

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-Weckerkop appears to have been of considerable proportions. The official French statement gives the number of prisoners captured at 1,500. 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 200,000 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 communiqué. 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.

VON PAPAN SAILS AWAY. SAYS "I'M INNOCENT"

A despatch from New York says: Franz von Papan, Germany's recalled military attaché, 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 Papan was appointed military attaché 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 Papan alluded to "Blooding Yankees," which was translated as "Idiotic Yankees." His recall and that of Capt. Karl Boy-Ed, the German Naval Attaché, 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 has been working six and seven days a week, and all women and boys can get all the work they want.

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.

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 advices to the Telegraph, a powder factory and several ammunition depots were blown up at Muenster, Westphalia. Of the 600 women employed in the mill, 300 were killed.

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

THE FRUITS OF WAR. Fifteen Million Dollars for Artificial Limbs.

No industry, considered relatively to its importance, seems likely to profit more by the war than the manufacture of false arms and legs. One American concern is said to have already received orders from the British and French governments for \$15,000,000 worth of artificial limbs. The normal producing capacity of this establishment is 250 legs a month, but its output is expected soon to be multiplied by five.

Another American manufacturer, who has a factory in France, has just returned to secure additional machinery and workmen. To obtain the latter is not easy, for false legs and arms, especially the former, are complex pieces of mechanism, and to construct them properly requires much practice and long training.

The cork leg is familiar in works of fiction. In real life such a thing is not, and never has been, cork being just about the most unsuitable material for the purpose that could be imagined. Artificial limbs are made of basswood or willow, supplemented to some extent with leather.

Such false legs and arms as can now be bought are of course very modern inventions. It may be taken for granted, however, that artificial substitutes for lost limbs date back to a remote antiquity. Dr. Ales Hrdlicka of the Smithsonian Institution recently dug up in Peru a false foot of wood, apparently prehistoric, which was a mere block with a socket evidently intended to be fastened to the ankle of a person whose foot had been amputated.

Famous in history is the iron hand of Goetz von Berlichingen, a knight of mediaeval Nuremberg; and there was another nobleman of the same epoch who had an iron foot weighing ten pounds.

'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 Homopathy 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, phosphorus, 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.

AUSTRIAN DIPLOMAT ARRESTED AS A SPY.

A despatch from Geneva, says: The secretary of the Austrian Consulate here, Herr Tausig has been arrested on a charge of espionage. The charge, it is said, grows out of his alleged denunciation of Mrs. Merrick Hillier, 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.

300 GERMAN WOMEN KILLED IN EXPLOSION

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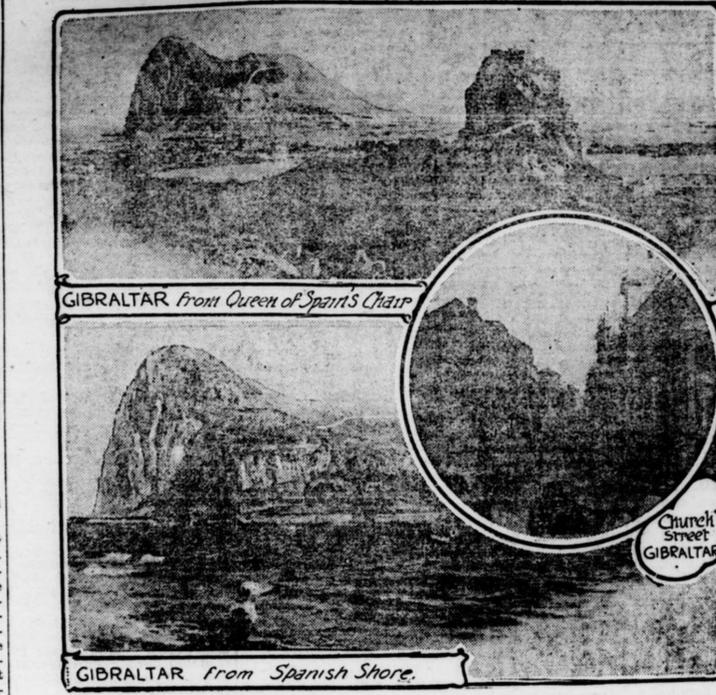
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AT THE GATEWAY TO THE MEDITERRANEAN



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 reefs 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.

INTERVIEW WITH VON TIRPITZ

WHAT THE GERMAN ADMIRAL SAID A FEW YEARS AGO.

Professed Great Friendship for Britain at That Time at a Peace Banquet.

Yesterday I had what housewives call "a clearing up," and in the process stumbled across some notes I made a few years ago of an interview I had with Admiral von Tirpitz, writes Silas K. Hocking in the London News.

The occasion was a banquet given in Berlin by Count Douglas to the members of a Peace delegation representing the British churches.

How it came about that my seat was at the host's table and next to von Tirpitz I don't know. Scarcely were we seated when he turned and spoke to me.

"My name is Tirpitz," he said, and he handed me his card.

For a moment the name conveyed nothing to me. I was not familiar at the time with the names of German naval or military officers. Professors and privateers had been more in my way.

Then his resplendent uniform, richly decorated with gold braid, gave me a clue. I adjusted my spectacles and read his full name, "Admiral von Tirpitz."

A Peace-Loving People.

"I am glad of the opportunity of talking to an Englishman," he said. (To be strictly accurate, he used the term "representative Englishman.") "I am exceedingly anxious that English and Germans should understand each other better. I have a great admiration for you English. I admire your customs and institutions. Two of my daughters are at present in an English school at Cheltenham. England and Germany have so much in common. Our commercial interests are almost identical. We are one in literature and one in religion. There ought never to be enmity between us. I welcome your visit to Germany. I hope it will be good—I believe it will. We are a peace-loving people. Our greatest desire is to live in the friendliest relations with the whole world. Particularly we are desirous of living in peace with England. I fear sometimes you do not quite understand us."

I looked at him while he was talking—forgetting to eat—and I am free to confess that I was immensely impressed both by his manner and his appearance. He spoke fluently, and in quite correct English. His voice was pleasant and carefully modulated, and the impression he conveyed was one of absolute sincerity.

I should describe him as of rather handsome appearance—tall and well built, though inclined to rotundity. He had a long blond beard only slightly tinged with gray, frank blue eyes and a square forehead. His full beard hid his mouth and chin.

Preparations for War.

"I hope you have been pleased with your welcome?" he went on.

"Very pleased, indeed."

"I am glad. I hope after this visit you will understand us better. England and Germany ought to be close friends. Standing shoulder to shoulder we could preserve the peace of the world."

"From one in your position," I said, "such sentiments are peculiarly gratifying. What we in England fail to understand is your vast and feverish preparations for war."

"Vast and feverish preparations?" he questioned, with a gentle and disarming smile.

I felt that I was in for it now, so I said quite bluntly: "There seems to us nothing in the present condition of Europe to lead you to amass and equip such a vast army as you are doing. Moreover, we frankly do not understand why you have accelerated the building of your warships. Who are you building against?"

He looked at my eyes, which he had

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.

VEGETABLE NOTES.

Yeast is a fungus. Vegetables should not be given to young puppies. One coffee-tree yields about a pound of beans each season. Sawdust is sometimes used for making the handles of knives. Bananas take the place of bread in many of the countries in which they grow. To save firewood, dry your potato-peelings in the oven and use them for lighting fires. Overgrown cabbage-stalks from the Channel Islands are used for making walking-sticks. The word "clove" comes from the Latin "clavus," meaning a nail, cloves being very like nails in appearance. In Russia the tea used is not sold in loose packets, but in small or large tablets that look like pieces of wood or stone. Gooseberry-bushes were originally called gorseberry-bushes, from the plants having prickles similar to those of the gorse shrub. The sneezewood tree of Cape Colony is so called because the dust, which arises from it when it is being sawn, is of such an irritating nature that it causes sneezing. Cinnamon bark will be found a simple and useful remedy for the odor of tobacco. The mouth should be washed out with water in which some of the bark has previously been boiled. Dates grow at the top of such tall, slender trees that, in order to gather them, men have to swing themselves up the trunk by means of a rope, one end of which they fasten round their bodies, whilst they loop the other end so that it will catch on to the notches in the trunk of the tree. It is possible to detect the presence of chicory in ground coffee by allowing a few grains of the suspected mixture to fall into a glass of cold water. If it is pure, almost all the grains will continue hard and float on the water, imparting very little color; but if chicory is present, the grains will be quite soft, and sink to the bottom of the glass, coloring the water brown.

THE POWERS SURPRISED.

Taken Aback by the Duration of the War.

Lord Haldane, the one-time British War Secretary, speaking at Hampstead, England, declared that the Germans would have reached Paris and perhaps Calais had not the Government taken prompt action upon the warnings which he himself and others had given of German intentions. The British Government, he said, did everything possible to get aggressive ideas out of the heads of the other nations on the Continent, but that did not prevent the Government from taking precautionary measures. Great Britain was not taken unawares, but was able to mobilize the army and navy at the first moment of the outbreak of the war. Lord Haldane expressed the belief that there was not a single Government among the Powers that had not been wholly surprised and taken aback by the magnitude and duration of the struggle which has since developed, and that nobody has been so much surprised as the German General Staff, which "had expected a walk-over in about three months."

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.

Markets of the World 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. Sarraill 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. Therefore the period of calm here may be short. Gen. de Castrino arrived here unexpectedly recently. He had long conferences with General Sarraill and General Mahon, and visited the French and British fronts. The population of Salonica is quiet, reassured by Gen. Sarraill'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.

Country Produce.

Butter—Fresh dairy, 28 to 30c; inferior, 22 to 24c; creamery prints, 33 to 35c; solids, 31 1/2 to 32c.

Eggs—Storage, 30 to 32c per doz.; select, 35 to 36c; new-laid, 55 to 60c, case lot.

Honey—Prices, in tins, lbs., 10 to 11c; combs, No. 1, \$2.40; No. 2, \$2. Bees—\$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, 18c; twins, 19c. Potatoes—Car lots of Ontario quoted at \$1.35, and New Brunswick at \$1.55 per bag, on track.

Provisions.

Cured meats are quoted as follows: Bacon, long clear, 16 to 16 1/2c per lb., in case lots. Hams—Medium, 17 1/2 to 18c; do., heavy, 14 1/2 to 15c; rolls, 12 to 16 1/2c; breakfast bacon, 21 to 23c; backs, plain, 24 to 25c; boneless backs, 26 to 27c.

Lard—The market is steady; pure lard, 13 1/2 to 14c; compound, 12 to 12 1/2c.

Business in Montreal.

Montreal, Dec. 28.—Corn—American No. 2 yellow, 80 to 81c. Oats—No. 2 local white, 45c; No. 3 do., 44c; No. 4 do., 43c. Barley—Man. feed, 60c; malting, 67c. Buckwheat—No. 2, 82c. Flour—Man. Spring wheat, 82c; strong bakers', 86c; Winter patents, choice, \$5.20; straight rollers, \$5.50 to \$5.60; do., bags, \$2.60 to \$2.70. Rolled oats, barrels, \$5.20 to \$5.25; do., bags, 90 lbs., \$2.45 to \$2.50. Bran, \$2.4. Shorts, 22c. Middlings, 22c to \$30. Moullie, \$31 to \$33. Hay—No. 2 per ton, car lots, \$19 to \$19.50. Cheese—Finest westerns, 17 1/2 to 18c; finest easterns, 17 1/2 to 17 3/4c. Dressed butter, abattoir killed, \$13.50 to \$13.75; do., country, \$12 to \$12.25. Pork—Heavy Canada short mess, bbls, 35 to 45 pieces, \$29 to \$29.50; short cut back, bbls, 45 to 55 pieces, \$28 to \$28.50. Lard—Compound, 12c; pure, 13 1/2c; wood pails, 20 lbs. net, 12 1/2c; pure, tierces, 375 lbs., 14 1/2c; pure, wood pails, 20 lbs. net, 15c.

United States Markets.

Minneapolis, Dec. 28.—Wheat—No. 1 hard, \$1.20 1/2; No. 2 Northern, \$1.13 1/2 to \$1.15 1/2; December, \$1.17 1/2; May, \$1.18 1/2. Corn—No. 3 yellow, 73 to 74c. Oats—No. 3 white, 40 1/2 to 40 3/4c. Flour unchanged. Bran, \$18 to \$18.50.

Duluth, Dec. 18.—Wheat—No. 1 hard, \$1.17 1/2; No. 1 Northern, \$1.16 1/2; No. 2 Northern, \$1.12 1/2 to \$1.13 1/2; December, \$1.16 1/2; May, \$1.18 1/2. Linned, cash, \$2.11 to \$2.11 1/2; December, \$2.09 1/2; May, \$2.15.

Live Stock Markets.

Toronto, Dec. 28.—Butchers' cattle, choice, \$7.60 to \$7.90; do., good, \$7.25 to \$7.50; do., medium, \$6.25 to \$7; do., common, \$5.60 to \$6; butchers' bulls, choice, \$6.50 to \$6.75; do., good, \$5.75 to \$6; butchers' cows, choice, \$6.35 to \$6.75; do., good, \$6 to \$6.25; do., medium, \$5.25 to \$5.75; do., common, \$4 to \$4.50; feeders, good, \$6.50 to \$6.75; stockers, 700 to 900 lbs., \$6 to \$6.60; canners and cutters, \$3 to \$4.50; milkers, choice, each, \$75 to \$100; do., common and medium, each, \$35 to \$60; springers, \$50 to \$100; light ewes, \$6.50 to \$7.50; sheep, heavy, \$5.25 to \$5; lambs, \$7 to \$7.75; lambs, cwt., \$9.85 to \$10.75; calves, medium to choice, \$6.50 to \$10; do., common, \$4 to \$4.50; hogs, fed and watered, \$9.25 to \$9.30; do., packers' quotations, \$8.75.

Montreal, Dec. 28.—Choice steers, \$8 to \$8.25; good, \$7.50 to \$7.75; lower grades down to \$5.50; choice butcher cows, \$6.25 to \$6.50; and bulls from \$5 to \$6.75 per cwt.; hams, \$9.75 to \$10; sheep, \$6.25 to \$7 per cwt.; calves, 9 to 9 1/2c per lb for milk fed and at 5 to 8c for grass fed; hogs, selected lots, \$9.50 to \$9.75 per cwt., weighed off cars.

Prayer Days in Prussia.

Two days of this month, the 17th and 21st, will be observed throughout Prussia as special occasions of fasting and prayer. In Berlin no public performances will be permitted in theatres or other places of public amusement, except such as are especially designed to conform to the character of the day. Plays must have a serious and patriotic tendency. Moving-picture shows may exhibit only films illustrating sacred history, accompanied by religious music. In concert halls oratorios and sacred songs may be given.

Granite is the lowest rock in the earth's crust.