

AUSTRIAN BATTLESHIP WIEN IS DESTROYED

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BOSTON CONGRESSMAN FIRES FIRST GUN AGAINST AUSTRIA

Diplomats Of Russia Dismissed

Refusal of Ambassadors to Denounce Kerensky Government is the Cause — Bolshevik Disperses Senate.

Petrograd, Monday, Dec. 10—Leon Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, has issued a decree dismissing all Russian ambassadors and their staffs because they ignored the Bolshevik demand that they denounce the Kerensky government.

"We have declared them deprived of all further rights and pensions," Trotsky said.

The Bolsheviks have dispersed the senate, the highest Russian court, and all the other courts of Petrograd in keeping with the recent decree of the people's commissaries substituting new revolutionary tribunals. The only opposition met was at the congress of county judges, who refused to be dispersed. They were arrested by soldiers.

The soldiers, peasants and workmen in each district, according to the proclamation, name a permanent president of the court and six jurors, the latter serving only one week. They have full power to impose fines, imprisonment and banishment. Each juror can cause an arrest in an emergency, but the entire court must approve later. Any member can cause a prisoner to be released. The Petrograd advances congress has decided to ignore the law.

Announcement was made today that revolutionary courts would be established throughout the country on Dec. 20 to assist in carrying on the struggle of the Bolshevik government against counter-revolution and to stop brigandage, sabotage and espionage. Members of the courts will be revolutionaries chosen by local councils of soldiers and workmen's delegates.

According to the announcement the courts will have free choice of means of dealing with those who disobey the orders of the revolutionary leaders.

FURTHER RAISE IN FARE LIKELY, ADMITS STORRS

Despite the fact that the public utilities commission of the state is trying to decide whether or not the Connecticut Co. is justified in charging a six cent fare President Storrs of the company stated at the hearing yesterday that no doubt the company officials would soon file a petition requesting the privilege of a greater increase.

The added increase would be effective on all lines in the state, including this city. President Storrs pointed out that the increase from five to six cents was not as successful as had been anticipated and that the company was not deriving the revenue it had hoped for.

Some of the reasons for the increase from five to six cents given by the company officials were the increased cost of commodities necessary to operation and the fact that the trolley men had demanded a nine hour day.

COSTLY TO DRIVE AUTO WHILE DRUNK

Fine of \$50 and costs was imposed upon George A. Edwards, a Stoney farmer, by Police Court Judge F. L. Bartlett, today, when the accused was found guilty of operating an automobile on North avenue, this city, while under the influence of liquor. Edwards lost control of his car, and it collided with a truck, which caused little damage.

300 FOUND BLIND; 200 CHILDREN ARE BEREFT OF PARENTS

Halifax, Dec. 12—A revised estimate today of the explosion casualties reduces the death list to approximately 1,800. The known dead total 800 and it is believed that not more than 1,000 bodies and perhaps only 900 still lie under the debris of shattered and burned buildings.

The list of victims is steadily becoming smaller as relatives are reunited and refugees who left the city return.

From 500 to 600 persons are totally or partly blind and 200 children have each lost both parents. It is estimated that 500 houses are wrecked beyond repair, that 800 others were totally destroyed.

FIFTY TONS OF SUGAR ARRIVED IN CITY TODAY

Arrival of 100,000 pounds of sugar in this city, today, gave promise of instant relief to hundreds of local families that have gone without sweetening for their food the past several weeks.

The shipment came by boat from New York, and was consigned to several local wholesale houses. There were in all 1,000 bags, containing 100 pounds each, and when the cargo was discharged at the docks the sight of such a large quantity of a substance so scarce almost caused a panic.

Some of the wholesalers, expecting large shipments for themselves, thought that the consignment today was theirs, and the fortunate ones who received the supply had a lively time trying to prove their claims to it. Other firms which actually did get part of the shipment were backward about admitting it, this noon, fearing that if it became known that they had received a big consignment, there would be a rush that they would be unable to cope with.

The arrival of the 100,000 pound shipment is regarded as only a forerunner, now, of other large quantities expected to reach here at any time. It is believed that regular supplies will be available within a short while.

FINED \$500 FOR KILLING MAN IN SALOON QUARREL

Leopold Fichtl, of Barnum avenue, who caused the death of Balerzy Janikowsky in an East Side saloon October 20 last, was fined \$500 and costs in the Criminal Superior court, today, where he pleaded guilty to a charge of manslaughter. Judge Gardner Greene, in passing sentence, said there were circumstances in the case which convinced him it would not conduce to the public welfare to lock the accused up.

Fichtl with his brother-in-law, Caspar Schick, went into the saloon on the evening of October 20. Without provocation, Tony Tomaszewicz attacked them both with a club which he seized from behind the bar, knocking Schick unconscious and inflicting a severe scalp wound on Fichtl.

Fichtl ran from the saloon, blood flowing freely, into a restaurant near by, for the purpose of washing up. He saw a knife which he picked up, and returned to the saloon. Jankowsky was leaning against the bar, and when he saw Fichtl coming with a knife in his hand he picked up a beer glass. Fichtl, according to the statement made to the court, supposed Jankowsky was about to throw the glass, and was about to throw the glass, and running up plunged the knife into his neck. Jankowsky expired before he could be rushed to the hospital.

CHANCELLOR ASKS FOR CREDIT VOTE

London, Dec. 11—Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, introducing a vote of credit in the House of Commons today, said he estimated that the present vote would carry the expenditure to the end of March, 1918. He declared that the average daily expenditure in the last 63 days was \$794,000 pounds and for the period since the end of the last financial year, \$686,000 pounds.

Comments: Probably snow tonight and Thursday, with rising temperature, fresh northeast winds.

GREAT SHELLS FROM DELAWARE PLANT BOMBARD CITY

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 12 — A terrific bombardment, shortly before 8 o'clock this morning, with shells such as are used in the war zone of Europe flying in every direction, aroused Newcastle and the immediate vicinity, as well as Wilmington and other distant places, and soon developed into a fire that had started in one of the most dangerous sections of the shell loading plant of the Bethlehem Steel Co., about a mile below Newcastle.

The blaze, which is of unknown origin, incendiary, many believe, started in the shell loading house in which were stored 15,000 shells loaded with T. N. T., one of the most violent of all explosives, and 30,000 empty shells.

The fire had scarcely started when the contents of the loaded shells began to fly in every direction. The building, which was a frame structure, about 100 by 150 feet, burned like tinder, and as the flames reached the loaded shells the latter began to explode and occasionally one would be hurled out of the building.

One man, Theodore Jacobs, of Harrison, N. J., the chief of guards, was killed, his head being blown off by one of the shells.

So far as could be learned no other person was hurt either in the fire or by the explosions, while several were slightly injured in other ways. Several were hurt slightly while running to escape, danger or to help somebody else, but none of the cases, so far as is known, was serious.

Ambulances were quickly summoned from Wilmington, while physicians were also called from this city and Newcastle. Among the first local physicians to respond were Dr. V. M. Myers, secretary of the board of health; and Dr. Perkins, city physician. The Newcastle physicians responded in force.

Because of an accident on the trolley line the current had been shut off, and about 500 persons employed at the Bethlehem works had not reached the plant. The fire started at 7:55 a. m., five minutes before the time for beginning work. The mill where the fire originated had been temporarily closed down until Jan. 1.

Other parts of the plant were comparatively safe, but several small frame structures fell a prey to the flames and bombardment. The loss is not known, but it is estimated that it may be close to \$200,000, principally on machinery and the shells.

BOLSHEVIKI TROOPS IN CLASH WITH GOSSACKS DEFEATED AT MOHILEV

London, Dec. 11—The fighting at Tamanovka, according to a Reuter dispatch from Petrograd, appears to have been between detachments of anti-Bolshevik shock battalions and local troops assisted by sailors, Red Guards, infantry and armored cars sent from Petrograd and troops from Kharkov. The Russo Slove of Petrograd, says the fighting lasted all day and all night. It adds that it was very severe and that there were

OPEN INQUIRY INTO HALIFAX'S GREAT DISASTER

Halifax, Dec. 12—A general funeral service for all the explosion victims is to be held on Friday. Some of the bodies will rest beside victims of the Titanic and Eurogoine disasters, in Fairview cemetery. Others will occupy so many graves in Camp Hill cemetery that this burial ground will be completely filled and will thereafter be closed.

The official inquiry into the disaster will begin late today. Word was received from Ottawa today that the military service council had suspended operations of the Canadian military draft in the Halifax district on account of the disaster. It was definitely established today that seven men were killed on board the Canadian cruiser Niobe, used as a training ship, and that six others of the crew were killed in a small boat or on a pier.

The arrival today of the relief steamer Calvin Austin from Boston was made the occasion of a demonstration at the pier. The vessel bringing clothing, food and more important still, gases and other materials greatly needed, was welcomed by great crowds who cheered the ship, the captain, the crew and her precious cargo.

The relief work is developing along better organized lines daily.

Congress Inquires Into War

General Crozier States We Can Produce Enough Artillery to Supply Our Army-Labor Question.

Washington, Dec. 12 — Inquiry by Congress into the general conduct of the war was begun today with investigation by the Senate military committee of the war department's work in arming and equipping the American forces.

Maj. Gen. Crozier, chief of ordnance, said an obstacle in the early work was that the military policy defined in the national defense act of 1916 contemplated a force of one million men to be raised in five years.

"It is apparent," he said, "that the original program for 1,000,000 men did not contemplate our participation in the war. We compressed the five year program into one year when it immediately became apparent that the 1,000,000 program would not do."

Preparation of estimates and actual appropriation by congress, the general said, caused further delay.

Referring to the "cost plus 10 per cent" contracts, Gen. Crozier said the system had "worked out fairly well."

"Will the American army be able to supply itself with sufficient artillery?" asked Senator Reed.

"The indications are that we will be able, with the assistance of England and France," Gen. Crozier replied.

"How long will it take to catch up on this side," asked Senator Reed.

"We shall be fairly well caught up on the most important things by next summer," said the general.

That he has a plan prepared to submit to congress with Secretary Baker's consent, to deal with the munition labor question, was stated by Gen. Crozier, but he declines to reveal its scope.

DISCHARGES OF TWO LOCAL MEN EXPIRE SUNDAY

Two temporary discharges for five days duration, the shortest in the annals of the Third District Appellate Board, were issued at a meeting yesterday. They were granted to Henry C. Allen, machinist of the Bullard Machine Tool Co., and Patrick Coleman, cost clerk, American & British Manufacturing Co. The stays will expire on Sunday and the men will likely be included in the contingent leaving the city on Tuesday.

Leonard H. Rhyne, of board No. 1, was granted a discharge on new evidence in his dependency appeal. The dependency appeals of Michael Vitello, John Marks and Homer Hammond were denied.

The causes for granting conditional discharges no longer existing, decisions in the following cases were revoked and the following men were made liable to service in the draft army: Board 1, Frank W. Reed; board 3, John W. Shallenberger; board 4, James J. Leary and Frederick Max White; board 5, Howard G. Mann, board 6, Martin J. Haller.

Decisions of local boards, reconsidered at direction of the adjutant general, were affirmed in the following cases: board 1, Thomas Wardrop, Joseph H. Riehl and Stephen Osinski; board 2, John J. Flanagan.

KILLED BY TRAIN. Old Saybrook, Dec. 11—Thomas Chapman, an employe on state highway work, 55 years old, was out in two by a train west of Chalkers' crossing some time during the night. It is presumed that he was walking the tracks on the way to his home. He leaves a widow and three children, residing in Plainfield.

REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE TINKHAM OF BOSTON SENDS SHELL FROM A 149 MILLIMETRE GUN ON THE PIAVE FRONT CRASHING INTO AUSTRIAN TRENCHES

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Tuesday, Dec. 11—(By the Associated Press)—The first American shot against Austria was fired by Representative Tinkham of Boston on the lower Piave when Tinkham pulled a string firing a large 149 millimetre gun, sending a shell hurtling across the Piave to the Austrian positions.

A huge cloud of black smoke marked the place where the shell burst. The Italian battery men gathered around the gun and raised a cheer as the American congressman fired.

Representative Tinkham fired the shot by invitation of the colonel in command near Dona di Piave. The shell was sent on its journey during a heavy artillery fire along the Piave and the northern front. The bombardment was especially concentrated back of Mount Grappa between the Piave and the Brenta rivers. This may be an indication of another drive on the Italian lines from that direction.

Washington, Dec. 12—Congressman Tinkham, by firing an Italian gun at the Austrian position, has taken on the status of a non-combatant attacking troops and, according to the rules of warfare, has laid himself liable to execution by the Austrians should he by any chance fall into their hands. Under the laws of war a civilian may never engage in hostilities. The fact that war has been declared does not alter the situation.

BATTLESHIP WIEN DESTROYED

LONDON, DEC. 12—THE AUSTRIAN BATTLESHIP WIEN WAS TORPEDOED AND SUNK SUNDAY NIGHT, ACCORDING TO A VIENNA OFFICIAL STATEMENT RECEIVED IN AMSTERDAM. MOST OF THE CREW WAS SAVED. THE BATTLESHIP WIEN DISPLACED 5,512 TONS.

LATE WAR BULLETINS.

COPENHAGEN, DEC. 12—THE SEMI-OFFICIAL GERMAN NEWS AGENCY SAYS DEMOBILIZATION OF THE RUSSIAN FORCES ALREADY HAS BEGUN AND THAT PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, RESTRICTED TO THE RUSSIAN FRONT, HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED.

Hassy, Rumania, Monday, Dec. 10—Official announcement was made today of the signing of an armistice in accordance with which hostilities were suspended at 10:30 p. m. yesterday until further notice.

London, Dec. 12—There was great activity in the air on Monday, especially in the Cambrai region, according to the official statement on aerial operations issued last night. British aeroplanes dropped bombs on many villages and the Germans bombed the British area.

London, Dec. 12—A number of processions, in which banners upholding the constituent assembly were carried, converged on the Tauride palace in Petrograd on Tuesday, according to a Reuter dispatch. A series of extemporaneous meetings was held outside the palace.

Paris, Dec. 12—German parties felt out the French lines at points northwest of Rheims last night, according to today's war office announcement. No activity of importance elsewhere is reported, although there was artillery fighting of some liveliness in the Verdun region, where also a German raid was attempted.

Berlin, Dec. 12, via ondon — Aircraft losses by the Entente allies in the month of November totalled 23 captive balloons and 205 aeroplanes, the German general staff announced today. The German losses in aerial battles, the statement adds, were 60 aeroplanes and two captive balloons.