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THE WEATHER.

RICHMOND HOLDS OWN WITH FIELD FOR SPEAKERSHIP

Douglas County Representative at Lincoln Contending Against All Candidates in Race.

OTHERS ARE NOT COMBINING

All Aspirants on the Scene, but Fight Has Not Reached the Stage of Finality.

JACKSON AND FRIES TALKED OF

Howard County Democrat Mentioned as Having Strong Backing.

SENATE FIGHT IS DIGNIFIED

Canens of Members Will Be Held Monday Night, When Decision Will Be Reached as to the Winner.

(From a Staff Correspondent.) DINCOLN, Jan. 3. - (Special.)-There has been very little change in the speakgership fight. The candidates for the offices are all on the ground and it is still the field against Richmond, with a possible change in sentiment toward George Jackson. However, the change is small and unless the field unites upon someone who can pull the combined vote of all the other candidates it still looks like Richmond.

Some of the candidates themselves if they cannot land, are imble to go to Richmond as a second choice, and for that reason there is not much chance of a get-to-gether against the Omaha statesmay, unless some new man is sprung, who will not only draw most of the votes of the field, but perhaps draw a few from Richmond. The Richmond line is a sturdy one and it may ot be possible for the allies to reach the trenches and scatter the forces with any chance of victory for themselves.

Fries May Re Surprise. There is some Norton talk, but it has not reached a stage where it is strong enough to stand alone. The most formidable dark complexioned animal, which has appeared so far is the candidacy of Scren Fries, the Howard county gentleman. It is said that the corporation influence is behind an effort to put Fries into the fight at the proper time. It is Fries across, but so far the scheme is in its incipiency with Trumble of Sherman, acting as chief of staff and envoy

extraordinary. Few Combinations Yet. The fight so far has not developed any very strong combinations, but that may come before midnight tonight. There are rumors of tie-ups, most of them so improbable that they do not get very One is Jackson and Potts for speaker and chief clerk. Another is Davis and Cone for chief clerk and first assistant. Still another says Fries for speaker and Cone for chief clerk. But these are only rumors and have not reacked far. The two leading candidates for speaker and chief clerk, Richmond for speaker and McKissick for clerk, do not seem to have entered into any combine with anybody and they are still standing on their own foundation and making the fight so far without any

tic-ups with other candidates. In the Senate.

There is no change either in the senate fight, if the condition can be called a fight. Senator Ollis seems to still stand well with the members, who have arrived. Senator Kohl came in late last night from Wayne, but says he is making no fight for the presidency of the Senator Grace had not arrived at 2 o'clock this afternoon and so it is probable that the scrap for position in the dignified end of the legislature will not reach an undignified state.

Howard and Negley Arrive. John I. Negley of Omaha was the only member of the Dougias county delega- office. His feet were bound with wire tion, who had put in an appearance to- and a wire band was about one wrist, day at noon, except Jerry Howard, who the other being free, although the wire has been here since Monday. Mr. Neg- had been broken and had originally icy is at the Lincoln, where most of the bound both hands. The body of Miss democratic members are holding forth, Signal was found lying in the opposite although the Lindell appears to be the direction with both hands and feet bound mecca, where most of them congregate with wire in a similar manner, her hands after getting their bearings. This is probably due to the fact that the Lindell is see the need of the right kind of instruction to start them out on right lines of legislation.

Legislative Program.

pointed at the last session. The matter blown out, apparently by the heat. fewer expert assistants.

The Weather

For Nebraska and Iowa-Generally fair; not much change in temperature. Temperature at Omaha Yesterday.



1915 1914 1913 26 21 40 Highest yesterday.... Lowest yesterday.... Mean temperature.... Precipitation

Temperature and precipitation tures from the normal: ormal temperature

xcess for the day
otal excess since March 1...
ormal precipitation
officiency for the day
otal rainfall since March 1...

NEUTRALS WATCHFUL-Swiss Alpine guards on their lonely vigil on the Alsatian frontier.



also rumored that the Sink-Benton com-bination is back of the scheme to put TO SET BROOKS FREE

Murder Trial at Wheeler, S. D., Ends Very Suddenly in Sensational

Defendant Charged with Murder of William Menzie and Blanche

WHEELER, S. D., Jan. 3.-Judge R. B. Tripp closed the Brooks murder trial suddealy here tonight by directing the jury to return a verdict for the defendant. The court refused to hear rebuttal witnesses for the state. Both sides then waived arguments and when the judge arose, presumably to instruct the jury, he ordered the twelve men to return a verdict of acuittal, ending the case in a

sensational manner. The crime for which Robert Brooks was tried-the murder of William H. Menzie and Blanche Signal-occurred in Geddes, S D., on the night of April 16, 1914, the hodies of Menzie and Miss Signal being found in the burned ruins of the elevator company's office of which Menzie was manager.

Position of Body. When Menzie's body was discovered it was stretched full length crosswise of the

being behind ber. Miss Signal had a hole in her skull epublican headquarters and the members about three-fourths of an inch deep, apparently made by the blow of a hammer, which was found nearby with the handle burned out. Menzie had a bullet hole in his head and a bruised place on his skull A meeting has been called tomorrow at that might have been caused by the blow 3:30 in the afternoon to discuss the pro- of a hammer. A revolver was found gram of running the legislature laid nearby which showed that one bullet had down by the legislative committee, ap- been discharged and another champer is being much discussed and most of the | One motive offered for the murder by

First Service Held In Auditorium of

The first services in the new auditorium of Plymouth Congregational new building at Eighteenth and Emmet street. The auditorium marks the com pletion of the new church built since the tornado of March 23, 1913, destroyed the old church. Hundreds flocked to the services Sunday morning and filled the auditorium to overflowing so that many were turned away unable to find accommodations. Services have been held in the

basement for over two months. Rev. F. W. Leavitt preached the He chose to talk on the subject represented by the painting in the window at the back of the church, "Behold ! stand at the window and knock." Seventeen new members were taken

into the church during the service. Two

children were baptized. It was expected that the new pipe organ would be ready for use for this opening service, but this could not be put into & Co. in North Philadelphia was de-shape in time, so it could not be used, stroyed by fire today. More than \$500,600 Meade and Riley forts.

GREAT WAR REACHES STATUS OF DRAW

Neutrals in Their Confidence to Appreciate This.

Belief in High Circles that Neither Teutons Nor Allies Have Chance of Winning Decisive Triumph.

Copyright, 1915, by Press Publishing Co.) LONDON, Jan. 3 .- (Special Cablegram to New York World and Omaha Bee.)-According to information received from two distinctly neutral sources "governing" Germany has already come to a realization that the country cannot conquer in this war.

The World correspondent has seen a letter from a Danish banker written to the head of one of the greatest field nospitals and it said that a Berlin magnate of finance admitted to the writer that ruling powers of Germany acknowledged it is impossible to conquer. The exact text of this part of the letter "Un des magnats Berliners de la Finace ma avoue que les Dirigeants Allemands se rendraient compte del'impossibilte de vanere."

People Still Consident. Information from another source strikngly confirms the statement made in this letter. The informant is an official of a neutral country who has just arrived in London after a lengthy visit to Germany and France.

Throughout Germany, he states, the opular confidence in the military organization and the eventual triumph of German arms remains unimpaired, but the taking a hand in the war. military authorities themselves have been obliged to recognize that their chances of a smashing victory are gone. The view now is that war must result

in a sort of military stalemate. The hope of reaching Warsaw abandoned and even the capture of Warsaw would not affect the issue.

The allies of course would be equally members are for the simplified new the authorities was the strong opposition the talk of an allied march upon Berlin, method, which calls for less work and of Menzie to the liquor and gambling in- either from the cast or the west, is mere

Germans Win Much. The present position from a German military point of view is entirely in favor of Germany. Its armies hold hostile country and its own borders except in Plymouth Church one unimportant instance are inviolate. While, however, Germans, according to Sandringham. my informant justifiably claim the honors of war, their military leaders have come reluctantly to the conclusion church were held Sunday morning in the that a decisive triumph cannot be won by force of arms

Fire Blocks Traffic On Reading Railroad

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 1-Fire Reading Railway company, a coal and partmental headquarters here. lumber yard and several buildings belonging to the Dialogue Ship Building ompany.

All traffic on the Reading lines to Atlantic City and all points in south Jersey has been suspended. Reading tickets are being honored by the Pennsylvania railroad. The loss is estimated at \$300,000.

The large lumber yard of Charles Este

WINTER RAINS **BELAY ARMIES WEST LINE**

Flooded River Valleys Render Operations of the Contending Sides Difficult in the Extreme.

WORST IN EUROPE IN YEARS

Both Fronts Alike Drenched So that Roads Have Become Regular Quagmires.

SLIGHT ADVANCE IS MADE

Germans' Only Forward Move of the Day is Capture of the Town of Borjomow.

RUSS SECURE ANOTHER BASE

Appear to Have Won Additional Opening Through Carpathians.

TURKS FORTIFYING THE FRONT

Peveriah Activity in Direction Not at Present Threatened Indicates Fear the Balkan States Will Enter the Conflict.

rainy winter, the worst Europe has experienced in years, causing floods in the river valleys of the continent as well as those of England, has prevented any operations on a large scale, on the western battle front, and has seriously interferred with those in the east.

Swiss border, and occasioned attacks Arras there is almost complete quiet. by the infantry of the opposing armies, which when not repulsed, infantry advanced some 500 meters near have added a few yards to the territory in the possession of the attacking force, but have always proved costly adventures.

Germans Capture Borjimow. The French have gained a little ground between Albert and Roye just north of the point here the line turns eastward, 'Governing" Germany Said by Some and to the east of Rhelms and southwest of Verdun, where the attempts to make the German positions at St. Mihiel on Manner. to Appreciate This. the Meuse untenable, re proceeding slowly. They have also made some adrepulse to the northwest of the St.

In the east the Germans have captured the important Russian position of Borjibut elsewhere, they have unable to make headway against the Russians who as defenders of well fortified positions, are aided by the wet weather and muddy roads which hinder the German movements.

The Austrians claim to have checke's the Russian advance near Gorlice on the south Galician railway, west of Jaslow, but apparently the battle here has not yet been concluded. The Russlans, on the other hand, have taken the Austrian's positions near Uzsck Pass, which should open another entrance for them through the Carpathians into Hungary, while the Austrians' retreat in Bukowing is described by the Russians

Turks Cross Border The Turks have crossed the Russian border in the Caucasus, and, according to their own account, have defeated the however, displaying anxiety for their remaining possessions in Europe by feverishly fortifying the whole coast line. What they fear is not disclosed, for it is considered hardly possible for the allies to land a sufficient force to prove a menace to them. It is possible they anticipate an invasion from another source. Indications point to the possibility of the Balkan states, which are now neutral,

Greece Is Ready. The Greek minister of finance has declared that Greece is making preparations to maintain the new territory which is it gained in the Balkan wars from Turkey and Buigaria, but that it has more to fear from Bulgaria than from Turkey. It is not thought that Rumania can look on impotent to inflict a fatal blow upon calmly while the Russians are advancing Germany. The allied offensive, accord- toward Transylvania, and it is expected men for every mile of ground gained and secure the much-coveted eastern province of Austria-Hungary.

British Offer Prayers. Throughout the British empire and he English churches in foreign countries intercession services were held today for the success of the allies' arms. Many of the sermons embodied exhortations to the young men to join the army. Kng George attended services in the village church at

Twelve U.S. Forts Almost Depopulated

CHICAGO, Jan. 3.-Calls for United States soldiers on the Mexican border, Colorado, Arkansas and elsewhere during the last two years have depopulated the twelve forts in the central department to amden today destroyed the large train a corporal's guard, according to a report shed and station of the Philadelphia & today by Colonel D. A. Frederick at de-

In January, 1913, the number of troops in the department was 19,529, with 1,107 officers. This year the total is 265 troops, with forty-nine officers, just enough guard the barracks and stables. Of the forty-nine officers, twelve are in

Chicago. The remainder are distributed in the Sheridan, Omaha, Snelling, Wayne, Benjamin Harrison, Crook, D. A. Russell, Des Moines, Leavenworth, McKengie,

The forts average three officers fifty troopers each.

Berlin Finds Good News Everywhere Along the Extended Battle Fronts

BERLIN, Jan. 3 (by wireless to Say- paper) publishes an interview with the ville).-Tas official press bureau today German field marshal, Kolmar von dep gave out the following items:

The situation in the west is considered by the military critics to be steadily improving. They believe the Russian counter offensive in Galicia has been utterly shattered for the time at least.

"Events in the east, however, have

"The small amount of space given by all the newspapers to the western war ing that the central point of interest still is in Poland, and that the struggle in the west has settled down into a monotonous endurance test.

"The newspapers profess to have relutely no damage. It is believed that four of the English aeroplanes were lost; that lleved two British torpedo boat destroyers were damaged.

"The Tanine (a Constantinople news- strongest of the belligerents."

GIVE FRENCH LEAD Demolish Several German Fortifica- Succeed in the Taking of Specially tions on Plateau of Touvenl

ARTILLERY FIGHTS

from Oise to Meuse.

LONDON, Jan. 3 .- The extremely Two German Charges Near La Grutre Are Failures and French Eastly Maintain Former Gains in Upper Alsace Regions.

PARIS, Jan. 3.-The French official statement issued this afternoon says: strengthened the position to the north of MAYS: the Lys gained during the preceding days. The enemy has shown activity only in ships, accompanied by torpedo boats, ap-There have been heavy artillery the region of Zonnebeke, which he has engagements from the sea to the violently bombarded. From the Lya to There was an artillery engagement in

> La Boisselle. Demolish Fortifications. 'From the Oise to the Meuse on the plateau of Touveni our heavy artillery has demolished several fortifications from which the enemy was harrassing our

> sappers. "Spirited artillery duels have taken place to the west and east of Craonne. Near Perthe-Les-Hurlus we have prowhich we have inflicted serious losses on

> "The Germans have launched two at tacks without success in the forest of La Gruire. On all this portion of the front activity.

'In the region of little ground in the forest of Bouchon. northeast of Troyon, and in the forest of tion. La Pretre, northwest of Pont-A-Mouson.

Occupy Enemy's Trenches. "In the Vosges we have occupied one of the enemy's trenches. Artillery engagements have taken place in the Dan De Sapt and in the valley of the Fave. "In upper Alsace our former gains in

the region of Thann have been maintained. We have bombarded a German train in the railway station of Altkirch and caused some damage on the rallway between Carspach and Dierspach, to the outhwest of Altkirch.

"In general, the perceptible abatemen which can be noted in our active offensive should be attributed to the incessant Russian garrison at Ardahan. They are, rains, which soak the ground and make operations everywhere almost impossible. Weather Continues Bad.

The following official communication was issued tonight: "According to the latest advices ceived here, there has been no alteration in the situation. The weather continues to be very bad on almost the whole front."

Turkish War Office Reports Capture of Large Russian Town CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 3 (Via Lon-

on, 8:10 p. m.).-The Turkish war office today gave out the following statement: "Our troops took Ardahan (a Russia: ing to German calculations, will cost 5,000 that it will join with Russia and try to fortified town in Transcaucasia forty-five miles northwest of Kars) on January 1 Ardahan was defended by General Zuchen with 2,000 infantry, 1,000 Cossacks, six field guns and two machine guns, "The battle for the town, which com-

menced December 29, ended in the flight of the Russians, who lost heavily "Our troops, in conjunction with Persian the following notice to his troops: tribesmen, have completely defeated 4,600 Russians, who had more than ten cannon, models have been placed on sale and hundred Russians were killed and they lost six cannon.

"According to reports from Erserum. Russian prisoners from the latest battles re on the way there."

Turks Take Ardahan, In Russian Caucasus Blease Opens Pen

LONDON, Jan. 3-"The Turks have ocupied Ardahan, penetrating fifty miles into the Russian Caucasus," says the Constantinople correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph company.

Ardahan is a fortified town on Kur. forty-five miles northwest of Kars, PETROGRAD, Jan. 2 (via London) .- of twenty-eight commuted. Ottoman troops are showing renewed

Goltz, military commandant of Constantinople and acting Turkish minister of war who expresses confidence over the out took for Turkey. In the interview Field Mine Thrower Used by Germans in ish army has made great progress since

brought surprises, so that predictions as , his last visit to Constantinople. Berlin to the situation there cannot safely be is showing a grateful feeling over the relief which the latest reports received here say is being given by the German residents in China to the destitute women theater apparently is indicative of a feel- and children at the Tsing-Tau garrison "The official publication of the German socialist trade union, the greatest work-

men's association, reviewing the year 1914 BB3'81 'We know that we have to hold out and we shall do so. Our confidence ceived information that the English in is based not only on the strength, or their recent raid on Cuxhaven did abso- ganisation and execution of discipline in the army, but also on the love of coun try that unites all Germans without exthe cruiser Arethusa was badly damaged ception. If the war keeps on for months and another cruiser somewhat damaged or for years it will merely forge the naby German bombs. In addition, it is bestion into more united solidarity and increase its forces immeasurably. The Germans will emerge from the world war the

GERMANS WIN WEST OF VISTULA RIVER

Strengthened Point in 'Appui of Russians at Borgimow.

REPULSE THE PRUSSIAN ATTACK CAPTURE THOUSAND PRISONERS

Russians Attempt to Retake Posttion in Three Night Attacks, but Are Driven Back, Suffering Heavy Losses,

BERLIN, Jan. 3 (by wireless to London "During the day of January 2 we today by the German army headquarters kaleidoscopic changes in the situa-"Western theater: Some of the enemy's

peared off Westende (Bolgium) yesterday afternoon, without firing. tillery fights took place. An infantry atthe region of Albert and Roye, and our tack by the enemy followed to the north of St. Menhould (in the Argonne forest).

> "In East Prussis and in North Poland there is no change in the situation.

Take Russian Position. the west of the Vistula river our strengthened point in the 'Appui of the division in the battle line along the Russians at Borgimow after several days Rawka river, the operations were marked of very hard fighting in which we cap- by advances of from ten to twelve miles gressed about 300 meters. Near Beause tured 1,000 prisoners and six machine in a few places, but in general the in-Jour there has been infantry fighting in guns. In three night attacks the Russians fantry is fighting its way foot by foot attempted to retake Borgimow, but they with the aid of artillery support. were all driven off with heavy losses.

attack is proceeding steadily. the artillery has shown everywhere great ported successes in the vicinity of Inow- artillery is handicapped by weather conlods, on the Pilica river seven miles east ditions and the short days which make Verdun and on the of Tomassow. These are pure inventions, observations and the direction of the heights of the Meuse there was an ar- Russian attacks in that district were re- fire possible only for short periods, the tillery duel. We have again gained a pulsed with heavy losses to them, and minute mine throwers are busy day and yesterday they ceased to attack the posi- night hurling projectiles of 200 pounds

> "On the east of the Pilica river the at a range that is very effective situation is unchanged."

Conscription is In Sight for the Men of England

the army and navy was dropped by in all directions. Thomas J. MacNamara, parliamentary secretary to the admiralty while speak-

many thousands of young men in the ity, as its victims are torn to bita. Inited Kingdom without dependents who had not answered the call to the colors, Mr. MacNamara said:

"If they think they are going to enjoy a life of freedom at the other fellows' expense, they won't enjoy it much

The recruiting boom which commenced after the holldays continues. As the result of six open air meetings at Cardiff, addressed by wounded soldiers, there was an extraordinary rush to the recruiting offices last evening and the recruiting officers were kept busy until an early hour this morning. At one meeting alone, 6.000 men bared their heads when the national anthems of the ailies were sung.

Bullet-Proof Armor Of No Value at All

PARIS, Jan. 3.-The general command ing the Eighteenth German army corps has, according to the Paris Temps, issued "Bullet-proof armor, of which various

ten miles northwest of Saonjbulak. Four actively advertised, does not give at all the protection promised. On the contrary, upon expeau:e to fire it is shown that the armor, instead of protecting, become Purkish Armenia, great transports of itself the cause of grave wounds to those wearing it. Besides, the pieces of armor interfere with freedom of movement and make the soldier's work more difficult. It is necessary to igsue this caution against worthless purchases."

Doors "Some More"

OLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 2.-Governor Blease today increased the number of his holiday pardons, paroles and commutations to 170 by acting favorably in the cases of seventy-one state prisoners. Toin Transcaucasia. Fighting between the day's list included thirty-three prisoners Turks and Russians has been going on serving life terms for murder. Two were in the region of Ardahan for several days. pardoned, three paroled and the sentences

> Within the last four years the governor farms have been almost depopulated.

SLOW BALL BOMB TERRORIZES RUSS, CAN SEE IT COME

Poland Most Terrible Weapon of All to Victims,

MISSILE JUST WOBBLES ALONG

Projectile Can Be Plainly Followed with Eye and Tension on Men in Trenches Dreadful.

Associated Press Correspondent

THOSE HIT ARE TORN TO BITS

with German Armies at Posen Describes Fighting. SAPPING THEIR WAY FORWARD

Struggle Along Heavily Entrenched Line of Field Fortifications.

OPPOSING FORCES CLOSE Battle Stationary in Many Places Along Front in East, Rapid

Movements Not Now Char-

acterising Warfare. POSEN, Germany, Jan. 3 .- (Via Berlin and The Hague to London.) The battle is now stationary at many parts of the long front in Poland. The rapid movements of the 2.30 p. m.).-The official statement issued army forward and backward, with tion, which hitherto have characterized the warfare in the east have given place, for the time being at least to a struggle along a heavily "On the whole of the western front ar- entrenched line of field fortifications,

resembling those in France. The German and Austrian allies are in close contact with the army of Grand It was beaten off with severe lesses to Duke Nicholas, but they are engaged in sapping instead of maneuvering their

way forward. Fight Foot by Foot. During the fortnight which a correspondent of The Associated Press spent roops succeeded in taking a specially at the front attached to the staff of one

In these operations the artillery and "To the east of the Rawka river our mine throwers are trumps, instead of the | soldiers' legs. The mine throwers are "The Russians several times have re- particularly effective aithough the heavy of high explosives from trench to trench

Wobble Through Air. During the comparatively short time one of these huge missiles is in view, wobbling through the air along an erratio parabola, the sight is most impressive The projectile can be plainly followed with the eye, and the tension upon the men in the trenches as the bomb comes nearer and nearer is beyond all comparison to the effect caused by heavy artii-LONDON, Jan. 3.-A hint that the lery shells, which are unseen until the British government contemplated the introduction of conscription for increasing and scatters the fragments of the sheil

Russian prisioners, of whom there is a constant stream moving through the Gering at the Browning settlement this aft- man lines, stated to the correspondent that the leading of each mine causes a catas-Referring to the fact that there were trophie in the trenches and their vicin-

Austrian Retreat Takes Character of Rout, Say Russians

PETROGRAD, Jan. 3.-The following tatement was issued today by the Russian army headquarters: "On the Bzura and Rawka rivers we

are continuing the successful repulse of German attacks in spite of the enemy's heavy artiflery fire and bomb throwing. "On the road to Wloszczowa in the Kielce region, at the village of Lopuszno, on December 31, German troops after a stubborn battle took possession of a portion of our trenches, but a later counter attack forced the enemy to abandon all the trenches previously occupied. During this affair we captured several hundred prisoners and nine machine guns.

"In western Galicia fighting continues in the region of Gorlice. In the region of Colujok we occupied Austrian positions, where we took as many as 1,000 prisoners. "The Austrian retreat in Bukowing before the drive of our troops has taken the character of a great rout.

SITUATION IN ALBANIA REPORTED MUCH WORSE

LONDON, Jan. 3.-The situation in Alunia is much worze. The insurgents are said to have occupied Derat and to be marching on Dibra

This statement is made by the Athens correspondent of the Reuter Telegraph mpany, who also sends the following: The authorities at the Dardanelles ave expelled all the consuls of neutral ountries and also those of Austria-Hungary.

TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND **AUSTRIANS CAPTURED**

PETROGRAD (Via London), Jan. 1 .-The Russian army under General Radko Dimitrieff has captured 22,570 Austrians activity in the Cancasus, the Turks hav- has granted elemency in 1.614 cases. The and forty-five machine guns during the ing crossed the Russian frontier at three state penitentiary and state convict last formight, according to an official announcement given out here.