ready to Prolong Filibuster.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—President Wilson today rejected the compromise ship bill evolved yesterday by Democratic leaders of the house. He refused to agree to an amendment terminating the activities of the government in the shipping business two years after the close of the European war.

Representing the president, Postmaster General Barleson made a counter proposition to the leaders. It was that the house combine Senator Gore's substitute for the administration bill with a bill by Senator Weeks, which already has passed the senate, proposing a line of naval auxiliaries to be used for passengers and freight in emergencies at the discretion of the secretary of the navy. Mr. Barleson said the president would not accept any amendment to destroy the permanent character of the project.

Meanwhile the shipping legislation awaited the reformation of the administration lines. Plans to bring up the cloture rules which the long filibuster has suggested, were knocked away in the senate when the rules committee failed to act favorably. It appeared that the sentiment in favor of getting through with the waiting appropriation bills was growing.

In the senate Senator Reed precipitated a parliamentary battle by seeking a vote on his resolution to close all debate on the shipping bill with a final vote not later than 5 p. m. February 19. His action came as a complete surprise and a long wrangle followed.

Twice during the debate roll calls on motions resulted in a tie, 46 to 46, and each time Vice-President Marshall broke the deadlock, voting with the administration forces. He sustained Senator Lodge's point of order, however, that Senator Reed's proposal was debatable. Senator Norris then moved to amend Senator Reed's motion by adding his proposed cloture rule that no senator should speak more than three hours on one question. Mr. Norris spoke at length upon it.

The development did not materially affect the senate deadlock, because republicans were prepared to filibuster against the Reed resolution.

AMERICAN PROTEST RECEIVED BY ENGLAND

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Great Britain's supplementary reply to President Wilson's note of December 26, respecting interference with American commerce, was being received today at the state department and being translated from the diplomatic cipher.

It may be a day or two before the reply, which is a document of some 6000 or 7000 words, will be before the president and cabinet for consideration. It is understood to be an elaboration of the preliminary reply received from London some time ago.

FOUND GUILTY FOR KILLING JURYMEN

WENATCHEE, Wash., Feb. 12.—Harry Carr, a business man of Cashmere, was found guilty of murder in the second degree here today for killing J. C. Parsons, a jurymen, at the trial of C. D. Franklin, who was being tried for an alleged assault on Carr's little girl. Carr killed Franklin at the time he shot Parsons by accident.