

REPORTS TELL OF GERMAN VICTORY

Enormous Number of Prisoners Said to Have Been Taken in Poland.

COMMANDER IN DISGRACE

Russian Cavalry Leader, Rennenkampff, Reported Relieved From Command—Germans Foiled in Attempt to Cross Yser—Reichstag Votes Large War Credit—London Hears of Capture of De Wet.

London, Dec. 4.—The German forces in Poland have turned and are now taking the offensive against the Russians on a new front.

While both official reports indicate that the fighting in this war area is quieting down, there are persistent unofficial reports that the great battle, still undecided, is progressing bitterly.

That the Russian check is complete is admitted by persons who are in touch with military authorities.

Germans Take 80,000 Prisoners. The Germans assert that in the recent maneuvers they have captured 80,000 unrounded prisoners.

In the face of these claims by the Germans the Russians insist, in a statement issued through Rome, that their captures greatly exceed this number.

All agree that the losses on both sides have been heavy.

It became known here early this morning that the Russian failure to surround and decisively defeat the Germans at Lodz was caused by the tardiness of General Rennenkampff, the Russian cavalry leader. He was two days late, reports say.

As a result of not arriving on time the general has been relieved of his command, a Petrograd dispatch says.

Tardiness Makes Coup Fail. The failure of the Russian coup is described by the Petrograd correspondent of the London Post as follows:

"General Rennenkampff, whose late arrival with his army at the appointed place robbed the strategic scheme of the grand duke of its complete success a week ago, has been superseded in his command."

"Owing to this army coming into position a couple of days after the time set the ring of steel which should have hemmed in the German armies entirely could not be closed, with the result that a week of heavy fighting, with the hurrying up of large reinforcements by the Germans, followed."

Germans Turn on Czar's Men. The Germans, re-enforced, attacked the Russian left on Sunday. The attack was continued with great determination on Monday, the fighting occupying the entire day. The Russians were prepared for this outflanking movement on their left.

"On Sunday these new German forces crossed the Warthe river at Sieradz, where two bridges carrying the railway line and highway facilitated the crossing, and advanced by rail and road toward Lask. The Russians did not oppose their advance until they had reached a convenient locality south of Sieradz, where the River Warthe has a sharp bend."

Good Roads Aid Russians. "From Lask, which is out by the railway, run also a half-dozen good highways, three in the direction of Panwitz, to the northwest, west and southwest. They served the Russians admirably, giving them the advantage of interior lines, while the Germans had only the railway embankment."

"The vanguards of the Russian forces met and stopped the advance on Monday, fighting stubbornly the whole day, while other troops were brought up by road and rail to cope with the new direction of the German attack."

Russian Hold Foe Back. "Eighteen miles south of Lask the Russians on Monday completed the good work reported to have been begun on Sunday when they repulsed a flank attack of new German forces, which had moved up from Wielun."

"When the fighting was over for the day the Germans remained in occupation of Szezecrow. On Monday the Russians cleared them out and then discovered that among the forces holding this neighborhood was a brigade of Prussian guards with four batteries. Szezecrow is now occupied by the Russians. The German attack in enormous strength upon the Russian left has thus failed."

"The Russian center is still occupied in hammering the surrounded corps into surrender by heavy cannonading, which has already continued for a couple of days."

Petrograd Report. Petrograd, Dec. 4.—General von Hindenburg is still striving his utmost to retrieve the situation in Russian Poland by greatly strengthening his forces across the southern end of the German position. It is believed he has brought six corps, aggregating 200,000 men, into the 50-mile gap from Sieradz downwards to Czeszochowa, each corps extending about eight miles.

These corps must contain a large admixture of Austrians, as the narrow gauge German railway line to Kallow can throw only about eight thousand men daily upon the frontier. It has been working at full capacity for a fortnight, but the great bulk of Ger-

man troops from the west was brought on the broad gauge railway line to Pleschen. Thence they marched 20 miles to the frontier, with six days of heavy marching across a trackless country before reaching the Warthe river. These are the only two sources comparatively open for the movement of substantial re-enforcements.

AGAIN FAIL TO CROSS YSER. German Attempt Reported Repulsed by the Allies After Most Severe Fighting.

London, Dec. 4.—Another desperate attempt of the Germans to break through the allies' lines from Dixmude to Ypres has failed.

With the weather moderated, the Germans, heavily re-enforced, yesterday attempted to cross the flooded waters of the Yser on rafts.

They selected a time just before dawn to make the venture. The rafts were punted through the shallow waters in dead silence and utter darkness. Each raft carried from fifty to sixty men and mitrailleuses. A further fleet of rafts drawn by motor boats was waiting on the German side of the muddy waters, but before dawn they were discovered, and at daylight the artillery of the allies met the advancing Germans with devastating effect.

Germans Give Up Attempt. Despite their losses the Germans bravely essayed the crossing, partially covered by a cannonade of their field artillery, and until midday persisted in their plans.

Several of the rafts were upset in midstream by the French guns and great numbers of Germans were drowned as well as shot. The attempt to cross eventually was given up, but the artillery kept up a determined bombardment of the allied positions and met with a vigorous reply.

The Germans have withdrawn their heavy artillery on account of the muddy country and brought up a new weapon, which is exceedingly well adapted to the changed nature of the warfare.

Numbers of light guns with a range of seven kilometers have been mounted on motor lorries, which have been fitted with large springs, which are arranged in a manner to keep the gun steady while it is being fired and to break the recoil.

The guns may be moved speedily on roads which would be impassable to heavier ones.

German Statement Brief. Berlin, via Wireless to London, Dec. 3.—Today's official statement was limited to the following brief announcement:

"In neither theater of the war has anything of importance happened."

VOTE IMMENSE WAR CREDIT

Members of the Reichstag Almost Unanimously Agree to Provide Funds for Conflict.

Berlin, Dec. 2.—With only one dissenting vote, that of Herr Liebknecht, socialist, the reichstag today voted a new war credit of \$1,250,000,000.

The president of the chamber at the opening of the sitting dwelt in a speech on the unity and patriotism of the German people and commented appreciatively on the large number of members of the reichstag who are now serving at the front.

Says Japan Sought Booty. In his exposition of the progress of the war the president said:

"Japan joined our enemies from a desire to seize as booty the monument to German culture in the far East. On the other hand, we have found an ally in Turkey, as all the Moslem people wish to throw off the English yoke and shatter the foundations of England's colonial power. Under the banner of our army and our fleet we will continue."

REPORT CAPTURE OF DE WET. News Received at London, if Authentic, Means the End of the Boer Rebellion.

London, Dec. 2.—Gen. Christian de Wet, leader of the rebellion in the Union of South Africa, has been captured, according to a Pretoria official dispatch to the Reuter Telegraph company.

General De Wet rose to fame as commander-in-chief of the Orange Free State forces in the South African war. Starting as a burgher in the Heilbron command, he later was appointed commandant at Ladysmith and was sent to relieve General Cronje as second in command. When General Cronje surrendered, De Wet was made commander-in-chief.

He was one of the signatories of the peace conference after the war and later was minister of agriculture in the Orange River Colony.

General De Wet at the outbreak of the present war offered a corps of South African scouts to Lord Kitchener. Later he protested against the action of the Union of South Africa in fighting the Germans and took the field against the British forces.

Austrians Occupy Belgrade. London, Dec. 2.—Belgrade, which until the outbreak of the war was the capital of Serbia, today was occupied by Austrian troops, the Servians having evacuated the city.

Thus, on the sixty-sixth anniversary of the reign of Emperor Francis Joseph, who again is reported seriously ill, four months after the outbreak of the war, his generals report one of the most important successes they have obtained.

An international banking house in New York, with influential British connections, received a cable from London touching upon the statement of Lloyd George in the house of commons, that this country's debts to Great Britain aggregate five billion dollars.

Captain Le Goodierer, Jr., United States aviation corps, was fatally injured and Glenn Martin, another aviator, was seriously hurt in a fall of about forty feet at San Diego, California.

LAUDS PLUCK OF OFFICER. German Aviator Describes Attack With Bombs on English Troops in Vicinity of Dunkirk.

A German aviator, writing from the front, says: "Yesterday an observation flight took me to Dunkirk, where we threw bombs on English troops that were landing. On the return flight through the southern part of Belgium to Lille we made important discoveries, which, for obvious rea-

EPITOME OF EVENTS

PARAGRAPHS THAT PERTAIN TO MANY SUBJECTS.

ARE SHORT BUT INTERESTING

Brief Mention of What is Transpiring in Various Sections of Our Own and Foreign Countries.

WASHINGTON.

The income tax law caused the deduction of a total of \$16,000 from the salaries of representatives in congress for the current year.

The last important step preliminary to the actual operation of the \$135,000,000 cotton loan fund was taken by the cotton loan committee when it completed the list of state committees in eleven of the southern states.

John H. Fahey, president of the chamber of commerce of the United States, asked President Wilson to support an amendment to the Sherman law to permit American exporters to band together to meet foreign competition.

Experts from the twelve ports which handle 80 per cent of that business of the United States totaled \$43,098,852 for the week ended November 28, as compared with imports aggregating \$26,585,557, leaving a favorable trade balance of \$16,413,295.

Upwards of \$40,000,000 for river and harbor improvement is asked for in the estimates which the War department has prepared for consideration by congress at the coming session. Approximately half of this total is for the Mississippi river and its tributaries.

Warning Americans to stay away from Vera Cruz has been issued by the State department. A cablegram from Consul Canada tells of danger to Americans "stranded" there. He said that communication and transportation were in an unstable and unsatisfactory condition.

The world's need for cotton at the present time and the estimated demand for next year is to be the subject of an investigation by State department officials. The Treasury department announced that Secretary McAdoo had requested Secretary Bryan to secure all possible information.

Abolition of all but two of the naval prisons in continental United States, those at Portsmouth, N. H., and Mare Island, California, and the maintenance of disciplinary quarters aboard ships instead of ashore were recommended in the annual report of Capt. Ridley McLean, judge advocate general of the navy.

Orders were issued by Secretary Lane opening to homestead entry more than 500,000 acres of public lands in Oregon, Montana and New Mexico, which have been determined to be non-irrigable. After January 11, 1915, the lands may be taken up in tracts of 320 acres each under the enlarged homestead act.

DOMESTIC.

Heavy withdrawals of deposits from East Side banking institutions in New York followed the closing of the three private banks of Abraham Kass.

After virtually four months of enforced idleness, necessitated by the European war, the New York Stock exchange has reopened for business.

Eight men instead of eleven will die at Arizona's "hanging" in the Florence penitentiary, December 19 as the result of a stay of execution granted by Governor Hunt.

John Foley, a Butte mine worker, was found guilty at Roseman, Mont., of burglary in that he assisted at the dynamiting and looting of a safe in the rioting at Butte, June 12.

More than 15,000 employees in the shops on practically all the Harriman lines have voted that their strike was a failure, and that they would return to work without recognition of their system federation is the belief of operative officials of the Union Pacific at Omaha.

An effort by industrial railroads to regain joint through rates with the trans-continental lines, canceled, was begun before James W. Carmalt, special examiner of the Interstate Commerce commission at Chicago.

The tenth annual convention of the National Commercial Gas association opened at Minneapolis. Percy F. Young of Newark, N. J., president of the association, said the gas companies were less affected by the European war than any other public utility.

The battle in northern Poland, concerning the progress of which there has been so much mystery, is now being fought out under the eyes of the German emperor on the one side and the Russian emperor on the other.

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Captain Le Goodierer, Jr., United States aviation corps, was fatally injured and Glenn Martin, another aviator, was seriously hurt in a fall of about forty feet at San Diego, California.

General Christian De Wet, the famous Boer leader in the South African war, who turned rebel shortly after the commencement of the present conflict, has been captured by the Union of South African forces, according to an official dispatch from Pretoria.

A monthly payment of \$7,000,000 for the maintenance of German troops has been demanded by Belgium financiers in Brussels by the military governor, according to dispatches from the Belgian capital.

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Italy awaits with some anxiety the reopening of the Italian parliament, at which Premier Salandra will outline the government's attitude in the war, and the reasons which have actuated the policy of maintaining "armed and watchful neutrality."

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Hoover of American Relief Committee Says Military Authorities Not Interfering With Work.

London.—Herbert Clark Hoover, chairman of the American commission for relief in Belgium, has returned to London after a week's trip of inspection in Belgium. Mr. Hoover reported that the distribution of foodstuffs sent in care of the American commission is well under way, but stated that the condition of the famine which threatened the population is still desperate and that on account of the attitude of the belligerents the Belgians must still appeal to the people of the United States for relief.

"It is difficult to state the position of the civil population of Belgium without appearing hysterical," Mr. Hoover said in his statement. "I do not know that history presents any parallel of a population of 7,000,000 surrounded by a ring of steel and utterly unable by any conceivable effort of their own to save themselves. From the nature of things it is impossible for the commission even to possess an opinion on the rights and wrongs which have created this situation. The Germans state flatly that the people of Belgium are nominally dependent on the importation of foodstuffs for five-sixths of their subsistence; that the Belgians have not the slightest objection to the Belgians or anyone else importing foodstuffs into Belgium; that it is not the Germans who have blocked the sea and there is no obligation in them to feed the population who could, through the normal course of trade, obtain sustenance. The allies, on the other hand, insist that a free port for the importation of foodstuffs into Belgium would practically amount to an in-trepot for food supplies for the Germans. It is enough for us that there are 7,000,000 people ground between gigantic millstones. We are meeting with no obstruction from the military authorities of Belgium in the prosecution of our work. Not one loaf of bread, or one spoonful of salt that we have introduced has been taken by the military. The most stringent orders have been given that we shall have no interference and our members meet with respect and assistance in all quarters."

Further criticism of what was termed "disjointed methods in public health work" was made at Jacksonville by Dr. Frederick R. Green of Chicago, in an address before the annual convention of the American Public Health association.

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The banking house of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., and the National City bank at New York announced the joint purchase of \$5,000,000 worth of two-year 6 per cent Swedish treasury notes, which will be publicly offered at par and accrued interest. The proceeds of the loan will be used to purchase "various commodities" in this country.

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