

NATIONAL INTEREST CENTERS IN SUFFRAGE MEASURE

RUSSIA AND BULGARIA AGREE ON SEPARATE PEACE TERMS

ITALIAN FRONT BURIED IN SNOW

Austro-German Offensive Brought to End, at Least Temporarily—Enemy Guns Roar in Area of Arras. Russo-Central Powers' Peace Emissaries Resume Discussion at Brest Litovsk.

Bulgaria and Russia have concluded a separate peace, according to circumstantial advices by way of Switzerland. If a separate adjustment between these nations has been reached it seems probable that it was because Bulgaria found no difficulty in subscribing to the bolshevik formula of no annexations and no indemnities so far as Russia was concerned. Bulgaria has desired no Russian territory, seeking her acquisitions from Rumania and Serbia. It was for Serbia's assistance, however, that Russia prepared for war under the old regime, her mobilization after Austria had threatened Serbia being made the occasion for Germany's declaration of war.

Turkey likewise has been seeking a separate peace with Russia, but according to today's advices, the bolsheviks have declined to entertain the Ottoman proposal, requesting the Turks to participate in the general conference between the central powers and Russia.

From Petrograd comes a report, based on a newspaper statement, that representatives of Germany now in Petrograd are seeking to have Sweden act as a means of communication with Great Britain, France and Italy. The German delegations in Petrograd which are represented as seeking this mediation through the Swedish legation there were understood originally to have been charged only with commercial and other similar negotiations outside the realm of major political affairs.

Reports from Petrograd that the bolshevik government intends to repudiate Russia's foreign debt are reiterated today in newspaper communication to England. A similar report late last year was denied shortly after it became current.

According to unofficial reports from the peace conference at Brest-Litovsk, the Russians are insisting upon the removal of the negotiations to Stockholm. The Germans are represented as apparently undecided what course to take.

From bolshevik sources comes the report of the defeat of Gen. Kaledines and Gen. Duffo, the Cossack leaders, who have been besieging the bolshevik in the Don region and elsewhere in South Central Russia. The latter general is reported in flight, with revolutionary soldiers and the red guard in pursuit, while Gen. Kaledines is said to be in retreat.

Snow has come to the aid of the Italians and the Austro-German offensive apparently has reached a halt if not an end. The whole mountain front where the enemy had been making slight but steady gains, is buried under from three to five feet of snow, making infantry operations impossible and hampering the Austro-German supply lines.

Heavy snowfalls in the Alps are reported to have blocked the heavy communication system in the Trentino and Caria, leaving them only two lines across the Venetian plains to the Piave, which would be of no help to the snow-bound troops between Lake Garda and the Piave. The enemy troops on the eastern bank of the Piave are not troubled so greatly by the snow but previous efforts to cross the river in force have failed.

On the western front the opposing guns have been active near the Scarpa, in the Arras area; northeast of Ypres, and northeast of Verdun. The Germans have failed thus far to take counter measures against the successful French sortie in the Woerwa.

Peace emissaries of Russia and the central powers are meeting at Brest-Litovsk. It is reported that the first discussion revolved around the selection of a meeting place which has not yet been decided upon. It is added, however, that a settlement probably will be reached. The Russian government has refused Turkey's offer of a separate peace and has informed that country that she must participate in the general conference.

FUEL TRUST CHECKED GOVERNMENT

Senate Inquiry Committee Told of Failure to Get Ship Plates at Reduction.

Washington, Jan. 10.—Charges that "steel trust" officials blocked a plan by which the government was to get steel for ship plates at one-third less than it is paying were made before the senate committee investigating shipbuilding today by L. P. Featherstone, president of the Texas Steel company, of Beaumont, Tex.

Featherstone's motion proposed to put to the government ore lands in Texas and coal properties in Alabama and erect a steel plant at Beaumont to make steel ship plates at about \$45 a ton as against \$65 other steel companies are charging the government.

His plan was, he referred to the shipping board to the council of national defense and thence to a subcommittee on which were Charles Schwab and other officials of large steel companies.

"They turned me down... on the excuse that the government was not prepared to go into business for itself," said Featherstone. "I might not have expected anything different from the crowd of a year or two ago who were beneficiaries of high prices."

ITALIAN SHIP MILAZZO SUNK IN EARLY DECEMBER

New York, Jan. 10.—The big Italian steamship Milazzo, 11,477 tons gross register, was sunk during the early part of December by a German submarine while the ship was in Mediterranean waters, according to word received in shipping circles here today. It is understood no lives were lost.

ENEMY HALTED BY DEEP SNOWFALLS

Closing Vital Link in Communication From Austria Southward Threatened.

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, (Wednesday) Jan. 9. (By the Associated Press).—The enemy's winter campaign appears to have been interrupted seriously, if not halted definitely, by heavy snowfalls during the last twenty-four hours. The snow covers the mountain front to a depth of from three to five feet.

Monte Grappa, which is the central point of the operations between the Piave and the Brenta rivers, has three feet of snow while further north the positions occupied by the enemy are buried to a much greater depth. The snow barrier is operating strongly against the enemy, as they are on the higher summits, while the Italians are on the lower ground sloping toward the plain.

On Monte Grappa, which is the dominating summit held by the Italians, and on Monte Pertica and Monte Caprile nearby, held by the enemy, the cannonade fell off today and there was little activity beyond patrol movements. Most of the soldiers are busy clearing the mountain paths so as to permit the steady movement of supplies. Huge tractor snowplows are being used on sledges are taking the place of trucks for carrying food and munitions.

May Close Alpine Pass. In addition to the interruption at the immediate front, the heavy snowfall may close the enemy's line of communication from Austria southward into Italy. The principal route runs through the Stelvio, an Alpine pass, and has a railway down to Trent and thence to Primolano, which is only ten miles from Monte Grappa and the fighting front. It is this route which has been open up to this time and has given the enemy direct communication to the front.

While the lower section is not blocked, indications are that Stelvio pass, which is the vital link in the route, is blocked by from ten to fifteen feet, and connects the Adige valley of east pass in Europe, exceeding 3,000 feet, and connects the Adige valley of Austria with the Adda valley of Italy. Snows in that section invariably are followed by avalanches which further block the valleys and available outlets.

The enemy's eastern communications into the Friuli region are similarly, but it is believed not seriously, affected.

Railway Blocked. The railway line running southward along the upper Piave is blocked by heavy snows and avalanches. Further east the route to Gorizia which passes through the transalpine pass of Eisntritz, is snowbound, though two other routes across the Carso range are less affected.

The indications are that the enemy will be unable to carry on any large operations, particularly on the mountain front, during the period that his communications are snowbound.

TO CANCEL RUSSIAN NATIONAL DEBT

London, Jan. 10.—The bolshevik government intends to publish a decree within a few days cancelling the Russian national debt, telegraphs the correspondent at Petrograd of the Manchester Guardian. The correspondent

CATHOLIC HOSPITAL IN OTTAWA PARTLY BURNED

Ottawa, Ontario, Jan. 10.—Heroic efforts by nuns and nurses saved all but four of the patients in the Water Street Catholic hospital here today when fire broke out and destroyed a part of the building. A child who was strapped to a bed with weights fastened to an injured leg was burned to death.

SEPARATE PEACE WITH BULGARIA IS CONCLUDED

Russia Signs Agreement Ending War, Resuming Diplomatic and Economic Relations.

CENTRAL POWERS CONSENT

Minister Appointed to Petrograd; Consul to Odessa.

Right of Ferdinand's Kingdom to Voice in International Danube Commission Recognized.

Berlin, Jan. 10.—A separate peace agreement has been signed by Russia and Bulgaria, the Bund reports, a Bulgarian correspondent of the Bund says Premier Radoslawoff is ready to sign a dispatch from Brest-Litovsk in parliament.

"War between Russia and Bulgaria ceases. Diplomatic and economic relations between Russia and Bulgaria are resumed. Russia recognizes Bulgaria's right to participate in the International Danube Commission. The first peace is thus concluded with the consent of Bulgaria's allies."

The Bund says Bulgaria has appointed a minister to Petrograd and a consul to be stationed at Odessa, and has ordered the resumption of navigation to Odessa.

Bulgaria took part with Germany, Austria and Turkey in the first negotiations at Brest-Litovsk and it has been assumed that no peace terms were agreed to by the central powers except in concert. However, advices received from the Bund say that the Russian peace conference was held in Sofia, which was the first session of the Brest-Litovsk conference, when they resumed this week, made no mention of a Bulgarian representative.

King Said to Have Opposed Move. King Ferdinand of Bulgaria is credited with opposing the formula of peace without annexations or indemnities, declaring Bulgaria should retain the territory she had won. "This would not interfere with a peace between Russia and Bulgaria, however, inasmuch as the territory Bulgaria desires consists of parts of Serbia and Rumania. Premier Radoslawoff was quoted in a Sofia dispatch last month to the effect that Bulgaria had accepted the Russian proposals, providing for ending the war, restoring commerce and treaties in effect before the war and settling the Danube question.

Crozier Not to Blame. Secretary Baker said he thought a federal powder plant advisable, but declared the present powder supply adequate for present needs.

Senator New asked if there was any mistake of judgment when the Lusitania was sunk, in not beginning preparations for war.

"It would have been very wise," Mr. Baker replied, "if a dozen years ago the ordinance department had begun preparations. To be perfectly frank, I think Gen. Crozier is not entirely to blame. In season and out he has recommended ordinance expansion."

Senator Wadsworth asked if the American artillery program is large enough.

"You never can have too much," Mr. Baker replied, "but the program fully engages the resources of the country as they ought to be. Every country's artillery program has grown every month during the war."

Secretary Baker assented to Senator Wadsworth's statement that the war was a competition of industries, and that whichever presented the most materials and men would wear out the opposition.

"That is the present aspect of it," he said.

SNOW, SAYS BILLY 'POSSUM

I hate to be persistent; it's obnoxious, don't you know, and very inconsistent with our war plans as they go; but my persevering disposition makes me want what I can get, and since they've said no sugar, I want more than ever yet. The weather? Probably snow and slightly warmer tonight. Friday, probably snow and moderately cold.



AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE OF SUBSTANTIAL SIZE NOW AND READY FOR ACTIVE SERVICE

Total Number Men in Field and Training Camps Is One and Half Times as Large as Any Force Mobilized by This Nation, Asserts Secretary Baker to Senate Investigating Committee—Morale of Enemies Certain to Be Depressed by Realization That American Democracy Has Neither Blundered Nor Hesitated.

Washington, Jan. 10.—Secretary Baker today replied to criticisms of his department's conduct of the war, in a long and exhaustive prepared statement presented to the senate military committee.

Conceding delays and errors of judgment in so vast an undertaking Secretary Baker epitomized his reply in these words:

"No army of similar size in the history of the world has ever been raised, equipped or trained so quickly. No such provision has ever been made for the comfort, health and general well-being of an army.

America now has in France an army of "substantial" size ready for active service, Secretary Baker today told the senate war investigating committee.

Officers and men, he explained, have been trained specially for modern warfare, independent lines of communication and supply are in process of construction, and great programs have been formulated for the production of new instruments of war.

Arms of the most modern and effective kind, the secretary declared, have been provided for every soldier in France and are available for every fighting man who can be sent to France in 1918.

An army of nearly a million and a half men is now in the field or in training at home and abroad, he asserted. The subsistence of the army, he continued, has been above criticism, while its initial clothing supply, temporarily inadequate, is now substantially complete.

"I state the foregoing conditions of the war department's problem, and some of the reasons therefor for two purposes," he said. "In the first place, the American people are entitled to know of the splendid effectiveness with which they have been able to organize the manpower and general fighting power of the nation, and second, our army in France and our allies are entitled to have the benefit resulting from the depression of the morale of their enemies which must come when the Germans realize that the American democracy has neither blundered nor hesitated."

No Army Raised So Quickly. "No army of similar size in the history of the world has ever been raised, equipped or trained so quickly. No such provision has ever been made for the comfort, health and general well-being of an army."

The secretary gave the committee an outline of the work of the department and its various bureaus.

On the first day of April, 1917, the regular army comprised 5,791 officers and 121,797 enlisted men. The National guard in federal service approximately 3,733 officers and 76,713 enlisted men, and the reserve 4,000 officers and 1,500,000 enlisted men; at that time approximately 2,573 officers in the reserve, but as these were on inactive duty they cannot properly be considered in estimating the strength of the army of the United States at that time. On the 31st day of December, 1917, the regular army consisted of 10,250 officers and 475,000 enlisted men; the National guard of 16,031 officers and 400,900 enlisted men; and the national army of 480,000 men and the reserve of 84,575 officers and 72,750 enlisted men. In other words, in nine months the increase has been from 9,524 officers to 100,856 officers, and from 202,510 men to 1,428,650 men.

Nation's Greatest. "During the war in Spain, the army of the United States at its maximum strength aggregated 372,000 men and officers. The army now in the field and in training is, therefore, roughly six times as great as the maximum number under arms in the Spanish-American war.

"The total number already in the military service is one and a half times as large as any force mobilized by this nation."

The United States rate in forces in the United States from mid-September to the end of December averaged 7.5 per cent, slightly less than would have been the death rate of men of the same age at home," the secretary said. "In 1918, the death rate per thousand was 20.14, or nearly three times as great," he continued. "Our death rate in the army during the year 1918, just before the war, was 5 per cent. Leaving out the deaths due to measles and its complications, our rate among all troops in the United States since Sept. 1 has been about 2 per thousand."

"For the fiscal year 1915 congress appropriated for the war department \$158,000,000; for the fiscal year 1916, \$283,000,000; for the fiscal year 1917, \$600,000,000; for the fiscal year 1918, \$7,527,338,716. In other words, taking 1915 as a normal year, the appropriations for 1918 are nearly fifty times as great."

War Department Given Tenth. "The regular appropriations made by congress for all government purposes for the fiscal year 1915 were \$729,000,000, or nearly one-tenth the 1918 appropriations for the war department alone."

"Of the total war department appropriations for 1918, \$3,200,000,000 was for the ordinance department, of which contracts amounting to \$1,497,000,000 already have been placed."

Many of the classes of ordinance material requiring to be designed, specifications drawn and contracts let were wholly unfamiliar to the country's normal military practices. The trench warfare material alone involves commitments of \$283,000,000. Mr. Baker said.

Details Staggering. "This business involved accounting, determinations of standards, prices, quantities and the creation of new manufacturing facilities.

"In the woolen goods section alone, the co-operation of over three hundred mills was involved, and the following items give some idea of the extensive character of the operations: There have been purchased over 19,000,000 yards of cloth.

SUPERINTENDENT KILLED IN POWDER EXPLOSION

Wilburton, Okla., Jan. 10.—James Garvin, superintendent of the glazing department of the Patterson Powder company, at Patterson, Okla., near here, was killed today when an explosion wrecked the plant. As far as has been learned, Garvin was the only person killed. The property damage, it is expected, will be heavy.

SUFFRAGE BILL OUTLOOK BRIGHT

With Hard-Fought Goal in Sight, Attention Already Turns to Senate.

Washington, Jan. 10.—With President Wilson's unexpected support and the eleventh-hour endorsement of a republican caucus, the woman suffrage amendment came up in the house today under agreement for a final vote before adjournment.

When the house convened at 11 o'clock suffrage advocates were certain of victory. With the weight of the president's influence to swing doubtful democrats, Representative Baker, chairman of the suffrage committee declared, the necessary two-thirds would be exceeded by at least fifteen votes.

As the house met, among those opposed to the amendment, there was a frankness that the president's declaration had probably changed enough votes to insure adoption, although some of the opposition still contended it could be won by a 3-2 vote in the alignment against it in the south.

Speaker Clark said he expected the vote to come between 5 and 6 o'clock.

Billy Sunday on Hand. The session of the house was opened with prayer by Billy Sunday, the evangelist, who invoked Divine mercy on the president, the cabinet, the allies, and American soldiers. He referred to the world as sin-cursed, denounced the Germans as a "wretched pack of Hun" and prayed for peace. In the senate, where the resolution, favorably reported, is now on the calendar awaiting action, an early vote is expected, but with present prospects unfavorable.

Today's debate furnished a spectacular scene. The house was in a happy mood and heard the arguments with applause and laughter. Women packed the galleries, and invoked Divine mercy on the suffragists and buoyant with the expectation of victory they made the most of the occasion.

Foster Opened Fight. Representative Foster, of Illinois, opened the fight by offering the special rule which fixed four hours for general debate and reading of the bill for amendment to begin not later than 6 o'clock.

Representative Parker, of New Jersey, republican, led the debate, opposing the amendment.

When Representative Cantrell, of Kentucky, told of going to the White House conference last night at which the president approved the amendment, the house broke out in laughter, applause and cheers. He was not ashamed, he declared, to ask advice of the president.

"This house will follow absolutely his advice," Cantrell declared.

"Nothing doing," shouted Representative Ragdale, Democrat, of South Carolina.

Representative Joannette Rankin, of Montana, spoke for the resolution.

"We are facing a question of political revolution, a question forced to an issue now by international circumstances," she said. "Every great woman to serve more effectively the national welfare. Today as never before, the nation needs its women."

ANOTHER COLD WAVE EXPECTED IN SOUTH

Washington, Jan. 10.—Another cold wave is expected to sweep the south this week. The weather bureau today gave warning of a disturbance now over the extreme southwest moving eastward. It will extend through the west gulf states Thursday night and Friday, cover the east gulf states Friday and Saturday and reach the South Atlantic states Saturday night and Sunday.

(Continued on page five.)