

# THE O'NEIL FRONTIER

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NEILL, NEBRASKA

One of the things that make New York an interesting city is the practice of some shopkeepers of putting in their windows attractive goods with price labels. An interesting instance of this sort was seen recently in a Broadway jeweler's window. Here was a finger ring of diamonds and an emerald, price \$12,500; a marquis shaped diamond ring, \$4,250; pear shaped diamond pendant, \$2,250; diamond earrings, \$3,800. A galaxy of other resplendent gems to appeal to the frequenters of the "Great White Way." At the other extreme of the social scale for the buying public are the push carts of New York's east side, equally interesting in their way. On one of these carts in Canal street an astonishing variety of things mechanical was found—among others, clocks and watches, music boxes, all kinds of tools and at least a score of second hand cameras of various makes.

At Ann Arbor, Mich., workmen recently repaired the outside stairs of old University hall. The building was constructed in the '70s, and complaint was made at that time that the stairway was too narrow to permit the co-eds to pass comfortably, as the era of the hoop skirt was on them. The stairway, though rebuilt, is as narrow as the original passageway.

Mohammedans are supposed neither to drink wine nor to eat pork, but Albed-Hamoun, dethroned sultan of Zanzibar, who now lives affluently in Paris, has a bold and original way of doing both. At the table he places his Koran beside him, utters "Oh, holy prophet, may thy Koran protect me," and falls to with a will.

Seventy-eight gold watch fobs have been awarded employees of the Southern Pacific railroad who did efficient service first work during the last year. The prizes are won under a point system, credit of so many units being given for suggestions which are classified as to value and the number of prize points merited by each.

When Mrs. Mary E. Peters, age 66, of Millville, N. J., became the bride of James McNeal, age 68, the bride was given in marriage by her mother, Mrs. Jane Facemier, age 99. The maid of honor was Miss Blanche Hughes, granddaughter of the bride, and the bride's grandson, Harvey W. Hughes, was best man.

Since the beginning of the European war American diamond buyers have shown a revival of interest in the diamond fields of Brazil, which have attracted a considerable number of buyers. The Brazilian garimpeiro, or native diamond miner, has seen prices rising steadily under the competition of the foreigners.

Mount Tashan, a famous sacred mountain of China, which has long been denuded of woodland, is to be reforested by the government. There it was that Emperor Shun offered sacrifices to heaven 2,300 years before the Christian era. The feast of the tomb was this year celebrated as an arbor day in China.

Emory Anderson, of Syracuse, N. Y., who weighs 250 pounds, saw a pheasant on the ground, pursued it and finally caught it by making a flying tackle. After he recovered his breath friends told him that the open season on pheasants had not begun and Mr. Anderson therefore had to give his bird to the zoo.

The queen of Norway dresses economically to the point of shabbiness, spending only \$1,000 a year for her clothes. The queen of Spain is most extravagant of European royalties for her wardrobe, which costs more than \$15,000 annually. Both are English princesses and first cousins.

The one-mile derby run annually on watermelon day at the Arkansas valley fair, Rocky Ford, Colo., was this year won by a woman jockey for the first time on record. Jaunita Edgar rode Ni Ormond home ahead, the mile being covered in 1:48, good time on the Santa Fe racing circuit tracks.

Rutebeuf and Jean de Meung were the two most noted poets of the Thirteenth century. The former was an exponent of every form of poetry and prose, and is the ideal representative of personal poetry in France. Rutebeuf died in the year 1280.

The first carload of silico-manganese ever produced in the United States, as far as records ever produced in the United States, has been shipped to London. The substance takes the place of ferro-silicon and ferro-manganese in the manufacture of high grade steel.

In order that Mrs. Elizabeth Evans, age 35, of Pittsburgh, the mother of eight children, may share the Edwards estate without facing possible legal complications, Mrs. Elizabeth Edwards, wealthy Mt. Washington woman, has adopted her.

Gardner Milten, age 88, a veteran mason, of Washington, N. H., has begun the mason work of the new house of Dr. William Swan. He is to build two fireplaces and chimneys and put on more than 400 yards of plastering.

The importation into Australia of explosives containing more than 50 per cent of nitroglycerine has been prohibited, except after the consent in writing of the minister of state for trade and customs has been obtained.

While boring for oil near Port Elizabeth, South Africa, hot water was encountered in such volume at a depth of 3,600 feet that drilling operations ceased. The well produced a never-failing supply of water.

Saco, Me., is now without a hotel, a manufacturing concern having leased the only building of the kind for accommodations for its employees, who could not find quarters elsewhere in the city.

Prof. E. Livingston Barbour, of Rutgers college, who was the prohibition candidate for United States senator from New Jersey, was unable to vote, as he failed to register.

Cottage homes for married teachers are being provided by the school authorities of Washington state, with the hope of making the life of the rural teacher more attractive.

A gray squirrel skipping along the high voltage wire which supplies power to a rubber mill in Rockland, Mass., connected with its tail a second wire, causing an explosion which startled the residents and set fire in the woods.

A Chicago physician has invented apparatus with which he says he can tell whether a person really is hungry or whether his appetite, a nervous phenomenon, is active.

During a recent thunder storm in Lansford, Pa., lightning struck a telephone pole three times.

# UNIVERSITY GRADUATE DEFEATS OLD LAWYER

## Moves Into County After the Primaries and Polls Three to One Vote.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 18.—Attorney General Reed is doing some private gloating these days. He has just heard that A. S. Moon, the county attorney of Loup county, who defied the attorney general when the latter insisted that he file a return against him, that county was beaten three to one for reelection, and by a university student who had moved into the county since the primary.

The attorney general sent a special prosecutor to Loup county, and when he failed to get an indictment against the man the attorney general was after Mr. Moon wrote a letter to Mr. Reed that curled the latter's languishing locks. The man who beat Moon was Orville Chatt, who graduated in June and moved to the county and thus doubled the number of attorneys.

## WOMAN BOOTLEGGER IS GRANTED A PAROLE

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 18.—Mrs. Christine Brehm, convicted in the local courts of bootlegging, will not go to jail. Instead the court paroled her to the probation officer. The evidence disclosed that her husband is disinclined to labor and placed the burden of supporting the family upon his wife's shoulders. The police received complaints, sent a decoy and got the needed evidence. Mrs. Brehm declared she did not know she was violating any law, and in fact did not expect to get money for the liquor she had sold the police spy, who was represented as a sick friend.

## BAN ON LOTTERIES.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 18.—The terms of the law which forbids the citizens who are conducting lotteries and raffles in the state where the prizes are merchandise or meat birds. The attorney general has notified a man in Webster county that he cannot dispose of an automobile that way and he made the announcement protests against similar drawings are coming in from various sections. The law officer of the state warns the newspapers that if they even mention who won the federal government will get them.

## SEEK JOBS FOR STATE SOLDIERS HOME SOON

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 18.—Many of the jobs which members of the national guard held when they were summoned to the army last spring have been filled. The discovery of this fact has led Adjutant General Hall to seek the cooperation of Commercial clubs, business men, contractors and merchants in an effort to find places for the men who will return to the state within the next 10 days.

General Hall believes that when the need of the men is understood and the fact that they have been sacrificing in the interest of the public a general response will come. The free employment bureau of the state has offered its services, and asks all who have any jobs to give out to send word to Lincoln.

## RAILROADS WIN FIGHT TO RAISE LUMBER RATES

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 18.—Omaha, Lincoln and Des Moines lumbermen and the South Pine association has lost out in its effort to prevent the railroads increasing the rate on lumber from the south. The old rate of 25 cents from the yellow pine districts of the south is now 27 1/2 cents, and the same rate holds on hardwood and cypress from other sections. The Interstate Commerce commission has held that the rates are justified. The increase will mean that the lumber trade in this section, which has been in the southern pine men in recent years will swing back to the northwest, unless the increase is absorbed by the mill men. The increase means about 37 1/2 cents per 1,000 feet.

## SIGHT OF OLD HOME MAY RESTORE HER MIND

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 18.—In the hope that a removal to her old home in Denmark may restore her mentally, the physicians who have had charge of the case of Miss Rina Thorsen, have employed two nurses and they will sail with their charge in a few weeks. Miss Thorsen, the daughter of the late Miss M. Thorsen, who was taken ill while on a visit to relatives in Nebraska. At a hospital here, where she has been a patient for months, every luxury has been provided for her. The nurses expect to obtain permission to visit the hospital back of the war fronts of Europe, and may serve a short time in the service of one of the belligerent countries.

## TRAVELING SALESMEN KICK.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 18.—Commercial travelers have lodged a formal complaint with the state railway commission against passengers having to cross one or more tracks to board Union Pacific trains. It is alleged that passengers have to cross at least one and often both of the Union Pacific's tracks and that this is not only dangerous, but also inconvenient passengers often having to stand exposed to the weather for several minutes awaiting their train.

ALLEN—Eber M. Swift has sold his 36-acre farm northeast of here to Cleo M. Brown for \$100 an acre. The new owner will move onto the place in the spring.

ALLEN—Glen Tracy and Miss Fern Utterback, both of this place, were married in Sioux City, Ia., Thursday. They will make their home here.

EMERSON—Robert McPherran has sold his place north of here to R. Vanlinden for \$105 per acre.

In Javla Dutch government engineers have built a road bridge more than 100 feet long and with a central span of more than 60 feet, entirely of bamboo.

An electric knife for tailors has been invented that cuts only a few thick pieces of cloth instead of 20 or more cut by machines used in clothing factories.

After roasting 100 pounds of beef weight only 67 pounds.

A Trenton (N. J.) company has posted a notice that a 5 per cent weekly bonus will be paid to the men for punctuality. Every employee not late at work will receive 5 per cent extra.

Richard Cornelius, of Harrodsburg, Ky., though only 38 years of age, is the father of 17 children, 12 boys and five girls.

Fully nine-tenths of the magazine articles on how to choose a husband or how to manage one are written by spinsters, according to one magazine editor.

# RURAL HIGH SCHOOLS FOR CITY SCHOLARS

## Parents Will Soon Send Children to County Institutions, School Head Asserts.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 16.—According to Superintendent of Public Instruction Thomas, in his biennial report to the governor, it will not be many years until city parents will be sending their children to rural high schools. A present only about one-fourth of many city children get a high school education as do city bred youngsters, but the era of building rural high schools that has set in will change conditions.

Mr. Thomas submits figures showing that there attended the high schools of the state 22,225 children, which 6,849 were from the country districts. This is an increase of 2,797 over the preceding year and represents the results of the "better schools" campaign conducted from his office. Mr. Thomas says there are at least 30,000 boys and girls in the city districts to whom a high-school education shall be made available. The law that permits these to be sent to city high schools, where tuition is given at cost, is not popular in the rural districts because parents object to sending their children to high schools far from home even to get an education. They have been roused to the necessity and possibility of getting the facilities at home to give this education to them, and the superintendent thinks in time the city schools will be outstripped in number and equipment.

## ARIZONA OFFICIALS ARE CALLED BY GOVERNMENT

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 16.—According to testimony introduced today in the federal court, where the U. S. Live Stock company and the Omaha Land Investment company are defendants upon charges of using the mails to defraud, 51 bills of sale were issued by members of those companies, calling for 10,855 "wild horses," then purported to be running on the range in Coconino county, Arizona. The county recorder testified that 51 such bills of sale were recorded with him from 1910 to 1913.

The same official stated that at no time were there more than 3,500 horses of all brands on the range. He asserted further that 25 other bills of sale were presented to him, which were not recorded.

Four county officials from Flagstaff, Ariz., were in the federal court today to offer testimony as to bills of sale, number of horses on the range and taxes assessed.

John Chiscolm, a ranchman of Coconino county, testified that he had been asked to catch some of the "wild horses" for the alleged victims, but he had refused, "because he could not make any money running down broncos, even at \$25 a head," the price he ascribed to them.

C. H. Bardwell, of Chanute, Kan., an oil dealer, testified he went to Flagstaff to look for 50 horses and his brother purchased a week's riding over the range in company with four other purchasers of "wild horses" was with him.

"I saw a couple of small bunches of horses," he said, "but could not get close enough to them to make out the brands. Later I saw two horses bearing the brand I bought. One was hitched to a wagon and the other was a saddle horse."

## CHIROPRACTORS AGAINST PLAN FOR ONE BOARD

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 16.—War has been declared by the Nebraska association of chiropractors against the plan of the regular medicals of the state to merge all the boards that pass on the applications of doctors to practice. The chiropractors say that this is a shrewd scheme to put them out of business, because such a board would naturally be controlled by representatives of the regular branches of the government. It would be a rare thing for a chiropractor to secure a license to practice at his hands. At present there are three boards, each passing on qualifications of healers who are attached to the respective school of practice.

## GUARDED STATE'S INTERESTS AT WASHINGTON HEARING

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 16.—Attorney General Reed is back from Washington, where he and five other lawyers for the state looked after Nebraska interests in the lawsuit brought by the state against the state of Colorado for its plan of impounding waters for irrigation for the benefit of water right owners who had filed later than did the Wyoming men. Mr. Reed believes the federal courts will wipe out state lines and direct that priority shall govern in the use of the waters. They are located with reference to states, Wyoming is doing the same thing with Nebraska, and if Colorado wins here will be a suit between Nebraska and Wyoming.

## NEBRASKA BEE KING RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS

Coleridge, Neb., Dec. 16.—After more than 40 years in the raising of bees and the production of honey, Mr. and Mrs. A. Gibson, octogenarians of this city, are retiring from the work and will dispose of their appliances. This year they produced more than 4,000 pounds of comb honey which sold at from 15 to 25 cents a pound. The Gibsons have been operating 50 hives with an outside help.

Mr. Gibson is one of the pioneers of northeastern Nebraska, having settled in Coleridge in 1875, later making his home at Dixon. Ten years ago he came to Coleridge with his swarms and occupied a house and acre of ground near the town's limits.

## NEGRO CONFESSES CRIME.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 16.—James White, alias "Big Neck," who was yesterday identified as the one who last Saturday night assaulted and perhaps fatally injured Mr. and Mrs. John Kennedy, in their home in Council Bluffs, is said by the police to have made a complete confession of the crime. He is said to have implicated another negro, but the police have little confidence in this feature of the confession.

For motorcycles there has been invented a pump that automatically fills a tire with air as a machine is running.

Dr. G. T. Neal has a razor said to be about 200 years old. It was used by Gen. George Washington's bodyguard in shaving the general at the time he was president of the United States. Dr. Neal uses the razor regularly.

Some prices of commodities in 1830 as shown by a ledger kept by Milo Watson, of Hartington, Conn., follow: Barrel of cider, 75 cents; three pecks of potatoes, 50 cents; beef, 4 cents a pound; five dozen eggs, 42 cents; milk, 3 cents a quart.

New York is to have a new hotel to cost \$15,000,000.

# TO NAME MURSCHELL FOOD COMMISSIONER

## Langhoist, State Democratic Chairman, Fails to Receive the Appointment.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 16.—Democratic State Chairman Langhoist is not to be state food commissioner under Governor Neville.

Langhoist met the governor elect in Omaha Tuesday and was there informed that he would not get the appointment. Otto Murschell, of Ord, who had the backing of Arthur Mullen and Senator Hitchcock, will be named commissioner.

Murschell is "wet" and fought prohibition; Langhoist is "dry" and supported it. As the food commissioner has control over drugs, he is a part of the machinery of prohibition law enforcement.

Langhoist was made chairman because he was a Bryan democrat, and his selection had the desired effect of placating a lot of the Bryan followers and making it easy for others to swallow the ticket. He won the most sweeping victory the democrats ever gained in the state.

Mr. Langhoist's friends say that his anger is not due to his failure to land the appointment, as he has a good business of his own in Elmwood. He is a former farmer, when the governor informed him that he would not be selected, he also said he did not owe anything to the democratic state committee.

## NEVILLE DISLIKED WAY LANGHORST TALKED, REPORT

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 16.—Friends of Governor Neville say that Chairman Langhoist's turnaround for the food commissioner appointment was due to the brusque way in which he forced his claims upon the governor. Langhoist is said to have told the governor that he would have to explain to the people of the state why he was not willing to reward the man who led the democratic forces to victory. He is also reported as having told the governor that the reason he did not get the job was because he did not want the law enforced against those who might try to get near beer past the food and drug inspection department.

Langhoist's friends do not deny that something of the sort was said, but they insist that after the governor had told the state chairman that he did not intend to appoint him.

## WOMAN JUMPED FROM TRAIN TO SAVE SELF

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 16.—Mrs. Josephine Wickousha, the Chicago woman who jumped out of a Pullman car near Aurora, Ill., Wednesday, was now covered from her injuries to be removed to the home of her sister in Cambria, Wyo., who came for her. The woman told the officials that someone attacked her in her berth and to save herself she put up a window and leaped out. Her sister explained that she may have been how she was able to get away by saying that the woman was afflicted with epilepsy and in one of her attacks imagined she was made the victim of an assault.

## FARMERS HAVE WAY TO BREAK CAR SHORTAGE

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 16.—It won't be long until armed posses of grain dealers will be patrolling the right of ways of all Nebraska railways in search of empty box cars. The other day the Burlington started a train of 34 empties from Lincoln. The first one that happened at Filley is typical. Nine were dropped at that station and the Farmers' Elevator company broke the Sabbath filling them. News of the good luck of Filley traveled all down the line. Grain dealers telephoned to Filley and found it was true. They telephoned the state railway commission to know why Filley could get cars and they could get none. The railway commissioners telephoned to Filley and wanted to know how they got the cars. They got satisfaction, but now they are doing their best to prevent the railroads from discriminating in the future by ordering distribution to be made under the auspices of the commission.

## COUNTIES OWE \$42,201,000.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 16.—Nebraska counties owe a total of \$42,201,000, according to a compilation made by the auditor. Douglas county owes more than half, of \$22,000,000, of which \$17,000,000 is the city of Omaha. The state itself owes nothing. The bonded indebtedness is divided as follows: Douglas county, \$3,425,000; precinct, \$245,000; city and village, \$28,231,995; school district, \$9,123,114; drainage and irrigation, \$1,179,000.

WEST POINT—Mrs. Bernard Clatanoff, 91, one of the oldest women in Cumina county, died at St. Joseph's hospital here aged 93. She was born in Oldenburg, Germany in 1828. The family came to America in 1871. The funeral services were held today.

MONTEREY—The eldest son of Joseph Klenert, of Monterey, met with a serious accident by the running of a nail in his eye. He was taken to Omaha, where the eyeball was removed.

## RUSSIANS INVESTING HEAVILY IN TRACTORS

London, Dec. 15.—A Petrograd dispatch to the Central News agency says that a representative of the ministry of agriculture addressing an agricultural congress announced that during the current year 300 tractor engines had been bought abroad for Russia. Before the war such machines were scarcely known in the empire. The speaker said that in addition 90,000 rubles had been spent for harvesting machinery, the demand for which was continually growing. He also declared that huge deposits of phosphates had been discovered, which would meet the deficiency hitherto supplied by importations.

According to Dr. Samuel Johnson the best book ever written on good breeding was "Il Cortegiano," by Castiglione. This little volume was first published by the Aldine Press at Venice in 1528, and before the close of that century more than 100 editions were issued in English, French, Spanish and German.

A portable vacuum cleaner of an English invention can be used as a seat table, cabinet, rug or stool or pedestal.

The Chinese government has sent students to the Philippines to study scientific forestry as conducted by Americans.

A new mailing machine driven by an electric motor seals envelopes and attaches stamps at a rate of 15,000 an hour.

Successful experiments with cotton growing have been carried on in the canal zone by a North Carolina man.

# TO RAISE CAMPAIGN FUNDS IN NOVEL WAY

## Nebraska "Suffs" Inaugurate "Save Your Paper and Rags" Movement.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 15.—In order to finance their campaign in 1918 for suffrage, the state association devoted to that purpose has inaugurated a "save your paper and rags" campaign. Every housewife who believes in suffrage is to hang two sacks on her back porch as receptacles for the paper and rags that are a byproduct of housekeeping. These will be collected and stored in warehouses that it is expected will be donated by owners of empty buildings in the various towns. Paper is finding a ready market at \$10 a ton for common paper and \$26 a ton for magazine and book paper. Rags bring \$2.25 per 100 pounds.

The women expect in the next year to raise \$10,000 in this manner.

## STATE MAY TAKE OVER NORMAL AT FREMONT

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 15.—A fifth state normal school is among the possibilities. On January 4, H. Clemmons, owner of the Fremont normal, becomes state superintendent and a member of the board. It is gossiped in educational circles that this will be followed by the state taking over the Clemmons school.

A significant fact is that the state normal board, in apportioning funds, has left \$347,000 available for new buildings. The Fremont normal can be secured for \$175,000. The money for new buildings would erect two good ones at each normal, and that number is not needed now.

The \$5 of a mill levy for state normals will yield \$1,000,000 the next two years. For maintenance, the board has set aside \$180,000 for the Kearney normal and \$302,000 for the Peris, \$123,000 for the Chadron, and \$140,000 for the Wayne school.

## ARREST JANITOR'S BROTHER AS BURGLAR SUSPECT

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 15.—Four hundred dollars were stolen from the vault of the Hall Land company, which was accidentally left unlocked when the cashier left at night. Both doors were locked, and the fact that only a duplicate key could have gained entrance led to a search for Paul Dennison, who had been assisting his brother, the regular janitor. He was missing from town. Detectives located him at a small town near Lincoln. He had in his possession the sum of \$418, some of the silver he carried being wrapped in packages that the cashier identified. The man was arrested and brought to the city.

## LAND COMMISSIONER SLAPS BACK AT STATE AUDITOR

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 15.—Not to be outdone in politeness by the state auditor, who, in his biennial report to the governor and the legislature, recommended the abolition of the land commissioner's office and its consolidation with the auditor's office, Land Commissioner Beckmann, in his biennial report, will recommend the abolition of the auditor's office and its consolidation with the land commissioner's forces.

He argues that since the land commissioner's office has been taken away the auditor has but routine duties to perform that can be done in other offices. The auditor is a republican.

## STINGING RETORT MADE TO STATE COLLEGE DEAN

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 15.—The Innocents society, so stultically rebuked by Dean Engeberg, executive chief of the state university, for failing to preserve order at the Cornhusker celebration banquet, comes back with a stinging retort. The members insist that the dean spoke in a heavy, snoring tone and other members of the faculty should have been present. They say that one faculty member replied, when asked to buy a ticket, that he considered it a disgrace to be asked to attend such an affair. The Innocents say they did the best they could, and they demand that the dean be more specific in his declaration that the majority of the 33 members of the society were not worthy of public respect or confidence.

## Was the Dog a Suicide?

From West's Docket.

The mere finding of a dog's body near a railroad track raises no presumption as to the cause of its death, according to Judge Wade, who recently ruled in a holding in Alabama Great Southern Railroad Co. vs. Price, 38 Southeastern Reporter, 82. No one saw the dog killed, nor did the evidence show that there were any marks or bruises on the body.

Judge Wade, delivering the opinion for the Georgia court of appeals, says: "All things that live must die, and such too living things will die a natural death, unless some extraneous cause or agency intervenes, and a dog is no exception from the operation of the universal law. We may surmise that the particular dog we are interested in may have had some deadly poison administered to it either by accident or intention, and the poison may have destroyed its life just as it neared the railroad track, in proximity to which its body was found. It is equally possible that from heat failure (that comprehensive term so often used by the medical profession to account for mysterious and sudden departures from this little world), or from any one of many different natural causes, for the poetic expression, 'Death hath a thousand doors to let out life,' applies equally as well to the canine as to the human race. In fact, whatever may be the legal rule, in the absence of any circumstances leading to a conclusion that every death is assumed to be from natural causes."

To infer that the dog was struck by the train, "we would be told by the court, 'to hold judicially that the very atmosphere surrounding a railroad train is as deadly as the train and emanate from the train itself, and that a railroad company can be held liable for death supposed to have resulted solely from the pestilential breath of its locomotive.'"

# FRENCH GAIN TWO MILES AT VERDON; SEIZE 9,000 MEN

## General Petain Hurls Army of 100,000 Men Against German Line, Advancing on Six-Mile Front.

## 80 CANNON ARE CAPTURED

## Numerous Villages, Important Works and Strong Positions Go Down Before Rush of Victorious French.

Paris, Dec. 18.—The number of guns captured from the Germans in General Nivelle's victory on the Verdun front, as counted up to the present, is 80, according to the latest reports reaching Paris. More than 9,000 Germans were made prisoners. The French advanced about two miles on a six-mile front.

The French plan of attack was drawn up by General Nivelle, now the commander in chief, with the concurrence of General Petain, who at the time was his superior officer. The assault proper was left to General Mangin. It was made by five divisions, or close to 100,000 men, under command of such leaders as General De Maud'hay and General Dupassand.

The front which the French infantry had held since the recapture of Douaumont and Vaux, the first towns captured by the southern slopes of Pepper Hill east of the Meuse, between Bras and Vacheraville, Haudremont wood, Haudremont quarries, the region north of the village, Fort Douaumont, the quarries northeast of Fort Douaumont. The small wood southeast of Fort Douaumont, Haudremont wood, the village of Vaux and the fort of Vaux. Behind that line General Nivelle had distributed groups of powerful batteries which for 70 hours before the attack hammered the German positions, particularly those on Pepper Hill and at Haudremont and Bezonsvaux.

From the positions occupied by the French it may be seen that they were installed on a series of heights, some dominating the German positions, but others being under the direct fire of their opponents. To improve and strengthen their line, the French were to wrest from their adversary the famous Pepper Hill, Louvemont, the crest of Hill 372 which commands Poses wood, La Bauche and Hassoule wood, north of Douaumont fort, as well as the important works at Haudremont, west of Douaumont, and the German line, if possible, the village of Bezonsvaux, most of whose houses are in the Weevre. The church of this village is on the southern slopes of Hill 329, upon the other side of which lies the village of Ormes, once the strategic point carried by the Germans at the beginning of their victorious advance.

Promptly at 10 a. m. the five attacking divisions, each of which covered a front of one and one-quarter miles, advanced behind the screen fire of guns of all calibers. They swarmed rapidly into the German trenches. The German troops in these positions, surprised by the suddenness of the attack, offered comparatively little resistance.

In the village of Vacheraville, where the Germans had installed a quantity of machine guns, the struggle was fiercest, but not the less short. More to the east the French formations charged the slopes of Pepper Hill, carrying all before them. As they rushed to the attack the soldiers cheered and from time to time the Marseillaise roared. By the time the French had reached the crest above the chorus of the cannon.

With Vacheraville and Pepper Hill lost it became evident to the Germans that resistance would be futile and they retired in fairly good order. On the Vacheraville-Beaumont road, however, French troops suddenly attacked the rear of the Germans. The French had crept along a small ravine running from Pepper Hill to the road. On seeing the French the Germans bolted, throwing away their rifles, knapsacks and pouches. From the top of the hill the French snatched the machine guns, shooting with joy, they dashed after them.

Half an hour later the French reached the extremity of the Louvemont crest, close to the village of the same name.

Here the French troops joined hands with the formations which had started from Haudremont wood and had progressed almost as rapidly along the eastern side of Pepper Hill and the Bras-Louvemont road. Louvemont was stormed out of hand and a large contingent of prisoners was rounded up. By this time the Germans were surrendering freely all along the line and the communication trenches were choked with prisoners going to the rear. East of Louvemont another division reached the Louvemont-Azannes road. South of the angle formed by this road at the southeastern horn of the Poses wood, a sharp tussle took place for possession of Hill 372, but here again the Germans went down before the vigorous efforts of their assailants, abandoning the ground and leaving many dead and several hundred prisoners. The advance swept on over Hill 372 as far as Chambrette farm, at the other edge of Poses wood and carried it.

## Many Guns Destroyed.

Northeast of Douaumont the advance of the French troops was equally rapid. The woods of La Bauche and Hassoule and the Haudremont positions were carried successfully. Haudremont wood was completely demolished by shell fire, and could afford no support to the German formations, which fell back upon it in disorder. All the woods north of the work were occupied by the French, who pushed on as far as the village of Bezonsvaux. By 11 o'clock 20 guns had fallen into the hands of the French; by noon 40 guns; by 5 o'clock, 75 had been counted, exclusive of those destroyed.

Having accomplished the task set for him, General Mangin, profiting by the disorganization of the German ranks caused by the brief attack, sent out exploring parties, who put out of action most of the guns north of Vacheraville and Louvemont and in Poses and Courrieres woods.

## OVERRUN RUMANIA.

Berlin, (by wireless to Skyville), Dec. 16.—The Teutonic army in Rumania are continuing their advance on the front, it is announced in today's war office statement. Two thousand more prisoners have been brought in. In Toluzaia the Russians have retired.

Increased cultivation of the sea is to be a feature in Great Britain's return to industrial life, and papers read at the late British association meeting dealt with the importance of the inshore fisheries showing that a considerable national asset can be developed by judicious extension of shellfish production, sprouting and prawning, white bait and sprat fishing