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COULD SMASH GERMAN LINES AT ANY TIME

Alles On West Front Consider the
Present Inopportune, and Will
Wait On the Weather.

BIG FRENCH GAIN

Operations in the Vosges Continue
Successful, With Losses to
the Germans Heavy.

Paris Cable.—The French offensive in the Vosges is assuming very important proportions. Fresh gains of considerable magnitude are reported officially to-day. The number of unwounded German prisoners made since the operation began, December 21, is now 1,862.

A despatch from Berlin to-night says that the German War Office admits that the French penetrated the German positions on Hartmannsweilerkopf, but says they were driven out. From the official French War Office reports, however, it does not appear that the German assertions are accurate. It is evident, on the contrary, that gains of great importance have been made and that the operations thus far very considerable losses.

There is no indication that the offensive, which has been apparently successful to date, is to be dropped. It would rather appear that the advantages gained are to be followed by even more determined assaults. In this connection the French communication says:

"Notwithstanding the violent counter-attacks of the enemy, the action commenced yesterday left us at the end of the day masters of a series of German works established between Reims and Hirszt, which have been added to the trenches already lost by the enemy. The number of German who have fallen into our hands since yesterday has reached 300. The total number of injured prisoners taken since the beginning of the operations is 1,663. Prisoners taken that the German losses in the course of our attack of December 21 and the following days were very large.

TIME NOT YET RIPE.

"The most dreaded period of winter is from the end of December to the end of January," was a French general's reply a year ago to the demands for a great offensive. The same remark would probably apply equally this year. Reuter's correspondent at western headquarters.

Remembering that the British staff is confident that the allies are now in a position to break through the German lines whenever the weather is right, declares that the weather is the chief reason for postponing the big move, and adds: "Such a movement needs careful planning and extreme caution. Rolling-up tactics always involve the possibility of counter-attacks, which may end in rolling up the aggressor. With the face of the country in a porous and muddy condition, it is impossible to effect the essential quick movements of artillery, without which any big offensive is foredoomed to fail."

The Allied troops would probably have little trouble in occupying the greater part of the German front trenches forthwith, because the enemy holds these lightly. But then, with the range registered to a nicety from myriads of artillery and machine guns such a step would be sheer suicide until the opportunity is ripe."

BRITISH REPORT.

London Cable.—The British official statement on the progress of the campaign issued to-night reads as follows:

"The enemy made an unsuccessful attack on one of our aerodromes. Of four machines only two reached their objective. No damage was done. One of the aeroplanes was shot down. Last night there was a successful enterprise near Armentieres. The enemy's trenches were entered and bombed with good effect. The casualties were numerous. After ten minutes the party withdrew. Our casualties were light. Our aerodromes were not damaged to either troops or trenches."

"The day was quiet south of La Bassée Canal. About Ypres a reciprocal bombardment occurred."

FRENCH REPORT.

Paris Cable.—The War Office issued the following communication to-night:

"In Belgium and Artois the artillery displayed activity on both sides in the course of the day. To the north of the Aisne we destroyed by our fire machine-gun shelters and dispersed workers around Villers-Bols."

"In the Argonne we exploded two mines near Hill 295. To the north of La Fille Marte a small German post was blown up."

"On the heights of the Meuse the fire of our artillery on a German battery located in the Warmond wood, northwest of St. Mihiel, following the instructions of our aviators, gave the best results."

"In the Vosges a rather spirited campaign occurred at divers points of the sector, especially between the Feste and the Thur. It was very violent in the region of Hartmannsweilerkopf."

A CLEAR CASE

Case of U. S. Mail to Holland Justified by Results.

London Cable.—Referring to a Washington report that the American Government is preparing a protest against the British interference with the mails to and from Holland, the Daily News declares that a necessity for the right scrutiny of the embassies has been demonstrated by the recent discovery of fifty bags of rubber in the parcel mail on board the steamer Oscar II. The case is the press bureau reported, to an enemy forwarding agent in Sweden.

"The moral of the incident is patent," the Mail continues. "If contraband can be assigned to Germany by post through Sweden, it can equally well, rather better indeed, be conveyed by post to Holland. We do not think that America will miss the point of this argument."

GERMANS FEAR TRADE THREAT

Albert Ballin Says No Peace
Terms Possible.

If British Plan of Commercial
Way After is Confirmed.

Berlin, via Amsterdam, Cable.—(Montreal Gazette)—Albert Ballin, director-general of the Hamburg-American Line, and now, at the special request of the Kaiser, in charge of the German railway system, contributes to the Berlin and Hamburg papers an article, in which he says:

"Christmas, 1915, found the peoples of Europe still embroiled in the most cruel and idiotic war the world has ever seen. They are immersed in a hopeless struggle, in the sorrowful work of converting their beautiful old hemisphere into a mass of ruins, for the benefit of the world on the other side of the ocean, and to the joy of the yellow race—the men who one day will be called upon to construct peace, but conceive it their noblest duty not only to justify war from our generation, but also to wipe out the European armaments fever for decades to come."

They will also have to seek guarantees that an economic war shall not follow this bloody war. The men who negotiate peace for Germany will see to it that it does not become the stepchildren of our dear lord and master."

Herr Ballin's statement that Germany must seek guarantees that an economic war will not follow peace may have been called forth by a speech recently made by Walter Runciman, President of the British Board of Trade, urging the total ruin of German trade. Mr. Runciman declared in the House of Commons on Dec. 24 that Germany is beaten from a commercial standpoint, adding: "We must see to it that she does not recover."

He said the Board of Trade was taking steps to wrest the control of European oil fields from Germany, and to wipe out German trade in England. Mr. Runciman asserted that the economic and commercial war between England and Germany must be fought to the finish, even after armed hostilities have ceased.

Herr Ballin is one of the closest friends and most trusted advisors of the Kaiser, and is recognized as the head of the great overseas industries of Germany.

ONTARIO'S SHARE

Givings to War Purposes Average
\$5 Per Head.

Kingston Report.—Hon. I. B. Lucas, Attorney-General of the Province, was the chief speaker at the annual banquet in Randolph Hotel to-night of the Kingston Commercial Travellers' Association. He responded to the toast to "The British Empire and Her Allies," and spoke on "The Doctrine of Good Cheer." He made reference to the fact that despite what had happened in the Balkans, what blunders had been committed would be remedied, and that the war would only be a little more prolonged because of it.

"Ontario is doing her bit and doing it well," declared Mr. Lucas, who proceeded to show the extent of Ontario's givings in money and kind since the war broke out. Contributions of Ontario to all patriotic services amounted to the sum of thirteen million dollars, made up as follows: Canadian Patriotic Fund, \$2,350,000; Red Cross, \$2,994,000; Ontario Government contributions, \$1,778,000; the British Red Cross Fund, \$1,395,000; machine gun contributions, \$500,000; from municipal councils, \$1,200,000; Belgian Relief Fund, \$363,000; University of Toronto Hospital, \$135,000; Ontario Farmers' contributions of produce to the British Government, \$100,000; Queen's University Stationary Hospital, \$23,000.

These figures, Mr. Lucas said, were up to the first of December, and the grand total represented \$5 a head for the inhabitants of the Province.

The Attorney-General represented Premier Hearst, who was to have been the guest of the Kingston Knights of the Grip, but who was prevented from coming, owing to his being indisposed.

A woman may have some doubt as to her husband's whereabouts even after he is dead.

AUSTRIANS ARE DRIVEN BACK IN MONTENEGRO

King Nicholas' Soldiers Are Doing
Great Work in Their Home
Mountains.

HUN LOSS HEAVY

And Their Offensive Said to Have
Been Checked Most Com-
pletely.

London Cable.—The Montenegrin army, which hitherto has been barred geographically from taking any large part in the war, is now throwing itself energetically into the contest against the Austrians.

The Montenegrin Consul-General here has received information that the Austrians directed, without result, a violent artillery fire against the Montenegrin positions on the Tara River on December 27. The enemy attacked energetically near Ljubovia, but was repulsed with great loss in the direction of Berane. The Montenegrins followed up their last success by occupying two more villages, advancing as far as Morita. On Jan. 1, Lovcen front the Austrians opened fire from the forts and warships on Asokova Gora, but the Montenegrins continued fifteen hours, 2,000 large shells being fired. At the same time sharp infantry attacks were delivered, all of which were repulsed. Notwithstanding the intensity of the Austrian artillery fire the Montenegrins had only two killed and two wounded, which shows how poorly the guns were handled.

The success gained by the Montenegrins on Dec. 27 at Legenatz was greater than at first announced. Five hundred bodies were found on the right wing of the contingent operating against them, but the total Austrian losses were more than 2,000 killed or wounded. King Nicholas sent congratulations to the general command of the Vassilovich brigade. Austrian aeroplanes threw several bombs on Podgoritsa Monday, killing two Austrian prisoners.

The French newspaper Echo de Paris prints the following Bucharest telegram: "The Austro-Hungarian offensive in Montenegro has been checked completely. The Austrians were expected to find, as many Serbians who made their way into Albania marched northward and joined the Montenegrins. Southwest of Ipek the invaders were defeated in a severe battle."

FRENCH AIRSHIPS IN BALKANS.

Despite numerous difficulties, such as landing grounds and a mountainous country, French aviators have succeeded, according to an official note issued here, in carrying on reconnaissance about 93 miles into the interior of the Bulgarian lines.

In the month of November alone there were no less than 15 reconnaissances, during which observations and numerous photographs were taken. Strategic movements were taken. Aviators bombed cantonments at Uskub, Letip, Kara, Hodzail, Strumitza and Petric. These bombardments were very effective.

The statement says that, thanks to wireless despatches, the French observers were able to regulate their artillery fire. It adds that a well-perfected aerologic service has been organized to aid aviators.

ITALIANS ADVANCING.

Italian troops which disembarked at Avona, Albania, have reached the vicinity of the northern frontier of Epirus in the places, according to reports from various sources, arriving from Santi Quaranta, says the Athens correspondent of the Havas agency. Italian troops also have been seen near Tepeleni (Southern Albania).

LOST ONLY 16,000 MEN.

A despatch to the Havas Agency from Athens, dated Wednesday, says: "According to information received from a Bulgarian source the third Bulgarian army corps is now between Varna, on the Black Sea coast, and Rusechuk, on the Danube, while a Turkish army of 30,000 is at Burgas, to the south of Varna. A German army corps passed Uskub Monday going south."

"The Paris announced that Gen. Stephanovich's Serbian army has made good its retreat into Albania. It was 80,000 strong at the beginning of the Bulgarian attack, and has been continuously engaged, disputing the ground inch by inch. It has saved almost all the material belonging to it, and has caused the Bulgarians a loss five times greater than it suffered itself. It is now a complete army of 64,000 men."

FRENCH SEIZE TURK ISLAND.

Paris Cable.—French troops have occupied the Turkish island of Castelorizo (Kastellorizo), in the Aegean Sea, between the island of Rhodes and the Gulf of Adalia, according to the morning papers in Paris. The possession of Castelorizo as a naval base is characterized as indispensable.

Castelorizo is a small island of Asiatic Turkey, lying off the south coast of Asia Minor, 75 miles east by south of Rhodes. It has an area of eleven square miles and is inhabited mainly by Greeks.

Going to have a fashion show on stage, suggests a man in evening clothes clinging to a lamp post.—New York Evening Telegram.

DOING ITS BEST

French Fleet Trying to Prevent
Shipping in Mediterranean.

Paris Cable.—Recent Outcry Deputy for Clichy, referring in the Chamber of Deputies to the sinking of the French steamer Villa de la Cloche in the Mediterranean recently, asked Hon. Adm.-J. Lecomte, Minister of Marine, to make a statement which would reassure the public in France and the far east. The Deputy also asked if it would not be possible to take measures of prudence or to furnish escorts for steamers in order to prevent the destruction of vessels.

The Minister of Marine, in reply, said that the question concerned the world, and that what he might say would be heard where it must not be heard. He stated that he could say, however, that all the means at his disposal would be used in dealing with the problem.

MAY HAVE GOT HUN DOCUMENTS

Germany Fears Britain Has Taken
Them From the Mails.

In the Lot Which Washington is
Inquiring About.

Washington Report.—(Montreal Gazette)—It was authoritatively learned last night that the State Department is seriously considering the effect upon American rights of the seizure by the British Government of American mail taken from steamships to and from this country and will make representations to the British Government in these cases. It has not yet been determined whether these representations will take the form of an inquiry or of protest, but it is known to be the purpose of the State Department to make representations, and if a protest is not made the communication will take the form of an inquiry to afford the British Government an opportunity to explain.

Official information has reached Washington to the effect that in making these seizures the British Government is endeavoring to recover Belgian securities which the German Government is understood to have sent by mail for delivery in this country to be hypothecated.

While details concerning these securities their extent or character, could not be obtained, the statement that not be securities were being mailed from Germany, and that the British Government was endeavoring to recover them by intercepting the mails, was obtained from an authoritative source. An equally interesting angle of the British mail seizures was the disclosure here yesterday that in quarters close to the German Embassy fear is entertained that important diplomatic documents destined for Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador at Washington, from the Berlin Foreign Office, may have been included in the batch of mail seized.

Consul-General Skinner advised the State Department from London yesterday of the seizure of American mail from two steamships bound from New York for Rotterdam. The British mail seizures are part of the general plan of the Allies to isolate Germany from the rest of the world by every possible means.

MORE APPLES FOR WOUNDED

Ontario Government Will Increase
Its Shipments.

Mex in Hospitals Delighted With
the Treat.

Toronto Report.—The Ontario Government has decided to increase its shipments of apples to England for distribution amongst wounded Canadians there and in France and Canadian prisoners in Germany.

The action was taken following consideration of a report received from Ontario's Agent-General in Great Britain, Mr. Richard Reid, on the distribution of the apples already sent. The Agent-General reports that he has already sent out 1,500 cases of apples. Of these 250 cases went to hospitals in France and about 30 cases to Canadian prisoners in Germany.

"This latter is a trial shipment, which will be repeated when evidence comes to hand that the apples reach the prisoners in good condition," states Mr. Reid.

The Agent-General states that he is informed by those in charge of the hospitals that there is no fruit the men enjoy so well as the apples, and suggests that the supply be increased, as there are close on to 8,000 Canadians in hospitals in Great Britain.

"Arrangements have been made by the Government here to increase the supply accordingly," stated Hon. W. H. Hearst, "and it will endeavor to meet the requirements of the wounded Canadians in this respect from time to time as ample as it is possible to do so."

Mr. Reid forwarded to the Government a number of letters from the heads of hospitals, expressing their appreciation of the action of the Government of Ontario in supplying ap-

SHORT ITEMS OF THE NEWS OF THE DAY

Mercury's Loss in Shipping in the
War to Date Reaches the
Total of \$10,000,000.

AIRMAN KILLED

Sweden Has Totally Prohibited
Further Export of Raw
Zinc.

Toronto Separate School Board was
elected without contest.
Over four hundred recruits were
secured in Toronto in the last three
days.

A deputation of London teachers
visited the Parliament buildings in
connection with the superannuation
bill.

The Supreme Court of Canada
handed down judgment on eleven ap-
peals, allowing five.

Conductor Michael J. Murray, 49
years in the employ of the Grand
Trunk, dropped dead of heart failure
at Belleville station.

Arthur Cutten, of Chicago, formerly
of Guelph, sent \$500 to the Guelph
branch of the Red Cross Society, with
his Christmas greeting.

It is estimated that the Norwegian
shipping loss in the war up to date
totals 108,000 tons, and its cost is
placed at \$10,000,000.

The new orphanage of the Oddfel-
lows of Ontario, corner of Ossington
avenue and Davenport road, Toronto,
was formally opened.

Chairman Philip Pocock, of the Lon-
don, Ont., Public Utilities Commission,
announced that the Hydro-Electric
surplus for the past year would be
\$50,000.

Pte. David Upper, 110th Perth Bat-
talion, died in Stratford General Hos-
pital of blood poisoning; his father-in-
law died Sunday, and the funeral had
not been held.

George E. Minns, of Port Hope, in-
spector for the Children's Aid Soci-
ety in Dunham and Northumberland,
dropped dead while wrapping up pres-
ents for the children.

Reports from Copenhagen to Berlin
say that more than 100 ships, chiefly
American, British and French, have
been caught in the ice in the White
Sea, and will have to spend the winter
there.

Lieut. Rogers, of the Royal Flying
Corps, was killed at Portsmouth, Eng.,
Wednesday, when his aeroplane, which
was flying at a low altitude, suddenly
tipped forward and plunged to the
earth.

A despatch to Reuter's Telegram
Company, London, from Stockholm
says the Swedish Government has pro-
hibited the export of raw zinc. Goods
manufactured in Sweden of imported
raw zinc may still be exported, how-
ever.

With the sailing Wednesday of the
steamer Kitano Maru from London
for Japan, the Japan Mail Steamship
Company inaugurated its new route by
way of the Cape of Good Hope instead
of through the Suez Canal.

Speaking at the annual banquet of
the Kingston Commercial Travellers'
Association, Hon. I. B. Lucas, Provin-
cial Attorney-General, stated that On-
tario's contributions in money and
kind since the war broke out totalled
\$13,000,000.

WAS A BOMB

Fire On the Steamer Bankdale
Work of the Plotters.

New York Report.—The steamer
Bankdale arrived this morning from
Bordeaux, after a most tempestuous
passage, in which the cattle fittings
and rails were carried away and boats
lifted from their fastenings. On the
outward passage to Bordeaux on Nov.
19th, when 750 miles from that port,
a bomb exploded in No. 6 hatch. The
explosion was distinctly felt through-
out the steamer. The cargo, consist-
ing of cotton, was set on fire and
finally subdued. All the cotton in
the No. 6 department, consisting of
200 bales, was destroyed.

Cable despatches received here on
Nov. 26th from Bordeaux, stated that
the Bankdale had arrived there with
a fire in her hold, and that an en-
quiry was being instituted. No men-
tion was made in the cable despatches
of a bomb explosion on board.

CRUDE OIL UP

Advances Range From Ten Cents
a Barrel to Three Cents.

Pittsburg Report.—Another advance
in the price of crude oils was an-
nounced by the South Penn Oil Com-
pany at the opening of the market to-
day, Pennsylvania crude, the base of
the list, being advanced 10 cents a
barrel, to \$2.25. The cents also was
added to Mercer black, Corning and
New Castle, bringing the price to \$1.75,
while 8 cents additional lifted Cabell
to \$1.78 and Somerset to \$1.63. Ben-
land was advanced 3 cents, to 75 cents.

Oil authorities expressed some hope
that this latest addition to the prices
would bring out stocks now in the
hands of producers, which are badly
needed by the refiners because of the
tremendous demand for oil for domestic
and foreign use.

NOT FOR HUNS

By the Honorable the Minister of
Foreign Affairs.

London Cable.—Concerning a
statement published that the British
Government will permit German im-
portations of American tobacco
through neutral countries, the Daily
Mail has obtained a statement from
the Foreign Office declaring it to be
incorrect to say that the British Gov-
ernment will permit or is about to
permit such importations. On the
contrary, it is stated, no goods hav-
ing an enemy destination will be al-
lowed to proceed. At the same time
it is obvious that some goods of less
importance from the belligerent point
of view than others are permitted to
pass. With regard to tobacco, it is
considered enough to say that it is
assigned to neutral, and also the
fact that Germany is able to get to-
bacco from Turkey and other sources,
that makes it a matter of less im-
portance.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY OUT

Ancient Enmity in Dual Monarchy
Blazes Up Again.

Even in Parliament the Split is
Shown.

London Cable.—The Budapest cor-
respondent of the Post, in a letter
published to-day, states that the old
enmity between Austria and Hungary
has burst into a fresh flame, and
that even the pretence of unity, which
had existed, has disappeared since
the time when the Austrians offended
the Hungarians by removing the Hun-
garian flag from a fortress at Bal-
grad.

The seriousness of the present quar-
rels, the correspondent says, is in-
stantly by the parliamentary activi-
ties of the independence party, which,
despite the entreaties of the Premier,
have been airing the Hungarian griev-
ances. Herr Urmanczy, a leader of the
independence party, in a recent fiery
speech, declared that the advantages
gained in the war were largely due to
German generalship and Hungarian
bravery, and added that Austrian gen-
eralship and martial spirit had not
done the same amount of work, and
shown the same heroism and sacrifice
as the Hungarians, they would by
this time be enjoying peace, Urmanczy
said. Although the Hungarians have
won the praise of their arch enemies
the Italians, he said, the Austrians
had shown no appreciation, and they
had to face continually the attitude of
favor of Austrian officers.

The speaker continued to recount
some of these instances, remarking
that the Austrian communications al-
ways slighted the acts of Hungarian
heroism, and that Austrian officers
depreciated and insulted the Hungarian
troops.

Count Tisza, the Austrian Premier,
in defending the Austrians, replied
that petty tricks of humiliation had
not been committed by anyone, and
he would see that they were reprimanded.

DRAWS LONG BOW

Germany Says Her Food Prices
Below Neutral and Enemy.

Berlin Cable.—(By wireless to
Sayville)—Count Friedrich von West-
arp, reporting on the proceedings of
the chief committee of the Reichstag,
says the Overseas News Agency to-
day, "announces that the food resour-
ces of Germany are sufficient to feed
her population, however long the war
may last." Count Westarp added that
the government, by taking efficient
measures, had succeeded in keeping
prices below the level of both neutral
and enemy countries, especially be-
low that of Great Britain.

The committee expressed its abso-
lute certainty that food for Germany's
population is assured for a war of any
duration whatever, and that Ger-
many's economic strength is unbroken.
There is no necessity to end the war
one day earlier because of economic
reasons, it declares, and the military
and political situation give assurance
of victory.

QUEBEC MURDER

Polycarpe Paradis is Charged
With the St. Cesaire Crime.

St. Cesaire, Que., Report.—Poly-
carpe Paradis, charged on a coroner's
warrant with the murder of Francois
Frechette here, was yesterday taken
to the county jail at Ste. Hyacinthe.
Paradis told High Constable Bois-
vert, who took him to Ste. Hyacinthe,
that he realized his position, and was
sorry for but one thing, and that was
that he has talked too much.

High Constable Boisvert learned
that Paradis had been implicated in a
shooting affair some time ago in
Parham. He and another young
man had trouble with the Syrian pro-
prietor of a restaurant, which culmi-
nated in Paradis drawing a revolver
and firing two shots at the other. He
is said to have been sent to a border town
and to have returned after the other
blow was given.