

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
In order to ensure changes being made, all advertisements must reach office not later than 10 a. m. on the day of publication.

The Daily Mail

THE WEATHER.
Maritime—Strong east and south winds, with rain.

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HUNS THOUGHT TO BE PREPARING TO ATTACK ANGLO-FRENCH FORCES AT SALONIKI; GREEKS AND BULGARS MAY CLASH

GERMAN ACTIVITY ON BOTH FRONTS

Despatches From Petrograd State That Huns Are Trying to Reach the Line of the Dvina River--Big Movement of Men and Guns to the Western Front--Military Operations at a Standstill in the Balkans.

London, Dec. 17--While the diplomats in Greece and Roumania are engaged in new deals which will decide the next step in the Balkan operations, there is increasing evidence that the Germans, ever restive, are preparing new strokes on both the eastern and western fronts, or at least a concentration of their forces to strike when conditions are propitious.

Despatches from Petrograd note German activity, particularly in the Dvinsk district, which would accord with the German ambition to reach the line of the Dvina river, while accounts from neutral countries mention a continued movement of men and guns in the west. In the latter theatre of operations it seems only a question at what points the offensive is to be taken.

Many persons believe that the Germans, having found the lines in Flanders and Artois nuts too hard to crack, contemplate moving in the St. Mihiel region, where their line penetrates to the river Meuse, and there has been considerable activity during the last few days. The only thing argued against this is that the river has been at flood, and the French have been systematically destroying the bridges as they were

rebuilt. Thus far, however, there has been little more than the usual mining and bombing operations and aerial fighting in the west.

In the Balkan military operations, are temporarily at a standstill, except in Montenegro and Albania, where the Austrians and Bulgarians are carrying on mountain warfare against King Nicholas' troops and the Serbians.

BULGARIANS REPULSED.

A big battle is in progress in the valley of the Albanian, or Black Drin river, between the Serbs and Bulgarians. At last reports no decision had been reached in the fighting. It is said, however, that the Bulgarians, who crossed the river, found the Serbians had re-formed, and were driven back with heavy losses.

It is possible that the Serbian counter-attacks were made possible by supplies having reached them by the Italians, who landed on the Albanian coast, and who are trying to open communication with the Serbs through that country. The Italians, it is understood, already have landed 87,000 men.

AUSTRIAN REPLY TO THE U. S. NOTE

Washington, Dec. 17--Austrians reply to Secretary Lansing's note on the Ancona, received during the night was laid today before President Wilson and the cabinet and discussed more than an hour. The gravity of the situation caused by Austria's rejoinder to the American demands, which is considered evasive, unsatisfactory and unacceptable, remained unchanged.

The next step will not be decided upon until some minor points not clear in the official text are checked up. The apparent discrepancies are not important, and may be due to transmission or translation from the state department code, but they will be cleared up before another move is made.

Secretary Lansing said, after the cabinet meeting, that he did not know when the official text of the note would be given out for publication, and that it certainly would not be made public until he had an opportunity to study it carefully and at length.

Diplomatic relations, although in danger of being broken off, are not likely to be discontinued, at least before there has been another exchange of notes with Vienna, and so the crisis may be said not to be in its final stage. Another note, setting out why the United States cannot accept Austria's reply, will go forward before the situation takes on a more settled aspect. Meanwhile there are some opportunities and even hints of informal negotiations which might smooth over the troubled situation.

The frequent calls of Baron Zweig, the Austrian charge, at the state department give some color to discussion along that kind and those who expect that at the end the differences will be adjusted, count on the influence of Berlin to counsel Vienna to avoid a break.

So far as was apparent today the Wilson's plans for going on his honeymoon journey after his wedding tomorrow night.

MOTION FIZZLES OUT

British interferences with neutral Washington, Dec. 17--Action on resolutions proposing investigation of shipping and attacks on ships carrying American citizens, was indefinitely deferred today by the senate foreign relations committee.

NO ELECTION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Victoria, B.C., Dec. 16--The passing, temporarily at any rate, from political life of Sir Richard McBride is the sole topic of discussion in public circles.

It is declared that Sir Richard will not go to London until after the New Year. His activities there will probably not be confined altogether to the duties of the Agent-Generalship. People of all shades of politics think he will make a very capable representative in London for British Columbia.

That the general feeling in Conservative circles today is one of great satisfaction was the declaration of several party leaders outside of the Cabinet. It has long been known that Sir Richard McBride had no intention of running in another election.

Conservative opinion declares that with the addition to the Cabinet of three of the best known business men of the province, a vigorous business administration may be expected. It is declared there are no better business men in the west than C. E. Tisdall, A. C. Flumerfelt and Lorne Campbell.

"Why do you want to get divorced?"
"Because I'm married."—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

London, Dec. 18--The unprecedented military situation today in Greece has developed a new crisis. The Allied troops which according to estimates of the British newspapers number 200,000, are fortifying themselves about Saloniki, digging trenches and placing guns. It is reported that the Germans are preparing to advance into Greek territory and attack them. Whether the Bulgarians also will cross the border is a vital question to the Greeks. It is believed the Bulgarian advance would rekindle the old enmity and might draw the Greek people into the conflict.

WILL ATTACK THE ALLIES

London, Dec. 18--According to the Athens correspondent of the Times the German Ministers at Athens told Premier Skoudoudis that the Germans would be compelled to attack the British and French forces at Saloniki.

AN IMPORTANT FACTOR

London, Dec. 18--Landing of the Italian forces in Albania likely to prove an important factor as the Albanians may be able to attach themselves to remainder of the Serbian army for concerted action.

AGREE ON NEUTRAL ZONE

A neutral zone extending two kilometers on each side of the frontier has been agreed upon between Greece and Bulgaria according to an official announcement here today. The announcement says: "Bulgarian armies, by the capture of Monastir and Resna, having approached the Greek frontiers, the the Bulgarian government, wishing to avoid any possibility of accidents between advanced posts and Greek frontier guards, proposed to the Greek government that a neutral zone be formed by the retreat of the troops on each side of two kilometres from the frontier."

ACTIVITY NEAR YPRES.

London, Dec. 18--The British war office issued the following official statement tonight: "Last night the enemy made a small bombing attack against our line, about the quarries north of Loos. This attack was easily repulsed. Artillery activity has continued throughout today especially north of Ypres."

London, Dec. 18--The German patrol boat Bunz has been wrecked on the Island of Langeland, in the Baltic Sea, according to a despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Copenhagen. The bodies of several German officers were found on the shore.

MILITARY AT HOME AT QUEEN HOTEL WAS GREAT SUCCESS

Pleasant Social Function By Officers of the 104th--Some of the Costumes Worn and List of Acceptances.

The "At Home" at the Queen Hotel last evening by Major C. D. Pincombe and officers of O Company of the 104th Regiment was a decided success in every way. It was the first function held here under military auspices in war time, and was naturally looked forward to with interest in social circles.

The guests, who numbered about one hundred and twenty-five, were received by the officers and chaperones in the spacious dining hall, which also did duty as a ball room. The chaperones were the Countess of Ashburnham, Mrs. O. S. Crockett, Mrs. T. L. Loggie, Mrs. Macnam, Mrs. Pincombe and Mrs. W. J. Osborne.

Dancing began shortly after nine o'clock and was kept up until after two a.m. Besides the regular program there were three supper extras. A running supper was served during the evening. The music for dancing was furnished by McKnight's Orchestra.

There were several debutantes, including Miss Greta Macnutt and Miss Gladys Fitzgerald, and as usual, they attracted much attention.

As usual, Landford McCaffrey was indefatigable in looking after the interests of the guests and his efforts contributed largely to the success of the function.

SOME OF THE COSTUMES.

Among the costumes worn by the

ladies were:

The Countess of Ashburnham, flesh colored ninon with diamond necklace and tulle.

Mrs. Loggie, black and white lace with pearl ornaments.

Mrs. Osborne, black and white ninon.

Mrs. O. S. Crockett, white satin with pink trimmings.

Mrs. Macnam, white accordeon pleated crepe de chene, trimmed with rose.

Mrs. C. P. Holden, white satin with fox fur.

Mrs. Jas. Taylor, black velvet.

Mrs. Harold McMurray, pink satin.

Miss Jean VanBuskirk, blue tulle and tulle.

Miss Marion Crockett, yellow tulle trimmed with pink.

Miss D. Thompson, yellow satin with white lace.

Mrs. Cunningham, white satin and lace.

Miss P. Taylor, white tulle and lace.

Miss Louise Sterling, pink tulle and tulle.

Miss Hawkins, rose crepe de chene and lace.

Miss Dolly Brown, American Beauty tulle.

Miss Steeves, blue satin and lace.

Miss K. Taylor, blue accordeon pleated crepe de chene and lace.

Miss Lottimer, white tulle with overskirt of tulle.

(Continued on page five)