

GERMANS GROW NERVOUS AS BIG AMERICAN ARMY SHAPES ITSELF

Evidence That Supreme Effort To Smash Entente On West Is Now To Be Made Before Uncle Sam Gets Into War

EVERY POSSIBLE MAN RUSHED TO FRONT

Great Offensive Made Possible By Russian Defection About To Be Hurlled Against British and French

NEW YORK, December 12—(Associated Press)—Rushing every available man to the western front, with new levies drawn from those sections where winter has released many agriculturalists and with veterans from the eastern line where they are no longer needed, the Germans are evidently preparing for a series of titanic offensives against the British and French, in the hope that these entente armies may be smashed before it is possible for the United States to become a factor in the war.

Such are the reports that come from Switzerland, Denmark and Holland, where the correspondents are able to secure some information on the present German activities. Under orders from the high command at Berlin, Germany is preparing to make her great effort for victory, realizing that delay until spring will mean a large American force on the western front, with a steady stream of fighting men from across the Atlantic.

NOW OR NEVER

If the French and British are to be held and defeated at all, it must be now, the German general staff has decided, and every possible effort will be made to bring about some of the greatest battles of the war immediately.

One result of the hurried movements of German troops and supply trains, according to a despatch to the London Daily News from its correspondent in Amsterdam, was a collision on Monday between two ammunition trains, the resulting explosion killing several hundred soldiers.

ENTENTE IS PREPARED

Full knowledge of the German plans is said to be in the possession of the British and French staffs and nothing is being left undone that will contribute to the safety of the entente's western line and defeat the Teutonic purpose. So far there has been no resumption of the German offensive before Cambrai nor of the British drives in Belgium, but the despatches from the front indicate that more than the usual activity is apparent along the Belgian front and as far south into France as Arras.

ITALIANS REPULSE DRIVE

Another German offensive has been launched against the lines of the Italians on the Julian front and along the Lower Piave, desperate efforts being made to retake Agenzia on the Julian line and Caposile on the Piave front. The latter town had been occupied by the Austrians in the early offensive, but was retaken by the Italians when they flooded the district northeast of Venice and cut the Austrian advance forces off.

Both attempts were repulsed with heavy losses to the attackers and the Italian lines are holding steadily at all points. The repulse of the attacks has been followed by an intense artillery bombardment by the Teuton guns, evidently in preparation for another attempt to break through to Venice. An artillery action of

Battleship Wien of Austrian Navy Sunk By Torpedo

Attacked Sunday Night By Unseen Submarine — Discipline Good and Most of Crew Was Saved, According To Official Report

LONDON, December 12—(Associated Press)—The Austrian battleship Wien, of 5512 tons, was sunk by a torpedo attack on Sunday night, according to an official announcement from Vienna, received last night. The nationality of the attacking submarine is apparently not known in Vienna as no reference is made to it in the official bulletin.

The Wien was attacked at night, the commander having no warning of the presence of a hostile ship. Despite the surprise of the explosion and the almost immediate setting of the battleship, most of the crew were saved. Discipline was excellent.

The destroyed battleship was of an older type, having been laid down in 1895. She was armed with 9.2-inch and six 6-inch guns. Her full complement was 441 men.

TRIBUTE PAID TO AMERICA BY ITALY

Great Demonstration Given Before Our Embassy—Two Nations United For Liberty

ROME, December 12—(Associated Press)—Italy offered here yesterday a striking and dramatic tribute to the United States as her ally in the cause of liberty and against autocracy and, in one of the greatest demonstrations ever seen in Rome, hailed America as her friend.

Cheering thousands gathered in front of the American embassy, above which floated the Stars and Stripes. Many of them bore Italian flags, while others waved the American flag, in honor of the Nation that had come to their aid, and the aid of humanity, in the world struggle against Prussianism.

The appearance of Thomas Nelson Page, American ambassador, on the balcony of the embassy building, was the signal for renewed and prolonged cheering, in which the Italian people paid a heart-felt tribute to their friends across the water and to the official representative of the American people.

Prince Colonna, mayor of Rome, made an address in which he welcomed the United States into participation in the great war for democracy and expressed the gratitude and pleasure her advent into the conflict gave Italy.

"The United States and Italy," said Prince Colonna, "are today united in the great war for liberty that is being waged against autocracy."

Ambassador Page replied to the speech of Prince Colonna, saying that America is in the war to win and that the Nation will not cease its efforts until Prussianism shall have been crushed and the evils that it stands for wiped from the earth.

FOOD CROPS EXCEPT WHEAT BREAK RECORDS

Unofficial Estimate Is 21,000,000 Bushels

WASHINGTON, December 12—(Associated Press)—All food crops except wheat will this year exceed all previous records, it was announced yesterday by the department of agriculture. Final crop estimates are announced as totaling 21,000,000 bushels, this being an unofficial estimate.

FOOD PROFITTEERS ARE TO BE PROSECUTED

WASHINGTON, December 11—(Associated Press)—Victor Murdock, who is in charge of the federal trade commission's inquiry into food profiteering, said today that profiteers will be prosecuted vigorously.

violence is also under way on the Brenta sector, to the north.

Despatches yesterday from Rome state that the German loss in the effort to break through the lines at Asiago was hundreds of thousands, comparable to the slaughter inflicted upon the men of the Crown Prince at Verdun. Despite their heavy losses, the Austro-German positions were not bettered.

EXPLOSION BLAMED ON FRENCH VESSEL

Survivors of Imo Say Action of Mont Blanc Caused Terrible Halifax Disaster

HALIFAX, December 12—(Associated Press)—Blame for the frightful explosion that wrecked Halifax and cost more than 2000 lives and the injury of thousands of others was placed yesterday upon the French steamer Mont Blanc, loaded with munitions, by survivors of the Norwegian steamer Imo, which rammed the Mont Blanc. This charge was brought out in the investigation which is being conducted here with a view of ascertaining where the responsibility for the disaster lies.

Survivors of the Imo, who are now under arrest pending the conclusion of the investigation, declared that the Mont Blanc, although loaded with explosives, was not flying a munitions flag, as is the law of the sea, and they were unaware of the nature of her cargo.

The men of the Imo stated also that the Mont Blanc was approaching the harbor on the wrong side when the collision occurred, which accounted for her being struck by the Imo.

Although there are still hundreds, if not thousands, of persons missing, search for the dead and injured has virtually been abandoned on account of the terrible blizzard, which has rendered further work along that line practically impossible. It is not believed possible that any of the injured who have not yet been found could have survived the sufferings caused by their injuries and exposure to the terrible cold.

Relief work for the rescued and the many thousands of persons who were rendered homeless by the great explosion went ahead steadily yesterday, however. Trainloads of provisions and clothing are being rushed from other parts of the Dominion and from the United States, and many doctors and nurses have arrived to help in caring for the injured and those who have suffered from exposure and shock. The blizzard still continues.

Senate Will Probe Shortage of Sugar and Coal

House Commerce Committee Chairman Says President Will Probably Have To Take Over Railroads For Period of the War

WASHINGTON, December 11—(Associated Press)—The senate today ordered a committee to make an investigation of the widespread shortage of sugar and coal, with a view to effecting an early improvement in conditions.

Probability that the Nation's railroads will be taken over by the national government as a war measure came nearer today, when Chairman Adamson of the house commerce committee declared that President Wilson will probably have to take over the roads and retain them until after the war if congress will provide a plan for efficient management.

The railroad war board has asked President Wilson for a conference tomorrow.

BRITISH CASUALTIES FOR WEEK 23,356

Of Total, 5411 Were Killed and 17,945 Wounded

LONDON, December 12—(Associated Press)—British war casualties for the week ending last Saturday night totaled 23,356, according to the official statement last night of the war office. Of this total, 5411 were killed and 17,945 wounded. Of the killed, 359 were officers and 5052 enlisted men; of the wounded, 978 were officers and 16,967 enlisted men.

PEACE PRIZE GOES TO THE RED CROSS

CHRISTIANIA, Norway, December 12—(Associated Press)—The Nobel peace prize for this year has been voted by the trustees to the International Red Cross at Geneva, while the 1916 peace prize, which was not awarded, had also, by unanimous vote, been added to the funds at the disposal of the International Red Cross committee. The prize carries \$40,000.

SAN FRANCISCO GOES ON SHIPPING BOARD

WASHINGTON, December 12—(Associated Press)—G. W. Cook, of San Francisco, was named yesterday as director of operations on the Pacific Coast for the shipping board. He will be in charge of the building operations which the board is carrying on.

THE BEST COUGH MEDICINE

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is the largest selling cough medicine in the world today because it does exactly what a cough medicine is supposed to do. It stops coughs and colds speedily and effectually. For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., Agents for Hawaii—Advertisement.

All Beer Must Be Near-Beer After First of the Year

President Wilson Will Issue Proclamation Soon, Effective January 1, Reducing Alcoholic Content To Two and Three-quarters Percent

WASHINGTON, December 12—(Associated Press)—No beer may be sold anywhere in the United States after January 1 which contains more than two and three-quarters percent of alcohol. A proclamation to this effect is to be issued by President Wilson soon, it was officially announced here yesterday.

Beer sold in the United States contains now on the average 3.42 percent of alcohol. In some brews the alcoholic content is slightly higher, in some rather lower. But under the new regulation to be imposed by presidential proclamation, two and three-quarters percent is to be the maximum allowed.

How this proclamation will affect brewers' stocks on hand is not ascertained. Beer is usually stored from four to eight weeks, sometimes longer, before being sold, and many of the big brewing companies of the country have stocks on hand which normally would not be disposed of by January 1.

The house yesterday unanimously agreed to consider on Monday the constitutional amendment calling for national prohibition. The suffrage amendment was reported out from committee without recommendation.

ZIMMERMANN SENT MESSAGES TO SPY

Confidential Communications To Wolf von Igel Identified In Hindu Plot Trial

SAN FRANCISCO, December 12—(Associated Press)—Confidential messages sent by Doctor Zimmermann, German foreign secretary, to Wolf von Igel, the notorious German spy, were identified here yesterday in the Hindu plot trial by John Gurevich, a government agent.

Gurevich said in the course of his testimony that von Igel paid money to Chakraverty, one of the Hindu defendants in the case, to be used in fomenting a rebellion in India against the British government.

Wolf von Igel was arrested in New York by United States secret service agents nearly two years ago. Many documents in his case were seized at the time. Count von Bernstorff, German ambassador, characterized the raiding of von Igel's office as an outrage and demanded of the United States government that it return an opened and unread all the documents seized.

This the government refused to do, but their contents were not made public until long after Captain Boy-Ed and von Papen, fellow spies of von Igel, had been kicked out of the country and Count von Bernstorff had followed them upon the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany.

Since that time the contents of many of the documents has been made public by Secretary Lansing and have gone to show the extent of the duplicity of Germany.

Doctor Zimmermann, the German foreign secretary, whose confidential messages to von Igel were identified by Gurevich yesterday, is the official who tried to create an alliance between Mexico and Japan and induce those two countries to make war on the United States.

GENERALS ARE TESTED BY MEDICAL BOARDS

Fitness For Service Abroad Object of Examination

WASHINGTON, December 12—(Associated Press)—All general officers of the army are being examined by medical efficiency boards with a view of ascertaining the advisability or otherwise of detailing them for service abroad with the United States expeditionary forces. Announcement to this effect was made yesterday by the war department.

It is expected that the generals of the army who successfully pass the tests will immediately be assigned to commands in France or wherever else American troops may be sent.

PORTUGAL PRESIDENT STILL IN SADDLE

LONDON, December 11—(Associated Press)—News reached here last night that the revolution in Portugal did not upset the president.

ACH HIMMEL! STARVE OR BE SENT TO JAIL!

AMSTERDAM, December 12—(Associated Press)—Attempts on the part of the German government to effect a strict enforcement of the drastic food regulations have resulted in many thousands of arrests and convictions. According to the North German Gazette of Berlin the number of arrests for eating more than permitted under the regulations has now passed the forty thousand mark.

AVIATRIX SETS NEW NON-STOP RECORD

Katherine Stinson Flies From San Diego To San Francisco, Distance of Six Hundred and Ten Miles

SAN FRANCISCO, December 12—(Associated Press)—Katherine Stinson, the famous aviatrix who has offered her services to the government for the war, established yesterday a new American non-stop record for a flight of 610 miles.

The aviatrix left North Island, where is situated the army aviation station, at seven-thirty-one yesterday morning and arrived at the Presidio here at four-forty-one in the afternoon, a total elapsed time in the air of nine hours and ten minutes.

In the course of her remarkable flight Miss Stinson reached an altitude of 9000 feet, while crossing the Tehachapi mountains. It is the crossing of this natural division between northern and Southern California which has in the past baffled other flyers and caused them to abandon attempts to negotiate the distance between San Diego and San Francisco.

Miss Stinson, however, crossed the barrier without great trouble and arrived in this city without accident of any kind. She appeared slightly nervous when she landed, as the result of her long period in the air, but otherwise she was well and she appeared cheerful.

The flight was official. Miss Stinson recently expressed the hope that her offer to volunteer for war service would be accepted by the government, and she has at various times expressed the wish to fly over the battle lines of France.

GERMANY WAS ALL READY FOR PEACE BACK IN SEPTEMBER

LONDON, December 12—(Associated Press)—Germany was ready to enter into peace negotiations with Great Britain last September, Arthur Balfour, foreign secretary, told the members of the house of commons yesterday.

A German communication, presented at the British foreign office by a diplomat of a neutral Power in September, he said, stated that Berlin, in effect, would be glad to communicate directly with London in a discussion of terms of peace. The offer, said Mr. Balfour, was declined.

JEWISH REPUBLIC TO WAIT UPON PEACE

LONDON, December 12—(Associated Press)—The recent announcement by Arthur Balfour, the foreign secretary, that the British intended to turn Palestine over to the Jews of the world, for the recreation of a Jewish nation living in its own land, is not to be attempted at once, according to an explanation made yesterday.

The capture of Jerusalem, to be the capital of the restored Jewish republic, does not mean the immediate restoration of the city to its original owners. The disposition of Palestine must be settled ultimately at the general peace conference, when the terms of settlement with Germany and her allies are to be drawn up. In the meanwhile, the Holy City will remain in British hands and given a military government.

SPAIN TO PROTEST TO HUN GOVERNMENT

Bombarding of Steamer By Submarine Arouses Anger

MADRID, December 11—(Associated Press)—The Spanish government is preparing a vigorous protest to the German government against the action of the German submarine which bombarded the Spanish steamer Claudio, killing eight persons.

WAR EXPENDITURES INTEREST SENATE

WASHINGTON, December 11—(Associated Press)—The senate committee on military affairs decided today to make a general inquiry into the arming and equipping of the American army forces. Secretary of War Baker and others will be required to explain the action taken. It is emphasized that the purpose of the inquiry is not to criticize, but to secure information which the committee feels should be in possession of congress.

BEET SUGAR MEN GET A TEN CENT RAISE

WASHINGTON, December 11—(Associated Press)—The food administrative board today authorized an increase of ten cents a 100 pounds in the wholesale price of beet sugar. This equalizes the price for Cuban sugar. It is not expected to have any effect on the retail price.

BRICKLAYERS WANTED FOR AMERICAN ARMY

WASHINGTON, December 11—(Associated Press)—Bricklayers are now wanted to enlist in the United States army. They are to be sent to France to work on the aeroplane bases, according to announcement here.

RUSSIANS SOON MAY RETURN TO SAME CONDITION OF GOVERNMENT

Leaders of Many Parties Cooperating With Cossacks To Overthrow Lenine and His Radicals; Change Expected Shortly

BATTALION OF DEATH DEFEATS BOLSHEVIKS

Russian Embassy in London Establishing Direct Communication With Kaladines and Optimism Appears Once More

LONDON, December 12—(Associated Press)—The overthrow of the Bolshe-Viki government and the restoration of affairs in Russia from the anarchists under Nicolai Lenine is expected to be realized "shortly," according to the reports received by officials of the Russian embassy here direct from a number of the leaders of sane thought in Russia.

According to the Russian officials here, not only are the Cossacks under Kaladines opposing Lenine and his radicals but many of the leaders of the other factions, all of whom appear ready to unite under the leadership of Korniloff to regain power for the duma and reorganize the Russian war party against the Germans.

The Russian embassy is now establishing direct communication with Kaladines and the other democratic organization heads, and a decidedly more optimistic feeling is evident in local Russian official circles.

KORNILOFF HEADS ARMY

Troops under General Korniloff are now threatening Moscow and that city may soon be taken from the Bolshe-Viki. The garrison, under radical leadership, is preparing to defend itself and machine guns have been placed at various vantage points throughout the city in anticipation of a rising of the citizens against the Maximilists. The soldiers of the garrison are not to be depended upon to oppose any such a rising, however, nor to resist an advance by Korniloff. Indications that they may revolt and join the attackers are not wanting.

AMAZONS WIN BATTLE

Despatches yesterday make it plain that the famous "Battalion of Death," recruited from women only, is opposing the radical element. A detachment of these Amazons, which marched from Staffka recently, is reported to have battled with and defeated a Bolshe-Viki regiment on Sunday at Shlobin.

The Maximilists, from Petrograd, are attempting to put into effect some of their extreme socialist ideas of government and are transmitting throughout the country by wireless copies of a proclamation signed by Kolegalev on behalf of the "People's Commissary of Agriculture."

No Private Ownership

This proclamation declares that all lands, all living or slaughtered stock, all buildings and all produce shall henceforth be national property and under the management of the new land committee.

All private property pertaining to land is abolished and the houses are to be used in many cases as schools. All hospitals, shelter homes and theaters are to be used as public institutions.

The proclamation announces that instructions will shortly be issued for transferring the property to public control.

WASHINGTON, December 11—(Associated Press)—Senator Wadsworth of New York introduced a bill today which would require the registration of all males in America automatically as they reach the age of twenty-one years.

