

GERMAN DASH FOR WARSAW **DRIVES ARMY OF CZAR BACK**

Petrograd Admits Slight **Retirement and Rushes** 250,000 Men to Strengthen Lines. Defenders Retreating **Before Hotly Pursuing** Germans, Berlin Declares.

Austrians Move Rapidly East of Cracow, Forcing Invaders of Galicia Backward to River San-Fierce Battles Rage in Both Fields of Activity.

The Russian army has been obliged to withdraw everywhere in Poland, according to this afternoon's official report from Berlin. Reinforcements numbering 250,000 men have been rushed to the front by the Czar's General Staff to halt the new and terrific German movement. German troops also have been hurried to the Carpathians to aid the Austrian repulse of the Russian invasion of Hungary.

Re-formation of the German lines west of Warsaw has resulted in a new wedge, pointed at the Polish capital. The German forces are now within 25 miles of the city, according to admission of Petrograd officials, who state Russian retirement was necessituted by the unfavorable condition of the country.

The capture of several German trenches in desperate hand-to-hand fighting between the North Sea and the River Lys is reported in this afternoon's official communique of the Paris War Office. The Allies are strengthening the positions already won in the renewed drive from Nieuport, and have gained further ground



OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

GERMAN. GERMAN. Yesterday the French continued their attacks from Nieuport without any success. Attacks attempted by them at Zillebeke and La Bassee were re-pulsed with heavy losses to the enemy. The intention of the French to throw a bridge over the Aisne at Soissons was prevented by our artillery. French earthworks east of Rheims have been destroyed by our artillery. No news is at hand from the East Prussian frontiers. The Bussian offensive against Silesta and Foson has completely brokon

and Foren has completely broken down. In the whole of Poland the enemy was forced to retreat after fierce and stubborn frontal battles. The Russians are being pursued every-where

The Russians are being pursued every-where. During the lighting in Northern Poland yesterday and Tuesday the bravery of the West Prussian and Hessian Regiments gained a victory.

DIVISION OF HOUSING BRITAIN ANXIOUS IGNORED IN, BUDGET SENT TO COUNCILS CANAL, ENVOY SAYS

> Sir Cecil Spring-Rice Announces Government's Attitude to Daniels-Order One Vessel to Panama.

PRICE ONE CENT

Daring Kiel Squadron

After Shelling Three

English Citie's Runs

Gantlet of Three Fleets

and Escapes, Leaving

08 Killed in Bombardment

and Much Property De-

stroyed - Admiralty

Closes Section of Coast to

Merchant Shipping-Bez-

lin Rejoices at Bold Ex-

LONDON, Dec. 17.

ploit.

Trail of Explosives.

GERMAN RAIDERS' MINES WRECK TWO ENGLISH VESSELS

FIRE DESTROYS ENTIRE BLOCK IN POTTSVILLE

COPTRIGHT, 1014, BY THE PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY.

\$2,000,000 Loss in Blaze Which Roars Through Business Section - Dozen Buildings in Ruins.

Firemen Hampered by Reduced Water Pressure-Great Stores of Christmas Goods Lost-Old Landmarks Swept Away.

POTTSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 17 .- An entire ousiness block, in the heart of the city's commercial centre, went up in flame and amoke early this morning. A dozen buildings were destroyed and many others were damaged, the total loss, it is estimated, being \$2,000,000. The loss is all the heavier because of the fact that most, of the properties destroyed were business houses packed from ground to garret with Christmas goods. It was the most disastrous fire which this place has ever experienced.

Blaze, By the time full pressure had been

restored the fire was beyond control and roared through the entire block front-ing on Centre street, the city's main thoroughfare, sweeping through the doomed buildings, bounded by Mahan-tongo and Norwegian streets, and back to 2d street, which parallels Centre street. treat. Unable to hold back the conflagration.

e firemen watched with diamay as it ntinued to progress northward, leaping orwegian street and entering another ek; the buildings in these two blocks stituting the most populous parts of business centre of the Schuylkill munty seat.

OLD LANDMARKS DESTROYED. The Postoffice, one square back of Con-re street, was in the path of the flames,

BLISS EMPOWERED

TO ORDER RETURN

General in Charge of Border

Forces Instructed to

Handle Situation in Own

that he had a chieftain there regarding the Naco situation. Just what the United States expects from the Mexican factions at Naco was stated to Senor Ranierez, envoy of General Maytorena, by General

Mexico Cily for political reasons took place without the orders of the new provisional Government. The Minister of

War notified Special Agent Silliman to-

day. General Villa, who was reported at

Chihuahua yesterday, has gone back to Iraupda, near Mexico City, according to advices to the State Department this

SUIT FOR VANDALISM

MUST APOLOGIZE OR FACE

in the chart of which, they ware to

The Rev. Doctor Bichmoud Offers Alternative to Member of His Church,

Way.

afternous

OF MEXICANS' FIRE

but was saved. The Academy of Music, built before the Civil War, and Union Hall, Pottsville's first armory, were de-

and was sunk today off. Flamborough Head. Six of the vessel's crew are missing. The Princess Oiga also struck a mine and went down nearby. The pas-sengers and crew of the latter vessel escaped by taking to lifeboata. Plamborough Head is is miles south of Scarborough, one of the English coast towns bombarded by the Germans yes-terday. terday.

The steamship Elterwater struck a mins.

nd was sunk today off. Flamborough

The freight steamship Princess Oigs was suck during the night after mriking a mine six miles off Hartlepool. Members of the crew of this vessel who were rescued, reported that they saw a German ateamship. Laying mines mar the point where the Princess Oigs went down. The German cruisers are also reported to have dropped mines overbeard as they fed after the bombardment yesterday. The Admirality today suspended shipping over the 30 miles of water lying between Newcashesheshes of Prince, because of dangers from the mines strewn by the radius Germans.
The Inquest into the death of these

The inquest into the death of those killed in the German bombardment of Hartiepool began there today. Among the victims were two bables, aged, respec-tively, 6 and 18 months.

GERMANS, IN FLIGHT, ELUDE THREE BRITISH SQUADBONS

BERLIN, Dec. 17

Official information given to the press here today asserts that Brillish warships were damaged and possibly sunit in the maval engagement that followed the Ger-man hombardment of English engat towns. All the German ships encaped un-injured, it is asserted. The great feat of the German squadron is being celebrated throughout Germany. Flags are figure from houses and public building.

IN POINTED LETTER State Commission Called on Estimate of Finance Committo Make Public Explana-

CITIZENS BETRAYED,

ASSERT COMMUTERS

tion-B. and O. Asks for Rehearing of 100-trip Ticket Case.

Demand was made upon the Pennsyl-

TO BE NEUTRAL AT

tee Passes by Plea for Tenement Evil Correction. Police Increase Refused.

SALARY INCREASE IGNORED.

for an increase in the salary of Judson

C. Dickerman, Chief of the Bureau of

Gas, from \$2500 to \$5000 a year.

Pleas for money for the new Division of Housing and Sanitation to eradicate the tenement house evil in Philadelphia, and the request of Director Porter, back-

has ever experienced. Though reservoirs were filled to over-flowing, the water pressure had been re-duced during the night, presumfuly to prevent the freezing of pipes, and this handleapped the firemen in fighting the



It is rather inferesting to observe how this old world, after all, plugs along in the regular track. That it has its own methods of so doing is outside the case entirely. Take Decomber, for instance, One sort of associates with it cold, crisp stanosphere, overcoats and earnuffs, skating and the like. Magazine covers, designed in mild-summer picture those very things. Then one morning one wakes up and finds it just so. In these times of change it is consoling, now and times of change it is consoling, now and again, to have it brought home that there is nothing new under the sun. Aren't you for a white Christmas?

FORECAST

For Philadelphia and violnity-Fair today and tonight and not much change in temperature. For details, see page 2.

Observations at Philadelphia

tation last 35 boorn. Clear By Money 81 per cont um temperature 10 um temperature

Almanac of the Day

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Lamps to Be Lighted

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SEATING SEASON OPENE ON CONCOURSE LAKE

Thorn is shating or Concustos Laks niny, and, unofficially, at every close and and lake in the cit?, undusing

ing all payments special the many

but as yet its effects cannot be estimated. RUSSIAN.

The Turks, having been consider-ably reinforced from Bagdad with new abily reinforced from Eagdad with new formations, took the offensive in the Euphrates Valley. This developed into serious-action near Dutaoh, Ademsk and Sarai. The fighting resulted in the defeat of the Turks, and they were compelled to retreat with heavy were compelled to retreat with heavy loss of killed, wounded and prisoners They also lost many guns and much ammunition. The Ottoman forces are actually demoralized, certain contin-gents having lost haif their effective-116.85

In the direction of Mlawa we have

On the left bank of the Viatula the Germans kept up a stubborn attack throughout the day along the lime from Elernozia to Sochaczew. Owing to the unfavorable condition of the country, our troops retreated slightly (during the evening of December 15.

AUSTRIAN.

The retreating enemy in Galicia and Southern Poland is being successfully pursued averywhere. At Liske, Klerno, Jaslow and Binlatale the Russians flercely opposed us.

FRENCH.

From the sea to the River Lys we have captured several trenches with the hayonet, sirensthemed our poal-tions at Lornbaertsyde and St. Georges and fortified the ground gained to the west of Cheluvelt.

west of Cheluvelt. We have advanced at some points in the region of Vormelles (in France). Thore has been no infantry action on the rest of the front, but there has been vory effective firing by our heavy artillery in the environment of Tracy-le-Val, on the Alane, and in the Cham-pagne district, fillst as in the Argonne region and in the region of Verdun. In Learnine and in Alasce there is nothing to report.

COME ONE, COME ALL: ICE SKATING; RED BALL

West Philadelphia Miss First to En-

joy Winter Sport,

joy Winter Sport. The series of shifted skatters' welcomed the source of shifted skatters' welcomed the source of the skatters' welcomed the source of the skatters' welcomed the shifted set of the winter more far and the set of the set to set of the set of the

to give reasons, which would justify its 1915 which were recommended by Councourse in giving the railroads advance cils' Finance Committee. information of the decision. Fifteen questions setting forth the points apon which the commuters charge the nission with partiality to the rail-

roads and a betrayal of the public were, prepared this morning by Edwin M. Ab-bott, Matthew Randall and William T. cooper, as counsel for the various con auters' organizations. They were for warded to the commission in the form

warded to the commission in the form of a letter. Almost simultaneously with the presen-tation of the complaint of the commuters! officials of the Baltimore and Ohio Rail-road informally asked the Commission to reopen the passenger rate case for a fur-ther hearing on the 100-trip ticket deci-lon. The Baltimore and Ohio contends that it solls very few of these tickets, and that its commutation service does not

that its commutation service does not pay. The Commission announced, after re-

ceiving this request, that it would take it, up later today along with the formal petition filed by Mr. Abbott yesterday, asking a rehearing on the entire rate in-crease case. The decision of the Com-mission may be announced late this after-

WOULD OUST COMMISSIONERS. Attorneys for the commuters today are mphatic in their declaration that the mission has proved false to the peopis. Mr. Abbott declared there were three nance Committee. Despite the apparent methods of procedure for ousting the cut in the money to go to this departcommissioners, and action had already ment, the Finance Committee declares been begun to use every influence possible the Highway Bureau will have as large tion. been begun to use every member who sat at the hearing of the rule case in Philadel-phia hast weak. The letter forwarded to the commission follows:

"Representing the Cumbined - Committee of the United Business Men's Association and the Commuters' Assoclation, we desire to ask your Commis-sion to answer the following questions,

publicly. "We submit these questions realizing

"We submit these questions realising that you are public officers, and that whose explanation is due to its in an that public for the uncertain the continent of the public for the uncertain the scoutive sessions immediately fol-lowing, and then finally reasons as order which it is hard for the public to either uprecision or understand. "The following matched the questions we desire answered: "I. Have find it happens that the per

dealess answered: "I. Have and it happen that the pew schedule of value filed by the Pana-sylvania Hallrend Company on Decemprovide for the new division in recommendations today, however, there sad he no action taward the improve-mant of interment conditions without special appropriation by Councils. her is and redsived and approved by the interacts Commany, Commission on Discutter in uses incritical in every respond with the operations and order of the Permayirania Public Service Othar Councils Proceedings Page Two

modeling promulgated an Decem-1. Did not the Connerivania Hallroad property of the state of the state of

(don't loop work in the legal, fan mae de-Examining on Page 2 on these ag." which fairs at the Admirales.

BRITAIN DENIES SHIP LOSS

LONDON, Dec. IE-A report enveniated

have holey that two Oritich worships.

Legislature.

vania Public Service Commission today and the request of Director Porter, back- and informed him that the British Govto make a public explanation of the ed by the protests of residents of Ger- ernment desired to observe strictly the charge that its ruling in the railroad mantown and Chestnut Hill for more neutrality regulations at the Canal Zone. passenger rate case was made in collu- police, were completely ignored today in The Ambassador said that if there have sion with representatives of the three the list of estimates for the budget to been any violations of neutrality by Brit-"railroads entering Philadelphia, and also operate city and county departments for lish ships that these vessels evidently were not acquainted with the regulations.

Governor Goethnis, of the Canal Zone, The recommendations of the Finance. in a cablegram to Secretary of War Garrison, supplementing his request for tor-Committee were presented by the subcommittee on appropriations which has pedoboat destroyers, said that, excepting been considering the remaining budget for reports of the misuse of the wireless, items since estimated revenue for the no neutrality rule is known to have been year was made known by the controller's violated on the Isthmus.

Governor Goethals explained under cer tain circumstances neutrality rules might Besides ignoring the new Housing and be violated without detection unless ships Sanitation Division and passing by the were available to patrol the waters of need for more police, the Finance Comthe Canal Zone and investigate suspected mittee recommendations ignored without violations. omment the request of Director Cooke

Secretary Garrison, in discussing the Panama neutrality situation said he could not emphasize too strongly the fact that nothing sensational had occurred.

Dickerman. Director Cooke urged, had come to take charge of the Philadelphia bureau on a promised salary of \$2000 a year. He begun at \$2500, with the under-standing that his salary would be raised this year to the promised amount. No explanations were offered for any of the promised attraction of the Colonel Goethnis' message advised the War Department that he would leave Panama today for the United States. The

Secretary's statement follows: "I received this morning a cable from recommendations or conissions in the paper, which will be submitted to Coun-Governor Goethans in reference to matthe

ters of neutrality on the isthmus and his earlier request for destroyers. In the cable he states that, excepting for re-ports of the misuse of wireless, no neu-trality rule is known to have been vio-less. AMOUNT FOR HIGHWAYS CUT A slight reduction in the amount recommended for the Bureau of Highways is Inted. seen in the recommendations of the Fi-

"He auggests that, under certain cir-cumstances, rules of neutrality might be violated without detection or procerement of proof unless there were ships there to be used for the purposes of investiga-

The Secretary of the Navy informs me that he has ordered one ship to proceed immediately, and probably will order others, if necessary, to handle the wireless situation.

Colonel Goethals' visit to the United States is in connection with canal appro-priations before Congress. His visit has nothing whatever to do with this matter excepting increases for the Municipal Court which were provided for by the of noutrality, and I calmot too strongly suppliasize the fact that lines has been nothing whatever sensational in this in-The Finance Committee recommenda, however, the appropriation of \$60,000 as the yearly fee far Ford, Hacon & Davis, consulting orginsers, who have been working on the plans for Director Tay-lor's high-speed tradict lines. Last year the ondinears where paid by separate items yoked from time to time by Councils. cident

Behind the Whiskers

On the editorial page of tomor-row's issue of the Evening Ledger will appear a remarkable article from the pen of

E. W. Townsend

author and statesman, who, is his usual happy manner, telts of the

Real "Jim Ham" Lewis

In the same issue will appear other excellent discussion

Colored War News

and have the "color" is injected by London into all our manufactic intermation. This from Burton Ethno, of the Boston Transcript, a committer who Econom

bantongo streets, and spread in all di-rections. It burned for about siz hours before it was under control. In less than an hour from the time <u>Concluded on Page Twe</u> <u>Concluded on Page Twe</u>

The Admiralty foday gave out the following dispatch from the commander of the German North Sea fleet:

Our high seas forces approaches the east coast of England early Weil-needay morning and bombarded the fortified town of Scarborough and Hartleponl. The operation was wholly successful. A brisk engagement em-sued in which damage was inflicted upon the enemy's ships. It is possible that across were sunk, but we cannot

when the energy's ships. It is possible that some were sunk, but we cannot affirm this positively, as the engage-ment was fought in a fog that con-ceiled the actual results. Though three squadroms of the British navy tried to trap our ships. all succeeded in escaping. "The bombardment of English count towas possibly heraids greater events to come," says the Boerss Zeltung, but this is the only newspaper to hint that the German fleet has emburked on a sources of general aggreestvances. "The tagehist says" "Once more our naval forces, braving the danger of scattered mines in the North Sea, have shelled English fortified places. The exploit is a notable ois and the fatherland is to be compractuated for its fleicht naval forces."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12. - President Wilson has assumed personal charge of the entire Mexican situation. He went over the entire question with Secretary of War Garrison today. The State Department received from Consul Canada, at Vers Cruz, a statement that he had again conferred with the Car-ranzista chieftain there regarding the

GERMANS KILLED 108 IN ENGLISH COAST BATD

LONDON, Dec. IL

LONDON, Dec. 13 Every agency of the army and navy on-operated today along the British county to prevent another such attack as that directed by a German fleet against flear borough, Harthepool and Whitb, an ener North Sea, when at least 100 paragos were killed and probably 30 were wurning. The Government Press flureou ments a revised list of cassalities at Harthepool this morning. It was contained in the following statement: envoy of General Maytorena, by General Bilas in a conference yesterday afternoon. Evacuation of Puebla by the Carran-ristas and its occupation by the amall force of Zapatistas was officially reported. Pueblo is about halfway between Mexico City and Vera Cruz. The Zapatistas who captured it are believed to be the vanguard of the peace con-vention army advancing on Vera Cruz. The fieling Carranzintas burned the railway station. Recent execution of many Mexicans in Mexico City for political reasons took liowing minisment:

Colowing statement: According to intest official reports the number of casualities anong cruis-lates as Harileycoh, when Arat plans was shalled by German warships, yes-torday, is: Rilled by granning, in A dispatch to the fifth from Bostone ough said that it had from billed, sus and its worksdad.

Definition 611 feta Two persons were killed at whi or wer

two woulded Although the Government Press Becker

Concluded on Date in

LOST AND FOURD

Latin Castrali, Lall Wat

ternative to Meinber of His Church, A sumfigue To appear testers Magistrate Remains this afternoon and present a written apology to the Rev. Dr. George Charmers Einfumend, rector of Oig SL John's Fredestant Kylescopal Unares, for her action in interesting with the relieful bears of the church was served as wri-han HeadBon. We Bildmond envel a deposed key reader of the congramation. Donior bilingsond avers that an Theorem. atving Datable, Hamilton astared St. John's Chi who and door and opening tob is as contenting the bolistic heard is notice nuised

that two of Mr. Barnillan's ciders as an