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PROGRESS OF WAR ON WEST FRONT

Heavy Artillery Fighting. Allies Take Prisoners and Bring Down German Balloon.

(Special to the Guardian.) PARIS, Dec. 13.—A bulletin issued by the War Office tonight on the campaign reads: South of the Somme enemy artillery energetically counter shelled by us, violently bombarded our trenches in the sector of Blaches La Malsonnette Barleux. In Argonne a surprise attack directed against the enemy salient north of Four De Paris enabled us to destroy a hostile mine and bring back prisoners. Everywhere else the day was comparatively calm. A German captive balloon was destroyed by our artillery near Douvaucourt.

GERMAN PEACE PROPOSALS The German peace proposition has made little apparent progress in winning a favorable British sentiment during the first twenty-four hours in the discussion on the subject by the press. Generally the trend of this decision continues highly critical but there is some indication that the first impulse of irritation will be succeeded by calmer and more conservative view in some influential political quarters. This disposition not to hastily refuse to listen to the peace proposal is reflected in the Westminster Gazette, usually classed as a liberal journal favorable to ex-Premier Asquith. It urges that the German peace move calls for a high degree of British statesmanship and constructive policy. Meaning no authoritative expression has come from the new Government through the press which usually reflects the views of leading members. Up to a late hour this evening the Foreign Office had not received the German proposal and was unaware whether definite terms had been presented.

ARTILLERY FIGHTING ON WESTERN FRONT BERLIN, Dec. 13.—Via Sayville wireless—To-day's statement by army headquarters regarding operations on the Franco-Belgian front is as follows: "Western front:—Aside from artillery fire in the Somme and Meuse sectors, which was temporarily lively, and the nightly clashes of patrols, there have been no important activities of any of the armies. The statement regarding the Russian front reads: "Eastern front:—

ONE THOUSAND KILLED AND WOUNDED IN HAMBURG

(Canadian Press Dispatch.) LONDON, Dec. 13.—The Express claims to have reliable information that the most serious riots took place in Hamburg on December 7, 8 and 9. It says that an estimated more than 20,000 people participated in the rioting and that a thousand were wounded or killed. According to this story the soldiery was unable to quell the disturbance and it was necessary to send troops to Hamburg on special trains from Berlin. There is no confirmation of this story from any other source.

GERMANY'S PEACE PROPOSALS RIDICULED BY ALLIES

LONDON, Dec. 13.—(Peace)—A wireless despatch from Berlin says that in his speech before the Reichstag to-day Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg announced that Germany together with her allies, "conscious of their responsibility before God, before their own nation and before humanity" have proposed to the hostile powers to enter into peace negotiations.

JAMMED TO DEATH BETWEEN CAR AND RAILWAY SIDING

ST. JOHN, N. B., Dec. 13.—A. R. Richardson, brakeman on the C. P. R. shunting engine No. 6297 was killed yesterday afternoon by accidentally falling between one of the cars being shunted and the platform of the Maritime National Works siding. He was wedged in so firmly that those who went to his assistance had to cut the platform away. Richardson was a Fredericton man and worked last year on the new bridge at the falls. He was 26 years of age and is survived by his wife. He resided on Prince St., Charlottetown.

SIX TO SEVEN THOUSAND RECRUITS MONTHLY

OTTAWA, Ont., Dec. 13.—A minimum of forty-five or fifty thousand soldiers will be kept in Canada this winter, though the policy of sending reinforcements by drafts, instead of complete regiments, will tend to expedite the movement overseas. Recruitment is now going ahead at the rate of between six and seven thousands per month. It is believed that this figure during the winter will be materially increased so that while the minimum number of troops in the country will be maintained the needs of overseas organization will be fully met.

140TH BAND COMING HOME ST. JOHN, Dec. 12.—The 140th band may return to Canada, Col. Beers fine battalion having been disbanded in England and used for the front. A force units already at the front. A letter received yesterday from Quartermaster Sergeant W. Fred Stevens of the 140th said that he had been informed by Lieut. Col. Beer that the band would soon return home. Several of the members of the band were boys and the age limit but showed their loyalty by offering for active service and going overseas with the battalion. It is probable the band will be used in recruiting in Canada.

SUMMERSIDE AGAIN VISITED BY A DISASTROUS FIRE

Both Sides of Water Street from Central to Summer Street Including Sinclair and Stewart Ltd., F. W. Strong & Co, W. J. Lidstone and Others Fire-Swept with Loss Estimated at \$300,000 with about \$175,000 Insurance. Charlottetown Fire Brigade and Engines Assisted in Checking Flames.

For the second time in ten years Summerside, yesterday, was visited by a fire which caused enormous damage and threatened to wipe out the town. Today, when stood nearly a score of the principal places of the town, all that is to be seen is a broad area of smouldering embers, portions of brick walls, and piles of brick, and the ruined remains of the goods which these buildings contained. The heaviest loss was the wiping out of the Sinclair and Stewart building and contents, involving a loss estimated in the vicinity of from \$100,000 to \$150,000. Some sixteen other places of business were wiped out comprising a loss of \$300,000. The area covered by the fire runs from Mr. J. E. Dalton's drugstore, formerly Goulties, to Mr. Colin Milligan's tailorshop, the latter scorched but not destroyed, on the south side of Water Street; and on the north side from Central St. to Summer Street as far north as First Street, the whole block being wiped off with the exception of the Royal Bank brick building on this street being scorching windows and some damage from water. North of First St. the only building destroyed was Capt. Johnston Rhynard's dwelling, the other buildings on this street being scorched.

ON THE SOUTH SIDE. J. E. Dalton's drugstore and McLeLlan's bookstore, wooden on the lower floor and on the second floor occupied by Yastie & Co. Sinclair & Stewart's general store, brick, including the Crabbe brick block; third storey occupied by the Union Commercial College and the A. F. and A. M. Lodge Room. Joseph McCullough's, tailor shop. W. B. Mills, Dry goods. H. B. Crockett, Jewellery damaged.

ON THE NORTH SIDE. F. W. Strong & Co., Cor. Central and Water St. general store and warehouse. The Rogers building, occupied by J. W. Lidstone, general store, and Lafferty's barber shop on the ground floor; on the second storey the law offices of Messrs. E. H. and H. E. Strong. The Holman building occupied by W. A. Ching, confectionery; John Steele, barber; H. H. Beer, offices and boots, shoes and dry goods; the Crabbe Tobacco Co. offices of A. C. Rogers and H. W. B. Staver. J. H. Locke, groceries; Roy Silliphant, butcher shop. Thomas Andrew, farm implements and machinery. Hon. J. A. McNeill, warehouse.

ON CENTRAL STREET. Warehouse owned by H. B. Strong and occupied by F. W. Strong & Co. as storeroom. Store occupied by Mrs. Murphy and several families. Building owned by Percy Bonness and occupied by the J. P. Tanton, Meat Co.

Warns Against Premature Peace LONDON, Dec. 12. Arthur Henderson minister of pensions, in the first public speech to be made by any of the new ministers, warned the country against a premature peace. Speaking at Clapham, Mr. Henderson said: "The war has gone on too long for some people in this country. It is possible, in view of the military situation, that we may become war weary. I want to warn everyone of the danger of premature peace. I am as strongly for peace as anybody can be, but peace must place us, without doubt, beyond the recurrence of the present catastrophe. By all means, let us pass the time, the Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist passed a strongly worded resolution calling on President Wilson to make vigorous protest against the deportation of Belgians into Germany. The resolution was in the form of an open letter to the President. It was passed after the congregation had listened to an address by Major Louis Livingston Seaman, in which he condemned the German policy in Belgium and said that the recently established practice of deporting Belgian workers was a "state of international lawlessness unsurpassed since the slave raids in Africa."

ATROCITIES OF THE GERMANS DENOUNCED

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—German atrocities in Belgium were bitterly denounced in a number of churches in the city Sunday, and the congregation of the Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist passed a strongly worded resolution calling on President Wilson to make vigorous protest against the deportation of Belgians into Germany. The resolution was in the form of an open letter to the President. It was passed after the congregation had listened to an address by Major Louis Livingston Seaman, in which he condemned the German policy in Belgium and said that the recently established practice of deporting Belgian workers was a "state of international lawlessness unsurpassed since the slave raids in Africa."

United States Army Transport Aground NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—The United States army transport Sumner, Poland from Colon to this port with army officers and civilian passengers is hard aground on the New Sercos coast off Bernagat. The coast guard cutters under forced drafts are rushing to the relief of the transport and are expected to reach it about noon. The Sumner sent out calls for help after striking late last night.

ROUMANIANS HOLD HUNS IN CHECK

War Supplies Removed or Destroyed and Oil Reservoirs Drained By the Roumanians.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 13, via London.—The evacuation of Bucharest, although delayed until the last moment, was in perfect order, according to reports from Jassy, of the war supplies and most of the other properties of possible military advantage to the invaders. The enormous oil reservoirs at Ploesti were drained, as soon as it became evident that the Roumanians would have to abandon this important centre. Despatches from the Roumanian front say that in executing their different retreat manoeuvres the Roumanians succeeded in checking the advance of the German forces long enough to defeat the flanking movement which, if successful, would have closed the way to Moldavia and resulted in the capture of a large part of the army. By spirited rear-guard actions along the road from Ploesti to Buzeu they succeeded in delaying General Von Falkenhayn's advance long enough to defeat the flanking movement which, if successful, would have closed the way to Moldavia and resulted in the capture of a large part of the army. The war office announced today that the attack failed.

AN ATTACK OF BULGARIANS FAILED

PARIS, Dec. 13.—A counter attack delivered by Bulgarian troops against the Italians on the Macedonian front, north of Monastir, resulted in spirited fighting yesterday. The war office announced today that the attack failed.

ENTENTE NATIONALS LEAVE ATHENS

LONDON, Dec. 13.—A Reuter despatch from Athens dated December 12, says that the Greek press continues optimistic in regard to the international situation but the Entente demands have not yet been formulated as all the legations have not received full instructions. In the meantime practically all the Entente national have embarked on allied ships and every arrangement has been made for the departure of the Entente diplomats. There is no direct news from Athens in regard to the regrets expressed by the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs on behalf of King Constantine's government, respecting the attack made upon the British and French marines in the Greek capital.

SECRETARY OF C.P.R. RETIRES FROM POST

MONTREAL, Dec. 13.—Mr. W. R. Baker, C.V.O., secretary to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and assistant to the president, has at his own request been relieved from his duties and placed on the retired list by the company. Mr. Baker's association with the company dates from his inception in 1881. In 1883 he resigned to become general manager of the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway and in 1900 when that railway was acquired by the company Mr. Baker returned to the services as executive agent at Winnipeg. His assistance in straightening out the affairs of the acquired property was of material value, and his other duties, many of them of the most important and confidential character, were performed with a singular zeal and intelligence. After these thirty-five years of association, Mr. Baker retires with the confidence, good will and best wishes of the directors and his brother officers. Mr. E. Alexander formerly assistant secretary to the company, succeeds Mr. Baker.

AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS RESIGNED

LONDON, December 12.—The Austrian Government has resigned. This announcement is made in a Reuter despatch from Amsterdam.

COMING EVENTS ANNOUNCEMENTS, MEETINGS, ETC.

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