

GERMANS' ADVANCE ON PORTS BLOCKED

Invaders Bring Up Famous Siege Guns, More Men For Heavy Blow.

ALLIED ARMY AND NAVY IN CONTACT

May Be Sea Fight--Results In Great Battle In Poland Apparently Favor Russian Forces.

London, Oct. 19.—By reaching their tentacles out to the seaboard, the allied forces have established close contact with the British navy, which is now on the extreme left of the line and seems from the land view, for the moment, to block effectually a further German effort to turn this wing.

That the Germans may have grasped this is perhaps indicated in the otherwise unexplained appearance of four of their torpedo boat destroyers Saturday off the Dutch coast southward bound. It is suggested that the object was for the destroyers to convoy submarines which would dispute the command of the sea on the Belgian littoral.

Should the German navy undertake this venture it would be confronted with much the same proposition as has met the British fleet since the commencement of the war and it would assume the same risks of colliding with mines heretofore faced by the British.

If, as the allies claim, their left cannot now be turned, the only alternative left the Germans is to hack away through the trio of armies confronting them, and Gen. Von Kluck or Gen. Von Arnim, or whoever is in command of the German right, seems in no way loath to make the attempt. That they made a forward movement is evident.

The British official information bureau in one of its rare communications, says that the allies in the northern area have driven the Germans back more than 30 miles. The precise locality of this advance is not indicated, but it could have been only at some point on this western wing, where the Germans are trying to resume their interrupted dash on Paris by way of the coast towns.

These, however, are only two points on the human barriers which are facing one another for hundreds of miles and continuing to sway forward and backward without as yet being able to effect the titanic climax which will bring to an end the immediate phase of the giant contest.

Observers here think that this climax cannot be far off and the London papers are quoting approvingly though not in the sense intended the words attributed to Emperor William, who, in addressing his troops somewhere in France on October 3, is reported to have said: "Before the leaves fall from the trees here we shall all be

back in the dear Fatherland."

London, Oct. 19.—From the point of view of the allied armies so far as could be learned from dispatches reaching London, today, the situation in West Flanders and in France as far south as Lille seemed on this, the seventy-seventh day of the war, perhaps more hopeful than at any time since the German advance on Paris was checked.

Though the news reaching England is meager and to an extent delayed, as always, all tidings seem to indicate that the German advance from Ostend on the French coast towns has been blocked, temporarily at least, while further south in a region that was a week ago the extreme German right, the invaders have been again compelled to give ground before the allies' wedge force, which has been concentrating on Lille.

Several reports contend that the Germans have withdrawn from this town, but this is not confirmed, nor is the report that they evacuated Courtrai, nearly 30 miles northwest. It seems plain, however, that the menace here grew marked and that the German army operating along the coast of Flanders found itself in peril of being cut off from the main body.

What opposition they met along the sea is only guesswork for it has never been disclosed in Great Britain what forces the allies have or at what point they touch the coast.

All reports seem to agree that the city of Ostend is practically clear of Germans who apparently are re-forming to the south with reinforcements and the siege guns used to batter the Belgian forts and that they now propose to hammer on toward Dunkirk and Calais. One report says that they are beyond Furnes, less than 10 miles from Dunkirk.

Bombarding Lille. Further south in France reinforcements from Brussels are said to have been brought up before Lille, which the Germans are reported as bombarding in a desperate attempt to retake the place.

The Belgians, themselves, have been putting in some hard knocks. According to last night's Paris official communication, they have held the Germans in an attempt to cross the river Yser, southwest of Dixmude, Belgium. This was the first heard of the Belgian

D. A. TOMPKINS PASSES AWAY

One of Founders of Charlotte Observer Dies at Summer Home in Montreat, Aged 62 Years.

LONG IDENTIFIED WITH INDUSTRIES OF STATE

Pioneer in Cottonseed Oil Industry and Was Interested in Scores of Cotton Mills in the South.

Charlotte, N. C., Oct. 19.—Daniel A. Tompkins, co-founder with J. P. Caldwell of the Charlotte Observer and for more than 25 years a central figure in the industrial world of the two Carolinas, died at his summer home at Montreat, N. C., yesterday afternoon aged 62 years, his death following a general weakening for a week or more of his condition which had been that of partial paralysis for about three years.

Born at Edgefield, S. C., October 12, 1852, he was educated at the University of South Carolina and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N. Y., and for years was a master mechanic in the employ of New York and Pennsylvania corporations. Returning south in 1882 he located in Charlotte and began the development, engineering and contracting, that made Charlotte a manufacturing center.

A pioneer in the cottonseed oil mill industry, he built perhaps 200 such plants in this section, while more than a hundred cotton mills are the result of his initiative and advice. Mr. Tompkins was appointed by President McKinley as a member of the industrial commission and by former President Cleveland as director of the Equitable Life Assurance company.

THE WORLD IS FACING MEAT SUPPLY SHORTAGE

As a result of European War, Says Secretary of Packers Association.

Chicago, Oct. 19.—Shortage of a meat supply faces the world as a result of the European war, George L. McCarthy of New York, secretary of the American Meat Packers' association, asserted before the ninth annual convention of the association, which opened here today.

Light on the questions of the diminishing beef supply, the waning herds on American cattle ranges, methods to be adopted to induce farmers to raise more stock and the effects of the war on the cost of food products is expected to be shed by the convention, which is to be in session for three days. More than seven hundred representatives of five hundred packing and supply houses are attending the convention. Among subjects to be discussed by the convention will be a request for the government to make an appropriation to stamp out tuberculosis in cattle and an appeal for the removal of the tax from oleomargarine.

AM. BAR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS GATHERING

Washington, Oct. 19.—Hundreds of lawyers from all parts of the country were here today at the annual meeting of the subsidiary and allied bodies of the American Bar association. The association proper will hold its first session tomorrow.

DESTRUCTIVE TYPHOON

Tokio, Oct. 19.—It is announced that a typhoon has struck Kiao Chow, destroying the landing pier. Twenty Japanese sailors were drowned.

RAILING WILL SPEND \$50,000

C. E. Railing Letting Contracts Today for Work on the Battery Park Hotel, to Be Begun at Once.

IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE COMPLETE JAN. 1

New Proprietor Plans to Make It One of Finest Resort Hotels in America—The Work to Be Done.

Between \$40,000 and \$50,000 will be spent between now and January 1 in converting the Battery Park hotel of this city into one of the finest resort hotels in America. C. E. Railing, the new proprietor of the hotel, who succeeded James L. Alexander in its management last Thursday, October 16, is letting contracts today for work that is to be done on the hotel, and this work will begin immediately. Mr. Railing is confident that everything will be in readiness for the opening of the winter season on January 1.

The Battery Park is, literally, to be made over. The interior is to be remodeled, redecorated, refurnished and renovated. About \$2000 is to be spent in the palm room alone in decorations and furnishings, while a large amount is to be similarly spent on the lobby, the green room and the ballroom. Every guest chamber in the house is to be redecorated and furnished. Twenty-five of the guest chambers will be decorated and furnished in a manner that will be accepted even to nobility. A different color scheme is to be worked out for each of these rooms.

The dining room of the hotel is likewise to receive a great deal of attention. There will be new furnishings, new silver and china, and, above all, new service. To the rear is to be erected a new kitchen, bakery and storeroom, and these will be planned according to the most modern and sanitary lines.

Mrs. Railing is now in New York selecting the new furnishings for the hotel. She will also work out the schemes for decoration in the palm room, the ballroom and others.

Mr. Railing stated to the representative of The Gazette-News this morning that all contract work that can be handled by local men will be let to them, and that furnishings and other purchases to be made for redecoration and refurnishing will be handled through local dealers wherever possible.

It is the plan of the new management to conduct the Battery Park on the highest plane possible. The cuisine and service, Mr. Railing states, will be equal to that of any of the New York hostilities, while he proposes to make the other accommodations in keeping with these two features. He says he will give the people what they want and he expects to have large numbers of winter tourists here during the approaching winter season.

That he is ultimately capable of carrying out these plans there cannot be a doubt, since for the past five years he has been manager of the Plaza hotel, New York, one of the finest in the country. He will be assisted here by Max Thompson, who was assistant manager at the Plaza, and by a steward who accompanied him here from New York. Asheville people will be delighted to hear of his plans and will, of course, co-operate with him in every way in making the hotel an unqualified success under his management, since its success, especially as a winter resort, will mean a great deal to the business interests of the city.

POLICE INVESTIGATE EXPLOSION IN N. Y.

New York, Oct. 19.—The police today were investigating a destructive explosion which occurred yesterday in the basement of a Fifth Avenue apartment house, in which Giacomo Fara Forni, Italian consul general in New York, has an apartment. Inspector Eagan of the bureau of combustibles, after an examination, declared that the damage had been caused by some high explosive.

WILL COMPLAIN AT SEIZURE OF VESSEL

New York, Oct. 19.—David T. Warden, manager of the foreign department of the Standard Oil company of New Jersey, said today he was swatting authorization from the board of directors before taking up at Washington the matter of the seizure of the steamer Brindilla. He assumed, he said, that the complaint would be made.

Gen. Roca Dead.

Buenos Aires, Oct. 19.—The death is announced of Gen. Julio Argentino Roca, former president of Argentina.

WILLARD URGES CARRIERS' CASE

Chairman of Committee of Railroad Presidents Makes Opening Plea for Flat Increase in Rates.

BASES APPEAL ON FINANCIAL EXIGENCY

Declares Needs of Carriers Are Pressing and Immediate Because of European War.

Washington, Oct. 19.—Public hearings on the new application of the eastern railroads for increased freight rates, which they contend are necessary because of the world-wide financial exigency due in part to the European war, were begun here today before the interstate commerce commission. The commission is hearing argument only on issues which have arisen since its decision in July which absolutely denied increases east of Pittsburgh and Buffalo and granted increases west of those points to the Mississippi river. All the commissioners except Chairman Harlan, who is ill, were present.

The railroad lines were represented by their principal executives. Individual shippers and shippers organizations who oppose further increases were represented by counsel, among them Clifford Thorne, who led the opposition at the last application.

Today's hearing was given over to a statement for the railroads. The shippers and their representatives will be heard later. Daniel E. Willard, president of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad and chairman of the committee of railroad presidents, made the opening statement for the roads. "The needs of the carriers are pressing and immediate," he declared, "the actual situation has become extremely critical."

The roads are seeking a flat increase of five per cent in freight rates throughout the territory east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio and Potomac rivers.

Mr. Willard called attention to the decision of the commission in the former case, which stated that the net operating income of the railroads in official classification territory is smaller than demanded in the interest of both the general public and the railroads and to the fact that the railroads had already taken action to secure additional revenues through various advances and changes of practice. "The measures of relief proposed by the commission will not in our opinion adequately meet the existing situation," he added.

He gave figures. "The annual statements of all the railroads involved in this proceeding combined for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914, show roundly that the total operating revenues during that year were approximately \$53,000,000 less than during the previous year, while the operating expenses during the same period were approximately \$18,000,000 greater.

"The net operating income of these companies for the same period amounted to \$258,000,000, or approximately \$77,000,000 less than was earned during the previous year, and equal to but 3.98 per cent upon the property investment, a lower return than was shown at any time in fifteen years.

Effects of War. "The income applicable to interest, dividends and surplus, during the fiscal year just closed was \$254,900,000 or 4.02 per cent upon the total capital obligation this return also being lower than any in fifteen years.

"A general war such as that now raging causes great and immediate disturbance to industry, commerce and finance.

"It is known that the railroads of the United States have over \$220,000,000 of outstanding obligations, which will mature in the next twelve months alone. It was shown in the original record in this case that the railroads in official classification territory only had spent approximately \$200,000,000 per annum upon their properties for improvements and extensions during the last ten year period, and it will be necessary to continue such expenditures if the roads are to maintain their standard of service and provide for the growing needs of the future.

"Further, as nearly as can be ascertained, there are more than \$3,000,000,000 par value of American railroad securities held abroad as investments. The demands for cash in Europe, growing out of the present situation, will doubtless result in large selling of such securities when the markets are again opened.

"With all this in mind it will readily be seen that the available supply of and probable demand for new capital, as well as the interest rates thereon are matters of great importance, not only to the railroads, but also to those who depend upon them for transportation."

Vessel Reaches Port.

New York, Oct. 19.—Arrived: Minnewaska, London.

WAR TAX BILL BEFORE HOUSE

Accompanied by Request From Senate for Conference, After Defeat of Cotton Amendment.

SOUTHERN MEMBERS INTEND TO OPPOSE

Lack of Quorum Might Prevent Measure From Going to Conference Until Tomorrow.

Washington, Oct. 19.—The war revenue bill as amended and passed in the senate was referred to the ways and means committee instead of to conference when the house met today this being the first move in the filibustering tactics of Representative Henry of Texas, who continues to insist upon cotton relief legislation.

Washington, Oct. 19.—The war revenue bill as revised by the senate, went to the house today for action. It was accompanied by a request from the senate for a conference with the house. After the passage of the measure in the senate, which was preceded by the decisive defeat of the proposed cotton relief legislation, conferees were appointed. They were Senators Simmons, Williams, Stone, McCumber and Clark of Wyoming.

Majority Leader Underwood was ready today to move the appointment of house conferees. He had summoned absent members from nearby districts to make sure of a quorum. Lack of a quorum might prevent the war tax bill going to conference until tomorrow, as southern democrats, led by representative Henry of Texas, have announced their intention of fighting for cotton relief legislation.

House leaders including Mr. Underwood were hopeful today that they would yield to their demand for such legislation, in view of its overwhelming defeat in the senate. The conferees are expected to reach an agreement on the bill by Wednesday and approval of their report by both houses is looked for not later than Thursday. Adjournment of congress would follow at once.

President Wilson is anxious for the house to immediately pass the Lever bill for the reestablishment of cotton warehouses and said today that he believes the success of plans for loans to cotton planters depends on this bill. It has already been passed by the senate. This is the only legislative proposal for the relief of the cotton planters which the president has approved.

Regarding suggestions for the restriction of the cotton crop next year, the president told callers that in his opinion this was entirely a state question.

REBEL TROOPS CAPTURE CAPE HAITIEN; MARINES OF U. S. WARSHIPS LAND

Cape Haitien, Haiti, Oct. 19.—The latest development in the Haitian revolution is the occupation of Cape Haitien by the victorious rebels. They entered the town today.

American marines from the warships in the harbor have been landed and are in control of the situation.

The rebels entered in an orderly manner and there have been no excesses.

The ministry of President Zamore, realizing that it was not in a position to control the situation, left Cape Haitien today on the dispatch boat Pacific. The entry into Cape Haitien follows the recent rebel victory on the north coast near Limonade, after which the president retreated in the direction of Grand Riviere and other government forces withdrew toward Cape Haitien.

TROOPS IN COLORADO MAY BE WITHDRAWN

Washington, Oct. 19.—President Wilson is considering the advisability of withdrawing federal troops from the Colorado coal fields as the result of the deadlock with the operators who refuse to join the president's proposal for settlement of the strike, already accepted by the miners. Governor Ammons, according to information here, is planning reorganization of the Colorado national guard to take the place of federal troops if necessary.

WOUNDED MEXICANS BROUGHT INTO U. S.

Washington, Oct. 19.—Of 125 Mexican wounded brought to the American side at Naco, Ariz., yesterday, after the fighting between Mexican forces, 46 have been allowed to remain. The slightly wounded have been returned to Mexico. The 46 will be sent to the hospital at Douglas, where their expenses will be paid by the Carranza leaders.

JAPANESE SHIP SUNK BY MINE

Cruiser Destroyed in Kiao Chow Bay—Only 12 Men Out of Crew of 283 Were Saved.

AUSTRIAN SUBMARINE SUNK IN ADRIATIC

French Cruiser Sinks Submarine When Attacked by Two Such Craft in Bay of Cattaro.

Tokio, Oct. 19.—It is officially announced that the Japanese cruiser Takachiho was sunk by a mine in Kiao Chow bay on the night of October 17. One officer and nine members of the crew are known to have been saved. There were on board at the time 284 men.

The Takachiho was on patrol duty outside Tsing-Tsuan when she fouled the mine. Japanese destroyers heard the explosion and saw the flames that resulted. They hurried to the assistance of the cruiser, which however, disappeared quickly and in the darkness it was possible to rescue only twelve men. Twenty-eight officers, 54 non-commissioned officers and 139 seamen perished.

The Japanese cruiser Takachiho was built in 1885 and refitted in 1900. She was a vessel of 3,700 tons and was 300 feet long and had 46 feet beam. Her main battery consisted of eight 6-inch guns and her speed was about 18 knots.

Submarine Sunk.

Cettigne, Montenegro, Oct. 19.—(Via London)—An Austrian submarine was sunk in the Adriatic today by a French cruiser.

Two submarine vessels went out from the bay of Cattaro to attack a French fleet which was making its way along the Dalmatian coast. They were quickly sighted, however, by the French lookouts, and well directed shot sent the leader to the bottom. The other submarine escaped.

The French fleet subsequently recommended the bombardment of the forts of Cattaro.

An Austrian aeroplane dropped several bombs in the neighborhood of the fleet but no damage was done.

Takes German Mine Layer. London, Oct. 19.—The Central News has sent out a dispatch from Harwich in which the correspondent says he has learned upon good authority that the British cruiser Undaunted accompanied by two torpedo boat destroyers has captured a German mine layer in the North sea.

THE WORLD'S WHEAT CROP IS SMALLER

Not So Large as in 1912 and 1913—U. S. Has Record Breaker.

Washington, Oct. 19.—The world wheat crop this year probably will be less than in 1913 and 1912, although the United States has had a record-breaking wheat harvest. Statistics announced by the department of agriculture indicate the crops of all nations will aggregate approximately 2,741,615,000 bushels against 4,125,310,000 bushels in 1913 and 3,791,875,000 bushels in 1912.

"In Europe agricultural conditions in most countries this season has been favorable for only moderate yields," the department announced. "It is practically certain that the present shortage of this season's European yield will be magnified by the complete returns. Harvests were pretty well over before or soon after hostilities began and the grain is believed to have been saved in generally good condition, except in territory actually occupied by the contending armies."

Great Britain, Italy, Spain, Hungary and Russia, normally producing more than two-thirds of the European wheat, show this year 257,000,000 bushels less than last year but 34,000,000 bushels more than 1913. Great Britain's total is 6,000,000 bushels more than either year while Russia will have 132,000,000 bushels less than a year ago. Decrease in production in other European countries probably will make their aggregate approximately 700,000,000 bushels.

Of the 892,000,000 bushels record crop harvested in the United States, 526,000,000 bushels it is estimated, will be required for food in this country and 7,700,000 bushels for seedling. This will leave 296,000,000 bushels available for exportation. The largest quantity ever exported heretofore is one year was 235,000,000 bushels in 1901. Last year 141,000,000 bushels were exported.