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NO. 235

VICTORIES FOR EACH SIDE ON WESTERN FRONT

Further Progress Made by Allies, But Germans as a Whole Standing Fast—French Claim Capture Trenches and Gain of 800 Yards—Germans Issue Denial.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Further progress apparently has been made by the allies in their general offensive movement. The German armies as a whole are standing fast and so far as is known have lost no important sections of the long line on which they settled down after the retreat which followed the battle of the Marne early in the war.

Today's official communications indicate that each side has had its victories and its defeats. The French army chiefs state that they captured the last section of a line of German trenches near Perthes les Hurius, where fighting has been severe for several days, and have made an average gain of 800 yards. The German statement, speaking of the engagement, says that the French attack was "partly repelled." French claims to progress in Belgium are denied in Berlin, where it is said that the British have suffered reverses at the hands of the Germans.

Germans Move New Army

Again there comes trickling through from Holland reports of vast movements of German forces from the east and the west. A dispatch reaching here from Amsterdam says that thousands of German troops have passed through Aix La Chapelle toward northern France. This activity may be the forerunner of a renewed German offensive in the western arena, under the eyes of Emperor William or it may simply be intended to offset reinforcements Great Britain has been throwing lately into the French field of hostilities. As the situation appears to stand today the allies in France and Belgium continue more on the offensive than on the defense, and every day shows slight gains to their credit.

Christmas Truce

It is believed that notwithstanding the failure of the plan for an armistice over Christmas, some sort of a lull will set in on Christmas day itself. Christmas sentiment is deep in the men's hearts.

The London newspapers have decided unanimously not to publish on Christmas day and the official press bureau will suspend its activities from the afternoon of December 24 until the evening of December 25.

HEAVY FIGHTING IN EASTERN ARENA

BERLIN, Dec. 23, (by wireless).—A report from the German army headquarters in the field states that a German attack has been made in the eastern war arena, but whether the operations were directed against the Russian rear or main line is not stated.

"The situation in Galicia," the report says, "has cleared. The Russians are holding the east bank of the Dunajec river to Tachow (a town just south of Tarnow.) Another Russian line extends to the southeast of Krosno (on the railroad between Jaslo and Sanok.) Heavy fighting is going on at both Tachow and Krosno and also at Bupko Pass."

URGES GERMANS TO LIVE ON VEGETABLES

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 23.—The Vossische Zeitung of Berlin prints an appeal signed by leading German professors of political economy which urges Germans to live on vegetables and rye bread, leaving meat, white bread and delicacies for the sick and wounded.

"England wants to starve us and we must therefore do everything possible to economize in the use of our food," the appeal says.

RUSSIANS CLAIM GREAT VICTORY WON IN GALICIA

PETROGRAD, via London, Dec. 23.—The official announcement of Russian successes in Galicia is interpreted here as meaning a definite defeat of the third Austrian advance. The Russians claim to have taken the offensive, attacking successfully the entire southern frontier forces of the Austrians under General Von Boehm-Ermolli.

The attack extended along the river Dunajec as far as the upper valley of the San. The Austrians, who advanced over the Mazalobreta Pass in the Carpathians toward Dukla, were attacked along a front from Liski to Sanok. The Austrians attempted to unite forces with the garrison at Przemysl. A series of attempts in that direction is reported to have failed. The Przemysl garrison on December 18 made a desperate sortie, but was driven back on the fortifications with heavy losses. Simultaneously the Austrian division which was advancing toward Dukla was attacked with bayonets and forced to flee, leaving an enormous number of dead. The Russians captured 1900 prisoners, including ten officers.

To the west on the road leading to Battfeld, an Austrian corps was attacked by Russians at Ryoliatzi, on a front descending from Ryg to Yodlov. The Austrians were thrown back, leaving about 1500 dead on the field.

PHELAN TO PROBE DOMINICAN SCANDAL

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—James D. Phelan, senator-elect from California, received his appointment today as a special commissioner to investigate charges against American Minister Sullivan in the Dominican republic. President Wilson and Secretary Bryan have given Mr. Phelan full authority to conduct the investigation without further orders. He will work first in the insular bureau of the war department, and later make an investigation in San Domingo.

SCOTT IN CONFERENCE WITH GENERAL HILL

NACO, Arizona, Dec. 23.—Brigadier General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the United States army, successfully completed today the first step in his effort for peace on the Mexican border. He conferred with General Benjamin Hill, the Carranza defender of Naco, Sonora, and said that "it was a very satisfactory interview."

A conference with Maytorena is now being arranged by General Scott. Prior to the conference Hill reported that 126 of Maytorena's Yaquis threw down their arms and crossed to the American side early.

HEAVY RAINS DELUGE ARIZONA

PHOENIX, Ariz., Dec. 23.—Several hundred head of cattle were drowned last night in floods caused by the heaviest rains in the history of this section of Arizona.

Traffic in Phoenix and Florence was suspended today on account of washed-out roads and bridges. The canal of the Salt River Valley Irrigation works have been seriously damaged. The Salt river, Gila and Santa Cruz rivers have reached the highest levels ever recorded. The prospects today are for more rain.

Nogales, a town on the border, was isolated today by the heavy rains. Wires were down several hours.

The United States army forces at Naco suffered considerably. A cavalry trooper also was reported drowned.

DOUGLAS, Ariz., Dec. 23.—Five inches of rainfall in four days have caused the greatest flood damage recorded in this section in recent years. Railroads on this side of the border and in Sonora have suffered considerably in tracks and bridges having been washed out. The El Paso & Southwestern railroad was among the roads whose services were badly crippled today. Several hundred feet of track and several bridges of the Naco river railroad of Sonora were destroyed by the floods.

Fort Huachuca, an American army post, was completely cut off from rail and wire communication.

From Bisbee came reports of serious damage, due to the flooding of business houses situated in the low-lying districts between the hills.

TUCSON, Ariz., Dec. 23.—Torrents of rain falling almost continuously since Saturday last have flooded vast areas in this section of Arizona. The Santa Cruz river was more than a mile and a half wide today. Many houses and stores along its banks were wrecked or washed away, although no lives were lost, according to reports up to noon.

The desert country between this city and Phoenix is under water.

RUSSIAN FRONT STRAIGHTENED NEAR WARSAW

Desperate Fighting Continues in Poland—Czar's Army Retreats at Warsaw, But Advances Rapidly in East Prussia—Conflicting Statements Regarding Struggle.

LONDON, Dec. 23, 12 noon.—The eighty-mile front in Russian Poland to the west of Warsaw, where the Germans and Russians are at grips on the banks of the Bzura, Rawka and Pilica rivers, continues to be the scene of the most desperate fighting in either the eastern or western arenas of the war.

When the weather conditions under which the troops are fighting are recalled the sufferings of the men in the trenches may to some extent be appreciated. The country is experiencing the full force of winter. Each side has sustained tremendous losses in this battle of the rivers, and although the Germans claim to have forced the Russian line at a number of points, it is nevertheless a fact, according to reports reaching London, that the Russian front has been straightened out and it is difficult to visualize which contender has the strategic advantage.

The German war office reports no developments in the east, saying merely that the fighting is continuing. The French statement, however, asserts that the Russians are pressing forward their invasion of Germany across the east Prussian frontier, but admits that the Germans have made progress in the fighting at Poland to the west of Warsaw.

The latest official communication from Petrograd in the same breath admits that the Russians have been compelled to retreat from some positions and states that the German attacks have been repulsed everywhere with heavy losses to the invaders. Germany and Austria continue to assert that important successes are being achieved. One of the great battles of the war is in progress thirty miles west of Warsaw, and meanwhile the Russian forces to the north are pushing into Germany, presenting the possibility of a flanking movement which will menace the main army of Marshal Von Hindenburg.

WARRING NATIONS ACKNOWLEDGE GIFTS

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Mrs. John Hays Hammond, chairman of the war children's Christmas fund, which collected in this country Christmas presents for the children of the belligerent nations of Europe, announced today that appreciative acceptances had been received from the German, Austro-Hungarian, French and Russian ambassadors to the United States. The funds and gifts donated to the children of Belgium were distributed through the American minister to The Netherlands. Contributions to Serbia were acknowledged by M. Pajin, the Serbian consul general in this city.

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ALLIES ATTACKS EASILY REPULSED STATE GERMANS

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—That the attacks launched yesterday by the allies in Belgium were easily repulsed by the Germans and that the French troops are showing greater activity in the vicinity of Camp de Chalons and that the French forward movement in the vicinity of Sillerie, Rheims, Souain and Perthes, have been partly repulsed, were the features of the announcement issued today by the German army headquarters.

"Attacks in the region of Lombaertzyde and to the south of Bixchoote have been easily repulsed by us. At Richebourg l'Avone the English again were driven from their positions yesterday.

"Notwithstanding desperate counter attacks we have retained all the positions which we captured from the English on the Richebourg canal from Aire to La Bassée. Since December 20, 750 British and colored soldiers have been captured by us and five machine guns and four mine-throwers taken.

"In the neighborhood of Camp Chalons the enemy is showing greater activity.

"Attacks to the north of Sillerie, southeast of Rheims, at Souain and at Perthes have been partly repulsed by us with heavy losses to the French.

"The situation in east and west Prussia is unchanged.

"Battles for possession of the branches of the Bzura river, west of Warsaw, continue.

"The situation on the right bank of the river Pilica remains unchanged."

HUGE NUMBERS OF RUSSIANS ON WAY TO CRACOW

PETROGRAD, via London, Dec. 23.—Large bodies of Russian troops are moving toward Cracow, the Galician stronghold, from the north and east. An important battle apparently is developing in southwestern Poland, near Cracow.

While the Germans are not relaxing their efforts along the line from Sochaczew to Skierniewice, in the movement toward Warsaw, the greatest activity yesterday was in the vicinity of Mischow and Andrejew, immediately northeast of Cracow. The Russians have moved back to positions along the left bank of the Nida river near its junction with the Vistula, thirty miles east of Cracow. The objective of the Austro-German forces in this vicinity appears to be Kielce. Their front extends about seventy miles from the right bank of the Nida. Their strength is estimated at eight to ten army corps—320,000 to 400,000 men.

The Teutonic allies on December 18 attacked the outskirts of Pinczow, twenty-five miles east of Niecholow, and were successful in crossing the river. Subsequently, however, they were thrown back with heavy losses, after a desperate fight.

GUTIERREZ SAID TO HAVE LEFT

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Dec. 23.—That Provisional President Eulalio Gutierrez had quit Mexico City, due to differences between him and Felix Angeles and followers of Zapata was reported today to T. R. Beltrant, local constitutional consul. The message said the capital was governed by a committee composed equally of Villa and Zapata adherents and that another provisional president would be selected January 10.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—No report that General Gutierrez had left Mexico City and that the capital was being governed by a commission had reached here late today. The Gutierrez agent declared he had talked over the telegraph wire late last night with Gutierrez himself in the national palace.

BUILT BOMB TO DESTROY FRENCH VESSEL AT SEA

Four Men Arrested at New Orleans—One Confesses to Preparing Bomb of 75 Pounds of Dynamite With Clock to Explode Six Days Out at Sea—Discovered in Time.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 23.—Two of four men detained by the police after a bomb had been found in the rooms of Hans Halle in a hotel, were arraigned today in the criminal district court. Halle and George Summers, proprietor of the hotel, were charged with preparing a bomb with the intention of blowing up a ship. The other two men had been dismissed.

The police say that after Halle was confronted with evidence apparently proving that he constructed the bomb, he told his story in detail. He said in open court today he wished to plead guilty, but it was not accepted, because Halle had no lawyer. He was remanded in default of bond, and Summers was imprisoned.

The seventy-five pounds of dynamite with mechanical attachment, which was to have exploded it, six and one-half days dating from last night, fills a box about three and a half feet square. Halle said he expected to express it to New York last night, consigned to a French vessel.

He said he conceived the idea himself, but later took Summers into his confidence. That Summers admits, the police say.

Dr. P. Rob, German consul general here, gave out a statement declaring the men had no official connection with the German government.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Existence of an alleged conspiracy in New Orleans to blow up a French or English passenger ship on the sea by placing an infernal machine in her cargo before she should sail from New York was known twelve days ago to Paul Fagnet, general agent of a French line, according to announcement today.

Precautions Taken

Detectives were employed to prevent fruition of the scheme, every bit of baggage and cargo going into the French Line ship was closely examined, and the proper authorities, Mr. Fagnet said, were promptly notified. It was believed here that this notification was what resulted in the arrest of four men in New Orleans last night. The Cunard Line and the International Mercantile Marine lines have strengthened their forces of guards. No visitors may go to any of their docks and when vessels leave no one is allowed aboard who is unknown to the officials. Passengers have to furnish proof of their identity before they are permitted to go aboard. All baggage is scrutinized carefully and the cargo is thoroughly inspected before it is taken on.

To prevent the possibility of an attempt by longshoremen to place aboard explosives or to damage the ships, detectives disguised as longshoremen have been working with real longshoremen on the docks.

AUSTIN, Texas, Dec. 23.—Applications for writs of habeas corpus for Victor E. Innes and his wife, Ida May Innes, wanted by the Georgia authorities on a charge of larceny at a trust, were submitted to the court of criminal appeals here today.

YUAN NOW THE SON OF HEAVEN

PEKIN, Dec. 23.—President Yuan Shi Kai at sunrise today appeared before the Altar of Heaven in the Chinese city and revived the worship of Heaven at the winter Solstice, an observance neglected since the passing of the Manchu dynasty in 1911. In this the president of the republic took upon himself a function and rite which in the past always has been reserved to the emperor of China in his capacity of "Tientsin," or Son of Heaven.

The president today worshipped at the famous circular altar, the most important of all Chinese religious structures. It is located in a sacred park, three miles from the Palace of the Emperors, and is surrounded by sacred buildings. This altar formerly was regarded in China as the center of the universe.

Yuan Shi Kai submitted a bill to the Chinese administrative council in January of this year, prescribing the worship of Heaven and of Confucius for the president of China and the measure was passed by the council. This act was regarded as tantamount to establishing a state religion for China. During the deliberations of the council it was set forth that the president of the republic should worship at the Temple of Confucius and at the Temple of Heaven annually as had been the custom of the Chinese emperor. Today's function appears to be a carrying out of the purposes then set forth.

OHIO BREWERY FORCED TO FAIL BY PROHIBITION

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 23.—The Hoster-Columbus Breweries company, a \$12,000,000 corporation, went into the hands of receivers today on order of the United States district court. "Decreased demand for beer, adverse legislation and the voting 'dry' of many states and counties in the last eight years," was given as the cause.

The appointment of receivers was made by Judge John E. Sater upon a showing that the company had defaulted payment upon a judgment of \$3518 in favor of Samuel and Victor Steiner of New York.

The court named C. Christian Horn and Carl J. Hoster, large stockholders of the company, a receiver.

In its statement the company declared the voting dry of West Virginia was the "last straw" in a series of legislative acts which reduced seriously the sale of its product. Increase of the saloon license fee to \$1000 by the Ohio legislature eight years ago, a county local option law and the more recent license system by which the number of saloons was gradually cut down were mentioned as other causes.

CHRISTMAS MAIL FOR AMERICANS FROM EUROPE

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The steamship Lusitania arrived today after a stormy passage with 4000 sacks of Christmas mail and a number of well-known Americans returning for the holidays. The heavy seas encountered during the voyage battered one of her lifeboats to pieces.

Among the passengers was Charles M. Schwab, president of the Bethlehem steel corporation, returning from his second visit to London since the war began. He left here less than a month ago after making a quick trip to Canada where it was rumored he discussed with certain questions of building in Canada submarines for the British navy of steel made in the United States.

Attaches of the American embassy in London, Mrs. Walter H. Page, wife of the American ambassador to Great Britain; Baron De Beville and Paul Lefalvre, French minister to Mexico, also were aboard.

BRITAIN TO PAY RAID SUFFERERS

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The British government has decided to indemnify from the imperial funds those who suffered bodily or property losses as a result of the recent German naval raid on the coast towns of Scarborough, Whitby, Hartlepool and West Hartlepool.

A German cruiser squadron appeared off the east coast of England on the morning of December 16 and on running down the coast shelled Hartlepool and West Hartlepool and Whitby and Scarborough. Upwards of 100 people were killed and from 200 to 300 injured. Great property damage was done.

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FREIGHT RATES TO MEDFORD ARE EXCESSIVE

Under Recent Order of I. C. C., Medford Is Entitled to Terminal Rates Such as Weed and Sisson Receive, But Railroad Has Apparently Closed Portland Gateway.

That Medford and other southern Oregon cities are being overcharged and discriminated against in the matter of freight rates is shown by a comparison of schedules now in effect between Dunsmuir, Sisson and eastern points, and those from the same eastern points to Medford. While the California points are given the benefit of terminal rates, the Oregon points are not, but are forced to pay the terminal rates to Portland plus the local freight rate here, which is contrary to recent decisions by the interstate commerce commission in the Intermountain and other cases. In other words, the railroad has closed the Portland gateway without being authorized to do so.

Portland Gateway Closed

These inequalities are being called to the attention of Medford shippers by H. C. Beach, a rate attorney of San Francisco, who is here for a few days to see if he cannot interest Medford and other towns along the line in securing a reduction in the rates now charged by the railroad. Mr. Beach is an associate with John E. Alexander, another rate attorney of San Francisco, who has recently argued before the interstate commerce commission in Washington, D. C., against the abolition by the railroads of many terminal points in California.

Mr. Beach says that pursuant to the decision of the United States supreme court in the case of United States of America interstate commerce commission et al vs. Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway et al, wherein the supreme court upheld the interstate commerce commission in its decision governing the rates on shipments to the Pacific coast from eastern points, the Southern Pacific company on October 1 published in "Transcontinental Freight Bureau West Bound Tariff No. 4 L," its rates on shipments to the Pacific coast from the east (effective November 15, 1914).

Abolished Old Rates

Under the decision above referred to, says Mr. Beach, the interstate commerce commission put an end to the exorbitant rates theretofore extracted by the railroads for shipments to intermediate points, and provided that on all shipments to intermediate points (such as Medford) which shipments originate at or west of the Missouri river, that the terminal rate should be charged; that on shipments originating between the Missouri river and a line drawn north and south through Chicago, a rate not exceeding the sum of the terminal rate and 7 per cent thereof should be charged; that between the line drawn through Chicago and a line drawn north and south through Buffalo, N. Y., and Pittsburg, Pa., 15 per cent should be added to the terminal rate; from this last line to the Atlantic coast that 25 per cent should be added to the terminal rate on all shipments originating in that territory.

Entitled to Reduction

In the published tariff, due to its desire to close the northern gateway of Portland, the Southern Pacific company does not give Medford and other towns in Oregon from Portland south to the line, the rates which, under the decision above noted, Medford and these other towns are entitled to.

(Continued on Last Page.)

HODGES FAVORED TRADE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Governor Hodges of Kansas and former Governor M. A. Ansel of South Carolina were recommended to President Wilson today for membership in the new federal trade commission. Democratic congressmen from Kansas endorsed Governor Hodges and Representative Aiken supported Mr. Ansel.