

BRITISH CLAIM LOSSES LIGHT IN SEA FIGHT

Official Statement Says Only Seven of Her Men Were Killed

THIS IS DOUBTED

English Forces Claim to Have Won Another Victory in Belgium

Paris, Dec. 11.—(Central News Cable)—The vain renewal of German activity about Ypres which resulted in defeat, the attack of the Allies and further advances by the French near Ypres and Pont-A-Mousson and the capture by the French of the Railway Station at Ashach in Alsace, are the chief points in the official war office news today.

British Loss Light

London, Dec. 11.—An official communication issued tonight says that the British loss of life during the naval battle of Tuesday in which the Germans lost six ships, four cruisers and two colliers, was seven killed and four wounded.

Victory in Belgium

Paris, Dec. 11.—Dispatches from the front say that the British have won another victory in Belgium, the details of this however, are lacking. This victory will probably mean the turning point of the Northern campaign.

Germans Progressing

Berlin, (wireless to London), Dec. 11.—In an official communication the German army headquarters staff claims the Germans have made progress on both sides of Argonne forest, and in Flanders to have repulsed the French attacks in the Woivre region. The text follows:

"We have made progress in Flanders. To the East and West of Argonne the enemy's artillery positions were attacked, with good results. The French attacks in Lepatre forest and west Pont-A-Mousson were repulsed. There is no change in the situation in east Mazuran Lakes. Our attacks in northern Poland are progressing. No news is at hand about Southe.

THE THAW CASE BEFORE U. S. COURT

Harry Doesn't Want to Go Back to New York State

Washington, D. C., Dec. 11.—The case of Harry Kendall Thaw was formally submitted to the United States Supreme Court today.

This case, the brief of which was filed last week, involves the question of the right of the State of New York to extradite Thaw from New Hampshire where for several months he has been, to that State to answer to a charge of conspiracy to obstruct the administration of the law.

P. C. Knox, Thaw's counsel claims that if Thaw was legally insane in New York that he is legally insane now and that if this is the case the State of New York cannot extradite him, as the constitution says that extradition papers cannot be served on an insane person.

Miss Laura Pallister, of Stella, is petitioning in the District Court for a writ of habeas corpus.

SCHMIDT WANTS A NEW TRIAL

New York, Dec. 10.—A motion for a new trial for Hans Schmidt, the priest who murdered Anna Ammuller and threw her dismembered body into the Hudson river was presented today to the Supreme Court. Accompanying affidavits, signed by physicians, set forth that the girl was killed by an operation. Schmidt had declared he killed her by cutting her throat.

The affidavits were those of Dr. Henry T. Castell of the Presbyterian Hospital, Philadelphia, and Dr. Justin Harold, professor of medical jurisprudence at Fordham University, New York.

FEDERAL AID TO THE STATE MILITIAMEN

Brigadier General A. L. Mills Points Out That This Is Proper

REFORM IS NEEDED

There Is a Deficiency In That Branch of the Army

Washington, Dec. 11.—"In no state is the prescribed minimum peace strength of all organizations of the organized militia maintained and in many instances the deficiency has reached such a figure as to leave the corresponding organizations, such in name only—organizations of no value as a military asset to the federal government. That was the way Brigadier General A. L. Mills, chief of the division of militia affairs of the war department, charged the citizens soldiery of the country today in his annual report.

General Mills pointed out that his criticism was made "for the sole purpose of setting forth an accurate statement of existing conditions with the view and in the hope of leading to a needed reform." One method of reform is to be found, in General Mills' opinion, in the passage of a bill for federal compensation of the militia.

Relying upon the returns of state adjutant generals at the end of the last calendar year, General Mills finds an examination "reveals the fact that the organized militia as a whole is deficient in strength and that this deficiency reaches the serious figure of nearly 16,000 men or an approximate equivalent of the infantry component of a complete infantry division at war strength. It will show that more than 60 per cent of the infantry and engineer companies, 70 per cent of the cavalry troops, 80 per cent of the coast artillery companies and practically all of the field artillery batteries are below the prescribed minimum—and in all cases the former and lower prescribed minimum is referred to."

At the close of the last fiscal year, the militia consisted of 119,251 enlisted men and 8,792 officers. Due to the operation of the requirements of the much controverted "circular No. 8," the enlisted men were increased by 7,597 over the preceding year, while there was a reduction in officers numbering 338.

Circular notes sustained by the legal authorities of the War Department, called for the reduction of the number of generals and other higher officers in the militia to a number more nearly corresponding to the total enlisted strength.

General Mills reiterated his plea for the creating of militia reserves.

DEMOCRATS CAUCUS TODAY

Washington, Dec. 11.—Democrats of the Senate will caucus to frame a legislative program with a view to completing necessary legislation by March 4, to avert the necessity for an extra session.

Decision to hold the caucus was reached today at a conference of the Democratic steering committee, attended by Senators Kern, O'Gorman, Hoke Smith, Thomas and Owen. The committee also discussed matters to be recommended to the caucus. One recommendation will be that appropriation bills be given the right of way with the government ship purchase bill, conservation measures and ship bill following.

INVOLUNTARY MURDER

Jones County Jury Finds Negro Guilty

One of the most interesting cases disposed of at the term of Jones county Superior Court, which came to a close this week was that of the State vs. James Brown, colored, charged with the murder of John John-

Another German Cruiser Reported Sunk By English

Report Reaches Buenos Ayres That the Dresden Had Fallen Prey to the British Near the Straits of Magellan—Germans Say English Lost Three Ships During Naval Battle Last Tuesday.

BUENOS AYRES, Dec. 11. (Central News Cable)—There is a report here, though not confirmed, that the German cruiser Dresden was sunk today near the Straits of Magellan by British ships. There are no details as to the sinking of the vessel. German reports reaching here declare that the British fleet which defeated Von Spree's squadron off the Falkland Islands, lost at least three ships. The Germans say that the British losses during the engagement in killed and wounded were much greater than officially reported. The admitted German loss is three thousand men.

KAISER WILHELM'S CONDITION IS IMPROVED SAY PHYSICIANS

BERLIN, Dec. 11. (Central News Cable)—An official bulletin issued tonight carries the information that the condition today of the Kaiser was considerably improved. Physicians and nurses are constantly in attendance and it is believed that the crisis has passed.

GREAT BRITAIN PLANS TO SWEEP THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

LONDON, Dec. 11. (Central News Cable)—A complete sweep of the Atlantic of all German commerce raiders by the first of the year is the task now before the victorious fleet of Vice-Admiral Sir Frederick Sturdee. It is confidently believed all over England that this will be accomplished and that after January 1, there will not be a German raider on the eastern ocean.

THE JAPANESE FLEETS ALSO AFTER GERMAN BOATS

TOKIO, Dec. 11. (Central News Cable)—The Japanese squadron is seeking the German cruiser Prinz Eithel Friedrich off the Chilean coast. This vessel is credited with having sunk the British ship Charcas a few days ago.

FRESH FIGHTING ON IN MEXICO

Maytorena Troops Open Fire On the Carranza Forces

Naco, Arizona, Dec. 11.—Despite the fact that American troops had given them sufficient warning, Mexican troops under Governor Maytorena today opened fire with artillery on the trenches of the Carranzaista forces of General Hill at Naco, Sonora.

The firing was furious for a time and many bullets and a few shells fell on the American side. Four batteries of the Sixth United States Field Artillery from San Antonio arrived on the scene today and are prepared to defend the American side.

son, also colored. The affair occurred last Christmas Day at Trenton and at that time created considerable excitement in that section. Brown was placed on trial and entered a plea of not guilty. After the jury had heard the case, they found the prisoner guilty of involuntary murder and recommended mercy. The presiding judge sentenced the man to serve six months in the county jail and gave the county commissioners privilege to hire him out. Brown was represented by D. E. Henderson, one of the leading members of the New Bern bar.

FRANK'S COUNSEL FIGHTING HARD FOR HIS LIFE

Several Plans Under Consideration and These Will Be Perfected

DEVELOPMENT SOON

Contention Is That Condemned Man Was Not Given Fair Trial

Atlanta, Dec. 11.—Counsel for Leo M. Frank, following the sentencing of the condemned man to be hanged January 22, today were engaged in the consideration of plans for a new legal move through which they hope to save him from the death penalty.

Developments, it was announced, were expected within the new few days, which again will bring the famous murder case to the notice of the courts in another desperate effort to obtain a review of the circumstances attending the trial and the rendition of the verdict of guilty.

A conference between Attorneys John L. Tye, Henry C. Peoples, Herbert Haas and Leonard Haas was begun today, with the view of concluding details for the new court fight. A similar conference this afternoon continued until long after night had fallen, but, at its conclusion, announcement was made that plans had not been completed.

Will Take Active Steps

It was said by the attorneys, however, there was no doubt but that active steps would be taken at the earliest possible moment.

The attorneys, while they declined to discuss the plans for the contemplated new fight, are known to base their chief hopes of saving Frank from the gallows on the contention that he was not given a fair trial because of alleged hostile feeling against him in the crowds that packed the courtroom.

It is generally believed the lawyer will ask the State Supreme Court for a writ of error to carry the first appeal for a new trial to the United States Supreme Court. If the writ is refused, application then will be made to the United States Supreme Court, as in the former plea, which was denied.

The ground that he was unfairly tried was impressively expressed by Frank in his dramatic speech in the criminal courtroom at the time of the resentencing Wednesday, when he exclaimed:

"Your honor, I declare to you and to the whole world, that the verdict of August 25, 1913, was made in an atmosphere seething with mob violence and clamor for my life."

Court Scene Impressive

The scene in the courtroom when Frank's doom was pronounced by Judge Hill was the topic of conversation about the courthouse. Old attaches of the courts, who have witnessed stirring incidents in legal battles in years past, characterized it as the most intensely dramatic and remarkable in the history of Fulton County courts. The eloquence with which Frank delivered his impassioned plea of innocence to Judge Hill astonished even his own lawyers. They declared it more like the stirring pleadings of a lawyer before a jury for the life of his client than the statement of a condemned man being sentenced to death.

The climax to the impressiveness came near the close of his speech. He had told of his trial, of the "atmosphere of seething mob violence," and of the results, and then he lowered his voice. As he softly and dramatically exclaimed: "Oh shame, that this should be true," the big bell in the Catholic Church in Central avenue began tolling the hour of 12, the mellow tones of the bell floating in through the windows of the courtroom and blending with the eloquence of the condemned man.

She has been lying in reserve at the navy yard for several months, with only enough men on board to keep her cabin clean. Now she will ship an entirely new crew excepting her engine and fire-room forces, and is expected to be loaded, ready to start to sea on December 17. A number of men who want to be members of the Cyclops crew were up for physical examination in the navy yard yesterday. There were a large number of colored men among the applicants.

SENATOR WEEKS URGES PLAN TO GET RESERVES

Praised the Strength of the Navy and Its Personnel

A LARGER ARMY

Believes Troops Could Be Maintained at a Small Cost.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Declaring there had been too much publicity about the nation's military affairs, Senator Weeks, of Massachusetts, in the Senate today opposed agitation for a special investigation of military preparedness, praised the strength and personnel of the navy and urged organization of an army reserve.

"Any one may learn about the military naval establishments by reading the reports of the secretaries of the departments and reports of those conducting the different bureaus, and branches of the service," said the senator.

"It is an open book to all citizens and there need be no doubt about our relative position, or our capabilities if one is disposed to study the reports instead of seeking notoriety in the press. In fact, there is and has been too much publicity in such matters in my opinion. We have had during the European war a demonstration of the value of secrecy in conducting military operations. There is no reason why we should spread broadcast what we are doing or what preparedness we have."

The Senator declared the navy in a class with France and Germany and probably second only to Great Britain. He said he thought the army reserve and a much larger army could be maintained at less expense.

PEACE WITH JAPAN

Richmond, Va., Dec. 11.—The Federal Council of Churches of America, which is in session here, today adopted a peace message to Japan which is intended to weld the friendship between that country and the United States.

UNIVERSITY CLUB HERE LAST NIGHT

Gave Concert Before A Fair Sized But Appreciative Audience

The Glee, Mandolin and Guitar Club of the University of North Carolina last evening gave one of the most enjoyable concerts of the season in Griffin auditorium and in spite of the fact that there were numerous court attractions, the concert was well patronized.

This club is probably one of the best ever organized at the University and they have gained an enviable reputation all over the State. The press has been profuse in their praise of the work of the members and New Bernians knew in advance that they had a rare treat in store for them.

At the conclusion of the concert the members of the club came down to Bradham's Broad street store where they were served with delicious refreshments.

FEDERAL TROOPS STILL ON SCENE

Washington, D. C., Dec. 11.—The withdrawal of Federal troops from the Colorado strike zone was temporarily halted today.

President Wilson received a message from Governor Ammons in which the latter said that the State desired the troops to remain for a while longer.

The coal strike has been "officially ended" but it is feared that there will be other trouble and it is thought best to keep the Federal troops for a while longer.