

FORECAST
Tonight and tomorrow,
fair and cooler.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

WEATHER
Maximum yesterday, 28;
Minimum today, 26.

Forty-sixth Year.
Daily—Fifteenth Year.

MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1916

NO. 126

GREEKS ATTACK FRENCH FORCES NEAR SALONIKI

**Greek Regulars Capture Katerina
From Allied Forces—Russians
Capture Carpathian Heights—
Teutonic Armies Continuing Ad-
vance in Eastern Wallachia.**

BERLIN, Dec. 13.—Fighting is in progress between Greek regular troops and the French, the Overseas News agency announces.

The news agency says the fighting is taking place north of Katerina, about sixty miles southwest of Saloniki, and that the Greeks have a force of 5000 men.

The town of Katerina has been captured by the Greeks, the news agency says, the French line of positions having been taken. The Greeks are said to have picked up a line between Katerina and Borlozko.

Situation Obscure.
The situation in the region of Katerina has been somewhat obscure since last November, when French and Greek royalist troops were reported to be apparently on the point of a clash over possession of the city. There had been previous trouble there between royalist and Venizelist forces and General Sarrail, the entente commander, sent a French force to occupy the town, presumably in the carrying out of his purpose to establish a neutral zone along the frontier of old Greece.

On November 24 a news agency dispatch from Athens reported that the Greek royalist troops had refused to evacuate Katerina and that General Sarrail had notified the Athens government that unless they did so he would be compelled to use force. No further specific reports on conditions in the vicinity of Katerina have been received, but since that time has occurred the fighting between the entente and Greek forces in Athens and vicinity, with concurrent reports that Greece was assembling an army in the interior to attack the entente Saloniki forces in the rear simultaneously with assault by the central powers on the fighting front to the north of Macedonia.

Russian Offensive.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 13.—Russian troops yesterday captured a line of Teuton trenches on heights to the south of Agusnalia, in the region of the Troius valley of Rumania, according to an official statement issued by the Russian war department. The Teutons counter-attacked in an attempt to regain the lost positions, but were repulsed with great losses, the statement adds.

Rumanian forces took the offensive south of the Mizil-Buzean high road yesterday and captured a row of villages, the Russian announced.

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GERMAN REPLY ASSERTS LANAO FOREIGN OWNED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Germany's reply to the American inquiry on the sinking of the American steamer Lanoa by a German submarine off Cape Vincent October 28, received at the state department today, contends the sinking was justified because the vessel carried contraband and was not in fact an American ship but had been transferred to foreign owners.

The exact registry of the Lanoa is in dispute. Owned by Findlay, Miller and Company of Manila, and under Philippine registry, her sale to the Norwegian firm of Hans Hannevig of Christiania, had been reported before she left Manila.

Captain Mainland reported to the department that though the sale had taken place the actual transfer was not made until arrival in England. The American consulate at London has reported that the vessel was still listed as American there.

The Lanoa's crew of thirty was landed at Barry by a Norwegian steamer.

PRESIDENT TO AWAIT TERMS BEFORE ACTION

**Wilson's Course in Regard to Ger-
many's Peace Proposal Still Unde-
cided—Confers With Colonel
House—United States to Become
Medium of Communication.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—President Wilson's course of action in connection with Germany's proposals remained undecided today while he awaited the official proffer which the central powers have asked the United States to transmit to their enemies.

The impression grew that while the president's first consideration was to safeguard his usefulness as a peace-maker by cautioning any comment which might prejudice the entente powers, there was a determination to find some way to convey the rate and find some way to intimate the sincere wish of the United States if at some basis for discussion at least might be reached.

Await Developments.
Many officials felt that an indication of the temper of the entente governments should be available before the influence of the United States was thrown into the balance.

The United States, by reason of its dual responsibility of representing the interests of most of the central powers and the entente governments in the capitals of their enemies, would of course, become the medium of communication through which any reply of the entente governments to the central belligerents would be made.

The German embassy had no further advice on the terms of the central governments but freely admitted that the terms had purposely been omitted from the chancellor's speech and note because the sole purpose was to propose a conference on terms and carefully avoid advancing any which might be made the basis of a refusal.

The Germanic diplomats in this country, reflecting the views of their governments, believe the answer of the entente allies will be an inquiry as to the basis on which Germany proposes peace and with that much as a foundation they see the warring nations well on the way to a conference from which they are sanguine peace would result.

Confer With House.
The probability of the entente allies themselves making some announcement of the terms on which they would make peace is regarded here as having tremendous possibilities for effect upon the German people themselves.

The president cancelled all his outside engagements today, including

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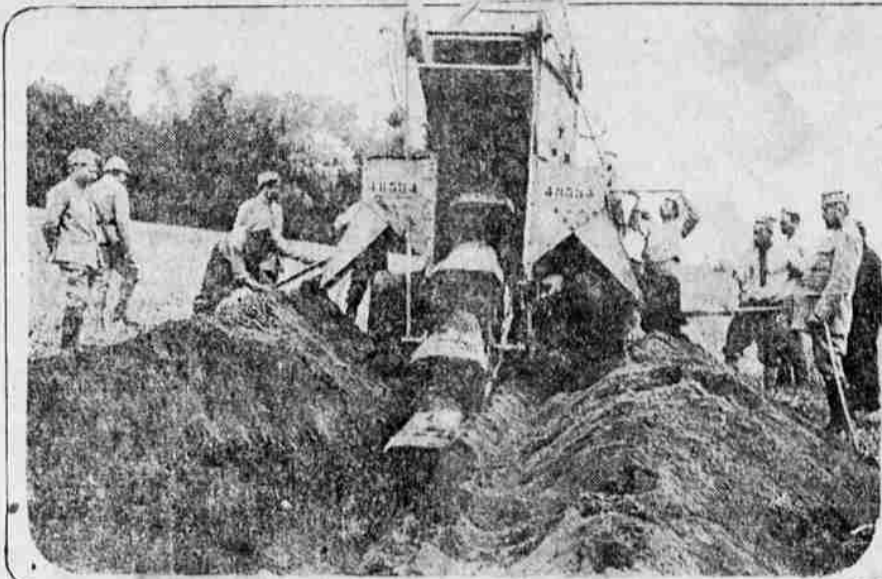
LONDON TIMES REJECTS GERMAN PEACE PROPOSAL

LONDON, Dec. 13.—The German peace proposal is rejected by the Times, which says:

"Germany's proposal bears no relation whatever to the objects for which we are fighting. She has been trying by all the means at her disposal to induce us to make the suggestion of mediation. The attempt has lamentably and conspicuously failed, as she does not judge that any neutral power could proffer mediation with much advantage, she falls back on this indirect offer to the belligerents as a pis aller. It is above all things a symptom of her conscious weakness."

* * * The allies must absolutely reject any idea of mediation in any shape and from any quarter as long as the basis proposed is the triumph of might and not right. They must refuse with equal firmness even to talk about an armistice until the lands the enemy has overrun are restored and compensation made. They must renew the enunciation of their peace terms, laid down once for all in Mr. Asquith's goldsmith speech and must redouble their efforts to force these terms upon Germany and her accomplices."

FIRST PICTURE OF NEW GIANT TRENCH "MOLE"



This picture, first received in this country, shows mammoth trench diggers now being used in the French army after thousands of miles of trenches have been dug by soldiers with picks and shovels. The new machines are patterned after trench diggers used in America, but much larger.



GENERAL NIVELLE SUCCEEDS JOFFRE IN SUPREME COMMAND

PARIS, Dec. 13.—In conformity with the change in military command announced last night, President Poincare today signed a decree naming General Joffre, commander in chief of the French armies, technical counsel of government regarding the direction of the war.

Another decree declares that the commanders in chief of the armies of the north and northeast and of the army of the Orient shall exercise command in conformity with the decrees of October 18, 1915, and December 19, 1915, which made the commander in chief of the armies in the field responsible directly to the minister of war.

PARIS, Dec. 13.—The new cabinet arouses but moderate enthusiasm in the press. The morning papers point out that seven ministers and two under-secretaries belong to the preceding administration, so that the change is not so radical as might be expected. At the same time the appearance of M. Clavelle and M. Loucheur as technical experts is welcomed.

The most popular features of the re-organization are the appointments of General Hubert Lyautey as minister of war and General Nivelle as successor to Joffre as commander in chief of the western front. All the newspapers print photographs of General Nivelle under the title "one of the war's revelations." Long biographies are also published, recalling the general's brilliant stroke in re-capturing Forts Douaumont and Vaux on the Verdun front. The papers also say that the fact that General Nivelle is half English—his mother having belonged to a Kentish military family—makes his appointment particularly acceptable across the channel.

Jules Cambon continues in his post as general secretary of the foreign office.

GARMENT WORKERS SEEK 8 HOUR DAY

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—Labor's movement for an eight-hour day was inaugurated among New York's clothing workers today with a strike which coming as the city's second garment industry disturbance during 1916, will throw more than 60,000 persons out of work, if the leaders' plans are carried out. The walkout is expected to extend to Newark, N. J., and perhaps to Philadelphia, which would affect thousands of other workers.

Besides an eight-hour day the workers demand a weekly wage increase of \$2. Ninety per cent of the employees to whom the strike call was addressed, are declared to be members of the amalgamated body, the others working in non-union shops.

ALLIES LIKELY TO MAKE PUBLIC OBJECTS OF WAR

LONDON, Dec. 13.—Although little confidence is shown in London that any result will come from the peace proposal of the central powers, and the opinion prevails quite generally that the time is not opportune even to discuss terms, there is an undercurrent of feeling that something would be gained by making the world acquainted definitely with the objects of the belligerents. The attitude of the British government toward the offer will be made known in the house of commons tomorrow, provided sufficient time shall have elapsed to permit consultation with Great Britain's allies and this statement is awaited with the greatest interest.

If the press which supports the administration, correctly interprets official opinion, little time will be taken for consideration of the move of Germany and her allies, although the moderate opinion of the country does not favor too hasty rejection of the overtures. It is believed the German people once acquainted with the objects of the entente, might be more inclined toward peace and that for that reason, if no other, the terms of the entente allies should be made known officially to the central powers.

The possibility that President Wilson will make some suggestions when forwarding the offer is also much discussed. It is intimated that he might at least express willingness to convey the terms of the entente to the central powers.

CREW TO ABANDON STRANDED TRANSPORT

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—The crew of the United States transport Sumner, which is laid aground on the New Jersey coast off Barnegat, is preparing to abandon the ship, according to a wireless dispatch received here today. The passengers were rescued yesterday.

The coast guard cutter Seneca endeavored for four hours to pull the Sumner off the shoal at high water last night, but the transport remained firmly stranded. Further efforts will be made today.

HUNGARY READY AT ALL TIMES TO CONCLUDE PEACE

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 13.—A Budapest telegram says that the peace note of the central powers was read in the Hungarian parliament yesterday by Premier Tisa before a crowded house. After reading the note the premier said:

"I must state that in the note just read the standpoint put forward contains nothing really new, but only expresses the standpoint adopted by the monarchy and its allies both during the war and previously. This fact must be emphasized in order that it may be appreciated."

OIL LAND LEASE BILL DEADLOCKED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Prologued efforts in congress having failed to bring about an agreement on an oil land leasing bill which would meet approval of the secretaries of the navy, interior, the attorney general and western oil land filiants, the senate lands committee today referred the question to a sub-committee to join a like committee of the house and co-operate with the government departments in a final effort.

Assistant Secretary Roosevelt said that such a plan would be satisfactory to the navy department which is insistent upon retaining control of naval reserve oil lands. If the committee cannot bring about an agreement, legislation at this session probably will be abandoned.

FRENCH DECLARE PEACE OFFER IS A CLUMSY TRAP

**Chorus of Derision From Paris Press
—Aim Alleged Is Political Effect
at Home and Abroad—Emphasizes
Weakness of Germany—Army Be-
ginning to Feel the Strain.**

PARIS, Dec. 13.—The offer of peace of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg is received with a chorus of derision in the French Press. The newspapers are unanimous that it is an admission that the situation is getting critical in Germany and that the chancellor wants a way out before it is too late. His move is considered to have the additional advantage that in the event of its failing it will enable him to throw the blame for the continuation of the war on the allies, which he hopes will have a moral effect on Germany and the neutral nations.

A Clumsy Trap.
"A clumsy trap" is the caption under which the morning papers print Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg's speech in the reichstag. "The time for feints is over," says the Petit Journal. "We are no longer in the presence of the trial efforts of those persistent appeals to interviewers and newspaper articles. Chancellor Von Hollweg summoned the reichstag not to hear his speech, but to be confronted with an act. We do not know if at Berlin there are people so naive as to imagine that the allies are likely to swallow this clumsy bait, even on the morrow of the events in Rumania. In any case, Field Marshal Von Hindenburg's statement shows that the military cherish no such illusion."

"What is still more certain is that the treacherous German move aims at something else than genuine peace. It seeks an internal and external effect. In Germany that is intended to convince the people that the government is not responsible for the sacrifices imposed and that its adversaries alone are responsible for the continuation of the struggle. Abroad it desires to persuade neutrals that the allies are pursuing a policy of ambition. That is the explanation of the pretended moderation in the tone of the speech."

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VILLA PLANNING RAIDS ON BORDER BY SMALL SQUADS

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 13.—Francisco Villa announced in Chihuahua City he intended to divide his men into groups of twenty-five each and distribute them along the American border and in the interior of the United States to loot and burn property under his instructions, a letter received from a prominent Chihuahua business man and forwarded to Washington today stated.

The letter stated that Villa captured 2000 rifles from the Carranza forces in Chihuahua City, much ammunition and many cannons.

Villa, while in the state capital, declared his intention of raising an army of 25,000 men, but denied he intended to attack General Pershing's column, the letter added. These statements, according to the letter, were made by the meeting of merchants called by Villa.

Villa, the Chihuahua City business man wrote, said he would have his men in the border states issue proclamations calling upon the Mexicans living in the American side to "rise in rebellion against the United States and join his army," the letter stated.

Villa also declared he had 20,000,000 rounds of ammunition hidden in the desert, and he could get it any time he needed it according to this letter. The Mexican leader also is reported to have referred to political conditions in the United States, saying the European countries would get its enormous gold supply in which he, Villa, would have a part.

LOYD-GEORGE REPLIES TUESD'Y TO PEACE OFFER

**Indications Are That Entente Allies
Do Not Intend to Act Hastily, But
Take Several Weeks to Consult—
All Assert Armistice Would Favor
Germans Alone.**

LONDON, Dec. 13.—Premier Lloyd-George will refer to the speech of the German chancellor before the reichstag when he makes his statement in the house of commons Tuesday of next week.

The vote of credit will be moved tomorrow by Andrew Bonar Law, whose remarks will have to do solely with financial matters.

The view expressed here is that Germany would have the most to gain from an armistice, owing to recent losses on the western front and economic stringencies within Teuton territory, for that reason an armistice is not received with favor in London, and the suggestion is advanced in some quarters that the condition prompting the proposal is a necessity to gain time.

Russia to Oppose.
Russia's refusal also is expected of any settlement, which would leave parts of Serbia within Teutonic authority, owing to the bearing of the Serbian question on Russia's entrance into the war.

The indications are that the various governments of the entente allies do not intend to act hastily in making joint response to the peace proposals of the central powers. It was pointed out in well informed quarters today that while each one of the allied governments might indicate a general attitude, consultation among the allies under the treaty binding them in such action probably would require two or three weeks.

France Unfriendly.

PARIS, Dec. 13.—If a reply is made to the German note, it will be only after consultation with the allies of France and such conversations would require considerable time. Inquiry in responsible quarters today elicited the opinion that Germany's suggestion is a maneuver designed first for effect at home; second, to impress neutrals; third, as a test of public opinion in belligerent countries, with the chance of some reaction there. Germany's suggestion is rejected in authoritative quarters, where it is considered to be a repetition in more concrete form of the peace discussions originating in Berlin from time to time in the last fifteen months.

Meanwhile Battles Rage

Fighting is continuing on the battle fields of Europe, but interest in the operations is overshadowed by the pending peace proposals of Germany and her allies. The proposal are voluminously commented upon by the press of both the entente and Teutonic allies, but with the handicap of lack of definite knowledge of the terms upon which Germany and the powers allied with her are willing to discuss peace. In general, the tone of the entente press comment is not optimistic as to the probable success of the overtures. German newspapers lay emphasis upon the offer as a sign of strength rather than weakness. Great Britain's attitude, according to London dispatches, may be made known in the house of commons when it reconvenes tomorrow provided the time proves sufficient for her to consult with her allies.

ENTENTE FLEET LOST 192 VESSELS

BERLIN, Dec. 13.—Including the loss of the French battleship Suffren, says an Overseas News Agency statement, today, the total losses of the entente fleet during the present war, have been 192 vessels, including torpedo boats and submarines with a total tonnage of 744,696. These figures do not include special types of vessels, such as auxiliary and other craft of the merchant marine. The British navy's share of these losses, says the statement, has been 123 ships and torpedo boats totalling 554,200 tons.