

POLAND IS SCENE OF BIG BATTLE

Germans and Russians Now in Grips on the Banks of Several Rivers

MOST DESPERATE FIGHTING OF WAR

Each Side Has Sustained Tremendous Losses in Battle of the Rivers—The Germans Claim to Have Forced the Russian Line

London, Dec. 23, 12 Noon.—The eighty-mile front in Poland to the west of Warsaw, where the Germans and Russians are at grips on the banks of the Bzura, Rawka and Pilica rivers, continue to be the scene of the most desperate fighting in either the eastern or western arenas of the war.

When the weather conditions under which the troops are fighting are recalled the sufferings of the men in the trenches may to some extent be appreciated. The country is experiencing the full force of winter. Each side has sustained tremendous losses in this battle of the rivers and although the Germans claim to have forced the Russian line at a number of points, it is nevertheless a fact according to reports reaching London that the Russians have been strengthened and it is difficult to visualize which contender has the strategic advantage.

Big Movements of Armies Reported

Again there come trickling through from Holland reports of vast movements of German forces from the east and the west. A dispatch reaching here from Amsterdam says that thousands of German troops have passed through Aix-la-Chapelle toward Northern France. This activity may be the forerunner of a renewed German offensive in the western arena under the eyes of Emperor William or it may simply be intended to offset reinforcements Great Britain has been throwing lately into the French field of hostilities. As the situation appears to stand to-day the allies in France and Belgium continue more on the offensive than defensive and every day shows slight gains to their credit.

Christmas Lull Expected

It is believed that notwithstanding the failure of the plan for an armistice over Christmas, some sort of a lull will set in on Christmas day itself. Christmas sentiment is deep in the men's hearts.

The London newspapers have decided unanimously not to publish on Christmas day, and the official press bureau will suspend its activities from the afternoon of December 24 until the evening of December 25.

Thousands of tons of Christmas presents have been sent to all the fronts. The distribution and enjoyment of these gifts is another argument for the probable suspension of hostilities wherever this is possible.

Kaiser Again to the Front

London, Dec. 23, 2:57 P. M.—In a dispatch from Cologne the correspondent of the "Central News" says that Emperor William with his entire staff reached Cologne to-day from Berlin on his way to the western battle front.

Germans Again Invade Angola

Lisbon, via Paris, Dec. 23, 6:25 A. M.—The Germans have again invaded Angola, Portuguese West Africa. The fact was announced in the Chamber of Deputies by the Minister of the Colonies, who said that the Germans had made a fresh attack on the military post at Naulia, in the Province of Angola.

LATE WAR NEWS SUMMARY

Although further progress apparently has been made by the allies in their general offensive movements, the German armies as a whole are standing fast, and, so far as is known, have lost no important sections of the long line on which they settled down after the retreat which followed the battle of the Marne, early in the war.

To-day's official communications indicate that each side has had its victories and defeats. The French army chiefs state that they captured the last section of a line of German trenches near Perthes-les-Hurlus, where fighting has been severe for several days, and have made an average gain of 800 yards. The German statement, speaking of this engagement, says that the French attack was "partly repelled." French claims to progress in Belgium are denied in Berlin, where it is said that the British have suffered reverses at the hands of the Germans.

The German War Office reports no developments in the east, saying merely that the fighting is continuing. The French statement, however, asserts that the Russians are pressing forward their invasion of Germany across the east Prussian frontier, but admit that the Germans have made progress in the

BRITISH BOAT'S WIRELESS DISMANTLED BY U. S. IN CANAL ZONE TERRITORY

Washington, Dec. 23.—Lieutenant Greenhaw, naval radio officer, at the Panama Canal zone, cabled the Navy Department to-day that the wireless of the British steamer Proteus, in Balboa harbor, was dismantled by canal zone police, December 10, after it was found she had been sending code messages.

The cruiser Tacoma is at Cristobal to enforce neutrality and the Navy Department still has under consideration the possibility of dispatching another vessel to the canal zone.

A British statement recently to the Navy Department said Governor Goethals had said in a written communication that he had been misinformed when he charged that a British collier was using its radio outfit contrary to neutrality. Officials here now assume that the government had reference to another ship which also figured in the official dispatches as having violated the canal rules by leaving Balboa without clearance papers and that that vessel has been confounded with the Proteus. The unnamed collier had no wireless apparatus.

The Proteus is a British merchant steamer 6,118 tons which, under charge of the British government, sailed from Victoria, B. C., in November for Balboa, Panama Canal zone. It was assumed she carried coal and supplies for British naval vessels.

J. A. MILLER APPRAISER

Appointed This Morning by the County Commissioners, One of Whom Is His Father

Joseph A. Miller, until a year ago one of the clerks in the office of the County Commissioners, this morning was appointed by the County Commissioners to the post of County Mercantile Appraiser, for 1915. Commissioners S. S. Miller and I. S. Hoffman, favored Miller, who is a son of the former, while John H. Eby, the minority member, voted for Fred L. Morgenthaler, a Democrat and formerly a member of the old Select Council from the Twelfth ward.

Miller a year ago resigned the clerkship to the County Commissioners to become secretary of the East Harrisburg Cemetery Association, a position which he since has held. It understood to be his plan to continue to hold the cemetery association post.

William A. McHenry, formerly clerk to the Directors of the Poor, and for many years Recorder of Deeds of Dauphin county, succeeded Miller to the clerkship in the Commissioner's office.

Harry Hoffman, a son of Commissioner Hoffman, was the mercantile appraiser this year.

FIRST DEATH-CHAIR VICTIM

John Talap, Wife-murderer, Picked To-day as First to Be Executed by Electricity in This State

The first man to be electrocuted in Pennsylvania will be John Talap, who killed his wife in Montgomery county in the first degree. Governor Tener this morning fixed the date for Talap's execution for the week beginning February 22 and signed the death warrant. The warden of the penitentiary where the death house is located is empowered to select any day during the week for the execution.

Warden Francis when here last week said that herein the electrocutions will take place is completed and now ready to carry out the mandates of the law.

There are five other murderers sentenced to be electrocuted who are now waiting for the time to be fixed for their deaths, and it is expected that Governor Tener will set the dates within the next week, as he does not wish to have them go over to his successor in office.

Water Co. Wins Camp Hill Fight

(Special to the Star-Independent.)
Carlisle, Pa., Dec. 23.—Camp Hill residents who brought court action opposing the plan of the Riverton Consolidated Water Company to increase its water rates in the borough of Camp Hill, have lost their suit and the new and increased water rates will become effective, according to a decision filed to-day by Judge W. N. Seibert, of the Perry county court, specially presided here.

"THE BLOOD RED ROSE"

"The Story of the Blood Red Rose," which starts in the Star-Independent to-morrow, goes back to the medieval days of witches for its plot. It is full of the supernatural, with romance, adventure and tragedy. The story has been written by James Oliver Curwood from the moving picture serial by Kathryn Willams.

SMELL THE MINCE PIES? YUM YUM

Christmas Dinners Purchased To-day by Busy Housewives; Bake Ovens Hot

HUNDREDS PLAN A BIG HOLIDAY

Merry Shoppers Making Purchases—Markets and Streets Filled To-day as Yuletide Draws Near—Little Hope of Snow

Clear, crisp weather, just the kind for Christmas shopping, has given a great impetus to the pre-Christmas season in Harrisburg. Plans for the greatest holiday in the year are rapidly rounding into shape—societies, business organizations, churches and individuals are adding the last finishing details.

There is little hope of a white Christmas, except for the ice and snow that are already on the ground, but they are apparently heavy enough to support the sleigh of Santa Claus, and Christmas will come with its attendant happiness as heretofore. The weather observer this morning forecasted fair weather for to-night and to-morrow and seasonable temperatures, which will prevent too much of the ice and snow departing before the big holiday.

May Be Fall of Beautiful

That forecast, however, will last only until 8 o'clock to-morrow evening, when there may be something develop that will bring a fall of the beautiful Christmas Day a merry one. The dregs of a storm in the St. Lawrence valley are promised for a while to cause snow, but it departed with only a few clouds for remembrance. Another depression to the west is being held back by the cold wave. This may come east by Christmas and bring snow. The lowest temperature forecasted for to-night is 20 degrees.

One of the features of the celebration, the Christmas dinner, has been supplied, all city markets to-day were crowded with purchasers laying in a stock of foods for the big dinner. It is estimated that over 5,000 turkeys, chickens and other fowls were sold in the markets here to-day. Cranberries and materials for mince pies were sold in countless numbers and quantities. Kitchens took on a busy aspect to-day as the Christmas baking was finished up. Fruit cakes, of course, have been in the larder for some time.

The Municipal Tree Decorated

The streets present a Christmasy scene. The municipal tree in all its

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LIVES TURKEYS AT 25 CENTS, DRESSED, 30, IN MARKETS

The extensive display of Christmas trees and other greens, constant "gobble, gobble" of the turkeys, the clucking of the chickens and the quacking of the ducks made those who attended market this morning aware that Christmas is almost here. The noise-producers, however, did not remain in the markets very long, as the many people who had delayed the purchasing of their Christmas dinners until to-day soon had the fowls in their baskets.

The farmers who brought turkeys to market, as well as those who brought Christmas trees, holly, green's foot, laurel and various other grows, went home well satisfied. Live turkeys sold in some instances as low as 22 cents a pound, although the standard price was 25 cents. Dressed turkeys brought 30 cents. Near the close of market greens were sold at very low prices, as the farmers did not care to take them back home to decorate their barnyards.

Around some stalls the smell of old-fashioned mince meat was very marked. Big red cranberries were plentiful and in most cases cheap. The oyster men were on the job with barrels and barrels of oysters to be used in filling the turkey on Christmas or for a regular oyster dinner. One oyster man said: "You can eat 'em any way, just so you buy 'em."

The regular market men say the crowd to-day was one of the largest and happiest that has been in market this season.

USUAL GIFTS TO TEACHERS TO GO TO POOR THIS YEAR

School teachers and officers and teachers of Sunday schools and churches of Middletown have united in a movement to aid the poor of that borough, according to an announcement made by the Directors of the Poor this morning, by Prof. H. J. Wickey, superintendent of the Middletown schools. The superintendent frequently has aided the Directors of the Poor in dispensing aid to the poor in the lower end of the county and his mission this morning was along that line.

The school teachers in his district, he said, have advised the pupils to buy no presents for the teachers and that if the pupils have any money to contribute it should be applied to a fund, which now is being raised, to bring Christmas cheer to the homes of the poor. The exchange of costly gifts in the Sunday schools also is being discouraged, so Mr. Wickey said, the plan being to cut the cost of the gifts down to a minimum so as to aid the more needy.

A plan is now on foot, the superintendent said, whereby the barber shop apprentices will grant to the poor the contributions received in their Christmas boxes. Some of the apprentices have agreed to follow the suggestion, it is said.

INDIAN CHARGED WITH ATTACK ON OLD WOMAN

Lewis Twin, Graduate of Carlisle School, Accused of Being One of Masked Pair Who Beat and Robbed Mrs. Lewis

(Special to the Star-Independent.)

Carlisle, Pa., Dec. 23.—Lewis Twin, a graduate of the Carlisle Indian school, and now connected with the printing department of that institution, to-day was arrested by the police here charged with being one of the two men who on Monday night, choked, snatched and robbed Mrs. Lydia Lewis, 60 years old, as she lay in her home on North Pitt street, two squares from the heart of the city.

Twin denies all knowledge of the crime, but he was lodged in jail and the police are now searching for another man. Merchants in the heart of Carlisle's business section, and within a block of the Lewis home, informed the police, the latter say, that Twin and a comrade were in their stores shortly before 7:30 o'clock Monday evening, the hour Mrs. Lewis declares she was attacked.

In addition to that the police claim to have information to the effect that Twin was seen washing a handkerchief or cloth, at the Indian school, some time after the alleged robbery.

Mrs. Lewis, who suffered greatly from her experience with the robbers, was compelled at the point of a revolver to surrender all her Christmas saving—\$20—to the intruders. To-day she is reported slightly improved.

BECK SHUNS COLLEGES

Gridiron Star Will Not Accept Scholarship—Tech Players Receive Cardigan Jackets as Presents

Clarence Beck, captain and star of the Technical High school football team, whose personal work was responsible for Tech's victory on the island on Thanksgiving Day over Central High school, when questioned this morning about the numerous offers of scholarships he has had, stated that he did not intend to enter any college, regardless of the many offers he has had.

Beck feels that the acceptance of a scholarship binds a person too tightly to sports and necessitates the neglect of his studies. He has not yet fully decided what line of work he will follow after leaving school.

After the entertainment given the open air kids this morning by the Tech boys, all of the football players who participated in the game against Central High school on Thanksgiving Day were called on the platform and presented with handsome maroon cardigan jackets.

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CRUTCHES BRING HOLIDAY CHEER

Little Paul Erb, to Whom Skin Was Grafted, Will Use Them Christmas Day

LIES ON SIDE FOR 6 MONTHS

Sufferer, For Whom Iron Moulder Gave Up Many Inches of Cuticle, Is Being Made Happy With Many Yuletide Gifts From Friends

The merriest of Christmases is in store for Paul Sidney Erb, 13 years old, son of Mrs. Lottie M. Erb, 236 Charles street, who for six months has not been off his cot, having been confined there by reason of the terrible burns he received on July 3 on a farm



PAUL S. ERB

Youth to Whom Skin Was Grafted Will Use Crutches on Christmas

near Enterline. Erb is the youth upon whose hip more than a hundred square inches of skin were grafted from the leg of Steward G. Forney, a powerful young iron moulder, of 434 Harris street. The promise had been made to the little patient that on Christmas Day he would be able to be about on crutches, and among his first Christmas presents was a pair of crutches which he will use for the first time Christmas morning in a walk from his cot to a big chair near the fire. The skin-grafting operations have proved entirely successful and it is believed to be only a matter of time until the boy will be able to run around again just as other boys do.

Since his injury, when a so-called "harmless" sparkler was set off in his pocket, burning him terribly on the right hip, Erb has scarcely moved from his left side. He underwent the operation

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"SAWDUST COUGH" COMES IN TRAIL-HITTERS' WAKE

Does An Odd Tickling in Your Throat Cause You to Go "Ka-Ka?"—Then You Have It, the Doctors Say—But It Is Not Dangerous

Have you got "the sawdust cough"? Lots of good Harrisburg people have it. "The sawdust cough" is the name given by local physicians to a mild disease which has spread over Harrisburg during the past few weeks. Hundreds of persons have come to their offices, say the doctors, and between spasmodic coughs have asked for treatment for their throats. The ailment in all such cases is similar and the doctors have gotten so that they immediately recognize victims of the "sawdust cough."

"I have an awfully bad cough, doctor, ka-ka," says a patient, raising his hand to his mouth and turning aside his face in an excuse me fashion, while emitting several croupy coughs to prove his statement. "I know what's the matter with you," invariably says the doctor. "You've been at the 'tabernacle, haven't you?"

"Caused by Dust From 'Trail'?" "Yes, ka." "Well, you have the sawdust cough, that's all. The dust got into the air at the Stough tabernacle, and those who were present got it in their throats, especially if they did much singing."

The so-called "sawdust cough" is not a serious disease and the patients soon recover. The irritation produced in the throat is said by the doctors to be easily overcome. During the Stough evangelistic meetings in the big tabernacle, now being torn down, the great crowds that went in and out raised a great deal of dust from the sawdust aisles, and during the services the air was always noticeable misty with particles of sawdust.

Dr. Stough, himself, Had Cough There was seldom a meeting that Dr. Stough did not feel called upon to request those in his audience to suppress their coughing as much as possible, for there was scarcely a minute during the services that several persons of the thousands present were not coughing, sometimes slightly and sometimes violently. He advised persons compelled to cough incessantly to purchase cough drops, and the matter was at that time passed off as a joke.

Dr. Stough himself suffered from throat irritation during the seven weeks' campaign, and constantly took medicine to overcome it. He at no time from the platform attributed the coughing epidemics in the audience to the sawdust, but physicians who have been treating the throats of attendants at the tabernacle, have unhesitatingly blamed the sawdust for the trouble, and have by common consent styled the affliction "the sawdust cough."

CAMERON MILLIONS PUT IN HANDS OF TRUSTEES

Former Senator, Who Is Now 81 Years Old, Places His Vast Property in Care of Committee to Hold for Children and Grandchildren

(Special to the Star-Independent.)

Washington, Dec. 23.—James Donald Cameron, former Secretary of War and United States Senator from Pennsylvania, now living on his farm at Donegal, Lancaster county, a few miles out of Harrisburg, Pa., has placed all his property, real and personal, in the hands of trustees to hold during the life of his children and grandchildren. This action was made public here yesterday, and it is said the trustees will have property valued at more than \$3,500,000 to distribute.

It is believed that Mrs. Cameron, who has lived abroad at different times, received her one-third of the property, which she is entitled to under the Pennsylvania laws, before the trusteeship was established.

To effect the transfer Mr. Cameron first conveyed all his holdings to Andrew C. Day, of Wilmington, Del. Mr. Day then reconveyed the property to James Donald Cameron; James M. Cameron, a son; J. Gardner Bradley, a grandson, both of Harrisburg, and the Fidelity Trust Company of Pennsylvania, as trustees. The trust is to continue during the life time of Mr. Cameron, and thereafter until the death of the last survivor of his children and descendants now living.

The children of Mr. Cameron are Eliza C. Bradley, Mary Cameron and

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ARRANGE TO BUY BALL CLUB

Colonel Ruppert and Captain Huston in Conference With Frank Farrell, Owner of New York Americans

By Associated Press.

New York, Dec. 23.—Colonel Jacob Ruppert, Jr., and Captain T. L. Huston arrived here to-day from Chicago and went at once into conference with Frank J. Farrell, chief owner of the New York American League baseball club, to arrange final details for their purchase of the club.

Colonel Ruppert announced before his meeting with Farrell that the deal had not been closed and that it was now "all up to Farrell." He indicated that he expected there would be no hitch, however. "We have offered a certain sum of money on condition that we get certain other players, too," Colonel Ruppert said. "There are other details to discuss, as well."

Frank Farrell, after a talk with William Devery, who owns with him the controlling interest in the club, said: "Up to the present we still own the club and will own it until we are paid our price. That's all there is to it. We had nothing to do with what happened in Chicago. We merely set our figures and are waiting."

The deal would be little doubt here that the deal would go through.

KENTUCKY TOWN IN FLAMES

Big Blaze Threatens to Wipe Vanceburg Off the Map

By Associated Press.

Portsmouth, Dec. 23.—With four houses down and ten buildings on fire, the town of Vanceburg, Ky., faces being wiped off the map by a fire which started at 1 o'clock this morning. The fire started in the Opera house. A bucket brigade was quickly formed but the flames had too much of a start.

At 1:30 this morning Chief McQuat, of the local fire department, received a telephone call asking for help from the Mayor of Vanceburg.

The city is without any fire protection. Mayville has also been called on for assistance.

HUNT MADE FOR 'CONSCIENCE'

City Treasurer to Know What to Do With \$5 Returned Anonymously

City Treasurer Copelin has received \$5 from a Harrisburger who styles himself "Conscience" and who says the money rightfully belongs to the City and not to him, but the keeper of the City's strong box doesn't know what to do with the cash. He has no way of knowing from what fund the money originally was appropriated, if it was appropriated. He does not know whether it was a license tax, city tax or assessment charge. To-day the Treasurer asked the newspapers to print this notice, directed to "Conscience":

"Please advise me in what way the \$5 belongs to the city, as I do not know how to credit it?"

HOHL'S BODY ON WAY HERE

Expected to Arrive in City To-night When Funeral Will Be Arranged

According to advices received by the police this morning the body of Frank G. Hohl, the automobile bandit, who was killed in a revolver duel with the police in Cincinnati last Thursday, after robbing two banks and fatally wounding an officer, was shipped to Harrisburg last evening.

The body was released by the Casper yesterday. It is expected to arrive in Harrisburg to-night when funeral arrangements will be completed.

Alfred Henry Lewis is Dead

By Associated Press.
New York, Dec. 23.—Alfred Henry Lewis, newspaper man and writer of books, died at the home of his brother here, of an intestinal disorder. He had been ill only a few days.

WALL STREET CLOSING

New York, Dec. 23.—Further recession was made in the later dealings, other stocks selling at or near their minimum. The closing was weak. Liquidation from various sources caused more general weakness in to-day's stock market. Steel, Southern Pacific and other speculative issues fell to the low level fixed by the exchange and other shares were 2 to 4 points under yesterday. Reduction of the Pennsylvania Company dividend was among the adverse factors.

THE PROHIBS SEE VICTORY IN VOTE

Cold Water Advocates Triumphantly Point to Their Majority of Eight in the House

SAY DEFEAT IS ONLY TEMPORARY

The Opponents of National Prohibition Also Are Confident After Hobson Resolution Fails to Receive the Necessary Two-Thirds Vote

Washington, Dec. 23.—Opponents of prohibition in Congress were confidently predicting to-day that defeat by the House of the Hobson resolution to submit a constitutional amendment for national prohibition to the State legislatures meant that the issue was dealt so far as action at this session is concerned. On the other hand prohibition leaders were triumphantly pointing to their majority of eight votes for the resolution, and although it failed to receive the two-thirds vote necessary to adoption, asserted their expectations had been fulfilled. They declared that despite their temporary defeat they would continue the fight.

Both sides appeared to be well satisfied with the result. Anti-prohibitionists hailed it as a distinct victory, while the supporters of prohibition asserted that they were exceedingly gratified over the outcome of their first contest on the floor of Congress.

Another Resolution in Senate

Although a resolution similar to the Hobson resolution is pending in the Senate, introduced by Senator Sheppard, of Texas, administration leaders in Congress, expressed the belief to-day that it would not reach a vote as a result of the action of the House. Representative Henry, of Texas, chairman of the House Rules committee, who vigorously opposed the Hobson resolution, predicts that as a result of the vote in the House the question of prohibition would not again be brought up on the floor of Congress as a national issue for twenty years. Prohibition leaders, however, including Representative Hob-

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PENNSY DIVIDEND DECLARED

Reduction of Three Per Cent in Parent Company's Earnings Compared With Previous Years

By Associated Press.

Philadelphia, Dec. 23.—The Pennsylvania Company, the parent company of the Pennsylvania railroad's lines west of Pittsburgh, to-day declared a semi-annual dividend of one per cent, making four per cent for the year, a reduction of 3 per cent, compared with previous years.

In announcing the action on the dividend the directors of the Pennsylvania Company stated that the "reduction was due chiefly to the large decrease of traffic and a material reduction in the revenue on the lines west of Pittsburgh. All stock of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company is owned by the Pennsylvania Company."

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