

RUSSIANS RAISE SEIGE OF GRACOW RETIRE 50 MILES

Petrograd Declares Strategic Position Improved by Falling Back—Little Activity Elsewhere—French Claim Further Progress Germans Claim Nieuport Bombarded.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The Russian forces which have been attacking the Galician fortress of Gracow, have been driven back fifty miles, and Gracow is now free from immediate menace.

Petrograd claims that Russian forces have succeeded in crossing the Biala river, Galicia, and in taking possession of a twenty-mile strip of territory south of Tachow, thereby separating the two Austrian armies.

Elsewhere in the east few changes have occurred, the Germans having relaxed for the present their assaults on the Russian line west of Warsaw.

French Claim Progress

The French war office says today that further progress has been made by the allies, particularly in the Meuse region. The admission is made, however, that a trench south of Ypres was lost to the Germans.

The Berlin communication states that Nieuport has again been under bombardment by British warships and that a few civilians were killed or wounded. It is asserted that attacks by the allies have been unsuccessful.

The initiative in military operations apparently has been left for the time being to the airmen. Aerial raids across the English channel to the lower Thames over Freiburg, Nancy, Metz and Sochauczew, Russian Poland and on the German naval base at Cuxhaven, inflicted considerable damage in the aggregate.

Activity Diminishing

Activity on land and sea apparently is diminishing. Even in Russian Poland the fighting is becoming less severe, without a decision having been reached.

Salaries and expenses of deputy game wardens totalled \$47,000 this year.

WAR PRISONERS TREATED WELL IN ALL NATIONS

Special Attache of American Embassy Reports Result of Investigation of Military Camps—Regular Army Rations Provided—Shortage of Clothing Causes Suffering.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—Chandler Anderson, who, as a special attache of the American embassy in London, made an investigation of military prison camps in practically all the European belligerent countries, declared today there was no substantial difference in the treatment of prisoners of war, and that probably in every case they were cared for as well as their captors could afford, considering their own military necessities.

Praises Page's Work

Mr. Anderson praised the work being done by Walter Hines Page, the American ambassador at London, and said that through the excellent relations Mr. Page has established with the foreign office, he has been able to accomplish many things beyond the reach of any other official.

The Germans at the date of Mr. Anderson's departure from Europe had 450,000 prisoners of war. About 200,000 were Russians, an equal number French and 17,000 British, the remainder being Belgians. The prisoners were given the regular army ration and their principal lack was clothing suitable for the season and opportunities for bathing.

On Ocean Liners

In England the German and Austrian prisoners had been confined to the race courses, but more recently have been transferred to ocean liners lying idle at their docks.

Conditions in Austria, Mr. Anderson said, are much like those in Germany, and the same is true of Russia. One of the unavoidable hardships of the prison camps in all countries was the enforced association of all elements of society.

Nobody Wants \$6000

COFFEYVILLE, Kan., Dec. 28.—Walter Johnson, the baseball pitcher, had not up to late today received the \$6000 which dispatches last Saturday said President Weeghman of the Chicago Federals, was returning to him. The money was sent to the Chicago club by Johnson to pay back a bonus advanced for signing a contract with the federals.

VILLA'S MERCY CAUSES CLASH WITH ZAPATA

Resignation of Gutierrez Denied—No Serious Break, But Amnesty Proposal Arouses Opposition—Compromise Suggested—Villa's Forces Concentrate for Attack.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—General Villa's forces have suspended their attacks on Elono, near Tampico, and have concentrated their attack on the seaport of Tuxpan where fighting is in progress today, according to advices of the state department.

Reports issued earlier today by the Carranza agency here, saying that General Gutierrez had resigned and left Mexico City, were contradicted by dispatches to the state department from the Brazilian minister in Mexico City, who yesterday had a conference with Gutierrez.

The general situation as reflected in official dispatches was viewed as not altogether encouraging. Friction is regarded as apparent between the Zapata element and the Gutierrez-Villa faction. Thus far, it has not resulted in any serious break.

Zapata After Federals

The chief trouble seems to have arisen over the question of execution and punishment of former federals. Gutierrez and Villa have been in favor of suspending the executions and giving some federals an opportunity to join their cause.

A compromise is being suggested whereby former federals will be given fair trials. They also would be prohibited from joining the Gutierrez-Villa army. The American government has found that both Gutierrez and Villa look with favor on its suggestion for a general amnesty for political offenders, but that the Zapata element seems irreconcilably opposed to it.

The subject is expected to develop further at the national convention called for January 31 in Mexico City when a new provisional president will be chosen.

Driving Carranza Out

Only meager advices are in the possession of the state department as to the military activity of the Carranza forces but latest dispatches said that Zapata forces have advanced to Soledad near Vera Cruz and in co-operation with Villa forces are operating in the vicinity of Tuxpan, and are driving the Carranza troops to the southeastern portion of Mexico.

Advices from Consul Canada today said Tomas Braniff, who went from Washington with credentials from Rafael Zubaran Capmany, to discuss measures of peace with Carranza, has been re-arrested at Vera Cruz. He had been taken into custody on his arrival but was at once released on representations from Consul Canada.

FRANK GRANTED APPEAL FROM GEORGIA COURT

Justice Lamar of United States Supreme Court Grants Atlanta Man Appeal Refused by Lower Federal Court—Execution Staged for at Least a Year and a Half.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—Justice Lamar of the supreme court, granted today an appeal from the decision of the Georgia federal court, which refused to release Leo M. Frank on a habeas corpus proceeding.

Attorneys of the condemned man have been fighting for weeks for the appeal, which was once previously denied them, although on another phase of the proceeding.

In the present proceeding Frank's attorneys argued to the federal court of Georgia that state courts in which Frank had been convicted of murder had lost jurisdiction over their client because he had not had a fair trial and had been convicted in an atmosphere of violence.

Justice Lamar, in a statement explaining why he had granted the appeal, said the application for the appeal presented an entirely different situation from the application for a writ of error which he had declined to grant some time ago.

The case would be heard by the full court in the ordinary course of business in about a year and half, unless the state of Georgia should ask to have it advanced. Meanwhile Frank's execution is stayed.

Justice Lamar concluded his statement by saying:

Lamar's Conclusion

"The supreme court of the United States has never determined," he said, "whether on a trial for murder in a state court, the due process clause of the federal constitution guarantees the defendant a right to be present when the verdict is rendered."

"Neither has it decided the effect of a final judgment refusing a new trial in a case where the defendant did not make the fact of his absence when the verdict was returned a ground of the motion, nor claim that the rendition of the verdict in his absence was the denial of a right guaranteed by the federal constitution."

"Such questions are all involved in the present case, and since they have never been settled by an authoritative ruling by the full court, it cannot be said that there is such a want of probable cause as to warrant the refusal of an appeal."

MINERS ORGANIZER IMPORTED ARMS

CAN CITY, Colo., Dec. 28.—David Robb, a national organizer of the United Mineworkers of America, spent between \$300 and \$400 of union funds for arms during the week preceding the attack by strikers upon the Chandler Mine, according to Ribb's own testimony today in the trial of seven former strikers charged with the murder of William King in the Shandler battle of April 26.

Robb, one of the defendants, was called for cross examination when the trial was resumed after the Christmas recess. He said the money expended for arms had been raised by the six local unions of miners in Fremont county. The witness said the guns were secured for purposes of defense. He denied that he had induced the strikers to organize for the purpose of attacking Chandler.

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 28.—Petitions in bankruptcy were filed today by the Krit Motor Car company and Krit Sales company, both of this city. The liabilities of the Motor Car company are said to be \$881,233, with assets amounting to \$622,533.

Co-operation Is Essential

The Mail Tribune's 1915 New Year's edition is the finest and most costly annual we have yet issued.

We have gone to unusual expense because the occasion is an unusual one. It is the only piece of advertising the community has issued in a year. It will appeal to the unprecedented tourist travel of the California expositions and comes at a time when the community needs to exert every effort to attract people.

The 1915 annual is intended to call the tourists' attention to Medford and the Rogue River valley. In itself it will offer convincing evidence that this is an up-to-date, wideawake and enterprising community, a land of opportunity as well as of scenic grandeur.

The secretary of the Commercial club says that the Mail Tribune's New Year's annuals are the best and most effective literature the club sends out, and superior to any of the booklets for results, as they reflect the spirit, enterprise and development of the community.

But no matter how fine an edition we strive to put forth, we can't do it single-handed. The hearty co-operation of the community is essential to make it a success. Every store and industry should be represented in the advertising columns, even though it be in a small way, as such representation is convincing evidence of the community's enterprise. Every subscriber should send a few copies to friends in the east, to aid in its widespread circulation.

Not only is it unfair for the newspaper to have to bear the entire burden of the expense of publication, but the issue will fail as a reflection of community enterprise unless hearty co-operation be forthcoming.

For this co-operation, we appeal to the merchants and people of the Rogue River valley.

THE MAIL TRIBUNE.

TENNESSEE TAKES REFUGEES FROM SYRIA TO EGYPT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The cruiser Tennessee, with the permission of the Turkish government and at the request of American Ambassador Morgenthau, is transporting 500 refugees of various nationalities from Jaffa, Syria, to Alexandria, Egypt.

Captain Decker of the Tennessee reported the departure of his vessel from Jaffa, in a message filed last night and received today at the navy department. Secretary Daniels summarized the report in this statement:

"The Tennessee is transporting about 500 refugees of different nationalities from Jaffa to Alexandria. These refugees were unable to get passage from Jaffa by any other means. Captain Decker states that his action was taken at the request from the consuls, which requests approved by the ambassador to Turkey, had been made after permission had been given by the Turkish authorities."

No reply came today, however, from either Captain Decker or Captain Oman of the North Carolina to the request for full information regarding the unofficial report that an unnamed American warship had threatened to bombard Tripoli. Athens dispatches said Turks attacked the crew of an American commercial ship, which permitted foreign refugees to board her in the face of a protest from the Turkish authorities and that a threat to open fire on Tripoli followed.

CAMBRIDGE HOME BURNS; FOUR PERISH

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Dec. 28.—Four deaths and the probable fatal burning of another inmate in a fire which trapped occupants of the city home early today was definitely established when the officials made a careful checking up of the register.

Many others among the 238 inmates, mostly aged men and women, suffered severely from fright and exposure and several were partly overcome by smoke.

Police, firemen and nurses assisted them down stairways, fire escapes and ladders.

PRESIDENT WILSON FIFTY-EIGHT TODAY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—Practically all democratic senators in the city and many representatives called on the president to congratulate on this, his 58th birthday anniversary. The president told his callers that he had never felt better.

The president's cabinet arranged to call on him in a body at 6 o'clock this evening to pay its respects and congratulate him. Other government officials left cards or sent letters of congratulation during the day.

GERMANY INSISTS UPON DICTATION OF BELGIAN CONSULS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The German government has formally notified the American state departments that American consuls in Belgium must be acceptable to the German military authorities and that it is desirable that some of the consuls be withdrawn for the present at least.

PITTSBURG SELLS SHARPNEL SHELLS

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 28.—Orders for 65,000 tons of high carbonized steel rounds appeared in the Pittsburgh district today, 50,000 tons for France and 15,000 tons for Russia. Recently 26,000 tons of this grade of steel, used in making shrapnel shells, were shipped to Europe. It is understood that Charles McKnight, president of the Carbon Steel company, is now in Europe in connection with orders for similar material.

It is estimated that fully \$6,000,000 worth of trenching tools, galvanized sheets, wire and projectile steel have been bought in Pittsburgh for the European belligerents in the past two months.

BOMB IS THROWN IN HINDU TEMPLE

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 28.—Five women and two men are suffering from injuries today, some of them serious and one man is at the morgue, these being the casualties of a bomb explosion in a Hindu temple here yesterday. The dead man is Louis J. Vavara, a student of the Occult, who threw the bomb.

Swami Triguantia, the priest is profusely and painfully, but not dangerously wounded. The other victims were worshippers listening to a lecture by Swami Triguantia when the explosion occurred. Just what prompted Vavara to explode the bomb is uncertain. It was a matter of revenge, and offers his opinion that the bombthrower was insane.

Nation Edits Paper

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—To promote the foreign commerce of the United States, the government will go into the newspaper business January 2, next, when the first issue of The Daily Commercial Report is to be turned out by the department of commerce.

CANADIANS SHOOT TWO AMERICAN GAME POACHERS

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 28.—One American was instantly killed and another seriously injured by Canadian troops patrolling the Canadian border at Fort Erie, Ont., opposite this city, today. The men were hunting ducks out of season in the Niagara river and in Canadian waters. Provincial Police Officer Thomas Delaney of Fort Erie, ordered the men to stop shooting. They refused and Delaney called upon a corporal and two privates of the forty-fourth battalion of the Canadian militia for assistance.

The corporal ordered the men to come ashore. Instead they headed their boat for the American shore and were heading a retreat when at the order of Delaney the soldiers fired upon them. Walter Smith was shot through the head and killed and Charles Dorisch was seriously wounded in the shoulder. Both resided in Buffalo.

When the hunters toppled over in their boat the soldiers put out in a boat and towed the hunters' craft to shore.

Secretary of State Bryan was notified of the shooting by Vice-Consul J. B. Curtis of Fort Erie.

"Whether or not complications will result is a debatable question," said Mr. Curtis. "While two Americans were shot, the information available indicates that they were shooting ducks without a Canadian license and were in Canadian waters, where they had no right to be under the circumstances. No arrests have been made as a result of the shooting."

The coroner's inquest will be held late today.

CONSUL TRIED TO FIRE HIS HOUSE

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 28.—Fernando Somoza Vivas, consul general here of the republic of Honduras was arrested today on a charge of arson. He had been under surveillance by the police since last night, when firemen said they found his burning house had been liberally sprinkled with oil and turpentine.

Bureau drawers in the bedroom were found filled with paper saturated in oil, carpets had been sprinkled with inflammables, holes had been cut through the ceilings of closets for flues, and streamers tied from the rafters to guide the flames, according to the fire marshal.

At police headquarters here Vivas asserted that his position as the representative of a foreign nation made him immune from prosecution. Vivas carried \$2500 insurance on the house which he was buying on the installment plan.

New Year's Issue

The Mail Tribune's annual New Year's issue will be finer than ever this year. Special attention will be paid to the tourist attractions of southern Oregon, including the scenic beauties, world wonders and paved highways. The issue will be better illustrated than any of our previous New Year's issues—and that is going some.

It is necessary to know in advance how many papers will be required, so place your order now. Last year the issue comprised thirty-eight pages and exceeded 10,000 copies. Help make the edition 15,000 this year. Price 5 cents per issue. Mailed to any address by the office for 10 cents.

FILL THIS COUPON OUT AND MAIL. Mail Tribune, Medford, Oregon. Please reserve me... copies of 1915 New Year's issue. Name Address

AUTHORIZE SALE OF CLAFLIN STORES

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—A decree providing for the sale January 19, of the assets of the H. B. Claflin company was signed by Judge Hand in the United States district court here today. The assets include all property, rights and interests, held by John Claflin in the insolvent company.

The belief prevailed in mercantile circles that the property would be bought in by the Mercantile Stores Corporation, successor to the H. B. Claflin company in the control and management of the Claflin stores throughout the country. The decree of sales is so drawn as to embrace the plan of re-organization presented in the interest of the Mercantile Stores Corporation. Under that plan creditors are to receive 15 per cent in cash and 85 per cent in notes and stock of the re-organized company.