



STEAMERS CAPTURED BY BRITISH

Two German-Owned Vessels Taken as They Approach the Falkland Islands

SUSPECTED AS STORE SHIPS

Vessels Taken by King George's Subjects Said to Be the Baden and Santa Isabel—Flew Hamburg-American Line Flag

By Associated Press.
London, Dec. 22, 2:23 A. M.—It is announced that British warships have captured near the Falkland Island two German owned steamers which were acting as store ships to the German ships. They were the Baden and Santa Isabel, both flying the flag of the Hamburg-American Line.

A Buenos Aires dispatch on December 9 reported that three German merchantmen had been captured and sunk by British or Japanese off Terre Del Fuego. One of the steamers was said to have been the property of the German Cosmos Line.

A RUMANIAN-BULGARIAN TRUCE IS DECLARED, SAYS MINISTER IN LATE EDICT

Petrograd via London, Dec. 22, 1:45 P. M.—The Bulgarian minister announced today that an agreement had been reached between Rumania and Bulgaria under which Rumania will restore to Bulgaria the province of Debrindja and most of the other territory which she acquired from Bulgaria as a result of the second Balkan war.

"This agreement has been reached without pressure from either Germany or the allies," said an official connected with the Bulgarian ministry. "We shall continue to be neutral and believe that Rumania, although she has no cause to fear us, also will remain neutral."

It has been asserted here that the fear of Bulgaria alone had prevented Rumania from invading Austria and entering the war on the side of the allies.

"If Greece would return Kavala and the Macedonia territory she annexed during the second Balkan war and Serbia would restore to us the Macedonia provinces she occupied, despite her agreement of 1912, the Balkan union could be reconstructed," said the Bulgarian official. "Under those circumstances a lasting peace would be established in the Balkans. But unfortunately neither Greece nor Serbia has shown an intention to revise the treaty of Bucharest."

"The heir to the Serbian throne, Prince Alexander, on receiving Prince Troubetzky, when the prince delivered his credentials from Emperor Nicholas at Nish, yesterday said:

"Serbia guides her own national interests," meaning that Serbia was not ready to return the Macedonia provinces.

"A reconstructed Balkan union would favor neither the allies nor Germany, nor would it have any aggressive intentions. Rumania's Transylvanian aspirations, Greece's claims to Turkish islands, Serbia's difference with Austria bring about such a conflict of interests that it would be impossible to throw the union as a whole one way or the other. Our relations with Turkey will remain friendly. We do not desire Adrianople."

LATE WAR NEWS SUMMARY

The battle in France and Belgium has become more violent, both the Germans and the allies making furious attacks. Although it was said in an official French account of recent fighting that the Germans were now on the defensive everywhere, to-day's French War Office statement speaks of German attacks at four points. The German statement in turn describes several attacks by the allies.

So far as can be learned from these statements, there have been no marked changes in positions, although the French assert that in one instance they captured nearly a mile of entrenched German positions. References to trenches taken and retaken, to violent bayonet engagements and to heavy losses inflicted show the desperate nature of the struggle.

Concerning the situation in Poland there was little new information. The German War Office said that fierce fighting was in progress there and that at some points German troops had crossed the Bzura river, on their way toward Warsaw.

In the opinion of the French military authorities the Germans are beginning to lose their grip on France and Belgium. An official summary of the results achieved by the allies in

HOHL'S FUNERAL HERE POSTPONED

Cincinnati Holds Body of Bandit for Identification With Other Crimes

REWARD OF \$500 IS IN DISPUTE

Blair County Court Will Decide Whether Money Offered for the Desperado's Arrest Will Go to the Salem, O., Chief of Police

The refusal of Coroner Foertmeyer, of Cincinnati, to release the body of Frank G. Hohl, the Harrisburg automobile bandit, who was killed last Thursday in a revolver duel with policemen after robbing two banks and fatally wounding Patrolman Knaul, was mainly due to attitude of the Cincinnati police who are making every effort to clear up recent robberies in and about that city. A dispatch received to-day from Cincinnati reads:

"The coroner declared that the criminal deeds of Hohl were so many in this city and vicinity that he had decided to hold the body until several crimes which it now believed Hohl had knowledge of were cleared up by identification at the morgue. That was his only reason for refusing to ship the body at once.

The police here do not credit the story that Hohl's body is being held in Cincinnati pending the payment of a reward of \$1,000 by the Altoona authorities for the 'capture of Hohl dead or alive.' No such reward has been offered in Altoona, according to the Harrisburg police who have been in close touch with the situation since Hohl's robbery of the Union bank in Altoona last March.

\$500 Reward in Dispute
A reward of \$500 was offered by Blair county following the robbery of the Union bank, in Altoona, for the 'arrest and conviction' of Hohl. He was arrested following that robbery by the chief of police of Salem, O., but subsequently escaped from the Blair county jail. Whether or not Blair county is liable for that reward is a question now in the hands of President Judge Beidridge. Agreement was made a week ago and the judge's decision is now being awaited. The chief of police of Salem, O., will get the reward should the court rule it must be paid.

District Attorney Marion D. Patterson.
Continued on Eighth Page.

RECEIVER FOR CONTRACTOR

Involuntary Bankruptcy Proceedings Started by Harrisburg Creditors of C. W. Strayer, of Lemoyne

Involuntary bankruptcy proceedings yesterday were begun in the Federal court in Sunbury against C. W. Strayer, a prominent Lemoyne contractor and builder, and upon a petition presented by Senator E. E. Beidleman, of this city, Judge Charles B. Witmer appointed Caleb S. Brinton, of Carlisle, temporary receiver to take charge of the Strayer assets.

Among Strayer's Harrisburg creditors belief was expressed to-day that the contractor will not oppose the court action. It is estimated by a prominent creditor that Strayer's liabilities will equal, if not exceed, \$125,000 and that his assets will total \$100,000.

The petition for the appointment of the temporary receiver was signed by the Central Construction & Supply Company, Miller Bros. & Neefe, and Harry P. Oves, all Harrisburg creditors.

Strayer to-day was said to be out of the city and although persons in his employ would not confirm the report of the court action, they suggested that "the information be obtained from the court records." After filing his bond the temporary receiver will take charge of the Strayer assets and keep them in his possession until the court disposes of the bankruptcy petition.

If Strayer is adjudicated a bankrupt, his creditors then will get together and elect a trustee who will take over the assets, and if advisable convert the same into money, preparatory to the distribution among the creditors.

COPPERS GET PRESENTS

Fred T. Cartwright Remembers Those Who Worked at Tabernacle

Fred T. Cartwright, custodian with the Stough evangelistic party, which closed the campaign here on Sunday, remembered the many policemen who did service at the tabernacle during the seven weeks' stay in this city. He presented packages of handkerchiefs to all of them, not forgetting the heads of the department. The day force received the gifts at roll call this morning and the night force will get them this evening.

Mr. Cartwright was the last of the Stough party to leave the city, leaving with Mrs. Cartwright this morning. During the stay in this city Mr. Cartwright and all of the policemen were firm friends and they hold a warm spot in their hearts for him.

Cheek Cut While Coasting
Girst Dunkle, 6 years old, 2130 Jefferson street, was injured yesterday afternoon while coasting down a hill near his home. While falling on the hill a sled ran into his left cheek, inflicting a laceration six inches long, vital.

BEATEN BY THUGS, WOMAN IS DYING

Mrs. Lydia Lewis, 60, Attacked by Masked Pair Who Enter Her Home in Carlisle

SHE FIGHTS FOR CHRISTMAS CASH

Not Until Burglars Push Revolver in Her Face Does She Give Up Keys to Her Trunk—Intruders Then Take \$20 and Leave Her Unconscious

(Special to the Star-Independent.)
Carlisle, Pa., Dec. 22.—Mrs. Lydia Lewis, 60 years old, of North Pitt street, just two blocks from the centre of the city, was beaten and robbed in her home by two masked men at 7:30 o'clock last night. She was so terribly injured that there is little hope for her recovery.

Mrs. Lewis was alone in the house when the thugs entered by the front door and extinguished the light in the oil lamp which she was using. Searching the room with a dark lantern they at last located a trunk for which they demanded the keys from Mrs. Lewis.

Upon her refusal to let them have the keys the men choked her and then beat her over the head. She, however, refused to give up the keys until they pointed a revolver in her face. After the burglars got the keys they quickly opened the trunk and took \$20 which Mrs. Lewis had been saving for Christmas, and made their escape.

She fainted shortly after giving up the keys as she was found unconscious a short time afterward by her 10-year-old grandson, who lives with her. Just before the entry of the burglars Mrs. Lewis, who is a widow and lives alone, except for her grandson, and a nurse in the day time, had sent her grandson to the postoffice where he was at the time of the robbery. Up to noon to-day the police had made no arrests.

BOSCHELLI IS NOW IN JAIL

"Rose Garden" Proprietor Unable to Raise the Money to Pay \$2,000 Fines and Costs

Angelo A. Boschelli, former proprietor of the "Rose Garden," a former notorious Market street drinking resort, who yesterday was ordered to pay fines and costs aggregating something like \$2,000 for violating the liquor laws, is in jail and will remain there at least ninety days unless his friends come to his rescue with the \$2,000. He was taken to the Dauphin county prison late yesterday afternoon after he made a fruitless attempt to induce his friends to assist him to pay the penalties imposed by the court.

Boschelli is broken down in health and according to his attorney he was ruined financially with the fall of "Rose Garden" a year or more ago, when the court revoked the liquor license.

Unless he can get the money to pay the fine and costs, the former hotel man will be compelled to remain in jail for at least ninety days. After that his attorney can present a petition to the court asking for his discharge under the insolvency laws. That would permit his being released from prison although it would not relieve him of the liability to pay the fine and costs which could be collected if he should at any time come into possession of the amounts imposed.

CITY'S TREE IN POSITION

Plans for Celebration Are Made—Singers Meet at Tech This Evening

With the erection of the city's Christmas tree at Front and Market streets to-day and the meeting of the big choir in the Technical High school auditorium this evening to practice hymns and carols, final plans for the municipal celebration have been completed. A general invitation has been given for singers to gather for practice this evening.

A concert by the Commonwealth band from 7:15 to 7:30 o'clock on Christmas eve will start the ceremony. There will be singing of hymns and carols by the big choir under the direction of Professors Deever and Rose and a short address by Mayor Royal. Pictures illustrating the life of Christ, secured through Thomas Lynch Montgomery, State Librarian, will then be shown.

A meeting of the Citizens' Committee was held last evening in the office of the Mayor, when final plans were made. There is a balance of \$56.55 in the committee treasury and it was decided not to make a general appeal for funds. The tree has been spliced to a pole at Front and Market streets and branches have been added, the general result being that the tree is larger than last year's.

Christmas Tree by Parcel Post
Norristown, Pa., Dec. 22.—For the first time in the existence of the post-office here, a Christmas tree came through the mails to-day by parcel post from Wernersville.

"TAKING THE OFFENSIVE"



BOWMAN BOOSTS DOZEN SALARIES

After Water Appropriation Comes Up He Tells Colleagues It Provides Increases

BUDGET LOWER DESPITE THAT

Advances in Pay Range From \$5 to \$17 a Month and They Are Given 'for Excellent Service Rendered to the Department'

The salaries of a dozen employees in the City Water Department will be increased in amounts ranging from \$5 to \$17 a month in 1915, according to provisions of the Water Department budget bill, which was passed finally by the City Commissioners this afternoon. Not until the ordinance and final passage for third reading and final passage did Commissioner Bowman, head of the Water Department, inform his colleagues of the proposed increases.

Even the employees who will be benefited by the salary increases knew nothing of Mr. Bowman's plan before the meeting to-day and the Commissioner said he was sorry he could not keep the matter a secret until the new rate would become effective. The increases, he said, were made because of the "excellent services rendered the department by these employees," and they were not solicited. Mr. Bowman added that the salary increases were intended to serve

TRY TO CRACK STATION SAFE

Thieves Get Only 65 Cents From P. R. Ticket Office, Elizabethtown

(Special to the Star-Independent.)
Elizabethtown, Pa., Dec. 22.—Thieves broke into the passenger station of the Pennsylvania railroad here early yesterday morning and jimmied open the door to the ticket office. They were frightened away, presumably by a track walker, after they had made an unsuccessful attempt to crack the safe. The thieves got the money that was in the cash drawer—only 65 cents.

Entrance to the station was gained by prying away the window screen and forcing the window after unmaking the fastenings.

NOTICE TO MINISTERS

Programs for Christmas services in the churches Friday must reach the Star-Independent office not later than 3 o'clock to-morrow afternoon, for publication in Thursday's issue. Owing to the fact that the Star-Independent office will be closed Friday, notices for next Sunday's services must be received by 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon.

AFTER YEAR HER VOICE RETURNS

Stricken Dumb in Dec., 1913, Miss Bowers Suddenly Finds Herself Able to Speak

DOCTORS HAD TRIED IN VAIN

Young Woman's Vocal Chords, Which Seemed to Become Paralyzed by Slight Blow to Arm, Resume Performing All Natural Functions

Miss Pearl Bowers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Bowers, 1119 North Seventh street, has received a Christmas present she had been praying for and hoping for since Christmas a year ago. On December 23, 1913, she bumped against a door in the home of her sister and it so affected her nervous system that she lost her speech. Last Friday, without warning, her voice suddenly returned to her. She had been unable to talk above a whisper for almost a year.

Since her strange affliction Miss Bowers' relatives had done everything they could to restore her speech. Expert medical men interested themselves in the case and on their advice she was sent into the country for weeks during the summer months, but it did not do her any good, so far as her

THIEVES GET CHURCH CASH

Take It From Home of Treasurer When Latter Attends Service

(Special to the Star-Independent.)
Middletown, Pa., Dec. 22.—While the family was attending church services Sunday night, thieves broke into the home of Christian Landis, Dock street, Royalton, and stole several dollars. The robbery was not discovered by Mr. Landis until to-day. Mr. Landis is treasurer of the Royalton United Brethren church, and it was money from the church fund, which the treasurer had received on Sunday morning, that the thieves stole.

Correction as to Shopping Hours

Yesterday, for the first time in the Christmas season, most of the big Market street stores were open at night for the accommodation of Christmas shoppers. This policy will be continued until Christmas, including next Thursday evening, Christmas Eve, by most of the stores. The Bowman & Co. store, however, although it will be open this evening and to-morrow evening, will close at 6 o'clock on Thursday, Christmas Eve. It was incorrectly stated in this newspaper last evening that the stores, generally, will be closed on the night of Christmas Eve.

SPANISH ORDERED TAUGHT YEARS AGO

Local School Board Resolved in 1903 to Employ An Instructor in the Language

PLAN NEVER CARRIED OUT

Statement Made by Former President of the Board, Henry C. Orth, Corresponds With the Records, as Confirmed by Secretary Hammelbaugh

Present agitation in this city for the introduction of the study of Spanish into the local high schools has brought to light the fact that there is on the minutes of the School Board a resolution adopted more than ten years ago, calling for the employment of an instructor in the Spanish language in a local high school. This resolution has never been put into force, but has been disregarded and all but forgotten.

A letter received to-day by the Star-Independent from Henry C. Orth, former president of the School Board, tells how he presented a resolution providing for the study of Spanish in the high school, how it was adopted and how the school authorities failed to take necessary action to put its provisions into force. He suggests that the demand for Spanish as a course of study in the local high school exists now as it did when he introduced his resolution, and could to advantage be satisfied at this time.

Records Confirms Statement

Daniel D. Hammelbaugh, secretary of the School Board, read Mr. Orth's letter this morning and confirmed the statement there made that, buried in the records of the board, there is a resolution, passed May 29, 1903, providing for the teaching of the Spanish language in the high school. He said the resolution has merely been disregarded, and that no efforts have ever been made to revive it.

When the School Board in 1903 determined that Spanish should be taught in this city, the decision was reached largely because of the acquisition several years before of the Spanish colonies by the United States and the consequent demand for Spanish-speaking Americans in those islands. Those who to-day advocate the study of Spanish

Skating at Wildwood

The Park Commission to-day announced that the ice at Wildwood Park is very thick and is perfectly safe for skating. Several dozen skaters to-day took advantage of the ice and visited Wildwood Park and last night several hundred people were on the lake. The ice is rather rough in spots but this does not seem to mar the pleasure of the skaters.

BUDGET GOES IN ON 9 MILL BASIS

Ordinance Calling for a Reduction of Half a Mill in Tax Rate Introduced To-day

\$552,107.73 IS TOTAL FIGURE

City Commissioners Estimate That the Receipts for 1915 Will Be \$580,000 and That There Will Be Balance at the Close of That Year

The 1915 city appropriation and tax levy ordinances were completed this morning and were offered as substitutes for skeleton measures by Commissioners Gorgas and Bowman, respectively, at the regular meeting of the City Commissioners this afternoon. The tax rate has finally been fixed at 9 mills, or half a mill less than this year, and the budget ordinance carries appropriations totaling \$552,107.73. The estimated receipts for 1915, the Commissioners figure, will run close to \$580,000, so the balance at the end of the ensuing year should be about \$28,000.

The departmental requests put in by the Commissioners a few weeks ago amounted to \$568,555.47, indicating that more than \$16,000 was clipped from the original bill at the Commissioners' several executive sessions. The essential cuts included the abandonment of the plan to buy an auto for the Sealer of Weights and Measures and that to create the position of assistant to the City Plumbing Inspector.

A cut also was made in the appropriation to the city sinking fund, since it was found that \$13,599.74, which heretofore was allowed annually as an installment to wipe out part of the second public improvement loan, will not be needed this year. Reductions also were made in the appropriations to the department of the City Electrician.

The nine mill tax rate will be one-half mill less than has been levied annually since 1910 and will be divided as follows: 6.82 mills for general revenue and 2.18 mills for sinking funds.

The budget ordinance was practically completed at a special meeting of the City Commissioners held yesterday afternoon, although two amendments were offered to it at to-day's session. The salary of Ross H. Seaman, assistant clerk, was increased from \$1,200 a year to \$1,300, and that of Joseph P. Thompson, captain of police, was boosted to \$1,300, an increase of \$100 a year over the 1914 allowance. The appropriations to the sinking fund for 1915 total \$109,955.67, while last year they totaled \$123,546.41.

The departmental appropriations are as follows:

Public Affairs—Police, \$69,315; law, \$8,972.46; city clerk, \$4,734.50; sealer of weights and measures, \$2,600; printing, \$5,600.
Finance and Accounts—salaries and office expense, \$4,320; treasury department, \$7,972; license tax, \$1,200; tax revision, \$3,160; sinking fund and miscellaneous, \$109,955.67.
Highway Department, \$117,106; city engineer, \$11,846.
Public Safety—Health, \$44,375; foot inspection, \$3,640; building inspection, \$1,800; plumbing, \$1,820; street lighting, \$59,475.35; police and fire alarm, \$8,825.
Parks and Town Property—Parks, \$36,356.75; fire, \$47,346; city planning, \$2,580.

"HARDSCRABBLE" CLAIMS FAR EXCEED ASSESSMENTS

While 60 Per Cent. of the Property Owners Ask for \$154,550, City Places Only \$54,670 Valuation on These Properties for Taxation

The damages and losses to be sustained by sixty per cent. of the property owners in the "Hardscrabble" district, which is to be wiped out in connection with the reopening of Front street from Her to Calder, according to their own estimates which they forwarded in proposals of sale to the City Solicitor, are about \$100,000 higher than the city assessments, upon which State and county taxes are paying city, basis and county taxes. Such was the announcement made to the City Commissioners this afternoon by City Clerk Charles A. Miller, who has compiled a report from the assessments and the city assessment books.

The estimated damages to thirty-three properties, owned by twenty-two individuals, are \$154,550. One of the property owners refused to submit an estimate, saying the property is not for sale. The city valuation on all these properties is \$54,570.

Some of the property owners fix their estimated losses to be as much as 500 per cent. greater than the city assessment. Others let the estimate down to a 300 per cent. increase. On the other hand, Sarah F. Freed asks only \$2,000 for property assessed at \$3,700.

WALL STREET CLOSING

New York, Dec. 22.—The market was put to another test in the final hour when fresh selling sent prices lower. As usual, the movement centered around Steel, which changed hands in blocks up to 1,500 shares and receded to 48 3/4. The closing was weak. Virtually all stocks of speculative or investment value yielded to further selling pressure to-day, under leads of Steel and other favorites. New low records for the current movement was general.