

# BATTLE IMMINENT THIRTY MILES FROM CRACOW; RUSSIAN ARMY ON THE OFFENSIVE IN GALICIA

### Germans Find Road to Warsaw Blocked and Make Attack Southwest of the City — Inflict Heavy Loss on Enemy in Carpathian District — Allies Continue to Make Small Gains in West — Renewed Activity Along Belgian Coast — Emperor of Austria Reported Dying.

London, Dec. 23.—The Allies in the west, the Germans in Poland, and the Russians in East Prussia and Galicia continue their offensive operations, but the advances gained have been so slight as to be almost imperceptible. In the long run, however, the ground which is being taken may prove vital, and the various armies are fighting with an intensity which has not been exceeded since the war began.

In Poland the centre of interest has shifted slightly to the south. Finding the direct road to Warsaw blocked by Russian reinforcements, the Germans made an attack from the southwest, and have reached Skierniewice, which is some forty miles from the Polish capital. They have thus far failed to pierce the Russian lines, but they have forced Grand Duke Nicholas to withdraw his forces from before Cracow. In this, one of the chief aims of their offensive against Russia, the Germans have been successful.

#### IN GALICIA RUSSIANS ON OFFENSIVE.

In Galicia, Russia has resumed the offensive against the Austro-German forces which have poured in from the west and across the Carpathians. According to the latest Petrograd report the Russians have inflicted heavy losses on these forces, while in the north they have pushed back into the interior of East Prussia a small German army, which made a feint at Warsaw from the northwest.

Although the Allies have scored some successes in the battles in the west, they are meeting with very stubborn resistance, and military men warn the public that very heavy casualties must be expected before any serious impression can be made on the German entrenchments. Activity seems to have been resumed along the Belgian coast, for it is announced that slight progress has been made by the Allies between the sea and the road from Nieuport to Westende.

At other points similar fighting is proceeding with here successes and there reverse, or failure of attack.

The airmen of both sides have been extremely busy, and aeroplanes have been swarming over Belgium, the aviators reconnoitering movements of the opposing troops and occasionally dropping bombs. Bruges and Brussels have been visited by aviators from the ranks of the allies while Bethune and other towns in Northern France have received attention from the Germans.

### TRANSFER OF BRITISH SHIPS TO FOREIGN REGISTER FORBIDDEN

London, Dec. 23.—An order-in-council has been issued prohibiting the transfer of British ships to foreign registers, unless a license for the purpose is obtained from the British Board of Trade.

### ALLIES' CRUISERS IN PACIFIC WATERS

Valparaiso, Dec. 23.—The British cruiser Newcastle arrived here today, and is taking on coal and provisions. Callao, Peru, Dec. 23.—The Japanese armored cruiser Azuma, which entered this port yesterday morning as her companion ship the Idzumo passed out, sailed again last night.

### TURKS BELIEVED DARDANELLES INACCESSIBLE

#### British Submarine's Feat Opened Their Eyes—Two Officers Condemned to Death.

Athens, Dec. 23.—The blowing up of the Messudieh has made a great impression in Constantinople, as it was considered that the Dardanelles were inaccessible. The commanders of the have been held responsible for the disaster, and a special court martial, presided over by high Turkish and German officers was held three days after the occurrence to try twenty Turks and ten Germans. Three were condemned to death, it being held that they had shown neglect. Lesser sentences were passed on seventeen others among them some Germans.

### THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE THE CHOOSING

London, Dec. 24.—The Morning Post's Petrograd correspondent says: "Germany is energetically pushing the candidature of Prince Eitel Frederick for the throne of Hungary, the independence of which is expected to be one result of the war." Prince Eitel Frederick is the second son of Emperor William.

### MINISTER SHOT BY FOREIGNER IN TORONTO

#### Rev. J. MacC. Scott Shot by Missioner—Revenge the Motive—Victim Likely to Recover.

Toronto, Dec. 23.—Rev. J. Mc. P. Scott, pastor of St. John's Presbyterian church was shot and seriously wounded tonight on Broadview avenue, near Withrow avenue, by Harry Asher, a Rumanian mission worker, from Montreal, who has been in Toronto about a week. Asher fired six shots at the minister, but only the last one took effect in the hip. Asher's motive, according to his own statement to the police, was revenge. Mr. Scott declared he had injured his mission work. Asher was arrested immediately after the shooting.

For a time up to a year ago Asher, who is a converted Jew, was a member of Mr. Scott's church, and was anxious to enter the Home Mission field. Mr. Scott, after starting him in the work, later decided that he was unfit for the post. His rejection bred a spirit of revenge in the Rumanian, and on his return from Montreal he decided to get even. He waited until Mr. Scott was descending the steps of his home, walked up to him and fired. A spectacle case deflected the first bullet the second pierced the pastor's sleeve, and the others went wild until the last, which was fired as Mr. Scott was retreating, and pierced the hip. According to late reports, the victim was resting easily, and unless complications set in the wound is not likely to prove dangerous.

### GEN. HUNTER NEW HEAD OF CANADIAN DIVISION?

Montreal, Dec. 23.—The Montreal Star's special correspondent at Salisbury Plain cabled today as follows: "A definite rumor is current that General Aderson is leaving the command of the Canadian division, and that General Sir Archibald Hunter is to succeed him. The cause is said to be difficulties with Major General Sam Hughes."

### DECISIVE CHECK AND DEFEAT OF THE THIRD AUSTRIAN ADVANCE

### FRANCIS JOSEPH EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA REPORTED DYING

Rome, Dec. 23.—A rumor is in circulation here that Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria-Hungary is dying. The report has it that the Emperor King has received the last sacraments.

### JAN. 4 DATE SET FOR REOPENING LONDON 'CHANGE

London, Dec. 23.—It was officially announced this evening that the London Stock Exchange will re-open January 4th.

The conduct of business, however, will be restricted by stringent regulations imposed by the Treasury in the interest of the nation. The Exchange has been closed since the outbreak of the war. The regulations under which the Exchange will operate include the following: Dealings except for cash will be prohibited; the present minimum price lists are to be maintained and extended to all transactions recorded; a broker at the time of selling securities must show that he possesses or controls them; no dealings in new issues will be allowed, unless approved by the Treasury; no member will be allowed to bid for or offer stock openly in the markets; no member will be permitted to negotiate the purchase or sale of shares dealt in on the American market at a less price than the English equivalent of the New York closing price of the thirtieth of July; only British born or naturalized members or clerks will be admitted to the Exchange.

### MUST POSTPONE THE CELEBRATION UNTIL WAR ENDS

London, Dec. 24 (2.30 a.m.)—The British committee concerned with the celebration of the centenary of peace between the United States and Great Britain today made public a manifesto expressing regret that since the City of Ghent, where the treaty of peace was signed, is occupied by the Germans it will be necessary to postpone the celebration until the European war has ended. The manifesto expresses the hope that the unarmored frontier between the United States and Canada may long continue as an example to the world of the safe defense of mutual respect and trust in the affairs of nations.

### OTTAWA HAS \$100,000 FIRE

Ottawa, Dec. 23.—Fire of unknown origin starting in the basement of the Ketchum Company's sporting goods store, on the corner of Bank and Sparks streets late tonight, caused an almost complete loss to the large stock and gutted the Medford apartment house building above the commercial premises.

The damage to stock, furnishings, building, etc., is estimated at nearly \$100,000, most of which is covered by insurance. Several tenants of the apartment house had narrow escapes.

Code Messages Permitted. F. C. O'Hara, deputy minister of trade and commerce, has announced that word has been received from the chief censors that after the first of the year code messages may be exchanged between Canada and the West Indies.

### DIED.

POOLE—At Westmorland Road, on December 23, Samuel Joseph W. Poole, aged seventy-two years, leaving his wife, three sons and three daughters to mourn. Funeral from his late residence, on Saturday afternoon, at 2.30; service at two o'clock. Friends invited to attend.

Official Announcement of Russian Successes in Galicia spells definite defeat of enemy—Austrian attempt to join forces with Germans at Przemysl results disastrously to their troops—Russians moving to close in on five divisions of German Cavalry along Nida River — Czar's army in strong positions.

Petrograd, Dec. 23 (via London).—Large bodies of Russian troops are moving toward Cracow, the Galician stronghold from the north and east. An important battle apparently is developing in southwestern Poland, near Cracow. While the Germans are not relaxing their efforts along the line from Souchaczew to Skierniewice in the movement toward Warsaw, the greatest activity Tuesday was in the vicinity of Miechow and Andzejew, immediately northeast of Cracow. The Russians have moved back to positions along the left bank of the Nida river near its junction with the Vistula thirty miles east of Cracow. The objective of the Austro-German forces in this vicinity appears to be Kielos. Their front extends about seventy miles from the right bank of the Nida.

Their strength is estimated at eight to ten army corps (320,000 to 400,000 men).

The Teutonic allies on December 12 attacked the outskirts of Pinzow, 25 miles east of Miechow, and were successful in crossing the river. Subsequently, however, they were thrown back with heavy losses, after a desperate fight.

The Russians are in force along the Pilica river, twenty miles southeast of Piotrkow.

The Nida river is occupied by five divisions of German cavalry. The two Russian armies are seeking to close in, moving in the direction of Opoczno. Near the latter point, in the vicinity of the town of Shadboro, an Austrian force was defeated several days ago, losing 1,000 men and 17 officers.

#### DECISIVE DEFEAT OF THIRD AUSTRIAN ADVANCE.

It is the opinion of Russian military critics that the action in this territory is intended by the Germans to draw away the Russians from the vicinity of Cracow by threatening their communications.

The official announcement of Russian successes in Galicia is interpreted here as meaning a definite defeat of the third Austrian advance. The Russians claim to have taken the offensive, attacking successfully the entire southern frontier forces of the Austrians under General Boehm-Ermolli.

The attack extended along the River Dunajec as far as the upper valley of the San. The Austrians who advanced over the Mazalobretz Pass in the Carpathians toward Dukla were attacked along a front from Lisko to Sanak. The Austrians attempted to unite forces with the garrison at Przemysl. A serious attempt in that direction is reported to have failed. The Przemysl garrison on December 18 made a desperate sortie but was driven back on the fortifications with heavy losses. Simultaneously the Austrian division which was advancing toward Dukla was attacked with bayonets and forced to flee, leaving an enormous number of dead. The Russians captured 1,000 prisoners, including two officers.

To the west, on the road leading to Batifad, an Austrian corps was attacked by Russians at Ryolatz, on a front descending from Ryg to Yedov. The Austrians were thrown back, leaving about 1,500 dead on the field.

Anna Alice Chapin's Virginian Narrative. Five Reels "THE EAGLE'S MATE" Five Reels. In which the Leading Role is played by that world favorite... WED. and THURS. Santa Claus And Shadowgraph, Paynton & Green. FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA. COMEDIES. BUMPER BILL FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

JINGLING JOYS OF CHRISTMAS HEER... LYRIC. TODAY'S PROGRAM "SIERRA JIM'S REFORMATION" Majestic Co. Adds to Spirit of Yuletide in a Dashing Western Drama. "OUR MUTUAL GIRL" A Pretty Episode for Holiday Folks. "THOSE LOVE PANGS" A Keystone Chaplin Round of Fun. Our Merry Christmas Bill of Fare "IN DANGER'S HOUR"—Thanahouser Story of "Shep" and the Twins. "THEIR UPS AND DOWNS" A Screaming Comedy to Add to the Cheer. "THE MASTER HAND" Princess Problem Play of Crook Life.

OPERA HOUSE TONIGHT FRIDAY AND SATURDAY. SECURE YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR CHRISTMAS MATINEE AND NIGHT. Thompson's Musical Comedy Co. PRESENTING "Mrs. Temple's Telegram" ALL NEXT WEEK McKENNA'S FLIRTATION

## A MARITIME SHOE STANDS UP WELL AT THE FRONT!

All shoes **look** good in the window or in a box, but the real question is: "Are they **made** good?" Is the material the best and is the workmanship of the kind to ensure a good shoe?

That the Amherst Shoes are standing the test of the soldiers' use is evidenced by the letter of Lt.-Col. Murray, 93rd Battalion, reprinted in panel below:

An Unsolicited Letter of Endorsement. 17th Battalion, Bustard Camp, Salisbury, England, November 28. James McLeod, Esq., Amherst, N. S. Dear Sir: Do you remember some remarks you made in our place at Springhill, with regard to the wear and waterproof qualities of the boot your company so kindly and generously presented to the first contingent for overseas from Cumberland? I thought at the time that you were a little boastful but experience has proved that you were right; the boots were good, solid and serviceable and as near waterproof as could be expected of leather. Wishing you and the members of your company the compliments of the season, I am, Yours truly, (Sgd) D. MURRAY.

By insisting on Amherst Solids you not only Patronize a Canadian and Maritime industry, but you show Real Shoe Judgement

Amherst, N. S. AMHERST BOOT AND SHOE CO., Ltd. All Dealers.

BERLIN PRES... FOR G... Vegetables and to economize... Amsterdam, Dec. 23. 5.34 p. m.—The Vo... Berlin prints an app... German profess... economy which urgen... on vegetables and r... meat, white bread a... the sick and wound... "England wants t... we must therefore d... able to economize f... food," the appeal... RED STAR IN CO... Liverpool, Dec. 23... liner Zealand which... for Portland, Maine... anchored in the riv... ing been slightly da... ion with the British... CLOSING EXER... HILLSBOROUGH... Hopewell Hill, De... cessful school conc... Friday evening in... Hillsborough, by... High School. Exer... by the different gr... Corps showed one... signalling in the B... was much apprecia... audience and many... gain admittance... Governor Wood's... county making high... trance to High Sch... was presented to M... daughter of Mr. a... Duffy, by Rev. Har... tertainment which... long, opened with... Britannia by the... closed with "Tippe... the national antho... The Riverside Co... also had a program... ment at their closi... afternoon and the t... ferent departments... their homes for t... A successful con... the church at Curry... evening.