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The Daily Mail

THE WEATHER.

Maritime — Increasing winds,
gradually shifting to west and
northwest, snow and rain.

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BULGARIANS RENEWING ATTACK ON THE ANGLO-FRENCH FORCES; ENGLAND FEELS THAT THE BALKAN SITUATION IS CRITICAL

NOT MUCH PROSPECT OF AN EARLY PEACE

German Chancellor's Utterances Create Little Surprise in Great Britain--Entente Powers Determined to Continue the War to a Successful Conclusion--The Situation in the Balkans is Unchanged--British Troops in a Fight With Turks.

London, Dec. 9--The speech in the Reichstag of the imperial chancellor, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, reviewing the military, political and economic progress of events, and his reply to a Socialist interpellation declining to initiate peace negotiations were the feature of the day's news throughout Europe.

Following closely Premier Asquith's somewhat similar reply to a question in the house of commons by Philip Snowden, Socialist, the chancellor's speech has completely dashed any hopes the peace advocates may have held of an early termination of the war. It caused no surprise however, to the great bulk of the people here, who, like the government, believe in the ultimate victory of the Entente Allies, and express the determination to continue to fight until victory is attained.

WANT VIGOROUS FIGHTING

As far as the Entente Allies countries are concerned, seemingly the only change desired is one which would insure a more vigorous prosecution of the war, but this, like peace, will have to await events, for the whole campaign is entering a new phase.

Having arrived too late to prevent the invasion of Serbia, the British and French forces in the southeastern part of Serbia are now retiring before the onslaughts of the Bulgarians, who, supported by German artillery and infantry have been attacking both the British and the French and compelling them to give up advanced positions.

According to reports from Saloniki the retirement is being carried out in an orderly manner, but how far it is to continue is a matter of much speculation. Opinion is divided as to whether it would not be better to abandon the entire expedition, or retain Saloniki, as a base. The latter alternative would, it is believed, further endanger the relations of the Entente Allies with Greece, which now are far from satisfactory, and would be an inducement to the Central Powers to follow the Entente forces across Greek frontier.

ENGAGED WITH TURKS

Besides battles in the Balkans, the British are watching with deep interests the operations in the Mesopotamia, where a fight is now taking place for Kut-el-Amara, and in Arabia, the Turki in the latter region having commenced another advance on Aden. They made a similar attempt on Aden last July, but were driven back. As Aden and its vicinity, as well as the shores of the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, leading from the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, are well fortified, it is not believed an advance is seriously intended here. There is also considerable activity on the Gallipoli peninsula, but there have not been any important changes in the situation of the troops. This likewise applies to the western front, where the French are busy in an endeavor to recover a trench in the Champagne region which the Germans captured a few days ago. Despite the bad weather the Italians claim some minor successes along the Isonzo front.

YPRES AGAIN SHELLED

London, Dec. 9--A British official

communication, made public tonight, says:

"Bad weather has limited activity in the air, but our airmen have been able to do useful work. Two machines which went on reconnaissance on the fifth have not returned."

"As a result of a successful little enterprise in the region south of Arras, a small party of our men entered a German trench and bombed the occupants successfully, withdrawing after completing their mission."

"The destruction of the enemy's parapets and wire entanglements at various points on the front by our artillery continues. In reply to a successful bombardment of the enemy's position near Pilkem on the eighth the enemy shelled Ypres and the area north heavily but did little damage."

"West of Fricourt we exploded a large mine with success on the fifth. Yesterday near Givenchy, an enemy mine buried two of our men, who were safely rescued."

ITALIANS MAKE GAINS

Rome, via London, Dec. 9--The following official statement was issued today by the Italian army headquarters:

"At several places along the front the enemy artillery endeavored to interrupt our consolidation works, but the exact fire of our batteries nullified their efforts."

"In the Montenegro zone, favored by a thick fog, detachments of the enemy penetrated one of our entrenchments on the Volid spur, but were immediately repulsed by counter-attacks."

"On the Isonzo front bad condition of the ground caused by heavy rains has not diminished the activity of our infantry."

"On the Calvario Height, west of Gorizia, we yesterday captured an enemy shelter, consisting of eight rifles, ammunition and other war materials."

"In the Monte San Michele sector, on the Carso, in the course of a minor offensive operation, we took from the enemy seventy-one prisoners, including three officers."

Petrograd, via London, Dec. 9--The Russian army headquarters today gave out the following official communication:

"At several points on the Riga front our artillery silenced enemy batteries. South of Ikskul the Germans sent asphyxiating gas into our trenches. On the Dvinsk front they attempted, several times to leave their trenches to attack, but were forced to return by our infantry fire. There has been no change on the rest of the front."

GOT A COMMISSION.

Moncton Times--L. Stanley Edgett, student of the Senior Class at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, volunteered for active service some time ago. For over three years he has been an enthusiastic militia man with the 7th Westmorland regiment, having joined as a private. During college holidays he has been in training for lieutenant, also captain. This rank he received last summer from the military school at Halifax. Last week he received official appointment as lieutenant of the base company, 10th Battalion, C.E.F., now stationed at Sussex, N.B.

MONTREAL WELCOMES SIR WILFRID

Montreal, Dec. 9--Sir Wilfrid tonight addressed a gathering that closely packed every inch of space in the Monument National, and hundreds of people, unable to gain an entrance, were driven back from the doors of the building by a squad of police officers. It was the first public appearance of the veteran Liberal leader in Montreal since his recent illness, and he was given a great ovation. The meeting was under the auspices of Young Liberal Club of Montreal, and it was chiefly patriotic in tone.

Sir Wilfrid expressed a strong belief in the righteousness of the British cause in the great war, and an equally strong optimism in the final outcome of it.

He took occasion to give the Nationalists a rap, and said: "The Nationalists want parliament to close its eyes and take no part in the war." Touching on politics, Sir Wilfrid said: "You have heard in Montreal the question asked, why have the Liberals not fought the government? Why? Because I am the chief of the Liberal party, and because as long as I have the honor of presiding over the destinies of the Liberal party it will not triumph by taking advantage of the situation at present existing."

Sir Wilfrid paid a tribute to Oliver Asselin, who, although a Nationalist, is raising a battalion for overseas service.

Others who spoke were: Sir Lorne Gouin, premier of Quebec; Hon. Geo. P. Graham, Hon. Charles Marcell, Senator Dandurand, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux and Mr. Joseph Demers, M.P.

President I. Vautrine, of the Young Liberal Club, was in the chair.

EIGHTEEN POUNDER COMING FOR 36th OVERSEAS BATTERY

Soldiers Entertained Last Night at Y. M. C. A. --Battery on Route March

The regular weekly route march of the 36th Overseas Battery, C.F.A., took place this morning. Headed by their bugle-band, the artillerymen marched down river as far as the Dominion Experimental Farm and returned to barracks after marching about the city streets.

The four twelve-pound guns of old pattern which have been used here for drill purposes are to be shipped today to Toronto and the modern thirteen-pound gun used by the battery is to be shipped to Kingston. An eighteen-pounder of the type which would be used by the battery in active service is expected to arrive within a few days. Major A. H. Anderson, Canadian Ordnance Corps, is here from St. John today, making arrangements concerning the shipping of the guns.

SHELL INSPECTOR HERE.

Major R. E. Johnson of Quebec, one of the inspectors of munitions, is at the Barker House. His visit is in connection with the inspection of shells.

SOLDIERS WERE ENTERTAINED.

The soldiers of the two units quartered here were entertained pleasantly at the Y.M.C.A. hall last night. Addresses of welcome were made by Mr. Seeley of the Y.M.C.A., Mr. W. M. Burns and Mayor Mitchell. To these Major Pincombe replied. The rest of the program was:

Reading by Miss Lynds.
Solo by Miss Mary Smith.
Solo by Miss Maude McKee.
Reading by Mr. W. A. Walsh.
Refreshments were served by the ladies of the Daughters of the Empire

Amsterdam, Dec. 10--The British in Mesopotamia have halted their retreat from Bagdad and are making a successful stand at Kut el amera an official statement from Constantinople indicated today.

London, Dec. 10--The Bulgarians are renewing their attack in the Anglo-French forces in Macedonia and authorities in England recognize that matters are now at a critical stage as the retirement of the British forces may have considerable effect on the Balkan situation.

HARD FIGHTING IN WEST

(SPECIAL TO THE MAIL.)

London, Dec. 10--Hard fighting continues on the western front, where the Germans have been compelled to relinquish all but a small part of the advanced trench captured by them east of Butte de Souain. There has been no important developments on other fronts.

THE KAISER'S MOVEMENTS

(SPECIAL TO THE MAIL.)

Amsterdam, Dec. 10--The Kaiser will visit Brussels Sunday remaining for Three days. Berlin advices today said that he planned to visit the battlefield of Waterloo.

DANISH STEAMER SUNK

(SPECIAL CABLE TO THE MAIL.)

London, Dec. 10--The Danish steamer Minsk has been sunk by a German submarine. The crew was saved.

FORD'S EMPLOYEES ENLIST

Manchester, Dec. 10--While the Ford Peace Ship is speeding eastward the whole body of the employees of the Ford auto works here enlisted yesterday under Lord Derby's group scheme, engaging to serve in the army when called upon. The men marched through the city headed by a brass band in celebration of their enlistment.

CALLED ON GREEK PREMIER

Paris, Dec. 10--The Havas correspondent at Athens reports that Premier, Skouloudis today received the Italian and Russian ministers. It is supposed these ministers visited the premier for the purpose of indicating to the Greek government that Italy and Russia adhere to the demands of Great Britain and France for guarantees of freedom of action for the expeditionary forces which landed at Saloniki.

TWO SUCCESSFUL RETIREMENTS

London, Dec. 10--Two successful retirements by the British forces in the Balkans was officially announced tonight. On Dec. 7 the troops were withdrawn to a new line, on Dec. 8 they retired to another line.