

BRITISH SHOVE TURKS BACK

Push Ahead in Palestine for Distance of Two Miles

ADVANCE IS 13 MILES WIDE

Sweeping Gains Over Broad Front Carry British Farther North

London, Dec. 31.—The British have made another considerable advance in the neighborhood of Jerusalem, the Turks having been beaten back on a front of 13 miles. The official statement concerning the Palestine campaign, issued Saturday night, says: "Gen. Allenby reports that on Friday his troops continued to drive back the enemy and advance their line to a depth of about two miles on a front of 13 miles. "The advance has given us the high grounds of Ras Arkub and Es Sutta—four miles from Jerusalem and one mile north of the Jericho road—Anaterra and Kulindia, the last two respectively east and west of the Naballa road and five or six miles north of Jerusalem."

BOMB PADUA—13 DIE—GERMANS HURT 60 MORE

Aviators' Explosives Fail to Damage Art Treasures of Italian City—Raid Defeats Reprisal.

Rome, Dec. 31.—Thirteen persons were killed and 60 others injured when the open city of Padua, in northern Italy, was bombed by enemy aviators Friday night, the war office announced Saturday. Treviso, Montebelluna and Casierfranco were also attacked. The art treasures in the densely populated section of Padua, where eight bombs were dropped, were not damaged.

WORLD'S WHEAT CROP LESS.

Total of 1,854,000,000 Bushels or 3.9 Per Cent Under That of 1916.

Washington, Dec. 31.—World crop statistics compiled by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome and telegraphed to the department of agriculture here show 1917 wheat production at 1,854,000,000 bushels, or 3.9 per cent less than last year. Statistics do not include production in Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Russia, where war conditions have prevented collection of reports.

Rye production is placed at 160,000,000 bushels, or 3.8 per cent less than last year; barley, 844,000,000 bushels, or one-tenth of one per cent more; oats, 2,740,000,000 bushels, or 12.1 per cent more; corn, 3,284,000,000 bushels, or 21.4 per cent more; rice, 21,319,000,000 pounds, or 19.7 per cent less; potatoes 1,119,000,000 bushels, or 26.4 per cent more; sugar beets, 8,992,000,000 pounds, or 5.3 per cent more, and wheat (Spain, Luxembourg and Algeria), 72,000,000 gallons, or 9.2 per cent less.

DEATH PENALTIES DELAYED.

Conviction of American Troops Will Be Reviewed.

Washington, Dec. 31.—President Wilson has prohibited the execution of any more American soldiers—except in Gen. Pershing's force—before the sentences of the court-martial have been reviewed in Washington. Heretofore this idea has not been necessary in wartime, but the president has made the rule that it may be doubly sure that no injustice is done.

Thirteen negro troopers of the 24th Infantry were recently executed for the rioting at Houston, Tex., without review at Washington. No fault has been found in the verdict of their court or their sentence, but it has been felt advisable to have death penalties reviewed by the war department before execution.

VINOVA SUNK BY U-BOAT.

Cunard Line Corroborates Report of a Successful Attack on Steamer.

New York, Dec. 31.—Officials of the Cunard line Saturday confirmed previously published reports of the sinking by a German submarine of the steamship Vinovia off the British isles. The Vinovia was a freight-carrying vessel of 5,500 tons gross. She was built in Sunderland in 1906.

American Nurses Needed.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Estimates based on an army of 1,500,000 men, are that 87,500 nurses will be needed in the army corps. This means an enrollment increase of nearly 1,000 per cent over the present membership of 3,800. To get enrollment some of the requirements are being waived.

Pershing Needs 'Phone Girls.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Women telephone operators are being sent abroad for service at the offices of the American forces in France. They have the same privileges and allowances as army nurses. Many army women, unable to join their husbands, have found a way to do so by qualifying as telephone operators.

An Absent-Minded Minister.

A parson, noted for his absent-mindedness, had a habit of forgetting something he intended to say in the pulpit. Then, after sitting down, he would rise up again and begin his supplementary remarks with, "By the way..." Recently he finished his prayer, hesitated, forgot what he was about, and sat down abruptly without closing. In a moment, however, he arose, pointed his finger at his amazed congregation, and exclaimed: "Oh, by the way—amen!"—Exchange.

"HOW IS YOUR LIVER?"

No question is more important. As your liver is, so are you. Take Hood's Pills—best for a sick, torpid, miserable liver, biliousness, constipation, bad taste in the mouth, etc. Sugar-coated, easily swallowed. Do not gripe. Price 25c of all druggists or promptly by mail of C. I. Hood Co., Lowell, Mass.

CUTTING DOWN ON THE NON-ESSENTIALS

(By Edward Hungerford of The Vigilantes.)

A man coming into one of the large New York hotels to-day, for the first time in some months, would not gain a very vivid impression that the country was at war; involved in one of the very great crises of its existence. True it is that the diningrooms are draped in flags, that Mr. Hoover's injunctions are solemnly spread upon the menu cards, that officers in khaki are seated here and there and everywhere and that all rise upon the playing of the national anthem. These evidences of patriotism are not difficult. An effort, more or less successful, has been made to close restaurants and cabaret festivities at 1 o'clock in the morning. But that is about all. Jazz bands still hang out their discordant melodies in the cheap places, with softer-toned orchestras for the more expensive ones. There is gaiety in the air. And prosperity to sign the check.

"We're keeping them cheered up," said the sleek proprietor of the restaurant, with a wink. "You know. Business as usual." But he means, "pleasure as usual." Go over upon Fifth avenue. The press of limousines is as great as in any other December; perhaps even greater. Cars run in second speed all the way from 33d street to 63d and there is a tremendous wastage of gasoline. What matters it that the president of one of the very largest of our oil companies warns us that we are using gasoline far faster than we are producing it, that there is less than five years' reserve remaining and that soon we will have to begin putting aside a large amount of the best product for that great new aviation fleet which is to be America's chief contribution to the war? Does that worry the men in any one of those cars? As for that matter does it worry you in yours? Is it any of your business that there are 25,000 men—nearly ten full-size regiments—to-day engaged in driving private pleasure automobiles in the city of New York; perhaps twice that number elsewhere in the country. Is that your business—or mine?

I rather think it is. Is it any of your business that we cannot manufacture phonographs rapidly enough to fill the demand at this time; that it is a big season in furs; that florists never had a better year? Should we not rejoice that the non-essentials are doing so well in these bitter times?

Why not business as usual? England can answer that question. She went through the same performance. She tried to stretch her industrial productivity—despite a great shortage of man-power—into making an increased output of both essentials and non-essentials; and failed. We shall fail if we persist in trying to do the same thing. Only in our case such a failure would be even more tragic. For the best things, in addition to foodstuffs, that we can supply to aid the allies and the great cause to which we are all pledged are the products of our industrial productivity—guns, powder, clothing, shoes, aeroplanes, motor trucks, locomotives, railway cars; and then the ships in which to carry all these things overseas. Of money we have a plenty; already we are giving generously of it to our allies. Men we can supply and shall—but I am afraid, never in more than a comparatively limited number. But munitions we can and should supply—in almost unlimited quantities.

Yet these we cannot give plentifully unless we have plentiful man power. And our man-power, like that of England's, has been depleted by the drafts for our army. And even if we have learned from her mistakes and showed more judgment in picking men for the trenches and leaving the right types for our essential industries, the fact remains that our fighting service already has made great drains upon our industrial army. These drains we cannot meet. But we can prevent the drain of non-essential industries upon our workmen, to say nothing of our materials and our very limited supply of fuel. And this is the very thing that we must stop. England stopped it—in a large measure at least—by forbidding the employment of men between the ages of 18 and 61 years in 18 industries which she classified as non-essential. And when one of the manufacturers barred, or practically barred, from making his product protested, saying that he must keep his plant and organization together until the return of peace, she found other work for him. Thus a factory given ordinarily to the output let us say of candy, suddenly might find itself manufacturing canned tomatoes for the army, at a price which not only enabled the candy maker to keep his business together but to gain a small profit from it. And if he was at all puzzled at the details of canning tomatoes the government smoothed out his problems. In Great Britain more than 10,000 plants large and small, in other days turning out a tremendously diversified list of products are to-day under government direction making the supplies essential for England's part in the winning of the war.

Here is a lesson by which the United States may profit—if only she will heed it in time. It has not as yet sunk far. When it does sink and we begin to take heed, there will be a little less gaiety in the hotels;—they and the theatres will begin to take on more of the complexion of London playhouses and hotels,—where there is light and laughter,—and supreme confidence—but restraint as well. There will be less pressure of passenger automobiles upon Fifth avenue, New York, or Michigan avenue, Chicago, or any other of the great pleasure streets in the land. The thing I noticed most on a recent trip to Montreal, after an absence of two years, was the tremendous reduction in motor cars upon the streets; the fact that most of those with in sight were driven by men and women, obviously their owners. Canada has had to learn her lesson. And so must we. Only it is within our power to make that lesson reasonably easy—or fearfully hard. And if we do not practice self-denial now we undoubtedly shall be compelled to practice it at a later time; and in a far greater measure.

COLD TILL TUESDAY.

Moderating in the Middle of the Week and Then Snow.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Weather predictions for the week, issued by the weather bureau, are: Cloudy and continued cold until Tuesday, moderating during middle of the week with snow Friday or Saturday.

ABOLISH ROADS' SEVEN KILLED HINDRANCES IN TRAIN WRECK

Wipe Out Many Competitive Obstacles to Railroad Speed

CHIEFS GET ORDERS BOTH ENGINES FROM McADOO WERE DEMOLISHED

Labor Demand Ahead—Coal The Automatic Block System Problem Is the First to Failed to Work in Receive Attention the Cold

Washington, Dec. 31.—Definite steps toward national unification of railroads and improvement of congested conditions were taken Saturday by Director-General McAdoo in the appointment of a temporary staff and the issuing of his first formal order directing absolute pooling of all traffic, common utilization of terminals, rolling stock and other facilities, hauling of freight by the shortest routes, and retention of all present officers and employees. Special instructions were issued for the clearing of congestion in New York and Chicago through pooling of terminals and other traffic facilities, and for the appointment of a permanent staff. The interstate commerce commission was drafted for an investigation by its inspectors of general freight conditions on eastern trunk lines.

Walker D. Hines of New York, a railroad lawyer and for many years a special student of government operation, was appointed assistant director-general, heading the formation of a permanent staff. The interstate commerce commission was drafted for an investigation by its inspectors of general freight conditions on eastern trunk lines. While the director-general was conferring Saturday with a number of railroad heads, interstate commerce commissioners and members of Congress and planning immediate action to remedy faults of transportation, it became known that the demands of the four railroad brotherhoods for a 40 per cent wage increase had been denied by the railroads, and consequently the labor men had decided to postpone for probably 60 days the presentation of their case to the government.

It was thought probable that President Wilson would take up the labor situation in his address to Congress Thursday or Friday. Congressional agencies went to work Saturday on the new railroad situation. The Senate interstate commerce commission, at a special hearing drew from Chairman Hall the interstate commerce commission the statement that the government's failure to centralize priority administration was largely responsible for freight congestion. Senator Cummins, ranking Republican member of the Senate interstate commerce committee, in a conference with Mr. McAdoo, expressed the opinion that legislation to preserve the basis of government compensation to the road would be passed speedily though not without some opposition to the president's suggestion of guaranteeing to the companies the average earnings for the last three years.

The railroad war board, whose services have been solicited temporarily by the director-general, Saturday presented recommendations for speedy moving of freight in the Chicago congested center and made a number of other suggestions for economy and efficiency under the new unification plan. The railroad chiefs freely predicted Saturday that the advantages of the great non-competitive system now being developed would soon become so apparent that the country never would revert to the old plan of private control. They even went so far as to predict very definitely that government ownership as well as control would be a development of only a few years.

ITALIANS BREAK UNDER FIRE.

Germans Report Attack Against Heights East of Monte Tomba.

Berlin, Dec. 31.—An Italian attack against the Austro-German position on the heights east of Monte Tomba by the heights east of Monte Tomba by the Austro-Germans Saturday under the fire of the Teutons, it was announced officially Saturday by the German war office. The text of the statement reads: "Italian front: An Italian attack against the heights east of Monte Tomba broke down under our fire. Toward evening the artillery activity increased in isolated sectors on the Flanders front, south of the Scarpe and near Graincourt and Gonneville. East of Nieupoort and near Poelaepelle several British reconnoitering detachments broke down. "Front of the German crown prince: North of Courtecon, our reconnoitering detachments penetrated the French lines and brought back several prisoners."

Baby Eight Months Old Had Itching Rash Since Birth on His Face, Neck and Back. Two Cakes Cuticura Soap and One Box Ointment Healed

Above are extracts from a signed statement recently received from Mrs. George Woodbury, 4 French Street, Lynn, Mass.

Cuticura Soap, to cleanse, purify and beautify, Cuticura Ointment to soften, soothe and heal, have been most successful in the severest forms of skin and scalp troubles, but greater still is what they have done in preserving clear skins, clean scalps and good hair as well as in preventing little skin troubles becoming great ones. Cheap soaps, harsh soaps, coarse, strongly medicated soaps are responsible for half the skin troubles in the world. Stop the use of all doubtful soaps. Use Cuticura for all soiled purposes.

For Trial Free by Return Mail address post-card: "Cuticura, Dept. R, Boston." Sold throughout the world.

Twenty Men Injured in a Head-On Collision in Indiana

BOTH ENGINES WERE DEMOLISHED

The Automatic Block System Failed to Work in the Cold

North Vernon, Ohio, Dec. 31.—Seven are known to be dead and about 20 injured as the result of a head-on collision between a westbound and an eastbound Baltimore & Ohio train a mile east of North Vernon Saturday night. All the dead were members of the crew. The westbound train carried several soldiers, according to reports, but it is not known if any were among the injured. All the dead were pinned beneath the wreckage. Both engines were demolished and thrown from the track and down a steep embankment. The cause of the wreck is reported to have been the failure of the automatic block system to work.

THE STATUS QUO ANTE.

And the Position of the United States in Relation to It.

When the pope last summer proposed the virtual equivalent of the status quo ante as the basis for peace negotiations, it was pointed out that America could not view the restoration of the European conditions existing before the war with indifference. As President Wilson had declared in his note to the Russian provisional government in May, "It was the status quo ante out of which this iniquitous war issued." Our own entrance into the conflict, moreover, had finally driven home the truth that the United States would be almost surely dragged into any general European war in the future. The successful maintenance of neutrality while Europe is ablaze can never again be realized in practice.

Since August, when the pope's peace effort was made, the possibilities inherent in a peace based on the status quo ante have perceptibly changed and the effect of the change upon America must not be ignored. What confronts us now is the prospect that an immediate peace negotiated according to the formulas of Count Czernin would not only leave the Balkan states wholly under Teutonic influence, even if Serbia and Rumania were nominally restored, but would leave Russia presenting very soft frontiers to the central powers.

The old Russia was a stupid military autocracy that was inefficient and over-weighted, but it did check very materially the Teutonic pressure through the Balkans to Constantinople by virtue of its centralized command of vast military resources. The new democratic Russia may not be able to exert the same anti-Teutonic influence as the old Russia in southeastern Europe for several generations to come. The strategic disruption of the empire, moreover, may not be fully counteracted in the near future. A divided Russia, reorganized into a number of independent or quasi-independent states would be anything but the strong military power which the rest of Europe has had to reckon with since the time of Peter the Great.

A new Russia with a soft frontier, and its influence in the Balkans and at Constantinople swept away, might be made to fit the peace formula of "no annexations," but the fact would have to be faced that such a Russia would not correspond to the conditions existing before the war in international relations. In eastern Europe the power of Germany would be supreme and unchecked. If Russia were to go permanently to pieces under the pressure of the centrifugal forces now uppermost, the increase of German power would be comparatively limitless in the East unless the prestige of Prussian militarism in the meantime were destroyed.

From the consideration of western Europe the considerations are, in brief, the need of France for Alsace-Lorraine. For France would be comparatively reduced to the rank of a second-rate power, without the restoration of the lost provinces, in case German penetration into Russia should be facilitated by the present disruptive tendencies of the empire and also by a nationalistic decadence promoted by socialist extremists in power at Petrograd. Unless an enduring and just peace based upon a society of nations, including Germany, can be brought about, America's interest in the European settlement is now much more a vital question of national security than it was six months ago. If the world is to remain in the coming peace under the old order of the balance of power and competitive armaments,—as it must if the war is to end with the Germany of the war lords the real military victors—the whole western hemisphere will be seriously affected by the disappearance of Russia as a military empire and by the virtual disappearance of France from the ranks of the great powers. The difficulty of maintaining a counterpoise under these circumstances can easily be imagined.

If we are finally to be thrown back upon selfish considerations of vital national interest, the United States must now support the western states of Europe to the last ditch and do what it can toward reorganizing Russia on the lines of a federal republic, strong enough to maintain itself against its aggrandizing Teutonic neighbors.—Springfield Republican.

SOLDIERS' HEALTH GOOD.

Death Rate is Less Than Two in Every Thousand.

Washington, Dec. 31.—Figures compiled at the office of Surgeon-General Gorgas and made public Saturday show that with more than 900,000 soldiers in training in this country from Sept. 21 to Dec. 14, there were only 1,291 deaths from all causes, an average rate of less than two per 1,000. The record shows that the average strength of the army in the United States during the period was 916,722 men. Among the 202,000 regulars there were 144 deaths; there were 494 deaths in the 387,233 national guard and 753 deaths in the 327,489 National Guardsmen.

To Prevent the Grip. Colds cause grip—LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE Tablets remove the cause. There is only one "Bromo Quinine." E. W. GROVE'S signature on box. 30c—adv.

"Look up, and not down; look out, and not in; look forward and not back; and lend a hand."

This motto of a famous society, written by Edward Everett Hale, is a good one for us to-day.

"Happy New Year," with the world still burdened with the war, may seem hard to say. It will be, if we look backward. But if we look forward, we can think and plan a Happy New Year; and "lend a hand" to make it so.

We extend this wish to all our friends, and customers, and everybody else—

A Happy New Year

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TO REPORT IN NATIONAL FOOD SURVEY

Duties of Holders of Foodstuffs Outlined by Charles J. Brand, Chief of Bureau of Markets of U. S. Department of Agriculture.

All dealers in and holders of foodstuffs in quantities substantially greater than family supplies should report in the war emergency food survey of the United States to be made as of to-morrow, even though they do not receive inquiry blanks by mail, according to a statement made here to-day by Charles J. Brand, chief of the bureau of markets of the United States department of agriculture, who has the big war inventory in charge. "We have attempted to send schedules from Washington to each of the hundreds of thousands of firms and individuals who handle the food supply of the country, but obviously it has been physically impossible to reach them all," said Mr. Brand.

"All dealers, manufacturers, and warehousemen having any food in their possession, and all other concerns, such as hotels and institutions having more than \$250 worth of food on hand, should arrange to report their holdings of Dec. 31, whether schedules have been delivered to them or not. In case they do not receive schedules by Jan. 2, they should write for copies to the bureau of markets, United States department of agriculture at Washington, or should call at or write to one of the many branch offices of the bureau throughout the country. The names and locations of these branches can be secured from any concern that has received a copy of the schedule.

"This survey of our available food stocks is of the greatest significance, since it will furnish the basis for the shaping by the government of important plans and policies, vital to the country's welfare. It is only with accurate figures in regard to existing food supplies before us that we can plan the conservation, utilization, and production of our food supply in such a way as to meet safely the extraordinary war conditions with which we have to contend. "I believe that the purpose of the survey is generally understood and that practically all owners and holders of food will cheerfully co-operate with us to the limit. "I trust that it will not be necessary to bring prosecution under the act providing for the survey in order to force the making of reports."

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Would Be Long Time.

"Jim, dear," said the young wife, "I do wish you'd stop drinking. Every time you go to one of those banquets of yours you get up the next morning pale and silent, you eat nothing, you just gulp down 10 or 15 glasses of water. Do stop drinking, won't you? I know it can't be good for you, dear." "All great men have been drinking men," said Jim. "Look at Poe, at Charles Lamb, look at Burns, look at—" "Well, Jim," said the young wife, "you just swear off till you become a great man, too, and I'll be satisfied."—Exchange.

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