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RUSSIANS CLAIM GREAT VICTORY

Slavonic Hosts Announce That They Have Won Decisive Battle Over Germans

PORTUGAL MAY ENTER WAR

Inactivity Marked in Western War Theater—Kaiser Returns From Polish Front

London, England.—Reliable news of the progress of the battle in Poland, which continues to monopolize interest, still is lacking. An unofficial dispatch from Petrograd says the battle of Lodz has ended in success for the Russians, but this statement contradicts the Berlin official report, which says the German offensive in Poland is taking its normal course.

The fact is that fighting in this region has developed into such a jumble that it is almost impossible to follow it. The most important factor from the allies' point is that the German advance on Warsaw seemingly has not succeeded in its object, nor has it diverted the Russians from their forward movement through the Carpathians and on to the plains of Hungary or against the fortress of Cracow, around which they are drawing a closer ring of men and artillery.

Taking into consideration the case of Przemyśl, which has held out so long against the Russian attacks, military men do not look for the early fall of Cracow, and are inclined to believe armies of Emperor Nicholas will endeavor to keep the large Austrian force inside the fortress and enter Silesia from the southeast.

Much depends, however, on the battle being fought with such intensity farther north between the rivers Vistula and Warta and in which all agree the losses on both sides have been heavy. There is an inclination to believe that had there been probability of an early success for the Germans in the field Emperor William, who has returned to Berlin, would have remained to witness the victory.

The battle in the west appears to be at a standstill. It is evident that attacks which have been made have not met with much success.

CRITICISE BURLERSON

Civil Service Reformers Criticize Postmaster General and Praise President Wilson

Chicago.—Resolutions unanimously adopted by the National Civil Service Reform League in its thirty-fourth annual meeting criticized Postmaster General Burleson and expressed the appreciation of the league for the co-operation of President Wilson.

The Burleson criticism was for inviting the advice of congressmen relative to the comparative qualifications of eligibles for fourth-class postmasterships. The resolution declared that this was "in direct violation of a section of the civil service law and made the positions patronage of the congressmen belonging to the party in power."

Among the efforts mentioned as having defeated "the attempt by rider on the postoffice appropriation bill to remove all assistant postmasters from the classified service, the endeavor to vacate for patronage purposes the assistant postmasterships; a subsequent effort to remove all postoffice employees from the operation of the merit system; the proposed through amendments to the Indian appropriation bill to exempt more than 100 physicians from selection under civil service rules."

The resolution set forth the league's appreciation of the "co-operation of President Wilson in securing the defeat of these measures."

Portugal Enters War

Madrid, Spain.—It is reported from Lisbon that the Portuguese cabinet has resigned, preparatory to Portugal entering the war. A Portuguese expeditionary force is leaving for an unnamed port in Africa. It is understood that this force is being sent to Egypt, where England is massing a large force of Australians, Canadians and native troops to meet the Turks who are menacing the Suez canal.

Awful Suffering Of Belgians

London.—Herbert Clark Hoover, chairman of the American commission for relief in Belgium, returned to London after a week's trip of inspection in Belgium. He reported that distribution of food is well under way, but declared famine still threatens the population and that on account of the attitude of the belligerents the Belgians must still appeal to the people of the United States for relief. "It is difficult to state the position of the civil population of Belgium without appearing hysterical," said Hoover.

AMBASSADOR SHARP



William Graves Sharp, who assumed the duties of his portfolio as American ambassador to France on the retirement of Mr. Herrick. The new ambassador's home is Elyria, Ohio. He is one of Ohio's eminent lawyers and leading manufacturers. For the last six years he has been in congress, where he was the ranking member of the foreign affairs committee. He was first considered for Russia, but was later selected by President Wilson for France. He was received by President Poincaré, who sent the carriage of state and an escort of the mounted French republican guard for the new ambassador.

POINCARÉ RECEIVES SHARP

FRENCH PRESIDENT GREETED NEW AMERICAN ENVOY WITH ALL HONORS

New American Ambassador To France Rode in State Carriage to Present Credentials

Paris.—William Graves Sharp, the new American ambassador, presented his credentials to President Poincaré. The ceremony was attended by the usual formalities. A detachment of mounted republican guards escorted the state carriage in which the ambassador rode from his hotel to the residence of the president and back again.

In conveying to the government and the people of France, in the most cordial terms, the best wishes of the president of the United States, Ambassador Sharp alluded to the war. "During my sojourn among the French people," he said, "I have come to have an added regard for their exemplification of brave and patriotic citizenship. In expressing the earnest hope that out of the trials of the present hour may soon come the blessings of everlasting and beneficent peace, I but voice the prayers of my countrymen."

VAN DYKE'S PEACE PLANS

Dr. Van Dyke Told Secretary Bryan He Brought No Letter From Wilhelm To Wilson

Washington.—Dr. Henry Van Dyke, American minister to The Netherlands, back from his post on a month's leave, has described to Secretary Bryan the earnest desire of Queen Wilhelmina and the people of Holland for the early ending of the European war.

Dr. Van Dyke denied the oft-published report that he was the bearer of a personal letter from the queen relating to peace, but said he had reported to Mr. Bryan merely on "the state of mind" of the people of Holland.

After talking with Secretary Bryan for an hour, Dr. Van Dyke indicated clearly that the present did not seem a propitious moment to put forward definite proposals for terms of peace.

"The desire of the United States for peace," he said afterwards, "is a well-known fact. The decision as to the proper moment for us to act is in the hands of my chiefs. The president and the secretary of state can be trusted to determine when that moment arrives."

British Flood Suez

Cairo.—The British military authorities have flooded the desert east of Port Said for many miles, thus preventing a Turkish attack in that quarter. Port Said lies at the southern end of the Suez canal, where the canal joins the Mediterranean sea. It is located upon the edge of the Arab desert, which covers all the northern part of Sinai peninsula. British military aeroplanes are making constant flights over the Sinai peninsula. They report seeing no sign of the Turks. It is believed that the Turkish advance

BELGRADE FALLS AFTER LONG SIEGE

Austrians Capture Servian Capital After Siege Which Has Lasted Since The War Began

BIGGEST RESULT OF WAR

Germany Increases Her War Credit. No Decisive Victories Reported Either in Poland Or West

London.—Belgrade, until the outbreak of the war Serbia's capital, is now occupied by Austrian troops. The Servians previously had evacuated the city.

Thus, on the sixty-sixth anniversary of the reign of Emperor Francis Joseph, who is again reported seriously ill, and four months after the outbreak of the war, his generals report one of the most important successes they have obtained.

Belgrade frequently was bombarded early in the war and but for the necessity that compelled Austria to send troops against Russia must have fallen an easy prey to Serbia's big neighbor.

First Forces Insufficient Apparently Austria miscalculated the nature of the Servian opposition and only after Bosnia was invaded did she send a sufficient force against the Servians to drive them back. Now they are being forced backward and are eagerly looking for the advance of the Russians into Hungary to afford them relief.

Russia has been sending Cossack raiding parties through the Carpathians to divert Austria's attention, but the dual monarchy seemingly is determined to finish with Serbia first.

Battle in Poland Raging

This, however, is only a small affair compared with what is going on in north Poland. There the German army, which, aided by reinforcements, escaped from the ring the Russians had forced around it, has formed a new front, and at some points has resumed the offensive. The Germans assert that in these maneuvers they made 80,000 prisoners.

The Russians, in a statement issued through Rome, say their captures very greatly exceed this number. All agree that losses have been heavy and that the battle still is undecided as it probably will be for some days.

For a moment, the allies are somewhat disappointed that the realization of a great Russian victory is denied them. They take some consolation in that the German attempt to piece the Russian lines has failed, and that, suffering from heavy losses, the Germans are compelled to weaken their armies elsewhere.

The Russian report says the fighting has lost some of its violence and indicates progress for Russian troops south of Lodz. It is unofficially reported that the Russians are "nearly in Cracow."

Servians Losing Hold

Washington.—Austro-Hungarian successes along the entire line in Serbia, which have resulted in the Serbs being driven from the banks of the Calubara river, and a successful sortie from the fortress of Przemyśl were reported in Vienna official dispatches to the Austro-Hungarian embassy. The dispatch said: "In Serbia the enemy, resisting with all its forces on the east of the river Calubara and Ljida, after a most obstinate fight on the whole line, was beaten. The enemy retired with considerable losses. Since the beginning of the last offensive we have captured 19,000. The front in West Galicia and Russian Poland was generally quiet. On the front before Przemyśl the enemy trying to approach from the north of the fortress were repulsed by a counter-attack on the garrison. The commander of the Fifth army sent the nouncing the occupation of Belgrade by the Austro-Hungarian troops. An attack of the Russians near Wolbrom was repulsed. Otherwise relative calm."

French Success Claimed

Paris.—The following official communication was issued by the war office: "In Belgium, a violent bombardment of Lampernisse, west of Dinant, has taken place. In the Argonne region the enemy has blown up by a mine the salient northwest of the forest of LaGrurie. On the whole, we are developing progress on that part of the front."

General De Wet Captured

London.—Gen. Christian De Wet, the leader of the rebellion of the Union of South Africa, has been captured, according to a Pretoria official dispatch to the Reuters. General De Wet rose to fame as commander-in-chief of the Orange Free State forces in the South African war. Starting as a burgher in the Helibron commando, he later was appointed commandant at Ladysmith and was sent to relieve General Conje as second in command. When General Conje surrendered, De Wet was made commander-in-chief.

CAPT. W. W. HILL



Captain Hill, who commanded the marines at Vera Cruz at the beginning of the American occupation, is reported to have criticized the action of the government in withdrawing the troops from that city and was called on by Secretary Daniels to make a written explanation. Captain Hill said his remarks were made in private conversation.

OPPOSED TO GARDNER PROBE

CONGRESSMEN FITZGERALD AND SHERLEY OPPOSE GARDNER'S PLAN FOR NAVY PROBE

Gardner's Assertions That New York's Defenses Are Antiquated Declared Incorrect

Washington.—Opposition to Representative Gardner's resolution for an investigation by a commission into the preparedness of the United States for war was expressed to President Wilson by Representatives Fitzgerald and Sherley, ranking members of the house appropriations committee. Both told the president they were preparing to speak on the subject in the house. "I am against any spectacular investigation into this subject," said Mr. Fitzgerald. "All the facts are available now, and through hearings before a regular committee and debate on the floor the question will be thoroughly reviewed."

Mr. Sherley told the president that statements attributed to Mr. Gardner that the defenses of New York were antiquated were incorrect. He declared the fortifications of the United States were in excellent shape and added that army officers had informed him that the defenses at New York could destroy any attacking fleet. The president will go into the question further with Mr. Gardner and Senator Tillman, chairman of the senate naval committee.

St. Louis.—Augustus P. Gardner, congressman from Massachusetts, in an address before the Contemporary club, replied to Secretary Daniels' statement regarding recent assertions of Mr. Gardner as to the inadequacy of American naval and military preparations.

"I state without fear of successful contradiction," he said, "that the big guns on the latest dreadnaughts of Great Britain and Germany are of such long range that the battleships can stand a mile and a half outside the range of the guns on the fortifications of New York and demolish those forts."

"Secretary Daniels," said Mr. Gardner, "has given out a special report from Admiral Strauss to prove misleading my declaration that of long range torpedoes there are only 58 in the navy."

Mr. Gardner has an appointment to discuss the matter of a congressional inquiry with President Wilson. By request of the president Mr. Gardner will see him alone.

Vote Big War Credit

Berlin.—With one dissenting vote, that of Herr Liebknecht, Socialist, the reichstag voted a new war credit of \$1,250,000,000.

Wilson Peace Apostle

Washington.—Eduardo Suarez-Mujica, presenting his credentials to President Wilson as the first ambassador from Chile to the United States, spoke of President Wilson and Secretary Bryan as "the two most intense expressions of the pacifist sentiment of this republic." With their continued cooperation, he said, he was sure of his ability successfully to achieve the object of the mission with which he had been invested "to continue to promote the cordial entente of the two countries, politically and commercially."

DEBATE MILITARY POWER OF NATION

APPARENTLY INVESTIGATION OF PREPAREDNESS FOR WAR TO BE MADE BY CONGRESS.

OPPOSE THE COMMISSION

Wilson is Willing That Regular Congressional Committees Shall Go Thoroughly Into the Matter.

Washington.—Preparedness of the United States for war seems destined for investigation in Congress. Several bills and resolutions bearing on the subject were introduced and an inquiry by congressional committees is regarded at the capitol as certain, although President Wilson told Representative Gardner during the day that he opposed the latter's plan for an investigation by a national security commission. The president expressed the opinion that this would be an unwise way of handling "a question which might create very unfavorable international impressions."

Senator Lodge introduced a resolution similar to the Gardner measure pending in the house. It would provide for a "national security commission" to be composed of three members of the senate, three members of the house and three citizens to be appointed by the president.

President Wilson let it be known after his conference with Representative Gardner that he was entirely in favor of the fullest inquiry into military conditions by regular committees of the house and senate and added that there were no facts in possession of the executive departments which were not at the disposal of those committees. In line with this attitude Senator James Hamilton Lewis, Democratic whip, who introduced a resolution which would direct an exhaustive inquiry by the senate military and naval committees into the expenditure of millions of dollars appropriated in the past for national defense. The inquiry would be directed to ascertain just what had been provided by the expenditure of late years and also to ascertain actual military conditions. The resolution was referred to the committee on military affairs.

Another military measure, submitted by Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, proposed the creation of a council of national defense to consist of the secretary of state as president, the secretaries of war and navy, the chairman of appropriation, military, naval and foreign relations committees of the senate and house, the chief of staff of the army and an officer of the navy and heads of the army and navy war colleges.

ZAPATA JOINS WITH VILLA

Work Together Until Work is Accomplished Then Each Will Retire.

Mexico City, via El Paso, Texas.—Generals Villa and Zapata, after a conference at Xochimilco, announced publicly that they would work together and that each would retire to private life when their work was accomplished.

After the conference General Villa said that his forces would begin immediately a vigorous campaign against Carranza. The forces of Villa and Zapata will enter Mexico City soon. An active campaign will begin within a week by both the Villa and Zapata forces, according to the statements of a high official of the present government. The plan calls for the sending of four strong columns to attack the followers of Carranza. Villa took over the railway of an English corporation running between the Capital and Vera Cruz.

The civil and military convention will meet next week in the Capitol to approve these plans, and appoint new provisional officials. It is reported that a new provisional president will be elected on this occasion.

Jews in German Army

Berlin, via wireless to London.—It was announced officially that 26 Jews had received commissions in the German army.

French Attacks More Vigorous

Paris.—The French War Office gave out an official communication as follows:

"In the region of Armentieres and of Arras, as well as in the Oise territory, in the Alsace region and in the Argonne there is nothing to report except to refer in general terms to the superiority of our offensive."

"In Champagne our heavy artillery on several different occasions has shown marked superiority over that of the enemy."

NATION'S EXPENSE EXCEEDS BILLION

ESTIMATES OFFERED TO CONGRESS FOR YEAR 1915 TOTAL \$1,090,775,134.

ALL EXPENSES ARE REDUCED

Seek an Appropriation of Over Three Million For Maintenance of Waterways and Harbors.

Washington.—Estimates presented to congress put the cost of conducting the government during the fiscal year 1915, which begins on July 1, next, at \$1,090,775,134.

This sum is \$3,392,962 less than the congressional appropriations for the current fiscal year ending next June 30th and \$17,906,643 less than the estimates for the current year.

Without salary increases of any kind, no estimates whatever for new public buildings and all items reduced by order of President Wilson to what departmental heads consider the minimum, the estimates represents the administration's effort to keep the governmental expenditures within its income which has been decreased by the European war. By grand divisions the estimates submitted are as follows:

Legislative establishment, \$7,641,049.
Executive establishment, \$31,845,889.
Judicial establishment, \$1,240,580.
Department of agriculture, \$20,706,013.
Postal service, \$297,355,164.
Foreign intercourse, \$4,607,132.
Military establishments, \$105,866,849.
Naval establishment, \$142,619,003.
Indian affairs, \$9,533,463.
Pensions, \$166,100,000.
Panama canal, \$18,931,865.
Public works, \$97,917,541.
Miscellaneous, \$82,843,325.
Permanent annual appropriations, \$121,567,207.

With the expectation that the postal service will continue to be self-sustaining the postal item of \$297,355,164 will be deducted as it is returned to the treasury from postal earnings leaving the actual total of expenditures at \$793,419,970.

As there is such a comparatively small change in the estimates there is also comparatively little change in the items of fixed charges and new estimates for expenditures have been reduced to the minimum. While the rule is one of reductions, the army and navy establishment alone show increases of any note. The army estimate is increased to \$105,866,850 as against a current appropriation of \$101,977,802; the naval estimate is \$142,619,033 against a current appropriation of \$141,393,217.

WARSHIP KANSAS STORMBEATEN

Storm Creates Havoc on Atlantic Seaboard Thrilling Rescue.

Washington.—The United States battleship Kansas was identified as the mysterious vessel which coast guard officials at Ocean City, Md., reported stranded there and which later disappeared without leaving a clue to its identity.

Captain Bryan of the Kansas wireless the navy department that his vessel took refuge from the storm off Ocean City and suggested that as no other vessel was in that vicinity the Kansas must have been the warship reported in distress.

The captain said his ship had not been damaged. The vessel was not in distress, he said. Captain Bryan reported from Delaware breakwaters, where the Kansas arrived. A wireless was sent to the revenue cutter Itasca which had gone to aid the straggler ship ordering her back to Norfolk.

Leo Frank Refused Trial

Washington.—The supreme court refused to issue a writ to review Leo M. Frank's conviction of the murder of Mary Phagan, an Atlanta factory girl.

The Storm at Norfolk

Norfolk, Va.—Cape Charles lightship has been towed to the navy yard here by the buoy tender Orchid. The lightship went adrift in the recent storm. Both the Cape Charles and the Nantucket lightships are off their stations and the government wireless is warning navigation of the fact. The old United States freighter Constellation, which was in danger of grounding off Virginia Beach is now safe at the navy yard here. The wind off the coast was 42 miles an hour and the tides very high.