

Long live free and independent Belgium.
(Signatures of all the ministers.)

Germany has granted permission for the American Minister, Mr. Brand Whitlock, to receive and distribute the 1,500 tons of food stuffs collected in London for destitute Belgians.



The Campaign in the East.

Confusion, mystery and uncertainty still surround the movements of the armies in Eastern Europe. The situation on the whole does not seem to differ materially from what it was the preceding week. In East Prussia the Germans are holding the Russians in check. The Germans are concentrating troops to the West of Warsaw for a decisive battle. This line of battle extends from Warsaw to Przemysl. To hold this line the Russians have been drawing in their lines in Galicia. The Austrians now claim to be in control of the Carpathian passes, and to have compelled the Russians to retreat to the east side of Przemysl. The battle in Poland is in its preliminary stages, but it is of such importance that Germany is supposed to have weakened their lines in France to obtain men to meet the Russians. Troops are advancing also from East Prussia, from the fortress Thorn and from Posen to distract the Russian attention, while the main attack is delivered between Ivangorod and Galicia, in an effort to break through between the Warsaw army and the Galician army. The campaign in the southeast offers little development. An announcement on the 14th by the Servian government states that Belgrade being no longer in danger certain government functions will be conducted in that city instead of at Nish. It is also stated that the supply of cattle and food-stuffs in Servia is so abundant that their export will be permitted. A Servian official statement reports that Serbo-Montenegrin troops defeated the Austrians on the Glinatz plateau, which dominates the fortifications of Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital.



Portugal.

Two expeditionary forces have been dispatched to Portugal's African possessions to strengthen the garrisons. One, a force of 5,000 men, went to Angola (Portuguese Congo) which is bounded on the South by German Damaraland. The other, numbering 6,000 men, went to Portuguese East Africa, which is bounded on the north by German East Africa. As Portugal is allied with England, it is assumed that these forces will aid the British in their conflict with the Germans in Africa.



South Africa.

General Louis Botha, Premier and Commander in chief of the forces of the Union of South Africa, has addressed a spirited telegram to General

Hertzog, General Botha's chief opponent, calling upon him for a public repudiation of Colonel Maritz's act in going over to the Germans. A Pretoria dispatch says three officers and seventy men of Colonel Maritz's rebel force have been captured, and that four officers and 40 men have surrendered.



On the Sea.

The English cruiser Hawke was torpedoed in the North Sea by a German submarine on the 15th, and of her crew of 400 officers and men only 73 are known to have escaped. This is the eighth British cruiser lost, as compared to seven lost by the Germans. On the 17th, the British cruiser Undaunted, aided by four destroyers, sank four German torpedo boat destroyers off the Dutch coast. This makes eight destroyers lost by the Germans. The English have lost one. A fire in the Government arsenal at Trieste, the principal seaport of Austria-Hungary, is reported to have destroyed a dreadnaught under construction. Six destroyers were damaged by the fire, which is thought to have been set by traitors.



Japan.

The Japanese cruiser Takachiho was sunk in Kiao-Chau Bay on the 17th, with a loss of 271 officers and crew. One officer and twelve of the crew were rescued. One report says the ship was destroyed by a mine; another that it was torpedoed by a submarine. The submarine escaped under cover of darkness, but grounded at a point sixty miles south of Kiao-Chau Bay, where it was destroyed by the Japanese. The Japanese navy department announces the occupation for military purposes of strategically important islands in the Marianne (Ladrone), Marshall, East Caroline and West Caroline archipelagoes, which lie between the Philippine and Hawaiian Islands, and have been used as bases by German cruisers.



Mexico and the United States.

After a stormy secret session on the 15th the Aguas Calientes convention voted itself the supreme power of Mexico; and the delegates took oath to abide by the majority vote on all questions, including the form of government and presidential succession. The question of the kind of government was postponed until Oct. 20, in order that a full Zapata delegation numbering twenty-two men, might be present. And to avoid the possibility of delay and misunderstanding, a committee, headed by General Felipe Angeles, and including the Zapata delegates already at the convention, was appointed to confer with General Zapata. General Villa was reported to be in Aguas Calientes and was received with great enthusiasm by the convention. The action of the delegates thus far is

taken as favorable to General Villa's stand; and is looked upon by the Washington Administration as being conducive to a permanent peace. The convention has also sent a commission to confer with Governor Maytorena and General Hill, with a view to suspending hostilities at Waco. [See current volume, page 996.]



The strike of the employes of the Mexico Tramways Company, operating in Mexico City and the immediate vicinity, led on the 12th to the forcible seizure of the plant by the Carranza government. The company is a foreign corporation capitalized at \$1,000,000, but worth very much more. The government states that the measure was a provisional one, due to the stoppage of street car traffic.



Reports are current in El Paso that General Villa has confiscated property belonging to German citizens in the State of Durango, to the value of \$1,000,000. Also, that he has ordered the confiscation of all large estates within his territory, whether owned by foreigners or natives.



President Wilson on Future Plans.

In a letter to Congressman Oscar Underwood published on October 18, President Wilson dwells on the importance of electing a congress that can be depended on to uphold the administration in carrying out the plans still in view. After mentioning the acts of the existing congress and giving credit to Republicans and Progressives who assisted as well as Democrats, the President says, concerning work yet to be done:

A great work of constructive development remains to be accomplished in building up our merchant marine, for instance, and in the completion of a great program for the conservation of our natural resources and the development of the water power of the country—a program which has at this session already been carried several steps toward consummation. Without a congress in close sympathy with the administration a whole scheme of peace and honor and disinterested service to the world, of which they have approved, cannot be brought to its full realization. I would like to go into the district of every member of congress who has sustained and advanced the plans of the party and speak out my advocacy of his claim for re-election. But, of course, I cannot do that; and with so clear a record no member of congress needs a spokesman. What he has done speaks for itself.



Proceedings in Congress.

The Alaska Coal Land Leasing bill passed the House without serious opposition on October 15. It received the President's signature on October 20 and became a law. [See current volume, pages 323, 986.]

The Jones Philippine autonomy bill passed the House on October 14 by a vote of 211 to 59. The preamble of the bill declares the purpose of the United States to recognize the independence of the islands "as soon as a stable government can be established there." It received the solid Democratic vote together with five Republicans and five Progressives. The Republicans were Cooper of Wisconsin, Davis of Minnesota, Dillon of South Dakota, Griest of Pennsylvania, and Rogers of Massachusetts. The Progressives were Falconer of Washington, Chandler of New York, Rupley and Farr of Pennsylvania and Thomson of Illinois. [See current volume, page 973.]



The emergency revenue or war tax bill passed the Senate on October 17 after having been amended considerably. The vote was 34 to 22. Senator Lane of Oregon was the only Democrat to vote against it. Republicans and Progressives opposed it. Before passage an amendment was defeated providing for a \$250,000,000 bond issue to purchase from producers 5,000,000 bales of cotton at ten cents a pound. The vote on this amendment was 40 to 21. The Senate also defeated an amendment to issue \$500,000,000 in bonds to be used for government purchase of grain. An amendment was rejected, offered by Senator Poindexter of Washington to substitute an increased income tax for the tax on telegraph and telephone messages. As passed by the Senate the provisions of the bill are in substance as follows: Tax on beer, \$1.75 a barrel; rectified whisky, 5 cents a gallon; all domestic still wines, 8 cents a gallon, and 55 cents a gallon on all grape brandies used in certification thereof; champagnes, 25 cents a quart; carbonated wines, 10 cents a quart; liquors and cordials, 24 cents a gallon; bankers, \$1 per thousand of capital surplus and undivided profits; pawnbrokers, \$50 a year; commercial brokers, \$20; commission merchants, \$20; custom house brokers, \$10; proprietors of theaters, museums, and concert halls, with seating capacity not more than 300, \$25 a year; not exceeding 600 capacity, \$50; not exceeding 1,000, \$75, more than 1,000, \$100; circuses, \$100; other amusement proprietors or agents except of chautauquas, lecture lyceums, agricultural or industrial fairs or exhibitions under religious or charitable auspices, \$10; bowling alleys and billiard rooms, \$5 for each alley or table. Special taxes are levied on tobacco dealers as follows: Dealers in leaf tobacco, from \$6 to \$24; dealers in tobacco, \$4.80 for each store; manufacturers of tobacco, with annual sales not exceeding 100,000 pounds, \$6; not exceeding 200,000 pounds, \$12; not exceeding 400,000 pounds, \$24; not exceeding 1,000,000 pounds, \$60; 5,000,000 pounds, \$300; 10,000,000 pounds, \$600; 20,000,000 pounds, \$1,200; exceeding 20,000,000 pounds, \$2,496. Manufacturers of cigars whose annual