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# THE MAIL AND ADVOCATE.

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## PEOPLE OF EUROPE ARE SPENDING A RED CHRISTMAS

### RUSSIANS ARE ON THE OFFENSIVE

#### And Are Making Slow, But Perceptible Advance Against the Germans in East Prussia and Galicia

London, Dec. 23.—The Russians in East Prussia and Galicia continue offensive operations, but the advances gained have been so slight as to be almost imperceptible. In the long run however, the ground which being taken may prove vital to the various armies which are fighting with 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 south-west 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 the Grand Duke Nicholas to withdraw his forces from before Cracow.

### Fire Destroys Deity's Palace

#### Big Blaze in Mongolian City Causes Enormous Losses.

London, Dec. 23.—A despatch from Urga, Mongolia, relates that the palace of Kutuktu, the deified Lama of the Mongols, with all its priceless treasures has been destroyed by fire. The loss is said to be enormous. The wealth of Kutuktu was derived from the contributions of devotees, and is described as great. In and about Urga he owns 150,000 slaves, an abundance of worldly goods, and the most pretentious palace in Mongolia.

### MORE ARTICLES NOW CONTRABAND

Washington, Dec. 23.—Britain has decided that resinous products, such as camphor and turpentine, are to be placed on the list of absolute contraband. The British Embassy notified the State Department late to-day, of the receipt of a telegram from London to that effect. No date is given as to when the order would become effective.

### H.M.S. NEWCASTLE AT VALPARAISO

Valparaiso, Dec. 23.—The British cruiser Newcastle (27 knots), arrived here to-day.

At other points similar fighting is proceeding with. Here success and there reverse, or failure of attack. Airmen of both sides have been extremely busy and aeroplanes have been swarming over Belgium.

Aviators reconnoitering the movements of opposing troops are occasionally dropping bombs. Bruges and Brussels have been visited by aviators from the ranks of the Allies, while B thune and other towns of northern France have received attention from the Germans.

### Armies Battle In The Snow

### Men Frozen On Firing Line

### Hardships Of The Soldiers

SNOW has thrown a mantle of white over the scars of the war in Belgium and parts of Northern France, but it will be a red Christmas in the great battle zone. The thundering roll of guns will be the Christmas chimes of struggling Europe. There will be no holiday truce. War and winter have met and where they cannot burrow underground men are freezing on the firing lines. The snow has worked havoc with the tactics of both sides. The fighting has been left as much as possible to the big guns. Nothing is more treacherous than snow in disclosing the position of the trenches. When thick dark lines stretch across the dim distance they indicate the ridges of trenches, and the enemy's shells begin to drop there.

by the weather. While the allies claim to have continued their advance at points particularly in Belgium and in Alsace, there seem to have been few important moves lately. In Paris it is generally expected that a general offensive movement will soon be begun against the Germans, "as the war cannot be won by remaining in the trenches." It has been intimated, however, that General Joffre, the French Commander, has been waiting for the British to increase their army in the field before beginning the decisive attempt to drive the invaders out. In the meantime the Germans continue to strengthen their positions. No German troops have been sent east recently.

#### IN THE EAST.

The main issue in the eastern theatre of the war—whether the German and Austrian armies will shake the Russian grip from the Przemysl and Cracow fortresses—remains unchanged. The Rus-

sians claim to have gained another victory, in throwing back the German column which was attempting to strike at Warsaw from the north. The Germans, however, have not abandoned their plans in Poland, and admit no decisive repulse. French airships are now coming into action, and have attacked German camps in northern France. German airships were reported near Amiens, France, early in the week.

#### AUSTRIAN ROUT.

The second Austrian invasion of Serbia has failed, the Serbians having recaptured Belgrade, their former capital, which was occupied by the Austrians December 2. Part of the invading army has been driven across the frontier. Meanwhile the Serbians report having totally routed the Austrian Army of invasion, with the capture of hundreds of officers, thousands of soldiers, numerous guns, and a vast store of ammunition and supplies.

#### HARD FIGHTING.

The allies begin to make thrusts at the German lines in Belgium and France with the Kaiser's forces putting up a stubborn defence. Both sides have been handicapped

### Belgium Now Vast Expanse Of Arctic White

PARIS, France, Dec. 22.—Conditions in the lowlands of Belgium can never be worse than they are now. Rain and sleet have given away to snow, and snow has again been succeeded by a cold snap. The country is one vast expanse of Arctic whiteness, while a biting frost has covered the canals, reservoirs and all still waters with a filmy sheet of ice. The soldiers are frozen and benumbed, and they are longing for something to do rather than remain inert in the trenches.

Far down on the battle line there has been some spectacular winter fighting, with the Alpine soldiers of the French army appearing on skis. They are expert in this sort of fighting and have been most effective, having the enemy at a great disadvantage because of their rapid movements.

### Fight To Warm Up The Blood Of The Men

NEAR ARRAS, France, Dec. 22.—It was very cold here on the fighting front the other morning and hot coffee failed to warm the benumbed soldiers, who stamped their feet and thrashed their arms miserably. Finally a corporal exclaimed: "It is idiotic to stay here freezing this way. Tell me my children, suppose we make a bayonet charge and warm ourselves?" No sooner said than done. The shivering Germans 100 yards away were surprised and two of their trenches were taken.

#### Cause of Mirth.

There is a Parisian in this company whose mistakes regarding rural matters have caused much laughter among his rustic Breton comrades. One black night he was standing guard at the trench while the others slept. Suddenly something ran against the barbed wire fifty yards ahead, setting the bells jingling. Immediately a pitiable "Baa, baa!" sound

### Used Dummies To Entice Men To Make Move

PARIS, Dec. 22.—Near Montanville, a doctor noticing that many of the men were wounded in the legs and feet by bullets slanting downward, warned the French to look into the trees. Sure enough, German sharpshooters hiding in the branches had put dummies in the trenches which they would lift slightly by means of cords. When the French stood up to shoot at these dummies the German sharpshooters would pick off the French at leisure.

The latter lost heavily before the ruse was discovered, but then the Germans began to drop from the trees like squirrels.

### Gen. Joffre's Great Faith In Celerity

PARIS, Dec. 22.—A French diplomat who recently had a long interview with Gen. Joffre gives this picture of the French commander-in-chief: "He listened to every word I said with the greatest attention. Toward 10 o'clock a major entered with a telegram. The general read it at a glance and wrote a few words on the margin. Not a muscle of his face moved as he

ed through the darkness and the sentinel remembered that some stray sheep had been wandering near the firing line for the last twenty-four hours, so he was not much disturbed.

#### Germans This Time.

Presently the bells jingled again and there was more bleating. The sentinel became restless and awakened his comrade, a young farmer, who, when he heard what had happened, listened attentively. He burst out laughing and said: "Those aren't sheep, you silly Parisian. Those are Boches" (Germans). The French fired several volleys into the darkness and the next morning several Germans lay dead near the barbed wire.

### Santa Claus Represented By Deputies

LONDON, England, Dec. 22.—It was announced several days ago that the German government in co-operation with the governments of towns and cities had arranged for the sending of Christmas gifts wherever possible to the Kaiser's soldiers on the battle lines in west and east. England, France and Russia have made similar preparations. Wherever possible, gifts from home will be conveyed to the soldiers in the trenches.

Santa Claus will not be able to appear in the trenches in person. In the first place, there are no chimneys in the trenches, and even a saint may be excused if he is a little nervous about crossing the shell-swept zone, where the soldiers do not care to go unless it is dark or the enemy's fire has slackened a bit. The reindeer, too, are gun-shy.

#### Army Santa Claus.

Santa Claus will have to be represented by the regimental quartermaster and their assistants of the Army Service Corps and the Commissariat Department, who must see to it in any that the men are fed and have ammunition. These men, who are really exposed to more constant danger than the men of the combatant arms, will add to their load a bit and bring Santa Claus (Continued on page 8)

handed it back to the major, who left immediately. Then the general turned to me and reminded me exactly where our conversation was interrupted. "Toward 10.30 a colonel entered with another telegram. The general nodded three-times and said: "That village must be taken by 2 o'clock." Then he turned to me again and resumed the conversation. "About noon the colonel reappeared and announced that the village had been taken. 'Good!' said Gen. Joffre. 'I shall not forget that it was done quickly.'"

Crosbie & Co.'s Jean, Capt. Burke, arrived in port, yesterday, from Bahia.

### Afraid British Will Starve Them

#### So Their Papers Advise Germans to Economise.

Amsterdam, Dec. 23.—The Vossische Zeitung of Berlin, prints an appeal, signed by the leading German professors of political economy, urging Germans to live on vegetables and rye-bread, leaving meat, white bread and delicacies for the sick and wounded. Britain wants to starve us, and we must, therefore, do everything possible to economize in the use of our food, the appeal says.

### AUSTRIAN KAISER REPORTED DYING

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

### Indemnify Victims Of the German Raid

London, Dec. 23.—The British Government has decided to indemnify from Imperial funds, those who suffered bodily or property losses, as the result of the recent German naval raid on the coast towns of Scarborough, Whitby and the Hartlepoons.

### Get Close Up To German Trenches

Paris, Dec. 23.—An official statement to-night says:—"Progress through our attacks between the Meuse and the Forest of Argonne has been almost entirely maintained. According to latest news from our front in this region, we have reached the barbed wire entanglements of the enemy at a salient angle, south-west of the wood of Forgen, and have lined the road leading to the Forest of Bourneilles. There is no other incident to report.

### Diphtheria at Long Hr.

Diphtheria has made its appearance at Long Harbor, P.E. Mr. R. J. Devereaux made arrangements for Dr. Chisholm to visit the patients. Prospero left Little Bay at 9.15 a.m.

### ENORMOUS WAR ORDERS FOR THE U.S.

#### Contracts Placed With American Firms Since War Began Total in Value Three Hundred Million Dollars

New York, Dec. 23.—The nations of Europe have placed contracts in the States for more than \$300,000,000 worth of supplies since the beginning of the war, according to Charles M. Schwab, President of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, who returned here to-day from England, aboard the S.S. Lusitania.

President Schwab predicted that for this reason the States was now at the threshold of its greatest period of prosperity it has seen in many years. Schwab, who sailed for England less than a month ago, admitted that his visit was to capel provisional contracts he had made with the British Government for building submarines. "This he had done, he said, after having been advised by Secy. Bryan that for an American concern to supply submarines to any of the belligerent nations would be a violation both in letter and spirit of the neutrality of States. The contracts he had given States.

The contracts he had given up, said Mr. Schwab, were worth \$15,000,000 but he had been able to secure while abroad contracts for the supply of various munitions of war, although he declined to say what nation this had been negotiated.

### SHELL PICKING LATEST INDUSTRY OF THE FRENCH

Paris, Dec. 23.—The war has given rise to a new industry in France. Peasants follow the battle-lines picking up unexploded artillery shells for which the French military authorities pay eighteen cents apiece, because they can be used again. Many peasants have gone in for "shell picking" on a large scale, and risk their lives in the work.

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- GIRLS' LONG RUBBERS, . . . . . \$1.50, \$1.60, \$1.70 to \$2.05
- BOYS' LONG RUBBERS, . . . . . \$1.90, \$2.00, \$2.10 to \$3.00

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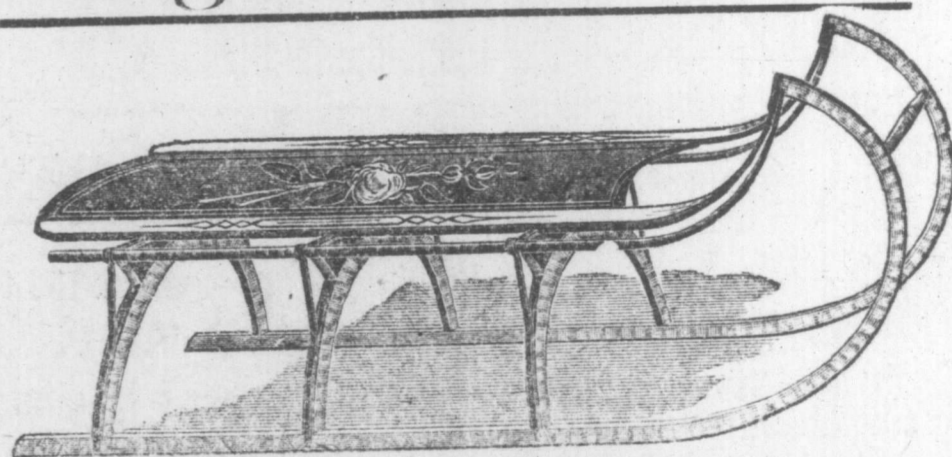
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dec14,16,18,22,24,26

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- BOYS' SLEDS, . . . . . 35c., 55c., 60c., 80c. each.
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