

# ONSLAUGHT ON WHOLE FRENCH FRONT FUTILE

## German Artillery and Infantry Attacks Are Repulsed.

### STREET FIGHTING IN STEINBACH KEPT UP

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.  
PARIS, Jan. 2.—A continuation of the fighting all along the line in France and Flanders, with the Allies retaining their advantages and repulsing German attacks and counter attacks, is recorded in the news from this theatre of war to-day. The engagements were of comparatively minor importance, although some heavy artillery fighting is reported.

The series of activity mentioned in tonight's communiqué are Vermelles, just south of La Bassée, in the district north of Chaulnes, and the wood of Consenvoye, on the Meuse, north of Verdun. The communiqué issued at 10.10 to-night was as follows:

The only important features to be announced are a sustained rifle fire last night against the trenches east of Vermelles and in the district north of Chaulnes and a futile German attack west of the wood of Consenvoye.

The Germans ushered in the new year with a series of attacks at various points all along the front, all of which were repulsed without difficulty.

There was a spirited artillery engagement on the dunes at Nieuport and Zonnebeke in the region north of the Lys, yesterday, and further artillery fighting is reported from Arras, Albert and Roye, with honors more or less equally divided, both sides destroying strategic positions of the other. The French artillery silenced the artillery of the Germans in the region of the Aisne and dispersed concentrations of German troops there. They also have established themselves on the plateau of Nouvron and in the region of Perthes.

A part of the ground lost by the French in the forest of La Grurie, in the Arzonne, reported on Friday, has been recovered. The French claim advantages also at Steinbach, in Haute Alsace.

The afternoon communiqué was as follows:  
During the night of December 31-January 1 the enemy delivered at numerous points along the front a series of attacks which were repulsed with ease.

The region to the north of the Lys during the day of January 1 was the scene of a very spirited artillery engagement, which took place on the dunes of Nieuport and at Zonnebeke.

At St. Georges the enemy did not continue his counter attacks and all our gains have been retained.

In the region of Arras, Albert and Roye there have been artillery duels. The enemy blew up two of our caissons between Beaumont and Arras-court. In reply we demolished the enemy's trenches at Parvillers and at La Boisselle, and we stopped the operations of the mine thrower set up in front of Perthes.

Our artillery also obtained happy results in the region of the Aisne, where it silenced the artillery of the enemy and dispersed several concentrations of German troops. We have installed ourselves on the plateau of Nouvron, in certain excavations caused by the explosion of mines. The Germans were not able either to advance or drive us out; all their counter attacks were driven back.

In the region of Rheims there was a fairly violent bombardment by the enemy.

In the region of Perthes we occupied and retained a forest two kilometers to the northeast of Meuse-Hurlue; the enemy did not deliver a counter attack.

In the Argonne, in the forest of La Grurie, the local retirement reported yesterday has not had any effect. We have reoccupied a part of the ground lost, and we are holding our position strongly. On the heights of the Meuse there has been an artillery engagement, but without great severity.

In the Woëvre we have retained the positions gained by us December 30, without experiencing a counter attack from the enemy, and in the forest of La Pretre we have made a slight advance.

In the Vosges we have driven back a German attack on our positions at Brementhal, three kilometers northeast of Badonviller, inflicting heavy losses on the Germans. The enemy has sustained also heavy losses at Steinbach, where our infantry yesterday occupied three new lines of houses.

### War Boosts Laundry Bills.

LONDON, December 23.  
THE effects of the war are far reaching. Here is an instance: A restaurant proprietor situated near a large military camp has found that since the war the cost of his laundry bill has greatly increased. So he has decorated each table with a neat notice: "Customers are requested not to draw on the tablecloths. Maps of the seat of war will be found on all the tables in the smoke room."

### SAYS NEUTRAL TRADE MUST ACCEPT RISK

#### Maitre Clunet Cites Message of President Pierce to U. S. Congress.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.  
PARIS, Jan. 2.—The text of the American note to Great Britain in regard to the seizure of American vessels carrying cargoes to neutral countries is now known here and has created a better impression than the abrupt summary which was cabled by a news agency.

Commenting on the full note, the *Figaro* says to-day there is no doubt that the British Foreign Office in replying will be animated by the same sentiment of frankness and friendship shown in the text of the American communication. The paper says it believes England, while maintaining her rights, will give the United States assurances that it will diminish as much as possible the inevitable inconveniences which have been caused by the exercise of the right of search.

Maitre Clunet, the well known jurist, in an interview in *Le Gaulois*, says: "In principle all neutrals desire that war, even though it should set the four quarters of the world on fire, must not touch the little corner where they live nor affect their comfort or gains."

M. Clunet examines the provisions of the Hague convention and the Declaration of London, and then quotes the following from the message of President Franklin Pierce to the American Congress in 1851:

"Private persons engaged in contraband trade expose themselves to confiscation of their merchandise, but their acts in no wise compromise the nation's neutrality, nor engage the responsibility of the government."

M. Clunet concludes: "Neutral countries are not obliged to forbid the export of articles of war to belligerents, but the latter have the right to defend themselves against what they consider as an act of hostility on the part of neutral commerce by seizing these articles of war, which, indeed, have been exported at the risk of those engaging in such operations."

### 'BRITAIN INCONSIDERATE'

#### Neutrals Want Rules to Govern Seas, Says Rome Paper.

ROME, Jan. 1.—The *Tribuna* says that the American note to the British Government regarding interference with shipping must be considered as an expression of irritation at the injury done American commerce. The *Tribuna* says: "America, the Scandinavian countries and Italy are united by an informal understanding which must become formal if the abuses continue. They only desire to see their commerce protected and demand that international rules, instead of arbitrary belligerents, reign over the seas."

The American note or similar views from other neutrals must not be taken as an expression of hostility toward England or her allies, but as an expression of irritation at the injury to their commerce by the inconsiderate application of international rights."

The *Vita*, the organ of the Italian Radicals, sees in the American note an opportunity for other neutrals to protest against the injury to their commerce. It expresses the hope that these States of Europe will take advantage of this opportunity to act together with America in insisting that the relations between neutrals and belligerents be now settled on the broad basis of all neutrals to all belligerents. Otherwise, the paper says, the United States individually will receive all the satisfaction while the other neutral Powers will be worse off than they were before.

### MR. TAFT PRAISES NOTE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—Praise for the note of the Wilson Administration to Great Britain against interference with trade was expressed by former President Taft.

"That action is just what we should have done," he said warmly. "The note was couched in admirable terms. Its tone was just what it should have been. I am not so familiar as I might be with the actual seizures leading up to this position but the tone of the note was admirable."

### WARN BRITISH SHIPPERS.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.  
LONDON, Jan. 2.—The Board of Trade has notified the Imperial Merchant Service Guild that it is necessary for captains of British ships to have their bills of lading and manifests in perfect order, as otherwise they may be stopped by the Allies' warships.

### HARD TASK TO SEND JAPANESE.

Transport Would Need Hundreds of Ocean Steamers.  
Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.  
PARIS, Jan. 2.—The *Cri de Paris*, in its political section, points out that those who favor bringing Japanese troops to Europe overlook some of the difficulties in the way of transport. It would require hundreds of ocean-going steamers for transport purposes, the paper says.

If 1,000,000 Japanese were brought to Europe it would require 350 steamers, carrying between 2,000 and 3,000 men each, to transport them. If fewer vessels were employed and they went backward and forward between Japan and Europe it would require a year to place such an army in France.

The writer considers that the question has been closed by the action of the Mikado in putting off the Japanese parliamentary elections to the end of March.

### HE'S A WAR HERO AT 13.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.  
PARIS, Jan. 2.—The youngest non-commissioned officer in the French army is Marcel Vernier, who is 13 years and 7 months old. He followed the artillery as a kitchen helper at the opening of the war and learned to ride a horse and was quickly promoted to be corporal. He has been named adjutant sergeant-major and his name has been proposed for the military medal for valor in action. He was recently wounded and was brought to a Paris hospital.

Vernier is an orphan and is one of a large family of young brothers and sisters.

### NEW CONSULS FOR GERMANY.

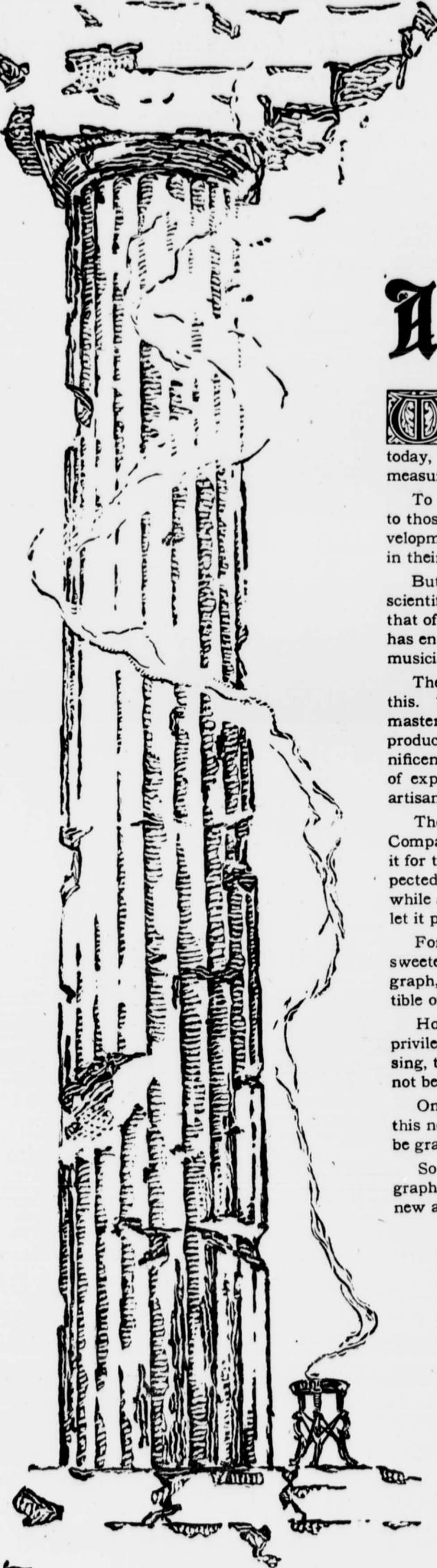
Executives Issued Before War Area's Binding, Says Berlin.  
AMSTERDAM, via London, Jan. 2.—The Official Press Bureau in Berlin gave out a summary to-day of a statement in the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* that Germany does not consider binding the

executives of Consuls in territory occupied by the Germans in the war. The statement says that Germany has notified America and other neutrals that she no longer considers executives issued prior to the war binding in any hostile territory. Germany requests that only persons of Germanophile or neutral leanings be appointed, but she has made no request for the recall of any particular Consuls. "It cannot be expected that Germany

accept hostile Belgian subjects as Consuls for other countries on occupied territory," says the newspaper. "This point is said to be especially important, as 300 Belgians heretofore have held posts as Consuls for allied or neutral States."  
**65,000 PRIESTS AT THE FRONT.**  
PARIS, Dec. 17.—In a recent lecture, one of a series on the clergy and the war, the

learned Mgr. Lacroix told a Sorbonne audience that there were 65,000 priests in all the armies engaged, 20,000 of them fighting as regular soldiers in the French ranks, a condition which no belligerent except France imposes upon its clergy. The response of the priests to the mobilization call was magnificent. Not a man failed to report; those who were put into office positions as not physically fitted for work in the trenches demanded to be sent immediately to the front. Officers and men have treated them splendidly too. Indeed, Mgr. Lacroix regards a priest as eminently fitted for soldiering by virtue of his superior education and morality, his habits of discipline within the church and his religious conception of patriotism.

"It is unfortunate," said Mr. Lacroix, "that the church authorities have always discouraged priests from seeking advancement to officers' commissions when doing their military service in time of peace."



## An Epoch-Making Achievement in Phonograph History

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WITH the appearance of this announcement there begins a new chapter in the history of the Phonograph. Immensely popular as this important instrument is today, a new development has come which is destined to immeasurably broaden its appeal and increase its usefulness.

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The Aeolian Vocalion is the logical result of The Aeolian Company's entry into the Phonograph field. Those who hear it for the first time listen in amazement to a new and unsuspected quality of phonographic tone, and watch with wonder while a demonstrator plays a record instead of standing by to let it play itself.

For The Aeolian Vocalion not only has a tone richer, sweeter, truer than anything hitherto known in the Phonograph, but in addition this extraordinary instrument is susceptible of being played by a human performer.

How wonderful all this is, how intensely fascinating the privilege conferred on everyone to lead great orchestras, to sing, to play with the voice and talent of famous artists, cannot be adequately described.

Only from personal experience can the full significance of this new and epoch-making development in the Phonograph be grasped.

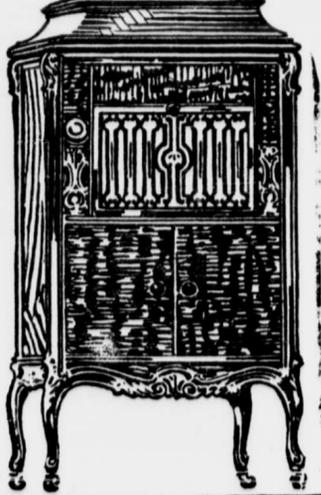
So strong is the appeal, so wide the influence of the Phonograph, that no one may safely set a limit to the effect of this new and revolutionary development.

The story of the Aeolian Vocalion—of the brilliant invention that first inspired it and the vicissitudes of the inventor, and of its gradual perfecting in the experimental laboratories of The Aeolian Company, forms one of the most notable and interesting chapters in the history of musical art. Later this story will be briefly told.

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### BREAST PLATES DANGEROUS.

German General Warns Public Against Purchase of Cuirasses.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.  
PARIS, Jan. 2.—The German General commanding the Eighteenth Army Corps has issued a notice warning the public against the purchase of various kinds of cuirasses supposed to be impenetrable by bullets.

The communication says that instead of being a protection these breastplates are likely to cause serious wounds to those who wear them. Moreover, they are a great hindrance to the liberty of action of a soldier.