CIVILIANS SHOT BY ENEMY

The Germans Turned 8-inch Guns Against Dense Masses of Poles

A despatch from Petrograd says: Very great forces are being pressed into battles of mutual destruction from the left bank of the Vistula, near Ilow, southward along the Bzura and Rawka to the bend of the Pilica below Tomasow. Sometimes the Russians, sometimes the Germans take the offensive.

These pitched battles, which cannot be described as a general German offensive, are the fiercest in the north. They become more favorable to the Russians as they approach the point where the Austrians predominate in the enemy's ranks. The most southerly battle in Poland is on the Nida. Here the Russians have gained a victory over Gen. Dankl, whose task apparently was to link up with the Austro-German army on the Pilica, 20 miles east of Nowo.Radimsk, and assist the Germans' attempt to force a wedge between the Russian northern and southern armies. Immense slaughter is taking place in these battles. This doubtless will not be abated until the ascendancy has been definitely established.

In the region of Sochaczew thousands of civilians have been killed. The Germans used eight-inch guns against the town and smashed the high tenement houses. The inhabitants were crushed under the masonry. When the population tried to flee to Warsaw, the German guns poured shells into the dense masses of men, women and children, and hundreds were trampled to death. The same thing occurred at Lowicz.

A Russian officer who was decorated for capturing six German guns at Lowicz states that 80 German women were fighting in the trenches.

GERMANS DISILLUSIONED.

Last Available Man Called to the Colors.

The Petit Parisien publishes a statement by a Frenchman who succeeded in escaping from Germany, and whose information, says the journal, is precise, and bears the impress of truth.

The Germans, he says, no longer believe the beautiful fables which have been told them. The impression which they give, and which they do not conceal, is one of terrible and immense weariness. The enthusiasm of a short while ago has given place to a dull and intolerable anguish which becomes evident in every instance.

In the towns of middle and southern Germany which he passed through no more recruits were to be seen. The 1915 class had been called to the colors, and the barracks are absolutely empty. Germany has at the present moment enrolled all the effectives at her disposal. Those who are not in the fighting line are packed on the frontiers and in concentration camps.

The army no longer has any national reserves, and will not be able to form them, except at the price of an immense effort, and it cannot reinforce one front except by diminishing its forces on another front. That is why General Joffre, who knows all, is able to say that our position is very good.

The truth is coming to light, despite the precautions taken, among the mass of German people, and the people, full of the agony of its last hours, feel that the fatal moment of collapse is at hand.

BRITISH TRAWLER SUNK.

Ocana Goes Down With Eight Men on Board.

A despatch from Grimsby, Eng., says: The Trawler Ocana was sunk by a mine on Thursday. Eight men were drowned, only the second engineer being saved. The trawler when sunk was not far from the line taken by the German cruisers in their recent raid on the English coast, and it is believed the Ocana struck one of the mines dropped by the raiders in their flight back to their base.

ARMY OF PRISONERS.

German and Austrian Captives Number 55,000.

A despatch from London says: According to a Petrograd despatch to Reuter's Telegram Company, the number of German prisoners registered is 1,140 officers and 131,700 men; the number of Austrians registered is 3,166 officers and 221,400 men. The Slav prisoners have asked for Russian naturalization so that they may be sent against the Turks.

Doctor—Do you talk in your sleep? Patient—No; I talk in other people's. I'm a clergyman.

1915 EXPORTS MAY BE BROKEN

Trade and Commerce Department Issues Annual Report.

The Department of Trade and Commerce has issued its twenty-second annual report. It covers the fiscal year ending March 31 last, Canada's record trade year. The trade total amounted to $44,480,276 more than the total for the previous year, reaching the imposing figure of $1,129,744,725. The imports totalled $650,746,797, a decrease of $41,285,595 as compared with 1913, but an increase of $91,426,253 over the total of 1912. Exports for the year amounted to $479,997,928, an increase of $85,765,871.

Deputy Minister O'Hara, in his report, says: "For several years in presenting the annual report of thisd epartment, it has been my privilege to make exceedingly optimistic observations as to the probable increase in the total trade for the ensuing year. In every case the increase has exceeded the most sanguine expectations. This year, however, in view of the European war and the unprecedented disturbance in trade throughout the world resulting therefrom, it is not possible to reach any conclusions as to future possible trade expansion other than to observe that from the latest information available it would appear that the imports into Canada for the fiscal year 1915 will show a considerable decrease, notwithstanding the very large increase in the imports of coin and bullion compared with 1914, but that the exports of 1915 will probably equal, if not exceed, the record figures of last year."

The report makes special mention of the fact that the war has wiped out the export trade of Germany and Austria-Hungary, amounting to almost 15 per cent. of the total export trade of the world.

Urges Use of Poorer Foods.

A despatch from Amsterdam says: The Vossische Zeitung of Berlin prints an appeal by leading German professors of political economy which urges Germans to live on vegetables and rye bread, leaving meat, white bread and delicacies for the sick and wounded. "England wants to starve us, and we must therefore do everything possible to economize in the use of our food," the appeal says.

Seizes N.S.W. Wheat Stock.

A despatch from Sydney, N.S.W., says: The Government has seized the entire stock of wheat of New South Wales, excepting the amount needed for seed supplies for the farmers. This action is aimed at speculators, who, taking advantage of war conditions, have been seeking to inflate prices. The Government has fixed a price for the wheat of $1.20 per bushel.

When asked by her teacher, "Which of the feathered tribe can lift the heaviest weights?" a little girl replied, "The crane."

ENEMY IN BELGIUM HUNGRY

Huge Food Exactions Are Imposed Upon the Impoverished Civilian

A despatch from Northern France says: A detailed account of the exactions by the German authorities in Antwerp shows that the daily fine demanded is 14 tons of bread, 28 tons of potatoes, eight tons of fresh meat, three and one-half tons of preserved meat, the same quantity of smoked meat, two tons of cheese, 8,500 bottles of wine, 255,000 cigarettes, 85,000 cigars, 1,700 packets of tobacco and twenty tons of oats. The forage shops have been forced to provide field-glasses for the German officers gratis. Dentists are obliged to give their services and to supply artificial teeth and gold fillings without payment.

On Wednesday and Thursday last German and Austrian troops, composed of infantry, which had been entrained at Schaerbeck in a lamentable condition, passed through Brussels on their way back from the Yser. They had anything but the air of conquerors. They were sorely in need of everything. They looked harassed and worn out and went about their duties in absolute silence. In the tattered, mud-stained uniforms the troops give the impression of being absolutely demoralized. Only the officers retain their arrogantly disdainful manner.

The Prince of Wales Marching to Join General French's Army.

Since the outbreak of the war, the dearest wish of the Prince of Wales has been to go to the front, into the very firing lines. Though sadly disappointed a number of times by Lord Kitchener, who transferred the heir to the British throne from one regiment to another until he had served his apprenticeship as a "rookie," his dearest wish at last was granted him. The photo shows the Prince marching on his way to join the Expeditionary forces in France. King George was in France a few days ago on a visit to Field Marshal Sir John French, the commander of the British forces. Here he met the young Prince and with him as companion, the King made a tour of the base hospitals, cheering the men who are recovering from wounds received on the battlefield. The Prince was elated over the fact that he was permitted to accompany his father on these tours.

WON VICTORIA CROSS.

The Remarkable Single-Handed Feat of George Wilson.

Particulars as to Private George Wilson's fine feat in winning the Victoria Cross have been given to the London Daily Telegraph. Wilson discovered there was a German machine gun stationed in a wood, and, apparently on his own initiative, he decided to stop its operations. In his desperate venture he got the co-operation of a private of the 60th King's Rifles.

They went out alone and managed to get quite close to the enemy's position, when Wilson's companion was killed. Undaunted, however, Wilson continued on his perilous mission. One by one he shot the officer and entire gun team of six soldiers and then ran in and took possession of the gun and two cases and a half of ammunition.

Wilson a few months ago was selling newspapers in the streets of his native city of Edinburgh.

KILL EIGHT OF ENEMY.

Two Manchester Officers Get Victoria Cross.

A despatch from London says: Victoria Crosses have been awarded to Second Lieutenant James Leach and Sergeant John Hogan of the Second Battalion of the Manchester Regiment for "conspicuous bravery near Festubert on October 29, when, after their trench had been taken by Germans, and after two attempts to recapture it had failed, they voluntarily decided on the afternoon of the same day to recover the trench themselves, and working from traverse to traverse at close quarters, with great bravery, gradually succeeded in regaining possession of the trench. They killed eight of the enemy, wounded two and made sixteen prisoners."

THE KAISER'S MESSAGE.

"To the Enemy I Bring Bullet and Bayonet."

A despatch from Rotterdam says: Another of the German Emperor's speeches to his troops in the east has just reached Rotterdam. After announcing that he brings greetings from the troops in the west, the Emperor continues:—

"To the enemy I bring the bullet and the bayonet. In any case the enemy will be beaten."

GERMANS BID LILLE STARVE

Prussian Commander Tells Mayor Lack of Food in City is Solely the Fault of the British

A despatch from Paris says: To the many other horrors which the German invasion has brought to the inhabitants of Lille is now to be added that of famine. Citizens of the northern fortress town, which has been in the possession of the Germans for some months and is now destitute of food, have already paid an enormous war tax to the invader. Its textile industries have been ruined and 1,200 of its houses destroyed. M. Charles de la Salle, the heroic Mayor of Lille, who has remained at his post throughout, in an eloquent letter recently addressed to Gen. Von Hindrich, German commander, pleaded for relief for his starving fellow-citizens.

In his reply, which was characteristically Prussian and worthy of the Imperial Chancellor himself, Von Hindrich set out to show that if Lille women and children lacked bread, Britain, and not Germany, was to blame. Germany herself, added the commander of Lille, possessed sufficient resources for her army and her civilian population. Britain, in attempting to prevent the arrival of overseas produce with the view of starving out Germany, was but inflicting suffering upon the inhabitants of the occupied towns of France and Belgium. The starving population would have to put up with the consequences, for the German Government could not undertake the feeding of French and Belgian civilians under its jurisdiction so long as Britain closed the seas to the importation of foodstuffs.

Having delivered himself thus, Gen. Von Hindrich told the Mayor of Lille that he had better apply for assistance to the Swiss Government, promising that the German Government would support the request to the utmost of its power. If the mayor refused to seek help from the Swiss Government, then, as far as the German commandant of Lille was concerned, the people of that city were free to starve.

Urged to Conserve Foodstuffs.

A despatch from Berlin says: The Norddeutsche Zeitung issues a warning against using grain to feed animals, especially rye, which is needed for breadstuffs. It says the empire's food supply must be carefully husbanded to guard against a possible shortage which would force upon the people a difficult problem.

FRENCH BOMBARDING METZ

Carry the Woods Northwest of Pont-a-Mousson—A Notable Victory

A despatch from London says: The Times publishes the following from Paris:

"I have it on good authority that the French have carried the Bois-lep-Tetre, northwest of Pont-a-Mousson, and have begun to bombard the forts of Metz.

"Bois-lep-Tetre, which covers the heights just north of the road leading to Pont-a-Mousson at St. Mihiel, has been held in great part by the Germans for many weeks, but several recent communiques have mentioned that the French were making progress there.

"The capture of this wood brings the French up to the Norrey Ridge, which is within range of the nearest of the Metz forts, particularly that of St. Blaise, which is almost on the frontier and dominates the village of Pagny-sur-Moselle.

"Several weeks ago the French pushed forward and endeavored to cut the communications of the German army at St. Mihiel by blowing to pieces the station at Arnaville, where the branch line to Thiancourt begins."

QUEEN'S NEEDLEWORK GUILD

New Year's Gift to Queen Mary From Women of Canada.

The following appeal has been sent out by the Queen Mary's Needlework Guild to the women of Canada, asking them to contribute toward a New Year's gift to Queen Mary:—

"Will you kindly allow me, through your valuable medium, to ask the women of Canada to unite with Queen Mary's Needlework Guild in sending a New Year's present to Queen Mary which shall be worthy of our great Dominion, and the magnifizcent work the women are doing.

"Will each woman in Canada, who is working for the soldiers and sailors, send one garment during January through Queen Mary's Needlework Guild for Her Majesty to distribute?

This can be done very easily.

"Thanks to Lady Williams-Taylor the Bank of Montreal has kindly instructed any of its branches to receive parcels on account of the Guild, and such parcels will be forwarded without cost to the donor. Persons residing in a town where there is no branch of the Bank of Montreal may forward parcels to the Bank of Montreal at 213 Peel Street, Montreal, at the same time sending the Bank the receipt for the charges paid, the amount of which will be returned to them.

"It will be my pleasure to supply material for one thousand garments to those who are willing to give their work but have not material and patterns available. This material will make flannelette dresses for infants, woollen underclothes for children from two to eight years old, men's flannel shirts, socks and children's stockings. A postcard sent to Miss Weller, Assistant Secretary, Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, St. Catharines, Ontario, saying how many garments can be made, will result in material and directions being forwarded to the sender free.

"Queen Mary, by her unselfish devotion to duty, and splendid example, has endeared herself to the women of the Empire at this crisis, and such a New Year's gift as I have suggested would not only prove that the women of Canada are ready to "serve the Queen" as are our brothers to "serve the King" but also give to Her Majesty the great pleasure of distributing useful garments to the soldiers and sailors, the refugees, the poor and needy, the waifs and strays.

"Hoping that the idea of a New Year's gift to Queen Mary from the women of Canada will meet with a hearty response, believe me,

"Yours faithfully,

"(Sgd.) C. WELLAND MERRITT.

"Honorary Secretary."

THE FOG SHUT DOWN.

British Sailors Tell How German Raiders Escaped.

Naval men whose ships have returned to Harwich, England, after taking part in the chase of the raiding German cruisers state that the escape of the enemy was due entirely to the fact that the North Sea was enveloped in a thick mist.

"It was desperately hard lines on us," said a member of the crew of one of the ships. "We were absolutely certain we should bring them into action, but though we were hard at their heels, they gave us the slip in the confounded fog, which lifted occasionally only to shut down again like a thick curtain. What could be done under such conditions They did not want to fight, and directly they knew we were on their tracks they scuttled away like frightened rabbits."

Information which comes from another quarter shows that the ships of the destroyer flotilla which engaged the cruisers before the latter turned and fled, put up a very plucky fight. They were at a terrible disadvantage in having to put themselves against vessels of such superior type, but they replied with great dash and courage to the guns of the enemy.

A brief account of the fighting is contained in a letter from a sailor who was in the action. The writer says: "One of our small light cruisers absolutely saved the situation. She was, however, no match for such weighty opponents, and the fact that she came out of the encounter so well is attributed to the poor gunnery of the Germans."

Another of the crew says the three German ships literally rained shells at them, but made very few hits. "There were many very narrow escapes," he said, "and it was marvellous how we got out of the affair at all. Of course, we engaged them, and we did our best, but we were out-classed by the powerful German ships. They soon made off, however, when they smelt danger to themselves, and we were powerless to stop them."

Atrocities Proved by Many Exhibits.

A despatch from London says: An exhibition is being held in London to prove the occurrence of German atrocities. It consists of official documents and numerous photographs.

Father—Don't ask so many questions, child. Curiosity killed the cat. Little Boy—What did the cat want to know, dad?