

ITALIANS TAKE 1,500 PRISONERS IN A SIGNIFICANT VICTORY OVER THE TEUTONS IN NORTHERN ITALY

Berlin Admits Defeat, But Adds That Italians Were Unable to Get Reinforcements

CLAIMS CAPTURE OF 360

Germans Renew Activity Against the British Forces on the Western Front

47 WERE KILLED IN AIR RAID

Poth Russian and Finland Situations Obscure

(Associated Press War Summary).

Notwithstanding the fact that deep snows still cover the ground the Italians have carried out successfully a vigorous drive against the Austro-German lines in the mountain region of northern Italy and captured strong positions and more than 1,500 men.

Italians Fight Tenaciously

The blow was delivered on the Asiago plateau sector and the enemy positions were tenaciously held notwithstanding strong counter-attacks in which the Austro-Germans were repulsed with heavy casualties. The Berlin war office, in admitting the reverse to the Teutonic allied line, asserts that the Italians repeatedly tried to bring up reinforcements to widen the breach they had made in the enemy front, but that their efforts failed and 360 Italians were made prisoner.

Airplanes Aided in Battle.

That airplanes aided materially in the fighting, full details of which have not yet been received, is indicated in the Italian official communication, which asserts that during the battle the enemy lost twelve aircraft.

Is Significant Victory.

The victory for the Italians at this particular point is of considerable significance because of the fact that late in the year the enemy's strong attempts to break through the hill region to the Venetian plains failed around Monte Tomba and sectors west, the Austro-Germans have been bringing up reinforcements in the Asiago district preparatory to a further series of attacks to reach the lowlands around Bassano and Vicenza.

Raid in Flanders.

Aside from this battle no important military operations have been recorded, although the Germans have been operating with their artillery on a somewhat extensive scale on the Arras front and have carried out raiding operations on several other sectors of the Western Front.

47 Killed in Air Raid.

Monday night's airplane raid, the first of the year on London and adjacent territory, resulted in the largest casualty list of any air raid since that of June 13, last. The total casualties were 47 killed and 169 injured. Forty-six of the fatalities occurred in London, where 162 persons were injured. Bombs were dropped by the invading enemy in Kent and Essex, but slight material damage was done. One of the airplanes, a three-seater machine, was brought down in flames from a height of 10,000 feet and all three of its occupants were burned to death.

In June raid 97 persons were killed and 427 wounded by bombs which fell in London and on Essex and Kent.

Russian Situation Obscure.

Just what is the situation in Russia remains obscure. One report asserts that there has been a split among the Bolsheviks on the question of peace on Germany's terms and another that Trotsky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, intends to return immediately to peace negotiations with the Austro-German delegates. Still another Petrograd dispatch says Trotsky has returned to the council of workmen's and soldiers' delegates that the Bolshevik will insist on a democratic peace. One Petrograd journal declares that Austria-Hungary already has offered to conclude a separate peace with Russia, regardless of Germany.

Seize Rumania's Gold.

The breach between Russia and Rumania meanwhile is broadening. In addition to severing diplomatic relations with the little kingdom the Bolsheviks have ordered the seizure of Rumania's gold reserves on deposit in Moscow.

Scant News From Finland.

Scant details have come through concerning the situation in Finland, but reports indicate that the red guard is in control at Helsinki, where a revolutionary manifesto has proclaimed that authority is solely in the hands of the working classes.

War Council Convenes.

The supreme war council with delegates representing the United States, France, Britain, France and Italy in attendance, has convened at Versailles, Belgium. The plans of the military campaign of the entente allies and of the United States are expected to be discussed.

Serious Strikes in Germany.

Serious strikes are reported to be in progress throughout Germany. In Berlin and suburban towns 90,000 workers are said to have quit work. In the manufacture of war supplies, especially airplanes, are expected to be interrupted.

Sixty-Nine American Ships Sunk During the Past Year

Another Raid by German Airmen Made Last Night Over Eastern England

London, Jan. 30.—(12:30 a. m.)—Another hostile air raid over eastern England began at 9:30 o'clock last night and up to the present hour is still in progress, according to an official communication. None of the enemy machines has yet been able to penetrate the London defenses, although there are reports that bombs have been dropped in the outskirts of the city.

Number as Compared With Sailings Relatively Small—Most of Them Schooners

OVER 300 PERSONS LOST

By Seizing 107 German-Owned Ships a Net Gain of 515,433 Gross Tons Was Made

THE SITUATION SUMMARIZED

Figures Show How We Are Building Up Merchant Marine

New York, Jan. 9.—In the 12 months of unrestricted warfare launched against American and Allied shipping by Germany one year ago Friday, there have been sunk by submarines, mines and raiders, 69 American vessels totaling 171,061 gross tons, according to a careful compilation of records of sinkings which have been made public during the period.

Offsetting this loss of American vessels, most of which were sailing ships, the United States since February 1 has added to her merchant marine by the seizure of former German and Austro-German ships a total of 197 vessels having a gross tonnage of 686,494, leaving on the credit side of the American ledger in the account with the central powers, a net gain of 515,433 gross tons. The loss of life caused by the sinking of the 69 American ships was more than 300 persons, however.

The percentage of sinkings of American ships compared with the number of vessels which have sailed through the war zone successfully is small. Records of the department of commerce show that for the period beginning February 1, 1917, and ending December 31, 1917, there were cleared from American ports in the foreign trade ships aggregating 17,738,900 net, or approximately 24,834,460 gross tons. The number of ships making up the total of tons was 426 vessels, totaling more than 2,000,000 gross tons, and contracts have been awarded for 834 ships, a large number of which are now under way and are being rushed to completion.

Further offsetting the loss of tonnage occasioned by the submarine warfare the United States through the shipping board requisitioned in American ships 426 vessels totaling more than 2,000,000 gross tons, and contracts have been awarded for 834 ships, a large number of which are now under way and are being rushed to completion.

Work trains and men were rushed here from the Ashville division and within the last ten hours, due to heavy floods from melting snow on Virginia mountain tops, every effort is being put forth by harbor interests to prevent serious damage to the shipping.

Another difficulty which faced the United States in the task of putting to sea vessels to offset the ravages of the sea was the repairing of the "wrecked" ships to the former German ships by their officers and crews before the ships were seized. This cost millions of dollars and in many instances called for the highest engineering skill to make and replace parts of foreign built engines and boilers removed or broken.

Indicating that the task has been attended by success, the statement was made today by a prominent official connected with the shipping board that every seized vessel was now completely repaired and in service. Many of them have made as many as three and four round trips through the war zone.

Three of the former German vessels have been the objects of successful attack by the submarines. Several others have been attacked but escaped.

The announced sinkings of British ships for the year up to and including the week ending January 22 have been 1,033 vessels, of which 783 were under 1,000 tons and 270 were under that figure. The joint losses of France and Italy have been averaged three to four large vessels weekly.

TO ADVISE COTTON FARMERS.

Cotton States Advisory Marketing Board Organized.

New Orleans, Jan. 25.—The cotton states official advisory marketing board was organized at a meeting here tonight of state commissioners of agriculture, marketing commissioners and presidents of farmers' unions in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas, Georgia and Louisiana.

A resolution was adopted opposing the fixing of cotton prices by organizations or by any authority delegated by Congress.

BREAKFAST WITH CAPTURED HUNS IN A DUGOUT



This Boche dugout was captured by the British while the Huns were at breakfast. Taking no chances on viands being poisoned, the prisoners were invited to partake of the repast.

NO DATE IS FIXED FOR ANOTHER DRAFT

War Department Has Not Even Determined Upon Number of Men to be Called Out

MAY TOTAL ONE MILLION

Baker Says It All Depends Upon Events Abroad and Shipping Situation. Those Becoming 21 Since June 5 to Be Registered.

Washington, Jan. 29.—Expansion of America's fighting forces beyond their present strength depends on such factors as events abroad and the shipping situation, Secretary Baker said tonight in disclosing that the war department has not fixed a date for another draft or even determined how many new men shall be called.

When Mr. Baker told the senate committee yesterday the United States would have a half million men in France early this year and that in all a million and a half could go across if ships could be found to carry them, he referred to the divisions now in training camps and those already in Europe.

Future developments will decide what additional forces will be sent. The secretary made clear today his opinion that if events made it necessary to call out more than another increment of half a million men the executive authority to draft men for fighting units other than reserves would be exhausted and further legislation by congress would be necessary.

Additional Registration. The senate committee today tentatively approved legislation proposed by the war department to provide for the registration of youths attaining the age of 21 since June 5, authorizing the fixing of quotas on the basis of Class 1 of the new classification and empowering the President to call men needed for special industrial or other work.

It is assumed, Gen. Crowder said, that most of the new registrants will fall into Class 1, giving that class this year a total of some 2,000,000 men. From Class 1 it is proposed to take the next and any future drafts.

In a formal memorandum presenting his views the general also disapproved suggestions that the registration be extended to men beyond the age of 31, saying the effort of classification is so great and so expensive and the number of persons past 31 years who would fall in Class 1 so small that the task would not be worth while.

Not Exempt Here. Although Secretary Baker today reiterated his desire to have exempted (Continued on Page Seven).

FREIGHT CONGESTION MAY CONTINUE FOR TWO MONTHS LONGER

Deranged Ship Captain Fatally Wounded First Mate Then Killed Self

An Atlantic Port, Jan. 29.—With her captain lost overboard after having shot his first mate, and the first mate dead on her deck, the Swedish steamer Anglia put into this port late this afternoon in command of her second officer, bound from another Atlantic port to a South American port. On the 27th, according to the narrative of the second officer, Captain A. B. Weems became deranged from drink and in an argument shot and wounded the first officer, G. R. Furst. The deed seemed to sober him and when he realized that he had done he stood upon the rail, fired a bullet into his head and jumped overboard.

Railroad Administration Sees No Hope of a Return to Normal Before March

BIG FLOODS ARE FEARED

Damage by These Would Supplement That Already Caused by Unprecedented Snows

WILL KEEP COAL MOVING

Continuance of the Unusual Measures Planned

Washington, Jan. 29.—Freight congestion on eastern railroads probably cannot be cleared up before the middle or latter part of March, railroad administration officials announced tonight. Bad weather this week has provided the culminating misfortune on which is based the conviction that it will take at least six weeks to set traffic moving normally through rail arteries.

REGISTER WOMEN FOR FARM WORK

Will be Needed for Trucking, Fruit Gathering, Dairying and Other Light Labor

MEN FOR THE HARD WORK

Mr. Berkman, Chief of Farm Service Division, Says Farmers Will Have to Raise Wages to Get Sufficient Labor

Washington, Jan. 28.—National registration of women available for work on farms is planned by the department of labor as one of the steps in a campaign to secure a sufficiency of farm labor for every section of the country during the coming season.

A. L. Berkman, chief of the division of farm service, announced tonight that every effort would be made to meet the expected shortage of farm labor by a plan to mobilize the available men and women in every community in the country.

It is probable that no general embargo will be declared by Director General McAdoo, although individual railroads will be given a free hand in refusing to accept shipments whenever local conditions make this course advisable.

Word reached railroad headquarters today that railroads already have taken steps to discharge a number of attorneys maintained in various localities where the need for them is small, in compliance with Director General McAdoo's order. Employees listed as "business agents," but actually serving as lobbyists before state legislatures, also are among those whose dismissal is looked for.

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BRYAN CHAMPIONING FEDERAL AMENDMENT

Points Out States Which Have Been Leaders in States' Rights That Have Ratified Measure

Annapolis, Md., Jan. 29.—William Jennings Bryan made a vigorous plea for the national prohibition amendment this afternoon before the temperance committee of the legislature. There is a sharp, close fight on the amendment in the Maryland assembly and in connection with it is the anti-saloon league measure for immediate state-wide prohibition.

FLOODS ANTICIPATED

Even without the expected thaw which may send rivers above their banks, officials say recovery from the unprecedented period of blizzard weather will be slow. Floods would make conditions far worse. Preparations have been made to fight high water which is feared throughout the east and which has already developed in the mountains of Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky, with serious consequences to coal production and transportation.

Hundreds of applications for special consideration in supplying empty box cars reached the railroad administration today and were referred to the war or navy departments, which will determine finally whether certain shipments deserve preferential treatment. These petitions ordinarily should go to one of three regional directors, who in many cases can determine without consulting government departments whether shipments might be speeded up.

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BUNKERING OF SHIPS IN PRACTICALLY AT STANDSTILL

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 29.—Officials of the Tidewater Coal Exchange, directing export coal operations, tonight declared that owing to frozen coal cars and a breakdown at the Lambert's Point piers, bunkering of ships was practically at a standstill today.

One pier at Lambert's Point was completely out of commission or half a day. The others were unable to handle more than one-third to one-fourth of the usual number of cars, owing to the frozen condition of contents. The only hope of relief is warmer weather of sufficient duration to thaw out the coal.

EVERY AVAILABLE SPINDLE MAKING CANVAS FOR ARMY

Washington, Jan. 29.—Every spindle in the country capable of turning out canvas is working on army contracts, Secretary Baker said today, and there will be no let-up in tent making until every soldier under canvas has the 50 cubic feet of space recommended by the surgeon general.