

NEW YEAR FINDS ARMIES OF THE BELLIGERENTS LOCKED IN LONG, DESPERATE BATTLE

Fighting as Sternly as When the War Began Five Months Ago, Forces on the Great Battle Fronts Seem Determined to Fight to a Finish—Seemingly No Prospect for Victory for Either Side Soon, from Outlook.

ARMIES OF RUSSIAN AND GERMAN EMPERORS STILL FACING EACH OTHER IN NORTH POLAND

Lull in Fighting in Flanders and France, With Occasional Artillery Duel, Infantry Attack or Counter Attack—Last of German Islands in Pacific Has Been Annexed by Australian Forces, is Report Received.

London, Dec. 31.—The New Year finds belligerent Europe after five months of war fighting as sternly as at the beginning, but seemingly without prospects of immediate big victories. The Austrians again have been driven out of the greater part of Galicia, and according to a Vienna statement, the Russians have crossed the Carpathians for the third time, but in Poland, where a more important battle is in progress, the armies of the Russian and German emperors are still fighting for the banks of the rivers which intersect the country between the upper Vistula and Pilica rivers.

In Flanders and France there has been a lull in the fighting on the most of the front, disturbed occasionally, however, by artillery fire, infantry attacks and counter attacks. The French tonight announced that they have carried half of the village of Steinbach, in Upper Alsace, which, while of little or no importance, itself, stands at the foot of a hill which commands a large part of the surrounding country.

Along the Belgian coast fighting is confined to artillery bombardments. Westende and many other little towns which long ago were deserted by the civilian populations, have been made the target for shells of the Allies.

Walfish bay, a British possession on the coast of British Southwest Africa, which the Germans took at the commencement of the war, has been retaken by the Union of South African forces, while the Australians have annexed Bougainville island, another of the Solomon Islands, over which flew the German flag and about the last of the German islands in the Pacific.

In London New Year's eve was celebrated by the usual dinners and dances at hotels and restaurants, but with less gaiety and on a much smaller scale. At the large hotels, however, there was a large attendance of officers on leave or waiting to go to the front, many French and Belgians who were driven from their homes by the war, and a large number of Americans.

The list of New Year's honors offered by King George on the recommendation of the Premier and the Foreign and Colonial offices, was short, and contained no new peerages. At the head of the list are the Earls of Derby and Chesterfield, who received the Order of the Garter for their services in recruiting, and Baron Lovat, who receives the Order of the Thistle for the same reason. The Earl of Aberdeen, whose retirement from the Lord Lieutenantcy of Ireland is expected, is raised to the rank of a Marquisate.

NEW ORDER ESTABLISHED. George of England institutes Order of "The Military Cross." London, Dec. 31.—King George has instituted a new decoration, "the military cross." The decoration is of silver and bears the imperial crown on each arm and in the center the letters "G. R. I." (George Rex-Imperator).

GERMANY STILL UNITED. New Year's Resolution to Stand and Fight Sent Out by Wireless. London, Jan. 1.—The following official communication from Berlin has been received here by wireless: "Since the war began and up till the end of the year we still stand firm on the old German Watch, waiting what the future has in store for us. We are still united. No enemy can force us in spite of rage and hypocrisy. In the East as well as the West may victory ever attend you. Germany over all!"

TURKS TOWARD SUEZ. Large Force Reported to be Headed That Way—Treatment of Allies. Paris, Dec. 31.—A Havas dispatch from Athens says: "The Turks have sent important forces commanded by German officers toward the Suez according to members (Continued on Page Two)

TEXT OF THE NOTE SENT ENGLAND BY AMERICA PROTESTING AGAINST SHIPPING CONDITIONS PUBLISHED

Diplomatic Representation Made to Great Britain Concerning Treatment of American Vessels and Cargoes on High Seas By British Cruisers Published in Washington and London by Mutual Consent of Two Governments.

Washington, Dec. 31.—By agreement between the State Department and the British foreign office, the text of the note sent by the United States to Great Britain, insisting on an early improvement in the treatment of American commerce by the British fleet, was made public here today. It follows: "Washington, D. C., Dec. 26, 1914. The Secretary of State to the American Ambassador at London. Department of State. The present condition of American foreign trade resulting from the frequent seizures and detention of American vessels and cargoes on the high seas has become so serious as to require a candid statement of the views of this government in order that the British government may be fully informed of the attitude of the United States towards the policy which has been pursued by the British authorities during the present war.

"It is needless to point out to his majesty's government, usually the champion of the freedom of the seas and the rights of trade, that peace, not war, is the normal relation between nations and that the commerce between countries which are not belligerents should not be interfered with by those at war. It is an interference in manifestly an imperative necessity to protect their national safety and thus only to the extent that it is a necessity. "It is with no lack of appreciation of the momentous nature of the struggle in which Great Britain is engaged and with no selfish desire to gain undue commercial advantage that this government is reluctantly forced to the conclusion that the present policy of a belligerent government toward neutral ships and cargoes exceeds the manifest necessity of a belligerent and constitutes restrictions upon the rights of American citizens on the high seas which are not justified by the rules of international law or required under the principle of self-preservation.

"The government of the United States does not intend at this time to discuss the propriety of the including American cargoes in the list of contraband and conditions, contraband which have been proclaimed by his majesty. Open to objection as some of these goods are, the chief ground of protest is the arbitrary treatment of cargoes of both classes when bound to neutral ports. "Don't Apply Their Own Rules. "The cargoes of the United States which have been seized and detained on the ground that the countries to which they were destined were not prohibited by the exportation of such articles. Unwarranted as such detentions are, in the opinion of this government, American exporters are further perplexed by the arbitrary application of the rules of their authorities in applying their own rules to neutral cargoes.

"In spite of those decrees, however, British foreign office has thus far declined to admit that copper shipments consigned to Italy will not be molested on the high seas. Seizures are so numerous and delays so prolonged that exporters are afraid to send their goods to Italy by sea. It is difficult to accept it, and insurers refuse to issue policies upon it. In a word, a legitimate trade is being greatly impaired through uncertainty as to the hands of the British authorities.

"We feel that we are abundantly justified in protesting to your government in the manner in which the British government propose to carry out the policy which they have adopted, in order that we may determine the steps necessary to protect our citizens engaged in foreign trade in their rights and from the serious losses to which they are liable through ignorance of the hazards to which their cargoes are exposed.

"In the case of conditional contraband the policy of Great Britain appears to this government to be equally unjustified by the established rules of international conduct. As evidence of this, attention is directed to the fact that a number of the American cargoes which have been seized consist of foodstuffs and other articles of commerce which are not prohibited by the rules of international law. In spite of the presumption of innocent use because destined to neutral territory, the British authorities made these seizures and detentions without, so far as we are informed, being in possession of facts which warranted a reasonable belief that the shipments had in reality as belligerent destination, and that term is used in international law.

"There is no evidence and no doubts should be resolved in favor of neutral commerce, not against. The effect upon trade in these articles between neutral nations resulting from interrupted voyages and detained cargoes is not entirely cured by reimbursement of the owners for the damages which they have suffered, after investigation has failed to establish an enemy destination. The injury is to American commerce with neutral countries as a whole through the hazard of the enterprise and the repeated diversion of goods from established markets. "It also appears that cargoes of this character have been seized by the British authorities because of a belief that the shippers, they will ultimately reach the territory of the enemies of Great Britain. Yet this belief is frequently reduced to mere fear in view of the embargoes which have been decreed by the neutral countries, to which they are destined on the articles composing the cargoes.

GREAT YEAR AHEAD SAYS MR. REDFIELD

Secretary of Commerce Sends New Year Greetings

NO GROUND FOR GLOOM

Bids Merchants, Manufacturers and Planters to Do More Work Than Planned and Cheer Up—Cheerfulness the Key Note. Washington, Dec. 31.—Heartened by months of close study of the nation's business outlook, Secretary Redfield, of the Commerce Department, today wrote a new year's greeting to merchants and manufacturers bidding them reach out for the prosperity he sees within their grasp. There is no warrant, Mr. Redfield declares, for gloom or despair. His message follows: "If you want prosperity, do your own share to bring it and do it now. Get that addition on your shop going; it will cost you less today than six months hence. Is there a bit dull in the works? Get those improvements begun. Prices are low and likely to rise.

"You've been thinking of that, contraband work, better start it yourself before things get the start of you. "Distress Not Known. "This country slows down a bit now and then, but it never stops growing and many more are able to get on their feet. We don't know what it means in most of the United States to have real general distress. Think of Belgium and Poland. Of man with a groch, and sink into your hole and pull it in after you. There think of your sins and your blessings, and come out with your courage in working order. "The loss of good American examples of pluck. Do you remember San Francisco and Galveston and Chicago, Charleston, Baltimore and Dayton and many other neutral vessels carrying American goods and to detain them when there is sufficient evidence to justify a belief that contraband articles are in their cargoes, when his majesty's government, judging by our own experience in the past, must realize that this government can not without protest permit American ships or cargoes to be taken on board of belligerent vessels and there detained for the purpose of searching generally for evidence of contraband or upon presumptions created by special municipal enactments which are clearly at variance with international law and practice. "This government believes and earnestly hopes his majesty's government will come to the same belief that a government of conduct more in conformity with the rules of international usage, which Great Britain has strongly sanctioned for many years, will, in the end, better serve the interests of all belligerents as well as those of neutrals. "Not only is the situation a critical one to the commercial interests of the United States, but many of the great industries of this country are suffering because their products are denied long established markets in European countries, which, though neutral, are contiguous to the nations at war. Producers and exporters are pressing and insurance companies are pressing and not without reason, for relief from the menace to trans-Atlantic trade which is gradually but surely destroying their business and threatening them with financial disaster.

AMERICA'S PART IN THE COST OF EUROPEAN WAR

Decrease in Exports Over Three Hundred Million. Department of Commerce Makes Public Figures of Exports Up to the First of December—Three Countries Increase. Washington, Dec. 31.—The European war had cost the United States \$32,831,172 in decreased exports up to December 1, according to a statement issued today by the Department of Commerce. Exports to all countries for the eleven month period ending with November aggregated \$1,867,991,492 against \$2,250,822,664 for the like period in 1913. Despite that showing, however, the November trade balance in favor of the United States was \$7,411,271 and for the eleven months period \$193,372,036. November showed its greatest gain in crude and manufactured foodstuffs sent to Europe, the 1914 total being \$73,942,018 against \$38,787,688 in 1913. The most striking effect of the war shown by the statement is the decrease in Germany's \$48,072,751 consumption in November, 1913, to \$42,136 in November this year. "Exports to all countries except Australia, France, India, The United Kingdom and Italy fell off during November from 1913 figures and for the eleven months period only Australia, Italy and Russia increased their American purchases. While the United Kingdom was the largest customer, during November and \$51,545,990 during the eleven month period, the latter figure shows a decrease of approximately \$11,000,000 from the 1913 total. Italy showed the greatest increase in November, taking the largest sum last month against \$7,771,413 in November, 1913.

IMMIGRATION BILL WINS ON TEST VOTE

Efforts to Strike Out Literacy Test Failed.

AFRICANS PROHIBITED

Amendment Denying Negroes Right of Admission to United States is Adopted—Expect Vote on Measure Saturday. Washington, Dec. 31.—Efforts to strike the literacy test from the pending immigration bill failed in the Senate today. Senator Martine's motion to eliminate the provision was defeated 47 to 12. This was considered a vote on the bill itself, which Senate leaders expect to pass Saturday. Amendments were voted on in quick succession. Two were adopted, one to exclude all immigrants of African blood, or the black race, and another to strengthen the prohibition against believers in polygamy. All amendments to the literacy test were voted down, including those which would have added to its exemption persons fleeing from religious persecution and those who might seek asylum from political or racial persecution. On the motion to eliminate the literacy test senators who vote for it were Brandegee, Clark, of Wyoming; LaFollette, Lippitt, McCumber, Lewis, McLean, Martin, O'Gorman, Ransdell, Reed and Walsh.

Senator Reed offered the African exclusion amendment which was adopted 29 to 25. Senator Williams, of Mississippi, debated this proposal at length, declaring that the exclusion of negroes in this country now. Statistics were given to show that only 8,000 people of African blood came to this country last year. Another amendment by Senator Reed to exclude all but persons of the Caucasian race was defeated, but not without considerable discussion relating to the Japanese. "I have already declared it would affect treaty relations. "Of course the amendment will include the Japanese in its effect," said Senator Reed, "but if there is any difficulty about the treaty, I will cooperate in a further amendment to postpone the operation of this clause until treaties may be changed. This bill as now drawn violates the spirit if not the letter of our treaties. We prefer to do by indirection what we have not the courage to do by direction. We propose to pass an exclusion bill but to do it by means of an educational test." The vote against the amendment was 47 to 9. Spirited debate arose when Senator Reed moved to substitute in the exclusion bill the words "those who admit their belief in the practice of polygamy" the words "those who believe in, advocate or practice polygamy."

APPEAL FOR CLEMENCY FOR LIFE TERM PRISONER

Governor of Georgia Takes Application Under Advice. Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 31.—Hearing on an application for a pardon for Thomas Edgar Stripling, serving a life sentence in the State prison for murder, was held here today by Governor Slaton. The application was presented by several relatives of Stripling and an attorney. "The killing of W. J. Corbett, in Harris county, Georgia, and was sentenced to life imprisonment. He escaped before he began serving the sentence. Fourteen years later Stripling was found at Danville, Ga., where under the assumed name of R. E. Morris, he was chief of police. He was brought back to Georgia and sent to prison. The present application is urged on the ground that the prisoner is in poor health. Governor Slaton took it under advisement. Relatives and friends a few years ago applied to Joseph M. Brown, then governor of Georgia, for clemency for the prisoner's behalf, but the governor refused to act. Recently various petitions were presented to Governor Slaton. "Aside from physicians' certificates which indicated the prisoner was in ill health testimony was introduced tending to show mitigating circumstances connected with the crime. It was alleged that Corbett was shot because he had insulted Stripling's sister. "Stripling's wife was a witness today.

TWO CABINET MEMBERS IN NORTH CAROLINA TODAY

Secretary Daniels at Goldsboro and Bryan at Asheville. Washington, D. C., Dec. 31.—Two members of President Wilson's cabinet will spend New Year's in North Carolina, these being Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels and Secretary of State W. J. Bryan. Secretary Daniels left tonight for Goldsboro, to spend New Year's with his mother, Mrs. Mary C. Daniels, under the name of R. E. Morris, he was chief of police. He was brought back to Georgia and sent to prison. The present application is urged on the ground that the prisoner is in poor health. Governor Slaton took it under advisement. Relatives and friends a few years ago applied to Joseph M. Brown, then governor of Georgia, for clemency for the prisoner's behalf, but the governor refused to act. Recently various petitions were presented to Governor Slaton. "Aside from physicians' certificates which indicated the prisoner was in ill health testimony was introduced tending to show mitigating circumstances connected with the crime. It was alleged that Corbett was shot because he had insulted Stripling's sister. "Stripling's wife was a witness today.

FEDERAL INDICTMENTS RETURNED AGAINST TWO

Richmond Man Charged With Violation of Mann White Slave Act. Chicago, Dec. 31.—A Federal indictment charging Charles Alexander, a wealthy resident of Providence, R. I., with violation of the Mann White Slave Act, was returned here today together with an indictment charging attempted bribery against Miss Jessie Elizabeth Cope, of Los Angeles, the woman he is alleged to have transported. Alexander is charged with having transported Miss Cope from Los Angeles to Chicago, on January 23, 1913. The document also mentions a trip from Chicago to New Orleans. "It is specifically charged in the case of the woman that she offered Hinton G. C. M'haugh, Chicago superintendent of the Department of Justice, \$25,000, if he would aid her in extorting \$50,000 from Alexander. Arrests in both cases were made three weeks ago. Miss Cope is in custody here and Alexander, who is in liberty under bond, has signified his willingness to come here for trial.

STRUCK BY S. A. L. TRAIN.

Raleigh Man May Have Been Fatally Injured on Yard. (Special Star Telegram.) Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 31.—J. W. Collier, of Glenwood, was seriously injured in the Seaboard Air Line yard north of the city today by being struck by a moving train. He was found lying beside the track with his head badly bruised and he may have sustained serious internal injuries. He is in a stupor, and his injury may prove fatal.