

# HARD FIGHTING PRESAGES LONG EXPECTED OFFENSIVE ON FRANCO-BRITISH FRONT

**Germans, Feeling Out Allied Lines From North Sea to Switzerland, Deal and Receive Bitterest Attacks So Far During Winter; Airship Score on Each Side Mounts High.**

By ARTHUR S. DRAPER.  
(Staff Correspondent New York Tribune.)  
London, Jan. 24.—(Special Cable To The Bee.)—Military operations were resumed today in France and Belgium on a greater scale than has been attained before this year. From the North Sea to the Swiss border lessening in the rigors of winter has made possible enterprises which seem to forecast the resumption of heavy fighting.

**ATTACK FRENCH LINE.**  
The most important operations of the day were conducted on the coastal sector, east of the town of Nieuport, where the French face the enemy. Here, after an intense bombardment, the Germans attacked the front line trenches of the French and managed to gain a footing in an advanced position, from which they were almost immediately driven out.

The Paris communiqué refers to the action as "an important raid" and apparently it was no more than that, although first reports seemed to indicate that it might develop into serious fighting.

**AIM AT SALIENT.**  
Immediately to the south of Nieuport the battle line takes a sharp curve westward, thus creating a salient which it may have been the intention of the enemy to obliterate. The general situation on this part of the front has undergone little change in three years, although the German lines have been exposed at times to a heavy bombardment from the British naval forces.

Another violent action took place on the Aisne front, north of Souain and Aocourt, where Berlin reports that the French attacked after strong artillery preparation. The fighting here was hand-to-hand and only after a violent struggle were the French troops driven back to their positions.

**Germans Claim Prisoners.**  
Spirited fighting developed also in the region of St. Quentin, between British and German raiding parties, in which Berlin claims that the Germans took "a great number of prisoners," as well as in the Malancourt sector, where German detachments penetrated the French trenches and returned with captives.

A German raid south of LaBasse broke down under the fire of the British batteries, Haig reports, while another German attack on the front of Chaume Wood, north of Verdun, was repelled by the French.

Violent artillery engagements occurred at many other points along both fronts.  
Fighting in the air during the last few days has kept pace with the land operations. In the period of January 1-10, the French alone destroyed 19 enemy airplanes, and between January 17 and 20, 10 more were brought down, bringing the known total for the month of January so far to 29. The British pilots have accounted for at least a score more in that time, while the German claims have been large.

**Big Offensives Impend.**  
The increasing activity of the opposing armies, both on land and in the air, seems to presage the renewal of what may be called offensive actions in the near future.

Although for weeks the western front has been held in the grip of the weather and heavy snows, the cold season is not of long duration in northern France and Belgium, the spring thaw setting in often before the middle of February.

Both the allied and German armies have conducted large scale operations in the last two years under the most adverse weather conditions and it is not wholly improbable that this will hold true in the coming weeks.

The crown prince's great assault on Verdun was begun in the first days of February. If the Germans intend to strike a great blow in France as early as possible, heavy fighting may be looked for within a short time.

**Reconstruction Corps to Rebuild Wounded Men**  
Washington, D. C., Jan. 24.—As part of the government's plans to establish rehabilitation and vocational training schools for disabled soldiers and sailors, Surgeon General Gorgas announced today the creation of a corps to be known as "reconstruction aides" whose work will be to assist in the first stage of re-educating the men sent back from France.

The corps will be composed of women especially trained for the work and Miss Marguerite Sanderson, president of the Boston school of physical education, has been appointed supervisor. They will work in hospitals to be established throughout the country, helping in the mental as well as the physical rehabilitation of the disabled men.

**Swiss Make Farmers Of Foreign Slackers**  
Bern, Jan. 24.—Half of the 30,000 men who have taken refuge in Switzerland and as deserters or in order to avoid military service in their own country are to be mobilized by the Swiss government for civilian service. They have been formed into companies of 150 each under the supervision of Swiss officers and put to work on the land to increase the agricultural production. They will receive food and clothing and 26 cents a day, the same amount paid to Swiss soldiers.

**U. S. Dissolves Civilian Board of Labor Control**  
Washington, Jan. 24.—Dissolution of the board of control for labor standards, created to keep army clothing contracts away from plants employing sweatshop methods, was announced today by Secretary Baker, with the explanation that the primary purpose of the board had been accomplished, and hereafter its duties could be performed by the quartermaster.

## "REDS" THREATEN U. S. AMBASSADOR

Organ of Bolsheviki Declares Francis and Other Envoys. Aim to Crush Russian Revolution.

Stockholm, Jan. 24.—Replying to sharp criticism in the Novaya Zhizn, of Petrograd, Maxim Gorky's paper, of the arrest of the Roumanian minister at Petrograd, the Pravda, organ of the council of workmen's and soldiers' deputies, says:

"And you believe seriously that all these men—M. Diamandi (the Roumanian minister), Mr. Francis (the American ambassador) and M. Nourens (the French ambassador) are really envoys for the workmen's and peasants' government, for the Russian people? You think the government should consider as envoys these men, who have declared that this government is not recognized by their governments! Have not these men themselves declared they are not remaining in Russia as envoys but merely to obtain information?"

"Worthy gentlemen, for us all these Roumanian, French and other diplomats are nothing but agents for international imperialism which has for its aim the crushing of the Russian revolution. They are spies and helpers of Korniloff, Kaledines and Savinkoff. If they, who sent out spies and under-strappers begin to take liberties with our soldiers, we shall arrest these agents no matter how much they shriek about their immunity."

## IF YOU WANT A POSTOFFICE, GET BOSS MULLEN'S CONSENT

Nebraska's Democratic Czar With Senator Hitchcock Giving Postmaster Nominations Once Over in Spite of Civil Service and Fact They Have Come From President Wilson.

Washington Bureau Omaha Bee, 1311 G street.

Washington, Jan. 24.—(Special Telegram.)—Arthur Mullen's mission to Washington at this time has been the subject of much speculation among those just outside the pale of his confidence, but gradually the observing are getting wise at least to some angles of his visit.

**HITCHCOCK LENDS AID.**  
One of the things which brought the democratic boss of Nebraska to the national capital became apparent today—his desire to have a first hand knowledge of those nominated to be postmasters by the president and which were sent to the senate on January 17.

Many of the nominations are reappointments, some few being incumbents in office raised to the presidential class, and, in order to go over the list, 30 in number, Mullen prevailed upon Senator Hitchcock to have the nominations of January 17 sent to the senator's office from the committee on postoffices and postroads to which

## Londoners Partake Of 'Pferde Fleisch'

London, Jan. 24.—At a meeting of butchers in Harrow today, it was announced that slaughtering of horses for food would be undertaken immediately. It was said that the request for the slaughter of horses, which were not of sufficient use for service purposes, came from the army authorities. The meat will be sold at 6 pence a pound at certain shops.

There are already about 30 shops selling horse flesh, largely to Belgians and other people from the continent, who have taken up their homes in England since the war.

to postmasters is not worth the paper on which it is written.

"If it is for the purpose of showing the nominees for postoffices that Mullen must be seen before their confirmations, then it is obvious Mullen is building up a statewide postoffice machine of first class importance and the president's order taking the post-offices out of politics is camouflage."

"If any nominations for postoffices in my district are held up I will take the matter to the postoffice committee and fight it out there."

believe he will, then it will not surprise anybody here to see Dan Stephens' hat in the ring, for he loves a fight and is measurably ambitious.

**Republicans Getting Together.**  
The stock of Will Hays of Indiana, for republican national chairman is up today as a result of the conference of republican managers yesterday and the vote in the committee on the motion, which carried, to admit the progressive members of the campaign committee to share in the national councils.

**Work for Harmony.**  
It was said by progressive republicans that the vote of John T. King of Iowa, candidate for the chairmanship, against the motion may react to his detriment when the national committee meets February 12 to elect a chairman.

It was indicated that Mr. King's alignment in this move to affiliate the progressives and old guard may be resented by progressive republicans in the February meeting and bring an issue between the two factions. Republicans of prominence in both factions are working to avoid such a clash, however, and the intervening weeks will be utilized in further get-together efforts.

## Council Grants Use of Munny Auditorium for Spud Sale

City council authorized Commissioner Withnell to arrange for the use of basement of Auditorium for a potato sale by Lew Pixley, who promised to sell the spuds at a reasonable price, allowing a small margin of profit for himself.

Should Neville be a candidate, as those nearest to the democratic triumvirate—Hitchcock, Mullen and Corey—

## KINKAID ON G. O. P. COMMITTEE FOR MENDING FENCES

Woods of Iowa Also Named in Republican-Congressional Campaign to Wrest Control of House.

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, Jan. 24.—Republican senators and representatives in joint conference tonight named the members of the republican congressional campaign committee.

Nominations for membership from some states including those without republican representation in congress were not ready tonight and they will be passed upon later by the committee itself. The members selected include:

California, Representative Julius Kahn; Colorado, Representative Charles B. Timberlake; Idaho, Representative Addison T. Smith; Iowa, Representative Frank P. Woods; Montana, Miss Jeanette Rankin; Nebraska, Representative Moses P. Kinkaid; Nevada, Representative E. E. Roberts; New Mexico, Senator Albert B. Fall; Oklahoma, Representative Dick T. Morgan; Oregon, Representative Nicholas J. Sinnott; South Dakota, Representative Charles H. Dillon; Washington, Representative Lindley H. Hadley, and Wyoming, Representative Frank W. Mondell.

Those individuals will direct the campaign activities in all the congressional districts in an effort to wrest the political control of the house at the polls next November. There will be a fight for the chairmanship when the committee holds its first meeting. Representative Woods of Iowa, who is a candidate for reelection, is opposed by Representative Madden of Illinois.

**6,000,000 Tons "Hopeful Estimate" of Allied Losses**  
Washington, Jan. 24.—William Denman, former chairman of the shipping board, gave 6,000,000 tons as a "hopeful estimate" of the allied shipping losses this year in testifying today before the senate commerce committee. He said an estimate of 7,000,000 tons' production during the year was a "scientific dream."

Mr. Denman said that nothing could be learned from British official reports of shipping sunk, because they included only British vessels, and only a part of the loss to shipping was due to submarines or mines.

**Suspend Licenses of Stores That Aid Mexicans**  
El Paso, Tex., Jan. 24.—The export licenses of two local wholesale grocery stores were ordered suspended Wednesday by the state food administration officials for a period of one week.

It was claimed these stores had been selling sugar and other contraband articles of food to small grocery stores along the river front, established for the purpose of smuggling these contraband foodstuffs to Mexico and thus assembling shipments to be sent to the interior.

**Cut Flour Content in Chicago Bread**  
Chicago, Jan. 24.—Bread in Chicago after February 1, will contain only 75 per cent of flour. Notice of this effect was given by the Flourmen's club of Chicago tonight, the action being in response to a plea from the federal food administration received during the day. Similar action, it was said, is being taken throughout the country.

The method of enforcing the substitution of 25 per cent of rye, barley, corn, rice meal, alfalfa meal or soy bean, will be to fill the orders from bakers with a product containing 75 per cent of wheat and 25 per cent of some substitute.

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