

THE WEATHER

Cloudy Monday; Tuesday, fair, with rising temperature.

WILMINGTON THE MORNING STAR

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VOL. XXV—NO. 72.

WILMINGTON, N. C., MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 28, 1914

WHOLE NUMBER 13,863

RUSSIANS HOLD GROUND GUN PRACTICE IN WEST

Battles Along Both Fronts Continue to Rage Unabated, But Recent Attacks by Airmen Attract the Attention From Operations on the Earth—French Advance the Argonne and Also in Alsace District

RUSSIAN EMPEROR HAS JOINED GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS AT HIS HEADQUARTERS IN POLAND

German Attacks Along Poland Rivers Being Made Almost Exclusively With the Artillery—Russians Have Again Gotten the Upper Hand in Battle With Austrians in South Poland and in Galicia as Well.

London, December 27.—The airmen of the belligerent countries spent a busy Christmas holiday. While a solitary German flew over the Thames Estuary and dropped a single bomb, which fell in a roadway and did no damage, a convoy of seven British naval Zeppelins visited the German naval base at Cuxhaven and dropped bombs on ships and the gas works.

All but one of the British airmen returned safely to the ships which convoyed them.

Similar activity was displayed along the battle front, German airmen paying a surprise visit to Nancy; French aviators to Metz; British to Brussels, and other Belgian towns occupied by the Germans, and German airmen to Polish cities.

As usual, accounts of the damage done differ. While bombs were dropped during these flights, most of the flights were for reconnoitering.

Except in the Argonne and Alsace, where the French have made some progress, and outside of artillery practice, the battles in the West for the last two days largely consisted of German attacks, to counter those of the Allies and to prevent the Allies from organizing the ground they had gained.

In Poland, where the Russian Emperor has joined Grand Duke Nicholas at Russian headquarters, the German attacks on the Buzza and Rawka rivers are being made almost exclusively with artillery, while an offensive in force has been assumed further South along the river Pilica, where hard fighting continues and both sides claim to have inflicted heavy losses.

The Russians apparently have again gained ascendancy over the Austrians in South Poland and Galicia. The Austrians admit the loss of the towns of Jaslo and Krosno, on the South Galician railway, which their army from across the Carpathians recaptured a week or more ago. The Russian report tonight is the record of a series of victories from middle Poland to the foot hills of the Carpathians. It records the capture of 13,500 prisoners and a number of guns, and unless some prisoners have been counted more than once, the Russians, according to their own accounts, have taken 30,000 Austrians prisoners since they resumed the offensive.

WILL AID THE TENNESSEE.

Italian Cruiser Ordered to Join American Craft in Keeping Peace.

Rome, Dec. 27.—The Italian cruiser Campania, now at Beirut, Syria, has been instructed to assist the American cruiser North Carolina if necessary arises as the result of further demonstrations against the departure of Euro-pean troops from Turkish territory. The cruiser Tennessee, the fuel ship Vulcan and the gunboat Scorpion, of the American navy, which also are looking after American interests in the Eastern Mediterranean, are ready to steam to any place where they are needed, according to reports received here.

According to a dispatch from Athens the North Carolina recently threatened to use her guns as the result of an incident at Tripoli, Syria. The cruiser, conveying the American steamer Virginia, entered Tripoli harbor and the commander requested the Turkish authorities to permit the British and French consuls to depart with their national residents in the city.

The request was refused but several French residents boarded the Virginia. They were attacked by a mob who wounded the captain and first officer. The North Carolina threatened to fire and the mob fled. The Virginia and the North Carolina left for Dedea-etch. Later the cruiser proceeded to Smyrna.

RUSSIAN STATEMENT OF WAR

Battle Along Rivers in Poland Continued to Rage by Germans. Petrograd, Dec. 27.—The following official communication was issued from general headquarters today:

During December 26th the fighting along the lines of the Buzza and Rawka rivers was confined in general to artillery fire. We have repulsed with success various attacks by the Ger-

mans. Along the lower course of the Nida river, towards evening of December 25th, we ousted from the village of Wilica, the Austrians who had obstinately defended it and who attempt-

ed to fortify themselves on the left bank of the Nida. We then drove the Austrians beyond that river. "South of the Vistula, in the region of Tarnow (Galicia) on December 25th we drove back the Austrians from the Tuchow-Qipiny line. The enemy abandoned ten rapid firers and we took 43 officers and more than 2,500 soldiers prisoners. The next day we continued the pursuit of the Austrians who retreated in disorder. We captured eight more machine guns and about 1,000 prisoners. We occupied the heights near Sledlika on the left bank of the Biala river.

NO IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

Official German Statement Given Out as to Conditions on Fronts

Berlin, Dec. 27.—By wireless to London.—An official communication issued today stated that there were no important developments yesterday in Flanders, that the German troops made a successful counter attack at Albert and that French attacks on other portions of the line were repelled. The statement announced that during the early hours of the night the French took possession of an important height east of Thann but were thrown back after a vigorous counter-attack. In Poland according to the statement slight progress was made by the Germans in their attacks on the branches of the Buzza and Rawka rivers. A German offensive was continued successful and Russian attacks on Inow-olud were repulsed with heavy losses to them.

BERLIN PRESS REPORT.

Germans Are Advancing, But Austrians Facing Hard Proposition.

Berlin, Dec. 27.—(By wireless)—Among items given out today by official press bureau are the following: "While the Germans are reported to be advancing on the Buzza and along the Pilica rivers, the Austrians appear to be having a hard struggle to par-

(Continued on Page Two)

MEXICAN FACTIONS ACCEPT PROPOSAL

Of General Scott as to Plan to Settle Trouble.

ON MEXICAN BORDER

All Fighting at Naco Will Cease, Besiegers Retire, Hill Free to Leave Town—Naco to Become Neutral Territory

Washington, Dec. 27.—Secretary Bryan received word unofficially tonight that all Mexican factions had agreed to the plan proposed by General Scott, United States chief of staff, to prevent further firing into American territory along the border.

Enrique C. Lorente, Washington agent of the Gutierrez government of which General Maytorena at Naco is a supporter, was advised that the latter had accepted General Scott's plan. It provides that General Hill of the Carranza forces abandon Naco and be permitted to go unmolested to Augu Prieta, already held by a portion of his troops General Maytorena, who has withdrawn his forces would agree not to occupy Naco, which would become neutral.

As Maytorena already holds Nogales, port of entry, he is said to believe the arrangement as neither to his advantage or detriment. From Hill's view point the continued possession of Naco was said to be of little value because the Maytorena forces besieging it prevented further transportation of supplies Southward. Fighting at Agua Prieta or at Nogales would not be close enough to the American towns to produce the same situation as had occurred for several months at Naco, where stray bullets constantly fell on American soil.

CARRANZA STILL FIGHTING

One of His Ministers Says Mexico Will Be Thru in Two Months

New York, Dec. 27.—The Mexican Bureau of Information tonight announced the receipt of this telegram from Dr. Atl of the Carranza ministry of communications in Vera Cruz: "Have just reviewed our line of defense from Orizaba, consisting of more than 30,000 well equipped troops. There is great enthusiasm and loyalty among the soldiers and the people. The Constitutional chiefs have agreed to submit to Carranza in order to establish political and social reforms. Mexico City will be ours in less than two months.

"Many reports of victories claimed by Villistas are without foundation. Puebla and Guadalajara were evacuated for the purpose of isolating the enemy. The organization of the revolutionary confederacy now is definitely established. The fighting people are with the Constitutionals."

SCOTT KEEPS BUSY.

Cannot Definitely Guarantee Safety of Border Towns Quite Yet.

Naco, Ariz., Dec. 27.—Brig. Gen. Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the United States army, arranged today for a contact through the lines of Gen. Benjamin Hill, defending Naco, to the new camp of Governor Maytorena, ten miles to the south. Hill's troops, consisting of more than 30,000 men, are ordered to establish political and social reforms. Mexico City will be ours in less than two months.

TURBIDE ORDERED TAKEN

Villa Wants Former Governor of Mexico City Arrested at Border

Mexico City, Dec. 24 via El Paso. December 27.—(Delayed) General Villa to-night telegraphed officials at Chihuahua to remove Eduardo Turbide from a northbound train and return him a prisoner to Mexico City.

Turbide acted as governor of the Federal district for a short time after the Carranza forces evacuated. Upon the entrance of Zapata, he went into hiding. It was said he was concealed in a foreign legation until two days ago when he was smuggled into a sleeping car and started for El Paso. When this became known, Villa is said to have declared: "A foreigner, an American named Leon Conova, who claims to be a representative of Secretary Bryan, smuggled Turbide into a car and attempted to get him across the American border. Conova had no right to do this and has meddled unwarrantedly in Mexican affairs. Turbide must be brought back to Mexico City and stand trial for the offense with which he is charged."

Zapata officials claim to have evidence that Turbide forced employees of his plantation to join Huerta's army during the recent revolution and have asked for his execution as a traitor.

Villa and Gutierrez in a conference with Zapata, who was at Guernavaca, decided to dismiss all former Federal officers from the present armies.

A dispatch from Mexico City under date of December 26th said that Gutierrez, as a result of the order to arrest Turbide had issued a circular ordering all generals to cease summary executions for whatever offense. In an in-

(Continued on Page Two)

NEUTRALS URGED TO HOLD MEETING

Venezuela Suggests Conference at Washington Soon.

TO SUPPLEMENT RULES

International Laws Referring to the Rights of Neutrals are Not Sufficient to Protect During Present Terrific Struggle

Washington, Dec. 27.—Venezuela has formally proposed to all the neutral governments of Europe, Asia and the two Americas that a conference be held in Washington to revise or supplement the rules of international law respecting the rights of neutrals.

The plan provides that the governing board of the Pan-American Union, consisting of the diplomatic representatives of all the American Republics draft a programme for the conference and that the rules finally agreed upon by it should be submitted later to the belligerents.

The proposal would seek not only to define the rights of neutrals in such questions as the presence of belligerent ships in close proximity to neutral shores but would embrace the entire field of contraband seizures and detentions, with the idea of reaching a uniform understanding to protect neutral commerce.

In view of the partial repudiation of the declaration of London of 1909 by the allied powers, and the announcement of the United States that it could not accept it because it had not been ratified by all the nations concerned, but would be guided by previous rulings in international law, neutral nations have been forced practically to make controversy and confusion.

Dr. Dominici, the Venezuelan minister to the United States, who transmitted his government's proposal, to the various neutrals through their diplomatic representatives here said tonight he had found sentiment generally favorable to the plan.

In his opinion the various governments could empower the diplomatic representatives in Washington to act for them. He said, however, none of the powers addressed had formally replied.

War News at a Glance

Comparative quiet prevails in the western theatre of war. In Flanders the cannonading has been intermittent but in the Argonne region and Alsace there have been attacks and counter attacks with no material progress on either side.

French aviators, in the way of a reply to the dropping of bombs on Nancy by the Germans flew over the aviator hangars of Frescar, one of the railroad stations of Metz, throwing down bombs in the night.

Notwithstanding the fact that a recent official statement announced that the Germans had ceased their attacks on the Buzza river, in Russian Poland, latest advices from Berlin indicate that they still are advancing in that region. Petrograd asserts, however, that along the Buzza and Rawka rivers the fighting of late has been confined to artillery.

The Austrians in Galicia, the Russian general staff asserts, have been driven back in the neighborhood of Tarnow, where they have been taken. The Austrians are reported to have retreated in disorder. They are also said to have been forced back from the line running from Zmigrod to Duklia, in the Carpathians, with enormous losses, including 10,000 prisoners.

The British raid on the German coast with Zeppelins apparently netted small results. Four of the seven Zeppelins were lost and one British officer is thought to have been drowned. The attack brought about a unique engagement complete and the French government again will have their headquarters in Paris.

Italy has ordered the cruiser Calabria to Beirut, Syria, to render any necessary aid to the American cruiser North Carolina, should there be further demonstrations against the departure of Europeans from Turkish territory.

Russia has officially denied the report that she has ceded half of the island of Sakhalin to Japan.

Emperor Nicholas, accompanied by his Russian army at the front.

A regiment of Italian sharpshooters are on their way to Avlona, Albania, to relieve the sailors landed last week to put down disorder. None of the powers has protested against Italy's occupation of Avlona.

Turkey is said to be reinforcing her troops defending the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus with soldiers and artillery from the Adrianople garrison.

QUIET RESTORED IN PHILIPPINES

Detailed Account Sent To Washington by Harrison

INCIDENT IS MINIMIZED

Uprising Was Among the Most Ignorant and Lowest Class of Natives. Results from Graft Scheme, Under Revolution Head.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Details of the native uprisings in the Philippines last week were given in a cablegram received by the War Department tonight from Governor General Harrison. The report minimized the incident. Filipinos assembled in Manila and Navotas Christmas Eve, it stated, and at Laguna de Bay last night, and attempted to make trouble. Forty men were arrested and one shot by a policeman.

Governor Harrison reported that the disorders had been suppressed, that everything was quiet and efforts were being made to arrest the leaders, the chief of whom, he said, was believed to be a man under sentence of imprisonment for homicide. He added that nobody of any influence or standing was concerned, and described the movement as "small and unsuccessful." It was connected, he said, with the campaign of Ricarte, who has conducted a revolutionary propaganda from Hong Kong for several years, appealing to the most ignorant classes of Filipinos.

With Governor Harrison's dispatch to the department tonight the authorities gave out a message sent him December 12, telling him of newspaper reports of threatened Filipino revolt.

To this, on December 22nd, Governor Harrison replied: "No foundation whatever known here for reports."

The report received from Governor Harrison today was in response to a later inquiry as to the truth of newspaper stories that military preparations were being made to deal with a revolutionary plot; that riot gangs had been distributed to American civilians on Corabao and Fraile islands and in Manila, and that two native scout officers had been arrested at Corregidor island. The Governor General's dispatch, dated this morning, follows:

Harrison's Report. "Referring to telegrams from your office of 24th instant, army headquarters state there is absolutely no truth in the report about Corregidor, Corabao and Fraile alleged occurrences.

"On Christmas Eve there was a small and unsuccessful movement in Manila connected with the Ricarte campaign. Ricarte has for several years been coming from Hong Kong revolutionary propaganda appealing to the most ignorant classes of Filipinos and selling through his agents in the islands commissions in his so-called army for sale from a price of 10 pesos—10 cents to \$5. During the last three months five of the Ricarte leaders have been arrested and sentenced to four to six years, including Ricarte's right hand man. It has been regarded as a grave and heinous crime in Manila and were dispersed by the municipal police without disorder, except that three shots were fired into the air by the police, and 20 men arrested. Eight of the latter were held upon charges of carrying concealed weapons—knives and bolos. Nobody was injured, except one man, who was shot by a policeman, later in the night, in another part of the city, when he attacked the policeman with a bolo."

"Movements similar in character occurred at Navotas, ten miles from Manila, where about 40 men assembled and endeavored unsuccessfully to loot the municipal safe, taking the situation closely, and the men afterwards escaped uninjured. Twenty of this party were captured by constabulary or municipal police.

Slight Trouble Later. "Ten men with two firearms, in Laguna de Bay, attempted to make trouble last night, with no results. Everything quiet, and vigorous attempts will be made to secure leaders, chief of whom is believed to be a man under sentence of imprisonment for homicide, who has jumped his bail.

"Nobody of any standing or influence is concerned in this movement."

Assistant Secretary Breckinridge said Governor Harrison's report was complete and that no request would be made for information about the trouble.

Administration officials have refused to believe that the uprising was serious, but have watched the situation closely because of its possible bearing on the Jones bill granting more independence to the natives, which has been passed by the House, and now is pending in the Senate. The Senate Philippine committee will continue its hearings on the measure Wednesday and Chairman Hitchcock said today the War Department would be asked for full information concerning the trouble.

Officials close to the White House said the incident would not affect President Wilson's advocacy of the bill.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 27.—The gradual withdrawal of Federal troops from the Colorado coal fields, where they have been on strike duty since last April, will begin this week, according to Governor Ammons, who, with Governor-elect Carlson returned today from a conference with President Wilson at Washington.

BATTLE BETWEEN MOST MODERN WAR MACHINES

Recent Bold Attempt of British Navy to "Dig Out" the German Fleet Brought Into Battle the Latest Type of Battle Cruisers, Submarines, Zeplanes and Zeppelins—Little Damage Done to Either Side.

SEVEN BRITISH NAVAL AIRMEN ATTEMPT TO DESTROY GERMAN NAVAL BASE, CUXHAVEN

Six of the Birdmen Return to the Fleet, While One Lone Pilot is Lost—Attempt of German Aircraft to Drop Bombs Upon Vessels Meets With Poor Success, Because of Gunfire From the Enemy's Vessels.

London, Dec. 27.—Assisted by light cruisers, destroyers and submarines, seven British naval airmen, piloting Zeppelins, made a daring attack Christmas Day on the German naval base at Cuxhaven, at the mouth of the Elbe. Six of the airmen returned safely, but the seventh, Commander Hewlett, it is feared, has been lost. His machine was found wrecked off Helgoland.

What damage was done by the bombs thrown by the attacking party could not be ascertained, but the German report of the affair says the raid was fruitless.

The enterprise of the British navy in thus attempting to "dig out" the German fleet, brought about a battle between the most modern war machines. The British squadron, including the light cruisers Arethusa and Undaunted, which have been engaged in previous exploits on the German coast, were attacked by Zeppelins, Zeplanes and submarines.

By rapid maneuvering, the ships were able to avoid the submarines, while the Zeplans found the fire of the cruisers too dangerous for them to continue the fight. The German Zeplans dropped bombs, which, according to the British account, fell harmlessly into the sea. The Germans claimed to have hit two destroyers and their convoy, the latter being set afire.

The British ships remained in the vicinity for three hours without being attacked by any surface warships. The statement follows:

"On Friday, December 25th, the German warships lying off Schilling Roads, near Cuxhaven, were attacked by seven naval Zeppelins, piloted by flight commanders Oliver, Hewlett, Boss and Kilner, flight lieutenants Miley and Edwards, and sub-lieutenant Blackburn. The attack was delivered in daylight, starting from a point in the vicinity of Helgoland. The Zeppelins were escorted by a light cruiser and destroyer force, together with submarines. As these ships were seen by the Germans from Helgoland three or four hostile Zeppelins and several hostile submarines attacked them.

"It was necessary for the British ships to remain in the neighborhood to pick up the returning airmen, and a novel combat ensued between the most modern cruisers and the enemy's air craft and submarines. By swift maneuvering the enemy's submarines were avoided and the two Zeppelins were easily put to flight by the guns of the Undaunted and Arethusa.

"The enemy's Zeppelins succeeded in dropping their bombs near our ships, but without hitting any of them. The British ships remained for three hours off the enemy's coast without being molested by any surface vessel, and safely re-embarked three out of the seven airmen with their machines. Three other pilots returned later and were picked up by British submarines, which were standing by. Their machines were sunk.

"Six out of the seven pilots returned safely. Flight Commander Hewlett is missing. His machine was seen in a wrecked condition about eight miles from Helgoland, and the fate of the daring and skillful pilot is at present unknown.

"The extent of the damage by the British airmen's bombs cannot be estimated, but all were discharged at points of military significance."

Airman Attacks Brussels.

Another naval airman on Christmas eve, dropped 12 bombs on an airship shed at Brussels, but it was impossible definitely to ascertain the amount of damage done. Concerning this attack the statement says:

"On Thursday last Squadron Commander Richard B. Davies, of the naval air service, visited Brussels in a biplane for the purpose of dropping 12 bombs at an airship shed reported to contain a German Parseval. Eight of these bombs of which six are believed to have hit, were discharged at the first attack and the remaining four on the return flight. Owing to the clouds of smoke which arose from the shed the effect could not be distinguished."

It was learned today that the German airman who visited England on Christmas day dropped a bomb near Rochester, only 28 miles east-southeast of St. Paul's London, and seven miles from Gravesend. The bomb did no damage, as it fell in the roadway.

A statement issued Saturday by the German admiralty said eight British ships made a dash into a German bay and that hydro-aeroplanes convoyed by them dropped bombs on ships lying at anchor and also on a gas tank near Cuxhaven without doing any damage.

METZ BOMBARDED BY AIRMEN

French Machines Fly Over Town Held by Germans—Because of Nancy.

Paris, Dec. 27.—French aviators have bombarded the aviation hangars, a railroad station and barracks at Metz in retaliation for the bomb attack on Nancy by a German Zeppelin, according to the official communication issued in Paris this afternoon. The communication also states that the Germans have reoccupied the city of Mlawa in Russian Poland.

In Belgium and most of Northern France intermittent cannonading and slight gains are reported together with the repulse of German attacks at various points.

The report says in part: "A dirigible dropped bombs on Nancy in the center of the city and without military reason. Our aviators in return bombarded aviation hangars, one of the railroad stations of Metz where movement of trains were noted and the barracks of St. Privat at Metz."

"In Russia the Germans who resumed their march upon Mlawa have re-occupied that city. The situation in Poland remains without notable change."

Tonight's statement says: "After having all last night directed a very sharp artillery and infantry fire against our troops stationed at Boisselle and in the adjacent trenches."

(Continued on Page Two)