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NEXT BIG BATTLE LIKELY IN WEST

Germans Preparing for Big Drives both East and West. Believed Western Drive will be at St. Mihiel.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—While the diplomats in Greece and Roumania are engaged in new details which will decide the next step in the Balkan operations, there is increasing evidence that the Germans, ever restive, are preparing new strokes on both the Eastern and Western fronts, or at least a concentration of their forces to strike when conditions are propitious.

Despatches from Petrograd note German activity, particularly in the Dvinsk district, which would accord with the German ambition to reach the line of the Dvina River, while all accounts from neutral countries mention a continued movement of men and guns to the West. In the latter theatre of operations it seems only a question at what points the offensive is to be taken.

Many persons believe that the Germans, having found the lines in Flanders and Artois nuts too hard to crack, contemplate moving in the Saint Mihiel region, where their line penetrates to the River Meuse, and where there has been considerable activity during the last few days. The only thing argued against this is that the river has been at flood, and the French have been systematically destroying the bridges as they were rebuilt. Thus far, however, there has been little more than the usual mining and bombing operations and aerial fighting in the West.

THE BALKAN AND GREEK SITUATION IS DEVELOPING

Germany is Delaying Attack Until More Troops are Concentrated on Greek Frontier. Greek Government Discussing with German Question of Bulgarian Entry into Greece.

(Special to the Guardian.)
PARIS, Dec. 18.—Telegraphing from Athens on December 18th, the Havas correspondent says Premier Skouloudis declared to a representative of the Athens newspaper that the report that the German minister had informed him the Central Powers intended to vacate Greek territory was unfounded. The inaction for four days of German and Bulgarian troops on the Greek frontier is attributed to diplomatic as well as to military reasons and it was thought the Germans were not sufficiently strong to attack the Allies alone and are trying to overcome the objections to the Bulgarians taking action on Greek soil. In political circles it is stated that no official negotiations have begun. It is believed the government has opened diplomatic conversations on this subject with the German minister setting forth the complications which are likely to result from the entry of Bulgarians into Greece, which would offend the pride of the Greek population and provoke the army. The optimism shown in official circles is explained by the supposition that the Germans have given assurances that the Greek representations will be taken into account. Another despatch from the Havas correspondent at Athens says government and diplomatic circles give the impression that the Central Powers will turn their attention to the Serbians and Italians in Albania, unless the Entente Allies are reinforced at Saloniki and so change the military equilibrium in the Balkans. News from Saloniki is to the effect that the situation on the front is unchanged. Air scouts of the entente Allies report a concentration of Bulgarian troops on the Greek frontier and the arrival of reinforcements at Doiran. German and Austrian consuls have left Saloniki for Monastir with their staffs and the contents of the archives. Before leaving the Austrian and German consuls warned the subjects of their countries to prepare to leave the Greek port within fifteen days. Bulgarian deserters declare that during the battle at Valandovo the Bulgarians exposed sixty Serbian prisoners of war to the French artillery fire and all the prisoners were killed.

GERMANS MUST FACE FOES ON MANY FRONTS

Preparing to Launch Attack on Allies at Saloniki but Must also Guard Against Russian Invasion.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The threat that the German Minister at Athens is said to have made to the effect that Germany would be compelled to take action to drive the Allies out at Saloniki if the fortification of that base continued, brings the Balkan development a step nearer a crisis.

How soon the Austro-Germans cross the Greek frontier will apparently depend upon how soon they are able to collect sufficient troops.

The Post's Athens correspondent says the fact that an attack upon Saloniki has not yet begun is attributed in diplomatic circles to the necessity, in which the Germans find themselves of concentrating sufficient forces, repairing communications destroyed by the Allies and Serbians, and the bringing up of sufficient supplies of munitions, but that the moment they have made these preparations, the attack will be begun and pushed home.

Despatches to the Daily Mail from Athens estimate the total available German forces at 200,000, who, however, are fatigued by continuous mountain marching, and states that the intended German reinforcements, it is reported, have been diverted to Ruzhuk to meet an expected Russian menace.

According to the Athens Embros, the ministerial organ, the Greek government will address a fresh protest to the Entente Powers against fortifying Saloniki.

PARIS, Dec. 18.—A despatch to the Havas Agency from Athens dated Thursday says: "The ministers of the Quadruple Entente called again on the Premier yesterday regarding the facilities demanded for the Entente Allied troops in Macedonia. The German minister called on M. Skouloudis at noon to-day."

DERBY RECRUITS HAVE BEEN CALLED OUT

(Special to the Guardian.)
LONDON, Dec. 18.—The British public were surprised to-day by the appearance of a Royal Proclamation posted in public places calling out four classes of Derby recruits. It was inferred that Lord Derby's campaign was successful. The classes called out are Groups 2, 3, 4 and 5. The announcement says service will begin January 20th. These Groups are unmarried men from 19 to 22 years of age.

Lord Derby, Director of Recruiting, and Ben Tillet, secretary of the Dock Workers' Union, representing opposite sides of social and political life, appeared on the same platform at a meeting to-day, when Tillet described his visit to the British front. The Earl of Derby presided. In introducing the speakers he said: "When it comes to a question of the number of men who have enlisted, I must not anticipate in any way what will be said Tuesday by the Prime Minister. I think the country will feel, when he makes his statement, that the heart of the country is right. I hope the New Year will show a brighter outlook; probably the result will come sooner than many expect, but not sooner than is hoped for, a result which will be victory for the Allied forces. I am not the least pessimistic as to the future."

Many Killed in Collision on A British Railway

NEWCASTLE, England, Dec. 18.—Sixteen persons are known to have been killed and more than fifty others were injured, and several are missing as a result of a triple collision between a freight train in a heavy fog near Jarrow. Four coaches overturned and were completely incinerated. The sixteen corpses, so badly charred as to make identification almost impossible, have been received from the wreckage early yesterday. A train load of nurses and physicians was despatched from Newcastle. The train was compelled to grope its way down the coast in one of the densest fogs that has blanketed the Tyne region in months.

"THE KHAKI CLUB"

A committee, of which Mr R. H. Sterns, Mayor, is chairman, has organized a club for the soldiers, to be called "The Khaki Club." Suitable quarters have been procured in St. Dunstan's Hall, formerly known as the pro-Cathedral. The seats have been removed from the centre aisle and one wing of the building, and in the ample space thus afforded tables will be erected for the service of games and amusements for the soldiers. Reading material in the form of daily papers, magazines, etc., will be provided. Writing pads and envelopes and other writing utensils will be offered free.

A dry canteen has been erected and will be under the supervision of Mr Jas. Longman, where the men may procure temperate drinks, cigars, cigarettes, coffee, sandwiches and lighter refreshments.

This "The Khaki Club" will be open daily to the soldiers from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The formal opening, to which the public are cordially invited, will take place this evening (Monday) at 8 o'clock, the Mayor presiding.

Amongst the speakers will be the Lieut. Governor, Premier Mathieson, Col. Campbell and several other prominent citizens. The musical programme will be furnished under the able direction of Mr W. J. Brown, who has secured some of the best talent in the city for this purpose. During the interludes candy will be sold.

The committee in charge of this club are Mayor Sterns (chairman), Messrs Jno. M. Hughes, Frank Heartz, Dr. S. R. Jenkins, Messrs L. E. Prowse, D. O'M. Reddin, Dr. W. J. McMillan, Col. R. H. Campbell, Mr. D. J. Riley and others.

GERMANS ANXIOUS TO OBTAIN A DECISION SOMEWHERE

Threatened Suez Attack Considered Impossible. Possibility of Invasion of England Discussed. Western Drive not Possible at Present.

(Special to the Guardian.)
LONDON, Dec. 18.—European interest now centres upon the probabilities of some new but yet undeveloped upheaval. It appears to be taken for granted on all sides that the policy of the Central Powers is to attempt to gain a decision somewhere, while their opponents will prefer to devote the winter to preparing for warfare in the spring.

There is much discussion in Great Britain over the reported Turko-German attempt upon the Suez Canal. Messages from neutral countries depict German Field Marshal Von der Goltz as equipping at Aleppo an army for the invasion of Egypt. The same correspondent asserts the Germans are collecting extensive droves of camels and donkeys for transport. The majority of English writers who know Egypt declare the project hopeless. The observer to-day considers a German attempt to invade England as a desperate gamble and one of the foremost possibilities and that extensive movements of troops in Belgium may mean preparations for embarking at Zeebrugge and in the Scheldt rivers.

Officers returning from the western front express the belief that fighting there on a big scale is impossible because the country is muddier and in worse condition than last year.

Activity in Gallipoli and small Italian gains make the only news to-day. Germany has lost the small cruiser Bremen and a torpedo boat in the Baltic Sea through a submarine attack. It is presumed the submarine was one of the British undersea squadron which has recently shown so much enterprise in those waters. The Turks claim to have sunk a British Monitor in the Tigris River near Kut-el-Amara. The Greek situation is unchanged. The Government, it is reported, has protested against the Entente Allies fortifying outside of Saloniki. This protest may be of the same character as the one lodged against the first landing of troops, which is described as technical to keep the record clear.

Appointment of General Baig Pleases French

PARIS, Dec. 18.—The employment of General Sir Douglas Haig as Commander-in-Chief, in place of Field Marshal Sir John French was entirely unexpected in France where it has made a great impression. The press is unanimous in expressions of regret at the departure of Field Marshal French and lays particular emphasis on his service during the trying times of the opening period of the war. The newspapers express satisfaction that Field Marshal French is succeeded by one of his most apt pupils whose proverbial good luck is mentioned with the hope that it may prove to be a favorable omen.

General Haig has been in close and constant relations, throughout the war, with the French General Headquarters where his appointment is received with immense satisfaction, says the Matin.

Minard's Liniment cures garget in cows

**THE WEATHER,
TEMPERATURE,
TIDE, MOON, ETC.**

(Special to the Guardian)
TORONTO, December 20.—Maritime: Strong Westerly to North-westerly winds, local snow flurries but generally fair and cold.

THE WEATHER.—Yesterday was dull, clearing and colder at night. The highest temperature recorded yesterday was 35 degrees above zero. At nine o'clock yesterday morning it registered 35 degrees above zero; at nine last night 35 degrees above. The coldest the previous night was 35 degrees above zero.

The tide will be high this morning at 10.33 and tomorrow at 11.19; it will be high tonight at 9.21 and tomorrow at 10.12.

The sun sets this afternoon and tomorrow at 4.17; it rises tomorrow morning and Tuesday at 7.35.

The moon rises this afternoon at 3.23.

The first quarter of the moon was on Monday, Dec. 13th at 7.23 a.m.

The moon will be full on Tuesday, Dec. 21st at 8.50 a.m.

The length of today will be nine hours and thirty-eight minutes.

ABYSSINIAN TROOPS FOR MESOPOTAMIA

PARIS, Dec. 18.—Lidj Jeassu, the young Emperor of Abyssinia is so favorably disposed towards the Entente Allies that he not only resisted efforts of German agents to induce him to abrogate treaties with Great Britain, Italy and France last year, but offered 200,000 soldiers to be used by the Allies, as their military necessities demanded, according to Pierre Alpye, a member of the Colonial Committee of the Chamber of Deputies.

M. Alpye points out that the French railway, connecting the French port of Jubail with Addis Abeba, in Abyssinia, would make possible the rapid transport of troops to the Coast, where within four days, they could reach Suez, or in five days Dassora in Mesopotamia. The Abyssinian troops, he also noted, are already well armed, having from 800,000 to 1,000,000 modern rifles, all manufactured since 1911, partly in Germany; but for the most part by Belgium.

The co-operation of the Japanese fleet is suggested for the transportation of Abyssinian troops to Egypt or Mesopotamia.

German Zeppelin Destroyed Entire Crew Killed

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—An Amsterdam despatch to a News Agency here to-day says: "A German Zeppelin and the death of the entire crew was reported by travellers arriving here to-day from Brussels.

The Zeppelin was passing over the outskirts of Namur, headed for Ypres with a heavy cargo of bombs, the travellers said. What caused the accident is unknown.

Three peasants working in nearby fields were arrested and sent to Germany in an effort to keep the news from becoming public.

PORK INSPECTION IN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Mr J. A. Messervey returned on Saturday night from Ottawa, where he had been for the purpose of interviewing the Veterinary Director General, Dr F. Torrance, on the question of inspection of hogs for export from the island. It appears that farmers could not ship their hogs in car loads and could not receive Dominion Veterinary inspection except through one establishment. This was felt to be a hardship and as the result of Mr Messervey's interview farmers and merchants will now be able to obtain the necessary veterinary inspection at any railway station on Prince Edward Island. Frozen hogs, however, cannot be inspected. When the weather becomes so severe that the carcasses freeze, all that will be necessary to comply with the requirements will be for the warehouse in which they are stored to be heated by several stoves to sufficiently thaw the carcasses and they will be inspected by a representative of the Dominion Veterinary Department. The following correspondence on the subject is self-explanatory:—

TELEGRAM TO DR PETHICK.
Ottawa, December 17th, 1915.

W. H. Pethick, V.S.,
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Very anxious to facilitate shipment of dressed hogs as far as possible. Wish you to inspect unfrozen dressed hogs at Charlottetown and other stations as far as possible with staff available. Mr Messervey thinks that this will relieve situation.

F. TORRANCE,
Chgo. Meat Insp.
Dept. of Agr.

LETTER TO MR J. A. MESSERVEY.
Office of the
Veterinary Director-General,
Ottawa, Dec. 17, 1915.

J. A. Messervey, Esq.,
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Dear Sir,—In reference to the matter forming the subject of our recent conversation, I beg to say that we are endeavouring as far as possible to

KITCHENER DENIES HE IS ENGAGED.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—It was officially announced last night by the private secretary to Earl Kitchener, British Secretary for War, that the report of the engagement of Earl Kitchener to the Dowager Countess of Minto was untrue. The announcement says: "The report is absolutely untrue, and without any foundation."

British Change Was Expected

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The resignation of Field Marshal Sir John French will occasion no surprise to those who have closely followed the political news during the past months.

It is not discounting the military prowess of Sir John to say he has always ranked in Britain as a political general. It was around him that the recent campaign against War Minister Kitchener raged, the attack on the latter, it is declared, having been inspired by Sir John's loyal friends.

Certain London newspapers, indeed, hinted at the time that the campaign against Lord Kitchener was in fact directed personally by Sir John from his headquarters in the field. All the facts may now be made public. On the part of General French's adherents, it was urged that the lack of marked success of the British expeditionary forces was due to Lord Kitchener's failure to keep the troops adequately supplied with ammunition.

Lord Kitchener's forces held them-

WOULD NOT COMMENT ON REPORT.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—A Washington despatch to the Herald says: "Officials here this morning would not comment on the reported shooting by Austrian of two American bankers as spies. It is evident from every word and action of the State Department officials, however, that the situation with relation to Austria's one of extreme seriousness.

They are in restraint all the time, and no counter-charges were made. There was no disguise of the fact, however, that there was lack of sympathy between Kitchener and French. The outcome then was a re-formation of the Cabinet and the designation of David Lloyd George as head of the Munitions Department.

There was a story printed that Premier Asquith made a visit to the front to remonstrate with Sir John, and that one of the recent joint Cabinet Councils—French and British—in Paris was called for the purpose of discussing the situation in Sir John's chateau.

Dr. Beland is Held as Hostage And May be Shot

MONTREAL, Dec. 18.—Efforts to release Hon. Dr. Henri S. Beland, M.P., former Postmaster-General of Canada, from imprisonment by the Germans in Belgium, have been fruitless, so far, and now it is feared that he may be shot. He is being held as a hostage for the exchange of Lieut. Rintelen, a German spy convicted in England and at present under sentence of death in the Tower of London. Information to this effect has been received by Mr Arthur Ecremont, ex-M.P. for Berthier, in documents bearing on Dr. Beland's case forwarded by the Premier Sir Robert Borden.

FORD'S PEACE SHIP PERMITTED TO PROCEED.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—Announcement was made by the Foreign Office to-night that the steamer Oscar II, having on board the Ford peace ship, has been permitted to proceed on her way to Christiania. The Foreign Office understands the steamship has sailed from Kirkwall into which port it was taken by the British authorities. Guarantees were required that certain parts of the steamship's cargo must be returned to England.

SITUATION IN GERMANY BECOMING DESPERATE

(Special to The Guardian)
LONDON, Dec. 19.—Telegraphing from Amsterdam Reuter's Telegram Company says: Life in the foreign quarters of the German capital is described as pitiful by the German-born wife of an English laborer residing in Berlin, who describes it after the sixteenth month of internment, and who arrived at Flushing, Holland, on her way to England. The German authorities, quotes this woman, are in great fear of a revolt owing to the great discontent of the people. Several riots occurred, shops were plundered, mounted police charged the crowds, mostly women. The misery among the working class is increasing daily. The woman's story is somewhat confirmed by a letter from a Berlin correspondent at Handelsblad who declares shops were stoned by crowds after the daily allowance of butter, about a quarter pound to a family, had been issued. Provision shops are guarded by the police.

Plot to Blow Up Welland Canal

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—Paul Koenig, formerly head of the secret service of the Hamburg-American line, and Richard Emil Lindecker, were arrested to-night by agents of the Department of Justice, charged with conspiring to attempt to blow up the Welland Canal.

Koenig was arrested at 45 Broadway, in the offices of the Hamburg-American line. Before he was taken in charge of the steamship company's bureau of investigation, but since then, it is charged, he has been the head of the German secret service in the United States.

Lindecker was taken into custody at his office at 345 Fifth Ave., where he has been selling antiques. The agents of the Department of Justice declare they found in his office maps and drawings of the Welland Canal.

COMING EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, ETC.

ONE CENT per word each insertion for advertising in this column. Cash must accompany orders. Minimum charges, twenty-five cents.

**New Wiltshire Scarlet Chapter will meet at Kingston, Monday, Dec. 20. 5993-12-18M21.

**The Mt Albion School will hold their Christmas concert in Hartney Hall on Dec. 21, at 7.30 p.m. Admission 10 cents. 5995-12-18M21

**CONCERT.—There will be a public entertainment and Christmas Tree in the school house at Brooklyn, Thursday, Dec. 23rd, commencing at 7 o'clock. Admission: children, 5 cts., adults, 10 cts. 6007.

**The members of the Victoria Tipperary Club will hold a special Christmas gift sale of fancy work, etc., to-day, Dec. 20, if fine and if not the first fine evening following, in the new Victoria Hall. Doors open at 3.30 p.m. Refreshments served during afternoon and evening at reasonable rates. A short programme, of which special features shall be mentioned shortly, will begin at 8.30 sharp. Admission 15 cents. Proceeds in aid of Red Cross Fund. Also the committee in connection with the new Victoria Hall wish to announce a more official opening night for Thursday, Dec. 30th. Full programme will appear later. Don't forget the dates, Dec. 20th and 30th. 6009.

BORING OUT ROSS RIFLES.

OTTAWA, Dec. 18.—Private advice received here state that the Ross rifle in England is being bored out to prevent jamming of the British ammunition. About 75,000 have so far been machined in this way.

CONDENSED ADS. TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

ONE CENT per word each insertion for advertising in this column. Cash must accompany orders. Minimum charges, twenty-five cents.

PRIME SAUSAGES ALWAYS ON HAND at Holman's, Charlottetown. 3797-11-6mf.

TO LET—A LARGE BRIGHT BED-ROOM on ground floor suitable for sitting-room. Apply 84 Hillsboro St. 4066-11-25mf

TEACHER WANTED FOR THE Mount Vernon School; supplement, \$25. Alex Matheson, Sec. 6097-12-20m5pd.

TRY OUR HOME-MADE POTTED meat, hams, bacon, lard, and the famous Eastsome sausages. Saunders, Newsom & Co., Market Building. 5734-12-10mlm.

Minard's Liniment cures Diphtheria

Minard's Liniment cures Rheumatism

Minard's Liniment cures Neuralgia