

SMALL GAINS HERE AND THERE ON BATTLE LINE

Intense Nature of Fighting Revealed by Reports—Trench Captured, Lost, Recaptured, Abandoned, After Being Levelled by Fire—Germans Also Upon Offensive

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Today's official statements reveal the intense nature of the fighting now in progress both east and west, but indicate that, with the possible exception of East Prussia, there has been no significant change in the alignment of the opposing forces.

The German statements tell of a fight for possession of a trench in France which was won by the French, recaptured by the Germans, and finally abandoned. So fierce was the struggle that the trench was almost levelled by artillery fire. No important movements are reported in the German communication.

Both Sides Attacking
The French statement, while saying that small gains have been made here and there, mentions German attacks at so many points that it is apparent the allies have not been permitted solely to take the offensive into their own hands. Such ground as they have won recently is not to be held without hard fighting.

Christmas Eve on Front
Christmas eve finds little change in the underground warfare now being conducted in the western theater of the war, where General Joffre, the commander in chief of the French armies, still appears to be cautiously feeling for an opening in the strongly entrenched German line across France and Belgium.

In the east a supreme German effort continues to be made before Warsaw, the capital of Russian Poland, where the forces of the German center and of the Russians seeking to check them, sway back and forth along the banks of the river, barring the way to the Polish capital.

The Russians claim successes in the latest encounters, but during the last ten days the Germans have advanced appreciably and it is said they now are bringing up their 42-centimeter guns preparatory to siege operations.

Russians on Offensive
In Galicia the Austro-German forces seem to have made no further progress and in the north the Russians are reported to have pushed the invaders farther back into east Prussia.

The German tactics in the march toward Warsaw, military observers in London point out, are beginning to have some of the characteristics of the push toward Calais and Dunkirk which the allies stemmed, thousands being sacrificed and others being hurled forward to fill the gaps with the same prodigality that was shown by the Germans in Flanders.

Military experts here are unable to agree on the number of the Austro-German troops in the east, estimates varying from 1,000,000 to 1,500,000, but it is pointed out that Russia, unless exaggerating her resources, should be easily able to top this figure, now that her concentration of forces is nearing completion.

Christmas Gifts
All the armies are planning to spend Christmas as best they may. Boxes and greetings from home have been, or are being, distributed in the trenches, at the hospitals and in the camps, hundreds of thousands of postcards to the soldiers and sailors from King George and Queen Mary being one feature of the British gifts.

The Austrians' attempts to crush Serbia, which some predicted would be abandoned in view of the recent turn of events by which the Serbians recaptured Belgrade, are soon to be renewed in the form of a "final blow," according to dispatches from Buda Pest.

NO ISSUE MAIL TRIBUNE UPON CHRISTMAS DAY

In conformance with established custom, there will be no issue of the Mail Tribune upon Christmas day.

SERIES OF SMALL SUCCESSSES CLAIMED BY FRENCH WEST

PARIS, Dec. 24, 2:50 p. m.—The French official statement given out this afternoon reports a series of French successes of apparently minor importance from the sea on the north to the frontier of Alsace on the south. The locations where French troops have gained the advantage are given as along the Lys; in the region of the Aisne; in Champagne, near Perthes; in the Argonne; in the forest of Apremont, and near St. Die.

Fog prevented fighting near Arras and Verdun, and there has been artillery activity southeast of Amiens, near Ville sur Tourbe and in the forest of Apremont.

Russia—On the Bzura river, the Germans have maintained themselves in two positions. On the contrary, at a point north of Sochaczew they were driven back to the river, which flows to the southwest of this town. Their efforts to debouch from Bolimow resulted in failures. At the present time the Germans are essaying to cross the river Rawka to the southeast of Skierniewice.

To the south of Rawa the Germans are resisting stubbornly a pronounced Russian offensive movement, being delivered along the northern bank of the river Pilica.

AIRSHIP DROPS BOMB ON DOVER

LONDON, Dec. 24, 1:59 p. m.—A hostile aeroplane dropped a bomb over Dover this morning and then disappeared, according to a statement made this afternoon by the official press bureau.

The text of the statement follows: "An aeroplane of the enemy dropped a bomb while passing over Dover this morning. The missile fell in a garden and exploded, but no damage was done. The aeroplane was seen for a few seconds only. It left immediately, passing out over the sea. A British aircraft went up, but did not see the enemy again. The weather was cloudy and foggy."

This German raid from the air on the city of Dover is the first news of an authentic character of any hostile aircraft visiting Great Britain. The machine today came from the direction of Deal and was flying high. It was not sighted from Dover until it suddenly emerged from the clouds.

Apparently Dover castle was the objective of the raid, for the bomb thrown from the aeroplane fell in the garden in the rear of St. James' rectory, which is located in front of the castle. The windows in the rectory and some in the houses immediately surrounding the rectory were broken.

Fog made easy the escape of the hostile airship. Immediately he had dropped his bomb the pilot started straight across the channel. Two British aeroplanes went up in an endeavor to catch the raider, but the hostile ship had too much of a start and could not be overtaken.

Portland Livestock Market
PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 24.—Cattle—Receipts 27; steady.
Hogs—Receipts 355; lower. Prime light, \$7.25@7.35; medium, \$7.05@7.15; smooth heavy, \$6.70@6.90; rough heavy, \$6.35@6.50.
Sheep—Receipts 31; unchanged.

SCENE OF FIGHTING SHIFTS IN EAST

LONDON, Dec. 24.—Although accounts vary as to the present status of military affairs in Poland, it is evident that the scene of heaviest fighting has shifted southward from Sochaczew, the town on the Bzura river, thirty miles from Warsaw, toward which the Germans for several days directed their principal efforts. Austro-German forces operating from the Cracow base are attempting to push northward into Poland. In this effort, however, they are meeting with determined resistance from the Russians.

A semi-official statement from Petrograd says that Russian successes in Galicia continue and that in the Carpathians the Austrians have

CHRISTMAS DAY TO BE OBSERVED ON BATTLE LINE

Unofficial Truces Probable. With Little Fighting—Presents for Men Sent Forward—Midnight Open-Air Masses to Be Celebrated at Many Places—Prisoners Remembered.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—Soldiers in the trenches will make the best of Christmas day, with little or no fighting. King Albert of Belgium has sent a box of 25 cigars to each of the Belgian soldiers. All the hospitals have arranged concerts, recitations and stereopticon shows for convalescing soldiers.

The American hospital is bright with Holly and mistletoe. Madame Poincaré, wife of the president of France, has sent 3000 packages of toys, candy and clothing to 3000 Alsace Lorraine children who live in the territories re-conquered by France.

The French government is delivering great quantities of packages, from Germany to prisoners of war. For the most part they are useful things, like blankets, underwear and woolen socks. Similar deliveries, it is understood will be made by the German authorities to French prisoners.

Little Fighting Probable
While the men actually in the trenches will have to maintain the same strained alertness that they observe every day and while there doubtless will be fierce fighting at certain points on the front, yet from 1200 to 2000 yards back the infantry firing line arrangements have been made for plenty of jollity, which will include a chicken dinner and champagne to drink with it. New Year's Day is a greater holiday in France than is Christmas and if the military situation permits it, General Joffre, the French commander-in-chief, will give orders that the soldiers serving in the trenches tomorrow will not have to be there on the first day of the new year.

Unofficial Truces
Where the French and German trenches are close together, there may be brief unofficial truces by common agreement for short periods of time. These understandings have not been unknown on other days, and they may be more frequent on Christmas day.

It is likely that at midnight open air masses will be celebrated at many places back of the lines upon rough altars.

In Paris the gay midnight supper party will not be seen; instead the people will be in church at midnight mass. The churches never before have been so full within the memory of the city. Nowadays at every service, early or late, the sacred edifices are crowded.

LLOYDS INSURES AGAINST AN ITALIAN WAR

LONDON, Dec. 24, 2:25 p. m.—Lloyd's is charging thirty guineas per cent to insure against war between Italy and Germany, Austria and Turkey, within one month, and fifty guineas per cent that war between those countries will not be declared within six months. Five guineas per cent is asked to insure against war breaking out between Great Britain and Norway within twelve months.

LODZ CAPTURE TURNING POINT OF CAMPAIGN

General Von Hindenburg Considers Taking of Polish City of Supreme Importance—Russians Offered Deadly Resistance—Unnerved by Steady Advance of Germans.

LODZ, Russian Poland, Monday, Dec. 21, by automobile courier to Posen, Prussia, Dec. 23, via London, Dec. 24, 11 a. m.—The capture of Lodz, according to a declaration made today by General Von Hindenburg, the German commander, to a correspondent of the Associated Press, was the turning point of the campaign in Poland. The Russian lines in northern Poland rested on this city, for the possession of which there occurred the most bitter struggle of the entire war on this front. After the Russians, following a most obstinate resistance on their part, were forced to evacuate the town, a general Russian retirement in the direction of Warsaw became necessary.

Under the guidance of Major Von Holleben, a cousin of the late Baron Von Holleben, who was at one time German ambassador to the United States, the Associated Press correspondent today visited some of the battlefields in the vicinity of Lodz and gained an idea of the nature of the operations which led to the capture of the city.

Like Pitchfork Times
According to the general alignment of the Austro-German forces, they might have been expected to advance from the west. As a matter of fact, the attack was made largely from the north and northwest. They drove their columns into the Russians in the form of a huge pitchfork, with another large force between tines of the fork.

It looked for a time as if the Russians would be forced to retreat—if retreat were at all possible in the face of the gigantic enveloping movements by the Germans—in the direction of their Warsaw base.

The intention was to drive the Russians into the arms of large Austro-German forces massed to cut off their retreat, but the timely arrival of Russian reserves from Warsaw resulted in the breaking of the easternmost tines of the fork, relieving the situation for the Russians.

Scene of Cutting Off
In one of the operations around Lodz occurred the celebrated "cutting off" of two German corps, which, after being entirely surrounded by the rapid advance of the Warsaw reserves, turned and cut their way out and brought with them 12,000 of their would-be captors. The scene of this exploit, which a member of the general staff, characterized as one of the most brilliant of the war, was Stryko, ten miles to the northeast of Lodz.

About the same distance west of Lodz is located the little churchyard of Beschie, where the Russians, in one of the final phases of the struggle for Lodz, showed that in spite of their defeats and discouragements, they knew how to fight and die. This churchyard lies on a small eminence which formed a salient into the German lines.

Deadly Resistance
The Germans were able to make an attack from three sides with infantry and artillery. All the Russian

(Continued on page two.)

EVERETT WOMAN KILLED, AUTO WRECK

EVERETT, Wn., Dec. 24.—In an automobile wreck a few miles from Everett early this morning Miss Kenyon, a young woman residing in Everett, was killed, and her sister slightly injured. Thomas Precious of Gold Bar was seriously injured, his left leg being broken. Floyd Tremble, also of Everett, the chauffeur, was cut and bruised. The car apparently went over a high embankment on a curve while moving at high speed. The wreck was discovered by another automobilist and relief brought to the injured, about an hour after the accident.

MOST FAMOUS OF NATURALISTS, JOHN MUIR, DEAD

Noted Philosopher, Artist, Geologist and Botanist Passes Away With Pneumonia—Discovered Great Glacier in Alaska—Classified Flora of Western Coast.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 24.—John Muir, the famous naturalist of California, died at a hospital here today from pneumonia. He was 76 years of age. He was brought here from Martinez, Cal., arriving at midnight, and died at 10 o'clock this morning.

Mr. Muir was visiting his daughter Mrs. Helen Muir Frank at Daggett, a town in the desert of San Bernardino county. He was stricken with pneumonia last week. Doctors from Los Angeles were called into consultation Tuesday, and it was determined to bring him to this city for treatment. When he arrived last night Mr. Muir was in a critical condition. From midnight, when he reached the hospital, until the end, the doctors worked with restoratives and stimulants in an effort to keep him alive but he sank rapidly, death coming at 10 o'clock.

His daughter was with him when he died. John Muir, like John Burroughs, with whom his name often has been linked, belonged to that tradition of British naturalists whose work was so fused with the writer's personality and so penetrated by individual feeling that their output was as much literature as science.

Philosopher and Artist
Philosopher and artist, as well as observer, he took creative delight in his work, which no mere classification of details could have brought. Born in Dunbar, Scotland, in 1838, Muir came to this country at the age of 11 and after graduating from the University of Wisconsin in the class of 1864, plunged immediately into his life work of geologist, explorer and naturalist.

Muir's description of the Yosemite valley first brought it into national fame, and his visit there left him with a love of the west which remained through all his travels and led him to make his home at Martinez in his later years.

He chose a site in the Contra Costa valley, sheltered on one side by a wooded hill and surrounded on three others by vineyards, orchards and streams, confronted by the towering outline of Mount Diablo. Within the furnishings were in massive simplicity. Without were pines, palms, cacti and exotic vegetation. For botany, too, was one of John Muir's delights.

Deep Love of Nature
"But this isn't my home," he once said. "My home is in the mountains and the wilds. I am here merely for the rest my body demands. I am getting old and what once was exercise is now fatiguing exertion."
With this deep love of nature part of his very being, it was fitting that John Muir should be almost as well known for his labors in behalf of forest preservation and the establishment of national reserves and parks as by his writings.
To the great glacier he discovered in Alaska in 1881, his name was
(Continued on page 2.)

RAPID PROGRESS RESTORING PEACE IN OLD MEXICO

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Provisional President Gutierrez and General Villa had a long conference last night in Mexico City, according to advices today from state department agents there. As no mention was made of any street fighting or friction between the followers of the two leaders, state department officials regarded their despatches as evidence against reports that Gutierrez had been made a prisoner and that his forces had been engaged with Villa troops.

The dispatch, dated late last night, referred in optimistic terms to the progress being made in rehabilitating the central government.

Apparently confirming the state department view, the minister of foreign affairs in Gutierrez's cabinet, telegraphed the Washington representatives of Gutierrez today that there was absolutely nothing new in the situation in Mexico City.

General Carranza has no intention of leaving Mexico, according to a telegram dated yesterday, received at the Carranza agency here from Apizaco, a small town northeast of Puebla.

GAMBLING PROFITS MILLION A YEAR

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—A huge gambling "trust" which makes a profit of \$1,000,000 a year and which pays \$15,000 protection money every week to members of the Chicago police department exists in Chicago, it was charged today before the Merriam crime commission. Monte Tennes, known for years as the gambling king of the city, was declared to be the head of the ring by Edwin W. Aitz, an investigator who testified regarding gambling conditions in the city.

He testified that policemen receive \$50 for each handbook operated, and that 300 of these are scattered throughout the city. Some of the books are "square," he said, and others "crooked." He said only books controlled by Tennes were allowed by the police.

Aitz said that his investigators had headquarters in a vacant West Side store and that telephone lines were tapped to get information.

GOLD PIECES FOR NEW YORK POLICE

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Santa Claus, disguised as a fur-clad passenger in a motor runabout, whizzed down Fifth avenue today, slowing up at every crossing to hand over \$5 gold pieces to traffic policemen. There was a chauffeur to run the car for Santa, so that he had both hands free to fish the gold pieces out of a white canvas bag that appeared to hold about two quarters. Not only on the avenue, but up and down side streets the car ran to visit policemen that Santa appeared to have particularly in mind.
The runabout bore a number which is licensed in the name of Robert Goelet.

ARIZONA DRY LAW UPHeld BY FEDERAL COURT

Decision One of Shortest on Record—Interference With Statute Law Refused—Injunctions Prayed For Denied—Priest Among Those Who Sought to Stay Prohibition

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 24.—The Arizona prohibition law will go into effect January 1. The special United States tribunal from which injunctions were sought to prevent its enforcement, refused to issue such injunctions in a brief decision rendered today. Appeal to the United States supreme court will be taken at once, it was announced.

Short Decision Rendered
The decision contained less than a dozen sentences. It read:

"We have listened to the able arguments in this case with care and attention and would like to review and discuss them fully, but time will not permit. In cases like this, where a court is asked to interfere with a state law, the evidence should be particularly clear and convincing. This was not the case in the present instance, and the injunctions prayed for therefore are in each and every case denied."

Four Injunctions Sought
There were four applications for injunctions. One was filed by Rev. Mr. Connolly, who asserted that the prohibition law infringed upon constitutional religious rights, in that it would prohibit the importation of wine for sacramental purposes. The other three petitions were filed by druggists and liquor dealers, who held that the law was confiscatory, and violated the fourteenth amendment of the constitution of the United States.

In defense of the law, representatives of the state's attorney general contended that no court could rule that the statute adopted in the form of a constitutional amendment at the election November 3 would interfere with the use of wine in established religious ceremonies.

Immediately after the decision, attorneys for Rev. Thomas M. Connolly, a Catholic priest of Tucson, and for other petitioners, made a motion to stay the execution of the law, pending the outcome of an appeal to the United States supreme court, but this motion was denied, thus clearing the way for the law to become effective on the date set, January 1.

The decision was one of the shortest written documents ever handed down by a judicial tribunal here.

WITTE PREDICTS VICTORY FOR RUSSIA

ROME, Dec. 14.—Reports having been circulated that Count Zergius Witte, the Russian statesman, was leading a pacific party at the Russian court, the count has telegraphed to this city denying the statements. In his telegram he says:
"At the beginning I deplored the war, thinking it was not inevitable or indispensable, but since the war is in progress any discussion regarding it would be futile."
"Now that the war has assumed in Russia a popular character, it can only end with a decisive victory for Russia."

WHITE CHRISTMAS PREDICTED IN EAST

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—A white Christmas from New England to the Great Lakes is indicated in weather bureau reports for tomorrow which say unsettled weather and probably snow will prevail through that region. Elsewhere generally colder weather will mark Christmas Day with unusual low temperatures along the northern border from New England to North Dakota.
The South Atlantic and Gulf states may expect a rainy Christmas, the report adds.

600 CANNONS ROAR AT ONCE

PARIS, Dec. 24, 12:30 p. m.—General Joffre, the French commander-in-chief, said to Colonels Ignatieff and Yarde-Buller, the Russian and British military attaches at the field headquarters of the French army three or four days ago: "Come with me and you will see something never seen before in war."
The military attaches accompanied the general to a place near the lines not far from Arras. There six hundred pieces of heavy artillery were placed in a position so as to bear upon a comparatively short plexus of German entrenchments. The ranges already had been found.
Upon a word from General Joffre, repeated by his aides telephonically,

the six hundred pieces opened a sustained fire upon the German works and the spaces just behind them.
After a quarter of an hour the French infantry charged. Not a hostile shot met them. Not a bayonet gleamed over the edge of the works. The trenches actually were torn to pieces as though by gigantic ploughshares.

Dead and wounded men, half buried, littered the line where formerly had been the trenches. The few alive were struggling to free themselves from heaps of earth. Those who had tried to run were caught by the horrible spray of bursting shells in the rear of the German trenches. Probably not a man escaped that part of the line escaped.