

ALLIES HOLD POSITIONS AS GAINED

And Check All Attempts of the Enemy to Make Advances in Many Parts of Western Front

(French Official Bulletin.)
Paris, Dec. 15.—The French War Office gave out an official announcement this afternoon as follows: Between the sea and the Lys the British have occupied a little forest to the west of Wytshaete.

Ground gained yesterday by our troops along the Ypres Canal and to the west of Hollebeke has been retained in spite of vigorous counter attacks on the part of the enemy.

From the Belgian frontier to the Somme there is nothing to report.

From the Somme to the Argonne there has been intermittent cannonading, and excepting in the region of Crouy, this artillery fighting has not been spirited.

In the Argonne we have made some progress and retained advances made by us on preceding days.

In the Vosges the railroad station at St. Leonard to the South of St. Leonard and to the South of St. Die has been violently bombarded by the Germans from a considerable distance.

In Alsace there has been much activity on the part of the enemy's artillery with the exception of before Steinbach where an attack by German infantry men coming from Utheltz was successful in gaining a foothold.

We have everywhere retained the positions won previously by us.

(British Official Bulletin.)
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"Several German trenches and a number of prisoners were captured and substantial progress made."

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Sharon Given Over As Lost

Sharon a Mouth Overdue, Supposed To Have Been Destroyed By a Mine.

Ottawa, Dec. 15.—The Government steamer Sharon has been lost somewhere on the Atlantic with all on board, and it is believed she struck a mine off the north coast of Ireland.

The Sharon left Sydney for Newport, Wales, with a cargo of coal. She was heard from by wireless after leaving Newfoundland, but the steamer is now a month overdue, and all hope of her safety has been abandoned. The steamer had a crew of thirty men all from the Maritime Provinces.

The Sharon was purchased a year ago by the Government in England for work on the Hudson Bay route. The new boat cost \$150,000.

Franco-Belgian Advance Reported

Yard by Yard the Allies Are Forcing the Enemy Back

(French Official Bulletin.)
Paris, Dec. 15.—In Belgium the Franco-Belgian troops have debouched from Nieuport and occupied a line from the outskirts west of Lobbaerzyde to the farm of St. George's.

To the south of Ypres we made an attack in the direction of Klein Zillebeke and gained 500 meters (500 yards).

In Alsace we continue to hold the heights which dominate Steinbach.

On the rest of the front there is nothing to report.

Russians Keep Enemy Back

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twenty-four hours. According to the Army Messenger, the German attacks along the East Prussian front, which were conducted simultaneously with their offensive in Poland, have failed, on account of formidable fortifications, which the Russians constructed in the fields and forests paralleling the German lines.

Earl of Devon left Baie Verte at 2 p.m. yesterday.

Prospero left King's Cove at 10 a.m. She is due late to-night.

Fogota arrived at Catalina at 2 a.m. and left at 3.

Allies Make General Move On West Front

Change Plans With Idea of Forcing Germans Back to Their Second Hive

London, Dec. 16.—All along the battle line from Flanders to the Vosges, the Allies have begun to move forward with the immediate object of driving the Germans out of Belgium.

The present onslaught against the German entrenchments is heavier than any offensive assumed by the British, French, and Belgian forces since Von Kluck was turned on the Aisne.

It is the result of a complete change of plan by Generals Joffre and French and means that the campaign which was to have been begun in the spring is now under way, according to information from a highly-placed personage in touch with the War Office.

The Kaiser's troops, if this new movement be successful, should be thrown back on their second line in Belgium from Bruges to Courtrai, a distance of twenty miles, within three weeks.

No word of this momentous hastening of the Allies advance has been given in the official communication.

Report Robberies In Two Outports

Vine Dollars Stolen from Grate's Cove Shop—Train Robbed on W. Coast.

Word comes from Grate's Cove that a few evenings ago the sum of \$9 was stolen from a store. The thief has, so far, escaped capture.

Two boxes of tobacco were stolen from a freight train at St. George's last week.

The chief of police was acquainted and Const. O'Neil, who was sent there, arrested three men, who have pleaded guilty.

Irish-Americans Endorse Redmond

New York, Dec. 16.—Resolutions endorsing the platform of John Redmond, leader of the Irish Nationalist party, in his attitude in the recent Home Rule agitation in Ireland and promising the support of the Irish in this country, were adopted at the Metropolitan District Convention of the United Irish League of America held here last night.

TEN RECRUITS ADDED TO LIST

Five Volunteers Offer From City and Five From Outports, Making the Total 663

First Week.	
Monday	182
Tuesday	153
Wednesday	98
Thursday	51
Friday	30
514	

Second Week.	
Monday	43
Tuesday	16
Wednesday	14
Thursday	17
Friday	7
611	

Third Week.	
Monday	42
Tuesday	19
61	

Total . . . 663

Recruiting continued at the C.L.B. Armoury last evening and ten recruits entered, five from the city and the balance from the outports.

Those from the outports who have been sworn in are at the Seamen's Institute and at other boarding houses.

Drill is going on favorably and the recruits are working their hardest.

Last night the doctors were practically idle, as many of those who offered their services failed to turn up. This is hardly good enough. The medical examiners will not be in attendance this evening, but will be tomorrow night when it is hoped that those who have not yet been examined should present themselves.

Those who offered last night are:—
St. John's—Joseph McKinley, James J. Donnelly, Wm. Jos. O'Rourke, Robt. D. Meaney, Francis J. Picco.
Bristol's Hope—Walter Pike, Robert Herb. Taylor.
Goulds, Brigus—Douglas Pickles.
Bay Roberts—Francis G. Dawe.
Spaniard's Bay—Jos. Crane.

S.S. Louisburg left Bell Island this morning for Sydney.

Britain After A New Device For Sighting

American Invention Designed for New Guns to Secure Range of Hostile Air Craft.

Watertown, N.Y., Dec. 12.—That Earl Kitchener is negotiating with the inventor of a new focussing apparatus here is the statement of John Weekes, of John Weekes, Son and Company.

It is said that Earl Kitchener has been in correspondence with the man for some time and has made an engagement for him with a Canadian official, with the object of purchasing the invention.

The apparatus is a sighting device for use on big guns, designed especially to secure the range of hostile air craft. It is on a swivel and swings with the objective. The operator is not obliged to "sight" the machine, but merely looks into the device, which focuses the object in a reflector.

In trials with a flock of geese, a gun so equipped brought down fifteen out of twenty.

SHIPPING

Portia left Gaultois at 8.45 a.m.

S.S. Stephano leaves New York tomorrow for St. John's.

S.S. Florizel sails for Halifax and New York tomorrow.

Carthaginian sailed for Halifax this afternoon at 4 taking the following passengers: For Halifax—Mr. Deluge and Miss T. Callahan. For Philadelphia—Mrs. G. Goodwin and child, Miss L. Parsons and one steerage.

S.S. Mongolian, Capt. Heatherly, arrived this morning from Philadelphia, bringing a small cargo and the following passengers: Mrs. B. King, Violet King, Vincent Vernon and 1 steerage.

The Mongolian anchored in the stream as the Carthaginian was at the pier.

Mongolian sails for Glasgow tomorrow evening.

DEATHS

PENSTON—Passed away, after a brief illness, Sarah Penston, aged 46, daughter of Mrs. Penston and the late Henry Penston, Esq., of Asylum Road. Funeral at 2 p.m. Thursday. Friends and acquaintances will please accept this the only intimation.

WEATHER REPORT

Toronto (noon)—Westerly gales, gradually decreasing. A few local snow flurries, but generally fair and colder today and Thursday.

Practical Gift Goods

The trend of trade seems to indicate that, amongst adults, gifts of a Practical nature are more in evidence this Christmas than in former years. To-day we make a few suggestions Of The Right Things to Give

Ladies' Umbrellas.

Silk Umbrellas with beautifully mounted extra long handles, steel rods. Each in Gift Box.

\$4.80 to \$6.60

Acceptable Glove Gifts

Nothing more practical than a good pair of Gloves. Our stock is well-assorted.

Kid—70c., \$1.00 to \$1.50.
Suede and Mocha—\$1.10, \$1.40.
Kid, Lined—75 cts., 90c. to \$2.10.
Tan Gauntlets—\$2.60.

Useful Art Goods

H.S. and Embroidered Tea Cloths—40c., 75c., \$1.00 to \$3.10.
Embroidered Tea Coseys—85c.
Sideboard Cloths—\$1.60 to \$3.50.
Stamped Carvers—65c. to \$1.00.
Tray Cloths—30c. to 85c.
Sofa Cushions—75c. \$1, \$2, \$3, \$4 to \$7.
Tea Coseys—\$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.50.

Dainty House Slippers

Fur Tops—like cut; in cherry & blk, \$2.10. Soft felt, high heels in cherry, brown & black—\$1.30 and \$1.50. "Közy" Slipper in brown, beaver and saxe—\$1.10.

Japanese Pressed Silver

Puff Boxes, Jewel Boxes, Pin Trays, Ash Trays, Candlesticks, Photo Frames, Cigar Boxes, etc.

HANDKERCHIEFS

in Boxes, containing 1, 3, 4 and 6. Special Values at 35c., 50c., 65c. to \$1.40.

PERFUMES

Our Specialties are ZENOBIA—55c., 90c. to \$1.80. Grossmith's—70c. to \$1.30.

Ask for a copy of the "Monthly Messenger."

FIRST OVERT ACT AGAINST GT. BRITAIN

(Continued From Page One)

hat there has been a naval fight in the North Sea. No knowledge as to the outcome is at hand.

Immediately upon the outbreak of hostilities the British fleet or at least a considerable portion of it supposedly took up positions on the Eastern side of the North Sea by which the German warships were held in check in or close to their naval base at Wilhelmshaven, the mouth of the Elb and elsewhere on the Western Coast of Germany.

This plan has been maintained since early in August and it has from time to time been penetrated by German submarines but so far as is known the instances when German cruisers or battleships have broken the British lines and emerged into the North Sea have been few and far between.

G. KNOWLING. Ladies' NEW JACKETS G. KNOWLING.

Just arrived in Black, Plain and Fancy Colors.

from **\$1.95 to \$20.00**

New Woollen Underwear, Wolsey Combinations, etc.

NEW Untrimmed FELT and STRAW HATS

New MITTS, GLOVES, APRONS, OVERALLS & TEA APRONS

Girls' New Jackets, to fit all ages and in large variety of colors. Prices from **75c. to \$9.90.**

Girls' Costume Skirts in Navy and Black; to fit girls from 9 years to 17 years of age. Price **\$1.10 to \$1.50.**

NEW Navy, Black & Tweed COSTUME SKIRTS, 85c. to **\$8.00.**

George Knowling.

dec16,18,21

Allies Maintain The Offensive

Fighting Re-commenced in N. France—Servians at Belgrade.

(French Official Bulletin.)
Paris, Dec. 14.—In Belgium our troops have progressed somewhat along the banks of the Yser Canal and several German counter attacks west of Hollebeke have been repulsed. The Commercey railroad station was bombarded by long range German batteries, but slight damages are reported. The Germans tried to resume the offensive west of Cernay, but were unsuccessful. Elsewhere there is nothing to report.

Capture Trenches With Prisoners

(British Official Bulletin.)
London, Dec. 15.—After comparative quiet, fighting recommenced in Northern France yesterday.

The Allies made a combined attack on the line from Hollebeke to Wytshaete, making substantial progress. Several German trenches and numerous prisoners were captured.

The French Government reports some progress in the Argonne, Woeyre and Alsace regions.

Servian troops have re-entered Belgrade, after a desperate battle.

HARCOURT.

Const. Power summoned an East ender today for obstructing him in the discharge of his duties. Defendant was fined \$10 or 30 days.

Annual Speech Day Of Bp. Feild College

The annual Speech Day of Bishop Feild College takes place at the Casino Theatre on Monday evening next, commencing at eight o'clock.

Owing to the absence at the War of two members of the Staff who in past years have taken a large part in our Speech Day preparation, the programme this year will not be so elaborate as usual; but still parents will find it interesting.

Stiff Sentences For Three Rowdies

The charge against the three young men for assaulting the police on Saturday night was continued before Judge Knight yesterday afternoon.

One was sentenced on two charges and received seven months or a fine of \$96.00.

Another, whose offence was not so serious, was fined \$5 or fourteen days, and the third was sent to the penitentiary for six months.

The town is well rid of some of these rowdies.

Const. Martin summoned D. Bentley before the magistrate today for carrying a rifle on Sunday while deer stalking up country. Defendant was fined \$5.00.

Patrons of Globe Steam Laundry are requested to phone or drop a postal, should Delivery Wagon not get around this week. New Driver, not well acquainted with routes:—dec16,21

Juvenile Thieves

Five boys whose ages range from nine to fourteen years appeared before Judge Conroy, charged with stealing at the residence of E. Collishaw; the Judge lectured them and let them off.

Another boy of Lime Street was charged with stealing two slides.

OBITUARY

John Cullen.

There passed away at his home on Saturday last, John Cullen son of Capt. Peter Cullen, aged 28 years, leaving two brothers and three sisters to mourn their sad loss; one sister living in New Jersey another at home and Mrs. Simpson, residing in New Haven.

The deceased was a young man of exceptional qualities, held in the highest esteem by all who knew him.

The F. P. U. Council, of which he was a member, tender the deepest sympathy to the loving relatives.

Fore'er farewell our friend—
Thy kindly smile we'll surely miss,
As those at home in sorrow,
Do now thy good-night kiss;
We can but here, in silent prayer,
Ask God to take thy Soul,
And comfort those, who mourn thy loss,
The sorrowed ones at home. R.J.P. Carbonear, 14,12,14.

Three men of the city were arrested at 2 this morning, charged with being disorderly.

Judge Knight remarked that the proper thing to do to such is to send them to work on such place as the 'line' between Carbonear and Heart's Content.