

RUSSIAN ARMY MAY  
BE IN BIG DANGER

Capture of Rumanian Town of Buzue By Teutons Presents New Menace.

MAY HAVE BROKEN  
NEW LINE DEFENSE.

Russo-Rumanian Armies May Be In Danger of a Flanking Movement—Peace Developments Now Await Consultation By Allies.

Further developments regarding the peace proposal of Germany and her allies await consultation and decision of the entente governments before official action will be taken.

Probably nothing definite can be expected before next week when Premier Lloyd-George will take the occasion of his appearance in the House of Commons next Tuesday to make a statement. The Premier, who has been ill, is improving and, according to today's indications, will be able to make his postponed statement regarding the new government at that time.

Possible serious consequences not only for the Rumanians but for the Russian army is implied today in the Berlin dispatches telling of the capture of the Rumanian town of Buzue. Military writers have largely assumed it to be the Russo-Rumanian intention to make a defensive stand along the Buzue river in an easterly direction and not far from the southern border of Moldavia, Rumania's northern province.

In taking the town of Buzue it would appear that this would break the important defense of the whole Russo-Rumanian line along the western Moldavian mountains and the Russo-Rumanians would seemingly be endangered by a flanking movement.

Stress had been laid by military commentators on the importance of this line to the Russians, as it had been pointed to as one necessary to be held if the Russian front in the southern Carpathians and even in Galicia was to be preserved. Moreover, it has been indicated that a falling back of the Russian front north from Moldavia, beyond Galata, would open Bessarabia to possible invasion by the Teutonic armies.

Berlin reports an abortive offensive by the French in the Verdun region. An attack made in an attempt to retake positions lost by the French on Hill No. 304, west of the Meuse, was repulsed, it is declared, as were assaults on the German positions on Pepper Ridge near Fort Hardaumont, east of the river.

The situation in Greece is still involved in uncertainty. Steps are to be taken by the entente to prevent the Greek government sending large forces where they may be in a position to constitute a threat to the Macedonian forces of the allies, according to advices through Paris.

Petrograd's official statement admits retirement of the Russo-Rumanian forces in the vicinity of Buzue, but does not concede the capture of the town by the Austro-German troops. In consequence of this retirement the Russo-Rumanians further southeast in Wallachia, along the Jelomitzka, have been forced all the way back.

Greece has accepted the entente's ultimatum, according to news agency dispatches from Athens. The terms of this latest entente demand on Greece have not been given out.

But Danger to The H-3 Is Not Over—Attempts to Rescue The Boat.

1. Eureka, Cal., Dec. 15.—The submarine H-3, in which twenty-five enlisted men and two officers of the United States navy were imprisoned for seven hours yesterday, while she pounded disabled in a heavy surf on the beach near Eureka harbor entrance, was still intact early today as far as could be seen from the shore.

The sea was smoother during the night and hope was expressed that the stranded diver would be hauled back into deep water.

TO TRY BROKER  
FOR WIFE MURDER

Famed Trial to Open in New Hampshire Town in Next Ten Days.

Ossipee, N. H., Dec. 15.—If Frederick L. Small, former Boston broker, is found guilty of wife murder when he is placed on trial here ten days hence, the act will be recorded as one of the most cunningly planned crimes ever chronicled in New England.

The State accuses Small of having deliberately murdered his wife for the primary purpose of collecting insurance on her life. The Carroll county grand jury has indicted him on five counts, strangulation which caused death, shooting with the right hand, shooting with the left hand, strangulation and shooting and murderous assault. The accused man, in his cell in the Ossipee jail, clings to his story that he was in Boston when his wife was murdered in New Hampshire and that the crime must have been committed by tramps.

The scene of the Small murder was the summer home occupied by the couple in a sparsely settled locality on the shore of Lake Ossipee. The first intimation of the murder was when the cottage was found to have been destroyed by fire. While it was apparent that the fire was set to cover the crime, the attempt failed only by merest chance. The body of the murdered woman dropped with the burning floor into the basement, and the head and neck lodged in a pool of water. The rope, which had been drawn twice about the neck and secured in a square knot was preserved. The skull had been crushed by a blow or blows and the body had been partially burned while lying on a bed.

Mr. Small had left his cottage at 4 p. m., six hours before the fire was discovered. He went to Boston on a business trip, leaving his wife alone in the cottage. He was reached by telephone at his home in Boston and immediately returned to the scene of his wife's murder to assist the authorities in clearing the mystery. The same day he was taken into custody by the sheriff on a charge of murder. Before his arrest Small said he would give \$1,000 to the one who discovered who killed his wife. He said he knew no one who had any reason for wishing ill to his wife or himself. Previous to the recovery of his body he had suggested the possibility that Mrs. Small's clothing had caught fire while she was sitting in front of a fireplace, as was her custom.

The cottage stood on the lake shore two miles from the village of Mount Airview. It was the only occupied place in the vicinity. Mr. Small, who retired from active business several years ago, bought the cottage and with his wife had lived there for most of the year. The fire which destroyed the house gained considerable headway before it was discovered by the villagers arriving from a distance, were unable to extinguish it. Several hours elapsed before the ruins cooled sufficiently to permit a search for the missing woman.

Ever since Small's arrest the authorities have been at work gathering evidence to substantiate the charges made against him. One of the first facts brought to light was that a joint policy on the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Small for \$20,000 had been issued by a Boston insurance company last January. It is also said that in Small's bag, left in the hotel room in Boston, occupied by the accused man the night of the murder, were found the insurance papers, together with an itemized memorandum showing the contents of the cottage, which also had been insured.

At the preliminary hearings one of the village storekeepers of Mount Airview testified that on the day before the fire he had delivered a considerable quantity of kerosene at the cottage on Small's order. The theory of the prosecution is that Small strangled and shot his wife to death and then devised an ingenious scheme, by a lighted candle or other method, to set the cottage on fire hours after his departure. The investigators claim to have discovered evidence that the interior of the cottage had been saturated with oil, so that it was only by the merest chance that all of the evidences of the murder were not destroyed by the

FINDINGS AS TO  
DREADED DISEASE

After Study Claims That Cancer Is Neither Hereditary Nor Contagious.

New York, Dec. 15.—Two years' study of original insurance statistics indicate cancer is neither hereditary nor contagious, according to a paper presented to the Association of Life Insurance Presidents here today by President Arthur Hunter of the Actuarial Society of America.

After referring to the annual toll of eighty thousand deaths from cancer in the United States, Mr. Hunter said: "No sooner do we become interested in the wide prevalence of a disease like cancer than we begin to wonder whether it is contagious or hereditary. Such questions must be in the minds of hundreds of thousands of relatives of persons who have died from this disease and of others who are suffering from it."

"There seems little to support the view that cancer is the result of contagion. Twenty thousand applications for insurance were reviewed and it was found that in 488 cases one only of the parents of the applicant was stated to have died from cancer and in four cases both parents were stated to have died of that disease. There were 122 times as many cases in which one parent had died of cancer as of those in which both parents had died of that disease. There could hardly be a stronger test than the case of husband and wife."

As to heredity, Mr. Hunter said: "My first investigation consisted of cases of persons insured in six companies, both parents having died of cancer prior to date of application for insurance. Of 472 grandparents of the insured, the cause of death was given in 234 cases, of which two were from cancer; the cause of death was stated in 184 of these as 'old age,' the average age at death of which was 82. In 72 of the grandparents the cause of death was not known but the age was given, the average being 62; in 155 cases neither the age nor the cause of death was known. It is reasonable to conclude that if only two died of cancer out of 234 parents of persons who died of cancer, that disease is not hereditary."

"The possibility of heredity in cancer has generally been studied by experiments on animals. In the case of human beings there has been no previous attempt, so far as I am aware, to investigate the problem in families where there has evidently been a cancer strain, if such a thing exists. In the present investigation one of the groups consisted of cases in which both of the parents had died from cancer; and in another of the groups, a parent, and a brother or a sister of the policyholder had died from that disease. It might be expected, therefore, that if cancer were hereditary it would be shown very clearly in the family records of these persons but this has not appeared. "Men and women who are in anxiety of mind on account of the appearance of cancer in their ancestry or immediate family, may dismiss such anxieties as there is no statistical evidence at the present time that the disease of cancer is transmitted by inheritance in mankind."

GREECE ACCEPTS  
THE ULTIMATUM

No Reply As Yet and Terms of Decree Not Made Public.

London, Dec. 15.—The Greek government has accepted the ultimatum presented by the entente allies, says a dispatch from Athens to the Central News Agency.

The ultimatum to Greece was presented yesterday and expired at 3 o'clock today. There are indications that the terms were agreed to, but so far the British foreign office has received no news of the acceptance.

The coming trial promises to be one of the most sensational ever held in this part of New Hampshire. "No change of venue has been asked by Small's counsel, and he will be tried in the Ossipee court house, three miles from the scene of the murder."

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FLOUR DROPS IN PRICE.  
Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 15.—The best grade flour dropped 25 cents a barrel today, first patents being quoted at \$9, or \$1.50 a barrel below the high mark touched a month ago.  
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WHEAT PRICES  
WENT CRASHING  
DOWN TODAY

Peace Talk Causes Slump In Prices on The Chicago Exchange.

BREAK WAS AN  
EXCITING ONE.

Germany's Intimation of Nations' Disarmament Was The Direct Cause of Break.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 15.—Wheat crashed down in values today on account of peace talk. First sales showed a fall in some places of 8 5/8 cents a bushel, May wheat touching \$1.58 cents, as against \$1.66 1/4 to \$1.66 5/8 at yesterday's finish.

Prices varied as much as 5 cents in the same instances in different parts of the pit. The opening range for May, the chief trading option, spread all the way to \$1.58 to \$1.63. Waves of selling accompanied the exciting break in values.

What chiefly sent the price downward was the statement authorized by the German embassy that one of the most important subjects for discussion at a peace parley would be universal disarmament.

Within an hour losses had been widened to 10 5/8 cents a bushel. May wheat crumbled to 156 on the closing out of accounts, which margins had been swallowed up completely. As compared with prices a month ago the market was down more than 45 cents a bushel in December deliveries.

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FINAL ESTIMATES OF CROPS.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—Final estimates of this year's production of the country's principal farm crops announced today by the department of agriculture are:

Corn—2,583,241,000 bushels.  
Wheat—639,886,000 bushels.  
Oats—1,251,992,000 bushels.  
Tobacco—1,150,622,000 pounds.  
Cotton—11,511,000 bales.

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EVERY DAY COUNTS FROM  
NOW UNTIL NEXT FRIDAY

Diamond Ring Offer and First Period of Contest Will Close In Six Days—Work at This Time Will Have Three Distinct Advantages.

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THE PRIZES.

\$685 Overland Automobile.  
Ford Automobile.  
Carolina Beach Lot.  
\$100 in Gold.  
\$75 Victrola.  
\$50 O. K. Mystic Cabinet.  
\$40 Sellers Kitchen Cabinet.  
\$25 Wrist Watch.  
Two \$60 Diamond Rings.

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The next few days are certainly going to be important and eventful to a number of the residents of Wilmington and the surrounding territory. In this time a question of very great importance to those women who are contesting in the Dispatch's Great Prize Contest will be settled. This is the question of who will win the \$60 diamond ring which the Dispatch has offered to the candidate who turns in the most money on NEW subscriptions between Saturday, Dec. 9th, and Friday, December 22nd, at 9 p. m.

In still another sense, these few days will be important to same people. The first period of the contest will come to a close at the same time as the Diamond Ring Offer—Dec. 22. At the end of the first period the extra votes on each \$15 club will be reduced and contestants who pitch in and work with all their heart and strength from now until Dec. 22 will not only be working to win the \$60 Diamond Ring, but they will also be working to secure the high first period extra votes and insure their success in the race for one of the big prizes.

Efforts put forth during the next few days will have three distinct advantages—it may win the diamond ring, it will secure the highest vote

ROME IN DANGER  
OF AN ATTACK

Arial Craft May Drop Bombs on The Eternal City At Any Time.

Rome, Dec. 15.—Notwithstanding the presence of the Pope, respect for fear of whom is supposed so far to have saved Rome from aerial attacks, it is now taken for granted that the Eternal City with her countless monuments and works of art may soon be attacked by Austrian aviators.

The Italian military authorities have been actively engaged for several months preparing to protect the city from a raid, with elaborate signal system arranged by General Marconi to warn the defenders of the city of the approach of enemy aeroplanes. The Roman newspapers recently published notices that the alarm would consist of five cannon shots, with the usual ringing of church bells as a signal that the danger was over.

While so far it has proven impossible to prevent sporadic attacks on London, Paris, Venice, and other cities, arrangements have been made that may at least prevent the escape of the raider who attacks Rome. The city is favored by two low mountain ranges between her and the Adriatic sea, a distance of 125 miles. But should the aeroplanes escape the coast guns and the anti-aerial guns planted on these mountain tops, the advancing aeroplanes will still find in their path numerous squadrons of Italian machines. The city itself is armed with numerous high power searchlights and anti-aerial guns. The famous Seven Hills of Rome, including the Capitoline above the Forum, have each been so armed.

The Janiculum Hill, which dominates St. Peter's church and the Vatican, the Pope's residence, has several guns planted on its brow. The Vatican is protected by another set of guns near the Castle Sant'Angelo, the solid and lofty marble tomb built for the Emperors, when Rome was the world's battle center, and later converted into a fortress.

While there is no measurably felt by the people of Rome for their own safety, it is certain, however, that a bomb dropped anywhere inside its limits could hardly miss destroying some work of art in the world's richest monumental city.

PRESIDENT AWAITING  
PREMIER'S SPEECHWILMINGTON FOLKS  
ARE TO APPEAR

Will Help Fayetteville Land The Armor Plate Plant If Possible.

(By George H. Manning.)

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—It has been arranged by Congressman Godwin for Senators Simmons and Overman and all the North Carolina congressmen and a delegation from Fayetteville and Wilmington, to see Secretary Daniels tomorrow morning and urge the advantages of Fayetteville for the location of the armor plate plant. Mr. Godwin and the Fayetteville and Wilmington people believe the North Carolina location has wonderful advantages and will insist the navy department officials fully investigate North Carolina's proposition before deciding on a site.

Congressman Godwin today recommended appointment of J. N. Fuquay as postmaster at Lillington to succeed J. E. Ligon.

The postoffice department has had considerable trouble with Ligon and over six months ago demanded he resign. The matter was patched up then, but has come up again and Ligon has resigned.

Congressman Britt returned here today from Raleigh, where he has been arguing this election case before the court. He expects a decision will be rendered next Tuesday or Wednesday.

STOCK MARKET  
AGAIN TREMBLES

Further Slump Takes Place on The Exchange—Much Selling.

New York, Dec. 15.—The stock market experienced another feverish session of violent liquidation, being attributed to continued apprehension over the effect of possible peace on the earnings of munition, steel and kindred concerns. Losses ranged from 3 to 12 points under yesterday's lowest quotations, with 32 1/2 for Bethlehem Steel. It was the third severe downward movement since Tuesday.

Rallies of 1 to 3 points were made early in the afternoon, but the market continued extremely sensitive.

The selling came from all quarters, the out-of-town element being a considerable factor. British aggression again contributed to the enormous offerings, which taxed the machinery of the exchange.

In the opinion of some observers the peace developments served as an excuse rather than a reason for part of the selling of the last four days. It is pointed out that the market became too heavy as the result of large and unwieldy bull accounts, which made it easily susceptible or vulnerable to untoward events.

Another important factor is the attitude of local banking interests, which expressed disapproval of further market excesses and was shown by sharp scrutiny of speculative stocks and loan.

United States Steel was again the outstanding feature, almost 400,000 shares changing hands before noon at an extreme loss of 4 1/2. There was greater weakness in Industrial Alcohol, Marines, Atlantic Gulf, and West Indies, Central Leather, Lackawanna Steel, Utah Copper and International Paper. Sales totaled 1,300,000 shares.

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VILLA READY TO QUIT.

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 15.—Francisco Villa, through representatives here, has made overtures to the United States and has promised to cease depredations upon American property and discontinue killing Americans in Mexico, it was announced today by government agents here.

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No Action Until Lloyd-George Has Had His Say In House of Commons.

GERMANY'S STATEMENT CAUSES SURPRISE.

Had Always Fought Disarmament—Notes Ready to Go Forward—Lansing Confers With The President—Neutrals Busy.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—President Wilson will probably not finally determine on any formal step in connection with the peace proposal of the central powers until after David Lloyd George, the British prime minister, has spoken in the House of Commons Tuesday.

In the meantime through the American diplomatic representatives in the capitals of the entente powers the American government will keep in close touch with the situation.

No formal comment was forthcoming today either at the White House or State Department.

It is known to be the view of most cabinet members that the American government should move cautiously so as to do nothing that will imperil its influence for peace. President Wilson is known to attach great importance to the possibility of establishing an association to maintain peace. He outlined in definite terms his purpose to take the initiative in a peace move in a speech delivered here last May before the League to Enforce Peace.

In the same speech the President said the American people believed firmly in every people having right to choose the sovereignty under which they shall live and that the small states of the world shall have the same respect for their sovereignty and for their territorial integrity that the great and powerful nations expect and insist on.

Secretary Lansing early today held his first personal conference with President Wilson since the peace proposal of the central powers was made public. He said the formal note from Germany and Austria-Hungary might go forward before night and that as probably the President would take no independent action until after Premier David Lloyd-George had spoken, the note probably would be accompanied only by a formal note of transmission.

After his conference with President Wilson, Secretary Lansing said the position of the American government had not been finally determined and that the note from Turkey had not been received.

There were indications that while the President would still await for expression of the attitude of the entente allies before taking any formal step he had made up his mind sufficiently on his general policy to discuss it with the cabinet.

The authorized statement at the German embassy that at least partial disarmament would be one of the things taken up at the peace conference attracted the widest attention among government officials and diplomats. It was accounted doubly interesting because Germany has repeatedly refused such suggestion even to the point it was said, of threatening to withdraw from the second Hague conference if the subject was pressed.

More of the neutral European diplomats have asked their governments to authorize them to assure President Wilson of support in any move designed to bring about consideration not the offer directed to peace. For diplomatic reasons they decline to permit disclosure of their identity. It is understood that in the case of each neutral government the course of action will be developed by the respective cabinets and rules.

Among the neutrals the view is reflected that the support of President Wilson in any action taken will be two-fold. The neutral diplomats are certain that the weight of the collective opinion and wishes of the neutrals, headed by the United States, will necessarily demand the greatest consideration and should joint action not bring about consideration of the proposal President Wilson will be left to act on his own initiative later.

The German embassy is without additional advices of any kind today. Count von Bernstorff made no appointment to see Secretary Lansing.