

FRENCH TAKE TRENCHES OF FOE BY DRIVE OF INFANTRY

Allies' Furious Bayonet Charge Wins Advanced Positions in Argonne — Counter Attacks Between Lys and Aisne Thrown Back After Terrific Battle.

Fleets Bombard German Coast Defenses, as Land Forces Push Forward Toward Ostend — Paris Claims Gains Along Entire Battle Front From Sea to Alsace.

Progress along virtually the entire battle front, from the sea to Alsace, is claimed in the French official communique issued this afternoon.

Although the official statement says that the battle near the coast is confined largely to cannonading, unofficial reports indicate that the Allies are making progress in their advance toward Ostend.

THE WEATHER



Noel! Noel! Christmas is near. Noel! Noel! The weather is clear. 'Twas the night before Christmas. But wait! We must write these lines on the weather. 'Twill be colder tonight. Noel. And you probably thought yesterday was the shortest of the year. Well, it wasn't. Today is.

FORECAST For Philadelphia and vicinity—Generally fair today. Clear and colder tonight. For details, see page 2.

Table with weather observations and forecasts for Philadelphia, including temperature, wind, and precipitation data.

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

FRENCH

Between the sea and the Lys nothing happened during the day of December 21 except artillery conflicts.

In the sectors of the Aisne and of Rheims there were artillery conflicts.

We captured in the environs of Perthes-le-Huissier three German works representing a front of 1500 yards of trenches.

In the forest of Gurle our progress continues. At St. Hubert we repulsed an attack.

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Ordered to recapture positions lost Monday at Festubert and Gwanchy.

In the western part of the Argonne forest, we captured a few French trenches.

In the eastern theatre of war the situation is unchanged in East Prussia.

In the region of Mlawa, north of the Vistula, the Germans have fallen back toward the line of Lautenburg-Nieden-

In Galicia the Austrian offensive is being greatly hindered by our troops.

most forward point in the Warsaw advance, are furiously but vainly striving to force an opening in the Russian line of defense.

Russian and Austro-German armies, numbering more than 800,000 men, are arrayed against each other in Galicia.

Reports from London say a gigantic force of territorialists is massed at the Pyramids in Egypt.

Russian successes in minor Armenian engagements are reported from Petrograd.

GERMAN TRENCHES CARRIED BY ALLIES' BAYONET CHARGE

New Positions Gained as Advance Is Pushed on Entire Front.

PARIS, Dec. 22.—Driving the Germans from trenches in the Argonne at the point of the bayonet and taking up new positions in northern France and Belgium on the western end of the battle line, the official communique, issued from the War Office today, reports new progress along virtually the entire battle line on which the Allies' offensive is being conducted.

In Belgium the action yesterday was marked by heavy cannonading.

It is reported that Ostend is being bombarded by the Anglo-French artillery.

"MILLION DOLLAR BRIDE" ON WAY TO COURT



Mrs. Keith Donaldson, who was divorced three years ago, appeared before Magistrate Beaton today to press charges of assault against her mother-in-law, Mrs. William F. Donaldson, and her maid, Fannie Blanc. The younger Mrs. Donaldson asserts she was attacked when she called to see her 7-year-old daughter. She is accompanied by her attorney, John R. K. Scott.

PROHIBITION VOTE IN HOUSE TONIGHT IS KEENLY AWAITED

Question of State Rights Expected to Defeat Hobson Measure After Spirited Debate.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—National prohibition was put squarely before the House this afternoon.

By 9:30 tonight a roll-call record vote will show whether the House, by two-thirds vote, wants the prohibition question passed on to the States.

For two hours the House had debated the passage of the rule, but considering its success a foregone conclusion members swept into discussion of the merits of the resolution itself.

Several speakers opened an unexpected line of attack by pointing out that the resolution does not prevent manufacture for personal use, but merely for sale.

Representative Kelly, of Pennsylvania, urged the adoption of the Hobson amendment. His speech was so loudly applauded by the anti-saloon workers who crowded the galleries that Speaker Clark warned the galleries against making demonstrations in approval of the speaker.

"The rules of the House forbid demonstrations of approval or dissent," declared Speaker Clark, "and they must be obeyed."

Today's Evening Ledger inaugurates a new department to be devoted to the interests of the Boy Scouts in Philadelphia.

MRS. DONALDSON'S HEARING POSTPONED TO NEXT WEEK

Attorneys Agree to Have Case Over Until Next Tuesday.

The hearing of Mrs. William F. Donaldson, 303 Chestnut street, and her French maid, Miss Fannie Blanc, on a charge of assault and battery brought by Mrs. Evelyn Donaldson, was postponed today by Magistrate Beaton.

Neither Mrs. W. F. Donaldson nor her maid was present at the hearing.

Mr. Scott said that when the case came up next week it was not unlikely the defense would waive a hearing before Magistrate Beaton and let the case go immediately to court.

Mr. Scott showed today the decree of divorce from Keith Donaldson that was granted Mrs. Donaldson several years ago at Reno.

"Billy" Sunday Page

Page 6 in today's Evening Ledger is devoted to the whirlwind evangelist and his coming campaign in Philadelphia.

Boy Scouts' Activities

Today's Evening Ledger inaugurates a new department to be devoted to the interests of the Boy Scouts in Philadelphia.

REMOVAL OF STATE COMMISSION PUT UP TO GOVERNOR

Commuters and Business Men Ask Executive to Demand Answer From Body to Eleven Specific Charges

Governor Tener, up to 2 o'clock this afternoon, had not received any communication from Edward M. Abbott, of Philadelphia, counsel for the commuters.

Mr. Abbott gave the commission until midnight last night to answer a series of questions he asked, but as the commission as a body has not been notified officially of the receipt of the questions and will not meet here until January 8, no action was taken.

Eleven distinct specifications, charging the members of the Pennsylvania Public Service Commission with "inefficiency, neglect of duty and misconduct in office" in the matter of the recent passenger rate increase hearing, were sent to Governor Tener this afternoon by counsel representing the combined committee of the United Business Men's Association and the Commuters' Association.

The petition calls upon Governor Tener to summon the Commission immediately and require them to show cause why they should not be removed from office on the basis of the charges preferred.

That the members of the Public Service Commission failed to comply with the requirements of Section 1, Article 2, of the act of July 31st, 1912, which requires that "all hearings before the commission or before any commissioner shall be public," in that they did grant other than public hearings to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company and the Delaware and Ohio Railroad Company, of their representatives, in the proposed increase in passenger fares and charges in passenger tariffs, complaint dockets 22.

That certain of the commissioners were absent without notice of any meetings held.

SHORTEST DAY WITH US

Sun Farther South Than Any Other Time in 1914.

The divisions are looming large in firms supplying light.

Today is the shortest of the 365 of 1914, and accordingly the best for the electric, gas and oil companies.

Householders who keep a daily account of gas, electric or oil consumption may not be able to note the difference, but it is there.

Just because it is generally supposed that December 21 has first claim on the shortest day honors does not make it so.

So that means, in spite of the zero weather of a few days ago and the icy streets of yesterday morning, it did not become winter until this morning.

EX-DIRECTOR CLAY AGAIN WILL FACE FRAUD CHARGE

Once Convicted With Two Others of Conspiracy.

Henry Clay, ex-Director of Public Safety, once convicted of conspiracy to defraud the city, but granted a new trial by the Superior Court, will face a jury for the second time next March, according to the plans of District Attorney Eaton.

The second trial of Clay and his co-defendants, John R. Wiggins and Willard H. Walls, of the contract firm of John R. Wiggins & Co., will begin Monday, March 1, 1915, in Room 633. It is not yet known what judge will preside at the trial, although a judge from Common Pleas Court No. 4 is scheduled to sit in Room 633 of the Criminal Court during the March term.

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Assistant District Attorney Taulane, who conducted the first trial, also will have charge of the coming prosecution.

BURGLAR KILLS RICH MAN AND WOUNDS HIS SON

Daughter Comes to Rescue and Battle in Dark Enues.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 22.—W. M. Alexander, a wealthy retired attorney of this city, was shot and killed by a burglar early today in his palatial home in Wilshire place.

In the revolver duel in the dark between the burglar and the capitalist's son, William Alexander, Jr., immediately after the murder of the father, the son received two bullet wounds.

Mr. Alexander's youngest daughter, Penelope, went to her brother's assistance and the two fought with the burglar as he fled down the stairs and escaped, leaving a trail of blood.

NORSE STEAMSHIP STRIKES MINE OFF SCARBOROUGH

Another Victim of German Raid. Eight of Crew Saved.

FILEY, Eng., Dec. 22.—The Norwegian steamer Boston, bound from Oran to London, with a cargo of timber, struck a mine off Scarborough today.

It was headed near Filey, where eight men of her crew were landed.

EX-SENATOR WEST DIES

Georgian, Who Succeeded Bacon, Victim of Heart Disease.

VALDOSTA, Ga., Dec. 22.—Former United States Senator W. S. West died suddenly today of heart disease.

Ex-Senator West was appointed by Governor Slaton to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator A. O. Bacon, when the latter died last year.

TRIAL OF COPE POSTPONED

Slayer of Niece Will Face Charge in Court Next March.

John Cope, of Buckingham, Bucks County, arrested in this city by detectives on the charge of murdering his niece, Florence Cope, will not be brought to trial until the March term of the Bucks County Criminal Court, owing to congestion of the criminal calendar of the court, according to an announcement made by District Attorney Hoover, of Bucks County.

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Folleman shot by "Bad Man" O'BRIEN, N. Y., Dec. 22.—Folleman trying to arrest James Brown, a Negro known as a "bad man," Folleman Frank Minchey was shot three times and probably fatally wounded today.

STARVE ALBION, GERMAN NAVAL CHIEF'S THREAT

Admiral von Tirpitz Declares Kaiser Has Right to Wage Submarine War on Allies' Shipping.

American Navy Among Best of Nations and Fulfills Mission, He Declares in Exclusive Interview—Blames Britain for War.

(Copyright in Great Britain.) By KARL H. VON WIEGAND, GRAND GENERAL HEADQUARTERS OF KAISER, in France, Dec. 2, by way of The Hague to New York, Dec. 22 (delayed for official visa by General Staff).

"America has not raised its voice in protest and has taken little or no action against England's closing of the North Sea to neutral shipping.

Grand Admiral von Tirpitz, Minister of Marine, regarded the strongest man in the German Government, and possible next Imperial Chancellor, and whose marvelous organizing genius is largely responsible for Germany's fleet, peered sharply at me as he leaned forward and put the question to me in the first interview he has ever granted an American correspondent.

"Why not?" he continued. "England wants to starve us! We can play the same game. We can bottle it up and torpedo every English or Allied ship which nears any harbor in Great Britain, thereby cutting off large food supplies."

"What would America say? Would not such action be any meeting out to England what it is doing to us?"

After several days at the Crown Prince's headquarters, and in the Argonne, I had returned to the Kaiser's field capital in France, where all the ministries and departments of the German Government are now located.

For once departing from his rigid rule not to talk with newspaper men, Admiral von Tirpitz received me in a private house, the home of a French banker who fled before the German advance, and on the door of which was a cardboard sign, "Marine Department."

"Mentally and physically, von Tirpitz is a magnificent Teuton. He has a mind of steel trap order, is a marvelous organizer and a more Bismarckian force and iron in his nature than any other German official I have met. He immediately plunged into an analysis of his view of the causes that led to the war, and traced the growth of sea and world power developed by England until, as he put it, "the domineering arrogance of the British culminated in the present war which England engineered in order to crush the natural growth and development of the power of the German Empire."

"Germany's domination of the sea," he declared, "was originally founded on piracy, while its power on land was established by robbery in all parts of the world. England and England alone is responsible for this war. Did Germany want anything? Did Germany make any demands on any one? Did Germany have any quarrel with any one? No! It only wanted to be left alone to continue her peaceful growth of development."

"England's anti-German policy dates back as far as 1870, after our victory over France," continued the Minister. "Always dictatorial and domineering, it didn't wait for Germany to expand commercially or to take the place in the world to which its power entitled it."

"England is imperialist. It will cut any one's throat who gets in its way. England has no white man's sympathies. Its alliance with Japan shows that. It will form an alliance with any one, regardless of race or color if it can profit thereby. Germany was developed too fast, growing too strong and too powerful, and was getting in England's way, so its throat had to be cut—that is in a nutshell. King Edward laid plans for it years ago. He had an inexplicable antipathy to Germany. He looked about and seized upon the growing pan-Balkan

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