

GREAT BATTLE RAGES NORTH OF SOISSONS LINE

French Hold Village of Crouy, but Fail to Continue Advance.

BOTH SIDES RECEIVE BIG REINFORCEMENTS

SUMMARY OF THE WAR NEWS.

A great battle is raging north of Soissons, the point in the German lines, which is nearest to Paris. Both sides to Paris. Both sides have been largely held in holding the upper hand.

The German General Staff announces the capture of trenches in the suburbs of Noyon, the complete defeat of the French near Crouy and Bussie (probably Crouy and Cuffies, near Soissons), with the capture of 1,700 prisoners. A French attack near St. Mihiel was repulsed and the Germans advanced near Nomeny.

The Russian General Staff tells of further advances in East Prussia and the capture of several villages including one in the Mazurian Lakes defensive arrangements. All German attacks in Poland were repulsed and the Russians are advancing southwest from Mlawa in northern Poland. It is reported that the Germans have begun to retire in the Bzura region.

The resignation of Count Berchtold, the Austrian Premier and chief of the Council of Ministers of Austria-Hungary. He wished to resign some time ago, but the Emperor would not allow him to. Personal reasons are given as the cause. Baron Burian von Jaszcz, Chamberlain of the Hungarian Cabinet, succeeds him.

A reported submarine and aeroplane attack on Dover turns out to be merely a scare, originating in the inability of the men in the forts to distinguish between floating objects in the water and periscopes, because of the bad light in early morning. It was said at first that two submarines were sunk.

Turkey has seized Tabriz, the second city of Persia, in the Russian zone of influence, and is said to be preparing to use the place as a base for a march across the Russo-Persian frontier, which is unprotected. Persia has protested strongly to Turkey against the occupation.

FRENCH ADVANCE IS CHECKED AT CROUY

Village Captured After Bitter All Night Fight.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. PARIS, Jan. 13.—German reinforcements sent to assault the positions recently won by the French northeast of Soissons have put in doubt the result of the great battle now raging at that point. The official communiques issued to-day by the French War Office show that the fighting is going on night and day, with first one side and then the other having the advantage.

Yesterday the Allies were obliged to give ground to the east of "Spur 132," northeast of Soissons, and for a time were in danger of losing possession of the village of Crouy, but to-day they checked the German rush with the exception of one point east of Crouy, where the village of Moncell is the scene of a desperate fight.

Cuffies-Crouy front the Allies launched a counter attack during the early hours to-day and progressed slightly, but could not advance beyond Crouy itself. The communiqué issued at 10:25 o'clock to-day follows:

Northeast of Soissons our counter attack has progressed slightly but our troops have not been able to advance beyond the latter town. As the result of a violent attack east of Crouy our troops have yielded slightly in the neighborhood of the village of Moncell, which they still occupy.

We also hold Sainte Marguerite and Geny on the Aisne.

No other important incident has been reported.

Soissons is the point where the German line nearest to Paris, and any German attempt to break through it would be met with the utmost resistance. The French had the advantage in numbers at first, but were soon confronted by German reserve regiments which again turned the scale and now, it is understood, the French are receiving aid, so a continuance of the bitter struggle is expected for several days.

Except for Soissons operations at the front for the past thirty-six hours have been relatively unimportant. The weather is exceptionally bad, and in Flanders great sandstorms are raising clouds of dust, absolutely precluding fighting of any sort. The French troops gained further slight success north of the farm of Heuseux yesterday and established themselves fifty yards from the German trenches. At other points the action was confined to cannonading. The snowstorm in the Vosges and in parts of Alsace continues unabated. The afternoon communiqué was as follows:

The unfavorable weather conditions which have persisted along almost the entire front have hindered operations. In Belgium there has been a sandstorm in the dunes along the coast, which again turned the scale and now, it is understood, the French are receiving aid, so a continuance of the bitter struggle is expected for several days.

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Austrian Premier Resigns Office

Count Berchtold's Resignation Is Accepted by the Emperor.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. VIENNA, via Amsterdam, Jan. 13.—The following official announcement was made here to-day: "Count Berchtold, Austrian Premier, who some time ago asked of Emperor Francis Joseph that he be relieved of his functions, has now renewed his request. The Emperor, recognizing the important personal reasons influencing the Minister in his application, has granted his request."

"Count Berchtold will be succeeded by Baron Stephen Burian, the Hungarian Minister to the Royal Court."

CONCESSION TO TISZA?

London "Times" Thinks Something Snapped in Monarchy's Fabric.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. LONDON, Jan. 14.—No definite news has been received here explaining the resignation of Count Berchtold, the Austrian Premier. Many surmises are made. The Times thinks it indicates that



Count Berchtold.

"something has snapped in the fabric of the dual monarchy," and suggests that it may be a concession to Count Tisza and the Hungarians, or the result of military court intrigues, or again simply the result of a desire to replace a statesman who is not credited with possessing great force of character.

Baron Burian is a Magyar and is credited with great firmness of will. He is intimately acquainted with both Russian and Balkan politics and has long been associated with Count Tisza.

Count Berchtold's Career.

To Count Berchtold has been attributed the ultimatum to Serbia which brought on the European war. Under his direction the Austrian Minister at Belgrade informed the Serbs that their answer to the Austrian demands was unsatisfactory and his part in the European debacle has been considered of the first importance.

In addition to holding the portfolio of Foreign Affairs, Count Berchtold was President of the Council of Ministers of Austria and Hungary. In November this year he resigned the office of Foreign Minister, and was succeeded by Count Tisza, the Hungarian Premier, who succeeded him. It was said that Count Tisza advocated a continuation of the war to the end and that Count Berchtold had changed his attitude and favored peace.

Count Berchtold succeeded in office the late Count von Aehrenthal, who was before that Ambassador in Russia. Von Aehrenthal's first act in office was to send Berchtold to Petrograd, where he became exceedingly popular, and so continued until 1908, when Russia was forced to back down before Austrian demands for Serbian demobilization. War was averted at that time, but could not be prevented when an almost similar set of circumstances arose last year.

Senate Kills Bill for "Dry" Capital

Decides Two-thirds Vote Shall Be Necessary to Suspend the Rules.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—The Senate today decided by a vote of 41 to 24 to-day that it requires a two-thirds vote to suspend the rules. This decision probably killed for this session the prohibition amendment to the District of Columbia appropriation bill offered by Senator Sheppard of Texas.

Prior to this action the Senate after a sharp debate had voted 49 to 23 to consider the report from the Committee on Rules, which favorably reported Senator Sheppard's resolution, Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska raised the point that it required a two-thirds vote to suspend a rule. The Congressional Record was invoked to prove that only once before—in 1881—had the Senate voted that a majority could suspend the rules, but it went on record to-day that the two-thirds vote was necessary. This is the same rule that prevails in the House, and the rule that is prescribed in Jefferson's "Manual for Parliamentary Bodies" in the absence of a special rule.

The prohibition forces were not dismayed by the vote, although Senator Sheppard admitted he had little hope of securing a two-thirds majority to suspend the rules and permit him to offer his amendment in the House, and he decided that a majority of the Senators probably favored prohibition for the District.

NO SUBMARINES WERE SUNK.

Report of Dover Attack Proves to Be False Alarm.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. LONDON, Jan. 13.—It is untrue that two German submarines have been sunk at Dover as reported earlier in the day. The story seems to have been a false alarm.

The gulls of the forts fired at something in the water which the gunners were unable to identify in the darkness, but they took no chances of allowing hostile submarines to enter.

OLD GUARD WINS FIRST FIGHT IN STATE SENATE

Barnes Slate to Go Through Despite Lieut.-Governor's Opposition.

CAUCUS PICKS SAGE FOR FINANCE HEAD

ALBANY, Jan. 14 (Thursday) A. M.—The Republican caucus adjourned at 12:25, after being in session since 8 o'clock last night, at which it was voted that Senator Henry M. Sage of Albany should be the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. The vote showed twenty-one Senators for Sage, five for Whitney, two for Emerson, one for Hewitt and one for Walters.

A resolution was passed providing that Senator Brown, the Republican leader of the Senate, should name the Senate committees unless Lieut.-Gov. Schoenbeck would agree to approve the list favored by Senator Brown.

Earlier in the day it was apparent that both Emerson and Whitney were out of the race. Those who were opposed to Senator Sage, for fear the public would believe that William Barnes controlled the organization of the Legislature, made a last move by trying to have Lieut.-Gov. Schoenbeck name Senator Argetsinger of Monroe, as chairman of finance instead of the cities committee and give Sage the chairmanship of cities.

When the Republican leaders learned of this move, it was determined to have a caucus to settle the question by a majority vote of the Republican Senators, and Sage won.

Ask Schoenbeck to Give In. All the candidates except Sage waited upon the Lieut.-Governor after the caucus and asked him to abide by the determination of the caucus.

Mr. Schoenbeck refused to hand down the committees as given to him by Senator Brown, so the Republican Senators will draw up a rule whereby Major Leader Brown will hand the committees to the clerk of the Senate to-morrow, detaching any responsibility for the committee from the Lieut.-Governor.

On motion of Senator Wagner, Democratic leader, the Senate adjourned until 11 o'clock to-morrow morning. Senator Sage had only this to say: "The vote in caucus was not on a question of personalities. It was a vote of confidence in the majority leader of the Senate."

Lieut.-Gov. Schoenbeck told the Republican organization leaders that if they wanted to name Senator Sage as chairman of the Finance Committee, they had better amend the Senate rule so that Major Leader Brown will hand the committees to the clerk of the Senate to-morrow, detaching any responsibility for the committee from the Lieut.-Governor.

While there was no open incident tending to connect Gov. Whitman and Lieut.-Gov. Schoenbeck, several Republican Senators declared they knew instances where close friends of Gov. Whitman had endeavored to change the attitude of several Republican Senators who were inclined to be with Sage.

State Chairman Tanner lunched with Lieut.-Gov. Schoenbeck at noon and shortly after this came rumors that the organization didn't feel sure its slate would slip through the Lieut.-Governor's hands. By midnight several Republican Senators said that caucus action would be necessary.

Shortly after the Senate was called to order at 8 o'clock President pro tem, Elen R. Brown moved that a caucus be taken while the Republicans adjourned to the Senate Finance room and the Lieut.-Governor retired to his room.

For more than two hours the Republican Senators were locked in the Finance Committee room and no word came from them. At last Senator J. Henry Walters of Syracuse was sent as an emissary to Lieut.-Gov. Schoenbeck and spent several minutes in conference with him. After Senator Walters reported back to the Republican Senators a committee of three consisting of Argetsinger of Monroe, Wicks of Oneida and Slater of Westchester was sent to confer with the Lieut.-Governor.

Wouldn't Name Slate. The Lieut.-Governor informed the committee that if he was to shoulder the naming of the committees he would not promise to hand down the lists as they were handed to him and that if the Republican Senators did not want him to bear the responsibility for the naming of the committees it would be easy for them to adopt a new rule whereby the President pro tem. would name the committees.

The fight over the Senate chairmanships made it impossible for action to be taken on the investigation of the Public Service Commissions desired by Gov. Whitman. It was thought that when the Senate adjourned the resolution introduced last week would be reported as a committee resolution providing for an investigation of the commissions.

Gov. Whitman said this afternoon that he was not sure whether the investigation would be conducted by a legislative committee or by a commissioner named by him under the Moreland act. He did not expect to send any message to the Legislature on the subject, he said.

DIVORCES WIFE WHO'S TOO RICH.

DETROIT, Jan. 13.—Douglas Cochrane, official stenographer in Judge Vanille's court, obtained a divorce from his wife yesterday because she has an income of \$50,000 a year and insisted on living in fashionable Grosse Pointe. Cochrane insisted that she live on the money he earned, which she refused to do. Cochrane four years ago Mrs. Cochrane's father came into a fortune, part of which was settled on her. She immediately joined the fashionable colony at Grosse Pointe. Cochrane refused to join her, saying it would compromise his manhood. He collapsed when the decree was signed.

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BORAH LASHES PRESIDENT AS A PARTY BOSS

Senator Chooses Challenge He Says Wilson Made at Indianapolis.

SCATHING IN ATTACK ON POLICY IN MEXICO

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Republicans in the Senate to-day accepted the challenge thrown at them by President Wilson in his Indianapolis speech. Senator Borah of Idaho served notice on Mr. Wilson that the Republican Senators would not have to be reminded from now on of the fact that "our Chief Magistrate professes leadership of a party to a Chief Magistracy of an entire people."

Mr. Borah is one of the most forceful speakers in the Senate and he reviewed the President's Indianapolis speech with keen sarcasm. Especially did he hold up for condemnation the infringement on the legislative branch of the Government, represented by the President's verbal picture of himself as "captain of the team" ordering the Democrats to do as they were bidden or "quit the team." He charged that this method of "bossing" was the same as that employed by Tom Taggart and Charles F. Murphy.

The Idaho Senator quoted Woodrow Wilson the historian to contradict statements made by Woodrow Wilson the politician, and generally delivered the most impressive attack that has yet been made on President Wilson, and particularly his Mexican policy.

It was apparent that Mr. Borah's utterances represented more than his individual views; that they were the answer in the Senate to the Wilson attack at Indianapolis. The speech is likely to bring Senator Borah forward still further as a Republican possibility in 1916.

Accepts Challenge. It was in the very beginning of his speech that Senator Borah served notice that the Republicans of the nation accepted President Wilson's challenge to them as expressed in his Indianapolis speech.

"It is a remarkable address," said Senator Borah, "and its purpose and purport cannot be mistaken or misunderstood. It is a virulent attack upon one of the great political parties of the United States by the Chief Magistrate of the nation, a party in whose traditions millions of its countrymen take great pride and in whose policies and principles they devoutly and patriotically believe. It is not only a challenge to the wisdom of the leaders of that party but it assails the intelligence and the patriotism of its rank and file."

"All this was done, Mr. President, at a time when the country was in need of united wisdom and patriotism to deal with these matters which have been rendered delicate by reason of foreign conditions, at a time when there ought to be presented upon these matters not a divided country but a united one."

"But, Mr. President, we accept the challenge which has been thrown down by the President. We do not mean to legislate which we deem to be wise or just, we shall, notwithstanding his admonitions and his threats, hold ourselves perfectly free to do as we see fit, and we mean to do our duty to our country, and we mean to do it in a way which we deem to be wise and just. Having arrived at the conclusion that the President's policy is a party policy, we shall, notwithstanding his admonitions and his threats, hold ourselves perfectly free to do as we see fit, and we mean to do our duty to our country, and we mean to do it in a way which we deem to be wise and just."

Statement Significant. A moment later Senator Borah added: "The language which the President addressed to the Senate is a most significant statement, I think, that was ever made in regard to a coordinate branch of the Government since the days of Andrew Jackson. It is not only a challenge to the wisdom of the leaders of that party but it assails the intelligence and the patriotism of its rank and file."

Like Murphy Command. "If the President had said, 'If any man shall for unrighteous or for mere patronage purposes or for any indefensible reason assume to break the solidarity of the Democratic party' he would have been shrouded with 'unenviable notoriety.'"

Commenting further on this statement by the President the Senator from Idaho said: "Mr. President, that is the sole and central principle upon which every corrupt machine was ever organized or put into existence."

Perforate It With Pin and You Can Read, Says Dr. Lesage. PARIS, Jan. 13.—At a meeting of the Academy of Medicine to-day, Dr. Lesage recommended a novel method for reading print for the use of those who happen to have forgotten their spectacles. The method is to take a piece of paper and perforate it with a pin, thus making numerous small holes. The paper must be held close to the eye and the reading matter at a distance from the eyes.

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Some of the latter places report much material damage and many wounded but no loss of life. Reports from other towns tell of the recovery of some bodies and say that there are scores of bodies in the ruins and in crevasses in the earth.

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OVER 10,000 REPORTED DEAD IN CENTRAL ITALIAN TOWNS ROCKED BY EARTHQUAKE



The map shows the region of Italy affected by the earthquake yesterday. In Rome some buildings were damaged. The region of the disturbance extends directly east as far as the Abruzzi. The greatest damage is reported to have occurred at Avezzano, in the center of the area affected, where reports say the dead number 8,000. These early reports are admittedly estimates.

U. S. Offers Britain Plan to Avert Dacia Seizure

State Department Suggests That Ship Bought From German Owners Be Permitted to Sail for Rotterdam as Neutral Port.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Negotiations were instituted by the United States to-day through which it is hoped to induce the British Government not to challenge the recent sale of the Hamburg-American steamer Dacia to an American capitalist.

It is proposed that the Dacia, which is loading a cargo of cotton at Galveston for Bremen, Germany, shall sail for Rotterdam, Holland, instead of to the German port to which her cargo originally was consigned.

It has been clearly indicated to officials here that the British Government would challenge the transfer of the Dacia from German to American registry if she attempted to engage in direct trade with Germany. Owners of the cotton which the Dacia is to carry are said to be apprehensive lest their interests suffer, and the State Department is attempting to learn whether or not Great Britain will waive her objections in case the Dacia goes to Rotterdam, a neutral port.

This proposition was discussed with Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British Ambassador, by State Department officials to-day, but no definite conclusion was reached, chiefly for the reason that the Ambassador was unable to commit his Government to specific action. The case therefore will be taken up with the British Government by Ambassador Page at London.

It seems certain that in any event the British will hold up the Dacia, at least to satisfy themselves as to the contents of her cargo. Whether this detention will be accompanied by an investigation of her chance of registry can be stated only by the British Government, and consequently an appeal to London is about to be made in the matter.

Officials of this Government are prepared to contend that trade with Rotterdam is quite distinct from trade direct with Bremen, but there appears to be doubt as to whether the British will so regard it under the circumstances. A decision adverse to the Dacia and her cargo would deal a severe blow at what is understood to be the Administration's plan to use the ship purchase bill, if it passes, as authority for buying German and Austrian steamships tied up in American ports and employing them in carrying American cotton to Germany and Austria.

Should the ship purchase bill fail, it is believed that American capital would not be slow to take over the foreign vessels and put them into service. It is understood that options have already been secured on many of them, the holders of the options planning either to sell to the United States or to private interests in case a favorable decision is had in the Dacia case.

It is appreciated in London that consent to permit the Dacia to trade with Germany would result probably in the sale of a great many other German and Austrian ships. This is believed to be one of the reasons that London has recently shown a disposition to object to the transfer of the Dacia being recognized as valid.

Should Great Britain decide to test the case of the Dacia it will have a number of points to raise against the vessel. In the first place the British are prepared to charge that the fact that the Dacia was sold for less than her value warrants a rigid investigation into the transfer to determine whether it is a subterfuge upon the part of the original owners to obtain the vessel's freedom.

TO SEIZE DACIA. England Decides on Action if Ship Sails for Bremen. Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. LONDON, Jan. 13.—The Sun correspondent understands that the British Government has decided to seize the steamship Dacia, recently sold by the Hamburg-

STEEL MAN AND TWO RESCUERS DROWNED

Robert Oliver, Nephew of U. S. Senator From Pennsylvania, Victim of Boat Accident.

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 13.—Three men were drowned and one rescued from death in the Monongahela River this afternoon. Two of the men were drowned when they attempted to rescue two others who had been thrown into the river by the capsizing of their boat.

The drowned are: Robert Oliver, 36 years old, superintendent and a member of the corporation of the Oliver Iron and Steel Company, son of D. B. Oliver, president of the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education, and nephew of United States Senator George T. Oliver, William Niehaus, Evansville, Ind., Thomas Mooney, Duquesne.

Oliver and Edward Hetzel boarded a skiff at the mill and rowed about in the river. Near the Smithfield street bridge they were caught in a swift current and swirled around. Hetzel stood up in the boat and cried for help. The boat finally capsized.

Hetzel attempted to swim to shore, but Oliver sank almost immediately. Hetzel's cries were heard by several skiffs at a boat house, who threw ropes into the stream and pulled Hetzel to safety. William Niehaus and Thomas Mooney, who were on the north bank, secured a boat and started across the river to the rescue. About half way across an earlock broke, and after much difficulty they managed to steer their boat to the place where Oliver and Hetzel had been thrown into the water. Their boat, however, was caught in the swirl and capsized and both men sank before aid could reach them.

Vast Area From Rome to the Adriatic Feels Greatest Shock in Years.

SCORES OF TOWNS ARE NOTHING BUT RUINS

Unconfirmed Report Says 1,400 Lives Were Lost in Avezzano.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN CAPITAL SUFFER

St. Peter's Damaged—Column of Marcus Aurelius Is Twisted.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. ROME, Jan. 13.—An earthquake that lasted for thirty-four seconds this morning laid waste a large section of central Italy, killed probably more than 10,000 persons and injured 15,000, destroyed priceless works of art, levelled thousands of buildings and caused a panic throughout the stricken area that has not yet abated.

The exact extent of the damage done cannot be ascertained at present because communications with many towns and villages in the path of the upheaval are interrupted, but from scores of places there come to-night frantic appeals for aid of every sort—food, medicines, doctors and nurses.

The shock, which was first felt at 7:56 o'clock this morning, apparently did the greatest damage in a region including Rome, Naples, Avezzano and the region to the south and east of the capital. It is announced officially that the centre of the disturbance was between Campobasso and Sarno.

Rome was just getting about its business for the day when of a sudden buildings rocked, the earth writhed and the crashing of broken structures was heard on every hand, in the Quirinal, at the Vatican, in the humblest dwellings as well as in the proudest. Scores of people were thrown to the ground, thousands rushed about in terror, many believing and crying aloud that God was visiting His punishment upon those who had offended Him, upon the human race for allowing the great war.

Pope Feels Shock. The Pope was reciting the thanksgiving after the morning mass when the walls of the papal dwelling rocked and groaned under the shock. The pontiff retained his self-possession and sent emissaries to ascertain the harm done both without and within the Vatican.

King Victor Emmanuel, hearing that the people of Rome were in terror and that many persons had been killed, entered the royal equipage and drove about the streets for some hours, hoping that his presence would reassure the public and stay the panic. The police and military authorities took control of the situation at once, forced fear-crazed men, women and children out of tottering structures, checked wild rushes of those blinded by dread and generally restored matters to a normal condition.

Naples has been hard hit by the catastrophe, comparable only to the Messina disaster of 1908. There is scarcely a tower or hamlet in a region embracing several hundred square miles that has not suffered.

So far as is known to-night Avezzano, a historic town of about 8,000 inhabitants, on the site of a buried lake, in the Province of the Abruzzi, sixty-seven miles east of Rome, has been practically wiped out.

It is reported that 1,400 persons there lost their lives and the list is expected to grow when full information is forthcoming. Next in extent of casualties is Ailli, where there are 1,000 dead and 500 injured. Arpino has 150 dead, and the towns of Torres, Castani and Pippi, the latter near Florence, furnish a large quota. Frascati, Citta Ducale, Rocca di Papa, Albano, Aricia, Vicovaro, Sonnino, Cerveteri, Palestrina and Sanvito also have suffered.

Many Bodies in Ruins. Some of the latter places report much material damage and many wounded but no loss of life. Reports from other towns tell of the recovery of some bodies and say that there are scores of bodies in the ruins and in crevasses in the earth.

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