

STRONG RESISTANCE TO ADVANCE ON WARSAW

GERMANS FACE HARD FIGHTING

On Hindenburg Advances Toward Polish Capital But the Russians Occupy Strong Positions.

CRACOW'S LONG SIEGE IS PROBABLY RAISED

Emperor William Returns to Front; Presence in West Indicated—Alles Make Slow Progress.

The great battle to the west of Warsaw between the Russians and the German invaders remains to be fought out, judging from the indications contained in recent dispatches from Berlin and Petrograd. It appears to British observers that General Von Hindenburg had scored a notable success here in the recent campaign. A parallel case is found in the recent claims of a crushing Russian victory near Lodz which were afterward proved to have been both premature and exaggerated.

General Von Hindenburg has advanced steadily toward the Polish capital but the Russians have only fallen back upon new positions where they have strongly entrenched themselves; and although the invaders are only two or three days' march from Warsaw, there is good reason to believe that it will take much hard fighting to determine whether the German attempt will prove completely successful.

Along the southern frontier of east Prussia the Russians claim to have the upper hand but further south the leaders of the Austro-German forces claim that they are sweeping the Russians before them; and it is also asserted that the Russians are being entirely cleared out of western Galicia, which would mean that the long siege of Cracow has been raised; and that if the Austro-German advance in that arena continues it may result similarly in the relief of the strong Austrian fortress of Przemyśl which the Russians have long invested.

Emperor William has recovered and has returned to the front. Berlin advices lead to the belief that he turned his attention toward the west. If this is so the battle conditions, the emperor will find, are far less spectacular than in the east, because with the exception of the offensive of the allies on their north line little but siege operations are being recorded. This is emphasized

by the fact that all the official communications measure the gains of the allies in scant yards and they chronicle the capture or loss of a trench as an achievement.

A neutral traveller reaching London today from Berlin expressed the opinion that the Germans are not thinking seriously of a Zeppelin invasion of England. According to this observer the apprehension in England and the precautions which are being taken against a Zeppelin raid on London are regarded in Berlin as a great joke.

Russian Statement.

Petrograd, Dec. 21.—The following statement of the Russian general staff was issued last night: "On the left bank of the Vistula river, on the front of the Bzura and Rawka rivers, a number of encounters, some of them of a very fierce description, took place on the 19th instant.

"Two German companies which had crossed the Bzura, near the village of Dakhova, on a half burned bridge, were immediately attacked by our troops and annihilated. Of this force only 50 men remained. These were made prisoners.

"Fighting is also reported in the region of Opatow (to the east of Piotrkow). "In Galicia the situation is without important change. At certain points we have made counter attacks and captured some prisoners and machine guns.

Fleet Active.

Amsterdam, Dec. 21.—(Via London)—The following official statement was issued yesterday: "In the Carpathians the enemy's advanced troops in the district of Latorcaz were repulsed yesterday. To the northwest of Lupkow pass a great battle is developing. Our attack on the front comprising Krosno and Zakliczyn has gained ground everywhere. In the Biala valley our troops have advanced to Tuchow (south of Tarnow). The battle along the lower Danube continues.

Vienna Claims.

Vienna, Dec. 21.—(Via London)—The following official statement was issued yesterday: "In the Carpathians the enemy's advanced troops in the district of Latorcaz were repulsed yesterday. To the northwest of Lupkow pass a great battle is developing. Our attack on the front comprising Krosno and Zakliczyn has gained ground everywhere. In the Biala valley our troops have advanced to Tuchow (south of Tarnow). The battle along the lower Danube continues.

Stockholm, Dec. 21.—(Via London)—King Christian of Denmark, King Gustave of Sweden and King Haakon of Norway, who, with their foreign ministers, were in conference at Malmo Friday and Saturday, over a plan to combine their respective interest during the war, have reached an agreement on the special questions raised. An official communication received here yesterday outlined the proceedings substantially as follows:

The meeting was inaugurated Friday with a speech by King Gustave, who alluded to the unanimous desire of the kingdoms of the north to preserve neutrality and pointed to the desirability of limited co-operation between the kingdoms as a safeguard to their common interests. He said he was impressed with a deep sense of the responsibility which would be incurred if any measure which would contribute to the welfare of the three peoples were neglected.

"King Haakon and King Christian replied, testifying to their sincere joy at the initiative of King Gustave in calling the conference and expressing hope that it would have happy results.

The deliberations consolidated the good relations among the three kingdoms and also enabled an agreement to be reached on the special questions raised. It finally was agreed to pursue the co-operation as happily begun and to arrange, when circumstances should occur, for fresh meetings between representatives of the three governments."

Greater New York, the official organ of the Merchants' association, says in its current number:

"Every day brings additional evidences of the return of prosperity. A new and hopeful spirit is everywhere apparent. The courage and resourcefulness of American business men are rapidly clearing the pathways of progress and confidence is crowding despondency to the wall.

"It is officially estimated that war orders have been received amounting to more than \$200,000,000. Shipping facilities are proving inadequate to receive the merchandise destined for export and the scarcity of ships is one of the difficulties remaining to be overcome."

TO RENDER FRANK DECISION TODAY

An Appeal From Judge Newman's Refusal to Grant Habeas Corpus Writ.

Atlanta, Dec. 21.—Leo M. Frank, condemned to be hanged January 22 next, for the murder here in April, 1913, of Mary Phagan, has been refused a writ of habeas corpus by Federal Judge W. T. Newman. A motion has been made by Frank's attorneys, requesting an appeal from the decision to the United States Supreme court, and Judge Newman announced he would give a decision on this motion today.

There was some confusion with regard to the appeal, and it was at first announced that Judge Newman had granted it. The judge stated later however, that he announced at the close of the hearing that he was "inclined to grant the appeal." Subsequently, it was stated, the federal law enacted in 1903 requiring a federal judge in granting an appeal in habeas corpus proceedings to issue a certificate stating his opinion that there was probable cause for an appeal, was brought to the court's attention in chambers and he informed the attorneys that he would hold his decision on the matter in abeyance until today.

The writ was sought on the ground that Frank's constitutional rights were violated in that he was "involuntarily absent" from the court room when the verdict was announced. Attorneys Henry C. Peoples and Harry A. Alexander, on Frank's behalf, argued that the Georgia state courts lost jurisdiction of the case when he was denied the right to face the jury at the culmination of his trial. They declared that Frank is being deprived of his liberty under a conviction and judgment which they contended was rendered void by reason of the trial court's action. They argued that the question was not one involving the state court's procedure, but one for the jurisdiction of the federal courts.

THREE KINGS ARRANGE PROGRAM OF NEUTRALITY

Rulers of Norway, Sweden and Denmark Have Harmonious Meeting.

Stockholm, Dec. 21.—(Via London)—King Christian of Denmark, King Gustave of Sweden and King Haakon of Norway, who, with their foreign ministers, were in conference at Malmo Friday and Saturday, over a plan to combine their respective interest during the war, have reached an agreement on the special questions raised. An official communication received here yesterday outlined the proceedings substantially as follows:

"The meeting was inaugurated Friday with a speech by King Gustave, who alluded to the unanimous desire of the kingdoms of the north to preserve neutrality and pointed to the desirability of limited co-operation between the kingdoms as a safeguard to their common interests. He said he was impressed with a deep sense of the responsibility which would be incurred if any measure which would contribute to the welfare of the three peoples were neglected.

"King Haakon and King Christian replied, testifying to their sincere joy at the initiative of King Gustave in calling the conference and expressing hope that it would have happy results.

"The deliberations consolidated the good relations among the three kingdoms and also enabled an agreement to be reached on the special questions raised. It finally was agreed to pursue the co-operation as happily begun and to arrange, when circumstances should occur, for fresh meetings between representatives of the three governments."

HOTEL OWNER SLAIN IN HIS OWN ROOM

Cleveland, O., Dec. 21.—William J. Troy, aged 50 years, proprietor of several hotels, was found stabbed to death in the Troy hotel today. The police were apprised of the death by an unidentified woman who telephoned them: "Our old friend Troy is dead. He was stabbed in a room in his own hotel. Better come over and look at him."

The police theory is that robbery was the motive of the murder but the suicide theory has not entirely been abandoned.

BUSINESS SKIES FAST CLEARING

Leading Business Men of Country Express Opinion That Prosperous Year Is Before America.

OPTIMISM FROM ALL CENTERS, THEY ASSERT

Think There Will Be Good Demand for American Products After European War.

New York, Dec. 21.—Additional bankers, shippers and others in the world of business have added their optimistic views to those heretofore expressed that there is a successful year in the forefront. Some set forth the vast developments in the war situation as not only a hopeful indication of the present, but as one that will not feel much restriction at the end of the great conflict. Financiers are looking to the end of the war with confidence. The enormous demands for money that will come to revive industries and rebuild cities and towns will have its good effect in this country, which will be called upon as never before in its history.

Manufacturers and their agents in this city are happy over the increase of orders. The great foreign demand for foodstuffs is now enabling the men of the west to market their enormous crops at good prices, and the exports of wheat, flour, rye and oats from July 1 to November 28 have reached enormous proportions. Bacon and ham exports have gone up to an unprecedented figure.

Encouraging Reports.

Encouraging reports are being received from all over the country, according to men in the big business. Mills and factories working on war orders are in many instances running day and night, and while it is admitted that the great pressure is from the result of the war, yet men are confident that the demand is bound to continue for a long time. The nations now at war will need just as many articles of a different class when they resume the peace footing. Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis, Boston, Pittsburgh, Detroit and other trade centers, say the business men, report increasing industrial activity.

Here is what some of the big business men think of the situation: Irving T. Bush, president of the Bush terminal company: "Somewhere between the optimist who claims that the war is all cakes and ale for this country and the pessimist who sees us dragged into the horrors of the conflict lies the real future. We can never be embroiled in a European war, and we must share in at least one of its burdens—the higher interest upon capital for future development.

"But admitting our full share in this burden we will still have prosperity. It will come to us as soon as finance has adjusted itself to new conditions, and it is beginning to show its head here and there already. Its coming is not due to the war. It would have come anyway, for the country has passed through its period of liquidation and an upswing is inevitable."

Says Skies Are Clearing.

William A. Marble, president of the Merchants' association: "No sensible man can question the fact that the skies are clearing. The change of sentiment is being demonstrated by evidences which multiply daily. Instead of reports of mills and factories closing or reducing their operations we are receiving reports of a resumption of activity and, in some cases, of overtime work. A part of this activity is due, of course, to war orders from abroad, but nevertheless it gives a strong impetus to the general resumption of industry.

Sees Return of Prosperity.

William Fellows Morgan, banker and capitalist: "We can see the gradual and possibly quick return of prosperity. Opportunities in trade and commerce have been furnished by the present war in Europe, which if grasped by our bankers and merchants, will mean more to us than it is now easy to realize."

Greater New York, the official organ of the Merchants' association, says in its current number: "Every day brings additional evidences of the return of prosperity. A new and hopeful spirit is everywhere apparent. The courage and resourcefulness of American business men are rapidly clearing the pathways of progress and confidence is crowding despondency to the wall.

"It is officially estimated that war orders have been received amounting to more than \$200,000,000. Shipping facilities are proving inadequate to receive the merchandise destined for export and the scarcity of ships is one of the difficulties remaining to be overcome."

INSANE UNDER BIG GUNS FIRE

Many Invalids in British Hospital Killed With Soldiers Who Went Crazy in Trenches.

GENERALLY RECOVERED WHEN ALLOWED REST

Bad Teeth Playing Havoc With the Troops at Front—A Number of Dentists Are at Work.

Southampton, Dec. 21.—Insanity and nervous prostration are claiming large numbers of the allies who have lain for weeks under German fire in the trenches about Ypres. The insanity wards in the big government hospital at Netley are filled to overflowing and all the hospitals in the south of England have many patients who suffered absolute nervous collapse and have been sent back to England for treatment.

Most of the cases show decided improvement as soon as the men get into new surroundings. Many of the patients suffering with nervous afflictions, who declared when they left Belgium that they could never endure further service under the fire of heavy guns, clamor to return to the field of action as soon as they get a grasp on their nerves.

An amazing number of invalided soldiers never have been touched by a bullet or a shell and show no physical signs of disability. Some of the most desperate cases are men who were terribly shocked by shells which exploded near them. One sergeant, a boy of 18, who recently left Netley for a trip to the home of relatives in Manchester, was hurled through the air for fifty feet by the force of an exploding shell, not a fragment of which touched him. Both of his ear drums were broken and he was unconscious for several days. His brain was affected so that he was unable to see anything for weeks in case he became the least excited.

Shattered Nerves.

When he left the Netley hospital he still walked somewhat unsteadily and complained that dark spots frequently appeared before his eyes. Physicians get such patients away from hospitals as soon as possible, so that they may be more free from military surroundings and reminded less frequently of their experiences in the field.

As is the case in nearly all military actions, soldiers on rare occasions are found shooting at their own hands and feet, or exposing their arms and hands to the fire of the enemy that they may suffer wounds which will relieve them from service in the trenches. This is attributed, in many cases, to shattered nerves, although there are occasional court martials in cases where there is reason to believe that cowardice inspired such action. In engagements where fighting is at such close range as in the present position in Belgium it is a simple matter for a soldier to expose his hand or arm and catch a bullet from the enemy's trenches.

Bad teeth are playing havoc with the English troops exposed to cold and dampness in the trenches. Many dentists have been sent to the front to treat defective teeth which have caused neuritis and disabled men otherwise sound.

Bad Teeth Affecting Troops.

Recruiting officers were at first extremely particular about the teeth of applicants for admission to the army, but it soon became necessary to let down the bars. As the middle and lower class people of England take indifferent care of their mouths and seldom have their teeth treated, dental troubles have been numerous. "I am not going to bite the Germans," was the protest of an Englishman turned down at the opening of the war because of defective teeth. But the developments of the last three months have shown that no soldier is any better than his teeth. Inability to masticate the coarse army food properly has incapacitated large numbers of soldiers who were not actually forced to leave the front because of aching teeth and swollen jaws aggravated by standing for days in wet trenches.

It is not unusual to see new recruits who have part of their front teeth missing and others badly decayed. But such men are turned over to the dental corps as rapidly as possible and receive careful treatment. If recruiting officers in England were to demand the sound teeth required for admission to the American army they would get few recruits. The public schools in London and other large cities are having the teeth of the pupils examined and encouraging proper care of the mouth, but the movement is so recent that the general public has not been aroused thoroughly to the necessity for dental sanitation.

ARMS EMBARGO UNNEUTRAL ACT

Administration Informally Intimates That to Prevent Exports of War Material Wouldn't Be Neutral.

ONLY OF ADVANTAGE TO GERMANIC ALLIES

Therefore Would Be Unfriendly to Allies—Construction of Warships Considered Another Matter.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—That the administration has informally intimated to members of congress that an embargo against the exportation of arms and ammunition to Europe enacted at this time would be an unneutral act and unfriendly to allies, is information obtained from an authoritative source.

It is said that certain senators and representatives have been told that if the United States had placed such an embargo at the outset of the war, when there was no evidence whether it would benefit Germany or Great Britain, it would have been entirely proper, but that to do so now, when the military situation has so developed that the embargo would seriously injure the allies and benefit Germany, would jeopardize American neutrality.

It is believed that this explanation of the situation has forever ended all possibility of such embargo resolutions as those fathered by Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, in the senate, and Representative Bartholdt, of Missouri, in the house.

Added interest to this effort of the part of the administration to prevent German sympathizers from swerving the United States from its neutral path resulted from a report to the senate by Mr. Redfield, secretary of commerce, showing how exportations of arms to the allies from the United States has jumped since the war began.

At the same time the press was informed that an arms embargo would be unneutral. It was explained that the action of President Wilson in requesting Charles M. Schwab not to construct torpedo craft for the allies was based on a legal decision of the state department that such an act would be in violation of neutrality, as war ships are in a different category from merchandise.

Cites Alabama Case.

It was said the state department based its decision upon the famous Alabama case, in which the United States collected \$15,000,000 from Great Britain, because a vessel subsequently used by the confederates as a war ship had been allowed to leave a British port, though it was not equipped as a war vessel and carried a neutral flag when it left England. From this decision the department has held that even though torpedo craft be shipped to Europe, the United States might be held for violation of neutrality. Therefore the United States will not permit any such shipments to be made from the country during the war.

A report from London states that Great Britain has protested against this refusal to permit American manufacturers to ship torpedo craft, but the state department feels that it can answer any such protest on the ground of its legal ruling in the matter.

Mr. Redfield made only a partial report of the exportation of arms. He said it had been impossible to get complete figures from all the manufacturing firms in the United States. The report was in reply to Senator Hitchcock's resolution of inquiry.

Shipments of arms and ammunition to the belligerent nations reached high tide in October, the amount involved being \$1,645,218. The United Kingdom took \$700,699 in cartridges and \$86,182 in firearms in that month. France received \$383,250 worth of cartridges and \$292,812 worth of firearms in the same month.

This was many times the amount both countries bought for the entire fiscal year which ended on June 30 last. In that year the United Kingdom bought \$72,235 of cartridges and \$114,248 of firearms from the American arms exporting.

Arms Exports to Russia.

The total exports from the United States last fiscal year to all the countries now at war represented cartridges valued at \$938,459 and firearms worth \$2,583,044.

GRAND JURY OF WAKE AROUSED

Meets Tomorrow to Prosecute Certain Recommendations Which Caused Much "Conversation."

TO ACQUIT ITSELF ON MR. WIGGS' CHARGES

Postoffice Affair Freshly Agitated—News Indicates Mr. Pou Is Moving in Direction of Gatling.

(By W. T. Bost).

Raleigh, Dec. 21.—The Wake county grand jury which recently created much conversation by its sharp report on the condition of the county roads and by the animadversions upon the county superintendency and university professorships of E. V. Judd, will meet here Tuesday to prosecute some of its recommendations.

The jury came here Friday to receive the suggestion that it had been tampered with. A card of W. L. Wiggs, road superintendent, replying to the attack upon him, charged that the assaulter was an interlineation and made without the knowledge of some of the grand jury. One juror made affidavit that he had heard nothing of it and that he was present when the report was read. That article of Mr. Wiggs also said that the change in the report was made in the office of the register of deeds and more trouble was caused. The attitude of Mr. Wiggs is regarded as an attack upon the integrity of the grand jury and it comes here to acquit itself of any wrong.

The Judd charges fell down. The university professor and county superintendent had asked to be requested but had held on at the request of State Superintendent Joyner and the county board of education. But the Wiggs letter to the papers has aroused the grand jury. When it comes here Tuesday it is understood that it will not go merely into the merits of the Wiggs charges, but will proceed to general investigating and inquire into complaint methods of required and recently elected county officers. It is a new thing to set-up a row between court officers and county institutions, but that is what is expected this week.

The grand jury that feels so keenly the imputations of the past few days, no longer exists for court purposes, a new one coming in at the January term, but it will work up these cases and make recommendations. Judge Whedbee was in Raleigh early in the week but he did not call for any inquiry into the Wiggs charges. As usual, the factions line up. One regards the assault upon Wiggs as politics, likewise the criticism of the board of education, and the other virtue incarnate. In that spirit do the brethren dwell.

The postoffice question which had taken a quiet rest for a few weeks is freshly agitated by the story in the Greensboro Daily News indicating that Representative E. W. Pou has made the first move in the direction of Hart M. Gatling.

Very few people have ever doubted that Mr. Pou would make the recommendation and the man getting his endorsement was considered at least twice lucky. Nevertheless, constant threat of charges against Mr. Gatling has lent color to the prediction that the postoffice fight would end in Edward E. Britton's favor for two strong reasons: first, that he edits the democratic defender of North Carolina and is and was and has been regular at all times; second recommendation, he has discharged his full duty to Mr. Gatling and to Collector Bailey.

The reasoning is amplified by the further report that Secretary Daniels will stand by Britton who has been with the secretary nearly fourteen years. While all the overt statements received here are against this dope that comes on the grape vine leaved wire, it is taken in spite of everything to be a certainty that Secretary Daniels will in the finality name the postmaster. Mr. Pou is expected to defer to him if he seeks that privilege.

But that Mr. Pou has determined to nominate Mr. Gatling, there is hardly a doubt. No man has been less uneasy about that than Mr. Gatling and Mr. Bailey.

Zsille Ruffin, colored, is held for trial at the January term of court charged with infanticide.

A dead baby was found two weeks ago on the streets of Raleigh and the Ruffin girl later locked up. She admits the motherhood of the baby but denies putting it away.

Man Dead For 18 Years Pardoned By Gov. Brewer

Jackson, Miss., Dec. 21.—Governor Brewer of Mississippi has recently pardoned a convict who had been dead for 18 years. This fact was learned when Governor Brewer complied with a lengthy petition asking that Jim Johnson, a negro, who was convicted and sentenced 15 years ago, be granted a pardon.

In endeavoring to serve the pardon, the authorities discovered that Johnson had died in 1896.