FRENCH FEAR GERMAN DASH OVER NEUTRAL SWITZERLAND

Distinguished French Writer Urges Britain to Take Over More of Western Front, So France May Be Prepared For Any Lightning Stroke From von Hindenburg.

A despatch from Paris says: France fears a dash by the German armies across neutral Switzerland, in a desperate attempt to turn the French and Italian lines, and relieve the pressure of the allied forces.

For months the possibility of an invasion of Swiss territory has been talked of in Paris as a possibility. To-day, in the opinion of the French press, it has become a probability.

Germany has called to the colors another class of recruits which will reinforce her active armies by more than half a million men. With her military forces now at their maximum she is preparing for her supreme effort of the war.

Of one thing France is certain: that under Field Marshal von Hindenburg Germany is mustering all her resources for the decisive stroke, and, if the past is to be a guide for the future, she will deal this blow with the same lightning-like speed with which she launched her legions across neutral Belgium in the opening campaign of 1914.

This view is expressed in La Victoire by Gustave Herve, the famous French publicist, who devotes his leading article to the subject.

Britain must take over a still greater portion of the line now held by the French, M. Herve declares, in order to free a sufficient body of French troops to permit the formation of an "army of manoeuvre"—a mobile force which will be ready to reinforce any part of the west front line menaced by the German attack.

M. Herve also points out that Germany has mobilized the classes of 1919, giving her six hundred thousand additional men, while her civil mobilization will liberate a force variously estimated at from 500,000 to 2,000,000. This force, while it will be used chiefly for service at the rear, will free a corresponding number of younger troops for the purpose of the first line.

"At what point will they strike?" M. Herve asks. "Hindenburg's pet objective is Russia, the article continues, "but a grand offensive on that front is out of the question until April owing to weather conditions."

BRITISH ARMY IN SUEZ REGION TO DRIVE THROUGH PALESTINE

Will Join Russian Army That Has Moved South From the Caucasus and Cut the Bagdad Railroad.

A despatch from Washington says: The Holy Land may be the next important theatre of war. Official despatches received here indicate that the British force in the Suez region are preparing for a drive through Palestine. The object of this move undoubtedly is to join the Russian army that has moved south from the Caucasus, cutting the Bagdad railroad and ending Germany's dream of an Eastern empire.

It is not permitted to reveal the nature of the despatches which convey this information, but the conclusions drawn from them are amply supported by the facts of the present military situation of the belligerents.

The Russian offensive in Asia Minor last Spring, which took Trebizond, Erzerum and Mush, has been halted far short of its goal. The British campaign from the Persian Gulf up the Tigris-Euphrates valley ended in disaster at Kut-el-Amara. But the British forces at Suez recently captured El-Arish, 75 miles east of Suez, and have pushed on beyond there, how far is not known. The British to-day are farther east of Suez than at any time since the war broke out. The Czar's army in the north has been reinforced, and the Tigris army has been reorganized, and is pushing up the valley. Everything points to excellent chances of success if a combined effort from three directions is made against the Turks.

The Turkish censorship has closed down tightly on all news from Palestine, particularly from the Lebanon district, where it is evident preparations are being made to resist such a move.

FRENCH COMMANDER SURE OF VICTORY

Gen. Nivell's General Order to the Troops at the Front.

A despatch from Limoges, France, says: La France Militaire on Friday publishes the following general order to the troops, issued by General Nivelle:

"At a time when another year of the war is ending you can be proud of the work accomplished. At Verdun you broke the most powerful blow Germany ever struck against any of her adversaries. On the Somme, emulating the courage of our British allies, during a long series of attacks, you have given proof of a tactical superiority which will continue to improve. Never has our army been better trained or more brave or possessed of more powerful means.

"It is under these brilliant auspices that the work of 1917 begins. You will make it a year of victory. In this absolute confidence I send you all, officers and soldiers, my most affectionate wishes for the new year.'

ENGLISH FIRM'S BID UNDER ALL U. S. RIVALS

A despatch from Washington says: —Despite demands upon British munition plants because of the war, Hadfields, Limited an English concern, outbid United States Companies in proposals opened on Thursday for 16-inch and 14-inch armor piercing projectiles for the United States navy. Not only are the English Company's figures more than $200 per projectile below the nearest American competitor, but the time is cut in half, the shells to be delivered in the United States duty paid.

TIME NEAR WHEN GERMANY MUST HAVE PEACE AT ANY COST

The Allies Urged to Make a Clear and Full Statement of Their Terms in Note to Wilson.

A despatch from London says: The Daily News analyzing the comments in the German newspapers on the Entente reply, and citing reports of the sufferings of the peoples of the Central Powers, sees indications that the Central Powers do not regard the prospect of negotiations as ended, and comes to the conclusion that the time is fast approaching when they must have peace at any cost. It finds confirmation of this in Count Andrassy's statement, saying:

"Whatever the motives for the decision of the Central Powers to submit their peace terms to President Wilson, it becomes more imperative for the Allies to make a clear, full and temperate statement of their terms in their reply to the President."

BRITISH TRANSPORT IVERNIA SUNK IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Four Officers, 120 Soldiers and 33 of the Crew Are Officially Reported as Missing..

A despatch from London says: The British transport Ivernia has been sunk by a submarine, it was officially announced on Thursday night. The text of the report reads: "The Ivernia was sunk by an enemy submarine in the Mediterranean on January 1, during bad weather and while carrying troops. Four military officers and 116 soldiers, as well as 33 of the crew are missing. The surgeon and chief engineer are among the missing officers."

Markets of the World

Breadstuffs.

Toronto, Jan. 9. — Manitoba wheat—New No. 1 Northern, $2.10¼; No. 2, do., $2.07¼; No. 3, do., $2.03¼; No. 4 wheat, $1.07¼, track, Bay ports. Old crop trading 4c above new crop.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 73c, track, Bay ports.

American corn—No. 3 yellow, $1.11, track Toronto, subject to embargo.

Ontario oats—No. 2 white, 64 to 66c, nominal; No. 3 white, 63 to 65c; nominal, according to freights outside.

Ontario wheat—New No. 2 Winter, per car lot, $1.74 to $1.76; No. 3, do., $1.70 to $1.72, according to freights outside.

Peas—No. 2, $2.30, according to freights outside.

Barley—Malting, $1.16 to $1.18, according to freights outside.

Buckwheat — $1.25, according to freights outside.

Rye—No. 2, $1.33 to $1.35, according to freights outside.

Manitoba flour—First patents, in jute bags, $9.70; 2nd do., $9.20, strong bakers', do., $8.80, Toronto.

Ontario flour — Winter, according to sample, $7.30 to $7.50, in bags, track Toronto, prompt shipment.

Millfeed—Car lots—Delivered Montreal freights, bags included, bran, per ton, $32; shorts, do., $37; good feed flour, per bag, $2.70 to $2.80.

Hay—No. 1, per ton, $13 to $13.50; No. 2, do., $9 to $11 track Toronto.

Straw—Car lots, per ton, $9.50 to $10, track Toronto.

Country Produce—Wholesale.

Butter—Fresh dairy, choice, 41 to 42c; creamery prints, 45 to 47c; solids, 43 to 43½c.

Eggs—No. 1 storage, 39 to 40c; storage, selects, 42 to 43c; new-laid, in cartons, 65 to 70c; out of cartons, 60 to 62c.

Cheese—Large, 25½ to 26c; twins, 26 to 26½; triplets, 26½ to 26¾c.

Live poultry — Chickens, 16 to 17c; fowl, 12 to 15c.

Dressed poultry—Chickens, 21 to 22c; fowl, 16 to 18c; ducks, 20 to 22c; squabs, per doz., $4 to $4.50; turkeys, 25 to 30c; geese, 16 to 18c.

Honey—White clover, 2½-lb. tins, 14c; 5-lb. tins, 13 to 13½c; 10-lb. 12½ to 13c; 60-lb. 12 to 13c; buckwheat, 60-lb. tins, 9 to 9½c. Comb honey—extra fine and heavy weight, per doz. $2.75; select, $2.50 to $2.75; No. 2, $2 to $2.25.

Potatoes — Ontario, per bag, $2.10; British Columbia Rose, per bag, $2 to $2.15; New Brunswick Delawares, per bag, $2.25 to $2.35.

Beans — Imported, hand-picked, per bush., $6; Canadian, hand-picked, per bush., $6.50 to $7; Canadian primes, $6 to $6.50; Limas, per lb., 9 to 10c.

Provisions—Wholesale.

Smoked meats—Hams, medium, 25 to 26c; do., heavy, 22 to 23c; cooked, 34 to 36c; rolls, 19 to 20c; breakfast bacon, 25 to 27c; backs, plain, 26 to 27c; boneless, 28 to 29c.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 18 to 18½c per lb.; clear bellies, 18 to 18½c.

Lard—Pure lard, tierces, 21½ to 21¾c; tubs, 21¾ to 22c; pails, 22 to 22½c; compound, 16¾ to 17c.

Montreal Markets.

Montreal, Jan. 9.—Oats, Canadian Western, No. 2, 71c; do. No. 3, 69c; extra, No. 1 feed, 69c. Barley, Man. feed, $1; malting, $1.30. Flour, Man. Spring wheat patents, firsts, $9.80; seconds, $9.30; strong bakers', $9.10; Winter patents, choice, $9.25; straight rollers, $8.50 to $8.80; do., bags, $4.10 to $4.25. Rolled oats, barrel, $7.25; do., bags, 90 lbs., $3.50. Bran, $32. Shorts, $35. Middlings, $38 to $40. Mouillie, $43 to $48. Hay, No. 2, per ton, car lots, $13. Cheese, finest westerns, 25c; do., easterns, 24c. Butter, choicest creamery, 43 to 43½c; do., seconds, 40 to 41c. Eggs, fresh, 60c; selected, 42c; No. 1 stock, 40c; No. 2 stock, 34c. Potatoes, per bag, car lots, $1.75 to $2.

Winnipeg Grain.

Winnipeg, Jan. 9.—Cash prices:—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, $1.83¼; No. 2 Northern, $1.80¼; No. 3 Northern, $1.76¼; No. 4, $1.63¼. Oats—No. 2 C.W., 55½c; No. 3 C.W., 55½c; extra No. 1 feed, 55¾; No. 1 feed, 53¾c; No. 2 feed, 52¾c. Barley—No. 3, 99½c; No. 4, 93½c; rejected, 73c; feed, 73c. Flax—No. 1 N.W.C., $2.59½; No. 2 C.W., $2.56½.

United States Markets.

Minneapolis, Jan. 9. — Wheat — May, $1.92¾ to $1.93½; July, $1.83½ to $1.83¾; cash, No. 1 hard, $1.99½ to $2.00½; No. 1 Northern, $1.93½ to $1.96½; No. 2 Northern, $1.88½ to $1.95½. Corn—No. 3 yellow, 94 to 94½c. Oats—No. 3 white, 54½ to 54¾c. Flour unchanged. Bran, $27 to $27.50.

Duluth, Jan. 9.—Wheat—No. 1 hard, $1.95½; No. 1 Northern, $1.94½c; No. 2 Northern, $1.86½ to $1.89½; May, $1.92½. Linseed—To arrive, $2.87½; May, $2.91½; July, $2.90¾.

Live Stock Markets.

Toronto, Jan. 9.—Choice heavy steers, $9.50 to $10; do., good, $9 to $9.25; butchers' cattle, choice, $9 to $9.25; do. good, $8.50 to $8.85; do. medium, $8 to $8.25; do. common, $7.25 to $7.75; butchers' bulls, choice, $7.40 to $8; do. good bulls, $7 to $7.25; do. rough bulls, $4.85 to $5.10; butchers' cows, choice, $7.25 to $7.50; do. good, $6.75 to $7; do. medium, $6.25 to $6.50; stockers, $5.25 to $7; choice feeders, $6.50 to $7.25; canners and cutters, $4.35 to $5.35; milkers, choice, each, $70 to $100; do., common and medium, each, $40 to $60; springers, $50 to $100; light ewes, $9.25 to $10; sheep, heavy, $6 to $7.50; calves, good to choice, $11.75 to $13; lambs, choice, $13 to $13.75; do. medium, $9.75 to $10.25; hogs, fed and watered, $12.50 to $12.60; do., weighed off cars, $12.75; do. f.o.b., $11.75.

Montreal, Jan. 9.—Choice steers, $9; good steers, $7.50 to $8.25; butchers' bulls, $7 to $8; butchers' cows, $5.50 to $7.50; canners, bulls, $5.60; canners, cows, $5.40; grass-fed calves, $5.50; milk-fed calves, $10; lambs, $12 to $13.50; select hogs, $12.75 to $13.50.

THE CHILDREN OF BELGIUM.

Are Suffering From Hardships and Disease.

There are 2,575,000 children in Belgium enduring the hardships which a heartless invader has forced upon them, and of these 1,500,000 are entirely dependent upon charity for food. Of the remainder many have to be partly fed by the Neutral Commission. An American specialist who spent three months investigating in Belgium states that tuberculosis is increasing rapidly among the older children of the working classes, and rickets with the younger children; that every tuberculosis sanitarium in Belgium is crowded, and that babies born now weigh less than those born before the war.

GERMANY'S SECOND NOTE TO STATE PRECISE TERMS

A despatch from Paris says :—The Central Powers are reported by the Lausanne Gazette to be preparing a second note to the Entente enumerating the precise conditions of peace, says a Geneva despatch to the Temps. The peace terms of the Teutonic allies which Count Julius Andrassy, former Hungarian Premier, is reported to have said the Entente could learn from President Wilson, are believed in diplomatic quarters to consist of generalizations which Germany and Austria-Hungary communicated to the Pope and presumably to the American authorities

RUSSIANS CHECK TEUTON SWEEP

Have Given Battle Successfully To Invaders in Wallachia.

A despatch from London says: Although the Teutonic allies have made further advances in Roumania, both in their operation driving eastward from the mountain region, and northward from Wallachia into Moldavia, the Russians and Rumanians at various points are giving them battle, and at several places have met with success.

Between Fokshani and Fundeni the Russians made a strong attack over a front of about 16 miles. They gained ground near Obilechti, says the German War Office, but elsewhere were repulsed with heavy casualties. The Petrograd official communication, however, says the Russians re-established their former position near Kapatuno, north-west of Fokshani, made an advance in the vicinity of Raspitza Lake and in a surprise attack captured trenches to the north-west in the Oituz Valley.

Admission is made by Petrograd that the Russians and Rumanians on the upper reaches of the Suchitza River retired before the advancing invaders, while Berlin says that between the Oituz and Putna Valleys the defenders were pushed back further towards the plains. Mount Adobesti was stormed by a German detachment and captured.

MAXIMILIAN HARDEN MAKES PLEA FOR PEACE.

A despatch from London says: Maximilian Harden, editor of Die Zukunft, delivered a speech at Berlin Saturday, pleading for peace by agreement, according to Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent, who quotes the Berliner Tageblatt. After referring to the enemy miscalculation of Germany's strength, Herr Harden warned his hearers not to allow themselves to be deceived about the enemy's strength. Russia's resources cannot be exhausted," he said, "for, indeed, the war proceeds only on the edges of this World Empire. England's hunger, moreover, is only a catchword, for which there is no foundation, while France's lack of men can be balanced by British troops."

U-BOAT SENDING OUT S.O.S. WIRELESS SIGNALS.

A despatch from London says: An Amsterdam special to the Times says: German submarines are now even sending out S.O.S. wireless signals to lure British vessels to destruction. The Telegraaf learns from an officer of a large steamer of an important Dutch line that on his journey from the Dutch East Indies he received while in the Bay of Biscay a S.O.S. message. He immediately rushed to the place indicated and found a German submarine which was not in distress. The captain of the submarine expressed regret that it was Dutch and not a British vessel, and said, "we dont want you to save our souls, we want British to save our souls."

TO CARE FOR SOLDIERS BLINDED IN THE WAR.

$200,000 Raised in America by the British-French-Belgian Fund.

A despatch from New York says: Two hundred thousand dollars will be sent abroad by the British-French-Belgian Permanent Blind War Relief Fund, it was announced on Wednesday night, for the establishment of an exchange to care for soldiers of the three countries blinded in battle. Officers of the fund explained that their plan was to obtain an amount large enough so that the capital might be kept intact and the relief work carried on with the interest on the money.

RUSSIANS TAKE 500 PRISONERS

German Attack in Galicia Was Sanguinarily Repulsed.

A despatch from Petrograd says: —The War Office reports: "Enemy attacks against our positions between the Tirul marsh, the River Aa, and south of the village of Kainzem, were repelled by our fire. During the battle south of Lake Babit and south of Riga, 500 Germans were captured. In the region of the town of Retchni, north-east of Veleiki, an enemy aeroplane landed. The aviators, an officer and a private, were made prisoner."

OCCUPY GERMAN CAMP IN EAST AFRICA

British Troops Reach the North Bank of the Rufiji.

A despatch from London says :—The British official statement on the campaign in German East Africa, issued on Sunday night, says: "Our columns pursuing the enemy in the Rufiji Valley occupied a German camp on the Tshogowali River and reached Kilbamawe, on the north bank of the Rufiji, on the morning of January 5. The enemy still holds the south bank."

DOCTORS FROM UNITED STATES FOR THE BRITISH HOSPITALS

Will Fill the Places of Young English Surgeons Who Desire to Go to the Front.

A despatch from London says: According to the Daily Telegraph arrangements are being made to replace a number of young surgeons in the British hospitals by Americans, in order to enable the Britishers to enter the army. There are hundreds of doctors of military age in home hospitals who wish to join the army, says the Telegraph, but hitherto they have been denied that honor owing to lack of substitutes.

With a view to meeting the difficulty, the Daily Telegraph continues, the army authorities some time ago enquired of the medical authorities in the United States whether they could send to England detachments of young American doctors.

Hundreds of young doctors in the United States, according to the Telegraph, have volunteered to serve in the British army, but could not receive a commission because they were not British practitioners. There is no barrier, however, to their practising in Great Britain, says the newspaper, and they are exactly the material required to fill the places of English doctors who desire to go to the front. The newspaper does not say how many Americans are likely to come, but asserts that they "may not run into many hundreds." It adds, however, that those who do come will be welcomed.

ENEMY RAIDING PARTY ENTERS BRITISH LINES SOUTH OF LOOS

Was Speedily Driven Out, Leaving Numerous Dead in the British Trenches.

A despatch from London says: The British official communication issued Friday night says:

"Early this morning a hostile raiding party succeeded in entering our lines south of Loos. Heavy fighting ensued. The enemy was speedily driven out, leaving a number of dead in our trenches. Some of our men are missing.

"We successfully exploded a mine early last night north of Givenchy. The artillery activity has been considerable at a number of places along our front. Successful bombardments of enemy trenches have been carried out by us opposite Les Boeufs, Gueudecourt, west of Gommecourt and in the neighborhood of Hill 60.

"There was considerable aerial activity yesterday. Successful work was carried out by our aeroplanes in conjunction with our artillery. Two of our machines are missing."

BEAT THE ENEMY IN EAST AFRICA

British Take Strong Positions and Inflict Heavy Casualties on the Foe.

A despatch from London says :—The following official communication was issued by the War Office on Thursday night:

"In East Africa our forces, in the vicinity of Kissakis, south of the Uluguru Hills, assumed the offensive New Year's Day. They stormed the enemy's strongly-entrenched lines in the Mgeta Valley, inflicting heavy casualties and capturing several guns and howitzers. Pursuing the enemy we approached, on January 3, the Tiogowali River, eleven miles northwest of Kibambawe."

REACH GERMAN THIRD DEFENCE

Successful Daylight Raid By British on Wide Arras Front.

A despatch from London says :—Sir Douglas Haig's troops have carried out another successful daylight raid south-east of Arras. The British entered the German trenches over a wide front, and penetrated to the enemy's third line. Many dugouts were destroyed and extensive damage occasioned to the defences. A similar raid was attempted by the Germans south of Wytschaete, but the attackers were driven off in disorder. The British captured two hostile posts with their occupants.

GERMANS WILL STATE TERMS

Peace Conditions To Be Made Known to President Wilson.

A despatch from Amsterdam says: The Frankfurter Zeitung publishes the report of a speech delivered by former Hungarian Premier, Count Julius Andrassy, on New Year's Day. The Count says: "If the allies reject our offer of peace only because, as they assert, our offer is not honorably meant and is only a manoeuvre of war, and if they say they cannot enter negotiations before they know the conditions, they can learn them from President Wilson, to whom they will be communicated. Peace does not appear immediately near, therefore we must battle further for peace with all our strength and make it impossible for our enemies to prevent steps in the direction of peace." From Andrassy's speech it appears as if some sort of communication of the alleged terms will now be made to Wilson. The Frankfurter Zeitung says the allies' refusal arises apparently from the fatal error of supposing the present position is only temporary and does not correspond with the actual relative strength of the belligerents. It concludes by saying: "Nothing remains for Germany but to break open the door of peace with the sword end."

TWO ZEPPELINS BURNED IN SCHLESWIG SHEDS.

A despatch from London says: Two Zeppelins have been destroyed at Tondern, Schleswig, by a fire due to defective wiring in a recently constructed double shed, says a Reuter despatch from Copenhagen, quoting the Ribe, Jutland, Stifts Tidende.

2,000,000 BRITISH SOLDIERS ON THE FRENCH FRONT ALONE

This is Entirely Exclusive of the Forces Employed in Seven Other Theatres of the War.

A special despatch from the British front in France says:

"Gen. Sir Douglas Haig to-day commands the largest army Great Britain ever levied on her soil. The number of effectives in the British army in France on Jan. 1 was nearly 2,000,000 men, completely trained and ready, day or night, to receive orders from their commander-in-chief.

"This figure only refers to the British forces in France, and is exclusive of those employed in the defence of Great Britain, Ireland, India, Salonica, Egypt, Mesopotamia and Africa."

GERMANS STRIPPING BELGIUM OF BRASS, COPPER AND TIN

Kitchen Utensils, Door Plates and Door Knockers Included in The Governor's Decree.

A Reuter despatch from Amsterdam to London says that the Maastricht newspaper Les Nouvelles, is authority for the statement that the Governor-General of Belgium has issued a decree ordering the seizure of all household goods made of brass, copper, tin, nickel or bronze, including kitchen utensils, door plates and door knockers. The communes have been ordered to assist in the collection.