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CITY EDITION

SEBASTOPOL IS BOMBARDED BY THE TURKISH CRUISER MIDIEOLI; EXTENT OF DAMAGE UNKNOWN

Sayville, L. I.—The official press bureau today gave out the following:

"The Turkish cruiser Midieoli (formerly the Breslau) has bombarded the port of Sebastopol on the Black Sea.

"Vienna newspapers report a mutiny in the army besieging Przemysl. Several battalions are said to have been sent away in fetters.

"The Turkish official bulletin says that the large cruiser Sultan Selim (the Goeben) bombarded Batum on December 10, setting fire to the city. The Russian land batteries returned the fire without success.

"Constantinople learns authoritatively that a Mohammedan uprising has occurred in the Caucasus and that 50,000 armed Russian forces went over to fight against the Russians."

Austrians Abandon Belgrade

Vienna, Dec. 15 (via London).—The abandonment of Belgrade by the Austrians is acknowledged in an official statement given out at army headquarters today. The statement follows:

"In the southern theater of war the retirement of our right wing involved a change in the military situation which made it advisable for us to abandon Belgrade, which was evacuated without fighting.

"Our troops have fought long and fatiguing battles, but are in the best of spirits."

German Cruiser Interned

Washington, Dec. 15.—A rival of the German converted cruiser Cormoran in the harbor of Guam, an American possession in the Ladrones archipelago, was officially reported to the navy department today by the commandant of the naval station there.

The Cormoran loaded 1,500 tons of coal to reach the nearest German port according to Captain W. J. Maxwell, naval governor of Guam. She was offered 100 tons of coal and fresh water and her captain was given until 10 a. m. today (Guam time) to decide what his future course would be.

Secretary Daniels has approved Captain Maxwell's action and has instructed him not to allow the vessel more coal and provisions than can be properly spared.

Naval officers here believe the Cormoran, although described as a converted cruiser, is really the unprotected cruiser of that name, a sister ship of the Geier, interned at Honolulu several weeks ago.

EIGHT BELOW ZERO IN ALBUQUERQUE

NEW LOW RECORD FOR DECEMBER IS SET BY THIS MORNING'S TEMPERATURE

Albuquerque, N. M., Dec. 15.—The thermometer dropped to eight below zero here this morning, setting a new low record for December in this section of New Mexico.

Four Above Here

The lowest temperature recorded here this morning was four degrees, which is 12 degrees higher than that at Albuquerque. The maximum temperature yesterday was 31.

Temperature Coming Up

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 15.—High temperatures prevailed generally throughout the southwest today. The wind had veered from the north to the south, the sun was shining and the mercury at many points was rising at the rate of a degree an hour.

In Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Iowa the rise in 24 hours was from 10 to 15 degrees, while in Texas the government readings ranged from four degrees higher at Amarillo to four degrees lower than yesterday at Corpus Christi. The mercury at the latter point this morning stood at 23 degrees above zero, the lowest December temperature for years.

Atchison, Kan., reported the lowest reading to the local government weather bureau, the mercury reaching three and a half degrees below zero there. At Kansas City, Des Moines and Concordia, Kansas, four degrees above was recorded.

Omaha, Hutchinson, Kansas and Springfield, Mo., reported six above; Dodge City 12; Amarillo 16; Oklahoma City 18; Wichita and Dallas 20.

ON THE LAND, ALLIES BEGIN CONCERTED ATTACK ON THE GERMAN FORCES IN BELGIUM

Teutons Lose Several Trenches to the Enemy, is the Report

BERLIN ISSUES AN EMPHATIC DENIAL OF STORY

Declares the Allied Nations Are Issuing False Bulletins Claiming Gains Against the Kaiser's Forces—Austrians Are Compelled to Evacuate Belgrade Under Attacks by the Servians—Situation Muddled in the East

The British military authorities announced today that fighting in northern France had recommenced and that a combined attack by the allies in Belgium to the south of Ypres had resulted in the capture of German trenches and substantial progress.

This is the first occasion in several weeks on which the British authorities have considered the day-to-day activities of the allies of sufficient importance to issue such a statement. London suggests it may mean that the allies have at last begun their general offensive movement which has been expected there for some time.

The French statement today covers the same ground as the British announcement and in addition says that some progress has been made in the Argonne. There were indications, however, that the Germans have made progress recently toward the eastern end of the line. The French war office admits that at Steinbach, in Alsace, the German infantry "gained a foothold." Bombardment of St. Leonard and of Commeroy by the Germans also has been mentioned in the last two official French statements. St. Leonard lies some distance to the south of points previously mentioned in accounts of fighting in the Vosges. Commeroy is about ten miles of St. Mihiel, which has been believed previously to be the southern extremity of a wedge thrust by the Germans into the French lines.

Such confident claims have been made by the allies during the last week concerning the success of their new movement against the German line that the Berlin military authorities have issued a special statement to contradict them.

The French official statement in particular, however, had a long series of victories, including the destruction of a number of German batteries, the capture of trenches and the rout of the German infantry along almost the whole line. The German statements, however, have said that there has been little activity and today's announcement at Berlin characterizes the French report of December 12 concerning the destruction of batteries and capture of trenches as "a pure invention."

The definite statement "is made in Rotterdam that the Germans have begun a retreat, falling back in Belgium toward a prepared line farther from the coast. Official confirmation was lacking, however. The report from Nish that the Servians had captured Belgrade was not confirmed from any other sources, although it was admitted in Vienna that the Austrians had suffered reverses in Serbia.

It is announced in Berlin that the Turkish cruiser Midieoli, formerly the German warship Breslau, has bombarded the Russian Black sea port of Sebastopol, although with what effect is not stated. The Sultan of Turkey, addressing parliament, asserted that Turkey had been forced into the war by the hostile acts of Russia, France and England.

London, Dec. 15.—The statement issued today by the British official bureau concerning the combined attack by the allies yesterday against the German line was reported in places as marking the beginning of attempts to make a general advance. The point of the combined attacks mentioned in the statement is to the south of Ypres. It will be noticed, moreover, that the statement refers to fighting in northern France as well as in Belgium. This is taken to mean that the offensive movement stretches over considerable area. It has been known for some time that the British headquarters has pushed to the eastward and it is consequently assumed by British observers that the allies have made more progress than has been chronicled.

The occupation of Belgrade by the Servians soon may have an important bearing upon the situation in the east should it compel the Austrians to make a vigorous defensive campaign along their own borders to prevent a Servian invasion.

The French Statement
Paris, Dec. 15.—The official statement given out by the French war office this afternoon says the French have retained the territory they won

ceaseful in gaining a foothold. We have everywhere retained the positions won previously by us."

The English Report

London, Dec. 15.—The official information bureau today gave out the following statement:

"After a period of comparative quiet the fighting in northern France has recommenced.

"A combined attack by the allies was made yesterday on the line from Hollebeke to Wytshaete, in Belgium. Several German trenches and a number of prisoners were captured and substantial progress was made.

What Berlin Says

Berlin, Dec. 15. (by Wireless to Sayville, L. I.)—An official report given out at headquarters last night said:

"The French have made weak attacks against our position between the Meuse and the Vosges, but these were easily repulsed. There were no important events on the west front, in east Prussia, or south Poland. Our operations in north Poland are developing.

"Pure Inventions"

"The following remarks are made regarding Russia and French official reports:

"Southeast of Cracow we continued our offensive. We took several guns and machine guns and made about 2,000 prisoners," says the Russian statement.

"Not one man, not one gun, nor one machine gun there has fallen into Russian hands.

"The official Paris bulletin of December 12 states:

"Northeast of Valley one German battery was completely annihilated and at Deunouda to the west of Vigneulles les Hattenchatel, two German batteries were destroyed, one of heavy caliber and one destined to fight aeroplanes. In the same region the French have destroyed a block house and several trenches."

"All this is pure invention."

The Russian Report

Petrograd, Dec. 15 (via London).—German frontal attacks on the Russian line to the west of Warsaw under cover of night were successfully repulsed by the Russians, according to trustworthy information reaching Petrograd from the front today. At many points along the front, the Russians succeeded in capturing several German positions.

German attacks were answered by Russian counter attacks, in which it is said that several hundred prisoners and one field battery were captured by the Russians. During the last three days of fighting eight machine guns, two batteries of field guns and 4,000 prisoners have been taken. Except for the night attacks of the Germans there has been little heavy fighting in Poland during the last 24 hours. Movements were confined principally to countless maneuvers, demonstrations and attempts at flanking operations by small bodies of German troops.

According to the Army Messenger the German attacks along the east Prussian front, which were conducted simultaneously with their offensive in Poland, failed on account of formidable fortifications which the Russians constructed in fields and forests paralleling the German lines.

The correspondent of the Bourso Gazette in Tiflis states that General Sander Pasha, the German military officer in command of Turkish troops, on arriving at Erzerum, ordered the German engineers to blow up all roads and mountain paths leading from Hassan Kala to Erzerum. Hassan Kala lies on the direct line of the Russian movement against Erzerum. It is 18 miles east of that city and 12 miles west of the main Russian position at Koprikel.

The Army Messenger states that the Austrian troops in Galicia expect that a division of Turkish troops will be sent to their assistance.

Russian Forces Desiring

Berlin, Dec. 15 (via Wireless to

WILL ROOSEVELT GO BACK ON RECORD?

WELL KNOWN AVERSION TO GIVING HIS OPINION WILL BE TESTED

CONGRESS WILL CALL HIM IT WORKS NO IMPROVEMENT WILL TRY TO DRAG SOMETHING OUT OF HIM REGARDING THE NAVY

IS PREPARATION SUFFICIENT? FORMER PRESIDENT WILL BE ASKED TO GIVE VIEWS ON EFFICIENCY

Washington, Dec. 15.—Colonel Roosevelt loomed up today as a possible witness before the House naval committee in its investigation as to the preparedness for national defense. At today's session Representative Hobson pressed Chairman Padgett to call the former president, and after some discussion the question was left to be decided in an executive session of the committee.

"Why invite him?" demanded Representative Butler.

"He was the assistant secretary of the navy and president and a commander-in-chief and has been in a position to know the facts about national defense," returned Mr. Hobson, who protested that his suggestion was being treated in a "cavalier" way.

Representative Buchanan remarked that "due to the fact that Mr. Roosevelt seldom expressed himself through the newspapers and magazines, it might be well to get hold of him and drag something out of him on the subject."

With that the committee turned to the consideration of Commander Stirling, who testified there were eight submarines in the Atlantic fleet. Commander Stirling said the flotilla should have better tender facilities and that there should be more permanency in the assignments of officers attached to the submarines. It took six months training to learn to take out a submarine and years to understand engine and other troubles, he said.

"Are we as well advanced as other nations in submarines?" he was asked.

"I don't think we are," he replied.

"If we believe the accounts from abroad the Germans, English and French have 800 and 1,000 ton submarines in commission."

FARM CROPS OF 1914 WORTH FIVE BILLION

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ISSUES ITS OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Washington, Dec. 15.—This year's principal farm crops are worth \$4,945,852,000, the department of agriculture announced today. The value of each crop follows:

Corn \$1,702,589,000, winter wheat \$675,623,000, spring wheat \$203,050,000, all wheat, \$878,650,000, oats \$499,431,000, barley \$105,902,000, rye \$27,108,000, buckwheat, \$12,892,000, flax seed \$19,540,000, rice \$21,849,000, potatoes \$195,609,000, sweet potatoes \$41,294,000, hay \$779,068,000, tobacco \$101,411,000, cotton \$519,612,000, sugar beets \$27,950,000.

GERMAN PLOT SUSPECTED

San Francisco, Dec. 15.—Agents of the department of justice working here informed the attorney general today that the German acting consul Baron E. H. von Shack, supplied the funds with which a cargo of groceries, clothing and ship chandler's supplies were bought for shipment to Valparaiso, aboard the American steamship Olsen and Mahony. Clearance for the vessel was refused and the cargo unloaded.

EXPLOSION IN JAPAN

Tokio, Dec. 15.—An explosion occurred today in a coal mine at Fukuoka as a result of which 800 laborers are imprisoned in the workings of the mine. Fukuoka is on the sea coast 85 miles to the north of Nagasaki.

UNION IS GIVEN RAPS BY THE MINERS

MEN TESTIFYING BEFORE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION TELL OF CONDITIONS

THE WORKMAN IS BETTER OFF UNDER OPEN-SHOP, THEY TELL COMMISSION

COMPARISON IS MADE WITH NUMEROUS CAMPS THAT ARE ORGANIZED

Denver, Dec. 15.—B. W. Snodgrass, superintendent of the Delagua mine of the Victor American Fuel company, was the first witness at today's session of the coal miners' strike investigation by the federal commission on industrial relations. He related his experiences in the recent strike. The commission, in an effort to complete its work by tomorrow night, began the day's session an hour earlier than usual and endeavored to speed up the testimony. Mr. Snodgrass was asked to confine his statements to matters of which he had personal knowledge.

In response to questions by Chairman Walsh Snodgrass testified that the Delagua mine was protected by 12 guards, commissioned as deputy sheriffs on September 23, 1913, the day the strike was declared. The guards were armed at Trinidad, he believed, by the purchasing agent of the Victor American Fuel company. He testified that he added to this force by hiring men from the surrounding country and had the recruits commissioned as deputy sheriffs, paying them \$1500 a month.

The witness said there had been three attacks on the Delagua mine from October 28, 1913, to April 22, 1914. Two guards and one non-combatant miner were killed in the attacks.

Frank Gove, chief counsel for the Victor American Fuel company, testified that saloon rents on company property hereafter would be upon a flat rate of \$100 month instead of a per capita rate of from 20 to 30 cents monthly for every miner employed.

He submitted a register which he said showed that men employed by the company had been recorded by personal description. He said his company had endeavored to keep its employes out of politics, although he did not know that this was fair to the workmen. The witness said the publicity of the Victor American company was confined to paid display advertisements, because the newspapers would not print the matter as news.

The publicity work of Ivy L. Lee in preparing pamphlets on the strike was donated to the operators, he said, by the Colorado Fuel and Iron company. Before being excused, Mr. Gove was asked to submit his correspondence of inspection by a representation of the commission for selection of such documents as would be of value.

Calls Union a Graft

John Sanders, aged 26, a non-union miner at Delagua, said he struck on September 23, 1913, and returned to work four months later. He said he had been "scared to death" by their agents that he would be forced out later if he did not strike. The witness said he was a union man for seven years, but preferred non-union conditions. He said he thought the union was a "graft."

Judge Ben B. Lindsey of the Denver juvenile court testified that he had been sent by the peace association of Colorado to explain the strike situation to President Wilson and the east generally. He detailed his visit to the president and told of his effort to obtain an interview with John D. Rockefeller. He read a long letter which he said he had sent to the elder Rockefeller's secretary. He said he had received a curt telegram in reply, refusing to grant the interview. He introduced into record numerous telegrams and letters from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., although he said his own communication had been addressed to Rockefeller, Sr.

REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR IS CONSIDERED

PRESIDENT AND CABINET TALK ABOUT NEUTRALITY AT PANAMA CANAL

GOETHALS WANTS WARSHIPS THERE IS SOME SPECULATION AS TO HOW THEY WILL BE USED

MAY GIVE OFFICIAL WARNING LIKELY THEY WILL PATROL THE THREE-MILE NEUTRALITY LIMIT

Washington, Dec. 15.—More information is being awaited before President Wilson decides whether the request of Governor Goethals for destroyers to enforce the neutrality at Panama shall be granted. Suggestions of differences between Secretaries Garrison, Daniels and Bryan over the question were met by President Wilson with the statement that there could be no real difference, since the would finally decide.

The President discussed the situation with the cabinet officials and generally considered measures for protecting the neutrality of the canal.

Officials described as absurd reports that Colonel Goethals' request would be denied. They declared action was being delayed only pending a fuller discussion of the needs of the situation. There has been doubt in the minds of officials as to just what sort of a patrol would be necessary. If belligerent ships are using wireless within the three-mile limit, administration officials think a warning would be adequate. Delays in passing through the canal they think Colonel Goethals already is prepared to handle.

As no question of clearance papers arises at the canal, officials here do not see of what use destroyers can be unless for dispatch purposes. If they are sent, they probably will be given the mission of keeping all colliers or warships from lingering within the three-mile limit.

AMENDMENT MAY BE IGNORED FOR ONCE

OTHERWISE, THERE WILL BE NO VALUATIONS FIXED FOR THE COMING YEAR

Santa Fe, N. M., Dec. 15.—That the abolition of the state bureau of equalization by vote of the people, in carrying the constitutional amendment at the recent election, be suspended pending the fixing of important 1915 valuations appears to be the only way out of an anomalous situation. The board fixes the valuation of national banks, transportation companies, all corporations and livestock, and pending action by the legislature there is no other authority to fix these values. The county commissioners and assessors of the state, in session here, will put the matter up to the attorney general's office.

Judge Lindsey said he was visited by an unnamed man who said he came from John D. Rockefeller, Sr. This man, the witness said, told him that "John" was surrounded by a group of reactionaries who would not allow him to receive Lindsey. This visitor had suggested that the chief justice of the United States appoint President Wilson's proposed board of arbitration.

Judge Lindsey was excused after he had submitted a mass of black hand letters he said he had received, numerous newspaper clippings and telegrams.

Nels Jorgensen, a Delagua non-union miner, testified that he had refused to strike because he was pleased with conditions at the Delagua mines of the Victor American Fuel company; that conditions there were better than in the Kansas union camps from which he came four years ago.