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STRUGGLE AT PORTS IS NEARING CRISIS

FIGHTING MUST BE MORE IN OPEN WITH LESS CHANCE FOR ENTRENCHMENT.

GERMANS CLAIM POSITION.

Allies Also, Are Satisfied With Reports From Front—Fierce Fighting Continues in East.

London.—The attempted advance of the German forces along the coast of Belgium and Northern France, apparently with the aim of establishing themselves in British channel ports so they may menace England, has reached a critical point.

The extreme western fighting line now reaches from Armentieres through Roulers to Neuport on the coast about half way between Ostend and Dunkirk. According to the French official announcement German heavy artillery, presumably used in the siege of Antwerp was bombarded the front from Neuport to Vladslo, which is about 10 miles from the coast.

The allies also have made progress eastward from a point south of Armentieres toward Lille on a line running roughly to Arras. The report tells of house-to-house fighting in which the allies are advancing. The battle has raged around Arras without respite for 10 days, and on the part of the allied troops "with a perseverance and a spirit which never for a moment has been relaxed."

The German official report covers these operations more tersely. It says the attacks northwest of Lille have been repulsed with heavy losses to the allies.

English and French papers gather encouragement from reports published from their side. From the German point of view it is possible the Germans have improved their position and with the forces that besiege Antwerp and reinforcements from many are attempting along the coast another sweeping movement.

In this field of action it appears inevitable there soon must be some decisive result. The country's flatness seems to have made it impossible for the two armies to entrench and face each other without important change in position for weeks, as they have done across Northern France.

Great battles continue in the Eastern theater between the Russian and Austrian-German forces. Reports from both sides are brief and contradictory. Petrograd claims the Russians have won partial success in severe fighting before Warsaw and Przemyel. Vienna declares the Austro-German armies have made advances in both regions and that the Russian casualties at Przemyel number 40,000.

IRISH PLEDGED TO BELGIUM.

Nationalists Resolve Not to Sheath Swords Until Success.

London.—Irish Nationalists who crowded Central Hall adopted the following pledge administered by T. P. O'Connor.

"We will never sheathe the sword until Belgium has got back her freedom; until every inch of her soil is clear; until a treaty is made, not on a scrap of paper but on a foundation behind which stand the millions of the British race."

The meeting was called to express confidence in the leadership of John Redmond and to endorse action of the Irish party in supporting "the war of the Allies against Prussian militarism."

Mr. O'Connor said that for this fundamental and supreme principle the British had fought on hundreds of battlefields.

A member of the British relief committee said:

"This business alone would be sufficient to tax the energies of the Government and the country even if we did not have a war on our hands."

Eight hundred Belgians slept on the floors of public buildings in London last night.

French Official Report.

Paris.—The official communication issued by the War Office says: "In Belgium attacks by the Germans between Neuport and Dixmude have been repulsed by the Belgian army, effectively aided by the British fleet. Between Arras and Roye slight progress has been made at several points. Our troops have reached as far as the wire net work of the defence. In the neighborhood of St. Mihiel we have gained some ground on the right bank of the Meuse. No news has been received from other parts."

ANOTHER BRITISH CRUISER IS SUNK

German Submarine Torpedoed a British Cruiser in North Sea—Estimated 400 Men Lost

UPRISING IN SOUTH AFRICA

Against Great Britain Believed To Be Under Control—England Fears German Invasion

There were no important developments in the European war during the past week. While there was a great deal of activity in the two theaters of war no decisive victories were won or even any definite advantage gained. A German submarine succeeded in sinking another British cruiser with 400 men on board. For a time the uprising in British South Africa against Great Britain took on a serious aspect, but General Botha, the British leader, now believes he has the situation well in hand.

The progress of the allies against the Germans in the north of France along the Belgian border has been necessarily slow, but recent dispatches from London and Paris state that advances have been made. In some places along the great battle line, which extends more than one hundred and fifty miles, the allies have pushed the Germans across the Belgian border. In the campaign between the Germans and the Russians in the east there has been much fighting, but the reports coming from Berlin, Vienna and from Petrograd have been so conflicting that definite knowledge of the results is impossible.

At the present time England herself is proving the center of attraction. Following the fall of Antwerp, the German forces pushed on towards Ostend on the Belgian coast. As Ostend is only 65 miles from Dover and 115 miles from London, England is alarmed over the possibility of German invasion. However, it appears that the problem of extending his lines before the allies to the coast in order that there would be no flank for the allied troops to run is worrying the Kaiser a great deal more at the present time than a possible invasion of England.

The Belgians who have suffered untold hardships since the great armies of German began pushing their way through the little country, are now fleeing from their native land to Holland and England. For weeks the women and children and men who were not able to fight have been driven from place to place. Their homes have been destroyed and thousands of them faced starvation. From Liege they fled to Brussels and from Brussels to Antwerp. Here it was thought they have surely found a safe haven of refuge, but the powerful siege guns of the Germans battered down the walls of the forts and once more the populace fled, this time to Ostend. Hardly had they arrived at the coast city than they were terrorized with the news that the Germans were coming. There was nothing for them to do but flee to England and Holland.

King Albert and his Belgian army has been lost sight of following the fall of Antwerp and their present whereabouts is a mystery. It has been announced that the government of the Belgians has been moved to Havre, France, where the entire royal court of Belgium is now comfortably quartered. Recent reports state that the Belgian queen is sharing the hardships of her husband at the head of the army, but the dispatch fails to say where the army is at the present time. In China there appears to have been a lull in the fighting between the Germans and the Japs at Kiaochow. There has been little news received from this theater of war. Italy remains neutral and a recent announcement from Rome states that Italy will make no hostile move unless they are compelled to do so to protect their country from an enemy. Turkey is still bristling, but has failed to declare war. Persistent reports that Portugal has declared war against Germany have been received through Rome, but no official announcement to this effect has been given out.

German Fort Found in London.—The police have found at Willesden, a suburb to the northwest of London, a building occupied by Germans with foundations and roof of heavy concrete. They arrested twenty-two Germans on the premises. The premises were being used by C. G. Roeder, a German music publisher, as a factory. The site of this factory at Willesden commands several important railroad junctions. The Paris premises of this same firm were blown up recently on orders of the French government.

ADVANCE OF THE ALLIES



Another British Warship Sunk

London.—Another thrust from the German submarine service has robbed the British navy of the cruiser Hawke, and has raised the tally of British warships sunk by the Germans to seven. To this must be added the virtual destruction of the cruiser Pegasus by a German warship at Zanzibar.

The Hawke, a cruiser of 7,350 tons, under command of Capt. Hugh Williams, was sunk in the North sea, the graveyard of six other victims of German torpedoes.

Bad aim on the part of the German gunner saved the Hawke's sister ship, the Theseus, for that vessel, too, was attacked, but she escaped.

The exact complement aboard the Hawke has not been announced, but in ordinary times the men numbered 550. As she was built several years ago, it is probable her crew was not up to the full complement. According to one report, she had only 400 aboard. Whatever the number only 52 men were saved, and there was not a single commissioned officer among them. The cruiser Amphion, Pathfinder, Aboukir, Cressy, Hogue, Pegasus and the torpedo gunboat Speedy, make up the British list of losses in warships in the first ten weeks of the war. Against this the British admiralty claims four German cruisers, two torpedo boat destroyers, one torpedo boat, three submarines and eight armed commercial destroyers.

Omitting the armed merchantmen, the aggregate warship tonnage lost to England is much greater than that to Germany.

Horsemen Swim Swift River

From the Battle Front.—Infantry and cavalry have been doing more fighting during the last few days than for several weeks.

Two thousand French cuirassiers have distinguished themselves by a daring feat in swimming the river Lys, where it flows deep and swift. They completely outwitted the Germans, who were awaiting them on the other side with machine guns and heavy artillery.

The French horsemen made a long detour during the night. One man swam the river with a rope, then dragged over a cable, which he attached to a tree. The others, holding the rope, crossed singly with their horses through the swirling waters.

Arrived on the opposite bank, the French drew up in line and charged the German flank at Merville, driving the enemy back and opening the way for the passage over the river of a division of allied infantry, which later occupied Estaires.

Servian Prisoners Are Wounded

London.—The Vossische Zeitung of Berlin reports that Crown Prince Alexander of Servia has been slightly wounded and that his brother, Prince George of Servia, has been mortally hurt in the fighting against Austrians.

Russian Prince Killed

Petrograd.—Prince Oleg, son of Grand Duke Constantine, died of the wounds received in action. An official dispatch from Petrograd said Prince Oleg had been wounded during a cavalry engagement at the front.

Seeking Homes For War Orphans

Washington.—Miss Natalia Pearson, a beautiful young English girl now visiting in New York, has set on foot a movement to find homes in America for the children made orphans by the terrible war which is devastating Europe.

While she is organizing an association in Europe to care for the little ones until they can be transferred to their new homes in America, an American organization is being formed by Mrs. H. F. Tuck of New York, with the aid of Miss Pearson's vast wealth, to extend its branches into various states and municipalities, to do the home-placing work.

The immigration laws of the United States may have to be modified somewhat to authorize the society to carry out its plans. There is now a prohibition against the passage of an alien being paid by any other person or association. The object was to prevent the importation of contract labor.

The work of Miss Pearson will be absolutely neutral. Each person in America who is willing to take an orphan child into his home will be asked to state whether he prefers an English, French, German, Belgian or Russian boy or girl. His ability to care for such orphan and provide it a proper home will be carefully investigated by the local branches of the home-placing society.

Boers Rallying To Botha

Capt Town, South Africa.—As a result of Colonel Maritz' rebellion in the northwest of the Cape provinces, Gen. Louis Botha, premier of the Union of South Africa, and commander of the troops of the Union, is taking the field earlier than he originally intended to. General Botha is placing himself at the head of several strong Dutch companies, organized on the old burgher line, which are affiliated with regiments trained by the Union defense force.

Commandants, field cornets and burghers who served under General Botha in the South African war are rallying to his call, irrespective of their political feeling, to fight alongside the English in defense of the empire against which they were an arms twelve years ago. This fact has had a marked effect on waverers, who are now flocking to General Botha's standard.

Germans Repulsed at Warsaw

Paris.—A Havas agency dispatch from Petrograd says that word is received there from Warsaw that the population of the city is returning and the banks are resuming business. A battle is being fought about thirty miles from Warsaw.

The Germans endeavored to take the heights about seven miles from the town, but were repulsed.

Germans Claim Foe Routed

Berlin.—The general staff of the German army announces that in the beginning a strong garrison defended Antwerp with great energy, but that after the attack by German infantry and marine divisions, the defenders fled in full rout. Among the Antwerp garrison was one British marine brigade. The complete collapse of the Anglo-Belgian defense of Antwerp was shown by the fact that no military authority could be found with which to treat concerning the surrender of the city.

COTTON KEYSTONE OF ENGLISH DEBT

SIR GEORGE PAISH SAYS GREAT BRITAIN MANUFACTURERS ARE WAITING.

AFRAID OF LOWER PRICES

Unwilling to Buy Cotton Until Assured Minimum Price Has Been Reached in the Drop.

Washington.—Sir George Paish, special adviser to the English Chancellor of the Exchequer; Basil E. Blackett of the English Treasury; Secretary McAdoo and the Federal Reserve Board began a series of conferences here which are expected to have an important effect on financial conditions in Great Britain and the United States. Restoration of normal conditions in foreign exchange dealings between the two countries is the object of the meetings and they probably will have a direct influence on the disposition of the South's cotton crop.

It became known that officials of the American Government feel keenly that cotton is the crux of a situation which has many ramifications and that on the success of plans to care for the surplus and on the willingness of manufacturers to buy cotton depends the value of Sir George's visit.

It is probable that before Sir George returns to England the question of a reopening of the London and New York Stock Exchange will be considered. It was predicted here that the London exchange would reopen shortly, with the British Government urging that London brokers to not call loans immediately. If the London market is not greatly affected its resumption of business may be followed by the reopening of the New York exchange. So much depends on the cotton problem that there probably will be no further conferences until a committee of the board, which is handling the proposed \$150,000,000 cotton loan fund plan, has found a satisfactory solution. The committee, Secretary McAdoo, Paul M. Warburg and W. P. G. Harding, returned from New York, where it had been at work in an effort to convince New York bankers of the feasibility and soundness of plans for the fund.

The New York bankers promised to put up one-third of the loan fund but prescribed conditions it was discovered could not legally be met. The reserve board members proposed different conditions and as a further inducement offered to let the Northern section of the United States put up three dollars to every one put up by Southern bankers with the understanding that the Northern banks would have a prior lien for their money. Under this tentative plan Southern banks would have actual management of the fund, the whole however to be under supervision of the reserve board. Other conditions as to interest rate and price of cotton were said to be left unchanged.

THE NEEDS OF THE RAILROADS.

Argument Has Begun For the Five Percent Rate Increase.

Washington.—Business depression and the European war were assigned as reasons why Eastern railroads should have at least a five per cent increase in freight, by representatives of systems appearing before the interstate commerce commission. It was asserted that these two conditions had led to a shrinkage of more than \$76,000,000 in the annual net revenues of 38 Eastern roads, operating more than 59,000 miles of railway.

Daniel E. Willard, president of the Baltimore & Ohio and head of the conference of presidents in the lines involved, was the principal witness. He was supported by a mass of statistics presented by Vice President Shiver of the same line. Further evidence will be submitted.

In opposition to the plea of the carriers, Clifford Thorne appeared for public service corporations of several middle Western and inter-mountain states and also for shippers' organizations in the region affected.

Daniel A. Tompkins Dead.

Charlotte, N. C.—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 Carolinas, died at his summer home at Montreat, N. C., recently. He was 62 years old. He had been an invalid for about three years. Mr. Tompkins was appointed by President McKinley as a member of the industrial commission and by Former President Grover Cleveland a director of the Equitable Life Insurance Company.

PROFITABLE LESSON MAY BE OUTCOME

COMMISSIONER SHIPMAN MAKES REPORT ON THE STATE COTTON SITUATION.

NOT OUT FOR THEIR HEALTH

Bankers, if They Put up Money For Warehouse Crop, Will Do So on Profitable Terms.

Raleigh.—An interesting summary of North Carolina farming conditions is contained in a chapter of the forthcoming annual report of Commissioner of Labor and Printing M. L. Shipman just prepared for the state printers, the report being as follows:

"The crop year of 1914 has been similar to that of the years 1911 and 1912, and somewhat in 1913, in that there was experienced a period of small rainfall during the early growing season, which curtailed especially the early products, and no doubt, diminishes the growth and productivity of the later ones. But taken all in all, the effect was much less than was feared. This may be attributed in some measure to the continued spread of the practice of flat cultivation.

"There has been a ready sale of most of the farmer's products, at profitable prices. This, however, does not apply to cotton. It may also be well to except tobacco, which, while selling readily and at fair prices, has not brought, according to the information at hand at this writing, quite as satisfactory prices as last year.

"The cotton situation presents, on account of the effect of the European war a particularly complex condition. The outcome is doubtful, and bids fair to become so many-sided as to entirely annihilate a standard of commercial value, to be replaced by one of sentiment, that, as seen from this point, is of anything but a permanent helpful nature. The movement to purchase cotton at 10 cents a pound, followed out by as many firms and individuals as are likely to take it up, will not be of such magnitude as to relieve the over-supply. Whatever can be stored will be, and whatever must be thrown on the market will bring just what it would have brought had none been taken off, none of the cotton having been used.

"Buyers are chary of stocking cotton when the visible supply so far exceeds the demand that wants may be filled at any time at a price not to exceed 10 cents a pound at the outside. It is highly probable that the cotton forced to sale will take care of the needs of the country anyway. The exports are not to be looked to for relief. Even should the war end at once, the conditions which would prevail in all the countries affected would be such as to preclude their catching up with the excess caused by the cessation of consumption for the period already passed.

"On the other hand, what cotton is brought up at 10 cents will result, as seen from this angle, in destroying the wholesome lesson that seemed about to be brought home to the southern farmer. Absolute master of the situation as he might have been, he has continuously allowed the speculator to take from him his privilege, and accepted in its stead a dependency of the speculator's own creation, which could not, by any manner of means, be expected to be made with a view to the farmer's welfare and profit.

"Now, when he has had the facts in the case brought so plainly before him, and has the opportunity, by a season of self-denial, to take control of the situation, he is about to again forego his opportunity for the sake of the immediate difference in price on a limited number of bales, i. e., whatever number of bales can be sold at 10 cents a pound, to persons who are taking it up at 10 cents, some for advertising purposes, some for truly helpful purposes, and some in the belief that the price will go to 10 cents, or more, when it is a fact that cotton can be raised and sold for 10 cents a pound at a profit.

"If forced to pocket a loss this year, the result would be to cause the producers to take steps looking to protecting themselves, instead of looking to state or national authorities for relief, or to the bankers, who have shown clearly that they will not put up the money necessary to warehouse the crop, except upon such terms as will not guarantee to save them free from any possible loss, but pay them a profit as well. It is unnecessary to say that were the farmer able to do this to the satisfaction of the banker, he (the farmer) would have found no need to call for assistance.