

BELGIAN COAST AGAIN SHELLED, BERLIN REPORTS

Allies' Monitors Bombard Westende—German Guns Halt Trains at Soissons

BATTLE AT HIRZSTEIN

Teutons Accuse French of Placing Hospital Near to Railway Station

BERLIN, Dec. 28.—Westende, Belgium, has been shelled again by Allied monitors, the German War Office announced today. The French delivered an attack near Hirschstein, but the details of the fighting have not yet been received. The railway station at Soissons has been bombarded again by the Germans to prevent train movements. In this connection the War Office reports that the French established a Red Cross hospital near the railway station at Soissons with the evident intention of protecting the railway, and says that the hospital may have been struck by shells. The text of the official report follows: "West front—Enemy monitors shelled Westende, killing three inhabitants, two of them being women. The French attacked our positions near Hirschstein this morning. Details were lacking. German artillery stopped train movements at the Soissons station. The French, probably in order to protect the station, established a hospital near the building some time ago and placed Red Cross flags upon it. In view of its closeness to the station some of our shells may have hit it. "East front—Russian reconnoitering detachments on the Beresina River and northwest of Minsk and near Berezichy were repulsed. "Balkan front—There is nothing to report."

FRENCH CHECK FOES' ATTACK IN VOSGES

PARIS, Dec. 28.—German attempts to make a sortie from their trenches in the Vosges were stopped by the French fire, it was announced by the French War Office this afternoon. The text of the communiqué follows: "In the Vosges there has been intense activity of artillery along the whole front from Hartmannswillerkopf to the slopes southeast of Mt. Roherselen. An attempt on the part of the enemy to make a sortie from his trenches was checked by a 'certain fire' from our batteries. "There is nothing to report from the rest of the front. "Heavy artillery fire on the German positions between the Great Dune and the sea caused the destruction of trench parapets in many places and the blowing up of a blockhouse on the first German line. In Artois the French exploded a mine and kept the enemy from occupying its crater. "A report has reached Paris that the British have taken 800 prisoners in a successful attack against the German trenches at Armentières, on the Franco-Belgian border. "A British official statement issued last night says: "Our artillery bombarded the hostile trenches south of the Lille-Armentières Railway with good effect. The enemy replied vigorously, but caused little damage. "The enemy this morning sprung a mine opposite our line southeast of the Hohenloher redoubt. We have consolidated the edge of the crater. "The Belgian communiqué says: "There was violent artillery fire on the whole of the Belgian front. We directed an efficacious fire on German batteries in the environs of Scheer and Woumen, German infantry which was assembling in the trenches was dispersed by our fire at Woumen and the Ferryman's House."

GERMANS MADE PRISONERS SHOW UNTRAINED MEN USED

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN ALSACE, Dec. 28.—An unusually large percentage of German officers have been captured by the French in the severe fighting on Hartmannswillerkopf. A French officer, who escorted me to the village where the prisoners were awaiting transportation to the interior, complimented a German captain on that fact. "That proves," he said, "that your officers are where they belong, fighting among their men." Some of the French officers, proud of their achievements in the Alsace fighting, were angry because Berlin officially denied the French claim that 25 German officers and 1200 men were captured in the Hartmannswillerkopf fighting. To disprove this statement they had the German prisoners file by. There were 1200 untrained men in line, but actual count. It was stated that several who had proven refractory had been ordered to their quarters. There were many jesters among the prisoners. The French officers asserted that on the whole Germans recently captured in Alsace have been poorly trained, indicating that Germany is now using many men previously deemed unfit.

COOKE SEEKS JOBS FOR MEN "Ad" Asks Places for Three Who Will Lose City Berths

CRACKERJACKS. I want to secure active and responsible positions for two or three particularly good men who have been associated with me in the Department of Public Works and in the civil service act and whose terms of office expire with M. L. COOKE, Director. This advertisement, placed in the several Philadelphia newspapers by Director Cooke, is the plan of a city official to obtain work for employees who will be displaced by political changes in City Hall. The Director, in explaining the "ad," said that he was sure several business men in Philadelphia are looking for efficient men and that the advertising columns of the daily newspapers seemed the logical place to tell where the right men could be found.

Austrians Ask a Trade Alliance

BERLIN, Dec. 27.—The professors of the Austrian universities, according to the Overseas News Agency, have signed a manifesto asking the Government to establish after the war permanent and close commercial relations with Germany.

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ALLIED TROOPS IN SALONICA ALSO MEET DECEMBER SNOW



Most Americans are probably accustomed to thinking of Greece as a country of mild climate and warm temperature. But this picture shows what the Entente troops gathered there are suffering. British cycle scouts are coming into Salonica covered with snow. Even their rifles are encrusted.

U. S. IMPORTERS GOUGED BY FOREIGN LAWYERS, WHO FLAUNT THEIR PULL

"An International Scandal," Declares Department Store Head, of Mulcting of American Business Men. Shipments Held Up by Unscrupulous Brokers

"WHAT amounts to almost an international scandal," said the head of one of the big department stores this morning, "is the conduct of certain foreign lawyers and custom house brokers in their efforts to 'gouge' importers who are desirous of obtaining goods from the European belligerent countries. "Of course large establishments like ours, which have their own agents stationed in the principal European cities, can't be fooled by their representations and tactics," he continued. "The plan is for a broker to call on an importer and represent to him the advantage of employing a certain lawyer, who is a friend, who has a friend very close to some Cabinet Minister or some other official in England. The lawyer demands a retaining fee of \$25 and 1 or 2 per cent of the invoice when the goods are released. Frequently these men find out through some person on the other side of the Atlantic of an order in Council or some similar proceeding which releases certain goods, and these parties get busy with the consignees and make their offer and pretend their particular efforts have accomplished the work. "Our firm," he continued, "always pays cash before the delivery of the goods on the other side, and are importing right along. We have about \$150,000 of goods at present collected in Holland ready for shipment. "Other houses who pay cash as we do are not meeting with any difficulty in importing, but it is the small importer, who is ignorant of the rules of the game, who is the victim of these unscrupulous mountebanks, who always stand in to a retaining fee of \$25 and 1 or 2 per cent of the invoice when the goods are released or not."

SLAVS SHELL BULGAR COAST; WHIP PERSIANS

Black Sea Ports Attacked—Defeat Teutons on Riga Front

PETROGRAD, Dec. 28.—The Bulgarian Black Sea coast has again been attacked by Russian warships, it is announced by the Admiralty. Submarines attacked the Russian destroyer Gromkii, but the attack was repelled, and one of the underwater boats is believed to have been sunk. The statement follows: "Our torpedo-boats bombarded Bulgarian ports. Submarines attacked the destroyer Gromkii, but were driven off by torpedo-boat destroyers. One of the submarines is believed to have been sunk. "A war office statement on operations in the other spheres shows minor activity on the East front and claims further successes for the Russians in Persia. It follows: "East front—At Schmaroden in the direction of the Riga coastal region, a Russian detachment delivered a surprise attack upon a German post at 4 o'clock in the morning. After a hand-to-hand encounter, the whole post was destroyed. Six prisoners were taken. Despite a hot fire, the Russians retired successfully, suffering only insignificant losses. In the region of Czartorsk, near the cemetery in the village of Novo Podcherevitshi, we annihilated another German post, taking 15 prisoners. "Persian front—West of Kamadan the Russians have occupied Assadabad. In fighting near the village of Rabatkerim, 27 miles southwest of Teheran (capital of Persia), with Persian gendarmes and tribesmen, we made 71 prisoners."

FIRE ROUTS JUDGE'S FATHER

George MacNelle and Family Flee From Blaze in Store

Fire of unknown origin damaged the drygoods establishment of Julius Divac, 181-33 East Passyunk avenue, to the extent of \$500 early today. Although the upper stories of the building are unoccupied, George MacNelle, father of Judge MacNelle, who lives next door to the store building, was forced to seek safety in the street with his family. The police are searching for a practical joker who rang in an alarm at 4th and Federal streets shortly after 3 o'clock this morning.

REVOLT IN CHINA MAY AFFECT EUROPEAN WAR

Observers Believe Japan May Intervene and Thus Deprive Entente Allies of Assistance

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The continued spread of revolution in China is causing the keenest interest in diplomatic circles here. Observers close to the Allied Powers say that the revolt in China may have an important bearing on the world war. This, of course, means that before long Japan will take a hand in the affairs of her neighbor. China was so throated by Japan through acceptance of demands forced upon her by the Niyama Government earlier in the present year that she is no longer in a position to dictate her own policies. Should Japan decide that the present is an opportune time to work her will further on China, her reported plan for a more active participation with the Allies in the European war would, of course, be abandoned. And such a decision on Japan's part would come at a time when the Allies admit the need of all the assistance they can muster from every quarter to cope with the German campaign in the Balkan States and against Egypt. In circles close to the Japanese Embassy here it was said Japan soon would be compelled to show her hand in Chinese affairs. Already on record as opposed to a change back to a monarchy from a republic, the influence of Japan soon may be counted on the side of the enemies of President Yuan Sha Kai, self-proclaimed Emperor under the new regime.

More Provinces Reported in Revolt

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 28.—A cablegram received by Tong King Chong, president of the Chinese Republic Association, from revolutionary leaders in Shanghai.

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AUSTRIAN NOTE MAY END DISPUTE, BERLIN BELIEVES

Washington Sees New Danger of Break in Sinking of Several Liners

SOME GET NO WARNING

BERLIN, Dec. 28.—The entire question of submarine warfare as affecting the United States may be cleared up within a few days, it was learned from authoritative sources today. Austria's reply to the second Ancona note will be handed to Ambassador Penfield this week. Assurance comes from reliable quarters that it is "satisfactory and final." There is a strong party in the dual monarchy that has insisted that friendly relations with America be maintained. This party apparently has the upper hand. Government circles here profess to have little or no knowledge of the probable contents of the Austrian reply, and it is declared that Austria acted entirely independently without seeking Germany's advice in framing the reply.

Child Swallows Brass Polish

Brass polish is not considered the best of baby foods. Nevertheless 19-month-old Inodor Schloburg, of 249 Morris street, isn't particular about his diet, and when he felt the pangs of hunger in his little stomach he cleaned up the nearest thing to him—brass polish. Doctors in the Mount Sinai Hospital had a strenuous hour with him and he is still in a dangerous condition.

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GRIP CAUSE OF FIRE

Woman's Illness Prompts Overheating of House and Blaze Results

Grip is at the bottom of many ills, but it added another to the list when it was responsible for a fire at 484 North 16th street today. The address is the home of John Markey. His wife being ill with grip, unusual efforts were made to keep the house warm. A defective flue started a blaze on the second floor. Mrs. Markey had to be carried to a neighbor's house, and her husband was burned about the face when he carried to the street an infant, the youngest of his eight children. The fire gutted the second floor.

"HELLO" ACROSS TO JAPAN

Wireless Telephony to Link Americans and Nipponese

TOKYO, Dec. 28.—A wireless station is being erected at Honolulu by which Japan and America will be linked together by wireless telephony. It was announced by telephone company officials here today.

ONLY SON OF MRS. EDDY

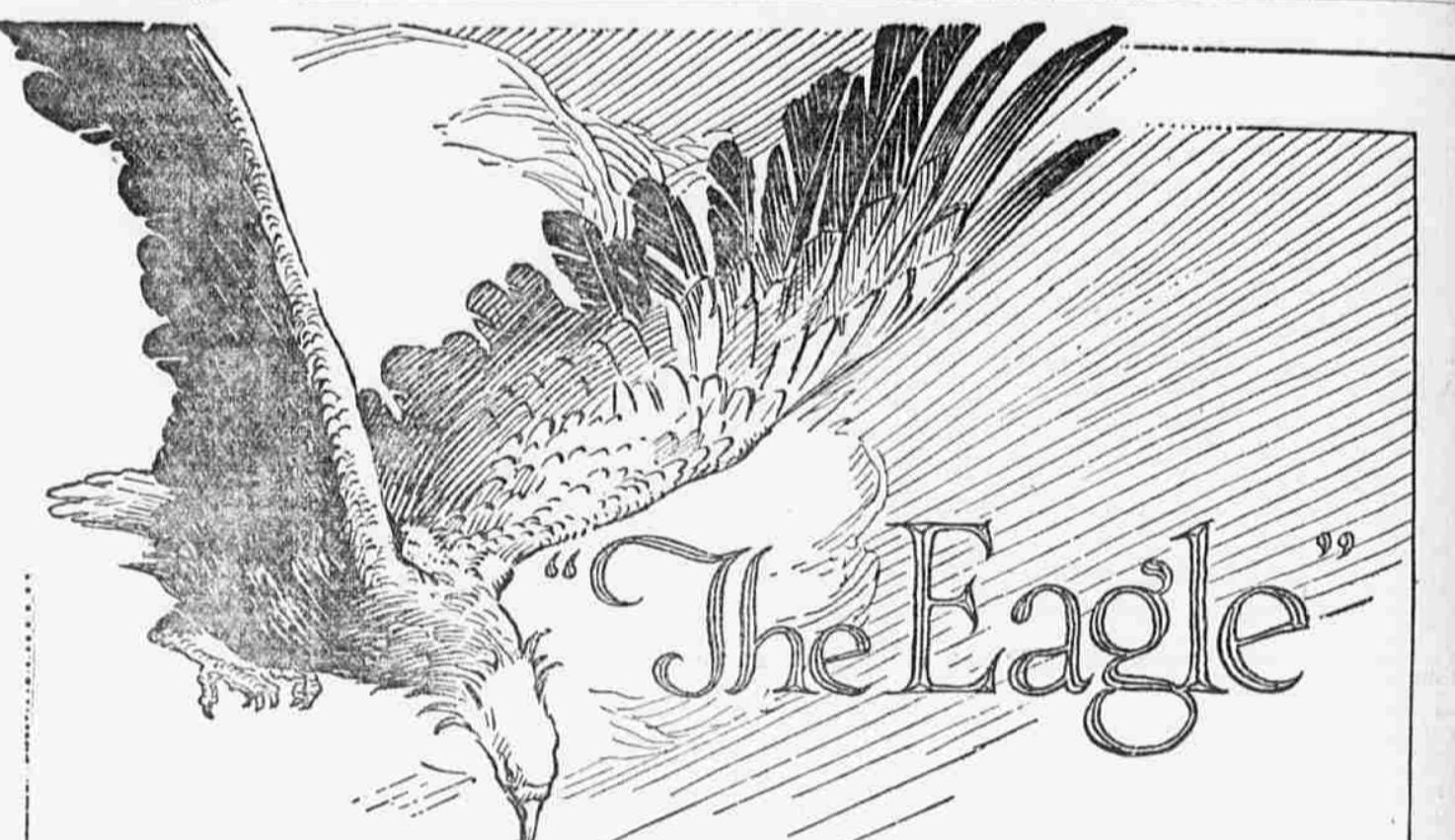
George W. Glover Fought for Share in Mother's Estate LEADS, S. D., Dec. 28.—George W. Glover, 76, only son of the late Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy, founder of Christian Science, is dead of peritonitis at his home here. Glover was much in the public eye a few years ago when he sued to obtain a share in his mother's estate.

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