

CHESTER CONTROLLER CHARGES SHORTAGE

Allegation That Former County Officer Paid \$882.74 on 'Fraudulent Statements'

WEST CHESTER, Pa., Dec. 17.—County Controller Robert G. Kay, through his counsel, J. Paul MacEirre, caused a stir in courthouse circles when he appeared before the court today and in a lengthy petition signed by a dozen leading citizens of the town and county appealed to the court for a rule to be granted by which the audit of the late County Controller, Isaac V. Ash, for the year 1916 be opened and a reaudit made, in view of the fact that a warrant for the sum of \$882.74 had been paid to former County Treasurer Fred Macdonald, which the petition stated was secured through "fraudulent statements."

Mr. MacEirre also set forth the fact that the duplicate tax receipts, together with the cash books for 1916, had been removed from the office of the County Controller for several months. Former County Controller E. Vinton Phillips he asserted, had come from Downingtown last night and deposited the missing cash-book in the snow at the foot of the cash-house in the Court House front porch leading into the Court House from the Assembly Building alley and had notified Jaynoch Keoch of the act. Keoch later took the book to the collar and found it empty. This morning notified the County Treasurer.

This announcement threw the court-room into amazement, for there had been no knowledge of the book's disappearance until the fiscal of their return missing and the fiscal of their return missing and the fiscal of their return missing.

The court granted this request and fixed the security in the sum of \$500 to cover all expenses that might be incurred in the proceeding. At a conference in the office of the County Commissioners later, Mr. Macdonald agreed to pay back any shortage discovered, but over this inland waterway the amount declared to be missing. The court promised to investigate the matter further.

Italians Win Piave Line by Quick Dash

Continued from Page One

Piave, but they have paid a terrible toll of blood for slight gains south of Calcarine.

Italy is waging the war of the lagoons to save Venice—the strangest half-aquatic water-and-land conflict the history of war has ever known.

Fifteen centuries ago Attila and his original Huns reached exactly at the point where the modern Teutonic Huns have reached today.

Over the same interesting canals, marshes, lagoons and lakes by which Attila and his Huns were checked the Italian forces today are checking the modern-day Huns.

The modern Huns are desperately trying to turn the Italian right wing by progressing around the northern flanks of the Venetian Gulf.

For the purpose of the lagoon battle, as well as for general defense, the Italian navy has constructed a fleet of floating batteries. The guns range from three-inch field pieces to the great fifteen-inch monitors. Each is camouflaged to resemble a natural lagoon boat.

Floating on the glass-like surface of the lagoons the guns fire a few shots and the Italian fleet is ready to move. The number of packages in the mails is so great that the army post-offices are fairly swamped.

WAR REVENUE LAW UNDER FIRE IN SENATE

Simmons's Announcement That No Amendments Are Intended Causes Hot Debate

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The \$2,000,000,000 war revenue law was made the target for violent bombardment in the Senate this afternoon when Senator Simmons, of North Carolina, announced that no general revision of the measure was intended. He said that only amendments necessary to correct "mistakenness" would be proposed.

Senator Smith, of Michigan, declared that he was "sick and tired" of such legislation. Senator La Follette, of Wisconsin, characterized it as "unholy and unchristian." Senator Borah, of Idaho, called it "fundamentally wrong."

Active artillery in the Congress and at Tabor was reported in today's official statement. The statement also questioned a French raid south of St. Quentin.

SUPREME COURT TO RECESS

Will Adjourn Friday Until Wednesday, January 2

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—There were no important decisions handed down by the Supreme Court today.

Chief Justice White announced that the Court would adjourn from next Friday to Wednesday, January 2.

The court set a number of tax cases for argument on March 4 next, and a motion was made assigning the New York-New Jersey case involving the alleged pollution of the North River for argument to the middle of next April.

Did Not Ask Bryan to Resign

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Prompted by insinuations contained in a book that has come to his attention, President Wilson this afternoon specifically denied that the resignation of William J. Bryan as Secretary of State was at the request of the President.

DEATHS

THORNTON-BENNETT.—Mrs. CATHARINE B. BENNETT, Philadelphia, and Mr. FRANK T. THORNTON, Camden, N. J., were married on Friday, Dec. 14, by Rev. Samuel Davis.

GRAHAM.—Dec. 14, WILLIAM, husband of the late Sarah Graham, Relatives and friends invited to funeral, Tuesday, Dec. 18, 10 a. m., at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 24th and Locust streets. Burial in Mt. Pleasant cemetery.

GREEN.—Dec. 16, ELLEN, wife of John Green, Relatives and friends invited to funeral services, Wednesday, Dec. 19, 10 a. m., at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 24th and Locust streets. Burial in Mt. Pleasant cemetery.

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VAN SCIVER Thousands of Dollars' Worth of Gift Merchandise at What Might Rightly be Called SALE PRICES. SALE prices they are indeed, when one compares them with generally prevailing prices for such fine merchandise elsewhere. The Van Sciver Store does nothing by halves, though. We started in to make this Christmas the most successful in our long, successful history, and this, of course, meant that we must have on hand, the largest and most attractive collection of gift merchandise, ready to sell at prices that should insure the greatest saving to our patrons. And we have done it! Done it so well, in fact, that today our store seems like the very embodiment of Fairyland, filled to repletion with things of beauty and usefulness, which shall go to make thousands of homes more artistic and comfortable, and fill their possessors with lasting happiness.

UNUSUAL GIFTS. Here you will find Floor Lamps, Table Lamps, Desk, Boudoir, Piano and special purpose lamps of every grade and style. ... A Colonial Sewing Table in Dull Mahogany. Note the heavy scroll feet and shapely pedestal. The table is constructed of mahogany, finished dull and has two drawers, one conveniently partitioned, and drop-leaves. Price \$14.50. ... Rugs Make Ideal Xmas Gifts and These Special Prices Will Appeal to All. "The Gift of Long Remembrance" would seem a fitting characterization of a rug. Rugs are ideal gifts because there is use for them in every home, and they supply comfort, too, as well as enhance the appearance of the room. We quote but a few of a Special Holiday Gift Prices. There are many other unusual values in domestic rugs as well as Orientals (the latter being reduced regardless of import cost and growing scarcity) but we want you to come in and personally look over our quarter-of-a-million dollar stock.

GIFTS FOR SAMMEES SWAMP ARMY MAILS

Many Thousand Packages Arrive, Together With Supplies for Holiday Feast

By HENRI BAZIN. All Correspondent Evening Public Ledger with the American Army in France. AMERICAN FIELD HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Dec. 17.—Supplies for the Christmas feast of the United States troops arrived today in great quantities for the big event are being made. In the main, the sammee's Christmas dinner will be the same as that which made Thanksgiving a notable day in camp, but in addition there will be the distribution of Christmas gifts to make the holiday even more joyous.

UKRAINIAN TROOPS DEFEAT BOLSHEVIKI

LONDON, Dec. 17.—Bolshevik regiments were defeated by Ukrainian troops Saturday at Odessa, according to a dispatch from Petrograd, which says word to that effect was received there today.

The Bolsheviks are preparing for stern measures of reprisals against the antagonists; another dispatch from Petrograd says. Foreign Minister Trotsky was reported as having addressed a meeting of political opponents of the Maximilianists; "You are disturbed by the mild sort of terror which we are applying as a class to our enemies. Not more than a month hence this will take the more terrible mode of the French revolution."