

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
In order to ensure changes being made in advertisements copy must reach office not later than nine a. m. on the day of publication.

The Daily Mail

THE WEATHER.
Maritime — Moderate to fresh southwesterly to northwesterly winds, for the most part fair, a few local falls of snow or sleet.

VOL XXI NO. 280

FREDERICTON, N. B. WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29 1915

TWO CENTS PER COPY

ASQUITH WILL INTRODUCE A BILL FOR THE CONSCRIPTION OF UNMARRIED MEN; SHARP FIGHTING ON THE WESTERN FRONT

RUSSIAN TROOPS ON THE AGGRESSIVE

Report From German Forces Tell of Big Battle Raging in Bersarabia---Central Powers Hesitate about Beginning an offensive Against Saloniki---Modified Form of Conscription May Be Adopted in Great Britain.

London, Dec. 28.—While there has been considerable renewal of activity at several points on both the eastern and western fronts in the last twenty-four hours, the situation in the Balkans has been the most peaceful appearance in weeks. Despatches from both Germanic and Entente sources agree that the probability of an Austro-German-Bulgarian offensive against Saloniki is disappearing with the withdrawal of the Bulgarian frontier guards to purely defensive positions, well behind the Greek frontier.

The Associated Press' Vienna correspondent declares that the Central Powers have come, to regard any offensive against Saloniki as a measure promising only embarrassments, and no advantages. In fact, the Central Powers are inclined to regard the huge Allied force at Saloniki as safely cooped up, useless and expensive, and that therefore it would be an advantage to the Central Powers to let it remain there.

On the western front, the German official communication admits a French advance on Hirzstein, but gives no details. There has also been further activity in the Vosges district, with intense artillery fighting along the whole front of Hartmannsweilerkopf.

STERN BATTLES.

Vienna reports the Russian attack fiercely on the Dniester, and Bersarabia. The Austrian communication speaks of the Russians advancing

in series, lines fifteen to sixteen deep, which the artillery broke up with huge Russian losses.

A despatch from a German source says: "A terrible battle has been going on since Friday in Bersarabia."

The German campaign in the Near East and beyond, according to today's telegrams, is to be pushed with the utmost vigor and energy. Field Marshal Von Mackensen is reported to be the leader selected for the new theatre of operations, and the invasion of Egypt is said to be his immediate object. Numbers of trains are reported to be carrying ammunition and guns to Constantinople, and other preparations are being pushed on a big scale.

SALONIKI IMPREGNABLE.

The Bulgarians are reported to be busy entrenching their armies well back of the Grecian frontier, while equipment continues to arrive for the French and British at Saloniki, which, in the report of General Castenau, is considered by its defenders impregnable.

A change is also noted in the Turkish dispositions at the Dardanelles, where the defenders of Gallipoli are in possession of heavy siege guns, which have been better served since the Austro-Germans opened the road to Constantinople.

It is understood that the British authorities are making every possible preparation to adequately defend the Suez Canal and their Egyptian positions.

ALLIES ARE ENTRENCHED AT SALONIKI

London, Dec. 28.—A despatch from Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters in Macedonia says:

"The new defensive lines laid out by the Entente Allies around Saloniki make a sweep of about fifty miles in a wide semi-circle from the Vardar river to the Gulf of Orphanos. Nearly half this distance is naturally defended by Lakes Langaza and Beshik. Few sites are better suited by nature to the requirements of a scientific defense. The position is very similar to the Turkish lines at chaldja, where the Bulgarians suffered their only defeat at the hands of the Turks in 1912, save that the valley here is broader and the hills higher."

"The whole of the fifty miles are encircling Saloniki is surrounded by a broad valley which is a morass in parts and would afford little cover to an advancing foe. The hills within the fortified lines furnish admirable gun emplacements, commanding all approaches. On the slopes toward the north there still remain the trenches where the Turks intended to make their last stand during the first Balkan war and some of their barbed wire entanglements have been utilized by the Entente Allies."

"Many interesting archaeological specimens have been unearthed during the trench digging and there are numerous tumulus mounds within the fortifications which may later be opened."

LATE DESPATCHES

RUSSIANS ON OFFENSIVE.

(Special To The Mail.)

Berlin, Dec. 29.—The Tagblatt correspondent in Bukaria reports that the Russians have made eight attacks against the Austrians on the Bessarabian border since Christmas, but have not yet succeeded in breaking through their lines.

MORE TROUBLE FOR FORD.

(Special To The Mail.)

Stockholm, Dec. 29.—It is reported that the Ford peace party have abandoned the hope of getting to The Hague as the American minister has refused to revise their passports to permit them to travel through belligerent territory. It is stated that they will return to New York from Copenhagen.

RUSSIANS ON THE MOVE.

(Special To The Mail.)

London, Dec. 29.—The Teheran correspondent of Reuter's Agency says that the Russian troops have occupied important positions near the Town of Kashan and are marching towards Isfahan.

BULGARS IN A MUTINY.

(Special To The Mail.)

Athens, Dec. 29.—Information has reached here that the Bulgarian infantry regiment stationed at Gumnulz in Bulgaria, has mutinied.

GERMAN PEACE TERMS.

(Special To The Mail.)

Berlin, Dec. 29.—The Wolfak Bureau has circulated to German papers what purports to be Germany's latest peace terms, as set forth in a Zurich, Switzerland, newspaper. These differ from the peace terms outlined in October.

THE VALLEY RAILWAY.

Tenders for building the uncompleted portions of the St. John Valley Railway expire at noon tomorrow. President Todd and a number of contractors are now in the city. It is likely that a number of bids will be submitted, although lack of information in regard to the route to be followed complicates the situation somewhat.

Paris, Dec. 29.—An official statement today says that the night was calm except in the sector of Chaulnes, where fighting at close quarters with hand grenades occurred, and in Champagne, where enemy positions were bombarded west of Navarin Farm.

London, Dec. 29.—An Athens despatch says that Austrian Forces have begun an attack on Scutari and Albanian and Montenegrin troops are preparing to evacuate the city.

FOR PARTIAL CONSCRIPTION.

London, Dec. 29.—Considerable interest has been aroused as the result of an announcement that Premier Asquith will introduce a bill for the conscription of unmarried men. It is expected that the bill will call upon those who have no dependents or are not engaged in the manufacture of munitions or other necessary works.

Probably about three hundred thousand will be secured in this way. There is much conjecture as to whether the threatened split in the Cabinet will occur, but it is believed that the Premier will be able to keep the ministry.

MAY ADOPT COMPULSION

London, Dec. 29.—It is stated on excellent authority that the cabinet has virtually decided upon a modified form of conscription bill to be introduced in the house of commons next week, giving the government the necessary power, should it be found needful, to bring in single men and preserve Premier Asquith's pledge to married men.

Yesterday cabinet meeting, although it failed to secure an agreement of all the ministers upon the vexed question of the voluntary system versus conscription, was a very critical and decisive character, and virtually reached the decision that the application of force may become necessary before all eligible single men are effectually brought to the colors.

Therefore it was resolved that at the earliest opportunity a bill should be introduced in parliament in order that the government might have the necessary power, should it be found that no other course was affective to this end.

STEAMER IN DISTRESS

New York, Dec. 29.—Greek steamer Thessalonika with 300 passengers from Piraeus, Greece, is limping toward this port. The government cutter Seneca is speeding to her assistance in response to wireless calls for help.

RICH CARGO GOES DOWN

Boston, Dec. 29.—The cargo of the steamer Yeddo, bound for this port and New York from Calcutta, was valued by A. C. Lombard & Co., the local consignees, at more than \$2,000,000, although its exact nature was not known, as the bills of lading have not yet arrived.

ENEMY SUBS SUNK

New York, Dec. 29.—A despatch today from Paris to a news agency here says nine German and Austrian submarines have been sunk or captured in the Mediterranean Sea, according to the Figaro.

"When official reports are compiled it is believed these figures will be exceeded," the paper says.

UNCONFIRMED REPORT.

Washington, Dec. 28.—An unconfirmed report from Rome that an unidentified Italian passenger steamship was torpedoed while on her way to Catina, Sicily, with a loss of eight lives, reached the State Department late today. It was not reported whether any Americans were aboard. The American embassy at Rome is investigating.