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The Daily Mail

***** * The Weather. * * Maritime: Fresh westerly * * winds, fair and colder. * *****

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THE BALKAN SITUATION ONCE MORE IN CENTRE OF THE STAGE

The Balkan Situation Soon To Change For the Better

**French Admiral Who Has Just Returned from Russia,
 Makes an Optimistic Statement---French Troops Re-
 pulse a German Raid on the Western Front.**

PARIS, Jan. 16.—The Matin publishes today an interview with Vice-Admiral Fournier, ex-commander-in-chief of the French marine forces in the Mediterranean, who has just returned from Russia.

"The Russo-Roumanians' tenacious resistance all along the present line and the fact that they have an even stronger line to fall back on if necessary, causes me to believe that the Roumanian position is greatly ameliorated and the worst is over," said Admiral Fournier. "Just before I was leaving, the Czar himself invited me to luncheon and dinner, assuring me that in a few weeks the Balkan situation will change greatly for the better."

PARIS, Jan. 16.—A German raid in the Somme region last night made under cover of the fire of shells containing asphyxiating gas, was repulsed by the French, the War Office announces. Elsewhere on the front there was little activity except for artillery fighting and outpost skirmishing.

LONDON, Jan. 16.—Field Marshal Von Hindenburg is rumored on the Berlin bourse to be laid up at headquarters with a severe chill, according to an Amsterdam despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co.

BERLIN, via Sayville, Jan. 16.—Russian forces undertook a violent attack in Roumania yesterday on both sides of the Funduni river.

Today's army headquarters statement regarding operations on the Franco-Belgian front reads: "Western front—An attempt by French detachments to enter our trenches near Bouvraignes, south of Roye, was frustrated by our trench troops; otherwise the fighting activity on both sides was within moderate limits, except for artillery fire in some localities."

The King of Spain May Play an Important Part in the Coming Peace Negotiations

MADRID, via Paris, Jan. 16.—An intimation that the King of Spain may play a prominent part in the coming peace negotiations was given in a speech by Eduardo Dato, former premier, at a banquet given in his honor by the moderate section of the conservatives. Great importance is attached to the words of Senor Dato, because of his habitual reserve.

After paying a tribute to the humanitarian role played by the King, and referring to the prestige he had thus gained throughout the world, the former premier said:

"On a day more or less distant—and, please God, that day may be near—the great prestige gained by our King may, for the greater good of humanity, make of him a messenger of peace. Let us have confidence, gentlemen, in the destinies of our dear land, while expressing wishes for the peace of the world and the prosperity of Spain. May heaven aid His Majesty in his noble and patriotic aim."

Germans in Their Reply to the Latest Allied Note, Attempt to Dodge the Issues Raised

LONDON, Jan. 16.—A semi-official reply has been issued in Berlin in regard to the British authoritative view made public here on Saturday regarding the latest German and Austrian notes, that the charges made in England regarding German responsibility for starting the war are not new, but are repetitions of statements long ago contradicted. The reply then proceeds to ask a series of questions in respect to the diplomatic action of the powers prior to the outbreak of the war.

It is asserted among many things that Germany could not have done otherwise than order mobilization, as Russia's suggestion of a reference to The Hague tribunal came, it is said, on the very day that her mobilization against Austro-Hungary was begun.

The reply calls attention to the concentration camps in South Africa, the debates in the Russian duma on the subject of the foreign nationalities in Russia, the treatment of Mohammedans in the Caucasus, the Entente attitude toward Greece and the treatment of German prisoners of war in Russia.

Another question asked in the reply is, "Is not the submarine warfare merely a reprisal against the British policy of starvation?"

TO WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM THE BORDER

Mexico City, Jan. 16.—The news that the American commissioners to the Mexican-American conference had recommended the withdrawal of General Pershing's force and the sending of an ambassador to Mexico City, was received here with general rejoicing.

General Obregon, minister of war, has directed General Murguia to be prepared to occupy the positions now held by General Pershing. In official circles this is pointed to as proof that the Caranza government is determined to prevent the Villistas gaining any advantage from the withdrawal of the American expedition.

Admiral Dewey Is Fast Sinking

Washington, Jan. 16.—The condition of Admiral Dewey at 8.30 o'clock this morning was said by his doctors to be "distinctly worse" and it was feared he would not live through the day.

English Race Horses For Americans

New York, Jan. 16.—The steamer Minnehaha yesterday brought to this port 110 English thoroughbred horses, the largest number imported since the beginning of the European war. The horses were imported for racing and breeding purposes by American sportsmen, among whom are John A. Drake, Richard T. Wilson, Willis Sharp Kilmer, Geo. D. Widener, W. R. Coe and Jefferson Livingston.

Mr. A. T. Murchie, of St. Stephen, is a guest at the Barker House.

HUNS ARE LIVING MAIN- LY ON FISH AND POTATOES

**A Neutral Visitor Tells of His Experience---Officials
 Are Supposed to be Purloining Food Intended
 For Belgian Relief.**

LONDON, Jan. 16.—The Times publishes the following information supplied by a neutral who left Germany at the end of last month:

"I lost fifteen pounds in weight in a month. All the time I was in Germany I saw no butter. Saccharine, which is used instead of sugar, affects the gums and causes diarrhoea, as does also the artificial coffee, which is horrible to drink.

"The people are living mainly on potatoes and fish. The fish come from Holland and Sweden. A very small fish costs 1s. 9d. A goose is 8s. 9d. per pound. The only thing fit to eat is chocolate.

"Everyone is showing characteristic signs of the jaundice with a yellowish tinge in the skin and the whites of their eyes. Money will not buy food. Millionaires are as badly off in that respect as the poor man, but the poor are under the impression that the officials are getting food from Belgium, presumably food intended for the relief of the Belgians.

"A lady at Dusseldorf, who expressed the belief that however much the people suffered, the burgomaster had enough to eat, received six months' imprisonment."

Surgeon General Jones Is Still on the Job

London, Jan. 15.—Although Surgeon General Carleton Jones has again thrown himself into the work of di-

recting the Canadian medical services here, the report is persistent in his own entourage that he will return to Ottawa and that Colonels Fotheringham and Foster will direct the service. The former is now in England on leave. There is no shortage of doctors for the Canadian services, though the imperial service has had difficulty in this respect.

ALLIES WILL MAKE AN EFFORT TO CUT THE TRANS-BALKAN RAILWAY

**Allied Army at Saloniki May Attempt to
 Sever German Communication With
 Asia Minor---Views of a British Cor-
 respondent.**

LONDON, Jan. 16.—The Allied army on the Saloniki front will be reinforced as a preliminary to an effort to cut the Berlin-Constantinople railroad, according to a despatch from a British correspondent with General Sarrail's forces.

The writer lays it down as the most urgent task of the Saloniki army to cut the railroad and shut off Germany from the supplies of foodstuffs she has been drawing from Asia minor.

He describes Asiatic Turkey as a granary which Germany is developing on scientific lines, while it is also the home of two million magnificent fighters, who, he says, are being trained and drilled under German instructors.

The Checking of German Expansion in the Near East an Even Greater End to be Aimed At

"Only by cutting the railroad," the correspondent writes, "can this process be stopped, and this is the only justification for maintaining our expensive but hitherto inadequate force in Macedonia. It can only be hoped that the reinforcements that will arrive in 1917 will make it possible by next new year's day to have got astride of the vital trans-Balkan railway."

The checking of German expansion in the near east is specified by the correspondent as an even greater end to be aimed at by the Allied army. He declares that the Germans plan to establish themselves at Saloniki as a stepping stone to a near eastern empire and that the Entente powers must fashion the Balkans so as to "build a Slav dam across the tideway of Germany's ambitions."

Falkenhayn, Former German Chief of Staff, Reported to be on Mysterious Visit to Greece

LONDON, Jan. 16.—The presence in Greece of General Von Falkenhayn, former German chief of staff, and of late in command of part of forces engaged in the campaign against Roumania, is reported in French official quarters at Saloniki, according to a Reuter despatch from that point.

General Von Falkenhayn is said to have embarked on a submarine at the Greek port of Kavala, now in the hands of the Germans, and to have landed at a point on the Greek coast whence he made his way to Larissa.

The absence of his name from the official Berlin war reports has been noticed for some days. Previous messages from Saloniki said it was General Baron Von Falkenhayn, a member of the German military commission which went to Greece in 1915, who made the trip in the submarine.

Communicating With Berlin.

PARIS, Jan. 16.—A Havas despatch from Saloniki, dated Jan. 13, says the Greek government has constructed hastily a wireless station at Larissa and is in constant communication in code with Berlin. The Entente ministers are still in the harbor at Koratsini, near Athens.

REPLY WILL BE FORWARDED.

LONDON, Jan. 16.—The reply of the Entente to the Swiss and Scandinavian notes endorsing President Wilson's inquiry of the belligerents regarding their war aims will be limited to a brief and formal acknowledgement. It will refer to the reply to President Wilson and will undertake no further discussion of the questions at issue.

SUB HAS FOUR PRISONERS.

LONDON, Jan. 16.—A German submarine has just returned from a cruise with four captains of merchantmen on board as prisoners, according to an Amsterdam despatch to Reuters, quoting German newspapers. One of the prisoners is an Englishman. The submarine is in charge of Commander Arnaud, who visited Cartagena last June on the submarine U-35 and delivered a letter from Emperor William to King Alfonso.