

By advertising in The Bee the storekeeper takes his show window into the home of every reader

VOL. XLIV—NO. 171

OMAHA, MONDAY MORNING, JANUARY 4, 1915.

SINGLE COPY TWO CENTS.

RICHMOND HOLDS OWN WITH FIELD FOR SPEAKERSHIP

Douglas County Representative at Lincoln Contending Against All Candidates in Race. OTHERS ARE NOT COMBINING All Aspirants on the Scene, but Fight Has Not Reached the Stage of Finality.

JACKSON AND FRIES TALKED OF Howard County Democrat Mentioned as Having Strong Backing. SENATE FIGHT IS DIGNIFIED Caucus of Members Will Be Held Monday Night, When Decision Will Be Reached as to the Winner.

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

Fries May Be Surprised. There is some Norton talk, but it has not reached a stage where it is strong enough to stand alone. The most formidable dark complexioned animal, which has appeared so far is the candidacy of Soren Fries, the Howard county gentleman. It is said that the corporation influence is behind an effort to put Fries into the fight at the proper time. It is also rumored that the Sink-Benton combination is back of the scheme in which Fries comes, but so far the scheme is in its infancy with Trumble of Sherman, acting as chief of staff and envoy extraordinary.

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

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

Howard and Negley Arrive. John I. Negley of Omaha was the only member of the Douglas delegation to arrive, who had not in appearance today at noon, except Jerry Howard, who has been here since Monday. Mr. Negley is at the Lincoln, where most of the democratic members are holding forth, although the Lindell appears to be the more, where most of them congregate after getting their bearings. This is probably due to the fact that the Lindell is republican headquarters and the members seek the need of the right kind of instruction to start them out on right lines of legislation.

The Weather

Table with columns for Hour, Deg., and Comparative Local Record. Includes data for 24 hours and a record table for 1915, 1914, 1913, 1912.

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



JUDGE TELLS JURY TO SET BROOKS FREE

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

COURT WON'T HEAR REBUTTAL Defendant Charged with Murder of William Menzie and Blanche Signal at Geddes in Last April.

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

Position of Body. When Menzie's body was discovered it was stretched full length crosswise of the office. His feet were bound with wire and a wire band was about one wrist, the other being free, although the wire had been broken and had originally bound both hands. The body of Miss Signal was found lying in the opposite direction with both hands and feet bound with wire in a similar manner, her hands being behind her.

First Service Held In Auditorium of Plymouth Church

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

WINTER RAINS DELAY ARMIES ON WEST LINE

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

WORST IN EUROPE IN YEARS Both Fronts Alike Drenched So that Roads Have Become Regular Quagmires.

SLIGHT ADVANCE IS MADE Germans' Only Forward Move of the Day is Capture of the Town of Borjomow.

RUSS SECURE ANOTHER BASE Appear to Have Won Additional Opening Through Carpathians.

TURKS FORTIFYING THE FRONT Fervid Activity in Direction Not at Present Threatened Indicates Fear the Balkan States Will Enter the Conflict.

LONDON, Jan. 3.—The extremely rainy winter, the worst Europe has experienced in years, causing floods in the river valleys of the continent as well as those of England, has prevented any operations on a large scale, on the western battle front, and has seriously interfered with those in the east.

GREAT WAR REACHES STATUS OF DRAW

"Governing" Germany Said by Some Neutrals in Their Confidence to Appreciate This.

NO CRUSHING VICTORY IN SIGHT Belief in High Circles that Neither Teutons Nor Allies Have Chance of Winning Decisive Triumph.

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

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

Fire Blocks Traffic On Reading Railroad

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 3.—Fire in Camden today destroyed the large train shed and station of the Philadelphia & Reading Railway company, a coal and lumber yard and several buildings belonging to the Dialogue Ship Building company.

Berlin Finds Good News Everywhere Along the Extended Battle Fronts

BERLIN, Jan. 3 (by wireless to Say-Ville).—The official press bureau today gave out the following items: "The situation in the west is considered by the military critics to be steadily improving. They believe the Russian counter offensive in Galicia has been utterly shattered for the time at least. Events in the east, however, have brought surprises, so that predictions as to the situation there cannot safely be made.

ARTILLERY FIGHTS GIVE FRENCH LEAD

Demolish Several German Fortifications on Plateau of Touvenl from Oise to Meuse.

REPULE THE PRUSSIAN ATTACK Two German Charges Near La Groutre Are Failed, and French Easily Maintain Former Gains in Upper Alsace Regions.

PARIS, Jan. 3.—The French official statement issued this afternoon says: "During the day of January 2 we strengthened the position to the north of the Lys gained during the preceding days. The enemy has shown activity only in the region of Zonnebeke, which he has violently bombarded. From the Lys to Arras there is almost complete quiet.

GERMANS WIN WEST OF VISTULA RIVER

Succeed in the Taking of Specially Strengthened Point in 'Appui of Russians at Borgimow.

CAPTURE THOUSAND PRISONERS Russians Attempt to Retake Position in Three Night Attacks, but Are Driven Back, Suffering Heavy Losses.

BERLIN, Jan. 3 (by wireless to London, 2:30 p. m.).—The official statement issued today by the German army headquarters says: "Western theater: Some of the enemy's ships, accompanied by torpedo boats, appeared off Westende (Belgium) yesterday afternoon, without firing.

Turkish War Office Reports Capture of Large Russian Town

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 3 (Via London, 8:10 p. m.).—The Turkish war office today gave out the following statement: "Our troops took Ardahan (a Russian fortified town in Transcaucasia forty-five miles northwest of Kars) on January 1. Ardahan was defended by General Zuchen with 2,500 infantry, 1,000 Cossacks, six field guns and two machine guns.

Turks Take Ardahan, In Russian Caucasus

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

Twelve U. S. Forts Almost Depopulated

CHICAGO, Jan. 3.—Calls for United States soldiers on the Mexican border, Colorado, Arkansas and elsewhere during the last two years have depopulated the twelve forts in the central department to a corporal's guard, according to a report today by Colonel D. A. Frederick at department headquarters here.

SLOW BALL BOMB TERRORIZES RUSS, CAN SEE IT COME

Mine Thrower Used by Germans in Poland Most Terrible Weapon of All to Victims.

MISSILE JUST WOBBLING ALONG Projectile Can Be Plainly Followed with Eye and Tension on Men in Trenches Dreadful.

THOSE HIT ARE TORN TO BITS Associated Press Correspondent with German Armies at Posen Describes Fighting.

SAPPING THEIR WAY FORWARD Struggle Along Heavily Entrenched Line of Field Fortifications.

OPPOSING FORCES CLOSE Battle Stationary in Many Places Along Front in East, Rapid Movements Not Now Characterizing Warfare.

POSEN, Germany, Jan. 3.—(Via Berlin and The Hague to London.)—The battle is now stationary at many parts of the long front in Poland. The rapid movements of the army forward and backward, with kaleidoscopic changes in the situation, which hitherto have characterized the warfare in the east have given place, for the time being at least to a struggle along a heavily entrenched line of field fortifications, resembling those in France.

During the fortnight which a correspondent of The Associated Press spent at the front, attached to the line along the Rakwa river, the operations were marked by advances of from ten to twelve miles in a few places, but in general the infantry is fighting its way foot by foot with the aid of artillery support. In these operations the artillery and mine throwers are trumps, instead of the soldiers' legs. The mine throwers are particularly effective although the heavy artillery is handicapped by weather conditions and the short days which make observations and the direction of the fire possible only for short periods, the minute mine throwers are busy day and night hurling projectiles of 200 pounds of high explosives from trench to trench at a range that is very effective.

Conscription is In Sight for the Men of England

LONDON, Jan. 3.—A hint that the British government contemplated the introduction of conscription for increasing the army and navy was dropped by Thomas J. MacNamara, parliamentary secretary to the admiralty while speaking at the Browning settlement this afternoon.

Austrian Retreat Takes Character of Rout, Say Russians

PETROGRAD, Jan. 3.—The following statement was issued today by the Russian army headquarters: "On the Bura and Rakwa rivers we are continuing the successful repulse of German attacks in spite of the enemy's heavy artillery fire and bomb throwing.

Bullet-Proof Armor Of No Value at All

PARIS, Jan. 3.—The general commanding the Eighteenth German army corps has, according to the Paris Press, issued the following notice to his troops: "Bullet-proof armor, of which various models have been placed on sale and actively advertised, does not give at all the protection promised. On the contrary, upon exposure to fire it is shown that the armor, instead of protecting, becomes itself the cause of grave wounds to those wearing it. Besides, the pieces of armor interfere with freedom of movement and make the soldier's work more difficult. It is necessary to issue this caution against worthless purchases."

SITUATION IN ALBANIA REPORTED MUCH WORSE

LONDON, Jan. 3.—The situation in Albania is much worse. The insurgents are said to have occupied Derat and to be marching on Dibra. This statement is made by the Athens correspondent of the Reuter Telegraph company, who also sends the following: "The authorities at the Dardanelles have expelled all the consuls of neutral countries, and also those of Austria-Hungary."

TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND AUSTRIANS CAPTURED

PETROGRAD (Via London, Jan. 3.—The Russian army under General Radko Dimitrieff has captured 22,578 Austrians and forty-five machine guns during the last fortnight, according to an official announcement given out here.