

ITALY DEFEATS TEUTONS IN NEW OFFENSIVE; COSSACKS READY FOR CIVIL WAR IN RUSSIA

UKRAINIAN RADA INSISTS NEW FEDERAL SOCIALIST REPUBLIC BE ESTABLISHED

General Dutoff's Cossacks Prevent Transmission of Supplies from Siberia and Ukraine Government Has Begun to Issue Its Own Notes; Rada Defies Bolsheviki to Start Civil War.

Petrograd, Dec. 23.—The conflict between the Ukrainian Rada and the Bolsheviki commissaries continues unabated. The Rada, replying to an ultimatum of the Bolsheviki, insists on creation of a federal socialist republic, embracing Maximalists and Socialists, which it contends alone can be competent to decide the question of peace for the whole of Russia.

READY FOR CIVIL WAR.

The Rada declares itself favorable to settling by peaceful methods political and national questions, but asserts that if the commissaries assume the consequences of civil war, it will accept the challenge and stop at no obstacles.

One reason for the quarrel is the Rada's refusal to permit bread stuffs to be sent to northern Russia in consequence of the refusal by the commissaries to issue money to meet the needs of the Ukrainian government.

This stand, it is stated, threatens eventually to starve the north, especially as General Dutoff's Cossacks hold Chilibinsk and are preventing the transmission of supplies from Siberia. In the meantime the Ukraine has begun to issue its own notes.

General Verkhovski, Kerensky's minister of war, has offered his services to the Ukraine government. The reports of military movements in connection with the impending clash include the arrival of General Dutoff with a strongly reinforced body of Cossacks at Ufa, where he suppressed Bolsheviki organizations and continued his advance to Samara and Saratov. Orenburg is surrounded by Cossacks.

Ukrainian Troops Concentrate. Ukrainian troops are said to be concentrated between Homel and Bakhmach, while Bolsheviki forces are gathering at Minsk. The Maximalist troops trying to reach Kiev were stopped by torn-up railroad tracks.

The Rada is said to be in complete control of Odessa and to have been joined by the Black sea fleet. The Bolsheviki have occupied Proskurov, in Podolia. The Syzran Soviet is said to have disarmed four Cossack regiments. All reports continued disconnected, however, and are often contradictory.

According to a dispatch to the Times from Odessa, liquor looting orgies similar to those in Petrograd occurred there with much indiscriminate shooting, incendiarism and destruction of property. Finally, representatives of the soldiers' and workers' delegates and the Rada cooperated and appointed a committee to restore order.

A Reuter dispatch from Petrograd reports that notwithstanding the state of siege, sacking of wine stores continues in the capital accompanied by the riotous scenes now familiar. Many shops and dwellings have been pillaged, as well as the Danish Red Cross.

Submarine Chaser Afire, Beached on Atlantic Coast

An Atlantic Port, Dec. 23.—A submarine chaser on patrol duty near here, was destroyed by fire late today and two of her crew were injured in lowering the small boats. They were taken to a naval hospital.

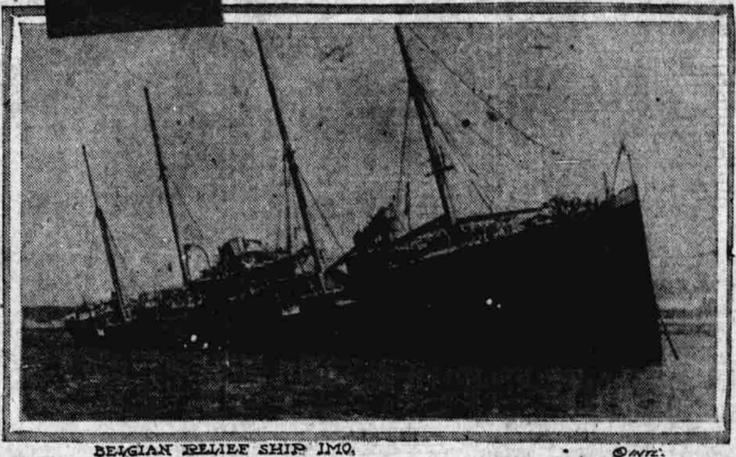
Mark Twain Heroine Dies.

Quincy, Ill., Dec. 22.—Mrs. Tobactha Greening, the "Cousin Puss" of all Mark Twain's stories, and to whom he left a legacy, died today in Palmyra, aged 83 years.

The Weather

For Nebraska—Fair, colder. Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

CAUSE OF GREAT HALIFAX DISASTER.—The Belgian relief ship, Imo, wrecked on the Dartmouth shore opposite Halifax. The Imo rammed the French munition steamer Mont Blanc, causing its cargo of T. N. T. to explode.



BELGIAN RELIEF SHIP IMO.

PACKERS CONTROLLED COTTON SEED PLANTS AND BIG TRADE PAPERS

Federal Trade Commission to Probe Control of Grain, Fertilizer, Dairying, Leather Hides, Canned Vegetables and Poultry; Armour Profits Enormous; Swift and Morris Implicated.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Cotton seed oil plants, Chicago real estate and cattle trade papers appeared today in the records of the federal trade commission's inquiry into the packing industry as sidelines into which the control of the big packers has extended.

IN BOSTON NEXT.

When the inquiry was adjourned over the holidays, Francis J. Heney, special counsel, announced that subsequent hearings probably in New York or Boston would deal with the packers' alleged control of grain, fertilizers, dairying, dairy feed, butter substitutes, leather hides, poultry and canned vegetables, none of which was touched on in the first three days testimony.

Having introduced evidence designed to establish the control of the Chicago stock yards and terminal railways by the Chicago Stock Yards company of Maine, promoted and owned in large part by J. Ogden Armour of Chicago, and Frederick H. Prince of Boston, Mr. Heney developed from witnesses today that Armour & Company are interested also in 11 other stock yards.

It had been testified previously that the Morris group of packers owned most of the Kansas City yards, and that Swift was interested in the St. Paul yard.

Mr. Heney charged that by controlling the principal cattle markets of the country, the packers are in a position to manipulate the nation's meat supply as well as dictate prices to both producers and consumers. He said that the large profits of the stock yards and railway companies came by the baby the producers, who pay storage feed and haulage charges which constitute the bulk of the companies' income.

Records were introduced today to show that other packers besides Armour & Company are interested in the Chicago stock yards and terminal railways.

PAN-HELLENIC FETES BOYS AND GIRLS IN XMAS FROLIC

Santa Claus Presides in Person at Party Given by Greek Letter Girls.

By GRACE ROBINSON. Santa Claus in all his glory of white whiskers, big boots and a jovial smile presided in person at the Christmas fete given by the Pan-Hellenic association of Omaha Saturday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Robert Adams, 3310 Davenport street.

ITALIANS RETAKE MILE OF GROUND IN FIERCE THRUST

Drive Teutons From Recent Gains in Brilliant Attacks; Climb Mount Asolone and Charge Garrison; Reach Summit of Mountain But Forced Back By Superior Numbers.

Headquarters of the Italian Army in Northern Italy, Friday, Dec. 21, 7 p. m.—In a succession of brilliant attacks throughout yesterday and today the Italians succeeded in dislodging the enemy from a great part of Monte Asolone and driving him back more than two-thirds of a mile along a three-mile front.

The enemy's occupation of Asolone was regarded as a serious menace because it gave him partial control of San Lorenzo Valley, leading to the plain and Asolone.

ATTACK IN DARKNESS.

A determined effort was made to retake the position. The first attack was in darkness at 2 o'clock yesterday morning, when a small detachment of the Seventh infantry climbed Monte Asolone and made a forced charge on the garrison. For a time the little band was beyond the summit, but finally was driven back by superior numbers.

The main attack began at 10 o'clock in the morning, when the Alpini and Seventh regiments advanced on a three-mile front, having Asolone as their center. The left and center moved straight ahead while the right executed a turning movement which partially enveloped the enemy position on Asolone.

The fighting was fierce all through the day and into the darkness of last night, when the Italians had again mastered the strategic points of Asolone, and the enemy was pushed back for nearly a mile.

The enemy's effort to cross the Old Piave at the nearest point to Venice has been thrown back by Italian sailors and marines. The enemy used armed flatboats carrying a storming party. The Italians landed a party from the fleet and engaged the enemy, driving him back and sinking one of his armed boats.

SACRED HEART FOUNDER DIES IN NEW YORK

New York, Dec. 23.—Mother Xavier Cabrini, founder of the Order of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, died tonight at Columbus hospital of heart disease from which she had suffered for several years.

Mother Cabrini was born in Italy on July 16, 1850, and formed the first order of the Sacred Heart at Codogno, Italy, in 1880. Her work received the sanction of the pope and the order thrived and spread to all parts of the world. She was called to Rome in 1887 by Pope Leo XIII to the pontifical school.

In 1889 Mother Cabrini desired to extend her missionary work and was directed by Pope Leo to go to America. She took charge of the Italian schools on her arrival in New York and in 1890 opened the first orphan asylum of the Sacred Heart at West Park, N. Y. As mother-general of the order, she went to all parts of the world and opened schools, hospitals, asylums and missions.

REVEAL HUGE SPY TRAFFIC WITH GERMANY

Washington, Dec. 22.—Operation of a system of regular communication between the United States and Germany, Austria and European neutrals was disclosed today by announcement of customs officials that within the last two weeks they have found scores of letters containing inscriptions in invisible ink or code phrases in the clothing or personal effects of ships' crews bound to or from Scandinavian ports. Swedes and Norwegians were most prominent in the traffic and about one-fifth of the letters were of suspicious character.

Evidence gathered thus far leads officials to believe some neutral subjects aided by Americans have made considerable money by promoting the clandestine traffic in communications to evade the British censorship of mails before and after the United States entered the war. These are now subject to criminal prosecution with penalty of \$10,000 fine and 10 years' imprisonment.

Omaha Restaurant Men Conferring With Hoover

Washington, Dec. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—John W. Welch, P. F. Petersen, T. F. Naughton and Chas. Wortman were in conference today with Herbert Hoover, food administrator, with reference to the conservation and distribution of cakes and sweet dough. They are in Washington as representatives of the hotels, restaurants and cafes of Omaha and Nebraska.

It's to Be Soldiers' and Sailors' Christmas This Year of War

It's the soldiers' Christmas this year. Even the little people, who will make the America of tomorrow, must stand back for the men in olive drab.

KIDNAPER OF KEET BABY ADMITS CRIME

Claude Pierson, Under Sentence of 35 Years in Prison for Abduction, Says Child Murdered With Laudanum.

(By the Associated Press.)

Springfield, Mo., Dec. 22.—Claude G. Pierson, who recently was sentenced to serve 35 years in the Missouri penitentiary for the abduction of Baby Lloyd Keet at Springfield, Mo., and now charged with the infant's murder, has made a confession to Cossacks.



CLAUDE PIERSON.

Sheriff Ward Mackey of Webster county, the sheriff announced tonight. The confession implicated many persons now under arrest, and others who have been mentioned from time to time.

BRITISH WREST BETHLEHEM FROM INFIDEL TURKS

Altenby's Forces Take Additional Towns and Large Number of Guns and Stores; Use Mount of Olives.

(By Associated Press.)

London, Dec. 23.—Since the Turks were driven out of Jerusalem they have been conducting gorilla warfare north and east of the city, to snipe patrols and generally make themselves unpleasant, says Reuter's correspondent at Jerusalem, telegraphing under date of December 15.

To improve the British positions, the correspondent says, the taking of certain ridges has been ordered so that there may be a wider range of defense.

"A remarkable opportunity to view this fighting is afforded by the Mount of Olives, which makes what is probably the most wonderful observation post in the world.

RED CROSS DRIVE CLOSES TONIGHT AT SIX O'CLOCK

Workers Put in a Busy Day Sunday, But Figures Are Not Available Until Today.

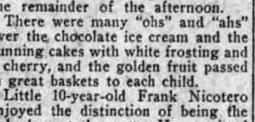
But one day remains for the workers in the big Red Cross drive to reach the 65,000 mark and they report they expect to reach this goal.

With a paid membership of nearly 53,000 and hundreds of workers to report on Sunday's drive the prospects for doubling Omaha's quota of 40,000 are bright.

ESTABROOK, LAWYER AND ORATOR, DEAD

Former Omaha Man, Once Candidate for Republican Nomination for President, Dies at Tarrytown, N. Y.

Henry Dodge Estabrook, formerly of Omaha, widely known as an attorney and at one time general solicitor for the Western Union Telegraph company, died suddenly in a motion picture theater at Tarrytown, N. Y., last night.



HENRY D. ESTABROOK.

He left his home after dinner apparently in good health and spirits, but collapsed a few minutes after entering the theater. He died in the lobby without regaining consciousness.

Accidentally Killed Comrade; Imprisoned

Spartanburg, S. C., Dec. 23.—Corporal Charles Volkner, Company B, 106th field artillery, has been convicted by court-martial at Camp Wadsworth of criminal carelessness in the killing of Private Antonia Massucci, his tentmate, and sentenced to one year in prison. A month ago Volkner was explaining a new rifle, when the weapon was discharged, instantly killing Massucci.

Rice, Theatrical Man, Dies.

New York, Dec. 23.—Myron B. Rice, theatrical producer and manager, died today at his home in this city, at the age of 53 years. He came into prominence when he produced "My Friend From India" and "The Man From Mexico."

Krupp Fire Not Serious.

Amsterdam, Dec. 23.—A dispatch from the frontier to the Telegraf says it is learned from Dutch workmen that an explosion occurred in the electric power station at the Krupp plant in Essen, owing to a short circuit. The building is reported to have been damaged seriously.

It's to Be Soldiers' and Sailors' Christmas This Year of War

Thousands of packages from Omaha and points in Nebraska addressed merely to "Some Soldier, Somewhere-in-France," left the Atlantic ports on the early November boats. No soldier or sailor will be without a holiday gift. Those who find it impossible to seek out their Christmas will have it brought to them.