

THE WEATHER

Partly cloudy Tuesday and Wednesday.

THE MORNING STAR

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WILMINGTON, N. C., TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 8, 1914

LAST CALL FOR XMAS! War or no war, good money is being spent daily in the great American holiday rush. Are you getting yours? If not, there's a reason.

SUCCESS OF THE GERMANS AT LODZ IS CONSIDERED A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT

Report of Fall of Unfortified City is Considered — Russians Suffered Severe Losses in Long and Stubborn Battle, and Are in Retreat, According to Berlin Report — More Fighting in Same District to Follow.

ALLIED FORCES TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GERMANS' PREOCCUPATION TO ASSUME OFFENSIVE IN EAST

Advance in Northwest Believed to Have Ended German Menace to Coast Ports — Allies Virtually in Possession of Left Bank of Yser Canal — Report That Germans Have Pick of Army Ready to Dash to Paris.

Oost Dunkerke, a village in West Flanders, a little more than two miles west of Nieuport, has been bombarded by the Germans, which announcement in the latest French official communications seems to indicate a renewal of German efforts to reach the Channel ports.

Simultaneously, there has been heavy firing along the Belgian coast from the warships of the allies, which again are bombarding the German positions, and possibly may be attempting to check the supposed advance in the neighborhood of Nieuport.

The French also report advances by the allies in the department of Somme and the capture of the village of Vermelles between Bethune and Lens. Unofficial dispatches say the Germans have utilized their light guns in place of the heavy artillery because of the condition of the ground owing to inundations.

In the Eastern arena the occupation of Lodz by the Germans is considered a remarkable achievement in view of the manner in which the German lines only a short time ago were threatened by the Russians, and an important step in their proposed movement against Warsaw, the Polish capital.

The Austrian war office describes fighting in Poland as not yet decisive, although the Russians have been forced to retreat. Likewise, in West Galicia, and the Carpathians, the series of engagements continues without definite result.

Having received a vote of confidence in the parliament, the Italian government maintains its attitude of neutrality, but has despatched eight battalions to reinforce troops in Libya and to be ready for any aggression.

The Bourse Gazette, of Petrograd, estimates that Germany has lost 100,000 during the past month around Lodz.

That an effort is being made to bring about a resumption of normal conditions in Paris is indicated by the fact that President Poincare will return to the capital from Bordeaux, to preside at the cabinet meeting Friday, and that the Paris Bourse has reopened.

Pope Benedict is endeavoring to effect a truce between the belligerents during the Christmas holidays.

GERMANS OCCUPYING LODZ.

London, Dec. 7.—After a long battle fought with the greatest stubbornness, the Germans have succeeded in occupying Lodz, Poland, an unfortified city. According to the Berlin report the Russians suffered severe losses and are in retreat.

This success of the Germans, largely because of what preceded it, is considered a remarkable achievement. Less than a fortnight ago the army to which this victory has fallen was surrounded by Russians and cut its way out only at the last moment, losing great numbers of men and many guns.

It was able quickly to re-organize, take the offensive and defeat the Russians defending Lodz.

This was made possible by the net work of strategic railways on the German side of the frontier, over which reinforcements can be sent where they are most needed. The Russians, on the other hand, vigorously attacked on both wings, were unable to send fresh men to stiffen their center to meet the German wedge and were compelled to fall back.

There undoubtedly will be much more fighting before the campaign in this district is concluded. The whole Russian line is now straitened out and will contest every foot of ground with the invaders.

In the meantime, taking advantage of the preoccupation of the Germans in the East, the allied French, Belgian and British forces have begun an offensive movement in the West. They are now virtually in possession of the left bank of the Yser canal, and in Northern France, particularly in the neighborhood of LaBassee, where the Germans hold a very strong position, the Allies are beginning to feel their way eastward.

The same process is being followed along the whole front. The official statement speaks of "the superiority of our offensive," and the "marked advantage of" the French artillery over that of the Germans.

The advance in the Northwest has ended for the present at least, in the opinion of many, the German menace of the coast ports. It is believed that so long as the Germans are compelled to back up the strength of their army in the East, they will be unable to assume the offensive in the West.

There is a report, however, that the Germans have kept the pick of their western army in the Alsace valley, whence, at an opportune moment, they can hurl it against the French lines and make another effort to get through to Paris.

King Peter, of Serbia, who has been ill for many months, has assumed command of the Serbian army and according to a Nish report, has checked the advance of the Austrians, inflicting heavy losses on them. The Austrian reply to this is that "the occupation of Belgrade necessitates the re-grouping of our troops."

The political news of the day was the authoritative announcement from Sofia that it was not considered possible anything would intervene to make it necessary for Bulgaria to change her policy of strict neutrality until next spring.

GERMAN OFFICIAL STATEMENT. (Continued on Page Eight.)

VILLA AND ZAPATA TO WORK TOGETHER

Will Maintain Order in and Around Mexico City. AND RETIRE TOGETHER

Announcement From the Capital of Mexico of Much Interest to Officials at Washington—Case Not to Be Reopened.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Officials here were much interested today in press dispatches stating that General Villa and General Zapata had met in a suburb of Mexico City and had reached a working agreement which would mean the maintenance of order in and around Mexico City. The official advice telling of the meeting had not reached here but the State Department gave out his summary of a dispatch which was filed before the two chiefs conferred. It was as follows: "According to an official dispatch from Mexico City, dated December 4, Special Agent Garrothers, accompanied the envoys of General Villa to Guernavaca, where they went to confer with General Zapata. The delegations was very courteously received by Zapata and was successful in convincing him that he and Villa should at once meet and come to an understanding. It was arranged that Zapata should come to Mexico City for a conference. Zapata has stated that he desires complete harmony, and both he and Villa have assured the department's representative that he will undoubtedly arrange matters in a satisfactory manner."

Official reports of the meeting which occurred at Xochimilco, near Mexico City, are expected to arrive here tomorrow. Secretary Bryan took occasion today to deny reports that Great Britain is about to reopen the Benton case. The Secretary said he had been assured by Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, within the last few days that the British government had taken no new action in the matter.

Conditions Reviewed. The State Department also made public the following information about conditions in Mexico.

"The Spanish vice consul at Mazatlan who has had certain difficulties with the local authorities and concerning whom representations have been made by the Spanish embassy in Washington, is en route to San Francisco on a Pacific mail steamer.

"It is reported that General Eduardo Hays has arrived in Monclova from Saltillo and that he is seeking to persuade certain officials to remain loyal to Carranza.

"It is reported from Vera Cruz that 15 bandits robbed six Americans on Dec. 6. After being robbed the victims walked five miles to Elburro station, 14 miles south of Vera Cruz. The constitutionalists furnished them transportation to Vera Cruz.

With reference to the case of the Bishop of Tepic and his four priests the department is informed that Bishop Segura was released by the local authorities on October 14. Three of the priests left for the United States at that date and the fourth departed (Continued on Page Eight.)

TO MINIMIZE DELAY IN SHIPMENTS OF COTTON

From American Ports to European Countries.

Arrangements by Which Vessels Are to Carry Papers From British Consuls as to Carriage for Exhibition to Warships.

Washington, Dec. 7.—As a result of conferences between the British ambassador and State Department officials, Secretary Bryan announced today that an arrangement has been made to minimize delays incident to cotton shipments from American ports to European countries, including all belligerents. The British government already has become a party to this arrangement and the French ambassador has given assurances that his government will approve.

The plan is to have the captain of a cotton laden vessel receive from the British consul at the port of departure a statement to be exhibited to the commanding officer of any warship of his allies which might speak for him. The British consuls are expected to satisfy themselves as to the character of the cargo before a bill of lading is issued, but it is understood they will be instructed to accept the assurance of reputable exporters as to its character.

The State Department is not to figure in these arrangements, which are to be made between American shippers as individuals and foreign consular officers. Mr. Bryan said he was satisfied this method would afford a means of moving American cotton freely. He explained that it already was being put into practice and a large steamer will be loaded with cotton at Charleston, S. C., shortly and be dispatched to a continental European port with every prospect of making a speedy and uninterrupted voyage.

(Continued on Page Eight.)

CONGRESS WAITS WILSON'S ADDRESS

Reconvened Yesterday After the Fall Recess. MESSAGE TODAY 12:30

No Definite Plans for Party Conference—Kern and Underwood Confer With President—No Extra Session Sentiment.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Congress reconvened yesterday after the fall recess. After the introduction of bills and resolutions and passage of formal measures incident to the opening of a new session, both houses adjourned to await the delivery tomorrow of the President's annual message.

While members discussed informally the legislative programme, no definite plans were made for party conferences. These will not be considered until the President has been heard from. The message will be delivered personally by President Wilson before a joint session in the House chamber at 12.30 o'clock. Senator Kern and Representative Underwood, the majority floor leaders, conferred tonight with the President at the White House. Mr. Wilson sent for them and met them separately, reading to them his message and discussing legislation he desires to be considered in addition to appropriations which will take up much of the time of the short session.

"There is nothing the President has in mind," said Representative Underwood, "which I am not in accord with, and I see no reason why the programme he will suggest should not be carried out before adjournment. If there is one thing that every Democratic member of the House—and I believe it applies to the Senate as well—has his mind set against, it is an extra session next year. I do not believe there will be any."

To Vote on Hobson Resolution. Discussing the legislative programme Mr. Underwood declared that there will be a vote on the Hobson resolution for submission to the States for a constitutional amendment for national prohibition.

According to both majority leaders, appropriation bills will be rushed. Conservation legislation, the Ship-Purchase bill, and the House Philippine independence bill are first on the programme of general legislation. Senator Kern and Representative Underwood declared that there will be time for general legislation concerning which there would be not much opposition.

Spirit of Good Nature. The opening session of the House and Senate, which took place with a spirit of good nature, despite the recent campaign which resulted in great Republican gains in the Senate for the next Congress. Members who will retire March 4th were on hand. Speaker Clark was given a rousing ovation by Democrats and Republicans.

Vice-President Marshall was greeted cordially, and after the invocation permitted Senators to hold an informal reception for several minutes before he formally declared the Senate in session.

Committees from both houses were sent to the White House to notify the President that Congress was in session awaiting his pleasure.

The House named Representatives Underwood, Fitzgerald and Mann to wait upon the President, with Senators Gallinger and Kern.

Then, after resolutions of sympathy on the death of Representative E. A. Merritt, of New York, were adopted, the House adjourned at 1:09 P. M., until noon tomorrow.

Senator Thomas W. Hardwick, of Georgia, took his oath of office in the Senate late today. He was escorted to the Vice-President's desk by his colleague, Senator Smith.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS ABOLISHED IN COLORADO

When Troops Were Sent to Mine District, Says Prof. Brewster.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 7.—Constitutional rights were abolished by Colorado State troops when they were sent to the coal strike zone, declared Prof. James H. Brewster, of the University of Colorado, testifying before the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations here today. The entire conduct of the State troops was a course of outrage and brutality, Prof. Brewster asserted. Not only had Adjutant General Chase wiped out constitutional rights, but the miners had been robbed by the troops, he said, the ranks of the militia had been swelled by the enlistment of "scoundrels," and the right of search had been exercised by the troops while the courts were open.

HOMICIDE AT PENDELTON

Charles W. Robertson Shot to Death by Chief of Police.

Anderson, S. C., Dec. 7.—Charles W. Robertson, formerly a State detective, was shot and killed today at Pendleton in Anderson county, during a revolver fight with Chief of Police S. H. White, of that place. His feeling is said to have existed between the two men.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Perpetual right of way to the Norfolk Southern railroad through lands to be acquired for fortification purposes at Cape Henry, Va., in exchange for all of the company's lands lying within the area to be taken over for the fortification, would be authorized by the War Department under official estimates submitted to Congress today.

PREPAREDNESS FOR WAR MUST BE AIDED

Congressional Investigations Seem Inevitable. WILSON OPPOSES PLAN

Though He Favors Full Inquiry by Regular Committees, He Strongly Objects to "National Security Commission" Probe.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Preparedness of the United States for war seems destined for investigation in Congress. Several bills and resolutions bearing on the subject were introduced today and an inquiry by congressional committees is regarded at the Capitol as certain, although President Wilson told Representative Gardner during the day that he opposed the latter's plan for an investigation by a National security commission. The President expressed the opinion that this would be an unwise way of handling "a question which might create very unfavorable international impressions."

Senator Lodge introduced a resolution similar to the Gardner measure pending in the House and asked that it lie on the table until tomorrow. It would provide for a "national security commission" to be composed of three members of the House and three citizens to be appointed by the President.

President Wilson let it be known after his conference with Representative Gardner that he was entirely in favor of the fullest inquiry by military conditions by regular committees of the House and Senate, and added that there were no facts in possession of the executive branch which would be not at the disposal of those committees.

In line with Wilson's idea, Senator James Hamilton Lewis, Democratic whip, introduced a resolution which would direct an exhaustive inquiry by the Senate Military and Naval committees into the expenditure of millions of dollars appropriated in the past for national defense. The inquiry will be directed to ascertain just what has been provided by the expenditure of these years and also to ascertain actual military conditions. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Another military measure, submitted by Senator Chamberlain, of Oregon, which proposed to consist of a council of national defense to consist of the Secretary of State as president; the chairmen of appropriation, military, naval and foreign relations committees of the Senate and House, the chief of staff of the army, and an officer of the navy and heads of the army and navy war colleges.

Senator Hitchcock had passed by the Senate without debate a resolution calling upon the Secretary of Commerce for information as to the extent of exportation of arms and munitions of war to the United States by alien, independent foreign nations, or to Canada; existing contracts in this country for exportation of such materials and the amount of such exports of such materials in time of peace. Late today Senator Hitchcock introduced a bill which would prohibit the sale of munitions of war or materials for use in such munitions, except upon proof that they were not to be used against any country.

Building Eight at Frisco. San Francisco, Dec. 7.—Eight submarines are building here at the Union Iron Works, which Charles M. Schwab is interested. John A. McGregor, president of the company, said it was filling a structural order for the Electric Boat Company. The ultimate destination of the boats, he said, was none of his concern or knowledge.

MYSTERIOUS VESSEL IS BATTLESHIP KANSAS

Took Refuge From Storm as a Precautionary Measure.

Captain Bryan Reports That His Ship Has Not Been in Distress, But Was Near Ocean City, Md., Sunday Night.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The United States battleship Kansas was identified tonight as the mysterious vessel which coast guard officials at Ocean City, Md., reported stranded there last night and which later disappeared without leaving a clue to its identity.

Captain Bryan, of the Kansas, wireless the Navy Department that his vessel took refuge from the storm off Ocean City last night, and suggested that as no other vessel was in that vicinity the Kansas must have been the warship reported in distress.

The captain said his ship had not been damaged and was anchored nearby as a precautionary measure. The vessel was not in distress, he said. Captain Bryan reported from Delaware breakwater, where the Kansas arrived tonight. A wireless was sent to the revenue cutter Itasca, which had gone to aid the strange ship, ordering her back to Norfolk.

Earlier Reports. Ocean City, Md., Dec. 7.—The vessel supposed to be a warship which grounded near here yesterday, was reported by the local lifesaving service about noon today to be no where visible, and it was presumed she had freed herself and proceeded seaward. "During the morning hours the vessel had continuously sounded her whistle for help, and it was feared she was in a dangerous position. She had been about one and one-half miles off shore, and during the night the lifesaving crew unsuccessfully tried (Continued on Page Two.)

SCHWAB WILL NOT BUILD SUBMARINES

Steel Corporation Passes Up Big European Contract. WOULD BE UNNEUTRAL

Defers to President's View That Such Business Would Violate Neutrality of United States—Conference at Washington.

Washington, Dec. 7.—President Wilson today expressed the opinion through a statement issued by Secretary Bryan that the building of submarines for any of the belligerents of the present war would be contrary to the spirit of the neutrality of the United States.

The statement contained an announcement that the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, of which Charles M. Schwab is president, and which owns the Fore River Shipbuilding Company, had deferred to the views of the President and did not intend to deliver any submarines to the belligerents during the present war.

The question of whether it is legal for American firms to build submarines for shipment in "batts" has not been decided. High officials of the government think, however, that if the case went to the courts they could hold that the building of any great number of parts for a submarine is tantamount to building a warship which is expressly prohibited by neutrality statutes of the United States.

Secretary Bryan said today he felt sure the President's declaration would already have resulted in the building of submarines to Canada for shipment, as has been reported. The following statement was issued by Mr. Bryan which the State Department was concerned:

"When information reached the State Department that the Fore River Company was planning to build a number of submarines for one of the allies, inquiry was made to ascertain the facts. As a result of this inquiry, Mr. Schwab called at the State Department last week with his attorney and before the department what his company had planned to do, stating that before undertaking the work he had secured the opinion of a number of international lawyers and was keeping the requirements of neutrality as outlined by them.

"I stated to him that the President, basing his opinion upon information previously furnished regarding the work, as contemplated, a violation of the spirit of neutrality, but told him I would lay his statement before the President and then give him a final answer."

"On Friday I had a conference with the President, and he instructed me to inform Mr. Schwab that his statement only confirmed him in the opinion previously formed that the building of submarines for any of the allies should not be built. Within a few minutes after my return from the White House Mr. Schwab called me by long distance telephone and the aerobrook dropped two bombs on the President's view of the subject and that I could announce that his firm would not build submarines for any belligerent country for delivery during the war. This closes the submarine incident."

Bomb Dropped in Crowd. London, Dec. 8.—2:45 a. m.—A Central News correspondent in Northwest France says: "In attempting to destroy a railroad station at the aerobrook, the first did no harm. On returning the aeroplane dropped a bomb in a crowd gathered about a hole made by the first missile, killing ten and wounding five civilians, including women and children."

Findlay, Ohio, Dec. 7.—Prohibition forces won in a local option election here today. Findlay was placed in the dry column for three years. Today's election was the first held by a city in one of the 40 counties made wet by the recently adopted home rule amendment to the State constitution.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 7.—No business was transacted today at the opening session of the convention of District No. 15, United Mine Workers of America, called to consider the action of President Wilson in appointing a federal mediation committee to act in the Colorado coal strike.

FURY OF GALE ON COAST IS UNABATED

Severe on Middle Atlantic and New England Shores. ABOUT PASSED VIRGINIA

Conditions Rapidly Regaining Normal There, but Storm Continues to Sweep the Coast Farther to the Northward.

Philadelphia, Dec. 7.—The northeast storm sweeping the Atlantic coast since Saturday, continued tonight with unabated fury. Nearly three and a half inches of rain had fallen in Philadelphia at midnight. Reports from Atlantic City, Ocean City, Wildwood, Cape May, Rehoboth and other seaside points told of heavy damage by wind and tide.

Several fashionable suburban sections here were dark tonight. Ocean City, N. J., has been cut off from train and trolley communication although an automobile bridge is still open. Railroads leading to sections two to three miles from the coast were busy repairing washout roadbeds. Telegraph and telephone service to all points was crippled.

Shipping from this port was virtually at a standstill. Among the few vessels which cleared was the Italian liner Ancona for Naples via New York. Of the 1,500 steamer passengers nearly 1,400 are men between 18 and 45 years of age reported to be reservists returning to Italy.

60-MILE GALE ON JERSEY.

About \$70,000 Damage to Property Reported at Seabright.

Seabright, N. J., Dec. 7.—Driven by a 60-mile gale from the northeast, which had blown steadily for nearly 36 hours, the waters of the Atlantic tonight were pounding along the Jersey coast. At Seabright today the water broke over the bulkheads and Ocean avenue was flooded to a depth of from two to three feet. Cross-town streets from the beach to the Shrewsbury river were raging torrents.

Three cottages had been washed away early tonight and residents of all others had moved out. It was feared other houses might go at the next tide. The Seabright Beach Club building, erected a year ago at a cost of about \$50,000, was undermined and waxespect to collapse. The damage here thus far is estimated at \$70,000.

ABATED ON VIRGINIA COAST.

Conditions Last Night Rapidly Becoming Normal.

Newport News, Va., Dec. 7.—With a shift in the wind from northeast to northwesterly tonight, the gale, which Friday night and Saturday rolled up the highest tide recorded in Tidewater Virginia for a decade, abated this afternoon and tonight conditions are rapidly becoming normal. The tide at noon today, however, was almost as high as on Saturday.

Although damage to the extent of \$50,000 is said to have been done to Ocean View in the sweeping away of a large part of the bulkhead, undermining of cottages and loss of small boats, on this side of Hampton Roads the damage was not so serious. About \$10,000 will cover the total damage. At Buckroe Beach, a resort on Chesapeake bay near Old Point, the breakwater suffered considerable damage, being washed entirely away. The bathing pavilion and the bathing pavilion and pleasure pier were seriously damaged.

Fishermen suffered in the loss of pools for their nets, nearly all of which were carried away. At Bayshore, a negro resort adjoining Buckroe Beach, the hotel, bath house and several cottages were considerably damaged.

NEW YORK COAST BATTERED.

By Huge Waves Backed by Mighty Tide at Howland Gate.

New York, Dec. 7.—Huge seas backed by a mighty tide and a howling northeast gale, battered the New York coast today, smashing houses, wrecking boats, flooding villages, driving away summer resorts and forcing steamers to remain outside Sandy Hook and fight the storm.

At Sandy Hook the wind attained a velocity of 48 miles an hour, driving a record breaking tide and making it impossible for pilots to harbor incoming vessels. In New York harbor the tide was the highest in 12 years, and the waves drove New Jersey ferry boats to cover and strewed the Staten Island shore with the wrecks of scores of small craft.

The worst damage in this city was suffered at Coney Island where the loss within the past 24 hours is estimated at \$200,000.

Two or three fine houses at Seagate were wrecked, despite the fight of a small army of workmen to build defenses with hundreds of sandbags. Fifteen buildings along Coney Island had been damaged tonight, including bathing pavilions and summer cottages.

At Brighton Beach the board walk was demolished and much of the stone breakwater was torn away. The waves surged around the Brighton Beach Hotel and wrecked several small buildings, although the hotel itself escaped serious damage.

Waves broke more than 25 feet over the high tide line at Rockaway Beach, causing heavy damage to bungalows, baths and board walks. At Seaside eight bungalows and 20 feet of board walk were carried away. Two hotels at Arverne were damaged and several families were driven from their homes.

Point Lookout at Long Beach was partly washed away and the wind was blowing 50 miles an hour tonight. At Riverhead families had been driven to the upper floors and a number of small buildings had been washed away.

On the Jersey side heavy rains and high winds continued tonight. At Sandy Hook, enormous seas were breaking and part of the government (Continued on Page Eight.)