

ITALIAN DEFENSES ARE STIFFLY HELD

Year Ends With Austro-German Purposes Far From Accomplished.

FRENCH HELP APPRECIATED

Teuton Aircraft Unusually Active on Southern Front, but Little Damage Is Reported—Allied Forces Are Confident.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—The following official communication dealing with operations of the forces on the Italian front was issued tonight:

"The British commander-in-chief in Italy reports that the Italians at the end of the year remain in possession of their defensive lines on the Monte Grappa and Asiago sectors, which they have worked untiringly to strengthen. Little snow has fallen. The success of the French yesterday in the Monte Tomba region has given much satisfaction."

"Some small raids have been successfully made across the Piave River by the British. The crossing of the river is difficult at this season of the year. British artillery and aircraft continue their efforts daily to destroy the enemy's batteries."

Enemy Aircraft Busy.
"In retaliation for December 26, when they lost 11 machines, the enemy aircraft have been very active lately in bombing raids. The damage thus inflicted has been slight."

"All the allied troops are confident of the future success of their united efforts and look forward hopefully to the new year."

FRENCH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN ITALY, Monday, Dec. 31.—(By the Associated Press.) The success of French troops in the Monte Tomba region was executed by three battalions of picked men. The artillery preparation, which was intense, lasted for hours, and then at 4:15 o'clock the French made a brilliant and impetuous charge.

On the French right wing the attacking troops went forward steadily until the enemy trenches were reached, a great number of their occupants being captured. The success of this first important movement by Italy's allies aroused the keenest satisfaction and is a tribute to the dash and steadiness of the French forces.

ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS IN NORTHERN ITALY, Monday, Dec. 31.—(By the Associated Press.) The magnitude of the achievement of the French troops in the Monte Tomba region grows as full details are received. In addition to 134 men, including 44 Austrian officers, several of high rank, made prisoners and several large quantities of booty, including 60 machine guns, several trench mortars and a great amount of miscellaneous war material.

Offensive Movement On.
But the chief significance of the stroke is the change from defensive to offensive tactics, and the stirring enthusiasm and success with which the French delivered their initial blow against the enemy lines. Thus far the enemy has been on the offensive with Italians delivering telling defensive blows.

Now, however, the French have turned the scale, and the enemy is being attacked in this sector for the first time since he reached the Piave.

The story of the fight shows thoroughness of preparation and heroic bravery in execution. The scene was southeast of Monte Tomba, a low snowless mountain just west of the Piave, where the allied lines turn into the mountain region. Here the artillery preparation began Saturday, but the main bombardment was not until Sunday and increased hourly until the enemy was deluged by the French fire.

Battle Short but Sharp.
It was then that the crack French infantry swung forward in steady lines from Osteria di Montebelluna and Marzotto, a front of about two miles. The heaviest forces were on the right wing. Italian and British soldiers at the same time attacked the enemy from the air.

The struggle was comparatively short and sharp. The artillery had so damaged the enemy positions that he was unable to make any effective resistance. The French losses were small.

Austrian soldiers made up the entire enemy force which was taken to indicate that the German counter-attacks are being moved further west toward the Brenta River. It also has been established that no forces are being moved away from this front and that no new forces are being brought here.

NORFOLK SWEEPED BY FIRE

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were brought out badly hurt, but two others were left in the debris.

Firemen of Norfolk, Portsmouth and Suffolk, with organized sailor fire brigades, fought heroically amid ice and blinding smoke, and blue-jackets led the rescue work when the fighters were trapped. Several of the firemen caught in the hotel were brought alive through the daring of a score of the jack tars.

Reports as to the number of explosions vary. It was first said that five in the Granby Theater had followed.

THE OLD RELIABLE BLOOD BUILDER

Still retains its supremacy. People still take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills because it is an old family favorite. It proved its merit to three generations—in purified blood, expelled humors, restored appetite, relieved rheumatism, banished tired feelings.

It long ago became recognized as the standard blood purifier and general tonic. It originated in a Boston physician's formula for blood purification, and comprises medicinal roots, herbs, and berries such as are often prescribed for ailments of the blood, stomach, liver and kidneys. Buy it in the same style package your mother bought it. It is the same fine appearance, same pleasant taste, same certainty of good results—adv.

Don't Use Any Other Than Cuticura Soap To Clear Your Skin

lowed an explosion, but Fire Chief McLaughlin and naval investigators announced tonight that this was not the case. They said, however, there had been three separate and distinct explosions. The first was in a cloak and hat shop near the Monticello. The second was on the sixth floor, or that hotel after the first fire was practically under control, and the third in the Lenox building, which later was destroyed.

Guests of the Monticello who were forced to flee in the biting cold of the dawn after they had watched the theater burn, were taken care of in homes and hotels. As buildings after building went down, with them an apartment house, scores were made homeless and the National Guard Armory on City Hall avenue was thrown open to them.

Hydrants Are Frozen

There during the late day Red Cross workers and other volunteers looked after them and also supplied coffee and sandwiches for the naval patrols and firemen, who were forced to seek rest from their grueling work against the flames.

When the firemen responded to the alarm for the theater fire they found all hydrants in the vicinity frozen. Fires had to be built to thaw them out. In the meantime the firemen looked on helplessly while the big theater building burned. When the water finally came the pressure was so low that streams would not reach the upper stories of the burning building, and the fire was soon beyond control.

Portsmouth across the Elizabeth River, was called upon for aid, and the fire was checked until falling sparks fired the Monticello, where many of the guests had gone back to bed in belief that the fire was controlled. They were soon forced to turn out again.

The combined departments apparently were making good headway against the flames when the explosion took place in the cloak shop, and another blaze started. Suffolk then was asked for aid and rushed apparatus to the city by train. In the meantime the naval authorities at the Navy-yard and naval base offered aid and fire brigades were soon on the scene.

When the third explosion took place, this time in the Monticello, Mayor Mayo put the naval authorities in charge. They placed patrols throughout the business district, threw a cordon of marines and blue-jackets around the fire district and began picking up persons unable to account for themselves. Department of Justice agents joined with the city detective force in seeking to unravel the mystery of the explosions. Three of the men arrested were taken to the City Jail and Federal agents took charge of the other two, Schmidt and Lessing. The latter, officers said, first represented himself as a Department of Justice official.

Tugs Pump Water on Fire

Fire tugs from the Navy-yard early in the day took up positions on the waterfront three blocks away and assisted the fire engines and pumped tons of water into the burning buildings, but the blocks on Granby street from City Hall avenue to Tazewell street virtually were destroyed, only two buildings escaping destruction.

Just at dusk the fire in the Monticello broke out afresh and despite the heroic work of the firemen and sailors the Lenox, Carpenter and the Tazewell buildings, six-story structures, across the street, were wrecked. For a time the naval Y. M. C. A. was threatened, but the wide lane separating it from the burning buildings enabled the firemen to save it and other large buildings nearby.

Although the fire still was burning in the ruins late tonight, the fire chief announced that the danger was over if the naval patrols could check the work of incendiaries.

BOYS IN FINE FETTER

EQUIPMENT POOR, SAYS REPRESENTATIVE TINKHAM.

Massachusetts Member Who Fired First American Shot Against Austrians in Italy Returns.

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Jan. 1.—Representative George H. Tinkham, of Massachusetts, who is credited with firing the first shot sent against Austria by an American on December 11 while on a visit to the Italian front, arrived here today on a French steamship. Mr. Tinkham said he fired the shot at the invitation of a Colonel commanding a battery engaged in stemming the advance of the Teutonic forces on the Lower Piave. He added that while he did not know the results of the shot, he was convinced the shell, which was from a 145-millimeter gun, struck "in a place where it would do the most good."

"It just happened that I was on the firing line at the opportune moment," he said. "I did not go there with that particular idea in mind, but I could not resist the temptation. I knew that by doing so I was liable to drastic treatment should I be captured by the Austrians, but I was willing to take the chance."

The member did not come out unscathed from his visit to Italy. He returns with one arm in a sling because of a broken finger and his head is bandaged. He also received a wound when an automobile in which he was riding at night along a shell-torn road skidded and plunged over a 25-foot embankment.

AIRPLANE BIDS TO DANCE

Unique Method of Social Behest Used at Camp Kearney.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Jan. 1.—A military airplane was used today to deliver invitations to Major-General H. F. Strong, commanding at Camp Kearney, and the officers of his division, the 6th, to attend a supper and dance at the Hotel del Coronado Saturday evening. The message was taken by Captain Hugh Kerr and Lieutenant William Kollock, who were bound on a trip by airplane to the camp.

The dance is to be given by officers of the Signal Corps Aviation School in honor of all other officers stationed in this section.

BRITISH MUSEUM USED

Government Takes Over Space for Offices for Air Board.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—The Star says the government has taken over the British Museum, to be used as offices for the air board.

The British Museum, which was founded in 1753, contains antiquities, drawings, prints and a library of more than 2,000,000 volumes, besides numerous valuable manuscripts and charters.

"Tiptick," Pig, Brings \$2100.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—"Tiptick," the pet pig of the German cruiser Dresden, rescued by the men of the British cruiser Glasgow, has been sold for \$2100 for the benefit of the Red Cross.

To Prevent the Grip.
Colds catch Grip—LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE TABLETS remove the cause. There is only one "Bromo Quinine," E. W. GROVE'S signature on box. See—adv.

TOILERS URGED TO WORK FOR COUNTRY

Gompers Asks Labor to Do Full Duty; Nation Is Menaced; Democracy at Stake.

CONFLICT IS PEOPLE'S WAR

Workers Have Part Co-Equal With Soldiers and Sailors, and Continuous Production of Necessary War Supplies Is Indispensable.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—In a new year's greeting to all organized labor, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, calls upon representatives and organizers to make plain to their fellows the issues involved in the war and the obligation that devolves upon all citizens. He also emphasizes the importance of seeing to it that the spirit and methods of democracy are maintained at home while the country is fighting to establish them in international relations.

"War means victory for our cause or danger to the very existence of our Nation," says the address. "With our Nation at stake, individuals cannot interpose opposition to the war—a war declared by the will of the Nation's representatives. Under the exigencies of war, opposition to the war declared by constituted authority becomes treason."

Defeat Would Be Disaster.
"While this is true, there is even more than ordinary need for the maintenance of the rights of men and women and for careful scrutiny and the fullest discussion of policies and methods before their adoption. The time for labor to interpose its needs and contentions is while policies are in the making."

"The fighting and the concrete issues of the war are so far removed from the people of our country that not all of our citizens have a full understanding of the issues involved. An understanding of the principles of automatic force, which the central powers desire to substitute for the real principles of freedom, makes clear to all citizens of this republic the effect of our possible defeat upon their own lives and activities."

Government Deals Fairly.
"The chief responsible agents of the Government have shown every effort to be fair and to have an understanding of the human elements involved in this problem. The organized labor movement has also shown an equally broad understanding and grasp of the situation."

Mr. Gompers quotes at length from the declaration adopted by labor representatives meeting here on Monday and from the resolutions of the Buffalo convention of the American Federation of Labor outlining the attitude of organized labor toward war work.

JOHNSON TELLS OF WAR

(Continued From First Page.)

to strive for peace or talk for peace up to the very day we declared war. But now, when I hear anyone say that democracy is dead in this country I feel like knocking him down."

In chatty, friendly fashion, Congressman Johnson took up the narrative of his recent visit to the war zone, reminding the listeners that the answer to why America entered the great war is to be found in the wrong that is manifest upon the face of devastated France, or desolated Belgium.

Voyage Full of Possibilities.
An American liner—on an Eastern port—about the middle of October, the ship striped with camouflage like a zebra. Ten days in crossing—destroyers slipping along with their teeth bared—nights so bereft of light that death might follow the smoking of a cigar on deck—then Liverpool, and London, without the half-hour, half-dreaded, clash with an enemy submarine.

"The British officials were very cordial," recalled Congressman Johnson. They wanted to know what we desired to see or be informed of. Among other things we saw their great military hospitals, the most wonderful institutions imaginable."

Triumph of Surgery Told.
"I dislike to describe anything that is shocking, yet I want to tell you of one case, that of a poor French soldier boy, whose face was literally cut in twain, from the bridge of the nose to the ears. Red Cross ambulances picked him up in No Man's Land. He was to die, they said, but as a last resort he was sent him across the channel to an English hospital."

"He stood before us, so restored that the only mark visible a few feet away was a little scar on the bridge of the nose. 'I am very glad to be alive,' he said, in the broken English he has learned."

Cherishing broke out. When it had lulled, the speaker added: "I mention that instance only to show you where your Red Cross contributions go."

The speaker told of the cases of shell shock and trench feet, of all the hideous new-fangled ways that have sprung like a poisonous crop from the field of modern war. And of London on the day after a bomb raid, when he and his fellow Congressmen, in a poor quarter of the city, saw a funeral.

Famous Picture Recalled.
"It was that of a mother and five of her seven children," said Congressman Johnson, "slain by Prussian bombs. And, as I saw that little procession, I thought of that masterly cartoon, by 'Tad' Dyer, of the little girl weeps for her dead mother, and she is laid, saying to the father, 'But, daddy, mother didn't do anything wrong.'"

That was a telling touch, for the picture he spoke of has been posted among Portland's streetcar cars within the past month. The audience recalled it, and stirred and whispered.

"And, my dear fellow citizens," cried the speaker, "the United States is in this war to stop that sort of barbarity forever."

It is not true, asserted the speaker, as malice or ignorance sometimes charges, that England has left the hard knocks of conflict to her allies. England alone has raised 75 per cent of the troops put in the field by the British Empire, and England alone has sustained 55 per cent of the staggering losses under her flag.

He turned rather whimsically to war bread, assuring Portland people that the Graham corn and oatmeal, and other varieties with which they are familiar, are not of an baking with the war breads of England and France.

"The war breads of England and France," said Congressman Johnson, "are made of the same grain as the bread we eat here."



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—You fellows who have been on the watch for a "deal" in clothing are now hailed by this

BIG SPECIAL SALE FOR MEN

—We're swapping dollars!
—That wool and its products are soaring upward is common to every man, woman and child who reads newspapers—or has heard the salesman's apologies for prices being "considerably advanced on account of war conditions," etc. Regardless of "whys" and their purports, we propose to keep our big force of tailors busied right up to the limit and to make sure that we accomplish our purpose fully,

WE ARE OFFERING TO MAKE TO MEASURE A GOOD SELECTION OF OUR USUAL \$30 TO \$36 SUITS AND OVERCOATS AT ONLY \$28

We wish to warn our readers, however, that the low special price will be in effect only long enough to bring orders up to the number required to run our factory at normal rate to the opening of new Spring work. Our advice to you is—BUY NOW.

ONLY THE FINEST PURE WOOLENS ARE USED IN THESE SPECIAL SUITS AND COATS. BEST WORKMANSHIP, TOO.

"HALF A CENTURY OF RELIABILITY"

Brownsville Woolen Mill Store

"MILL TO MAN CLOTHIER"

MORRISON AT THIRD

FREIGHT IS MOVING

Vigorous Start Made in Work of Clearing Congestion.

FOOD AND FUEL ARE FIRST

Carriers Set About Task of Relieving Situation Unhampered by Restrictions of Old Style—Priority Orders Are Suspended.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—All Eastern railroads went rapidly to work today to clear freight congestion and effect a freer movement of food and coal, regardless of passenger schedules and previous Government priority regulations.

Acting on sweeping orders issued by Director-General Mead last night designed to relieve the tangled traffic situation, even by diverting export freight to ports south of New York, the roads set about their task unhampered by the restrictions of the old system.

Lines west and south were notified that they soon might be asked to furnish locomotives and other equipment to aid the Eastern roads, and a committee of Government officials was appointed to devise a plan for routing excess freight to South Atlantic ports.

War Board Displaced.
In place of its own request, the director-general named a temporary advisory committee of five members. President Hale Holden, of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, one of the committee, was retained to supervise the machinery created by the war board since April.

Other members of the new advisory cabinet are John Skelton Williams, Controller of the Currency, who will handle financial questions; Chairman Henry Walters, of the Atlantic Coast Line, who will assist in operations; Edward Chambers, traffic director of the Food Administration, in general charge of traffic; and Walker D. Hines, assistant to the director-general.

Members of the war board, including five of the Nation's foremost railroad executives, will return to the active supervision of their roads.

Director-General Mead today ordered the Pennsylvania Railroad tunnels under the Hudson River, heretofore used exclusively for passenger trains, to be used for coal trains for the relief of New York City and Brooklyn.

For the relief of New England the director-general got from the Shipping Board ships in addition to those already secured to carry coal from Newport News and Norfolk.

Suspension of all Government priority of transportation directions was ordered today by Director-General Mead. The order supplements unofficial notification sent to railroads last night by Director-General Mead, instructing them to disregard priority orders if necessary to clear congestion.

Today's action, officials said, would go far towards clearing choked terminals. It will leave to the railroad traffic experts the task of moving freight in the most expeditious way possible and will do away with priority directions issued by the thousands for various Government departments.

PASTOR-AUTHOR ARRESTED
Minneapolis Man Said to Have Sent Improper Book Through Mails.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Jan. 1.—Rev. C. L. Morrill, pastor of the Peoples Church here, was arrested today by Federal officers on a complaint charging him with sending improper matter through the mails.

When arraigned before a United States Commissioner he pleaded not guilty and was released on \$8000 bonds to appear for a hearing next April. The charge is based on a book written by Rev. Mr. Morrill dealing with conditions in Mexico.

Senator Hughes' Condition Grave.
TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 1.—The condition of William Hughes, United States Senator from New Jersey, who is in a hospital from poisoning of his teeth, complicated by bronchial pneumonia, is serious.

THE MAKING OF A FAMOUS MEDICINE

How Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Is Prepared For Woman's Use.

A visit to the laboratory where this successful remedy is made impresses even the casual looker-on with the reliability, accuracy, skill and cleanliness of its making.

Over 350,000 pounds of various herbs are used annually and all have to be gathered at the season of the year when their natural juices and medicinal substances are at their best.

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It is the wonderful combination of roots and herbs, together with the skill and care used in its preparation which has made this famous medicine so successful in the treatment of female ills.

The letters from women who have been restored to health by the use of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound which we are continually publishing attest to its virtue.

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That is the joyful cry of thousands since Dr. Edwards produced Olive Tablets, the substitute for calomel.

Dr. Edwards, a practicing physician for 17 years and calomel's old-time enemy, discovered the formula for Olive Tablets while treating patients for chronic constipation and torpid livers.

Dr. Edwards' Olive Tablets at bedtime. Thousands take one or two every night just to keep right. Try them. 10c and 25c per box. All druggists.

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