

# THE O'NEIL FRONTIER.

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O'NEIL, NEBRASKA

All the armies fighting in Europe have now whole troops of men who have received bicycles instead of mounts. If attacked in large numbers, the cyclists simply throw their machines in the middle of the road, where the spokes and wheels make a perfect obstacle to charging horses. The riders then take shelter in the hedges and pick off the struggling mass.

A pigeon flew into an optometrist's shop in New Bedford through an open window and tried to make a meal of some expensive lenses in the show window. Finding this impossible, the pigeon reverently scraped together a pile of lenses and magnifying glasses and then kicked them about, repeating this exercise several times until the proprietor interfered.

Three 20-franc gold pieces have been extracted from the pocket of Private Bolsey, now lying wounded in a Paris hospital. A piece of shrapnel pierced the pocket of another soldier, who had the coins, and who was marching ahead of him. The projectile and the coins lodged in the leg of Bolsey, who had not a penny on him before being wounded.

James Sutherland, a blacksmith at Redding, has recently received a check for \$100 from the Canadian government for services rendered by him in Nova Scotia in 1886. During the Fenian raid of that year, when Canada was alarmed from one end to the other, thousands joined the militia and Sutherland, with others, drilled faithfully in Nova Scotia.

During the bombardment, by a combined British and French squadron, of the German positions on the Belgian coast, one British vessel is said to have fired no fewer than 1,000 lyddite and shrapnel shells. So rapid was the firing that some of the guns discharged 14 projectiles a minute. The action lasted for 12 hours.

Should a mechanical cotton picker recently invented prove practical, it will revolutionize the industry in this country. It is a heavy contrivance, driven by one man, much as an automobile is operated, and claim is made that it will pick 95 per cent of the cotton without injury to the unripe bolls or the plants.

A French army corps is made up of 24 battalions of rather over 1,000 men each. These are sectioned into eight regiments, each of three battalions, and these again are formed into four brigades, two of which compose a division.

"The coolest thing I ever saw in action was that of a big Highlander, who milked a cow under rifle and shell fire to get something for his wounded mates to drink when the water ran out," says Private Clarke of the King's Royal Rifles, in a letter home.

Successful experiments have been conducted in Venice with a vessel designed for the work of raising sunken submarines to the surface. The submarine Narvio and Squale were submerged at a depth of 10 fathoms, and both were raised within one hour.

One of the steamship companies of Norway has contracted to make six trips a year to Spitzbergen, beginning with next spring. The vessel will be equipped with wireless and will carry passengers, freight and mail.

A Japanese inventor has provided an iron kettle which bursts into steam the moment the kettle begins to boil. The sounds are produced by steam bubbles striking against musical metallic bars, just above the water.

Ghee, the native butter of India, which has been known to keep for centuries without becoming rancid, is made by boiling butter until all the watery particles and curds have been removed by skimming.

So valuable is good date garden soil that the Arab will refuse \$500 an acre for it. Through ages of cultivation it gives no indication of wearing out, hence the exceptional value placed on it.

Russia's entire army represents about 4 per cent of her population. The czar has so many soldiers at his command that during peace times he can dispense with all but men in the prime of life.

German army officers are experimenting with rubber foot pontons to enable soldiers to walk on water, carrying heavy loads and using their rifles freely at the same time.

An automobile has been built for the car which can be converted into a motor sleigh by replacing the front wheels with runners and placing chains on the rear ones.

Italian tests of plowing with electric motors demonstrated that it cost about half as much as horses had been used and about two-thirds as much as steam plowing.

A convict who escaped from jail at Lydenburg, South Africa, was captured on a farm where he was masquerading as a policeman in search of himself.

Billy, the pet dog of the Welsh regiment, is, it is said, "the best dog in the regiment since it landed in France."

## NEBRASKA NEWS NOTES

### GOVERNOR MAY CONSOLIDATE HOTEL AND LABOR BUREAUS

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 11.—Phil Ackermann, state hotel commissioner, has been named labor commissioner by the governor, a position vacated by C. W. Pool, who became secretary of state. It is not stated whether the appointment will be made permanent, and the business of the two offices consolidated. The governor has the power to do this without a legislative act. Under the constitution no new executive office can be created by the legislature, and to get around this it has been the habit to name the governor as the man to undertake the new job and give him power to name a deputy. Thus the governor is also labor commissioner, hotel commissioner, food commissioner and oil inspector. Two years ago he arbitrarily consolidated the food and oil jobs, and if he finds it advisable he will do this with the hotel and labor commissioners.

R. D. Moritz, of Red Cloud, where he is city school superintendent, has accepted an appointment as deputy under State Superintendent Thomas. In order to get him to stay in Red Cloud, his salary was raised to \$1,800 a year, and he was offered a three-year contract. He prefers to be deputy.

### "FAINTING BERTHA" STOPS WEEPING; FINDS TROUBLE

Fremont, Neb., Jan. 11.—After an absence of several months Bertha Liebke of Omaha appeared in Fremont Wednesday night. She was found ransacked in a room at the Eno hotel. A small bank containing \$17 had been taken from another room and was in Miss Liebke's possession. Sheriff Condit took "Fainting Bertha" to the county jail and kept her through the night. She was given a ticket that would carry her to Omaha and the sheriff provided an escort to the Omaha train.

### MEASURE FOSTERED BY GOVERNOR TO BE INTRODUCED

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 11.—Several measures are likely to be introduced next week in conformity with the governor's message relating to the judiciary. The sectional courts, driven by one man, much as an automobile is operated, and claim is made that it will pick 95 per cent of the cotton without injury to the unripe bolls or the plants.

### PRIMARY LAW AMENDMENTS TO CAUSE BIG STRUGGLE

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 11.—Amendment of the state primary law will be one of the storm centers of the session. As yet no bills have been introduced on this subject, but it is understood several are in the process of formation. One of these, backed by the governor, will amend so as to give the party committee more of a say as to who goes on the ballot as a candidate.

### LOQUACIOUS INSPECTOR GETS MAYOR IN BAD

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 11.—Mayor Zehring is the storm center of criticism. The other day his inspector of weights and measures told the newspaper reporters that on 11 loads of coal he had weighed, sent out by one dealer, he had found a shortage totaling two tons. Then the people began to demand who this man was. The coal dealers who didn't give short weight objected to all of them being smirched because no name was given. The demand for prosecution of the guilty man became so insistent that the inspector passed up the matter to the mayor, and the latter said there would be no prosecution because that would bring ruin upon the man. He based his decision also on a fear that the city scales, where the check was made, might not be correct. This does not, however, still the storm.

### LINCOLN—The death at Williston, N. D., yesterday of Dr. L. P. Ludden, of Lincoln, came as a shock to his friends. Dr. Ludden had the widest acquaintance in the state of any resident of Nebraska. He has lived here 25 years, part of the time as pastor of one of the Lutheran churches and later as field secretary for the board of missions. During his residence in the state he took a very lively interest in politics, being reading clerk at practically every state convention held here in years. He was in charge of the state relief commission during the drought of the '90s, and later was a member of the state normal board. In 1906 he was elected a few votes of being nominated lieutenant governor on the republican ticket.

### WEST POINT—The body of Mr. Lierman, a former resident and pioneer settler of Cuming county, was brought to this county from Amelia, Holt county, Nebraska, on Wednesday, his death occurring on the farm home very suddenly from heart failure. Mr. Lierman was for many years prominent in the affairs of Cuming county, being connected with a number of the most prominent families here.

### LINCOLN—Members of the local printers' union are up in arms in opposition to the recommendation of Governor Morehead for the establishment at the state penitentiary of a printing plant to do the work of the state. This competition with free labor is declared by them to be unfair and they insist further that it is impractical, as few printers ever land in the state prison.

### WEST POINT—The funeral of Mrs. Caroline Kuester took place yesterday, her remains being interred at Rock Creek. Rev. M. Liemer officiating. Mrs. Kuester had lived in Cuming county 48 years. She had attained the great age of 90 years. She is survived by three sons and two daughters, 42 grandchildren and 40 great grandchildren. She was a native of Germany.

### COLUMBUS, Neb., Jan. 9.—Louis Lighter, attorney, has received his commission from Congressman Dan V. Stephenson as chairman for conducting the postoffice primary in this city. Six candidates are now in the race. The time for holding the primary has not been set, but it will take place sometime this month.

### WEST POINT—On Thursday morning the county officers entered upon their two-year terms. Two of them are new, the rest succeeding themselves. The new men are W. A. McDonald and Henry Schwink, deputy treasurer; Rudolph Brazdka, county clerk, and J. A. Ritter, deputy. The county judge, sheriff, county attorney, superintendent and coroner succeed themselves. The new members of the board of supervisors are Robert Leisy, of Wisner. The political status of the board is five democrats and two republicans. G. A. Helles, for many years a county surveyor, is succeeded by G. Conna, of Bancroft.

## REPORT OF REFORM COMMITTEE RESULTS IN FIGHT ON FLOOR

### Vote of Members Orders Printing of Daily Journal to Save Money.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 9.—The senate reform committee's partial report of yesterday will be put into effect at once. The rules committee made the partial report in which it recommended that bills be printed in more convenient size, that new portions of the bill or amendment be printed in italics that bills be engrossed on a typewriter and enrolled on a printing press, and that the quantity of having record of the daily proceedings printed each day and left on the desks of the members be left to the secretary of the senate.

It was over this last recommendation that the fight arose and the charge was made by Senator Sandall of York that the senate was trying to throw the recommendations of the reform committee report over the transom one by one. These same senators, he charged, had used this reform recommendation as their platform in the last election.

Senator Deal of Custer said he believed the reform committee honorable in its intentions but that the bringing of the daily record would save money and be a good thing besides. An amendment adopted ordered the printing of the daily journal. This journal, as corrected, will be bound at the close of the session and comprise the senate journal. In former years the secretary of the senate has spent weeks and even months after the session closed compiling this journal and he usually received a bonus ranging from \$1,200 to \$1,500 for the work. This bonus is now a thing of the past. It used to be considered one of the main incentives for the job of secretary of the senate.

The house is expected to adopt similar measures at once, only it is probable that the house will go farther in adopting the reform recommendations.

Just what bills will be introduced following the presentation of the reform report of the committee appointed at the last session is not known yet. Former Representative McAllister, of Dakota county read the report before the house yesterday and the report was approved as well. The recommendations made during the water power resources of the state, a report, and stringent regulations for water power companies already having a franchise, the cancellation of franchises when work is not speedily completed and service furnished, but also provides for the states going into the power business, either as a whole or by sections as the state or sections of the state express a preference under the initiative and referendum.

### NEBRASKA COMMISSION FAILS TO RAISE EXPOSITION FUND

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 9.—Formal admission to the fair of the state commission to represent Nebraska at the Panama-Pacific exposition at San Francisco to raise funds sufficient to make a representation was made today by Lieutenant Governor Morehead. The legislature two years ago refused to make an appropriation. A self-created commission undertook to raise the \$25,000 estimated as necessary by appealing to the patriotism of the people. In his statement before the legislature, the governor said that after the failure to secure funds he took up a proposition to have moving pictures exhibiting the state's resources shown, with a part of the cost to be paid by the exhibitors. The money was turned down, the effort is now formally abandoned and the money will be prorated back to subscribers, who divide what is left after the expenses have been cared for.

### WOULD CREATE HEALTH BOARD OF GERM EXPERTS

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 9.—Secretary Cummins of the board of secretaries of the state board of health, tells the governor in his annual report that the public health of the state should not be entrusted to the hands of "three state officers who have no medical knowledge of a germ when they see one." He favors the consolidation of all of the activities in the hands of some one man who shall be responsible for what is sought to be accomplished. He wants the law amended so as to create an office of state health commissioner, who shall hold office from four to six years, and upon whom responsibility for the public health may be placed. Under him shall be inspectors of dairies, hotels, drugs and the like.

### NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT JUSTICE DOCKED BY STATE

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 9.—Judge Reese, chief justice of the Nebraska supreme court, who retired from office yesterday, is out \$72.40 because some judge in the distant past overruled the supreme court's decision in a case. The chief justice, every judge since then has done the same thing, and it fell to Judge Reese to make up the shortage by being docked for the sum. He may sue in the courts or ask the legislature to make good to him. Judges are paid quarterly and the last warrant drawn by the judge was for services up till the first of the year. He served six days over, but the attorney general says that there is no provision of law which warrants the payment for that time because judges are paid quarterly each year and they must take their chances on being in the quarter where the days are most numerous.

LINCOLN—Nearly \$11,000,000 in securities and cash were turned over by the retiring state treasurer, W. A. George, to his successor, George E. Hall. It consisted of \$3,341,666 of bonds belonging to the state's permanent educational fund, \$500,000 of state war bonds held by the school fund and held for payment later, \$78,437.24, money on deposit to the credit of the state in the various depositories in the state and \$4,000 in cash in the treasury vault. The incoming treasurer will receipt in full when he has checked over the account.

BEATRICE—Clarence Githems, held in the county jail, confessed last evening to forging the name of John Collins, a farmer, living near Holmesville, on an \$8.60 check and cashing it at the store of Robert Harris, in Holmesville, last Saturday.

Next to agriculture, the forests of Sweden form the largest source of inventoryable forest products. The new member lumber products form the largest single item of exportation from the country. In 1913 more than 8,275,665 cubic yards of hewn, sawed and planed lumber were exported from Sweden, besides \$1,146,772 worth of joinery products.

## GOVERNOR MOREHEAD WOULD LIMIT TERMS OF STATE OFFICERS

### Nebraska Executive Strongly Urges Election For Four Years—Would Reform Taxation.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 9.—Governor Morehead's message was read before a joint session of the house and senate shortly after 2 o'clock this afternoon. On this occasion, Governor Morehead, as retiring governor, summarized observations of the past two years and the lessons to be drawn therefrom and as the governor-elect recommended reforms of many sorts to the legislature.

A supreme court commission to assist that body in clearing the docket of some two years' work, to which extent it has fallen behind, a convict printing plant to do all of the state printing, reorganizing county and state superintendents on a non-partisan basis, the consolidations of several state departments, economy, public warehouse legislation, bank taxation and many other matters were subjects of recommended reforms.

The governor commended the legislature upon a number of good men who had been returned after service two years ago, and upon the caliber of the men elected to that body for the first term. He referred with some pride to legislation of two years ago, but called the attention of the law makers to the reports of special commissions on revision of school laws, on water power, and on revenue and taxation.

### To Restrict "Dope"

He recommended a law providing that each county pay for the return of its own fugitives from justice and pay the expense of the transportation of its own criminals to the state penitentiary. More stringent laws regarding the "dope traffic," the passage of an act which would authorize the food, drug and health department to make inspection of drug stores, and requiring all druggists to keep a correct record of the sales of these drugs, was strongly advocated. Pointing out that the state health department is controlled by the sanitary department and the stallion registration department is controlled by still a different board, he recommends that these two boards be consolidated and that inspections be made during the year and inspections for three years. He recommends state manufacture and sale of hog cholera serum at cost.

### Finances Good.

The bacteriological laboratory should be taken from the control of the board of secretaries of the state board of health and placed under the board of health. State finances are in excellent condition and the institutions, the governor points out, but there is need of more farm land, especially for the penitentiary. The floating debt wiped out and institutions in good shape, the time has come to cut down appropriations for the sake of economy. The university, with the long question out of the way and adequate appropriations made, should go forward rapidly. Reports of various state departments are criticized because of the tendency to embellish with cuts and a lot of matter foreign to the department. The governor believes on report, a sort of blue book should be gotten out each biennium, covering the work of all state departments.

This report could be edited by the legislative reference bureau. The governor is opposed to the employment of convict labor in competition with goods made by free labor. Convicts should make articles for use in the state institutions, and with the establishment of a printing plant, should be able in time to do all of the state printing.

### Banks Avoid Taxation.

Banks now avoid a good share of their taxation, he asserts, and the law should make them pay their pro rata share. In cases where the state banking board has refused to grant a charter to investment companies promising to pay 8 per cent and pay investors 10 per cent, the board has been urged to go into court to defend its position. The board should be given absolute power to deny charters. The board should also be given wide discretionary powers in granting bank charters.

### Four-Year Term.

The governor recommends an itemized statement from each department as to mileage used. This is in force in departments directly under the governor, he points out. A four-year term for state officers, and making them ineligible for re-election, is strongly recommended. The state committee should certify out names before they are placed on the primary ballot.

A supreme court commission should be created to help that body clear up work with which it is two years behind. Some slight changes in supreme court procedure are recommended. Supreme judges to, should be elected by districts so as to allow electors to become more familiar with a candidate. An intermediate court to care for certain classes of cases now going before the supreme court could also be created from district judges sitting from time to time. Good roads should be systematically provided for and convict labor should be permitted for this work.

The state and county laws should be made to conform to the federal laws. The nomination and election of state and county superintendents should be on a non-partisan ballot as is now the case with judges. A public warehouse law, with proper safeguards, is recommended as one of the party pledges.

### Hurry Appropriations.

Appropriation bills should be passed within the first 40 days of the session so as to permit of due consideration of the items, both by the legislature and the governor. In the past the bill of the session to the detriment of saying. Co-operation of government and state in making an adequate survey of water power resources is recommended. The state should be held down and the legislature should provide that they draw on per diem salary each day. Double salaries have been drawn in the past the governor says, for a few minutes over time. Plenty of legislation can be secured at the one-day salary rate.

### NEW MILWAUKEE BOND ISSUE NOW ON MARKET

New York, Jan. 7.—Directors of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway company today authorized the issue of about \$29,000,000 5 per cent convertible debenture bonds to be sold to stockholders at par to the extent of 12 1/2 per cent of their present holdings. The bonds have already been underwritten.

Of the 1,523 women school teachers in Denmark, 438 are non-graduates.

## CUMMINS INTRODUCES SHIP PURCHASE BILL

### Measure Is a Substitute For That Supported By President Wilson.

Washington, Jan. 11.—Substitute for the administration ship purchase bill, authorizing the president to acquire vessels suitable for naval auxiliaries at a cost not exceeding \$30,000,000, for which Panama bonds would be sold, was introduced today by Senator Cummins. All such ships would be under the secretary of the navy instead of a shipping corporation, as administration bill proposes, and in time of peace those not needed by the naval force would be leased to those engaged in foreign commerce.

## HAIL INSURANCE BY STATE URGED

### Proposed Bill Would Guard Against Losses That Have Reached High Figures In the Past.

Tribune Headquarters, Pierre, S. D., January 9, 1915. In a bill to be introduced by Representative H. G. Solem, of Minnehaha county, South Dakota will be asked to make an experiment in conducting insurance against losses by hail. The system has not been completely outlined, but will include a number of optional and protective features. In the first place a majority of the voters in any township must give consent before such township can be brought into the plan.

Further, an individual farmer can stay out, even though the township has acted favorably, by filing the requisite statement. It is proposed to fix 4 per cent on the maximum benefit allowance as the assessment fee, with a provision to reduce the annual assessment after a specified reserve has been created. The maximum benefit allowance for losses on grain crops is fixed at \$5 an acre, with payment only of actual losses incurred where it falls below that amount. On this basis those under the benefits of the plan would pay 20 cents an acre as assessments, and would be protected against losses in excess of an acre. Mr. Solem feels certain that this 4 per cent assessment would rapidly create a substantial surplus fund, as a protection against any year of heavy losses, and that the regular annual assessments soon would be reduced to a very low figure.

While the annual hail losses in South Dakota are not extensive they are enough to make the subject of reasonable cost protection one of interest to nearly every farmer in the state. As the case now stands this protection must be secured from old line companies at exorbitant prices, or taken with concerns which are sure to collect the assessments, but not very sure about paying losses.

### Judges Dislike Receipts.

Circuit court judges of South Dakota probably will ask a modification of the law which requires them to collect the expense allowances, \$500 legal maximum, on ordinary itemized and sworn statements of disbursements, a privilege now enjoyed only by the governor and members of the supreme court. All other state officials, including circuit judges, must file the original receipts of each disbursement in order to get reimbursement, even though it be only for bus fare.

## POPE IS TAKING DEEP INTEREST IN BELGIUM

Rome, Jan. 9.—The pope again today received in private audience Monsignor Deploigne, president of the Institute of Philosophy at Louvain and had a prolonged conversation with him concerning conditions in Belgium and the case of Cardinal Mercier. This second audience with Monsignor Deploigne is regarded as an indication of the pontiff's deep interest in Belgium and of his purpose to do something to alleviate the suffering of the Belgian people and show them his paternal sympathy.

## KILL POLICE OFFICER THEN ESCAPE WITH \$4

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 9.—Michael Gibbons, a police sergeant, was shot and killed today by robbers in a suburban station of the Wabash railroad. The men had bound the watchman in a chair and were in the act of robbing the station when Gibbons stepped on a bullet killed him as he stepped over the threshold. The robbers then blew open the safe, from which they took \$4 and escaped.

## CONGRESS CONFEREES REACH AN AGREEMENT

Washington, Jan. 9.—House and Senate conferences on amendments to the immigration bill today agreed to eliminate the Senate provisions barring negroes and exempting Belgium farmers from the literacy test and certain other requirements. All other differences were non-substantial, were compromised and the perfected bill will next be presented to both Houses for final passage before it goes to the president, who will hold public hearings on the literacy test before deciding whether to sign or veto it.

## SMOKES FOR PRISONERS.

Madrid, Spain, Jan. 9.—Tobacco sent to Germany for French prisoners of war will be admitted free of customs duty. The Spanish embassy at Berlin, which is looking after French interests, received word to this effect today from the German authorities.

## PRESENTS CREDENTIALS.

Washington, Jan. 9.—The credentials of Senator Cummins for the full term beginning March 4, next, were presented to the Senate today by Senator Cummins.

## GINNING RECORD.

Washington, Jan. 9.—Cotton ginned prior to January 1, amounted to 14,447,623 bales, the census bureau announced today. Round bales included 44,816; Sealsland, 76,886 bales.

## AUSTRIA, BESET BY GROWING HORDE OF GOES, SILENTLY RUM

Germans Send Aid to Ally to Crush Servia—Rushing Fortification of Italian Frontier—Rumania to Strike.

## CRISIS IS NEAR AT HAND

Russians Sweeping Bukovina—Germans Drive at Warsaw From Two Directions—Combat Rages.

London, Jan. 11.—The position of Austria-Hungary, according to observers who today are giving expression to their views, is most critical. Fearing that Italy is preparing to join the entente forces, feverish preparations are being made to defend her southern frontier, according to advices from Innsbruck, via Geneva. The line of Brian-Moran-Bogen-Trent is being fortified, cement platforms laid for heavy artillery recently brought up, and the roads remade under the supervision of German and Austrian officers. It is believed that the hour for Italy to strike is near at hand, and that the eastern Austrian front in Rumania is expected to take the field at any moment. The Morning Post's Bucharest correspondent says that Rumania is mobilizing 750,000 men—500,000 of them ready to take the field at once. Rumania, he adds, will strike even though Italy decides to stay out of the war.

## Will Try to Crush Servia.

Servia, with her army more or less rehabilitated, is described in London as attacking the dual monarchy from the south with renewed vigor. Austria declares that the latest Servian attacks have been repulsed, but less credence is given in England to the reports that Germany is planning to throw troops to the assistance of her ally in a third attempt to crush the country of the Serbs. One hundred thousand Prussians and 300,000 Austrians, it is said, are to be employed in this campaign, the Teutonic allies deeming such a move imperative in view of the grave situation in the Balkans.

## Hungary Badly Shaken.

Meanwhile the Russian sweep through the Austrian crown lands of Bukovina continues unchecked, according to news dispatches reaching London, and this army is expected by British observers soon to be well over the mountains forming the boundary into Hungary. Threats from the east and from the south and with Rumania preparing to cast her lot with the allies, the war is being brought to Hungary's front door. This is in sharp contrast to the comparative isolation from strife which Germany continues to enjoy with only small strips of territory in east Prussia and Alsace occupied by her antagonists. Now more than ever before, therefore, followers of the conflict in England look to the eastern arena for immediate developments of importance.

## New Drive at Warsaw.

German armies are again striking at Warsaw from two directions. Along the Vistula to the west of the Polish capital, heavy fighting has been resumed and at the same time a new attack has been launched from the north. The Petrograd war office described the fighting as more and more desperate, and admits that the Germans made advances at many points, but says that they were subsequently driven back again. A Geneva reports says that an Austrian army has been trapped in Galicia by the Russians, who by an unexpected movement caught the Austrians at a disadvantage on difficult ground and forced them in a precarious position. There was no confirmation, however, of this report.

## Slow Work in West.

In Belgium and France the allies are making some hard earned gains and the Germans also here and there are making progress. The opposing forces are so nearly evenly matched and the positions of their trenches are such that tapping and bomb throwing must be relied on chiefly to bring any gains and a lull in the fighting in the sporadic artillery duels, this form of warfare doubtless will persist along the Belgian and in France until the weather improves the ground and permits more extensive infantry operations. The French advance in Alsace apparently has been checked. Both the French and the German reports of today tell of the recapture by the Germans of Burnhaupt Le-Haut, the town south of Steinbach, capture of which by the French was announced yesterday.

In the Argonne violent fighting is again in progress. In the charge the French lost a number of men as the result of traps set by the Germans, who permitted them to occupy a trench and then blew it up. Fighting has been resumed in the Aisne region, where the allies claim to have captured three lines of German trenches, covering 600 metres of the front. The German statement, however, says that French attacks in this region were repulsed.

Several days have passed since the first reports of Russian victories over the Turks in the Caucasus, but the Turks have not yet admitted any reverses in this territory.

## NEW HAVEN OFFICERS TO MAKE TOUR OF WEST

New York, Jan. 9.—A committee of eight officials of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad company, including Vice President J. M. Tomlinson and General Manager C. L. Barde, has been appointed by President Elliott, it was announced, to visit Detroit, Chicago, St. Paul, Omaha, St. Louis, and other cities in the west and middle west, to study railroad operations there, with a view to obtaining information and data that will be helpful in making the operation of the New Haven safer, more efficient and more economical.

## FATHER DOWLING ILL.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 9.—Rev. M. P. Dowling, former president of Creighton college, Omaha, Neb., and widely known in Catholic educational circles of the southwest, is critically ill here, Bishop Lillis announced today. Attending physicians offered little hope for Father Dowling's recovery.