

## RETREAT OF AUSTRIANS ADMITTED

### Staff Says Russians, Reinforced by Fresh Troops, Compelled Former to Withdraw

## ABANDON ENTIRE EASTERN FRONT

### Constantinople Reports Success on the River Kura, in the Caucasus, Taking Many Prisoners and Capturing Guns and Other War Material

Vienna, Via Wireless to London, Dec. 30, 7 A. M.—An official communication given out by the staff headquarters admits a retreat by the Austrians in Galicia. The statement follows:

"The old Russian army, which about a week ago commenced an offensive against those of our forces which had crossed the Carpathians, has been reinforced with supplementary troops and fresh divisions in such a manner that it is necessary for us to withdraw our troops along the entire eastern front and in the plain of Gorlice just north of the Carpathians and to the east of Nowy Sandec. The situation in the north has not been influenced thereby.

"In the Balkan theatre the Montenegrins showed great but unsuccessful activity. A weak attack at Trebinj, in Herzegovina, near the border, were repulsed early."

Berlin, Via Sayville, Dec. 30.—Among the items issued by the official news bureau to-day are the following:

"Constantinople reports another Turkish success on the river Kura, in the Caucasus. The Turks took many prisoners, several guns and other war material.

"Turkish headquarters reports that the pursuit of the Russian army in the Caucasus is progressing. It also reports that the British renewed their attempt to land troops at Akabah, Arabia, but failed.

"Rome reports that the Japanese Ambassador there has stated that the rumors of an intended intervention by Japan in the European war theatre are unfounded."

## GERMAN ATTACKS DRIVEN BACK AND SLIGHT GAINS CLAIMED BY THE FRENCH

Paris, Dec. 30, 2:30 P. M.—France claims slight gains near Nieuport in the official announcement given out by the war department this afternoon. This communication also recites other points along the line where German attacks have been driven back. There has been heavy bombardment at St. Georges in the Aisne region and on the heights of the Meuse. The text of the communication follows:

"In Belgium we have won a little territory in the region of Nieuport, opposite Polderz and to the north of Lombrechtzde. The enemy subjected St. Georges to a violent bombardment. This is the position we are putting in a state of defense. We have captured a German position of support located to the southeast of Zonnebeke, on the road between Beclere and Paschendale. From the Lys to the Oise there is nothing to report.

"In the valley of the Aisne and in Champagne the enemy has manifested another burst of activity which has taken the form particularly of a violent artillery fire to which our artillery replied effectively.

"In the Argonne we have made slight progress in the region of Four De Paris. Between the Argonne and the Moselle, there has been cannonading along the front, but particularly severe along the heights of the Meuse.

"In the Vosges the enemy delivered an attack against our positions at La Tete De Fauz, this was repulsed. In the upper Alsace we are consolidating our positions. Our heavy artillery reduced to silence the German howitzers which were bombarding upper As-pash."

Berlin, Dec. 30 (Wireless to London, 3 P. M.)—The official communication given out to-day by the German War Office says:

"In the western theatre of the war we still are fighting for the hamlet of St. Georges, to the south of Nieuport, which we were compelled to evacuate owing to a surprise attack."

## LATE WAR NEWS SUMMARY

The British Foreign Office has under consideration to-day the communication from Washington remonstrating at the forcible searching and detention of American ships suspected of carrying contraband of war. With the return to London of Foreign Secretary Grey the British authorities began the framing of a reply, concerning the character of which no intimation was given. The belief was expressed generally that a way would be found to meet the situation without serious friction.

German victories in the east were announced by the Berlin War Office whose statement was in direct contrast with recent dispatches from Petrograd. It is asserted that Russian cavalry which invaded East Prussia has been driven back to a point four miles from the border. In Poland, according to the Berlin statement, the German advance continues and it is said that Skierniewice and Lovicz were captured nearly a week ago.

Referring to the situation in the west the German war office confirms the French statement of yesterday that the allies had captured the Belgian town of St. Georges.

The French official communication asserts that further progress has been

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## BRITISH CABINET TAKES UP PROTEST OF AMERICA ON COMMERCE RESTRAINT

London, Dec. 30, 1:20 P. M.—Foreign Secretary Grey returned to London from the country to-day. His coming was followed in the afternoon by a meeting of the Cabinet, at which, before a full muster of His Majesty's Ministers, there was discussed the protest of the United States government concerning the existing restrictions on American commerce.

The note of the American government has only just reached the British government and it is likely to occupy the attention of the ministry for a considerable time. In the meanwhile it is understood that Walter H. Page, the American Ambassador, will be invited to go over the entire question with Foreign Secretary Grey.

The Washington communication to the British government holds the first place not only in the news and editorial columns of the newspapers, but wherever the war and its attendant ramifications are discussed. It is contended everywhere that mutual good will surely bridge this difficulty and obviate further irritation.

"We have no right to feel aggrieved because of the American endeavor to mitigate the losses which the war inflicts on the merchants and manufacturers of that country," says the "Westminster Gazette." This newspaper, more than any other, reflects the views of the government. It contends that it is to the interests of neutrals, as well as belligerents, to shorten the war and that, therefore, neutrals should submit to any reasonable restrictions which are likely to have this effect.

Washington, Dec. 30.—A statement having been sent widespread through the United States that Russia purposes negotiating for peace with Germany independent of her allies, France and England, and it having been suggested that Ambassador Bakhmeteff had knowledge of such an arrangement, the Russian Ambassador to the United States has not only issued a statement denying such a position but has cabled to the Foreign Office at Petrograd and received the following message from the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs:

"Certainly, please deny absolutely the absurd statement."  
(Signed) "Sasonoff."

Garibaldi's Grandson Killed in Action  
Paris, Dec. 30, 4:20 A. M.—Lieutenant Bruno Garibaldi, grandson of the Italian hero, was killed while leading a brilliant charge of Italian volunteers, according to announcement just made here. The charge in which Garibaldi met his death occurred in the Argonne region.

WHO STOLE THE HAM?  
Policeman Arrests Man With Article Under His Coat  
Policeman Graham this morning saw Frank Metrovich walking across Third and Blackberry streets with a ham sticking from beneath his coat. The officer placed the man under arrest and later had the ham identified as one taken from a wagon standing at the rear of Slabach's meat market. He was lodged in jail.

YOUTH HAS APPENDICITIS  
Frank Machamer, 18 years old, 612 Dauphin street, was admitted to the Harrisburg hospital this morning suffering with appendicitis. He will be operated on to-morrow.

THREE SHIRTS ARE BURNED  
Overheated Stovepipe Causes Blaze in Derry Street House  
A board ceiling in the kitchen of a house at 2060 Derry street caught fire from an overheated stovepipe this morning and burned up three shirts which were hanging near the stove. The fire was extinguished by a bucket of water before the district firemen responded. The loss will not exceed \$5. The house is occupied by Mrs. Mary Schultz.

MRS. PEARSON'S MOTHER DIES  
Victim of Shock Caused by Daughter's Death Ten Days Ago  
Shock caused by the death ten days ago of her daughter, Anna, who for years had been in ill health, is believed to have been responsible for the death on Monday night of Mrs. D. G. Armstrong, of Salem, Va., mother of Mrs. William Pearson, of 27 South Front street, this city. Mr. Pearson is a prominent lawyer and Prothonotary of the State Supreme and Superior Courts.

ORPHANS' FRIEND IS DEAD  
Mrs. Tressler Donated Loysville Land for Parentless Children  
New Bloomfield, Dec. 30.—Mrs. Catharine Tressler died Monday night at her home in this place after a lingering illness. She is survived by the following children: Charles Tressler, of Conyngham; Mrs. Emma McKee, of New Washington, Ohio; Mrs. Kate Brindle, of Carlisle Springs; Mrs. Mary Kell, of Steelton; Mrs. Margaret Fritz, John W. Elmer and Miss Lillie Tressler, of New Bloomfield, and David Tressler, of Centre township. Funeral services will be held on Thursday morning and will be conducted by her pastor, the Rev. J. W. Weeter. She was 80 years old.

JACOB ETNOYER, 78, DIES  
Was Many Years a Resident and Supervisor of Penbrook  
Jacob Etnoyer, aged 78 years, died last evening at the home of his son-in-law, Samuel Ulrich, 560 Camp street. He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Ulrich and Mrs. John Hess, both of Harrisburg; two sons John and William of Penbrook; one brother, John, of Illinois; one sister, Mrs. Brown, of Harrisburg, and his wife, Mrs. Catherine Etnoyer. Mr. Etnoyer for many years was a citizen of Penbrook, where he was supervisor for eight years.

STUDY OF SPANISH UNLIKELY  
Superintendent Downes Says It Will Probably Not Be Introduced Here  
Superintendent of Public Schools F. E. Downes said this morning that it is unlikely that the Spanish language will be taught in the local high schools, as has been repeatedly suggested.

HARRISON GREY FISKE A BANKRUPT  
New York, Dec. 30.—A voluntary petition in bankruptcy was filed in the United States District Court here today by Harrison Grey Fiske, theatrical manager and producer. Liabilities were given as \$94,000 and assets as \$78,000.

## HAS POSTOFFICE BUT NO TENANT

### An Elizabethtown Man Says Government Ordered It Built and Then Changed Mind

## DECLARES HIS LOSS IS \$3,000

### W. J. Daniels Asks Senator Penrose and Congressman Kreider to Take His Grievance to Washington, and They Promise to Start Investigation

Indignant because he says the Washington postal authorities induced him to go to an expense of nearly \$3,000 by changing his building plans so as to arrange and equip a room to be used at the quarters of the Elizabethtown postoffice, and now have refused to rent those quarters, W. J. Daniels, an Elizabethtown surveyor and former State Highway Department employe, has appealed to Senator Boies Penrose and Congressman A. S. Kreider to use their influence to induce the Postoffice Department to carry out its alleged original agreement to rent part of his building. Daniels yesterday laid his case before State Senator E. E. Beidleman, of this city, and the Senator at once got into communication with the United States Senator and the Congressman. Friends of Daniels said to-day the Washington authorities were induced to change the plan to rent the building by persons who are opposed to a Democratic postmaster running the postoffice in a building owned by a Republican. The postmaster of Elizabethtown is Otto Enders.

According to Elizabethtown residents the postal authorities in Washington for six years have been endeavoring to get new quarters for the postoffice which now is located in a building owned by Mrs. Samuel Eby, just two doors away from Daniel's new building.

Hints of Political Influence  
According to Senator Beidleman, who said he doesn't think Daniels has been dealt with fairly, the plan to move the postoffice to Daniels' new building was advanced to the owner late last summer by one of the postal inspectors. The Senator added that Mr. Daniels has a letter to that effect and that it was understood between

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## WINNERS IN THE BARGAIN CONTEST

### Three Best Letters This Week Happen All to Have Been Written by Men

## PAGE APPEARS FEW MORE TIMES

### Prizes for Best Reasons for Selecting Offers Last Wednesday Go to F. D. Lybarger, E. M. Graeger and Harry E. Bowman

With the Star-Independent's Educational and Bargain page having but a few more times to appear, the interest promises to continue on the increase. All the bargains have not yet been picked out, and the good reasons have not been exhausted. The page in today's issue will bear careful examination.

Prizes awarded by the judges this week are as follows. First prize of \$3 to F. D. Lybarger, 908 North Third street; second prize of \$2 to E. M. Graeger, Third and South streets, and third prize of \$1 to Harry E. Bowman, 530 Furber street. It will be noticed that the prize winners happen to be all men, which goes to show that the women are not the only good judges of bargains.

The prize winning letters this week follow:

First Prize Winner  
Bargain Editor—  
Dear Sir:  
The advertisement that in my estimation is the best bargain is that of S. S. Pomeroy, the grocer. It is advertised a combination of Christmas groceries that is offered at a special reduced price. Everyone, rich or poor, at this season of the year, buys such things as nuts, figs, dates, cranberries, chocolates and puddings that will bring

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## FAVORS KEEPING CURB ON MAYORS

### Third Class City League Rejects Amendment Meant to Increase Their Powers

## 4-YEAR TERM IS CONSIDERED

### Suggested Amendments to Clark Law Include One Which Clearly Defines Bribery in Connection With the Use of Political Influence

The plan favored by Mayor John K. Royal to amend the Clark commission form of government act to provide that a mayor shall designate from the police force the chief and others who shall serve as captain, lieutenant and sergeant, was rejected by a vote of 13 to 9 by the Pennsylvania League of Third Class Cities, in session in this city to-day. Harrisburg's delegation voted along with the majority although Major Royal and many of the other mayors voted with Mayor Ira W. Stratton, of Reading, who wanted the amendment adopted.

Important amendments which were adopted for presentation to the Legislature, as suggested by the law committee recently, included:

Regulating method and manner by which cities may annex boroughs or sections or adjacent townships; making it optional with the City Commission to determine whether it shall advertise for bids for materials and for labor or whether it shall do the work itself; declaring any city employe or officer as well as Commissioner who shall accept money or other thing of value in return for promise of political influence, guilty of bribery; and permitting cities to erect, maintain and operate municipal boat and bathhouses.

To a committee consisting of F. P. Schoonmaker, Bradford; James A. Gardner, Newcastle, and Thomas C. Hare, Altoona, was left the redrafting of an amendment relative to fixing the tenure of office of Commissioners and Mayor at four instead of two years. The question of when the proposed recommendation should take effect made necessary the postponement of action on this measure this morning.

The amendment requiring lawyers, physicians and other professional men

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## WOMAN, DEAD TWO DAYS, FOUND THIS AFTERNOON IN UPTOWN APARTMENT HOUSE

Late this afternoon Patrolmen Schelhas and Seymour, at the request of neighbors, broke into the apartment of Mrs. K. Key, on the third floor of the Aronson apartment house, 1421 North Fourth street, and found Mrs. Key there dead. Patrolman Schelhas says that it was evident she had been dead for at least two days.

Coroner Eekingor was summoned but the bluecoats who made the discovery of the body said before the Coroner's arrival that they found no evidence of violence. Patrolman Schelhas believes the woman died of natural causes when in bed.

Persons in neighboring apartments began to suspect something was amiss when they failed to see Mrs. Key for several days past. Finally they decided to knock on the door. They got no response and so called in the police. The bluecoats found the woman in bed. In the room there was a large lamp burning, the kind that has a capacity for burning many hours without refilling. The oil in the lamp was almost exhausted.

The police say Mrs. Key had lived in the house about a month. She obtained employment by the day outside of the apartment house. The police say there was nothing to indicate a case of suicide or foul play.

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## 5 HURT ON ICE; POLICE TAKE HAND

### Bluecoats Going From House to House Ordering Slippery Sidewalks Cleaned

## HUTCHISON ASKS FOR A NEW LAW

### Chief of Police Would Have Ordinance Empowering Highway Department to Remove Snow at Expense of Property Owners After Notification

With five serious accidents reported to-day to persons who fell on icy sidewalks in this city in less than twenty-four hours, Chief of Police Hutchison announced this morning that he will work for the passage of a new city ordinance which would empower the Highway Department to clean sidewalks which have not been cleared of snow and ice twenty-four hours after the snow has ceased falling, and to charge the costs of the removal against the property owners as liens against the properties.

Under the present city ordinance, which provides a fine for failure to clean sidewalks, the policemen were directed by Chief Hutchison to-day to go from door to door where sidewalks are icy and order the tenants to remove the ice and snow. Under this ordinance it is held to be difficult to reach the actual owners of properties in the case of vacant lots.

Scores of persons have fallen on the ice in the last twenty-four hours and there have been many minor injuries. More serious were the injuries of the following:

Victims of Icy Sidewalks  
George Hoffman, 1151 Bailey street, suffered a compound fracture of his left collar bone in a fall on an icy sidewalk. An X-ray photograph showed the bone to be in three pieces. It was wired this afternoon in the Harrisburg hospital.

Mrs. Fabian Edel, 161 Verbeke street, 66 years old, slipped on a sidewalk near her home last evening and so painfully wrenched her back that her family physician sent her to the Harrisburg hospital for treatment.

H. J. Shuman, West Market street, Chambersburg, a teacher attending the sessions of the Pennsylvania State Educational Association in this city, suffered a fractured elbow in a fall near the Technical High school yesterday afternoon. He was treated at the Harrisburg hospital.

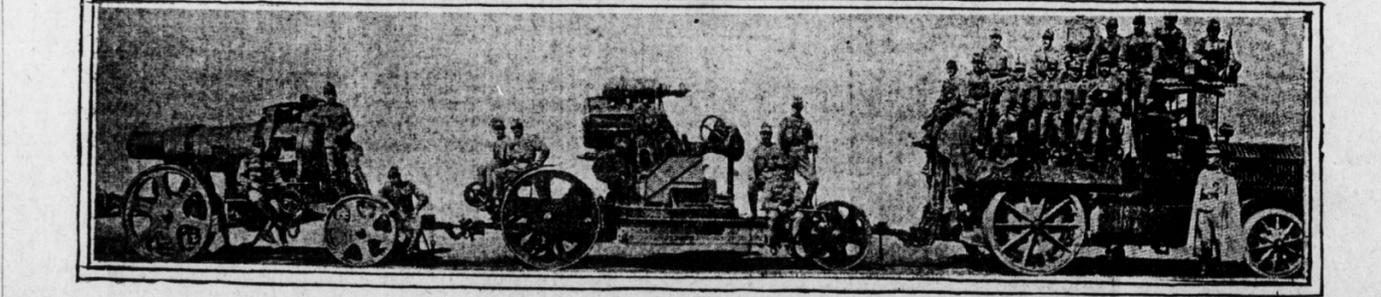
Harry B. Musselman, of Penbrook, fell at Front and Chestnut streets last evening, painfully lacerating his scalp. He was taken to the Harrisburg hospital for treatment.

Never So Bad, Says Hutchison  
There is no person in the city, who has work taken him out of doors, who has not been subjugated to the danger of a fall in the last few days, or, in fact, for several weeks.

"The sidewalks were never in such condition since I can remember," said Chief of Police Hutchison this morning. "There is no reason, in my mind, why the City Commission should not enact

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## AUSTRIAN HOWITZER IN FULL TRAVEL TRIM, SHOWING BARREL, RECOIL SECTION AND LIMBER



In field howitzers there are two principal systems of construction—the Ehrhardt and the Krupp. The Austrian howitzers are of the Schneider pattern, which has adopted the Ehrhardt system. The great difficulty of constructing the modern howitzer is to provide room for the howitzer to recoil at extreme elevations without coming in contact with the ground. The Schneider guns provide the necessary space by means of a controlled recoil gear which automatically increases the resistance and shortens the recoil as the howitzer is elevated. The piston rod has a bevel wheel at its forward end which gears into a toothed segment fixed to the carriage. The effect of this is to rotate the piston rod and piston through a portion of the circle as the howitzer is raised. The running up springs have to be extremely powerful in order to lift the weight of the howitzer, with the recoiling parts attached to it, up to an angle of seventy degrees. The buffer resistance to running up must be automatically increased at low elevations and reduced at high ones. The weight of the springs required to raise these heavy howitzers thus becomes a very serious problem, and consequently the new Austrian Schneiders are now fitted out with a hydro-pneumatic gear. In the Schneider gearing the buffer, running-up cylinder and air reservoir consist of holes bored in a trough shaped forging which constitutes the cradle. The gun traverses on the axle and has side shields to fill the gaps between the main shield and the wheels. It has an independent line of sight, and the range drum has six sets of graduations for the six charges. It also has a panorama sight.