

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. Today, 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 Vic-

toire 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.'"

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 Obilecti, 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 Kaputno, north-west of Fokshani, made an advance in the vicinity of Rasplitza 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.

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 Andrássy, 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 Andrássy'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."

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."

PRISONS ARE FULL OF HUNGRY PEOPLE.

Trouble in Vienna—Why Germans Advertise for Swiss Servants.

A despatch from Geneva, says:—The Burgomaster of Vienna, Dr. Weiskirchner, threatens to resign if Hungary continues to refuse to send food to Vienna, according to reports here. He is quoted as saying that the prisons are filled chiefly with women and children convicted of having stolen food, while housewives are afraid to go shopping for food even in the principal streets owing to robberies and assaults.

The Swiss and German papers are crowded with advertisements for Swiss servants to go to Germany, the reason being that every Swiss in Germany is allowed to receive from home weekly ten pounds of foodstuffs.

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.

BRAILA, RUMANIA CAPTURED BY HUNS

Virtually all the River Danube in Possession of the Invaders.

A despatch from London says:—The Rumanian province of the Dobrudja is now in the hands of the Central Powers, whose armies continue to advance through Great Wallachia into Moldavia.

Braila, an important commercial city in Great Wallachia, and on the west bank of the Danube below Galatz, has been captured by German and Bulgarian troops. Several villages on the outskirts of Braila also have been occupied, and Field Marshal von Mackensen's troops have taken 1,400 prisoners in their latest success.

Virtually all of the River Danube, from its source to its mouth, is now in the hands of the Teuton forces, who control all of the eastern bank and all but a few miles of the western bank. Galatz, 12 miles north of Braila, is the only important Rumanian town on the Danube yet in Rumanian hands. The clearing of the Dobrudja by the combined Bulgarian, Turkish and German forces, it is reported semi-officially from Berlin, leaves a larger part of these forces ready for other employment, and closes the Dobrudja pathway to Constantinople to Russia.

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.

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.

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 Maas-tricht 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.

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 Kibabawe."

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 Wyttschaete, but the attackers were driven off in disorder. The British captured two hostile posts with their occupants.

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,

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.

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."

300 PERSONS KILLED IN FORMOSA EARTHQUAKE

A despatch from Tokio says:—Three hundred persons have been killed and many injured in a disastrous earthquake in Central Formosa, according to special despatches from Taihoku, the capital of Formosa. It is estimated that one thousand houses have been destroyed. The city of Nante has been damaged extensively by fire.

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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."

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, dur-

ing 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."