

FRONT IN ITALY

Column Takes Over Front Line and Halts Invaders

DRIVE FLUNG BACK LONDON, Dec. 16. Marshal Haig had "nothing to report from the west today."

LONDON (via London), Dec. 18. An enemy position to the west of Monte Solerolo was taken by British forces, today's official statement reported.

PARIS, Dec. 18. A successful surprise attack delivered by French patrols south of St. Etienne and on the right bank of the Rhone resulted in a number of prisoners being taken, the War Office announced today. There is great activity in the region of the Rhone Canal, the statement

LONDON, Dec. 18. A tank of the northern trenches to Monte Grappa, the chief work holding up the advance of the German forces on the eastern side of the Piave, was given to the British, and they now are grips with the invaders along the front line.

MOTORBOATS PROVE DEFENSE OF VENICE

By HENRY WOOD WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES IN ITALY, Dec. 18.—Out of the defense of Venice has proved the fighting qualities of the motor boat. Populated by powerful engines and capable of almost incredible speed, armed with torpedo tubes or light guns, the new type of naval fighting craft has done much to help the Italians to keep back Austro-German invasions.

CLOSE MINES FOR FUNERAL

Will Be Idle Half Day at Hazelton to Honor Davies

HAZELTON, Pa., Dec. 18.—Out of respect to the memory of W. H. Davies, former superintendent of the Hazelton Valley Coal Company in the Hazelton district, the mines of that corporation will be idle today during the funeral, which will be one of the largest ever held in this city.

DAKOTA "M. C." JOINS ARMY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Representative Moyal C. Johnson, of Aberdeen, S. D., has enlisted as a private in the regular army and was assigned to Headquarters, 1st Cavalry Division, at Fort Meade.

TWENTY-YEAR TERMS FOR DRAFT VIOLATORS

Sentences in New England Cases Approved—Banker Held in Ohio

BOSTON, Dec. 18. Court-martial sentences for violation of the draft law of twenty years each imposed on John T. Dunn and Adolph V. Yanger, of Providence, and of fifteen years on Fritz Stepanovich, of Boston, were approved by Brigadier General John A. Johnston. The Providence men found guilty of refusing to register, and the Boston man of failing to report for examination.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 18.—Fred R. Post, merchant and bank director of Cuyahoga Falls, O., was arrested yesterday by United States Marshal Lapp, charged with swearing falsely to affidavits of exemption from the draft of Paul Zizik, also of Cuyahoga Falls. Zizik claimed exemption on grounds that his mother was dependent. The Government claims the mother is worth \$40,000. According to Federal authorities, Post upheld Zizik's claim.

"FIRST SHOT" HONORS ROUSE RIVAL GUNNERS

"X" Battery Sneers at "Y's" Claim to Distinction in Front-Line Trenches

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Dec. 18. "X" battery sneers at "Y" battery "funny" in firing that first shell at the Boches.

They came back to their training center from the front with a hot feud flaming between them.

Men of "Y" battery laugh energetically at "X" battery's charge—"Just sore heads," they say.

Proponents of both sides told their story today. It seems both dragged out their guns—by hand—across the muddy valley, through hundreds of shell holes in a race to have the honor of firing America's first shot.

COAST ARTILLERY WILL GO TO FRONT

U. S. Shores No Longer Menaced, Men Get Chance for Action

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18. Coast artillery forces, and some equipment from coast fortifications of the United States, will be used in France, General Weaver's annual report showed today.

He pointed out that the United States coasts are virtually free from danger of attack by capital ships and can now be reached only by submarines or raiders.

DO YOUR CHRISTMAS BAKING EARLY

You may now bake your cake almost a week before, with

SAWATAY 100% PURE BUTTER OF NUTS "Better than Cheap Butter, Cheaper than Good Lard" For BAKING-SHORTENING-FRYING

GLI AUSTRO-TEDESCHI SON SEMPRESPIANTI

Italiani, Inglesi e Francesi Valorosamente Resistono all'Invasore

DUELLI DI ARTIGLIERIA

Gli Italiani Hanno Riacquisito le Posizioni Sulle Linee di Col Caprile

ROMA, 18 dicembre. Uno spaventevole combattimento continua sulla fronte nordica italiana, tra i fiumi Brenta e Piave, ed quale sono impegnate le truppe inglesi di rinforzo a quelle italiane.

Le forze austro-tedesche hanno attaccato le linee in direzione di San Marino, sulla sponda orientale del Brenta, vicino a Col della Beretta, e, secondo un comunicato ufficiale, sono state respinte in disordine.

Nella regione di Col Caprile, ove la battaglia si svolge feroce per una settimana, gli Italiani hanno assunto una generale offensiva costringendo gli austro-tedeschi a ritirarsi sulle originali loro posizioni.

In detta regione le linee principali italiane sono ancora intatte e le batterie degli Alleati continuano un incessante fuoco sulle trincee tedesche.

Presso il delta della Piave le truppe italiane hanno riportato pieno successo nelle loro operazioni locali. Un plotone, sostenuto da un'imbarcazione armata a motore, distrusse un ponte nemico e prese in un'occasione caso occupato da soldati austriaci catturandoli e facendo del prigionieri.

Da altre notizie giunte dalla fronte di battaglia si rileva che gli approcci al nord di Monte Grappa, il principale baluardo che impedisce l'avanzata delle forze austro-tedesche sulla parte orientale dell'altipiano di Asiago, sono ora mantenuti dalle truppe inglesi che hanno frenato gli invasori in quella parte della linea.

Violenti duelli di artiglieria sono ora in progresso tra i fiumi Brenta e Piave, intramezzati da combattimenti di fanteria.

La forza austro-tedesche, in formazione di massa, operano continui attacchi che si infrangono volta per volta contro la valorosa difesa degli Italiani, inglesi e francesi, come le onde del mare contro le rocce di una costa.

Numerosi contrattacchi vengono operati dagli Italiani sulle linee delle montagne e sono il basso corso della Piave, in vicinanza della laguna.

Da notizie ufficiali, giunte domenica, si rileva che durante la giornata di sabato di verificano limitati combattimenti di fanteria presso le posizioni di Brenta e la Piave, e che un violento attacco operato dagli austro-tedeschi fu immediatamente arrestato. L'attività dell'artiglieria fu abbastanza violenta sulla fronte nordica.

SPY HUNT PRESSED IN U. S. DEPARTMENTS

Vigilance Redoubled as Result of Disclosures of Enemy Activities

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18. Redoubled vigilance against German spies among the Government departments at Washington has resulted from the recent disclosures of activities of enemy agents.

The task is proving a difficult one, as there are so many thousands of men and women employed in the departments. Also, it has been necessary to employ hundreds of new clerks, some of whom live in Washington and are known and others who come from out of town and are strangers to those they work for and with.

FRIENDS REBUILDING SHELL-TORN FRANCE

Haverford Unit's Reconstruction Is Described by Doctor Babbitt in Report

In the wake of the Hindenburg retreat scattered groups of American Friends of the popularly known Haverford Unit, that recently reached France, are rebuilding homes with a devotion to hard labor and suffering that is only outdone by the soldiers in the trenches, according to Dr. James A. Babbitt, field director of the American Friends' Reconstruction Unit and professor of hygiene at Haverford College.

The report is given out by Professor Rufus M. Jones, of Haverford College, chairman of the executive committee of the Quaker reconstruction work. The unit includes 120 men and the thirty women all Americans. Some of the members were previously with the British Friends' War Victim Relief Committee, now regarded by the French Government as the most efficient relief organization of any kind not under military management.

Organized last July, after the United States entered the war, the unit then underwent a severe training at the college. It is made up largely of representatives of Earlham College in Indiana and of Haverford. Its members serve without pay, but the monthly budget to cover expenses and materials used totals \$14,500 and is on the increase.

The members of this reconstructive organization are working in Ormancourt, Ham, Gruny and adjacent villages, engaged in five special tasks. Foremost is the reconstruction of homes, the study of hygienic conditions and surroundings necessarily following. The outlining of plans for the proper medical care and provision of the centers, the correlation of the work of the unit with other existing agencies, such as the Red Cross, and the location of a civil, medical and surgical hospital are also being given close attention.

While the group of clergymen, managers of manufacturing establishments, engineers, newspapermen, physicians and college students working at Ormancourt are housed in a left with a stone floor, without sanitation and under conditions that make it difficult to keep dry and warm, yet there is a certain picturesqueness in the life and surroundings, and there is a splendid esprit de corps.

Bad living conditions and the danger of bombardment produce a particularly heavy strain on the section working at Ham, which is reported as suffering much hardship but showing great devotion.

Establishment of a small permanent hospital near Ham or Gruny to serve as a relief station, as well as for the civil population, in the neighborhood of the devastated buildings of Aubigny or Bray-St. Christopher, of a temporary emergency hospital at Sermatez and of a refuge hospital near Paris for the winter is planned.

Charles Evans, of Hiverton, N. J., is the Paris business manager of the unit. Vincent D. Nicholson is the secretary and manager of the reconstruction organization in the United States, with an office at 29 South Twelfth street.

Dirt Wanted

63d St. & Passyunk Ave. Hog Island Branch Penna. E. R. Has large quantities of dirt for clean filling material. Apply on the work or to T. F. REILLY, 60th St. & City Ave. 6th St. & Elmwood Ave.



Evening Dress Essentials and Accessories

Admirable Christmas Gifts for Men Evening Dress Suits Ready to Wear, \$33 to \$50 To Measure, \$55 to \$85 Tuxedo Suits Ready to Wear, \$30 to \$45 To Measure, \$50 to \$80 Dress Waistcoats Ready to Wear, \$4 to \$13.50 To Measure, \$15 to \$20 Fur-Lined Overcoats \$40 to \$700 Dress Gloves \$2.00, \$2.25 and \$2.50 Evening Dress Mufflers \$3.50 to \$13.50 Silk Hats, \$7 & \$8 JACOB REED'S SONS 1424-1426 Chestnut St.

AMERICANS ORGANIZE RAILWAYS IN RUSSIA

Congestion Cleared Away and Many Reforms Put Into Effect

DOUBT SMITH'S ARREST

U. S. Engineers Double Mileage of Engines and Keep Cars Moving

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18. Officials doubt the reported arrest of Charles B. Smith, formerly a civilian engineer for the Missouri Pacific Railroad, now a member of the Stevens Railroad Commission in Russia. They declared they did not believe Mr. Smith was in the part of Russia where the reported arrest took place, and they doubted also that the Bolshevik leaders would permit such action.

Latest reports of the work of the Stevens commission show that it has cleared away congestion and has put into effect the following reforms in Russian transportation: An improved system of train operation, a better divisional organization, whereby closer supervision may be maintained, and a revision of engine ratings giving a greater mileage capacity to each engine and keeping traffic moving.

Agreement as to construction of locomotives, erecting shops at Vladivostok, where locomotives from the United States are to be put together. Day and night working of all locomotive repair shops to reduce the number of "out of repair" engines. Doubling the charges of one railroad against another, to reduce the expense of a supply department under a general storekeeper, maintenance and distribution of material and supplies.

Samuel M. Felton, ex-vice president of the Chicago and Great Western Railway, now director general of railways in the Engineer Corps, U. S. A., said that Henry Miller, former operating vice president of the Wabash, who went to Russia in June with the Stevens commission, has returned to the United States and has submitted the first report on the work of the American railroad men.

SHOPPING HOURS

8.30 A.M. to 6.00 P.M.

Gifts Suitable for Infants and Children

Children's Coats of Cloth and Corduroy, Special \$7.50 Chinchilla Coats—gray, brown and navy, beaver collar and cuffs, warmly lined, Special \$15.00 Misses' and Children's Bath Robes, fine quality Beacon blanket, bound with satin ribbon. \$2.75, \$3.75, \$5.00 and \$5.75 Choice assortment of Infants' and Children's Frocks, Caps and Sacques of all kinds, including Japanese Quilted Sacques, at various prices.

Infants' Booties, 50c, 75c and \$1.00 Japanese Quilted Coach Covers, \$3.00 to \$10.00

Novelties of all kinds, including book stands, sewing tables, old-fashioned chairs, rockers and easy chairs, bookcases and desks. Mirrors, gold frames, special value, \$4.50 to \$8.50 Tea Carts, special values, \$22.50 to \$45.00 Mahogany Nests of Tables, \$17.50 to \$27.50 Mahogany Tilt-Top Tables, inlaid, oval or round, \$9.00 Mahogany Floor Lamps & Shades, complete, \$25.00 upward

Leather Toilet Cases of pigskin, long-grain seal with ebony fittings, \$9.00 to \$45.00 Cowhide Toilet Cases with rubber lining, \$14.00 Striped leather novelties, including Collar Boxes, \$9.00 and \$10.00 Manicure Sets, \$5.00, \$6.00, \$7.00 Leather-backed Picture Frames, Diaries, Travel Notes, etc., at various prices.

Clocks for Traveling or for the Den, including reproductions of the old Sedan Clocks at special prices.

Auto Lap Robes, from Liberty of London, at prices that are less than elsewhere, \$55.00 to \$75.00

Appropriate Gifts for Soldiers Lined Capeskin or Woolen Gloves, 75c to \$7.50 Wool Sweaters and Slip-overs, \$5.75 to \$15.00 Heavy Woolen Socks, \$1.00 & \$1.50 Knitted Woolen Wristlets, 75c Knitted Woolen Helmets, \$2.50 & \$3.00 Knitted Woolen Scarfs, \$2.50 & \$3.00 Trench Mirrors in khaki case, 75c to \$3.00 Khaki Utility Cases, \$1.00 Khaki Slippers in case, leather trimmed, \$2.75 & \$5.00

Handkerchiefs Linen, hemstitched, embroidered initial, block for fancy letters, 25c, 40c & 60c each Plain Linen, hemstitched, regular weight, good quality linen, 20c, 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00 each Tub Silk Handkerchiefs, woven colored borders in many stripes and colors, 50c each Linen Handkerchiefs, corded and printed borders, 50c & 75c each Sweater Coats, \$6.00 to \$17.50 Leather vests or coats, wind-proof, \$17.50 and \$38.50 Knitted silk neck scarfs, \$2.50 to \$9.50 Wool auto shawls, \$3.00 to \$6.00 Silk Hose, plain and fancy, 75c to \$3.50 Imported Golf Hose, \$6.00 Woolen Auto Robes, \$9.50 to \$28.50 Imported and Domestic Umbrellas

GATLING THINKS U. S. LACKING IN ORDNANCE

McGormick Tells Senators How Troops in France Are Equipped

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18. Unwilling to be delayed by the inability of Colonel L. N. Lewis, machine-gun inventor, to appear, the Senate military probers today summoned Congressman Medill McCormick (Illinois) and resumed their investigations in executive session.

Henry Gatling, son of the late R. J. Gatling, inventor of the Gatling gun, also testified. Congressman McCormick, who visited the European battlefront, discussed conditions at the front. He also was asked as to the equipment of American troops sent abroad, and said that with the exception of one body of Sammees all were completely equipped as far as he could learn. This contingent was without an adequate supply of overcoats, he said.

Gatling, who, with his father, was in close touch with the war machines of England, Germany, Italy and other European nations, showed by comparison, where the American War Department was lacking, especially in ordnance. Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the

Hanscom's "FANCY" The finest bread flour made, \$13.75 a bbl., or \$1.75 an eighth. Fine Maine Baldwin apples, \$5.50 a bbl., or \$1.20 basket. Send for our Bulletin of Fancy Christmas groceries, candies, etc. 1232 Market St. & Branches

\$50,000 FIRE IN GLASS WORKS

Destroyed the factory of the Bradshaw Glass Company, at Witter, near here. It was caused by molten glass overflowing. The loss is estimated at \$50,000.

MISS VARNEY NOT GUILTY

Bay State Nurse Was Charged With Murder of Brookline Birds

DEDHAM, Mass., Dec. 18.—The jury acquitted Miss Harriet A. Varney, West Upton nurse, of the murder in Brookline of Mrs. Pauline Keyes, the ten months' bride of George H. Keyes, a Boston real estate man. The jury deliberated more than four hours.

Sensible Christmas Gifts For Men and Women—things that will be appreciated for their genuine usefulness. Indestructible Scarfs, \$1.50, \$1.75, \$2.00 Silk Mufflers, \$6.00, \$9.00, \$12.00 Auto Robes, \$15.00 to \$65.00 Mark Cross Gloves, \$2.00 to \$9.00 Fur Caps, \$7.00 to \$25.00 Leather Goods—Cigarette Cases, \$2.00 to \$12.00 Card Cases, \$1.50 to \$10.00 Bill Folds, \$1.50 to \$15.00 Photo Cases, \$2.25 to \$11.00 Toilet Cases, \$5.00 to \$20.00 Smoking Stands, \$7.50 Hand Bags, \$5.00 to \$30.00 Jewel Cases, \$1.50 to \$15.00 Sewing Cases and Baskets, \$3.50 to \$18.00 Photo Frames, \$2.25 to \$11.00 Writing Cases, \$2.00 to \$17.50 MILITARY GIFTS Money Belts, \$1.50 to \$4.00 Trench Mirrors, \$1.50 to \$5.00 Military Toilet Cases, \$5.00 to \$8.00 Military Sewing Cases, \$1.50 to \$4.50 Puttees, \$15.00 Writing Cases, \$2.00

Joseph G. Darlington & Co. 1126-1128 Chestnut Street. Christmas Directory Keep Up the Nation's Spirits—Spend Cheerfully This year, more than ever, is it important to make this a Cheerful Christmas. Spend—but spend wisely. This Store is the Logical Shopping Place For Sensible Gifts at Attractive Prices Gifts That Men Will Value at Home or in the Service