

BRITAIN VOTES INCREASE ARMY TO 4 MILLIONS

Additional Million Men to Fight Germans, Who Are Capitalizing Dardanelles Withdrawal—Russians Seize Varna—French Capture German Trenches.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—After an all-night debate the house of commons early today granted an increase of 1,000,000 men in the British army, bringing up its strength on paper to 4,000,000. With the increase come changes in higher command, Lieutenant General Robertson, chief of the general staff, having been recalled from France to become chief of the imperial staff in London in place of appointed to succeed Sir Charles Munro as British commander at the Dardanelles. Munro succeed Sir Douglas Haig in command of the first British army in France.

Capitalize Withdrawal

The Teutonic powers are represented as taking full advantage of the moral effect produced by the withdrawal of British forces from Gallipoli peninsula and to be attempting once more to swing Greece and Rumania to their side in the Balkan operations. If the news of the bombardment of Varna is correct, Russia is losing no time in an attempt to forestall these efforts. From several sources, all unofficial, London has heard of the bombardment of the Bulgarian port. Various dispatches state that the Russian warships are accompanied by a fleet of transports which, according to the morning papers, already have landed a sufficient force to hold the town. While the Greek elections have given a large majority to former Premier Gounaris, a powerful member of the present cabinet who is not over-friendly to the entente powers, it is not believed here that the change will have much of an effect on the attitude of Greece, which is now much more agitated by the possibility that Bulgarians will cross the frontier than by the formation of a new government.

German Losses Heavy

Along the western line, according to British official reports, the Germans suffered heavy losses while exposing their forces in an attempt to occupy craters which their mines had opened along the front near Arras. French operations at most places are hampered greatly by bad weather, but a considerable portion of the German works on Hartmans-Weckerkopf has been carried.

The Russians are reported to have occupied Kum, which indicates they are making an important advance into the interior of Persia.

Although the question of conscription figured largely in the British house of commons last night, it was only an incidental part of the discussion. The country awaits with keen interest the debate which is certain to follow presentation to the house of the earl of Derby's figures on the attestation plan.

ASK ACQUITTAL OF NEW HAVEN CHIEFS

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Plea for verdicts of acquittal were heard by Judge Hunt today in the trial of the eleven former directors of the New Haven railroad under the Sherman law.

In behalf of Henry K. McHarg, Homer S. Cummins declared McHarg did not enter the New Haven board until June, 1907, and said that practically all the acquisitions which the government complains of had been completed by that date.

A similar argument was made in behalf of Robert W. Taft, who entered the board in 1904.

"When this alleged conspiracy began," said Henry M. Earle, Mr. Taft was a small boy running around in knickerbockers. Not one act of Mr. Taft shows that he was conscious of any conspiracy."

VON PAPEN OFF FOR FATHERLAND SAYS GOOD-BYE

Recalled Attache Praises Americans for Courtesy Shown, Compliments Soldiery, Protests Innocence and Grills Newspapers—Will Fight in Trenches for Kaiser.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Captain Franz Von Papen, Germany's recalled military attache, left New York for Rotterdam today on the steamship Noordam, bearing a safe conduct to Germany from the entente allies. Departing, he issued this final statement to the American people:

"In leaving this country, where I have received so many proofs of kindness and hospitality from Americans and others, I deem it my duty to thank all those who did not permit their friendly personal feelings to be poisoned by the hatred created by the war among nations.

Praise Our Soldiery

"My thought turn back today expressly to those unforgettable days when I had the honor and good fortune to spend some time with the expeditionary force at Vera Cruz, where I learned to admire the splendid soldierly quality and devotion to duty of the United States army.

"Personally speaking no greater satisfaction could be given to me than to fulfillment of my ardent desire to be called home where soldiers are far more urgently needed than here.

"I leave my post without any feeling of bitterness, because I know too well that when history is once written it will establish our clean records despite all the misrepresentation and calumnies spread.

Trusts in History

"The New York World which certainly is not open to the suspicion of harboring friendly feeling for my country, stated very fairly, when discussing my recall, 'now that the matter is settled the fact should be emphasized that the state department made no charges against Captain Von Papen and Boy-Ed which reflects in the slightest degree on their honor as officers. Certain newspapers have made reckless charges which could not be supported by evidence, but the United States never intimated that it believed those charges to be true.'

"To this I have nothing to add. After all this war will not be won by the Providence Journal and the Evening Telegram with their hyphenated supporters. It will be decided by the success of the invincible German arms.

Predicts Peace With Germany

"I go home with the unshakable conviction that no effort, however insistent they may be, will accomplish the fervent desire of our enemy to embroil our country with this great nation. Our neutral relations will, and must, on the contrary, inevitably and gradually improve as it becomes clear to every intelligent and clear minded American that Germany is engaged in a fully justifiable and heroic fight for existence and the very life of the nation."

FRENCH CAPTURE 1200 GERMANS

PARIS, Dec. 22.—Announcement was made by the war office today that 1200 Germans had been captured in the operations at Hartmans-Weckerkopf, which have enlarged the French positions to an appreciable extent. The statement follows:

"There were few events of importance last night. In the Vosges the attack delivered yesterday by our troops made it possible for us to enlarge appreciably our positions on the east slope of Hartmans-Weckerkopf. The number of Germans made prisoner is now 1200, of whom twenty-one are officers. They belong to six different regiments."

AUSTRIAN SUBMARINE CAPTURED BY ITALIANS

PARIS, Dec. 22.—According to a dispatch to the Messagero from Malta, forwarded by the Havas correspondent at Rome, an Austrian submarine has been captured by two torpedo boats, presumably Italian.

VILLACOMING TO UNITED STATES; AVOIDS JUAREZ

Peace Reigns Along Border and Troops Are Withdrawn—Conflicting Reports of Villa's Whereabouts—General Robles Commands in Former Villa Territory.

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 22.—Francisco Villa has agreed to come to the United States, but will not pass through Juarez, according to General Manuel Banda. This information was contained in a statement by Banda, made at the conclusion of a conference of former Villa officers today in Juarez.

The conferees ratified the peace agreement made Monday and selected General Ysabel Robles as civil and military commander of Carranza and Villa organizations in former Villa territory. General Manuel Ochoa was selected to have active charge of the former Villa troops, whose officers have surrendered.

Americans Withdrawn

The officers agreed to accept Carranza constitutional money to pay the troops.

General Fidel Avila and Victoriano Avila, held by Ochoa, pending final ratification of the peace agreement, were released after the conference.

American troops along the border here were withdrawn early today. Mexican soldiers guarded each street car as it crossed into Mexico until it recrossed the Rio Grande.

General Trevino, commanding the Carranza column from Torreon, entered Chihuahua City this morning, according to advices at the Carranza consulate here. Other advices stated General Obregon would arrive here at 10 o'clock tonight.

Reports Conflict

Hipolito Villa was reported to have left here for San Antonio. This could not be verified. Numerous contradictory reports concerning the movements of General Villa were circulated.

Andreas Garcia, Mexican consul, received a report that he was at the Bustillos ranch, west of Chihuahua City. George C. Carothers and the American consulate at Juarez were advised that he was at Rancheria, 70 miles south of Juarez. Reports concerning the number of followers with him vary from 40 to 1000.

SHIFT COMMANDS OF BRITISH CHIEFS

LONDON, Dec. 22.—Lieutenant General Sir Archibald Murray has been appointed to succeed Sir Charles Monro as British commander at the Dardanelles, says an official statement issued this afternoon. Sir Charles Monro has been appointed in command of the First British army in France, in succession to Sir Douglas Haig.

General Murray was chief of the imperial staff at London until a few days ago. Premier Asquith announced yesterday that he had been succeeded by Lieutenant General Robertson, chief of the general staff in the field, and that he was to receive an important command.

The command of the first British army was made vacant by the promotion of General Haig to be the British commander in chief.

DAVENPORT FIREMAN RUNS AMUCK WITH GUN

DAVENPORT, Ia., Dec. 22.—Sherman Brown, a fireman, last night shot and killed his sister-in-law, Mrs. Nellie Brown, and wounded his wife. The shooting, it is alleged, resulted from domestic difficulties that caused a separation of Brown and his wife, and John Brown, a brother, and his wife, about two months ago. After the shooting Brown gave himself up to the police. His wife is expected to recover.

"MYSTERIOUS WOMAN" IN BOMB PLOT ARRESTED



Mrs. Margaret W. Cornell, Figuring as the "mystery woman" in the government investigation of bomb plots along the Pacific coast, Mrs. Margaret W. Cornell was the stenographer of Charles Crowley, the accused detective.

COAST PLOTTERS PROMISE FIGHT ON LEGAL QUIBBLES

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 22.—Baron George Wilhelm Von Brincken attached to the German consulate-general here, Charles Crowley, a detective and Mrs. Margaret Cornell, were granted today a delay until Friday to enter pleadings to charges of participation in alleged German bomb plots.

When they appeared today it was announced that Samuel Platt of Reno, former United States district attorney in Nevada, was associated with counsel for the defense.

The defendant's attorneys said they would make a motion to quash the indictments Friday, on the grounds that the indictments were too broad, and did not specify the time, place or manner of the crimes alleged and that there was not enough information in them to enable them to obtain witnesses.

If the motion to quash is denied, it was said other legal rights would be used as the filing of a demurrer and a demand for a bill of particulars.

The delay granted today was given by Judge Maurice T. Doelling of the United States district court, upon the defendant's motion. A speedy trial was desired by the defendants, it was stated previously by counsel for the defense.

JOE TINKER OUT OF DANGER NOW

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Joseph Tinker, manager of the Chicago Federal league baseball club, was told by his physicians today that he was out of danger from his recent operation and could leave the hospital in a few days. The physicians' verdict did not seem to please the veteran ball player as much as did the announcement that Mrs. Tinker had presented him with an eleven pound son this morning. Tinker is now the father of three boys.

SECOND AMERICAN NOTE DELIVERED TO AUSTRIA

LONDON, Dec. 22.—A Vienna telegram, forwarded by Reuters' correspondent, says that delivery to the Austrian foreign ministry of the second Ancona note from the United States, is announced by the Neue Freie Presse.

PITTSBURG BANK WITH 10 MILLION DEPOSITS FAILS

Savings Bank Containing Savings of 75,000 Persons, 30,000 of Them School Children, Involved by Kuhn Bros. Failure, Closes Its Doors—Fifty Per Cent Dividend Promised.

PITTSBURG, Dec. 22.—The Pittsburgh Bank for Savings, one of the best known institutions in this city, failed to open for business this morning. It was closed by order of the Pennsylvania banking department and G. H. Getty, bank examiner, has been appointed temporary receiver.

No statement was issued in connection with the closing, but it was known in the financial district that the bank had been unable to weather the storms it has encountered since the failure of James S. Kuhn and W. S. Kuhn, credited with being prominently identified with the bank in 1913.

Steps were taken recently to strengthen the bank and it was believed that it was in a position to continue business.

School Children Savings

The Pittsburgh Bank for Savings was capitalized at \$600,000. Depositors of the bank included many persons with savings accounts, although the institution did a general business.

Deposits September 15 were \$10,945,713, according to the report to the banking commissioner. The savings of some 30,000 school children are included in the bank's deposits. By its savings plan children would take money weekly to school where collectors would call for it, giving the children credit on their books for the amounts deposited. This practice had been in effect for years and many thousands of dollars had been deposited by the children. It was said that scores of successful persons in the city who began saving in this way have continued their business relations with the institution ever since.

Involved by Kuhns

It was stated that the bank had approximately 75,000 depositors, of whom fully 45,000 were persons living in other parts of the country, as the bank was among the first to take savings by mail.

The failure, according to President Jones, was due entirely to the depreciation of some securities held by the bank in various corporations. Following the Kuhn failure there was a large depreciation in the market value of certain securities, but it was hoped that the various companies would soon be rehabilitated and the securities regain their former value. Through the personal influence of the president, he said, half a million dollars was added to the assets of the bank since July 7, 1913.

"The bank has a fine line of assets and I believe that a fifty per cent dividend can be paid depositors within sixty days," said Mr. Jones. Receiver Getty also attributed the failure to the depreciation in the Kuhn securities.

BRITISH LOSS IN MESOPOTAMIA HEAVY

LONDON, Dec. 22.—Comparatively heavy losses have been inflicted on the British army in Mesopotamia in the severe fighting near Kut-el-Amara, following the retreat of the British to that point. The secretary for India, J. Austin Chamberlain, announced in the house of commons today that the total casualties of General Townsend's force since the return to Kut-el-Amara was 1127, including 200 deaths.

CLAIM BRITISH FLED IN GREAT DISORDER

BERLIN, Dec. 22, by wireless.—Advices received from Constantinople reiterate the assertion that the British forces which quit the Dardanelles retired in great disorder. "According to Constantinople reports," says the Overseas News agency, "the British left their sick and wounded behind. Their retreat, which they pretend was carried out systematically, in reality, was a head over heels flight."

STORMS CAUSE MAIL BLOCKADE IN NORTHWEST

Washouts and Landslides Hold Up Christmas Mail From East—Willamette Raises Seven Feet in Twenty-Four Hours—Storm Shifts to East—No Serious Damage.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 22.—A break in the storm which has prevailed for the last three days over a large part of the Northwest was indicated today in reports received from various points. As a result of the gale which reached a velocity of about 70 miles on the coast yesterday, several towns were without wire communication this morning, but it was not believed any serious damage had been done.

Landslides caused by continuous rains in the western part of Washington and Oregon and snow blockades in the Cascade mountains disarranged railroad schedules. Washouts on the Spokane, Portland and Seattle railroad and on the Northern Pacific line between Portland and Puget Sound were being repaired today and all lines expected to have trains running on time within a few hours.

Willamette on Rampage

As far as is known there was practically no damage to shipping, ample warning having been given masters of vessels before the storm broke.

Within a period of within a little over 24 hours, ending at noon today, the Willamette river at Portland had risen 7.1 feet, reaching 12 feet above the zero mark. The rapid rise has not been equalled in recent years.

The river is still rising and it is expected that before night the water will be on the lower floor of the Ash-street dock.

Snow Sheds Collapse

SEATTLE, Wn., Dec. 22.—The storm that was central over British Columbia and extended over Washington, has moved eastward and fair weather is forecasted. The storm did practically no damage in western Washington. The Great Northern railroad reports that its main line track, which was obstructed by collapse of snow sheds on the west slope of the Cascade is now open and the trains running as usual. The other roads experienced no trouble.

The operating department of the Great Northern says that the blockade on the western slope of the Cascades, where several hundred feet of wooden snow sheds collapsed, will be lifted at 5 o'clock this afternoon. Delayed Great Northern trains re-routed over the Northern Pacific track, arrived today many hours late.

Hood River Flood

HOOD RIVER, Dec. 22.—Not since 1882 has the Hood river been so high as it was last night when the crest of the flood passed here. The two power plants of the Hood River Gas and Electric company were put out of commission and several lumber mills and other establishments were flooded.

The city has been without mail since yesterday as a result of landslides on the Oregon-Washington railroad line between here and Portland. Slides have also blocked the Mount Hood railway between here and Parkdale.

THIRTY AMERICANS FREED BY VILLA

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—The release of the thirty Americans detained at Chihuahua by General Villa, it became known today, was a condition imposed on Villa in granting him permission to cross the American boundary line. Advices that the Americans had been liberated strengthened the state department's belief that Villa intends to avail himself of the opportunity to escape from Mexico.

Nothing definite regarding Villa's whereabouts had been reported to the department today. Some uneasiness was manifested after receipt of advices that additional Villa troops were moving towards Juarez, but government officials felt that Juarez soon would be in Carranza's possession.