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NO. 21

## GOVERNOR RESIGNS

### GOV. BLEASE GIVES NO REASONS FOR HIS SUDDEN ACT

## C. A. SMITH IS GOVERNOR

News of Sudden Ending of Stormy Administration Comes Like Thunder—Causes Whirlwind in Legislature—New Governor is Sworn in to be Chief Officer of the State.

With dramatic suddenness, Cole L. Blease resigned Thursday at 12:15 o'clock as governor of South Carolina, bringing his term in this office to a close five days before it would have expired by law. Charles A. Smith, lieutenant governor, took the oath of office from Eugene H. Gary, chief justice of the supreme court, and became governor of South Carolina at 12:45 o'clock. He will be chief executive of the State until noon next Tuesday, January 19, when Richard I. Manning will be inaugurated.

Notice to the general assembly that Gov. Blease had withdrawn from office was contained in the following communication, read in both the House and Senate:

"To the General Assembly of South Carolina:  
I hereby resign as governor of South Carolina.  
(Signed) "Cole L. Blease."

The resignation was written in red ink on a sheet of the governor's private stationery. A duplicate of the communication to the general assembly was filed in the office of the secretary of state.

"It startled me. I was very much surprised. I do hate to leave the Senate, because my work there has been so pleasant," said Charles A. Smith, governor of South Carolina, as he sat in the executive office at the State house Thursday, shortly after he had been sworn in.

Gov. Smith received many telegrams congratulating him upon his elevation to the high office. Many called over the telephone from points in the state. During the afternoon there was a constant stream of callers.

He has already received three petitions for pardon of "right" innocent cases, but I have taken no action," said Gov. Smith.

Gov. Smith said that he would retire from politics at the expiration of his term of office as governor. One of the first acts of Gov. Charles A. Smith was to name C. L. Blease, former governor, as a notary public of Richland county.

The first intimation that he was going to be made governor of South Carolina came to Charles A. Smith Thursday at 12:15 o'clock as he was ascending the steps of the speaker's rostrum in the House to preside over the joint session at which Mendel L. Smith was elected judge of the Fifth Circuit. Gov. Smith, who was still lieutenant governor, then was stopped on his way up to the steps by W. F. Blackburn, secretary to Gov. Blease. Mr. Blackburn told him to come down to the governor's office as soon as the joint session was over and imparted the further information that Gov. Blease had resigned.

Through sources other than Gov. Smith and Blackburn the news of the governor's resignation got abroad among the people in the offices and was spread among members of the House and Senate sitting in joint session to elect a judge.

On his way back to the Senate chamber at the head of the procession of senators after the joint assembly adjourned at 12:35 o'clock, Gov. Smith was congratulated by his sudden elevation to the office of chief executive. He smiled and remarked, "I'll have a long time to serve, won't I?"

Gov. Blease stated to the representative of The Columbia Record that he would state no reason for this action. It was in the supreme court room, where preparations were being made to administer the oath of office to Charles A. Smith, the lieutenant governor.

While a crowd of state officials, members of both branches of the legislature and several score citizens crowded the supreme court room to overflowing and packed the wide halls of the capital before the court room, Charles A. Smith, pallid with excitement that caused the entire assemblage of possibly two hundred to quiver noticeably, became the governor of South Carolina. The new governor's home is at Timmonsville. He was a candidate, defeated, last summer for the governor's office.

Through no official source could the statement be confirmed. It was generally stated in the legislative halls that Gov. Blease resigned because he did not "like the personnel of the legislature." This body is known to be almost unanimously and bitterly opposed to him.

When Gov. Blease was told Thursday morning of a meeting of members of the legislature when the proposal of instituting impeachment proceedings against him was considered, he was visibly affected and restrained his speech with apparent difficulty.

To the newspaper men, the resigning governor after quitting that office appeared a dejected man. He was cool and self-possessed, the most composed man in all that growing crowd that thronged the South Carolina capitol.

Immediately after news of the governor's resignation became known in the joint session of the legislature that body broke up with precipitate haste. The newspaper men did not observe the decorum of the body and ran rapidly from the hall of the House of Representatives, followed by the members.

When the order was restored the room was again filled with members. When the order was restored the room was again filled with members.

## AGAINST IMPEACHMENT

### CAUCUS DECIDED NOT TO START THE PROCEEDINGS.

Members of General Assembly Had Considered Advisability of Action Against Governor Who Resigned.

As the result of a conference held at Columbia Tuesday night, impeachment proceedings will not be started against Gov. Cole L. Blease by the House of Representatives. The conference which reached this decision was attended by about 25 leaders from both branches of the general assembly, when they, in secret session, considered this proposed action. It being pointed out during the conference that the chief executive would be legally entitled to place on the witness stand before the members of the Senate and justices of the supreme court, acting as judges, every person in this and other states to testify in his favor, it was decided impeachment would be impractical.

The conference reached the conclusion, as stated by one of that number, that such proceedings could be drawn out for such a period that the state would be forced to spend thousands of dollars, and finally probably would be forced to drop the impeachment effort because of the great expense to the state the governor could occasion.

The meeting came to the realization, after discussion extending over two hours, that, though there existed small doubt "in our minds" that the governor would be impeached when decision by the Senate was reached, the chances in Gov. Blease's favor were such that he could, with the aid of "Hibuster" the state "into bankruptcy."

That legislator discussing the conference stated that "it was a determined crowd that gathered here to make plans for beginning these proceedings. The resolutions were prepared, and to a discussion of them was given first consideration of the conference. It was decided, however, to our disappointment, that the power possessed by the governor was sufficient to probably bring substantial failure to the movement."

Another disquieting factor the conferees stated in session that they would be forced to contend with those "weak-kneed" members, 10 of whom could, by objecting, cause a delay of at least 24 hours in the vote on the articles that would begin impeachment proceedings and temporarily disqualify the governor. In that event, which was expected, it was explained that the governor could "do his worst," and even "the supreme court could not stop him."

It was pointed out to the conference that Gov. Blease has only a few more days to serve as chief executive, and that instituting impeachment proceedings against him would "fail to accomplish any substantial good, for we could not in any way place him in jail unless developments gave evidence sufficient to support a warrant for crime, and that could not be served until his term of office had expired and the proceedings completed."

## FOOD CARGOES HELD.

### Ships Have Been Detained Since Middle of November.

The Norwegian steamers Alfred Nobel and Bjornstjerne Bjornson, loaded chiefly with Chicago packing house products, have been held in British ports since the middle of November.

The cargoes are consigned "to order" at Copenhagen. The Nobel sailed from New York October 20 and arrived in Liverpool November 17. The Bjornson left New York October 27 and was taken into Leith November 17.

Owners of the vessels say the ships sailed from the United States before the British announcement that all supplies that a belligerent army might utilize must be definitely consigned to some firm.

The Swedish steamer Fridland, which left New York October 28 for Copenhagen and arrived at Kirkwall November 10 and was taken then to Shields November 30, also is still being held. The Fridland also is loaded with packers' products.

## Gives Up His Office.

Count Hertzfeldt, the Austrian prime minister, resigned Tuesday, his resignation having been accepted by the government's ultimatum to Berlin, has resigned. Baron Rajecz, a Hungarian, succeeds him to his office.

## Hindenberg to Go to the West?

London reports an Amsterdam dispatch that in response to popular clamor the German government will transfer von Hindenberg to the west in the early spring.

At 1:10 Mr. Blackburn again appeared and was announced as a messenger of "His Excellency the Governor." He presented the following message:

"To the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:  
I have the honor to inform you that upon the resignation of the Hon. Cole L. Blease, as governor of the state of South Carolina, I went before the supreme court and upon motion of Assistant Attorney Fred H. Dominick took the oath of office as governor. Very respectfully,  
"Charles A. Smith,"  
Governor."

This message was also received in the Senate in the House. It was read by the speaker, John J. McManhan of Richland county, who had a committee be appointed to confer with the governor and learn his wish in regard to a more formal inauguration before a joint assembly of the two houses. This motion was carried unanimously. The following members were appointed: John J. McManhan, Joseph W. McCollough and H.

## MANY SHIPS TO GO

### SECRETARY DANIELS ANNOUNCES PLAN FOR EXPOSITION TO ASSEMBLE AT CANAL.

Armada Will Not Gather at Hampton Roads, But Will Go Direct to San Francisco From Eastern Entrance of Canal—First Vessel to Pass Through on February 20.

The proposed international naval rendezvous at Hampton Roads has been abandoned, according to plans announced Wednesday night by Secretary Daniels for the cruise of the Atlantic fleet and visiting foreign war craft to San Francisco, in celebration of the Panama canal opening.

Instead, the program provides that the ships shall proceed directly to Cristobal, at the eastern entrance to the canal, to be passed through at stated intervals. Consent of congress must be obtained for the change, as the law authorizing the cruise set forth that the United States should invite the maritime nations of the world to send vessels to Hampton Roads for the event.

Secretary Daniels said, however, he had no doubt the necessary legislation would be enacted at once. He pointed out that the war had made impossible a rendezvous of the international character contemplated by congress, and that the isthmus would be a more convenient gathering place for the American fleet and the visiting vessels that would participate. Only Spain, Portugal, Argentina and Cuba so far have indicated their intention of sending ships.

The program has been worked out in the confident belief that passage through the canal will be possible, although Gov. Goethals has given notice that he can not guarantee it on account of recent slides. February 25 is fixed as the date for passage of the vanguard of the Atlantic fleet. Other vessels will go through day by day until March 19, when President Wilson is due to arrive on the battleship New York and transfer to the canal Oregon for the trip through the canal.

All the plans have been framed particularly with a view to interfering as little as possible with the winter manoeuvres and drills of the Atlantic fleet. Two weeks will be saved by changing the place of rendezvous.

Mayor Mayo and a delegation of Norfolk citizens, accompanied by Senator Swanson, talked over the change of plans with Secretary Daniels. The delegation protested, but after the interview said they were content with the department's decision.

Secretary Daniels promised them that a grand review would be held in Hampton Roads after the Atlantic fleet's return from Pacific waters, and that the foreign vessels that participate in the opening of the Panama canal exposition would be invited to come to Hampton Roads for that event.

Under the revised plan there will be a gathering of only five ships in Hampton Roads before the cruise, these will be American battleships when they arrive. President Wilson when he arrives at Washington to take ship for Cristobal.

Secretary Daniels announced the following program for preliminary operations and the cruise to San Francisco:

The following named foreign vessels are expected to take part in the celebration incident to the opening of the canal:  
"Argentina will send the battleship Moreno, flying the flag of Vice Admiral Onofre Beltrander; Cuba will send the cruiser Caba; Portugal will send the cruiser Almirante Reis, and the dispatch boat Cinco de Outubro. Spain will send the battleship Espana; Admiral Don Ramon Estrada, Spanish government as its naval representative.

"The battleships of the Atlantic fleet and destroyer flotilla will proceed to Guantanamo and Guacanayabo Bay, Cuba, January 17, for extended fleet exercises and target practices, the maneuvers. The Georgia, Texas, South Carolina and Minnesota will remain at their home yards undergoing an overhauling until February 15. These vessels will proceed to Southwestern waters the latter part of February.

"The Texas will remain at Hampton Roads to escort the president to Panama in the New York, the New York preceding to Hampton Roads from Cuban waters about February 15, prepared to receive the president on March.

"It is intended that the Washington relieve the Delaware in Mexican waters as soon as practicable, and that the Delaware and Rhode Island will join the fleet in Cuban waters. The Rhode Island has been ordered from New Orleans to Norfolk for docking, and on the completion of docking, about January 22, will proceed to Guantanamo to join the fleet.

"The battleships and the destroyers of the active flotilla (about twenty-three) will remain in Cuban waters carrying on drills and exercises until February 25. At that time will proceed to Panama, all twenty-one battleships going through the canal to San Francisco.

"The schedule of movements from Guantanamo February 25 is in general as follows, subject to such changes as may be necessary:  
February 22—Vestal, Yankton, Solace and Iuzs at Colon; proceed to Gatun Lake, coal, and proceed to Panama.  
February 28—Fleet flagship, first and second divisions, arrive at Colon; proceed to Gatun Lake, coal, then to Panama, arriving March 2-3.  
March 3—Third and fourth divisions arrive Colon and follow first and

## WIN AND LOSE IN EAST

### RUSSIANS WIN IN PRUSSIA; GERMANS IN POLAND.

Turkey Creates Considerable Interest by Capturing Tabriz—Egyptian Invasion Threatened.

Battles, large and small, all having an important bearing on the situation, are raging at widely separated points in Europe and Asia.

Petrograd reports: "The past few days have seen a recurrence of furious fighting in Russian Poland, resulting in gains and losses for both sides."

"The Russian forces in the north, which are pushing toward East Prussia, in the region near Mlava, have captured a number of villages."

"In the center the Germans have made four violent attacks within the last 48 hours. They forced back the Russians and occupied considerable ground."

"Important bodies of Russian troops have pushed northward from Warsaw in the movement toward the western end of the East Prussian frontier. They have recaptured several villages between Mlava and Przasnysz hitherto held by the Germans."

"At the center of the junction of the Buzra and Rawa rivers where fighting has continued for more than a month the Germans have begun a new vigorous movement. Their activity centers along a line east of Sochaczew and Skierniewice. There they have made four distinct efforts to advance during the last two days. After a furious artillery action the Germans occupied the district northeast of Bolimow, including Binskipi and Sucha."

"On various portions of our Austrian front the enemy tried to cannonade our position with heavy guns, but the efficient fire of our batteries soon silenced the Austrian artillery."

"The Turks, who have occupied the Russian town of Tabriz, which is a Russian sphere of influence, are battling with the Russians in the Caucasus and are reported to be making preparations to invade Egypt."

"The Turks, according to a Cairo dispatch, have decided at last to attempt an invasion of Egypt."

"In London, little credence is given this report. It is not believed possible that troops can cross the desert east of the Suez canal, and even if they conquered the waterless waste they would be so exhausted that the British forces in Egypt, it is confidently believed, could easily repel them."

Constantinople reports via Amsterdam: "Assisted by Persian troops our army is steadily advancing in Azerbaijan province, Persia, in order to deliver the country from the Russian yoke."

"We have had further notable success, occupying advanced positions of the Russians in the vicinity of Tabriz. A number of tribesmen of the British army of occupation in Egypt have surrendered to our vanguard."

London reports that Tabriz is a city of 200,000 population apparently was taken without fighting. In view of the fact that the small Russian garrison maintained in Tabriz in times of peace had been withdrawn, it is believed the sufferers by the occupation, if any, are the Armenians whom the Kurds, constituting the Turkish advance guard, are always ready to attack.

Latest dispatches from Petrograd say that the Turkish invasion of Persia continues and that the Turks are penetrating farther into the country.

"Russians still claim to hold the upper hand in the fighting in the Caucasus, in the vicinity of Kara-Argan, but the lack of details suggests that the battle which has now been in progress for seven days, has not yet resulted decisively for either side."

March 5-6—Foreign men-of-war arrive Colon and pass through canal, coaling at Katun Lake from colliers.  
March 5—President leaves Hampton Roads on New York; Texas as escort.

March 8—Celtic arrives Colon, coal at Gatun Lake and arrives Panama March 10.  
March 10—New York and Texas arrive Colon, proceed to Gatun Lake, coal, oil and go to Panama. (President transfers to the Oregon and goes through the canal.)

March 10—Operations in Canal Zone, and at Panama.  
March 12—The Oregon, Olympia, Yankton and Celtic proceed to San Francisco.

March 12—The president on the New York, accompanied by the Texas and one division of destroyers, steams through the fleet and proceeds to San Diego. The fleet flotilla and auxiliary steam to San Francisco. Foreign vessels proceed independently.

March 24—The president, New York, Texas, and one division of destroyers and the Pacific fleet will arrive at San Francisco. The president will steam through the fleet.

There can, of course, be no parade of the fleet as a whole through the canal. This would result in congestion in Colon and in the canal, with serious delay.

The Oregon and Olympia will take part to be in Colon prior to March 5, filled with coal and ready to proceed.

Besides the twenty-one battleships of the Atlantic fleet, all vessels of the Atlantic torpedo flotilla, including the Birnie, Ham, Dixie and Arcthusa, will accompany the fleet to San Francisco. The reserve torpedo flotilla, Atlantic fleet, will not proceed to San Francisco. The auxiliaries accompanying the battleship fleet will be the Vestal, Celtic, Yankton, Solace, Sonoma, Ontario, Patterson, Intuxent and the colliers Cyclops, Orion, Neptune, Jupiter and Vulcan.

Emperor Thanks Retiring Leader. Emperor Franz-Joseph has written a letter of thanks to Count Berchtold

## DEAD REACH 25,000

### MANY ITALIANS BURIED UNDER EARTHQUAKE'S DEBRIS

### DESTROYS CENTRAL ITALY

Towns Are Devastated—People Caught Under Falling Roofs Are Buried Alive—Out of Twelve Thousand at Avezzano Only One Hundred Are Now Remaining Alive.

Central Italy has been devastated by an earthquake which shocked the country Wednesday. According to the Rome Tribune, it is estimated that victims from earthquake number between 23,000 and 25,000.

A dispatch from Rome says "In the Marsi, the region around Lake Fucino, at Avezzano, there are 20,000 victims of the earthquake. Deputy Sipari, who represents Avezzano in the chamber of deputies, has asked for 25,000 soldiers and material for huts. Fifteen other towns in the Marsi have been destroyed and others damaged. Of the 12,000 inhabitants of Avezzano only 100 survive."

It is officially announced that the center of the earthquake was between Amboassano and Sarno, and that it was felt strongly at Perugia and slightly as far north as Perugia. The shock was the strongest felt here. It lasted several seconds. People everywhere rushed from their houses in terror. Many buildings were damaged.

At the Meteorological Institute it is said that buildings continued to rock or tremble for about thirty seconds after the shock had ceased and that the duration of phenomenon altogether was about one minute. It was stated that it was not believed that the disturbance extended to Sicily.

As the day wore on and details began to arrive in the capital, it was apparent that the disturbance was in the neighborhood of Rome and in the province of Abruzzi had been greater than was at first believed and that it also had been felt severely in and around Naples.

At Monterotondo three persons were killed and two wounded; at Zagarolo the dome of a church fell; at Galliano part of the cathedral was wrecked; at Veroli two persons were killed and two injured; at Tivoli one person was killed; at Pereto five houses collapsed; at Poggio Nativo one person was killed and several were injured.

Up to a late hour it had been found impossible to communicate with several fortified cities of Avulla in the Abruzzi, owing to the interruption of the telegraph service. It was reported that several villages were destroyed in that vicinity.

At Torre Cajetani, about thirty-seven miles east of Rome, the village was almost entirely destroyed. At Arara the municipal building collapsed.

The town of Avezzano was virtually destroyed, the dead there being estimated at 8,000. One thousand persons escaped from the ruins, but most of them were injured.

At the capitol two magnificent candlesticks were broken. At the Palazzo del Drago, where Thomas Nelson Page, the American ambassador, lived, several existing cracks in the building opened wider and plaster fell in several of the rooms. The glass was broken in the embassy office.

In Avezzano and vicinity, it is estimated that fifteen thousand perished and that the dead in Sora will total 1,000.

So far as known about twenty persons have been completely levelled, while an almost equal number suffered serious damage. In all these places persons were killed or injured.

Volunteers worked heroically all day endeavoring to extricate or rescue the dead from the ruins. King Victor Emmanuel himself directed the work at Avezzano, where the pitiful appeals of persons caught beneath wreckage could be plainly heard.

It is estimated that in Avezzano 4,000 persons are buried alive, some of them school children in an institution which collapsed.

Only four hundred in the garrison of Avezzano escaped when the barracks fell.

Sora, with its population of twenty streets. All munition and government authorities perished. Five hundred and fifty bodies already have been taken from the ruins there and a large number of injured are under treatment.

Trains arriving from the east are bringing hundreds of injured into Rome, where they are being taken to hospitals and private houses for treatment. Surgeons and nurses are being dispatched from all directions in the hope of relieving the suffering of the needy of the injured who are being sent to the ruined or damaged towns to guard against vandals.

At Avezzano those who escaped the destruction caused by the earthquake went heroically to work to rescue those penned under the fallen walls. Avezzano and parish priests, monks and nuns perished. The college, with more than a hundred girl students, collapsed. The governor of prisoners, jailers and doctors and patients in the hospitals were carried down in the wreckage.

The only notable person who survived was the head of the police, Sir non Ottavio, who, though wounded has labored since the first overthrow to succor the injured.

Desperate appeals for help are heard on all sides from under the wrecked buildings, but the efforts of Ottavio and the few hundred survivors have availed but little, for they lack implements with which to effect a general rescue. But about fifty persons, all of them wounded, were taken out with great difficulty. They

## SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED

### TILLMAN SAYS MILITIA SHOULD GET RIGHT.

Senior Senator Talks of Governor Blease's Action in Disbanding Companies of the State.

In discussing the military middle which Gov. Blease has created, Senator Tillman said Wednesday: "I think it an opportune time for Gov. Manning to co-operate with the United States authorities and have the militia take an entirely new start and be thoroughly reorganized."

"The State is now charged with a good many thousands of dollars worth of munitions and arms that are lost and can never be recovered, of every imaginable sort of quartermaster's supplies too numerous to mention, as well as absolute ordnance and ordnance stores. I believe the war department will be entirely friendly toward the proposed reorganization and in starting a new slate."

In a communication from the secretary of war to Gov. Blease, dated July 6, 1914, Secretary Garrison said: "It is hoped that the state will take early and effective steps to settle the above mentioned property questions, to generally reorganize the militia in a manner that will assure an effective and stable force, to provide in the future for prompt compliance with the federal laws for the government of the organized militia and to provide for the safekeeping and accountability of government supplies loaned to the militia of the state."

"The state, however, must do its share, and the legislature and Gov. Manning should see to this. Gov. Blease's action, instead of being harmful, as he, no doubt, intended it to be, will result in great good to the state's military establishment."

"In the same letter above quoted from, Secretary Garrison said: 'When the organized militia of South Carolina is placed on a satisfactory basis the war department will consider the withdrawal of "no" restrictions of which you are informed in this communication, and which are effective on and after this date.' Mr. Garrison's letter is on file in the executive office in Columbia, no doubt, and Gov. Manning can read it and find out the exact status from the war department's view."

"In starting a new slate, which will be necessary after the war department has received and received for such arms and stores as are turned in, Gov. Manning can feel the satisfaction of having accomplished something for the state, without incurring the odium of unpopularity which would come had he inaugurated it."

"In my judgment, the legislature, if it will, will provide for the thorough reorganization of the militia and put it on a more efficient basis than it now is. The war scare which the European situation has produced, and clamor for 'preparedness' has shown the necessity to me of the different states having a thorough overhauling of their military establishments."

## NAVAL PROGRAM.

### House Measure Calls for Two Battleships and 17 Submarines.

Provision for construction of two great dreadnoughts, six torpedo boat destroyers, 16 coast defense submarines, a sea-going submarine, a hospital ship, a transport and a fuel ship at an aggregate cost of \$53,168,825 was made in the naval appropriation bill agreed on Wednesday by the House naval committee.

The bill carries \$145,500,000, of which \$22,982,988 is for new construction. The program proposed the building of:

Two battleships at not more than \$7,800,000 each, exclusive of armor and armament.

Six torpedo boat destroyers at not more than \$25,000 each, exclusive of armament.

One sea-going submarine at not more than \$1,400,000, exclusive of armament.

Sixteen submarines at not more than \$550,000 each.

One hospital ship at not more than \$2,250,000.

One transport at not more than \$2,129,700.

## STILL WAITING.

### Bryan Acknowledges British Preliminary Reply and Waits.

In a note delivered Thursday by Ambassador Page, at London, Secretary Bryan acknowledged receipt of Great Britain's preliminary reply to the American protest against British interference with neutral commerce.

He expressed appreciation of the friendly spirit in which the protest had been received, and noted with satisfaction that principles of international law set forth in it had been accepted.

Further comment, Mr. Bryan said, would be premature at this time in view of the intention of the British government to reply in detail.

## Masked Men Rob Bank.

Three masked men robbed the Bank of Terlon, Okla., of \$32,000 and in an exchange of shots with a posse Tuesday killed a deputy.

The only notable person who survived was the head of the police, Sir non Ottavio, who, though wounded has labored since the first overthrow to succor the injured.

Desperate appeals for help are heard on all sides from under the wrecked buildings, but the efforts of Ottavio and the few hundred survivors have availed but little, for they lack implements with which to effect a general rescue. But about fifty persons, all of them wounded, were taken out with great difficulty. They

## FRENCH FALL BACK

### GERMAN ADVANCE AT POINT NEAREST CAPITAL CITY

### VON KLUCK LEADS AGAIN

London Compares Stubborn Combat to Earlier Days of the War—Paris Says Result Will be Local in Effect—Caused by Difficult Conditions of Communication.

Paris reports Wednesday: "To the northeast of Soissons our counterattack has progressed slightly between Crouy and Crotoy. However, we were unable to debouch from Crouy."

"Our troops, subject to a violent attack to the east of this place, have yielded slightly near the village of Moncel, but which they are still occupying. They are holding also St. Marguerite and Missy-Sur-Aisne."

"On the Aisne, to the northeast of Soissons, the fighting around 'Spur 132' continued with great severity during all the day of January 12. The Germans brought very considerable forces into this engagement. We maintained our position on the crest of the hill to the west of Spur 132. To the east our troops were obliged to give up the ground. The fighting here continues."

"London reports: 'Like stubbornly contested