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Slowly But Surely Pressing Back German Hosts on Western Line

Marked Success Attends on Allies' Movements Along Whole Front—Russia Again Appears to Have Good Grasp on Situation

New York, Dec. 22.—A London Daily Express despatch from northern France to the Herald says: "It can be said with every confidence that the general offensive movement on the part of the allies, which began nearly a week ago, is met with striking success, although they have not gained any sweeping victories. "The extraordinary conditions that govern the battle in Flanders...

With regard to the operations on the North bank of the Vistula, Petrograd reported officially last night, that the Germans in north Poland have retreated across the East Prussian border in a westerly direction."

RENCH OFFICIAL STATEMENT Paris, (2:15 p. m.)—The French War Office this afternoon reported: "Between the sea and the Lys, on the day of December 21 there was nothing but an artillery engagement. Between the Lys and the Aisne we repulsed a German attack which was endeavoring to come out from Carcais and we took several houses at Blangy, etc. "An attack of the enemy on Mametz and the nearby trenches made it impossible for our troops to make material progress in this direction. In the region of Liéons three attacks the enemy were repulsed. "We have made slight gains to the east and to the west of Tracy-Le-Val. Our artillery delivered an efficacious fire on the plateau of Nouveron. "On the sectors of the Aisne and of Rheims there were artillery engagements. "In Champagne and in the Argonne in the vicinity of Souaize there have been no violent engagements. We have not made perceptible progress in this region. We have occurred in the battle of Perthes-les-Hurlus three main positions representing a front of entrenchments, 1,500 yards long, northeast of Beauséjour we have consolidated the position occupied by us."

GERMANS RESTORE RAILWAYS AND BRIDGES Amsterdam, via London, Dec. 22.—A Telegram learns from Berlin that the Germans have restored the railways in Charleville to Rheims, and from Metz to Montmédy. "As regards the Aisne and the Belgian coast, according to the same despatch, the Meuse near Lumes, Flise and other places are again open. Near Montmédy and Mohon have been put into condition to be utilized. "The despatch indicates that, despite the operations, the Germans are restoring lines of communication in northern France occupied by them, which lines were destroyed by the French, when they retreated from the Belgian frontier early in the war. "The arrival of the news here today was marked by an enthusiastic reception. M. Tchekoukoff, the lord mayor of Moscow, in a present-day speech of welcome in which he pointed out the loyalty of the people in the abolition of the government monopoly on vodka. The lord mayor spoke of the brave fight the Russian army was making and predicted a victory and a restoration of justice for Russia and for all peoples. The Emperor responded briefly, thanking the lord mayor for the sentiments expressed."

THE WHEAT MARKET Chicago, Dec. 22.—Selling today on the Chicago Board that usually act for orders had a tendency to disassemble in wheat. Opinions were freely expressed that the recent advance in wheat seemed too rapid and that some stimulus was needed to sustain the market. A substantial increase in the supply counted also against the rise. After opening 1-8 to 1-4 cent off 1-4 cent off to 1-4 cent up, quotations closed a trifle and then suffered a set back all around to well below last night's level.

WEATHER BULLETIN Issued by authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stupart, director of meteorological service. Synopsis—Fair cold weather now prevailing over the Dominion, the cold being more in many portions of the western provinces. There is no present indication of a change in existing conditions. Fair and colder. 4:15 time—Strong westerly winds, a local snow flurry, but generally clear and colder today and on Wednesday. New England Forecast—Fair tonight; Wednesday; colder tonight; strong westerly winds.

GLADDEN HEARTS OF MANY ON THE GREAT BIRTHDAY

Christmas Plans In Institutions In The City

BOUNTIFUL DINNER FOR ALL

Trees Laden With Gifts For Those Who Do Not Know Joys of Home—Old and Young and Sick to Be Remembered

In the various public homes, hospitals and institutions throughout the city where perhaps there is less of the joy of living than elsewhere in the city, an attempt will be made this year, as usual, to make Christmas a red letter day, a day that will help all to forget the loneliness of those who cannot spend the day at their own homes. As feasting is the time honored method of expressing good cheer and celebrating such an occasion, there will be bountiful dinners in all these places and the lordly turkey, with all the usual accompaniments, will grace the board for that day at least. Almost every institution has some good friends either on the official boards or otherwise, who bear in mind the special needs of those who make their home there on Christmas day and many plans are being made to ensure a bright and happy Christmas for those by whom the extra cheer will be so warmly welcomed. Home for Incubables. The Home for Incubables, despite its somewhat melancholy name, is not allowed to be a dismal place on this day on which all the inmates are rejoicing. The Christmas dinner is a big feature of the day and even more interesting is a big tree, which is provided by an efficient committee, bearing gifts for all whom the walls of the hospital shelter. Home for Aged Females. For the old ladies who are spending the twilight of their lives in the peaceful seclusion of the Home for Aged Females Christmas day is made a happy one by the Christmas dinner with its attendant cheer helps to make up for the difference between these days and the time when the old ladies were the head of their own tables with the family gathered around to celebrate the greatest birthday, and the thoughtfulness of friends shown in appropriate gifts and other remembrances keeps the home on Christmas day. School for the Deaf. The boys and girls in the School for the Deaf who cannot get to their own homes for Christmas will have a jolly day in their own way. To all children the turkey dinner brings large anticipations of Christmas, and these youngsters will not be disappointed. A big Christmas tree with gifts for all of the inmates and the staff and other friends are preparing to give the children a day which they will remember for the next year. On Tuesday of next week there will be a special Christmas entertainment also. (Continued on page 7, sixth column)

NEW LIGHT AT SAND POINT READY WITHIN A MONTH

Second One When Next What is Built—Take Place of Old Beacon

Within a month or so the new electric flash light at West St. John, which will partially take the place of the old Beacon light, will be in operation and is expected to be a valuable aid to navigation. The plans call for a second light to be erected on the end of the new wharf to be built behind the old one. Its construction will be delayed until the wharf is built. In the meantime, after the back light is in operation, pilots entering the harbor after rounding the bell buoy will be able to steer a sure course by the one light, although it will be a great improvement when the second light also is in operation. The first light is being placed at the harbor front on the southern line of Prospect street. It will be placed on concrete pillars, which are already built, and will be supported by an open frame of iron. The iron frame will be from 80 to 120 feet high, as the tests indicate, and on top of this will be mounted the light, an electric one, controlled as well as lighted by electricity. It will be controlled from the ground and thus it will not be necessary for the light-keeper to mount the tower except occasionally as adjustments are needed. It will be a flashing light, but the number and duration of the flashes have not yet been determined. When the front light also is in place it will make the approach to the wharves very easy for the pilots even on a dark night.

FEWER INDIANS IN CANADA BUT WORTH MORE MONEY

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—The Indian population in Canada is still slowly decreasing. The total of last year's 100,000 is a net falling off of 2,716, though the figures are somewhat conjectural owing to the difficulty in securing accurate statistics for the interior of the far north. Ontario's Indian population increased by 342 and Quebec's by 98. The return of the tribes is fairly good but the manner of their living makes tuberculosis the greatest enemy of the Indians. All that can be done is to instruct them in preventive measures. The value of the Indians' agricultural products last year increased by \$208,508. A total of \$1,856,424. Grain production increased by 389,950 bushels. Real and personal property held by Indians aggregates in value forty-six and a half millions, an increase of \$7,292,407.

THE REMOUNTS

Some of the men who left St. John in charge of the horses for the remount department on the steamer Anglo-Saxon on November 13, arrived in the city yesterday. Among them were John F. Mule, the chief horseman; Edward H. Austin, night foreman, and assistant foremen, Austin, Fraser, Arthur E. Boyer, and Johnston. They had a rough trip across, and lost sixteen animals from pneumonia. The return trip to Newport News was made with the vessel light on heavy weather all the way, and during the eighteen days it took to cross they were in good shaking up. They were not so much as sign on again for another trip were discharged at Newport News and given \$20 to cover the balance of their trip to St. John. About twenty of the eighty odd signed on again. Of those who started for St. John, some stopped in 1914. A board of trade report says that the shipping of remounts from St. John is practically closed. While it lasted it was a very profitable business for the port. A fairly good estimate of the amount of money that was distributed by the remount vessels can be gathered from the fact that of their trip to St. John, these vessels disbursed \$28,000 while fitting out and loading.

FIELD EXERCISES OF THE 26TH DEFERRED

The field day exercises which it had been intended to hold among the men of the 26th battalion today were postponed because of the storm, it being thought inadvisable to conduct them on account of the condition of the roads and woods. It is unlikely now that the manoeuvres will be held until next Christmas, as many of the men are taking their leave of absence granted for the holidays, and the strength of the unit will be greatly reduced for the time. Lectures, musketry and physical exercise were the order of the day this morning, while this afternoon it was intended to have a route march through the city. The strength of the garrison artillery on Partridge Island having been much reduced owing to the departure of the Divisional Ammunition Column, many of the members who formerly made up the defending garrison having joined this unit, an opportunity is being given for more men to sign. The intention is that they will be given the first chance to go on overseas service with the next artillery battery to be organized here. The employees of the St. John Railway Company gave quite a surprise to Quarter Master Sergeant Wm. Pitt, Gordon Penny, and Robt. Turner who have resigned to go to the front. After meeting in the general office of the company on Saturday night, the treasurer of the company, G. M. O. Peters, took the floor and called the three volunteers forward and in a lengthy and very nice speech presented to each a wrist watch on behalf of their fellow employees. Very fitting replies were made by the recipients. After some speaking and the singing of "It's a Long Way to Tipperary," the meeting broke up at 9:30. Watch to Colonel Mastie. Lieut. Col. A. E. Massie, O. C. of the Divisional train, was honored recently by his associates in the Montreal office of the company, G. M. O. Peters, took a presentation of a handsome military wrist watch.

THE WAR SITUATION SUMMARIZED

London, Dec. 22.—It is only at the northern and southern extremities of the line of battle in the eastern area of the war, that any marked change is to be noted today, in the western theatre a warfare of most stubborn and laborious kind, persists. This briefly sums up the situation both in the east and in the west today, so far as has been disclosed by the official statements. The ultimate outcome of the German advance upon Warsaw is still problematical, as a decisive conflict has yet to be fought. Although the Russian centre has retired, it now has been reinforced, and it is holding a line in Bessarabia from its junction with the Vistula. North of the Vistula, if the reports from Petrograd may be believed, the Germans have been whipped, and pushed back over the frontier until their line now stretches behind Haldau, which is midway between Lutetia and Nidenburg, in East Prussia. To the south it is intimated in Russian reports that the movement of the Austrians through the Carpathian mountains has been defeated simultaneously with the defeat of the garrison at Przemysl, which was hurled back after their attempted sortie from this fortress. The British press statements on General Joffre's order to advance as called to London, from Berlin, The papers say that while they are unable to vouch for the authenticity of this document, it certainly seems to coincide with the pressure the allies are exerting all along the line. It is not believed in London, however, that the real work of driving the Germans out of Belgium will begin for some weeks to come. Emperor William, according to the latest reports reaching here, has gone from Berlin to the western front. This would indicate that he regards the situation there more important and critical than in the east.

Roumania Restores Territory to Bulgaria

Petrograd, via London, Dec. 22.—The Bulgarian minister announced today that an agreement had been reached between Roumania and Bulgaria under which Roumania will restore to Bulgaria the province of Dobruja and most of the other territory which she acquired from Bulgaria as a result of the second Balkan war. "The agreement has been reached without pressure from either Germany or the allies," said an official connected with the Bulgarian ministry. "We shall continue to be neutral and believe that Roumania, although she has no cause to fear us, also will remain neutral."

COL. KIRKPATRICK TO COMMAND BATTALION

Manitoba Provinces Infantry—Officers Back From Valcartier—Much Snow in Fredericton

Fredericton, Dec. 22.—Lieut. C. W. Clarke of the 71st Regiment, who was to Salisbury Plains with the first contingent arrived here last night somewhat disappointed at his failure to get a place in the second contingent but confident he will yet get to the front. He said that a report that Canadians had been offered places in Earl Kitchener's army was not strictly accurate. Several did apply for commissions and were promptly accepted as to the size of their incomes. When told that they had none they were advised to wait for a chance with the Canadian contingent. Colonel Kirkpatrick of Woodstock, who returned with the surplus officers, has been offered command of a new battalion of infantry to be organized in the maritime provinces and will accept it. It may be mobilized in America. A box containing gifts from the Daughters of the Empire for the Moncton artillery men was received here last evening. The members of the two field batteries were paid off this afternoon. About five inches of snow fell yesterday and the country roads are in good condition for traffic. The outlook for a big Christmas trade is bright.

MONCTON MAGISTRATE HAS A CLOSE CALL

Struck By Train at Street Crossing—Gas Explosion in School Basement

Moncton, N. B., Dec. 22.—W. A. McDonald, magistrate, had a narrow escape from death this morning as he was crossing the I. C. R. double tracks in Victoria street. William Howe caught hold of him and pulled him back just as a train was passing. It did hit him, and he was hurled several feet. He received a scalp wound and was otherwise injured, but no bones were broken. In the basement of the Aberdeen school this morning a gas explosion wrecked the furnace and blew out four sashes and twenty-eight panes of glass. The junior, James Lockhart, was hurled some thirty feet, but escaped with only a few scratches.

BIG TASK ON HAND

New York Movement to Rid City of The Gunmen

New York, Dec. 22.—A movement to rid this city of gunmen is to be started at a meeting in Cooper Union tomorrow night. The Citizens' Protective League is behind the meeting, and has received assurances of support from numerous civic and business associations, as well as from hundreds of professional men. PROHIBITION Washington, Dec. 22.—Under a special rule, which was adopted without a roll call, the house began just after noon today an eight-hour debate on the Hobson resolution to submit to the states a constitutional amendment for national prohibition. An eye and no vote will be reached tonight. Sudden Death of Politician. Valdosta, Ga., Dec. 22.—Former United States Senator William S. West was found dead in bed today apparently from apoplexy.

FRENCH PARLIAMENT IN SESSION IN PARIS

"These Little Ones" The War The Chief Matter

FEELING OF CONFIDENCE

Opposition Not to Stir Up Debates—General Belief That German Drive is on, Though Resistance May be Stubborn

(By Franklin P. Merrill, L. N. B.) Paris, Dec. 22.—With battles raging over ten of the northeastern provinces, the French parliament met in extraordinary session here today. The chief object is to adopt war measures and to discuss the future financial policy. The session is expected to be brief. Fresh confidence was inspired by the gathering of the senators and deputies in this city, for it seemed to emphasize the fact that, while the German invaders are still on French soil, the dangers which confronted Paris at the outbreak of the war have now been all but eliminated. Among the members of the senate and chamber of deputies there was a feeling of quiet confidence. Predictions were made on all sides that from now on the Germans will be driven toward German soil, notwithstanding that their retreat may be stubborn and the allies' advance slow. Paris, Dec. 22.—The French chamber of deputies, long before the hour set for the meeting today, was a scene of animation. The extraordinary war session has aroused a very great degree of interest. A considerable number of the deputies have pledged themselves not to stir up debates, but to observe a highly patriotic attitude.

They at least may know the gladness Of the golden day of days, And the gift shall bless the giver, More than any need of praise.

TWO ACCIDENTS

Oscar Johansen's Leg Broken and Mrs. E. London's Wrist Fractured

Oscar Johansen, one of the workmen engaged in removing the trestle at the approach to the new steel bridge over the reversing falls, had his leg broken yesterday afternoon. He was assisting in removing a large steel rail when it slipped and struck him on the leg. He was conveyed to the hospital where it was found that he had sustained a compound fracture. He is resting comfortably today. Mrs. E. London of the North End met with a painful accident last evening while enroute home. She was passing the Union station when she slipped and fell, breaking her left wrist. She was conveyed to the hospital where she received surgical attention.

IMPORTANT MATTER TO THE BUSINESS MEN

Project to Standardize Laws of The Provinces of Canada

Winnipeg, Dec. 22.—To standardize as far as possible, laws of the provinces of Canada is the aim of a movement launched last night. The matter was set forth by Sir J. A. M. Aldin, president of the Canadian Bar Association at a banquet of the Canadian Credit Men's Trust Association. A unanimous resolution was adopted requesting the boards of trade and other public bodies in Canada to memorialize the governments of their respective provinces on the matter. The resolution urged provincial governments to co-operate among themselves to standardize laws affecting commercial and financial transactions, each government appointing a commissioner or commission to a general conference. An alternative suggested was that the provincial governments commission the Canadian Bar Association to report on the subject and grant an appropriation for the purpose.

NEW POSTAL RATES TO BE IN EFFECT ON JAN. 1

Ottawa, Dec. 22.—The new postal rates on newspapers, magazines and trade journals between Canada and Great Britain will go into effect on January 1—two cents for each packet weighing more than two ounces, but not more than six ounces. The rate increases at a cent a pound. A new parcels arrangement with Bermuda is also announced effective on January 1. It will be twelve cents a pound or each fraction of a pound. Postal services are suspended with Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and their colonies, while parcel posts are suspended with France, Asiatic Russia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Crete, Montenegro, Roumania and Brazil. The parcels service to Egypt, India, Ceylon, Straits Settlements and a long list of other countries is restricted. Such mail may go by other routes, but not via England, France or Italy.

C.P.R. REPORTED TO HAVE BOUGHT FOUR STEAMERS

London, Dec. 22.—A message to The Evening Star from Belfast says that the C. P. R. has purchased four ships which are being constructed at Belfast and Glasgow. Their cost is said to be in excess of \$7,500,000. A BIG MERGER Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 22.—Consolidation of the Lake Shore Railroad Company with the New York Central Railway Company was effected today. The merger involves \$80,000,000.

AUSTRIA WRITHES UNDER PRESSURE OF THE GERMANS

New York, Dec. 22.—A special Herald cable from Paris says: "Discontent with German domination is increasing rapidly in Austria, where the people are saying the Austrians are being exposed to slaughter as the Germans. Numerous duels have taken place between German and Austrian officers and the German staff is continually replacing Austrian officers with German non-commissioned officers. Field Marshal Von Hindenburg is quoted as saying, 'I'll not continue to direct the campaign unless the archdukes remain, at the least, three miles behind the firing line.'"