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## 1400 AUSTRIAN PRISONERS ARRIVED RAGGED, HUNGRY

OFFICERS IN WORSE CONDITION THAN MEN, BUT ALL RE-MAIN BOLD.

## TALK OF FRENCH FIRE

Fearful Artillery Tornado and Following Infantry Assault Were Something New to This Unit of Huns Invading Italy.

(By the Associated Press)

Italian Army Headquarters in North Italy, Friday, Jan. 4.—The officer commanding the 1,400 Austrian prisoners captured in the recent French success on Monte Tomba gave the Associated Press correspondent an opportunity today of going among them and talking freely with officers and men on war conditions, and what the enemy still could do in carrying on the struggle.

A more miserable lot of human beings would be difficult to imagine. The officers were in even worse condition than the men. Their clothing was ragged and the tinelled ornamentation on the uniforms was gaugered with rust.

The officers were unkempt and had not been shaved for a week. Their red hands looked like pieces of raw beef weak. None had overcoats, as all were wearing light trench uniforms when the French swept around them. Yet, despite this misery, they put on a surprisingly bold front, and anyone thinking they are crushed is closing his eyes to facts.

### All Ages Among Them.

All ages were seen among the prisoners. There was a boy of 18 and a man of 56, with a gray beard. A coating of trench mud made them look worse than they really were. Some wore shawls and blankets. Their headgear consisted of battered helmets and caps with heavy hoods.

They tramped along sullenly to large courtyards where food was being distributed. Each man got a small tin of meat and a large chunk of bread. The prisoners ate like ravenous animals, and said it was the best food they had had in weeks. The correspondent was told by the prisoners that the method of the French attack was an entirely new experience for them, as they seldom had undergone such murderous artillery fire. Most of the men were Moravians, Dalmatians and Galicians.

The sudden French charge after the artillery fire bowled them over before they had any chance to offer resistance. Concerning the war, they all expressed themselves as heartily sick of it, and said that the Germans were keeping the others in the fight.

### "All the World Against Us."

Officers gave America's entry into the war as an instance that all the world was against the central powers. One officer said the food supply was running low, but that conditions were better in Hungary than in Austria. They thought that Hungary could get along. Referring to their ragged uniforms, one officer said: "Yes, we are ragged, and look like tramps, but what does that count in fighting?"

A German artillery officer who was captured with the Austrians was given quarters by himself, but the commandant said that another German would soon arrive to keep him company. The German, while deferential and civil, maintained complete silence on the war.

## UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT IS PRACTICAL REALITY AND GOES IT ALONE

Amsterdam, Jan. 4.—According to a telegram from Brest Litovsk, peace delegates from Ukraine have arrived there and reported that the Ukrainian government is preparing to conduct its own international affairs everywhere.

A telegram from Warsaw says that a special train carrying the peace delegates of the central powers has passed through there on the way to Brest Litovsk.

On the invitation of the German foreign minister, Dr. Von Kuehlmann, Prof. Emil Opik, an artist, will go to Brest Litovsk to sketch the assembled peace delegates.

## PREPARE TO CONSTRUCT 200 WOODEN SHIPS

Washington, Jan. 4.—Chairman Hurley of the shipping board asked congress for \$2,000,000 for acquisition of establishments of ship building plants in addition to the \$165,000,000 heretofore asked for the next fiscal year. He also asked for increase of authority for construction of ships from \$1,274,000,000 to \$1,955,000,000.

F. A. Brown, purchasing officer for the emergency fleet corporation, told the committee that within sixty days the shipping board hopes to have delivered from Oregon the heavier timbers for the construction of 200 wooden ships at a price of \$15 less a thousand than that of pine timbers, which the south was unable to deliver.

## DESPOTISM MUST PERISH FROM EARTH, PREMIER OF BRITAIN CRIES

ENGLISH PEOPLE INTEND TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH FOR DEMOCRACY, DAVID LLOYD GEORGE DECLARES, AND GERMANY'S WRONGS IN 1871 AND IN PRESENT WAR MUST BE RIGHTED.

London, Jan. 5.—Premier Lloyd George, addressing the trades unions today on the subject of the war aims, said that only the clearest, greatest and most just of causes could justify the continuance even for a day of "this unspicable agency of nations."

The premier said: "We ought to be able to state clearly and definitely not only the principles for which we are fighting, but their definite, concrete application to the war aims of the world. 'We have arrived,' said the premier, 'at the most critical hour of this war of the conflict, and before any government takes the fatal decision as to the conditions under which it ought either to terminate or continue the struggle, it should be satisfied that the consciences of the nation is behind these conditions.'"

Mr. Lloyd George said that during the last few days he had taken special pains to ascertain the views and the attitude of representative men of all sections of thought in the country.

### Doesn't Want Constantinople.

The premier declared Great Britain was not fighting to take Constantinople from Turkey.

"One viewpoint," the premier declared, "is that the adoption of a democratic constitution by Germany would be the most convincing evidence that the old spirit of military domination was dead, but that is a question for the German people to decide."

The basis of any territorial settlement must be government with the consent of the governed, the premier asserted.

He had read the statement of labor's war aims, he continued, and had discussed the question of war aims with former Premier Asquith and with Viscount Grey. Had the nationalist leaders in Ireland not been engaged with the jungled problem of Irish self-government, he would have been happy to exchange views with them. He had also consulted representatives of Great Britain's overseas dominions.

As a result of these discussions, said Mr. Lloyd George, although the government alone was responsible for the actual language he proposed using, there was a national agreement as to the character and purpose of the nation's war aims and peace conditions. He was speaking, therefore, not merely the mind of the government, but the mind of the nation and the empire.

### No War of Aggression.

"We are not fighting a war of aggression against the German people," declared the premier. "The destruction or disruption of Germany or the German people has never been a war aim of the British people since the first day of the war to now. The British people never aimed at breaking up the German peoples, or the disintegration of their state. Our wish is not to destroy Germany's great position in the world, but to turn her aside from schemes of military domination to devote her strength to beneficent tasks."

The premier continued with the declaration that Great Britain was not fighting to take Constantinople from Turkey, nor to destroy Austria-Hungary. "We are not fighting," he said, "to destroy Austria-Hungary or to deprive Turkey of its capital or of the rich land in Asia Minor and Thrace, which are predominantly Turkish."

### Hun Proposals Worthless.

Referring to the announcement made December 25 by Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, at the Brest Litovsk peace conference, the premier said:

"It is impossible to believe that any permanent peace could be erected on such a foundation.

"Here is service to the formula of no annexations, no indemnity and self-determination is useless."

Premier Lloyd George said that an independent Poland, comprising all genuinely Polish concerns who desired to participate, was an urgent necessity for the stability of western Europe.

### Stand to the Death.

"We mean to stand by the French democracy to the death," the premier continued, "in the demand the French make for a reconsideration of the great wrong of 1871, when Alsace-Lorraine was taken away from them. This sore has poisoned the peace of Europe for half a century, and until it is cured, healthy conditions cannot be restored."

The prime minister said that democracy in Great Britain would stand to the last by the democracies of France and Italy.

"We should be proud to fight to the end," he declared, "side by side with the new Russian democracy. So would America, France and Italy. But if the present rulers of Russia act independently, we have no means to arrest the catastrophe. Russia can only be saved by her own people."

### Those German Colonies.

Speaking with regard to the disposition of the German colonies, the premier said:

"They are held at the disposal of a conference whose decision must have primary regard to the wishes and the interests of their native inhabitants."

"Reparation means recognition," the premier said. "Unless international right is recognized by insistence on payment for injury done in defiance of its canons, it can never be a reality. Next comes the restoration of Serbia,

Montenegro, and the occupied parts of France, Italy, Belgium and Rumania. The complete withdrawal of alien armies and reparation for injustice are the fundamental conditions of a permanent peace."

As regards the German constitution, Mr. Lloyd George said Great Britain was not fighting to destroy it, although Britain considered a military, autocratic constitution a dangerous anachronism.

After his reference to the desirability of the adoption of a democratic constitution by Germany, Mr. Lloyd George continued:

### No More Arbitrary Despotism.

"The days of the treaty of Vienna are long past. We can no longer submit the future of European civilization to the arbitrary decisions of a few negotiators striving to secure by chicanery or persuasion the interests of this or that dynasty or nation. Therefore, government with the consent of the governed must be the basis of any territorial settlement."

"We regard as vital," said the premier, "the legitimate claims of the Italians for union with those of their own race and tongue."

"We also mean to press that justice be done to the men of Rumanian blood and speech."

"Nobody who knows Prussia and her designs toward Russia can doubt her ultimate intention," Mr. Lloyd George said. "Whatever phrases she uses to delude Russia she does not mean to surrender any of the Russian provinces and cities now occupied. Under one name or another, they will henceforth be part of the Prussian dominions ruled by the Prussian sword, and the rest of the Russians will be enticed into complete economic and ultimate political enslavement."

### Austria Could Be Great.

"If these conditions were fulfilled, Austria-Lithuania would become a power whose strength would conduce to the permanent peace and freedom of Europe instead of being an instrument of the perilous Prussian military autocracy."

The premier said the first requirements always made by the British and their allies had been complete restoration of the political, territorial and economic independence of Belgium, and such reparation as could be made for the devastation of its towns and provinces. This was no demand for war indemnity, but insistence on the fact that before there could be any hope of stable peace this great breach of public law in Europe must be remediated and, so far as possible, repaired.

"Although we agree with President Wilson that the breaking up of Austria-Hungary is no part of our war aims," he continued, "we feel that unless genuine self-government on true democratic principles is granted those Austro-Hungarian nationalities who have long desired it, it is impossible to hope for removal of those causes of unrest in that part of Europe which so long have threatened its genuine peace."

Outside of Europe, Mr. Lloyd George said he believed the same principles should be applied. He added:

### That Turkish Empire.

"While we do not challenge maintenance of the Turkish empire in the home lands of the Turkish race, with its capital Constantinople, the passage between the Mediterranean and the Black sea being internationalized and neutralized, Arabia, Armenia, Mesopotamia, Syria and Palestine are, in our judgment, entitled to recognition of their separate national conditions."

The premier told his hearers much had been said about the arrangements Great Britain had made with its allies on this and other subjects. He added:

(Continued on page 8).

## WEATHER FORECAST.

For Ardmore and Vicinity: Tonight, generally fair; temperature, below freezing. Sunday, fair.

Oklahoma: Tonight, generally fair; temperature, below freezing. Sunday, fair, much colder.

East Texas: Tonight, unsettled, local rains in extreme eastern portion, colder in northern portion. Sunday, fair, much colder.

West Texas: Tonight, fair, colder, temperature below freezing in northern and western portions. Sunday, fair, colder in northern portion.

Local Temperature: Maximum temperature yesterday, 67 degrees; minimum this morning, 49 1/2 degrees.

## CROWN PRINCE BRAGS ON ARMY

TELLS HIS TROOPS THEY WERE VICTORIOUS AT VERDUN—"GOD WITH US."

Amsterdam, Jan. 5.—The German crown prince, in a New Year's order to his army, praised its valor in the battles of the year just closed. The order, as reproduced in the Dusseldorf Nachrichten, reads:

"The year 1917 has gone down into history, and with it the deeds of arms of my navy. The French army stood ready on the Meuse and in the Champagne to deliver a great decisive blow. An overwhelming superiority of men, arms and ammunition was counted upon to force a victory for the enemy."

"The assault sangarily collapsed before your faithfulness and bravery. You thereby broke the enemy's strength and paved the way to victory for the German arms in Russia and Italy."

"In a countless struggle, relying only upon your own strength and your self-sacrifice and courage, in difficult battles on the Chemin-des-Dames, in the Champagne and on the blood-soaked ground of Verdun, you protected the rear of the advancing armies in the east and in the south. In loyal comradeship you also fought in Flanders and near Cambrai for Germany's honor."

"Proud and with a thankful heart, I behold you, brave resolute leaders and my heroic troops. With an unstained shield and a sharp sword we stand on the threshold of the new victory around the imperial war lord ready to strike and win. God with us."

## REVOLUTIONARY PLOT IN SPAIN

Madrid, Jan. 5.—A revolutionary movement has been unearthed by the government. Telephone and telegraph communications have been suspended and other precautions taken.

Premier Alluquem announced today that the government was master of the situation.

The judicial authorities are investigating the plot, many details of which are already known.

Although remaining out of the war, Spain has not escaped the political unrest which it has produced. There have been frequent strikes and disorders, and it has been necessary to declare martial law, says the correspondent of the London Times.

### COLONEL HARTS NOW BRIGADIER GENERAL.

Harry B. Harts has received word that his brother, William W. Harts, has been promoted and is now a brigadier general with the American forces in Europe.

Col. William W. Harts, who served in the Sixty-third Engineers.

## NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Owing to a physical breakdown which has come upon him suddenly, Ralph Meeker has resigned as city circulator of the Daily and Sunday Ardmoreite after faithfully serving the office in this capacity the past two years.

Fred G. Park, who has been connected with the office for several months, succeeds Mr. Meeker as the circulator and will assume full charge of the work as soon as he has gone over all the details and the various routes with Mr. Meeker.

The circulation of the Daily Ardmoreite in Ardmore has more than doubled since the change in management last March, in fact, more papers are now being distributed here than were being printed for local and mail circulation combined at that time.

More than 200 new subscribers have been added during the past month, and there is every reason that the growth will continue, as there is a steady influx of new families and these families usually become subscribers soon after arriving here.

During the recent cold weather and the holiday vacation the delivery of the paper has been very irregular, and it has been a problem to get boys to deliver regularly at such times, but it is hoped that this annoyance to subscribers will soon be overcome by employing more boys and cutting down the size of each route.

Subscribers who do not receive their Ardmoreite by 7 o'clock each night or by 9 o'clock Sunday morning are requested to notify Mr. Park over Phone No. 5 and a special messenger will be sent out with a copy at once. For the present a boy will be kept at the office till 9 o'clock each night to attend to this work. The patience and co-operation of the readers are sought until the new wheels are well in motion.

## FREE PASSAGE OF DARDANELLES IS OFFERED RUSSIA BY TURKEY

IN RETURN FOR THIS COMMERCIAL CONCESSION, THE SLAVS MUST DEMOBILIZE BLACK SEA FLEET, CUT DOWN THEIR ARMY AND GET OUT OF TURKEY'S EASTERN POSSESSIONS.

London, Jan. 4.—Free passage of the Dardanelles for Russian ships, Russian evacuation of Turkish territory and the demobilization of the Russian Black sea fleet are provided for in the draft of Turkish peace terms presented to Russia, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Petrograd. Turkey, it is provided, is to retain her active army in consequence of the continuation of war against the entente allies.

The main points in the draft presented by the Turkish delegates are given in the dispatch as follows:

- 1—Frontier lines to remain as before the war.
- 2—Within two years of the conclusion of peace, the contracting parties shall conclude a convention respecting sea trade and consulates.
- 3—War losses incurred by individuals to be refunded.
- 4—Guarantees to be given for the territorial integrity and development of Persia on the basis of her entire independence.
- 5—Free passage to be granted Russian ships passing through the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus.
- 6—Mobilization within limits to be permitted for national defense.
- 7—Russia to undertake to remove her armies to territory within the previous Russian borders within six to eight weeks after signing the peace agreement, leaving only one division to safeguard her frontier.
- 8—Russia to demobilize her army of special Armenian units, and also to demobilize the Black sea navy.
- 9—Turkey to retain her active army in consequence of continuation of war against the entente.

London, Jan. 5.—When the delegates of the central powers arrived at Brest Litovsk to resume the peace negotiations, they found no Russian delegates there, according to a Vienna dispatch to Zurich, forwarded by the Exchange Telegraph company. All that awaited them was a telegram from the Russians asking for transfer of the negotiations to Stockholm.

London, Jan. 5.—Special dispatches from Petrograd report attempts by the German delegates at Petrograd to make some sort of a clandestine agreement with members of the forthcoming constituent assembly.

The correspondent of the Daily News says that the Germans are trying through a neutral diplomat to get into communication with members of the conference. Their object, obviously, is that the parties opposed to the bolsheviks are quite ready to profit by the bolshevik refusal to make peace and to tell the people that the bolsheviks promised them peace, but gave them war.

German Apply Pressure.

The version of the correspondent of the Daily Mail is that the Germans have been putting pressure, direct or indirect, upon the government in connection with the summoning of the constituent assembly, as the Germans have been making it obvious that they are unwilling to recognize the bolsheviks as representatives of a majority of the Russian people, or even as temporary trustees of the sovereign power.

The Daily News dispatch expresses fear that Germany will find the constituent assembly more amenable than the bolsheviks in regard to making peace, and quotes Foreign Minister Trotsky as saying that the bourgeois (commercial) elements are prepared to give away half the country if they can obtain control of the government of the other half.

Regarding the attitude of the Ukraine

### WAR SUMMARY.

Uncertainty still beclouds the status of the Russo-German peace negotiations. Both sides have declared that certain proposals of the other side did not meet with their approval. Russia has said that the German terms concerning occupied territories could not be accepted, and German Chancellor Von Hertling announces that the central powers cannot move the conference to Stockholm, as Russia has suggested.

The Russian position, coupled with reports that the delegates of the central powers, and even of Germany, were divided as to the question of annexations, appears the stronger one, but there is no indication that Germany will recede, although it has been rumored that the leading German and Austrian emissaries had returned to Brest Litovsk with new instructions. The speeches

before the reichstag main committee by Chancellor Von Hertling and the under secretary of the German foreign office did not make clear whether Germany would stand unalterable on the conditions to which Russia objects.

Intense German artillery fire on the Cambrai sector of the western front gave way yesterday to a local attack by German infantry. Four British advanced posts near the Canal du Nord were pushed back slightly.

On the remainder of the front, the artillery duels continued at several points. On the Italian front there have been lively exchanges of artillery fire and some raiding parties.

British and French armies have been unusually active, as have those of the enemy, and two score machines on all sides are reported destroyed.

Enemy aircraft have carried out further raids over the Venetian plains, and Padua again has been subjected to heavy bombing from the air.

## COST OF LIVING ON DOWNWARD TREND 'FEDERAL REPORT DECLARES

Washington, Jan. 5.—High cost of living is on the downward trend, according to a statement today of the bureau of labor statistics which says that the retail price of food as a whole for November was one per cent less than in October. Of standard articles, twelve showed decreases, four remained stationary in price and eleven increased.

The bureau announces that from October to November, pork chops dropped in price eleven per cent, sirloin and round steak four per cent, flour three and sugar two. Lesser decreases were found in rib roast, chuck roast, plate beef, cheese, raisins and coffee.

Beans, bread, ham and bacon showed neither decrease nor increase. Onions increased eighteen per cent in price, eggs five, lard and butter four, potatoes three, rice two, and meal one, with smaller increases in salmon, milk, prunes and tea.

## HIS PEOPLE MARTYR

By Their Sacrifices They Have Rendered Service Which Will Bring I-tered Future to Humanity, Envoy declares to His Listeners.

Washington, Jan. 5.—The Serbian mission to the United States was received in the senate today. Dr. Mile R. Vesnich, head of the mission, and Doctor Vesnich praised the attitude of the United States, voiced unqualified faith that this country would see the nations of the world into the path of perfect peace and become an arbiter of all of them, and offered people "the heartfelt gratitude of small, but honest nation."

Doctor Vesnich asserted Serbia agreed with enthusiasm the doctrine of More than any other, he said, Serb believe that peace cannot subsist without justice, liberty and righteousness. "The Serbian nation with their men, the Croats and Slovenes," Doctor Vesnich, "have suffered in war more than any other nation, thus fulfilling our sacred duty to country we venture to think that have rendered a real service, how small it may be, to the better future humanity, for in defending our beloved, our regiments have saved a greater portion of our territory with lives of the best of their men. To us we owe the interest which the civilized world has taken in our national cause. My friends here present myself owe the great honor of being invited to your senate, which we regard as the strongest asylum of right, liberty and justice."

"We have in this solemn hour a duty and we value our unalterable faith in this magnificent republic is to lead the nations of the world into the path of perfect peace and to become an arbiter of them all, because we are commandments of justice, we alone will enable mankind to improve free evolution."

## SERB SPEAKS IN U.S. SENATE

BELIEVES AMERICA WILL "LEAD NATIONS OF WORLD INTO MOUNTAIN OF PEACE."

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Philadelphia, Jan. 5.—The U.S. States government may take over meat industry of the country in order to control the three principal lines in war time—meat, coal and potatoes. This was plainly indicated at today's session of the federal commission here.

An official connected with the mission which has been investigating meat conditions here prophesied the government intended to seize packing and allied industries, and cis J. Heney, who is examining necessities, did not deny that the plan being considered in Washington.

## CONSUMPTION OF BEEF IN ENGLAND MUST BE REDUCED BY HALF

London, Jan. 5.—Until the situation improves, the consumption of beef in England must be reduced at least half, according to an official statement concerning the scarcity of meat.

The Daily Mail says that meat is the first food dealt with under Rhoanda's compulsory rationing. Butter and margarine will follow and other foods will be added if become more dear. Practically a staffs will be rationed by April.

## WANT AMERICAN TROOPS TO KEEP OUT OF PAR AND IMMORAL ENVIRON

(By the Associated Press)

With the American Army in Friday, Jan. 4.—In cooperation the Red Cross, Y. M. C. A. heads is busy completing arrangements other centers than Paris, where some of the American expedition forces can go when they are leave, and have clean and amusements, such as "movies, ball, mountain climbing and sports."

It is hoped that these centers prove substitutes for Paris, as to spend leaves there have been pending to all officers and men interests of temperance and morality.

Sends Coal to New England. Washington, Jan. 5.—Direct general McAdoo took up work for the coal famine. New England ordering the distribution of 100,000 tons of coal to the mines along the lines eastern railroads.