

The Evening News Star

VOL. XL, No. 70

ST. JOHN N. B., MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1915

TEN PAGES—ONE CENT

THE GERMANS SOON WILL MAKE DRIVE WEST BUT ALLIES ARE READY FOR THEM

New York, Dec. 27.—A cable to the Tribune from Paris says: Paris believes that the beginning of a new German offensive on the western front is only a matter of days. For the last week, while their guns battered the allied positions day and night, the Kaiser's troops have been feeding out the British and French, probing for a weak spot at which an attack can be launched.

Where this new assault will come is not certain. It may be staged on the northern front, in Artois, or around Ypres along the Belgian front, where a new effort to reach Calais may be attempted in Champagne where fierce battles took place in the autumn in the Argonne where the Crown Prince has tried repeatedly to loosen the French hold on Verdun, or in the Noyon sector, the sector nearest Paris. That an attack will be made at some point along the western battle line in the very near future is taken here for granted.

RUSSIANS PREPARE TO STRIKE The Russians are gathering their strength for a strong blow at the Teutons. But present indications are that the Czar's forces will not be ready to resume the attack until spring, Germany must strike at the allies in the west before the Russian menace diverts troops to the east. That is why the offensive in France must come without delay.

For this attack the French and the British are well prepared. The munitions problem have been solved in large part by both nations. That was indicated in the September offensive, and since then, great stores of ammunition have been accumulated.

CONDITION OF THE GROUND A FACTOR

Paris, Dec. 27.—The hostilities on the French front, which thus far have consisted only of cannonades, may take on a more serious form, says the Temps, in a military review. "The wind is blowing from the east, which will permit the enemy to use asphyxiating gas. It is then the most elementary prudence for us to be ready with masks and gas helmets. It is not known where the enemy will attempt the supreme effort. The Noyon point on the front nearest Paris may be selected, as well as the English line at Ypres, and it is possible that the Champagne will be chosen as a field of battle. The condition of the ground, which is thoroughly soaked and almost impracticable in certain regions, will also play a part in the decision of the enemy. Nowhere will the French be surprised by an attack, as we are on guard along the entire front."

PARIS STIRRED BY A STRANGE MURDER CASE

Paris, Dec. 27.—The murders in the Rue Morgue, as depicted by Edgar Allan Poe are having their counterpart in the real life at Clermont-Ferrand during the unravelling of a mystery surrounding the death last August of Mile. Marie Christophe, a young woman belonging to one of the wealthiest families of the place. The police have been investigating a report that the girl was slain by a monkey.

SPANISH MAN-OF-WARS MEN WIN GREAT MONEY PRIZE, A MILLION AND A FIFTH

Ferrol, Spain, Dec. 27.—The capital prize of 6,000,000 pesetas (\$1,200,000) in the Christmas drawing of the government lottery, was won by the crew of the cruiser Alfonso XIII. The prize will be divided among 719 men, who subscribed to the ticket, the price of which was 1,000 pesetas.

NO NEW WAR LOAN FOR SOME TIME IN CANADA

Ottawa, Dec. 27.—Further domestic loans foreshadowed by Sir George Foster in an address here last night are not expected to be a development of the near future. It is made clear, however, that the dominion must depend more and more upon its resources rather than drawing in the mother country.

HAND OVER 30,000 PRISONERS TO ITALY

Rome, Dec. 27.—Serbia has turned over to Italy, 30,000 Austrian prisoners, who are being interned in Sardinia. They were accompanied there by Serbian officers.

LOCAL SHIPPING

The Royal Mail Steam Packet liner Chignecto sailed from Bermuda on Saturday morning for this port with a large cargo, passengers and mail. The steamer Manchester Merchant shifted to west St. John this morning to complete loading.

News of Maritime Province Men in the War

THE 104TH BATTALION BAND

Blake Denison of the Marysville Brass Band is to join the 104th battalion band and will leave for St. John on January 8th. He is a trombone player in the Marysville band. Bandmaster Percy Edgcombe of the 104th Battalion band who is in Fredericton on leave will secure a number of other musicians for this organization, and expects to have them report at St. John when the band reassembles on Jan. 4th. The 104th Battalion band is thirty-five strong at present, but the strength will be increased to fifty and will comprise some of the best musicians in the province. Bandmaster Edgcombe is to get several cornet, clarinet and solo horn players, but also expects other bandmen to join.

MANY DIE OR MEET WITH ACCIDENT IN GREAT STORM IN THE ATLANTIC STATES

New York, Dec. 27.—Northern and eastern New York and New England are slowly recovering today from the damage inflicted from yesterday's storm. A succession of rain, snow, lightning, sleet and thunder, winding up with a gale that tore down wires and trees, unroofed houses and drove shipping ashore, caused widespread damage and many deaths and accidents. Telegraphic communication in some sections was still interrupted. The signal systems of railroad lines running north and northeast from New York were crippled and trains were not able to maintain their schedules.

A LARGE COLLECTION FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Montreal, Dec. 27.—At a Masonic service in St. James' Methodist church yesterday, a collection of \$2,713 was taken in aid of the Children's Memorial Hospital. This was at least four times as large as any taken at a similar service.

THE MESSENGER'S GREETINGS

Season's greetings in the form of post-cards have come to hand from the C. P. R. and Western Union messenger boys. The former is of very pretty design and contains a "Message from the Trenches," the last verse of which is as follows: "He's out in the snow, the wind and rain, To the Messenger Boy it's all the same, So be good to the kid, it's all in the game, Next year he may wear khaki." The Western Union card has a very pretty cover design, and inside shows the steamer Calcedonia with the 28th Battalion on board ready to sail for England.

KING PETER IS NOW IN ITALY

Monarch Who is Without a Country

(CROWN PRINCE LEADS ARMY

Serbian Ruler Says Soldiers Are Enduring Hardships But After a Rest "We Shall See"—War Has Told on Him

Briand, Italy, Dec. 27.—King Peter of Serbia has arrived here on board an Italian cruiser.

Paris, Dec. 27.—King Peter of Serbia, was just brought to Aviona on an Italian cruiser, says the Journal's Aviona correspondent. "The voyage was rough and the king had to be carried ashore in an armchair. It was a tragic and heart-rending spectacle.

"An automobile carried the monarch to a secluded inn, opposite Italian headquarters, where he took up his quarters and was shown into the poorly furnished room he occupied. His clear eyes, what depths of bitterness did they conceal. His features, hollowed by suffering, what immense weariness did they betray! That sorrowful countenance was the epitome of the whole tragic epoch.

The physician who interpreted for him, told me that upon his arrival the king asked the price of the room and added that he had no gold to pay for it. "I am no longer king," he said, "and only General Totalet. (This name which will shelter the king's incognito during his exile, is that of a powerful ally of the Tsar to which—Ezad Pascha—"I will give no more orders. It is the crown of my commands. For the future, I am nothing in the government. A soldier, I have only to obey." "And the army, Your Majesty?" "I asked, "My soldiers are dropping from hunger and cold. I must be seen and then after a few weeks rest, we shall see."

GOURNALS SPEAKS OF GREEK POSITION

Paris, Dec. 27.—The Athens correspondent of the "Morning Post" writes: "Greece's policy is unchanged. Greece is a small state which does not want to be dragged into the war, which might involve a catastrophe like those which have befallen Belgium and Serbia. We are Greeks and nothing else. I am neither a Germanophile nor a Frenchophile, but just a Greek. Germanophiles do not exist in Greece."

PHILIP AND PHERNAND WEATHER BULLETIN

Issued by the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Sturp, director of meteorological service.

GERMANS GRASP AT THE CHANGE WHICH NORTHCLIFFE HAS GIVEN TO THEM

London, Dec. 27.—An Amsterdam despatch to the "Morning Post" says that the Zeitung Am Mittag of Berlin, makes a feature of a despatch to the effect that the British cabinet is on the eve of resignation, and that Premier Asquith and Foreign Secretary Grey will withdraw, while Earl Kitchener will leave the War Office for Egypt.

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British Drive Off Turks; France Not Only Enemy's Loss is Heavy Is Determined, She Also Is Sure

Delhi, Dec. 27.—A vigorous Turkish assault against the British forces at Kut-el-Amara was driven back on Saturday with heavy losses, according to an official report received from General Townsend, the British commander. The report says: "Yesterday the enemy launched a determined attack against a portion of our positions, which was repulsed with an enemy loss of from 600 to 800 killed and wounded. Our casualties were under 200."

FORMER MEMBER OF 26TH DIES SUDDENLY

James P. Higgins of Fredericton Found Dead in Boggy—News of Capital

Fredericton, Dec. 27.—James P. Higgins, aged forty-two, belonging here, was found dead in a boggy in King street early today, by Policemen Hughes and Marshall. He was employed at Hat's livery stable and had driven a man to Kingsclear and died of heart trouble while on route home. He was son of the late Edward Higgins and was for some time janitor of the building, 216, he resided with his wife and three children, a French miller, on Friday received a gold headed cane from the customs staff.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner Wigmore received a pleasant surprise on Friday afternoon when the employees of the water and sewerage department at the Leinster street yards presented to him a handsome easy chair. The presentation was made by Superintendent Armstrong. Although the price of turkey was in keeping with the "war cost of living," some of the local business houses remembered their employees as in accordance with past custom. The large staff of the St. John Railway Co., each received a good-sized bird from the firm, and the members of the staff of Vasek & Co. Ltd., were similarly remembered. The employees of the Gem Theatre presented to F. H. Trifits a handsome set of gold cuff links with the K. of C. emblem engraved. Mr. Trifits presented a gold remembrance to each member of the staff.

LOOKED AFTER THE SOLDIERS WELL ON CHRISTMAS DAY

The Cathedral ladies, with Mrs. John Keefe as chairman, who had charge of the Soldiers' Club for Christmas week, won golden opinions by their excellent preparation for the Christmas of the soldiers at the club. The distributions of gifts both on Saturday and Sunday. The appeal of the ladies for contributions was most heartily answered and they were able to make every soldier lapper. The men in khaki were in high spirits, and most appreciated the kindness extended to them, and all were very hearty in their praise of the ladies' committee in charge of the entertainment. Members of the Women's Canadian Club on Christmas Day, learning that there were some wounded men in the discharge depot at West St. John, afforded pleasure to themselves and to the lads in khaki by arranging a special dinner for them. Various delicacies were provided and the menu was enjoyed. Contributions from Mrs. George McAvity, Mrs. Green, and Mrs. Appleby aided greatly. The club members also provided special dainties for the soldiers suffering from nervous breakdown, now in one of the local hospitals.

NORTH GERMAN LLOYD AGENT IS LIKELY FREE FROM GRAND JURY CALL

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 27.—Robert Caspell, general agent for the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, will not be called as a witness for the federal grand jury. It was reported that he would be called to testify concerning the disposal of a fund of \$125,000 which Gustavo B. Kuhnkamp is said to have admitted was turned over to the North German Lloyd Company in New York and sent to San Francisco to further alleged activities of German agents.

BURIED TODAY

The funeral of William McKinley of St. Patrick street, took place this afternoon. Rev. W. G. Lane officiated at the service and interment took place in Fernhill. For many years he carried on business as a teamster here. Five daughters survive—Mrs. A. H. Webster, of Seattle, and Mrs. W. Johnston, Mrs. T. Ramsay, Mrs. A. Anderson and M. Isdore of all this city. Francis W. Smith, of Forest street, who died suddenly on Christmas eve, stricken while shoveling snow in front of his house, was buried this afternoon. Services were conducted by Rev. R. P. McKim and interment took place in Fernhill. Mr. Smith is survived by his wife.

POLICE COURT

In the police court this afternoon Magistrate Ritchie remanded Henry McLan, Douglas McLaughlin, James Ewan, Michael Corley and John Hays sailors of the Donalson liner in port on a serious charge of breaching cargo. Detective Barrett found nineteen bottles of liquor.

SIX HOMES SADDENED AT CHRISTMAS TIME BY TRAGIC DEATHS

Montreal, Dec. 27.—Six bodies were taken to the morgue during Christmas Day and yesterday. One man was struck by an automobile, another committed suicide by hanging, a third died as a result of a fall on a sidewalk, and a woman was found dead in her home under peculiar circumstances. The other deaths were due to fractured skulls.

AUSTRIANS HIT HARD BY THE MONTENEGRINS

Paris, Dec. 27.—The Montenegrins are continuing their offensive and have gained considerable territory in the Sanjak, inflicting large losses upon the Austrians.

ONE STEAMER SUNK; ANOTHER IS AFIRE

London, Dec. 27.—The British steamship Amsterdam, 1,177 tons gross, has been sunk. The British steamer Embra, 1,172 tons, has been beached at the mouth of the Thames, after a storm.

THE BOWLERS

Don Walsh, with a score of 139, won a turkey in competition on Black's alleys on Christmas day. In the City League this evening the Ramblers will meet the Spectals.

FROM WILDS OF HUDSON BAY TO DON THE KHAKI

Stanley Vaughan's Noble Response to Call For Men—Now in St. John on Furlough

Deep into the recesses of the vast northern wilderness where he had been for the last eleven months, the appeal of his country for more men to fight the battles of empire and home, was brought to a former St. John man, Stanley Vaughan, and he overcame the hardships of the journey back to civilization and is now in uniform in the city, home for Christmas leave. For the last nine months his companion, with whom he had been camping at "Kettle Rapids"—surveys in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company—had been the only white man whom he had seen.

Victory Is Certain Sooner Or Later SALONIKI HARD TO TAKE Chief of French General Staff in Balkans Says it is Impossible to Drive the Allies From There

Athens, Greece, Dec. 27.—"With our batteries of heavy artillery and the men behind them, it is impossible to out the allied forces from Saloniki," said General Castelnau, chief of the French general staff, in a statement to the Associated Press. He gave the interview after being received by King Constantine and attending a luncheon at the French legation.

Many of the most important officers of the Greek army and navy, and several of the king's closest friends attended the luncheon. General Castelnau's statement was submitted to the French minister, Jean Guillaume, and approved by him. "The situation at Saloniki today," he said, "is most excellent. I spent several days examining the ground. I must say I have rarely seen an emplacement which lends itself better to defence. I may say also, that the position provides the most favorable conditions for offensive as well as defensive operations."

"The general was asked if the allies contemplated an offensive from Saloniki in the spring. "Spring will tell," he replied. "It is impossible to discount the exigencies of the military situation so far ahead. Should it be decided upon, the offensive from Saloniki would be made under peculiarly favorable conditions."

"What impression did you gain from your talk with the king?" the correspondent asked. "I was deeply touched by the fact that His Majesty, although in poor health, received me. He was most cordial. The Greeks have shown me every courtesy."

"And in France, General, how soon do you believe the war will be finished?" "Victory is sure."

"That does not matter. The most important thing is that victory is certain sooner or later. In France every Frenchman and every French woman is ready to go the whole way for a complete triumph. Whether in France, or here, there will be no weakening; for France is not only determined, France is sure."

Large crowds, in which were many Greek soldiers, gathered before the French legation and cheered General Castelnau.

Paris, Dec. 27.—The long leaves of absence now being granted to large numbers of Greek soldiers are due not so much to economy, but on account of the fact that they have broken out, says the Petit Parisien. The nearness of their hereditary enemies, the Bulgarians, is exasperating the troops to such a degree that their officers have no control over them, the paper declares, adding that Premier Skoufodis is granting extended furloughs in the hope of checking the spirit of revolt.

London, Dec. 27.—The Athens correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company says a royal decree has been issued disbanded two auxiliary classes of troops.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Parks and child, who lived in the third story of the house in Main street which was visited by fire on Saturday morning, narrowly escaped with their lives. When they were in the house it was filled with smoke and they were nearly suffocated. Being unable to see, and driven almost to distraction, Mrs. Parks searched the house for her child, from whom she had become separated in the excitement. The husband, in quest of his wife and child, was staggering about half unconsciously from heat and smoke. He made for the back way out and when on the verge of collapse was assisted by firemen. A policeman entered the burning building and found Mrs. Parks almost suffocated to death. He carried her out and placed her in the care of friends. All three had a narrow escape from death and although they lost nearly all of their personal effects they are thankful that their lives were spared.

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Samuel Carson, arrested on a charge of offering liquor to a soldier in uniform, and several men arrested on drunkenness charges were also before the court.