

Notice to Advertisers.

In order to ensure changes being made in advertisements, copy must reach this office not later than 9 a.m. on the day of publication.

The Daily Mail

The Weather.

Maritime: Fresh east and north winds, light local snow today and on Friday.

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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1917

TWO CENTS PER COPY

HUNS MUST SOON HAVE PEACE NO MATTER WHAT THE COST

Belligerents Preparing For Strenuous Fighting

Berlin's Boastful Talk Will be Met by a Counterstroke From the Allies---Fighting Tackle Being Piled up Mountain High Behind the Somme Lines.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—While peace talk is flying back and forth over the wires, both belligerents are girding themselves for the greatest fighting yet. The talk from Berlin of war to the knife will be met by an Allied counterstroke which will make even the unparalleled effort of the last two and a half years seem feeble by comparison.

General Haig's report, reducing to the simplest terms the battle of the Somme, is a preparation of the public mind for what is to come with fighting weather. His statement that half the German army was engaged from July to November with thoroughly demoralizing results to the enemy, reconciles the country to pouring its life and resources into the conflict without stint or slackening of effort.

Man power and fighting tackle are being piled up mountain high back of the Somme lines. The government and people now trust Gen. Haig, and will back him to the limit. His call for a strengthening of the aeroplane arm received instant response, the government not hesitating about methods, and hastening the appointment of Lord Cowdrey.

The Daily News, analyzing the comment in the German newspapers on the Entente reply, and citing reports of the sufferings of the peoples of the Central Powers, sees indications that the Central Powers do not regard the prospect of negotiations as ended, and comes to the conclusion that the time is fast approaching when they must have peace at any cost. It finds confirmation of this in Count Andrassy's statement saying: "Whatever the motives for the decision of the Central Powers to submit their peace terms to President Wilson, it becomes more imperative that the Allies should make a clear, full and temperate statement of their terms in their reply to the President."

Capture of Matchin by the Teutonic Forces

Has Evidently Ended the Defence of Dobrudja

LONDON, Jan. 4.—The capture of Matchin is regarded here as ending the defence of Dobrudja. The Russians held the Matchin bridgehead in order to protect Braila from the rear. Nothing now remains to them except a narrow strip of land between marshes which carries the highway to Braila.

The Germans and Bulgarians are in a position to push their guns within eight miles of Braila and it is assumed that if the invaders capture the latter town the Russian line west of the Danube will be withdrawn. It is taken for granted that the prolonged resistance to the advance has enabled the defenders to remove the stores of grain and other material from Braila.

Belgian Slaves Tell of Inhuman Treatment

At the Hands of Their German Oppressors

THE HAGUE, Jan. 4 (via London).—The first report received directly from Belgians deported to Germany, who have been invalided from the camp at Soltau, Prussia, has been given to the Associated Press. These persons were returned from Germany because they were in almost a dying condition. A number of them who were interviewed while separated from each other agreed in their stories of conditions prevailing in the Soltau camp.

Seventy of the Belgians were sent home in a crowded cattle truck attached to a freight train. It took three days and three nights for the journey, which usually is made by express trains in six hours. They arrived home in an emaciated condition, coughing, the greater number of them showing evidence of having contracted tuberculosis.

RUSSIANS TAKE PRISONERS.

London (British Admiralty, per wireless press).—The capture by Russian forces on the Roumanian front of 600 prisoners, three cannon and 16 machine guns, together with some mine throwers and bomb mortars, is announced in today's War Office statement. This success resulted from an attack on hostile positions on heights to the south of Betechu mountain, in the wooded Carpathians.

STANFIELD'S RESIGNATION NOT TO HAND

Ottawa, Jan. 4.—The resignation of John Stanfield, M.P., chief Conservative whip, which was recently placed in the hands of the party executive in Colchester county to dispose of as they saw fit, has not come to the Speaker of the House.

Mr. Stanfield resigned as a protest over the appointment of an assistant superintendent of the N. C. R. at Halifax. He wished another man to get the job. The Minister of Railways has not changed his attitude.

Ask Government To Resign Office

Regina, Sask., Jan. 4.—At a mass meeting of the working people of Regina held last night, a strongly worded resolution was passed expressing opposition to the plan of national registration and calling upon the Borden government to resign. Copies of the resolution are to be sent to Sir Robert Borden and R. B. Bennett.

Montreal Mail Published Today

Montreal, Jan. 4.—A four-page issue of the Daily Mail appeared this morning with the following announcement: "Negotiations are in progress for continuing the Daily Mail and the Evening News under the former control and management."

PERSONAL.

Mr. J. J. McCaffrey was in St. John yesterday attending the meeting of the Provincial Recruiting Committee. Mr. W. H. Berry, of St. Stephen, is registered at the Barker House.

WILL THE GERMAN HOSTS INVADE SWITZERLAND

Gustave Herve Calls Upon Great Britain to Take Over More of the Western Front in Order to Provide for Such a Contingency.

PARIS, Jan. 4.—The possibility of a German invasion of Switzerland is assuming more and more the aspect of probability in the French view. Gustave Herve, in "Victoire," this morning devotes a leader to the subject, calling on Great Britain to take over more of the French battle line in the west, so that French troops may be liberated to form an army of manoeuvre, ready to strike at any needed point.

Herve points out that Germany has called up the class of 1919, giving her 600,000 more troops for the army, while her civil mobilization will liberate from 500,000 to 2,000,000 more men for service in the rear or on the firing line. This is Germany's supreme effort and she has undertaken it without delay. "At what point are they likely to strike?" queries Herve. "First, there is Russia, Hindenburg's pet objective, but the weather would prevent an effective campaign before April on the Russian front. Next there is Saloniki; but Germany has only one railroad line to bring up supplies for a Saloniki campaign and railroads have always been Hindenburg's chief tools."

"Austria has been too severely mauled by Italy to make an offensive against the latter look successful, while the same thing is true of the great German attempt at Verdun."

"There remains the violation of Swiss neutrality in an endeavor to turn either the French or Italian lines. There is reason to think that the people who violated Belgium would not hesitate to expose Switzerland to the same fate."

GERMAN PEACE OFFER WAS PROMPTED BY THE FEAR OF STARVATION

Looks as if the End of Her Endurance Was Approaching Rapidly---Spain Commended in England For Refusing Peace Overtures From Washington.

LONDON, Jan. 4.—A most careful study of the economic conditions in Germany reveals that beyond a doubt the peace offer was prompted chiefly by the reason that Germany is on the verge of starvation. This information is not based on views of individual neutrals, or others whose impressions were gained in a visit to Germany and who were generally biased. In any case their views cannot be compared with actual evidence collected directly from German newspapers.

The information shows conclusively that the end of German endurance is approaching rapidly. Scarcely a day passes without its report of serious food riots by the underfed population. While the press is complaining bitterly of the starvation of the people, the authorities continue to reduce their allowances. Medical experts say the present ration is far below the standard on which human beings can live.

How grave the question of the milk supply must be in countless German communities is illustrated by the conditions prevailing in Mayenz, which in normal times requires a daily milk supply of 40,000 quarts. By order of the government the allowance has just been cut from 14,000 to 4,000 quarts a day.

The Vorwaerts says the potato rationing system is hopelessly inadequate. The allowance has reduced early last month from seven to six pounds for a person each week.

Independent Neutrals Like Spain and Holland Not Prepared to Follow Wilson's Lead

LONDON, Jan. 4.—Further criticisms of President Wilson's note are printed in some of the morning papers in connection with Spain's refusal of the overtures from Washington, and the impending reply of the Entente.

The Times says editorially: "The wise and dignified action of the Spanish government and the significant attitude of Holland and the principal republics of South America show that independent neutrals are not prepared to follow President Wilson's ill-considered lead. His note offers a great opportunity for laying our ends before Americans in words which cannot be misunderstood. We trust it will be greatly used, so that the contrast between our union and the ends of our enemies stands out sharp and clear in American eyes, as the contrast between the cause of freedom and the cause of bondage stood in ours, when Lincoln invoked upon his abolition edict the considered judgement of mankind."

Government of Spain Has a Better Grasp Of the Situation Than the United States

The Morning Post says: "The objects for which the war is being fought seem nothing to President Wilson. He takes the impartial view that both sides claim to be right and both profess to be fighting for right objects. The validity of these claims and professions he does not trouble to consider."

Referring to Spain's reply, the Post says: "The government of Spain may be supposed to understand better the realities of the situation, since it is not only less remote from the struggle, but inspired by principles which are nearer to reality."

As there is said to be a strong feeling in the United States in support of President Wilson, the Post sees danger that this sentiment may drive the President to action injurious to the interests of the Allies.

Allies as Anxious for Peace as President Wilson, But Will Not Tolerate Intervention

"There is danger of an attempt," it says, "to interfere with the means the Allies are using to attain their ends. Such an attempt might lead to a most unhappy condition. For neutrals to renounce the custom of supplying belligerent nations with munitions in the ordinary course of trade, would be a breach of neutrality and would in fact be an act of war in disguise."

It is therefore apparent that neutrals should realize not only the possible, but the logical consequence of such action. After (Continued on page 5.)