

ITALIANS REGAIN LOST TERRITORY

CEASE DEFENSIVE AND RESUME OFFENSIVE WITH SIGNAL SUCCESSES.

TERRIFIC ARTILLERY FIRE

Situation in Russia Continues Obscure.—Germans Said to Have Rejected Peace Terms of the Bolsheviks.

The Italians on the northern line in Italy between the Brenta and Piave rivers have ceased, for the warfare against the attacks of the time being at least, their defensive Austro-German and assumed the offensive with signal successes on several sectors.

Attacking the positions which the enemy earlier in the week captured near Monte Asolone, General Diaz's troops have regained a considerable portion of the terrain and held it, notwithstanding the terrific artillery fire that was turned upon them.

The German war office, in endeavoring to belittle the success of the offensive, which it asserts was repulsed, shows that the effort of the Italians was a determined one, the troops to the west of Monte Asolone delivering seven attacks against the enemy front. Admission is made in the German communication that the Italians also have taken the initiative in the fighting on Monte Porfira and Monte Sbarolo, but it is declared that their attacks on these sectors, as on Monte Asolone were without success.

The situation in Russia continues obscure, although such reports as are coming through indicate that the bolshevik government is losing ground in the face of the opposition that is being imposed by the Ukrainians and the followers of General Kaledines. The bolshevik commissioners are declared to have declined to accept the negative reply of the Ukrainian Rada to the bolshevik demand that Ukraine cease aiding the Kaledines forces and give the rada an opportunity to reconsider its action. As indicating that the rada has finally declined to give heed to the dictates of the bolsheviks, a report that a definite alliance has been formed between Kaledines followers and the Ukrainians.

A dispatch from Petrograd says an unofficial report in circulation in the Russian capital is to the effect that the Germans have rejected the peace terms put forward by the bolshevik delegates. Recent dispatches have indicated that the peace pourparlers in progress at Brest-Litovsk were merely preliminary to the peace conference which is to assemble there next Tuesday and which is to be attended by the German and Austro-Hungarian foreign ministers.

ARMY CLOTHING, SHOES AND FOOD UNDER INQUIRY

Quartermaster General Sharpe Before the Investigating Committee

Washington.—Clothing, shoes and food supplies for the American army were investigated by the senate military committee, turning its general inquiry into war preparations to the quartermaster general's department. It was developed that millions were spent just before the United States entered the war to provide for the great army since raised.

Major General Sharpe, quartermaster general, was before the committee all day and for an hour of the time answered all confidential questions behind closed doors. He was closely examined, especially regarding the admitted shortage of overcoats, which he said was due principally to late deliveries of large orders. Except for overcoats and a few other winter garments of which he stated, complete stocks would be in camp by December 31, the general declared there is no clothing shortage.

G. B. MEANS NOT TO BE INDICTED IN NEW YORK

New York.—After a conference here with a representative of the state's attorney of Cook county, Illinois, District Attorney Swann announced that he would not ask the New York county grand jury to indict Gaston B. Means in connection with the "second" will of Mrs. Maude Robinson King, of whose murder Means was acquitted by a jury at Concord, N. C., Sunday, December 16.

GETS JAIL SENTENCE FOR ASSAULT ON BILLY SUNDAY

Atlanta, Ga.—Charged with assaulting Billy Sunday at the evangelist's meeting here W. H. Beuterbaugh, said to be a German, was fined \$100 and sentenced to jail for 30 days here. Later he was indicted on three counts by the Fulton county grand jury in connection with the assault. Bail of \$1,000 was fixed in each count, which charge assault on Sunday; assault on one of the evangelist's workers, and disturbing public worship.

Rises From Clerkship to Important Position



James L. Wilmoth of Tennessee and Arkansas, who has been appointed director of the bureau of engraving and printing, Uncle Sam's big money factory, is one of the few men who have advanced to an important government position through the ranks of government clerks. He entered the government service 29 years ago, assorting money orders for \$50 a month.

NO DETAILS ARE GIVEN OUT

NINETEEN LIVES ARE LOST WHEN UNDERSEA BOAT GOES DOWN.

Rammed and Sunk in Home Waters by Another Submersible, F-3, in Fog.—Those Lost Were Mostly From Far Western States.

Washington.—Nineteen lives were lost when the American submarine F-1 was rammed and sunk by submarine F-3 in home waters during a fog.

The F-3 was undamaged and picked up five survivors of her victim. Secretary Daniels announced the disaster in a brief statement which gave no further details.

Lieut. A. E. Montgomery, commanding officer of the F-1 was among the five saved. His mother, Mrs. Julia Montgomery Pratt, lives at Fort H. G. Wright, N. Y.

Other survivors include: J. M. Schmissauer, machinist; father, Charles C. Schmissauer, Hill City, Tenn.

Henry L. Brown, gunner's mate; father, H. P. Brown, Macon, Ga.

CONGRESS SHUTS DOWN FOR HOLIDAY RECESS

Senate Takes Final Action for Submission of Prohibition Amendment.

Washington.—Congress closed down for a holiday vacation, leaving behind a series of investigations to proceed during the recess. Both houses adjourned until Thursday, January 3, when war legislation is to take the forefront of the calendar.

In the last day's business, the senate took final action toward submission to the states of a national prohibition amendment to the constitution, ordered two investigations—into railroad legislation and the merchant shipbuilding—and arranged for disposal of the coal and oil land leasing bill on January 7. The house passed the resolution to remove doubt as to application of the new excess profits taxes to congressmen, and arranged for renewal of the battle for woman suffrage on January 10.

Efforts to rush through legislation authorizing the treasury to buy \$100,000,000 of farm loan bonds before adjournment failed. The senate passed the bill, but it was held up in the house to be considered when Congress reassembles.

During the recess, a half-dozen investigations into war activity will be in progress. Heading the list is the railroad inquiry.

Other investigations in addition to those of railroad problems and the shipbuilding situation, deal with army and navy war operations, the sugar and fuel shortages and the alleged disloyal St. Paul speech of Senator LaFollette.

LLOYD GEORGE SETS FORTH WAR AIMS

TEUTONS MUST RESTORE ALL TERRITORY TAKEN AND PAY FOR GREAT HAVOC.

GERMAN PEACE PROPOSALS

Reorted That Teutonic Allies Would Offer for Peace and Had Requested Russia to Sound former Allies for Peace.

In the midst of the peace pourparlers that are in progress between the representative of the Teutonic allies and the bolshevik government in Russia, the war aims of Great Britain—and doubtless of all her allies—have been concretely set forth in the house of commons by David Lloyd George, the British prime minister.

The complete restoration of territory now in the hands of the enemy and compensation for the havoc they have wrought is the price that will be demanded for the laying down of arms and the bringing about of peace.

Great Britain did not seek territorial aggrandizement for herself or for any of her allies when she entered the war, Mr. Lloyd George said but entered into the hostilities merely for the sake of her honor. As to Germany's colonies, all of which are now in the hands of the entente, Mr. Lloyd George said, their disposition must be determined at the peace congress. Jerusalem, however, the premier declared, would never be restored to the Turks.

The statement of the prime minister came almost simultaneously with a report that the Teutonic allies intended to make peace proposals to the entente and that Russia had been requested to take similar steps and was endeavoring to sound her former allies in arms as to their requirements for a cessation of hostilities.

PASSENGER TRAINS CRASH; 38 KILLED; MANY INJURED

Shepherdsville, Ky.—Thirty-eight known dead and 40 to 50 persons injured, some of them seriously, was the toll taken when Louisville & Nashville passenger train No. 7, from Cincinnati to New Orleans, crashed into the rear of a Bardonia, Louisville & Springfield accommodation train 500 yards south of the station here.

The accommodation train had just left the station after making a stop, when the faster train which makes no stop here came in sight moving at a high rate of speed. Efforts to bring it to a halt were futile and the heavy locomotive with the heavy weight of a steel train behind it crashed into the rear of the accommodation train with a terrific impact. The two wooden passenger cars and baggage cars making up the smaller train were splintered.

Virtually every person aboard the accommodation train, both crew and passengers were either killed or badly injured. None of the passengers aboard the fast train were killed, though a number were injured. The locomotive was demolished and the heavy steel coaches making up the train were thrown from the track.

None of the passengers aboard the fast train were killed and none of them received more than minor injuries. Another locomotive and train crew was sent from Louisville and after detaching one baggage car the New Orleans train went on as soon as the right of way was declared.

PROPERTY OF AMERICANS IN GERMANY TAKEN OVER

Berlin.—The property of Americans in Germany has been placed under the trusteeship of the German government. There is no intention, however, to confiscate property or to infringe on the personal rights of the property holders.

French Sink Two U-Boats.

Athens.—French destroyers have sunk two enemy submarines in the Gulf of Taranto.

BABST PREDICTS 'PLENTY OF SUGAR DURING NEW YEAR

Washington.—A plentiful supply of sugar for the American people during the coming year was predicted by Earl D. Babst, president of the American Sugar Refining Company, testifying before the senate investigating committee. He opposed placing a limit on domestic consumption, contending that any such plan would result in a larger surplus than could be shipped abroad.

Officer of Torpedoed Cruiser Who Survived



Lieut. John K. Richards, U. S. N., was one of the officers of the American destroyer Jacob Jones who survived when that vessel was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine.

WEBB WAS LEADER IN FIGHT

GREAT DEMONSTRATION GREETED ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE HOUSE VOTE.

Resolution Adopted Is Identical With That Passed Last August Except That It Gives Seven Years Instead of Six to Ratify.

Washington.—Nation-wide prohibition was in the house and only the adjustment of slight difference in resolutions between the house and senate now stands in the way of submitting to state legislatures an amendment to the federal constitution forbidding the manufacture, sale or importation of intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes in the United States or its territories.

The vote in the house, taken after a day of debate before crowded galleries, was 282 to 128, with the parties dividing almost evenly. The margin for prohibition was eight votes more than the two-thirds vote.

Both wets and drys had been predicting victory all day, and it was not until the last few names had been called that the anti-prohibition forces conceded their defeat. When Speaker Clark announced the result, the victors were joined by the galleries in such a demonstration as is rarely permitted in the house. Former Secretary Bryan, an interested spectator nearly all day, appeared on the floor and joined in receiving congratulations with Representative Webb, of North Carolina, who had led the fight.

The resolution adopted by the house is identical with that passed by the senate last August, except that it gives the states seven years instead of six in which to ratify the amendment.

The President's approval is not required and the state legislatures may act as soon as they please after Vice-President Marshall and Speaker Clark have signed the resolution.

Following is the resolution as adopted: "Resolved, by the senate and house of representatives that the following amendment to the constitution be, and hereby is, proposed to the states to become valid as a part of the constitution when ratified by the legislatures of the several states as provided by the constitution:

"Article—Section 1. After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

"Section 2. The Congress and the several states shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

"Section 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the constitution by the legislatures of the several states, as provided in the constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the states by the Congress."

GOETHALS MAY RETURN TO DUTY WITH ARMY.

Washington.—In explanation of the new war council he has created, Secretary Baker said it was not in any way a result of congressional inquiry into operations of the war department, nor was it related in any way to the inter-allied war conference at Paris.

HERBERT HOOVER WON'T CAN THE COMING YEAR

Washington.—Officials of the Virginia Camer's exchange, summoned to explain certain papers found in their files by investigators for the federal trade commission in the course of the inquiry into charges of food speculation made by the food administration, agreed to withdraw all letters and papers which might be construed as suggestions for price-fixing, and to refrain in the future from all activities tending to such an effect.

HOW U. S. NAVY HAS PREPARED FOR WAR

SECRETARY DANIELS SAYS NAVY NOW HAS MORE THAN 1,000 SHIPS.

TWO YEARS AGO HAD ONLY 300

Contracts Have Been Let for Hundreds of Others Including Dreadnaughts, Cruisers and Destroyers and Auxiliaries—Explain Operation.

Washington.—A report by Secretary Daniels of how the navy prepared for war by adding several hundred ships to the fleet and letting contracts for hundreds of others, including dreadnaughts, battle cruisers, destroyers and auxiliaries, and explanation of the operation of the navy supply department by Rear Admiral McGowan, paymaster general, marked the opening of the inquiry by a house sub-committee into the navy's war activities.

Representative Britten, of Illinois, asked Secretary Daniels whether the department had received any complaints from Vice Admiral Sims, commanding American naval forces in the war zone. The secretary said the question was improper and that "mess gossip" should not be bandied about, but he added that Admiral Sims had been given everything possible that the navy could give.

Later when Admiral McGowan was called to the stand he submitted an order issued by him some months ago directing that Admiral Sims requests for supplies be acted upon on the same day they were received.

"We have 424 ships in course of construction," Secretary Daniels told the committee. "That does not include submarine-chasers, of which we are building 350 and does not include the small craft. The chasers will be in service by early spring." Included in the 424 ships, he said, were battle cruisers, battleships, scout cruisers, destroyers, fuel ships, gunboats, hospital ships, ammunition ships, sea-going tug, mine-sweepers and submarines.

The navy at the beginning of its participation in the war, the witness continued, had at its disposal the money needed for most of the expansion immediately required and in pressing cases where funds were lacking over-obligations were incurred. Within the last few days the navy has had to ask for \$86,000,000 in addition to the regular estimates amounting to \$1,029,000,000 for the next fiscal year, now before the house naval committee.

AUSTRO-GERMAN FORCE ATTACK ITALIAN LINE

Reinforcements in Large Numbers are Brought Up.

The Austro-Germans have renewed in great strength their effort to pierce the Italian line and debouch upon the plains of Venetia in the region of Bassano. In fierce fighting around Monte Asolone, in which the enemy again suffered severe losses and several times were repulsed, reinforcements in large numbers were brought up and the Italians were compelled to give ground. The fighting lasted through out Tuesday and according to the German war office, more than 2,000 Italians were made prisoner.

Likewise along the southern reaches of the Piave river, the invaders and the Italians are engaged in heavy fighting. A crossing of the Old Piave on pontoon bridges was successfully carried out by one enemy detachment, but later the Italians shoved back the Teutons to the water's edge.

The fighting on the other front still remains below normal, although the artillery duels on various sectors continue intense. The artillery activity between the French and Germans in Champagne and in the mountainous regions near the Swiss border is increasing in volume, probably forecasting infantry attacks at an early date.

Again the losses to British shipping through mines or submarines show a decrease. According to the weekly statement of the British admiralty 17 merchantmen were sent to the bottom last week as compared with 21 the previous week.

SLIGHT DECREASE IN SHIPPING LOSSES SHOWN

London.—Fourteen British merchantmen of more than 1,600 tons and three under that tonnage were sunk by mine or submarine during the past week, according to the admiralty statement. One fishing vessel also was sunk. The shipping losses by mine or submarine in the past week are slightly under those of the previous week, when 14 vessels of more than 1,600 tons and seven under that tonnage were destroyed.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. BELLELS, Acting Director of the Sunday School Course of the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)
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LESSON FOR DECEMBER 30

REVIEW—GOD'S REDEEMING LOVE.

LESSON TEXT—Read Psalms 123; 124. GOLDEN TEXT—With Jehovah there is loving kindness, and with him is plenteous redemption.—Ps. 137:7.

The lessons of the past year are the only ones in the six years course which are divided between the Old and the New Testament; therefore, at the close of this year we will review only the last two quarters, emphasizing the fourth which has just been completed.

Like Moses on Mount Nebo, let us glance over the whole period of the monarchy and note the progress and development of the Jewish people. The Jewish race is the marvel of all times, a nation without a country, scattered and peeled, chastised and driven from sea to sea, even slain in large numbers; yet possessed of a vitality which has caused them to endure through the centuries. Their contribution to the civilization of the world has been immeasurable. There is no walk or rank in life, in politics, literature, art, science, business, religion, or any other realm where they have not made their impress and rendered their contribution. Any movement which seeks to promote their welfare and to strengthen the bonds of sympathy which preserve race feelings, deserves the aid of all patriotic, liberty loving, God fearing people, for the Jews are still God's chosen heritage.

The united kingdom with its three kings, Saul, David and Solomon, lasted from about 1100 B. C. to 987 (Manasseh), a period of 120 years. Then begins the divided kingdom—Judah and Israel side by side, a double experiment in the progress of the Kingdom of God. This period extended from about 982 B. C. to approximately 722 or 721 B. C. Judah had a territory of about 3,400 square miles; Israel 9,400. Judah's capital was Jerusalem, in which was the temple; Israel's capital was Samaria, while it had two centers of false worship. Judah was more sheltered than Israel from close contact with heathenism, especially politically and religiously. Judah had one dynasty of rulers; eleven kings and one queen, all of them from the house of David. Israel had nineteen kings, belonging to nine different families or dynasties. Judah had several very good kings, and there were marked revivals of religion of prosperity and of deterioration of varying degrees, though resisted from time to time and helped along moral and religious lines through the work of Elijah and Elisha the prophets. The final period of events of this past quarter have reference to Judah alone from the days of Hezekiah, B. C. 722, to the time of the destruction of the city and the temple being destroyed 586 B. C., and lastly we have the period of the exile from the first captivity in 605 B. C. to the restoration and the new temple being erected 516 B. C. This was a period of great discipline and sifting as like unto wheat or of a purifying fire.

The return from exile and the new spiritual nation, dates from about 530 to the close of Bible history, say 400 years before the coming of Christ. A map should be used, and the scholars ought to be familiar with the contemporaneous secular history. There are several pertinent lessons we ought to learn from this history.

First: Every failure, every moral wrong, every fall into idolatry, every diminution of power for good is the result of a separation from God—a departure from the ways of God and righteousness. It also shows us that God's constant soliloquy that the few should be kept separate from heathenism and idolatry, had in it the best interests of his own people and could only lead to those blessings which he had prepared for his particular people.

Secondly: The overthrow of Israel is directly attributed to its complete abandonment to idolatry. Beginning with false worship and a dependence upon men, there was the introduction of idolatry and a development of evil which led to a rapid decline, the introduction of revolutions and the final extinguishment of the kingdom.

As to Judah, it finally was brought into captivity because that was the only way that God could purge the nation from the sin of idolatry. They must be taught that there is but one God, that the word of God must be obeyed, and that their safety lay in his faith which they placed in his promises. The leaders of this period were Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah, heroic men, men of great consecration and power; also, Esther, the heroine. The prophets of this period are Daniel, Isaiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi. Notice how each and every one added the cause of righteousness.

There are two great heroes of the return, Ezra and Nehemiah. Take up the actions of each and show how he proved his heroism. A good method of receiving the past quarter will be to summarize the teachings which center about these two great men. The period of the return is the one that we should emphasize, showing how a return to God and an obedience of his law is the paramount need of the present day in which we live, these days of darkness and evil upon which the world has fallen.