

BATTLE CENTER SOUTH OF LODZ

Heavy Fighting Also Rages North of City.

GERMANS REINFORCE CENTER

Russian Successes Declared Due to Tireless Aggression of Siberian Troops.

BAYONET IS MUCH USED

District Is Graveyard, With Hospital Corps Three Days Behind With Wounded.

PETROGRAD, via London, Dec. 5.—The center of the field operations in the eastern arena of the war has moved to the south of Lodz in Russian Poland. The German effort centers at Szezercow, 20 miles west of Piotrkow, with that town the objective.

Heavy fighting is reported also along a line from Glowno, 16 miles northeast of Lodz, to the Vistula River.

Germans Estimated at Five Corps. The strength of the German forces opposing the Russian left wing is estimated at five corps, each corps occupying a front from eight to ten miles in extent.

There are indications that owing to exhaustion of the troops composing the German center, most of those regiments which lost a large percentage of their fighting strength have been withdrawn or are resting on their arms, and that fresher troops are holding the line during a temporary cessation in the battle.

Siberian Troops Tireless.

News dispatches from the front attribute the Russian success in crushing the German forces near Lodz chiefly to the miraculous endurance and tireless aggression of the Siberian troops.

The entire wooded region from Brzeziny is described in these dispatches as a German graveyard. Here an unsupported Siberian battalion is reported to have charged a battery of heavy German artillery and to have bayoneted the gunners.

Field Not Clear of Wounded.

The dead and wounded in this district are reported to be so thick that the Russian hospital corps, after working three days, had not cleared the field. Most of the Germans treated showed bayonet wounds.

The fire-blackened ruins of the village of Kurpin, dispatches from the front say, are packed with charred

GIRL SEEN STEALING TAKES ACID AND DIES

MARTHA FAIRMAN, OF MULTNOMAH CLUB, ENDS LIFE.

Now Is Said to Have Prompted 16-Year-Old Marathon Swimmer Winner to Rifle Locker.

Leaving a farewell note to her parents and brothers, Martha Fairman, winner of the Marathon swim in Portland last August, drank carbolic acid at her home at 90 Texas street, yesterday and died shortly afterwards at the Good Samaritan Hospital. The police say she committed suicide because she was caught rifling clothes in a locker-room at the Multnomah Club.

An employee of the club is said to have detected the girl searching the pockets of clothes in the ladies' locker-room yesterday morning. Miss Fairman was taken before Superintendent Dow Walker, who told her no charges would be preferred against her if she would go home, tell her mother about it, and return with her mother at 4 P. M. She went home and drank acid, the police say.

Following is a police copy of the girl's note: "Mother Dearest—Don't take it hard. Go to Mr. Walker at the club at 4 o'clock. He will explain all. Yours with lots of love to John, Papa, Bob and yourself."

Friends of the girl say the tragedy was the result of Miss Fairman's ambition to excel in athletics. She joined the club, they say, when the family was in prosperous circumstances. Last Summer she won the five-mile Marathon swim given under the auspices of the Multnomah Club. Lately, friends of the girl say, the family has been in straitened circumstances, and they believe that she committed that because of real need.

Miss Fairman was 16 years old. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Fairman. This was her freshman year at Lincoln High School. She is survived by her parents and two brothers.

BLAST BLOCKS RUSSIANS

Great Tunnel Blown Up, Severing Servia-Roumania Communication.

AMSTERDAM (via London), Dec. 5.—The great tunnel near Tychelchar (Teklia) has been blown up by dynamite, thus severing communication between Servia and Roumania, according to advices from Nish, Servia, to the Rotterdam Courant.

The passage of Russian transports along the Danube, the dispatch says, has therefore become impossible.

INCREASED REALTY SALES GIVE TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS.

An indication of the trend of the times may be read in the number of realty sales that were closed last week, involving the transfer of ownership of business and residence property in Portland and of farm holdings throughout the state.

During the week the officials at the Courthouse were kept busy recording the transfer of 427 different parcels of local property. The aggregate value of the properties exchanged was quoted at \$238,296, but if the real considerations had been announced the total would have crept far above that figure. Nearly 30 of the deeds admitted consideration ranging from \$2000 to \$100,000.

The war tax was the means of bringing out several old deals, but a great majority of those recorded told of recent transfers.

In the real estate department of The Sunday Oregonian important farm sales and trades are listed as follows: A \$100,000 sale in Union County, a \$90,000 sale in Douglas County, one \$25,000 and another \$7800 sale in Morrow County, a \$50,000 trade, a \$28,000 sale and a \$21,000 trade at Eugene, in Lane County, and a \$12,000 trade at Albany, in Linn County.

UNION OF TWO CITY BODIES ADVOCATED

Now Is Best Time, Say Business Leaders.

ECONOMY PROMPTS MERGER

Tie of Chamber of Commerce and Commercial Club Looms.

PLAN IN GENERAL FAVOR

Prominent Members of Both Organizations See Great Opportunity to Make One Big Portland Force for Good Out of Two.

FOUR REASONS ARE GIVEN FOR CONSOLIDATION OF ORGANIZATIONS.

Opening of the Panama Canal and the attention attracted to Pacific Coast in 1915 make this time especially opportune for united effort in development work for Oregon. Greater strength and efficiency can be obtained by union of two great and successful commercial forces in the city. Reduction of overhead expenses would make for economy and make possible a larger amount of work on the same funds. Duplication of work in various departments of both organizations would be eliminated.

Consolidation of the Commercial Club of Portland and the Chamber of Commerce in their work for the development of Oregon is most desirable and the present is especially opportune for the development of a definite plan of consolidation. This is the almost unanimous opinion expressed yesterday by members and officers of both organizations.

That the two civic bodies have developed to a condition of high efficiency in the lines of service in which they have been active and, combined at this time to concentrate their efforts in the future promotion of the state's development, would seize the beginning of a new epoch in the growth of the West in which their combined work could produce wonderfully efficient results, is the general belief.

Mr. Averill for Merger.

"I have dreamed, talked and strongly advocated the consolidation of the Portland Commercial Club and the Chamber of Commerce for years," declared A. H. Averill, president of the Chamber of Commerce and the head of the Averill Machine Company, yesterday.

"The time is ripe when this should be accomplished. It is useless to have two commercial bodies, both doing the same work, both having the same sub-committees and both accomplishing the little things. I look on this proposal from the standpoint of a business man and it appears a waste of money and time for the business men of this city to be paying for the upkeep of two bodies performing the same functions.

Waste of Time Figures.

"Then again, there is the time wasted. Many business men are members of both organizations. For instance, on a Monday night a business man attends a committee meeting of the Commercial Club. Tuesday he attends another at the Chamber of Commerce.

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The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 47.5 degrees; minimum, 37 degrees. TODAY'S—Forecast, probably occasional rain; southerly winds. War. British observer says Germans destroyed three in revenge for failure to capture Italy's position, etc.

NATIONAL DEFENSE IS STRONGLY URGED

Creation of Council Is Advocated.

JORDAN AGAINST ARMAMENT

Educator Would Rather Lose Pacific Than Fight Japan.

GOMPERS FAVORS ACTION

Civic Federation Takes Strong Stand for Preparation Against Attack—Navy to Hold Sea for Year Suggested.

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.—Resolutions advocating the creation by the United States of a council of National Defense were adopted today by the National Civic Federation after a discussion on National preparedness against attack that occupied much of the time of the last day of the federation's conference here.

The duties of the council recommended would be "to consider, decide and report to Congress what legislation is necessary to provide for the National defense without waste or unnecessary expense."

Deflate Peace Policy Wanted. Any recommendation of the proposed council should, in the language of the resolution, "aim to secure the efficiency of existing forces on land and sea, and a definite policy to insure peace."

The resolution, moved by Talcott Williams, director of the School of Journalism of Columbia University, was adopted unanimously, being supported in remarks by prominent members of the federation who had previously discussed from various angles the question of National defense. The speakers included Dr. David Starr Jordan, chancellor of Leland Stanford University; Colonel Robert M. Thompson, of the Navy League; of the United States; Franklin P. Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and Samuel Gompers.

Jordan Opposes More Armament.

Dr. Jordan protested against what he called a "tirade against the so-called inefficiency of the Army or the Navy," and declared he should protest against an agitation for more armament "at a time when the nations of the earth are perfecting each other because of their 'perfect equipment.'"

He asserted that there need be no fear that Japan would attack the United States. As for the control of the Pacific, he said: "I would rather give up the Pacific than see this country go to war with Japan."

Plea for Navy Made.

Colonel Thompson, on the other hand, advocated a Navy that would be able to hold the sea for a year against any invader. "That would give us time to make ready our army for the field," he said.

Mr. Roosevelt said there should be resentment against the classification as a "military" of every person who does not believe in total disarmament. Regarding suggestions that this country should lead in disarming, he asked his hearers to imagine North America unarmed, with Europe on one side, and Asia on the other, and then of a possible disagreement arising between the United States and another great power. Samuel Gompers, while speaking for

Saturday's War Moves

ALTHOUGH fighting has been renewed on both the eastern and western fronts, there have been no material changes in the positions of the belligerents during the last 24 hours. It would seem as though the vast armies have been engaged largely in making preparations for new battles. Here and there heavy cannonades or infantry attacks have occurred, all of which, however, were more in the nature of feelers to try to find out the enemy's strength than a serious design in the way of an offensive or for the purpose of an advance.

In Poland the Germans, whose daring stroke to penetrate the Russian center apparently has ended in failure, with heavy losses, according to the latest reports from Petrograd, are forming a new line extending roughly from Kutno in the north to Cracow in the south.

The right or southern wing of this army, which rests on Cracow, is commanded by General Dankl. He is supported on the north by the army under General Hetzenorf, which is based on Czenstochowa, while the new army which was sent from the west fills the gap between this force and General Mackensen's army, which, after extricating itself from the Russian meshes, is now in the new position extending from Kutno southward. The eighth East Prussian army presumably has taken up the northern part of the line.

Thus it will be felt that an entirely new battle is about to be fought, for the Germans are determined at all costs to keep the Russians out of their territory. The English correspondents are confining themselves to reports of the previous battle around Lodz, which is described as the most sanguinary of the war.

On the western front, interest tends to shift from Flanders to Lorraine and Upper Alsace. There has been little fighting in that part of Belgium still held by the allies, and the French have taken some old German trenches, which has given rise to the belief that the Germans have decided to fall back to new positions.

Operations of more serious import are taking place on the borders of Alsace-Lorraine. In Upper Alsace the French apparently have made considerable progress and they also are making desperate efforts to sever the communications of the German force which has been holding St. Mihiel on the western front. Everywhere, however, siege warfare prevails and for the most part the gains extend hardly more than 100 yards.

In the near East similar conditions prevail and nothing has occurred which might be termed a battle. Naval warfare, so far as Northern waters are concerned, has been postponed by reason of the weather, which, as usual at this time of the year, has been exceedingly severe.

BRITISH PRIVATE WINS V. C.

Conspicuous Honor Bestowed on Soldier Who Captured Gun.

LONDON, Dec. 5.—The Victoria Cross has been bestowed on Private George Wilson, Second Battalion Highland Infantry, for "most conspicuous gallantry on September 14 near Verneuil in attacking a hostile machine gun." The official announcement describing Private Wilson's gallantry says: "He was accompanied only by one man. When the latter was killed he went on alone and shot the officer and six men who were working the gun, which he captured."

IZETTA JEWEL IS MARRIED

Former Footlight Favorite Bride of Member of Congress.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 5.—Miss Izetta Jewell, once footlight favorite in Portland, and for the past two years leading lady of a stock company in this city, was married in Baltimore today to Representative Brown, of West Virginia. Reports from Baltimore say the bride will give up her stage career. Several times in the past few years it was falsely rumored that Miss Jewell was to be married to Frank H. Hitchcock, ex-Postmaster-General.

CARTOONIST REYNOLDS COMMENTS PICTORIALLY ON SOME LEADING EVENTS IN THE PAST WEEK'S NEWS.

