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The Daily Gate City.

THE WEATHER
Fair. Continued cold. Local temp—7 p. m. 2; 7 a. m. 7.

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RUSSIA CLAIMS ANOTHER VICTORY

AUSTRIA IS READY TO DROP OUT OF THE FIGHT

Ally of Germany Has Had Enough War to Last Her For Some Time and Suggests Peace With Russia.

DEMANDS WERE TURNED DOWN

Czar Asked Too Much and no Agreement Was Made Between the Two Countries, It is Reported.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

BERNE, Dec. 15.—Austria has made a tentative peace proposal to Russia, but exchanges between the two governments in which Russia made known the terms that would be demanded were without result, according to a Swiss newspaper report today.

In replying to the proposal of Austria, Russia indicates that severe demands will be made when peace is ultimately discussed. The terms offered Austria during negotiations which just failed, included: The surrender of Galicia to Poland; the two provinces to form a kingdom under Russian sovereignty; the surrender of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Servia and Montenegro; withdrawal from the alliance with Germany; granting of a new constitution to Austro-Hungary, dividing it into federal states and the granting of autonomy to Bohemia.

Austria refused all demands made by Russia.

AUSTRIANS ON THE RUN.

NISH, Dec. 15.—The Servian army has re-entered Belgrade in triumph. The Austrians, who occupied the city for only twelve days, fled across the Danube and Save rivers in great disorder, clearing Servian territory of the enemy has fled across the Danube and

An official statement issued here today formally announced the reoccupation of the capital by the troops of King Peter.

The statement declared Austrians now hold only Shabatz and Loznica in Servia. These two towns are in the extreme northwest of Servia at the junction of the Drina and Save rivers. The official statement declares: "The enemy has fl d across the Danube and Save rivers in great disorder and evacuated Belgrade. All Servian territory is now freed of the enemy except Shabtaz and Loznica, of which deliverance is imminent.

"The triumphal entry of the Servian troops into Belgrade was marked by scenes of indescribable enthusiasm. King Peter has received messages of congratulations from all his allies.

DASH BY THE ALLIES.

[By Ed. L. Keen, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

LONDON, Dec. 15.—A dash south of Ypres which resulted in the capture of several German trenches and the occupation by the British of a new position in a woods five miles from that town, and ten miles from Lille today brought special mention in statements from both the British and French war offices.

The gain was made by a combined French and British attack, along a three mile line between Wytschaete and Holebeke. The woods from which the Germans were driven by the English troops is midway between these towns. The British statements assert substantial progress was made. The French communique announces the occupation of the woods by the British and declares that the French troops held their ground along the Yser canal and about Holebeke, despite a vigorous counter offensive of the enemy.

By this attack to the south of Ypres toward Lille, the allies are endeavoring to widen the wedge which stands out in the German line in the region of Ypres. The drive now evidently starting southeastward toward Lille, if successful would necessitate a German retirement along the line in Belgium, it is believed here. Reports from Belgium have declared that for some time there has been evidences that the Germans were preparing to fall back to a new line from Brugee to Courtri. The success of the southeastern movement, such as the allies indicated may be under way, would undoubtedly result in such a retirement by the Germans in order that their line might remain intact. The weakening of any one point in the line to strengthen a position being violently assailed would probably result in the allies breaking through the weakest point.

The War at a Glance

Summarized by John Edwin Nevin, United Press Staff Correspondent.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

FRANCE—British capture woods west of Wytschaete and French hold ground gained along the Yser despite vigorous counter attacks.

ENGLAND—British and French make "substantial progress" through combined attack between Holebeke and Wytschaete, east of Ypres. Two British cruisers reported off Punta Arras demand that German cruiser Dresden surrender or come out and fight.

SERVIA—Belgrade re-occupied by Servians. Austrian army in Servia suffers complete defeat.

RUSSIA—Defeat of the Germans in northern Poland declared complete. Enemy reported driven beyond east Prussian border. Grave fears of a disaster in Petrograd owing to water supply being cut off as result of ice blocking conduits.

AUSTRIA—Failure of Servian campaign admitted. Reported Austria made tentative peace proposal to Russia, but refused to accede to the demands made by the czar's government. Austrians continue advance over Carpathians into Galacia.

GERMANY—Austro-German offensive in Poland declared to have forced Russians to withdraw northward.

TURKEY—Turkish cruiser declared to have bombarded Batum, December 10. After setting fire to the city, the cruiser escaped. In an address from the throne the sultan declared Turkey entered the war because the country was menaced.

FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

PARIS, Dec. 15.—Paris experienced the "Zeppelin chill" today. Shortly after midnight practically all lights in the city were suddenly extinguished. Only a few small gas lights marked some of the darker street corners and a single lamp illuminated approaches to the bridges over the Seine. Reports were circulated that the military authorities had received information that the city was threatened by German Zeppelins. The reports as to the Zeppelins which were said to be approaching, placed the number of the war aircraft at from one to three.

BOMBS FOR BADEN.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 15.—French aviators again flew over Freiburg, Baden, dropping bombs upon the city yesterday, advices received here today state. This is the fourth time Freiburg has been attacked by aeroplanes.

ADVANCE FIVE MILES.

PARIS, Dec. 15.—A fierce artillery duel starting in upper Alsace yesterday and continuing through today is reported here. With this advice it is evident that the French troops in the lost province are now conducting a vigorous offensive which is expected to carry their lines further than at any time during the war. An advance of five miles has already been made from Aspach. The fighting which is for control of roads leading to Meulhausen is fast developing into a general forward movement of the French whose artillery is blasting a way through the German lines for the advance. A movement against Altkirch is rapidly enveloping this position.

An attempt of the Germans north of Cernay to assume the offensive was smothered by the French and the attack of the enemy was repulsed.

On the western end of the battle line, the allies continue to thrust at the German defenses on the line from the east of Ypres. The allied wedge in the Ypres region is being continually strengthened and extended further into Belgium. Belgian reports continue to state all indications are that the Germans are preparing for a withdrawal from their present positions to their second line which has been prepared and extends from Brugges through Thielt and Courtral.

PROGRESS MAINTAINED.

PARIS, Dec. 15.—In an attack made by the French and British on the German lines between Holebeke and Wytschaete, English troops drove the enemy from a woods west of the latter town and captured the position. The French troops also gained

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BALKANS

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Belgrade is reported to have been reoccupied by the Servian army.

With the admission by Austria of the failure of a third attempt to subdue Servia, and the advance claimed by the war office at Nish for the armies operating against the invaders, it is believed here that Austria's assaults upon the domain of King Peter may completely collapse.

The Austrian forces in Servia were weakened that additional troops might be sent to the army operating against the Russians in the Carpathians. The Servian army immediately fell upon and put to rout the weakened right wing of the Austrians, and pushed on toward Belgrade. Another portion of the Austrian army was thrown back toward the Dryan. This drive forced the enemy back into Bosnia where the Montenegrin army is reported to have cut it off. The sudden defeat of the Austrians after it was believed Servia had all but been crushed, is one of the surprises of the war. It is declared, however, that the Russian pressure through the Carpathians became so threatening and the demands that the invasion be repelled so insistent, that the reinforcing of this army became necessary.

Belgrade was taken by the Austrians only twelve days after a four months campaign. Valjevo was captured by the Austrians last month. This city has also been retaken by the Servians.

ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

BUENOS AYRES, Dec. 15.—Two British cruisers are today reported in the straits of Magellan, off Punta Arenas, where they are waiting for the German cruiser Dresden, the sole survivor of the squadron of Admiral Von Spee which engaged the British fleet of Vice Admiral Sir Frederick Sturdee off the Falkland Islands.

Reports reaching here are mostly from pro-German sources since the British have totally cut off wireless communication with the Falklands. These pro-German reports declare the two British vessels have indicated their intention not to respect the neutrality laws in regard to the Dresden. The vessel, the British ships are said to have asserted, must either come out and fight or surrender.

The Chilean government is reported to have taken action to maintain its neutrality in the situation growing out of the arrival of the Dresden at Punta Arenas. The government will register a vigorous protest if the Dresden is attacked inside the three mile limit.

The captain of the Dresden has informed the German consul at Punta Arenas that the British fleet which attacked the Germans off the Falklands included two battle cruisers of the Invincible type, and six defense cruisers. These vessels, the captain stated, were the Carnavon, the Cornwall, Essex, Bristol, Defense and Glasgow. Many charges of alleged violation of neutrality are now being made by the German consul not only by Chile but Brazil. The Glasgow, it is alleged, left Rio Janeiro to join the British fleet after having undergone

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GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

BERLIN, (via wireless to London), Dec. 15.—A panegyric for German sailors who perished in the destruction of Admiral Von Spee's fleet, was issued today by Kaiser Wilhelm. In replying to the message of condolence sent by the president of the reichstag, Kamp, over loss of these ships and sailors, the kaiser lauded the sailors who met their fate and said their bravery should encourage the nation to bear even the heaviest losses with unbroken courage.

"May the heavy sacrifices we are forced to make in this battle for our existence be borne by all as a single man, supported by our unshaken hope in God our Lord from whose gracious hand we humbly receive fortune, misfortune, joy and sorrow," he concluded. "This will turn even our most difficult hour into a blessing for our nation, the fatherland."

NOT GERMAN MINES.

BERLIN, (via The Hague), Dec. 15.—It is stated in official circles that none of the mines stranded on the Dutch coast since the beginning of the war have been German mines. All were English, it is stated, except eight Dutch and four French mines.

AUSTRIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

VIENNA, (via Berlin), Dec. 15.—The pursuit of the Russians in eastern Galicia continues, an official statement issued today declared. The Austrians have reached the plain of Allenthal. The fighting is almost continuous, the engagements being alternately more or less important.

Only 8 More Shopping Days Until Christmas

RUSSIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

PETROGRAD, Dec. 15.—So complete was the rout of the German army which invaded northern Poland from Mlawa, that the force is now cleared from Russian territory and this plan of movement against Warsaw has apparently been abandoned, according to reports here today.

The army suffered extremely heavy losses in being driven back after taking Przasnysz. The remaining forces are new being redistributed, however, it is declared. Part are reported as being sent north in east Prussia to aid in the defense of the line in the Mazurian lake region Another part is being hurried south to aid in the fighting of the Carpathians.

PETROGRAD WORRIED.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 15.—Petrograd was without water supply today. There are grave fears of a possible disaster in case of fire and the danger of blazes being started by spies who may be in the Russian capital is believed to be acute. This is the first time in thirty years that Petrograd has suffered from a lack of water. The supply has been cut off by ice blocking the conduits from the Neva from which the city's water is taken.

All factories, tea shops, public baths and other institutions were closed today. Horses used in drawing carts and cabs in the city as well as other animals, were forced to go without water. Government employes went from house to house distributing limited supplies of water for consumption by the people of the city. The railway stations were in darkness last night, except for feeble candle light.

The government agents have redoubled their vigilance in searching for spies within the city. A blaze started in a thickly populated section of the town or in the principal district would certainly result in a disaster. Troops are being held in readiness to aid in fighting any fire that may be reported.

THROUGH MOUNTAIN PASSES.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 15.—It is officially admitted here that Austrians are descending the northern slope of the Carpathians into Galicia through the Dukla pass. This movement, it is declared, may be easily controlled, however. Owing to snow and ice, the mountain passes are extremely difficult for army operations. The Austrians will be forced to enter the valleys in detached commands, it is asserted, thus laying them open to attack before they can reform. This movement which follows the retreat of Russians from Hungary, is taken

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TURKEY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, (via Amsterdam and London), Dec. 15.—Turkey entered the war because she was menaced. This was the explanation vouchsafed by Sultan Mohammed V in his speech from the throne opening the Turkish parliamnet.

"While our government had firmly resolved on the strictest neutrality," he asserted, "our fleet was suddenly attacked by Russian vessels in the Black sea. England and France then opened hostilities on our frontier. We were therefore compelled to resist the policy of destruction which these powers have at all times pursued against the Islamitic world, a policy which has assumed the character of a religious persecution. Because of this fact, I called all Moslems into a holy war."

BOMBARDED BATUM.

BERLIN (Via wireless to Sayville, L. I.) Dec. 15.—A Turkish official bulletin made public here by the war office, asserts that the large cruiser Sultan Jawus Selim, on December 10, bombarded Batum, setting fire to the city and escaping gun fire from the Russian land batteries. Dispatches from Constantinople also carry an authoritative report that in the Caucacus region, 50,000 armed Russians, all Mohammedans, joined with other Moslems and decided to fight against Russia.

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[The Turkish navy list contains no cruiser or any other vessel named "Sultan Jawus Selim."]

WE NEED NO SUBMARINES TO DEFEND OUR COAST

Commander Stirling Says America Could Not be Bombarded Until Our Fleet Had Been Annihilated.

FLOCK OF DIVERS ARE SMALL ONES

Although United States Invented the Under Water Boat, Other Nations Have Exceeded Her in Their Equipment.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15. — That America's big coast cities would not be bombarded by an alien fleet in the event of war on this nation, was the impression Commander Stirling of the Atlantic submarine fleet today gave the house naval committee. He counseled against construction of small submarines, saying he did not believe in the coast defense idea for these vessels.

"I can't conceive of why a fleet should come to this coast," he said. "I don't think a fleet would bombard even if submarines were not there. For in order to bombard cities it would be necessary to annihilate our fleet."

This feat, he intimated, was not likely to occur. But if the fleet was wiped out, an enemy would have to send out its auxiliaries to watch our submarines, he said. In the course of time, they would force the submarines to come to the surface by reason of need to recharge their batteries.

Stirling explained that the G-3 submarine is out of commission and that four are undergoing overhauling at the Norfolk navy yard, five are in the Canal Zone and nine at New York. Of these, several are being reconstructed by the government and several others are in various stages of repair and overhauling. The vessels in the Canal Zone, he explained, are in good condition but they are forced to use an "inadequate and unsuitable" old training ship as tender. Moreover Stirling said, the torpedoes of the first division were of an "old and unsuitable type."

Although America introduced the under-sea vessel to the world, this nation, Stirling showed, is now behind others in its development, England and Germany have 800 and 1,000 ton submarines, and he recommended that the United States should increase the traveling radius and power of its ships.

Battery trouble, he admitted, had caused this nation considerable difficulty. Lead oxide batteries, he said, might generate a dangerous gas if sea water leaked in Experiments are now under way with Edison's new storage battery.

Under cross examination he explained that the feat of the British vessel in blowing up a Turkish vessel after dodging mines in the Dardanelle was less difficult than the general opinion than getting in the line of coast defenses and under a battleship's screen for the purpose of fixing a torpedo.

In executive session, the naval committee will consider whether it shall invite ex-President Roosevelt as a witness. Chairman Padgett today, speaking for himself, however, flatly refused to issue such an invitation.

Representative Hobson led a fight to get Roosevelt as a witness. Other members of the committee indicated they wanted to get at the base of the recent intimations by Roosevelt that he saw plans for an attack on New York and other American cities.

Representative Butler joined with a request for asking ex-Secretary of the Navy Long to be a witness. The com-

(Continued on page 2.)

What the War Moves Mean

By J. W. T. Mason, Former European Manager of the United Press.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

NEW YORK, Dec. 15. (11 a. m.)—The recapture of Belgrade by the Servians is the climax of an accumulation of Austro-Hungarian mysteries. The Hapsburg empire is now feeling the strain of the war almost at its breaking point. There must be a feeling among the many belligerents to show signs of exhaustion and popular resentment against a continuation of the war. Austro-Hungary is now giving evidence that she is the one. The explicable collapse of Austria's offensive in Servia should produce a despair throughout the empire proportionate to the supreme delight felt when the Serbs apparently had been crushed a fortnight ago. The blow would be far more serious in its moral effect than a victory by Russia at Austria's territorial expense would produce.

From vast independent sources comes evidences that Austro-Hungary is almost prepared to cry quits on any reasonable terms; certainly there is much disaffection among the non-German people of the empire, who comprise seventy-five per cent of the population. A belief is spreading that the Austro-Hungarian armies are being used primarily not to defend their own country but to prevent a Russian invasion of Germany. There can be no doubt but that the Hungarians in particular are extremely bitter against the German general staff. Reports are circulating in Budapest that an effort to persuade the German emperor to pay greater attention to the defense of Galicia and Hungary has met with a severe rebuke. While Galicia is largely in the hands of Russia, who are operating in northern Hungary, the resentment of non-German part of Franz Joseph's empire is easily understood. Even the Austrian disaster in Servia is being blamed on the German general staff The Hungarians are declaring necessities of German campaign compelled a large withdrawal of the Austro-Hungarian forces from Servia and this accounts for the present national humiliation. Such may not be the true reason for Servia's unlooked for success, but the circulation of anti-German criticism in Hungary is a serious matter, whether it be true or not. It is naturally accentuated by such circumstances as Germany's public rebuke to her ally, analyzed in this column yesterday.

Presumably only a victory against Russia or new successes in Servia will be able to stop Austro-Hungary's growing dissatisfaction with the war. If by any possibility short of a Galician disaster men can be spared from the northern front, the Austrian general staff will doubtless make fresh concentrations against the Serbs. If this cannot be done, and if the Slavs are able to capture Przemysl and Cracow, there are many indications that a formidable movement will be begun in Austro-Hungary for a separate peace. Even a lesser disaster might bring about this condition.