

Full Leased Wire Dispatch

The Daily Capital Journal

Today's News Printed Today

THIRTY-SEVENTH YEAR

SALEM, OREGON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1914

PRICE TWO CENTS

ON TRAINS AND NEWS STANDS - FIVE CENTS

AUSTRIAN INTRIGUE MAY FORCE ITALY TO TURN AGAINST HER

Consul Stirring Abyssinians to War on Allies Endangers Italy

SORE AT ITALY SINCE KING MENELIK'S TIME

War Sentiment Awakened Concentrates Against Italy Instead of Allies

Rome, Nov. 29.—(By mail to New York)—Austria is trying to drag Abyssinia into the world war.

It may be that Germany is trying, too, but the Italian government is certain concerning Austria. It has received detailed reports from absolutely reliable sources of the plotting of Herr Schwimmer, the Austrian consul.

This information was not given out officially. In view of the fact that the government has not made it public, it probably would be refused transmission over the Italian telegraph wires. It was obtained, however, from unquestionable authorities, and for that matter it is not much of a secret in well posted circles.

Whether or not Herr Schwimmer has also intrigued against Italy is not certain.

Even if it was unintentional on his part, he has nevertheless succeeded, as a result of his mischievous making for the allies' benefit, in stirring up considerable hostile Abyssinian sentiment against the Italians.

Signs of this feeling became so evident recently that the Roman government deemed it necessary to strengthen its military establishment in its possession of Eritrea, which lies between the Red sea and the Abyssinian frontier.

Italy Fore-warned.

It was announced when the troops left Italy, they were destined for the Tripolitan-Egyptian frontier and the explanation was given that fears were entertained of an overflood of the Turkish campaign in Egypt into Tripoli.

This caused considerable surprise at the time, since the Turks were not even across Egypt's eastern frontier then, and some hundreds of miles lay between them and Italian territory.

Not was it a fact that the government intended to use its reinforcements in Tripoli. Instead, it was for Eritrea that they were bound.

The presumption is that it was by accident that Herr Schwimmer stirred the Abyssinians to a state of unfriendliness with Italy as Italy is concerned. It is recognized that both Germany and Austria resent the Italians' failure to help them against the allies but they are anxious to prevent them now from joining the allies themselves that it is unlikely they would purposely risk angering them by their representatives' activity at Addis Bay.

Sentiment Against Austria.

The probabilities also are that the Italian government's reason for suspending news of the situation in Eritrea was its unwillingness to let the public know of the harm done by Herr Schwimmer. As is well known, there is already a strong sentiment throughout Italy in favor of war with Austria, and if the fact should be published that a military expedition of Eritrea had been rendered necessary by the Austrian diplomat's meddling, the people's anger might render it impossible for the government to avert hostilities longer.

Should the Entente agent succeed in inducing the Abyssinians to go to war, he will have accomplished what will prove a matter very serious for the allies, as well as for Italy.

The Egyptian Sudan, British Somaliland, British East Africa, Eritrea, Italian Somaliland and French Somaliland all border on Abyssinia and would be very difficult if not impossible to protect against extensive invasions.

The Abyssinians, too, have a high reputation as fighting men, as Italy knows to its cost.

The obliteration, a generation ago, of a large Italian military expedition engaged in operations against King Menelik, has never been forgotten here. It has not been forgotten, either, in Abyssinia. There has been a smolder of resentment there against the Italians ever since, and this was probably responsible for the fact that, probably against his own wishes, Herr Schwimmer's attempts to provoke the negroes to an invasion of the allies' neighboring possessions, seem to have aroused Abyssinian sentiment to an even greater extent in favor of an attack on Italian territory on the same coast.

CARDINAL AGLIARDO ILL.

Rome, Dec. 21.—Cardinal Agliardo, one of the best known members of the sacred college, was ill here today with a complication of bronchitis and pneumonia. It was admitted that his case was serious.

AUSTRIANS TRY TO RELIEVE PRZEMYSL

Make Furious Sortie in Effort to Raise Siege—Desperate Fighting Ensues

Vienna, via Rome, Dec. 21.—The Austrians were making a tremendous effort today to raise the Russian siege of Przemysl.

With this object in view, a serious sortie had been made from the fortress, and the Slavs were being engaged in the direction of Bureza, whence another Austrian force was trying to reach and relieve the beleaguered city.

Simultaneously, a supreme effort was in progress to drive the Russians backward along the right bank of the Vistula, in southern Poland.

It was believed that the success, either of the sortie or of the operation in Poland, would free Przemysl.

The besiegers were reported to be so short of men and guns as a result of the Austrian attacks in other quarters, that they were able to bombard the chain of forts only on one side.

There was also desperate fighting today in the Carpathians, where the Russians were trying hard to check the movement which expelled them from Hungary and was still driving them to the northward through Galicia.

KAISER RECOVERED.

Berlin, via wireless to London, Dec. 21.—Reports that the kaiser, completely recovered from his recent illness, had returned to the front, were officially confirmed here today. It was not stated whether he had gone to the eastern or the western fighting line.

FLEET OF THE ALLIES IN THE DARDANELLES

Warships Force Outer Defences and Today Are Shelling Inner Forts

Athens, Dec. 21.—Sunday's reports of the forcing by the combined British and French fleet of the outer defenses of the Dardanelles were supplemented today by reports that the warships were shelling the strait's inner forts.

These stories were unofficial, and details were lacking, but the statements came from reliable sources and were generally believed.

If true, they indicated that the fleet had reached the narrowest part of the Dardanelles, having threaded the mine fields which guarded their entrance, and were likely to be heard from next in the Sea of Marmora, which they will have to cross before reaching the Bosporus, on which Constantinople is situated.

HE BROKE THE LAW TO FEED HIS FAMILY

Prompted to a certain extent by sympathy with the motive which led to the commission of the act and because he believed the man deserving of a chance to make good, Governor West late Saturday afternoon granted a conditional pardon to Jack Michall who was serving an indeterminate sentence of one to seven years for larceny from a dwelling, committed in Sherman county last year. As a result of the pardon Michall has been restored to his family of a wife and three children, who as soon as the husband and father was sent to prison for stealing the necessities of life to protect them from want and possible starvation, sold out their only possession, a team of horses and wagon, for \$23 and came to Salem to live in a ten and he near their loved one.

Michall with his family took up a homestead in Sherman county and, last fall, being unable to make a living on the homestead, decided to return to Iowa by train. Having proceeded as far as Walla Walla they were caught in a severe cold snap and decided to return, to remain until spring on the homestead. It was upon the return trip that Michall, in order to protect his family from suffering during the long winter, was moved to steal the goods that caused his arrest, conviction and sentence to the penitentiary, and the governor believed, in the light of the circumstances which surrounded the case, that Michall was entitled to clemency and a chance to earn an honest living.

Since his incarceration in the state prison Michall's wife and three children have lived in a tent in the outskirts of Salem and have suffered severely from want and privation.

BLUE SKY LAW AT WORK.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 21.—Thousands of corporations' associations and their agents throughout California will be forced to halt the sale and offering of stocks and securities for several weeks to come, because of the provisions of the blue sky law which became effective with other amendments last Friday at midnight.

TAX LEVY 1.35 MILLS OUTSIDE THE CITIES; IN SALEM 30.5 MILLS

To This Must Be Added Special Road or School Tax Voted by Districts

SAVING IS 2.2 MILLS AND IN CITY 3.7 MILLS

Total Assessed Valuation of County Is \$43,040,358--Some Property Held Out

The following table shows the tax levy for next year according to the present budget:

State tax	3.3 mills
County tax	3.5 mills
School tax	2.7 mills
Road tax	1.0 mill
Total	10.5 mills

This is the general tax to be paid by property owners outside of the incorporated cities in this county. To this tax is to be added the special road and school taxes voted in some districts which in some instances are as high as 10 mills for roads and 12 mills for special school taxes.

The Tax in Salem.

The taxpayers of the city of Salem will pay according to the following table:

State tax	3.3 mills
County tax	3.5 mills
School tax	2.7 mills
City tax	14.0 mills
School tax	7.0 mills
Total	30.5 mills

This is a reduction of 3.7 mills from last year, when the levy in this city was 34.2 mills. The retrenchment in taxes has been general in all lines. Last year the state tax was 3.4 mills, the county tax 3.5 mills and the school tax 2.6 mills, or a total of 11.7 mills, as against 9.5 mills for this year. The city tax last year was 15.5 mills, or 1.3 mills more than the present levy and the school tax in Salem was 7.5 for last year, or 3 mills more than this year.

Property Value \$43,040,358.

The total of the tax roll in this county, according to County Assessor Ben F. West, is \$43,449,833. Of this sum \$37,880,975 is for real and personal property of all kinds and \$5,568,758 is the assessed value placed upon public service corporations in this county by the state tax commission. Taxes this year will be raised upon only \$43,040,358, as approximately \$409,475 is the assessed valuation of the Oregon and California Railroad company property in this county, which is tangled up in litigation and not taxable pending an appeal of the case now in the federal courts. About \$34,000 is thus held in abeyance by the courts.

Pared to the Bone.

The meeting of the taxpayers will be held December 30 of this year to pass upon the levy. This meeting is more or less a matter of form, however, as over 90 per cent of the present budget as fixed by the state law and cannot be reduced. The only item that can be cut down by an objection on the part of the taxpayers is the county tax levy of 3.5 mills, and the greater part of this item is fixed by law. The circuit court expenses and the salaries of the county officials cannot be reduced and only the miscellaneous accounts as the poor account and a few other accounts can be cut down and those have been pared to a minimum by the county court in the budget.

The taxpayers' meeting will be held as usual, however, but it is doubtful if the above table of taxes will be reduced. The policy of retrenchment on taxes has been followed in all instances according to the county court, and even the amount for the proposed steel bridge across the river at this place has been left out so it is believed that the above levy will be sustained by the taxpayers at their meeting on December 30, when the county court will explain its expenditures.

RECORD WHEAT PRICE.

Portland, Or., Dec. 21.—The highest official price wheat has ever attained in the Pacific Northwest was recorded on the Merchants Exchange here today when 5,000 bushels of February Club was sold at \$1.20 1/2 and 3,000 bushels of Red Russian at \$1.22.

The entire market was from \$1 to 15 cents above Saturday's. The European demand for wheat is stronger than ever before, and experts estimate that only about 4,000,000 bushels of this cereal remains to be disposed of by the farmers of Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

W. M. HAMILTON NAMED CHAIRMAN OF BOARD

W. M. Hamilton was elected chairman of the board of governors of the Salem commercial club at the joint meeting of the old and new boards at the Hotel Marion today and William Walton, Curtis Cross, Theo. Roth, David Eyre, and E. C. Bishop were installed as the new board. Little new business was taken up at this meeting. It was decided to take up with the congressional committee at Washington the proposition of having the post office buildings at the Falls and McLeod built out of Oregon stone. There are a number of quarries in this state which produce stone suitable for this purpose and it is proposed to have the buildings put up out of this material if possible.

Signs calling the attention of the 1915 fair visitors to Salem will be erected along the S. P. railroad and Secretary Moore outlined his plan to send out follow-up letters to eastern people who show an interest in this state.

MISCREANT SHOOTS AT TWO LITTLE GIRLS

Last Sunday evening a few minutes before six o'clock, while O. V. Myers' two little girls were standing in the northeast door of their home, about a mile northeast of town, three shots were fired at presumably the children which one of the little girls carried in her hand. One of the shots hit just above the door jamb, another hit the bare, while the other missed entirely.

The little girls had gone out after some ice cream that had been left outside in the freezer when the shots were fired, and Mr. Myers was in the wood shed at the time.

Mr. Myers dug out one of the bullets and undoubtedly it was fired from a .22. Considerable mystery surrounds the episode, as there was no occasion for anything of this kind, and had the family had trouble of any kind with anyone, Mr. Myers' knowledge.

It is to be hoped that the miscreant will be apprehended, as it is a serious thing to shoot at people in their own homes, even if they are not injured.—Stavton Mail.

PLEA, NOT GUILTY.

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—A plea of not guilty to a charge of murdering George Gray, a wealthy San Francisco contractor, was made here today by Joseph Loevas, Italian laborer, who shot Gray when the latter refused to pay him ten days' wages which were due. A date for the trial will be set next Saturday.

THAW MUST FACE TRIAL IN NEW YORK

Supreme Court Overrules New Hampshire Supreme Court Decision

Washington, Dec. 21.—Harry K. Thaw, slayer of Stanford White, was ordered extradited by the United States supreme court today from New Hampshire to New York.

The court's decision means that Thaw must return to New York and face trial on a charge of conspiracy. The ruling today reversed the decision of the New Hampshire supreme court, which granted Thaw's application for a writ of habeas corpus.

Whether Thaw will be returned to the Matteawan asylum for the criminal insane will depend on the New York authorities. Thaw's attorneys here declared that their client was not tried for conspiracy and if attempts were made to hold him as an alleged lunatic, another habeas corpus writ would be sought.

The court's opinion was read by Justice Holmes. It overruled nearly every point made by Thaw's counsel, saying in part:

"Thaw was a fugitive from justice and was charged with a real crime. It is for a jury in the state of New York, after considering the laws of the state, to determine whether or not Thaw was insane at the time of the act or whether he is guilty of crime against the laws of New York."

"Thaw's attorneys alleged that it was no crime for a man in an insane asylum in the state of New York to walk out if he could do so. Therefore, it was contended that it was not a crime to do this thing. But that does not necessarily follow.

"It is not crime for a person to withhold his patronage from a certain shop, but if a number of persons conspire together to withhold their patronage from that shop it becomes a conspiracy, punishable legally, and, therefore, we are obliged to hold that the withdrawal of Thaw from an insane asylum, inasmuch as he did it to obstruct the law, was a conspiracy for that purpose, and consequently the indictment on which the state of New York sought to bring Thaw back to New York, charges a crime.

"We are also obliged to hold, on the same theory, that Thaw is a fugitive from justice. He has further been contended that if Thaw is insane, he is not guilty of any crime under the laws of New York, and that, if he is not insane, he would have been discharged from the asylum. But the statutes require that if a supposedly insane person commits a crime, it is necessary for the defense to prove that that person was insane at the actual moment of the overt act. It has been held that a person may be insane and yet realize at the time of the crime that it was wrong.

"Now, this is not Thaw's trial. That must be decided under the laws of New York, by a New York jury, and furthermore no discretion is given in the law providing for extradition, and it plainly says that, upon an indictment charging fraud being found, and proof of that submitted to the state to which the fugitive has fled, the fugitive must be surrendered to the demanding state. For this, and other reasons, we reverse the decision of the district court of New Hampshire."

Has Learned Caution.

The supposition was that Joffre intended to delay his main offensive until spring, when he will have a much larger force at his disposal than at present. The developments of new conditions, however, evidently caused it to be launched much earlier than was anticipated.

Presumably these new conditions consisted in the unexpectedly rapid delivery of arms and ammunition to the allies—quite possibly from the United States.

It has not been lack of men but lack of equipment which has been the prime reason why the allies have been the Germans' inferiors since fighting began in the western war zone.

All these circumstances seem to imply an early attempt by the Anglo-Franco-Belgian forces to drive the kaiser's troops back to their Rhine defenses.

At the same time it must be emphasized that General Joffre has learned extreme caution from the lessons of the first few weeks of the war in Alsace and Lorraine. Hence it is certain that no order will be given for a general advance until conditions are as nearly as possible what the French commander wants them to be.

He is the most patient, secretive warrior of his time, and military observers may be deceived concerning his intentions.

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Usually the so called dignity man attempts to stand on is nothing but a bluff.

The Weather

Oregon: Generally fair tonight and Tuesday; not much change in temperature, east-erly winds.

THAT FIRE FEELS GOOD

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GERMANS EXPECT GENERAL ATTACK BY ALLIED FORCES

Pressure of Allies All Along the German Line Is Making Itself Felt

LACK OF EQUIPMENT HAMPERED ALLIES

Teuton Leaders Think Attacks Are Forerunners of General Attack

By J. W. T. Mason, (Former London correspondent for the United Press.)

New York, Dec. 21.—Berlin, for the first time, suggested today that the offensive in southwestern Belgium had passed from the Germans to the allies. In connection with this intimation, the further fact was made public that the long expected general attack of the Anglo-Franco-Belgian forces had not yet developed.

The official form of the Berlin declaration was a speculative suggestion that this new offensive might now be beginning.

It is apparent that the Germans are feeling the pressure which the allies have been bringing to bear against their front in Belgium and northern France in the past fortnight.

Reports from French and British sources have conveyed the impression that these attacks were not more than reconnaissance in force, ordered by General Joffre to determine the relative strength of the various German positions. Berlin, however, places a more serious interpretation on the allies' purposes.

Undoubtedly this means that the attacks on the German trenches are increasing in violence and that the gains they are making are becoming noticeable.

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MAYTORENA'S TROOPS ORDERED WITHDRAWN

Wholesale Arrests and Many Executions Are Reported in Vera Cruz

Washington, Dec. 21.—"The situation at Naco is very much relieved," government officials here announced today. They admitted, however, that they were watching developments in the interior of Mexico as a result of reports that General Carranza had ordered wholesale executions at Vera Cruz. Executions elsewhere were also reported.

Skirmishes preliminary to a big battle between Villistas and Carranzistas, in the vicinity of Torreon, also were reported today.

Official dispatches to the state department from Mexico City indicated the peace convention meeting on January 1 would depose Provisional President Gutierrez.

To Depose Gutierrez.

Washington, Dec. 21.—Provisional President Gutierrez of Mexico notified the state department today that General Maytorena, commanding the Villa forces, would move back from his present position at Naco, Sonora, to a point beyond range of the American border.

Trouble in Vera Cruz.

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 21.—Unconfirmed reports received here today said the Mexican troops at Vera Cruz were beyond General Carranza's control, and were making scores of arrests. Numerous executions also were reported.

ALLIES' CLAIMS ARE DENIED BY GERMANS

French War Office Claims Gains but Germans Say Positions Are Unchanged

Paris, Dec. 21.—Occupation by the allies of the German's entire line of trenches southwest of Loos was announced in the war office's official statement posted here today.

In their advance on Peronne, the destruction by the French was also reported of the German trenches and two pieces of artillery east of Albert.

Important gains were claimed elsewhere in both France and Belgium. The Germans were accused of bombarding the Ypres hospital Sunday.

The war office added that it was not true the British had taken Roulers, as reported, but fighting for the town, it was stated, was in progress.

Constant advances by the allies were reported in the Arras and Ypres regions. From Belgium came news of the steady arrival of trainloads after trainloads of German wounded from the front.

It was said the kaiser's forces were threatened with a typhoid fever epidemic.

"December 20," said the statement, "progress was made at several points in Belgium. The Germans bombarded the Ypres hospital."

"Between the Lys and the Albert the French took the woods near Aix Noullette, where we occupied the entire first line of German trenches southwest of Loos.

Arras was again bombarded by the Germans. The French artillery silenced the German guns east of Albert and smashed the trenches and put two gunnery out of commission southwest of Carnoy.

"We are gaining the advantage in the regions of the Albert. Progress also is being made along the entire line between the Champagne district and the Argonne, and Meuse. We are advancing on the heights of the Meuse and elsewhere."

Fighting Grows Fiercer.

Paris, Dec. 21.—Fighting in northern France and northwestern Belgium was increasing in violence and extent today. Warships off the Belgian coast were aiding the allies by shelling the Germans' right flank.

In the Belgian fighting it was stated that Middlekerke had been captured by the allies.

In France the capture was announced of two more lines of German trenches southeast of Lalasse.

The German Verdict.

Berlin, via wireless to London, Dec. 21.—German attacks on the Russian positions are still in progress, according to a war office announcement issued today. The East Prussian situation was said to be unchanged.

GREATEST BATTLE OF WAR IMMINENT IN WARSAW REGION

More Than a Million in Russian Army Lined Up to Meet Germans

RECENT FIGHTING HAS ALL BEEN DESPERATE

Experts Say If Germans Break Russian Line It Will Be After Terrific Battle

London, Dec. 21.—The Russians were believed here today to have formed an entirely new line for Warsaw's defense. A specific statement to the effect that this had been accomplished was lacking, but it was so strongly indicated in dispatches from Petrograd that British military experts felt no doubt concerning the fact.

The best judges were of the opinion that if the Germans broke through the Slav front at all they would do so only at the expense of a terrific battle, on a scale which even the present war has not yet seen.

It was said there were more than 1,000,000 men in the Warsaw defensive line.

The Slavs were described as massed along a 60-mile front extending from Skiernewicz to the Pilecarz. This from an extension to the southward was said to have been necessitated by the Austro-German advance in the Piotrkow region.

The main German advance, it was stated, was along the Buzza river and the railroad from Lowicz, which Marshal Von Hindenburg had captured, to Warsaw.

The Vistula river was reported to have begun freezing over and snows and chilling rains were declared to be hampering the Teutons' progress seriously.

The fighting of the past week, all accounts agreed, was of the most desperate character.

A detachment of 2,000 of the kaiser's famous Death Head Hussars was said to have been trapped near Lowicz, and nearly wiped out, only fifty men surviving. Even these were captured by the Russians.

Hard fighting on a large scale was also developing along the southern front.

WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR PRINTING REPORTS

According to the interpretation of the laws governing the different departments by the state printing board, in