VOL. II-NO. 93

PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1915.

COPTESONT, 1915, BY THE PUBLIC LEDGER COMPANY.

PRICE ONE CENT

RUSSIA'S BESSARABIA DRIVE FORCES RETREAT OF TEUTON ARMIES FROM MACEDONIA

Sudden Slav Offensive Halts Projected Attack on Salonica-French Halt German Attack on Hill No. 193, in Champagne

SUDDEN OFFENSIVES IN WESTERN AND BALKAN CAMPAIGNS

The sudden Russian offensive in Bukowina and assaults on Austrian invaders of Bessarabia and the renewal of German offensives in the west presage important military developments.

Already, according to press dispatches, the Teuton-Bulgar armies have been forced to withdraw on the Macedonian line, thus abandoning the project of driving the Allies from their base at Salonica. The Slav drive is intimately linked with the general Balkan situation. Diplomatically,

this has renewed interest due to persistent reports that Rumania has decided to cast her national lot with the Quadruple Entente.

Two new landings by the Allies in the Near East are reported; the British have transferred some troops from Salonica to Orfano, a small Greek port, 60 miles east of Salonica, with the intention of checking any persibility of a heatile advance from that quarter. possibility of a hostile advance from that quarter.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—Ine vermans and Austrians have begun a general with-drawal along the entire front in Macedonia, according to a dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company from Rome, quoting a message from Salonica to this effect.

The reported withdrawal is attributed the Russian advance in Bessarabia, the message states.

The British have transferred some troops from Salonica to Orfano, a small Greek port 60 miles east of Salonica, with the intention of thus checking any pos-sibility of a hostile auvance from this

This movement is held to indicate that the Allies no longer expect any attempt against Salonica from the North.

FRENCH BEAT BACK FOES' ATTACK IN CHAMPAGNE

PARIS, Dec. 31.-The French War Office PARIS, Dec. 31.—The French War Office today announced the repulse of an at-tack made last night by the Germans in the vicinity of Hill No. 133, which is sit-uated near Tahure, in the Champagne The following communique was

"In Champagne the enemy attempted during the night to capture with a bomb attack a small telephone post toward Hill No. 193. The attack was completely

"The night was comparatively calm on the rest of the front."

BATTLE ON SLAV BORDER LINKED WITH BALKAN FRAY

PETROGRAD, Dec. 3L. A great struggle is proceeding on the entire southwest Russian line and apparently is equally ardent everywhere. It is intimated that both sides are alming at the accomplishment of exceedingly important tasks. The Russians and Austro-Germans are equally alert, each side here and there taking the initiative. The Rus-slan campaign in Bukowina is believed

to be intimately connected with the situation in Rumania and the Balkans.

The expectation here is that the outcome of this gigantic but still obscure struggle a transformation of the military positions in the Russian theatre of war While it is pointed out that Germany has not lost interest in the northern half of this theatre, it is intimated that her ac-tivity there is designed mainly to inspire the belief that she has not removed many

troops from that quarter. It is unanimously agreed among the military observers that the aspect of the Eastern front will be changed within three or four days.

The German and Russian official bul-

Continued on Page Two, Column Five

\$100,000 Fire at Hempstead

HEMPSTEAD, N. Y., Dec. 31 -- Several firemen were overcome and a number of families were driven from their homes in their night clothing when fire destroyed five stores in the heart of the town early today. The loss is estimated at \$100,000.

THE WEATHER

It is always hard to estimate the ultimate position of any span of time on the pages of history, with merely the contemporary viewpoint on which to go. That is true in reference to everything except weather. While in this day and generation each year weaves its woof in an infinite variety of pattern, the weather Years spin out their course with a nous sameness. And so with 1915. had our blizzards, our excessive heat, our good days and bad days, and the final records of the year will be but little different from those that have gone before. Would it were the same in other things! But it is not. In the big book of Time the signatures of the years stand out: "Prosper-ously yours, 18-," "With peace and good will, yours, 19-," This time we stand and watch 1915 stride up to the book and splurge, in all the crudity of a world reverted to type: "Death, misery, wretchedness-1915, his

FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity-Partly cloudy tonight and Saturday, with slowly rising temperature; Sun-day unsettled with probably rain or snow; light variable winds.

LOST AND FOUND

LOST Liberal reward for return of three-duster length leopard coat, with seal colar outs bett and buttons also more as coat with sellow error liting and seal office must be match. Room 318, 13th Chestuit st. WATCH AND PIN-Lady's gold watch and pile, Bec. S. from 65d and Columbia ave-to abouning district and back: name engraved on Inside wase "Josephine Berrodin," Reward if ret, to dilts Columbia ave. Bel. 4847 W.

DOCI Lost. Pokinese brown brindle dog, white-shirt front and pawe. black fairs, mutter mentri, answers to name of Kalley, Reward one to questions asked freturned, 1925 Spruce st. Mrs. James Lakow.

DOG-Lost, Thursday asternoon, in West Phila-delphia, Ivian terrier dog; answers to name of "Parsy. Name and address of dwner on rol-lar. Raward if returned to W. C. Fieck, 600 Overbrook ave., Overbrook.

Other Classified Adv on Pages 16 and 17

AUSTRIA BACKS DOWN IN REPLY TO U. S. DEMAND

Pledges Indemnity for American Lives and Punishment of Captain

"STANDS FOR HUMANITY"

Concurs in Washington Principle of Safety of Passengers on Torpedo Victims

The reply of the Austrian Government to the second American note on the sink-ing of the steamship Ancona, with the loss of American lives, is forwarded to LONDON, Dec. 31. loss of American lives, is forwarded to Reuter's from Vienna by way of Amster-

The reply states that the commander of the Austrian submarine has been punished for not sufficiently taking account of the onic aboard the Ancona, which rendered lebarkation more difficult. Austria offers indemnity for the loss of American lives caused by the torpedoing of the liner

The Austrian reply is confirmatory of dispatches published in the Evening Leboan forecasting the pacific tenor of the Vienna answer to the second Ancona

BIG BRITISH CRUISER NATAL BLOWN UP IN HARBOR; 300 LIVES LOST; 400 RESCUED

Warship Smashed to Pieces by "Internal Explosion"-News of Disaster Held Back by Admiralty for Nearly 24 Hours

THIRD BRITISH WARSHIP BLOWN UP IN HARBOR

The Natal is the third British warship blown up, presumably by internal explosion, while in harbor.

The battleship Bulwark was blown up in Sheerness harbor on November 26, 1914, with a loss of about 800 lives. The converted cruiser Princess Irene was blown to bits in Sheerness harbor on May 27, 1915, with a loss of about 300 lives, her destruction being so complete that there were no survivors among those aboard ship. The cause of the explosions was never learned, though it was rumored German spies were

In addition to these vessels blown up in their harbors, the British battleship Formidable was destroyed on January I, 1915, by an explosion in the English Channel. It was never determined definitely whether a mine or internal explosion sent her to the bottom.

CHELTENHAM GIRL

SHOCKED TO DEATH

Miss Anna Keenan Dies When

Frightened by Noise of

Engines Near Her

Home

A death from shock resulted today in a \$10,000 fire at Cheltenham, which caused several injuries, destroyed one home, damaged three other homes and drove

two families into the street in their night-

Miss Anna Keenan, 19 years old, weakened by pneumonia, succumbed to the shock when she heard the clanging

fire engines and the shouts of firemen

and residents attempting to save the home of John Dobbs, a builder and con-tractor, at Ryers and Beecher avenues,

her weakened constitution, and she

iled shortly before 6 o'clock.

The fire razed the Dobbs home, spread-

ng to the residence of Fred Castle, ad

Fire companies within eight miles, in cluding those of Fox Chase, responded

France Levies Income Tax,

France has levied a tax on in-comes of more than 5000 francs a year, says Yves Guyot, editor L'Agence et Economique et Finan-

ciere. It will go into effect to-

preparations have been made to collect it. Every one liable to pay will be required to make a decla-ration of income before the end of

The Chamber of Deputies has

passed a bill to tax consumers 15 francs a ton on French coal and use the proceeds of the tax to cut

morrow.

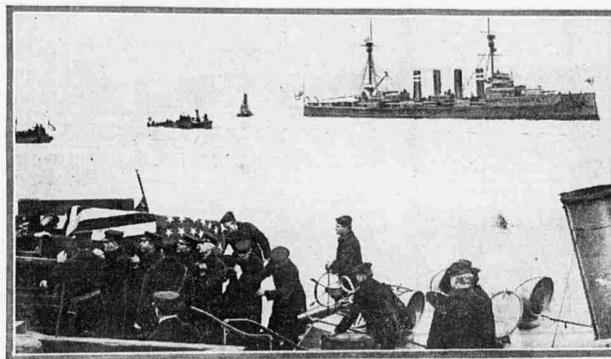
The tax will be due only.

Continued on Page Two, Column Two

But Will Not Enforce It

BY FIRE EXCITEMENT

BRITISH CRUISER BLOWN UP WITH LOSS OF 300



The picture shows the Natal, destroyed by an internal explosion while in harbor, as it appeared in the Hudson River, January 3, 1912, after having brought the body of Ambassador Reid to New York from England. The picture shows the British sailors carrying the coffin from the launch to the landing stage, with the Natal in the background

HEIRESS FLEES HOME OF WEALTH FOR JOB IN A DEPARTMENT STORE

for \$8-a-Week Salary and Room in a Boarding House

'I NEVER WAS SO HAPPY"

To be a pretty girl, to live in Woor socket, to be 19 and to be heiress to some-thing between \$300,000 and \$500,000 is not usually considered a despicable lot. But it was despised by Irene Paul for no other reason but that Woonsocket is Woon-socket. Being that, it cannot be Newport or Philadelphia, and must be content. Not so Miss Paul.

She ran away from her Rhode Island some ran away from her had some home, where she had everything the average girl would want, to take an \$8-a-week job in a department store and live in a boarding house. She does not want to go home because the boys and girls

to go home because the boys and girls of Woonsocket are dull and prosaic. To be fair to Miss Paul, it should be sald that she did not live in Woonsocket proper; not in the throbbing centre of that stirring and vibrant modern place. She lived in a modest suburb (perhaps one she lived in a moute saturation and might say "suburg") of Woonsocket, one Uxbridge. There Joseph Paul, her father, is the wealthlest man in the community. He has had detectives looking for his missing daughter since November 8.

missing daughter since November 8.
Either the detectives were of the usual variety of intelligence or Miss Paul is of the unusual variety, for they didn't find her. She managed for weeks to go to and from her work like any other sales-woman without being taken for an heiress. She had a room at 1753 North Stillman street. Now she is in the care of the Court Ald Society, 18th and Summer streets, awaiting the arrival of her father.

She says she never knew what it was

Continued on Page Three, Column Four

DYING AFTER BIG PLUNGE

Frank Fisher Falls 50 Feet While Working at New Bank Building. Another, Who Fell, Disappears

Two men fell a distance of 50 feet through the maze of structural work from the third floor into the sub-basement of a building now being built at 1418 Chestnut atreet when a rigger's board broke

nut atreet when a rigger's board broke at noon today.

One of them is dying in the Jefferson Hospital with a broken spine and fractured skull, while the other, who was not even scratched, has disappeared. Workmen are searching for him. The injured man is Frank Fisher, it years old, 3062 Beach street. He is not expected to live. Patrick Casey, of North Stillman street, the workman who fell with Fisher, jumped to his feet before any one reached him and during the excitement walked away. eitement walked away. The building is being erected by Daly. Weigland & Co., and will be occupied by the Franklin National Bank.

note of the United States, peremptory as

"In reply to the second American Ancona note, the Austro-Hungarian Gov-ernment fully agrees with the Washing-ton Cabinet that the sacred laws of humanity should be taken into account also Leaves a Suburb of Woonsocket

In war, and emphasizes that it, in the course of this war, has given numerous proofs of the most humane feelings.

"The Austro-Hungarian Government,

too, can positively concur in the principle that enemy private vessels, so far as they do not fly or offer resistance, shall not be destroyed before the persons

aboard are secured. "The assurance that the United States Government attaches value to the main tenance of the existing good relations be tween Austria-Hungary and the United States is warmly reciprocated by the Austro-Hungarian Government, which now, as heretofore, is anxious to render the austro-Hungarian condulary condulary. these relations still more cordial.' The Austro-Hungarian Government then communicates the results of the in-quiry into the sinking of the Ancona, which was recently concluded.

SIXTEEN SHELLS FIRED.

The inquiry showed that the commander of the submarine from a great distance, in the first instance, fired a warning shot on the steamer, sighted at 11:49 in the forenoon, which he at first believed to be a transport steamer, at the same time giving a signal for the vessel to stop. As the steamer failed to stop and tried to escape, the submarine gave chase and

Continued on Page Four, Column Three

ALLIES ARREST TEUTON ENVOYS; GREEKS ANGRY

Athens Enters Formal Protest Against Seizure of Salonica Diplomats

LONDON, Dec. 31.-The corresponden of the Times at Sabmica reports that the consuls of Germany, Austro-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria, together with their amilies, have been arrested and are now risoners on a French warship. The ar-ests were made on orders from General

Greece has already entered formal pro test. The news has created great excite-ment in diplomatic circles in Athers. The German and Austrian Ambassadors visited the Foreign Office yesterday noon and inquired if the reports were true.

General Sarrail, it is understood, has justified his action by the explanation that German, Austrian, Turkish and Bulgarian consulates harbored spies and

Bulgarian consulates harbored spies and that the consuls themselves had sent information to their countries concerning the strength of the Allied fortifications at Salonica. With their families they were taken abourd Allied warships.

Bulgarian deserters have confirmed reports of the withdrawai of Austro-German troops from the Greek frontier. Salonica dispatches stated today. The Austro-Germans moved northward without taking time to repair either the roads or the bridges destroyed in the previous fighting in Macedonia. It is generally believed here that they have been withdrawn to meet the new Russian offensive drawn to meet the new Russian offensive in Bukowina and Galicia.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The British cruiser Natal was blown to pieces in its harbor yesterday afternoon, with a probable loss

7 300 lives. The official statement from the Ad-

The official statement from the Admiralty said the ship was wrecked by an "internal explosion." The Admiralty statement reported that 400 of the Natal's crew of about 725 were saved. It is believed many, if not all of these, were ashore when the cruiser was runk.

An immediate investigation has been ordered, but the results have not been made public. News of the disaster was withheld from publication for nearly 24 withheld from publication for nearly 24 withheld from publication for nearly 24 hours until the Admiraity had received accurate statements as to the number of survivors and the probable loss of life. This same precaution was taken last May when the Princess Irene was blown to bits by a similar explosion in Sheer-ness harbor. Officials explained at that

time that the news was withheld to pre-vent the circulation of wild reports con-cerning the origin of the explosion. "The Natal sank in a harbor yesterday (ternoon," said the official statement. The Natal was commanded by Captain Eric P. Black, R. N.

The Natal displaced 13,660 tons. She was built in 1993 at Barrow and had a speed of about 39 knots. She was 489 feet long and had a 73-foot beam. She carried six 9.2-inch guns and four 7.5-inch guns, as well as lesser armament and two torpedo tubes.

MR. 1916 ARRIVES TONIGHT ON WAVE OF JOY AND NOISE

Balls, Banquets, Parties and Merrymaking to Greet the Newcomer

MUMMERS ARE READY

An elaborate welcome awaits Mr. 1919 The greeting to this happy youth, born on a wave of prosperity, will begin tonight and extend throughout tomorrow Tonight the reception will begin with jubilation in the way of balls, banquets and parties, and at midnight, when the WITH PNEUMONIA last vestige of 1915 is being gathered within the unrelenting arms of venerable Father Time, a bedlam of rejoicing will

> And a few hours hence will come the army of mummers in all their glittering glory, telling as of yore that the New Year is here with its happiness and hope, launched on a stream of optimism which threatens to engulf any lurking gloom which tries to survive.

Finishing touches are being added to royal raiment and gilded chariots and the "shooters" are simply waiting for the

where the fire started. The home of the girl, who was the daughter of Thomas Keenan, a retired business man, is a square away from the Dobbs home. They are enthused as never before, for it is generally agreed that the mummers' pageant is gradually becoming a national When the flames and shouts aroused the neighborhood, the young woman be-came hysterical. She was carried to a institution. The fact that the big show has been advertised from Philadelphia to New Orleans and as far vest as Chicago The fact that the big secluded room, where the glare of the fire could not be seen and the sound of the battle with the fire was muffled But the excitement had been too much warrants enthusiasm in this connection The parade itself will be a page of Philadelphia's prosperity. Glittering con-tumes, handsome equipages, wonderfully gowned women and amazing exhibits of all kinds will tell how the wheels of progress have been grinding in 1915. But the mummers will not be content ing to the residence of Free Casts, as jacent, then sweeping across the street to the bakery of Charles Wendt. The Dobbs home was the centre of a block of frame structures, and the utter loss of the entire row was imminent before the flames were brought under control.

Fire companies within eight miles, invith depicting what has happened. They will give a peep at the future in the way of inventions. These will concern not only warfare, but new ways of doing

Continued on Page Two, Column Three

L'INTERVENTO RUMENO SAREBBE IMMINENTE

La Russia E' Impegnata a Conquistare la Bucovina per Darla ai Rumeni

Da Londra giunge la notizla che la Runania e' vicina ad intervenire nella guer-a europea a fianco degli alleati del l'Intesa. Le forze russe sono ora impegnate in una violenta e grande offensiva nella Galizia orientale e nella Bucovina, offen-Galizia orientale e nella Bucovina, offen-siva cosi' seria che i tedeschi e gli aus-triaci si sono visti costretti a ritirare truppe dalla Macedonia per parare questo nuovo colpo. Lo scopo della Russia sarebbe questo: conquistare la Bucovina in poche cettimane per darla alla Ru-mania. Questa la fortificherebbe e nello stesso tempo attaccherebbe l'Austria nella Transilvania e la Buigaria sul Danubio, mentre i russi continuerebbero la loro ofentre i russi continuerebbero la loro of-

down the price of imported coal.
Gold in the Bank of France has increased to \$964,000,000, says M. Guyot, in an article on French finances sent by special cable to the Evening Ledger and published exclusively on page 12 of this issue. fensiva nella Galizia. (Leggere in 5a pagina le ultime e piu'

QUICK NEWS

GREECE AGAIN PROTESTS TO ALLIES

BERLIN, Dec. 31 .- Greece has made a second and stronger protest to the Entente Powers against the erections of fortifications about Salonica, according to reports received from Athens today.

TEN MEN MISSING AFTER EXPLOSION IN MILL

CHICAGO, Dec. 31 .- Early reports indicated 10 men are missing as a result of an explosion, followed by fire, at the American Linseed Company plant in South Chicago, Ill, at noon today. Downtown fire headquarters reported two engine companies had been caught beneath falling walls.

JOE MURPHY, IRISH COMEDIAN, DIES AT 83 NEW YORK, Dec. 31 .- "Joe" Murphy, old-time Irish comedian,

died in this city today, leaving an estate valued at \$3,000,000. Murphy was known from coast to coast for his impersonation in "The Kerry Gow." He was 83 years old.

ALLIES' POSITION SECURE IN GREECE, CASTLEMAN SAYS

PARIS, Dec. 31.-General Castelnau, chief of the French General Staff. who went to Salonica to confer with the Anglo-French commanders and inspect the Allies' defenses, has returned to France, fully satisfied that the Bulgarians and Germans can never dislodge the Allies from their positions

While in Rome on his way back to France General Castelnau gave out an interview, in which he declared that the German allies would suffer tremendous losses of life it they attacked at Salonica. One of General Castelnau's aldes supplemented the interview by saying:

"An offensive by the Bulgarian and German forces in Greece would cost them at least 159,000 men.

INDIA'S FREEDOM DEPENDS ON RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

DELHI, Dec. 31.-Until the natives of India settle their own religious differences there is little likelihood that their request for self-government will be granted, officials said today, commenting on the action of the Indian National Congress at Bombay yesterday. The congress adopted by unanimous vote a resolution demanding self-government.

BRITISH BLACKLIST 102 NEUTRAL SHIPS

LONDON, Dec. 31 .- The blacklist of neutral shipping issued by the Government now numbers 102 steamships, British shippers are advised not to charter ships appearing on it, as they are suspected of actual trading with Great Britain's foes, of other unneutral service, or as representing German capital. The gross tonnage of these vessels is 80,000, which means a carrying capacity of 200,000 tons available to British shippers and neutral charterers in any way dependent on British shipping. Neutral nations represented on the list, with the number of ships of each nation, are as follows: United States, 11; Norway, 35; Sweden, 37; Denmark, 8; Spain, 1; Holland, 4, and Brazil, 3.

KAISER CANCER VICTIM, PARIS MATIN SAYS

PARIS, Dec. 31.—The Matin declares it has received definite advices from Switzerland that Emperor William is really suffering from cancer instead of

a non-malignant furuncle, as reported from Berlin yesterday. The Matin adds: "A Paris specialist was asked > the German Embassy three months before the war broke out if he could nake an artificial palate for an imperial invalid in case a serious operation was necessary."

FORD PILGRIMS ARRIVE IN DENMARK

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 31.-The Ford peace party arrived in Denmark from Stockholm today on the last lap of the cruise "to bring the boys out of the trenches." Business Manager Gaston Plantiff hurried out to see shipping men about chartering a vessel to carry the delegates to The Hague. It is possible, however, that the party will accept Mayor Lindhagen's invitation and return to Stockholm for the peace conference. The Ford leaders have virtually abandoned hope of obtaining Germany's permission for their passage over German soll en route to The Hague from Copenhagen.

COAL FREIGHT RATE CHANGE POSTPONED

postponed the effective date of the new anthracite c. al rates from the anthracite region to the seaboard from January 1 to April 1, 1916, to give the railroads more time to prepare new tariffs. The new rates involve an annual reduction of \$5,000,000 revenue to the railroads. They have been twice postponed before by the Commission.

RUSSIA TO SUPPRESS TWO CIVIC LEAGUES

BERLIN, Dec. 31 .- The Petrograd newspapers contain indirect but convincing proof the Russian Government is ready to dissolve the Russian Township League and the Russian Self-Government League. The existence of the leagues is considered undesirable for the present. The newspaper Retch announces the right of acquiring real estate, which was conceded to the Jews within certain limits, will be withdrawn. The Russian Government has dissolved the Russian Clerks' Association because members of the Duma delivered speeches at the association's meetings.

RUSSIA PUSHING ROAD TO OPEN RAND

LONDON, Dec. 31.-By early spring, says a Morning Post dispatch from Christiania, the new Russian railway from Petrograd to Alexandrovsk, on the Kola Flord (in northern Finland, on the north shore of the Scandinavian peninsula, just east of the Norwegian border) will be completed, giving a direct connection from Petrograd to an ice-free port. The Northern Norway Company, the correspondent says, intends to establish a regular line of steamers between Trondhjem and Alexandrovsk, providing another all-the-year communication between Russia and the rest of the world,

FLOODED LANDS BAR WAY TO EGYPT

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 31 .- "If the Germans invade Egypt they first will be obliged to cross an arm of the sea 15 miles wide which the British have caused to be flooded over the desert east of the Suez Canal," declared Miss Fannis Bradford, of the United Presbyterian Mission, Khartoum, Egypt, who is visiting in Mount Lebanon, having arrived from the Orient on Christmas Day, "No alarm is felt in Egypt over the possibility of an attack from the Teutonic allies," continued Miss Bradford.

CARRANZA AMENDS RULE OF SUCCESSION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31 .- In preparation of his assumption of the title of provisional President of Mexico General Venustiano Carranza has issued a decree changing the rule of succession. During the period of the revolution the constitutional provisions were suspended by the Carranzistas and the regulation provided that in case of the death or removal of the de facto head of the Government the authority would be transferred to the military leader next in command. Under the new decree the constitutional provision is restored and succession to the provisional Presidency will go to the Minister of Foreign

MRS. VANDERBILT'S \$10,000 EARRING LOST AND FOUND

HOT SPRINGS, Va., Dec. 31.-Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt shared honors with President Wilson and his bride in furnishing excitement for the visitors here yesterday. She lost on the golf links a pearl earring valued at \$10,000. Almost the entire population except the Presidential couple took part in the hunt for the gem when a \$500 reward was announced for its recovery. The earring was picked up near the 12th hole just before sundown by Adam Green, the professional golf player.

TWELVE AIR BATTLES FOUGHT ON WEST FRONT

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The latest British official report tells of a series of thrilling air encounters in the western zone. It says: "Thursday 16 of our aeroplanes bombed the Comines station and hit the station, lines and sheds in the vicinity. Ten of our aeroplanes attacked heavily the aerodrome and did considerable damage. In both cases all the machines returned safely. During the day there were 12 encounters with hostile aeroplanes. One of our machines engaged four of the enemy's, one of which is believed to have been brought down. Another was damaged and all four were driven off. One of our aeroplanes was brought down as the result of a combat with two machines."

"Kazan," the Gripping Life Story of a Wolf-Dog in the Rugged Northwest, Begins on Page 7 in Today's Evening Ledger