

**CLAIM BIG VICTORY**

**GERMANS DECLARE RUSSIANS ARE IN FULL RETREAT ALL ALONG LINE.**

**PETROGRAD REPORTS GAINS**

**Official Statement Says Austrian Offensive in Western Galicia Has Been Checked and 3,000 Prisoners Taken.**

London, Dec. 21.—Although there seems no doubt that the Russians are retreating and that for the present any anticipations of a German invasion must be dismissed, considerable mystery surrounds the reported decisive victory by the Germans which Berlin celebrated.

The following statement from the general staff of the Russian army was made public in Petrograd:

"On the left bank of the Vistula an almost complete lull has replaced the attacks made by the enemy. All of these attacks were repulsed.

"In connection with the advance of part of our troops toward the Buzra river (Russian Poland) and in view of the fact that the Austrians are continually receiving reinforcements in the Carpathians, we have thought fit to rearrange the positions of some of our armies.

"We checked the offensive of the enemy in western Galicia. We have captured 3,000 prisoners, several guns and mitrailleurs."

Berlin, Dec. 21, by wireless.—The official press bureau gave out the following items:

"In Poland we continue to pursue the retreating enemy.

"Although the headquarters report is chary of details there is general expectation that the Russian defeat will prove to have been complete. From details already available, however, it seems safe to say that the victory has freed Germany for a long period from any possible menace of invasion from the east.

**SAYS RUSS OFFENSIVE HOLDS**

**Petrograd Has a Report That the Czar's Troops Are Closing in on Cracow.**

Petrograd, Dec. 18.—The Russian offensive against Cracow is being maintained despite violent counterattacks by the allied Teutonic troops in that region, according to dispatches received from Lemberg.

"Russia's iron circle is being drawn closer around Cracow," telegraphs the correspondent of the Bourse Gazette. "The main Austrian forces have retired within the forts. Only vanguards are left in the trenches. The distance between the Russian and the Austro-German trenches is only about one hundred paces. The Russians fire seldom, but the Austrians maintain an unceasing fire day and night."

**SECOND CRUISER TO CANAL**

**Col. Goethals Tells War Department Neutrality Can Be Violated Unless He Can Guard Zone.**

Portsmouth, N. H., Dec. 18.—The Portsmouth navy yard has been asked by the navy department how quickly the cruiser Washington can be made ready for service. It is understood the department wishes to send the Washington to Panama.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Colonel Goethals informed the war department that neutrality might be violated without detection unless he had ships to patrol Canal Zone waters. The cruiser Tacoma left Guantanamo today for Cristobal.

**DISROBE AND DUCK GIRL**

**This is the Charge of a Purdue Coed Against Seven of Her Sex.**

Lafayette, Ind., Dec. 18.—Miss Mabel Rogers of Shoals, Ind., was subjected to an oral examination by attorneys for seven girl students of Purdue university, whom Miss Rogers is suing for damages. She told her story that she had been pricked with pins, her face painted with red ink, partly disrobed and thrown into a tub of cold water. The plaintiff alleges that her health was impaired by the hazing.

**APPROPRIATION BILL PASSED**

**Measure Carrying \$36,500,000 Wins in House—Agricultural Census Eliminated.**

Washington, Dec. 21.—After eliminating the \$2,000,000 item for an agricultural census in 1915, the house on Friday passed the legislative appropriation bill carrying approximately \$36,500,000.

**Accident Costs Bank \$100,000.**

New York, Dec. 21.—The Emigrant Industrial Savings bank was ordered by a jury in the supreme court to pay \$100,000 damages for the death of Justice Henry Blischoff, who was killed by falling into an elevator shaft.

**Czar Returns to Capital.**

Petrograd, Dec. 21.—Emperor Nicholas returned from Transcaucasia and immediately called a meeting of the imperial council at Tsarko-Selo palace. The session was attended by Minister of War Soukhomlinoff.

**7,500 FRENCH TAKEN**

**BERLIN SAYS GERMANS WON IN THE ARGONNE.**

**Allies Say Teutons Are Being Forced Back All Along Flanders Front.**

London, Dec. 21.—A Times correspondent in northern France says: "The allies have advanced. Their troops are reported to have passed Middelkerke and to have broken through the German line just below Dixmude."

Berlin (by wireless), Dec. 21.—The following official statement was received by wireless from Berlin:

"The fighting at Neuport continues favorable, but no decision yet has been reached. The French attacks between La Bassée and Arras and on both sides of the River Somme have resulted in failure, with severe losses to the enemy. On the Somme the French lost 1,200 men in prisoners and at least 1,800 in dead; our own losses were under 200.

"In the Argonne forest our successful attack resulted in the capture of some 7,500 prisoners in addition to war material. There have been no important developments elsewhere on the western front."

London, Dec. 21.—The allies' advance in Belgium is fast gaining momentum. The Germans are being forced back all along the Flanders front with great losses in killed, wounded, prisoners and war material, according to reports reaching here.

**NEWS FROM FAR AND NEAR**

New York, Dec. 18.—Braving a high wind and the terrific cold, F. A. Thompson, an aviator of the army reserve corps, ascended to a height of 5,000 feet over the government aviation field in Oakland Heights, Staten Island, and made four complete loops before reaching the ground. Thompson, who has been flying for only four months, is the fourth United States army aviator who has accomplished the looping test.

Washburn, Wis., Dec. 18.—Mr. and Mrs. Edward McDonald, the first couple married in Bayfield county after the eugenic law went into effect, are the parents of a baby boy, the first eugenic babe in Wisconsin.

Nish, Dec. 18.—King Peter returned here from Belgrade and received an enthusiastic reception. He will remain here for some time.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 18.—William Barth, eighty-five, multimillionaire, Denver pioneer, died here of pneumonia. His fortune is estimated at \$8,000,000.

Alexandria, Egypt, Dec. 18.—The United States cruiser Tennessee has arrived here from Chios.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 18.—The Southern Pacific has put 1,600 shopmen back to work on the coast.

Morton, Miss., Dec. 18.—Five yeg-men cracked the safe in the Bank of Morton with nitroglycerine and escaped on a handcar with \$3,000.

**GERMAN TRENCHES CAPTURED**

**French Take Teuton Positions in Flanders at the Point of the Bayonet.**

Paris, Dec. 18.—Desperate hand-to-hand fighting is now going on in Flanders. The French are attacking the Germans with the bayonet as they continue to push their offensive against the Kaiser's troops.

An official statement issued here says that they have already captured several trenches at the point of the bayonet. As fast as the French advanced they strengthen the captured positions to hold them against any counterattacks by the Germans.

London, Dec. 18.—The Germans' left center in Flanders is slowly but surely being turned by the allies, according to an official statement issued here.

**WILSON DOES HIS SHOPPING**

**Has to Push Through Crowds in Stores—Mrs. Sayre Coming to Spend Christmas.**

Washington, Dec. 18.—President Wilson did his Christmas shopping during the day. He went into the downtown district at the rush hour, armed with a list of purchases he desired to make, and visited a department store, two book stores, and a jewelry establishment. All of the places were crowded, and at times the president had to push his way energetically to get what he wanted. He was recognized by many of the shoppers. Mrs. Francis B. Sayre, the president's daughter, will arrive early next week to spend Christmas at the White House.

**Roosevelt Not to Appear.**

Washington, Dec. 18.—Former President Theodore Roosevelt telegraphed Representative Hobson that he did not believe it would do any good for him to appear before the naval affairs committee.

**Father of Thirteen Drowned.**

Bowstring, Minn., Dec. 17.—While his wife and children searched in vain in the darkness, Nick Abel, aged fifty-two, was drowned in Sand Lake. He was on the way home and tried to cross the lake. He left 13 children.

**ROADS WIN INCREASE**

**FIVE PER CENT ADVANCE GRANTED EXCEPT ON SOME COMMODITIES.**

**AMOUNTS TO \$30,000,000**

**Consequences of the War Held by Commerce Commission to Give Ground for Raising Income of Lines Between Atlantic and Mississippi.**

Washington, Dec. 21.—Increases in freight rates approximating five per cent on 123 railroads, comprising all the lines between the Atlantic seaboard and the Mississippi, north of the Potomac and Ohio rivers, were granted by the interstate-commerce commission in a divided opinion, excepting on certain heavy commodities, which comprise a large bulk of the traffic.

The increases will further apply to the railroads west of Buffalo and Pittsburgh, which were granted partial advances in the decision of last August, which denied them altogether to the roads east of those points.

It is estimated the advanced rates will increase the annual income of the roads about \$30,000,000.

The commission made its decision upon the showing of the railroads that in addition to conditions from which they previously asked relief they now are confronted with an emergency because of the war in Europe.

After further consideration the commission permits advances to be made also on cement, starch, brick, tile, clay and plaster. On these commodities no advances were permitted by the decision of August 1.

The commission was divided on the question of granting the railroads' appeal. Commissioners Clements and Harlan dissented from the opinion of the majority. The decision, in part, was as follows:

"In view of the tendency toward a diminishing net operating income, as shown by the facts described, we are of the opinion that the net operating income of the railroads in official classification territory, taken as a whole, is smaller than is demanded in the interests of the general public and the railroads, and it is our duty and our purpose to aid so far as we legally may, in the solution of the problem as to the course that the carriers may pursue to meet the situation."

The commission did not acquiesce in the carriers' proposal of a general increase, as indicated in the tariff filed by them, but suggested various methods by which they might properly conserve their revenues.

"For various reasons we shall except from the proposed increase the following rates:

"1. Rail-lake-and-rail, lake-and-rail and rail-and-lake rates. It is shown on the record that since the rail carriers acquired ownership and control of the lake lines successive increases have been made in the rates via lake tending to lessen the differences between them and the all-rail rates.

"2. Rates on bituminous coal and coke. Not long since these rates were investigated and maximum rates were prescribed by the commission. The key rates upon bituminous coal—the rate from the Pittsburgh district to Youngstown, and the rate on lake cargo coal to Ashtabula, have been fixed in the light of the various factors which entered into the transportation of such coal. The prevailing rates are remunerative, and the financial condition of the principal bituminous coal carriers is in marked contrast with that of many other carriers in official classification territory.

"3. Rates on anthracite coal and iron ore, largely because they are before us in review in other proceedings.

"4. Rates held by unexpired orders of the commission."

**MINES SINK FOUR STEAMERS**

**Vessels Are Destroyed in the North Sea—One Is Believed to Be a Passenger Ship.**

South Shields, England, Dec. 18.—Four steamers, one believed to be a passenger ship, were sunk by mines in the North sea, off Flamborough head, Wednesday night.

Only two of the vessels have been identified. One was the steamer Elterwater. Twelve of its crew were saved, but seven lost their lives. The other was the Princess Olga. The crew of 18 men landed in their own boats.

**Upholds Raid on Britain.**

New York, Dec. 19.—That Hartlepool, Scarborough and Whitby, the three English towns bombarded by German warships are defended places and that the Germans therefore were justified in shelling them, is the substance of a statement given out here by Captain Franz von Papen, military attache of the German embassy.

**Designation Changed.**

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 18.—Official announcement has been made at the offices of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railway that the road will hereafter be designated as the "Milwaukee" instead of the "St. Paul" when the full name is not used.

**Dietz to Be Pardoned.**

Madison, Wis., Dec. 18.—John F. Dietz, under life sentence for the murder of Deputy Sheriff Oscar Harp, will be pardoned by Governor McGovern the night before Christmas.

**BANK ROBBER IS SLAIN**

**HELD UP TWO INSTITUTIONS IN CINCINNATI.**

**Daring Bandit Wounds Police When They Attempt to Arrest Him—Fierce Street Duel.**

Cincinnati, O., Dec. 18.—A three-hour career of crime by one man, which included the robbing of two Cincinnati banks, pistol shot accompaniments, the theft of two automobiles and a duel with policemen in which one officer and the robber were shot and fatally wounded, marked the most sensational day in Cincinnati's criminal history.

The bandit is Frank Hohl, whose home is in Philadelphia. He was mortally wounded in a sensational street duel with Policeman Edward Knaull and died shortly after being taken to the city hospital.

Knaull also was probably fatally wounded.

Before the shooting Hohl had robbed the Eighth street branch of the Provident Savings bank, where he got away with more than seven thousand dollars, and the Liberty Savings bank, where he got more than six thousand dollars. What became of the loot remains a mystery.

Knaull, a patrolman, and George Winter, cashier at the Liberty Savings bank, were slightly injured.

Hohl first stole an automobile. He then drove to the branch bank on Eighth street shortly before eleven o'clock in the morning, "shot up" the place, and stole \$7,500.

Then he drove to the Liberty bank; again used his revolver, injuring the cashier; stole \$5,610, and again escaped.

**RAID ENGLAND'S EAST COAST**

**German Warships Bombard Cities and Escape—Death List Reaches Total of 143.**

London, Dec. 18.—The casualty list as a result of the German naval raid on the east coast of England early yesterday morning shows 143 persons killed, of whom only a small percentage were combatants, and 537 wounded.

Simultaneously with the receipt of the report of casualties from West Hartlepool, where the official list in Hartlepool and West Hartlepool has reached the figure of 79 killed and 320 wounded, there came the first definite news that the German ships had been engaged by the British coast patrol ships while carrying on the bombardment.

The admiral announced tonight, through the official press bureau, that the light cruiser Patrol and the torpedo destroyer Doon were among the British warships that attacked the German raiders. They were heavily engaged and came off with some casualties. Aboard the Patrol four men were killed and four wounded, while on the Doon one was killed and 11 wounded.

Unofficial reports are that the German ships did not escape without suffering severe damage. Several of them are reported to have been struck, though not vitally.

**GEN. SCOTT SENT TO NACO**

**Chief of Staff Sent to Arizona in Attempt to Stop Firing Across the Border.**

Washington, Dec. 18.—Closely following the dispatch of more United States troops to Naco, Ariz., where residents have been killed and wounded by the fire of Mexican soldiers across the border, Secretary of War Garrison ordered Gen. Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the United States army, to proceed to Naco at once. He will try to induce the warring Mexican factions to stop imperiling lives and property on the American side of the border.

**NAME NEW SULTAN IN EGYPT**

**Great Britain Appoints Prince Hussein Kemal to the Post With New Title.**

London, Dec. 21.—It is officially announced that Prince Hussein Kemal has been appointed to succeed the khedive of Egypt, Abbas Hilmi. Prince Hussein Kemal will take the title of sultan. The new sultan is an uncle of Abbas Hilmi and is a son of Ismael Pasha, who was khedive from 1865 to 1879.

**CONTINUE TO SHELL GERMANS**

**British Warships Still Bombarding Belgian Coast—But Put Several Batteries Out of Action.**

Dover, England, Dec. 18.—British warships continued to bombard the Germans on the Belgian coast and put several batteries out of action.

**Storms Cause Damage.**

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 19.—Heavy damage along the coast is reported as the result of winds and rainstorms which have been raging for the last 24 hours. Damage from high tides total \$50,000 at Long Beach alone.

**Four Firemen Injured.**

Sandusky, O., Dec. 19.—Four firemen were injured by falling timbers in a \$100,000 fire in the business district here. The injured: Captain McLaughlin, Captain Curtis, Fireman Charles Georgen, Enginemans Diskam.

**GEN. SCOTT AT NACO**

**TO INVESTIGATE MEXICAN BORDER TROUBLE.**

**SITUATION A DIFFICULT ONE**

**Stray Bullets Will Continue to Cross Line Through Poor Marksmanship.**

Naco, Ariz.—Brigadier General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the United States army, arrived here Sunday and began an investigation of the Mexican border trouble which has resulted in the killing and wounding of many persons by Mexican bullets crossing the line during the ten weeks' siege of Naco, Sonora.

General Scott began a series of conversations with persons informed on Mexican affairs, including those in touch with General Hill, the Carranza commander in Naco, Sonora, and Governor Maytorena, the Villa besieger. This investigation is preliminary to conferences General Scott expects to have with Hill and Maytorena in an effort to eliminate further Mexican fighting along the border.

It is recognized that whatever care the Mexican factions might take not to fire into the United States, that stray bullets will continue to fall here either through bad marksmanship or individual disobedience of orders.

General Scott's peace conference will be held with an army of 4,700 men in command of Brigadier General Tasker H. Bliss, encamped opposite the Mexican border ground. The last of the reinforcements from Fort Sill and Texas has arrived. The American army forces now consist of the Eleventh, Eighteenth and Twenty-second infantry, ten troops each of the Ninth and Tenth cavalry, and three batteries each of the Fifth and Sixth field artillery. This is a force greater than the combined forces of the two Mexican camps with artillery also superior to that of the Mexicans.

**Anti-Austrian Demonstration.**

Rome.—The troops and police at many places in Italy were called upon Sunday to keep down riots against Austria at celebrations of the anniversary of the death of the irredentist leader, Oberdank, who organized the unsuccessful plot to assassinate Emperor Francis Joseph in Trieste in 1882 and was put to death for it.

During the night of Saturday, although they had been forbidden by the authorities to do so, parties to the movement placarded the streets with posters referring to Oberdank and also distributed leaflets, some of them with mourning borders, bearing the inscription, "Remember the Sacrifice of Oberdank." Several were arrested and some demonstrators were slightly injured in clashes with the police.

**No More Dreadnoughts for England.**

London.—England probably never will lay down another dreadnought, says one of the foremost shipbuilders in this country, who for obvious reasons cannot be quoted. All of the dreadnoughts, according to this authority, which have been laid down will be rushed to completion, but no orders will be given for any more vessels of this type. This policy was under serious consideration when the Audacious went to the bottom and the recent loss of the Bulwark has only served to confirm the opinion that the battleship as a fighting craft is doomed. All new construction in the British ship yards consist of heavily armed cruisers of great coal carrying capacity, destroyers and submarines. For ten miles along the Tyne in coming into Newcastle the passengers on the boats cannot hear each other speak because of the din of steam hammers most of which are making destroyers and submarines.

**Italy and Turkey Near Rupture.**

Petrograd.—The Bourse Gazette hears from Odessa that a serious situation has arisen in Constantinople between the porte and Italy. The Italian ambassador, Marquis Garoni, received information from his own government that 4,000 Arabs under Turkish and German officers had been directed against Tripoli. The ambassador has demanded an explanation, threatening to break off relations with Turkey if a fully satisfactory answer is not given within a certain time.

**Banner of Allies Lowered.**

Berkeley, Cal.—A banner extending across the street leading to the entrance of the University of California, advertising "the bazaar of the allies," was taken down at the order of Mayor Charles Heywood as a violation of neutrality.

**Wilson Asked to Talk.**

Washington.—President Wilson was asked to deliver "a message to business" at the meeting of the Associated Advertising Clubs of the World in Chicago next June.

**CONDENSED NEWS**

**OF INTEREST TO ALL.**

Ice is being cut on Silver Lake, near Hastings.

Talmage has started a boy scout organization.

Palmyra was visited by a \$40,000 fire last week.

Peru has shipped 35,000 bushels of apples this fall.

The town of Talmage has signed for its first chauntiqua.

William Underdown was killed by a Burlington train at Ashland.

Fire destroyed the I. O. O. F. building at Humboldt. Loss \$8,000.

Wymore is planning to send a car of flour to Belgium war victims.

The Fort Calhoun State bank has opened for business in their new building.

Citizens of York contributed 250 sacks of flour toward the relief of the Belgians.

The annual session of the Cuming county farmers' institute was held at West Point.

Omaha was selected as the next meeting place of the State Teachers' association.

Snow all over the state is believed to insure the safety of the winter wheat crop.

W. K. Strode has bought the Blair Tribune, which was formerly owned by W. R. Williams.

State university reports the sale of \$12,555.73 hog cholera serum during the past two years.

Workmen are just finishing up the painting of the Cedar county court house at Hartington.

Joseph Wells of Kimball, stumbled with a shotgun in his hand and instantly killed his son.

Three hundred and fifty-pound sacks of flour will be forwarded to Belgium from Tecumseh.

The Ainsworth Odd Fellows dedicated their new building. Many out-of-town visitors attended.

Frank Rustler of Lushton had his right arm badly mangled by getting it caught in a corn sheller.

The perjury cases against Dan Jacobs, former night marshal of West Point, have been dismissed.

Otto Bellows, who shot and killed his mother at McCall Junction, died from a self-inflicted wound.

Harvey Wulonpel of West Point was instantly killed when his automobile turned over near Scribner.

Burglars entered the clothing store of Leiner & Simon at Bloomfield and carried off 300 pounds of merchandise.

John Cottish, an escaped inmate of the Norfolk hospital for the insane, has been returned to the institution.

Fire of an unknown origin destroyed the T. B. Hord elevator at Monroe, Platte county, and 5,000 bushels of grain.

James P. Baker of Dunbar was seriously injured when struck by a part of a gasoline engine being used to pump water.

Work on the laying of new iron between Omaha and Weeping Water on the Missouri Pacific "low line" is now well under way.

A systematic campaign is being carried on in Gage county to raise funds for the purchase of flour to be sent to the Belgians.

While working on an acetylene plant at the home of J. H. Kemp, at Fullerton, the tank exploded, throwing one of the men a distance of twenty feet.

Clara, the 6-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Ford, died as a result of using matches while alone in the house, six miles northeast of Weeping Water.

A public meeting to organize for navigation of the Missouri river has been called by the trade extension committee of the Omaha Commercial club for January 8.

The associated retailers of Omaha are in favor of the movement for a Missouri river barge line that would open river navigation between Omaha and the Gulf of Mexico.

The Pacific Fruit Express company of North Platte has 100 men storing away the ice crop that is coming from Wyoming, where cutting has commenced at Laramie and Swanston.

Railway commissioners of five western states in session at Omaha decided to raise funds for the employment of expert accountants to analyze the freight rate situation.

Both the Presbyterian and Methodist churches and Sunday schools of Lyons passed resolutions requesting Congressman Dan V. Stephens to vote for the nation-wide prohibition amendment now before congress.

A farewell reception was given by the patrons of the Hawthorne school at Hastings in honor of Miss Carrie Sullivan, who resigned her position as principal, after being elected county superintendent of schools.

Walter Sammons, convicted of robbing the Kearney postoffice of \$5,000 last Christmas, was denied a new trial by United States Judge Morris after an all day's argument by attorneys for the convicted man at Omaha.

Albion high school students gave a benefit concert last week. The proceeds were turned into the Belgian relief fund.

Editor Mutz of the Utica Sun, who sued Editor Shields of the Tamora Tyre for \$10,000, alleging libel, was awarded 1 cent.

Amanda H. Brown and Anna L. Hams are two more O'Connor relatives to file transcripts in the district court at Hastings to appeal the decision of the county court awarding the O'Connor fortune to John Callahan of Omaha. Five contestants have appealed.