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FRENCH AND RUSSIANS SAY GERMANS ARE STEADILY LOSING GROUND

Paris Official Statement Indicates Several Victories Over Kaiser's Forces in France and Along Yser, Where Severe Fighting Occurred a Few Weeks Ago.

ALLIES OFFICIAL STATEMENTS CLAIM GERMAN ADVANCE TOWARDS WARSAW HAS BEEN CHECKED

French Claim Germans Are Retiring in Disorder in Poland and Declare Servians Have Won Important Victories Over Austrians in Northwestern Serbia.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The French war office announced today that three German batteries had been destroyed and others silenced, that several German trenches were blown up, that the allies made successful infantry attacks and that they won back possession of an extended section along the west bank of the Yser Canal in Belgium to capture which the Germans engaged in the most desperate and deadly fighting of the war in the west.

Petrograd dispatches state the front of the German forces, which have been advancing toward Warsaw from the northwest has been pierced in two places. The French official statement, referring to the same phase of the Eastern campaign, says the violent German attacks have been defeated and the Germans are retiring in disorder. Along the German center, west of Warsaw, it is said, the attacks of the invaders were repulsed with heavy losses.

The Servians are said by the French war office to have pushed further their newly won advantage in fighting the Austrians, crossing the Kolubara River in northwest Serbia and capturing two towns.

Germans Claim Gain Against Allies and Russians Today

RUSSIA STOPS XMAS TRUCE IN THE WAR

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

ROME, Dec. 12.—The Vatican authorities today made public a document setting forth the efforts made by the Pope to obtain a truce in the European war during the Christmas season. "The efforts of the Pontiff unfortunately failed, according to the Vatican announcement, owing to the opposition of a certain power." Germany agreed to the truce, it is said, but Russia opposed it.

HOUSE WILL VOTE ON AMENDMENTS

Woman Suffrage and National Prohibition Proposition to be Considered Soon

MAKE U. S. DRY.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 12.—The prohibition question will be brought into the House on December 22, and when it is disposed of woman suffrage will be taken up.

FOUND DEAD WITH DEEDS TO MILLIONS

Emory Edwards, Believed to be from Colville, Wash., Succumbs in New York

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—An examination of the personal effects of Emory Edwards, 43 years old, who was found dead in a modest boarding house last night, revealed old deeds and documents indicating that the dead man was the representative of the Edwards Estate, which at one time owned the site of the post-office in Park Row and the Astor House and an \$8,000,000 estate in Holland. The property mentioned in the deeds in Edwards' room is now worth several hundred millions of dollars. Edwards came to New York about three weeks ago and it is believed that his home was in Colville Washington. He attracted attention because of his expensive clothing and jewelry. It is believed that he came here to represent the Edwards estate. His death was due to natural causes.

PORTLAND MAN GIVEN LIFE TERM

Fred Tronson Sentenced for Killing Stenographer—McGinn Scores Criminal

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

PORTLAND, Or., Dec. 12.—Fred Tronson, an elevator pilot, was sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Emma Ulrich, a 21-year-old stenographer who refused Tronson's attentions, by Judge McGinn in the circuit court. "Had this murder been committed before election," said the court, "Oregon would never have abolished capital punishment."

Xmas Shaving Sets. Sumner Hardware Co. Galvanized shingle nails. Sumner Hardware Company. Sewing machine needles. Sumner Hardware Co.

Declare Russian Cavalry is Worst on East Prussian Front; Advances in Poland

SAYS AUSTRIANS AND GERMAN FORCE GAINS

Denies French Claims of Success in Belgium and France—Berlin Version

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

BERLIN, Dec. 12. (By Wireles).—The German official statement today says: "On the Prussian front, our cavalry repulsed the Russian cavalry, taking 350 prisoners. South of the Vistula and in northern Poland our operations are developing. In Southern Poland, the Russian attacks were repulsed by the Austro-Hungarian and German troops. In Flanders, the French yesterday made attacks in the region of the Langemark, which were repulsed. They lost 200 killed and 240 prisoners. Our artillery bombarded the Ypres railroad to interfere with the movements of the enemy's troops. We made some progress near Arras. The French again attacked us near Souain Perthes without success. In the Argonne forest, the French for weeks past have limited themselves to very weak attacks and everywhere were repulsed. On the other hand the Germans have taken possession of an important French position of support by means of explosions of a mine. The enemy has suffered heavy losses in killed."

WALL STREET IS OPENED TODAY

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—Wall street came into its own today. The Stock Exchange, closed for nearly four and one-half months, except for a limited trading in bonds the last two weeks, reopened this morning. Not for many years has there been such a throng of brokers on the floor.

PECULIAR PLIGHT OF LEVI GRAHAM

Coos County Man Seeks Legal Separations from Two Women at Same Time

COQUILLE, Ore., Dec. 12.—At the present term of the Circuit Court Levi Graham is suing for the dissolution of the marriage bonds from two separate women. 75, he is not a Mormon and the events leading up to such a situation lie so far back that there is nothing sensational about the affair. Years ago Graham married a woman in Pennsylvania and they separated at once, never living together as man and wife. The Justice of the Peace who performed the ceremony told Graham he could get him a divorce and the new bridegroom took his word for it. Coming West, Graham, thinking he was free, married again, but this couple have now been separated for years. Now to clean up the slate, Graham is suing to have the dissolution of the first marriage to Hattie E. Graham which was a mere ceremony. This would leave him the legal husband of the second wife, Lovina Graham from whom he has been so long parted, and from whom he now seeks a divorce.

C. A. SMITH SAYS OUTLOOK BETTER

Business Condition Improving in East and May Soon Benefit Western Lumber

C. A. Smith and his son, Vernon A. Smith, arrived here last evening on the Adeline Smith, arriving so that the former could again spend part of his birthday on Coos Bay. During the last few years it has happened that he has been able to be here for his anniversary, a rather happy circumstance for him as there is nothing that he enjoys more than being near the great mills whose development has been part of his dream of success and accomplishment.

They had a fine trip up on the Adeline, Capt. Olson making the run up in twenty-nine hours. Mr. C. A. Smith is suffering from a rather severe cold. However, the sunshine today made him feel good and he was out most of the time inspecting the local plants and changes that have been made since his last trip here.

Mr. Smith holds a rather optimistic view concerning the general business condition of the country and says that a considerable improvement is already noticeable in the east. However, the lumber market has not picked up any, but he is hopeful that the general improvement will soon make itself felt in that line.

He and Vernon Smith came almost direct from Chicago, where they have spent several weeks. They will return to Berkeley to spend Christmas with their families.

Second Warning to Mexicans

United States Said to Have Notified Maytorena He Must Withdraw From Naco

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

EL PASO, Dec. 12.—The second warning from the Washington government to Maytorena was received here today demanding that Maytorena withdraw immediately from within range of the American border town. It was given verbally, it was understood, to one of Maytorena's agents in Washington.

MAYTORENA'S VERSION

NACO, Ariz., Dec. 12.—Governor Maytorena said today that he had received no order from Provisional President Gutierrez to stop firing and will continue the attack until he receives such an order. He said that his men are taking every precaution against firing across the border.

ALLIES MAY BE ABOUT TO START GENERAL ASSAULT ON GERMAN LINE

Renewed Military Activity in France is Believed to Indicate Great Effort to Throw German's Entire Force Back Into Confines of Kaiser's Domain.

GERMAN ADVANCE ON WARSAW REPORTED TODAY TO HAVE BEEN CHECKED BY RUSSIANS; ALLIES RELIEVED

King Peter of Serbia, Aged Seventy, Goes to Front and by Dramatic Appeal to Army Succeeds in Changing Defeat to Victory, Repulsing Austrian Advance.

(By Associated Press to The Coos Bay Times.)

LONDON, Dec. 12.—It has become apparent that the renewed military activity in France, the precise nature of which has been left in doubt by the indefinite official communications, has not yet attained the dimensions of a general assault. Berlin is speculating whether the allies, taking advantage of the Germans pre-occupation with Russia, will seize the opportunity to begin a general movement designed to push back the whole German line.

The campaign in Eastern Prussia is now viewed more complacently by the allies. Petrograd reported yesterday that the Germans were within fifteen miles of Warsaw, but it is now said that this advance has been checked.

The mystery of Serbia's sudden reversal of form is attributed in Paris to a dramatic incident. It is said that King Peter, Serbia's 70-year-old ruler, went to the front at the time his army was apparently being pushed to extremities by the Austrians and said to the soldiers: "Your old King has come to die with you for the fatherland." Thereupon a general assault was ordered, resulting in the recently reported repulse of the Austrians.

MIDNIGHT FIRE THREATENS CORNER AT FRONT AND MARKET

Entire Block in Danger When Coos Bay Bakery Has Midnight Blaze

Carl Evertsen, proprietor of the Coos Bay Bakery, this afternoon declared that he has not yet estimated his loss, but that he carries insurance. It is not believed that the loss will be more than \$300. Manager Hampton, of the Central Rooms, also declares he carried insurance. The roof on the southwest corner of the building, which is owned by A. O. Rogers, was burned through and the water damaged five rooms.

Fire at 11 o'clock last night broke out in the rear of the Coos Bay Bakery on Market street between Front street and Broadway streets and for a time threatened the entire block of wooden buildings. The fire department with two engines, had four hoses playing on the flames in less than five minutes after the alarm was sounded. Smoke belched out through the bakery making the detection of the fire almost impossible.

As the fire burned in the rear of the bakery and over the large brick oven, the firemen found it a difficult task to get their streams playing on the seat of the blaze. Through the Right Cafe two lines were brought into the fire, another came through the Bakery and a fourth shot down from the standpipe on the top of the Coos building next door.

In the darkness and through the maze of back alley fire traps, the fight was a difficult one. The flames sprang up the wooden wall of the bakery within a foot of the brick wall of the Coos building. A hole was hacked in the wall near the oven and through this a stream of water played. Directly above the west wing of the Central Hotel caught fire, though there were no roomers in this section. The flames burst out on the roof and over the big oven the fire shot across to the storeroom and had it not been intercepted early it is probable that the fire would have spread on through the frame building to Front street as stored in the store room were barrels of lard and oil, all highly inflammable.

Water drenched down into this room, ruining a supply of Christmas cakes and about 1400 loaves of bread which a few minutes later would have been baking in the oven. About 150 sacks of flour were practically undamaged, a large tarpaulin being thrown over them before the water came through.

R. Pence and R. W. Keator were

at work in the bakery when the fire started. They had just finished mixing their dough and Pence had turned about, going to the big oven to start the night's baking when he noticed a small flame shooting up the wall along side of the boiler. He immediately yelled "Fire" and Hank Wells in the Right Cafe, but a few feet away, sounded the alarm.

Gordon Smith responded at once with the auto fire truck and Hal Stutsman followed with the steam engine which, with the aid of the firemen, was run to the foot of Commercial street and a salt water stream played on the flame a few minutes later.

Three streams were played on the fire from the gasoline engine that once again demonstrated its worth as a fire protector. Smoke clouding out of the bakery blinded the firemen. They groped their way through the alley beneath the Central Hotel. The fire windows of the St. Lawrence Hotel next door were immediately closed and that building was at no time in danger. Despite the water and smoke the bakers re-continued their work, mixing the dough for today's baking, refusing to be driven from their post.

In the vicinity of the fire there are several electric light wires. Some believe that the fire was started by rats; others believe that the oven fire was the cause of the conflagration.

Had the auto fire truck been "hooked" onto the Bay instead of the hydrant it is believed that quicker action could have been started on the fire and also that the salt water is much more effective in staying the flames. The steam engine, in charge of Hal Stutsman, ran a line up from the Bay.

H. A. Wells of the Right Cafe, by opening his place and having the firemen string a line of hose through the place, aided greatly in extinguishing the blaze. This was the first stream on the fire and coming from where it did was more effective than from any other point.

JAMES WATSON MAY BE COUNTY JUDGE

According to a point raised by Governor West, the terms of the county judges expire this year instead of being prolonged two years as a result of an election law amendment. Governor West has pointed the matter out to the Supreme Court and if his contention is sustained, the term of John F. Hall will expire this month and James Watson, who was elected on the Republican ticket, will succeed him.

FRENCH CLAIM ALLIE'S ARTILLERY HAS WORSTED GERMAN BATTERIES

(By Associated Press to The Coos Bay Times.)

PARIS, Dec. 12.—The official bulletin this afternoon says: "The enemy has completed the evacuation of the west bank of the Yser Canal to the north of the house of the ferryman, and we occupy this bank. In the region of Agras there have been many artillery engagements. In the regions of Nampoel and the Aisne, our batteries reduced to silence the enemy's batteries. Northeast of Vailly one of their howitzer batteries was completely destroyed.

"Fighting in the Perthe region and Lagurie forest resulted in an advantage to us. On the Meuse heights our artillery demolished at Deuxnoudé two batteries of the enemy, one composed of guns of large caliber and the other used for firing upon the aviators. In this same region, we have blown up a blockhouse and destroyed several trenches. Between the Meuse and the Moselle there is nothing to report. In the Vosges there have been artillery engagements. In the Senones region, we consolidated the positions gained by us the evening before."

CRUISER DRESDEN REPORTED HIDING IN INLET OF SOUTHERN PATAGONIA

(By Associated Press to the Coos Bay Times.)

VALPARAISO, Chile, Dec. 12.—It is reported the German cruiser Dresden has taken refuge in an inlet on the coast of Patagonia. The Dresden is the only vessel of the German squadron which met the British fleet in the South Atlantic December 8, that has not been accounted for.

TURKISH FLEET BOMBARDS BATUM AND KILLS LARGE NUMBER THERE

(By Associated Press to the Coos Bay Times.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 12.—The Turkish fleet yesterday bombarded the environs of Batum, the Russian seaport on the eastern coast of the Black Sea. Hundreds of Russians were killed and a number were wounded by the fire.

ARREST AMERICAN SPY

PARIS, Dec. 12.—The police of Geneva, Switzerland, says a dispatch to the Journal, arrested a naturalized American named Muller, who, it is alleged, organized an important German spy system with ramifications in Lyons and the principal cities of Eastern France. He will be court-martialed.

COAL FOR BRITISH FLEET

PANAMA, Dec. 12.—It is reported here that a squadron of six British battleships met four British colliers yesterday 50 miles south of Panama. It is believed that these warships came from Australia.

SLIDE IN CULEBRA CUT. Canal Zone, stated that a new slide in the Culebra cut would cause a delay of about two days to shipping. No details were given.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 12.—A private dispatch to W. R. Grace & Co., received today from the Panama Community Silverware. Sumner Hardware Company.