FRENCH STORY OF TWO MONTHS OF GREAT WAR

A Review of the Struggle From Nov. 15, 1914, to Jan. 15, This Year.

OFFENSIVE GONE

And German Defensive Will Follow Suit—Patience Only Needed.

Paris Cable.—There was given out this afternoon an official statement under the caption of "The War From Nov. 15 to Jan. 15," reading as follows:

"Since the 15th of November, in other words, since the conclusion of the Battle of Ypres, and up to the complete resumption of the great German offensive movement against our left wing, the war has taken the character of a siege. In such a warfare it generally is expected that the advantages obtained by one side or the other virtually offset each other. But in this case it can be said that with one exception, we alone have gained ground. With this one exception the Germans everywhere have gone back.

"The following recital of points gained makes it possible to get an idea of the progress on either side: By the Germans; destruction of the market, of the cathedral and of the hospital of Ypres; destruction of the town of Nieuport and of the Nieuport baths—and the bombardment of Armentieres, Bethune and Arras; bombardment of Soupir and of Soissons; recapture of Hill 132 and of an eminence near Crouy, and a gain of from 1,200 to 1,800 yards to the north of Soissons; advance of 300 metres in the Argonne along a front of 800 metres at a point near the Brook des Meurissons; bombardment of a church at Nancy, and of the hospital at Thann.

THE FRENCH ATTAINMENTS.

"Results obtained by the French: From the sea to the Lys, recapture of all the left bank of the Yser between Knocke and Hetsas and an opening on the right bank between the sea and St. Georges. The installation of a bridge-head four kilometres (two miles and a half) into this region, and the installation of a bridge-[illegible] to the south of Dixmude. Capture of St. Georges and of the house [illegible] ferryman, and of Korteker. [illegible]eral extension of our front [illegible]pres; the succession of Wy-[illegible]nd the cessation of the attack of the enemy's infantry.

[illegible] Lys to the Oise, the capture of the chateau and of the village of Vermelles and of Rutoire; the capture of numerous German trenches between Aix-Noulette and Carency; the partial recapture of Saint Laurent and of Blangy, near Arras; the capture of La Boisselle; the capture of German trenches at Lihons; the capture of Quesnoy-En-Santerre the end of October, and progress to the east, followed by the general extension and consolidation of our front.

"From the Oise to Rheims — The capture of the German trenches at Nampcel and of the plateau of Nouvron; the taking of Spur No. 132 and the eminence at Crouy, both of which, however, we lost again; the destruction of numerous pieces of German artillery; the reduction by four-fifths of our previous percentage of infantry losses, thanks to the greater efficiency of our artillery, and the consolidation of our defensive system.

MANY ATTACKS STOPPED.

"From Rheims to the Meuse — Advance of one kilometre (two-thirds of a mile) in the region of Prunay; advance of more than two kilometres in the region of Perthes and the stopping of 17 German counter-attacks; advance of nearly one kilometre in the Argonne, in the forest of La Grurie and of Bolante, and the repelling of numerous counter-attacks; the extension of our front in the neighborhood of Verdun, and the destruction of numerous German batteries.

"From the Meuse to the Swiss frontier — Important advances in the forest of Consenvove, in the forest Apremont, in the forest of Ailly, in the forest of Montmartre and in the forest of Lepetre; the checking of all the German attacks here; progress to the northeast of Nancy, in a locality called the forest of Parroy; progress to the north and to the south of Sen[illegible] and in the entire neighborhood of [illegible] de Sapt; capture of the Tete [illegible]mu, which commands Saint Marie and of the Tete de Faux; the complete checking of 34 counter-attacks delivered by the enemy; the capture of Aspach and of Steinbach and of the heights to the east of the last-mentioned place, and progress in the direction of Munster, Cernay and Altkirch.

"Summing up, we get ten general advances on the part of our troops which were distinctly perceptible at certain places as compared to 20 general withdrawals on the part of the enemy, always with the exception of the situation to the northeast of Soissons. This is a comparison of the last two months. To complete it, it should be added that, first, the German offensive in Poland has been repulsed for a month past; second, the Russian offensive continues in Poland and in the Carpathian Mountains; third, the Turkish army in the Caucasus has been in large measure annihilated; fourth, Germany has exhausted her reserves in officers (an average of 12 officers to a regiment), and will not in the future be able to develop her resources in effective men except at the expense of the existing units; fifth, the armies of the allies, on the contrary, are finding it possible further to strengthen themselves to a measureable degree.

"It can consequently be affirmed that to obtain final victory it is sufficient that France and her allies know how to wait for it and at the same time prepare for it with inexhaustible patience. The German offensive has been broken; the German defensive will be broken in its turn."

NO ALLOWANCE

Soldiers' Brides Will Get No Patriotic Fund Money.

Toronto Report.—The question of a separation allowance from the National Patriotic Fund for the wives of soldiers who are married after enlisting for overseas service has been considered by the executive committee of the trustees, and their decision given to the effect that under such circumstances these wives are not entitled to draw on the fund. This decision is one of some importance, since marriages of soldiers in camp have been of fairly common occurrence, and a number of applications have already been made for assistance on the part of these soldiers' brides.

Another matter upon which a ruling has been given by the military authorities is the case of a wife withdrawing her consent to her husband going abroad after this has once been obtained. It is now stated that once the consent of the wife has been obtained there can be no release for the huuband, nor can the wife of a soldier who has married after enlistment obtain her husband's discharge by refusing to consent to his leaving. The military authorities explain the necessity of this by pointing out the serious disorganization in the forces which might take place just prior to departure for overseas, particularly as by that time the troops would be quite highly trained.

The two infantry battalions in camp and the divisional cyclists' corps are now being trained in the last stage of their musketry practice, after which they will be considered capable of doing efficient work if needed. The three units, in addition to practice with service ammunition at the outdoor targets, are given an hour's work each day in rapid loading by means of cartridge clips or "charges" and dummy cartridges.

TORPEDOED

German Submarine Sank a British Steamer.

London Cable.—The British steamer Durward, says a Rotterdam despatch to Reuter's Telegram Company, has been torpedoed by a German submarine. The crew was saved.

The Durward was bound from Leith to Scotland, and was struck by the torpedo, according to the Reuter correspondent, while twenty-two miles off the Maas lightship. The crew took to the boats and reached the lightship, from which a Dutch pilot conveyed them to Rotterdam.

The Durward was a vessel of 1,300 tons, and was built at Glasgow in 1895. She was owned by G. Gibson & Co., of Leither, Scotland.

PASSPORT CASE

Conspiracy to Defraud U. S. Government is Charged.

New York Report.—A complaint charging conspiracy to defraud the United States Government, in connection with the issuance of false American passports to German reservists, was filed by the Government authorities yesterday against Maurice Dieches, a New York lawyer; Carl Rurode, Hans Adam Von Axel, four German reservists, and others involved in the case.

This action was taken after Federal Judge Hand sustained writs sworn out on behalf of three reservists, and their counsel, contending that the original complaint failed to designate any overt acts. The prisoners were re-arrested on the new complaint, which amplifies the old one by charging that Rurode delivered a false passport to the defendant, Heinrich Sachse, and that Von Wedel rented a room at the Elks' Club, in this city, for the purpose of securing passports for German volunteers.

Joseph A. Baker, of the local bureau of investigation of the Department of Justice, who filed the complaint, set forth as a part of it that for him to disclose all the details at this time would be injurious to the Government's case and against public policy.

The four defendants rearrested demanded an examination, which was set for January 28th.

A QUEER YARN

Cologne Hears France Tried to Make Peace.

Berlin, Cable—The Cologne Gazette to-day publishes the following:

"In September France had sincere wishes for peace, and she instructed an eminent neutral diplomat to introduce preliminary proposals to this end.

"This diplomat has previously occupied an official position in London and he was under English influence. He betrayed the secret to the British Ambassador in Paris, causing an enormous sensation in London.

"Lord Kitchener was sent to France. He threatened a bombardment of the French coast and forced from the French Government the well-known treaty not to conclude peace except England consented."

SHORT ITEMS OF THE NEWS OF THE DAY

British People Are Complaining of Increased Cost of Food Supplies.

NEW MINE VICTIM

The German Cruiser Karlsruhe Reported Off San Juan, Porto Rico.

The Rusians inaugurated a new plan of campaign.

Persecution by Turks led to wholesale flight of Jews from Palestine.

British airmen, it is reported, flew over Essen and destroyed some buildings.

Mr. James Ballantyne was re-elected Mayor at the nominations in Montreal West.

The British Columbia Legislature was opened by Lieutenant-Governor Barnard.

Col. James H. Bredin, prominent in military ad public affairs, died at Cornwall.

Stubborn fighting for possession of trenches was continuous in Flanders and France.

Dr. Oliver Boyd has been chosen Liberal candidate for the Federal riding of Medicine Hat.

Prof. Benzinger, late of the University of Toronto, was granted permission to leave Canada.

The trial of the directors of the defunct Union Life Insurance Company continued in the Toronto Assizes.

Deputations from the city and the unemployed asked the Government to relieve the labor situation.

The Provincial Government is circularizing all hotelkeepers to ascertain how many soldiers in uniform patronize the bars.

Chief Thompson, of the Toronto fire department, tendered his resignation to the Board of Control to make way for reorganization.

Welland town, in a two-day campaign for the Patriotic Fund, raised more than $24,000, being about $4 apiece for each citizen.

A brigade of mounted rifles is to be sent to Egypt made up of one regiment of Canadians at Salisbury and the rest from the second contingent.

The Swedish steamer Drott, according to a Copenhagen despatch, struck a mine off Raumo, Finland, and sank. The captain and five of the crew were drowned. The others were saved.

There is a general outcry in Great Britain against the raising of the prices of bread and other commodities, which is popularly believed to be entirely unnecessary, notwithstanding the war.

A blacksmith shop, owned by H. McRow at Burr Creek, near Kingston, was wrecked when a stick of dynamite which had been placed by a fire to thaw out, exploded. Fortunately no one was in the building at the time.

Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture, who went to Pinehurst, North Carolina, just before Christmas, after suffering from an attack of congestion of the lungs, is expected back in Ottawa. Mr. Burrell has thoroughly recovered.

The United States Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, after receiving a cablegram reading "Urumia, Tabriz; missionaries well," announced that it felt justified in sending out the assurance that all the missionaries in Persia are safe.

The death is announced in Ireland of Lord Ardilaun (Arthur Edward Guinness), who was famous for his charitable and philanthropic works, and who at one time was the head of the great Guinness breweries, which he and his brother, Edward, inherited. He was born in 1840.

The captain of the steamship Como, of the New York and Porto Rico Navigation Company, from New York, reports encountering the German cruiser Karlsruhe off San Juan, Porto Rico, Wednesday morning. He says that the cruiser refused to answer his wireless greeting.

Despatches from Vienna state that black smallpox is spreading alarmingly and that 151 fatal cases have been reported within a week. Many civilians have been stricken and the epidemic is hard to combat because most of the physicians are at the front.

Lieut.-Col. Shannon, assistant adjutant-general of the first divisional area, with headquarters at London, Ont., received word to-day of his temporary appointment to the position of commanding officer of the division, succeeding Brigadier-General Hodgins, now acting adjutant-general of the Dominion.

AN AWFUL NIGHT

Stratford Child, Stripped, Imprisoned in Snow.

Stratford, Ont. Des.—To spend the night imprisoned in a box and covered with snow, without shoes, stockings or mitts, was the terrible fate last night of little Jack McDougall, the four-year-old son of Mrs. Thomas A. McDonald, of this city.

It is alleged that three little playmates stripped and buried him in the snow, although several time throughout the night while the search was in progress one of the youthful miscreants declared that he know nothing of the disappearance of the child. Rising early he released the prisoner. The child was found in a stupor later in the morning on the street and rushed to his home. Medical men found that the feet were frozen and the cheeks frost-bitten. He may recover.

PRINCESS PATS

Some Promotions Made in Canadian Regiment.

London, Cable.—Captain Cuthbert Fairbanks Smith, of No. 4 Company, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, whose interesting experiences in the trenches were related by him to a correspondent on Tuesday, has been gazetted a major. At present he is recuperating at his country home while awaiting an operation on his injured leg, his nervous system having been unequal to the ordeal after he was brought back from the trenches.

Other promotions in the regiment are: Major C. W. Ward, formerly of the Rifle Brigade; Captain Fitzgerald, formerly of the Royal Irish Fusiliers; Captain Carr, formerly of the 8th Ghurkas.

This list is interesting, as being the first promotions since the formation of the regiment.

Major J. H. McKinery is invalided on sick leave.

ONLY SAFE WHEN IN THE TRENCHES

British Private Sought by German Shells Elsewhere.

Now He's in a Hurry to Rejoin His Regiment.

New York Report.—The seemingly charmed life of Private Leaske, of the first battalion of the London Scottish, has attracted considerable attention in England, according to letters recently received here. Private Leaske has been invalided home, with a severe flesh wound in the thigh, and, notwithstanding his desperate experiences, is now reported to be recovering.

When the war began Private Leaske was in business in Antwerp. There he remained until the investment of the city by the Germans, and refused to leave when the bombardment commenced. A German shell destroyed the house in which he lived, and when the fortress fell he beat a hasty retreat to England.

Having served in the London Scottish, he re-enlisted in the first battalion, with which he was sent to France later. During an engagement when the regiment was first under fire three bullets pierced his great coat, but did him no injury. The following day, however, a fourth bullet wounded him in the thigh, and he was carried off to a hospital.

It appears that Leaske was in Belgium, and that he was taken to a field hospital near Ypres. The Germans shelled the place, and Private Leaske was removed with the remainder of the wounded to another hospital farther to the south. This building also the Germans shelled, and the young soldier had a very narrow escape from flying fragments of shrapnel before he was carried from the building in safety.

Fortunately his next place of retreat was far beyond the range of the German artillery, the distance being a more effectual protection than the Red Cross ensign from German shell fire. There he remained until with several others he was taken to England. It was believed that then he would be harassed no more, and would be left in peace until his wound was healed.

Such was not the case, however, for he was sent to a hospital in Hartlepool. He had not been in the institution 24 hours before the German raiding cruiser squadron opened fire on the city. With unerring accuracy the German guns speedily searched out the hospital, which was one of the buildings struck.

Private Leaske then came to the conclusion that he would be much safer on the firing line, and thenceforward he made progress toward recovery. He says he will not feel really safe and comfortable until he rejoins his regiment at the front.

HAD POOR YEAR

Great Lakes Protective Association So Reports.

Detroit, Mich Report.—The consideration of annual reports and the election of officers for the coming year composed the principal business before the Great Lakes Protective Association, in session here to-day.

The association came through last year without the total loss of any steamer enrolled in its membership. This favorable result was attributed to the care exercised in navigation, to the wise adoption of separate courses for east and westbound vessels, and a strict observance of the rules of navigation in fog.

A proposition to increase hull insurance from 25 per cent. to 50 per cent. of a ship's valuation was expected to bring out a lively discussion.

The year 1914 was a lean year for great lakes vessels owners, which showed a decrease of 34 per cent. from that of 1913, according to a report of William Livingstone, president of the Lake Carriers' Association. Besides the lack of business 54 sailors lost their lives in shipwrecks, which was "a rather high average," in the words of the president. Twenty-five vessels were lost during the season.

ALLIES' FINANCIERS TO MEET.

Paris Cable.—The Matin states that David Lloyd George, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer, and P. Bark, the Russian Minister of Finance, are coming to Paris shortly to confer with Alexandre Ribot, the French Minister of Finance, with a view of the organization of closer financial co-operation between the allies.

BRITISH REPLY IN DACIA CASE

Vessel May Be Seized, But Cargo Will Be Respected.

Reassures U. S. re Movement of Cotton.

London Cable.—Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, to-day submitted to Walter Hines Page, the American Ambassador, the reply of the British Government to the State Department's request that the former Hamburg-American Line steamer Dacia, which now flies the American flag, be permitted to make a special trip to Germany with a cargo of cotton without establishing a precedent as to the validity of the change in the vessel's register. As soon as it could be put in code the reply was forwarded by Mr. Page to Secretary of State Bryan.

While Great Britain in reply does not find it possible to promise that the Dacia would not be thrown into a prize court on her first trip, concessions are made concerning her cargo in that two alternatives are offered. Great Britain offers either to purchase the cotton at the German prices upon the seizure of the Dacia or to have the cargo placed on another boat and forwarded to Rotterdam at the expense of the British Government.

EXPEDITE COTTON MOVEMENT.

Every effort is made in the reply to reassure the United States about the Dacia's cargo, and a full explanation is made that Great Britain wishes to expedite the cotton movement, but that she cannot abandon the position that belligerent ships must not be permitted to escape the effects of belligereney by transferring to another flag.

The English papers recently have carried many despatches stating that both Greek and Italian firms are negotiating for the purchase of interned German and Austrian ships in the Mediterranean. The Greek Legation in London says it is without any advices concerning such prospective purchases, and the British Foreign Office has received no information on the subject. But Great Britain and her allies, it is stated, would do everything possible to prevent any enemy ships escaping the penalties of war by transfer to the flag of any neutral country.

NO OTHER COURSE FEASIBLE.

Great Britain's position concerning the provisional trip of the Dacia has been known generally since the United States made its request concerning the vessel. It has been stated without hesitation that Great Britain could not permit the Dacia to escape the prize court if she undertook the trip, but the refusal of the United States Government to insure the ship has given rise to rumors that the Dacia will not sail. The rumors brought expressions of pleasure from prominent officials, who declared they would regret any friction which might rise from the seizure of the ship under war conditions or by reason of the prolonged and somewhat heated public discussion of the case.

The Foreign Office continues the compilation of statistics for the final reply to the American Government's note of protest concerning delays to American commerce, but no intimation has been given as to when the reply will be submitted.

DETERMINED TO SAIL.

Washington Report.—The British Government announced to-night through its Embassy here that if the former Hamburg-American Liner Dacia proceeded to sea she would be captured and taken to a prize court. Her cargo of cotton will be purchased by the British Government or forwarded to Rotterdam without further expense to the shippers, according as the owners may prefer.

The State Department has communicated this information informally to the owners of the Dacia as a result of a message from Ambassador Page, and was notified in reply that the vessel was loading at Galveston, and would be put to sea notwithstanding the British Government's position. It was said that the owners had resolved to test the issue in a prize court.

THE FARN CASE

Is Seized Boat Now British or German?

Washington Despatch.—Both the British and the German Embassies here are displaying interest in the fate of the collier Farn, now known as the K. D. 3, and have asked what disposition is going to be made of this ship, which now lies in the harbor at San Juan, Porto Rico, practically in the custody of the United States collector of customs there. The British Embassy called attention to the fact that the Farn was not taken before a prize court after her capture by the German cruiser Karlsruhe. This is expected to be the basis of a contention that the collector of customs must regard the Farn as still a British ship, not subject to the control of the German lieutenant, and the prize crew who brought her into port.

The German Embassy, saving no instructions from the Berlin Foreign Office, so far contented itself with calling upon the State Department for information as a basis for representations. Meanwhile the State Department has suspended execution of its original purpose to release the ship and intern the crew in order to permit of further consideration of important questions involved.

PANAMA KICKS

Objects to Presence of Anglo-Japanese Fleet.

Washington Despatch—Advices to the Panaman Legation here to-day said that the presence of five British and Japanese cruisers, with several colliers and other auxiliaries, in or about the harbor of Puerto Pinas, Panama, for five days, and the sending ashore of detachments, formed the basis of the recent protest by Panama to Great Britain and Japan.

A protest, it was said, had been filed with the British Minister in Panama, while the complaint to Japan is on its way here, to be presented to the Japanese Embassy.

A detailed report of the circumstances to the Minister explains that on Dec. 10, two Japanese cruisers anchored in the harbor of Puerto Pinas. They were followed by several colliers, and during that night by other warships, among them the British cruiser Newcastle, and seven auxiliaries. A fifth cruiser joined them, Dec. 12.

After coaling in the harbor and sending ashore a detachment of men, who, the report says, took bags of sand belonging to a German named Zdruk, two cruisers left on the morning of Dec. 15, a cruiser and two auxiliaries came again and anchored in the harbor. The last of the vessels left on the afternoon of Dec. 15.

GLOATING OVER THE AIR RAID

German Barbarians Glory in Their Recent "Feat."

Britain Will Not Retaliate in Like Manner.

Berlin, Cable—The first page of all the newspapers published in Berlin this morning were given to news of the attack made by Zeppelins on the English coast, and the scanty reports from the eastern and western war theatres occupied inconspicuous places on inside pages.

With remarkable unanimity the German press appears to expect that this raid will be followed shortly by others. While the amount of damage done by the bombs dropped from the airships is not yet known here, satisfaction is expressed in the fact that all the Zeppelins returned safely and in the belief that "the moral effect of the bombardment cannot fail to be very great, especially as it follows so closely the recent bombardment of the Hartlepools and other points [illegible] eastern coast of England by German cruisers.

The German official version of the airship raid on the English east coast is as follows:

"Our airships, in order to attack the fortified town of Great Yarmouth, were obliged to fly over other towns, from which, it is stated, they were fired at. These attacks were answered by the throwing of bombs.

"England has no right to be indignant, as her flying machines and ships in broad daylight have attacked open towns, such as Freiburg, Dar-es-Salam and Swakopmund.

"Aircraft are acknowledged to be legitimate weapons in the carrying on of modern warfare, so long as their operations are conducted in accordance with the rules of international law. This has been done by our dirigibles. The German nation, forced by England to fight for its very existence, cannot be compelled to forego the employment of legitimate means of self-defence, and will not do it, relying upon her good right."

It is notable that the German statement ignores the fact that the airships bombarded Yarmouth before, and not after, flying over any of the other towns. Concerning the bombardment of Freiburg, the contention of the allies has been that the bombs were thrown at military positions, such as an aviation hangar and a railroad station.

SHEER WANTONNESS.

London Cable.—The Times assumes, commenting on the German aerial raid, that it was a trial trip, made to ascertain what counter-attack, if any, had been prepared. The Times adds:

"They destroyed innocent lives through sheer wantonness, but will come again to destroy on a large scale. They are pressing their attacks with increasing boldness further inland."

The Times sees no cause for astonishment over the gross violations of international law, and says: "The acts of savagery in Flanders, France, Poland and at Scarborough have shown that we are confronted with a recrudescence of brutality such as the world has not witnessed in a thousand years. The best answer we can give is not to emulate Germany's lust for blind destruction, but to press forward our preparations for helping to relieve France and Belgium of the blight which has fallen upon them. When we strike we will not soil our hands with these shameful crimes, but will fight honorably in assurance that victory will be ours and that the earth will be purged of these relapses into barbarism."

GERMANY'S STEEL CARTRIDGES.

Paris Cable.—A despatch from Copenhagen says the Germans are substituting a kind of soft steel known as Siemens Martin metal for copper in the manufacture of cartridges.

Berlin, Cologne, Karlsruhe and other cities are seizing all copper objects and sending them to the military authorities. Two thousand Schleswig guards each gave up all their cartridges but ten.