

WORST FLOOD EUROPE HAS EXPERIENCED IN YEARS PLAYS HAVOC WITH WAR OPERATIONS

WAR OPERATIONS ON LARGE SCALE BEING INTERFERED WITH BY RAINY WEATHER

Heavy Artillery Attacks From Sea and Occasional Infantry Engagements Little Effective

GERMANS CAPTURE RUSSIAN POSITIONS; FRENCH ADVANCING

Rumored Balkan States Are Preparing to Enter Conflict—Turks Claim Victory Over Russians

London, January 3.—(6:45 p. m.)—The extremely rainy winter, the worst Europe has experienced in years, has caused floods in the river valleys of the continent which have prevented any operations on a large scale on the western battle front and seriously interfered with those in the east.

There have been heavy artillery engagements from the sea to the Swiss borders and occasional attacks by the infantry of the opposing armies, which, when not repulsed, have added a few yards to the territory in the possession of the attacking force, but have always proved costly adventures.

The French have gained a little ground between Albert and Roye, just north of the line where the line turns eastward, and east of Rheims and southwest of Verdun, where attempts to make untenable the German positions at St. Mihiel, on the Meuse, are proceeding slowly. They also have made some advance in Alsace, but have suffered a repulse to the northwest of St. Meneshould.

Capture Position
In the east the Germans have captured the important Russian position at Borjow, but elsewhere have been unable to make any advance.

The Austrians claim to have checked the Russian advance near Gorlice, on the South Galician railway, but apparently the battle there has not yet been concluded.

The Russians have taken the Austrian position near Uzoak pass, which should open another entrance for them through the Carpathians into Hungary, while the Austrian retreat in Bukovina is described by the Russians as a rout.

The Turks have crossed the Russian border in the Caucasus and, according to Constantinople, have defeated the Russian garrison at Ardahan. They are, however, displaying anxiety for their remaining possessions in Europe by feverishly fortifying the whole coast line. What they fear is not disclosed, for it is considered hardly possible for the allies to land a sufficient force to prove a menace to them. It is possible they anticipate an invasion from another source.

Balkan Agitation
Indications again point to the possibility that the Balkan states which now are neutral may take a hand in the war.

The Greek finance minister has declared Greece is making preparations to maintain the new territories which she gained in the Balkan wars from Turkey and Bulgaria, but that she has more to fear from Bulgaria than Turkey. It is not thought Romania can look on calmly while the Russians advance toward Transylvania, and it is expected she will join Russia and attempt to secure the much coveted eastern province of Austria-Hungary.

Throughout the British empire intercession services were held today for success of the allies' arms. Many of the young men to join the army. King George

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\$1,000,000 LOST IN PHILADELPHIA FIRE

Lumber Yard and 17 Dwellings Destroyed—Trains Held Up

Philadelphia, January 3.—Fire caused more than a million dollars damage today in Philadelphia and Camden, Pennsylvania railroad trains were held up more than an hour and a half by the flames, which destroyed a lumber yard and 17 dwellings in North Philadelphia, while traffic on the Philadelphia and Reading road from Camden, N. J., was discontinued by a fire which destroyed the station there and damaged a lumber yard and the John Dillinger shipbuilding plant. Four firemen were injured at Camden and 50 overcome by smoke in this city.

The origin of the fire in North Philadelphia, where more than \$500,000 damage was done, is unknown. Flames were discovered shortly after 8 o'clock in the lumber yard. Twenty-one fire companies were engaged there, while four others went to the assistance of the Camden station.

A lighted cigarette is believed to have started the fire in the Camden railroad station. Four parlor cars and 21 passenger coaches were destroyed before locomotives could pull them from the burning building.

CONSCRIPTION FOR ENGLAND RUMORED

Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty Says England's Young Men Who Are Not Answering Country's Call May Be Forced Into Service

London, January 3.—(6:45 p. m.)—A hint that the British government contemplates conscription for increasing the army and navy was dropped by Thomas J. Macnamara, parliamentary secretary to the admiralty, while speaking at Browning settlement this afternoon.

London, January 3.—(3:45 p. m.)—Referring to the fact there were many thousands of young men without dependents who had not answered their call to the colors, Mr. Macnamara said: "If they think they are going to enjoy a life of freedom at the other fellow's expense, they won't enjoy it much longer."

As the result of six open air meetings at Cardiff, addressed by wounded soldiers, there was an extraordinary rush to the recruiting offices last evening and the recruiting officers were kept busy until midnight.

NEUTRAL COMMERCE PROBLEM EXPECTED TO BE CLEARER SOON

British Reply to American Note Will Expedite Decision of Scores of Special Cases

Washington, January 3.—Officials expect the coming week to clear away much of the present uncertainty over seizure of American cargoes and ships by the allies. Great Britain's reply to the American note of protest probably will expedite decision of scores of special cases.

The dispatch of the protest covering the general situation has for the moment sidetracked some of the individual cases. Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, who has been conducting most of the negotiation in this connection, has not been at the state department since news of the sending of the note was made public. It is believed that pending the deliberations of the British government on the general subject of neutral commerce he is awaiting further instructions before continuing his negotiations.

Will Recognize Position
President Wilson and his advisers believe Great Britain will recognize that the position of the United States does not differ from that which Great Britain herself repeatedly has maintained in previous wars in which England was a neutral. State department officials say the archives of diplomatic correspondence concerning the rights of neutrals are filled with cases and principles thoroughly justifying the American contentions. They point out, for example, that much more drastically phrased notes were sent by England to Russia when the latter was at war with Japan. Not only did England declare foodstuffs must be shown to be for the use of an army or navy, but specific protest was entered against the doctrine that it is for the belligerents to decide that certain articles or classes of articles are, as a matter of course, to be dealt with as contraband of war, regardless of the well established rights of neutrals.

Another Communication
In another communication between England and Russia during the same war the former declared that "unless some steps are taken by the Russian government to restrain their authorities from the indiscriminate nationalization of neutral traders, the amount of compensation for which the Russian government will find itself liable may assume no small proportions." It is necessary that they should realize that it is rapidly assuming shape in which it will be impossible for the government to honor such a pledge, content with the prospect of obtaining pecuniary compensation for the sufferers. The situation which has arisen has indeed become one of the utmost gravity.

Reports of the finding of rubber manifested as "gum" in the cargo of the American ship, regarded as understood to have virtually halted negotiations in progress in London with the object of obtaining modification of the embargo against exportation of rubber from British possessions. The vessel carried a cargo from the United States to neutral ports. The British government has taken the position that the rubber probably was destined for Germany.

The British embassy tonight issued its first statement on the shipping situation since the publication of the American note. It cleared up one point on which the United States had asked for information by announcing that turpentine and resin shipped from this country before those articles were declared contraband would be paid for when seized. The statement said: "Turpentine and resin shipped before the publication of the order placing them on the contraband list will be paid for."

"All cargoes for Italy have been held up at Gibraltar since December 4. Italian ships carrying cargoes of commodities of which export from Italy is prohibited are not interfered with unless there is clear evidence of fraudulent intentions on the part of shippers."

Pefferin From Comment
Stockholm, January 3.—(Via London) Swedish newspapers thus far have refrained, at the suggestion of the government, from making comments regarding the American protest against the British attitude toward neutral trade. However, they have quoted fully the English and American papers, especially declarations that there will be no rupture of good relations between the United States and England.

OFFICIAL WAR STATEMENT

FRANCE

Paris, January 3.—(2:45 p. m.)—This afternoon's official communication says: "During the day of January 2 we strengthened the position north of the Lys gained during preceding days. The enemy has shown activity only in the region of Zonnebeke, which he has violently bombarded. From the Lys to Arras there is almost complete quiet."

"There was an artillery engagement in the region of Albert and Roye and our infantry advanced some 600 metres near La Boisselle."

"From the Oise to the Meuse on the plateau of Touvent our heavy artillery has demolished several fortifications from which the enemy was harassing our sappers."

"Splendid artillery duels have taken place to the west and to the east of Craonne. Near Perthes-Les-Hurlus we have progressed about 300 metres. Near Beauséjour there has been infantry fighting in which we have inflicted serious losses."

"The Germans have launched two attacks without success in the forest of La Gurie. Everywhere on all this portion of the front the artillery has shown great activity."

"In the region of Verdun and on the heights of the Meuse there was an artillery duel. We have again gained a little ground in the forest of Bouchon, northeast of Troyon, and in the forest of Le Petre, northwest of Pont-a-Mousson."

"In the Vosges we have occupied one of the enemy's trenches. "Artillery engagements have taken place in the Ban-De-Sapt and in the valley of the Favo."

"In Upper Alsace our former gains in the region of Thann have been maintained. We bombarded a German train in the station at Altkirch and caused some damage on the railway between Carspach and Dierspach, to the southwest of Altkirch."

"The perceptible abatement in our active offensive should be attributed to the incessant rains which soak the ground and make operations everywhere almost impossible."

RUSSIA

Petrograd, December 3.—This statement was issued today by army headquarters: "On the Buzra and Rawka rivers we are continuing the successful repulse of German attacks in spite of the enemy's heavy artillery fire and bomb throwing."

"On the road to Wlozozowa, in the Klecice region at the village of Lopuzno, on December 31, German troops, after a stubborn battle, took possession of a portion of our trenches, but a later counter attack forced the enemy to abandon all the trenches previously occupied. We captured several hundred prisoners and nine machine guns."

"In western Galicia fighting continues in the region of Gorlice. In the region of Colulok we occupied Austrian positions where we took as many as a thousand prisoners."

"The Austrian retreat in Bukovina before our troops has taken the character of a great rout."

GERMANY

Berlin, January 3.—(By wireless via London 3:20 p. m.)—The army headquarters statement today says: "Some of the enemy's ships, accompanied by torpedo boats, appeared off Westende, Belgium, yesterday afternoon without firing."

"On the whole of the western front artillery fights took place. An infantry attack by the enemy north of Ste. Menchould, in the Argonne forest, was beaten off with severe losses to the French."

"In East Prussia and in North Poland there is no change in the situation."

"To the west of the Vistula our troops took a specially strengthened point d'appui of the Russians at Borjow after several days of very hard fighting in which we captured 1000 prisoners and six machine guns."

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TRAGEDY OF LOVE BARES DUAL LIFE OF LAWYER



MRS. IDA ROGERS

BUSINESS SITUATION GENERALLY BETTER

Chamber of Commerce of United States Issues Statement On Widespread Effect of War On American Industry—Economy Prevails Among All Classes

Washington, January 3.—Business conditions are described as "generally reassuring" by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States in a report made public today. The report adds, however, that the war had had a widespread and depressing effect on industry.

"Economy naturally prevails among all classes," says the report. "Though remarks have been noted that this does not extend to automobiles. Future delivery goods purchased are smaller and collections uniformly poor, but lately a marked change has been noted in a lessening of difficulty in obtaining bank loans and in an easing of interest rates. Conditions in the south, while slowly improving, still present a serious problem."

Crops in general, the report adds, have been good, but the cattle industry confronts serious handicaps in difficulty in obtaining loans on cattle, and the foot and mouth disease quarantine. The sheep and wool industry is excellent but general mining conditions are poor.

Many idle factories are reported as preparing to resume operation. Lack of building, however, has caused many lumber mills to close and others to run on short time.

MOST OF STAFF OF JESUS CARRANZA IS REPORTED KILLED

Brother of Venustiano Carranza Is a Prisoner On the Isthmus of Tehuantepec

Vera Cruz, January 3.—Gen. Jesus Carranza, brother of Venustiano Carranza, is being held prisoner by the rebel General Santibanez on the isthmus of Tehuantepec, according to advices from reliable sources. General Santibanez shot Carranza's entire staff except his son, Abelardo Carranza, and Ignacio Peraldi. They also are held captives.

The executions took place after Gen. Carranza's troops had been defeated at the battle of the Isthmus. The rebels are reported to have killed most of Carranza's staff.

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CHANCELLOR TELLS HOW GERMANY FEELS ABOUT PRESENT WAR

Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg Frankly Discusses Existing Conditions

SAYS ENGLAND IS RESPONSIBLE

Confident of Ultimate German Victory But Unable to Predict the Length of War—Friendly Toward America

Berlin, December 24.—(Correspondence of Associated Press.)—The imperial chancellor, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, today discussed frankly with a correspondent of the Associated Press the Belgian relief situation, the contraband question, industrial Germany's adaptation to war conditions, Germany's sentiment toward her enemies and toward America, and the question of responsibility for the war, which he attributes to Great Britain.

"I did not want this war," he said with striking emphasis. "We Germans do not cherish hate."

"Four months and a half of war have not passed lightly over the chancellor. With grizzled, close-cropped beard and clad in the uniform of a lieutenant general, he seemed much older than the scholarly, frock-coated statesman of Reichstag debates. His face and eyes show signs of great strain."

He spoke with confidence of ultimate German victory, but a weary, expressive shrug of the shoulders was his answer to a query as to the possible duration of the war. He had only this afternoon received word that his son, a young cavalry lieutenant, had been badly wounded and captured in Poland. Of that, however, he made no mention when stating that the situation in the east appeared very favorable.

"The interview took place in the reception room of the historic Chancellor's mansion, in Wilhelmstrasse, around which cluster memories of Bismarck, Caprivi, Hohenlohe and Buelow. A portrait of Emperor William, inscribed with words of warm appreciation, stood on the table."

News Conditions
The conversation turned first to news conditions, and difficulties of presenting the German viewpoint to American readers owing to British and French control of the cables. This the chancellor regretted. He felt it a great injustice.

"We shall," remarked the chancellor, "shortly issue full reports of the earlier battles; for example, the battle of Tannenberg, that on the Masurian lakes and the battle on the Marne."

"To a remark on how little was known abroad concerning Tannenberg he rejoined quickly: "One of the greatest battles in history. One of the greatest? The greatest, I should say."

"Is there any truth," he was asked, "in intimations that Germany is hampering shipment of provisions to Belgium, and what is the attitude of your government toward the American relief work there?"

"We are doing everything we can to assist it and are giving of our own supplies," he said. "We are very grateful to the Americans for it."

Sorry For Belgians
"We are very sorry for the Belgians. As to our attitude on Belgian neutrality, I have spoken at length in the Reichstag. You have seen the documents published in the North German Gazette, which show that Belgium had abandoned its own neutrality long before the war."

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LOSES POSITION BY WINNING HIS WIFE

Chicago Professor Weds the President's Daughter and Must Resign Job

Chicago, January 3.—Judge Enfield Fraser, controller of the University of Illinois and professor of public accounting, has lost his position through winning as his wife Miss Helen James, daughter of Edmund James, president of the university. Professor Fraser's resignation had been accepted because no relative could serve on the same faculty with himself.

"It is my decided opinion," said President James, "that boards of trustees and public school boards should be prohibited by law from appointing to positions within their gift any person connected by blood or marriage to the fourth degree with any member of the teaching or administrative staff."

"Nepotism is in quality a more subtle and more corrupting influence than other forms of favoritism or religion directed to the same end."

AUSTRIA'S NAVAL BASE BOMBARDED

It is announced from London that more than 30 French and British warships have bombarded the Austrian seaports of Pola and Rovigno. Pola is the principal naval harbor and arsenal of Austria. It is almost completely landlocked, and an extensive system of fortifications defends its entrance.



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COMMISSION FINDS BELGIAN CITIZENS CRUELLY TREATED

Body Investigating Alleged German Brutality In Belgium Reports to Secretary Bryan

Washington, January 3.—Recent findings of the Belgian commission investigating alleged German violations of the usages of war have been presented to Secretary Bryan and were made public here tonight by Emmanuel Havenith, the Belgian minister. The report asserts that "Belgian civilians have been wantonly shot and Belgian towns ruthlessly destroyed systematically and by order of German commanding officers."

Proclamations by high German officers are quoted in support of the findings. One said to have been issued at Liege by General Von Buelow, after stating that the inhabitants of Ardennes had made a surprise attack upon German troops, is quoted as announcing:

"It is with my consent that the commander in chief has ordered the whole town to be burned and that about 100 people have been shot. I bring this fact to the knowledge of the city of Liege so that the citizens may realize the fate with which they are menaced if they adopt a similar resistance."

Summing up its report, the commission says:

"After such proclamations, who will be surprised at the murders, arson, pillage and destruction committed by the German army wherever they met with resistance?"

"If a German army corps or patrolling party is received at the entrance to a village by a volley from soldiers of the regular troops who are afterward forced to retire, the whole population is held responsible. The civilians are accused of having fired or having cooperated in the defense, and, without inquiry, the place is given over to pillage and flames, and a part of the inhabitants are massacred."

"The odious acts committed in all parts of the country have a general character, throwing the responsibility upon the whole German army. It is simply the application of a preconceived system, the carrying out of instructions, which have made the enemy's troops in Belgium a horde of barbarians and a band of incendiaries."

Dr. Klaus Hansen Dead

Christiania, December 25.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Dr. Klaus Hansen, famous as a physician in Norway and a leader in the fight against tuberculosis, is dead at Bergen. He was 71 years old. Dr. Hansen was the chief physician of the Municipal hospital at Bergen and a Fellow of the Norwegian Academy of Medicine.