

# KAISER AGAIN ASKS PEACE; CZAR NICHOLAS ESCAPES

## FORMER RUSSIAN EMPEROR FLEES SIBERIAN PRISON

Special Train Manned by Sailors Dispatched From Petrograd in Hot Pursuit of Deposed Monarch; Confirms Recent Report of American Consul; East May Shelter Royal Family.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

Nicholas Romanoff, former emperor of Russia, deposed last March by the revolutionists and for several months in confinement at Tobolsk, Siberia, is reported to have made his escape. A special train manned by sailors has been dispatched from Petrograd for the pursuit of the former emperor.

As the report, unlike previous rumors to this effect, came through the Bolshevik headquarters in Petrograd, the announcement may be regarded as official, but a few hours later it was officially denied by Bolshevik leaders that Nicholas had escaped.

### SIBERIA SAFE ASYLUM.

Previous reports of the escape of Nicholas had him making his way out of Siberia through Harbin, Manchuria. The route to Harbin is a long one, however, and he would have 4,000 miles to travel before reaching the Pacific coast from Tobolsk, although that place itself is some 1,500 miles east of Moscow. There remains the possibility that Siberia itself might be a safe asylum for him for the time being, as that vast province was reported last month to have declared its independence and to have named Nicholas as its emperor.

### REDS GAIN POWER.

The effect of the escape upon Bolshevik plans for the future course of Russia could scarcely be even surmised, so enigmatic in many ways has been the recent course of the Lenin-Trotsky government in Petrograd, which now appears to be getting the upper hand in many parts of the country outside the northern centers, overcoming the opposition of the more conservative elements.

Some English correspondents in Petrograd, indeed, have latterly come to take the view that the Bolshevik leaders were planning eventually to put monarchical form of government in force after they had established their sway by drastic measures, coupled with their hold on the proletariat through the popularity of their land reform and peace measures.

The American consul at Tiflis, in the Russian Caucasus, recently sent a report which was received in Washington on December 8, stating that a rumor was in circulation that former Emperor Nicholas had escaped. The message made it clear that there was no confirmation and there has been nothing since received confirmatory of the report until the Petrograd advices today.

### Confined in Monastery.

For some time after the outbreak of the revolution and the monarch's deposition, he, with his family, was confined in the royal palace at Tsarskoe-Selo. On August 19, however, the Russian provisional government announced that he had been transferred to Tobolsk, together with the members of his family and his suite. At first he was quartered in the governor's palace in the town of Tobolsk, but on October 11 it was given out that he and his family had been transferred to a monastery situated about 20 miles outside.

Shortly after the recent escape of General Korniloff and almost concurrently with the rumor from Tiflis that Nicholas Romanoff, as the emperor has been known since he was deposed, has effected his escape, one of the Bolshevik government organs in Petrograd announced that several detachments of sailors of the Red Guard had been sent to Tobolsk to guard him.

### Report Siberia Independent.

One of the many rumors that were current at about the time the Tiflis report was in circulation reached London by way of Zurich and was to the effect that Nicholas had made his way out of Siberia through Harbin and had arrived in Japan. The route through Harbin was regarded as the most natural one for him to take, and this may have given rise to the rumor that he actually had traveled this road out of his former domain. The diffi-

Former Czar Nicholas Who Has Escaped



## FUEL SHORTAGE THROWS 100,000 MEN OUT OF WORK

Hundreds of Cleveland's Large Manufacturing Plants Are Forced to Shut Down, Delaying War Orders.

Cleveland, O., Dec. 15.—One hundred thousand men were out of work and hundreds of Cleveland's largest manufacturing plants were shut down today because of the shortage of coal. The companies affected, many of them turning out rush orders of war materials, depend upon the Cleveland Electric Illuminating company for electric power. Late yesterday the coal shortage caused the illuminating company to shut off electric current to all big industrial manufacturing plants.

The idle manufacturing plants will resume operation Monday morning, provided coal now being rushed to the illuminating company's plant is not delayed.

Conditions Serious in Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 15.—The most serious coal shortage in the history of Pittsburgh and vicinity prevails at this time, with no immediate relief in sight, according to D. W. Kuhn, local fuel administrator. Dealers who reported to the administrator stated that if no relief is secured today, more than half the city will be without fuel.

### Shortage Due to Lack of Cars.

Washington, Dec. 15.—After a conference with Fuel Administrator Garfield today, Chairman A. W. Thompson of the operating committee of the eastern railroads declared the coal famine was due more to a shortage of transportation facilities than shortage of coal.



## GERMAN GUNS NOW THUNDER VAINLY AT ITALIANS' LINE

Fierce Fighting in Progress on Mountain Front East of Brenta River; Three-day Heavy Bombardment Concentrating Hundreds of Shells at Various Points Fails to Break Through.

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Dec. 15.—Heavy fighting is in progress today on the mountain front in the north, east of the Brenta river. The enemy is attempting to advance his positions, as he has those west of the river, which would give him two lines of approach to the Brenta valley and the open plain.

The chief Austro-German effort is centering about Monte Beretta. There the enemy succeeded in advancing a short distance in the repeated attacks, in which he suffered large losses.

The enemy has brought a large number of his heaviest guns to the Piave and northern fronts, and the bombardment has taken on increased range and violence. Some of the shells have reached Mancino, eight miles back of the Piave, and a few miles from the city of Treviso. Four hundred of these monster projectiles were concentrated on one point.

General Diaz, the Italian commander-in-chief, sums up the results of the struggle of the last three days in the north by saying that the enemy secured an insignificant stretch of ground at the cost of an immense sacrifice of blood. Although he has obtained a lodgment on Monte Pantanel, heretofore held by the Italians, this does not represent any appreciable advance toward the plains, which is his main object, but merely a fluctuation of the Italian line, of which Monte Grappa is the dominating barrier.

Even below Grappa, formidable defensive works have been constructed, in event the enemy should reach the plain, but each day of his futile pressure on the north and east and of successful resistance by the Italians and their allies strengthens the belief that the enemy will not realize this eventually.

### Sixty Divisions on Italian Front.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The strength of the Austro-German invaders in Italy is placed by official dispatches from Rome today at 60 divisions. On the front line are 52, of which 75 are Austrians and seven German.

## TEACHERS VOTE TO MEET AGAIN IN CITY OF OMAHA

Count of Referendum Vote Reveals Their Decided Preference for Meeting Here; Gregg Is President.

The Nebraska State Teachers' association will meet in Omaha next year and the meeting will be during the first full week in November. This was decided by the teachers themselves.

The vote cast by the Nebraska teachers fixing the place for holding the next convention was canvassed Saturday afternoon, with Omaha and Lincoln contending. The vote stood: Omaha, 1,273; Lincoln, 766.

The proposition put up to the teachers at their last annual convention, held here in Omaha, that Omaha and Lincoln alternate and that the convention be held in Omaha one year and in Lincoln the next, was defeated by vote of 1,312 to 713.

F. M. Gregg of Peru normal was elected president of the association by a vote of 935. He defeated H. H. Hall of Wayne normal, who received 587 votes, and A. H. Dixon of Lincoln, who received 586 votes.

Elected to the executive committee were: Jess Newton, J. H. Beveridge, A. V. Teed, R. R. McGee and R. J. Barr.

### New War Council in Charge

Of Supplies for U. S. Armies

Washington, Dec. 15.—Organization of a war council of the war department to co-ordinate all matters of supplies for the armies at home and over seas and the military relations between the armies in the field and the department was announced today by Secretary Baker.

### Chicago Draft Men

Sent to Pacific Coast

Chicago, Dec. 15.—A thousand drafted men from Chicago were suddenly informed today they would be sent to Fort Winfield Scott, San Francisco, next week. The reason for dispatching a part of Chicago's quota to the Pacific coast was not announced and the men had no warning that they were to be called. This is the first time in which Chicago drafted men have been sent directly from their homes to cantonments other than Camp Grant at Rockford, Ill.

### County Board Rejects

Bids on County Hospital

County commissioners have rejected all bids for remodeling the fourth floor of the county hospital and have adopted instead a plan for erecting a one-story stucco addition on the ground floor north of the present building.

## ST. LOUIS MAN IS HELD BY POLICE IN RUSSIAN TOWN

C. S. Smith, Member of Staff of American Railway Commission, Arrested and Ambassador Intervenes.

Petrograd, Friday, Dec. 14.—Charles S. Smith of St. Louis, a member of the staff of John F. Stevens, head of the American Railway commission of Russia, is reported to have been arrested.

Mr. Smith is reported to have been arrested at Tchita, Siberia, in company with M. Oustrougoff, former assistant minister of railways, who is held by the Bolsheviks as a member of the provisional government.

Ambassador Francis has telegraphed to the American consuls at Harbin and Vladivostok to intervene. At the Smolny institute, the Bolshevik headquarters, it was stated that if the American had been arrested it was a mistake and he would be immediately released.

### Was Missouri Pacific Engineer.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 15.—The St. Louis man whose arrest is reported in a Petrograd dispatch apparently is Charles H. Smith, formerly a valuation engineer for the Missouri Pacific railway. He went to Russia with the American railroad commission.

### High School Student

Dies Following Operation

Harold O. Kastman, 18 years old, died Saturday at the Immanuel hospital following an operation for appendicitis. He had been ill three weeks. Harold was a senior at Commercial high and prominent in school social circles. Funeral services will be held Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the home of his father, C. G. H. Kastman, 1715 South Tenth street. Interment will be in Forest Lawn cemetery.

The young man is survived by his mother, father, three brothers, Alfred, Henry, and Arthur, and two sisters, Ruth and Alma.

## END OF WORLD WAR TO BE SOUGHT AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Message to Declare Blame for Bloodshed in 1918 Will Fall Upon Enemies if They Fail to Accept Terms; Russ Bolsheviks Orders Troops Disarmed.

London, Dec. 15.—Emperor William, in his Christmas message, proposes to make a final peace offer to his enemies. In case of rejection, the kaiser says that upon them "will fall the responsibility for bloodshed in 1918," according to an unofficial Berlin telegram forwarded from Geneva by the Exchange Telegraph company today.

## DRAFT MACHINE SETS WHEELS IN MOTION HERE

Enlistments of Men Subject to Selective Conscription End at Noon; Begin Mailing Out Questionnaires.

At noon Saturday enlistments of men subject to selective conscription were brought to an abrupt ending and the great draft machinery for the classification of registered men for the second draft was put in motion throughout the United States.

Enlistments in the army of registrants were called off in the middle of the week, but the naval department has received no such orders, and as a consequence registrants have been permitted to enlist.

Registrants now cannot enlist for any branch of naval service unless their application be accompanied by a certificate from their local exemption boards certifying that they are not likely to be in the quota of the next draft call.

### Call on Class 1.

Officials are in receipt of special orders which state that it is the desire of the War department to fill all quotas after December 15 from Class 1 under the new registration system as follows:

A—Single man without dependent relatives.

B—Married man, with or without children, or father of motherless children, who has habitually failed to support his family.

C—Married man dependent on wife for support.

D—Married man, with or without children, or father of motherless children; man not usefully engaged, family supported by income independent of his labor.

E—Unskilled farm laborer.

F—Unskilled industrial laborer.

Registrant by or in respect of whom no deferred classification is claimed or made.

Registrant who fails to submit questionnaire and in respect of whom no deferred classification is claimed or made.

All registrants not included in any other division in this schedule.

Local exemption boards began at noon to mail out 17,000 questionnaires, at the rate of 5 per cent a day for 20 days, or until January 9, 1918.

### Expediency Necessary.

Exemption boards are notified that expediency is necessary to fill the first quota with registrants of Class 1. According to rules formulated by the War department, the registrants must do these things:

Return the answers to the questionnaires.

Composing the council are the secretary and assistant secretary of war, the chief of staff, and Major General Henry G. Sharpe, quartermaster general; Major General Erastus M. Weaver, chief of coast artillery; Major General William Crozier, chief of ordnance, and Major General Enoch H. Crowder, provost marshal general.

### STRIKES AT RUSSIA.

According to one version of Germany's separate peace terms reaching Petrograd from Stockholm, Russia must forever abandon her influence in the Balkans, while Germany shall have the right to export manufactures into Russia for 15 years without customs duty. Germany and Austria have made concessional rights to Russia beginning from the day of the signing of a peace treaty and running for 40 years.

The Petrograd newspapers announce that Germany has withdrawn her demand for disarmament of the entire Russian army.

Leon Trotsky declares, according to a Petrograd dispatch that "the German government opened peace parleys with us because the discontent of its masses forced it to this step."

### Bolshevik Disarms Troops.

The resumption of Russo-German armistice negotiations is formally announced. The communication says they are now concerned with the transport of troops from the front, the question of the seas and conditions of fraternization.

Russia maintains her attitude in respect to transportation of German troops to other fronts, contending that the Germans should not send men from the east to France and Belgium.

Bolshevik units at Kiev have been disarmed by the Ukrainians and sent to their homes. In one instance the Bolshevik troops in Kiev resisted disarmament and numerous casualties resulted.

The Bolshevik committee of the Twelfth army corps has asked for the recall of Major Pichon, head of the French military mission, for protesting against agitation in the army against the entente allies.

It is noted that although the German and Austrian governments announced the resumption of armistice negotiations on Thursday and their adjournment until today, the Russian commissaries issued no report regarding these developments.

### Peace Treaty Formulated.

Amsterdam, Dec. 15.—A treaty between Russia and Germany has been formulated, according to an official German statement received here today.

### South Dakota Man is

Acquitted of Arson Charge

Sturgis, S. D., Dec. 15.—(Special Telegram.)—Case of State vs. Edward Grosser on trial here in circuit court the past two days resulted in a verdict of "not guilty." Grosser was charged with arson, brought about by the burning of property belonging to George Coleman at Elms Springs, entailing a loss of \$5,000.

### Mexico Lays Embargo

On Export of Dyestuffs

Mexico City, Dec. 15.—The treasury department announced last night prohibition of the export of aniline and coal tar dyes and natural and artificial vegetable dyes.

## The Omaha City Mission Christmas Appeal to Its Friends



"Hundreds of boys and girls and scores of families connected with the various departments of our work are looking to the OMAHA CITY MISSION for their Christmas, and they must not be disappointed," said Mr. Arthur Chase, executive secretary of the MISSION, which is located at 1204 Pacific street.

"These are war times and a generous public has responded liberally to appeals for foreign relief work, but we must not forget our own long established institutions. We intend to make this a practical Christmas in the way of gifts. There is so much real pinching need that it seems a pity to present a tin horn to a boy or a gaudy toy to a girl when they are shivering for lack of warm mittens, caps, hoods, underwear, shoes or stockings.

"The CITY MISSION is admirably situated and organized for the work. While it is true it occupies its own building, without mortgage debt, it is nevertheless dependent upon the generosity of its friends for its maintenance.

"Some good people have already sent in their gifts and others need only to be reminded of the expectant look on the faces of scores of children for whom the money will be spent."

Remittances should be sent to A. L. Reed, treasurer, or to The Dec.

## The Weather

For Nebraska—Fair and warmer. Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

Hour	Deg.
6 a. m.	4
7 a. m.	4
8 a. m.	4
9 a. m.	4
10 a. m.	4
11 a. m.	4
12 m.	4
1 p. m.	4
2 p. m.	4
3 p. m.	4
4 p. m.	4
5 p. m.	4
6 p. m.	4
7 p. m.	4
8 p. m.	4
9 p. m.	4
10 p. m.	4
11 p. m.	4
12 m.	4

Comparative Local Record, 1917, 1916, 1915, 1914.

Month	1917	1916	1915	1914
Highest temperature	45	57	59	58
Lowest temperature	1	8	27	2
Mean temperature	35	38	28	2
Precipitation for the day	0	0	0	0
Precipitation for the month	0	0	0	0
Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal	0	0	0	0
Normal temperature	35	38	28	2
Normal precipitation	0	0	0	0
Deficiency for the day	0	0	0	0
Total deficiency since March 1	0	0	0	0
Normal precipitation	0	0	0	0
Deficiency for the day	0	0	0	0
Total rainfall since March 1	0	0	0	0
Deficiency since March 1	0	0	0	0
Deficiency for the period, 1917, 1916, 1915, 1914	0	0	0	0

## Carrier Pigeon, Wearing Band Of Code, Shot Down in Iowa Town

It is possible that some of the thousands of pigeons imported to Germany before the war are returning to United States soil? It is a known fact that prior to the war there was a brisk demand for carrier pigeons for shipment to Germany.

A little aluminum band with the monogram "AV" and "G 3411 16" printed on the surface, which was taken from the leg of a pigeon shot by Ray Gardner at Herndon, Ia., a few days ago, is believed to be a German code signal. It is possible that the pigeon was taken to Germany, where it was kept long enough to familiarize itself with its surroundings and then shipped to New York or some other point to be used as a messenger to carry notes concerning the movements of United States soldiers or ships.

While the inscription on the band is all Sanscrit to the average person, it is believed to be of deep significance. One theory is that it is a code message to the Germans giving valuable information and instead of returning to Germany it turned around and came back to its old haunts in Iowa.

On the other hand, it is argued by the sages of Herndon that the pigeon may be the property of the United States aviation corps, but all scratch their heads in perplexity when it comes to interpreting the monogram.

C. F. Gardner, father of Ray, will keep the aluminum band as a souvenir, although he has been urged to forward it to Washington so that the authorities may be able to locate the place from which the pigeons are being released.