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VILLA PROUD OF GREAT VICTORY AT GUADALAJARA OVER CARRANZA

Second City of Mexico Is Taken After Brief Resistance by Enemies, Who Are Fleeing Precipitately.

TAMPICO NEXT POINT OF CONVENTION ATTACK

Many Prisoners Are Taken and List of Dead Is Long Compared With Casualties Reported by Northern Chief.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 14.—General Villa, in a telegram today, described his triumphal entry into Guadalajara, the western metropolis of Mexico which was evacuated by the Carranza troops after brief fighting outside the city. Villa said that during the thirty hours the city had been left without any authorities, the population maintained perfect order. Villa told of the enthusiasm of the people at his reappearance in the city which he previously had taken from the Carranza troops. His message continued:

"I will at once continue to pursue the enemy. General Rodolfo Fierro with only twenty-five men of his escort checked the forces of the impudent Murgia (the former Carranza garrison commander), at Pajocuaran. He attacked them and pursued them for six miles, killing 150 and taking horses, one cannon and a machine gun. Three of Fierro's men were killed. Shortly after Generals Llanez and Rodriguez continued the pursuit of the Carranza troops into Zapotlan.

"Near Ciudad Maiz a battalion under Colonel Emiliano Zarabia defeated 2,000 men commanded by General Acosta Elizondo and others, killing 100, and capturing 40 prisoners and munitions. At Monterey the attack made by Maclovio Herrera, Pablo Gonzalez and Villareal proved a complete fiasco."

Villa is expected to remain in the vicinity of Guadalajara several days before proceeding to attack Tampico, the east coast port, which is his next projected move in the present campaign against the Carranza troops.

DESOLATION OF BELGIUM MOST AWFUL ON RECORD

Population Is Decreased Six Hundred Thousand by War and 7,000,000 Are Without Employment.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

New York, Feb. 14.—Belgium's population has been reduced by about 600,000 as a result of the war and her condition presents a situation without parallel in history, says a report issued tonight by the Rockefeller foundation from its war relief commission sent to investigate the effects of the war upon noncombatants. It is the first report from this commission which went to Belgium last November.

After detailing how means of transportation, communication and banking exchange have been destroyed, commerce and industry paralyzed, homes and other buildings laid low, the agricultural districts devastated and the food supply virtually cut off, the report says:

"Yet if one is to understand the Belgian problem it is perhaps necessary to emphasize not the destitution of a few hundred thousand, but the suddenly enforced inactivity of a strong and healthy nation of 7,000,000.

No Parallel in History.

"This is what makes the Belgian situation a thing without parallel in history."

After stating that there are 320,000 Belgian refugees in Holland and 100,000 in England, the report says that the number of people who are still in Belgium, but who have been driven out of their homes, has not yet been estimated. The army, it says, has drawn off 250,000 men.

Of the destruction of homes and property, the report says:

"We found living people in cellars under the ruins of their homes; in lofts over the cow stalls; saw children that had been born in hen coops and pig sty and learned of one man who considered that he was doing well when the population of his poultry house was reduced from twenty-two to eighteen refugees.

Not a Dozen Houses Left.

"In Visc there were 1,200 families. We did not see a dozen houses standing. In Louveigne, 70 out of 150 houses were destroyed. In Tremelco half of the houses were razed."

The destruction of stock is of greater importance than the destruction of houses, the report declares. "The county is pretty well cleaned of horses and oxen," it continues. "The armies have not refrained entirely from requisitioning milch cows. The peasants are in the greatest terror that the few animals that remain to them may be taken. They are, therefore, killing them and disposing of them for what they can get. Meat is selling abundantly at half its usual price in some places. If this process continues, such localities will have no livestock of any sort by spring."

Agricultural Situation.

Regarding the agricultural situation, the commission found that autumn harvesting has somehow been done and that it is conceivable that Belgium may continue to raise most of her own potatoes, fruits and fresh vegetables. No one is calculating beyond the next harvest and such reckoning indicates that a harvest is expected," the report says. "Everybody is trying to help everybody else.

"In France we found that it was clearly the policy of the German occupation, behind the fighting lines, to promote the planting of next year's crops and to spare milch cows and breeding animals. It would naturally be the policy of the German occupation in Belgium to encourage the raising of foodstuffs."

Count Reventlow repeats the German order, the declaration of which he declares is a considerate warning, and adds:

ed "Whether it is regarded or protested is of secondary importance."

Criticises Tone of Note.

"If its consequences are depicted as 'inexcusable,'" Count Reventlow continues, "we may believe that the United States government misjudges its ground. The same can be said of the remarkable phrase in the note that the United States government will see itself impelled to hold the German imperial government responsible for such action of its naval authorities. One cannot escape the conclusion that President Wilson and Secretary Bryan in their communications with the Mexican pretenders and rebel leaders have accustomed themselves to a tone that is not suitable for communications with the German empire."

In connection with the destruction of houses and property, the report says that no estimates can be obtained of the total either of the military requisitions and levies or of the destruction of property but that this total must be enormous. "While the German army was fighting its way across Belgium," it continues, "the soldiers of both sides took poultry, food supplies, wines and bedding to the limit of their immediate desires, or beyond.

"Since then the German occupation has requisitioned grain, canned goods, food supplies, livestock and horses from towns and countryside. It has also requisitioned such things as cotton and woolen stores, both raw and manufactured, copper fixtures and implements in some factories, motor cars, gasoline and any machinery that can be used in the manufacture of armaments."

Destitution Complete.

The commission found that the destruction of tools and implements cannot be estimated. In smaller places and in some large towns like Louvain and Malines, "where there was fighting or wholesale burning, it appears that nearly all the remaining houses have been looted," the report says.

The population, the commission recounts is denied the use of the telegraph and telephone and there is no mail or other means of communication with the outside world except through German channels. The collapse of the banking exchange the commission found to be due to the fact that reserves of coin and negotiable securities were removed in advance of the invasion. "German requisitions are paid for, not in money but by receipts which are said to be often of the most informal sort," the report declares.

Civilization Paralyzed.

"Modern society has obviously evolved itself around a highly complex mechanism for transport, communication and exchange. In Belgium this mechanism has been completely annihilated.

"Commerce and industry are thus at a standstill. The only tradespeople who do any business are those who sell foods or clothing. All government employes (railways, postoffices, etc.,) are therefore either necessarily out of work or are striking against the German occupation."

The report notes that some coal mines, factories and shops are working on short time.

In connection with the alleviating influences the report concludes:

"The disaster being national in scale, is shared by all. The emergency has summoned every courageous virtue into expression. Furthermore the universality of the calamity automatically distributes the burden. There is a general moratorium for the very poor. Tenants pay no rent and though the landlords are thereby impoverished the tenants are not evicted."

PERKINS WOULD STOP EXPORT OF WHEAT BY LAW

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

New York, Feb. 14.—An immediate embargo on the exportation of wheat, as a preventive of further raise in the price of bread is recommended for consideration by the federal government in the report of Mayor J. P. Mitchel's food committee, submitted by George W. Perkins, the chairman, today. The opinion is expressed in the report that if wheat continues to be exported at the present abnormal rate, the price of bread will soar much higher. Mayor Mitchel has forwarded the report to President Wilson.

The withholding of wheat by the farmers for higher prices and speculation on the basis of continued heavy export are given by Mr. Perkins as the causes for the high prices.

"In the six months since the war began," declares the report, "we have exported many million bushels more than we exported in the preceding thirty months and the impression is abroad in the land that these large shipments to Europe have more than consumed our surplus and that our present supply is below our actual needs. Speculators doubtless believe that no steps will be taken to stop the exportation of wheat and that we are willing to go on indefinitely selling on a large scale at advanced prices."

WEATHER FORECASE.

Washington, Feb. 14 — New Mexico: Fair Monday and Tuesday.

CARRANZA TAKES NEW MEANS OF PUTTING HIMSELF IN BAD LIGHT

Issues Another Proclamation Forbidding Representatives of Foreign Governments to Communicate With Generals

FIRST CHIEF'S DIGNITY MUST BE MAINTAINED

Ministers to Mexico Ask Governments for Permission to Leave That Anarchistic Country.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

Washington, Feb. 14.—Gen. Venustiano Carranza, as first chief of the constitutionalist army, notified the world today that all communications to his government from outside sources must pass through him. If directed to any general, he said, they must be referred to him anyhow. Carranza's decree reached Washington through Rafael Zubaran Capmany, his minister of the interior, who telegraphed it to Eliseo Arredondo, Carranza's local representative.

Diplomats Disgusted.

The order apparently will make it impossible for diplomatic representatives of foreign governments to deal with the Carranza government except by going to Vera Cruz, which they have been unwilling to do lest such action be construed as formal recognition. Already most of the diplomats at Mexico City have asked their governments for permission to leave, when the situation becomes intolerable, and some of them have been advised to use their own discretion. The order may also affect the activity of American consular representatives who heretofore have dealt with the defacto government, whatever it happened to be.

Carranza's Proclamation.

The telegram to Arredondo said:

"The first chief of the constitutionalist army has been apprised of frequent cases in which persons of diverse nationalities, styling themselves confidential or consular agents of foreign governments without really being so, and other persons styling themselves representatives of foreign colonies or large foreign interests established in Mexico pretend to make representations, address communications and treat directly about matters of an international character with different leaders of the constitutionalist army.

Must Maintain Dignity.

"This action, even in cases where it is taken by persons actually accredited, tends to disrupt the unity which should prevail in the constitutionalist government and to belittle the authority of the first chief of the aforesaid army, provoking disorder and lack of cohesion in governmental decisions, with much danger for our cause.

"The defection of Gen. Francisco Villa and other leaders of the northern division involves a painful experience which we must bear in mind to avoid in the future the lack of political discipline of inexperienced leaders. * * * "Military leaders before whom such representations may be made must confine themselves to informing the representatives of foreigners that they should take such matters up directly with the first chief of the constitutionalist army."

Warns Military Chiefs.

Military chiefs are warned to reject "all promises of political assistance emanating from foreigners."

While high officials were reticent as to the future course of the United States government, it is evident that the treatment of foreigners in Mexico, the food famine in Mexico City and the plight of the diplomatic corps there have given the administration much concern.

Although eight censors are on duty at Vera Cruz to prevent dispatches unfavorable to the Carranza cause from being sent abroad, it has been learned authoritatively that for some time barely courteous relations have been maintained between Carranza and the consuls of Spain and Great Britain at Vera Cruz. These consuls often have found it difficult to see Carranza, frequently being forced to wait for hours in his reception room only to be told to call again. Both the Spanish and British consuls incurred the displeasure of Carranza because of their persistence in calling to his attention what they considered unjust aggression on foreign property.

Many Spaniards Executed.

The American consul at Vera Cruz, W. W. Canada, has time and again made representations to Carranza on the treatment of the Spaniards. Recently he was instructed to say that the department of state had learned of the shooting of seven Spaniards at Apizaco and of another at a nearby town and pointed out that unless this method of reprisals was stopped the world at large would be shocked, that a continuation of the policy of executing Spaniards would be regarded with keen displeasure by the United States and would place personal responsibility on Carranza.

USE SKIS IN MAKING SHARP BAYONET CHARGE

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

Geneva (via Paris) Feb. 14.—What is said to be the first bayonet charge on skis during the present war was made yesterday in the Vosges mountains near Col-du-Bonhomme. Forty Alpine chasseuers with two officers were cut off by the Germans and were ordered to surrender. They refused and charged down the snow covered slope on their skis into the German trenches, where a terrible struggle took place before the French soldiers were overcome.

Summary of War News of Yesterday

The latest official statements disclose few details of the progress of the battles in the eastern war zone, presumably for the reason that the Russians, who have been retiring from East Prussia, have not yet made ready to meet the advance of the reinforced German army.

In Poland the opposing forces are in alignment to the south of Warsaw, while the Austro-German troops are making advances in Bukowina and have captured important positions, not only there, but in the Carpathians in the neighborhood of Dukla pass.

In the western arena activity has been increased along the entire front, particularly on the part of the artillery. More than 1,000,000 Germans are being assembled and formidable entrenchments are being prepared along the Rhine, according to persons who have been expelled by the Germans from Alsace-Lorraine. In addition, all the villages in that territory are being made ready for a siege.

Great interest centers in the reply which Germany will make to the American note respecting the declaration by Germany of a sea war zone around the British isles and a press dispatch from The Hague announces that the American ambassador to Germany, James W. Gerard, has been invited to the German eastern headquarters for a conference with Emperor William.

Italy has made virtually the same representations to Germany as those embodied in the American note. Through the Italian ambassador at Berlin, Italy has asked that her position as a neutral power be maintained according to the rules of international law and that the right of her ships to proceed be recognized without molestation further than a search.

The Serbian fortress of Samendria is said to have been blown up by a detonation of its powder magazine after a bombardment by Austro-Hungarian artillery.

A news agency dispatch from Nish quotes the Serbian government as announcing the invasion of the department of Prisrend by Albanians who, in superior forces, compelled the Serbians to retreat and are continuing to advance into Serbia.

All domestic oats and other grain necessary for forage for horses will be expropriated by order of the German budesrat or federal council.

Socialists of the allied powers, at a meeting in London held for the purpose of discussing the international situation, adopted resolutions declaring that while the allied socialists had resolved to fight until victory was achieved, they had also resolved to "resist any attempt to transfer this defensive war into a war of conquest."

IOWA SALOONS HAVE RUSH FOR LAST WET GOODS

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

Des Moines, Ia., Feb. 14.—To prevent a repetition of last night's scenes, attendant upon the order closing eighty-six saloons in Des Moines, Mayor Hanna today issued instructions that the saloons must close tomorrow at 6 p. m. Under the mulct law and the terms of the city's permit granting the extension until tomorrow night, the saloons could have remained open until 9 o'clock. The liquor men, through their attorneys tonight, said they would obey the mayor's orders. Conditions which prevailed on the down town streets last night and numerous fights which resulted from excessive inebriation caused Mayor Hanna's order. The rush to lay in stocks of wet goods brought enormous business to the saloons yesterday and a repetition of the rush is expected tomorrow.

Attorneys for the saloonmen in the consent petition hearing before the district court, were said tonight to be ready to abandon their case tomorrow when court re-convenes. Leading saloonists claimed it was futile to continue the fight for existence any longer, in the face of an adverse public sentiment. The action of the Iowa senate in passing the prohibition amendment and agreeing to the repeal of the mulct law is said to be responsible for their change of attitude. The two measures will be up in the Iowa assembly this week with every indication of their passing.

War Bulletins.

Berlin, Feb. 14 (by wireless to Sayville.)—According to the Budapest Daily Newspaper Azest, the Austro-Hungarian troops entered the town of Radautz, in Bukowina, so unexpectedly that all the members of the Russian staff were captured.

The commanding Russian general, the newspaper adds, committed suicide.

Berlin, Feb. 14 (via London.)—The bundesrath today decided to expropriate all the domestic stocks of oats with the exception of seed oats and the grain necessary for fodder for horses. The order becomes effective February 16.

The bundesrath also raised the maximum price of oats by 50 marks ($12.50) per metric ton.

London, Feb. 14 (10:10 p. m.)—The German emperor, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from The Hague has invited the American ambassador to Germany, James W. Gerard, to a conference at eastern headquarters.

Paris, Feb. 14 (5:40 p. m.)—A telegram from Nish to the Havas agency says the following statement was given out by the Serbian government today:

"Yesterday large numbers of Albanians broke through our lines, crossing the frontier in the department of Prisrend. Before superior forces of the enemy, our troops, as well as the municipal authorities, were forced to retreat.

"The Albanians continue to advance in the direction of the Zapod, Topoliana and Glavotchnitz.

"The enemy succeeded in certain places in cutting the telephone and telegraph communications."

AERIAL BATTLE BETWEEN FRENCH AEROPLANES AND BIG ZEPPELIN

Conflict, Witnessed by Opposing Armies, Lasts for Forty Minutes of Continuous and Rapid Fire.

WAR BALLOON QUITS WHEN ENEMIES RISE

Planes Begin to Maneuver for Higher Altitude and German Machine Beats a Hasty Retreat.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

Geneva, Feb. 14 (via Paris).—A thrilling aerial battle between a Zeppelin dirigible balloon and three French aeroplanes was witnessed yesterday by thousands of German and French troops in the trenches a little south of Muelhausen, in upper Alsace.

The Zeppelin came from the Black forest and was sailing toward Belfort when it met the aeroplanes, which were flying much lower. A battle ensued and the conflict lasted for about forty minutes, both sides keeping up a continuous fire. The aeroplanes struggled to reach a higher level which would place them above the dirigible and had almost succeeded when the Zeppelin retired to the north at great speed.

RUSSIAN STAFF HAS NO FEAR OF AUSTRIANS

Petrograd, Feb. 14 (via London, 5 p. m.)—Russian staff officers assert today that notwithstanding the reoccupation of the crown land of Bukowina by Austro-German armies it does not constitute a menace to the Russian flank or to the Russian position about the town of Lemberg. This is due to the fact, the Russians maintain, to the north and south are mountain ranges which render that section of the country isolated and because the Russian positions in the Beskid range on the south preclude the probability of a successful attack.

In the mountain passes, where much fighting at close range is taking place, the Germans have produced new fighting machines in the shape of bomb-throwers and fire-spouters. The former contrivance consists of a small apparatus capable of being carried by two men. It throws a thirty-pound bomb for a distance of 200 or 300 yards into the lines of their opponents. It is used when artillery is not available. The contrivance consists of a tube through which a stream of burning oil is forced for a distance of eight yards and which covers with flame everything it touches. This apparatus is reported to be employed against bayonet charges, favorite mode of Russian fighting.

On the left bank of the Vistula river there is evidence that the Germans are re-grouping their forces and they evidently are preparing a new attack in that region.

SERBIAN FORTRESS IS BLOWN UP BY MAGAZINE

Berlin, Feb. 14 (by wireless to Sayville.)—The Overseas News agency says that according to telegrams printed in Italian newspapers, the Serbian fortress of Semendria has been blown up by the explosion of its own powder magazine after being shelled by Austro-Hungarian artillery.

Semendria is a town on the Danube, twenty-four miles southeast of Belgrade.

FIERCE FIGHTING IS CONTINUED IN FRANCE

Paris, Feb. 14 (10:40 p. m.)—The following official communication was issued by the war office tonight:

"From the sea to the Meuse, no infantry action is reported. There have been artillery duels in Belgium between the Oise and the Aisne and in Champagne.

"In Lorraine, in the region of Pont-a-Mousson, we have delivered a counter-attack against the enemy, who had occupied Norroy and who had gained a foothold on a neighboring height. The engagement continues.

"No late advices have been received respecting the operations in the valley of the Lauch, in which the advance posts are engaged."

The following communication on the progress of the war was issued by the French war office this afternoon:

"In Belgium, the bombardment of Nieuport-les-Bains, of our trenches in the dunes and of the city of Ypres continues. Our artillery delivered a counter-bombardment of the enemy's batteries.

"From the Lys to the Aisne there were intermittent cannonades. Near Noulette, a detachment of the enemy which attempted to advance upon our trenches was stopped short by the fire of our infantry.

"In Champagne there has been quite intense activity upon our front before Rheims. The city has been again bombarded. Our fire upon the German trenches appears to have accomplished good results.

"From the Argonne to the Moselle, the day was calm.

"In Lorraine, German forces moved against those of our advanced elements which occupy the signal station of Xon, northeast of Pont-a-Mousson. The results of the battle are not yet known.

"In Alsace the enemy has taken the offensive through the valley of the Lauch with two columns advancing along the north and south banks of the river. The march of these troops is reported to have been delayed and impeded by our ski patrols. They are now in contact with our most advanced line.

"A violent snow storm is raging in the Vosges."

AMERICANS ROBBED BY YAQUI INDIANS

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

On Board U. S. S. San Diego, San Diego, Calif., Feb. 14.—E. A. Butler and J. E. Colser, American mining men, were stripped of all their clothing by Fifteen Yaqui Indians and robbed of a bar of gold worth about $25,000 and 300 pesos, in the mountains of Sonora, Mexico, according to a report today from the United States gunboat Annapolis at Guaymas.

Butler and Colser were traveling in a motor boat and left the Yaqui river country Friday.

The Indians have issued a decree, ordering all Mexicans and foreigners from their land.

THREE AEROPLANES HEADED TOWARD OTTAWA

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 14.—Premier Sir Robert Borden received a telegram from Brookville stating that at 10 o'clock tonight three aeroplanes were seen flying over that place heading in the direction of Ottawa.

Brookville is about sixty miles due south of Ottawa, where the message caused considerable excitement. The military authorities were informed and directed to take what precautions they could.

SARAH BERNHARDT IS UNDER SURGEON'S KNIFE

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

Bordeaux, Feb. 14 (via Paris, 4:45 p. m.)—Sarah Bernhardt, after consulting a professor of the faculty of medicine here, underwent an operation for an affection of the knee today at the hospital St. Augustine of Arcachon.

Mme. Bernhardt has been suffering severely for many months and it is believed that the operation will effect a complete cure.

Strong German Offensive.

Paris, Feb. 14.—Refugees who have been expelled from Alsace Lorraine declare that the Germans are making extraordinary preparations to resume the offensive in that region.

CLOTURE RULE FOR SENATE NOT PROBABLE NOW

Democratic Opposition to Proposed Innovation and Also to Ship Purchase Bill Grows Steadily.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

Washington, Feb. 14.—Whether the senate shall adopt a cloture rule on debate and bring the government ship ownership bill to a vote, February 19, was perhaps the most interesting question which faced congress in the program for the coming week. The fact that thus far no cloture rule ever had been enforced in the upper house, attracted much attention to the attempt to be made tomorrow.

Whether such a rule can be passed seems doubtful as the senate democrats are far from unanimous on the proposal, notwithstanding that a democratic caucus agreed to the program last night. Seven democrats who revolted against the ship purchase bill remained away from the party conference and others are not satisfied that any cloture rule should be adopted, even should it be merely a special rule for consideration of the ship purchase measure. Such action would be unprecedented in senate procedure.

Battle on in House.

While the senate is fighting out the plan to limit debate the action on the ship bill itself will remain in the house, where it shifted last week. Tomorrow night house democrats will hold a caucus on the compromise Weeks-Gore shipping bill as amended with President Wilson's approval and it is planned to pass the bill on the following day under a special rule limiting debate to six hours. That the bill will be passed, there seems to be no doubt, although many democrats do not approve it and scores of them refused to sign the caucus call.

Whatever the house does, republican senators insist that they will continue their unrelenting opposition to the ship bill.

President Has Doubts.

Some democratic senators, who it is believed will stand by the president until the end, are inclined to the belief that even the chief executive has been convinced that the republican filibuster in the upper house cannot be overcome and that he desires the house to pass the bill in order to prove to the country that senate republicans, aided by a few insurgent democrats are primarily responsible for the fate of the measure and the failure thus far to pass appropriation bills. Should the bill be held up in the senate in order to pass appropriation bills before March 4, there are some senators who think an extra session may be avoided, but members of congress generally confidently expect a special session to be called after the end of the present one.

Conditions Unprecedented.

The congestion of the big supply measures for the government is unprecedented at a short session of congress. The senate, with only sixteen working days left, has to pass thirteen appropriation bills, involving hundreds of millions of dollars necessary for the operation of the government, and of these, five have not been acted upon by the house. In view of this situation, Speaker Clark thinks the chances of avoiding an extra session are small.

House leaders who pressed the river and harbor bill, were gratified today over what they regarded as an assurance that Senator Burton probably would not filibuster against this measure in the senate as he did last year.

Eulogies on the late Representative Martin of New Jersey were delivered in the house today by Representatives Eagan and Hart.

RUSSIANS MEET ENEMY ON TWO BATTLEFIELDS OF EASTERN ZONE

Grand Duke Nicholas Concentrates Armies Near East Prussian Border and in Bukowina.

ARTILLERY ENGAGEMENTS IN WESTERN THEATER

Both German and French Reports Claim Successes; London Interested in Parliamentary Proceedings.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEASED WIRE)

London, Feb. 14 (10:35 p. m.)—Two big battles, it is believed, have already begun or will soon begin on the Russian side of the East Prussian frontier and on the river Sereth within Bukowina. The Russian forces have withdrawn both in East Prussia and in Bukowina in the face of superior German and Austrian armies so that they might be enabled to concentrate and come into closer touch with their lines of communication.

The officials make only the briefest reference to the operations at these two extremes of the eastern front, but what they do say indicates that the Russians have already reached the lines on which Grand Duke Nicholas has decided to give battle.

The rest of the campaign in the east, even the fighting in the Carpathians which is proceeding under the worst weather conditions, is overshadowed by these greater events, on the result of which both sides are staking so much.

Germans Claim Victory.

The Germans claim to have won a big victory over the Russians in East Prussia and the Austrians announce the Russian retirement in Bukowina with elation, but apparently Petrograd views these incidents without misgiving.

In the west there has been a continuation of heavy artillery bombardments in which Rheims has again suffered, and several infantry attacks on different parts of the line, in which both sides claim to have been successful. From unofficial sources comes the news that St. Mihiel, on the Meuse, which the Germans have held so long, has come under the fire of the French guns, which shows that the French have either made an advance in this field or have brought up heavier guns in an effort to dislodge the Germans.

Little Fighting Elsewhere.

In Egypt, the Caucasus and Mesopotamia, there has been either no fighting, or engagements which the belligerents do not consider worthy of mention in the official dispatches.

At sea the weather has been such that naval operations are out of the question. The English coast has been washed by tremendous seas for two days past, with the result that a number of ships have been wrecked and considerable damage has been done at several ports.

Interest in Parliament.

A good deal of interest is being taken in the coming week's proceedings of the British parliament, for tomorrow David Lloyd-George, chancellor of the exchequer, will make a statement on the financial arrangements between Great Britain, France and Russia and Winston Spencer Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, will review the naval situation.

Later in the week the debate will be continued on the increased cost of the necessaries of life, in connection with a number of meetings held throughout the country on Saturday and Sunday, at which the government was urged to take steps to control the supplies of food and the means of their distribution.

RUSSIAN OFFICIAL REPORT OF OPERATIONS

Petrograd, Feb. 14.—The following official statement from the general staff of the Russian commander-in-chief was made public tonight:

"The fighting on the right bank of the Vistula is developing gradually on the front of Vochowo up to the highway from Myszinic to Ostrolenka. It has assumed the character of partly isolated combats.

"In the region of Lyck, Raygrod and Grajewo, the fighting is characterized by considerable obstinacy. Further north our troops have fallen back upon the unfortified line of the river Niemen under pressure of heavy German forces.

"On the left bank of the Vistula there has been only cannonading.

"On the Nida the enemy has developed from time to time a very intense artillery fire.

"In the Carpathians we have repulsed attacks by the enemy in the region of Gorlice and Svidnik. We have captured the enemy's fortifications at Smolnik, east of Lupkow, where we took eighteen officers and more than a thousand soldiers and three machine guns.

"Tenacious engagements are in progress on the Dukla-Wyszko front and on the roads toward Nadworna."

RUSSIANS BEATEN IN SEVERAL ENGAGEMENTS

Vienna, Feb. 14 (via London, Feb. 15, 12:20 a. m.)—The official statement issued tonight follows:

"The situation in Russian-Poland and west Galicia remains unchanged. On part of our battle front, in the Dukla sector, against which a vigorous Russian attack was made, we threw back the enemy and also the Siberian troops from two dominating heights and stormed a village near Viskoos.

"Equally successful was an attack by the allied Germans and Austrians in the middle Carpathian woods where we captured from the enemy heights over which there had been