



RUSS-GERMANS IN PEACE PACT; BESSARABIA NOW IS REPUBLIC

RUSSIA BETRAYED BY BOLSHEVIKI, NOT YET UNDER GERMAN YOKE

National Movement Organized Against Red Rule Will Turn Against Germany's Efforts to Destroy Russ Democracy and Conquer Country Economically, Says Slav Leader in America.

Petrograd, Saturday, Dec. 29.—Bessarabia has declared its independence as the Moldavian republic to form a part of the Russian federated republic.

Bessarabia is a government of southwestern Russia, adjoining Rumania. About half the inhabitants are Rumanians. The population is about 2,000,000 people. Kishinev is the capital of Bolsheviki, which has an area of about 18,000 square miles.

The Bolsheviki announce that tomorrow a general celebration of the peace negotiations will be held in Petrograd and other Russian cities.

PETROGRAD CELEBRATES.

London, Dec. 30.—Dispatches from Petrograd say that the city was given over today to a celebration of the peace negotiations. The watchwords were:

Down with international imperialism! and Long live the third international!

A telegram received in Petrograd from Novo Tcherkack, capital of the territory of the Don Cossacks, announces that General Kaledine, who recently resigned as hetman of the Cossacks on the ground that there was opposition to him at the front, has been re-elected by 562 out of a total of 638 votes.

The council of people's commissaries ordered the confiscation of the factories and all other property of the Russo-Belgium company because its directors on December 18 declared the company to be in a state of liquidation and declined to submit to the control of the employees. All the workmen have been ordered to continue the discharge of their duties. Anyone guilty of acts of sabotage will be brought before a revolutionary court.

Bolsheviki Power Is on

Wane, Declares Sack

By A. J. Sack.

(Director, Russian Information Bureau.)

The rule of the Bolsheviki is tottering and we may expect their downfall in a very short time.

But, whether they fall tomorrow, or even today, they already have committed their greatest crime against Russia and the allies. They have disorganized and demoralized the once so glorious Russian army.

While Trotsky is pathetically exclaiming that the Bolsheviki will not kneel before the Kaiser, and that in case Germany offers Russia "offensive peace terms," the Bolsheviki will declare a "revolutionary war" on Germany—while play-acting so in the midst of the Russian tragedy, which the Bolsheviki have themselves created, the truth of the situation is plain.

The damage the Bolsheviki have already done to the Russian military machine is almost irreparable; there is probably no longer a Russian army in existence and the roads to Russia are open. A separate peace between Russia and Germany, under present conditions, would be a peace on Germany's terms. Russia, under these terms, would become practically a vassal of Germany.

Dream of Prussian Junkers.

It should be understood that a separate peace with Russia, on the terms which Germany now is able to dictate, resorting probably to some pseudo-democratic camouflage, would be a realization beyond the wildest dreams of Prussian junkerdom. This victory would strengthen the political position of the German militarists and justify for the population of Germany their sacrifices during this war.

If Germany extends her rule over Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey, Roumania and Russia, with the possession of the resources of these countries, with access to every kind

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The Weather

Fair Monday; slowly rising temperature in east portion.

Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

Table with columns for temperature at different times of the day (6 A.M., 8 A.M., 10 A.M., etc.) and wind directions.

Comparative Local Record.

Table comparing local weather records for various months (January, February, March, etc.) showing temperature and precipitation.

L. A. WILLSH, Meteorologist.

Condition of Civilians in Belgium Described as Heartrending by One of Them Who Made Escape to England

Many Who Make Desperate Bid for Liberty Across Border Shot by Germans or Deported to Prisons.

BY AN ESCAPED CIVILIAN. In London Times, December 11. Some pacifists abroad, following the lead of Mr. Morel, having recently exploited the suffering of the Belgian population as an argument for an early and premature peace, the German newspapers hastened to reproduce the news.

It did more harm to the popularity of the allies than the bombs dropped by British airmen on the army's communication lines, which necessarily cause a certain number of casualties among the civilians.

While realizing that air raids are unavoidable, we have often wondered why they were limited to Belgian territory. The raids carried recently into Germany will no doubt relieve the feelings of many.

I should mention here the case of a young friend of mine, a boy of 18, who crossed the wire quite recently. A British bomb had fallen on his house at Bruges. His father had been killed. His mother and sister, both seriously wounded, were lying in hospital. "The only thing left for me was to join the army," he said to me when we met in England.

He is now in an instruction camp in France. Can't Cross Frontier. It is easy to speak of crossing the frontier; it is less easy to do it now that it is barred by a double fence of electrified wire and guarded by a sentry every 50 yards and patrols during the whole night.

Many have failed and tried over and over again, 10 times, 15 times even, before succeeding. A large number of those who make the desperate bid for liberty are killed by the sentries or captured and deported to prison camps.

There is perhaps some exaggeration in the statement current in Belgium that the enemy needs a whole army corps to keep us from slipping through the prison gates, but if we consider that the Dutch-German frontier must be guarded as well as the Dutch-Belgian, and that thousands of spies and secret agents are busy in the occupied territory, this estimate does not seem very far from the truth.

Persecution and Hunger. "Nothing can give a better idea of the obstinate resistance opposed by the Belgians to German edicts and regulations than the statement of a German newspaper—the Deutsche Juristentzeitung—which estimates at no fewer than 100,000 the number of sentences inflicted on the people during one year only (1915-1916). Most of them, of course, are fines or short terms of imprisonment.

Formerly we used to have the choice and many rich people preferred to go to the St. Gilles prison rather than help the enemy by paying their fine. But the prisons have become so crowded and the financial situation of the empire has become so bad that only the destitute preserve the privilege of sacrificing their liberty.

The others, if they refuse to pay, have their watch taken from them or are obliged to give up a piece of valuable furniture. In Brussels these things are sold by auction in a shop in the Rue de la Limite. Now that winter has set in I should like to say a word about the food question. It is impossible to realize the spirit which inspires the Belgian people if one does not take into account their economic situation.

To Break Belgium's Spirit. In their attempt to break Belgian nationalism the enemy has found a forceful ally—hunger—and the moral power necessary to resist the former is nothing but a thing which is required to resist the second. Mainly an account of the submarine menace and of the torpedoing of a number of relief ships the imports of the commission for relief have fallen this year far below the average.

The workman must live on a ration of 300 grammes of bread a day and the platter of soup provided by the communal authorities. This is about half the food necessary to keep alive in ordinary times a man who is not doing any physical work. If the shop (Continued on Page Two, Column Two.)

Queen of Realm of Ak-Sar-Ben to Wed Army Man

Announcement Made of Engagement of Miss Elizabeth Reed and Lieut. I. W. Carpenter, Junior.

The Ak-Sar-Ben queen, Miss Elizabeth Balch Reed, is to marry Lieutenant Isaac White Carpenter, jr. Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln Reed, her parents, yesterday announcing the engagement of their attractive eldest daughter, the reigning queen of the realm, to the young soldier in the Coast artillery, son of the Isaac W. Carpenters.

BASIS FOR AGREEMENT TO END WAR IS REACHED; EACH OUTLINES TERMS

Decision Follows Preliminary Parley Over Issues That Must Be Settled in Event of General Peace; Envoys of Teutons Submit Outline of Demands to Offset Slav Contentions.

(By Associated Press.) Brest-Litovsk, Friday, Dec. 28.—Via Berlin and London, Dec. 30.—Provisional agreement on a series of important points, including the liberation of war prisoners and resumption of commercial relations, was reached today by the delegates of Russia and the central power.

THIRTEEN DEAD IN BABY KILLER RAID AT PADUA

Palace of Giustiniani and Church and Seminary in Ruins and Three Women Slain.

(By Associated Press.) Headquarters of the Italian Army in Northern Italy, Dec. 30.—A large enemy fleet of airplanes participated in the air raid over the city of Padua and nearby towns Friday night. Thirteen persons were killed and 60 wounded, the majority of the latter being women.

In Padua the bombs fell in public squares, near hotels, clubs and churches and from the manner in which the raid was carried on unusual barbarism and personal bitterness were shown.

A bright moonlight favored the raiders, who operated over a wide area embracing the cities of Treviso, Montebelluna, Castel Franco and Padua. This squadron first appeared over Padua at 9 p. m., when a deafening bombardment fairly shook the city.

Explosions began in the suburbs and gradually approached the center of the city, where the streets were filled with people. One bomb struck in the middle of the main square, opening a huge crater and killing one person and maiming many. Another struck a wing of the palace of Giustiniani, near the St. Antonio church, killing three women.

The Carmelite church and seminary also were struck and the oldest house in Padua, dating from 1160, was damaged. Two people were killed outright in front of the American-Anglo club. The other cities within the raided area escaped with little or no damage.

Pershing Visits King Albert In Quarters at Belgian Front

Two Killed When Powder Press Over

Oldest Postal Employee Dies After Epochal Service

Coldest December Day Is Recorded in New York

Grain of Sand Causes Explosions Killing Two and Wrecking

Finland Faces Starvation; Many Towns Breadless for Days