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WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA, TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1918.

FULL LEASED WIRE SERVICE

PRICE FIVE CENTS

TALIANS HIT THE TEUTONS HEAVY BLOW

Attack of Considerable Proportions Launched on the Asiago Plateau

OFFENSIVE CAME AS A MILITARY SURPRISE

Probably an Effort to Shorten Line in Order to Better Resist Further Hun Efforts

Haly has furnished a military surprise by launching an attack of apparently considerable force on her mountain front in midwinter. The Now comes on the Asiago plateau where the Austro-German invaders were halted early in the winter in their effort to push down to the Italiin plains west of the Brenta river. Berlin heralded the attack yesterday in reporting the breaking out of violent artillery duel in the Setti-Communi region-the Asiago sector Its forces was reported to have reached a climax at dawn on Monday in the vicinity of Col Del Rosso, which height stands about midway between Asiago and the Brenta.

The supplementary German official ceived until today, announces the opening of the assault in this region, describing it as a violent attack. There were no acompanying details. in the lack of more definite news the probability suggests itself, that similar to that of the French a few weeks ago east of the Brenta which esulted in a penetration of the Austro-German lines for a considerable distance and the subsequent withdrawal of the enemy from a rather extended area, improving the Entente position notably. Thus the Italians now may be endeavoring to effect a rectification of their line with a view to making more difficult any future attempt of the enemy to advance.

Leon Trotzky, the Bolshevik For eign Minister, has returned to Brest-Litovsk peace conference arm-M with a vote of confidence by the Congress of Councils of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates in the attitude If the Russian delegation. The Conress, however, refused to declare tally against the policy of a separate peace, defeating a motion in that sense offered by the minority elecments and drawing from Trotzky the ed at \$100,000. stement that he would not guaranten not to sign such a peace.

fown in flames from a height of 10,-100 feet, its three occupants being burned to death.

TURKISH WARSHIP GETS SAFELY HOME

Amsterdam, Jan. 29 .- The Turkish terly the German warship Goeben, city. according to a telegram from Constaninople received here by way of Bera entered the narbor of Constanimple Senday quite fit for service, to express an opinion a sto Numerous air attacks by Entente air- cause. nen, it sided, inflicted only unimporant damage to the funnel and the Mmored plating only two small limbs having struck the ship.

Realing from two small British wartips 10 days ago, the Sultan Yawuz elim was beached at Nagara Point 2 the Dardanelles, shortly after the Mulls, formerly the German cruiser Breelau had been sunk by striking a

British airmen had been dropping statement issued in London last night the American and Allied governments. and that at noon Sunday, the Goe on's position was unchanged.

RAILROADS PREPARE

Washington, Jan. 29.—Instructions maistration to local railroad author erican trade. des to prepare to fight floods expect-M later this week if thawing weather

Streams are out of their banks in

SWEPT AWAY BY ICE.

Paducah, Ky., Jan. 29.—Descending ice gorges in the Tennessee and Ohio rivers, converging here today swept the winter fleet of packets and other craft from their moorings at up-river points and in the Paducah harbor and carried It on down the Ohio. Appeals for help from persons marconed on the ice-bound craft plainly were heard as they were carried past

A report from Metropolis, Ills., said several packets were seen standing on end in the ice as the floe passed that place. The number of boats caught in the torrent has not been determined. It was said they probably would reach more than a dozen. A preliminary estimate of the damage, if all were lost, placed it at more than \$200,-

Explosion of Chemicals Early Today

Italian effort is one somewhat THE LOSS ESTIMATED **HUNDRED THOUSAND**

Cause Unknown - Fire Start ed by Explosion Completes Destruction—No Lives Reported Lost

Marquette, Mich, Jan. 29.-An ex plosion followed by a fire early today which destroyed the alcohol refining bp the Bolsheviki. plant, the primary building and a series of condensers of the Pioneer Iron pears to be in the Eastern provinces Furnace Company, owned by the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company, of Cleveland, O., caused damage estimat-

First reports of the explosion said promised from Petrograd. a number of lives had been lost, but London was raided last night by at daylight it was believed there was deman dirplanes, not more than half no loss of life and that only two men down reaching the city, however, had been injured, although the cas- mond; president of the Clyde and Malof some 15 machines which made uality cannot be definitely determined lory steamship lines has been named the Senate Military Committee, in loughs. These soldiers are then transthe attempt. One raider was brought until the company rolls have been by the shipping board controller of which he announced that more than

which is employed in manufacturing the port. alcohol and the ground chemicals on explosives for the United States and the Allied governments, but after a two hours fight the flames were brought until control The plant which covers several acres of ground is sitattle cruiser Sultan Yawuz Selim for- uated one and a half miles from this

The police believe that the explosion was caused by an incendiary, but the officials of the company declined

The first blast rocked the city to its foundaitons, windwos in business buildings and in stores in the central section more than a half mile distant from the plant being shattered by the explosion.

The cause of the explosion is not known as yet. Despite the combined JUAL Off efforts of the Marquette and the Comis still burning and so far has not SERIOUS plant destroyed is plant destroyed is engaged in the manufacture of alcohol and the ground tombs on the Goeben and an official chemicals for powerful explosives for Snow and Sleet Cause Official

Charters Swedish Ships. Washington, Jan, 29.-A preliminary agreement has been reached between the United States and Sweden, TO FIGHT FLOODS according to official dispatches from

> WANTS INCREASED RATES. Washington, Jan. 29.—The Mer- National Fuel Administration. chants and Miners ranspertation Com- In the face of forecasts of more

EMPEROR WILLIAM SHOWING CONCERN OVER THE UNREST

Disturbed Political and Labor Conditions Reflected in the Kaiser's Message

GOVERNMENT FAILS CONFIDENCE VOTE

Reichstag Refuses to Endorse Way Things Are Run, and Hertling May Have to Explain

Unrest among the working people of Germany has not yet quieted down nor has the political conflict between the Pan-Germans and the non-militarists lessened appreciably. Concern over the internal security of the empire appears in the message sent by Emperor William in answer to birthday congratulations from the Reich-

To President Kaempf of the Reichstag, the Emperor expressed his "ardent daily wish" that the German people may "preserve their union until the final victory of our arms." The Emperor declared that he enters upon 'a serious and decisive year."

The Reichstag, however, is rec to have refused to vote confidence in the government, mainly through Socialist oposition, and Chancellor von Hertling may appear before it again in a few days to discuss the question of Belgium.

Efforts to agitate a general strike report of last night which was not re- Marquette, Mich., Shocked by in Berlin on Monday are declared to have failed, according to a message reaching Amsterdam. Leaflets call ing for such a strike were distributed widely in the German capital, but it is said that workmen in only a few factories were idle. Lack of central di rection of the strike agitation is reported to have brought about the fail-

The revolt in Finland is reported to be backed by the Bolshevik govern ment in Petrograd, which also has severed diplomatic relations, gener ally the first act leading to war, with Rumania. Ultimatums and demands have been served on Rumania by the Bolsheviki and refusal to meet these probably caused the Lenine government to act. General Stcherbatcheff. who recently was reported to have taken command of the Ukrainian army, has been declared an outlaw

Most of the disorder in Finland apnearest Petrograd. The revolutionists generally are members of the Red Guard. Bolshevik troops have gone to the aid of the Finnish Red Guard and additional aid has been

Controller of Shipping. Washington, Jan. 29 .- H. H. Ray-For a time the fire threatened to He will be given charge of all shipdestroy the entire plant, a portion of ping board traffic entering and leaving

THE BOLSHEVIKI SPLIT.

London, Jan. 29.—The Bolsheviki have split on the question of peace, a majority being against the conclusion of peace on the German terms and in layer of a Holy war, an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Petrograd says. As the present government is unable to carry on the war, the formation of a coalition of all socialist factions was proposed.

View

shut-down of industry ordered by the Baker for investigation.

Muskogee, Okla, Jan, 20.—Seven sing today, railroad for increases ation were frankly pessimistic over the strength of the melting area.

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AMONG THE FIRST AMERICANS AT THE FRONT



Group of a few of the Americans who were the first at the front in France. Several of them are of the Hospital staff and others are members of a band. These men are seeing service behind the British lines in France, but very little news of their activities has reached this country. British official photograph. Copyright, Underwood & Underwood.

RAILROAD BILL AMENDED.

Washington, Jan. 29 .- The Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, by a vote of 7 to 6, today decided to amend the Administration Railway bill to provide that the government shall relinquish control over the railroads within

Senate Committee Wants Him to Amplify Statements Made Monday

MILLION AND A HALF MEN READY THIS YEAR

Statement That 500,000 Men Would Soon Be in France and More to go Center of Interest

Washington, Jan. 29.-Secretary Baker soon will have an opportunity Eastern front for use in the West, to amplify his statement of America's during the peace negotiations. Gerwar preparations given yesterday to being allowed to go home on furshipping for the port of New York. half a million men will be in France to the Western front. early this year and a million more

> the week was decided upon today by the committee.

Howard E. Coffin, head of the air craft board, and his assistants, were called before the committee today to FLOOD CLEARS RIVERS tell in executive session of the liberty motor and other aviation affairs. Although impressed with Secretary Baker's disclosures of the magnitude

of army preparations, the Senate Committee intends to pursue its demands for centralization of war authority through a war cabinet and a munitions director.

Chairman Chamberlain said today, however, that the war cabinet bill will be re-submitted to the committee for the Senate. He said this course would lation through, although the bill was as soon as the river is open. ordered reported at a previous meeting from which several Senators opposing the bill were absent,

Fatal Eggnog Party.

LIMIUU INUUL guese, lying south of Lake Chad and

American War Department Issues Statement Accusing Germany of Bad Faith

REMOVES TROOPS FROM THE EASTERN FRONT

Men Transferred to Western Front in Small Groups to Deceive Both Russians and the Men

Washingtno, Jan. 29 .- Charges that Germany is violating the term of the Russian true eby withdrawing troops from the Eastern front and transferring them to the Western battle lines, wer emade today by the War Department.

The War Department made this statement:

"The general staff of the United States army announces that the German military authorities are evading those terms of the Russian truce which provided that German troops were not to be withdrawn from the man troops on the Russian front are ferred to recruiting stations and sent

The troops are taken in this way, man by man, for two reasons-first, would be ready before the end of the because it deceives the Russians, and secondly, because the Eastern troops Recall of Secretary Baker for have been so influenced by the Ruscross-examination before the end of sian rvolutionary propaganda, that the German military chiefs have decided to separate the men and scatter them Prussian militarism to other contiin unaffected Western regiments."

OF ICE BLOCKADE

Pittsburgh, Jan. 29.—Reports reached the Weather Bureau here today that the Monongahela river was rapthat the Monongahela river was rapidly rising from Fairmont, W. Va., north, and the heavy ice was moving out. It was expected the ice would reach the neighborhood of Pittsburgh tonight and precaution against damage to river craft was being taken. The news was heard with interest in another vote before being reported to Pittsburgh since the river has been closed for more than a month and be taken because he did not wish it large quantities of coal have been to appear that a majority of the com- tied up. It was estimated here today mittee favoring the war organization that fully 100,000 men will be able to were trying to "railroad" their legis- resume their customary employment

In reply to Secretary Baker's re- nessee river here today had risen the temporary detention of the minis- Tidende reports. It is not known New York, Jan. 29.—New York tonamed in letters produced by Senaand was rising. Crops on low lands manian offensive." The Council of cials escaped from the revolutionary London, providing for the charter of day found its coal shortage as men- tors Chamberlain charging army of had been badly damaged and many Peoples Commissaries has issued the les. Swedish ships to the United States to acing as ever, the snow and sleet ficers with neglect of the sick and small craft are submerged, as are following orders: The sent out today by the railroad ad- be used principally in the South Am- storm of yesterday tying up move- dead, Mr. Chamberlain said today he buildings in close proximity to the ministration and the names published by the railroad adment of fuel and virtually nullifying probably would make the names pub- river. Delbutary streams above the broken and that Rumanian representhe savings effected by the partial lic and also refer them to Senator city are out of banks, due to receat tatives be expelled from Russia. heavy snows and rains.

Folk Resigna.

OF BELLIGERENTS SHOWN BY SMUTS

Germany and Britain Contrast- Some 15 Craft in Raid, Bus ed by the Famous South African General

GERMANY PLAYING GAME OF POLITICS

Needs Colonies for Purpose of One Raider Brought Down in Carrying Out Desire of World Conquest, Says the General

London, Jan. 29.-Lieut. General J. C. Smuts, lecturing before the Royal Geographical Society on East Africa, last night, contrasted the British and German colonial viewpoints. many was not looking for homes for settlers and had no population, partic-

ularly farmers, for emigration. Germany's colonial aims, the General said, were dominated by a farreaching conception of world politics. getting strategic positions for exercising world power. Germany's ambiing the colonies now owned by the ing as far as the city. British, Belgian, French and Portu-

north of the Zambesi river. This territory, General Smuts declared, was first to supply raw mate- indecisive engagement was fought by mainly for raising a great African army to carry out her schemes of returned safely. world conquest.

Germany's colonizing methods realwhich has found its symbol in the coast practically simultaneously. union of South Africa," he said. "I do about 8 p. m. The two former not want to meet about the disposal tachments proceeded toward Lo of German Last Africa after the war, on parallel courses across Essex. The but the law of self-preservation must

tor in developing the future and permanent peace of the world."

Germany, General Smuts said, proposed to have harbors on the Atlan-part in these attacks, of which four tic and Indian coasts of Africa for or five reached the capital and drop naval and submarine bases from ped bombs in various districts be which both ocean routes could be tween 9 and 10 p. m." dominated and Anglo-American seapower brought to naught.

in the next great war to which Ger of these reached London which it enmany already was giving attention, tered from the north, bombs be declared the general.

"Great Britain's objects in Africa m. are inherently pacific and defensive." he continued. "It cannot allow a re- al Flying Corps went up. Two of our employment for a scheme of world close range, the raider took fire both coasts of Africa to the endanger crew were burned to death. ment of the sea communication of the empire and the peace of the world. munication from one end of Africa to

"As long as there is no real change our pilots returned safely." of heart in Germany, an irrevocabl break with militarism, the law of published when complete lists are reself-preservation must be considered ceived." paramount. No fresh extension of nents and seas should be tolerated and the conquered German colonies can only be regarded as guarantees for the future peace of the world."

BREAKS WITH RUMANIA

Diplomatic Relations Severed and Rumanian Gold Re-

serve Seized

Petrograd, Monday, Jan. 28,-The Bolshevik government, says an anncement from the semi-official Tennessee River Rising.

news agency, decided to break diplo- Helsingfors, capital of Finland, Knoxville, Tenn., Jan. 29.—The Ten matic relations with Rumania when Stockholm dispatch to the Nation

"First: That diplomatic relations be "Second: That the Rumanian gold a half billion dollar government correserve in Moscow be seized, the poration to make loans and advance Council being responsible for holding to enterprises essential to the war

GERMAN AIRCRAFT LOSE PLANE IN A RAID ON ENGLAN

Four or Five Reaching London

BRITISH MACHINES ENGAGED ENEMY

Plaines, Crew of Crew Dead - No Report of Casualties

FORTY-SEVEN KILLED

London, Jan. 29.-Forty-seven persons were killed and 160 injured in last night's air raid, it is announced officially.

London, Jan. 29.-About 15 Germa airplanes of which four or five reach-Her real aims were military and in ed London, took part in the first of two raids last night, it is announced tion, he added, was for a great East officially. Only one of the raiders enand Central African empire, embrac- gaged in the second attack, penetrat-

One of the raiding aircraft brought down, falling in flames for a height of 10,000 feet. All three of a British pilot with another ra

over the sea. All the British pilots The announcement follows: "The latest information shows ly mean a policy diametrically op- two groups of raiders crossed the E posed to that of the British empire sex coast, and one group the Kant

but the law of self-preservation must capital was approached from the exapply to that country where Prussian and northeast shortly after 9 o'close militarism must never be allowed to Of the machines which crossed the Kent coast, two dropped bombs in the "The East African campaign may Isles of Thanet and Sheppey. The be found to be a most important fac- remainder, crossing the Thames Es tuary, also approached East London

through Essex. "Apparently about 15 machines took

"Some time after the first attack had terminated other enemy airplance The native armies would be useful crossed the Essex coast. Only one dropped between 12:15 and 12:30

"A number of machines of the Roy turn to conditions which mean the scouts encountered an enemy airplane militarization of the natives and their over Essex. After a brief fight at power. It cannot allow naval and fell in flames to the ground 10,000 supmarine bases to be organized on feet below. All three members of its

"Several other engagements with enemy machines were reported by our It must insist upon through land com-pilots, one, of whom pursued a raider across the coast and fought an indecisive engagement over the sea. All "Reports of the casualties will be

ATTEMPTED TO WRECK A SOUTHERN TRAIN

Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 29,-Sou ern officials today were investig an attempt to wreck a train last nich near Anniston, in connection which 11 soldiers from Camp McClel-

land have been arrested. It is alleged the soldiers placed cross times on the track, thinking that the train would stop and thus at ford them an opportunity to board it. The engineer saw the ties in time to stop. The soldiers are said to members of New Jersey and Mary

RED GUARD CONTROLS FINLAND'S CAPITAL

Copenhagen, Jan. 29-The Red

To Aid War Enterprises. Washington, Jan. 29.-Creation of