

Full Leased Wire Dispatches

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BATTLE AND STORM RAGING TOGETHER IN BELGIUM TODAY

Howling Gale and Blinding Storm of Sleet and Snow Does Not Check Fighting

GERMANS CHANGE METHOD OF ATTACK

Dig Their Way Forward and Make Attack by the Use of Hand Grenades

Paris, Dec. 5.—In the midst of a howling gale and a blinding storm of snow and sleet, fighting in northwestern Belgium was increasing in intensity today. The struggle still centered about Ypres. Despite the return of bad weather the Germans were given no chance for rest. They pushed their attack on the allies' lines determinedly. They suffered severely, however, from the cold and wet. So, indeed, did the French, British and Belgians. The number of their dead was increasing rapidly and hospital accommodations were strained to care for them. All along the line from the scene of this conflict into Alsace, there was sporadic fighting. From Petrograd came an official confirmation of the Bonse Gazette's story that the Russians had won a brilliant victory over the Germans at Lodz. It was asserted that the Slavs took many prisoners and captured a large number of cannon and machine guns.

An Underground Fight

London, Dec. 5.—Abandonment by the Germans in the western war theatre of the method of assault for a slower but less costly attempt to advance their lines by siege operations was reported today by Colonel Sprinton, the official military information bureau's "eye witness" at the front, in a communication dated November 29. "The noise of cannonading," said the colonel, speaking of conditions toward the northern extremity of the opposing fronts, "has decreased. Nothing has been heard for hours. The scene is almost peaceful. The Germans, endeavoring to progress by the slower method of siege warfare, are pushing their saps toward the allies' trenches and concentrating for rushes. Their system of earthworks is complicated. Special earth borers are used. After the last section of the saps are exploded, storming parties proceed to show their trenches with hand grenades. The artillery is unable to fire, owing to the closeness of the combatants. The fighting of this nature is of the deadliest. The last three days have been the quietest in weeks. The Germans have been pressing our lines in only one quarter, against the Indians, south of the trenches. There was some shelling of the trenches. There is little doubt that the Germans are employing civilians digging their trenches. Captured German officers admit the failure of their strategy. They are very gloomy but there is no definite indication of lack of morals among their troops."

LIVELY FIGHT OVER TURNER CITY BONDS

An old-fashioned citizens' mass meeting on the one side and a council meeting on the other, in which the latter body failed in its efforts to induce the former to meet with them and bring the proceedings under the ruling of Mayor Booth, as president of the council, took place in Turner Friday evening as a result of the controversy which arose out of the issuance of \$10,000 bonds and the awarding of a contract for a municipal water works system which has passed into the courts upon the suing out of an injunction on the part of the citizens restraining the council from carrying out its contract with the Dennis Construction Company of Portland, to construct the proposed system. There was something doing all the time, according to the report of those from Salem in attendance at the meeting, especially at the citizens' meeting, which, under the chairmanship of Rev. Mickey, refused to affiliate with the city council in its official capacity and held its proceedings separately and aloof from those of the city fathers. At this meeting the council proceedings were condemned generally in connection with the awarding of the contract for the construction of the water system and the whole matter has resolved itself into a principal issue of the coming campaign with the "progressive citizenship" lined up on the one side under the leadership of H. B. Crawford, and the present mayor, and members of the council on the other, who will come out for re-election. After the bond issue was voted the plans and specifications for the water system were prepared by Engineer Stannard, of Portland, and bids were invited and the contract awarded to the Dennis Construction company, of Portland, for \$9,175. It transpired that, on account of a defect the bond issue was not floated and the contracting firm offered to take up the issue in security for the amount of the contract for a premium of \$200 above the amount of the bonds. It then transpired, it is asserted, that because the plans and specifications for the water system were not filed with the recorder as was stated at the meeting, and access to them could not be obtained that some of the local contracting firms were shut out from bidding on the work and A. J. Anderson, the well known contractor of Salem was present and testified that he had made several efforts to secure the

PARKER POSTMASTER KILLED BY EXPLOSION

Dallas, Ore., Dec. 5.—While cleaning out a shed in the rear of his store last night, A. D. Cook, postmaster at Parker, was instantly killed by an explosion of dynamite. Word of the accident reached here today from Parker, which is remote. It is believed Cook dropped a 50-pound box of the explosive, which he was carrying. He was literally blown to pieces. Another box of dynamite in the shed did not explode. The shed, the rear of the store and one end of barn were damaged and windows in every building for several hundred yards around were broken. The force of the explosion was felt two miles.

SALEM TOOK NINE OUT OF FIFTEEN

The Salem Y. M. C. A. basketball sharks were victorious over the Albany experts, winning nine out of the 15 games played at Albany yesterday afternoon and last night. The Salem players won nine games out of the 15 single matches but lost both of the doubles. The star contest of the evening was that between O. B. Gingrich, physical director of the Y. M. C. A. of this city, and Ab Milton, now an Albany attorney, but formerly a resident of this city. This match required three games to decide it. Gingrich won the first easily, but Milton spurred and took the second by the close score of 21 to 20. The final game went to Gingrich, who made his 21 while Milton was piling up 18 points. The Salem players expressed themselves as well pleased with their reception in Albany and believe that such inter-association tournaments will become a factor in cementing closer relations with the neighboring city. The Salem team went to Albany in two relays, the first one leaving at 12:55 to begin the tournament at 2 o'clock, and the remainder getting in on the 6 o'clock train. All returned last night. The scores follow:

Table with 3 columns: Singles, Score, and Doubles. Lists various basketball games and their scores.

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ALLIES CLAIM GAINS

Paris, Dec. 5.—The allies have made further advances," announced the communication received today from the Bordeaux war office, "in Belgium, in northern France and in the Argonne region, where desperate fighting is in progress. We have made sensible progress north of the Lys," said the communication. "Our infantry taking two lines of German trenches in an attack at daylight. Despite the enemy's artillery, we have also taken and held the position between Dinant and Ypres, which has been in dispute for a month. Rheims was severely bombarded yesterday. In the Argonne region the fighting has been extremely hot. The French took several trenches and maintained all the points they had already won."

GERMANS CLAIM ADVANCE

Berlin, by wireless to London, Dec. 5.—"French attacks on our forces south of the Lys," proclaimed the German war office today, "were repulsed Friday. We have progressed about LaBasse, in the Argonne region and southwest of Altkirch. The situation in the Mazurian Lake region is favorable to us. We have taken 3,200 prisoners there. We have made normal progress in Russian Poland."

DEEP A FEW BOMBS

Berlin, by wireless to London, Dec. 5.—Hostile aviators, whose nationality was not mentioned, have dropped four bombs in the neighborhood of Freiburg, according to a message received from Karlsruhe today. The extent of the damage done was not stated.

"SAFETY FIRST" IS FRENCH SLOGAN IN PRESENT CAMPAIGN

French Commanders Lost Their Heads in Beginning of War, Says Expert

SEVERAL MISTAKES MADE BY GENERALS

Present Plan Is to Advance Slowly, Making Every Foot Gained Safe

(By J. W. T. Mason, former London Correspondent for United Press) New York, Dec. 5.—The French are trying to develop a new offensive in Alsace-Lorraine. General Joffre has returned from a personal inspection of conditions in southern Alsace where he made reassuring speeches to the inhabitants. At the same time there have been recurring references in the official bulletins to movements on Metz. Simultaneously with these tentative developments the official French military journal, the Bulletin Des Armees, explains that in the higher commands, renewed because of necessary dismissals, there "have not been committed in the past three months any of those errors which were observed and punished in August."

A Fatal Blunder

At Mulhausen, in southern Alsace, a mysterious blunder by the French commander led large numbers of the invaders into the first known trap of the war. Its details were concealed but it is believed a faulty reconnaissance caused the French to march blindly across a German mine field, which exploded with terrifying results. About the same time, farther north, in Lorraine, a Marais army corps became panic stricken at a critical moment during the Saarburg operations, bringing the Lorraine offensive to a hasty, inglorious end. Assurances that the incompetent generals responsible for these misfortunes have been dismissed are guarantees to the French nation that hasty enthusiasm will not again be permitted to serve as a substitute for serious campaigning. Sentiment Blamed. The French commanders were carried away by sentiment when they crossed the frontier with their armies into the lost provinces in August. Their judgment blinded, they went ahead too quickly. The lessons taught by these disasters have been well learned and since they occurred caution has been a primary characteristic in French leadership. In the present offensive movements in Alsace-Lorraine, new methods have been evident. A persistent advance has been progressing toward Metz for a number of weeks but it has been at a snail's pace. At last, however, the city's outer defenses are coming within range of the French guns. Similarly in southern Alsace General Joffre's assurances that the pro-French population need feel no alarm mean something different from what they would have meant four months ago. At that time they would have had the inconsequential flavor of banquet oratory. Today they mean that the French think they have checked the Germans in that region and feel that the Gallie army is in a strategically advantageous position.

That Dog License Ordinance

The dog license ordinance which was referred to a vote of the people after its adoption by the city council, provides for an annual license fee of \$5 upon all male dogs kept or maintained in the city limits and \$10 for every female dog, and regulating the keeping, running at large, impounding, killing and selling of dogs found at large on the public streets and repealing all other dog license ordinances on the city statutes. The dog license ordinance now in effect provides for an annual license of \$3 for male dogs and \$5 for females, which will remain in effect in the event of the failure of the new ordinance to receive the approval of the people. The referendum was invoked upon the new ordinance on the ground that the license fees imposed are unreasonable, excessive and confiscatory.

City Its Own Street-Building

The initiative amendment providing that the city may do all of its street improvement work without entering into contract or asking for competitive bids, purchase its own machinery, apparatus, supplies and hire its own labor and create a bureau of street improvement, also provides that, if the city council so elects, it may proceed to improve its streets under the contract system, advertise for bids and award the contracts in the same manner as is now provided in the city charter. It also provides that in every instance of improvement being made by the city 20 per cent of the total cost of all contemplated improvements shall be added and set aside to cover cost of maintenance, depreciation, etc. Charter Question Well Understood.

The Weather

GLAD THIS IS PAY DAY Oregon: Tonight and Sunday unsettled, probably rain; south to east winds.

WHERE YOU MAY VOTE; WHAT FOR OR AGAINST

Charter Matter Thoroughly Discussed Is Now Up to the Citizens to Decide

POLLING PLACES—ELECTION OFFICERS

The polling places for the city primaries, together with the officers of election for each precinct, follow: Ward No. 1.—Basement Garage school building, Cottage and Winter streets. Election board—Judges: John T. Moffitt, A. T. Yastott, D. F. Wagner; clerks: A. A. Winter, Mary Moore, Mrs. Schmale. Ward No. 2.—City hall, Election board—Judges: E. H. Anderson, H. H. Vandevort, vacant; clerks: Fred Palmer, E. M. LaFare, Edna Anderson. Ward No. 3.—Ladd & Bush store building, adjoining bank on Commercial. Election board—Judge: Dave Drager, E. Benjamin; Mrs. John T. Moffitt; clerks: Mrs. W. Spaulding, Ida M. Hunsell, Mrs. Jesse Douglas. Ward No. 4.—Marion hotel, old billiard room on Commercial street. Election board—Judges: G. G. Gann, George Dunford, D. J. Fry; clerks: J. B. Ashby, Alex. Potter, Mrs. S. Gray. Ward No. 5.—Basement High school building, North Salem. Election board—Judges: Enoch Frennell, Joseph Smith, Miss D. Bapfluff; clerks: W. D. Fisher, Beattie Shinn, Mrs. R. H. Boyd. Ward No. 6.—Albright's barber shop, Asylum avenue. Election board—Judges: R. C. Haley, Hugh Jory, A. W. Vench; clerks: Adeline Anderson, Ruth Cross, Kathleen McClelland. Ward No. 7.—Palmer & Shaw's hall, South Salem. Election board—Judges: Fred McIntyre, Mrs. J. W. Roberts, E. J. Lawrence; clerks: George A. Schler, Mrs. J. Ulrich and H. L. Clark.

Polls Open 8 A. M. to 3 P. M.

At 8 o'clock Monday morning the polls in the seven wards of the city will open for the general city election and will remain open until 3 o'clock in the evening for the election of a city marshal and a city treasurer, and one alderman in the seventh ward for the short term of one year; to vote upon the adoption or rejection of a dog license ordinance, which was adopted by the city council, June 1, 1914, and referred by petition to a vote of the people, and to vote upon a proposed amendment authorizing the city to do all of its street improvement work without asking for competitive bids and a charter amendment providing for a manager-commission form of government.

Road Taxes Voted

Sublimity district voted a special road tax of 5 mills at their meeting on Wednesday, November 25. It is probable that Supervisor Kintz will be re-appointed. At the meeting in Stayton on Saturday, November 28, a 3-mill levy was voted. The amount would probably have been much larger but for the fact that although only 60 per cent of the tax is raised in the city, all of the money must be spent outside of the incorporation. L. H. Lambert will probably be supervisor. At Fern Ridge a levy of 3 mills was made, and Geo. Etzel was recommended as supervisor. Across the river, the Kingston district voted to raise a 5-mill tax and Raleigh Harold was nominated as supervisor for 1915.—Stayton Mail.

ROSEBURG COMPANY WINS SHOOT

Roseburg, Ore., Dec. 5.—Officials of the Roseburg company of the Coast artillery have received official notice that the company won the competitive shoot, conducted this fall, scoring the highest—377 out of a possible 400. The individual trophy was won by Sergeant Harry B. Cain, of Cottage Grove. Sergeant Walford, of Roseburg, made the highest score, but was barred because he held the medal.

PORTUGUESE CABINET QUILTS

Lisbon, Dec. 5.—The Portuguese cabinet resigned bodily today. Premier Machado was the only minister present when parliament convened. In announcing the retirement of himself and his colleagues, he said their reason for surrendering office was the manner in which the lawmakers had questioned them concerning the Portuguese army mobilization. He denied that Germany had offered an explanation of its troops' invasion of Portugal's African possession of Angola.

FIGHTING FIERCE IN RUSSIAN POLAND NEITHER A WINNER

Russians Claim Germans Have Been Forced Back at Least 20 Miles

BATTLE HAS REACHED THE CRITICAL STAGE

At the Same Time It Is Admitted that Neither Side Has Made Decisive Gains

(By Ed L. Keen.) London, Dec. 5.—Desperate fighting between Slavs and Germans was reported on the main road from Drodz to Lodz in an official message received here from Petrograd today. This official account did not claim a complete Russian victory, as the Petrograd Bourse Gazette Friday. It did assert, however, that the Germans had been forced back 20 miles at one important point on their main line of advance on Warsaw. It was stated also that 15,000 German and Austrian prisoners reached Kieff fortress Wednesday and that 2,500 officers of the two nationalities and 130,000 soldiers had arrived at Kieff since the war began. The fortress was said to be packed with prisoners. Situation Unchanged. Petrograd, Dec. 5.—No reference was contained in today's official account of the war's progress to the victory which the Bourse Gazette claimed Friday for the Russians over the German forces at Lodz. If the Slavs really had won at the point referred to, it was generally considered that the war office would have been only too glad to mention it. "On the left bank of the Vistula," said the statement, "there was obstinate fighting December 3. The conflict raged along the Glogow-Lodz front and on the western roads towards Lodz and Piotrkow. "On the northern and southern fronts the situation is unchanged."

Results in Doubt

Berlin, via The Hague, Dec. 5.—Fighting in Russian Poland was generally believed here today to have reached a critical stage, but reports did not indicate that either side had gained any decisive advantage. It has been expected all along that the eastern campaign would be of considerable duration but confidence was expressed by everyone of ultimate success. It was officially stated that in the western fighting zone there had been no material changes.

BIG LOT OF BLASTING POWDER EXPLODES

Stored in Building on Hughes Property Which Was Totally Destroyed by Fire Following the Explosion. Blasting powder, in considerable quantity, which was stored in an empty house about a quarter of a mile from the state industrial school for boys, was set off in some unknown manner about 12:30 this morning and caused an explosion so terrific as to rattle the windows in the reform school building and shake the neighborhood generally for a radius of several miles. The house, which was valued at about \$1,000, was burned completely to the ground, but aside from that no damage was done by the explosion and so far as is known nobody was injured. The house, which is situated upon some property known as the Hughes

CONTRABAND OF WAR

Washington, Dec. 5.—The German embassy made it plain today that Germany does not regard the seizure of coal by German warships from American and neutral merchantmen to be any more violation of American neutrality than England's seizure of copper aboard such vessels. It was stated that coal and copper are contraband and that the belligerents have a right to seize them on the high seas wherever they can. The American consul at Valparaiso was still investigating the transfer of coal from the American steamship Sacramento, to which sailed from San Francisco, to a German warship.

STATE LAND BOARD COMPLETES REPORT

The biennial report of the state land board, made public this morning shows that the total sales of school land during the last two years aggregated 24,778.26 acres and the amount received as principal on these sales and on tracts heretofore sold under certificate of sale aggregated \$243,849.44. The outstanding loans October 1, 1912, from the common school fund amounted to \$5,559,704.03; loans from the common school fund have been completed amounting to \$1,908,872.63, and the loans from this fund paid during the period covered by the report amount to \$1,470,532.66. The outstanding loans on October 1, 1914, amount to \$5,885,054 so that the net increase amounts to \$334,289.97. Cash in this fund in the hands of the state treasurer is \$28,618.37. On October 1, 1912, the outstanding loans from the agricultural college fund principal amounted to \$193,091.38, since which time loans have been completed from this fund amounting to \$59,762. Loans paid during the two-year period amounted to \$64,276.91; the outstanding loans to date amount to \$189,176.47, showing a net increase of \$4,519.51. Cash on hand in the treasury \$10,977.52. The outstanding loans in the university fund on October 1, 1914, amounted to \$108,141.52 and the net increase over the previous two-year period was \$725.63. Owing to the fact that sales of inalienable school land, aggregating 6,815.73 acres upon which certificates of sale or deeds have been issued by the land board upon approval of selections by the local land office, having been cancelled on account of defective base thereto rendering it impossible for the state to convey clear title it is probable that the state will have to make repayment of \$18,033.75 principal and interest, which has been collected on account of such sales. "While the minimum price of school lands has been maintained at \$7.50 per acre," says the report, "in a few cases a lesser price has been accepted by the board after having satisfied themselves that the price offered was a reasonable one."

NEW PRESIDENT IS TO BE ELECTED BY MEXICAN GENERALS

Convention of Leaders to Decide Whether Gutierrez Shall Hold Office ZAPATA IN FAVOR OF EMILIO GOMEZ Carranza's Movements Indicate He Is Getting Ready to Leave El Paso, Texas, Dec. 5.—A convention of generals was expected to meet today in Mexico City and decide whether General Emilio Gutierrez shall continue as provisional president, according to advices received here. General Zapata's delegates will oppose the re-election of Gutierrez, and will support the candidacy of Emilio Vasquez Gomez, who assisted Zapata with funds and arms at the beginning of his revolt. If Gutierrez cannot be re-elected, the Villistas will suggest General Angeles or Dr. Miguel Silva as compromise candidates. After deciding the provisional presidency, the convention will formulate a platform, based on General Zapata's "plan of Ayala." Provisional President Gutierrez has appointed General Miguel Robles military commandant of Mexico City.

May Join Huerta

Washington, Dec. 5.—Admiral Howard, off Mazatlan, Mexico, wired the navy department today that General Carranza was planning to leave for Salina Cruz. This government officials here said, lends credence to reports that Carranza is planning to leave Mexico. The state department was advised today by American Agent Carothers that he and General Villa had visited General Zapata at Cuernavaca near Mexico City. The message included no other details. Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, presenting Secretary of State Bryan with reports that Carranza had declared his intention of destroying railroads owned by British interests. Both roads, connecting Mexico City and Vera Cruz, are controlled by British subjects. Unofficial advices received by consular agents here said General Maytorena had offered to surrender to General Benjamin Hill at Naco, Sonora, and stop all fighting there. Other advices declared the Carranza garrison at Panuco had revolted because the men believed their commander was a Villa sympathizer. It was said, however, that the revolt was suppressed. General Villa's force in Lower California, according to unofficial reports, was surprised by Carranzistas and 150 Villistas killed and wounded. place, which was sold to a man by the name of Cook, who now lives in Illinois, a few years ago, has not been occupied for some time and has been used by the industrial school employees, who have been engaged in clearing land, for storing their blasting powder. The exact quantity of powder stored there is not known, but that it must have been considerable is evidenced by the power of the explosion it produced. No theory is advanced as to how the explosion could have happened unless it was set off by traps, but if that was the case, there is no evidence of it in the vicinity.

"WORLD AT WAR" ATLAS

The Capital Journal has just received a new shipment of the "World at War" atlases. They are of a later and revised edition, compared with those we have been giving away to our subscribers. Instead of 16 pages, they consist of 24 large, highly-illustrated pages, printed on heavy enameled book. The atlas contains splendid colored maps of all the warring countries, with routes of travel and railroad lines; many tables of army and navy and general statistics—in fact, the work is a complete ready-reference library for students of the great war. It is a book which would ordinarily sell for \$1.00 or \$1.50, but we are having them made up in large lots and buy them at a price which allows us to give them away to subscribers on very easy conditions. All who pay three months subscription, old or new, back subscription or in advance, in case their paper is delivered by carrier, will receive one of these atlases free. All mail subscribers, old or new, who pay a year's subscription (\$3.00), either back subscription or in advance, will also be entitled to receive an atlas without extra charge. This is the most liberal offer the Capital Journal has ever made.