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BRITISH CHECK HUN ATTACK IN NEW OFFENSIVE

Terrific Fighting on Two-Mile Front in Cambrai Region Marks Beginning of Much-Heralded Attack of Kaiser to Force German-Made Peace; Artillery Active in Other Sectors; Both Sides Claim Prisoners

London, Dec. 31.—The British in successful counter-attacks on the Cambrai front have regained the more important territory on Welsh ridge taken by the Germans in yesterday's attack, the war office reports.

Germany struck her first strong blow on the western front since the heralding of a great offensive and the British have held it in check. The attack, which resulted in heavy fighting, was made on a short front on the southern end of the salient before Cambrai. The fighting continues. The attackers gained a foothold in British trenches, but later were ejected in part by counterattacks. The German thrust was on a front of more than two miles between Maroing and La Vauxelle, and against positions which the British have held since the retirement after General Byng's successful blow.

In the center the Germans were in the center for a gain, but on either end of the assaulting front they entered the British front line. The British counterattacks drove the Germans from part of these positions and resulted also in the capture of some prisoners. Berlin claims front line positions and a "few hundred" prisoners were captured.

The Germans also have been active at other points along the front but their local attack in the Ypres sector and their raids northeast of Verdun brought no success. These efforts follow upon heavy German fire in these three sectors—Cambrai, Ypres and Verdun—and may be forerunners of determined attacks. Another advance along the Nablus road north of Jerusalem has been made by the British forces in Palestine. Against stubborn Turkish resistance the British progressed three miles and captured Bireh, ancient Persepolis and three other towns. Progress also was made between the Mediterranean coast.

Germans Wreck Ancient Church From Airplanes

Padua, Italy, Dec. 30.—The ancient monumental Carmini church of Padua containing frescoes by Titian and Campagna, was the center of a vast conflict last night when the city was shrouded in flames. The fire started from incendiary bombs dropped by enemy airplanes in another raid which scattered widespread destruction and death. The dome of the massive church burned throughout the night, making a majestic spectacle, but the solidity of the ancient walls remained. From 1250 and the copper roof saved the main structure and paintings from destruction. The bomb hit the outer edge of the dome which was soon a fiery furnace 150 feet in the center of the city.

One building was pelted from top to bottom and torn to pieces by a bomb which was aimed at the church of San Valentino and the ancient palace were hit and partly wrecked. Other private buildings also were struck.

While the destruction of property was great, reports indicate the loss of life was not as severe as on Friday night. The correspondent to-day visited the Carmini church, where mass was proceeding in the baptistry. The altar was covered with wreaths but the walls and roof had not been damaged greatly. A number of hangings and tapestries were burned by fire from the roof. The tall campanile was saved and the bells were ringing to-day. A monument to Petrarch in an adjoining square was scorched and surrounded by debris from collapsed houses. The frescoes saved were the meeting of Joachim and Anna by Titian, and the birth of Christ and the Adoration of the Magi by Campagna. The Carmini church was erected to commemorate the end of the brutal tyranny of one of the Hohenstaufen chiefs who raided Northern Italy 700 years ago.

THE WEATHER

For Harrisburg and vicinity: Probably snow to-night or on Tuesday; not so cold, lowest temperature to-night about 10 degrees. For Eastern Pennsylvania: Probably snow late to-night or on Tuesday, not quite so cold; light north winds, becoming east. River: The Susquehanna river and all its branches will continue generally icebound and nearly stationary. General Conditions: Low temperature prevails over the eastern part of the United States, with readings being zero in the Middle Atlantic and New England States. The line of freezing temperature extends far down the Florida peninsula this morning, Jacksonville reporting a minimum of 18 degrees and Tampa, 20 degrees. Temperatures: 8 a. m., zero. Sun: Rises 7:29 a. m.; sets, 4:49 p. m. River: Rises, 9:13 p. m.; falls, 4 p. m. River Stage: Four feet above low-water mark. Yesterday's Weather: Highest temperature, 7. Lowest temperature, 2. Wind temperature, 2. Normal temperature, 31.

CROZIER DENIES OPPOSITION TO LEWIS WEAPON

Was Not Prejudiced Against Inventor of Machine Gun, Is Testified

APPROPRIATIONS SMALL French Munition Heads Gave Ordnance Chief Assurance of Adequate Supply

Washington, Dec. 31.—The Senate inquiry again was turned to the ordnance situation when Major General Crozier was permitted to take the stand again to-day to reply to recent statements made by Colonel Isaac Lewis, inventor of the Lewis machine gun, rejected by the War Department in favor of the Browning type.

Before beginning General Crozier asked to be put under oath and then read a prepared statement dealing first with borrowing artillery from the allies for General Pershing's forces. Desire to make America's forces of artillery to the fighting front as soon as possible was a prime factor, General Crozier said, in the artillery loans from France. "Correspondence was produced in which M. Tardieu, of the French high commission, asked the War Department to order French artillery and that French deliveries exceeded the number promised."

Conferences between the heads of the British, French and American governments abroad regarding furnishing of artillery to America's forces were recited by General Crozier. He produced a letter from General Bliss, chief-of-staff, stating British and French munition heads had formally assured him their artillery and ammunition production had so increased they would be able to completely equip all American forces arriving abroad in 1918.

"I am not attempting to excuse the situation that requires us to depend on our friends for heavy artillery," said General Crozier, "but the responsibility rests on the whole country."

Wanted More Artillery He had, during the past year, often asked Congress for larger appropriations for artillery and that he and other army heads had many times called the committee's attention to the need for more artillery, was related by the general.

Machine guns, General Crozier said, were never expected to become such an important weapon but the Germans, realizing better than any one else their great future, proceeded to secure them in quantities. Turning to the Lewis gun, he said, prejudice had kept the Lewis gun out of American equipment. General Crozier detailed the official records of the department.

The Austrian official statement makes the French victory appear even more significant as it announces the preparation of "counter measures" against the French. This expression has previously been used in statements of the German side in initial announcements on occasions when striking successes have been made by enemy forces.

Both French and British troops have been for some time aiding the Italians in holding their present front, their activity having been almost entirely of the defensive order, however. Yesterday's attack was the first offensive move by the French on this front, so far as the official statements have shown.

Richcreek Given New Trial on Murder Charge

Frederick Richcreek, convicted of first degree murder on a charge of shooting an old peddler along the towpath of the canal near Middletown, was granted a new trial to-day in an opinion by the county court, signed by Judge S. J. McCarrell. Among the points raised by James H. Stranahan and A. Ross Walter, counsel for Richcreek, it was contended the court erred in stating that the defendant was bound to establish his plea of accidental killing by preponderance of the evidence. The court agreed with this exception and basing the granting of the new trial on the point. After reading the opinion Judge McCarrell said: "I want to say in addition that the verdict of the jury was fully supported by the evidence. The jury was warranted in rendering the verdict it did."

Many to Welcome in the New Year Tonight

After midnight to-night the year 1917 will be history. Judging from the events that have transpired during the 365 days just past it was the most important year in the history of the city, state and nation. Watchnight services will be held in a number of churches. Worshipers will usher in the new year, with service and song. Praying for the new year will bring peace to the war-weary world. In other instances hands of merry people will parade the streets waiting for the birth of the new year. They will celebrate its arrival with noise. County and city officers will also be close to-morrow. Many stores and places of business will also observe the holiday. There will be no formal celebration, the Mummies having postponed their parade because of the war.

Republican Club to Elect and Hear Speech

The Harrisburg Republican Club will hold its annual election this evening. Following the election Prothrotonary-elect Charles E. Pass will make a patriotic address. Prominent Republicans from all over the city will attend. The club has just completed a very prosperous year.

SHOT CHICKENS Charged with shooting at a flock of chickens while hunting and sent to jail

Charged with shooting at a flock of chickens while hunting and sent to jail, Albert Robinson was sentenced to six months in jail. Other cases disposed of include: Henry Kunch, larceny, two months; Harvey Rodkey, plea of guilty withdrawn.

The New Year's Greeting of the Beast



READING SLICES ITS PASSENGER SERVICE FOR WAR

To Carry Freight Instead Under New Government Plan

Plans for making the Philadelphia and Reading Railway lines one of the great freight carriers of the east already have been taken up by Government officials with officers of the company. As a result the company has sliced its passenger schedule to pieces for the period of the war.

Scarcity of Teachers May Force County Schools to Combine Different Classes

Because of a shortage in the number of teachers available for county schools, Superintendent F. E. Shambaugh in a letter to hundreds of patrons throughout the county predicts that it may be necessary in a number of districts to consolidate smaller schools. In several districts this plan is already being considered seriously he reports.

Police Searching For Men Listed as Delinquents By Local Draft Boards

Police are looking up the names of the registrants in the First registration district who do not return their questionnaires seven days after they are mailed. According to the rulings of the draft regulations a list of delinquents must be turned over to the police at the end of each seven-day period, who look them up and make a report to the draft board. Chief of Police Wetzel said that the chief cause of delinquency reported by his men is that the registrant has moved from the address on his registration card, without giving a new address. In a number of instances, the registrants are not even known at the address they gave on June 5.

Only One Change in Prothrotonary's Office

Charles E. Pass, who will take the oath of office as prothrotonary of Dauphin county Monday of next week is at the court house learning the details of the office under the direction of Prothrotonary Harry Holler and his clerks.

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U. S. EXPORTS REACH NEW HIGH RECORD

Washington, Dec. 31.—America's exports were estimated to-day at the Department of Commerce to have passed the \$2,000,000,000 mark in 1917, a new high record. Imports were less than \$3,000,000,000 and the trade balance in favor of the United States probably will be more than \$1,150,000,000.

GOVERNMENT TO ACT PROMPTLY IN COAL SHORTAGE

Passenger Crews Will Be Transferred to Freight Trains, Is Belief

Washington, Dec. 31.—Immediate action by the railroads to relieve the critical coal shortage, particularly in New England and other sections suffering from the cold wave, was being considered to-day by Director General McAdoo and members of the railroad war board.

K. OF C. CAMP WORK PRAISED BY SEC. BAKER

A recent report of the Commission on Training Camp activities, published by the War Department, contains a tribute to the efficient work being done by the Knights of Columbus in the various Army training camps. This statement is of interest to Harrisburg because of the campaign about to open for the Harrisburg diocese's share of the Knights of Columbus War Camp Fund. The city itself will raise not less than \$25,000, this sum having been agreed upon at a meeting of the executive committee Saturday.

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BRITISH REPLY TO HUN PROPOSAL WILL BE SERIOUS

Russia and Germany Reach Agreement; Still Perplexing Problems in Way

CONFLICT IN SIBERIA Red Guards Murder French Agent and Set Town on Fire

London, Dec. 31.—The Manchester Guardian says it is the intention of the British government when the Austro-German terms of peace are presented officially to return a serious and reasoned reply. Premier Lloyd George has arranged to visit France, according to the newspaper, to confer with Premier Clemenceau on this subject.

The Austro-German peace terms referred to are those presented by the representatives of the central powers at the negotiations with the Russians at Brest-Litovsk. These negotiations were interrupted for ten days to give the entente allies opportunity to state whether they would join in them. The principal point in the Austro-German outline of peace terms was acceptance of the

American Aviator Killed While Making Test Flight

Paris, Dec. 31.—An American aviator was killed yesterday while making a test flight at an aviation center before French and American pilots and observation aviators. Although the wind was blowing violently he made a loop successfully, but on attempting to repeat the feat he fell. He was dying when picked up, but insisted on reporting to his American comrades with his last breath the observations which he had made.

MILDER WEATHER EXPECTED HERE IN SEVERAL DAYS

Closing Month Proves to Be Coldest of Any December on Record

CONFLICT IN SIBERIA NO IMMEDIATE RELIEF

Red Guards Murder French Agent and Set Town on Fire

There's a warm wave up in South Dakota," consoled the weatherman, running a trained finger over his map. "It was two degrees below there yesterday morning and now it's 30 degrees above." "You think that warm wave will hit the Susquehanna?" chattered the reporter from under the collar of his sweater. "Not to-day," ventured the weatherman with a frozen smile. "It was zero in Harrisburg at seven-thirty this morning, and I should say it would stay near there the rest of the day. You see there's a cold wave in ahead of that warm one, and it doesn't seem to be moving very fast. However, it ought to be a little less chilly by this evening, and

Foresees Secession of Lower California

San Francisco, Dec. 31.—Fielding J. Stinson, a Los Angeles capitalist, announced here to-day he had been advised that he was appointed "diplomatic representative at Washington" of Governor Estaban Cantu, of Lower California. "I believe," he said this forenoon, "the secession of Lower California from Mexico."

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POWELL MEN GO

Harrisburg—Auditor General Charles A. Snyder has dismissed five clerks appointed by A. W. Powell in the office of the Allegheny county mercantile appraiser over which he has authority. Indications are that there will be similar action taken in the Philadelphia mercantile appraiser and register of wills office, where the Auditor General has a dozen or so appointments.

WILL TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION

Washington, Dec. 31.—Immediate measures will be taken to relieve the coal shortage in New England and in New York, Director General McAdoo announced to-day. Orders, he said, will be issued before night giving to coal shipments preferential movement.

MINES WORKING FULL HANDED

Scranton, Dec. 31.—The thermometer went to seven degrees below zero this morning, but in spite of the handicap of cold weather the mines of the Lackawanna valley at noon were reported to be working nearly full handed and getting out the average production.

COUNTER MEASURES THREATENED

Vienna, Dec. 31.—Via London—Counter measures against the French are in course of preparation in the Monte Tomba area, the war office announced.

RAILROAD INVESTIGATION RESUMED

Washington, Dec. 31.—Investigation of the railroad situation was resumed by the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee to-day with Chairman Hall, of the Interstate Commerce Commission explaining data showing the financial condition and expenditures of the carriers.

FEDERAL HEARINGS THURSDAY

Washington, Dec. 31.—The Federal Trade Commission to-day announced that the open hearing on the packing industry will be conducted Thursday in Philadelphia with Commissioner Victor Murdock presiding.

HENDRICKS TO MANAGE CARDINALS

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 31.—Jack Hendricks, manager of the Indianapolis Association team, to-day signed a contract to manage the St. Louis Nationals next session.

AUSTRIAN SHIPS RESTORED

Amsterdam, Dec. 31.—Fourteen Austrian steamers seized by the Russians in the course of the war will be stored to their Austrian owners in keeping with an agreement reached at Brest-Litovsk, according to a dispatch from Vienna. The total tonnage of the steamers is 40,000.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Owen W. Ludvig, Pittsburg, and Anna M. Spahr, Mechanicsburg; Alvin W. Yost and Eva Walker, Harrisburg; Charles S. Radle and Bertha G. McAllister, Harrisburg.