

To-Day's Messages.

10.30 A.M.

NOTHING TO REPORT.

LONDON, To-day. Reporting operations on the British front in France, an official statement issued to-day by the British War Office says: We captured a few prisoners and a machine gun during night patrol encounters south of Cambrai. There was nothing further of interest to report.

FRENCH OFFICIAL.

PARIS, To-day. German forces last night attacked the French positions north of the Chemin des Dames on the Aisne front and east of Cornillet in the Champagne. The French War Office in its report issued to-day reports both attacks repulsed. On the right bank of the Meuse in the Verdun sector there was increased artillery fire.

CARRYING ON THE COMEDY.

PETROGRAD, To-day. Announcement was made to-day by the Bolshevik official News Agency that Russia and Germany had agreed upon the terms of an armistice.

THE HEROIC ENGINEERS.

WASHINGTON, To-day. The names of seventeen United States Army Engineers missing since Nov. 26th were reported to the War Department to-day by Major General Pershing. It is believed these are the

men who were reported as operating with the British near Cambrai.

BRITAIN AND RUSSIA.

PETROGRAD, To-day. On the announcement that the British Government is prepared to re-examine the detention of William Tehtcherin and Petroff, Russian citizens under arrest in England, with a view to their return to Russia, Leon Trotsky, Bolshevik Foreign Minister, has ordered that British subjects shall be free to leave Russia. The British Ambassador having expressed the hope that during the next week he would be able to authorize the entry into England of diplomatic couriers of the Workmen's and Soldiers' Government, the Foreign Minister also has authorized the free passage of a British courier into Russia.

TSAR HAS NOT ESCAPED.

PETROGRAD, To-day. An official denial was made at Smolny Headquarters this afternoon that Nicholas Romanoff has escaped from Tobolski.

COL. HOUSE BACK IN U.S.A.

NEW YORK, To-day. What the American Mission was sent to accomplish in the inter-Allied War Conference in Paris has been successfully done, was the message brought to the American people by Colonel M. House, head of the Mission, who returned to-day with fear of his colleagues in England and France. "The influence of the United States is paramount," said Col. House, "in both countries. The morale is splendid, the best I have seen on any of my three trips abroad since the beginning of the war." "You mean the morale of the fighting forces?" the

Colonel was asked. "No, I mean the morale of the men in uniform and the people as a whole," he replied. "Their determination to win without thought of cost is admirable." In reply to a question as to what the Council decided to do with reference to various military matters, Colonel House said the deliberations were concerned primarily with reference to this situation and wouldn't mean the introduction of any measures "radically different" from those now operative in the United States.

ANOTHER SCRAP OF PAPER.

PETROGRAD, To-day. The Russian delegates constituting the armistice committee at Brest-Litovsk have advised the Bolshevik authorities at the Smolny Institute that an agreement was reached with the Germans on Friday concerning the transfer of troops. It was to this effect, "both sides signing this agreement bind themselves until Dec. 30th, 1917 and January 12th, 1918, not to carry on operative military transfers on the front from the Baltic to the Black Sea except such transfers as were already begun up to the moment of signing this agreement."

GOVERNMENT PLANTS TO BE BUILT.

WASHINGTON, To-day. Government explosive plants, to supplement the present output of private manufacturers, are to be built in the immediate future, it was disclosed last night in an announcement by Secretary Baker of appointment of Daniel C. Jackson of San Francisco to take over the Chicago construction work.

AUSTRIA'S FIGHTING FORCES.

WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES IN FRANCE, Dec. 14th.—The total man

power of Austria-Hungary's armies, the latest enemies of America, has now reached 1,170 battalions of infantry, 240 squadrons of cavalry, 2,950 field guns, 1,500 light howitzers, and 523 heavy guns, according to approximate figures obtained to-day by a correspondent.

NEW WAR COUNCIL.

WASHINGTON, To-day. The organization of a War Council of the War Department to co-ordinate all matters of supplies for the armies at home and overseas and military relations between the armies in the field and the department was announced to-day by Secretary Baker. Composing the Council are the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of War, Chief of Staff Major General Henry G. Sharpe, Quartermaster-General Major General Erasmus Weaver, Chief of coast artillery, Major General William Crozier, Chief of Ordnance, Maj. General Epoch H. Crowder, Provost Marshal General.

A U-BOAT DEPARTMENT.

LONDON, To-day. An imperial decree prescribing for the duration of the war the formation of a new section in the German Imperial Navy Department to be called the U-Boat Department has just been published, according to an Amsterdam despatch to Reuters, Ltd. The new department deals solely with U-Boat affairs, which heretofore have been handled by the dock yards section of the Navy Department.

NICK AGAIN IN THE LIMELIGHT.

LONDON, To-day. A despatch from Reuter's Petrograd Correspondent says: On Saturday about the same time as it was reported that former Emperor Nicholas had

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CIGARETTES!

PALL MALL 100's GIFT BOXES.
EGYPTIAN LUXURY 50's BOXES.
HELMMA (Cork Tip) 50's BOXES.
TURKISH TROPHIES.
HASSAN.
GEM MAGNUMS.
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CIGAR HOLDERS.
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BRIAR PIPES IN LEATHER CASES.
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And Special Christmas Gift Packages of the Famous

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For the Christmas Season

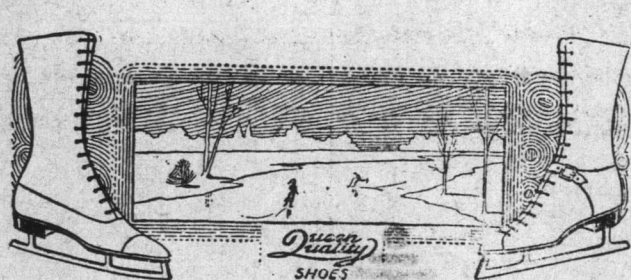
If the selection of Christmas Gifts troubles you, come right here and see how quickly and satisfactorily we can remove the pressure from your mind by showing you something choice in Footwear that will be "just the thing" for Christmas Gifts.



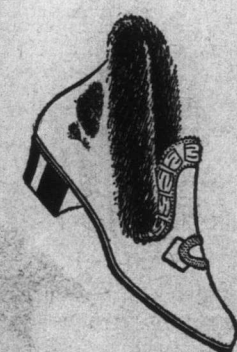
Long Rubbers for Boys and Girls are bound to please. All sizes; lowest prices.



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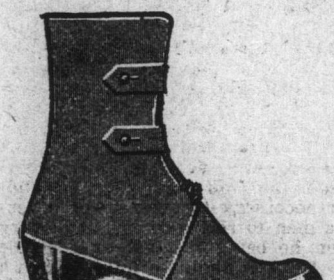


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THE SHOE MEN.

escaped, a meeting of Ismailovsky and Petrogradsky Regiments was passing a resolution demanding the immediate removal of the former ruler with Alice and family to Kronstadt or to St. Peter and St. Paul fortress for strict confinement and cancellation of all theatre privileges.

WRESTLER DEAD.

DES MOINES, Iowa, To-day. Frank A. Gotch, retired champion heavy weight wrestler of the world, died at noon to-day at his home at Harbold, Iowa, of uraemic poisoning. He had been in failing health for two years.

PROGRESS IN PALESTINE.

LONDON, To-day. An official statement on the campaign in Palestine says: General Allenby reports that on December 15th his left centre northeast of Ludd advanced on a five mile front to a maximum depth of about one and one half miles without meeting much opposition. Kibbiyah Kibbannah, Khel Bornat and the ridge overlooking El Troch were occupied. Our aeroplanes dropped fifty-six bombs on motor boat sheds and on troops at the mouth of the Jordan with good effect, obtaining 24 hits.

VON TIRPITZ' MODEST AIMS.

AMSTERDAM, To-day. German papers contain lengthy accounts of the speech of Grand Admiral Von Tirpitz before the Hamburg branch of the Fatherland party, in which the Admiral said: "Up to the present in this war Britain has won rather than lost. A peace based on the status quo ante or on renunciation therefore, is out of the question for Germany." With reference to the rumor that Germany would give up Zebrugge and Ostend if the British evacuated Calais, Von Tirpitz said "the evacuation of Calais would never be equivalent to the loss of such a first class security. Moreover, the Channel tunnel will become a fact after the war. For security we should have besides Flanders, Antwerp, Calais and Boulogne. The rumor in question is a screen behind which the question of Flanders might be permitted to disappear. The pretext that we can't coerce Britain and America falls to the ground when we consider the growing scarcity of cargo space of our ruthless arch-enemy. The time for our final decision will come when real distress begins to take the place of merely threatening distress. That time will come. It is only a question of keeping cool."

BERLIN REPORTS ARMISTICE.

BERLIN, To-day. Eastern Theatre: At Brest Litovsk yesterday an armistice agreement with Russia was signed by Prince Leopold of Bavaria and other representatives of the Central Powers for the duration of twenty-eight days, to become effective from noon, December 17th. On the Macedonian front lively activity was displayed by the British between the Vardar and Lake Doiran. Italian Front: Continuing their successes, the Austrians have taken by storm Italian positions south of Col. Caprille and captured several hundred men, including 19 officers.

BRITISH OFFICIAL.

LONDON, To-day. A report from Field Marshal Haig's headquarters to-night says: During the night a hostile party attacked one of our posts west of Villers Gislamb, but was driven off by our fire. To-day an enemy bombing attack west of LaVaucquerie was repulsed after sharp fighting. We improved our position

slightly last night east of Avion. An enemy attempt at a raid early this morning south of Armentieres was successfully repulsed. Artillery was active on both sides at a number of points south of the Scarpe. There was increased hostile activity north of Langemarck.

THE BOLSHEVIKI TREACHERY.

BERLIN via London, To-day. The armistice agreement between the Bolsheviks in Russia and the Teutonic Allies was signed at Brest-Litovsk on Saturday, according to an official statement issued to-day. The communication follows: An armistice agreement was signed at Brest-Litovsk yesterday by representatives of the Russian Army administration on the one hand and those of the upper army of administrations of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey on the other hand. The armistice begins on Dec. 17th and remains in force until January 14th, 1918. Unless seven days' notice is given it con-

tinues in force automatically. It extends to all land, air and naval forces of the common fronts. According to clause 9 of the treaty, peace negotiations are to begin at once after the signing of an armistice.

HUGHES WISHES BORDEN SUCCESS.

OTTAWA, To-day. Sir Robert Borden has received the following message from Premier Hughes of Australia: "Melbourne, Dec. 15, Borden, Premier, Ottawa, I earnestly hope that the electors of the Dominion will give you and your Government a triumphant majority, in order that Canada may put all her strength forth in this mighty struggle between liberty and despotism."

WAR REVIEW.

LONDON, To-day. Notwithstanding the terrible losses they have sustained, the German and Austro-Hungarian armies in the mountainous regions of northern Italy continue their efforts to break the Italian line and open a passage way to the plains below. In France and Belgium there is little military activity except for small engagements, by outposts and raiding contingents and artillery duels. The nearest approach to attacks in force was made by the Germans on Saturday night in the Champagne region of France and to the north of the Chemin des Dames. In both these the Germans were worsted by the French. A small British manoeuvre south of Cambrai resulted in the capture of German prisoners and a machine gun. Between the Brenta and Piave Rivers in the Italian highlands, hard fighting continues without cessation. The enemy to the east of the Brenta has been able, by throwing huge numbers of men into the fray and seemingly disregarding the enormous casualties that are being inflicted upon him, to advance his line to Caprille Hill, a dominating point at the head of the San Lorenzo Valley, which leads to the Venetian Plains. Here, however, he has been forced to stop under the terrific defence of the Italians who evidently have massed their forces in order to bar the way to further advance. In the Valley itself and on the slopes on either side of it well tried Alpine legions are stationed to exact a heavy toll for every inch of ground that is taken from them. Prior to gaining the summit of Caprille the invaders twice were summarily repulsed, but for their final attack they brought up large numbers of fresh reinforcements and the valiant defenders were compelled to give ground. An agreement of armistice between the Bolshevik Government in Russia and the Teutonic Allies has been signed. It will run from Monday until January 14th, then will continue in force automatically unless seven days notice of its discontinuance is given. On the signing of an armistice peace negotiations are to begin.

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Patriotic Association!

Employment Committee

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