

# LAS VEGAS OPTIC

TONIGHT and Thursday fair; not much change in temperature, is the prediction.

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CITY EDITION

## FEAR OF FRICTION WITH AMERICA IS NOT FELT IN LONDON

### BZURA RIVER, WEST OF WARSAW, BECOMES YSER OF THE EAST, THE GERMANS LOSING HEAVILY THERE

### FORCED BACK BY RUSSIANS, THEY LOSE BLOOD-BOUGHT ADVANTAGE OF RECENT DAYS

### Berlin Statement Denies Reports of Reversals for the Teutonic Arms

### DUEL FOR POSSESSION OF SAINT GEORGES

### Kaiser's Forces, Compelled to Withdraw, Make Desperate Endeavor to Regain the Position, but are Unsuccessful—Allies' Offensive Movement is Disappointing, Yielding Little Ground

The British foreign office had under consideration today the communication of Washington remonstrating at the forcible searching of and detention of American ships suspected of carrying contraband of war. With the return to London of Foreign Secretary Grey the British authorities began the framing of a reply concerning the character of which no intimation was given. The belief was expressed generally that a way would be found to meet the situation without serious friction.

German victories in the east were announced by the Berlin war office, whose statement was in direct contrast with recent dispatches from Petrograd. It is asserted that Russian cavalry which invaded east Prussia has been driven back to a point four miles from the border. In Poland, according to the Berlin statement, the German advance continues, and it is said that Kierniewick and Lowicz were captured nearly a week ago.

Referring to the situation in the west the German war office confirms the French statement of yesterday that the allies had captured the Belgian town of St. Georges.

The French official communication asserts that further progress has been made in Belgium including the capture of important positions.

Russian assertions that an important victory has been won over the Austrian forces in Galicia were confirmed today in an official statement from Vienna, in which the admission is made that the Austrians were compelled to retreat along the entire eastern front. It is said that the situation to the north in Poland is not affected by this reversal, although Petrograd asserts the movement of the main German army has been completed with losses.

Austria's defeat at the hands of Serbia apparently has been followed by renewed activity on the part of Montenegro, whose troops have carried the fighting to Austrian soil in Herzegovina. The Vienna war office states the Montenegrin attacks have been repulsed easily.

Russian claims to victory over the Turks in the Caucasus are disputed by reports which reached Berlin from Constantinople saying that the Turks have won "another success" and are pursuing the retreating Russians. It is also said at Constantinople that another British effort to land troops in Arabia failed.

London, Dec. 30.—The soldiers of Emperor Nicholas still hold the main German armies in check and continue to press their advantage, according to dispatches reaching London. At the same time they are harassing the Austrians who have been flung back over the Carpathian mountains.

In the western arena of the war the allies continue to claim slow progress, but the offensive, started about the middle of December, has not noticeably slackened.

The Bzura west of Warsaw has now become the Yser of the east. On its

in the Aisne region, and on the heights of the Meuse. The text of the communication follows:

"In Belgium we have won a little territory in the region of Nieupoort, opposite Polders, and to the north of Lombearzyde. The enemy subjected St. Georges to a violent bombardment. This is the position we are putting in a state of defense.

"We have captured a German point of support located to the southeast of Sonnebeke on the road between Pelselaere and Paschendaale.

"From the Lys to the Oise there is nothing to report.

"In the valley of the Aisne and in Champagne the enemy has manifested another burst of activity which has taken the form particularly of a violent artillery fire, to which our heavy artillery replied effectively.

"In the Argonne we have made slight progress in the region of Fourde Paris.

"Between the Argonne and the Meuse there has been cannonading along all the front, but particularly severe along the heights of the Meuse.

"In the Vosges the enemy delivered an attack against our positions at La Tete de Faux; this was repulsed.

"In upper Alsace we are constructing our position. Our heavy artillery is ready to silence the German howitzers which are bombarding upper Ashach."

**A Week of Fighting**

There has been given out in Paris the following official recital of the principal events of war between December 16 and 24:

"This period of nine days resulted in consolidating the successes won by us during the ten days preceding. Our aggressive attitude has been continued with ever increasing energy and everywhere the enemy has been reduced to a defensive attitude. The violence of counter attacks has been evidence that he accepted this attitude reluctantly. The checking of every movement made by him in his endeavor to recover ground lost to us made our advantage the greater.

"It is proper to say that at various points along the front, particularly near Arras, on the western boundary of the Argonne district and near Verdun, we have made ourselves the masters of important points of support.

**Mud Ruins Rifles**

"The operations to the north of the Lys have been attended by great hardships because of the bad weather. The cold, liquid mud in which the men have had to move has gotten in the breaches of their rifles. This made it impossible to shoot. The fighting consequently has been with the butt ends of muskets and even with fists.

"According to an expression used by one of their leaders, our soldiers are literally blots of mud. There has been organized for them a system by which they can now bathe and change clothes upon leaving the trenches."

**Flour Duty Removed**

Brussels, Dec. 30 (via Amsterdam and London).—The German administration in Belgium, to render less difficult the maintenance of the civil population, has abolished the duty on flour made from grain imported by the American Commission for the Relief of Belgium. This duty was the same as that imposed in normal times and was added to the arbitrary price of flour and bread for years.

**BETTER PAY UP**

Ben Coles, the city marshal, has received a letter from Secretary of State Antonio Lacerro at Santa Fe stating that the 1914 automobile licenses will expire tomorrow. Persons riding in cars not equipped with the new

Washington, Dec. 30.—Troop L of the Twelfth United States cavalry, on patrol duty in the Oak Creek district, Routt county, Colorado, since last May, was ordered today to return to its home station at Fort Meade, South Dakota. Orders for the gradual withdrawal of the other federal troops sent into Colorado to quell the mining disorders are in preparation.

The gradual withdrawal of federal troops is in accord with a plan considered at recent conferences between President Wilson, Secretary Garrison, Governor Ammons of Colorado and Governor-elect DeWalt. At that time Governor Ammons said he would replace the regulars by state troops.

The main strength of the federal troops is in the Trinidad district where Colonel Lockett has the Eleventh cavalry from Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, as well as the second squadron of the Fifth cavalry from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Troops E and H of the Twelfth cavalry are at Canon City, while a machine gun platoon and troops F, G, I and M of the Twelfth cavalry are at Louisville.

The actual time for the withdrawal of all the organizations will be determined at a conference between Colonel Lockett and Governor Ammons, but orders have been issued for all to be ready to leave the state at any time.

**Saloons to Reopen**

Denver, Dec. 30.—Governor E. M. Ammons today said that so far as the state government is concerned saloons in the districts affected by the recent coal miners' strike would be permitted to reopen January 1, the expiration of the proclamation issued prohibiting the sale of liquor. The proclamation was issued under authority of a statute enacted at the special session of the general assembly last spring, empowering the governor to close saloons in districts where there was riot and disorder.

Governor Ammons received a message today from Colonel James Lockett, commanding the federal troops, stating that the colonel will visit the governor here. It is supposed that a conference will be held regarding the withdrawal of the troops.

licenses after the first of the year will become liable to arrest.

The new license tax is being mailed from the secretary of state's office today. They will have the figures and letters in white on a red background.

**WILL INVESTIGATE KILLING**

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 30.—Coroner J. R. Menck, who will conduct the inquest into the death of Walter Smith, killed by Canadian militiamen while hunting ducks on the Niagara river, planned to call every witness to the affair, including the three soldiers implicated in the shooting. The inquest was to begin late today in the town hall of Fort Erie. The United States government will be represented by Vice Consul J. B. Curtis and upon his request will be based whatever action the government may take in the affair.

### TROOPS LEAVING THE MINING CAMPS

FIRST FEDERAL SOLDIERS TO MOVE ARE FROM ROUTT COUNTY MINES

### OTHERS WILL GO SOON

GOVERNOR AND COLONEL LOCKETT WILL DECIDE ON MOST PROPITIOUS TIME

### HAVE SERVED SINCE MAY

DID GOOD WORK IN PREVENTING DISORDERS DURING LABOR DISPUTES

Washington, Dec. 30.—How the United States could end the European war in 90 days by cutting off the export of war supplies and how some day the "issue" between this country and Japan must be "tried out" in the Pacific, were proposed today by Representative Vollmer of Iowa, to the house foreign relations committee, when, with Representative Bartholdt, he endorsed a joint resolution to empower the president to prohibit exports of war supplies.

"There is only one nation whose lines of national interests are hopelessly opposed to ours. I do not hesitate to predict that Japan proposes to hold, not only Kiao Chow, but the islands of the Pacific which she has seized. Some day this issue must be tried out in the Pacific, and it may be to the interest of this country to have powerful friends at her side," Representative Vollmer emphatically declared.

"Germany cannot be beaten in this war. Her people are united and determined to fight to the last drop of blood. If this war continues it will go on and on until all the world is dragged down to bankruptcy."

"Do you think the German government expects us seriously to pass such a resolution as this?" asked Chairman Flood.

"I believe, and persons who have been in Germany say," replied Vollmer, "that the Germans look with great displeasure on shipments of arms to the allies."

Representative Bartholdt told the committee that by "dollar neutrality" the United States is alienating the friendship of Germany and Austria.

"The alliance of Great Britain with Japan is not a good omen for our future in the Pacific. We are now selling our neutrality for British gold," he said.

"Is it your contention that while technically neutral, we are really one of the allies, supplying the bullets for the others?" asked Representative Cooper.

"I believe we are practicing criminality," said Representative Bartholdt, "in the maiming and killing of men, the making of widows and orphans and the prolongation of the war."

Representative Bartholdt declared shipments of war munitions since the war began aggregated \$150,000,000.

"I am convinced," he said in conclusion, "that by cutting off the exportation of the war supplies we can bring the war to a close soon, and the cutting off of just one month of war would mean more to us than all the profits that the manufacturers of the war supplies could make."

### UNITED STATES CAN END THE WAR

BY CUTTING OFF EXPORTATION OF SUPPLIES, CONFLICT CAN BE STRANGLER

### BARTHOLDT'S SUGGESTION

REPRESENTATIVE SAYS THIS COUNTRY IS, IN EFFECT, ONE OF THE ALLIES

### VIEWS JAPAN AS A MENACE

THINKS THAT NATION'S ALLIANCE WITH ENGLAND BODES LITTLE GOOD

London, Dec. 30.—The American note sent by the United States to Great Britain protesting against the action of British warships in detaining and searching cargoes in American vessels is now under consideration at the British foreign office, where no intimation is given as to when a reply to the note may be expected. During the afternoon Sir Edward Grey, the British foreign secretary, held a conference at the foreign office with David Lloyd George, the chancellor of the exchequer; Reginald McKenna, secretary of home affairs; Walter Runciman, president of the board of trade, and Sir Francis Hopwood, civil lord of the admiralty, on the subject of the American note.

A frank discussion of the note by British officials shows that they regard it as friendly and they do not believe the differences between America and Great Britain are such that they cannot be reconciled satisfactorily.

Much depends upon effective action on the part of Denmark, Holland, Norway and Sweden to prevent the re-shipment to Germany and Austria-Hungary of cargoes received from the United States. Until water tight regulations are put in force in these countries little hope, it is understood, is held out by the government for relaxation in the matter of searching American cargoes.

One prominent British official pointed out that Italy has effectively checked contraband shipments to Austria and Germany, with the result that Great Britain is not stopping ships destined for Italy unless there appears special reason to suspect fraudulent consignments. A guarantee by the United States as to the honesty of bills of consignment and the enactment of strict regulations for the severe punishment of fraud, granting that the American government could find satisfactory means of making such a guarantee, is admitted by this prominent official as a possible step which might cause a relaxation in the search of American cargoes.

British officials call attention to the lenient attitude adopted by the British government toward American contraband, which they say might easily be regarded as contraband, because of its extensive use in gun cotton, but which has not been put in the contraband lists. They say this leniency toward cotton has been abused by shippers, who used it to conceal copper and other contraband.

The Washington communication to the British government, holds the first place not only in the news and editorial columns of the newspapers, but wherever the war and its attendant ramifications are discussed. It is contended everywhere that mutual good will surely will bridge this difficulty and obviate further irritation.

**A Friendly Press**

"We have no right to feel aggrieved because the American government endeavors to mitigate the losses which the war inflicts on the merchants and manufacturers of that country," says the Westminster Gazette. This newspaper, more than any other, reflects

### ENGLAND GIVES PROMISE OF A THOROUGH CONSIDERATION OF PRESIDENT WILSON'S REQUEST

### British Press Says American Demands Regarding Shipping are not Unreasonable

### NEUTRALITY OF CARGOES MUST BE GUARANTEED

### If This Government Agrees, Great Britain Will not Interfere With Ships Upon the High Seas—Lord Grey Takes Matter Up for a Thorough Investigation, but Says his Country has Been Imposed Upon by Shippers.

the views of the government. It contends that it is to the interest of neutrals as well as belligerents to shorten the war, and therefore neutrals should submit to any restrictions which are likely to have this effect.

"Why doesn't the United States address its remonstrances to Germany and Austria instead of Great Britain?" asks the Westminster Gazette, and answers its own question by explaining that, command of the sea permits France and Great Britain alone to exercise the right of search and detaining neutral ships.

Stating that the right of search is conceded in the American note, the Westminster Gazette admits that this right should be exercised with all regard to the convenience of neutrals. It suggests that it would be well for the British government to supply daily to the American ambassador a list of ships stopped, with a statement of the reasons therefor so that the questions arising in this connection might be adjusted at once.

Similar information might be given to American newspaper correspondents in London. The Westminster Gazette says it feels sure that instructions will be given to avoid detention of ships on mere suspicion and that if such searches as can be conducted at sea fail to reveal good grounds for forcible detention, such action will not be resorted to.

To prevent Great Britain from checking shipments of copper to Germany would in effect be an American intervention on the side of Germany, this newspaper contends. It absolves Washington from any such intention and points out that if the difficulties are faced in a spirit of fairness the two governments by friendly agreement will be able to ease the situation for each other. A plea for mutual good will is made by the Pall Mall Gazette, which urges that between two English-speaking nations so accustomed to frank discussion and plain dealing, there is no necessity for "irritation over any apparent brusquerie in the message." This newspaper admits that the United States is suffering considerable inconvenience, but says it is quite evident that the Germans are receiving war materials from neutral sources. Britain, it declares, is bound to uphold its rights to check this traffic and has done everything within its power to mitigate the inconvenience received by neutrals. It is proposed to go still further if the way can be pointed out.

The Evening Standard asks America to continue to recognize that the prime duty of the British navy is to see that nothing goes to Germany which can help her.

"We have little doubt of her willingness and may have as little uncertainty as to the spirit of fairness to neutrals in which the British government desires to interpret international law and its obligations," says the Standard.

"As President Wilson himself hints, there are people in America who con-

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