

ALLIES MAKE CLAIMS OF ADVANCE

UNFRIENDLY ACT IS SEEN IN UNITED STATES PROTEST

Unofficial England Says Germany Has Influenced President Wilson in His Objections to Seizures of American Cargoes.

MATTER WILL BE AMICABLY SETTLED

Delay in Transmission of Note in Puzzling the Administration, Which Does Not Expect an Answer For Some Time.

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

LONDON, Dec. 30.—England is sharply divided into two factions today as a result of a protest of the United States against the right of search on the high seas. Official England accepts the protest in the friendly manner in which it was made. Unofficial comment places the action as unfriendly and attributes it to German influences at Washington. Even in official circles there is a disposition to contest the claims of the United States that America's export trade has been seriously interfered with by Great Britain. Officials point out that the exportations of foodstuffs and copper from the United States have increased 300 percent since the war began. They say that other increases have been smaller but that the entire balance of the export trade shows a distinct increase in contradiction to the Wilson claim.

It is believed, however, that the matters in controversy eventually will be amicably settled. However, English officialdom and the newspapers generally declare that inasmuch as Germany is to be starved out, there must be no relaxation of efforts of the allies to prevent either absolute or conditional contraband reaching her.

The chief question at issue, it is stated here, is an administrative one. President Wilson's own admission that there has been deception practiced by shippers through the issuance of false manifests and the concealing of contraband in non-contraband cargoes, is declared to justify England's insistence on the right of search. Therefore because under modern conditions such search is impossible on the high seas, the only method that can be followed is to take these vessels into the nearest British port. Officials are hopeful that a method will be found which will cause the least irritation and prevent losses to honest American shippers.

Delay in Reply.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—An immediate reply from Great Britain is not expected by this government to its note protesting against British interference with United States commerce. This was declared today by high gov-

ernment officials. They do not believe a rejoinder will be forthcoming short of two or three weeks.

Delay in the British reply, it was pointed out, hinges upon two features—the serious character of the protest and necessity for great consideration and care in framing the reply. Also the situation is not considered immediately critical or urgent. For five months the conditions complained of by the United States have existed and no urgent, important case, involving American shipping is now at issue.

Some delay, however, in transmission of the note is puzzling President Wilson and his advisors. The American note was completed last Thursday, according to reliable information. The president personally stated yesterday that he thought it was delivered in London last Saturday. Instead, press dispatches today recited that the note was not turned over to the British foreign office even in the vacation absence of Sir Edward Grey, until yesterday. Lord Grey was to receive the note personally today.

Strong intention in high official circles was evident today to back up the American protest. Party lines in congress were obliterated in the united stand behind the president's action. The white house received many letters and telegrams today enthusiastically supporting the president for his action.

The Packers Protested.
CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—Flat denial that packages supposed to contain only meat destined for belligerent countries, contained also copper and other contraband, was made here today by Attorney Alfred R. Urton, representative of the Chicago packers in their complaint against ship seizures by Great Britain.

Attorney Urton admitted today that while in Washington three days ago he presented a strong protest to the administration against seizure of packer's cargoes by Great Britain. He intimated that this protest, first made weeks ago, was one of the determining factors in the recent Wilson note to Great Britain. Shipments from Chicago packers amounting in value to

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TURKEY

[By Henry Wood, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

CONSTANTINOPLE, Nov. 28.—(By mail to New York via Salonika.)—Oriental fanaticism, including self-torture of the most repulsive character marked the proclamation here tonight of the holy war on behalf of Turkey and her allies. I saw more than 100 men and two boys of tender years shed their own blood at a single Persian mosque here in Constantinople as a part of the spectacle, which, for sheer brutality, carried one back to the torture days of the twelfth century.

Guarded by one of the brilliantly uniformed, heavily armed dragoons of the American embassy, I was escorted to the mosque in the very heart of the native quarter. I had secured permission to view the ceremony through the courtesy of one of Constantinople's leading Persian merchants. The mosque, decorated within in the most remarkable fashion, outwardly resembled a huge factory structure. The pavilion in the rear, erected for the sheik seemed more like a stable than a structure built for religious purposes.

Just as the sun set, the strains of music burst from the crude pavilion. Then two great horses, completely covered with rich trappings, came through the curtained entrance. On their backs were two small boys. They represented the slain sons of the great prophet Mahomet. Their skulls were shaven clean, so that parts of them shone like bone in the wavering fire of the torches carried alongside. The rest of their heads and their bodies were covered with fresh blood dripping from razor slashes. In their right hand each carried a long knife. With it they gashed themselves anew and kept the blood from coagulating on their wounds. The crimson flow dripped down on their spotless white robes. But they sat on their horse-like statures; on their faces contemptuous smiles. Behind them came a band of true believers. Their garb was black, their shoulders bare. They carried huge barbed scourges with which they lashed themselves across the back.

The rear of the procession was brought up by nearly 100 men. Their skulls, like those of the two boys, were shaven, their heads covered with open wounds from which blood spurted. Each clung with his left hand to a rope bound about the man directly in front. In each right hand was grasped a knife with which fresh wounds were inflicted and old ones

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AUSTRIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

VIENNA, Dec. 30.—Emphatic denial that the Austrian armies have been completely routed featured the official war office statement issued today. It is frankly admitted that the armies have been forced to withdraw but this action, the statement says, was due to the throwing of enormous numbers of reinforcements into the main army which has been contesting southern Galicia in company with the Hungarian army which crossed the Carpathians. So far as the latter army is concerned, the official report says, it has been withdrawn in good order, bringing back its entire artillery and transport. The losses have been heavy but not out of proportion to the men engaged. The chief cause for regret, it is stated, is that the movement to relieve Przemyśl has been abandoned.

In the northern section the Austrian lines are intact, the war office claims. There has been a withdrawal at a number of points to straighten out the battle line, but at no point has there been any general retreat. The Austrians continue to hold the main line of trenches on the Bromnik-Solice-Jabliska, according to the latest reports available here. It is denied the Russians have resumed their movement against Cracow.

In the Balkan theatre of war, the official statements say, there has been renewed activity especially on the part of the Montenegrins. They have repeatedly attacked Trebinje but in every instance have been repulsed with heavy losses. The Montenegrins are still bombarding the Austrian positions at Krivosije, but with little real result.

GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

BERLIN, Dec. 30.—(Via wireless through Sayville, L. I., to the United Press.)—The official German war office report dealing with the situation in the west and covering events up to yesterday takes direct issue with the French claims of sweeping successes. On the contrary, it is claimed that the Germans were able to gain some ground both to the southeast of Ypres and around Nieuport before weather conditions compelled a cessation of fighting.

Northwest of St. Menchoud the French delivered a series of brilliant attacks in an effort to retake the trenches from which they were dislodged some weeks ago, but they were repulsed with heavy losses, the Germans taking several hundred prisoners.

The French attacks in the forest of Brule west of Apremont, have failed and the Germans now hold the French trenches there, having also captured some machine guns. French attacks on the west front are also reported to have been repulsed.

Discussing events on the eastern front, the war office says there has been no change in the situation along the Rawa Bzura fronts. Germans are making progress south of Lodz but in general the situation is unchanged.

Reports reaching here from the western front the war office says, show that the British are greatly displeased over the flooding of the Yser district as a result of which they have been trapped at several points and have suffered very heavy losses. It is now impossible to remedy these conditions.

According to the official press bureau, the talk of peace at the present time is without the sanction of the foreign office, although it is pointed out that all neutrals are entitled by the Hague conventions to make suggestions at any time. In the Christmas addresses sent out from the chief quarters it was peremptorily stated that the German nation was prepared to carry the war through to the bitter end until peace can be assured on adequate terms, no matter how great the sacrifices that must be made.

Reports from Constantinople state that the Russian armies in the Caucasus are still retreating. Many prisoners and munitions of war have been captured. A British attempt to land troops at Akaba has again failed.

OFFICIAL REPORT.
BERLIN, Dec. 30.—(Via wireless through Sayville, L. I., to the United Press.)—Official admission that the Germans had been compelled to evacuate St. George's, two miles west of Nieuport in Belgium was made by the war office today. It stated however, that the reverse was due to a surprise attack and that an attempt is now in progress to retake it. Fighting has been resumed in Poland, according to the report, which claims that the Russian cavalry have been driven back in the general direction of Pivkallen.

The official report says: "In the

ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The destruction of the British battleship Bulwark was today officially entered as an accident. The inquiry into the death of practically its entire crew was completed and the verdict was ordered entered of accidental death. It is now accepted as certain that spontaneous combustion among the smokeless powder in one of the magazines caused the explosion which destroyed the warship.

BALKANS

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

CETTINJE, Dec. 30.—An official statement issued today by the Montenegrin war office says that on Monday the Austrians attacked in force along the whole Herzegovina front but that they were everywhere repulsed. Three aeroplanes dropped bombs on the Montenegrin camp at Grastovo without serious result.

FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

PARIS, Dec. 30.—Rain, snow squalls and wintry gales sweeping in from the sea are reported today to have almost checked the fighting along the Belgian and northern France front. For thirty-six hours weather conditions have been frightful. As a result there are grave fears of an epidemic of sickness among the men who are compelled to remain exposed to the weather with only the protection of their muddy trenches now half filled with water.

So fierce has been the storm that even the long range artillery is silent at many points on the line. Only where the opposing forces have actually been in personal touch was the fighting continuing today, according to reports received here today. However there is much activity on centre and right wings, where the French are steadily pushing forward.

The German trenches on the heights of the Meuse are again being shelled and it is believed here that an operation is well under way designed to retake St. Mihiel where the Germans have a wedge into the French lines.

The operations in the upper Alsace region have begun to overshadow all others in the opinion of French military experts. They believe that the long looked for drive which is intended to clear Alsace from the Swiss frontier and the Rhine to Straasburg and Metz is under way.

The German positions at Steinbach are being shelled and it is believed here that they will soon be taken. This will open the roadways leading to Aitkirch and Mulhausen. Meanwhile the long range guns of the French picked artillery have begun shelling the German trenches around Mulhausen.

VIOLENT FIGHTING.
[By William Philip Simms, United Press Staff Correspondent.]

PARIS, Dec. 30.—Artillery fighting on a tremendous scale features the battle today at many points along the line. This is especially so on the centre and the right wing of the French positions and in upper Alsace, where the French gunners have managed to silence the heavy German artillery posted in the vicinity of Aspach.

Despite the inclemency of the weather and the difficulty of moving, the Germans again today began an attempt to retake St. George's near Nieuport where the French lines have been moved forward nearly two miles.

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RUSSIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

PETROGRAD, Dec. 30.—Renewed successes in the Caucasus in the Oltinik region and important movements in Warsaw which prestage the driving back of the Austro-German forces beyond the frontier are reported here today. The fighting in the Caucasus has resulted in the Russian occupancy of Merdenek, near Sarykamyah, where the Turkish trenches were carried after a series of bayonet charges in which the defending forces lost very heavily. Russian cavalry divisions are now operating in the direction of Khorahan. The Turkish defensive is stated to be very strongly maintained and there have been many encounters at close quarters in which the Russian bayonets have been used to great advantage. The Turks are declared to be committing outrages against the native population of the villages in the territory through which they have moved, to have massacred thousands of men and women and outraged and tortured all young girls.

The reports from the Austrian front declare the Austrian armies which were operating in southern Galicia, have been completely routed. Their flight was so precipitate, the report says that they abandoned large quantities of camp equipment, supplies and some cannon.

The Russians have cut off a large number of troops and their capture is believed certain. To the west the Russian forward movement is again in full swing despite the fact that the roads and fields are again almost

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NEUTRALITY OF AMERICA IS ONLY A WRITTEN WORD

Congressman Vollmer From Iowa Says United States Helps Allies by Permitting Them to Buy Munitions.

COULD END WAR IN NINETY DAYS

Professed German Sympathizer Thinks it Impossible For Kaiser to be Conquered and Predicts Bankruptcy.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The United States was called by Representative Vollmer of Iowa today a partner in the "greatest crime against civilization in all history." Urging the house foreign affairs committee to report favorable the Vollmer-Bartholdt-Lobeck resolutions to prohibit export of munitions to the European belligerents, Vollmer reverted to the prayers of peace Sunday in this country saying: "Are we so anxious to achieve the reputation of being the arch-hypocrite of the world that we go into the Lord's sanctuary and offer prayers for peace when we have blood money in our pockets?"

"If America stopped furnishing munitions to the belligerents the war would end in ninety days, Vollmer contended. These munitions, he insisted, are going to the aid of only one side—the allies.

"Our present attitude of neutrality has undergone a strange change since the outbreak of the war. Neutrality now is merely neutrality on paper," he asserted.

"We are furnishing the instruments of murder on one side only in a conflict in which we profess friendship to all."

Vollmer, a professed German-American sympathizer, ventured the opinion that it would be absolutely impossible for the allies "ever to conquer the Germans." He protested that if the war continues, universal bankruptcy will follow "in which this country may be plunged."

The suggestion made in this column last week that Russia's withdrawal from Cracow, and the redistribution of Slav forces in Galicia, were due to development of a new Hungarian campaign, is borne out today by Berlin's official admission of the defeat of the Austrian forces.

The Austrians have been driven into the Carpathians and the first step toward an invasion of Hungary has now been successfully taken by the Russians. It probably will be a difficult matter for the Slavs to make their way over the mountains, for the passes are few and are easily defended. Nevertheless the problems are not as intricate as those that would be encountered on the road to Berlin; and since the Austrians and not the Germans are defending the Carpathians, Russia should be able to follow up her present victory.

The most significant fact of the Galician fighting is not Russia's success, but Berlin's emphatic confession of her ally's defeat. Not content with chronicling the new Slav offensive, Berlin by broad inference, attacks the Austrian government for not confessing itself beaten.

"Local military experts," say the German official reports, "are making attempts to picture Russia's occupation of the line of Krosno-Jasio as being no real gain for the Russians, but on the contrary, as weakening their position. This view, however, is considered too optimistic."

Disclaiming any desire to become an alarmist, he predicted some time America must try issues with Japan in a war on the Pacific. Japan, he argues, does not intend after the war to surrender Kiao Chau and Pacific islands "which materially affect us."

If this war comes, Vollmer predicted, Germany will be America's only ally. But with the ammunition shipments now turned against Germany, Vollmer hinted America is disqualifying itself for this alliance and shutting itself off from being mediator in future peace negotiations.

Representative Bartholdt characterized the munitions situations as "dollar neutrality sold for British gold."

"England's alliance with the yellow race, whose appetite for territory has just been whetted in this war," he said, "is an ill omen for the United States."

Incidentally he hurled criticism at Great Britain because the south cotton shipments are crippled, owing to British seizure of ships and detention of American citizens.

He called America an "ally" and declared "25,000,000 people in this country believe we are waging war on Germany."

Increased Rates Approved.
[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The interstate commerce commission today found a proposed increase in freight rates on fresh fruits and vegetables from points in California to Seattle and Tacoma, Wash., justified.

If this last interpretation is the true one, the equivocal situation in Hungary makes the effectiveness of the method questionable. Hungary is smouldering with discontent against Germany, and Berlin's blame of the Austrian army may lead the Hungarians to open important negotiations for self protection under the belief that an Austro-German defeat is inevitable. However, regardless of the cause of Berlin's attitude toward Austria, German criticism of Vienna must give increased confidence to Russia and the allies in the west.

The War at a Glance

Summarized by John Edwin Nevin, United Press Staff Correspondent.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]

FRANCE—Heavy artillery firing is reported at many points on the long battle line. The French have taken important strategic positions southeast of Zonnebeke; made progress near Four-De-Paris and repulsed a German attack in the Vosges. Fighting continues in upper Alsace with the French silencing the German artillery at Aspach.

ENGLAND—A special cabinet meeting considered the American shipping protest and officials say every effort will be made to amicably adjust the matter.

TURKEY—The war office claims distinct gains in the Caucasus over the Russians.

GERMANY—Official statements contradict the French and Russian claims of important gains. The German war office asserts its forces are making slow but steady gains near Nieuport

and that at no point have the allies gained any advantage. The situation in Poland is described as showing little change.

AUSTRIA—While admitting that the Austrian armies in southern Galicia have been forced to withdraw into the Carpathians, the Vienna war office denies that they have been routed. The situation in west Galicia it is claimed, is satisfactory.

RUSSIA—The war office claims distinct victories over the Turks in the Oltinik region where Turkish positions were carried at the point of the bayonet. It is claimed that the Austro-German forces in Galicia and Poland are being forced back and predicted that the Germans will be back on their own frontier by January 13.

MONTENEGRO—The war office claims the complete repulse of the Austrians along the entire fighting line in Herzegovina.