

FRENCH REPORT QUITE OPTIMISTIC

War Office Tells of Advances Everywhere in Belgium and Northern France.

READS LIKE FOOT BALL STORY
Allies Gain Twelve Hundred Yards at One Point and Four Hundred at Another—No Gains for Germans.

PARIS, Dec. 21.—Progress all along the line is claimed in the French official statement given out in Paris this afternoon. There is not one single mention of a German success or a French repulse. Gains, although slight, are recorded in Belgium; between the Lys and the Aisne, in the Champagne country and in the Argonne. At one point an advance of 1,200 yards is recorded and at another the French made 500 yards.

Progress has been made between the Argonne and the Meuse, on the right bank of the Meuse and on the heights of the Meuse.

The French heavy artillery is described as having been successful on the Aisne, near Rheims and elsewhere.

Text of Report.

The text of the communication follows: "The day of December 20 brought nothing of importance in Belgium, if exceptions be made of some progress in the region of Lombardise and St. George's and at a point to the southeast of the Inn of Kortaker, which is southeast of Huychoote; the occupation of some houses in Warletem, south of Zillebeke, and the bombardment by the enemy of the Ypres hospital.

"Between the Lys and the Aisne we have occupied a forest near the route between Nouilletes and Souchez and we also took possession of all the first line of German trenches between this highway and the first houses of Notre Dame de Lorette, southwest of Loos.

The enemy has bombarded Arras. Our heavy artillery silenced on repeated occasions the artillery of the enemy to the north of Carnoy, which is to the east of Albert. This artillery also demolished the German trenches and sent head over heels two cannon of a battery established near Hom, which is to the southeast of Carnoy. The heavy artillery also scored distinct advantages on the Aisne and in the section of Rheims.

Advances in Champagne.

"In Champagne, in the region of Prosses, Perthes and Beausejour, as well as in the Argonne, we made along the entire front appreciable advances. The particularly so to the northeast of Beausejour, where we won and occupied 1,200 yards of the enemy's trenches. In the forest of La Grurie we blew up four mined saps and we established ourselves in the positions thus made.

"Between the Argonne and the Meuse there has been progress along the entire front, particularly in the region of Varennes, where the brook of Cheppes has been left 500 yards in our rear, and in the region of Gercourt-Bethincourt.

"On the right bank of the Meuse we have gained ground at La Croupe, at a point two kilometers northwest of Brabant, and in the forest of Conservoye.

"Finally, on the heights of the Meuse we have made slight progress in the forest des Chevalliers, to the northeast of the fort of Coyon."

Suits Are Brought to Enjoin Enforcement of New Arizona Acts

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 21.—Suits to enjoin enforcement of the Arizona prohibition and alien labor laws were brought today before three United States judges. Wiley E. Jones, attorney general of Arizona, principal defendant in the prohibition injunction case, said he would propose to limit argument on both sides to four hours so that the case might be finished and those interested return home for Christmas.

There are four petitions for the prohibition injunction. One of these is in the name of Rev. Thomas Connolly, pastor of All Saints' Catholic church of Tucson, Ariz.

The anti-alien labor law adopted with the prohibition constitutional amendment on November 3 provides that four out of five workers employed in any business shall be citizens of the United States.

Newman Refuses to Certify Frank Case to Supreme Court

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 21.—Federal Judge Newman today declined to grant a certificate stating that in his opinion there was probable cause for an appeal to the United States supreme court in the habeas corpus proceeding instituted by Leo M. Frank, convicted of the murder of Mary Phagan. Judge Newman denied application for a writ Saturday.

Judge Newman stated at the close of an extended hearing that he was willing to allow Frank to appeal, but that he would not certify it.

According to Frank's attorneys, Judge Newman's decision in effect means they will be compelled to apply to a justice of the supreme court to grant an appeal before the matter can be brought before the highest tribunal.

MAKER OF FIRST SELF-PROPELLED VEHICLE DEAD

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Dec. 21.—Dr. J. W. Carhart, who is said to have built the first self-propelled vehicle, died here today aged 84. He was honored recently by the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers in resolution recognizing him as the pioneer in the automobile business. He was a retired physician and minister and formerly lived at Racine, Wis.

Stockman's Trial Set.
PIERRE, S. D., Dec. 21.—(Special Telegram.)—In the circuit court at Fort Pierre today, the trial of Herman Somsenschein, a prominent Stanley county rancher charged with cattle stealing, was fixed for next Monday. Somsenschein and Ed Carr are under arrest on the charge, and Jack Borden, who is charged with being implicated with them, has so far evaded arrest. All have been prominent stockmen for years.

Do You Fear Consumption?
King's New Discovery will help cure your cough or cold, no matter how chronic it is. Try it today. 50c and \$1. All druggists.—Advertisement.

Russia Does Not Fear Effect of New Scandinavian Deal

PETROGRAD, Dec. 21.—(Via London.)—The Russian press is convinced that the formation of a Scandinavian triple alliance may be announced at any time now as the result of the conference at Malmoe, Sweden, last week, of King Haakon, King Gustava and King Christian. The newspapers express the opinion that such an alliance could not possibly be a source of danger to Russia. They state that a concert of the Scandinavian powers would ally all apprehension concerning the possible pro-German sympathies of Sweden.

VANQUISHED IN SEA FIGHT TO ENGLAND

German Sailors Saved in Battle Off Falklands Sail from Montevideo for Britain.

STURDEE GIVEN RECEPTION
Commander of Squadron Defeating Tontoon Fleet in South Atlantic Describes Battle with Foo.

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, Dec. 21.—German sailors to the number of about 100, who were saved during the fighting off the Falkland islands December 8, when the British squadron under Admiral Sir Frederick Sturdee, defeated and sent to the bottom a German squadron composed of the cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau, Nürnberg and Leipzig, sailed from here today to England on board the steamer Crown of Gallia. They were brought into port yesterday by the British cruiser Invincible, with Sir Frederick Sturdee on board.

It was learned today that the Invincible showed signs of being struck by six different shells. Nine men on board it were wounded, including Commander Richard H. D. Townsend.

Sturdee Welcomed.

In the course of the reception tendered the British officers in Victoria hall yesterday, an address of welcome was made by the British minister, A. M. Innes. In response, Admiral Sturdee spoke as follows:

"I thank you for this reception. I hope our little victory will improve conditions for British, French, Russian and probably for Japanese commerce during this titanic conflict which has just begun. We may suffer some reverses, but our sailors will maintain their high reputation and all will go well with our army and with our French allies.

Employed Germans.

"Lord Roberts recommended military preparations. Had he been listened to, the war would have been avoided. English business men, forgetful of their true interests, employed Germans for reasons of economy, but I hope that the British merchants and British steamship companies will profit from this lesson."

Eight English Sailors Killed.

Continuing, Admiral Sturdee said that the Germans fought well and were excellent citizens, except when they invaded neutral countries and attacked unprotected towns. He declared that the British squadron had suffered eight men killed and fourteen wounded in the battle of December 8.

The engagement commenced at 1 o'clock and the German cruiser Scharnhorst, the flagship of Admiral von Spee, went down at 6 o'clock. Unfortunately the German admiral and the entire crew lost their lives. The admiral also lost two sons.

"War is a sad thing," Admiral Sturdee said in conclusion, "the vessels of the enemy menaced our commerce. Now they are at the bottom of the ocean."

Murder Trial Begins.

PIERRE, S. D., Dec. 21.—(Special Telegram.)—Judge James McNenny came from Sturgis this morning to begin the hearing at Fort Pierre of the case in which A. P. Helm is charged with the murder of O. C. Hunter, the Northwestern railway agent at Midland, two months ago. Helm put up a claim of self-defense, alleging Hunter had attacked him with a heavy stove poker.

GERMAN VIEW OF AFFAIRS IN WEST

Official Statement Contradicts Practically All Claims of French War Office.

MEN AND GUNS ARE TAKEN

Text of Alleged Order from General Joffre for Advance on German Lines is Published as Part of Report.

BERLIN, Dec. 21.(By Wireless to London.)—The German war office today gave out a statement in which it is related that on December 19 German troops were successful at Neuport, occupied certain Anglo-Indian positions in Belgium and captured artillery and 75 prisoners, and that trenches at Notre Dame de Lorette were retaken from the enemy. Near Souain, the French reached some German trenches, but were driven off with a loss of 344 prisoners and many dead. An advantage was gained in the Argonne and French attacks to the northwest of Verdun failed. This official statement quotes textually an order issued by General Joffre for General Joffre to the French forces, urging them to fresh endeavor to drive the German invaders from French territory.

The text of the communication follows: "The French attacks yesterday at Neuport (Belgium) were repulsed. Between Richeborough L'Avoue and the canal of Labassee we attacked the position of the Anglo-Indian troops, stormed and captured their trenches and dislodged them from their positions with heavy losses. We captured one piece of artillery, five machine guns, two mine throwers and 75 Anglo-Indians, including ten officers. The trenches we lost to the enemy December 18 near Notre Dame de Lorette have been recaptured.

"In the neighborhood of Souain, to the northeast of Chalons, French troops yesterday delivered a fierce attack. In one place they entered our outer trenches, but their attack broke down under our fire. They left four officers and 310 men in our hands, and a large number of dead French troops were left on the ground in front of our position.

Capture Hill in Argonne.

"In the Argonne we captured an important wooded hill at LeFour De Paris, three machine guns, one revolver gun and 25 prisoners.

"The fierce French attacks to the northwest of Verdun have failed completely.

"The great activity shown by the French along our entire front has been explained by an army order dated December 17 and signed by General Joffre, commander-in-chief of the French troops, which was found on a French officer. This order reads as follows:

"During three months the enemy has made numerous fierce attacks without being able to break through our line. Everywhere he has been victoriously repulsed. The moment now has arrived for us to make use of the weakness which he has shown. After having reinforced ourselves with men and material the hour of attack has arrived. We kept the German forces in check, and it is now our business to clear the fatherland of the invaders.

"Soldiers: More than ever before France relies upon your courage and your desire to conquer at any cost. You already have been victorious on the Marne and on the Yser, at Ypres, in Lorraine and in the Vosges. You will know how to conquer until the final triumph.

"In the eastern arena of the war the situation in West Prussia remains unchanged. In Poland we continue our attacks against the positions of the enemy."

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