

THE WEATHER

Partly cloudy Tuesday and Wednesday.

WILMINGTON 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.

WHOLE NUMBER 18,843.

SUCCESS OF THE GERMANS AT LODZ IS CONSIDERED A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT

Report of Fall of Unfortified City is Confirmed — 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 Maneuver 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 Béthune 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 Poincaré 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.

Yet 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 straightened 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 La Bassée, 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 Aisne 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 Servia, who has been ill for many months, has assumed command of the Servian 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. — Lodz, in defeating strong Russian forces stationed to the northwest and the southwest of that city.

Taking the Place. — The German official statement given out in Berlin late today says in Northern Poland German forces were successful in prolonged fighting around

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 advices telling of the meeting had not reached here, but the State Department gave out a 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 envoy 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 all 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 presentations have been made by the English embassy in Washington, is en route to San Francisco on a Pacific mail steamer.

"It is reported that General Eduardo Hay 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 a ranch. After being robbed the victims walked five miles to Gibarro Station, 15 miles south of Vera Cruz. The constitutionalists furnished their 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 on that date and the fourth returned.

(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 Cargoes 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 delay 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 ship sails, 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 Chalchalan, S. C., shortly and be dispatched to a continental European port with every prospect of making a speedy and uninterrupted voyage.

Lodz, in defeating strong Russian forces stationed to the northwest and the southwest of that city.

The text of the announcement follows:

"No special reports have been received from the Western theatre of war. (Continued on Page Eight.)

CONGRESS AWAITS WILSON'S ADDRESS

Reconvened Yesterday After the Fall Recess.

MESSAGE TODAY 12:30

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

Washington, Dec. 7.—Congress reconvened today 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, "with which I am not in accord, 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 Senate will object to, it is that he desires to have a session 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 asserted that there would be time for general legislation concerning which there would be no much opposition.

Spirit of Good Nature.

The opening session in House and Senate were marked with a spirit of good nature. Despite the recent campaign which resulted in great Republican gains in the House, and slight Democratic 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-Elect 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 went into 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, an abomination, Prof. Brewster asserted. Not only had Adjutant General Chase wiped out constitutional rights which he had been swelled by the militia had been swelled by the enrollment of "scoundrels," and the right of search had been exercised by the troops while the courts were open.

HOMICIDE AT PENDLETON

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 H. H. Whitlock 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 proposed at Camp 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.

(Continued on Page Two.)

PREPAREDNESS FOR WAR MUST BE AIRED

Congressional Investigations Seem Inevitable.

WILSON OPPOSES PLAN

Though He Favors Fullest Inquiry by Regular Committees, He Seriously 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 committee 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 a waste of handling a question which might easily call forth 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 Senate, three members of the House and three citizens to be appointed by the President. Gardner said he was known to the President with regard to his conference with Representative Gardner that he was entirely in favor of the fullest inquiry into military conditions by regular committees of the House and Senate, and added that there were no facts in possession of the executive departments which were not at the disposal of those committees.

In Line With Wilson's Idea.

In line with this attitude, 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 ten 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, proposed the creation of a council of national defense to consist of the Secretary of State as president; the Secretaries of War and Navy; 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 war colleges.

Another military measure, submitted by Senator Hitchcock, had passed by the Senate without debate a resolution calling up the Secretary of Commerce for information as to the extent of exportation of arms and munitions of war from the United States to belligerent foreign nations, or to Canada; setting up a similar country for exportation of such munitions and the normal condition of exports of such materials in time of peace. Later Senator Hitchcock introduced a bill which would prohibit the sale of munitions of war or materials for use in such munitions during existence of war, except upon proof that they were not to be used against any belligerent country for delivery during the war. This closes as outlined by him.

"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 submarines should not be built. Within a few minutes after my return from the White House Mr. Schwab called me by long distance telephone and told me that he had secured the opinion of a number of international lawyers and was keeping with the requirements of neutrality as outlined by him.

"I stated to him that the President, basing his opinion upon information already obtained, regarded 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 final answer."

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MYSTERIOUS VESSEL IS BATTLESHIP KANSAS

Took Refuge From Storm as 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 today 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, wired 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.

The captain said his ship had not been damaged and was anchored merely as a precautionary measure. The vessel was not in distress, he said. Captain Bryan reported from Duluth, Minn., that when the vessel was 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