

THE FOR TAT IN WAR OF STARVATION, FEAR FOR BRITAIN'S FOOD

Warning That New Declaration of Contraband on Foodstuffs May React Possibilities of Blockade.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—While Germany's implied threat of a blockade of both the British Isles and the west coast of France is not regarded seriously here, the question of food imports, nevertheless, is giving pause to the populace, if not to officials. It is conceded that the German submarine menace to British shipping is not to be disregarded. And now that Great Britain virtually has declared foodstuffs contraband of war, it is pointed out that there is possibility of that policy reacting against this country.

Britain's food supply is sufficient for no more than 60 days, according to the best expert estimates, and the German boast of a submarine blockade, to a degree menacing to the food supply of the country, is not considered altogether idle.

Operations of the German submarine flotilla have demonstrated clearly their wide radius. Almost encircling the British Isles is a trail of wreckage, victims of the "undersea Emdens" of the German navy. Five merchant ships already have been sent to the bottom off British shores. Others have been pursued, and the boldness of the raiders has given the people here concern regarding the avenues for Britain's food supplies.

Thus far Great Britain has found no craft or device effective in combating the submarine. The undersea machines have inflicted the greatest damage suffered by the navy and by British commerce, while the raiders themselves have been the least sufferers. Now the Admiralty is gathering a huge fleet of steam fishing trawlers, known as the "mosquito fleet," in an effort to protect its ships. The worth of these craft in mine-sweeping operations is yet to be proved. More than 500 of these vessels have been requisitioned for this work.

While the submarine is really feared, the threat of a blockade can scarcely have any foundation, in the general opinion here. To declare such a blockade Germany must show a fleet sufficient in strength to conduct its operations after eliminating the British fleet. It is known no such strength can be mustered. The Powers would not recognize a "paper blockade," such as Napoleon attempted. The United States must be convinced, and the present status is far from convincing.

Admiralty assurance are to the effect that the seas are free from German interference and that Britain stands in no fear of suffering even curtailment of its food supplies. Yesterday in Paris Sir Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, said:

"German commerce is ruined. Those of their ships which have not fallen into our hands have taken refuge in neutral ports, where they have been disarmed, and now the sea is free.

"Thanks to this freedom of the seas, almost the whole of Asia is open to us and our allies as an inexhaustible source of supplies. We can say the same of Australia and Africa, and that means four-fifths of the world."

CONTRABAND POLICY.

These assurances appear convincing enough, but now that Britain has taken the stand that foodstuffs are contraband articles, the people generally are less confident. There is no doubt here that Germany intends fully to carry out Admiral von Tirpitz's threat of using the submarine in his campaign to starve Britain, already seriously launched. The press of London in the last few days has issued veiled warnings, one journal going so far as to state candidly that Britain should go slow in its contraband declarations, intimating that the action, designed to starve Germany and its ally, might result in disastrous force against Great Britain itself.

TURK TROOPS DROWNED IN ATTACK ON SUEZ CANAL

British Repulse Attempt to Cross South of Suez.

CAIRO, Egypt, Feb. 4.—By clever maneuvering British troops inflicted a severe defeat yesterday upon Turkish forces which had undertaken a raid on the Suez Canal. The Turks were allowed to bring a considerable quantity of bridging material in the dark hours to Tuzum, between Ismailia and Serapeum.

They reached the canal bank without molestation, but when they were starting bridging operations the British attacked strongly, throwing them into disorder and causing them to leave all their material behind. A number of Turks were killed, some of whom were drowned.

Another attack, which was made by daylight upon El Kantara, further north on the canal, was easily repulsed. The British loss was three wounded. The Turks had 16 killed and wounded and left 40 prisoners in the hands of the British.

RUSSIANS CAPTURE SKEMPE IN ADVANCE TO THORN

Czar's Offensive Has Pushed Foe Back 30 Miles.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 4.—The Russian offensive in East Prussia has driven the Germans back more than 30 miles.

Victory north of the Vistula has aroused enthusiasm here. It was taken to indicate success in the resumption of the Russian drive on the Prussian frontier of Thorn.

The Grand Duke's army captured Skempe, half way between Lipno and Wroclaw by an infantry onslaught. The German retreat in the direction of Lipno, which still held. A vigorous German attack south of Lipno along the Vistula was repulsed.

Skempe is 25 miles southeast of Thorn and an important position in connection with the drive against the German fortifications and supply base.

G. M. WAGNER REPORTED DEAD

Lawyer Fled From City When Accused of Embezzlement.

George M. Wagner, whose career as an attorney came to an abrupt close when he fled from this city in June, 1913, when accused of embezzling \$250,000, is reported to have died on Tuesday in New Orleans. Word to this effect has been received here from several sources.

Wagner's death is not known. He was hunted for him all over the country, and it has been learned that one of the men interested in the case is now in his way to New Orleans to make arrangements.

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

FRENCH

To the north of the Lys there was an artillery combat yesterday, this being particularly violent in the region of Nieupoit.

At Notre Dame de Lorette, southwest of Lens, a German attack launched on the afternoon of February 3 was driven back by the fire of our artillery, which likewise arrested a trench attack directed against the road between Arras and Bethune. In the region of Albert and of Queuoy-en-Santerre we destroyed several blockhouses.

Throughout the valley of the Aisne there was an artillery combat, in which we gained the advantage.

The three attacks reported last night against our trenches in the region of Perthes, Moulins-la-Marchais and Masnières were made by forces of the enemy equal to a battalion at each point. The troops engaged in the first two were dispersed under the fire of our artillery. The third, to the north of Masnières, took advantage of the explosion of a mine to force itself forward. The entire position was retaken by us. New trenches were built by us at a distance of several yards from those which the Germans had wrecked and which had become uninhabitable.

GERMAN

On the front between the North Sea and Rheims there were only artillery combats yesterday. French attacks near Perthes were repulsed with losses for the enemy.

North and northwest of Maasiges, northwest of St. Menehould, the Germans attacked yesterday. They stormed three successive trenches, one behind the other, and occupied the main French position on a front of two kilometers (about 1 1/2 miles). All the French counter-attacks which continued during the night were repulsed. Seven officers and 601 soldiers were taken prisoners. Nine machine guns and nine smaller guns and much material were also taken.

RUSSIAN

The Russians in East Prussia have occupied fortified positions at Gross Medunishken on the left bank of the Angerap, which our troops have succeeded in crossing after obstinate resistance. Fighting is becoming more frequent there and also more extensive.

On the right bank of the Vistula (northern Poland) fighting is proceeding on the Lipno-Biesun front. The Russians have captured Skempe and repelled the enemy from Blino with heavy loss. We captured the commander of a German battalion, three other officers and 140 men.

AUSTRIAN

Russian attacks, continuing even during the night in the region of Bialki Pass, have been repulsed with heavy Russian losses. The fighting in the middle of the wooded mountains is taking a favorable turn.

We and our allies yesterday captured a thousand prisoners and several machine guns while winning heights which were stubbornly defended by the enemy.

BRITISH

During Tuesday night the enemy attempted to cross the Suez Canal near Toussoum, 35 miles north of Suez. They were permitted to bring bridging material to the bank of the canal unmolested, but directly they started bridging operations our troops attacked, and the enemy fled in disorder, leaving all the material in our hands.

Several of the enemy were drowned. The enemy also attacked on the El Kantara front, 40 miles south of Port Said, at daylight today. They were easily repulsed, losing 15 killed or wounded and 40 prisoners. Our casualties were three men wounded.

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 4.—General Alvaro Obregon has opened a campaign against Villa's forces north of this city with the purpose of driving the convention's forces into northern Mexico and preventing them from reaching Tampico. It was announced today that several thousand Carranzistas had arrived at San Juan del Rio, about 54 miles north of Mexico City in the State of Queretaro, and additional troops are being sent from the capital as rapidly as possible.

General Obregon will go to the front and take personal command of the whirlwind campaign against the Villistas. Only enough troops will be kept here to keep the hostile Zapatistas still lingering about the capital from making any raids here.

AUSTRO-GERMANS TAKE 1000 PRISONERS IN CARPATHIANS

Vienna Admits Czar's Stubborn Attacks in Mountains.

VIENNA, Feb. 4.—Austro-German forces operating in the Carpathians captured 1000 Russian prisoners and several machine guns in a successful assault upon a strong position held by the enemy on a mountain range, it was stated officially today.

The Russians are on the offensive at several points along the mountain. Their attacks were described as "very stubborn," but the War Office declared they were being repulsed.

PENROSE GOES TO WASHINGTON

Senator Has Been Confined to His Home for Three Weeks.

Senator Boies Penrose left for Washington today to vote on the shipping bill. It was his first appearance on the street since he was stricken with pleurisy three weeks ago.

After casting his vote, Senator Penrose will return to his city and arrange for a trip to Florida. Senator Penrose said he was feeling better and intended to spend three weeks in Florida.

CZAR'S FRONT FROM BLACK SEA TO BALTIC



Scattering of troops and dissipation of energy have marked the Russian campaign during the first six months of the war. At present the front varies slightly from that of the early days of hostilities, excepting for the addition of Transcaucasia to the fighting zone. At various times in the past drives have been launched at Koenigsberg, Thorn, Graudenz, Cracow, Przemysl and Budapest. These still remain the Russian objectives, as lack of concentration has frustrated successive moves directed east Prussia, Galicia and Hungary.

"FAR FLUNG BATTLE LINE" BARRIER TO SLAV SUCCESS

Czar's Numerous Drives Lack Force Needed for Decisive Results, as Concentration Is Impossible in Vast Area Covered by Campaigns.

The Czar's "far-flung battle line," stretching with few gaps, from the Baltic to the Black Sea, appeals more to the poet than to the practical mind of the military strategist, as its very length makes for diffusion of effort over a wide range, and a consequent lack of achievement commensurate with the forces in the field, the resources employed and the energy expended.

More than a hundred years ago military historians stressed the ability of the Slavs in defensive campaigns. Of this Napoleon's wording in his Russian invasion and his disastrous retreat from Moscow last August by the repulse of two drives which brought Cossack outposts as far as Mieschow and Wielka in the Cracow operations; by the November raid which carried the Russian vanguard to Pleschen on the border of Posen, and threatened both Posen and Breslau; by the overflow into the plains of Hungary in October, and by divers movements directed against the great Prussian stronghold of Thorn.

For Slav war history continues its repetitions. At present oft-remembered paths are again trod by Russian corps. Late last week a new drive began against Koenigsberg, by which it was hoped to gain the East Prussian capital by way of Tilsit. This apparently has been checked.

Most spectacular of Russian drives has been that against Cracow, and on two occasions the goal has been almost within the grasp of the invaders of Galicia. But for weeks now the column moving through the Austrian province has been held at Tarnow and along the Donajec River, while that proceeding against Cracow through southwestern Poland evidently has ceased operations as a separate campaign. Advantages won but not held in Galicia have left the net result of possession of Lemberg, toward the Czar's home territory, and of western Galicia as a base of operations against the Austrian forces, strengthened by Germans in the Carpathians.

A sweep of Hungary through the mountain defiles, the logical consequence of mastery of Galicia, and a definite menace of Budapest and even Vienna.

Entry of Turkey into the war further dissipated Russian energy. The first Armenian drive failed and nothing decisive is to be reported now from this OHI region. South of Batum, in the Ardagan fighting, it is not yet certain that a significant success has been won. The Russians have the advantage in the battle for possession of Tabriz.

At home, in Poland proper, the Russians are spread over several fronts, only one of which is accomplishing its purpose, that guarding Warsaw, from Novo Georgievsk on the north to Ivan-gorod on the south. Here Marshal von Hindenburg's offensive, this time more resolute, if less ferocious, than that of two months ago, also against the Polish capital, has been blocked, though the German commander by no means has given up the battle, despite the severities of the winter weather.

Here, too, the Russian lack of concentration has been in evidence, for instead of a supreme effort to duplicate the sweep of some time ago by which Hindenburg was forced homeward by a massed frontal attack, the Russians have launched new movements against Thorn and against Mlawa, futile as operations there have proved during the seven times the city on the Poland-East Prussia border has changed masters since the war began.

The eastern war zone is too widespread to permit diversion of forces and energies. Concentration is essential for achievement in this vast area. Six months of the war prove that Russia has not yet learnt to concentrate. The Czar has too many fronts. In consequence he has not yet won any permanent results, any victory that has been clinched and abiding in its effects on the destinies of the war.

GERMANS PRESS BACK FOE IN NIEMEN RIVER FIGHT

Only Desultory Engagements in Thorn Movement, Official Report Says.

BERLIN, Feb. 4.—Around Tilsit the northern Russian army that attempted a march on Koenigsberg was pressed back by the Germans in an engagement along the Niemen River, today's official report announces.

On the north bank of the Vistula, in Poland, where the Russians are attempting an advance upon Thorn, only unimportant skirmishes have occurred between detachments of infantry, following cavalry engagements.

The Russians are making desperate counter attacks west of Warsaw with the object of hitting von Mackensen's new advance upon the Polish capital. They have suffered heavy losses in a series of night attacks that broke down in every instance under the fire of German artillery. The number of Russian prisoners taken in these trench battles increases daily.

CZAR FORCES PASSAGE OF EAST PRUSSIA RIVER

Captures Fortified Position Within Striking Distance of Insterburg.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 4.—The Russian force operating southeast of Insterburg forced a crossing of the Angerap, south of Darkehmen. Despite desperate resistance the Czar's column has captured fortified posts at Gross Medunishken.

Crossing the Angerap River in East Prussia brings the Czar's troops within striking distance of Insterburg, the capture of which would permit the launching of a campaign against Koenigsberg.

BRITISH FEAR NEW DRIVE: RUSH TROOPS TO FRONT

Contingent of 47,000 Hurried Across Channel to Reinforce Lines.

LONDON, Feb. 4.—Within the last three days the British War Office has sent about 47,000 fresh British troops across the Channel to meet a new offensive movement which the Germans are expected to make all along the line in west Flanders and northern France.

General Joffre, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied armies, and Field Marshal Sir John French, commander of the British expeditionary forces, learned through spies and the allied aerial services that the Germans have been massing men and artillery along the northern front for about 10 days.

FRENCH AIR RAIDERS SHELL ADRIANOPLE IN FLIGHT FROM AEGEAN

Sortie From Entrance of Dardanelles to Bombard Turkish City—"Effective Execution" Reported.

ATHENS, Feb. 4.—French aviators, operating from the international fleet over the western entrance to the Dardanelles, have bombarded the Turkish city of Adrianople, where they did effective execution, according to a wireless dispatch from Salonika.

Adrianople is about 120 miles from the point in the Aegean Sea where the French and British warships are carrying on their bombardment. It would be easy for the airmen to keep over Turkish waters and Turkish soil in making the flight without menacing the neutrality of Bulgaria, whose soil now extends south to the Aegean Sea.

GERMANS TAKE THREE LINES OF TRENCHES AT MASSIGES

Capture of 608 Prisoners Announced in Berlin.

BERLIN, Feb. 4.—The capture of the main French position north and northwest of Massiges, in the Champagne region, is announced in an official report from the German General Staff issued here this afternoon. It states that three successive French trenches were captured by the German troops yesterday along a front of more than a mile, and that these have been held, despite the continued counter-attacks of the French soldiers.

The report declares that in the fighting around Massiges the Germans captured seven officers, 601 soldiers and 18 guns, together with a large quantity of war material.

(The French reports today admit the loss of trenches at Massiges, but say they were afterward retaken.)

GERMANS POUND RUSSIANS' FRONT WEST OF WARSAW

Bitter Fight Centres at Goumine—Czar's Aviators Drop Bombs on Foe's Concentration Camps.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 4.—All Poland, from Warsaw to the Prussian frontier, is now a bloody battleground. Official dispatches today reported furious German attacks along the Bzura. Southwest of Warsaw the Czar's aviators rained bombs with deadly effect upon German concentration camps at Rawa, Brestany and several other points along the railroads.

Many German soldiers were killed by the aviators in their aerial bombardment of the positions held by the Kaiser's troops southwest of Warsaw. Official announcement of the successful operations of the aviators was made here today.

Hundreds of wounded Russian soldiers and many German prisoners are arriving in Warsaw daily. Most of these are from the Bzura region, where the most desperate fighting has been in progress for a week. The trenches near Borszymow are now so close together, they reported, that rifle fire scarcely ever ceases. All night German artillery plays upon the Russian trenches.

Stubborn hand-to-hand fighting continues at all hours, with both sides suffer-

ing severe losses. Goumine is still held by Russian forces, though the enemy is making desperate attacks in that region. It is acknowledged in today's official report.

Berlin, in an official statement yesterday, announced the capture of Goumine, west of Warsaw, in the vicinity of Bolnow and Goumine, the Germans are continuing their terrific attacks upon the Russian lines. In their operations the Germans are using about 4,000 machine guns in their furious attacks. The Germans are suffering heavy losses, but are bringing up fresh troops to replace the killed and injured.

BOERS RUSH TO SURRENDER

Kemp Reported to Have Given Up Fight in Africa.

CAPETOWN, South Africa, Feb. 4.—Boer rebels throughout South Africa are surrendering rapidly.

It was announced here today that Commander Kemp and his force had yielded to the troops of the Union without fighting, while a dispatch from Pretoria tells of the surrender of Burger Maritz's soldiers at Kokomoa.

SHORE DINNER. Patronized by the Best. NEW MAPLE FLOOR FOR DANCING. IN THE BLACKSMITH SHOP. BOOKBINDER'S. 125 WALNUT ST.

Zimmerman's MEN'S SHOES. 1312 Chestnut St. 1232 Market St. Market Street Shop Open Evenings.

Final Clean-Up Sale

Another cut in prices to effect a quick clean up of all remaining winter weights, short lines & discontinued styles. Savings of \$1.00 to \$3.00 per pair. Grouped in three lots as follows:

- In Both Our Stores for Men. \$4.50 and \$5.00 Shoes. \$3.65. \$5, \$6 and \$6.50 Shoes. \$4.20. \$6.50, \$7 and \$8 Shoes. \$4.90.



THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

The Pinch of Poverty

THE whole world is feeling the pinch of hard times. Thrifty people are cutting off luxuries and are trying to get out of debt. Even the richest corporations are keeping down expenses and are postponing expansions. The railroads are merely living from hand to mouth. Why shouldn't the National Government fall into line and put the soft pedal on all needless expenditures?

Economy and Efficiency in the Federal Government

By Former President Taft. IN two notable articles, bristling with common sense and exact information, Mr. Taft tells how to save a million here and a million there until a vast total has been reached. The means he proposes are specific and practical and were first proposed by a non-partisan committee that made a profound study of national finances during the Taft Administration. The first of these articles appears this week.

Other Features in This Number

Illustrated articles and stories by Emerson Hough, Charles E. Van Loan, Arthur Stringer, Forrest Crissey, Will Payne, Harry Leon Wilson and others.

OUT TODAY. Five Cents the Copy of all Newsdealers. THE CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY. INDEPENDENCE SQUARE, PHILADELPHIA.

SUNDAY OUTINGS. From Market Street Wharf. \$1.00. From Broad Street Station. \$2.00. Pennsylvania R. R.

WINTER RESORTS. Ledger Central will supply you with full information about winter resorts in any section of the country. THE CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY. BALCONY. LEDGER CENTRAL. BROAD AND CHESTNUT STS.