

65th YEAR

RICHMOND, VA., SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1915.

PRICE, FIVE CENTS

PRUSSIA READY TO REAP REWARD

It Will Annex Alsace-Lorraine as Part of Fruits of Victory.

LONG PLANNED BY KAISER

Action Heretofore Impossible Because of Jealousy Among Kingdoms.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] BERLIN, December 25.—At a time when the enemies of Germany have openly proclaimed that the principal object of the war is to crush forever the Prussian hegemony in Germany, the Kaiser's government announces that the moment has come to realize the plan for the Greater Prussia of which the Kaiser has always dreamed.

NO ONE DARES TO DENY

PRUSSIAN SUPREMACY

No one in Germany today, even in Bavaria or Saxony, thinks of denying the fact so persistently proclaimed by the Kaiser during these last months that the splendid results achieved in this war are in the first place due to the splendidly organized and brilliantly led Prussian army.

It will be the opinion of the Kaiser, who is first of all King of Prussia, never be possible to find a more propitious moment. The former Reichsland (Alsace-Lorraine) must be made a province of Prussia while that kingdom stands on the ruins of her military power.

There are people in Germany who see in this desire on the part of the Kaiser, at a time like the present, a secret fear that if the annexation is delayed until the end of the war some unforeseen calamity may prevent it.

With Alsace-Lorraine added to the present kingdom, the Kaiser as King of Prussia will tower head and shoulders above the other Kings of the empire, namely, those of Bavaria, Saxony and Wuertemberg.

Alsace-Lorraine ranks sixth in size among the twenty-six states that make up the empire, coming immediately after the four kingdoms and the Grand Duchy of Baden.

Now that this internal jealousy has at least temporarily disappeared and the position of Prussia as the dominating power in Germany has been so fully established, the probability of a strong opposition against the annexation is very slight. But it will undoubtedly be maintained in Bavaria that the common enemies of Germany ought first to be defeated and peace established before the Kaiser, as King of Prussia, proceeds to put his house in order.

HAS PLAYED FULL PART

GIVEN BY HISMAK

Alsace-Lorraine has now in full played the part given to it by the statesmanship of Bismarck, who made it the common property of all the states of the empire he created, in order that they might forget their mutual jealousy and distrust in face of the danger that was constantly threatening them from the French republic.

POPE FITTEST TO LEAD

Cardinal Vannutelli Thinks Christmas Is Proper Time to Make New Peace Effort.

ROME, December 25.—In his address to Pope Benedict yesterday on the occasion of the reception by the Pontiff of the sacred college which visited him to extend Christmas greetings, Cardinal Vannutelli said that no better time than Christmas could be chosen to speak of peace in a year in which there has been so much sorrow and bloodshed. The cardinal declared that the Pope is the fittest to take the lead in restoring peace, right and justice, having no interest of his own to further. The Pontiff's post as "Vicar of the King of Peace" entitles him to be mediator for the good of humanity, said Cardinal Vannutelli.

IN HANDS OF JUDGE HUNT

Five Days of Argument to Dismiss Cases Against New Haven Directors at an End.

NEW YORK, December 25.—At the conclusion yesterday of five days of argument on motions to dismiss the case against them, the fate of William Rockefeller and ten former directors of the New Haven, charged with conspiracy to monopolize commerce, was placed in the hands of Judge Hunt. He has the power to dismiss the indictment against all eleven of the defendants, as not having been sustained by the government's evidence, or to direct a verdict of acquittal against any of them individually. He announced that he would render his decision next Tuesday.

British Casualties Above Half Million

Detailed List Given in House of Commons by Premier Asquith.

LONDON, December 25.—Replying to a written question by P. A. Molteno, member of the House of Commons, Premier Asquith yesterday gave the total British casualties up to December 9 as 528,227.

Detailed lists of the casualties as given by Premier Asquith corrected the figures concerning losses at the Dardanelles given yesterday in the house. At that time the casualties up to December 11 were given as 112,921, a smaller total than the Premier gave today for the operations to December 9.

Table with columns: Other, Officers, Rank, Total. Rows include Flanders and France, Dardanelles, Other theaters, Grand total.

FISH INDUSTRY DECLINES

Shad and Lobsters Reported as Disappearing Rapidly From Waters of United States.

WASHINGTON, December 25.—Shad and lobsters are disappearing rapidly from American waters, despite artificial propagation efforts, according to the annual report yesterday of the United States Bureau of Fisheries. Co-operation and aid by State fishery authorities is suggested as a remedy for threatened depletion.

Shad fishing in the Chesapeake Basin last year was the poorest known, said the report. Hatcheries maintained by the bureau are inactive through inability to obtain eggs, it added.

The decline in the lobster industry, the report declared, was viewed with great uneasiness. More efficiency in artificial propagation was urged as necessary to arrest diminution.

FOR DEFENSE OF CANAL

Gophals, Edwards and Grant Will Make Recommendations to War and Navy Departments.

PANAMA, December 25.—Major-General Gophals, Governor of the Canal Zone; Brigadier-General Clarence R. Edwards and Rear-Admiral Albert W. Grant, commanding the Atlantic Submarine Fleet, at conferences being held here, are said to be discussing locations for submarine bases at both ends of the Panama Canal, with a view to bringing a larger underwater fleet to the isthmus. It is also understood that they are arranging the location of various mine fields and other defensive measures in which a submarine fleet would play an active part.

NATIONAL LOAN AUTHORIZED

Italian Bonds to Be Redeemable in Twenty-Five Years, but Not Convertible Before 1926.

ROME, December 25.—A royal decree authorizes the issue of a national loan, the bonds to be redeemable in twenty-five years, but not convertible before 1926. The interest is 5 per cent, and the bonds will be free from all taxes, present and future. The issue price is fixed at 97 1/2 lire.

JANET SCUDDER SELECTED

Will Design Gold Medals to Be Presented to A. B. C. Mediators by United States.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW YORK, December 25.—Janet Scudder, who is to design the gold medals the United States will present to the A. B. C. mediators, was selected for the work by President Wilson.

GERMANY WINS WAY, BUT FACES FAMINE

During 1915 Teutonic Arms Conquer Area Greater Than Kaiser's Kingdom.

ALLIES STILL DETERMINED

Peace Talk Fills Papers, but Does Not Emanate From Entente Sources.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW YORK, December 25.—In the year 1915 Teutonic arms have conquered an area greater than Germany. The Kaiser and his allies have overrun the rich industrial and farming regions of Poland, Lithuania and the Baltic provinces, have wrested Galicia and Bukovina from their enemies, have crushed Serbia, have stood off the opposing armies on Gallipoli, the Italian border, and the great range line across France and a corner in Belgium; have hurried back repulsing the British Indian invaders of Mesopotamia.

On the other hand, the solidarity and resolution of the entente allies seem as strong as ever; the British navy retains absolute control of the seas; and the undoubtedly-for-the-moment victorious Germans are facing a serious food famine, which fills her newspapers with such peace talk as is practically unknown among her opponents.

The first important military operation of the year was the second German victory of the Mazurian Lakes. When the year opened, the Muscovites held within the East Prussian border, while holding all but the west salient of Poland and pressing through the passes of the Carpathians after over-running Galicia and most of Bukovina.

In mid-February, breaking their way through deep snows, the marvelously mobile troops of the "Grand Old Man of the Lakes," Field Marshal von Hindenburg, encircled the Russian army of East Prussia, much as they had done in the same spot several months before.

Again the Russian army, realizing fully what was going on, was unable to show the celerity in movement necessary to check the German concentration. Only shattered remnants reached Poland; on February 22 the Germans announced more than 100,000 of their enemies had been captured while the slain are untold.

The Germans pursued across the frontier, took Praznysk on February 26, but were checked by the border fortresses, and on March 1, the Russians recaptured Praznysk, after a considerable victory near-by.

The Russians did a little further to even up the score on March 22, when Pzenyssel fell, after a heroic defense, and 15,000 prisoners were marched off by the Czar. The next day, however, the Germans announced the recapture of the strategic town in the extreme northeastern corner of their country, which had been seized in a sudden raid. To prevent a similar raid, the Germans proceeded to send strong bodies of cavalry into the adjacent Russian Baltic provinces, where they found little opposition.

Meanwhile, the Germans were concentrating for the greatest offensive movement of human history. It started April 26, when Field Marshal von Mackensen unleashed something new in warfare—a battering ram of heavy artillery.

Three thousand guns pounded the Russian lines at Gorlice, Northern Galicia, for three days and nights, and then the German bayonets swept all before them. On and on they went, making steady progress day by day, forcing the Russians to retreat in disorder from the Carpathian passes to avoid the threat of their rear, capturing fortress after fortress.

The Russians, lacking ammunition for their guns, lacking even rifles and sometimes fighting with sharpened sticks, made a desperate resistance, and were killed and captured by the ten thousands.

Pzenyssel was recaptured June 4; Tarnobrod, June 15; Lemberg, June 22, and then the Germans turned from east to north. Lublin fell July 28. With Teutonic armies closing in, Poland from the north, west and east, the capital, Warsaw, fell August 5, and the next day the stronghold of Lvangoz.

On August 8, the Germans arrived at Sereck; on August 9, at I maz; on August 12, at Siedlice; on August 17, at Kovno; on August 19, at Novogorodsk; on August 23, at Ossowice; on August 25, at Iwost-Litvsk; on August 28, at Orlita; on September 3, at Grodno, on September 1, Germany announced she had taken 1,100,000 prisoners since May 2.

The debate assented the Grand Duke Nicholas as commander-in-chief of the Russian armies. On September 8 the Czar sent him to the Caucasus, and assumed command in person.

The second line of Russian defenses proved as easy to them as the first. On September 15, they took Pinsk, and on September 19, Vilna. In the vicinity of the latter city a battle was fought vast enough to stand out even in this succession of major engagements. For several days it seems that the Russian armies had been encircled, but with a burst of clan the Czar's men smashed through the front lines, and for the most part escaped.

TEUTONS DO NOT STOP UNTIL THEY REACH DVINA RIVER

Not until they had reached the line of the Dyvina River and had established a great siege wall right across Russia, with the center based on the Pinsk marshes and the south end on the Stripa, did the Teutons stop.

Then they turned their attention to another field. Serbia had thrown out the Austrians twice. She barred the way to the Turks, who could supply their allies with some foodstuffs, copper and cotton, while themselves needing arms and ammunition.

On October 7 an irresistible invasion (Continued on Third Page.)

How War Map Has Changed in Year 1915



TEUTON GAINS AND LOSSES IN 1915. The shaded area shows the territory greater than that of Germany, which the Teutons and their allies have gained since January 1, 1915. The principal accretions are in Russia, Austria-Hungary and Serbia. There is a slight gain just north of Ypres in the west, and slight losses east of Reims and on two sections of the Austrian boundary.

SIENKIEWICZ APPEALS TO FRIENDS OF POLAND

Famous Novelist Already Collected \$1,000,000, Which Is as Drop in Ocean.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] LONDON, December 25.—While Paderewski, the Polish pianist, has been traveling through America, giving concerts for the benefit of his unhappy countrymen ruined and made homeless in two countries through the war, Poland's other famous son, Henryk Sienkiewicz, the novelist, has been collecting money for the same purposes in the little Swiss town of Vevey.

A writer, who has just visited the author of "Quo Vadis" there, gives the following description of a conversation he had with him:

"I have appealed and am still appealing to all Poles scattered throughout the world," said Mr. Sienkiewicz. "I am appealing to all the friends of Poland and to all lovers of justice. I have already collected \$1,000,000, which have been distributed by our agents and the Polish clergy, with the help of the authorities.

"A million may seem to be a very large amount, but I face of all this misery, it is merely a drop in the ocean. Even poor Belgium has suffered less than we have. While the Belgians could die for their own cause, 1,500,000 Polish soldiers are compelled to fight one another, to murder their own brethren.

"Belgium was ravaged by war through three or four weeks, but for almost a year and a half Poland has been the arena in which the most murderous battles of the war have been fought. Within a territory like that of England and Scotland together, and surpassing in population that of Spain, the immense armies of Russians and Austro-Germans have advanced and retreated several times. You have to see the country to form any idea of what these military movements mean.

From the frontier of Prussia to that of Lithuania the country has been captured and recaptured, village by village, inch by inch. The greater part of the villages were set afire, and thousands of villages were leveled with the ground. You may imagine what is left.

"Before the war there were in the three Polish countries 23,000,000 Poles. One does not ask how many are left now, how many will be left at the end of hostilities. The movements of the armies forced the entire population to flee first in one direction and then in another. First the Russians, retreating, burned everything behind them and took many of the people with them, now the Germans are dragging 400,000 workmen away to use in factories in Germany."

Death of Joseph A. DeBoer. MONTPELIER, VT., December 25.—Joseph A. DeBoer, president of the National Life Insurance Company since 1902, died at his home here today, after an illness of several months, at the age of fifty-four.

FEAR OF DEATH LOSES TERROR FOR SOLDIERS

Even People at Home Have Undergone Great Change in Their Attitude.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] LONDON, December 25.—One of the most remarkable of the many phenomena resulting from the war, both among the soldiers at the front and the people at home, is the change in their attitude towards death. It is a mistake, however, to regard it as a sign of indifference. The real cause is to be sought in the nation's development of the virtues of fortitude and endurance in time of war.

COUNTRY IS ENDURING AGONY

Real Cause Found in Nation's Development of Virtues of Fortitude and Endurance in Time of War.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] LONDON, December 25.—An interesting review of Hungary's economic position during the present war was given to-day by Count Stephan Tisza, the Prime Minister, before a meeting of members of the Hungarian Diet, who have been formed into a committee that is to inquire into the high cost of living problem.

In commenting upon the memorandum which the committee submitted to him for suitable action, Count Tisza, speaking of references made to the satisfactory economic position of Germany, said, among other things:

"It is not my intention to doubt at all that conditions in Germany are not so bad as with us. Germany has not alone the needed economic factors and organizations to prevent this, but it is also on so high a social plane that the solution of a question like this becomes much easier. We must also take into consideration that in Germany living is cheaper than here, even in times of peace. Germany, for instance, has so greatly developed her kitchen gardening that now she has been able to meet many wants with its products. But if we keep in mind the difference in the cost of living in Germany and Hungary, as it exists in times of peace, it will be found that the war prices here and there are almost in the same relation."

COSTLY TO YOUNG OFFICERS

Forced to Buy Swords to Wear During Royal Review, Which Does Not Take Place.

LONDON, December 25.—A curious survival of the martinet spirit of the old army appeared during the recent visit of the King to the British troops in France, when an order was issued that the officers should appear with swords during the royal review. It was a costly order for the young officers, as few were provided with swords, which are the most expensive part of a kit.

Swords are obsolete as part of an officer's equipment in the field. Officers who had them left them at home when they went to the front. A small bamboo cane has taken the place of the sword, except when in action, and then some officers carry rifles.

In anticipation of the royal review, an order was issued at the headquarters for all officers to provide themselves with swords. This piece of antiquated etiquette fell heavily on the purses of the subalterns. The King, on account of falling from his horse, was unable to review his troops, after all. And it is said that the King would have been the last man in England to place this heavy tax on his officers for the sake of mere form, had he known of the order.

GERMANY IS MORE ABLE TO SOLVE FOOD PROBLEM

Hungary Forced to Pay High Prices, and Labor Is Almost Unobtainable.

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PREMIER EXPLAINS POSITION

Denies That He Has Favored Producers as Against Consumers, and Says Government Is Paying Heed to Various Difficulties of People.

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DENIES FAVORING PRODUCER AS AGAINST CONSUMER

Count Tisza Denied that He Had Favored the Producer as Against the Consumer. If such a state of affairs existed, then he was not to blame, he said. It was known that the agrarians had never loved him, and every effort had been made by him to guard against the reproach that he favored one class at the expense of another. Nothing that the Hungarian government could have done would have resulted in bringing more food and other necessities into Hungary from neutral countries, said the Prime Minister. An earlier suspension of import duties would not have helped, because Hungarian importers had been willing to pay this duty themselves, and meat could not be brought from neutral countries, because the enemy was proceeding against neutral shipping in the most merciless fashion, and was now regulating the quantities of food that could be imported by such neutral countries from which Hungary in her turn would obtain supplies.

The application of maximum prices had been made too late, said Count Tisza. But for this two good reasons could be given. In the first place, last year's crop had been overestimated, so that final returns showed a shortage. Secondly, the government had been disinclined to meddle with economic affairs of the country.

CALLS ON DEAD MEN TO RISE AND FIGHT

They Answer Leader's Call and put Germans to Instant Flight.

WAR'S DRAMATIC EPISODE

Seemingly Miraculous Defense of Trench Touches Imagination of France.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] PARIS, December 25.—Perhaps the episode of the whole war which has most touched the imagination of France is the defense of a trench by sorely wounded men under Lieutenant Pericard.

"Dead men, get up!" shouted Pericard as the Germans entered the trench, and a handful of "corpses" drove out the invaders.

The story of this incident is retold by Maurice Barres in the Echo de Paris.

"My section, with three others from different companies, was ordered to attack a German trench," says Lieutenant Pericard. "It was a stiff fight, and we had many killed and wounded."

"All night through we kept up the action with bombs under a torrential downpour of rain, which drenched us to the skin, but we held the trench, and I experienced a great exaltation, dilution of spirit. On two occasions a torpedo knocked me over, covering me with earth and wreckage, and I picked myself up laughing as if at a good joke."

"In the morning we were relieved so that we might have a rest, and we went into a second-line trench and tried to sleep. Towards midday we woke in a hurry. The Germans had just counterattacked with an avalanche of grenades and torpedoes. They were repulsing us. It was panic."

"Not only had they retaken their own trench, but they were reaching ours. Already our men were pressing into the communication trenches, shouting: 'The Boches! The Boches!'"

ONLY NARROW TRENCHES. HOLD BACK FUGITIVES. "Those terrified eyes, those convulsed faces, those twisted mouths! All the officers were wounded; only the narrowness of the communication trenches held back the fugitives, who were crawling one on the other."

"I brushed a passerby for myself through the scared crowd, and still making play with my elbows, called out: 'No, my friends, no! The Boches are not there. They have gone back! They have taken to their heels!'"

"Similar words, passing from mouth to mouth, stopped the retreat a bit. A few volunteers joined me. I leaped forward, and my bomb-throwers scattered their missiles among the Boches, who fell back. It was the first man out of the French trench. I was as sure of my death as I was of the sunshine, but what serenity was mine!"

"Still throwing bombs, we reached the enemy trench and recaptured our position. Before us, in a communication trench leading from the first to the second German line, I had a sand-bag barrier erected, and enjoyed a breathing space."

"Their eyes were rages. A lieutenant—his name escapes me—who has come to support me, and who is smoking a cigarette, laughing at the projectiles, is struck by a bullet above the temple. He leans against the parapet, both hands behind his back, his head slightly bowed."

"The blood pours heavily from the wound, describing a parabola, like wine from the mouth of a cask. His head drops more and more, then his body bends and, more sharply, falls. It is impossible to move a step without treading on a corpse."

"I am suddenly conscious of the precariousness of my fate; my exaltation abandons me; I am afraid. I throw myself behind a heap of sandbags. Only a soldier named Bonnet remains. He is untroubled, and fights on like a lion. I recover myself, shamed by his example."

"A few comrades join us. The day is coming to its close, and we cannot stay thus. To the right there is still nobody. Some thirty meters off I notice an interruption in the trench in the form of an enormous splinter shield. Shall I go to see what is happening there? I hesitate, and then sharply decide."

"The trench is full of French dead; there is blood everywhere. At first I go carefully, with little assurance. I alone with all these dead! Then, little by little, I pluck up courage. I dare to look at these bodies, and to me it seems that they are looking at me. From our own trench behind men watch me with eyes of fear, in which I read: 'He is going to his death.'"

"I turn toward the extended corpses. I think: 'Their sacrifice, then, is to be of no avail; they will have fallen in vain! And the Boches are going to come back! They will steal our dead from us!'"

CALLS ON DEAD MEN TO RISE AND FIGHT

TO AID US AND FIGHT. "A sacred fury gripped me. I have no recollection now of my exact actions or words. All I know is that I shouted something like this: 'Oh there! Up with you! Get up and kick these pigs out of it!'"

"Get up, dead men! A touch of madness? No, for the dead answered me. 'They said to me, 'We follow you.' And, rising at my call, their soul mingled with my soul and made of it a great incandescent mass, a wide river of fused metal."

"There was nothing now that could astonish or stop me. I had the faith that moves mountains, and the exaltation of the thumaturge, who works miracles by his will."

"What happened, then? As I want to tell you only what I remember, disregarding what I was afterwards told, I must frankly admit that I don't know."