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ITALIANS STRIKING HAMMER BLOWS

Are Steadily Forcing Austrians Back. Overflowing Piave River May Force Further Withdrawals. French Have Advanced Mile Since New Year.

ITALIAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN NORTHERN ITALY, Jan. 15.—The Italians delivered an unexpected hammer blow last night against the enemy's positions on the heights just to the east of the Brenta river. Heavy losses were inflicted upon the enemy and several hundred prisoners were taken, including an Austrian lieutenant-colonel and seven other officers. The Italians likewise captured a large amount of war material.

AUSTRIANS DESERT IN LARGE NUMBERS.

(London Times's Cable, Copyright, 1918)

ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS, Jan. 18.—(By Ward Price)—During the lull in the bitter winter the opportunities have been more frequent than usual for deserters to reach the Italian lines. Men out on night patrols slip away in the darkness or manage to creep unobserved over the parapet of the front line trenches.

The sufferings of these Austrian soldiers in the terribly cold mountains, six thousand feet high, are severe. They had no opportunity to build huts or dugouts in the snow and the frost caught them shelterless and unprepared. Some men the Italians lately captured had been sleeping out with no protection but their great coats on nights when the thermometer had gone below zero.

A noticeable fact is that the censorship system of Austria is evidently either greatly relaxed or disorganized for prisoners are found carrying letters from their families which certainly should not have been allowed by a censor. These letters contain bitter complaints of utter lack of food and stories of riots and disorders of which no indication appears in Austrian newspapers.

Another fact I learned on examination of a large number of prisoners and deserters is the completeness with which the Austrian army has been reorganized so as to split up the training depots. German-speaking regiments have been moved into Hungary while Hungarian regiments have recruiting stations in parts of Austria. These steps are imposed to lessen possibility of active disaffection in the Austrian army, for the old system of regional regiments had been maintained in which officers and men were mainly of the same nationality. It is certain it would have been impossible for the Austrian generals to count upon more than small part of their armies.

War correspondents' headquarters in the Austrian army continues to attempt to enter our posts trenches at various points but the measure of his success is surprisingly small. On the other hand these enterprises are costing him considerable aggregate casualties.

Prisoners taken on one raid complain that the infantry only receive their instructions a few hours before the assault and they are but over the fact that no officers accompanied them. They saw that flamethrowers employed in these enterprises are of a light type and are carried and worked by Prussian pioneers who are not keen on their job, seeing what easy marks they present for our snipers.

A document lately discovered in a captured position contains the gratifying testimony of the effectiveness of the destructive battery work carried on by our artillery. It stated that out of twenty-four field howitzers only six were left in action after one of our counter attacks. The document complains of British gas which caused interference in getting up ammunition and likewise prevents the removal of batteries at the right time and renders it so often impossible to rescue guns.

THE ITALIANS ADVANCED ALMOST A MILE.

LONDON, Jan. 16.—From a London Times correspondent with the French army in Italy, Jan. 17.—The Italians advanced almost a mile. That had been the Austrians' New Year present to the French. They gradually eroded it to them during those first ten days of 1918, following their storming the heights of Tomba a fortnight ago.

When the French first took the mountain crest the lower works on its northern slope were maintained by Austria supported by small entrenched groups, but on Jan. 2, when the latter were going to stop, signs and sounds of a rearward movement were noticed by French scouts peering through wet brushwood. Prisoners acknowledged a movement to more comfortable quarters was intended.

By Jan. 14th all the Austrians were going in a couple more days they were gone from the whole district between the Tomba and Ornic torrent which flows below the village of Alona. Or a table in a small inn near Montenera some Chasseurs found their final loggia in the form of a roughly scribbled note which said: "We are the last six left here as a covering party. We are going in a few hours time. Thank you for leaving us in peace."

There is a chance the Austrians may have to go farther back than the Ornic for the immediate country beyond and around the Alona stretching to the Quedo, is low lying and may be flooded if the Piave continues to rise there. Also there have been withdrawals of enemy patrols from positions near the Brenta valley.

Big Decrease In Sinkings

LONDON, Jan. 17.—Another marked decrease in the sinkings of British merchantmen by mine or submarine in the past week is noted in the report of the Admiralty, issued tonight. In this period only six merchantmen of 1,600 tons or over were sunk. In addition, two merchantmen under 1,000 tons, and two fishing vessels.

In the previous week the Admiralty reported the loss by mine or submarine of eighteen merchantmen of 1,600 tons or over, three merchantmen, under that tonnage and four fishing vessels. The report of January 12 gave the sinkings as twenty-eight being 1,600 tons or over.

CRISIS REACHED IN WORLD WAR

British Labor Party Declare Time Has Come For British to Speak, Want Tropical Africa Under International Control.

LONDON, Jan. 17.—The British Labor party in a message issued today declares in favor of placing the whole of tropical Africa under uniform international control. The more rapid development of self-government for India is promised, and a protectorate for the peoples of Asia Minor by an international organization to be constituted by the peace conference is favored.

The message, which was issued by the Labor party in conjunction with the parliamentary committee of the trades union congress, says: "We have reached a crisis in the world. The negotiations at Brest-Litovsk have been interrupted because the Germans have refused to admit the principle of self-determination of peoples and the doctrine of no annexation. In thus acting, the Central Powers are speaking clearly in the name of a militarist state."

"In this crisis the British people must succeed in their great and perilous task if supported by the people everywhere. The British people must proclaim to Russia and the Central Powers that its aim is identical with Russia's, that we too see no solution for the evils of militarism, except self-determination and no indemnities."

"In applying this Russian principle to our own case, we are conscious of the problems raised, but we do not shrink therefrom. The British people accept the principle of no annexations for the British Empire. This applies in our case to the middle east, Africa and India."

Reminder to Russia.

"We wish to remind the Russian people that Great Britain, taught by the loss of the American colonies in the eighteenth century was the first modern state to give complete self-determination to any group of inhabitants, for example, the Dominions of Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand. We accept the principle also for India and other dependencies of the British Empire, though we believe that the record of the British government here gives little occasion for reproach. We intend to meet this by more rapid development of self-government. We respect the sovereign independence of the Turkish people in the national home, but we believe that the domination of their government over other peoples is a hindrance to their own national development."

Pledged to Races.

"Our government is pledged to some of those peoples—Arabs, Palestinians, Armenians—that the Ottoman rule shall not again be imposed on them. This responsibility should be undertaken by the peace conference and a permanent international organization that we hope will be constituted."

"In tropical Africa we repeat our renunciation of annexations. Nobody contends that the black races can govern themselves. They can only make it known that the particular government under which they have been living is bad in some of its respects and indicate the specific way from which they desire liberation. We believe that the peace conference would be well advised to place all tropical Africa under uniform international control."

"We advise the peoples of Central Europe to declare themselves, or make their governments speak for them in answer to Russia and ourselves. We call on them to renounce annexations in Europe with the same good faith in which we are renouncing them in Asia. We call on them to give the self-determination to the French, Albanian, Italian, Polish and Danish members of their states as Russia has given to Finland, Courland, Lithuania and Russian Poland."

DEADLOCK OVER PRICE OF BREAD IN HALIFAX

HALIFAX, N. S., Jan. 17.—The bakers of Halifax have been selling bread to grocers, wrapped at the rate of 10 1/2 cents per loaf of one and a half pounds, thus allowing the grocers a profit of 12 1/2 per cent. The bakers now give notice that they will not wrap the loaves, but the price will remain at 10 1/2 cents.

The grocers must wrap the bread instead of the bakers, and they ask, therefore, that the price be reduced to them to ten cents. The bakers decline and the grocers announce that after next Monday they will refuse to handle the bread unless at a price of 10 cents.

TEN ARMY OFFICERS EXECUTED AT TOLUCA MEXICO

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 16.—Ten army officers including General Leocadio Parra, out of forty-five arrested in connection with the plot to kill General Alfredo Nova, commander of the military district in the State of Mexico, and Augustin Milan, governor of that State, were executed today at Toluca, the State capital, about forty miles from this city. The plot was discovered last Thursday and involved the looting of Toluca.

Summary court martial proceeded the imposition of the death penalty. The remainder of the forty-five men accused were released.

THE WEATHER. TEMPERATURE TIDE, MOON, ETC.

TODAY IS THE 1266TH DAY OF CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WAR.

TORONTO, Jan. 19.—Light variable winds, mostly fair, not much change in temperature.

The highest temperature recorded yesterday was 24 degrees above. At 10 a. m. it was 14 above; at 9 p. m., it was 13 above. The lowest the previous night was 10 above.

The tide will be high this afternoon at 3:33 tomorrow at 4:21 and Monday at 5:16; it will be high tomorrow morning at 4:51, Monday at 5:49 and Tuesday at 7:09.

GERMANS ADMIT U-BOATS FIND IT MORE DANGEROUS

Depth Bombs Used to Greater Extent Since Americans Came in One Submarine Ran Gamut of 39. Explosion of Steamers also Dangerous to U-Boats—Tirpitz Still Maintains Underseas Warfare Will Win for Germany.

LONDON, Jan. 17.—German newspapers in referring to the Anglo-American measures against submarines indicate that the employment of the depth charge has been greatly increased and perfected since the American destroyers arrived in European waters. In the old days the destroyer was content to drop two or three depth charges in the vicinity where the submarine was last seen, but now, according to the German accounts, it is not unusual to find the destroyers persisting in the business of dropping depth bombs until as many as forty have been exploded thus covering a large area where the submarine is likely to be hiding.

Unpleasant for U-Boats.

The Germans admit that this is a very unpleasant business for the operators of U-boats. Thus the Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung contains the following account of the experiences of a U-boat man in the water patrolled by the American destroyers: "One of our submarines shot a heavily laden steamer of 5,000 tons on a convoy. A violent enemy counter-attack followed. The destroyers left the convoy and followed the submarine and in the course of a few minutes dropped thirty-nine water bombs around the spot where the U-boat was supposed to be submerged."

Meanwhile Admiral Von Tirpitz, the father of Germany's submarine warfare and one of the leaders of the fatherland party, in speeches is endeavoring to bolster up the case of the pan-Germans. In his latest address he still held to his dream of forcing Great Britain to seek peace as a result of Germany's submarine campaign and dwelt on the ability of Von Hindenburg and his chief aide, Von Ludendorff, to bring about a peace acceptable to Germany by force of arms.

PROVISION FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS

Excellent Illustrated Address on Vocational Training of Soldiers

A very large audience listened with deep interest to the lecture delivered last night by Rev. R. G. Fulton, on "Provision for the Government for Returned Soldiers." The lecture was capably illustrated by over a hundred photographs, views, splendidly screened, of the various devices employed in the vocational training of soldiers. The views embraced all the convalescent homes and military hospitals from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Works, shops, schools, implements, the manufacture of artificial limbs and in short, everything used in the vocational training and re-education of soldiers, were shown and graphically explained. Both lecture and illustrations were exceedingly interesting. His Worship Mayor Brown presided and in his opening remarks highly commended the work of the Hospitals' Commission on behalf of the returned soldier's who, he declared, richly deserved all that could be done for them.

The slides illustrating this lecture together with explanatory notes are available to any citizen or others who may wish to use them in connection with patriotic work, on application to Miss Nellie Gillespie, Secretary of the Returned Soldier's Committee, Charlottetown. The Guardian understands application has already been received from Summerside and others having been partially arranged for.

CANADIANS RAIDED GERMAN TRENCHES NORTH OF LENS

LONDON, Jan. 15.—German trenches north of Lens were raided last night by Canadian troops, who brought back prisoners, the official statement of Field Marshal Haig today says. Near Mericourt, southeast of Lens, British soldiers were victorious in patrol engagements.

BAD ACCIDENT ON THE C.P.R. EAST OF TORONTO

MONTREAL, Jan. 14.—Eighty passengers of the C.P.R. train No. 20 "The Canadian" from Chicago to Montreal, were brought here at 9 o'clock tonight by the Grand Trunk train from Toronto, having survived an accident due to the severe storm at Grafton, eighty-four miles this side of Toronto. According to stories told by passengers and crew, the accident was attributed to a broken rail. It was a very heavy train with two engines. The second engine was derailed, and the rest of the train was thrown off the track. It was stated that the fireman of the second engine was killed, and the engineer suffered a broken arm. No other casualties were reported. The C.P.R. passengers were transferred to the Grand Trunk at the point where the accident occurred as both railway lines run close together there.

SERIOUS UNREST AMONG HUN ALLIES

Russian Peace Negotiations Cause of Trouble in Germany. Hungarian Cabinet Resigns. Formation of Hungarian Army Vetted by King.

LONDON, Jan. 18.—Although the peace parleys between the Bolsheviks and the Teutonic allies have resumed at Brest-Litovsk, tag peace by agreement section of the German populace and some of the newspapers continue their expressions of dissatisfaction with the ambitions of the pan-Germans, and the terms that have been advanced by the German delegates at Brest-Litovsk as the basis for a peace.

Amsterdam despatches announce that an understanding has been reached between the political and military parties in Germany on the basis of the Russian programme of no annexations or indemnities. In the east and leaving to Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, in case of a German victory, the liberty of dealing with possible annexations in the west, but the evidence tends to show that the factions are still at odds. Additional meetings at which speakers endeavored to outline the viewpoint of the militaristic element have been broken up and it is announced that Chancellor Hertling is to be permitted to deliver his delayed address on Germany's war aims to the main committee of the Reichstag next Friday for which the country has been clamoring.

Factories Closed BY FUEL FAMINE

All Factories East of Mississippi Closed for Five Days by U.S. Government to Save Fuel, Newspapers Restricted to one Edition Daily

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—America's manufacturing enterprises with but few exceptions, in all states east of the Mississippi River, were ordered by the government tonight to suspend operations for five days beginning this Friday morning as a drastic measure for relieving the fuel famine.

At the same time as a further means of relief, it was directed that industry and business generally, including all normal activities that required heated buildings, observe as a holiday every Monday for the next ten weeks. This will close down on Mondays not only factories, but saloons, stores, except for the sale of drugs and food, places of amusement and nearly all office buildings.

AMERICAN STEAMER REPORTED IN TROUBLE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—No report has been received at the Navy Department late tonight from vessels ordered to the assistance of the American steamer Texan, reported early in the day in distress off the Atlantic Coast as the result of a collision. According to naval authorities that she was sinking at sea. The location of the ship was not given. The naval authorities did not state the cause of the Texan's distress, but reports reaching shipping circles here were that the vessel had been rammed amidship in collision with another ship.

A steamer arriving here today reported that at 4 a. m. she picked up an "S.O.S." from the Texan reporting that she had been struck amidship and was sinking. Lifeboats had also been lowered. The message from the Texan said: "Good-bye—no more."

The Texan left here recently with a cargo of nitrates bound for a French port.

APPRECIATION ON BEHALF OF HALIFAX

Col. McKelvie Bell, Assistant Director of Medical Services at Halifax and who during and since the disaster has acted as Chairman of the Medical Relief Committee was in the city yesterday and leaves on return this morning. Col. Bell in conversation with a representative of the Guardian had many words of praise for the city of Charlottetown and the province, especially Queen's and King's Counties for the very generous donations sent by them to the stricken city, and on behalf of the Medical Relief Committee and the victims he distress through the Guardian to thank the generous donors. Among the contributions were large quantities of chicken, butter, eggs, condensed milk and other delicacies and necessities, which were distributed by the Committee among the hospital according to the number of patients in each, and all of which were greatly appreciated. Col. Bell also expressed the thanks of the Committee to Mayor Brown and Councillor Smith who went personally to Halifax, saw for themselves what help they could give and then gave it. One of the most practical things done for the stricken city was the sending of two auto trucks and a fire truck. These were of inestimable value and helped very materially in alleviating both suffering and want. The chauffeur, Mr. C. W. Rogers, who had charge of the trucks also came in for his meed of praise for the excellent service he rendered, remaining in Halifax for four weeks. Col. Bell in expressing his and the Committee's thanks for the assistance given by this province, did not forget the twelve nurses who volunteered their services and who rendered timely and intelligent assistance to those in need. By the way, Col. Bell is an author as well as a soldier, he having published a book "The First Canadians in France," which was issued last October and received much favorable comment.

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UNPRECEDENTED CATCH OF COD

SYDNEY, N. S., Jan. 16.—An unprecedented catch of 22,000 cod in three days in January is reported from North Bay, Ingonish, by S. S. Burke one of the largest dealers in Cape Breton.

CONDENSED SPECIALS

BRIGHT BOY IS WANTED AT Guardian Office. 1541-12-22M11

LOST—FOUNTAIN PEN, NO. P. O. C. 14. Finder please leave at this office. 2217-1-18M31

FOR SALE—10 TONS HAY, 400 bus. oats. Apply to W. W. Painter, North Rustico, 2234-1-18M21pd.

OLD NEWSPAPERS FOR SALE AT 5 cents per bundle. Guardian Office. 1530-12-7M11.

FOR SALE.—A NEWLY FRESHENED cow, 4 1/2 years old. Apply to F. McKenna, Tracadie Cross. 2244-1-18M21PD.

WANTED A CAPABLE SALESMAN, general store, experienced man preferred. Apply W. A. Poole & Co., 2290-1-17M21wks.

HEAVY BROWN PAPER FOR sale, excellent for putting under oilcloth or carpets. Apply at The Guardian Office. 732-10-26M11.

TO LET—ROOM IN PRIVATE family with or without board; (gentleman preferred.) Apply at this office. 138-12-25M11

PORTRAIT AGENTS WANTED. Send for Catalogues, Prints, Solar and Bromide. Enlarged portraits. Convex or flat. Frames, Glass and all supplies. Merchants Portrait Co., Toronto. 1862-12-22M11.

Minard's Liniment cures Neuralgia. Minard's Liniment cures Rheumatism. Minard's Liniment cures Diphtheria. Minard's Liniment cures Distemper.