GERMAN POSITIONS ATTACKED TO THE SOUTH-EAST OF YPRES

French Battery Explodes Enemy Munition Train in the Vosges

A despatch from Paris says: A heavy artillery attack was made by the French Sunday against the German positions south of Dailleul, on the railroad between Hazebrouck and Armentieres, south-east of Ypres, and in the Blaireville region, south of Arras.

A German munition train which had stopped at the station at Hachsinette, south-east of Bonhomme (Diedelshausen), just across the French frontier in the Vosges, was fired on by a French battery and an explosion was observed.

The Germans have not renewed their infantry attacks in Alsace, where, in the sector of the Hartmannweilerkopf, there were such vigorous encounters earlier in the week. The German artillery, however, conducted a heavy bombardment Saturday of the French positions on the Hartmanns-Weilerkopf and at Hirzteen and further infantry attacks are expected. In the Lombaertzyde sector of Belgium, the violent bombardment continued on both sides and French artillery activity is reported from the Tahure-Somms-Py road in Champagne. The German official statement announced the destruction of French mine galleries by the explosion of counter mines to the west of Labassee.

ABLE TO RESIST ARMY OF 500,000

Anglo-French Army of 200,000 Is Firmly Entrenched at Salonica.

A despatch from London says: The Athens correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "The outlook is more satisfactory than at any time since the Macedonian campaign started. Gen. Sarrail said that he was fully satisfied. Heavy guns have arrived and are now in position. The delay in the enemy's advance has been of the greatest value to the allies."

The Salonica correspondent of the Daily News says: "Assuming that the reports of the disposal of the German forces are true, it is possible that half a million Germans, Turks and Bulgarians are available for an attack on Salonica. It is understood that Premier Radoslavoff, of Bulgaria, recently hinted that a smashing blow would be struck in January. There the period of calm here may be short. Gen. de Castrinao arrived here unexpectedly recently. He had long conferences with General Sarrail, General Mahon, and General Manoury, and visited the French and British fronts. The population of Salonica is quiet, reassured by Gen. Sarrail's statement that the city is not in danger."

Despatches from Greece to the London morning papers add to the mystery surrounding the next move of the Central powers. Correspondents of the Times both in Salonica and in Athens, and the Morning Post's correspondent, suggest that the Bulgarians will be in the vanguard of the Teutonic advance toward Salonica.

"All pretended German guarantees," says the Morning Post's Athens correspondent, "are mere sedatives, intended to induce Greek public opinion to take the bitter dose as quietly as possible.

The correspondent adds that there is a rumor in circulation that the Germans are preparing to clothe the Bulgarians in German uniforms so that Greece cannot object to their entry.

VON EMMICH DEAD, LED ATTACK ON LIEGE

A despatch from Berlin says: The death at Hanover of General von Emmich, the conqueror of Liege, is announced by the Overseas News Agency.

General von Emmich was commander of the tenth army corps. He figured prominently in the early events of the war, being in command of German troops which invaded Belgium. He it was who issued an appeal to the Belgian people not to resist the Germans.

The heavy loss of life of the Germans at Liege was said to have shattered the confidence of the General, and a report that he had committed suicide gained wide currency in August of last year.

AUSTRIAN DIPLOMAT ARRESTED AS A SPY.

A despatch from Geneva, says: The secretary of the Austrian Consultate here, Herr Taussig has been arrested on a charge of espionage. The charge, it is said, grows out of his alleged denunciation of Mrs. Merrick Hildebrandt, of Louisville, Ky., recently expelled from Germany after her arrest and imprisonment on a charge which she said was not made known to her, and who came to Geneva and caused a strong protest to be forwarded to Washington against what she declared to be the unwarranted treatment accorded her by the German authorities.

VON PAPEN SAILS AWAY, SAYS "I'M INNOCENT"

A despatch from New York says: Franz von Papen, Germany's recalled military attache, left New York for Rotterdam last week on the steamship Noordam, bearing a safe conduct to Germany from the Entente allies. Departing he issued a final statement to the American people, in which he said: "I leave my post without any feeling of bitterness, because I know too well that when history is once written it will establish our clean records and calumnies spread broadcast at present."

Von Papen was appointed military attache of the German Embassy in December, 1913. Public attention was directed to him in September last, when a letter which he wrote to his wife was found among the papers seized by the British Government from James F. J. Archibald, while he was carrying them to Europe. In this letter von Papen alluded to "Bloedsinnig Yankees," which was translated as "Idiotic Yankees." His recall and that of Capt. Karl Boy-Ed, the German Naval Attache, was requested by Secretary Lansing Dec. 2. Mr. Lansing described their offences as cumulative, but gave no particulars.

It is reported that Capt. Boy-Ed will leave here for Rotterdam on the steamer Rotterdam.

POVERTY AND SQUALOR NO MORE IN EAST END

A despatch from London says: Probably no part of Great Britain has been more radically affected by the war than the east of London. A social reformer, desiring in days gone by to see poverty and squalor in their acutest forms, naturally turned to the East End, knowing that there he would find both in full measure.

To-day the East End has been transformed. If poverty has not been wiped out by causes due to the war it has largely disappeared, and toiling people are enjoying a degree of prosperity such as before never existed there. For a long time past every able-bodied man had been working six and seven days a week, and all women and boys can get all the work they want.

TARTAR FOR STATES ALLOWED BY FRANCE

A despatch from Paris says: Upon the advice of Alexandre Ribot, Minister of Finance, the Government has rescinded the decree prohibiting the exportation to the United States of crude tartar and its by-products, which are used to a large extent in America for bread-raising. In ordinary years these articles are exported to the United States to the value of about 9,000,000 francs.

The tartar comes from deposits in wine casks. Its exportation was prohibited because it was believed to be an element employed in the manufacture of certain explosives, and it was suspected the ultimate destination of the tartar was Germany.

GERMANY HAS SECURED ROUMANIAN GRAIN

Arrangements Perfected for Exportation of 50,000 Carloads.

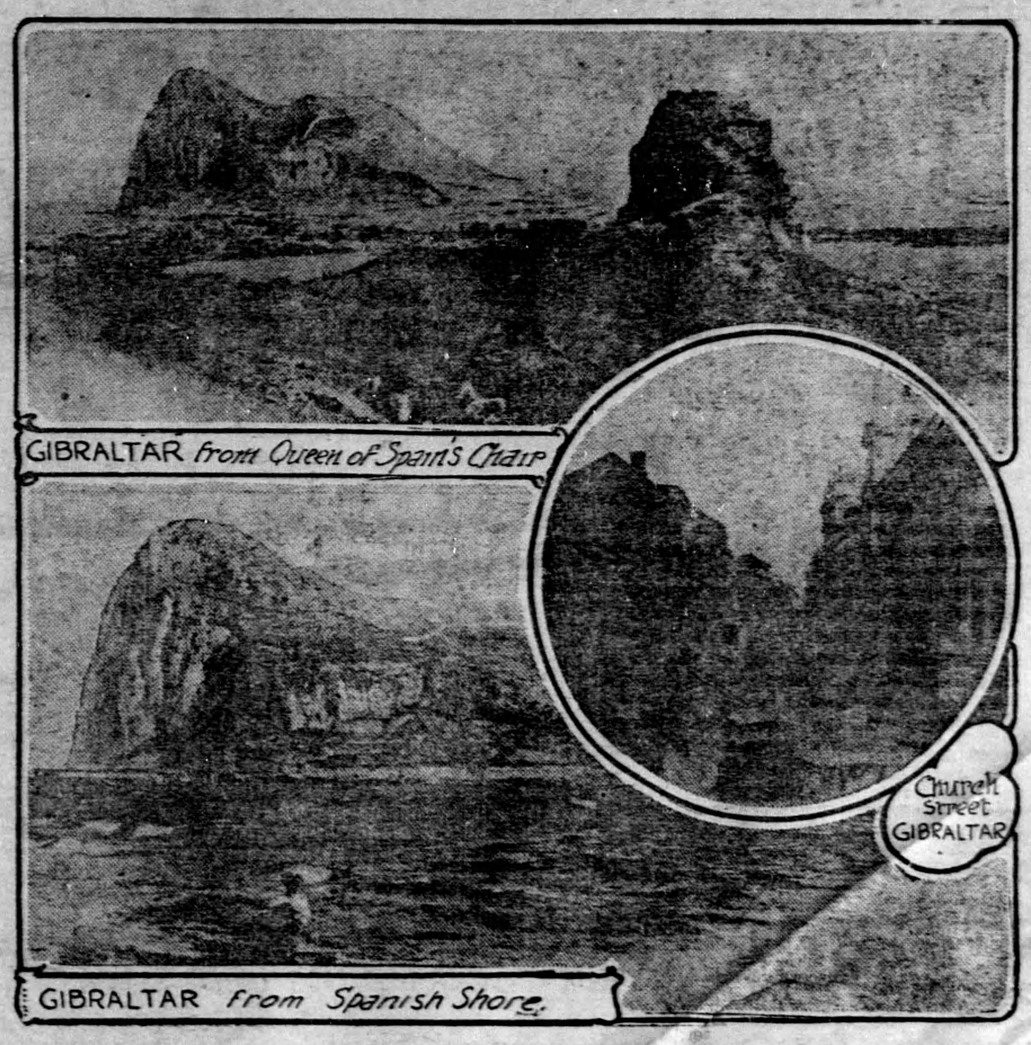
A despatch from Berlin says: According to a Bucharest despatch, the exportation of 50,000 carloads of grain of various sorts has been finally arranged, a satisfactory agreement on the method of payment having been reached between the German and Roumanian negotiators.

Brown: "It must be terrible for a singer to know she has lost her voice." "Yes," said Robinson, "but it is more terrible when she doesn't know it."

Ultimate Channel of Peace Negotiations

A despatch from London says: The reports of the Reichstag discussions have aroused some interest in the Entente capitals, where the Socialist attitude is being closely followed, many believing that some section of the Socialist group in Germany may prove to be the ultimate channel of peace negotiations. A Copenhagen despatch declares that the Socialist party in Germany is now completely divided, 21 members having seceded and formed a new party with an independent organization.

AT THE GATEWAY TO THE MEDITERRANEAN



The censorship has withheld news of British operations at the Straits of Gibraltar, but when the war is over there will be an interesting story on the precautions taken to keep German submarines out of the Mediterranean and the ruses employed by them to avoid mines and nets prepared by Great Britain. Above are several views of this important key position, where British guns dominate the passage between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

ENEMY MASSED FOR BIG ATTACK

Simultaneous Drive on Salonica by Three Directions by the Enemy.

A despatch from London says: German heavy artillery in the Lake Dorian region commenced to throw shells against the Anglo-French defences, but there is nothing to indicate that the expected attack on Salonica has begun.

In the absence of news of any activity by either the Teutonic or allied forces on the Salonica front suspense in London respecting the situation in the Balkans is reaching a very acute stage. It is everywhere felt that the troops defending Salonica are on the eve of what will perhaps prove one of the most important battles of the war. If the Germans are held it means a partial collapse at least of their designs against the Suez Canal and Egypt. If they are thrown back it means not only the entire collapse of these designs, but will in all likelihood prove the turning point in the war. On the other hand, if the Anglo-French forces are defeated and driven from Salonica the cause of the Entente powers will have received possibly its most serious reverse.

This it least is the situation as it is portrayed by most of the military comentators. There is no one but who appreciates the enormous stakes at play, and there is little attempt to minimize the seriousness of the situation.

It can be readily stated that the allies now have a force of roundly 400,000 holding the roads to Salonica. Against this army there is drawn a German force of uncertain numbers. It is recalled that the Austro-German and Bulgarian armies sent into Serbia when the Balkan campaign began were estimated at about 370,000 men. The casualties during the Serbian campaign were, however, very considerable, and must have depleted that force greatly. Meanwhile there has been no hint of how many reinforcements have been sent to fill the broken ranks.

BAD DIET CAUSES CANCER.

Too Many of Our Desirable Goods Are Demineralized.

Entrance of a parasite or fungus growth is a cause of cancer, according to the opinion of Dr. Horace Packard, of Boston University, who discussed "The Cancer Question" before the Surgical and Gynecological Society of the American Institute of Homeopathy at Chicago. Dr. Packard emphasized his belief that the possible cause of cancer is dietary and argued that demineralized foods form a factor in the disease's development. The human family is underfed in mineral food salts, he said. "A momentous fact," he added, "is that the flour mills and the rice mills of the civilized world are busy eliminating every particle of iron, phosphorous, sodium, potassium, silica, calcium, chloride, magnesium and sulphur (mineral salts), from our staple food supply and sending out food material rich in heat units but pitifully meagre in energizing and immunizing material. In a single flour mill of the Middle West, approximately one million tons of wheat are milled each year. Of this about 550 thousand tons go to the human family as refined flour (wheat starch) and 450 thousand tons of the by-products bearing the energizing, immunizing food salts go mainly to feed domestic animals."

FRENCH VICTORY IN VOSGES REGARDED AS IMPORTANT ONE

Number of Prisoners Captured Largest Since the Offensive of September Last

A despatch from London says: The French success at Hartmanns-Weilerkopf appears to have been of considerable proportions. The official French statement gives the number of prisoners captured at 1,300. A part of the positions gained, however, was lost again after a series of counter-attacks.

A possible motive actuating the French in making the violent attack may be found in reports from Zurich coming by way of Rome, which says that Field Marshal von Mackensen, who led the Austro-German armies to victory in Poland, and then conquered Serbia, is to head a new German offensive in upper Alsace. According to these reports the Germans have massed 300,000 men in upper Alsace, all foodstuffs in the vicinity have been requisitioned, and 22 villages have been evacuated to facilitate the operations. These preparations have been continuing for 15 days, according to the reports.

The French gains, a part of which has been lost again, were on the eastern slope of the mountain, according to the French communique. As described by the German War Office in its official statement, the ground won by the French included the summit.

The French success resulted from careful artillery preparation and the dashing onslaught of the troops. The Germans have been forced back some distance on the eastern slopes of the mountain.

SPEEDS CZAR'S RAILWAYS.

New Minister of Interior Adopts New Methods.

There has been a great speeding up of methods and men on the Russian railway systems during the last few weeks, as a result of investigations undertaken by the new Minister of the Interior, M. Khvostoff. His investigations were begun in the first place owing to complaints regarding scarcity of food supplies in Moscow.

The minister's plans for remedying the conditions include the speeding up of managers and workmen, the use of motor vehicles for unloading and delivery, the use of the electric street cars for freight at night, and the fixing of maximum prices for distribution service by private concerns.

The new measures are being put into operation at Moscow, Petrograd and other places where they are found necessary.

300 GERMAN WOMEN KILLED IN EXPLOSION

A despatch from Amsterdam says: According to advices to the Telegraaf, a powder factory and several ammunition depots were blown up at Muenster, Westphalia. Of the 600 women employed in the mill, 300 were killed.

MORTALITY FROM STARVATION IN SERBIA IS APPALLING

Before Aid Can Come Thousands of Non-Combatants in the Interior Are Doomed to Death

A despatch from Rome says: The number of Serbians seeking refuge in Albania is daily increasing. In the interior of Serbia conditions are said to be hopeless. The mortality from starvation and exhaustion is appalling. The remnants of the army are subsisting on horseflesh, and the non-combatants, unable to find means of transportation, especially women and children, are often absolutely without food.

In addition to the food shortage the refugees are constantly exposed to attack from Albanian tribesmen, who are shooting down men, women and children at every opportunity.

At the coast towns, food, especially flour, is available, but it is impossible to convey it into the interior because of the hostility of the natives. Reports say that before aid can come thousands of non-combatant Serbians are doomed to death by starvation.

Germans Lost 8,000 in Attack on British Lines

A despatch from Paris says: "Information received regarding the fighting between Ypres and Armentieres indicates that the Germans sustained a loss of over 8,000 men without gaining any ground. The fighting was most severe and a large quantity of asphyxiating gas was used, but the British lines remained intact. The attack is thought to have been the prelude to an offensive or for the purpose of testing the strength of the British front.

The Leading Markets

Breadstuffs.

Toronto, Dec. 28.—Manitoba wheat—New crop—No. 1 Northern, $1.28½; No. 2 Northern, $1.25¾; No. 3 Northern, $1.23, all rail.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 49½c; No. 3 C.W., 47½c; extra No. 1 feed, 47½c; No. 1 feed, 46½c, all rail.

American corn—No. 3 yellow, new, 77¼c, on Track Toronto.

Canadian corn—No. 2 yellow, old, 77c, nominal, Toronto.

Ontario oats—No. 3 white, 37 to 38c; commercial oats, 35 to 37c, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 Winter, per car lot, $1.05 to $1.07; wheat slightly sprouted, $1 to $1.04, and tough according to sample; wheat sprouted, smutty, and tough, according to sample; feed wheat, 75 to 80c.

Peas—No. 2, nominal, per car lots, $1.90; sample peas, according to sample, $1.50 to $1.75, according to freights outside.

Barley—Malting barley, 57 to 60c; feed barley, 50 to 53c, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat—Nominal, car lots, 76 to 77c, according to freight outside.

Rye—No. 2 nominal, 86 to 87c; rye, rejected, 70 to 80c, according to sample.

Manitoba flour—First patents, in jute bags, $6.60; second patents, in jute bags, $6.10; strong bakers', in jute bags, $5.90, Toronto.

Ontario flour—New Winter, $4.60 to $4.80, according to sample, seaboard, or Toronto freights in bags, prompt shipment.

Millfeed—Car lots, delivered Montreal freights. Bran, $24 per ton; shorts, $25 per ton; middlings, $26 per ton; good feed flour, $1.60 per bag.

Country Produce.

Butter—Fresh dairy, 28 to 30c; inferior, 22 to 24c; creamery prints, 33 to 35c; solids, 31½ to 32c.

Eggs—Storage, 30 to 32c per doz.; selects, 35 to 36c; new-laid, 56 to 60c, case lots.

Beans—$4.15 to $4.25.

Poultry—Chickens, 15 to 16c; fowls, 12 to 13c; ducks, 15 to 17c; geese, 15 to 17c; turkeys, 25 to 27c.

Cheese—Large, 18½c; twins, 19c.

Potatoes—Car lots of Ontario quoted at $1.35, and New Brunswicks at $1.55 per bag, on track.

Honey—Prices, in tins, lbs., 10 to 11c; combs, No. 1, $2.40; No. 2, $2.

Provisions.

Cured meats are quoted as follows: —Bacon, long clear, 16 to 16¼c per lb., in case lots. Hams—Medium, 17½ to 18c; do., heavy, 14½ to 15c; rolls, 16 to 16½c; breakfast bacon, 21 to 23c; backs, plain, 24 to 25c; boneless backs, 26 to 27c.

Lard—The market is steady; nun[illegible]—Pure, 13¾ to 14c; compound, 12 12½c.

Business in Montreal.

Montreal, Dec. 28.—Corn—Ame[illegible] can No. 2 yellow, 80 to 81c. Oat[illegible] No. 2 local white, 45c; No. 3 do., 4[illegible] No. 4 do., 43c. Barley—Man. fe[illegible] 60c; malting, 67c. Buckwheat—No[illegible] 82c. Flour—Man. Spring wheat p[illegible] ents, firsts, $6.70; seconds, $6.[illegible] strong bakers', $6; Winter pate[illegible] choice, $5.20; straight rollers, $5[illegible] to $5.60; do., bags, $2.60 to $2[illegible] Rolled oats, barrels, $5.20 to [illegible] do., bags, 90 lbs., [illegible] to $2.00. [illegible] $24. Shorts, $26. Middlings, $28 $30. Mouillie, $31 to $33. Hay—[illegible] 2, per ton, car lots, $19 to $19[illegible] Cheese—Finest westerns, 17¾ to [illegible] finest easterns, 17¼ to 17½c. Bu[illegible] —Choicest creamery, 34¾ to 35 seconds, 32½ to 33c. Eggs—Fresh [illegible] to 53c; selected, 33c; No. 1 stock, [illegible] No. 2 stock, 28c. Potatoes, per [illegible] car lots, $1.30 to $1.35. Dre[illegible] hogs, abattoir killed, $13.50 [illegible] $13.75; do., country, $12 to $12[illegible] Pork—Heavy Canada short mess, b[illegible] 35 to 45 pieces, $29 to $29.50; s[illegible] cut back, bbls., 45 to 55 pieces, $2[illegible] $28.50. Lard—Compound, tierces, [illegible] lbs., 11¾c; wood pails, 20 lbs. [illegible] 12¼c; pure, tierces, 375 lbs., 14[illegible] pure, wood pails, 20 lbs. net, 15c.

United States Markets.

Minneapolis, Dec. 28.—Wheat—[illegible] 1 hard, $1.20⅞; No. 1 North[illegible] $1.17⅞ to $1.18⅞; No. 2 North[illegible] $1.13⅞ to $1.15⅞; Decem[illegible] $1.17¾; May, $1.18⅝. Corn—N[illegible] yellow, 73 to 74c. Oats—No. 3 wh[illegible] 40¼ to 40½c. Flour unchan[illegible] Bran, $18 to $18.50.

Duluth, Dec. 18.—Wheat—No. [illegible] hard, $1.17⅝; No. 1 North[illegible] $1.16⅝; No. 2 Northern, $1.12⅝ [illegible] $1.13⅝; Montana, No. 2 hard, $1.[illegible] to $1.14⅝; December, $1.16⅝; [illegible] $1.18⅝. Linseed, cash, $2.11 [illegible] $2.11½; December, $2.09½; [illegible] $2.15.

Live Stock Markets.

Toronto, Dec. 28.—Butchers' [illegible] choice, $7.60 to $7.90; [illegible] $7.25 to $7.50; do., medium, $6.[illegible] $7; do., common, $5.60 to $6; bu[illegible] ers' bulls, choice, $6.50 to $6.75; [illegible] good bulls, $5.75 to $6.25; do., ro[illegible] bulls, $4.75 to $5.25; butchers' co[illegible] choice, $6.35 to $6.75; do., good, [illegible] to $6.25; do., medium, $5.25 to $5[illegible] do., common, $4 to $4.50; feed[illegible] good, $6.50 to $6.75; stockers, 70[illegible] 900 lbs., $6 to $6.60; canners [illegible] cutters, $3 to $4.50; milkers, ch[illegible] each, $75 to $100; do., common [illegible] medium, each, $35 to $60; spring [illegible] $50 to $100; light ewes, $6.50 [illegible] $7.50; sheep, heavy, $5.25 to [illegible] do., bucks, $3.50 to $4.50; year[illegible] lambs, $7 to $7.75; lambs, cwt., $[illegible] to $10.75; calves, medium to ch[illegible] $6.50 to $10; do., common, $4 [illegible] $4.50; hogs, fed and watered, $9.2[illegible] $9.30; do., packers' quotations, $8[illegible]

Montreal, Dec. 28.—Choice ste[illegible] $8 to $8.25; good, $7.50 to $7[illegible] lower grades down to $5.50; ch[illegible] butcher cows, $6.25 to $6.50; [illegible] bulls from $5 to $6.75 per cwt.; lam[illegible] $9.75 to $10; sheep, $6.25 to $7 [illegible] cwt.; calves, 9 to 9½c per lb [illegible] milk fed and at 5 to 8c for grass [illegible] hogs, selected lots, $9.50 to $9.75 [illegible] cwt., weighed off cars.

Granite is the lowest rock in earth's crust.